

**Poverty and Conservation Learning Group**  
**Monthly Journal Digest**  
**Issue 5: March 2013**

This Journal Digest is a PCLG information service intended to keep readers up to date with new journal articles on issues relating to biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation as they are published. This is produced on a monthly basis, covering articles that have been published in the previous month. Please note that the summaries provided are *not* the official abstracts of the articles.

Our current watch list includes: African Journal of Ecology; Agricultural Ecosystems and Environment; Agricultural Sciences News; Ambio; Animal Conservation; Antipode; Biodiversity; Biodiversity Conservation; Biological Conservation; Conservation and Society; Conservation Biology; Conservation Letters; Development and Change; Diversity and Distributions; Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development; Ecological Economics; Ecology; Ecology and Society; Ecosystem Services & Management; Environment and History; Environmental Conservation; Environmental Ethics; Ethics and the Environment; Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment; Global Environmental Change; Human Dimensions of Wildlife; Human Ecology; International Journal of Biodiversity Science; International Journal of Environmental Studies; Journal for Nature Conservation; Journal of Environment and Development; Journal of International Wildlife Law; Journal of Natural Resources and Policy Research; Journal of Political Ecology; Local Environment; Management of Environmental Quality; Natural Resources Forum; Nature; Oryx; Oxford Review of Economic Policy; PNAS; Science; Society and Natural Resources; Trends in Ecology and Evolution; Tropical Conservation Science; Wildlife Research; World Development.

We would welcome your feedback on the usefulness of this service and your suggestions on key journals that we should add to our watch list to ensure we provide the most comprehensive service possible. Please contact us at [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org)

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**Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty**

Coad, L., Schleicher, J., Milner-Gulland, E. J., Marthews, T. R., Starkey, M., Manica, A., Balmford, A., Mbombe, W., Diop Bineni, T. R. and Abernethy, K. A. (2013); **Social and Ecological Change over a Decade in a Village Hunting System, Central Gabon**; *Conservation Biology*; Advance Online Publication: 31 January 2013.

Few previous studies have looked at the long-term socio-ecological dynamics of unsustainable bushmeat hunting, despite it being a major threat to biodiversity and local food security. This article details the results of a study conducted in two villages in central Gabon over 10 years (2001-2010) to examine changes in off-take and hunting practices.

The authors found no significant decline in off-take or species composition; however trapping distance from the village increased, hunting technique changed (switching to guns) and the number of hunters decreased, and some male changing to focus on other livelihood activities. The results of this study, which was conducted by interviewing local hunters and collecting hunting data, highlight the importance of understanding the socio-ecological dynamics of hunting systems in order to correctly interpret changes in hunting practices, and the ecological and social effects over time.

Wiley-Blackwell; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12012>

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Lindsey, P.A., Balme, G., Becker, M. et al. (2013); **the bushmeat trade in African savannas: Impacts, drivers, and possible solutions**; *Biological Conservation* Vol. 160: Pages 80-96.

Bushmeat trade is commonly recognised as a serious threat for forest biomes, but its role in savannas is often underplayed as a low-impact subsistence activity. In this article, the authors go beyond the common misconception of bushmeat trade in savannas as a negligible activity, to discuss its many drivers and impacts. Drivers highlighted range from an increasing demand from local as well as national and international urban consumers (which is leading to an increase in commercialisation), food security and poverty, and a lack of incentives and legal frameworks for people to gain from wildlife in other ways. They conclude that urgent efforts are needed to address the savanna bushmeat trade; failure to act will have serious negative consequences for wildlife and equally negative socio-economic impacts.

Elsevier; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2012.12.020>

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Nkemnyi, M. F., de Haas, A., Etiendem, N. D. & Ndobegang, F. (2012); **Making hard choices: balancing indigenous communities livelihood and Cross River gorilla conservation in the Lebialem–Mone Forest landscape, Cameroon**; *Environment, Development and Sustainability*; November 2012.

Forest adjacent people face difficult challenges when the land around where they live is changed into a conservation area, and may lose access rights to important resources. This study looked into the proposed Tofalla Hill Wildlife Sanctuary (THWS) in Southwest Cameroon in order to protect the critically endangered Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*). The authors carried out questionnaires, focus group discussions and interviews around the area. They found that there is strong cultural attachment to the area make it challenging to achieve local acceptance of the project, although the authors suggest that conservationists will need to design solutions that balance livelihood aspirations of the community and conservation objectives, focusing on off- forest activities.

Springer; <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10668-012-9416-y>

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Plaganyi, E. E., van Putten, I., Hutton, T., Deng, R. A., Dennis, D., Pascoe, S., Skewes, T. and Campbell, R. A. (2013); **Integrating indigenous livelihood and lifestyle objectives in managing a natural resource**; *PNAS*, Vol. 110 (9): Pages 3639-3644; Advance Online Publication: February 11, 2013.

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In order to evaluate the success of natural resource management approaches, suitable methods are required to measure performance against biological, economic, social, and governance objectives. The authors of this article use as a case study a fishery with both traditional indigenous and commercial sectors to explore the issue of evaluating the success of a natural resource management approach. The results of this study highlight that there are complex trade-offs between social, economic and biological indicators that need to be correctly evaluated to support decision making in natural resource management approaches.

PNAS; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1217822110>

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Sassen, M., Sheil, D., Giller, K.E. and ter Braak, C.J.F., (2013); ***Complex contexts and dynamic drivers: Understanding four decades of forest loss and recovery in an East African protected area***; *Biological Conservation*, Vol. 159: Pages 257-268.

The authors of this study used satellite image analyses, historical information, population census data and interviews with local informants to investigate and understand the drivers behind changes in forest cover in three periods between 1973 and 2009 on Mt Elgon, Uganda. While more than 25% of the forest cover of Mt Elgon was lost over this 35 years period, the forest saw various periods of clearing and regrowth during this time, as a consequence of the complex interplay of the many conditions in the region. This study concludes that the context (e.g. law enforcement, collaborative management, political interference) under which drivers such as population, wealth, market access and commodity prices operate, rather than the drivers per se, determines impacts on forest cover.

Elsevier; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2012.12.003>

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Silva, J.A. and Mosimane, A.W., (2013); ***Conservation-Based Rural Development in Namibia: A Mixed-Methods Assessment of Economic Benefits***; *The Journal of Environment & Development*, Vol. 22: Pages 25-50.

Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) is often disliked as a development strategy. To shed light on this debate, the authors of this article employ a mixed-methods approach to test to what extent CBNRM generates direct and indirect economic benefits, and if these benefits induce participation in communal conservation. A survey of communal conservancies in Namibia offers a possible explanation by finding that, while they provide some direct economic benefits to conservancy members, they often fail to promote development for all residents.

Sage Journals; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1070496512469193>

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## Biodiversity, Poverty, Forestry and REDD+

Bluffstone, R., Robinson, E. and Guthiga, P. (2013); **REDD+ and community-controlled forests in low-income countries: Any hope for a linkage?** *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 87: Pages 43-52.

Considering that about 25% of the forests in developing countries are community controlled, it is difficult to imagine how REDD+ could be successfully implemented without taking into consideration its implications for community-controlled forests. REDD has the potential to bring opportunities to developing country forests, although local rights to land tenure remains a critical issue, with many governments reluctant to devolve power. The authors of this paper discuss the links between REDD+ and community-controlled forests, and in particular the opportunities and challenges that could emerge from bringing community-controlled forests into REDD+. Addressing these issues early on in the process can not only ensure the successful implementation of REDD+, but also avoid that the introduction of REDD+ interferes with established well-functioning community forest systems.

Springer; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2012.12.004>

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Nghiem, N. (2013); **Biodiversity conservation attitudes and policy tools for promoting biodiversity in tropical planted forests;** *Biodiversity and Conservation*, Vol. 22(2): Pages 373-403.

Deforestation is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss, which in turn poses a big threat to the livelihoods of the poor. To address this issue, this study examines foresters' attitudes and investigates a number of policy tools to identify the most appropriate one to conserve biodiversity given the specific socio-economic conditions of the foresters. The results show that many foresters would agree to promote greater biodiversity if there were adequate incentives. The authors recommend that the Vietnamese government reflect this by increasing payments to foresters for conserving biodiversity conservation, and that their results have implications for REDD schemes in developing countries.

Springer link; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10531-012-0418-8>

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Parrotta, J. A., Wildburger, C. and Mansourian, S., (2012); **Understanding relationships between biodiversity, carbon, forests and people: the key to achieving REDD+ objectives - A global assessment report;** International Union of Forest Research Organizations, IUFRO World Series Vol. 31.

The aim of this report is to support the successful implementation of REDD+ by improving our understanding of the complex relationships between biodiversity, carbon, forest and people. Amongst other things, this report provides a summary of the issue, it analyses the latest scientific literature on the topic, it discusses REDD+, and the complex trade-offs and synergies between environmental and socioeconomic objectives. The report concludes

that governance is likely to remain pluralistic and this complexity should be embraced. The authors identify key knowledge gaps that still exist in REDD+ implementation finish by pointing out that for REDD+ to work at all, it will need to be effectively put into policy and practices that both improve people's wellbeing as well as contribute to biodiversity conservation.

IUFRO; <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=63521>

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Rendón Thompson, O. R., J. Paavola, J. R. Healey, J. P. G. Jones, T. R. Baker, and Torres, J. (2013); ***Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+): transaction costs of six Peruvian projects***; *Ecology and Society*, Vol. 18(1): Page 17.

REDD+ has been promoted in recent years as one of the main pillars of climate change policy. While REDD+ has the potential to create financial incentives for the conservation of forests, the costs of implementing REDD+ projects and achieving emission reductions remains largely unknown. This study looks at the set-up, implementation and monitoring costs of six of the first seven REDD+ project designs from the Peruvian Amazon. It concludes that the costs of implementing REDD+ projects for developing countries are still highly uncertain, the main reasons being the ways in which additionality is determined and inadequate project design. As a result the costs of many existing conservation and REDD+ projects are likely to have been underestimated.

Ecology and Society; <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-05239-180117>

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