

# 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.

## February 2011 - ISSUE No. 039

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the thirty-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 Friends
- New Organisations in our database
- 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 February.*

## Secretariat News

**RELAUNCHING BIOSOC!** January 2011 has seen 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](mailto:pclg@iied.org). If you would like to receive BioSoc go [here](#)

**PCLG Website Survey!** We would be extremely grateful if you could answer a brief survey to help us understand how to improve the PCLG website. [Here](#) is a link to the survey. The survey will take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. Thanks for your participation!

**PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITY:** IIED publishes policy-relevant research in its [Gatekeepers series](#) three times a year. The papers are usually mailed out in sets of two or three and we are planning the next edition to focus on conservation and poverty. We have two papers lined up already and would welcome a suggestion from a Southern author for the third paper. Papers should be no more than 5000 words and should make clear, simple and concise points. IIED can offer editorial support and advice for potential authors. Please let us know ([pclg@oied.org](mailto:pclg@oied.org)) if you have something you think might be suitable that needs an outlet!

## Featured News

**GEF Approves New Project to Support Early Entry into Force of the Nagoya Protocol:** A major achievement of the recent tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was the adoption, after more than six years of negotiation, of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. This historic agreement opens the way for both genetic resources user and provider countries to enter into contracts based on prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms that contribute to economic development and also to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components, the other two overall objectives of the Convention. In order to facilitate the rapid ratification and entry in force of the Protocol and to start the process of building national capacity to implement the Protocol, on 4 February 2011 the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Mrs. Monique Barbut, approved a \$1 million project to support GEF-eligible countries to expedite the ratification process and ensure the early entry into force of this new legal instrument. "As the designated financial mechanism of this new legal instrument, the GEF is fully committed to ensure that it moves into force as quickly as possible. The Nagoya Protocol is the latest tool toward serving what marks 20 years of strong results investing locally for global impact," said Mrs. Barbut. [More info](#)

## News from PCLG Friends

**To celebrate the International Year of Forests IIED is reducing the price of all its forestry titles by 20% throughout the year.** Visit [www.earthprint.com](http://www.earthprint.com) to order any title, or [www.iied.org/pubs](http://www.iied.org/pubs) for a full list of titles you can download for free. Check out [IIED's International Year of Forests website feature](#) for a variety of regularly updated news, special offers, blogs, and event information.

**World Wetlands Day was celebrated this year with the theme "Forests for Water and Wetlands"**. Wetlands International marked this day by launching its new initiatives to reverse the loss of the world's wetland forests such as forested peatlands and mangroves. Supported by a range of donors, Wetlands International has started various long-term programmes to protect and restore wetland forests. In Indonesia and West and East Africa, Wetlands International plans to reforest hundreds of kilometers of coastline with mangrove trees. This helps to ensure more resilience against extreme weather events and supports locals with food and water security. [More info](#)

**CIFOR-PEN and its partners are organising a two-day science workshop titled 'Exploring the Forest-Poverty Link: New Research Findings', which will take place on 13-14 June 2011 at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.** This workshop aims to:

- Present and critically review recent research findings on the importance of forest and environmental resources to rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation
- Present papers from which a selection will be made for a special issue of a journal
- Identify policy implications to feed into the conference that follows ([www.cifor.cgiar.org/pen/london-conference](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/pen/london-conference))
- Discuss research methods and priorities for future research.

**CIFOR-PEN encourages the submission of papers**, especially quantitative studies of the forest–poverty interface; forests and livelihoods; and how local institutions, ecological conditions, market forces and government policies influence this interface. Researchers are invited to submit a one-page abstract **by 1 March 2011**. [More information](#)

The demand for charcoal in the Democratic Republic of Congo is causing deforestation at an alarming rate, and is threatening the future of gorillas in the wild. **The Gorilla Organization** has set up a project that supplies fuel-efficient stoves to families living around the endangered forests. Jiko stoves use around 75% less fuel than traditional open fires – a dramatic reduction that is having an overwhelmingly positive impact not just on the families that use the stoves, but on the gorillas and the forests too. [More information](#)

**Fundación IPADE** is glad to announce the publication of "**Lucha contra la desertificación y la pobreza: Dos retos, una solución**" (Struggle against desertification and poverty: Two problems, one solution). This guide invites you to reflect on the importance of land degradation and development cooperation. For more information and to download this guide (in Spanish) go to: <http://www.fundacion-ipade.org/guia-desertificacion>

The newest issue of MEA Bulletin is now available. The **109th issue of MEA Bulletin** includes reports on: meetings of the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests; the launch of the UN Environment Programme and UN World Tourism Organization's Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism; recent meetings of the Bureau for the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Bureau for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (also referred to as Rio+20); and activities by several MEAs in relation to International Year of Forests (Forests 2011). The guest article in this issue, titled "Ramsar Convention Marks 40th Anniversary," was authored by Secretary General Anada Tiega, Ramsar Convention.

## New Organisations in our database

**Rainforest Foundation:** The mission of the Rainforest Foundation UK is to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfill their rights to land, life and livelihood by assisting them in: 1) securing and controlling the natural resources necessary for their long term well-being and managing these resources in ways which do not harm their environment, violate their culture or compromise their future; 2) developing means to protect their individual and collective rights and obtain, shape and control basic services from the state.

**Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI):** The mission of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) is to promote conservation of the bonobo and its tropical forest habitat in the Congo Basin. Together with Congolese and international partners, local communities and the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, BCI is implementing innovative solutions to address the complex problem of bonobo conservation. The Initiative is working to conduct bonobo surveys, establish protected areas, build capacity of Congolese partners and indigenous communities, and to increase global awareness about bonobos.

**Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI):** Founded by Dian Fossey in 1978, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) is dedicated to the conservation and protection of gorillas and their habitats in Africa. DFGFI is committed to promoting continued research on the gorillas and their threatened ecosystems and to providing education about their relevance to the world in which we live. In collaboration with government agencies and other international partners, DFGFI also provides assistance to local communities through education, health, training and development initiatives.

## Forthcoming Events

**Counting on the Environment: The contribution of forests to rural livelihoods:** CIFOR's Poverty and Environment Network project (PEN) will host the conference 'Counting on the Environment: The contribution of forests to rural livelihoods' on **15 June 2011, at the Royal Society, London, UK**. This research policy conference aims to increase awareness about the critical links between poverty and the environment by presenting new research findings and bringing together researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. An intended outcome of the conference is to help putting the environment more firmly onto the poverty agenda, and to strengthen the case for more systematic data collection on the way in which poor people rely on forests.

**Nature™ Inc? Questioning the Market Panacea in Environmental Policy and Conservation:** In order to respond to the many environmental problems the world is facing, new and innovative methods are necessary and markets are posited as the ideal vehicle to supply these. This conference, which will take place on **30th June – 2nd July, 2011, in The Hague, The Netherlands**, seeks to critically engage with the market panacea in environmental policy and conservation in the context of histories and recent developments in neoliberal capitalism.

**4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration:** The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and its partners from Latin America invite you to **Merida, Mexico, on August 21-25, 2011** for SER's 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration. The theme of SER 2011 is "Re-establishing the Link between Nature and Culture". SER 2011 will be an important forum for addressing the global challenges of biodiversity and habitat loss, climate change, and sustainable development. It will provide a global venue for professionals, researchers, students and the public to come together, learn and share their knowledge and experiences, and identify practical solutions for restoring nature and sustaining critical ecosystem goods and services.

**ACES 2011: Conservation Conflicts: Strategies for coping with a changing world:** This conference will take place from **22nd to 24th August 2011, at the Arts Centre in Aberdeen, Scotland, UK**. As human pressures on the planet increase, biodiversity is under growing pressure across the world. Changing patterns in land use, over-exploitation, pollution, climate change and the threat posed by invasive species, all challenge the way we currently manage and conserve biological diversity. Consequently, there are increasing numbers of conflicts between those interested in conserving species and those with alternative goals, interests or values. These conflicts occur over a range of scales from the local management of single species to international conflicts over the management of resources; they are multi-dimensional, involving ecological, social and economic interests and operate within political and legal frameworks. This conference brings together academics from a range of disciplines, policy makers and practitioners to address how, when and why conflicts arise, and to identify mitigation strategies.

**World Conservation Congress:** The 2012 World Conservation Congress will be held from **6th to 15th September 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea**. Leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and social organizations will discuss, debate and decide solutions for the world's most pressing environment and development issues. The 2012 Congress aims to put nature and conservation at the top of the global agenda.

## New Publications in our database

**Fair and Green? Social impacts of payments for environmental services in Costa Rica**, by Porras, I., December

**2010, IIED, London, 32 pp.:** Costa Rica's pioneering programme of payments for environmental services (PES) which began in the 1990s was a unique experiment in developing countries at that time. But who really benefits and loses from these programmes? A clearer understanding of distributional issues in PES-type projects is becoming increasingly important for the design of large-scale projects such as REDD+, in Costa Rica and elsewhere. This study looks in detail at the social impacts of the programme, and addresses issues related to equity and poverty on the basis of long-term data from all the PES contracts signed. Results show that the payments tend to go to areas with lower opportunity costs, relatively large farms and private companies and suggest that more needs to be done for PES to have genuine social and economic benefits for the poor.

**[How Do Biodiversity and Poverty Relate? An explorative study](#), by Tekelenburg, A., ten Brink, B.J.E., Witmer, M.C.H, October 2009, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), 97 pp.:** Decision makers are faced with certain challenges when they explore ways of simultaneously achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the CBD 2010 targets for biodiversity conservation. Decreasing poverty usually coincides with decreasing biodiversity, creating a 'win-lose' situation. Overexploitation can lead to a collapse of the system and an increase in poverty with even more loss of biodiversity, and become a 'lose-lose' situation. Reducing poverty while conserving biodiversity - a 'win-win' - can be achieved on a local scale. However, such a positive impact is hard to realise when all trade-off effects elsewhere and in the future are considered.

## Resources

**The following grant opportunities may be of interest in the PCLG:** EC and Denmark, Community Environmental Projects in Kenya (07 March); GlobalGiving (01 March); Fondation de France and CFSI (31 March); Nicolas Hulot Foundation (15 April); Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation (01 July). Information about these and other grant opportunities is posted at [Terra Viva Grants](#).

**MSc Anthropology, Environment and Development, UCL:** Applying biological and social anthropological approaches to the study of environment and development, this MSc focuses on implications of changing environment for production systems and human welfare, on sustainable use of natural resources in developing countries, and on environmental and welfare impacts of changing patterns of resource use with development. Integrating natural and social science schools of thought with methodological and practical dimensions of field work for the dissertation, this programme is an ideal training ground for any students hoping to go on to work with government, national or international NGOs or who wish to conduct further PhD research in the fields of environment and / or development. For further details contact Caroline Garaway ([c.garaway@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.garaway@ucl.ac.uk)) or visit the [course's website](#)

**The Schumacher College is holding a Transformative Development Season of course early in the New Year.** These courses will be excellent training opportunities for anyone working in the development sector, and are academically acknowledged by way of Master credits for anyone studying in this field. [More information](#)

**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. [More information](#)

**International Foundation for Science Research Grants:** Applications for IFS Research Grants are welcome from young scientists in developing countries to do research on the sustainable management, use or conservation of biological or water resources. This includes natural science and social science research on agriculture, soils, animal production, food science, forestry, agroforestry, aquatic resources, water resources, etc. Applications are accepted all year. [More information](#)

**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/newslst.php](http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/newslst.php)

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