

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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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the twenty-first 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 by the end of August.

Secretariat News

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). The ToR will be ready around mid September.

Featured News

Second Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): The twenty-fifth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum has agreed to convene a second intergovernmental multi-stakeholder meeting on IPBES, which will take place from **5-9 October 2009, in Nairobi, Kenya**. Some of the issues that will be addressed during this meeting are: whether IPBES is the best tool to improve biodiversity decision-making, how will it be managed, how will it work, etc. A major input for this meeting will be a document that analyzes the existing mechanisms and institutional gaps for making data and scientific information on biodiversity and ecosystems available to decision-makers. This is a unique opportunity for civil society to insert its views, particularly on the need for a credible, legitimate and relevant scientific interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services. For more information contact: Ruth Watulo (ruth.watulo@unep.org).

News from PCLG Members

Conservation through Poverty Alleviation International (CPALI): CPALI has recently released its 2008-2009 annual report, which contains updated information on CPALI's work in Madagascar, as well as detailed financial statements. The annual report can be downloaded from the CPALI website (<http://www.cpali.org/>). Should you be interested, more frequent updates on CPALI's work appear on CPALI's new Facebook page, CPALI Madagascar, open to all.

IIED: IIED has recently published two reports: 1) '[Creating and Protecting Zambia's Wealth: Experience and next steps in environmental mainstreaming](#)'. In this report the authors offer a positive, lessons-learned approach, identifying what has worked in key sectors and through institutional innovations. They conclude that Zambia could produce higher levels of income and welfare if its environmental assets are planned, allocated, managed and governed better. Their recommendations herald a new era of integrated environment-development planning that is not just 'pushed' by environment interests, but is now also 'demand-pulled' by development and finance authorities. 2) '[Small and medium forest enterprises in Ethiopia](#)'. The annual value of small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) in Ethiopia amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars. SMFEs have great potential to reduce poverty in Ethiopia, but in their present unregulated state also represent a threat to the country's declining forest resources. This report consolidates information about Ethiopia's SMFEs and suggests a practical way forward for those wishing to provide support.

WRI: '[Mapping a Better Future: How Spatial Analysis can Benefit Wetlands and Reduce Poverty](#)' is a new report prepared by the Wetlands Management Department, the Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the International Livestock Research Institute and the World Resources Institute. Drawing on Uganda's rich baseline of wetland data and poverty mapping, this report provides a detailed examination of the links between ecosystem services and the location of poor communities and presents practical lessons for policy-makers across government.

WWF-UK: Earlier this year WWF-UK commissioned a study to learn how other conservation and development organisations identify and understand changes in people lives and livelihoods, and what analytical frameworks, methodologies and good practice they use to embed this in their interventions. The study was designed to help WWF have access to the most relevant and high quality information to inform future development of Network guidance in this area. The findings were divided into two key reports: 1) 'Capturing Change in Peoples Lives and Livelihoods within Organisational Systems: Learning from Good Practice and Experiences of Conservation/ Development Organisations to inform WWF practice'. This paper presents an overview of how organizations have dealt with M&E challenges of capturing changes in people lives and livelihoods from an organisational perspective. 2) 'Capturing Change in Peoples Lives and Livelihoods within Programmes: Learning from Good Practice and Experiences of Conservation/ Development Organisations to inform WWF practices'. This paper focuses upon findings that emerged as relevant for WWF programmes and projects, including programme frameworks and methodologies shared by other organisations. The reports are available at: <http://povertyandconservation.info/en/org/O0116.php> Any feedback is welcomed and can be sent to Kate Studd (KStudd@wwf.org.uk).

ODI: '[Environmental sustainability within the new development agenda: opportunities and challenges for civil society](#)', is a new study carried out by ODI and sponsored by WWF and RSPB/Birdlife. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness is having a major impact on the design and implementation of international development cooperation. A new relationship is slowly emerging between donor countries and aid-receiving countries that acknowledges the primacy of national ownership over the development process. There is also recognition that national ownership needs to go beyond government, with a critical role to be played by civil society. Where do environmental issues fit into this new understanding? This study draws on the recent literature on development and the environment to help improving our understanding of these issues thus contributing to the debate.

Kalpavriksh: Turtles, forests, blackbuck, primates, wetlands, and beaches are conserved by rural communities across India. There are hundreds, possibly thousands of such initiatives, mostly unknown and unrecognised. Kalpavriksh has published a Directory of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in India, which begins to set right this neglect. The 800-page Directory, which includes contributions from a number of community members, academics, scientists, government officials and NGO representatives, hopes to contribute towards a deeper understanding of biodiversity conservation, livelihoods, and ecological impacts in India. For more information on the Directory, contact Anuradha Arjunwadkar (kvbooks@vsnl.net). For more information on CCAs, contact Neema Pathak (neema.pb@gmail.com).

Bees for Development: If you are interested in beekeeping as a means to reduce poverty in developing countries, join Bees for Development's one day training programme 'Strengthening livelihoods by means of beekeeping - An introduction', which will take place on Friday 21 August 2009 in Monmouth (UK). For more information: info@beesfordevelopment.org

Forthcoming Events

Biodiversity Conservation, Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction – Shaping a New Agenda: The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), as part of the Steering Group on Linking Conservation and Poverty Reduction, is organising a workshop titled "Biodiversity Conservation, Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction – Shaping a New Agenda". The workshop will be held at

BfN's International Academy for Nature Conservation **on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, September 17th to 21st**. This is the 4th workshop in a series of events held on the Isle of Vilm that deals with linking conservation and poverty reduction. This year's workshop specifically aims to develop inputs for ongoing discussions in the context of biodiversity and poverty, which include the specification of a clear conceptual framework and the identification of indicators. For more information, please contact till.hopf@bfm.de.

11th Annual BIOECON Conference on "Economic Instruments to Enhance the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity": The Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, in association with Conservation International, DEFRA, Department of Land Economy of Cambridge University and European Investment Bank, announces the Eleventh International BIOECON Conference on "Economic Instruments to Enhance the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity". The Conference will be held at the Centro Culturale Don Oriano Artigianelli, **in Venice, Italy, on September 21st-22nd, 2009**. The Conference is targeted to researchers, environmental professionals, international organizations and policy makers who are interested in working in the management and conservation of biodiversity. The Conference is focused on identifying the most effective and efficient instruments for biodiversity conservation, such as auctions of biodiversity conservation contracts, payment-for-services contracts, taxes, tradable permits, voluntary mechanisms and straightforward command and control.

New Publications in our database

Forests, Community Conservation, and Local Government Performance: The Village Forest Reserves of Tanzania, by Brockington, D., **October 2007, Society and Natural Resources, Vol 20 No 9, Routledge, pp. 835-848**: Devolved management of natural resources offers a means of advancing democracy, combating poverty, and enhancing conservation. Remarkable successes have been claimed for devolved forest reserve management in Tanzania. However, these successes are discordant with the practices of village government, of which village forest management is part. This article outlines the claims made for village forest reserves and juxtaposes these to detailed accounts of the corrupt and violent practice of village government. It reevaluates the success of village forest reserves in light of this evidence and considers the broader implications of the problems of local corruption for calls for community-based conservation.

A Zoological Perspective on Payments for Ecosystem Services, by McNeely, J.A., **June 2007, Integrative Zoology, Vol 2 No 2, Blackwell Publishing, pp. 68-78**: The concept of payments for ecosystem services is being developed as an important means of providing a more diverse flow of benefits to people living in and around habitats valuable for conservation. This paper expands on some of the markets for ecosystem services that also benefit wildlife, identifies relevant sources of information, and highlights some of the initiatives linking such markets to poverty alleviation. Making markets work for ecosystem services requires an appropriate policy framework, government support, operational institutional support, and innovation at scales from the site level to the national level. Zoologists have much to contribute to all of these steps.

The Efficiency of Payments for Environmental Services in Tropical Conservation, by Wunder, S., **2006, Conservation Biology, Vol 21 No 1, pp. 48 – 58**: Payments for environmental services (PES) represent a new, more direct way to promote conservation. They explicitly recognize the need to address difficult trade-offs by bridging the interests of landowners and external actors through compensations. Theoretical assessments praise the advantages of PES over indirect approaches, but in the tropics PES application has remained incipient. Here the author aims to demystify PES and clarify its scope for application as a tool for tropical conservation.

Improving the Effectiveness of Interventions to Balance Conservation and Development: A Conceptual Framework, by Garnett, S.T., Sayer, J., du Toit, J., **2007, Ecology and Society, Vol 12 No 1**: There are numerous case studies around the world describing integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs). Recently some localized syntheses have been published that use sophisticated statistics to identify patterns and causal linkages, 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. The language of ICDPs has been adopted by development agencies of all persuasions. There is now some urgency to identify the characteristics of the environment and the community in which success is most likely. This paper is intended as a step in that direction.

Resources

Training Future Leaders in Sustainable Development - Master's Program in Development Practice: The challenges of poverty, population, health, conservation, and human rights around the world are interconnected, requiring sustained and comprehensive interventions. Yet professionals in the

field of sustainable development often lack the academic training and field experience required to help address these issues comprehensively. Recognizing the need for a new approach, the MacArthur Foundation is supporting the first global initiative to provide rigorous professional training for future leaders in sustainable development. The Foundation has awarded \$7.6 million to nine universities in seven countries to establish new two-year Masters in Development Practice (MDP). The grants are part of a larger \$15 million commitment to see the creation of such programs at up to 15 universities worldwide over the next three years.

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 very soon. To receive BioSoc, 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, 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

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

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