



Mission

Bellanet promotes and facilitates effective collaboration within the international development community, especially through the use of ICTs.

Bellanet International Steering Committee

- Canadian International Development Agency - CIDA
*Tony Zeitoun**, *Nalan Yuksel***, *Graham Todd*
- Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Danida
Franz-Michael Mellbin (Chair), *Ulla Hauer*
- International Development Research Centre - IDRC
Richard Fuchs
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - Sida
Bengt Oberger, *Afzal Sher*
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC
Manuel Flury

Bellanet operates as a Secretariat hosted by IDRC at its headquarters in Ottawa, Canada.

Secretariat Staff

Allison Hewlitt, Cathi Raymond-Martin, David Balson, Jayalakshmi P. Chittoor, Katherine Morrow, Kemly Camacho, Kevin McCann, Lena Zuñiga, Lucie Lamoureux, Mark Faul, Maurizio Iellina, Michael Roberts, Ricardo Gómez, Riff Fullan, Sarah Kerr, Silvia Caicedo, Zhang Qu.

* The Bellanet Team and its Steering Committee regret the passing of Tony Zeitoun in May 2003.

** Up to March 31, 2003.

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Acronyms

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Bellanet has gone through a number of important changes while growing into a stronger and more mature player in the field of ICTs and development. With SDC joining CIDA, Danida, IDRC and Sida as core funders, Bellanet is in excellent shape to help make collaboration and knowledge sharing easier in the development community, especially with the use of ICTs.

Over the past year an independent, external evaluation was conducted to assess the impact and relevance of Bellanet's activities among its partners and clients. The evaluation yielded very positive results, pointing to Bellanet's major strengths in the Knowledge Sharing and Online Communities programs, and to an increased interest in the activities around Open Source and Open Standards. It also indicated the need to improve support services and communications. Overall, the evaluation highlighted the renewed relevance of Bellanet activities for the development community.

Building on the experience and insight of its multi-disciplinary team, and in consultation with core funders and a small group of partners, Bellanet also engaged in a strategic planning process to prepare for Phase Three (April 2004-March 2009). This strategic plan launches Bellanet South, an impetus to further strengthen Bellanet activities, competencies and services in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It also focuses programmatic activities on three areas (Online Communities, Knowledge Sharing, and Open Development), with four crosscutting issues (Monitoring and Evaluation, Gender equality, Capacity Development, and Communications).

By March 2003, Bellanet had established a regional presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, through a partnership agreement with Fundación Acceso in Costa Rica. Also, substantial progress has been made to establish a similar partnership with an organization in Asia, while continuing the exploration of opportunities and needs in Africa.

In the past year, David Balson, whose vision and energy brought Bellanet to life, took an early and well-deserved retirement. With his support as part time special advisor, I am pleased to lead an excellent, multi-disciplinary team to meet the challenges of a new phase in Bellanet. This has been an exciting and intense year. This report will give you an overview of Bellanet's work over the past twelve months, and a look forward to its new directions and activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricardo Gómez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ricardo Gómez

Bellanet Program Overview

International development practice takes place in increasingly complex contexts, which demand responsiveness, quick adaptation and the capacity to work well with others. Bellanet is uniquely placed to assist the development community in these areas with a combination of technical know-how, and expertise in facilitation of organizational learning and the sharing of knowledge.

Bellanet's program is delivered through three main Program Lines (Online Communities, Knowledge Sharing, and Open Development) and four crosscutting themes (Gender Equality, Capacity Development, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Communications).

Online Communities

One of the most critical elements for improved collaboration in international development is also one of the simplest: dialogue. Effective collaboration greatly depends on open and ongoing communications among partners about their initiatives and areas of work. Bellanet's Online Communities Program Line serves this fundamental requirement with ICT platforms for collaborative work and emphasizes the need for facilitation to make them successful and effective.

Knowledge Sharing

Effective collaboration also requires the capacity to adapt to a complex and rapidly changing environment. Our Knowledge Sharing Program Line recognizes that much of the knowledge, value added, and adaptive capacity of organizations lies with the people in the organization. A learning organization supports the sharing of ideas and networking among its people, rather than investing only in sophisticated technologies to 'manage' knowledge.

Open Development

Bellanet's third Program Line is Open Development. We explore the potential of Open Source software; Open Standards for equitable and sustainable information sharing; and Open Content, to ensure the wide distribution of information without compromising intellectual property rights of its creators.

Crosscutting Issues

Bellanet has formally included **Gender Equality** considerations for program and project planning and implementation.

Bellanet changed its former Access and Training Program Line, turning it into a crosscutting theme focused on **Capacity Development** activities.

Bellanet seeks to continually learn and improve its programming through systematic **Monitoring and Evaluation**.

Finally, Bellanet programming is strengthened through strategic partnerships with key, like-minded organizations in the South. The result is an increased collective capacity to support collaborative initiatives for social innovation and development. Having direct linkages in the South, learning from each other, and working together to define appropriate ways forward, all contribute to the creation of a Bellanet that is not only global and virtual, but also far greater than the sum of its parts.





Photo by Yves Beaulieu, IDRC, 2003

Bellanet South: A New Mode Of Cooperation

One of Bellanet's long-standing interests has been to increase its presence and direct response to the needs and realities of the development community in the South. This has led Bellanet to strengthen partnerships with selected organizations in the South. The goals are to harness and build on local capacities to deliver Bellanet-like services and solutions with local relevance, and to promote cross-fertilization and learning between Bellanet and its partners.

Bellanet South is part of our strategy to increase our impact through the development of these deeper partnerships with organizations in the South, and to create a global, virtual organization whose governance includes not only donor agencies in the North, but also development actors based in the South. These partnerships currently take on one of two forms:

Strategic Partnership

Here we develop close linkages with a Southern partner realized through the setting up of one or more staff positions that will:

- ▶ create a direct Bellanet presence in the region
- ▶ provide a focal point for capacity development opportunities for both organizations
- ▶ help to ensure that Bellanet services to partners in the South remain relevant and useful
- ▶ maximize learning opportunities for both organizations
- ▶ promote greater South-South collaboration

Associate Partnership

Here we partner with Southern organizations around specific sets of activities that draw on our respective areas of expertise. These relationships offer the opportunity for both organizations to extend their reach, to share learning on jointly implemented activities, and to explore future possibilities for closer collaboration.

Bellanet South in 2002-2003

This year saw the establishment of our first Strategic Partnership in San José, Costa Rica with Fundación Acceso. In March 2003, Kemly Camacho began work on a half-time basis as a Program Officer for Bellanet in the Latin America and Caribbean region, on secondment from Acceso. Lena Zúñiga, Program Officer, joins Kemly in June 2003. Acceso and Bellanet will be devoting substantial energy to develop a shared vision, a monitoring process to measure accomplishments and progress over the year and to capture learning on an ongoing basis from this partnership. Our experience with this new model of collaboration will inform and shape our future partnerships in other regions.

In tandem with the Strategic Partnership with Acceso, Bellanet is discussing possibilities for joint activities in the South Asia region with South Asia Partnership (SAP) in Nepal and M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in India. We hope to conclude a Strategic Partnership agreement with SAP Nepal in July 2003, and to undertake an Associate Partnership with MSSRF later in the year.

In Africa, we are conducting exploratory dialogues with several organizations and potential partners.



Photo composition by Yves Beaulieu, IDRC, 2003

Online Communities

Bellanet's Online Communities Program Line, formerly called *Dialogues*, is designed to provide facilitation advice, raise awareness and develop capacity in the use of Internet tools to support dialogue and collaboration in development programs, with particular emphasis on issues of equitable access and participation.

Successful online communities require a combination of good planning, motivated participants, skilled facilitation, and accessible tools. Working with partners and groups of partners, Bellanet encourages the use of online communities and dialogue to support participation, transparency and collaboration in the development community as a whole. To these efforts, Bellanet brings years of facilitation experience, and simple tools designed to be both robust and useful to participants in the South.

Key Activities

Through training, coaching and examples, Bellanet helps the development community strengthen skills needed for successful online community facilitation and moderation.

The *Dgroups Partnership* is the largest activity in the Online Communities Program Line. Joining forces with five other partners, Bellanet has helped establish the world's largest collection of development oriented groups and communities on a simple-to-use platform designed for low-bandwidth users in the South.

Bellanet also works with partners to support online community interaction through a variety of other technological tools. Mailing lists are the most basic, and the most accessible online tool for virtual interaction. We also offer our Web-to-Email service, a window into the Internet through Email. At a more sophisticated level Bellanet is experimenting with new and innovative solutions such as web-based Open Community Spaces.

Dgroups

Dgroups is an initiative supported by Bellanet, DFID, ICA, IICD, OneWorld, and UNAIDS. Currently, IDRC, UNECA, Funredes, FAO and CIDA are exploring ways to join the Dgroups Partnership.

Online Community Tip:

The best advice for people fostering effective online communities: success lies 90% with facilitating good interactions among people, and only 10% with the technology used.

WATCH FOR:

- *Bellanet is leading the exploration of an open source version of Dgroups allowing others to host, maintain and contribute improvements to its functionality*
- *A series of workshops for online community facilitators, bringing together online facilitators to learn from each other*



Photo by Mark Faul, Bellanet, 2003

Knowledge Sharing

Development problems are increasingly complex and require interdisciplinary solutions. Development organizations need to be smart, agile and responsive. In other words, they need to be better at what they do, learn more from their experiences and adapt to an ever-changing reality.

Since 1999, Bellanet has been using **Knowledge Management (KM)** approaches and tools to assist development organizations to better tap into –and share– their experiences and knowledge to increase the effectiveness of development work. In 2002, we relabeled the Program Line from KM to “**Knowledge Sharing (KS)**”, in order to emphasize Bellanet’s focus on that specific aspect of the KM process. During the last four years of KM/KS work, we have experimented with different approaches and practices, exchanging experiences with –and learning from– different partners, and more importantly, “learning by doing”.

These are some of our key lessons:

- Buy-in for KS at all levels –but especially top management– is essential
- KS means cultural change, which takes time
- KS is much more about people and processes than technology, which is only an enabler
- It is important to show the benefits/value-added of sharing knowledge
- The best knowledge repository is a community or group of people
- The best KS approaches are simple and flexible

Key Activities

The **KM4Dev** (Knowledge Management for Development) discussion list and online workspace are unique venues where a community of KM/KS practitioners working in development share ideas and experiences. The KM4Dev workshops have been instrumental in bringing the community together to learn from each other's experiences, both positive and negative. As convener of KM4Dev, Bellanet is supporting the **facilitation of the KM4Dev ongoing discussion and online workspace**, and champions the Community's online resources (open.bellanet.org/km).

KM4Dev Workshops are viewed as a vital vehicle for the community as they help to establish trust and create momentum and offer opportunities to examine best practices of KS while using facilitation tools such as: Before, During, and After Learning; Communities of Practice; and Storytelling. Over the last year, Bellanet co-organized the following workshops:

- Maputo, Mozambique, May 29-31, 2002 at the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
- The Hague, Netherlands, November 13-14, 2002. Jointly Sponsored by ISNAR, IICD and Bellanet
- A series of CIDA Knowledge Sharing Workshops in Ottawa, Canada - October 2002 - February 2003

WATCH FOR:

- **African KM Consortium**
A strategic partnership for KM in Africa that seeks –through a collaborative donor fund – to assist KM capacity development and awareness of African development practitioners, to support a Community of African KM practitioners, and to establish a small grants program to nurture a variety of budding knowledge networks
- **Upcoming KS workshops**
Honduras, Fall 2003;
Washington - DC, January 2004
- **Kathmandu KM Workshop - July 2003**
Bellanet will jointly organize and facilitate a KM workshop for the South Asia Human Development Forum (SAHDF) to promote knowledge sharing between participants. The workshop will focus on practical knowledge sharing issues and approaches, drawing on the experiences and expertise of workshop participants from the South Asian and South-East Asian regions



Photo by Yves Beaulieu, IDRC, 2003

Open Development: Bellanet's Philosophy

An open approach to ICT use for development collaboration utilizes Open Standards for information sharing, Open Source software, and Open Content for public use. These approaches and tools, which make up our Open Development Program, serve as an integrated package that not only provides the means for organizations to operate in an open collaborative manner, but also promotes the ideals of transparency, and collaborative development work for the collective benefit of all participants.

The Open Development approach is about supporting and creating an environment, both internally and externally, of sustainable information and knowledge sharing. Having a cultural environment that is supportive of open approaches leads to improved access to and quality of information and knowledge, and to more effective and coordinated development efforts.

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Bellanet's work in the Open Development Program Line focuses on:

- Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) — refers to both a movement and a methodology to create, use, alter and share source code publicly
- Open Standards — commonly agreed-upon principles for the structured exchange of information and knowledge via the Internet
- Open Content — giving users the freedom to use, modify and redistribute content in the public domain

Key Activities

- Bellanet is a member of the management and implementation teams of the Accessible Information on Development Activities (AiDA) Initiative. AiDA is an XML-generated directory of over 300,000 development projects and programs hosted by the Development Gateway Foundation. Bellanet also promotes AiDA among its partners (civil society organizations and foundations) and encourages them to apply the IDML standard to their projects <http://aida.developmentgateway.org>
- Bellanet continues to work with Global Development Network on the use of the Online Proposal Appraisal (OPA) software to manage the GDN awards program (http://www.bellanet.org/opa_gdn2003)
- Bellanet has developed new PostNuke modules and modified existing ones as part of its contribution to the Open Source Community: Document Discussion, DownloadsPlus, SuperBB, UserExtend, and search functionality for HTML pages
- In house, Bellanet has also made significant advances in switching to Open Source software solutions for office use, both for server and desktop

An Open Development approach is about supporting and creating an environment of sustainable information and knowledge sharing among development partners.

WATCH FOR:

- *Support for Open Development (OpenDev) in Africa and Asia*
- *OpenDev activities planned for the Latin American and Caribbean Region:*
 - a. *research into current state of the art in OpenDev*
 - b. *support & participation in regional conferences*
 - c. *support for virtual communities discussing OpenDev issues for the region*
- *An Open Source version of Dgroups*



Photo by Yves Beaulieu, IDRC, 2003

Crosscutting Areas

Bellanet's Program Lines are supported through our crosscutting areas:

Gender Equality

Sustainable and equitable development has to include gender considerations to ensure equal representation, participation, and access for women and men. The external evaluation demonstrated that Bellanet programming is sensitive to gender issues included on a project-by-project basis.

In phase 3, Bellanet will place a stronger emphasis on the gender implications of our work, and make more explicit its integration into our policies and across our program areas.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Bellanet has been a responsive and changing organization, focusing on learning. Monitoring is seen as fulfilling two different objectives, the first one relates to *learning* while the second meets our *accountability* requirements. Both of these objectives have been met by using different tools and approaches.

Bellanet uses techniques such as *Peer Assist* and *After Action Review*, adapted from the KM practices, as well as elements of the Outcome Mapping methodology developed by the IDRC Evaluation Unit. Our present evaluation plan includes monitoring practices and indicators, specific themes for yearly internal evaluations, and a new external evaluation before the end of Phase 3.

Capacity Development

During the 2002-2003 period, Bellanet decided to re-orient the Access and Training Program Line into a crosscutting area.

Bellanet will continue to play an active role in supporting capacity development among its partners through its engagement in ITrain and ITrainOnline.

ITrain

ITrain is a collaborative system for creating manuals for computer and Internet training in developing countries. Users can adapt manuals and course materials to suit the local context.

Last year Bellanet developed a module on “Facilitating a Community of Practice (CoP)”. Working in partnership with the Training Resources Group (TRG), Bellanet also designed a one-day participatory course, designed to train-the-trainer, which uses a variety of activities and exercises to provide students with an introduction to Communities of Practice (CoPs) and fundamental facilitation skills. Differences between face-to-face and online facilitation are explained before students begin to develop skills in facilitating online CoPs. The complete collection of materials can be viewed online at: <http://www.bellanet.org/itrain>

Bellanet also produced a new CDROM for distribution to partners with poor connectivity. The CD contains the complete collection of ITrain materials in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and Chinese, and also includes a suite of free and open source tools for viewing and modifying the materials including Open Office and Mozilla.

At Bellanet, we believe that sustainable and equitable development has to include gender considerations to ensure equal representation, participation, and access for women and men.

Bellanet Projects and Activities



Bellanet delivers its programming and services through Projects and Activities:
Projects are long partnerships requiring significant effort and resources
Activities are short-term initiatives involving lesser effort and resources

Key and Legend —————

 Southern focus

 Started after April 1, 2002

 Featured in Program Overview

Online Communities

Leading and facilitating electronic collaboration

PROJECTS

Dgroups – Development through Dialogue ★

Bellanet and partners established and support Dgroups, a common platform for development dialogue that is home to numerous groups and communities. The platform is simple, non-commercial, respectful of privacy, and targeted to low bandwidth users in the South. The interface is available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

[Partners: IICD, DFID, ICA, OneWorld, UNAIDS]

www.dgroups.org

ITrain

ITrain is an Open Content collaboration to create and share high-quality materials to support ICT training in the South and provides the model for the global ITrainOnline initiative.

[Partners: APC, ICIMOD, IDRC, ITrainOnline, others]

www.bellanet.org/itrain

ITrainOnline

ITrainOnline is a joint initiative of the “Flower Partnership” (six organizations with exceptional expertise in computer and Internet training in the South). ITrainOnline connects people and know-how with the needs of ICT learners and trainers worldwide.

[Partners: APC, IICD, IISD, INASP, OneWorld]

www.itrainonline.org

The “Virtual Parliament of the Americas”

Bellanet has developed and hosts the Virtual Parliament of the Americas web site on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA - a network linking and promoting dialogue among parliamentarians throughout the Americas). We are also facilitating the engagement of the FIPA Executive Committee and various Working Groups in using ICTs to support their respective ongoing dialogues through training and development of online workspaces.

[Partners: FIPA Technical Secretariat, ICA, Parliamentary Centre (Canada)]

www.e-fipa.org

Strategic and Technical Support for HDFNet - South Asia Human Development Forum Online

Bellanet provides strategic advice, technical support and training services to the South Asia Human Development Forum. In partnership with the SAP Canada and SAP Nepal, Bellanet is organizing a Knowledge Sharing Workshop to be held in July 2003, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

[Partners: South Asia Partnership, CIDA]

www.hdfnet.org

ACTIVITIES

Web-to-Email

Bellanet continues to promote and expand the Web-to-Email gateway service to facilitate access to the Internet for people who only have Email or a low bandwidth connection.

[Partners: ICTP, IDRC]

www.bellanet.org/email.htm

Strategic and Technical Support for ADEA – Association for the Development of Education in Africa

Bellanet continues to provide ADEA with strategic and technical advice, and services on the effective use of ICTs. ADEA uses the Internet to coordinate committee activities and to distribute baseline educational statistics and other research of value to educators and policy-makers.

[Partners: ADEA, CIDA, Danida, Sida, SDC, others]

www.adeanet.org

Strategic and Technical Support for PICTA - Partnership for ICTs in Africa



Bellanet is a founding member of this partnership of organizations implementing ICT projects in Africa, supporting dialogue among the members.

[Partners: ECA]

www.uneca.org/aisi

Mountain Forum Dialogues

On behalf of the Mountain Forum, Bellanet hosts 13 discussion lists related to sustainable development in mountain environments. The lists are mirrored on the Mountain Forum web site.

[Partners: Mountain Forum]

www.mtnforum.org



Photo by Yves Beaulieu, IDRC, 2003

Knowledge Sharing

Helping organizations learn from experience

PROJECTS

KM4DEV - Knowledge Management Community of Practice ★

Bellanet supports a community of practice and runs workshops on Knowledge Sharing approaches in international development. Workshops were held this year in Maputo, Mozambique and The Hague, Netherlands.

[Partners: CIDA, DFID, GTZ, IFAD, IDRC, IDS, MSSRF, SDC]

www.bellanet.org/km

KM Strategies for the CGIAR – Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research 👤

Bellanet has partnered with the Training Resources Group to provide support in the development of KM strategies within the CGIAR. To date, Bellanet has worked with CIAT (Colombia), IWMI (Sri Lanka), and ICARDA (Syria) and a number of activities on KM strategies are envisioned for the future.

[Partners: CGIAR Centers, Training Resources Group]

LEAP - Learning and Evaluation Action Program

LEAP was established to support and promote learning and capacity building in and among development organizations with a strong focus on the impacts and uses of knowledge and ICTs in development. Bellanet continues to host the member communities, provide technical and strategic advice and participates as a member in LEAP IMPACT.

[Partners: City University (London), CTA, IDRC, IICD]

www.bellanet.org/leap

ACTIVITIES

Honduras Knowledge Sharing Case Studies Workshop 👤 ★ NEW

Bellanet South Strategic partner, Fundación Acceso (Costa Rica), will assist local researchers in the design and implementation of a series of in-depth case studies, and will support research into KS activities in Honduras.

[Partners: IDRC]

Learning Approaches to Evaluation - Peer Network in India 👤 NEW

Bellanet provides strategic advice and supports a pilot India-focused network for learning from evaluation. The Peer Network project focuses on mobilizing organizations to engage in a learning-oriented evaluation process to build individual and organizational capacity.

[Partners: UNIFEM, IUCN, IDRC]

ENRAP - Electronic Networking for Rural Asia/Pacific - Phase 2 👤

Discussions are ongoing regarding Bellanet participation in Phase 2 of the ENRAP project. Bellanet's role has evolved from a focus on technical support to the current emphasis on support for learning and strengthening of knowledge sharing within the network.

[Partners: IDRC, IFAD]

www.enrap.org

Open Development

PROJECTS

AiDA - Accessible Information on Development Activities

Bellanet is a member of the management team of AiDA, an XML-generated directory of over 300,000 development projects and programs hosted by the Development Gateway Foundation. [Partners: Development Gateway Foundation, OECD-DAC]

www.developmentgateway.org/aida

Software for Online Proposal Appraisal (OPA)

Bellanet's Open Source OPA software (an Internet-based application for the submission and review of proposal applications) continues to gain momentum in the development community. OPA is also available for Linux, developed by Kincite, a company from Holland. There is an interest from the Canadian government to further develop the Open Source version of OPA.

[Partners: IDRC, GDN, Kincite]

www.bellanet.org/opa

Open Source Community Spaces (OSCS)



Open Source Community Spaces are customized online collaboration environments developed/modified by Bellanet for development communities and networks. Bellanet provides and supports Community Spaces to several networks. [Partners: USAID, IDRC, CGIAR, AED]

Shared Calendar

This activity is a collaborative effort to share events information. Each partner has a calendar of its own, which automatically shares content with all other partners. The aggregation of ICT events is shared via the GKP calendar, making it one of the most complete in the world.

[Partners: IICD, GKP, ADEA, INASP]

www.bellanet.org/events



Completed in 2002-2003

Online Communities

Humanitarian Mine Action - ICT Project (HMA-ICT)

Bellanet was the lead implementing partner in HMA-ICT, a project to support communication and information sharing for humanitarian mine action in Angola and Mozambique, with particular focus on national Mine Action Centres.
[Partners: UNMAS, UN Foundation, IDRC, Ebonet, CIUEM, Angonet]

Facilitating Communities of Practice Manual

Bellanet designed a one-day ITrain training course for facilitators of online communities. The course provided a practical introduction to Communities of Practice, with games and exercises to develop online facilitation skills. Manuals for instructors and course participants are available as part of the ITrain collection.
[Partners: Training Resources Group]

Strategic and Technical Support for the Global Network on Medicinal Plants

Bellanet provided ICT support to the Global Network on Medicinal Plants initiative, including ongoing strategic advice, an online workspace and networking tools.
[Partners: IDRC]

Consultation on Education and Learning

Bellanet hosted a global consultation regarding a Sida-commissioned study on education and learning in developing countries.
[Partners: Instituto Fronesis, Sida]

Dialogue on Development-Related Public Sector Performance Indicators

Bellanet provided a dialogue space for discussion on the identification of indicators to measure public sector performance.
[Partners: OECD, DFID]

Dialogue on Open Content - DOT Force Action Point 8

Bellanet participated in a dialogue on the Open Knowledge pilot project relating to DOT Force Action Point 8 on Open Content.
[Partners: OneWorld]

Dialogue Technologies

Bellanet provided advice on web-based environments to support inter-departmental dialogues in the Canadian government.
[Partners: Dialogue Technologies, Government of Canada]

Strategic and Technical Support for PCIA - Peace & Conflict Impact Assessment Network

Bellanet provided strategic advice to support knowledge sharing and collaboration in the network, and guided the design of a PCIA online presence.
[Partners: FEWER, IDRC, International Alert, Saferworld]

Strategic and Technical Support for SDC - Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation

Bellanet hosted and guided the facilitation of two SDC dialogues: the first an internal group working on implementation of SDC's HIV/AIDS guidelines, and the second, an online community formed around SDC-supported rural development projects.
[Partners: SDC]

Knowledge Sharing

KM Champions in Africa Workshop

Bellanet and the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique organized a Knowledge Management Workshop in May 2002. Participants from African development organizations shared their experiences with

KM and examined best practices for their potential application to development work and to their organizations.

[Partners: CIDA, DFID, IFAD, SDC, UEM, World Bank]

CIDA Learning Events

In collaboration with CIDA, Bellanet designed and implemented a series of three learning events held at CIDA in Ottawa, Canada. Through sharing experiences and learning from others, CIDA's staff and partners exchanged knowledge on the role of ICTs in two priority areas, education and health. The third event explored ways to strategically use ICTs to empower civil society with an emphasis placed on gender and youth.

[Partners: CIDA]

Strategic and Technical Support for ENRAP - Electronic Networking for Rural Asia/Pacific (Interim Phase)

ENRAP is a program to support Internet use and knowledge sharing among IFAD-funded rural development projects in the Asia/Pacific region. During the Interim Phase, Bellanet supported learning and knowledge sharing activities including organizing and facilitating a KM workshop in Nepal and participating as a resource person at the Phase II Planning Workshop in Thailand.

[Partners: IDRC, IFAD]

Open Development

IDML - International Development Markup Language Initiative

IDML is a multi-agency effort to create an XML-based standard for the markup and exchange of international development information. IDML is the standard used by the AiDA Initiative.

[Partners: INDIX, ILO, IDS, FAO, Development Gateway, Danida, WAU, World Bank]

List Helper Software

List Helper is a software application developed by Bellanet to improve web access to Lyris discussion lists. Several development partners, in addition to Bellanet, are using the software and contributed to technical development.

[Partners: IDS, UNDP, World Bank]

Bellanet Corporate Highlights

Learning from our External Evaluation

Under the direction of an Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) appointed by BISC, Bellanet underwent an external evaluation with the purpose of demonstrating accountability to Bellanet donors as well as improving organizational effectiveness and decision-making capacity.

In consultation with the EAC, Bellanet donors and staff, The Governance Network (TGN), a private consulting firm, designed an evaluation that included a survey, key informant interviews and five case study analyses.

WATCH FOR:

Monitoring and Assessment Framework for Bellanet South: To learn and increase the impact of the Bellanet South strategy through simple yet effective monitoring and assessment mechanisms for implementation in the LAC region.

The evaluation results demonstrated that Bellanet is “a dynamic organization that has grown over the last eight years to meet the demands and evolving needs of the development community.” Bellanet intends to build on the following identified strengths, as highlighted in the Final Report of the Evaluation, as it moves into its next phase:

- Bellanet is valued as a neutral party with the ability to bring together different players in development
- Bellanet possesses a solid combination of knowledge and expertise in applying information and communication technologies (ICTs) within the unique development context to enable and promote more effective collaboration
- Bellanet is viewed as being open, flexible, and innovative – a small organization that is willing and able to experiment and accommodate partners’ unanticipated needs
- Bellanet is networked with Northern donors but is also tapped into the needs of Southern organizations and has an ability to bridge the gap between the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and Donor communities

As highlighted in the Strategic Plan 2003-2009, the results of the evaluation helped to better inform decisions about the future direction of Bellanet. Some of the salient changes adopted by Bellanet include:

- Reducing the number of Program Lines from four to three
- Strengthening strategic partnerships through the implementation of a Bellanet South Strategy
- Scaling down ICT evaluation and software development activities
- Improving communication and client support for existing programs
- Undertaking new activities to promote gender equality

Technical Capacity

Bellanet continues to adopt Open Source server technology such as PHP, Mailman, Web-to-Email server (WWW4Mail), Apache, MySQL, PostNuke, etc. for managing many of its core services. In addition, most of Bellanet’s servers now run on an Open Source Operating System, Linux.

As part of our migration to Open Source solutions, we are experimenting with Linux on the desktop. To date, a third of Bellanet staff have successfully migrated to the Linux platform, and have begun to document the strengths and weaknesses of this Open Source desktop alternative.

This year also marked the release of version 1.0 of Dgroups, an ambitious platform for group discussion based on the successful “Workspaces” application. To sustain the course toward Open Source, Bellanet and the Dgroups Partnership are investigating the development of an Open Source version of Dgroups.

Bellanet’s increased presence in the South requires the adoption of a more virtual organizational model to ensure the effective flow and exchange of information and knowledge within the team. In addition to conference calls, videoconference, face-to-face meetings, and Email, Bellanet has begun to adopt technology that will allow itself to move its office environment into a more virtual space.

Bellanet’s technical team grew with the arrival of Sarah Kerr in May 2002. Sarah is a graduate from the University of Waterloo Computer Science program. She completed three successful internships at Bellanet, one of which was based in Paris at the Associate for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). Sarah’s primary role is to work on the AiDA Initiative. She maintains the AiDA schema for sharing project/activity data, among other tasks. She continues to explore and lead Bellanet’s use of Open Standards.

Reaching out through communications

Communications is the means by which Bellanet informs key stakeholders and the development community at large of its programming, ongoing activities, and opportunities for collaboration. This past year saw a significant emphasis on ensuring consistent recognition and understanding of Bellanet's mission, goals, and programming framework among key stakeholders, especially donors and potential Southern partners.

By leveraging partnerships outside the traditional "ICT4D" sector Bellanet is able to reach practitioners working at the grassroots level, where there is a great need for simple but sound practice information about ICTs. Early in the year, Bellanet was invited to co-edit a special issue of the sustainable agriculture magazine LEISA with the Centre for Information on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture (ILEIA). The special issue on changing information flows in agriculture highlighted strategic issues such as the role of ICT in filling the gap left by declining support for agricultural extension services.

The Bellanet corporate web site was substantially redesigned in the Open Source content management platform PostNuke. The new site showcases the activities taking place within Bellanet-supported online communities. Over 900 other web pages link to the Bellanet web site.

The number of subscribers to the Bellanet-L dissemination service continued to increase at a consistent rate. The mailing list provides updates on relevant new research, events, funding sources and publications relevant to Bellanet and its partners. The membership now stands just under 2000 members, 645 subscribed to the service in the last year.

Sharing of information about upcoming events is an important aspect of collaboration among development partners. Bellanet provides a shared calendar with information on conferences, workshops, and training events by Bellanet and other partners working in knowledge and ICT for development, including the partners in the Building Digital Opportunities (BDO) initiative. The shared calendar enables each partner institution to maintain its own calendar while effortlessly sharing upcoming events with the other partners and with the public. The calendar system demonstrates a successful approach to using Open Standards-based technology to facilitate knowledge sharing on the Internet.

"... By leveraging partnerships outside the traditional "ICT4D" sector Bellanet is able to reach practitioners working at the grassroots level, where there is a great need for simple but sound practice information about ICTs."

WATCH FOR:

A shift in Bellanet's approach to external communications which will include the revival of the quarterly BellaNews, an electronic and print newsletter highlighting our activities, and new outreach materials to support partnership development and resource mobilization.



Financial Overview

All amounts in Canadian Dollars (CAD)¹ Millions

Revenues: 1995 – March 2003

	1995/96—2001/02	2002/03	Total
Core funding	6.18	.82	7.00
Contracts	2.16	.28	2.44
Total	8.34	1.10	9.44

Expenditures: April 1995 – March 2003

Previous years 1995/96—2001/02		6.40
Current year 2002/03:	Program Activities	1.16
	Management and Technical Support	.64
	Total Expenses 2002/03	1.80
Total expenditures to March 31, 2003		8.20

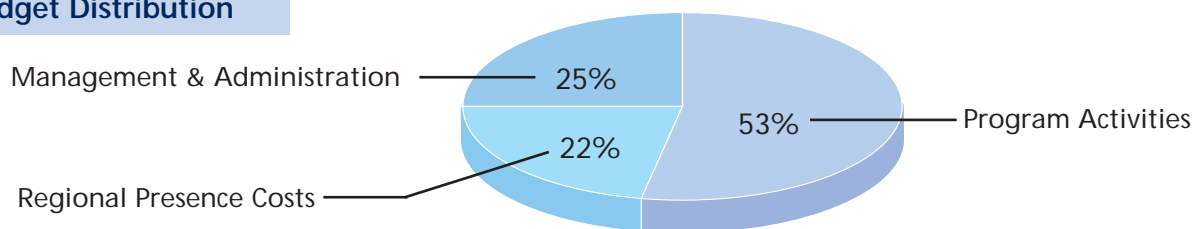
Budget for fiscal year April 2003 – March 2004

Fund balance at April 1, 2003		1.24
Anticipated Revenues		1.16
	Total Revenues	2.40
Projected expenditures:	Program Activities	1.32
	Management and Technical Support	.63
	Regional Presence	.45
	Total projected expenditures	2.40

Projected Budget for Phase 3: April 2004/5 – March 2008/9

Budget Estimates	Annual	Totals for 5 years
Program Activities	1.47	7.36
Regional Presence	.60	3.02
Management and Administration	.70	3.50
Total projected expenditures (2004/05-2008/09)	2.77	13.88

Budget Distribution



¹Canadian Dollar. CAD 1.00 = USD 0.68 / EUR 0.62 on March 31, 2003

Online Dialogues Hosted by Bellanet

The following is a representative sample of the discussions and workspaces hosted by Bellanet

 Web-based workspace provided with the list.

Bellanet

bellanet-l	Bellanet Dissemination List
bisc-cl	Bellanet International Steering Committee


Collaborations (various)

bdo	Building Digital Opportunities Programme
dg-partners	Dgroups Partners
executive-cl	Global Knowledge Partnership Executive Committee 
ictk4d	Open Content 'Flower' Partners 
iford-cl	International Forum for Research Donors 
membership-cl	Global Knowledge Partnership Membership Committee
ocen	Open Content Exchange Network 
vp	Virtual Parliament of the Americas (FIPA) Discussions 
www4mail	WWW4Mail Partners Group 

Education

adea-sc-cl	ADEA Steering Committee
adea-wg-leaders-cl	ADEA Working Group Leaders
adea-wgnfe	ADEA Non-formal Education Working Group


International Development Markup Language Initiative (IDML)

AiDACore	Accessible Information on Development Activities Core Group
aida	Accessible Information on Development Activities (AIDA) - General Discussion
idml-l	DML Initiative - General Discussion 


International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

alianzas-iipm	Mining Policy Research Initiative Working Group
gender-resource-tenure	Gender, Natural Resource Management and Globalization 
ict4d-futures	ICT4D Programme Dialogue 





ItrainOnline

itrain	ITrain - Trainers' Community 
ito-announce	ItrainOnline Announcements
ito-editors	ItrainOnline Editors
ito-partners	ItrainOnline Partners

Knowledge Management

KMinAfrica	Knowledge Management in Africa
km4dev-l	KM for International Development Organisations 

Learning and Evaluation Action Program (LEAP)

evag	Evaluation and Monitoring Action Group 
evaltica	IDRC ICT Evaluation Framework 
impact	Measuring the Development Impact of ICTs 
pantleg	IDRC PAN Telecentre Learning and Evaluation 



Mountain Forum

infoandina-fm	InfoAndina
mf-admin	Mountain Forum - List Administrators
mf-africa	Mountain Forum - Africa
mf-asia	Mountain Forum - Asia
mf-europe	Mountain Forum - Europe
mf-lac	Mountain Forum - Latin America & Caribbean
mf-namerica	Mountain Forum - North America
mf-summary	Mountain Forum - Summary
mf-women	Mountain Forum - Women
mtn-forum	Mountain Forum - General

South Asia Human Development Forum Net (HDFNet)

hdfnet	HDFNet - General 
hdfnetfocal	HDFNet Focal Points

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

rural-dev	SDC Dialogue on Rural Development 
sdc-aids	SDC Guidelines on HIV/AIDS 
sdc-knowledge	SDC Discussion to Enhance Networking Within SDC

Bellanet's Outreach

Training and Outreach Events

PLACE	DATE	EVENT
Ottawa, Canada	April 2002	Presented on 'Technology for Knowledge Sharing' at the Knowledge Management in Canadian Government Conference
Brighton, UK	24-25 April 2002	Trained and assisted the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) on developing a strategy to share information using the AiDA principles [IDS]
Ottawa, Canada	May 2002	Trained the Information Technology Management Division of IDRC to use "After Action Review" as a learning tool for their initiatives [IDRC]
Ottawa, Canada	21-22 May 2002	Participated and co-organized the AiDA Open Participants Meeting [Bellanet, OECD-DAC, Development Gateway]
Maputo, Mozambique	29-31 May 2002	Organized and led the Knowledge Management (KM) and International Development: KM Champions in Africa Workshop [Universidade Eduardo Mondlane]
Nairobi, Kenya	6-7 June 2002	Co-organized and facilitated a KM Workshop for UNDP [UNDP]
Chicago, USA	2 July 2002	Delivered training on Open Standards at the MacArthur Foundation [MacArthur Foundation]
Grangeneuve, Switzerland	August 2002	Designed and led a one-day session on Knowledge Sharing Technologies for Agricultural Extension at the International Centre for Agricultural Education (ICAE)
Buenos Aires, Argentina	August 2002	Trained the FIPA Executive Committee members on the use their online workspace
Kathmandu, Nepal	September 2002	Co-designed and led a Knowledge Management workshop for ENRAP [IFAD, IDRC]
Battle Creek, USA	9 September 2002	Delivered training on Open Standards at the Kellogg Foundation [Kellogg Foundation]
Ottawa, Canada	October, December 2002 and February 2003	Designed, co-organized and facilitated CIDA Learning Events [CIDA]
The Hague, Netherlands	13-14 November 2002	Co-organized and facilitated KM4Dev Workshop [ISNAR, IICD]
Amsterdam, Netherlands	November 2002	Led the LEAP IMPACT workshop 'Smart tools for evaluating the performance of products and services' [KIT, CTA, IICD]
New Delhi, India	3 December 2002	Co-organized and presented at a Learning Approaches to Evaluation Workshop [IDRC]
Washington, D.C. USA	5-6 December 2002	Presented and participated at the AiDA Open Participants Meeting [Development Gateway Foundation]
Stockholm, Sweden	27-29 January 2003	Demonstrated Open Source at the Open.Net Meeting associated with the Bellanet International Steering Committee Meeting [Sida]
Cairo, Egypt	21 January 2003	Participated as member of the Global Development Network (GDNet) Steering Committee Meeting [GDNet]
Bangkok, Thailand	February 2003	Led the ENRAP Phase II Planning Workshop [IDRC, IFAD]
Ottawa, Canada	4 March 2003	Presented at the Canadian Centre for Management Development (CCMD) meeting in the Knowledge Management session [African Capacity-Building Foundation, CCMD]
Vientiane, Laos	3-10 March 2003	Participated in the Pan Asia Networking All Partners' 2003 Conference [Pan Asia Networking]
Ottawa, Canada	26-28 March 2003	Delivered two presentations (via videoconference) for the Knowledge Networking for Empowerment and Development (KNOWNET): A Southeast Asian Workshop [Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)]
Oakland, USA	11-12 March 2003	Presented and participated in the 'Techfunders Collaborative Summit'

Other Events

PLACE	DATE	EVENT
Washington DC, USA	20 April 2002	Participated in an Organizational Storytelling Workshop [Stephen Denning]
Paris, France	22-23 April 2002	Participated at the Civil Society Meeting in preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society [Unesco Headquarters]
The Hague, Netherlands	22-23 May 2002	Participated in the 'Sustaining ICT-enabled Development: Practice makes Perfect?' workshop [IICD]
Ottawa, Canada	30 September -	Participated in XML/XSLT Training [Crane Softwrights]
Montreal, Canada	7-12 October 2002	Participated in the Global Community Networks 2002 Conference [UQÀM, GCN]
Washington D.C., USA	16-18 October 2002	Participated at the Open Source for EGovernment Meeting
Amsterdam, Netherlands	November 2002	Participated in an Organizational Story Telling Workshop [Stephen Denning]
Baltimore, MA USA	8-9 December 2002	Participated in training sessions at XML 2002 Conference, [International Digital Enterprise Alliance]
Ottawa, Canada	15 -17 January 2003	Participated in an Open Space training workshop
Ottawa, Canada	5 February 2003	Participated in the Empowering civil society through ICTs knowledge sharing workshop [CIDA]
Washington DC, USA	17-19 March 2003	Participated in the Conference on Open Standards/Open Source for National and Local eGovernment Programs in the U.S. and EU [The Center of Open Source & Government]

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Acronyms

ADEA	Association for the Development of Education in Africa	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ADF	African Development Forum	IFORD	International Forum of Research Donors
AED	Academy for Educational Development	IICD	International Institute for Communication and Development (Netherlands)
AiDA	Accessible Information on Development Activities	IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)
APC	Association for Progressive Communications	ILEIA	Centre for Information on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture
APIC	Africa Policy Information Center (USA)	ILO	International Labour Organisation
BDO	Building Digital Opportunities	INAROE	National Institute for the Removal of Obstacles and Explosive Ordnance
BISC	Bellanet International Steering Committee	INASP	International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (United Kingdom)
CAD	Canadian Dollar	INDIX	International Network for Development Information Exchange
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management	infoDev	Information for Development Program (World Bank)
CCMD	Canadian Centre for Management Development	IRG	International Resources Group
CCPP	Canadian College Partnership Program	ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research	IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Colombia)	IWMI	International Institute for Water Management
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency	KIT	Royal Tropical Institute (Netherlands)
CIP	Centro Internacional de la Papa / International Potato Center (Peru)	KM	Knowledge Management
CIUEM	Centro de Informatica Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique)	KS	Knowledge Sharing
CoP	Community of Practice	KM4Dev	Knowledge Management for Development
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation	LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)	LEAP	Learning and Evaluation Action Program
Danida	Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	MIMAP	Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)	MSSRF	M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (India)
DG	Development Gateway Foundation	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
DGIS	Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation	NORRAG	Northern Policy Research Review and Advisory Network on Education and Training
DOT Force	Digital Opportunity Task Force (G8)	OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DW	Development Workshop	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa	OPA	Online Proposal Appraisal Software
ENRAP	Electronic Networking for Rural Asia/Pacific	PCIA	Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment
Euforic	Europe's Forum on International Cooperation	PICTA	Partnership for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa
EVAG	Evaluation and Monitoring Action Group	SAP	South Asia Partnership
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
FEWER	Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (United Kingdom)	Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
FIPA	Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas	SURF	Sub-Regional Resource Facility (UNDP)
GCN	Global Community Network	TCDC	Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries (UNDP)
GDN	Global Development Network	TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
GKP	Global Knowledge Partnership	TRG	Training Resources Group
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit	UEM	Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
HDFNet	South Asia Human Development Forum Net	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
ICA	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas	UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ICAE	International Centre for Agricultural Education	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	UQAM	Université du Québec à Montréal
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ICTP	Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics	XML	Extensible Markup Language
IUCN	The World Conservation Union	XSLT	Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language	WSIS	The World Summit on the Information Society
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies		
ICT4D	Information and Communications Technologies for Development		
IDML	International Development Markup Language		
IDRC	International Development Research Centre (Canada)		
IDS	Institute for Development Studies (United Kingdom)		



***Join us...
Bellanet online communities***

BELLANET-L	Bellanet outreach and announcements mailing list
KM4DEV	KM for Development community of practice
ITRAIN	Resources for ICT training in the south
IDML-L	IDML Initiative

and many more...

☛ Visit <http://www.bellanet.org/lyris> and
<http://www.dgroups.org>

Report on Activities 2002-2003
<http://www.bellanet.org/>