

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.

July 2009 - Issue No. 020

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the twentieth 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 July.

Secretariat News

A new grant from the Arcus Foundation: IIED has recently been awarded a grant from the Arcus Foundation to support the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. The funds - which run to the end of 2011 - will support the ongoing running of the PCLG network but will also introduce a new stream of work at the national level where we will be focussing on promoting conservation-poverty linkages within ape range states. The Arcus Foundation has a major programme of work focussing on great ape conservation and welfare and is an existing member of the PCLG. We are really grateful for the support that has been provided and look forward to developing this new area of activity within PCLG. We will keep you posted on new developments with this project in subsequent issues of the PCLG newsletter.

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).

Featured News

The **UK's new White Paper on International Development**, published on 7 July 2009 and titled 'Building our Common Future', argues that, despite the economic recession, we need to redouble our efforts to help the poorest countries confront global challenges and build a fairer, safer and more sustainable world. Furthermore, the White Paper argues that development is not only morally right, but it is in our shared interest. These are some of the promises made by the UK Government in the latest White Paper: work for sustained, fair and green growth; increase investments in international organizations; commit to helping vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and develop in a low carbon way; meet the aid target of 0.7% of UK income by 2013.

News from PCLG Members

Equator Initiative: The Equator Initiative has recently completed work on a web-based, interactive world map, which features in-depth profiles on the 103 local and indigenous communities that have received the prestigious Equator Prize since 2002. Profiles feature videos, photos, and dynamic facts on Equator Prize recipients, including: key innovations, biodiversity impacts, socio-economic impacts, policy impacts, successes with replication, partner organizations, and related research. The profiles are designed to highlight the achievements of Equator Prize recipients and to create an accessible pool of best practice case studies that can serve as a resource to community practitioners, researchers, and policy makers. For more information, please contact Joseph Corcoran (joseph.corcoran@undp.org) or go to www.equatorinitiative.org.

CIFOR and IUCN: A new book entitled 'Rights Based Approaches: Exploring issues and opportunities for conservation' is being published by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP). Through case studies, policy reviews and issue papers, the collection explores the practical implications of rights-based approaches to conservation, including their potential benefits and challenges. The publication aims to contribute to early discussion and learning on this important emerging topic. For more information, contact Jessica Campese (IUCN/CEESP) at jesscampese@gmail.com or Terry Sunderland (CIFOR) at t.sunderland@cgiar.org.

CREE: The Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment (CREE) has begun its alternative livelihoods work with cultivation of sustainable protein sources in Cameroon through snail farming. After finishing an extensive 6-month feasibility study, CREE is now beginning to train villagers in snail farming techniques, starting small with 5-8 families. For more information: www.conservationforpeople.org/snail-farming-mount-cameroon.

Standing Committee of the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation: The Commission on Nomadic Peoples (CNP) will attend the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) Congress at Kunming University, Yunnan, China between July 27 - July 31st, 2009. The CNP will be sponsoring three academic panels dealing with pastoralism and development. There will be three days of presentations and approximately 36 papers presented during this time. The full academic programme can be found at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~cnpc/>.

UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative: The UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme (UNDP-UNEP) Poverty-Environment Initiative has recently published two books: 1) 'Mainstreaming Poverty-environment Linkages into Development Planning: A handbook for practitioners', which is designed to serve as a guide for champions and practitioners engaged in mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages. This handbook draws on experience at the country level and lessons learned by UNDP and UNEP in working with governments, especially ministries of planning, finance and environment, to support efforts to integrate the complex interrelationships between poverty reduction and improved environmental management into national planning and decision-making. French and Spanish translations are currently under preparation and will be made available soon; 2) 'Making the Economic Case: A primer on the economic arguments for mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages into national development planning', which provides guidance on presenting evidence about the economic, development and poverty reduction benefits of the environment to public sector decision-makers, so as to justify and promote "environmental investment." This primer is designed to help interested countries and governments engaged in the environmental mainstreaming challenge to succeed in making their case, ensure that they have the evidence to back it up, and identify entry points to engage the attention of economic and development decision-makers and to enter into meaningful dialogue with them.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity: The Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation took place in Montreal, Canada at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity from 13 to 15 May 2009. The meeting was attended by 45 representatives from development cooperation agencies, development banks, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations working on the best means to integrate biodiversity in the development cooperation agenda. Participants identified obstacles and challenges to biodiversity mainstreaming and recognized a range of concepts and approaches that are useful for mainstreaming biodiversity into development cooperation. Participants also proposed considerations for a more effective inclusion of biodiversity in development cooperation processes. A report of the meeting is available at: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMMBDC-01

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2008: The Learning Opportunities Report "What can you learn from 5048 people hours of learning in skills-building workshops?" is now available on the IUCN World Conservation Congress website http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/learning_opp_final_report_en.pdf. Please visit the IUCN website www.iucn.org/congress_08 for any further information that was generated at the World Conservation Forum and the IUCN Members' Assembly.

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@bfn.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 Orione 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

CITES and the Livelihoods of the Poor, by Dickson, B., October 2008,

Oryx, Vol 42 No 4, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge: In the recent past many international conservation institutions, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), have addressed the relationship between their work and poverty. The Parties to CITES have recently adopted decisions that accepted an obligation to take into account the impacts of CITES listings on the livelihoods of the poor and initiated a process to assist countries that wish to do this. The CITES case provides lessons for other international conservation institutions whose activities affect the livelihoods of the poor at the local level.

Can Non-timber Forest Products Solve Livelihood Problems? A Case Study from Periyar Tiger Reserve India, by Gubbi, S. and MacMillan, D.C., April 2008, Oryx, Vol 42 No 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge:

Collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) has been promoted in India as a strategy to aid wildlife conservation whilst simultaneously alleviating poverty, and recent legislation now gives communities living within protected areas the legal right to collect NTFPs. These research findings suggest that, with respect to social justice, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability, the role of NTFP collection in sustainable development is questionable.

Are the Poor Benefiting from China's Land Conservation Program?, by Uchida, E., Xu, J., Xu, Z. and Rozelle, S., August 2007, Environment and Development Economics, Vol 12 No 4, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge:

This paper studies the impact of the largest conservation set-aside program in the developing world: China's Grain for Green program, on poverty alleviation in rural areas. Overall, the results suggest that the program has been only moderately successful in achieving its poverty alleviation objectives.

Linking Environment and Development, Easier Said than Done: Learning from the Zimbabwean Experience, by Manjengwa, J.M., June 2007, Development Southern Africa, Vol 24 No 2, Routledge, London:

Despite the popularity of the concept of sustainable development, there is growing evidence that, globally, human enterprise is becoming less sustainable rather than more. This paper examines this concept and the difficulty of linking it with environmental concerns, focusing on national strategies for sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

Resources

European Commission: It is expected that the call for proposals under the 2009 Annual Action Programme (AAP) will be launched at the end of July 2009. The deadline for the submission of concept is likely to be end of September 2009. Information on contents of the call for proposals can already be found in Action Fiche J of the AAP 2009 (http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/environment/documents/2009_aap_enrtp_en.pdf). Check the [Funding opportunities pages](#) regularly!

Sustainable Development Update (SDU): Sustainable Development Update is a newsletter that focuses on the links between ecology, society and the economy. SDU is produced by Albaeco, an independent Swedish non-profit organisation, in cooperation with the Stockholm Resilience Centre and the Department of Systems Ecology, both at Stockholm University; the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics; the Resilience Alliance; and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). It is produced with support from Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Environment Policy Division. For more information and to subscribe go to: <http://www.albaeco.se/en>

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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