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**THE JOHN G. BENE  
FELLOWSHIP IN  
SOCIAL FORESTRY:  
AWARDEE TRACER  
EXERCISE  
AND AWARDEE PROFILES**

Submitted to: The Director General,  
Corporate Affairs and  
Initiatives Division, IDRC

**By: Christian M. DaSilva  
for the Centre Training and  
Awards Unit, November 1st, 1994**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This summary is intended to inform readers of the overall intent, findings and recommendations of the tracer work conducted between May and September 1994.

### ***Overview***

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund left for this purpose by the late John. G. Bene. The late Mr. Bene was a committed advocate for the protection and sustainable use of forests for people.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairman of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

The Fellowship has been administered by IDRC since 1987. During this time, 12 Canadian researchers have been supported by the endowment to help further their commitment to the underprivileged of the world through training and research on social forestry issues.

In the spring of 1994, a consultant was retained by the Corporate Affairs and Initiatives Division of IDRC to trace the past recipients of the Bene award and to profile their work. The exercise was intended to reconnect the Centre and past recipients of the award. This undertaking was also designed to provide information to the Centre training and Awards Unit (CTA) that would enable them to suggest an alumni activity for past awardees to coincide with IDRC's 25th anniversary.

### ***Findings***

The findings of this research have been summarized in a short report and analysis, as well as in written profiles of the twelve awardees. What follows are the conclusions and list of recommendations.

### ***Conclusions***

Generally, the John G. Bene Fellowship in social forestry seems to have effectively supported the research objectives of the twelve awardees contacted during this survey. These individuals, without exception, are continuing to work in forestry and international work whether that be through continued academic pursuits, volunteer work, or employment. There were no significant or problematic issues to report but rather, some suggestions for improvement based on the information collected.

### ***Recommendations;***

1) The survey revealed a weakness in terms of contact between awardees and IDRC. It is therefore recommended that steps be taken to ensure that an Awardee is linked to a specific program officer and with other functions and facilities at the Centre such as the Library, Regional offices, etc.

To support this recommendation, recipients of the John G. Bene Fellowship should be encouraged to come to IDRC soon after completing their research to give a presentation to interested staff and academics. This idea should be considered in conjunction with the Annual Awardee Presentation Week as outlined in the recommendations of the Young Canadian Researchers Award Study, 1994 (in progress).

2) In terms of publicizing the John G. Bene Fellowship, the study shows that most of the awardees first learned about the Fellowship through one of the Centres descriptive posters. This would seem to indicate that this method of publicizing the award has been effective. It is recommended that the CTA be sure to distribute this kind of publicity materials to the Institutions that submit Fellowship applications.

3) Given the consistently positive response to the idea, it is recommended that the CTA proceed with the planning of a John G. Bene Alumni Activity for 1995 provided that adequate financial and human resources can be identified for this purpose. The preferred event would be a small to medium sized social forestry conference at which awardees would be asked to give papers. Many expressed a desire to have the papers published in some format, and it is recommended that this idea be pursued as well.

# **JOHN G. BENE FELLOWSHIP IN SOCIAL FORESTRY: AWARDEE TRACER EXERCISE AND PROFILES - 1994**

## ***1.0 Introduction***

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund left for this purpose by the late John. G. Bene. The late Mr. Bene was a committed advocate for the protection and sustainable use of forests for people.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the Special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairman of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

The John G. Bene Fellowship has been administered by IDRC since 1987. During this time, 12 Canadian researchers have been supported by the endowment to help further their commitment to the underprivileged of the world through training and research on social forestry issues.

Award programs such as the John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry have important impacts and lasting implications for the researchers who receive support. It is important for administrators and others concerned with the quality of such programs, to stay in touch with past recipients, hear about where they are and what they are doing, to learn from their experiences, and to try and recognize the contribution these individuals have made to the evolution and history of the Fellowship. This was the primary aim of this exercise.

To carry out this work, a consultant was retained in the spring of 1994 by the Corporate Affairs and Initiatives Division of IDRC to trace the past recipients of the Bene award and to profile their work. This undertaking was designed to re-connect the Centre with past awardees, and to provide basic information to the Centre training and Awards Unit (CTA). It was thought that this information might also enable the CTA to suggest an alumni activity which would highlight the significant contribution of Fellowship holders to social forestry, and which would coincide with IDRC's 25th anniversary celebrations.

## ***1.1 Findings***

The findings of this research have been summarized in a short report, as well as in written profiles of the twelve awardees. The report begins with a listing of the past awardees, where they are and a brief statement about their current activities. Following this is a discussion of the survey findings. Finally, Appendix A contains more detailed profiles of each awardee and Appendix B is a copy of the survey instrument used.

## **1.2 LIST OF THE PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE JOHN G. BENE FELLOWSHIP IN SOCIAL FORESTRY**

Alix Flavelle (1990)  
1040 Lakewood Dr.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V5L 4M2

Alix recently completed her Msc. in Forestry at the UBC. She continues to work in Indonesia and in the area of social forestry.

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Helen Hambly (1992)  
EARO - IDRC  
P.O. Box 62084  
Nairobi, Kenya

Helen is on a 9 month contract replacing a program officer on sabbatical. She is continuing to work on her Phd from York University in Toronto.

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Laura Johnson (1990)  
3907 Crestview Rd. S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2T 2L5

Laura is finishing her Msc. in Environmental design at the University of Calgary.

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Paul J. Martins (1987)  
Projecto RENARM/PBN  
C.A.T.I.E.  
7170 Turrialba,  
Costa Rica

Paul is currently the project leader for the Regional Centre for Research and Education in Tropical Agriculture and resource Management in Costa Rica.

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Deirdre McKay (1992)  
#203-4386 W. 10th Ave.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6R 2H7

Deirdre is currently working toward her Phd in Geography at the University of British Columbia.

---

Mike Mullins (1992)  
C/O CUSO Office  
P.O. Box 3517  
Vientiane, Laos  
PDR

Mike is working on a Swedish funded Social Forestry project in Laos as a CUSO cooperant.

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Michael O'Flaherty (1992)  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1A1

Michael is currently finishing his Phd at the University of Toronto.

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Michael Rewald (1988)  
CARE Ethiopia  
P.O. Box 4710  
Addis Ababa,  
Ethiopia

Michael is currently working as the Program Manager for CARE Ethiopia.

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Christopher Roddan (1993)  
A14 Cardena Dr.  
Bowen Island, B.C.  
V0N 1G0

Christopher is now working for the B.C. Department of Forests.

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Stewart Sawin (1991)  
Box 147  
Delburne, Alberta  
T0M 0V0

Stewart is presently working for a private forestry company in B.C.

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Jacqueline Tracey (1990)  
CRES, Australian National University  
Box 4, Canberra  
ACT 2601  
Australia

Jacqueline is working on her Phd in Forestry in Australia.

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Nancy Kingsbury (1994)  
5213 St. Urbain  
Montreal Quebec  
H2T 2W8

Nancy is the current holder of the John G. Bene Fellowship. She is doing research in Venezuela toward her Phd.

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## **2.0 Objectives**

Finding Twelve recipients of an award that has been administered by the CTA only since 1987 sounds like a very straightforward task. In fact, we were completely successful in locating and communicating with all of the recipients, but because many are still involved in International work, it was not always easy to find these individuals.

The exercise was designed to gather three basic pieces of information from each respondent.

- 1) What kinds of activities have former awardees been involved in since receiving the award, and what are they presently doing?
- 2) What kind of contribution did the award itself make to the awardees' lives and careers?
- 3) What kind of activity would be appropriate to commemorate the endowment along with IDRC's anniversary?

## **2.1 The Survey**

The survey was envisaged as an informal tracer exercise designed to reconnect the Centre with past awardees and vice versa. The study took place between May and September of 1994. Two key research methods were utilized.

- A) A questionnaire was designed and sent to the twelve recipients (appendix 1).
- B) Telephone or face to face interviews were conducted with several former awardees to collect additional information.

All twelve former recipients of the John G. Bene award were located, and asked to complete the questionnaire. Field interviews were conducted with four of the twelve respondents to assist mainly in the writing of the awardee profiles.

## **2.2 Limitations**

As was mentioned previously, this exercise was meant to be an informal attempt at reconnecting with past recipients of the Bene Fellowship. The report represents a summary of the information collected with some suggestions and recommendations for improvement. Readers should keep in mind that the small number of past recipients of the Fellowship limits the extent to which one can draw definite conclusions about most aspects of the program.

### **3.0 Discussion**

Many of the survey questions allowed for open ended, qualitative responses. This data has been aggregated and presented in graphical form where possible; however, the description and discussion of the responses is best found in the text. The report will follow the order established in the survey questionnaire, and interrelationships between questions and responses will be explored where a link was observed.

#### **3.1 Awardee Activities Since Completing the Bene Fellowship**

(Discussion related to questions 1-3 of the survey).

Ten of the twelve respondents reported continued academic work since the end of the award, generally related to the completion of Master's or Phd study for which the award was granted. Ten recipients used their award for MA or Msc studies, while two people are now completing Phd's.

Eight of the twelve respondents reported continued research activities, including further research proposals, Phd proposals, and Phd related research. Similarly, nine respondents have held employment since the award including the following;

- Project manager with CARE Canada
- IDRC Intern
- Environment & Development Consultant and now a Program Officer with IDRC
- Freelance work with NGOs and Consulting firms
- Employed with a private forestry company in B.C.
- Field Officer with an Australian logging Association
- Teaching
- Economic impact assessment

Five of the twelve respondents undertook volunteer work, generally with development related NGOs. **Figure #1** summarizes awardee activities.

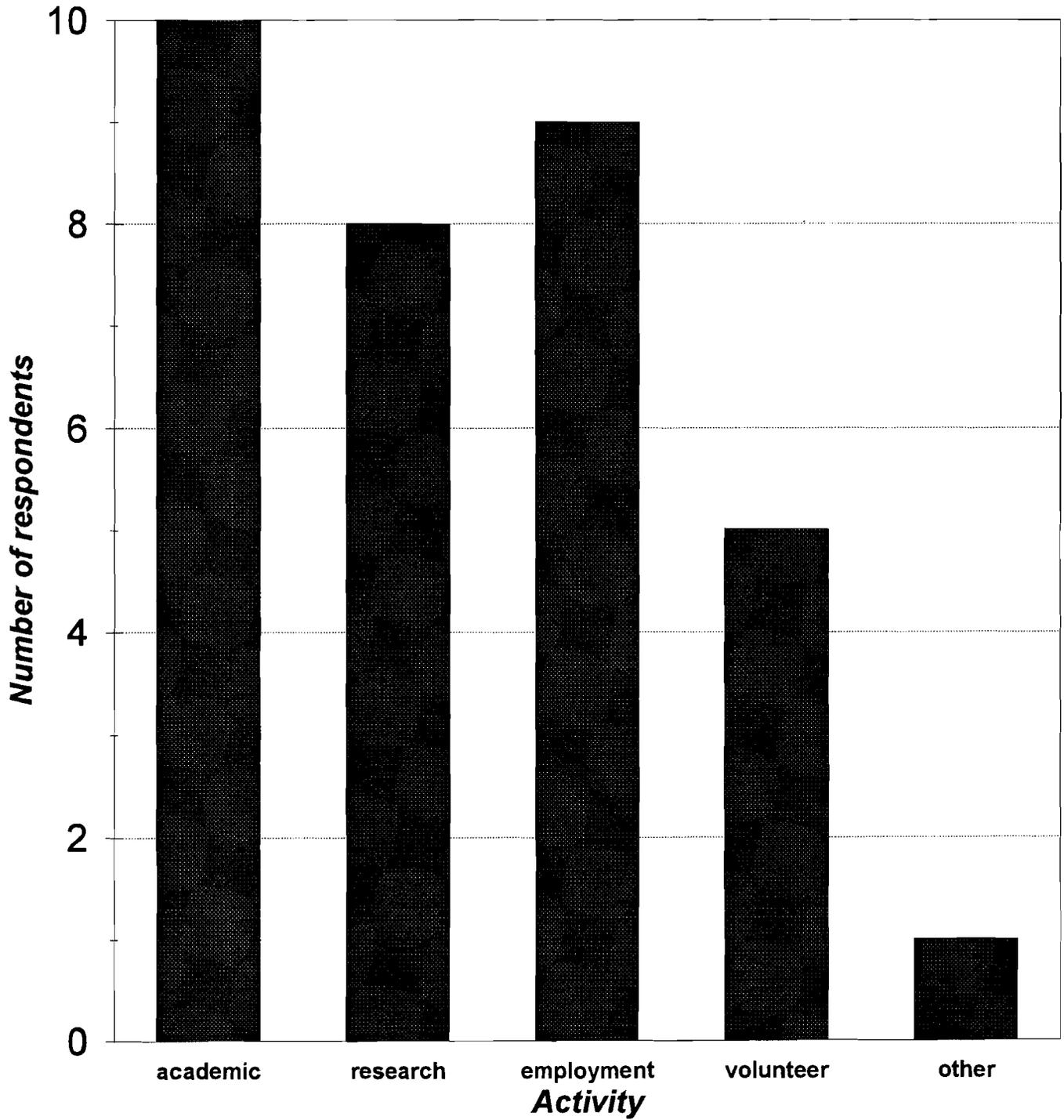
When asked whether any of these activities were related to international development, ten of twelve awardees responded positively. Clearly, whether through continued research, employment, volunteer work or studies, these past awardees continue to involve themselves in international development. Virtually the same response is true for continued involvement in social forestry where all ten respondents see themselves as having continued work in social forestry. Because of the wording of the question, however, respondents may have counted the completion of their degree as implicitly being a social forestry related activity.

#### **3.2 Maintaining Contact with Overseas Host and IDRC**

(Discussion relating to questions 4-5 of the survey).

The John G. Bene Fellowship in social forestry was established to assist students in furthering their expertise through research, but also to help facilitate the building of linkages between Canada and developing countries. It could also be said that, where such research

**Figure #1 Awardee Activities since  
the John G. Bene Award**



interests are similar, a relationship with IDRC might lead to further collaboration and continued capacity building. Two questions in the survey attempted to gauge the degree to which such linkages have been formed.

Firstly, ongoing contact or involvement with the awardees research country remains strong with nine of twelve indicating a continuing relationship. This ranges from very informal contact with friends and colleagues through letters, to on-going collaboration in projects. For example, one awardee stated that " I write friends and stay in touch with my academic hosts. I have sent them copies of my Bene-supported thesis."

With respect to contact between former awardees and IDRC, the connection was slightly weaker. Only six people reported that they maintained contact with the Centre, while six said they did not. One person captured the sentiment of those not in contact with the Centre saying, "I would really like to re-establish contact via newsletters, job\contract advertisements, and projects."

### ***3.3 Facilitating an Overseas Experience***

(Discussion relating to question 6 of the survey)

During the field interviews with four of the former awardees, the idea of an orientation or pre-research training for awardees was raised. It was thought that this would be helpful -- even essential -- for awardees travelling to a developing country for the first time. Question #6 from the survey revealed however, that only four of the twelve awardees had never been to a developing country prior to receiving this award. This is a significant percentage, but perhaps not significant enough to warrant a special orientation. This issue might be partially addressed by strengthening the linkage between award recipients and experienced researchers at IDRC.

### ***3.4 Rating the Effectiveness of the Fellowship***

(Discussion relating to questions 7-9 of the survey)

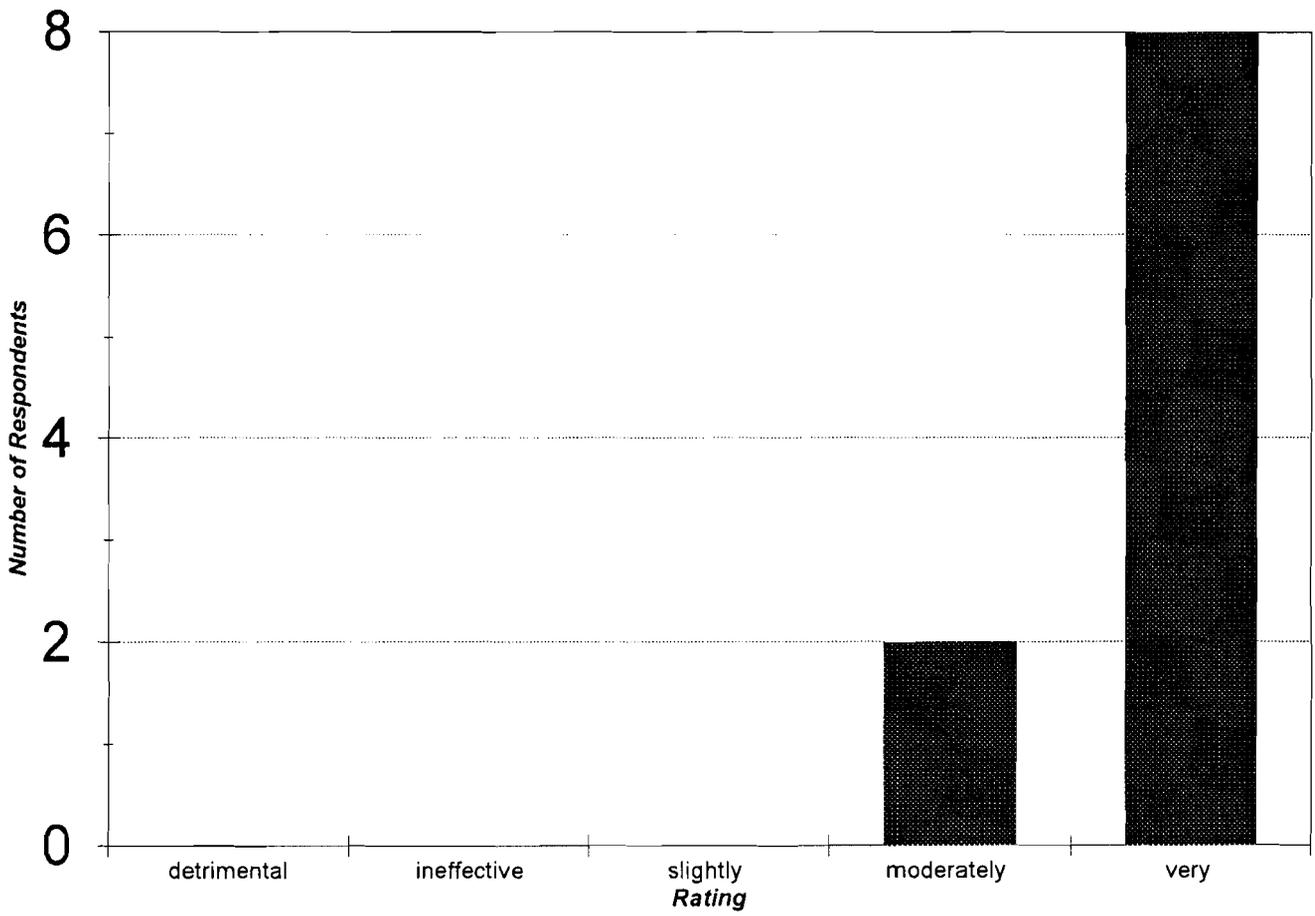
Questions seven, eight, and nine from the survey asks awardees to rate the effectiveness of the Bene Fellowship in strengthening three areas of the respondents life;

- \* Their commitment to social forestry?
- \* The strengthening of their professional\career development?
- \* The contribution to their academic development?

**Figure #2** shows the very positive feeling about the role the award played in strengthening a recipients commitment to social forestry research. Eight of ten rated the award as very effective, three rated it as moderately effective, and one declined to comment as she has not completed her research yet. To illustrate the general sentiment regarding the Fellowship, one respondent had the following comment;

*" The Bene Award allowed me to conceptualize Social Forestry within a development perspective and link forest management to broader social issues both in communities, and at the international level. This was an invaluable*

**Figure #2- Effectiveness of the Award  
in Strengthening Recipient Commitment**



*experience which encouraged me to pursue a career on the broader environment and development area, if not in Social Forestry per se."*

When asked about the contribution the Fellowship made to professional\career development, the responses were slightly less enthusiastic. Five of twelve indicated a moderate contribution, one a slight contribution, and the rest indicated a high contribution. It is likely that respondents obtained and utilized the Fellowship for academic reasons, and therefore find it a little difficult to directly relate this funding to professional or career development (see **figure #3**).

However, comments from respondents were quite consistent on this question and often indicated a significant contribution toward professional/career development. One person wrote: "apart from keeping me solvent through one year without income, I suppose the award does credit me with some achievement in the development and social forestry fields". Another person said, "experience of this nature was invaluable to my professional\career development."

**Figure #4** illustrates a stronger rating for the contribution the Fellowship makes toward a recipients academic development. Obviously, research funding would be rated highly in this regard as it assists a person in carrying out academic related research, and therefore contributes to the academic process. Many respondents commented on having improved their thesis because of doing field work. For example, one awardee stated that, "the John G. Bene Fellowship helped me complete my research in Thailand which led to the completion of my thesis. My work in Thailand was highly commended during my defense."

### ***3.5 Research Costs***

(Discussion related to question 10 of the survey)

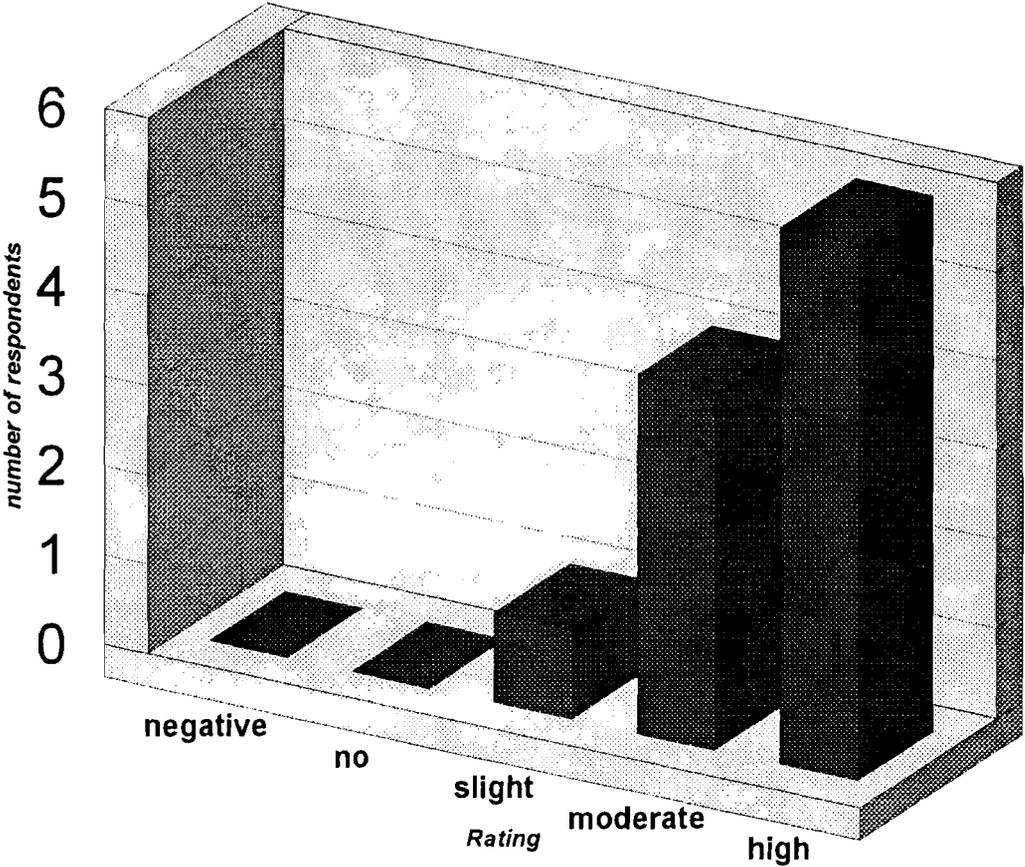
Awardees were asked to state whether or not the Fellowship made a significant contribution toward their research costs. The Fellowship is relatively modest compared to some sources of research funding, so it was important for the CTA to know to what degree this award was meeting a researcher's financial requirements. Only one person said the size of the award was not sufficient, while the remaining eleven said it did make a significant contribution. Most respondents listed the types of expenses the award helped cover such as equipment, international travel, and incidentals. Several respondents said the award covered approximately one half of their total research costs.

### ***3.6 Publicizing the Fellowship***

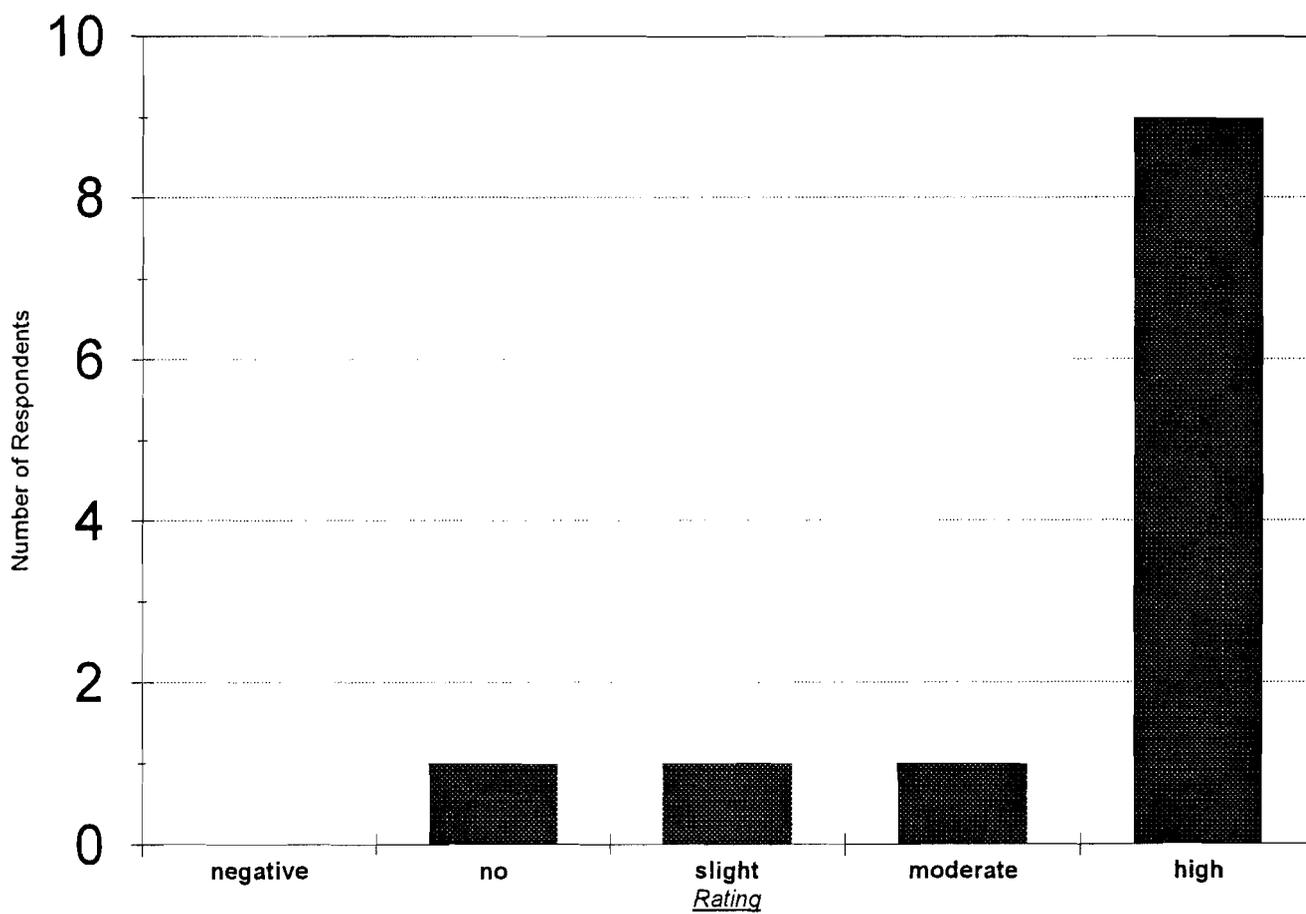
(Discussion related to question 11 of the survey)

Another on-going issue for the CTA is to try and ensure that efforts at publicizing the Fellowship are effective. Awardees were asked to indicate how they learned about the John.G. Bene Fellowship. Interestingly, the majority, eight of twelve learned of the Fellowship from the poster, three from their Professor or department, and one from an IDRC staff person (**figure #5**). This information should indicate to CTA staff the importance of certain methods of publicity.

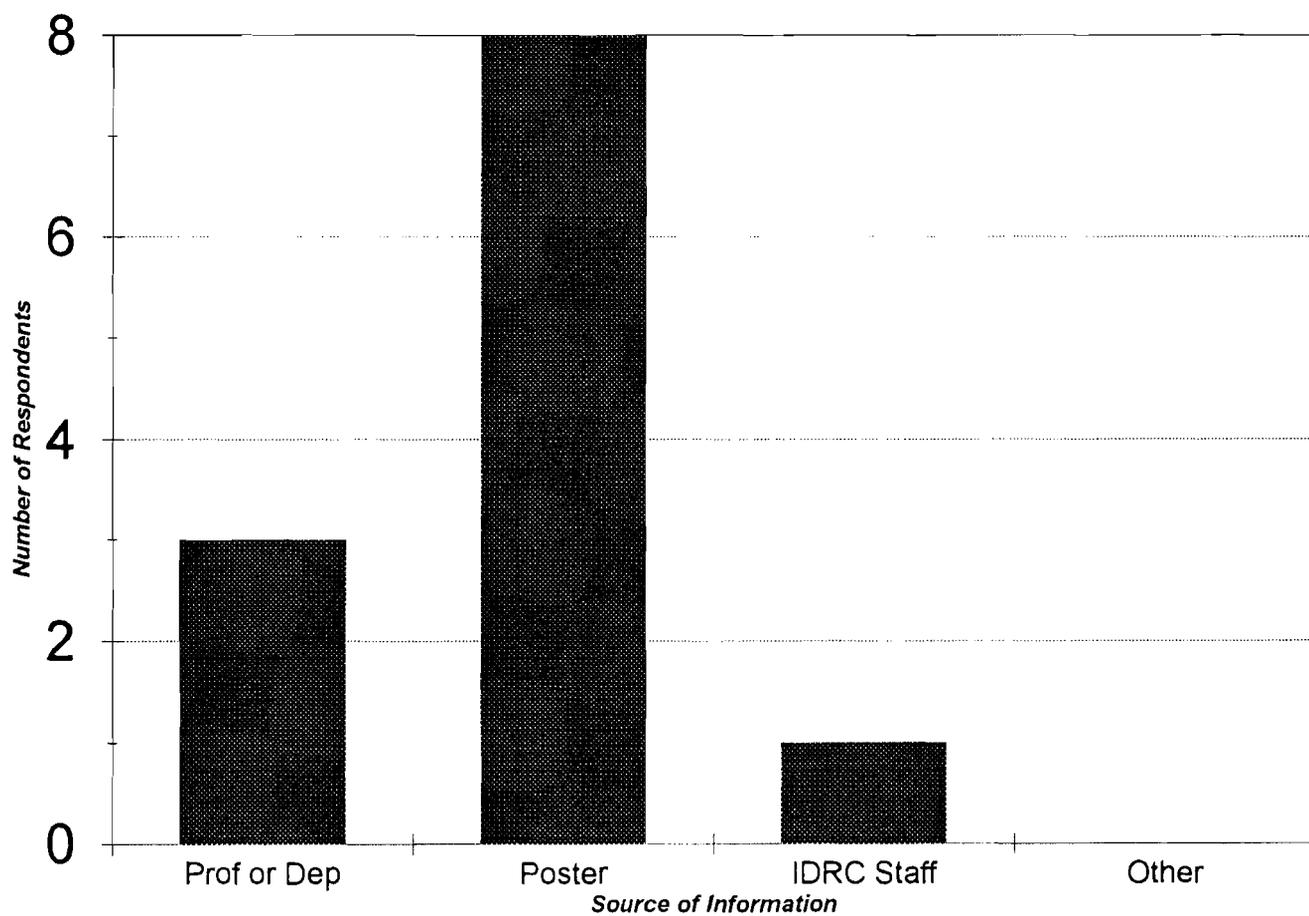
**Figure #3- Award Contribution to Professional/Career Development?**



**Figure #4**  
Contribution to Academic development



**Figure #5 - How Awardee learned of the John G. Bene Award?**



### ***3.7 Affiliations with Host Institution***

(Discussion related to question 12-13 of the survey)

Awardees were asked to comment on the institutional affiliation requirement of this award. This requirement states that Fellowship recipients must demonstrate a linkage or affiliation with an institution or organization in the country where they plan to carry out their research.

A strong majority, nine of twelve, agreed that this requirement should remain; three disagreed. There were some interesting comments with respect to this question. One awardee wrote "It is a good way to ensure that the research doesn't only benefit Canadians. It's a way to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge internationally...." Another wrote "the North-South exchange of information must be strengthened and to ensure this, all research in developing countries should be carried out in affiliation with a local institution". One of the respondents who disagreed with this requirement said, "there is a flip side of having constraints put on you by individuals who do not understand or disagree with the nature of the work which one has already been funded and approved to do."

Another respondent who disagreed with the requirement still stated that "recipients should be encouraged to develop linkages and establish contact with local institutions and researchers." One awardee linked affiliation with the modest size of the Bene award saying "connection speeds up research. \$7,000 is not enough money to build a network with in a short amount of time", meaning that for this reason as well, affiliation serves a useful function.

### ***3.8 Comments regarding an Alumni Activity***

(Discussion related to question 14 of the survey)

The CTA unit had embarked on this survey with the idea of possibly organizing an alumni activity for former Fellowship holders that would be part of IDRC's 25th anniversary celebrations. The survey was used to solicit suggestions/input about the type of activity in which awardees would like to participate. In general, the most preferred activity was a small to medium sized conference on social forestry research and related activities.

## ***4.0 Conclusions***

Generally, the John G. Bene Fellowship in social forestry seems to have effectively supported the research objectives of the twelve awardees contacted through this survey. These individuals, without exception, are continuing to work in forestry and international work whether that be through continued academic pursuits, volunteer work, or employment. There were no significant or problematic issues to report but rather, some suggestions for improvement.

## ***4.1 Recommendations;***

1) The survey revealed a weakness in terms of contact between awardees and IDRC. It is therefore recommended that steps be taken to ensure that an Awardee is linked to a specific program officer and with other functions and facilities at the Centre such as the Library, Regional offices, etc.

To support this recommendation, recipients of the John G. Bene Fellowship should be encouraged to come to IDRC soon after completing their research to give a presentation to interested staff and academics. This idea should be considered in conjunction with the Annual Awardee Presentation Week as outlined in the recommendations of the Young Canadian Researchers Award Study, 1994.

2) In terms of publicizing the John G. Bene Fellowship, the study shows that most of the awardees first learned about the Fellowship through one of the Centres descriptive posters. This would seem to indicate that this method of publicizing the award has been effective. It is recommended that the CTA be sure to distribute this kind of publicity materials to the Institutions that submit fellowship applications.

3) Given the consistently positive response to the idea, it is recommended that the CTA proceed with the planning of a John G. Bene Alumni Activity for 1995 provided that adequate financial and human resources can be identified for this purpose. The preferred event would be a small to medium sized social forestry conference at which awardees would be asked to give papers. Many expressed a desire to have the papers published in some format, and it is recommended that this idea be pursued as well.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Composite Profile of Alix Flavelle, Michael O'Flaherty, Christopher Roddan, Michael Rewald and Nancy Kinsbury respectively.**

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#### ***Introduction***

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairperson of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

#### ***Profiles***

##### ***Alix Flavelle***

Alix Flavelle received the John G. Bene award in 1990 and used it to conduct research on forest resource management in the tropics focusing on community, traditional and modern agroforestry models. She recently completed her Msc. in Forestry at the University of British Columbia.

Since finishing her degree, Alix has been involved in research on methodologies for mapping indigenous lands, as well as working freelance with NGOs and consulting firms and doing volunteer work with Indonesian NGOs.

Alix continues to work in Indonesia and in the area of social forestry demonstrating a lasting commitment to this area of development research.

##### ***Mike O'Flaherty***

Michael received the John G. Bene award in 1992 to carry out research on Community Woodlands management in the communal lands of Zimbabwe. He completed this research as part of his Phd studies in Anthropology at the University of Toronto.

Michael is currently writing up the results of his research in Zimbabwe, as well as doing some teaching and initiating of new Social Forestry projects in Canada.

### *Christopher Roddan*

Christopher Roddan was the recipient of the 1993 John. G. Bene award in Social Forestry. With his award, Christopher was able to conduct research in Thailand as part of his Msc studies in Forestry at the University of British Columbia. He looked at community forestry as a method of protecting both the biodiversity and the social diversity of rural villages in Thailand.

Christopher credits the award for enabling him to gain valuable fieldwork experience, as well as helping to develop his skills dealing with development agencies and local people.

During the summer of 1994, when a study was conducted to follow-up on former recipients of the J.G. Bene award, Christopher strongly recommended that IDRC report profile Bene funded research occasionally. It is partly because of his request that this profile is appearing in this issue.

### *Michael Rewald*

Michael carried out his original social forestry research in Central America but for the last 4 years, he has been working as a project manager with CARE in Ethiopia. Most of CARE Ethiopia's rural projects have a forestry component with an emphasis on social forestry issues such as woodlots, individual nurseries, agroforestry and backyard gardens, all of which has allowed Michael to apply the expertise he developed as a Bene Fellow.

Michael is now the Program manager with CARE Ethiopia.

### *Nancy Kingsbury*

Nancy is the most recent recipient of the John G. Bene award in Social Forestry. She is using the award to carry out Social Forestry research in Venezuela as part of her Phd program at the University of McGill.

Nancy is trying to understand the responses of indigenous people in the Grand Savannah of Venezuela to increasing pressure on decreasing resources. This set of circumstances exists due to a number of factors including population growth among the indigenous tribes and resource use -- particularly for hydro power -- by the non-indigenous population.

Interestingly, the indigenous people in Nancy's study have remarkably complex knowledge about the use of fire or controlled burning for agricultural purposes, mosquito control, communication, and even protest. Her study promises to uncover a complex set of relationships which exist between indigenous and non-indigenous people and their respective views on forest resources.

## **Bene Awardee Profile #2 - Helen Victoria Hambly**

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

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Helen Hambly, a recipient of the John G. Bene Award in Social Forestry in 1990 is one awardee who has remained with IDRC. Helen is currently replacing a Program Officer on sabbatical in the East Africa Regional Office of IDRC, a role that requires her to be involved in several Social Forestry and Gender related development projects on a daily basis.

Her Phd work -- focusing on Gender and Agroforestry in Kenya -- is continuing. In addition, Helen has recently worked as a consultant on radio scripts concerning Women and forestry, Women's knowledge of indigenous trees, etc.

When asked about the effectiveness of the Bene award in strengthening her commitment to social forestry as well as contributing to her professional and academic expertise, Helen said;

*"The J.G. Bene Award was an excellent stepping -stone to my current focus on gender and agroforestry policy in Kenya. It was highly recognized by the selection committee for my entry into a Phd Program at York University, and I am honoured to have held this award."*

Helen's research and her subsequent efforts at IDRC's Ottawa headquarters along with her current position in Nairobi demonstrates an on-going commitment to social forestry and less privileged people in the world -- goals to which John G. Bene himself devoted much of his life's work.

### **Bene Awardee Profile #3 - Laura Johnson**

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

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Laura Johnson, a Bene awardee in 1990, has been carrying out research in Thailand for several years focusing on the use of cover crops to inhibit the growth of the weed "Imperata Cylindrica". It is hoped that successful use of cover cropping may discourage the use of fire for weed control, a practice which greatly threatens remaining forests in many areas of Thailand.

Laura's research included two field trials. Trial one involves the use of cover crops to inhibit the growth of the weed Imperata cylindrica. Cover crops may provide food at the village level, while discouraging the use of fire. Trial two, she says, " is also at the village level and involves locating areas where villagers want to restore forests, then using cover crops to kill Imperata weed and improve soil and moisture conditions." After that, mixed tree species are seeded or planted. Materials are provided by local government agencies and hill tribe villagers volunteer to do the labour.

As part of her Msc. program in Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, Laura not only benefitted from the John G. Bene award, but has also received support from CIDA and the Asian Institute of Technology. Together this funding has allowed Laura to do detailed field work, and produce a comprehensive piece of research focusing on village level change and social forestry.

Laura's fieldwork experience has not been easy. She has had to struggle with changing priorities and levels of support in the field. Despite difficulties, Laura has persevered demonstrating a commitment to Social forestry and less privileged people in the world -- goals to which the Late Mr. Bene also devoted much of his work.

## **Bene awardee Profile #4 - Paul J. Martins**

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Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairperson of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

Paul Martins received the John G. Bene Fellowship in 1987 -- the very first recipient of this special award. Paul used the award to conduct research on human carrying capacity in the Central Himalayas as part of his Msc. degree in Forestry from the University of Toronto.

Paul has certainly lived up to the expectations incumbent on a first recipient of a prestigious award. He is currently the Project Leader for the Regional Centre for Research and Education in Tropical Agriculture and Resource Management, or the "Centro Agronomico Tropical de Invetigacion y Ensenanza" in Turrialba , Costa Rica.

This is a regional project whose funding comes from A.I.D. He writes the "the main objective of this project is to demonstrate that the management of natural forests is technically viable, financially profitable, ecologically sustainable, and socially acceptable."

He works principally in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, but will soon begin projects in Belize and Panama. Their work, he writes, "involves cooperating with government agencies, NGOs, private companies, communities, forestry-based cooperatives, universities, and individual land-owners." He says that as well as setting up demonstration sites, they are also involved in applied research, training, and technical assistance, much of which is related to social forestry.

Paul's work in the years since receiving the John G, Bene award illustrates the impact that individuals can have when provided with the support to increase their own understanding of social forestry and development.

## **Bene Awardee Profile #5 - Deirdre McKay**

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairperson of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

Deirdre McKay, a recipient of the John G. Bene award in 1991, is currently enrolled in a Phd program in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia, where she is continuing to focus on gender, Environment and forestry issues in a development context. Her Masters work at Dalhousie University, including her Bene funded fieldwork in the Philippines, resulted in a thesis entitled ...

After returning from her field research in the Philippines, Deirdre joined IDRC for several months as an intern working with the Biodiversity Working Group and the Gender and Sustainable development unit.

Deirdre believes that the J.G. Bene award was very effective in strengthening her commitment and professional and academic experience. She had this to say about the award;

*" The Bene Award allowed me to conceptualize Social Forestry within a development perspective and link forest management to broader social issues both in communities, and at the international level. This was an invaluable experience which encouraged me to pursue a career on the broader environment and development area, if not in Social Forestry per se."*

Deirdre appreciated the flexibility of the Bene award, which allowed her to purchase much needed equipment and to cover incidentals for her research in the Philippine uplands. As she noted, " the award brought me in contact with a network of academics and development professionals who supported my project and helped me clarify my ideas.

It seems certain that Deirdre will continue to contribute to social forestry and, by extension, less privileged people in the World -- goals to which the late John G. Bene also devoted much of his work.

## **Bene awardee Profile #6 - Mike Mullins**

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairperson of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

Mike Mullins received the John G. Bene award in 1992 to conduct fieldwork for his MA Degree in Geography from the University of Victoria. His research focused on the impacts of large scale forestry projects on people in rural Papua New Guinea.

Since receiving the award, Mike has done consulting work in economic impact assessment, and socio-economic analysis with the British Columbia Timber Supply review process. Mike is also currently a Board member and treasurer of the South Pacific People's Foundation based in Victoria.

Mike credits the Bene award for allowing him to conduct research in rural PNG. His commitment to social forestry work will continue to grow as Michael and his wife Gail will be moving to Laos for two years where Mike has accepted a position with the Department of Forests. This position is funded through a Swedish Community forestry project.

Mike's work over the next two years will almost certainly deepen his understanding of and commitment to Social Forestry issues. It is safe to say that the John G. Bene fellowship was an important catalyst for another Social Forestry researcher.

## **Bene awardee profile #10 - Stewart Sawin**

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairperson of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

Stewart Sawin, a 1991 recipient of the John G. Bene Fellowship in social forestry, used his award to carry out research on practical solutions to firewood supply problems within the traditional tea industry in Thailand -- an issue which is part of the larger problem of deforestation in Thailand.

Stewart credits the award for allowing him to become exposed to the concept of social forestry in Thailand and around the world. The award provided an invaluable contribution to his professional development, while helping him to complete the requirements of an MA Degree in Geography at the University of Victoria.

Since completing his fieldwork, Stewart has been continuing his research activities as research coordinator for the Sustainable Communities Initiative project at the University of Victoria where they are trying to network with other groups interested in sustainable development at the community and regional level.

In addition, Stewart is working with Tackama Forest Products in Fort Nelson, B.C., and volunteering his time in local elementary schools where he has given several talks on the problems of deforestation.

## **Bene awardee profile #11 - Jacqueline Tracey**

The John G. Bene Fellowship in Social Forestry was established in 1987 through an endowment fund established by the estate of the late John G. Bene.

Mr. Bene had a distinguished career in the private sector of the Canadian forest industry as well as Canadian and International organizations. He was a special forestry advisor and later Director General of the special Advisors' Branch of CIDA, and a member of the Board of Governors of IDRC. Mr. Bene was also a founding member and first Chairperson of the International Council for research in Agroforestry in Nairobi, an internationally respected institution now known as ICRAF.

Jacqueline Tracey, a Bene awardee in 1990, is currently living and studying in Australia where she is completing a Phd Program. Her research focus there is on the social aspects of the logging industry in Australia.

Both her employment as a field officer with the New South Wales Logging association, and her Phd studies focus on the social aspects of the logging contracting industry and the individuals that comprise this sector.

Jacqueline noted that the Bene award was very effective in strengthening her commitment to Social Forestry;

*" This award provides support and, more importantly, acknowledgement of the importance of Social Forestry. It encourages students to meet the challenges of crossing disciplinary boundaries and sends a message to Forestry Institutes that social aspects of forestry are very important and require more active support. It is an area that the Universities in Canada and Australia, particularly Forestry Schools, are still weak in. "*

Jacqueline's continued research focus in Social forestry demonstrates a lasting commitment inspired, in part, by the endowment fund and the lasting legacy of John G. Bene.

**APPENDIX B**

**The John G. Bene Awardee Tracer Study Questionnaire**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Permanent Contact**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1) What have been your activities since completing the John G. Bene award? (please describe and indicate the time spent at each activity)**

**Academic**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Research**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer**            \_\_\_\_\_

**Other**            \_\_\_\_\_

**2) Were any of these activities related to International Development?**

yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3) Are any of these activities related to Social Forestry?**

yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_

Please Elaborate \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) Do you maintain contact or involvement with the country in which you conducted your Bene funded research?

yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) Do you maintain contact with IDRC? (ie. through IDRC projects, regional offices, Centre publications, Program Officers, etc)

yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6) Did the John G. Bene award facilitate your first visit to a developing country?

yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_

7) Rate the effectiveness of the John G. Bene award in strengthening your commitment to Social Forestry.

1  
detrimental

2  
ineffective

3  
slightly  
effective

4  
moderately  
effective

5  
very  
effective

Please comment \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8) Please rate how the John G. Bene award contributed to your professional\career development?

|                                |                                |                                    |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>negative<br>impact | <b>2</b><br>no<br>contribution | <b>3</b><br>slight<br>contribution | <b>4</b><br>moderate<br>contribution | <b>5</b><br>high<br>contribution |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9) Please rate how the John G. Bene award contributed to your Academic development?

|                                |                                |                                    |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>negative<br>impact | <b>2</b><br>no<br>contribution | <b>3</b><br>slight<br>contribution | <b>4</b><br>moderate<br>contribution | <b>5</b><br>high<br>contribution |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10) Did the size of the award make a significant contribution toward your research costs?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11) How did you learn about the John G. Bene award?

-Your professor or department \_\_\_\_\_  
-From a poster or brochure \_\_\_\_\_  
-From IDRC staff \_\_\_\_\_  
-other \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

12) In your opinion, should recipients of the John G. Bene award be required to be affiliated with an institution in their country of research?

yes \_\_\_\_\_

no \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain;

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13) Could you please send us a photograph of yourself taken during your field research, in your current position, or both if possible. We would like to use the photograph(s) as part of a journal or newsletter to profile the work of Bene Awardee's. We will return the photograph(s) promptly.

*IDRC is very interested in hosting a John G. Bene Awardee Alumni activity in 1995 to coincide with the 25th Anniversary of IDRC. Some of the possible activities are listed below, however, this is not an exhaustive list. Please indicate which of these activities you prefer and suggest other activities you think would be appropriate.*

- A workshop at which former awardee's would present papers \_\_\_\_\_
- A larger Social Forestry conference \_\_\_\_\_
- A video documentary profiling S.F. and researchers \_\_\_\_\_
- A special collection of papers or essay on S.F. \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any final comments? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Your input is appreciated!**