

# 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

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The Decisions taken at **CBD CoP 11** are now available on the CBD website: <http://www.cbd.int/cop/cop-11/doc/2012-10-24-advanced-unedited-cop-11-decisions-en.pdf>. Those of particular relevance to PCLG members include:

**XI/1. Status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Related Developments:** Parties and other stakeholders are invited to submit information to the Executive Secretary on model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and/or standards. The CBD Secretariat is also requested to continue supporting capacity-building and development initiatives to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol;

**XI/8. Engagement of other stakeholders, major groups and subnational authorities:** Parties are invited to develop guidelines and capacity-building initiatives for local and subnational biodiversity strategies and action plans, or to mainstream biodiversity into sustainable development, in line with their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. It also encourages implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development.

**XI/14. Article 8(j) and Related Provisions:** This decision calls upon Parties to fully integrate Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 into their revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and into other relevant local and regional plans, respecting traditional knowledge and customary practices that are of interest for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to report progress in their fifth national reports, using relevant indicator.

**XI/22. Biodiversity for poverty eradication and development:** This decision invites Parties to integrate the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into sustainable development and poverty

eradication programmes, plans, policies and priority actions, taking into account the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference. The decision further encourages Parties and all partners to promote biodiversity and development projects that empower poor and vulnerable people, particularly women and indigenous and local communities, for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

**XI/25. Sustainable use of biodiversity: bushmeat and sustainable wildlife management:** This decision invites Parties to develop and promote methods and systems, and build capacity and community awareness to determine sustainable wildlife harvest levels at national and other levels, with a particular view to monitoring and improving sustainable wildlife management and customary sustainable use, consistent with national legislation;

**REMINDER: PCLG SYMPOSIUM ON CONSERVATION AND LAND GRABS. MARCH 2013:** The “global land rush” - the large scale acquisition of public land by private investors, predominantly for agriculture – has been well documented by IIED and others (<http://pubs.iied.org/17124IIED.html>). But land is not just under pressure for agriculture. A special issue of the Journal of Peasant Studies (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fips20/39/2>) highlights the phenomenon of “green grabbing” - where land acquisitions are linked to conservation, carbon, tourism and so on. The 2013 PCLG symposium – to be held in London in March 2013 - will investigate this theme in more detail, focussing on the issue of changing land ownership, rights and access – in the name of conservation.

We are particularly interested to explore the following:

- Key trends in land acquisitions for conservation since 2000 - including variations between countries and regions. What forms do they take? Is this a new phenomenon or a continuation of an historical process? Is it escalating? Who owns the land and who is acquiring it and for what purpose?
- Key drivers – for example, the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted at CBD CoP 10 includes a target that by 2020 at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas should be managed as protected areas. Is this the rationale for recent land acquisitions or is it more about cashing in on valuable biodiversity resources for hunting or tourism or other uses?
- Who wins and who loses? Land “grabbing” has negative connotations but does not always result in negative impacts for local people. Community conserved areas may benefit from formal recognition as part of the national protected area estate; local communities may directly engage with negotiating hunting concessions with private companies.
- Does conservation lose out to other land grabs? Conservation may be both a driver and a victim of land grabs. Is the global land rush for agriculture impacting on conservation land? And to what effect?

We hope to use the symposium to start to improve the evidence base on land grabs for conservation and will produce a briefing paper based on the outcomes to be published in IIED’s Global Land Rush briefing series. We will also explore the potential for developing a more substantive collaborative research project as a follow up to the symposium.

**Interested to Participate?** Please let us know if you would like to participate in the symposium by emailing [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org) and your particular area of interest/what you hope to learn from the Symposium. We will be able to make a limited number of travel bursaries available to PCLG members from developing countries – please let us know if you would like to be considered.

**Interested to Present a Paper?** Please provide a short summary of the issue/case study you would like to present. We will not be able to include all presentations and will make a decision based on the information you provide in your summary as to your presentation's relevance to the themes identified above.

**Interested to Research and Write a Country Summary?** Subject to funding, we may be able to make a number of small (c \$5,000) grants available for country overviews of key changes in conservation land holdings since 2000. If you would be interested to be considered for one of these grants please let us know what country you would like to document and how you are qualified to undertake this assignment authoritatively.

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## Members News

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The first workshop for the Darwin Initiative-funded project **NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development** jointly implemented by **IIED** and **UNEP-WCMC** was held over three days in Maun, Botswana from the 14 – 16 of November 2012. The workshop was attended by over 37 participants from the four project countries – Botswana, Namibia, the Seychelles and Uganda - and independent members of the African Leadership Group from Namibia, Liberia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The participants worked on developing business cases for biodiversity, power mapping, monitoring and communications. All workshop presentations and the workshop report will shortly be available on the project webpage:

[povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-nbsaps](http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-nbsaps)

**The Zoological Society of London (ZSL)** have recently posted presentations for the ZSL symposium 'Protected Areas: are they safeguarding biodiversity?' online via the symposium homepage:

<http://www.zsl.org/science/events/protected-areas-symposium,594,EV.html>

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## Conservation and Poverty News Stories

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**Uganda: Wildlife tourism boosts in Albertine Rift – By Joan Akello.** The U.S. Mission to Uganda, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) registered increasing tourism and wildlife conservation in the Lake Albert Region of Uganda, with the conclusion of the three-year, USAID-funded "Sustainable Tourism in the Albertine Rift" (USAID-STAR) project. The final report was released in mid - November at the U.S. Mission in Kampala. There has been a 60% average increase in tourism revenues to the UWA; a 27% average increase in household income; an approximately 35% reduction in the number of people living in severe poverty; and an over 20% increase in the number of people whose incomes rose above the poverty line. [Full article](#)

**Poverty alleviation and conservation together, says WWF President – By Murray.** In a blog post for WWF-Australia, WWF International President Yolanda Kakabadse makes a case for treating poverty alleviation and conservation as two sides of the same coin. In this article, she bemoans Rio+20's failure to produce substantive governmental action, and suggests that the reason why the Millennium Development

Goals and Rio+20 are two separate entities is the result of thinking of poverty and environmental degradation as separate problems. [Full article](#)

**UN Initiative links biodiversity, traditional knowledge to foster better community health- By Andrew Burger.** A diverse coalition of UN agencies, international organizations and NGOs launched an international [Biodiversity and Community Health Initiative](#) at the **11th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 11)** that took place in Hyderabad, India in October. Led by the **UN University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)**, participating organizations collectively called for the need to put biodiversity and health on the CBD agenda. The new partnership envisages a global network of centers of excellence addressing these issues of health, traditional knowledge, biodiversity and community well-being. In realizing this aim, the partners aim to conduct research that examines the flows of biophysical resources to the food and health sectors; enable participatory assessment of biological resource use and health practices; and engage with relevant policy bodies and instruments. [Full article](#)

**Biodiversity, local livelihood and the nature's conservation – By Freddy Pattiselanno and Agustina Arobaya Cairns.** Indonesia is second after Brazil in terms of ecosystem diversity among 12 “mega-diversity” countries. Its strategic location between the Indomalayan biodiversity of tropical Southeast Asia in the west and the Australasian species in the east together with its species-rich forest environment contributes to the high diversity of plants and animals present in the area. However, Indonesia is also highlighted as one of seven mega-diversity countries with an alarming number of threatened species. It has long been the case that the most important cause of this is the way people use the natural resources, in particular animals and plants. Ethnographic studies typically find that people use hundreds of species for a wide range of purposes. Wild meat, fish and insects provide much of their protein, while forest fruits and vegetables are a source of vitamins. [Full article](#)

**Worms, termites, microbes offer food security - By Manipadma Jena.** Worms and termites are not likely to win hearts and minds, but they, along with lichens and microbes, are vital to food security, say biodiversity specialists who attended this month's United Nations conference on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in this south Indian city. “Worms, termites, lichens and soil microbes may well be the heroes of food production as without these species land-based biodiversity would collapse and food production cease,” Julia Marton-Lefevre, director-general of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature**, told IPS. [For more information](#)

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## Blogs

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**For Zambian honey farmers, text messaging has sweet rewards, by Andrea Booth** - International demand for Zambia's sweet, rich honey makes it a key sector for growth, with the potential to improve lives of local beekeepers while helping protect the country's forests – but producers will have to find ways to remain competitive, a report by the Center for International Forestry Research says. Because honey is primarily produced and harvested in rural areas, far from buyers and markets, many beekeepers are starting to collaborate to increase their bargaining power. Whether working alone or as part of an association or cooperative, however, all are struggling to find ways to market their product. For some, the answer may lie with mobile phone text messaging. [Read the full blog](#)

**Taming Okok: Domesticating forest foods in Cameroon, by Kate Evans** - For villagers in Cameroon's Central region, the forest creeper known as okok is a wonder plant. High in protein, it's believed to cure hemorrhoids and hypertension, combat malaria and HIV/Aids – and even frighten off snakes. "When you are tired, it rejuvenates – even old ladies like myself," says Calixte Mbilong, the head of the local okok cooperative in Minwoho village. "It also makes you more intelligent." [Read the full blog](#)

**African land solutions: making the resource blessing a reality, by Emily Polack** - Lessons need to be learned to transform Africa's 'resource curse' into a 'resource blessing' and to mitigate against the negative impacts of large land-based investments. Ways forward, which include addressing land tenure and bringing about sustainable development, point to the need for African solutions to the problem, supported by continent-wide 'frameworks.' [Read the full blog](#)

**Does development assistance have a future? by Suzanne Fisher** - No one unequivocally and wholeheartedly said development assistance worked at the debate on whether it had a future. Instead, all three panel speakers saw the need for a radical change in approach and priorities, and shared with the audience different visions for how that model could be changed or overhauled. [Read the full blog](#)

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#### **New publications in the PCLG bibliographic database**

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#### **Success factors for pairing conservation with enhanced forest and fish-based livelihoods**

*By Robinson, E. J. Z., Albers, H. J., Lokina, R. B. and Kirama, S.; June 2012*

In settings in which people rely directly on either forest or marine resources, protecting both the natural resources and livelihoods is challenging. Findings from Tanzania suggest that, where budgets are limited, key factors for a successful combination of livelihood and conservation policies include the strategic location of livelihood projects that target those most dependent on the protected resource rather than those most likely to cooperate with access restrictions. <http://www.efdinitiative.org/research/publications/publications-repository/success-factors-for-pairing-conservation-with-enhanced-forest-and-fish-based-livelihoods>

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#### **Forthcoming Events**

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**The Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, in partnership with the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC), invite contributions for *A Special Issue of Policy Matters* on **Elinor Ostrom's Work on Common Property and its Contribution to the Theory and Practice of Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management**. Abstracts (in English, Spanish or French) of no more than 300 words should be submitted to [Jim Robson](#) by **January 15th, 2013**. [For more information](#)

The **International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Biodiversity and Ecology Section** is proud to announce the upcoming Special Symposium on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Impact Assessment. The aim of this symposium is to bring together practitioners working at the cutting edge of biodiversity and ecosystem services with both policy makers responsible for shaping Impact Assessment (IA) frameworks and scientists committed to finding practical ways forward. The symposium will be held from the **7 - 8 February 2013** at Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C. For more information and registration: <http://iaia.org/IAIA-BioEco-Symposium-DC/>

Australia with partner countries will host the inaugural **International Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Land and Sea Managers Network conference in the Darwin Convention Centre, Northern Territory from 27 to 31 May, 2013**. The conference will call on all delegates to help build a strong foundation for an innovative and well-grounded international network. The draft conference themes have now also been published on the conference website. Please also remember to register your interest for the conference to receive news, information and updates at: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/about/key-investments/indigenous-network/index.html#register>. Any enquiries to [indigenousnetwork@environment.gov.au](mailto:indigenousnetwork@environment.gov.au)

The **International Conference on Cooperation or Conflict? Economics of natural resources and food** organised by the Section Economics Group at Wageningen University in The Netherlands will take place from **May 29-31, 2013** at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. This conference will further economic research on cooperation and conflict at individual, group and international levels. The conference organizers invite theoretical and empirical contributions from institutional, behavioral, experimental and mainstream economics. For more information on the conference please visit: <http://www.sectioneconomics.wur.nl/UK/CC-Conference2013/Information/>

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## **Funding and Awards Opportunities**

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### **Annual Darwin Scholarship Programme Monitoring and Communicating Biodiversity -**

A short scholarship programme led by the Field Studies Council (FSC) in the UK. 20th August – 30th August 2013 at Preston Montford Field Centre, Shrewsbury & Juniper Hall Field Centre, Dorking, Nr London. The Darwin Scholarship Programme has been running since 2008. Over 90 people from 40 countries have attended. In 2013, the UK Field Studies Council (FSC) will be running the sixth Darwin Scholarship Programme and applications are invited for the 25 places that are available. The closing date for applications is **21 January 2013**. [For more information](#)

**Leverhulme - Royal Society Africa Award Phase II, Round 2** - The Leverhulme Trust and the UK's Royal Society collaborate to make grants for research in agriculture, water and sanitation, biodiversity, energy, and basic human health in Tanzania and Ghana. Applications are submitted by researchers in the UK in collaboration with researchers in Tanzania and Ghana. Awards are up to £180 thousand over three years - in addition to supplementary funds for doctoral students and training activities. Project leaders must have at least post-doctoral status or equivalent. The closing date for applications is **06 February 2013**. [For more information](#)

**World Wildlife Fund (U.S.) Educational Fellowships 2013** - WWF-US supports the Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program for academic study at masters and doctoral levels anywhere in the world. Applications are invited from conservationists in selected developing countries. Eligible countries in the current funding round are Malawi and Nepal -- in addition to several countries in the theme of wildlife crime (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Dem Rep Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Thailand, and Vietnam). The closing date for applications is **28 February 2013**. [For more information](#)

The University of Cambridge is now accepting applications and scholarship support for October 2013 to the 11-month full-time **MPhil degree in Conservation Leadership** at the University of Cambridge. The programme is aimed at graduates of leadership potential with at least three to five years of relevant experience in biodiversity conservation. Based in the **University's Department of Geography**, a unique feature of this course is its delivery by members of the **Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI)**, a partnership between six university departments and nine conservation organisations or networks based in and around Cambridge. The teaching focuses on issues of management and leadership, with the dual goals of developing conservationists with enhanced research skills and a greater awareness of the complex drivers of biodiversity loss, while also developing their ability to act and lead effectively. Consequently, the course aims to deliver a world-class and interdisciplinary education in Conservation Leadership that is not available elsewhere. The final closing date for all applications is 28 March 2013. For further details on how to apply, please visit the [course website](#) or contact [Emily Chenery](#), Programme Administrator.

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 2013 academic year. The programme draws on UNU-IAS's long-standing reputation for excellence in policy-oriented research for sustainable development. UNU-IAS provides students with the intellectual foundation and practical field experience necessary for understanding environmental governance regimes. 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](http://www.ias.unu.edu/masters). Deadline for applicants seeking financial support is **28 February 2013**. The general deadline for all applications is **30 May 2013**. Classes are scheduled to commence in **September 2013**. UNU-IAS is located in Yokohama, Japan.

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## Other Opportunities

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**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](mailto: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**

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### **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.

**BioSoc** is the monthly bulletin of the PCLG, highlighting key new research on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation. To receive BioSoc add your details to the “Subscribe” box at <http://povertyandconservation.info/>

**PCLG Journal Digest** is an information service produced on a monthly basis intended to keep readers up to date with new journal articles on issues relating to biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation as they are published. To receive the PCLG Journal Digest, add your details to the “Subscribe” box at <http://povertyandconservation.info/>

### **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/>

**To subscribe or unsubscribe:** <http://povertyandconservation.info/>

**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 Friday the 14th of December 2012.**

### **Contact us**

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### **Join the PCLG**

Email: [pclg@iied.org](mailto:pclg@iied.org)

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