

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.

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Secretariat News

As you may have noticed, this is the first issue of PCLG News since January! For this reason, in this issue you will find news items that date from January onwards. We apologise for the delay in sending this newsletter to you and we will strive to resume our regular monthly service from next month.

The main PCLG activity to report on is the Africa-Asia Learning Exchange held in January 2012. IIED and CIFOR organised a workshop titled 'Linking Great Ape Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Sharing Experience from Africa and Asia', which was held at CIFOR campus, Bogor, Indonesia, on 11-13 January 2012. The workshop was the second of a series on "Great Apes and Poverty Linkages", organized under the auspices of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with financial support from United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW), the Arcus Foundation and the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP). The event was hosted by CIFOR and the Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) of the Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry. During the workshop, African policy makers and NGO officials were able to share experience in linking ape conservation and poverty alleviation with their Asian counterparts. If you would like to learn more about this event, CIFOR has created a fantastic [web page](#) full of information (presentations, blogs, photos, videos, etc.) about the workshop and the field trip which followed.

We have also been busy updating the PCLG website and the new version is now live at <http://povertyandconservation.info> The new website displays a fresher look and new features – like blogs, twitter feeds, top resources – while maintaining its core function as a mechanism for collecting and disseminating information on poverty-conservation issues. Please, visit the new PCLG website to find information on the latest events hosted by the PCLG, and on the latest publications produced by the PCLG and its partners. We have aimed to make the new website even more user friendly, something we hope you will appreciate, but we look forward to hearing your comments on how we could further improve it (comments should be sent to pclg@iied.org).

PCLG country teams in Cameroon and Uganda have also been busy and over the last couple of months have finalised the outputs of their first phase of work. New publications include:

From Cameroon:

- [Overview of Human wildlife conflict in Cameroon](#), PCLG Discussion paper no 5, 2012
- [Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into National Development Policy: A case study of Cameroon](#), PCLG Discussion paper no 9, 2012

And from Uganda:

- [The Overlap between Conservation and Development Organisations in the Albertine Rift, Western Uganda](#), PCLG Discussion paper no 7, 2012
- [Did the National Development Plan take into account the recommendations of "Enhancing Wildlife's Contribution to growth, employment and prosperity" report?](#), PCLG Discussion paper no 8, 2012

Finally, we have recently completed an analysis of human-wildlife conflict mitigation options. This analysis was based on a number of case studies developed by PCLG members and country teams. These include:

- [Nepalese Compensation Scheme – Chitwan National Park](#), PCLG Case Study No1, 2012
- [The Kenyan Compensation Experience](#), PCLG Case Study No2, 2012
- [Namibian Insurance Scheme - HACISIS](#), PCLG Case Study No3, 2012

An overview paper is available here:

- [Tackling human-wildlife conflict: A prerequisite for linking conservation and poverty alleviation](#), PCLG Discussion paper no 6, 2012

We were lucky to receive two new grants under the [Darwin Initiative](#) in March 2012 for work which will continue to involve PCLG. The first project, titled "[Research to Policy](#)", is intended to build the policy influence capacity of the new Uganda chapter of the PCLG which was established in 2011. The first year of the project, led by the [Institute for Tropical Forest Conservation \(ITFC\)](#), will focus on research into the effectiveness of Integrated Conservation and Development Projects (ICDPs) in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park – particularly looking at how those initiatives have been targeted and the degree to which this has or has not influenced behaviour change. The research findings will be used to develop guidelines on improved ICDP interventions. The second part of the project will entail the provision of a tailor made capacity building programme to members of the U-PCLG developed by ACODE (Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment). A series of workshops will cover: writing policy briefs, working with the media, targeting policy makers and so on.

The second project, titled "[NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development](#)", is focusing on mainstreaming poverty issues into second generation National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). All parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are revising their NBSAPs over the next two years. The new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity stresses the importance of mainstreaming poverty issues and using these revised strategies as tools to help integrate biodiversity into development strategies, and vice-versa. This project is being carried out in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, the CBD Secretariat and the UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative. Focusing on Botswana, Malawi, Uganda, Namibia and The Seychelles, the project is intended to build African leadership in biodiversity mainstreaming through capacity building, tools development, technical support and peer-to-peer review. The PCLG website will provide a key portal for keeping interested parties up to date with

the project activities and for disseminating outputs.

For more details on either project please contact Dilys Roe (dilys.roe@iied.org)

Other news:

Probably of interest to UK members only, this year we would like to enter a **PCLG team into the Great Gorilla Run**. This takes place on Saturday the 22nd of September 2012 and is a 7km route around London and is organized by The Gorilla Organisation – an active member of PCLG. To become a gorilla runner you have to pay a registration fee of £80 (in return for which you get your very own gorilla costume!) and pledge to raise £400 or more in sponsorship – see www.greatgorillarun.org for more details. Please let us know if you would like to join the team!

The Spanish & French translations of “[Biodiversity and Poverty: Ten Frequently Asked Questions – Ten Policy Implications](#)” (Gatekeeper 150) are now available for download on the IIED website:

- [Biodiversidad y pobreza: Diez preguntas frecuentes diez implicancias de política](#)
- [Biodiversité et pauvreté : dix questions fréquemment posées – dix implications politiques](#)

CALL FOR DOCUMENTS We are currently trying to expand the PCLG online library. **If you know of any key document relevant to the issue of poverty-conservation linkages that is not easily available online, please send it to us at pclg@iied.org and we will upload it on the PCLG website.**

CAN YOU WRITE FOR BIOSOC? January 2011 saw the return of BioSoc — our bulletin highlighting new research and policy developments on the theme of biodiversity and society. This year we would like to give more exposure to research and writing from developing countries and invite you to contribute. If you would like to draw attention to a recent publication — be it research findings, new policy, or conference proceedings — please get in touch. Depending on the level of interest we will publish the bulletin either monthly or bi-monthly. BioSoc reviews should be a maximum of 500–600 words, written in clear and simple language, and should highlight new developments or critical issues. All publications reviewed must be freely accessible to the reader. The review must include the full citation and relevant download details. Please send your ideas to pclg@iied.org. [To receive BioSoc](#)

Members News

Working closely with partners in Brazil and elsewhere, **IIED** will host an information-sharing event on 16-17 June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in conjunction with Earth Summit 2012. [Fair Ideas](#) will open up a space for researchers and practitioners working for a greener, fairer world to add important knowledge, experience and momentum to the official summit. Fair Ideas will address four broad themes:

1. Shaping Sustainable Development Goals will point to practical ways in which the goals could work for specific countries and sectors.
2. Urbanisation that improves lives will identify examples of good practice and share ideas for promoting wider change.
3. Business models for sustainability will highlight examples that break the mould from a range of sectors, which can be replicated and learnt from.
4. Transforming economic systems for people and planet will showcase experiences in transforming systems to both reduce ecological footprints and more equitably distribute benefits.

The **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** has invited parties, international organizations, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders to submit views on the need for, and possible development of, additional mechanisms to enable CBD parties to meet their commitments under the Convention and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. [Submissions are invited before 1 June 2012](#), to be compiled by the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its 11th meeting, to be held in October 2012, in Hyderabad, India.

Over 250 participants from a range of countries and disciplines attended the first [TEEB conference](#), organized by UFZ, from 19-22 March, in Leipzig, Germany. Participants exchanged valuable experiences on the implementation of TEEB at regional, national or subnational levels.

Innovative approaches to forest conservation and poverty alleviation are being pioneered by two projects made possible by the **Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI)**. Each project is a unique collaboration between researchers, practitioners and policy makers. One project is conducting research for a scheme to fund forest conservation through carbon credits. The other project is working with local villagers to establish how best to reward them for forest conservation. [Read more](#)

World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) is collaborating with the Institute for European Environmental Policy to identify good practices and lessons learnt from incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem service values into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). The [study](#) is expected to support implementation of Aichi Targets 1 and 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Aichi Target 1 relates to the awareness of people of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably. Aichi Target 2 relates to the integration of biodiversity values into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes.

Fundación IPADE has recently published a [basic guide on biodiversity conservation, cooperation and education for development](#), that is available in Spanish.

The **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released the [Global Environment Outlook-5 \(GEO-5\) Summary for Policy Makers](#). The Summary calls for a focus on the underlying drivers of environmental change – including population growth, consumption and production, and urbanization. It further recommends: the use of timely and accurate data to inform decision making; reversal of policies that generate unsustainable outcomes; incentives to advance sustainable practices; urgent, ambitious and cooperative action by governments to meet internationally-agreed goals; the strengthening of access to information; and the engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors in policy-making processes. The full report will be released in June, in advance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

The **UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative** in cooperation with the World Resources Institute are pleased to draw your attention to a new Primer entitled "[Enabling Local Successes: A Primer on Mainstreaming Local Ecosystem-based Solutions to Poverty-Environment Challenges](#)". This primer assembles current knowledge and illustrative case materials on the benefits of and enabling conditions for local ecosystem-based initiatives. It documents how nature-focused activities and enterprises originated and executed by local actors, can sustain ecosystems and improve the livelihoods and well-being of the rural poor. The primer is designed to help development practitioners and others engaged in the mainstreaming challenge communicate to policy makers the positive poverty and environmental outcomes that can result at the local level when environmental mainstreaming efforts at the national and sectoral levels succeed.

Conservation and Poverty News Stories

How butterfly farmers help to protect forests - The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) provides technical assistance for butterfly farming, marketing, export, financial management, and conservation efforts. TFCG says that it started projects like the Amani Butterfly Project in order to reduce poverty and turn conservation into a benefit rather than a liability. [Full article](#)

Innovative conservation: wild silk, endangered species, and poverty in Madagascar - Despite the continued political problems in Madagascar, the NGO SEPALI, along with its US partner Conservation through Poverty Alleviation (CPALI), farmers and partners, are pulling together to find better ways to support the Makira Protected Area and improving the lives of local communities. [Full article](#)

Bolivia Launches Program to Protect Forests and Alleviate Poverty - A Bolivian governor is seeking to emulate the successes of Ecuador's Socio Bosque program in his own country. [Full article](#)

The [report of a workshop](#) on the thematic content of the first Intergovernmental **Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** work programme, which was organized by the University of Copenhagen, the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy (EPBRS) and the Danish Ministry of Environment, is now available. The workshop, held from 16-18 January 2012, in Copenhagen, Denmark, considered various subjects related to possible themes, methodologies and approaches for the first work programme of the IPBES. Workshop participants noted that assessments of knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services should be designed to help identify and prioritize key scientific information needed for policy makers at appropriate scales.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland has commissioned a study on forestry development cooperation and poverty alleviation in the developing world. The study is now in a DRAFT phase, and comments on the draft are welcome from other professionals working in forestry development. The material can be found [here](#). Please look at the bottom of the page for invitation in English labeled as "stakeholder consultation", and for the draft document titled "background study...". The study is concise, just under 40 pages. Due to timetable pressures the window for stakeholder comments is short, and closes on Friday, April 27th.

Blogs

To Alleviate Poverty, Biodiversity Conservation is Critical, by Will Turner - In January, a paper entitled "Global Biodiversity Conservation and the Alleviation of Poverty" was published in the journal BioScience. The study marks the first global estimation of biodiversity benefits and ecosystem service flows from habitats to humans. CI Vice President of Conservation Priorities and Outreach Will Turner - the paper's lead author - summarises the study's biggest findings in this blog. [Read the full blog](#)

Game reveals complex links between poverty and threats to apes, by Mike Shanahan - There were 50 ape experts in a room and a quick game to play to break the ice. "If you agree with the statement, go to the left side of the room," said the facilitator. "If you disagree go to the right." She

then unveiled eight simple words that split the room in two: “Local poverty is the main threat to apes.”
[Read the full blog](#)

REDD+ project design: 10 points to consider so the poor don't lose out, by Essam Mohammed

- REDD+ aims to reward or compensate tropical developing countries for keeping their forests intact or for reducing the scale of deforestation. It's predicted that financial flows to these countries from REDD+ could reach up to US\$30 billion a year. So getting the issue of REDD+ benefit distribution right is crucial, not only to ensure that it is benefiting the poorest of the poor (or at least not harming them), but for building REDD+'s legitimacy both at the national and international level, which in turn will help preserve forest ecosystems. Before REDD+ programmes begin to be implemented in earnest, lessons should be learnt from previous payment schemes, so past mistakes aren't repeated. [Read the full blog](#)

Poor households depend on non-timber forest products in times of crisis, by Rachel Rivera -

The sale and use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) is the one of the most common coping mechanisms to help vulnerable households in two of South Africa's poorest provinces cope in times of crisis, according to a recent study. The study found that while all of the households that were sampled relied, to some extent, on NTFPs as part of their livelihood portfolio, as many as 70% also reported using the safety-net function of NTFPs in response to a range of crises. [Read the full blog](#)

New publications in the PCLG bibliography database

[Global Biodiversity Conservation and the Alleviation of Poverty](#)

By Turner, W.R., Brandon, K., Brooks, T.M., Gascon, C., Gibbs, H.K., Lawrence, K.S., Mittermeier, R.A. and Selig, E.R.; January 2012

Poverty and biodiversity loss are two of the world's dire challenges. Claims of conservation's contribution to poverty alleviation, however, remain controversial. Here, the authors assess the flows of ecosystem services provided to people by priority habitats for terrestrial conservation, considering the global distributions of biodiversity, physical factors, and socioeconomic context. Although trade-offs remain, these results show win-win synergies between conservation and poverty alleviation, indicate that effective financial mechanisms can enhance these synergies, and suggest biodiversity conservation as a fundamental component of sustainable economic development.

[Mainstreaming the Environment in Malawi's Development: Experience and next steps](#)

By Bass, S., Banda, J.L.L., Chiotha, S., Kalowekamo, J., Kalua, T., Kambalame-Kalima, D., Hamella, B., Mmangisa, M., Mphemo, G., Mughogho, N., Mulebe, D., Njaya, F., Phiri, E., Yassin, B., Yaron, G.; November 2011

This paper, produced by leading Malawian thinkers, explores several case studies of experience in environmental mainstreaming. Where economics is the main language of policy and business, it shows how economic analysis of poverty-environment links has been influential in planning, budgeting and executive decision-making. Ten recommendations are offered that will enable the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, as well as other initiatives, to ensure secure environmental foundations for Malawi's prosperity.

[Community Markets for Conservation \(COMACO\) links biodiversity conservation with sustainable improvements in livelihoods and food production](#)

By Lewis, D., Bell, S.D., Fay, J., Bothi, K.L., Gatere, L., Kabila, M., Mukamba, M., Matokwani, E., Mushimbalume, M., Moraru, C.I., Lehmann, J., Lassoie, J., Wolfe, D., Lee, D.R., Buck, L. and Travis, A.J.; August 2011

The COMACO model operates primarily with communities surrounding national parks, strengthening conservation benefits produced by these protected areas. The authors test specific hypotheses and

present data documenting the stabilization of previously declining wildlife populations; the meeting of thresholds of productivity that give COMACO access to stable, high-value markets and progress toward economic self-sufficiency; and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices by participants and other community members. Together, these findings describe a unique, business-oriented model for poverty alleviation, food production, and biodiversity conservation.

Forthcoming Events

[Forests for People](#) - This international and interdisciplinary conference organized under the auspices of IUFRO on "Forests for People" will be held on **May 22-24th 2012 in the middle of the Austrian Alps in a Tyrolean Village**. The aim of this conference is to build a systematic body of knowledge about "forest for people" and its various facets, including possible future trends and challenges.

[Earth Summit 2012](#) - **On 20 - 22 June 2012, the UNCSD will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. Also referred to as the Rio+20 or the Earth Summit 2012 due to the initial conference held in Rio in 1992, the objectives of the Summit are: to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development; to assess progress towards internationally agreed goals on sustainable development and to address new and emerging challenges. The Summit will also focus on two specific themes: a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and an institutional framework for sustainable development.

[World Conservation Congress](#) - The 2012 World Conservation Congress will be held from **6th to 15th September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea**. Up to 8,000 leaders from governments, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, businesses, UN agencies and social organizations will discuss, debate and decide on solutions for the world's most pressing environmental and development issues. The Congress starts with the five-day Forum, a conservation debate hub that is open to all, featuring knowledge cafés, workshops, training courses, poster sessions and five high-profile World Leaders' Dialogues. The Forum then leads into the three-day Members' Assembly, IUCN's highest decision-making body and a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs. You can [register now](#) for the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

The Scientific Partners of **[BIOECON](#)** are pleased to announce the 14th Annual International BIOECON conference on "Resource Economics, Biodiversity Conservation and Development". The conference will be held in the historical premises of **Kings College Cambridge, England on 18-20 September 2012**. The conference will be of interest to both researchers and policy makers working on biodiversity policy, especially natural resources in developing countries. The conference takes a broad interest in the area of resources, development and conservation, including but not limited to: plant genetic resources and food security issues, deforestation and development, fisheries and institutional adaptation, development and conservation, wildlife conservation and park pricing, and international trade and regulation. The conference will have sessions on economic development and biodiversity conservation, and on institutions and institutional change pertaining to the management of living resources.

The **[11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP 11\) to the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)** is organised by the CBD Secretariat and will take place **8 - 19 October 2012, in Hyderabad, India**. The High Level Segment will be held from 17-19 October 2012. The provisional agenda includes consideration of: the status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization; implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; issues related to financial

resources and the financial mechanism; issues related to cooperation, outreach and the UN Decade on Biodiversity; operations of the Convention; Article 8(j) and related provisions; in-depth review of the programme of work on island biodiversity; ways and means to support ecosystem restoration; marine and coastal biodiversity; biodiversity and climate change; other substantive issues arising from COP 10 decisions, including dryland, forest, inland waters, mountain, and agricultural biodiversity, protected areas, sustainable use of biodiversity, the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, biofuels and biodiversity, invasive alien species, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, incentive measures, and biodiversity and development; as well as administrative and budgetary matters.

Funding and Awards Opportunities

The **Verde Ventures Fund (VVF)** at Conservation International is inviting applications from Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME's) in the following four key sectors for consideration for investment: Coffee and Cocoa; Fisheries; Clean Energy; and Africa. VVF utilizes a "blended capital" approach of technical assistance and loans and has successfully invested over \$15 million in a range of SME's in Central and South America, Africa, and Madagascar and serves markets as diverse as coffee, tourism, fisheries, and clean energy. [Read more](#)

[Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation](#): Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation (RSGs) are aimed at small conservation programmes and pilot projects. RSG's are available to individuals and small groups. Applications can be made at any time of the year; decisions are usually made within three months. RSGs generally support projects of about a year's duration. Applications from non-first world areas are strongly encouraged.

Other Opportunities

IIED's Free Publications Scheme - IIED strives to bring greater access to its print publications for readers in developing countries. IIED offers its publications as they are published to libraries and resource centres in non-OECD countries free of charge. It's easy to apply, just choose up to two topics from the list: Agriculture, Biodiversity & Conservation, Climate Change, Drylands, Energy, Environmental Management & Planning, Environmental Economics, Food, Forestry, Global Governance, Investment, Land, Law, Local Organisations, Markets, Natural Resource Management, Participation, Pastoralism, Responsible Business, Trade, Urban Development, Urban Poverty, Water-Ecosystem, Water-Urban, Publications in French, Publications in Spanish. To join the scheme, contact IIED at newbooks@iied.org with "FPS subscribe PCLG newsletter" as the subject line, or write to: IIED, Free Publications Scheme, 80-86 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8NH

MSc in Environmental Governance, UN University - The United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) is now accepting online applications to its Master of Science in Environmental Governance with Specialization in Biodiversity programme for the 2012 academic year. The programme draws on UNU-IAS's long-standing reputation for excellence in policy-oriented research for sustainable development. Graduates of the programme will receive a Master of Science degree from the United Nations University and the skills necessary to forge new frontiers as researchers and

practitioners with an interdisciplinary and systemic understanding of biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable development. For more information on course offerings, fees, duration and application procedure, please visit www.ias.unu.edu/masters. **The deadline for applications is 30 May 2012.** Classes are scheduled to commence in September 2012.

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.

BioSoc is the monthly bulletin of the PCLG, highlighting key new research on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation. [To receive BioSoc](#)

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:

<http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-newsletters>

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 by mid May.

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