



PCLG News!

Promoting mutual learning on conservation-poverty linkages

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About PCLG News!

PCLG News! is the newsletter of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. *PCLG News!* provides monthly news on the work of the PCLG Secretariat and of PCLG members as well as information about new publications, resources and forthcoming events.

About PCLG

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG) is an initiative facilitated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The goal of the PCLG is to promote learning on conservation-poverty linkages between and within different communities of interest.

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Following the release of the first issue of *PCLG News!*, the newsletter of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group, the feedback we received suggested that, while the information supplied was extremely useful, the previous format was too long. In response we have redesigned the newsletter to this new format and plan to produce it monthly, instead of quarterly. Analytical pieces, similar to the first issue of *PCLG News!*, will still be produced by the PCLG Secretariat on an *ad hoc* basis, advertised in the newsletter and posted on the website.

We hope this new format of *PCLG News!* serves your needs better and look forward to any feedback you may have on how we can further improve this service.

Secretariat News

- The first meeting of the PCLG Advisors Group was held in London on April 24th 2007. To view the meeting report, please visit:

www.povertyandconservation.info/docs/20070401-Advisors_Meeting.pdf

- The PCLG Annual Symposium will take place on 7th-8th November 2007 at the Zoological Society of London. During the first half of the first day the PCLG Secretariat will report on the activities undertaken during the previous year. The second half of the first day will be dedicated to a review and a discussion of the most recent initiatives addressing protected areas-poverty linkages. The second day will be devoted to the discussion of the topic 'Climate, Conservation and Poverty'. A limited number of small grants are available to PCLG members who wish to develop their thinking on this – for example through regional workshops, network consultations and so on – in advance of the meeting. Please contact us at pclg@iied.org as soon as possible if you would like to apply for one of these grants. If you would like to know more about the 2007 PCLG Annual Symposium, contact us at pclg@iied.org and we look forward to seeing you there.

News from Members

The Equator Initiative: The Equator Prize 2006 was recently awarded to five outstanding community initiatives. Drawn from a pool of over 310 total nominations and 25 remarkable finalists, these communities represent exceptional achievements in the reduction of poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. For more information about this year's winners visit: www.undp.org/equatorinitiative

Featured News

The 'Potsdam Initiative'

The meeting of the environment ministers of the eight leading industrialized countries, that took place in Potsdam, Germany, on 17 March 2007, focused on ways to preserve biological diversity and combat climate change. The environment ministers of the five major newly industrializing countries – China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa – also took part in this ministerial meeting.

In conclusion to these two days of consultations the 13 ministers agreed on a 'Potsdam Initiative on Biological Diversity 2010'. The 'Potsdam Initiative' includes concrete activities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The measures in the areas of science, economics, trade and financing aim to significantly contribute to a reduction of the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. In addition, a global study was commissioned, which should examine the economic importance of biodiversity along the lines of the Stern Review on climate change.

Camilla Toulmin, Director of IIED, notes that the proposed study could be "*a major milestone that changes public and political opinion about the often-ignored links between natural resources and human well-being. Or it could sink like a stone, wasting a precious opportunity to focus attention on the degradation of our environment that lies at the core of so many of the world's problems.*". The full text of Camilla's open letter to the G8 is available here: www.iied.org/mediaroom/releases/070608BiodivLetter.html

Featured PCLG Member

The International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests (IAITPTF) is a worldwide network of organisations representing indigenous and tribal peoples living in tropical forest regions. The objectives of the Alliance include:

- 1) promoting full recognition of the rights and territories of indigenous and tribal peoples;
- 2) promoting the development of indigenous and tribal peoples and their participation in decision and policy making;
- 3) establishing effective networks between indigenous peoples at regional and international levels.

Recent activities:

The Alliance, in collaboration with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), recently launched the Indigenous Peoples' Network for Change Project. This global initiative is aimed at advancing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by strengthening the capacity and knowledge of indigenous peoples to participate in processes surrounding the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international instruments.

For more information visit: www.international-alliance.org

New Members

Department of Wildlife Management, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Tanzania: SUA is located in Morogoro town, 200 km to the west of Dar es Salaam. The Department of Wildlife Management (DWM) of SUA hosts both a bachelor and a master degree programme in Wildlife Management, while its staff is involved in a number of research activities. Noteworthy is the involvement in the initiative 'Advancing Conservation in a Social Context (ACSC)' and in the recently launched project 'Protected Areas and Poverty in Africa (PAPIA)'. For more information visit: www.suanet.ac.tz

Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS), Guyana: The goal of GMTCS is to ensure the future existence and population recovery of all of the four species of marine turtles known to nest in Guyana, while at the same time addressing the needs of the local communities. GMTCS is involved in several projects linking poverty and conservation goals, like the 'Monitoring Programme', which aims to train the resident Amerindian peoples to be the stewards of the resources upon which they ultimately depend. For more information visit: www.gmtcs.org.gy

Bees for Development, UK: Bees for Development aims to alleviate poverty through the promotion of apiculture. The main way in which Bees for Development achieves its aims is by serving as a global beekeeping network, compiling and distributing technical information, keeping beekeepers up to date with knowledge of events and training opportunities and putting people in touch with each other to share and learn. Furthermore, Bees for Development undertakes research, leads development projects and advocates for policy change. For more information visit: www.beesfordevelopment.org

WWF Australia: WWF Australia is part of the WWF International Network, whose mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. WWF Australia is currently involved in an Integrated Land Management project in Northern Australia, which aims to establish sustainable livelihoods for local indigenous communities through cultural and natural resource management activities. For more information visit: www.wwf.org.au

Centre for Coastal Environmental Conservation (CCEC), Bangladesh: The CCEC is a local environmental NGO based in Khulna, Bangladesh, that aims to improve the environmental sustainability of the fragile coastal ecosystems of Bangladesh, particularly in the southwest coast of Sundarban, declared by UNESCO a World Heritage site. CCEC aims to achieve its objectives by raising awareness of the main local environmental problems, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, and empowering local people.

Featured Initiative

The Natural Capital Project: Launched on the 31st of October 2006 in Washington D.C., The Natural Capital Project is a joint initiative between Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund. The development of this project was motivated by the recognition that traditional ways of calculating GDPs consistently omit the trillions of dollars of benefits that nature provides, and on which our lives depend. The Natural Capital Project aspires to provide maps of nature's services, assess their values in economic and other terms, and incorporates those values into resource decisions.

Among the outputs that the project is expected to deliver in due time are:

- the development of new tools to incorporate the values of ecosystem services in decision-making. These will include maps of natural capital and innovative approaches, including private markets, to motivate and finance conservation;
- the launch of an international network of projects that brings to life the promise of this way of reframing our vision of nature, applying understanding of natural assets and ecosystem services as a part of land-use and investment decisions;
- increasing the impact of these on-the-ground projects by engaging decision-makers (from local leaders, to government officials, to financial professionals).

For more information visit: www.naturalcapitalproject.org

New Initiatives in our database

World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP): The World Initiative on Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) is a global initiative that supports the empowerment of pastoralists to sustainably manage drylands resources. WISP aims to provide the social, economic and environmental arguments for supportive pastoralist policies and advocate in favour of support systems that enable the self-evolution of pastoralists. For more information visit: www.iucn.org/wisp

Socio-Economic Impacts of Protected Areas: Socio-Economic Impacts of Protected Areas is a CARE International initiative that focuses on protected areas. 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. For more information visit: www.povertyandconservation.info/en/init/10041.php

Vision 2020: Vision 2002 is a project concept developed by UNEP-WCMC in 2006 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. For more information visit: www.unep-wcmc.org/protectedAreas/dsp/vision2020index.htm

Events

The Role of Non-Timber Forest Products in Poverty Alleviation and Biodiversity Conservation: Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) play an important role in the livelihoods of the rural poor. While there is growing appreciation of the importance of NTFPs for rural households, especially of the very poor, there are concerns about the potential impact of NTFP collection on biodiversity. This conference, which will take place in Hanoi, Vietnam on 11th -15th June 2007, will explore these questions, identify successful initiatives and businesses that strive to be both pro-poor and pro-biodiversity, and determine what are the critical elements for success. For more information visit: www.cifor.cgiar.org/Events/hanoi_ntfp.htm

13th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM): The official annual meeting of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources will take place in Park City, Utah, on 17th - 21st June 2007. The theme for the 2007 symposium is 'Landscape Continuity and Change - Social Science Perspectives and Interdisciplinary Conversations'. Members of the PCLG will present at this meeting. For more information visit: www.issrm2007.org

11th Poverty Environment Partnership Meeting: The Poverty Environment Partnership's 11th meeting will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 18 to 20 June 2007. Capturing ideas and suggestions from the 10th meeting in Nairobi, the overall theme for this meeting will be 'Environmental Improvements for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Growth: the Challenges of Implementation'. For more information visit: www.povertyenvironment.net/?q=11th_poverty_environment_partnership_meeting

21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology: One World, One Conservation, One Partnership: The theme for the 21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, to be held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, on 1st - 5th July 2007, emphasises the need to move away from national, regional and disciplinary territoriality in support of a joint effort to conserve the world's biodiversity by uniting towards a common goal. PCLG members, TILCEPA and TGER are organising a symposium at the meeting on conservation and human rights, while The Nature Conservancy is organising a symposium on poverty-conservation links. For more information visit: www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/

Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms: The International Conference on 'Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms', organized by RECOFTC in collaboration with the Rights and Resources Initiative, will be held in Bangkok from 4 to 7 September 2007. For more information visit: <http://conference.recoftc.org>

New Publications in our Database

A Desk-Based Review of the Treatment of Indigenous Peoples' and Social Issues in Large and Medium-Sized GEF Biodiversity Projects (2005-2006), by Taylor, L. and Griffiths, T., February 2007

This document details the findings of a desk review of 23 GEF projects, chosen within GEF biodiversity portfolio because of their direct or indirect impacts on indigenous peoples. Special attention is paid to the consideration of indigenous peoples' rights and of social issues in the design of these large conservation projects.

Transfrontier Conservation Areas: Integrating Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation in Southern Africa, by Munthali, S.M., Natural Resources Forum, Vol 31 No 1, Blackwell Publishing, February 2007, pp. 51-60

This paper discusses some of the limitations of Transfrontier Parks and Transfrontier Conservation Areas as a mechanism to promote the integration of biodiversity conservation and rural development in Southern Africa.

When Agendas Collide: Human Welfare and Biological Conservation, by Chan, K.M.A., Pringle, R.M., Ranganathan, J.A.I., Boggs, C.L., Chan, Y.L., Ehrlich, P.R., Haff, P.K., Heller, N.E., Al-khafaji, K., and MacMynowski, D.P., Conservation Biology, Vol 21 No 1, Blackwell Publishing, February 2007, pp. 59-68

This article reviews the promises and deficiencies of integrating social, economic, and biological concerns into conservation, focusing on research in ecosystem services and efforts in community-based conservation.

Resources Use, Conservation Attitudes, Management Intervention and Park-People Relations in the Western Terai Landscape of Nepal, by Baral, N., and Heinen, J.T., Environmental Conservation, Vol 34, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2007, pp. 64-72

To address the hypothesis that conservation attitudes should improve around protected areas (PAs) with more social and economic interventions, stratified random questionnaire surveys were conducted in two PAs in the Western Terai of Nepal: Bardia National Park, and Sukla Phanta Wildlife Reserve. The results suggest that the liberalization of PAs management has enabled the use of resources, improved livelihoods to some extent and solicited more favourable conservation attitudes in Nepal.

Improving the Effectiveness of Interventions to Balance Conservation and Development: a Conceptual Framework, by Garnett, S.T., Sayer, J. and du Toit, J., Ecology and Society, Vol 12 No 1, 2007

There are numerous case studies around the world describing integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs), but no attempt has yet been made to draw together lessons from across the globe. This paper is an attempt to provide a framework for such an analysis.

Resources

Opportunity for African Graduate Students and Young Researchers in the Social Sciences: The Social Science Working Group (SSWG), with funds provided by the Christiansen Fund, wishes to develop capacity and increase participation in the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) from conservation social scientists studying and working at African universities or NGOs. Our goal is to provide a mechanism to identify eight young conservation social scientists to serve as SSWG Ambassadors within their host institutions. These individuals will be actively involved in the Society and will serve as a link between the SSWG, researchers and students at their home institutions. For more information email: jdrew@bu.edu

More Info

More information regarding members, publications, initiatives, and events listed in the newsletter is available on www.povertyandconservation.info, the website of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group.

Contact *PCLG News!*

If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve *PCLG News!*, or if you would like to send us your contributions for the next issue of the newsletter, please contact us at: pclg@iied.org

Starting from the next issue, *PCLG News!* will be available also in French and Spanish. Please email us at pclg@iied.org if you would like to receive the French and/or Spanish version of this newsletter

Spread the news!

If you have a friend or colleague who you think might be interested in receiving *PCLG News!* please feel free to forward them this newsletter or suggest that they subscribe by emailing: pclg@iied.org

All issues of *PCLG News!* are available online at: www.povertyandconservation.info

BioSoc

If you enjoyed this newsletter, you might be interested also in BioSoc, the monthly bulletin of the PCLG, which highlights key new research on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation. To receive BioSoc visit: www.povertyandconservation.info/en/biosoc.php

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