

# PCLG News Promoting mutual learning on conservation-poverty linkages

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

**PCLG News** is the newsletter of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. It provides monthly news on the work of the PCLG and its members.

## **PCLG NEWS March 2009**

### **Dear Friends and Colleagues,**

Welcome to the seventeenth issue of the PCLG newsletter. We hope you are finding this service useful and we look forward to receive any comments or suggestions you might have on how to further improve this monthly bulletin to better serve your needs. In this issue you can find: - Secretariat News - Featured News - News from PCLG Members - Forthcoming Events - New Publications in our Database - Resources

*If you have any news regarding your organisation's work that you would like us to include in the next issue of PCLG News, or any resources you would like us to advertise, please send it to [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org) by the end of April.*

### **Secretariat News**

**Reader in Conservation and Poverty:** The PCLG Secretariat has recently agreed a contract with Earthscan to publish a Reader in Conservation and Poverty. The reader will be ready in late 2009. For more information please contact: [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org)

**PCLG International Symposium:** The PCLG Secretariat is organizing an **international symposium that will take place in April 2010 and will be hosted by the Zoological Society of London**. Recognising that the CBD 2010 target includes 'contributing to poverty

reduction' as a key rationale for halting biodiversity loss, the aim of the symposium will be to review what we actually know about the degree to which biodiversity conservation contributes to poverty reduction. The PCLG Secretariat will shortly be commissioning a series of "state of knowledge" reviews to inform this symposium. Anyone who would like to receive the Terms of Reference for these studies is welcome to contact us ([pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org)).

## Featured News

**Earthscan's 'Conservation':** Earthscan has recently published a **4-volume set of books on conservation**. The books, **edited by Professor Bill Adams**, a leading expert on nature conservation, bring together in one collection a series of papers fundamental to understanding the social, political, cultural and scientific dimensions of conservation. Each volume is introduced by a new review essay, which both sets the scope for the collection and advances analytical understanding of conservation issues. Volume I) covers the historical development of conservation ideas and reviews the diverse contemporary philosophical, ethical, cultural and practical arguments for conservation; Volume II) addresses the core issue of conservation: the maintenance of living diversity in the face of human demands on the biosphere. Volume III) explores the overlaps and conflicts between conservation and development, and 'win-win' solutions to conflicts between the two, including ideas of sustainable development; Volume IV) presents work on conservation as an essentially political process, drawing chiefly on social science and, in particular, political ecology and environmental history.

## **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

**(IPBES):** Following an initial intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting that took place in Malaysia in November 2008, UNEP Governing Council has recently agreed to take forward the discussion on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). **UNEP will therefore soon convene a second meeting to discuss the need, potential structure and scope of this Panel.** The proposed IPBES would provide scientific support to multilateral environmental agreements, national governments and other decision-makers concerned with consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem change.

## News from PCLG Members

**Nature and Poverty Knowledge and Learning Network:** Natureandpoverty.net has

recently launched its **newsletter 'News from Nature and Poverty Knowledge and Learning Network'**. This newsletter features updates on the work of Natureandpoverty.net and its network members. To receive your copy, please contact Peter van Sluijs ([peter.vansluijs@iucn.nl](mailto:peter.vansluijs@iucn.nl)). Natureandpoverty.net is also in the process of setting up a platform for practitioners working on ecosystem management and poverty alleviation that will provide easy and timely access to field based knowledge, insights and lessons learned from practical experiences and daily work.

**IIED and Ecoagriculture Partners:** IIED and Ecoagriculture Partners have recently released a new Discussion Paper, "[New Directions for Integrating Environment and Development in East Africa](#)", which is authored by Steve Bass, Sara Scherr, Yves Renard, and Seth Shames. The basis for this report is a series of consultations carried out by the authors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda between February and April 2007 to gather perspectives from environment and development leaders in these countries on priorities for investment in sustainable development.

**IIED:** Tucked away in a tangle of Brazilian rainforest, a quiet evolution is unfolding. In Amazonas, the country's biggest state, people are using an approach called REDD to conserve their forests in return for credit. This project's success has huge implications for reducing deforestation, cutting emissions and eradicating poverty, and its time has definitely come.

**Professor Virgilio Viana**, one of Brazil's leading academics and practitioners on forestry, environment and sustainable development, discusses these issue in '[Seeing REDD in the Amazon: a win for people, trees and climate](#)', one of three briefing papers Prof Viana has written during his sabbatical with IIED.

**Blueventures - Making marine reserves talk:** A unique exchange to promote understanding of marine conservation has recently taken place between two fishing communities in the western Indian Ocean. As part of ongoing efforts to expand locally-managed marine conservation areas across the region, a group of fishermen travelled from the Mauritian island of Rodrigues to the remote southwest of Madagascar to learn about local experiences of developing community managed marine protected areas. For more information contact Alasdair Harris ([al@blueventures.org](mailto:al@blueventures.org))

**IUCN Secretariat:** The **Proceedings from the Members' Assembly of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona** are now available in English and can be downloaded from the Congress website at <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/WCC-4th-004.pdf>. The Spanish and French version will be available shortly. You can also find the final version of all

adopted Resolutions and Recommendations in all three languages under the following [link](#).

**WWF: WWF is in the process of improving its monitoring and evaluation systems** to better capture changes in people's lives and livelihoods. As part of this, they are reviewing good practice from other development and/or conservation organisations in order to guide their strategy. In brief the review will focus upon two key areas: 1) understanding M&E systems being used by different organisations to capture changes in people's lives and livelihoods; 2) methodologies implemented to capture change in people's lives, and tips for good practice. If your organisation has relevant experience for either/both of these aspects which you would be able and willing to share, please get in touch with Susanne Turrall ([susanneturrall@btinternet.com](mailto:susanneturrall@btinternet.com)).

**Featured Equator Prize 2008 winner: Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary (Ghana):**

WCHS protects the resident hippopotamus population along the Black Volta River in northern Ghana. The sanctuary, operated by a management board that represents over 10,000 people from 17 communities, demarcated two distinct zones: one a protected area close to the river for the hippopotami, the other for the human population. This model has been replicated in neighbouring communities seeking to derive economic benefits from protecting their local biodiversity. Revenues are invested into the provision of safe drinking water, literacy and higher education initiatives, and solar electricity projects.

### **Forthcoming Events**

**Second meeting of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change:**

The Second meeting of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held in **Helsinki, Finland from Saturday, 18 to Wednesday, 22 April 2009**. Some of the items on this meeting's agenda are: risks to biodiversity from climate change and related adaptation responses; benefits of biodiversity for enhancing adaptation options under climate change; analysis of the value of integrating biodiversity within climate change adaptation.

**Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation:**

The Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation will be held in **Montreal from Wednesday, 13 to Friday, 15 May 2009**. The meeting has been convened to discuss how development agencies can better integrate biodiversity in their strategies, programmes and projects at their different levels of intervention.

**Strengthening Livelihoods by means of Beekeeping- An introduction:** This training opportunity, offered by Bees for Development, will take place **on Friday 19 June 2009**. For more information contact

Bees for Development or email [info@beesfordevelopment.org](mailto:info@beesfordevelopment.org)

### **New Publications in the PCLG Database**

**What Is the Role for Conservation Organizations in Poverty Alleviation in the World's Wild Places?**, by Redford, K.H., Levy, M.A., Sanderson, E.W., de Sherbinin, A., 2008, Oryx, Vol 42 No 4, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (UK)

In this paper the authors provide an empirically-based way to address the general question of the broad-scale spatial relationship between poverty occurrence and areas of interest to those seeking conservation of large wild areas.

**The Origins and Evolution of the Conservation-poverty Debate: A Review of Key Literature Events and Policy Processes**, by Roe, D., October 2008, Oryx, Vol 42 No 4, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK

This paper discusses the origin, evolution, and likely future development of the debate surrounding the linkages between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

**Are Poverty and Protected Area Establishment Linked at a National Scale?**, by Upton, C., Ladle, R., Hulme, D., Jiang, T., Brockington, D., Adams, W.M., January 2008, Oryx, Vol 42 No 1, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (UK)

The analysis conducted in this paper suggests that the relationships between poverty and conservation action are dynamic and locally specific. This conclusion has implications for opposing positions within the debate on poverty and conservation.

**Is Poverty More Acute Near Parks? An Assessment of Infant Mortality Rates Around Protected Areas in Developing Countries**, by de Sherbinin, A., January 2008, Oryx, Vol 42 No 1, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge (UK)

The paper tests the hypotheses that poverty rates in regions surrounding protected areas in

developing countries are higher than national averages and that poverty rates are highest around large and strictly protected areas.

## Resources

**Job opportunity: CITES Secretariat** is looking for a **consultant** to assist in the preparation of a toolkit for the rapid assessment of the implementation of CITES listing decisions on the livelihoods of the poor, and draft voluntary guidelines for addressing the impacts identified. The essential qualifications of the consultant are: academic credentials and demonstrated experience in the field of livelihoods and wildlife; previous professional experience in a low-income country; familiarity with CITES and its implementation. Anyone interested should contact Juan Carlos Vasquez for the full ToR asap: Juan Carlos VASQUEZ ([Juan.Vasquez@cites.org](mailto:Juan.Vasquez@cites.org)).

**NCSE Online Biodiversity Conference:** To celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Charles Darwin, the National Council for Science and the Environment invites you to participate in the virtual continuation of the 9th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment, "**Biodiversity in a Rapidly Changing World**", through the updated website. The website features streaming videos of keynote addresses by Cristian Samper, Director, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and Thomas Friedman, New York Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winning author, and much much more.

**BioSoc** is the monthly bulletin of the PCLG, highlighting key new research on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation. Please note that BioSoc has been offline for a few months due to technical distribution problems at IIED. We anticipate the normal monthly service will resume in January. To receive BioSoc, [www.povertyandconservation.info/en/biosoc.php](http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/biosoc.php)

**More Info** More information regarding members, publications, initiatives, and events listed in the newsletter is available on [www.povertyandconservation.info](http://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](mailto:pclg@iied.org)

**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 visiting: [www.povertyandconservation.info/en/newslist.php](http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/newslist.php)

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