The law will jail the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common
But leave the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from the goose

unknown author, 17th century
CC’s Role in the Global Commons Movement

Silke Helfrich, Commons Strategies Group

17/09/2011
Varsovia, CC Summit 2011

www.commonsstrategies.org; www.gemeingueter.de; www/commonsblog.de
1. What is the Commons all about?
2. What about CC and the Commons?
3. Wishlist for CC from a commoner’s perspective
1.
“THIS IS A COMMONS”
Elinor Ostrom
Nobel Prize for Economics 2009
shared understanding of how to use sth. which does not belong to only one person, nor to only one nation
Common (pool) resources are everywhere
What does software and seed have in common?
access
access
use
access
use
control
Enclosure of the commons
by law, economic power or technology
by law, economic power or technology

By John Smith on Wikipedia

Campaign saatgut gentec

By Alexandre Dulaunoy

By Wight Stock Images CC BY
Communities defending their freedom by making their own rules
„There is no commons, without commoning.“

Peter Linebaugh
commodities?

Bottled Water by stevendepolo License: Creative Commons BY
or Commons?

By chakeblogspot
Commons are social, institutional, technological and legal innovations from bottom up.
“The biggest value of the internet is the fact, that we have only one internet. So it is key to do the right thing.

Joi Ito
the right thing?
reproducing the commons
… to develop, supports, and stewards legal and technical infrastructure that maximizes digital creativity, sharing and innovation.

(CC Mission)
driving a new era of development, growth and innovation.

(CC Vision)
What for?
CC is...
the most important ambassador for the Commons worldwide
The ambassador’s message does not focus on the commons.
therefore
WISH
LIST
1. caring
for the history and the essence of the commons
2. being aware
> of commons related movements
3. focusing
on self-reproduction of the commons as condition for freedom
4. decide
decide

> 

for active commons advocacy
In short
Be a steward!
Be not only Creative Commons.
Be not only Creative Commons. Be creative for the commons!
Thank you!

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