

countries I discovered that groups were not in touch with each other as much as might be; I became a sort of travelling minstrel, sharing information as I went along.

"These NGO intermediaries I spoke of have a big job to do, because there has to be more emphasis on extension services and on training local people to work with NGOs. If a project is going to succeed, it is more than a technical problem of how to plant trees at a particular site. Everyone has to be very sensitive to what the village's needs are and what the economic, cultural and political situation is like. A forestry project, even a small one, is all-encompassing. It affects land tenure and the village economy: who is going to benefit from these trees, if the women want firewood and the men want timber and building poles? Often there is a conflict there. Whose land are they going to use? Does the farmer have to give up a part of her cropland to grow trees that she cannot harvest for several years? In the short term, she needs that land.

"I heard these concerns reflected everywhere I went, including later in Ethiopia and Kenya. I was really interested in a play that was being popularized by the Kenya Woodfuel Development Programme. This play has been written and performed by local people, and it illustrates the fuelwood crisis in one region of Kenya. In this particular region the men have control of the land and say what is to be planted. So the men are planting wood for timber, and they are taking the timber to market, selling it there and keeping the money. The women are continually having to struggle to find firewood, and walking further and further afield for it; and they have not been successful in persuading their men that they need to plant trees for that purpose.

"The play illustrates this problem without providing an obvious solution at the end. It draws attention to the facts in a humorous way, and both men and women have reacted extremely positively. They see the problem, and they recognize that it is not their individual problem but it is quite widespread. At the end of the play the people are encouraged to have discussions about it, and to pick up seedlings, which are being distributed for free. I think it is an innovative approach to the problem, and it is told in terms that the local people can enjoy and relate to. That is the key in this whole extension and education process."

In May 1986, the Non-Governmental Liaison Service of the United Nations published a 64-page directory entitled *NGOs in the Forestry Sector—Africa Edition*. In the introduction, Jill Carr-Harris writes: "This is the first step in a process [that] will eventually document the tremendous contributions of grass roots organizations in the forestry sector."