

# 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.

## March 2010 - ISSUE No. 028

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the twenty-eighth issue of the PCLG newsletter. We hope you are finding this service useful and we look forward to receive any comments or suggestions 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 March.*

## Secretariat News

**PCLG International Symposium:** The PCLG Secretariat is organizing an international symposium titled "Linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction: what, why and how?". The symposium will take place on 28th and 29th 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. [More information and to register.](#)

It's not too late to submit a proposal for a poster to be presented at the Symposium at the Zoological Society of London. Please see [here](#) for details of how to register and how to submit a proposal. If you need **financial assistance** to cover travel and accommodation costs we have a limited number of grants that we can make available to developing country participants. Please contact Dilys - [dilys.roe@iied.org](mailto:dilys.roe@iied.org) - as soon as possible with your request and an indication of the funding required.

**Social Assessment of Protected Areas:** Over the last couple of years the PCLG Secretariat has helped to support a process involving a number of PCLG members to get to grips with methods and indicators for assessing the social impacts of protected areas ([www.povertyandconservation.info/en/activity.php](http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/activity.php)). Most recently Care International and TNC were able to provide support for a consultancy to review existing social assessment methodologies, to explore their potential application to protected areas and to develop a standardized framework that for protected area assessments. This review will shortly be published in [IIED's Natural Resource Issues series](#) and a side event will be held at SBSTTA 14 in May organized by the SAPA initiative partners: Care, UNEP-WCMC, CEESP-WCPA, and IIED.

## Featured News

**UNEP TEEB** in Bonn is currently preparing the **Local/Regional Policy & Public Management** report (TEEB D2). The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity is an international initiative to draw attention to the global economic benefits of biodiversity, to highlight the growing cost of biodiversity loss and

ecosystem degradation and to draw together expertise from the fields of science, economics and policy to enable practical actions moving forward. The report, due in June 2010, will be a needs-oriented, highly informative account of relevant issues and will showcase examples from around the world of how the valuation of ecosystem services (such as flood protection, watershed, landscape values etc) and biodiversity has been and is being used to inform local decision makers. The idea is to present concise descriptions of examples where a focus on single or multiple ecosystem services has made a difference in regional policy and public management.

- What was the problem?
- What was done to solve it? How were ecosystem services considered?
- What was needed to solve the problem in terms of data, resources and capacity?
- What resulted from taking an ecosystem service perspective? Did the approach influence public management or result in policy uptake?
- What else was necessary for it to be influential?

If you would like to share any interesting examples, please send your answers to the five questions above to: [Tasneem.balasinorwala@unep-teeb.org](mailto:Tasneem.balasinorwala@unep-teeb.org)

### News from PCLG Members

The **Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment** is expanding its work in the Dunga Wetlands, near the shores of Lake Victoria in Western Kenya. In [a blog entry](#), they highlight some of these activities by profiling farmers engaged in their eco-san work, which uses organic compost to increase crop yields on farmsteads and prevent wetland colonization and subsequent consequences with hippo. CREE is pleased at the recent news coverage it received on Chicago Public Radio's 'Worldview'. Worldview is part of Chicago's contribution to National Public Radio and is a global affairs program that seeks to go beyond the headlines and highlight voices for positive change in our world. Topics covered in the interview ranged from poverty alleviation and human-wildlife conflict to philosophical debates within the sustainable development field. See [www.conservationforpeople.org](http://www.conservationforpeople.org)

**Call for Practices: "Ecosystem Based Adaptation"**. Natureandpoverty.net and IUCN invite you to share practices and case studies on Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA). EbA integrates the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into an overall strategy to help people adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. It includes the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help people adapt to both current climate variability, and climate change.

These practices will constitute an important source of information for future members of the Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network (ELAN), a research-driven and action-oriented network of institutions, committed to delivering innovative and practical ecosystems-based solutions to climate change, based on the latest information and the diffusion of knowledge among network members. For more information please contact [info@natureandpoverty.net](mailto:info@natureandpoverty.net) or see [www.natureandpoverty.net](http://www.natureandpoverty.net).

Marine conservation organisation **Blue Ventures**, with support from Marie Stopes International and Population and Sustainability Network, is working to support grass roots family planning clinics in high biodiversity areas as a mechanism to address conservation and poverty. At a conference held in London in March, project leader Dr Vik Mohan explains: "20% of the predicted population global growth over the next 40 years will be because of unintended births... Much of the growth in population will be in areas of high biodiversity, and the communities that are the custodians of that biodiversity often don't have access to family planning." For more details visit <http://blueventures.org>

The **Livelihoods and Landscape Strategy (LLS)** is a global IUCN programme working in 23 countries and funded by the Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It seeks to address human and environmental needs simultaneously in large areas of land, so as to deliver environmentally friendly, financially sustainable and socially equitable outcomes. This is being done through restoring the functionality and diversity of forested landscapes, promoting reforms in local rights and tenure, improving local governance and developing marketing chains to deliver benefits to local communities. In Africa, Asia and Latin America, LLS works in landscapes that display great diversity. Each landscape strategy is unique; from the Miyun watershed that supplies Beijing with water, to community forest management in Burkina Faso and Tanzania, to addressing Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) issues in Africa, and to supporting enhanced market and value chains for important products (Gum Arabic, Shea Butter, Honey, Allantoin). The following

brief written for the Poverty Environment Partnership meeting in Malawi, demonstrates some of the progress and success of this initiative to date. [Download PDF.](#)

The **Nature Conservancy** is looking for a top-tier social scientist to join its Central Science team. For details about the position, see [www.nature.org/](http://www.nature.org/) or contact [chodges@tnc.org](mailto:chodges@tnc.org).

### Forthcoming Events

**CBD Working Group 9 on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing (ABS), Cali, Colombia, 22-26 March 2010:** This is the final negotiating session for an International Regime on ABS which is to be adopted by Parties at Nagoya CBD COP 10 in October. Much of the text remains in brackets, with many key issues to be resolved - including on the legal nature of the regime, the rights and benefits for indigenous and local communities and recognition of their customary laws. IIED partner Asociacion ANDES is hosting a side event on Community Protocols for Equitable Benefit-Sharing, with Natural Justice, on Wednesday 24th March.

IUCN UK is excited to announce its first themed conference: "[Nature-What's in it For Me?](#)" To be held in Edinburgh, in association with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, from **April 18th to 20th** the conference will help the IUCN UK committee play a leading role in the assessment and implementation of IUCN's Global Programme "[Shaping a Sustainable Future](#)". Delegates wishing to attend can [book places by clicking here](#).

**The Great Escape - There is No Planet B! Biodiversity Conservation, a Natural Ally in Sustainable Poverty Reduction, 26 – 27 April 2010**, at the Natura Artis Magistra, in Amsterdam. Organised by the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands. Participants are invited to debate the proposition above, as well as dilemma's in the following areas: 1) Ecosystems and Human Well-being: An Introduction; 2) The Biobased Economy - Escaping the land-use realities?; 3) Emergency Aid and Ecosystems - Escaping the impact of emergency aid operations on long-term environmental security; and 4) Payments for Ecosystem Services - Escaping the monetary stronghold: local ownership of REDD, and other financial instruments that put a value on the protection of ecosystems. [More information.](#)

**PCLG International Symposium:** The PCLG Secretariat is organizing an international symposium titled "Linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction: what, why and how?". The symposium will take place on 28th and 29th 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. [More information and to register.](#)

**24th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB):** The 2010 meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on July 3rd-7th, 2010. The theme of the meeting is "[Conservation for a Changing Planet.](#)" Because of the focus on environmental change, the meeting will highlight the importance of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to conservation.

**Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD COP 10:** The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP 10\)](#) will be held in Nagoya, Japan on 8th-29th of October 2010. This meeting is expected to assess achievement of the 2010 target to reduce significantly the rate of biodiversity loss, adopt an international regime on access and benefit-sharing and celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

### New Publications

**Roe, D. and J. Elliott (edited by) Earthscan Reader in Poverty and Biodiversity Conservation.** "The Earthscan Reader in Poverty and Biodiversity Conservation" is an edited compilation of the most important previously-published material, which provides a guide to and commentary on the key literature on current debates on poverty-conservation linkages. The book will help readers, including both students and professionals, to locate current debates within their wider contexts. The Reader can be ordered at [Earthscan](#)

**Surkin, J., Resnikowski, H., Sanchez, A. and Amaya, M. March 2010. A Landscape of Change: A Report on Community Based Adaptation and Vulnerability to Climate Change and its Social, Institutional and Ecological Inter Linkages in Bolivia.** This report presents the results of a project on

analysis of human vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the Amoro Madidi Corridor, Bolivia (AMC) implemented by the Grupo Nacional de Trabajo para la Participacion (GNTP) with technical and financial support from Conservation International. The central objective of this project was to contribute to conservation of globally significant biodiversity in the Tropical Andes Hotspot and AMC, and to support development of policy/intervention responses that enhance human well being and adaptive capacity across this landscape. This project will contribute increasing understanding of the linkages between climate change and human well being. In particular this research provides evidence of how human well being is, and will be, affected by climate change at different altitudes in a landscape which is a global priority for biodiversity conservation. While the impacts of climate change vary globally, lessons from this study can still potentially inform the efforts in other regions, particularly in its innovative approach to integrating information gained from scientific modeling of climate change projections, vulnerability assessment and mapping, and participatory community based adaption assessments. In our review of the existing literature, we found few studies that combined these qualities and data.

## **Resources**

**BioSoc** is the monthly bulletin of the PCLG, highlighting key new research on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation. BioSoc is currently offline, but we anticipate the normal monthly service will resume. 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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