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## The end of Canberra-based *PLEC News and Views*

The electronic version of *PLEC News and Views* began in March 2003 and we regret to announce that this eighth issue is the last. Lack of finance, despite efforts to secure funds, is of course one reason, but there are also other good reasons why this Canberra-based periodical should now come to an end.

Over the last three years, we have been able to report on continuing activities among the farmer associations, and also to publish papers telling us what participants in the old project are now doing. But with the publication of the East and West African books, the formal publication programme of PLEC 1993-2002 is at an end. PLEC is no longer managed from Canberra, and though what Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez, the Scientific Coordinator, describes in his article below as 'PLEC Central' remains without specific funding, its location is now in New York and, to some degree, Amazonia.

Information does not reach us in the way it used to do and, increasingly, nor do offers of papers from the membership. Other than the overview by Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez, the present issue contains only one contributed paper from a PLEC member, our stalwart from long ago, Fidelis Kaihura. While there may be other papers in preparation, they are probably papers that would better be published elsewhere. Moreover, most of our time is now taken up with the twice-monthly PLECserv, which may have a continuing life perhaps in a slightly variant form.

We have enjoyed producing e-PN&V, and like Miguel, we hope it will have a third incarnation once the diverse successor to old PLEC is more firmly established. But the third incarnation should breathe its life closer to where the project is now coordinated. So we are signing off. Good fortune to all our many friends.

*Harold Brookfield and Helen Parsons*

