

PCLG NEWS! PCLG NEWS! PCLG NEWS!

Issue 1: 2007

Welcome to the first issue of PCLG NEWS! This is a quarterly newsletter that is intended to keep you up-to date with new developments in the body of work on conservation-poverty linkages.

One of the functions of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is to keep abreast of the various initiatives that exist to explore conservation-poverty links (albeit in a variety of different contexts from broad poverty-environment initiatives to those focussed on specific sectors such as forests or protected areas). This first issue of PCLG NEWS provides you with updates of the various initiatives we have identified – a number of which were presented at the first meeting of the Group in December 2005. This has not been an easy task and the difficulties we have had tracking down some of these initiatives both confirm the value of this function and suggest that a priority for all these initiatives is to review the way they share information. Where initiatives have been able to reflect on the learning arising from their work it is included in our updates. However, our conclusion from the past two months of effort in compiling this newsletter is that, while there is a lot of progress in terms of implementing desired activities and research, many initiatives have not yet found the time or space to reflect on how their activities have contributed to improved understanding of poverty-conservation links. One possibility we would like to explore with members is that of holding a learning event in which we could directly address this issue by providing a forum for the discussion of learning to date and how this has contributed to the body of knowledge that underlies our understanding of the nature and extent of poverty-conservation links (see PCLG Conceptual Framework for one articulation of some assumptions about these links).

Initiatives covered in this newsletter

1. Poverty-environment initiatives

- Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)
- Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP)
- Poverty Environment Program
- Rural Poverty and Environment Initiative
- OECD Environment and Development Ministers

2. Poverty-conservation/biodiversity initiatives

- Advancing Conservation in a Social Context
- Care ICD Network
- Conservation and Poverty Reduction Initiative
- Equator Initiative
- FFI Livelihoods Programme
- Nature and Poverty Programme
- SwedBio

3. Sectoral initiatives

Protected Areas

- Socio-economic Impacts of Protected Areas
- TILCEPA
- Vision 2020

Forests

- ARPIP
- Equitable Payments for Watershed Services
- Forest Governance Learning Group
- Poverty Environment Network (PEN)
- Profor

Wetlands

- Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group
- Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project

See the end of this newsletter for How You Can Help; Free Resources and Other PCLG News

Broad Poverty-Environment Initiatives

1. Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)

When it was first established, the Poverty Environment Initiative was a UNDP initiative supported by the UK Department for International Development and the European Commission. It described itself as “A global capacity development network on poverty and environment” and was intended to help developing countries strengthen their own capacities to address poverty reduction through sound environmental management. PEI worked in 5 countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Cambodia, Vietnam, Honduras) at the national level, supported by locally managed funds for supporting local initiatives.

A similar initiative was launched by UNEP in 2004 focussing on seven African countries: Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The aim of the “Poverty Environment Project” was to increase developing countries’ capacity to mainstream environment into poverty reduction policies and programmes. Given the overlap with the UNDP PEI, the two agencies launched a new, joint initiative – also called the Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) - in 2005. The main objectives of the new PEI are to increase capacity of developing countries to integrate environmental sustainability into national development processes (focussing on the implementation of pilot projects in the seven African countries above) and to raise awareness about poverty-environment linkages.

The country projects aim at the inclusion of environmental sustainability as a central objective in national development strategies, such as poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), MDG implementation plans or equivalents. This includes securing increased national budget allocations towards the environment and building the long-term capacity of governments to mainstream environment in the design and implementation of development plans. The awareness raising activities include:

- integrated ecosystem assessments, based on the methodology of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and economic analyses of the value of natural resources;
- facilitating South-South cooperation to enable countries to learn from each others’ experiences and share best practices;
- disseminating information on poverty – environment linkages and organizing workshops and meetings, often in collaboration with other members of the Poverty-Environment Partnership.

More information from: http://www.unep.org/poverty_environment/index.asp

2. Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP)

Established in 2001, the Poverty Environment Partnership is an informal network of development agencies, established in September 2001, which seeks to improve the coordination of work on poverty reduction and the environment within the framework of internationally agreed principles and processes for sustainable development. The objectives of the partnership are to:

- build a consensus on the critical links between poverty and the environment, particularly that better environmental management is essential to lasting poverty reduction;
- review the activities of development agencies to build on common themes and address gaps in knowledge.

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PEP has just concluded its latest meeting in Nairobi (30th January to 1st February). Full coverage of the meeting can be found on the PEP website (see below) and in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin – the reporting service of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (<http://www.iisd.ca/africa/aupep/>). The meeting had two main objectives: to learn from country experiences in mainstreaming environment into national development processes; and to enhance collaboration and coordination of future work in support of country-led environmental mainstreaming. Government representatives from developing countries joined the usual PEP members (mainly donor agencies, development banks, UN agencies) for this meeting.

The previous meeting in June 2006 focussed on “Environmental Health” and “Pro-poor growth and the Environment”. PEP has produced a range of interesting publications which can be downloaded from their website including the analysis by the late economist David Pearce (reviewed in BioSoc issue no 5 [http://www.povertyandconservation.info/docs/20060701-BioSoc_5\(en\).pdf](http://www.povertyandconservation.info/docs/20060701-BioSoc_5(en).pdf)) on investing in the environment for poverty reduction.

More information from: <http://www.povertyenvironment.net/pep/>

3. Poverty Environment Program

The Poverty and Environment Program (confusingly also called PEP) is a regional technical assistance project/activity financed by the Poverty and Environment Fund (PEF), a multi-donor trust fund administered by Asian Development Bank. The programme aims to accelerate learning about poverty-environment linkages and effective approaches for poverty reduction. PEP is developing a fast-growing knowledge base that draws lessons from replicable and self-sustaining interventions implemented by ADB and its development partners in the Asia and Pacific region and globally. Through PEP, the Poverty Environment Net (<http://www.povertyenvironment.net/>) was established as the mechanism for knowledge capture and outreach.

More information from: <http://www.adb.org/Projects/PEP>

4. Rural Poverty and Environment Initiative (RPE).

On April 1st, 2005 the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) launched the Rural Poverty and Environment (RPE) initiative. RPE supports research focusing on the needs of the rural poor who live in fragile or degraded ecosystems. The initiative uses an approach that combines participatory action research to generate knowledge; capacity development for researchers and decision makers to participate in multi-stakeholder processes; and policy engagement to build action and learning oriented partnerships. A call for proposals has just closed. More information from: http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-58566-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

5. OECD Environment and Development Ministers

In addition to the initiatives above we note that the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) met at Ministerial Level on 4th April 2006 in Paris, their first meeting since 1991. The meeting included 28 Environment and Development Ministers and 26 OECD Ambassadors and had two objectives:

To identify key issues at the interface of the environment and development policy domains, notably those arising from the twin challenges of promoting poverty reduction and environmentally

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sustainable development, in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for effective integration of local, national and global environmental issues in the context of poverty reduction. To lay the basis for a strategic alliance between the Environment and Development Cooperation communities to address these issues, building on mutual opportunities, building a common understanding of how the two communities can enhance the coherence of their policies and promote common goals in these policy domains.

The meeting is described on the OECD website as “ a timely opportunity to discuss the two-way relationship between poverty and environmental degradation and the scope for win-win approaches to address them. OECD development and environment ministries and agencies joined forces to launch a process to work in partnership with developing countries to integrate environmental factors efficiently into national development policies and poverty reduction strategies.” One output of the meeting was a “*Framework for Common Action Around Shared Goals*” (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/44/27/36427017.pdf>). This emphasises the centrality of environment in meeting the MDGs and focuses on 1) identifying and scaling up “good practice” on linking environment and development and 2) building capacity for environment-development integration in developing countries. Biodiversity is specifically mentioned in the context of identifying and developing policies and instruments for better integration of global environmental objectives into national and local development plans and policies.

More information from:

http://www.oecd.org/site/0,2865,en_21571361_36099755_1_1_1_1_1,00.html

Broad Poverty-Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives

1. Advancing Conservation in a Social Context

Following a nearly two-year planning period, the MacArthur Foundation has just confirmed its support for the first phase of a fully-fledged research initiative called "Advancing Conservation in a Social Context: Working in a World of Trade-offs." The grant is being administered by the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University and coordinated by Thomas McShane, who also led the planning period.

This research project has been created to investigate the complex trade-offs that exist between human well-being and biodiversity conservation goals in specific places, and between conservation and other economic, political, and social agendas at local, national, and international scales. The overall goal of the initiative is to improve the ability of key actors to identify, analyze, and negotiate future conservation and development trade-offs. During the first three-year phase research will focus on three case study countries - Peru, Tanzania, and Vietnam - and will be coordinated by national institutions in those countries. This research will be complemented by a wide-ranging survey of academic and practitioner understanding of trade-offs and various mechanisms and norms that have been developed within and outside of the conservation arena. A “Blue Ribbon Panel” will report on the phase one research findings and increase recognition of the importance of trade-offs in global policy discussions. It will also promote understanding and potential solutions to current challenges facing conservation and development initiatives. The Blue Ribbon Panel report (Hard Choices: Trade-off Science in Conservation and Development) will represent the “state of science” on this topic. The two-year second phase (the diffusion phase) seeks to encourage key actors to implement and refine new ways of approaching the balance between the conservation of biological diversity and social objectives—in effect, to bring about a change in the state of the art.

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The initiative will engage a range of institutions and organizations, including multi- and bilateral development agencies and banks, government departments, conservation and development NGOs, community-based organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and foundations and other donors, in order to accelerate the pace at which research findings are adopted, adapted and implemented by policymakers and practitioners. This engagement will emphasize learning from experience – both the positive and negative lessons – and working to enhance collective understanding of and ability to address possible trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and human well-being.

More information from: www.tradeoffs.org

2. CARE ICD Network

The CARE Integrated Conservation and Development Network is a learning network of CARE and its partners. Recently renamed the CARE Poverty and Environment Network, the network has expanded its scope beyond the traditional domain of ICD (i.e. areas of high biodiversity) to address a broader range of natural resource management and environmental issues, but retaining a focus on issues of social justice and equity. Priority themes are:

- natural resource governance and conflict management
- equitable rewards for environmental services
- poverty and climate change

The network links nearly 40 projects in 25 different countries that are working on one or more of these themes. In 2007 a number of new initiatives will be launched under each theme.

More information from: phil@ci.or.ke

3. Conservation for Poverty Reduction Initiative

IUCN launched the Conservation for Poverty Reduction Initiative (CPRI) at the MDG+5 Summit in New York (September 2005), as a tool to boost the contributions of conservation to the livelihood security and the empowerment of the rural poor. With this Initiative, IUCN attempts to make poverty reduction a central objective of its conservation efforts. CPRI is intended to address the following broad outcomes:

- In relation to **knowledge management** the CPRI will:
 - Drawing on existing knowledge, develop tools and provide technical assistance to resource managers and government officials on how to balance natural resource management with economic development needs.
 - Establish and develop knowledge management systems, including specialist networks and document management capacity, for the express purpose of ensuring that knowledge is freely available on how to enhance the benefits of sound ecosystem management for poverty reduction.
- In relation to **empowerment** the CPRI will:
 - Empower indigenous peoples and community organizations to manage renewable natural resources for sustainable use, through rights of access that are based on social and gender equity.
 - Facilitate access to and delivery of complementary skills necessary to achieve sustained poverty reduction.
- In relation to **governance** the CPRI will:

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- Work with governments to incorporate environmentally-based approaches into their development policies.
- Influence bilateral and multilateral donors to incorporate environmental and biodiversity conservation in poverty-reduction funding.

As of December 2006, the CPRI is made up of 5 major regional or global sub-initiatives, 30 regional projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and West Asia, 17 global thematic projects, 4 global cross-cutting areas, and 14 actions delivering enabling tools. In total, around 70 interventions, some of them of considerable magnitude, make of this the largest Initiative within the IUCN Programme, with high impact and global outreach. Interventions include:

- National and International Policy: Integration of the environment in Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSPs) and sectoral development strategies, and relevant international development cooperation and environmental policies
- Trade, markets, fiscal measures and economic instruments in support of ecosystem management for poverty reduction
- Biodiversity and food security in rural areas
- Water management in rural areas
- Sustainable energy for the poor
- Human health from an ecosystem management perspective
- Reducing risk of vulnerable human communities to natural disasters and climate change
- Governance of natural resources, equity and human rights
- Gender (Cross-cutting component)
- Enabling Tools (Cross-cutting component)

CPRI is intended to be an enabling framework in which funds will be used to leverage contributions from partners – including the private sector, community groups, academia, government agencies and NGOs. It is anticipated that partnerships will form around investment opportunities, policy development and guidance, and provision of technical support services.

More information from: http://www.iucn.org/themes/spg/portal/about_pc/index.htm

4. Equator Initiative

Coordinated by UNDP, the Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, civil society, business, governments and communities to help build the capacity and raise the profile of grassroots efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Equator Initiative's work is organized around four themes:

1. The **Equator Prize** is a prestigious international award that recognizes outstanding local efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
2. **Equator Dialogues** is an innovative programme of community and local-global dialogues, learning exchanges and meetings.
3. **Equator Knowledge** is a comprehensive research and learning initiative dedicated to synthesizing lessons from local conservation and poverty reduction practice.
4. **Equator Ventures** is an investment programme focused on blended finance and capacity development for biodiversity enterprises in the most biodiversity-rich locations of the world.

Equator Prize. 2006 marked the third round of the prestigious Equator Prize. The biennial Prize recognizes five local initiatives or activities that exemplify extraordinary achievement in reducing poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the equatorial belt. This time we received 309 nominations from 70 countries, which are currently being reviewed and scored. The 25 most innovative, inclusive and effective community projects will be chosen as finalists.

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Subsequently, the Jury, a panel of highly distinguished international figures representing a comprehensive body of expertise in environment development issues, will select the five winners. The winners will receive international recognition for their work and an opportunity to help shape international policy and practice in the field, as well as a monetary award of US\$30,000 each.

Equator Knowledge. With a combination of research programmes, publications, reports, newsletters, learning exchange programs and a comprehensive best practice online database, Equator Knowledge provides a complete tool for raising the profile of grassroots efforts that promote sustainable communities in developing countries within the equatorial belt. Amongst this year's major efforts is the publication "Community Action to Conserve Biodiversity: Linking Biodiversity Conservation with Poverty Reduction" produced in collaboration with the GEF Small Grants Programme, which highlights lessons from the successes of community-based biodiversity enterprises. Research into best practice in community-based natural resource management based on the experience of the Equator Prize finalists continues in partnership with IDRC and the University of Manitoba. The results are available in detailed reports online. Further, this year the Equator Initiative hosted two consultations with partners and community representatives to build a community knowledge service to identify and share best practice between community practitioners and with policy makers at global and national level.

Equator Dialogues. The Equator Initiative hosted the Community Taba in Curitiba, Brazil in 2006. The Taba invited grassroots environmental leaders from around the world to establish a collaborative, flexible use space at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity (COP8) and effectively demonstrated that community members, working in partnership with local governments, local and national NGOs, and international organizations, are increasingly taking action to meet their basic needs while preserving the biological resources on which not only their own, but everyone's future survival depend. The Fordham Lecture Series during the spring of 2006, "People and the Environment: The Role of Environment in Poverty Alleviation," hosted in partnership with TNC and the Equator Initiative, explored the environment as both the "cause of" and "way out" for people living in poverty.

Equator Ventures. A review of Equator Ventures projects in 2006 showed that our four projects in Mozambique, Guatemala, Bolivia and Chile are strongly benefiting from the program's grant and loan capital. A forward-looking evaluation of the Equator Ventures pilot programme is scheduled to start in 2007.

More information from: <http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative>.

5. FFI Livelihoods Programme

Fauna and Flora International (FFI) has recently established a Livelihoods Programme in order to help develop capacity amongst regional staff and partners to better integrate conservation activities with human needs. One of the things FFI has focused on over the past 18 months is considering its organizational position on these issues, which is itself challenging when you consider the wide range of FFI staff, partners and places worked. The two major issues that FFI is currently focusing on are (i) how to best work in partnership with the humanitarian & development sectors to achieve gains for both conservation and human wellbeing (particularly in post-conflict and disaster situations), and (ii) how best to monitor and evaluate the social/livelihoods impacts of our work (FFI together with Birdlife International and the African Wildlife Foundation will be hosting a practitioners' workshop on this in July 2007). Over the next year FFI will begin to pull out and disseminate overall lessons learned from this programme. Meanwhile the programme has produced two publications:

- *Livelihoods and Conservation in Partnership: the case for integrating conservation and human need.* This publication highlights the current FFI position on poverty-conservation linkages and characterises the way FFI works as:

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- Both ethical and strategic engagements.
 - A three-pronged approach: direct interventions to improve livelihoods, strengthening civil society partners, and influencing external policy.
 - A focus on strategic, cross-sectoral partnership development to fill the gaps in our own expertise and to enable us to influence other sectors that have an impact on biodiversity.
 - A strong focus on lesson-learning and demonstration, adopting and adapting a range of complementary tools for monitoring and evaluation.
- *Guest Editorial: Partnerships for Conservation and Poverty Reduction*, (Oryx 40 (3) 245-246) in which Matt Walpole, coordinator of the Livelihoods Programme, explores the difficulties of, but necessity for, conservationists to address poverty issues.

More information from: mwalpole@flora-fauna.org

6. Nature and Poverty Programme

The Nature and Poverty Programme is a joint initiative of WWF-Netherlands, IUCN-Netherlands and Friends of the Earth Netherlands. The programme's mission is to alleviate poverty by safeguarding and restoring natural livelihood resources in a selected number of countries. The programme pursues this through three intervention strategies: poverty alleviation – improving the livelihood system; development of civil society organisations; and influencing policies and policy dialogue. The programme operates in five regions on a number of key issues: palm oil, timber, marine fisheries, shrimp fisheries, infrastructure development, bushmeat and tourism. Although all regions are experiencing environmental degradation, the underlying causes of that degradation differ from region to region, and so the Programme has adopted a range of different approaches.

The Pantanal wetlands

- In Miranda and surrounding communities, WWF Brazil and Ecoa have worked with local associations on alternative income generating activities, such as sustainable bait production.
- Handicraft associations have been set up in Corumba, Aquidauna and Mirnada to promote the handicraft production of fish by-products (fish leather).
- Exchange programmes are being initiated to start comparable activities in Bolivia. Ecotourism activities are starting and training is being provided. Tourism certification has begun in cooperation with the Brazilian Sustainable Tourism Council.
- School education programmes have started in Brazil and Bolivia. A pilot is successfully underway in ten schools in the border zone municipalities of the Bolivian Pantanal – Porto Suarez, San Matias and Porto Quijarro.
- An Owners Association of Private Reserves of Natural Heritage has been set up in Mato Grosso do Sul.
- In Paraguay active collaboration with local indigenous communities is being consolidated and efforts to influence local and regional land use planning are progressing.
- Low impact cattle ranching practices are being introduced to encourage sustainable economic development of the ecoregion. A preliminary study on marketing Pantanal Beef (Bio Verde) from low-impact ranching to European markets has been concluded. This is now being introduced in Bolivia as well.
- The Rios Vivos Network has successfully lobbied to realign the navigation system for the Upper Paraguay River (Hidrovia). The partners are continuing to press the case for adapting navigation to the conditions in the waterway instead of altering the waterway to meet navigation needs.

The Congo Basin

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- A management plan for the Campo Ma'an National Park (264.000 ha) has been officially endorsed. This is the first in its kind in the whole sub region that explicitly recognizes the access and users rights of the Bagyeli-pygmyes. Further studies are being carried out view of negotiating formal accords between the Bagyeli and the Park management. In 2005, the first community forest (5000 ha) bordering the park was officially recognized, others are underway and Community Hunting Zones are being established.
- Assessment of traditional fishing techniques has been carried out and best practice guidelines are under development. The Fishermen's Association for the Ndougou Department (APDN) has received a grant to reinforce the association's business centre and commercialization techniques. Together with the fishermen a database has been developed to monitor off-take statistics, numbers of fishermen, techniques used, and frequented fishing zones. Through training the association is now able operate the database independently and use the information for planning and reporting.
- In the Mount Kupe & Yabassi area a variety of alternative income generating activities - like beekeeping, cane rat farming, agro forestry, snail production and ecotourism - are being implemented with very encouraging results so far. Starting in 2004 with 40 households now over 396 families are directly getting additional income. High valued commodities like honey and snails are now easily available on the local markets. For instance, the Tombel Bee Farmers Association (TOBA) was able to raise over € 1,524 (2,357 CHF) within 4 months with very limited physical input. In order to diversify potential income generating opportunities from natural resources, a methodology to assess the utilization and economic valuation of Non Timber Forest Products has been finalized and a training manual for this methodology is underway. Two women associations have been trained in NTFP collection techniques, processing and commercialisation.
- Forest Stewardship Council certification – the first in its kind in Central Africa - of a concession of the Dutch timber company WIJMA was another success. It guarantees better social conditions for the people living around this concession and therefore a positive incentive for improvement of local livelihoods.
- Income from tourism has increased. The identification of potential ecotourism sites in the area has been finalized and the process of identifying eco-tourist target groups is ongoing. The Mount Kupe Ecotourism Association was supported with field equipment to strengthen their work regarding the guiding of tourists. Illegal hunting – a major conservation problem - has diminished as an outcome of the work of the Mount Kupe Wildlife Management Association – a group of former hunters - being trained and equipped to help foster protection efforts.
- In the Gamba complex, support is given community involvement in tourism, handicraft making and fisheries in which training of local people is core activity. Technical assistance is being provided to the local NGO Ibonga - the Association for the Understanding and the Protection of the Environment (ACPE) - an environmental education NGO working with schools. An official curriculum for environmental education in schools in the Gamba is acting as a pilot for the whole country.

The Southeast Asia forest zone

- Examples of alternative income options that have been identified and successfully developed are cajaput oil in Merauke and wild honey in Riau province and West-Kalimantan.
- Affiliates working on the issue of palm oil successfully participated in the international Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil which approved a comprehensive package of criteria for sustainable palm oil. Another result of the activities in this subprogramme is the increased consumer awareness in the Netherlands of the negative environmental impacts of large-scale palm oil plantation development, shrimp production and logging.

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The Southeast Asia marine and coastal zone

- In Sidoarjo (East Java) traditional fish and shrimp farming methods are successfully being re-introduced. These improved methods are based on organic polyculture, where more than one species is grown. The traditional fish and shrimp farming methods not only result in an increased protein intake for the local communities, but also generate a higher income.

The West Africa marine and coastal zone

- At the local level a community in Kayar, Senegal, has been targeted to make the local fishermen aware of the unsustainable use of resources and identify measures to halt the negative trends. The lessons learned from this pilot project are being shared with other communities in Senegal and other WAMER states. A very successful radio programme has been set up for awareness raising in local communities and training. The success of the project will be used by IDEE-Casamance (an IUCN affiliate) in the southern part of Senegal. Fishing communities from West Africa (Ghana, Togo and Nigeria) will take part in exchange programmes to learn about sustainable fisheries and improve the quality and sustainability benefits of management.
- At the regional level, the programme supports regional collaboration with governments and local organisations through training, exchange visits and promoting a long-term vision for the ecoregion. Regionally appropriate models for international fisheries access agreements are being drafted, and sustainable fishing practices and methods, based on experience gained so far, are being promoted within the ecoregion. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the marine resources the project also supports work to establish six marine protected areas (MPAs) in the region.
- At the global level, the three networks of WWF, IUCN and FOEI have lobbying offices in Brussels. Marine issues are being addressed, but in the context of this sub-programme a more concerted lobby will be started to include sustainability issues in the EU fishing agreements.

More information from: <http://www.natureandpoverty.org/>

7. SwedBio (Swedish International Biodiversity programme)

SwedBio is a joint initiative of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Swedish Biodiversity Centre (CBM). The overall aim of SwedBio is to contribute to poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods through equitable, sustainable and productive management of biodiversity resources at all levels - genes, species and ecosystems. This is done through addressing three interrelated objectives:

1. Maintaining ecosystem services to ensure human well-being and health.
2. Ensuring equity and human rights in management and use of ecosystem services.
3. Addressing root causes of biodiversity loss.

During 2006 SwedBio has been engaged in a vast range of activities related to its aims and objectives. The examples below include those related more directly to conservation and/or protected areas.

Engaging in international policy development and dialogue. Participating in the Swedish delegation to COP8 of the CBD in Curitiba, representing a "rights and poverty alleviation" angle on biodiversity. Engaging in the planning process for the IUCN Conference on Biodiversity in development cooperation, September, Paris, and e.g. advocating a stronger focus on good governance, local communities and promoting local rights.

Collaborative Programme. Through its Collaborative Programme SwedBio provides support to a limited number of strategic initiatives addressing biodiversity-livelihoods linkages, and presently

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collaborates with about 20 organisations. The full list of partners are found in SwedBio's annual plans and reports (www.swedbio.org). Some examples of initiatives supported in 2006 that relate directly to promoting local rights and access in and around protected areas, are:

- A diverse range of support to participation of NGOs and indigenous peoples at the COP8 to the CBD in Curitiba, (including a fairly substantive support coordinated by IAITPTF/IIFB).
- The so-called "10c-programme" coordinated by Forest Peoples Programme.
- The Collaborative Management and Learning Network (CMLN) coordinated by AIPP.

More information from: <http://www.swedbio.com/>

Sector Specific Initiatives

1. Protected Area Initiatives

Socio-Economic Impacts of Protected Areas.

This CARE initiative focuses on protected areas (PAs) using the current definition of PAs that includes community conserved areas (CCAs). The first phase of the programme focuses on assessing the distribution of costs and benefits at local, national and global levels of a range of different types of protected areas. Studies are underway in four countries (Uganda, Kenya, Philippines and Thailand) involving 12 protected areas – 3 under traditional state management, 5 under collaborative management regimes of different types, and 4 community managed (i.e. CCAs). For the local level of the assessment the programme has developed a methodology that combines social impact assessment with economic analysis to ensure that the analysis reflects community perspectives and non financial costs and benefits. The methodology addresses the difficult trade-off between scientific rigour, cost and replicability – the aim being to produce a methodology that, at least for the local level cost-benefit analysis, does not require specialist (and costly) environmental economics expertise. The methodology will be presented at the Vision 2020 Workshop referenced below.

More information from: phil@ci.or.ke

Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity & Protected Areas (TILCEPA)

Established in 2000, TILCEPA is a joint initiative of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). This Inter-commission initiative evolved from a Task Force on Local Communities and Protected Areas, created in 1999, which had a similar mandate. TILCEPA recently evolved into a "Strategic Direction" on Governance, Communities, Equity, and Livelihoods in Relation to Protected Areas within WCPA, the priorities of which include the following:

- promoting good governance of protected areas;
- promoting the full range of governance types for protected areas and in particular collaboratively managed protected areas (CMPAs) and community conserved areas (CCAs);
- promoting positive links between protected areas, equity, livelihoods, and poverty eradication.

TILCEPA has been involved in, or supported, a number of regional or thematic learning initiatives including:

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- technical support to a network of protected areas seeking to establish co-management settings with relevant indigenous communities. The network spans The Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand and is being run in partnership with the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation, IWGIA and the FPP. Some exchange visits and two very successful workshops have taken place in 2006 (Sabah, Malaysia and Mu Can Chai, Vietnam) and changes slowly begin to emerge in relevant PA governance practices.
- Support to a series of training events related to co-management and the “recognition” of Community Conserved Areas in Madagascar.
- Establishment of a Human-Wildlife Conflict Collaboration (HWCC) to prevent and mitigate human-wildlife conflict (HWC) through collaborative learning, innovation, scientific analysis and the development and improvement of best practices and policies.

TILCEPA is also actively engaged in current international efforts to promote positive links between protected areas, equity, and poverty eradication. Most recently, , members of TILCEPA and other groups (including Care and IIED) have constituted a Task Force on "Protected Areas, Equity and Livelihoods" under the World Commission on Protected Areas. The Task Force will have a membership of around 50 people with a strong emphasis on practitioners directly involved in field programmes that address the subject of the Task Force. Initially the Task Force will meet as three regional sub-groups (the Africa meeting was held in Uganda, January 18/19th 2007) followed by a global meeting prior to the next meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Working Group on Protected Areas (scheduled for March 2008).

More information from: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/theme/governance.html>

Vision 2020

In 2006 UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre) developed a project concept, named ‘Vision 2020’, whose aim is to establish a process for the periodic assessment of the biodiversity value, management effectiveness and human impact of a subset of the world’s protected areas, so as to improve our understanding of the role of protected areas in conservation and development processes and how this is evolving over time. The exact methods for carrying out this project will be developed and tested during the first phase of the project, but it is anticipated that there will be essentially four components:

1. Identification of protected areas to be included: As it would clearly be impractical to carry out this project on all the 100,000 and more Protected Areas currently included in the World Database of Protected Areas, it is expected that the project will be carried out on a sample of the World’s protected areas, to be chosen during the initial phase of the project.
2. Ecological integrity of the identified protected areas: It is anticipated that the project will adopt a methodology developed by Parks Canada for assessing the ecological integrity of Canada’s national parks, and adapt it for use in a broad range of protected areas types from around the world.
3. Management effectiveness of the identified protected areas: The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas has recently developed a framework for assessing protected area management effectiveness. It is expected that the project will take on and further promote these methodologies.

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4. Human impact of the identified protected areas: The preliminary work carried out to develop this project concept has not identified any clear methodology to assess the human impacts of protected areas. As a consequence, significant further work will be required in this area. Issues to address potentially include local livelihoods, poverty indicators and indexes, poverty mapping, and so on.

This project will be carried out with a range of partner organizations, including IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, IUCN Conservation for Poverty Reduction Initiative and the UNEP, FAO, CGIAR initiative on poverty mapping. More partners will be identified during the initial development phase of the project.

At present, UNEP-WCMC is engaged in two main activities for the development of the Vision 2020 project concept: 1) a baseline research aimed at assessing what methodologies and indicators have been developed so far to assess the human impacts of Protected Areas, and who has been working on this topic; 2) the organisation of a workshop to be held in Cambridge (UK), 20-21 February 2007, which will focus on methodologies and indicators for the assessment of the socio-economic impacts of PAs in the context of the Vision 2020 project concept. Both these activities have been carried out in partnership with the Secretariat of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG).

More information from: charles.besancon@unep-wcmc.org

2. Forests

Action Research into the Poverty Impacts of Participatory Forest Management (ARPIP)

The overall focus of this initiative to make participatory forest management (PFM) approaches more “pro-poor”. PFM is taken to include community forestry, joint forest management, co-management and community-based forest management. The ARPIP project implemented by the Overseas Development Institute and funded by Ford Foundation and CARE, has been moving ahead in the last 6 months with field research in Nepal, Kenya and Tanzania. In each country, the research teams have been using a similar methodology, consisting of various RRA tools supplemented by a household questionnaire, in a number of communities in which some kind of participatory forest management (PFM) is underway, and nearby control communities in which there is no PFM. Kate Schreckenber from ODI reports that data analysis is ongoing and will be completed in March, when the three teams come together for a final project workshop to compare notes.

The final conclusions will be available later in the summer but they already see a number of interesting poverty-conservation issues arising:

Definitional issues: how are PFM activities related to the forest? Definitions of what constitutes PFM are extremely variable both between and within countries. Some of the communities in which they are working are participating in the management of protected areas. In these cases, PFM is often taken to include many 'substitution' activities that occur outside the forest and reduce people's dependence on the forest itself (e.g. fuelwood plantations, agroforestry activities). While these so-called 'PFM' activities are clearly bringing benefits to some people, the long-term link to the forest (and hence justification for its conservation) is not clear.

Unintended impacts beyond the PFM area. Another issue relates to how the introduction of PFM displaces forest use to other forest areas in the vicinity. In some areas of Nepal, where PFM is very widespread, all local forests are under community management by one or other user group. However, in countries where PFM is still at an early stage, there is a concern that the introduction of

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PFM in one forest area can displace some forest uses to other forest areas in the vicinity. This can occur, for example, where stricter enforcement of permits in the PFM forest means that people begin to collect fuelwood and poles only from open access forest areas. The question then arises whether PFM can only make a sustainable contribution to conservation if it is part of a wider landscape planning process.

What kind of PFM is possible in high biodiversity forests? Without a doubt, this is one of the most difficult questions on which they hope to shed some light after our workshop. In the case of protection forest, the main cash revenue to the community tends to come from fines and confiscated products (i.e. 'negative' income) with almost the only source of 'positive' revenue being income from researcher or visitor fees. Unfortunately, if the community does its job of patrolling well, 'negative' sources of income should be very low. At the same time, many protection forests are not in a position to attract much 'positive' revenue so the communities will not obtain a great deal of benefit unless a specific effort is made to introduce other income-generating activities early on. More fundamentally, it may be necessary to rethink the role communities can be expected to play in high biodiversity forests. Rather than promising an unrealisable version of PFM, a better option may be to negotiate with communities to (a) allow as much sustainable use is compatible with biodiversity conservation and (b) agree to employ community members for conservation-related duties such as guarding and maintenance of firebreaks.

More information from: k.schreckenberg@odi.org.uk or c.luttrell@odi.org.uk

Equitable Payments for Watershed Services

This CARE-WWF-IIED program, funded by DGIS and Danida, focuses on developing watershed PES initiatives that deliver livelihoods benefits to local communities as well as environment benefits. The current first phase is essentially a feasibility assessment for each proposed site, particularly emphasising analysis of the financial case for buyers and sellers (communities) to commit long term to the proposed scheme. At the present time these feasibility assessments are ongoing in 11 sites in 6 countries: Philippines, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru and Guatemala. For the PES initiatives that can demonstrate a viable case implementation will start in September/October. Early indications are that about 50% of the sites will be able to demonstrate a viable case (and this is from sites already pre-screened as promising). Some key challenges that have already emerged are identifying priority areas within the overall catchment (requires sophisticated hydrology and land use modelling), finding buyers that are willing to see this as a business investment rather than corporate social responsibility, and how to ensure benefits reach poorer households, and women within these households, who may not actually own land within the catchment.

In addition to the payments for watershed services programme described above, CARE and WWF have joint initiatives under development in DR Congo, Nepal, Mozambique, Vietnam and Indonesia. In addition to natural resource management and conservation the partnership is exploring opportunities for collaboration on a wider environmental agenda including climate change.

More information from: phil@ci.or.ke

Forest Governance Learning Group

Forestry can contribute to poverty reduction, but only with good forest governance - the right leadership, institutions, policy decisions and practical systems. The forest governance learning

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group, coordinated by IIED, works in Africa and Asia to exchange learning and develop ideas on forest governance - and helps to make them work for practical, just and sustainable forest use.

In some of the countries where FGLG country groups are active there is a higher and more focused level of debate about key forest governance problems that affect local livelihoods than seen in recent years. The chances of improvements being made and sustained seems much higher than in the past because legally astute civil society actors are engaged, along with government and private sector players – each keeping the others on their toes and developing both momentum and accountability of actions. There is also increasing international interest in the approach and impact of the FGLG. A range of interactions with other initiatives suggests that the FGLG learning approach is likely to be adopted and developed by others. This implies agreement on key strategic objectives and a work plan, development of capability, then considerable flexibility over several years to support country-level groups – enabling them to seize and optimise governance opportunities as they are created and arise. During the year 2005/06, the Forest Governance Learning Group produced:

- Diagnostic exercises exploring key forest governance problems carried out in all ten project countries, and entry points identified
- Establishment of eight country-based sub-groups, each steered by a convenor, and each with a detailed work plan, in Niger, Ghana, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Indonesia and India
- Visible impact e.g. the Ghana FGLG's evidence of wholesale violation of Ghana's forestry permits regime inspired a civil society campaign and programme of monitored actions from government
- Heightened engagement e.g. press releases on charcoal production, local by-laws and community enterprises stimulated the formation of a new government task force in Malawi
- 12 policy research outputs – original research by group participants and by those working with local constituencies marginalized by current governance practices
- 8 tools for stimulating thinking and action in contexts of forest governance that marginalizes key groups
- Outreach – with findings delivered to 10 international forums and cooperation continuing to develop with 12 international programmes, including five other initiatives that help realise the EC Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade.

More information from: <http://www.iied.org/NR/forestry/projects/forest.html>

Poverty Environment Network (PEN)

PEN is a research network on poverty, environment and forest resources, coordinated by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The core of PEN is the tropics-wide collection of uniform and high-quality socio-economic and environmental data at household and village levels by 25-30 PEN partners (mainly PhD students), generating a global database with some 5-6,000 households and 200-250 villages from about 20 countries. The aim is to become the most comprehensive global comparative and quantitative analysis of the role of tropical forests in poverty alleviation. As of December 2006, 24 data collection efforts are ongoing or completed (4); every day 50-60 households are being interviewed for PEN research. The geographical balance is reasonably good, although PEN is still looking for new studies in West/Central Africa, Indo-China and Central America (proposals welcome). Data collection will be completed by late 2007/early 2008, while the project will conclude in 2010. In addition to the PEN partners doing the data collection, PEN involves senior researchers from about 10 universities on all continents.

More information from: www.cifor.cgiar.org/pen

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PROFOR

Housed within the World Bank, PROFOR is a multi-donor partnership formed to pursue a shared goal of enhancing forests' contribution to poverty reduction, sustainable development and protection of environmental services. At the Learning Group meeting in December 2005 PROFOR presented details of a poverty-forests linkages toolkit. However, we've had difficulty reaching this initiative for a newsletter update.

More information from: <http://www.profor.info/>

3. Wetlands

Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group

The objectives of the Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group (WLWG) are to strengthen the understanding of the dynamic relationship between poverty and wetlands, to highlight priorities for strategic intervention on how wetland wetlands can help reduce poverty, and to promote new partnerships between the poverty reduction and conservation organisations. Established in 2004, the group now has about 130 members from research institutions, government agencies and the environmental and development sector (but unfortunately very little private sector representation). The group is mandated to especially provide advice to WI's Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project (see below) and in this context, some of the major outcomes from the various task group meetings are:

Policy: reviewed the mainstreaming of environment (particularly wetland) issues into development processes and shared experiences on how to improve on this.

Capacity Building supported the designing and formulation of the Capacity Building Framework for West and East Africa under the WPRP.

Demonstration Projects (played an instrumental role in the selection of the five demonstration projects and each member of the task group was 'seconded' to a particular project to work with that project over the next few years.

More information from: <http://www.wetlands.org/articlemenu.aspx?id=b3e83836-e55b-4b9d-b15b-0cfad150e36e>

Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project

How do 7 people fundamentally change the way wetlands are managed in Africa, Asia and Latin America? They don't. They let the experts do it instead. That is one of the basic ideas behind Wetlands International's Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project (WPRP). WPRP partners those who have the required insights and contacts and helps local organisations to develop partnerships among themselves. Another basic idea behind the project is that wetland degradation and poverty cause each other. Therefore WPRP helps development organisations and nature organisations to work together. Its work takes places on many different levels: from (international) policy advocacy, to funding partnerships, to training people and pilot management of specific wetlands. 2006 was a busy year for WPRP, and saw significant progress on all the components of the project:

Demonstration Projects: Five demonstration projects were selected and launched, one in Southern Kenya, one in South Africa, one in Zambia / Malawi, one in Mali and one in Indonesia. The demonstration projects are managed by local partners (mainly development and environment organisations) and the lessons learned from these projects will be used to show how sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation can simultaneously be achieved, and how inter-sector partnerships can work.

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Seed Funding Facility: As for the Seed Funding Facility WPRP has closed the first call for proposals. WPRP received 106 applications from Latin America, Africa and Asia and is now selecting 5 grantees. The second call for proposals closes in June 2007.

Capacity Building: On the basis of stakeholder consultations training modules for Capacity Building have been developed and the first Training of Trainers has started. This Anglophone training for East and West Africa was held Nov 27-Dec15 2006 in Kenya. The first Francophone Training of Trainers will be held in the first quarter of 2007. The trainings will eventually be given to 120 policy makers and 150 wetland management practitioners, helping them to get poverty reduction issues into wetland policy and management and get wetland issues into poverty reduction policies and projects.

Policy: In 2006 WPRP assisted in the development of National Wetland Strategies in four African countries and raised the profile of wetlands in poverty reduction strategy papers in West Africa, which WPRP will continue to do in East and Southern Africa. WPRP also worked on influencing Water Policies to acknowledge the functions and values of wetlands.

More information from: <http://www.wetlands.org/articlemenu.aspx?id=12b4aa5d-96a6-4bb1-816b-e27d44b87a91>

And finally.....

How you can help:

- Give us some feedback! PCLG is intended to help promote organizational learning on the nature, extent and implications of linkages between biodiversity conservation and poverty. It is therefore important that the services provided by the Secretariat respond to member organisations' needs. We would therefore very much appreciate your feedback on the usefulness of this newsletter. For future issues we plan to provide updates on the specific activities of member organisations, on progress in addressing key research questions, and on progress in different regions of the world. Please let us know if there are any other issues you would like to see covered. And please remember to check out the website www.povertyandconservation.info for details of other activities and services which may be of interest including our monthly *BioSoc* e-bulletin.
- Send us information about what your organisation is doing on poverty-conservation links for the next issue of PCLG News (April 2007).
- Let us know of any other relevant initiatives, not covered in this newsletter, that we should be keeping an eye on.
- The PCLG annual symposium will be held in September 2007 (provisional dates 18th-19th or 25th-26th). Let us know if you like the idea of exploring the current state of learning on poverty-conservation links, or whether we should be getting to grips with a burning issue....

Latest PCLG News:

- **Protected areas and poverty:** With support from the PCLG Secretariat, UNEP -WCMC is organising a workshop on methodologies and indicators for assessing protected area indicators, February 20-21st. PCLG research assistant Alessandra Giuliani has been compiling an inventory of existing impact assessment methodologies as an input to the workshop. This will be posted on the PCLG website as will the outcomes of the workshop. PCLG has also provided financial support for a number of participants in this workshop. See <http://www.povertyandconservation.info/docs/20061017> for more details.
- **Society and Natural Resources:** A proposal has been submitted for a coordinated paper session on conservation-poverty linkages at the annual symposium of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources in June 2007. PCLG members will be

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presenting the papers in this session if the proposal is successful. See <http://www.issrm2007.org/> for more details.

- **Research Opportunity:** PCLG members may be interested to hear about a new research programme being developed in the UK on ecosystem services and poverty reduction. There is currently a call for proposals for situation analyses in Amazonia/Andes, semi-arid Africa, India & the Hindu Kush, and China. Closing date is 30th March 2007. See <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/esp/> for more information. Consortia are encouraged to apply, including scientists from the region, the UK and elsewhere and will be led by researchers from the region. IIED is considering putting together a consortium to bid for one or more of these analyses. Contact pclg@iied.org if this might be of interest to your institution with details of the region you would be interested in and the skills and expertise your organisation could bring. The call is open to researchers based in recognised higher education institutions, research organisations or organisations with a credible research capacity.

FREE RESOURCES!!

We are happy to be able to offer PCLG members two new publications, free of charge, that may be of interest. Email pclg@iied.org with your requests*:

1. *Poverty, Wealth and Conservation*: The latest issue of Policy Matters the publications series of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
2. *Parks Journal*: Special edition on Community Conserved Areas

In addition IIED has recently produced two documents that are free of charge to developing countries (price in brackets indicates charge to OECD countries):

1. *Practical Tools for Community Conservation in Southern Africa*: the latest issue of one of IIED's flagship periodicals Participatory Learning and Action (formerly PLA Notes) (£20/\$32)
2. *Local Action, Global Aspirations*: The role of community conservation in achieving international goals for environment and development (£10/\$18)

If other PCLG members would like to advertise free resources in future editions of the newsletter please let us know.

*Please note if demand exceeds supply publications may be limited to one per organisation rather than one per individual.