

PCLG UPDATE

January 2011

2010 has been a busy year for PCLG. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Arcus Foundation in mid-2009, hence our work during that grant period (to the end of 2011) includes a specific focus on great ape conservation and the challenges of integrating conservation and poverty reduction. Meanwhile support from IIED's mix of framework donors allows us to pursue more general activities that lie outside of Arcus's interests. This update is intended to summarise our activities over the last year and inform you of our plans for 2011 as the PCLG network continues to develop and diversify. Please email your comments to pclg@iied.org

2010 highlights

Meetings

Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction: What, Why and How? At the end of April 2010 we held a two-day international symposium hosted by the Zoological Society of London. The symposium explored the current state of knowledge on conservation-poverty links with presentations from key experts in the field. It was a sell-out event, attracting over 200 delegates. We were delighted to support the participation of 13 developing country delegates including members of PCLG and the Equator Initiative who presented posters about their work. The symposium highlighted a real lack of empirical evidence on biodiversity-poverty links. Despite this, the dependence of the poor on biodiversity was clear but it was also clear that biodiversity conservation is only rarely a route out of poverty. More often it acts as a safety net preventing people falling (further) into poverty. The symposium also highlighted the need for more clarity in terminology when biodiversity and poverty are discussed. For example the biomass – or abundance – of a few key species may be the most critical factor in meeting immediate needs; while *biodiversity* is critical for longer term benefits: delivery of critical ecosystem services, risk management and insurance; food security. A summary report of the symposium and all the presentations are available on the PCLG website at: http://povertyandconservation.info/en/meeting_7.php

Linking Great Ape Conservation and Poverty Alleviation in Africa. Around 30 participants from a variety of ape range states in Africa attended a PCLG workshop in Masindi, Uganda in November 2010. The workshop provided an opportunity to share experiences on what works (and what doesn't) in terms of engaging communities, generating income and reducing poverty. PCLG member Village Enterprise Fund, together with the Jane Goodall Institute and the Budongo Conservation Field Station, organized an excellent day of field trips to community enterprises, tourism sites and snare removal programmes. Presentations on REDD, environmental mainstreaming and forest governance generated lots of ideas about

opportunities for scaling up existing activities. The participants identified a wide range of follow up activities at national, regional and international levels from practical work on human wildlife conflict to policy advocacy. As a first step, the group plans to continue collaborating as a great apes chapter of the PCLG, and we are starting to explore the establishment of national-level chapters in a number of countries. A short report of the workshop is available at http://povertyandconservation.info/docs/Masindi_Workshop_Report-Final.pdf and all the powerpoints and some of the poster presentations are also available to view on the home page of the PCLG website (<http://povertyandconservation.info>).

Research

Ape conservation and poverty alleviation: Great ape ranges coincide with some of the poorest countries in the world – particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Chris Sandbrook undertook a scoping study from late 2009 to mid 2010 to explore the extent to which conservation and poverty are currently integrated in African Ape range states. This study reviewed, on a country-by-country basis, which conservation organizations are operating and the extent to which they address poverty issues. It also identified any development organizations working on biodiversity conservation. The report of this work is available at: [http://povertyandconservation.info/docs/20100808-Linking Ape Conservation and Poverty Alleviation.pdf](http://povertyandconservation.info/docs/20100808-Linking_Ape_Conservation_and_Poverty_Alleviation.pdf)

Integrating Conservation and Development in the gorilla parks of western Uganda: Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park have been the location of a range of “integrated conservation and development” strategies that were implemented to reduce the pressure on critical gorilla habitat. A small amount of funding was provided to enable an analysis of the success of these strategies to be updated and published. The research confirmed the validity of the assumption that generating a steady stream of benefits provides an incentive for conservation over the long term but notes inconclusive evidence that providing alternative livelihoods is an effective conservation strategy. The report – Development and Gorillas - is available at <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/14592IIED.pdf>

Biodiversity in Development Policy: The PCLG Secretariat has been tracking the degree to which biodiversity is integrated into development and poverty reduction policy at national and international levels. An overview of bilateral aid policy and national PRSPs was published in a special issue of *Biodiversity* focusing on biodiversity and poverty, and published to coincide with CBD CoP10 in Nagoya. The article is available to download here: <http://pubs.iied.org/G03005.html>

Social Assessment of Protected Areas: This is a long-running theme for PCLG and we have supported a series of workshops over the last few years involving a number of PCLG members. Together with Care International and The Nature Conservancy, support was provided for a review of existing social assessment methodologies as a first step towards developing a common assessment framework. The report of that work is available at <http://pubs.iied.org/14589IIED.html>. Work will continue on this theme into 2011.

Publications

The publications listed below were all produced as a part of PCLG activities or with PCLG support. Hard copies of all the publications were offered to PCLG members but we have a few left so please let us know if you didn't receive a copy and would like one:

The Earthscan Reader in Poverty and Biodiversity Conservation. Edited by Dilys Roe and Joanna Elliott. <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=101812&v=511479>

Social assessment of conservation initiatives: A review of rapid methodologies, Natural Resource Issues No. 22, IIED, by Kate Schreckenber, Izabel Camargo, Katahdin Withnall, Colleen Corrigan, Phil Franks, Dilys Roe, Lea M. Scherl and Vanessa Richardson (published May 2010). <http://pubs.iied.org/14589IIED.html>

Development AND Gorillas? Assessing fifteen years of integrated conservation and development in south-western Uganda, Natural Resource Issues No. 23, IIED. Tom Blomley, Agrippinah Namara, Alastair McNeilage, Phil Franks, Helga Rainer, Andrew Donaldson, Rob Malpas, William Olupot, Julia Baker, Chris Sandbrook, Robert Bitariho, Mark Infield. <http://pubs.iied.org/14592IIED.html>

Linking Conservation and Poverty Alleviation – the Case of Great Apes. PCLG Discussion Paper. Chris Sandbrook and Dilys Roe. http://povertyandconservation.info/docs/20100808-Linking_Ape_Conservation_and_Poverty_Alleviation.pdf

Conservation Enterprise: What works, where and for whom? PCLG/AWF Discussion Paper. Joanna Elliott and Daudi Sumba. http://povertyandconservation.info/docs/20101108-ZSL_Symposium-Enterprise_Paper_Final_2010-AG-Nagoya.pdf

Biodiversity 11 (1 and 2) 2010: Special issue on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: A state of knowledge review. CBD Technical Series no 55. Edited by Dilys Roe. <http://povertyandconservation.info/docs/20101108-CBD-ts-55.pdf>

Membership

The PCLG network has grown significantly over the last year to around 400 members from conservation, development and indigenous/local community organizations. Approximately 20% of these are from developing countries.

New for 2011!!

Changes to PCLG membership: When PCLG was established we focused our attentions on encouraging organizations rather than individuals to join – in the hope

of contributing to organizational change. However, we are aware that many individuals are interested in poverty-conservation issues but not necessarily in a position to be able to sign-up their organization as a member. To better serve the needs of the poverty-conservation community we have therefore changed the criteria for membership of the PCLG network such that this is now open to everyone with an interest in poverty-conservation issues. What this means in practice is that anyone is welcome to join our mailing list, contribute to our work and take advantage of the resources offered by the PCLG. However, certain activities – like access to small funding and specific meetings – will remain limited to people working for organization that are actively engaged with poverty-conservation linkages. In view of these changes in PCLG membership, please let us know (pclg@iied.org) if you think any of your colleagues should be added to the PCLG mailing list.

Improvements to the PCLG website: Since the PCLG website was first launched five years ago the Web has seen remarkable changes. To keep up, we are planning to redevelop the PCLG website to make it more user friendly and to offer a larger variety of services to the PCLG community. In particular we plan to add a **Donors' database** containing information on all private and public donors that provide grants for poverty-conservation activities. Applying for a grant has become even more difficult in these challenging economic times. We feel that, more than ever before, there is the need for a single place where people can find information on all funding options available in the field of poverty-conservation linkages. This project will be carried out in collaboration with Terra Viva Grants. We will contact you very shortly with a brief survey to better understand additional ways in which we could improve the website. We will work to have a new, improved and eye-catching version of the PCLG website ready by September 2011.

BioSoc: January 2011 sees 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. You can view back issues at <http://www.povertyandconservation.info/en/biosoc.php> to get an idea of the style and format of this popular briefing.

Linking ape conservation and poverty reduction: During 2011 we plan to consolidate the great apes chapter of PCLG. This will include setting up a listserv for those with a specific interest in this theme and forging links with those working on orangutan conservation and poverty in order to increase information exchange and knowledge sharing between Asia and Africa.

Establishing national – level PCLGs: Following on from our workshop in Uganda, we are exploring the establishment of national level PCLGs in Uganda, Rwanda and Cameroon. Workplans will be developed, small-scale activities initiated, and funding proposals developed for longer-term support.

Mainstreaming biodiversity: In at least one African country we plan to convene a meeting of key stakeholders from the conservation and development community to explore the extent to which biodiversity conservation has been mainstreamed into national development policy. We will look at the experience of the Poverty Environment Initiative and scope the potential for a national-level PCLG to further promote mainstreaming.

Joint learning on human-wildlife conflict: Together with Care International we plan to undertake a review of current experience in addressing human-wildlife conflict. We would very much like to involve PCLG members in this research and will be interested to hear your experience. In particular we will be focusing on innovative mechanisms for dealing with human wildlife conflict – mainly insurance and compensation schemes and how these are administered – e.g. through local government, through protected area managers etc.

PCLG Symposium: We will hold our regular networking event in October/November and as usual we hope to be able to support the participation of members from developing countries. Plans are not yet advanced but, as with previous symposia, this will probably be held in the UK over 2-3 days. Suggestions for the agenda include human wildlife conflict, thinking through the implications of the Nagoya outcomes; ecosystem based adaptation. We will keep you posted as plans develop.