



## Activity Sheet 80

# Environmental impacts of rural roads

### Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to discuss the direct and indirect environmental impacts of rural road projects. Participants should draw on their experiences and knowledge of ways in which rural transport projects transform the environment for good or ill.

### Group Work

1. Read the extract from the technical paper (attached).
2. Discuss the following questions:
  - A. *What are some of the likely direct environmental impacts of road projects in developing countries?*
  - B. *What are the likely indirect environmental impacts of road projects in developing countries?*
3. Draw on specific examples of environmental costs and benefits from your own country's transport sector.
4. Prepare your findings on flip chart and elect a person to present the findings.

'For all the positive aspects of road projects, they may also have significant negative impacts on nearby communities and the natural environment. [...] Roads are agents of change, and can be responsible for both benefits and damage to the existing balance between people and the environment.'

**Extract from:** *Roads and the environment – a handbook*. By: Tsunokawa and Hoban (1997)