

2010 EDITION

# The IIED Times

## Time to invest in the bank of Nature

### Governments are poised to take decisive action

As 2010 – the International Year of Biodiversity – draws to a close, governments are poised to take decisive action to protect the planet's natural resources and ensure that they can contribute to human welfare now and in the future.

Nature's complex web of life affects our food security, health and climate in many ways. As we strive to understand this web and our place in it, our actions are destroying or damaging much of its biological diversity.

Some species are famous for having been rare for decades, but

many more are uncounted, unknown or are silently declining far from the public gaze. We don't know how much of this biodiversity we can afford to lose, but we do know that halting its loss is in our best interests.

Nature provides us with many important goods and services – such as pollination and pest control, medicines and materials, fertile soils and clean water. Biodiversity can also play a key role in our efforts to tackle climate change.

Biodiverse habitats – especially forests – are important stores of carbon. Meanwhile traditional crop varieties and their wild relatives can enable farmers to adapt to climate change by switching to drought- or flood-tolerant varieties.

Used sustainably, the Earth's natural resources could elevate millions of people out of poverty and create stable livelihoods. The alternative – business as usual – will benefit a small minority and further impoverish the masses.

When 193 governments gather in Nagoya, Japan for the 10th conference of parties (COP10) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity this year, they will be asked to adopt a new ten-year strategic plan to protect biodiversity and ensure that it is used in a sustainable way.

This strategy will be expensive to implement, but it represents one of the best investments we could possibly make. The UN's Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study shows that the goods and services that nature provides us

are worth 10-100 times more than what it would cost to protect the biological diversity that provides them.

If governments can recognise this, they can create a lasting legacy that boosts human wellbeing for generations to come.

**Used sustainably, the Earth's natural resources could elevate millions of people out of poverty and create sustainable livelihoods.**

**This newspaper reproduces just some of our news from 2010. To find out more visit <http://www.iied.org/general/media>**

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# UN talks must resolve fair and sustainable u

Current efforts to protect the world's biodiversity run the risk of doing more harm than good, warns **Krystyna Swiderska**.

A legally binding protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing is to be adopted by the 193 governments that are party to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. The protocol aims to ensure that the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably with biodiversity-rich but financially poor countries. This could help reverse the rapid loss of biodiversity and genetic resources. But unless governments make some major progress in their final negotiating session, the protocol will make little difference.

## The new ABS protocol is potentially very important

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that a third of all genetic resources for food and agriculture have already been lost in the last 100 years. And this year — the UN's International Year of Biodiversity — will see official confirmation that an intergovernmental target to reduce the loss of biodiversity has been badly missed.

The new protocol on access and benefit-sharing is important for a number of reasons. For millennia, communities around the world have nurtured the variety of life, including thousands of crops and medicinal plants that are vital for our agriculture, food security, health and nutrition. These resources take on new importance today because they

provide options that will enable people to adapt to climate change by switching to flood- or drought-resistant crop varieties, for instance.

The private sector and consumers worldwide have benefited greatly from these riches. Corporations seek out genetic resources and associated local knowledge to develop and patent new medicines, seeds, foodstuffs and industrial products. But there is no system in place to ensure that the benefits from such 'bioprospecting' products are shared with the countries and communities from which they originated.

In 1992, governments adopted the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which required access to genetic resources to be accompanied by equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use. Industrialised countries agreed to share the benefits with poor countries in return for their agreement to conserve biodiversity. But this North-South deal that lies at the heart of the CBD has yet to materialise. Developing countries and communities have received few benefits, and there have been a number of cases of 'biopiracy', often involving patents.

The protocol is potentially very important as it will, for the first time, legally bind industrialised countries where genetic resources are used, which are beyond the jurisdiction of national laws of provider countries. The benefits

from genetic resource use can provide financial resources and incentives for conservation as well as new technologies. As much research shows, benefits for local communities are critical if biodiversity is to be conserved.

## Industrialised countries want to limit the scope for benefit-sharing

Although some progress was made at the last negotiating session in July 2010, significant areas of disagreement remain. If the more powerful countries get their way, the protocol will deliver few benefits for conservation.

The EU has insisted that the protocol can only apply to genetic resources that are collected after it enters into force. This will significantly reduce the scope for benefit-sharing as many genetic resources have already been collected. The EU position is also that derivatives of genetic resources should be excluded, and left for negotiation in bilateral contracts. Developing countries want to ensure that derivatives such as naturally occurring biochemicals are included in the protocol, as these are often used for bioprospecting.

Another point of conflict is over the treatment of traditional knowledge in the protocol. Industrialised countries are arguing that traditional knowledge relating to genetic resources should be addressed by WIPO — the World Intellectual Property Organisation — instead of by the protocol. But leaving out traditional knowledge makes little sense as it is so often used alongside genetic resources. And



this would significantly reduce the benefits for developing countries and local communities. Furthermore, progress on traditional knowledge issues in WIPO has been extremely slow. WIPO is not the most appropriate forum for protecting traditional knowledge as it is composed mainly of intellectual property lawyers with limited participation of traditional knowledge holders, and has no mandate to conserve biodiversity or promote indigenous peoples' wellbeing.

Industrialised countries also want the protocol to focus on

There is an urgent need to protect this collective bio-cultural heritage for global and local food security, and to enable people to adapt to climate change. The rapid loss of biodiversity and ecosystems is also increasing the impacts of climate change around the world, and so affects us all.

# key issues to ensure se of biodiversity



Image: ANDES

compliance with national legislation as opposed to enforcing international regulations. But, as only about 25 developing countries have such legislation in place, this would further weaken the effectiveness of the protocol in promoting benefit-sharing.

## **Indigenous and local communities are being marginalised from access decisions**

The protocol emphasises the sovereign rights of states over natural resources and their authority to determine access to genetic resources and grant

prior informed consent. Thus it gives all rights and control of genetic resources to governments. It does not require the consent of communities for access to genetic resources, even if these are collected in situ from community lands, or if traditional knowledge relating to genetic resources is being accessed. This goes below the standards set by the widely respected Bonn Guidelines on access and benefit-sharing. The protocol only requires countries to set out criteria or processes for obtaining prior informed consent or approval and involvement of communities

‘where applicable and subject to national legislation’.

This undermines the CBD, which recognises the need to ‘protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices’ (article 10c), as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of indigenous peoples, 2007, which recognises the rights of indigenous peoples over their traditional knowledge, genetic resources, seeds and medicines.

## **Protection of traditional knowledge is weak**

The protocol requires that Parties ‘take legislative, administrative or policy measures’ to ensure that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is accessed with the prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities. However, this legislation is not built into the protocol itself, and it may take years for all countries to introduce such measures. Traditional knowledge owes its existence to indigenous and local communities that have developed it over generations. It is integral to their identity, livelihoods and belief systems. It also plays an important role in conservation, but is fast disappearing. Prior informed consent of communities is important as it allows them to grant or deny access and to ensure they receive equitable benefits. Communities may wish to deny access to sacred knowledge and resources used in rituals, for example; or to engage in equitable partnerships to derive benefits and incentives for sustaining traditional knowledge.

The requirement to support the development of community rules for access and benefit-sharing regarding traditional knowledge is welcome, but has been watered down to ‘Parties shall endeavour to support, as appropriate’. Furthermore, the need to take into consideration any ‘community level procedures’ or ‘indigenous and local community laws, customary laws, community protocols and procedures’ is now contested.

Inclusion of publicly available traditional knowledge in the protocol is opposed by industrialised countries. This will significantly reduce the scope for benefit-sharing as much traditional knowledge has already been documented and is freely accessible. However, communities have not given their consent for it to be used commercially. A voluntary benefit-sharing mechanism is proposed, but is unlikely to deliver equitable benefit-sharing as it would allow business as usual.

My own research with indigenous communities in India, China, Peru, Panama and China shows the critical role that traditional farmers and healers play in sustaining and enhancing genetic resources. There is an urgent need to protect this collective bio-cultural heritage for global and local food security, and to enable people to adapt to climate change. The rapid loss of biodiversity and ecosystems is also increasing the impacts of climate change around the world, and so affects us all.

## **The way forward**

Negotiators need to commit to a protocol that has the widest possible scope for benefit-

sharing and can be rigorously enforced at the global level. In particular, they need to include pre-protocol genetic resources, derivatives of genetic resources, and comprehensive protection of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

They must also recognise the rights of indigenous and local communities to decide over access to genetic resources on their lands, which they customarily use (traditional crop varieties, for example). Access to the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities must be subject to their prior informed consent, whether or not it is publicly available.

The interests of biodiversity first need to be put first – above industry and economic interests. Otherwise, an important opportunity to tackle the loss of biodiversity will be missed.

This article is based on an earlier version that was first published by the BBC news website (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8810627.stm>)

# Nine key lessons for sustainable development from Brazil's

A decade of experience in Amazonas has generated inspirational solutions to development challenges.

Brazil's Amazonas state has important lessons for the rest of the nation and other developing countries as they search for green and sustainable economies, says a new report published by IIED.

The report was launched at the Commonwealth Forestry Conference in Edinburgh on 29 June 2010. It was written by Virgilio Viana, the former Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development in Brazil's Amazonas State who is now head of the Sustainable Amazonas Foundation, a nongovernmental organisation.

Viana has spent the past decade promoting sustainable solutions to development challenges in Amazonas. During this time the vulnerability of Amazonas to threats from deforestation has declined. The state now sustains real value chains in forest-based goods and services that confer ecological, social and economic resilience.

In the report, Viana details the following nine key lessons that have emerged from his experiences.

1. Change the 'natural resource liquidation' paradigm of development by making forests worth more standing than cut;
2. Create political support for sustainability and the environment by focusing on jobs, income, votes and other mainstream incentives;
3. Place environmental and

sustainability concerns at the centre of policy design and implementation – expanding environment institutions to become catalysts of sustainable development;

4. Pay people for environmental services rendered – such as through the Bolsa Floresta scheme. This fights poverty and protects biodiversity by rewarding forest households with monthly payments into credit card accounts for practicing 'farming without fire', which is monitored by satellite;

5. Invest in good communications – especially relations with the media by helping journalists to bridge to politicians, the public and the forests;

6. Provide simple and attractive green solutions: engaging the public in identifying and developing solutions that most help them and the forests;

7. Demote 'problemologists' and promote 'solutionologists' – changing the paradigm from a problem focus to solutions;

8. Make bureaucracy and regulation work for people – not the other way around;

9. Invest in partnerships for policy implementation – NGOs connecting government and local organisations.

Viana says: "I would like these lessons from Amazonas to be a source of inspiration that encourages greater South-South cooperation on sustainable development."

He sees the biggest political challenge as "changing the paradigm that guides public policies and private investments – forests have been seen as obstacles for development, not as opportunities".

He says the practical challenge is to "develop solutions that are scientifically based, but which ordinary people can easily understand – solutions that fire the imagination, are simple and attractive, and have wider benefits for as many stakeholders as possible".

James Mayers, head of IIED's Natural Resources Group, says: "For decades, Brazil and the Amazon in particular have been synonymous with a 'frontier' style of development that has destroyed forests. Professor Viana has led a unique experiment to explore and implement more forest-friendly forms of development."

Mayers adds: "The ideas Viana has developed and honed are both timely and inspiring – for Brazil as a whole and indeed for many other countries, as they now search for new green economies."

The report describes many schemes that are beginning to surmount the political and practical challenges. It is schemes like these that offer real lessons for taming the potential tsunami of international forest and carbon funds, so that they contribute to local sustainable development, rather than submerge other local needs.

The full paper *Sustainable Development in Practice – lessons learned from Amazonas* is available at <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=17508IIED>



# inable Amazon

## The Climate Game and the World's Poor: Documentary film from inside the COP15 climate-change summit



Image: Amazonas Sustainable Foundation

A revealing insight into the way international diplomacy can become an intricate game played by competing nations.

IIED is proud to make available an international edition of the documentary *The Climate Game and the World's Poor*, which shows what happened when 193 governments tried – and failed – to agree a global deal to tackle climate change.

IIED is making this film available at no cost to television stations in any of the UN lists of Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States, as well as Bolivia, Kenya and Vietnam (see below for details of how to get a DVD).

The film provides a revealing insight into the way international diplomacy can become an intricate game played by competing nations, a game that for millions of the world's poorest people is really a question of life and death.

It follows delegates from some of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change during the COP15 climate-change negotiations that took place in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

As the world's attention focused on Copenhagen and COP15's potential to limit the threat of climate change, the mood among the thousands of delegates inside the conference centre soon began to sour.

Featuring interviews with senior negotiators and other climate-change experts, the documentary tells the story of what happened when the critical talks began to unravel thanks to



Image: UN Photo/Mark Garten

leaked texts, broken trust, blocking tactics and secret meetings that excluded many nations.

The film features an ongoing commentary on the state of the negotiations from Dr Saleemul Huq, senior fellow in IIED's climate change group, and reactions from journalists from Africa, Asia and Latin America who were at COP15 with the Climate Change Media Partnership, which IIED runs with Panos and Internews.

The documentary was directed and filmed by Jesper Heldgaard and Bo Illum Jorgensen, and produced and edited by Anders Dencker Christensen.

TV stations in any of the UN lists of Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States, as well as Bolivia, Kenya and Vietnam, can broadcast the film in English, or translate it into a local language for free.

For international versions to be broadcast in other countries, please contact Dansk AV Produktion ([www.davp.dk](http://www.davp.dk)) to

agree on terms, price and conditions.

The documentary can also be used rights-free for non-commercial purposes (for example, educational purposes, by NGOs, etc.) anywhere in the world.

To watch the film online visit <http://tinyurl.com/35brvye> To request a free copy of this high quality documentary, email: [mike.shanahan@iied.org](mailto:mike.shanahan@iied.org)

# Study warns of failure to plan for rapid urbanisation in developing nations

Research reveals Brazil's lessons for countries in Africa and Asia.

Governments in Africa and Asia must embrace and plan for rapid urbanisation or risk harming the future prospects of hundreds of millions of their citizens – with knock-on effects worldwide – warns a study published by IIED and UNFPA (the UN Population Fund).

It says policymakers should heed lessons from Brazil whose failure in the past to plan for rapid urban growth exacerbated poverty and created new environmental problems and long-term costs that could have been avoided.

The proportion of developing countries that have adopted policies to curb urban growth rose from 46 per cent in 1976 to 74 per cent in 2007 and the study warns that this will “undoubtedly result in increasing poverty and environmental degradation.”

The study's authors – Dr George Martine (past President of the Brazilian Association of Population Studies) and Dr Gordon McGranahan (of IIED) – say the critical first step is for policymakers to recognise the rights of poor people to live in cities and share in the benefits of urban life. The next is to plan ahead for their land and housing needs within a constantly updated vision of sustainable land use.

“A ‘business-as-usual’ approach that simply reacts to urban growth will be utterly inadequate,” says McGranahan. “To minimise the negative impacts of rapid urban growth developing countries can learn



Image: Mark Edwards

from Brazil's experiences and, especially, its mistakes.”

Brazil's population is now about 80% urban (up from 36% in 1950). The country has urbanised far faster than countries in Europe and North America but this transition came at considerable and preventable cost to the population, because Brazil failed to address social inequalities and plan for urban growth.

Cities now provide 90% of Brazil's wealth but in 2007 more than a quarter of Brazil's urban citizens were below the poverty line and one in 15 were in extreme poverty. This means millions of people are excluded from key services and other

benefits of urban life. They face immense social, economic and environmental challenges such as crime, pollution, unsafe housing and preventable diseases.

The study shows how Brazil adopted policies that discriminated against urban settlement by poor people.

“The story of Brazil's urban growth shows how deep-rooted inequalities have combined with negative policy stances to generate many of the social and environmental problems that still plague Brazilian society,” says George Martine. “Policymakers in Africa and Asia should embrace and plan for urban growth so they can take

full advantage of its potential to contribute to development, rather than vainly attempting to prevent it as Brazil did.”

According to the latest projections, Africa's urban population is expected to grow by 936 million in the first half of this century while Asian urban areas will grow by more than 2 billion. Although the numbers may vary somewhat, the trend is inexorable.

Policies aimed at preventing or retarding this growth instead of preparing ahead for it will only make matters worse. Looking ahead, policymakers need to pay special attention to the land and housing needs of the poor. This not only improves the lives of

poor people but enables the city to become prosperous and habitable for all.

“Urbanisation and massive urban growth in developing countries loom as some of the most critical determinants of economic, social and ecological well-being in the 21st century,” says Martine. “Policymakers can learn much from the experience of Latin American countries – and especially Brazil – that have already gone through an early urban transition.”

The full report is available at <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=10585IIED>

# Ghana's hidden forestry revealed in first study of its kind

Small forest enterprises neglected by the government could be key to achieving sustainability.

Research in Ghana shows how small businesses that depend on forests employ more than a million people and produce many valuable products, but are left out

of national statistics, with big social and environmental consequences.

The neglect of this hidden sub-sector by the state not only contributes to forest loss, but also to a gradual decline in employment prospects and a huge loss of revenue to the government, according to the new study.

The report – *Hidden Forestry Revealed* – was written by Paul

Osei-Tutu and colleagues and published by the International Institute for Environment and Development.

Global concerns that deforestation contributes 20% of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change puts ever increasing scrutiny on what is going on at a national level in countries such as Ghana.

But for local people in Ghana the loss of forests has more

immediate impacts. For example, forest loss outside Ghana's forest reserves between 1960 and 1980 led to a 70-80 per cent decline in their contribution to Ghana's timber production and a further loss of 19-27 per cent between 2003 and 2006.

Even in forest reserves there are problems. Only 3 out of 214 were maintained in 'excellent' condition by 1993 according to an independent review.

Loss of forest is undermining employment and revenue in the forest industry, Ghana's fourth largest foreign exchange earner. This exacerbates poverty rather than providing a sustainable opportunity for economic growth.

The new study quantifies for the first time the role played in this story by small forest enterprises (less than 30 employees). These small enterprises are largely left out of formal statistics, government planning and management but may even outweigh the formal forest sub-sector in their contribution to livelihoods and their impact on the sustainability of the forests.

Employing well in excess of a million people across Ghana, these small forest enterprises produce a vast array of local products from construction timber, furniture and biomass energy to non-wood oils, food, spices, dyes, medicines and craft, not to forget ecotourism ventures and the less tangible protection of environmental services.

But the state does not take account of this sub-sector and this contributes to forest loss and a decline in employment prospects, and means that the government suffers a huge loss of revenue.

According to *Hidden Forestry Revealed* all is not lost. A new alliance of government and non-government actors has been brokered by Tropenbos International Ghana, with funding from the International Institute for Environment and Development.

Under the banner of 'Forest Connect' this alliance is starting to reach out and engage with these small forest enterprises, clarify their resource rights, help to organise them and involve them in discussions about sustainability and provide business structures to support them. The long-term vision is that small forest enterprises may become the foundation for sustainability, reduced carbon emissions and poverty reduction rather than being a threat to those aims.

"This report provides a vital example of the complicated and practical hard work that will be needed to avoid deforestation and provide a sustainable future for local forest dependent people and the planet as a whole," says Duncan Macqueen, Team Leader of the Forest Team at IIED.

The full report is available at <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=13552IIED>

**"The long-term vision is that small forest enterprises may become the foundation for sustainability, reduced carbon emissions and poverty reduction rather than being a threat to those aims."**



Image: IUCN/Johannes Förster

# IIED and partners at COP10 in Nagoya

Various staff from IIED and our legal subsidiary FIELD (the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development), as well as IIED partners will be at COP10 in Nagoya. Feel free to contact us by email or find us at the IIED stand.

## IIED



**Liz Carlile**

*Director of Communications*  
liz.carlile@iied.org

Liz looks after a team of communications staff with responsibilities for policy materials, media, web services and publications and marketing. Her expertise is in developing and reviewing communications strategies, particularly those focusing on communicating research to policy arenas.



**Vanessa McLeod-Kourie**

*Publications and Marketing Manager*  
vanessa.mcleod-kourie@iied.org

Vanessa works closely with the research staff to produce high-quality publications and multimedia outputs. She has been instrumental in developing IIED's free publication scheme for developing country recipients. During the COP 10 she will be managing the IIED exhibition stand.



**Dilys Roe**

*Natural Resources Group*  
dilys.roe@iied.org

Dilys is a senior researcher in IIED's Natural Resources Group. Her research involves strategies for linking conservation with poverty reduction and social justice. As a co-author of our new pocketbook *Banking on*

*Biodiversity*, she will be available for discussions at the launch on 19th October at the IIED exhibition stand.



**Krystyna Swiderska**

*Natural Resources Group*  
krystyna.swiderska@iied.org

As a senior researcher in the Food and Agriculture Team Krystyna coordinates an international programme on protection of traditional knowledge and bio-cultural. She has been collating and disseminating the results of participatory action-research with indigenous and local communities, to inform global policies. Krystyna will be hosting a side event on 27th October, to present the findings of this work and launch a new website on bio-cultural heritage.



**Mike Shanahan**

*Press Officer*  
mike.shanahan@iied.org

Mike acts as a bridge between IIED researchers and journalists around the world, working to disseminate IIED research findings and policy recommendations in the media. He also supports the work of journalists (especially those in Africa, Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Latin America) who report on the environment and development.



**Khanh Tran-Thanh**

*Natural Resources Group*  
khanh.tran-thanh@iied.org

As a Coordinator of the Natural Resources Group, Khanh works closely with research staff and project partners in the Biodiversity and Food and Agriculture teams: supporting research projects, liaising with donors and country partners, managing publication outputs, coordinating events. During COP-10 she will be managing the IIED Exhibition stand along with Vanessa.

## FIELD

*(Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development)*



**Maria Ortiz**

*Staff Lawyer*  
maria.ortiz@field.org.uk

Maria works on climate change, biodiversity and capacity-building activities. During the convention, she will focus on the negotiations related to marine and coastal areas biodiversity.



**Christophe Schwarte**

*Staff Lawyer*  
christophe.schwarte@field.org.uk

Christophe's main focus of work currently includes ocean governance, participation in environmental decision making and climate change. During COP10, he will be following the

negotiations and working with developing country negotiators, particularly on forest-related issues as part of a project to support REDD-plus negotiators from developing countries on a neutral and non-partisan basis funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

## IIED Partners



**Alejandro Argumedo**

*Asociacion ANDES, Peru*

Alejandro is the Coordinator of the Sustaining Local Food Systems, Agrobiodiversity and Livelihoods Peru Program of IIED and Executive Director of Asociación ANDES, an indigenous NGO based in Cusco Peru. He also chairs the Indigenous Peoples' Biocultural Assessments on Climate Change Initiative.



**Pilar Sulco**

*Asociacion ANDES, Peru*

Pilar is currently working with ANDES' Gender and Climate Change initiative, implementing an indigenous biocultural territory in Vilcashuaman, central Peru, with the specific objective of using this model for climate change adaptation.



**Ruchi Pant**

*Ecoserve, India*

Ruchi Pant is a policy analyst at Ecoserve, a conservation

organisation working in the Indian Himalayas. She has worked on issues pertaining to customary laws and legal pluralism in the areas including natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, right to water, protection of traditional knowledge and regional cooperation in conservation. Ruchi will be sharing her experiences at COP10 through a short documentary film *Heritage on the Edge*.



**Yiching Song**

*Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP), China*

Yiching Song is a senior research fellow in the CCAP, Chinese Academy of Science. Her research focuses on sustainable agricultural and rural development policies in China, using participatory action methods. At COP 10 she will be involved in two side events on protecting traditional knowledge and bio-cultural heritage and on participatory plant breeding and ABS.



**Peter Munyi**

*ICIPE, Kenya*

Peter Munyi works as a Legal Counsel at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology. A lawyer, his work includes policy engagement on intellectual property rights, ABS and traditional knowledge. At COP 10 he will be attending side events as well as offering technical assistance to the Africa Group.



# Studies reveal prospects for linking ape conservation with poverty reduction in Africa

The successes and pitfalls of methods addressing both biodiversity loss and livelihoods of the poor are discussed in two new reports.

African countries with populations of endangered apes could do more to ensure that conservation activities bring benefits in the fight against poverty, according to two reports published by IIED and partners.

The reports reveal important lessons from across the continent that policymakers and conservation groups can use to boost both biodiversity and the livelihoods of poor communities.

“Wherever you find apes in Africa you also find people living in poverty,” says Dilys Roe, a senior researcher at IIED. “Efforts to conserve apes have great potential to also reduce poverty but the actual, or perceived, negative impacts of conservation may result in local antipathy – or even outright hostility – to conservation efforts.”

Africa’s apes – the bonobos, chimpanzees and gorillas – are our closest living relatives. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature classes them all as endangered or critically endangered because of hunting and deforestation.

Early efforts to conserve these species in strictly controlled protected areas often led to conflict with local communities who were restricted from accessing forest resources they had used for generations.

One report, focusing on Uganda, highlights how resistance from the surrounding communities seriously threatened the ability of the authorities to manage two national parks after they were

set up in 1991 to protect mountain gorillas.

In response, the government and nongovernmental organisations adopted a range of “integrated conservation and development” strategies, which aimed to both create benefits for local communities and reduce their reliance on resources within the parks – and hence their negative impact on the gorillas’ habitat.

Based on 15 years of experience, the report reveals that many have achieved successes but often in different ways to what was planned. The study also found, however, that to maximise both conservation and development outcomes such initiatives will need to have a greater positive impact on the poorest households.

“Integrated conservation and development has come under some criticism in recent years,” says the report’s lead author Tom Blomley. “We found that the long term engagement of a range of development and conservation organisations working in a joint manner appears to have addressed both objectives.”

The second report expands the focus beyond Uganda and highlights initiatives that seek to link ape conservation with poverty reduction in 18 nations – Angola; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Cote d’Ivoire; The Democratic Republic of Congo; Equatorial Guinea; Gabon; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea Bissau; Liberia; Nigeria; Congo; Rwanda; Sierra Leone; Tanzania; and Uganda.



Image: Martha Robbins

Activities range from simple outreach initiatives that aim to improve local attitudes to conservation, to initiatives that give communities decision making power over natural resource management and ways to benefit from them.

“These conservation initiatives are making a concerted effort to address poverty issues, but surprisingly few of them seem to explore whether or not they have been successful by measuring or reporting on the results of their efforts,” says Chris Sandbrook, who headed the review.

Much of the best poverty impact data comes from studies of great ape tourism, which is a popular way of converting the presence of apes into money for local development – although even here the revenue from tourism is rarely shared with local people at a significant enough scale to give them real

incentives to support conservation.

Many alternative initiatives exist, such as those that promote agriculture as an alternative to living off forest resources and, conversely, those that promote sustainable use of forest resources and so create incentives for conservation. But there are many missed opportunities and factors that can limit efforts to link great ape conservation and poverty reduction.

“These studies highlight the wealth of existing experience and provide key lessons for initiatives that seek to link conservation and poverty reduction,” says Dilys Roe, coordinator of the ‘Poverty and Conservation Learning Group’, an international network of conservation and development organisations that IIED hosts. “We hope that they learn from these experiences in order to

build on the success stories – and avoid some of the pitfalls and significantly increase the impact of conservation on poverty.”

The studies were done with funding support from the Arcus Foundation, a leading global grantmaking foundation advancing pressing social justice and conservation issues. Specifically, Arcus works to advance LGBT equality, as well as to conserve and protect the great apes.

The full reports *Development AND Gorillas? Assessing the impact of fifteen years of integrated conservation and development in South Western Uganda* and *Linking Ape Conservation and Poverty Alleviation* are available at <http://tinyurl.com/3ahjmgf>

# Innovative design could transform urban planning in developing countries

With the right support, low-income communities can successfully combine high-density housing with room to thrive.

A new vision of urban planning that could positively transform the way cities grow across the developing world in the 21st Century has been presented in a study and multimedia collection published by IIED.

The vision involves a flexible building design that would allow residents to expand their homes upwards by up to three floors – as and when their families grow – and create socially and economically successful communities that are as dense as, or even denser, than buildings that are up to six floors high.

The new design, which promises a brighter future for millions of the world's poorest urban citizens, is detailed in a study and multimedia collection funded by the International Institute for Environment and Development and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Its launch coincided with the opening of the United Nations Fifth World Urban

“These are friendly neighbourhoods, where people have a better lifestyle and social life. They can use their homes for income generation and they can build them upwards as and when they need to.”

Forum in Rio de Janeiro, where thousands of delegates from governments, academia and nongovernmental organisations discussed solutions to the challenges of urbanisation.

Among those challenges is the question of how best to increase urban population densities as populations grow and land prices rise, especially when large informal settlements of the urban poor occupy prime centrally located land.

In many cities in Asia and elsewhere, governments are keen to force these poor communities into high-rise apartments so that the land they currently occupy can be developed into condominiums and iconic buildings to attract foreign investment.

“In promoting such a vision of a modern world-class city, international financial institutions and city planners are failing the poorest communities and ensuring that those who are meant to gain the most are instead the biggest losers,” says architect Arif Hasan, a visiting fellow at the International Institute for Environment and Development and lead author of the new study.

Mr. Hasan's bold alternative to either unplanned informal settlements or relocation brings the benefits of high density in a way that communities control and prefer.

“Most members of poor communities are used to living and working centrally and close to the streets,” says Mr. Hasan. “When they are relocated to high-rise apartments, they are immediately beset by social and practical problems. They rarely want to move but don't have a say in the matter.”

Experience also shows that

population density in apartment blocks continues to grow – leading to uncomfortable crowding – as families grow but have no extra space to occupy. And as former communities are divided and restructured, other social problems, such as drug use and debt emerge.

“A motor mechanic cannot run a business from a fifth floor apartment, nor can a fishmonger,” says Mr. Hasan. “If that is where their skills and experience are, their livelihood is suddenly no longer viable.”

Mr. Hasan's research shows that when poor urban communities are left to their own devices, they tend to grow their dwellings incrementally according to their household needs and abilities to pay.

“These are friendly neighbourhoods, where people have a better lifestyle and social life. They can use their homes for income generation and they can build them upwards as and when they need to.”

But without proper planning and support, this growth is not as efficient as it could be, as it could lead to congestion and a lack of space for future expansion.

Mr. Hasan studied four communities in Karachi, Pakistan, and hypothetically redesigned them to see what densities could be achieved if the necessary planning and support were in place.

He showed that if incremental growth was planned and managed aesthetically and sustainably, instead of being an ad hoc process, then the result would be not only the necessary high densities but also better social and physical environments.

“For this to happen, houses need decent foundations that

can withstand future building of additional floors, but these only increase the initial cost by 15 per cent,” says Mr. Hasan.

“Communities need support, including design advice and the financial and technical means to plan for upwards expansion as their families grow.”

“This is not a Karachi story, but a Karachi example. The same model of supported, self-organising communities living in low-rise friendly neighbourhoods instead of high-rise apartments is applicable across Asia and in many other settings too.”

The full report and multimedia collection include a short film on the Karachi settlements and the study's conclusions, a two-page opinion paper by Arif Hasan, the full report and an IIED working paper that presents the results in summary form, and image galleries that include photos of the current settlements, satellite images and density maps, and 3D re-modelling images to show how density can be achieved with improved housing designs.

The full multimedia collection is online at [www.urbandensity.org](http://www.urbandensity.org)



# ld transform urban g countries



# Green Economy Coalition urges visionary action from world leaders ahead of Rio Earth Summit 2012

Coalition of labour, business, environment and consumer groups announce steps that must be taken to achieve goals set 18 years ago.

An unprecedented coalition of labour, business, environment and consumer groups have called for a revival of the high ambition that accompanied the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992 as ministers gathered to prepare for the next Earth Summit in 2012.

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) launched its shared analysis for how the world can move towards sustainability, and stress that, despite high ideals in 1992, the world has actually moved backwards in terms of sustainable development.

The analysis was launched at the UN in New York during a meeting set up to plan the 2012 conference that will mark the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Leading figures in the GEC from the global North and South argued that in the current global economic framework, increased competition has hurt the environment, workers, consumers and economic stability. They pointed out that global poverty has become entrenched while unsustainable consumption has increased.

The GEC outlined where it believes real solutions exist to the social, environmental and economic challenges the world faces today, and explained why Rio 2012 offers a precious opportunity for world leaders to turn around the failed



Image: Brent Danley

approaches of the recent past.

By focusing on accountability, national dialogue, the transformation of current governing systems, and a collective effort to learn from what actually works, the GEC believes Rio 2012 can put us on a path towards the new economic paradigm needed to finally achieve the goals of Rio 1992.

The GEC paper *Green, fair and productive: How the 2012 Rio Conference can move the world towards sustainability* details some of the specific actions needed to achieve this new economic paradigm.

These include wholesale transformation of financial regulation, an end to short-term incentives, and a phasing out of fossil fuelled, consumption-

based growth. The details of these changes, that were outlined by members of the coalition at the event, can form the basis to deliver green and decent jobs, fairness for all, sustainable consumption and a healthy environment.

The full paper is available at [www.greeneconomycoalition.org](http://www.greeneconomycoalition.org)

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Rio 2012 offers a precious opportunity for world leaders to turn around the failed approaches of the recent past.

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## IIED Events

### Understanding and applying the ecosystem approach for sustainable development and poverty reduction under global change

**When:** Thursday 21 October, 18.15 – 19.45

**Where:** Room 233B – Building 2, 3rd Floor

Jointly organised by SCBD, IIED, University of Montreal and University of Eberswalde, this side event will present a new volume of the CBD Technical Series dedicated to an analysis of the systemic character of global change, biodiversity and human development, and the relationships between them. The papers describe and evaluate the complicated relationships and dynamics between human and biological systems.

### Protecting bio-cultural heritage in Peru, India, China and Kenya

**When:** Wednesday 27 October, 18.15 – 19.45

**Where:** Nagoya Gakuin University

Jointly organised by IIED, Asociación Andes, Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Ecoserve, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, this side-event will present the overall findings of a global research project on "Protecting Community Rights over Traditional Knowledge: Implications of customary laws and practices", including case studies from Peru, China, India & Kenya and work on community biocultural protocols, registers and products. We will identify lessons for the International ABS Protocol and will be showing three short films.

### Launch of our new pocketbook *Banking on Biodiversity*

**When:** Tuesday 19th October, 17.00

**Where:** IIED stand (S29)

Join us at our stand for the launch of this new Biodiversity Pocketbook. There will be drinks and nibbles and a discussion with the authors.



#### Banking on Biodiversity

Authors: Dilys Roe, Pavan Sukhdev, David Thomas and Robert Munroe

We're in the midst of a biodiversity crisis – so science and the media keep telling us. But what does it really mean? It might all seem a little abstract for those of us whose urbanised, high-tech lives have left us far removed from nature. For the 2 billion rural

poor in the developing world, it's all too real. Direct dependence on the bounty of forests, deserts and coasts can make 'biodiversity loss' a case of losing all: food, fuel, building material, medicine, forage, livelihoods and culture. The good news is that it can work the other way. Poor communities as long-term stewards of the South's natural riches are steeped in profound knowledge about them. This pocketbook shows how working with them can reverse the downward spiral of environmental degradation. By banking on biodiversity, we can protect our natural legacy while tackling poverty locally, nationally and globally.

# African livestock can triumph in the face of climate change

*Modern and Mobile* argues that what is needed to support the livelihoods of pastoralists is not large amounts of finance but a change in mindsets of policymakers and international donors.

Africa's livestock producers are bucking a trend, by proving resilient to climate change and generating huge economic benefits for their nations and regions, say researchers in a book published by IIED and SOS Sahel.

It shows how pastoralism is a major economic player and contributor to many African economies and one whose importance is only set to grow as climate change takes hold.

"Pastoralists manage complex webs of profitable cross-border trade and draw huge economic benefits from rangelands ill-suited to other land use systems," says Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, writing in the book's preface. "Their livestock feed our families and grow our economies. And mobility is what

"Harsh, arid and unpredictable environments are not obstacles to pastoralists as they would almost inevitably be to other primary producers,"

allows them to do this."

The book, *Modern and Mobile*, shows how livestock play a key role in the economic prosperity in Africa's drylands by supporting hundreds of millions of people, and a massive meat and leather industry.

"What is remarkable is that these benefits all arise from animals fed solely on natural pasture," says Ced Hesse, a researcher at IIED and one of the book's authors.

"The financial inputs are minimal but the benefits rapidly extend beyond the herders and their communities to enrich the

lives of millions of people involved in the livestock supply chain including consumers in far off cities," he adds. "This shows how crucial it is to support Africa's pastoralists for their contribution to wider economic development."

The book shows that contrary to popular belief pastoralists actually profit from climatic variability.

"Harsh, arid and unpredictable environments are not obstacles to pastoralists as they would almost inevitably be to other primary producers," says co-author Saverio Kratli,

who is the editor of the journal *Nomadic Peoples*.

"This is because pastoralists are experts at leading, breeding and training their animals to use the richest possible diet for milk and meat production in environments where highly nutritious grasses are not growing everywhere at the same time."

"As long as this is understood and respected by decision makers then pastoralism can, like other modern production systems, be strengthened, improved and integrated into modern market economies," he says.

*Modern and Mobile* argues that what is needed to support this mobility is not large amounts of finance but a change in mindsets of policymakers and international donors.

The book is the final output from a year-long project funded by the Howard G Buffett Foundation.

The full book is available at <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=12565IIED>



# IIED Briefing and

IIED publishes regular briefings and opinion papers on biodiversity, climate change and other issues. These are freely available from our website, often also in French and Spanish. For more information visit [www.iied.org/pubs/](http://www.iied.org/pubs/) or email our publications and marketing manager Vanessa McLeod-Kourie ([vanessa.mcleod-kourie@iied.org](mailto:vanessa.mcleod-kourie@iied.org)). A list of our recent papers follows.

## Briefing papers

### Conservation and human rights: the need for international standards

Conservation doesn't happen in a vacuum. In recent years, awareness has grown of the relationship of international conservation practice to indigenous peoples and local communities, and especially the links between conservation and human rights. The impacts protected areas can have on rural communities – such as evictions and lost access to natural resources – are now under particular scrutiny. Concern is meanwhile rising over the human rights implications of some climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. But awareness is also growing of the positive contributions of nature conservation to the rights of people to secure their livelihoods, enjoy healthy and productive environments, and live with dignity. International NGOs can play a central role in supporting and promoting conservation actions that respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and help sustain their livelihoods. Many conservation organisations have long worked towards this. It is vital that they

hold to consistent principles and implement measures that ensure their application, so their action on conservation remains accountable, transparent and sustainable.

### Baseline for trust: defining 'new and additional' climate funding

Climate finance is becoming a dark curve on the road from Copenhagen to Cancún. Poorer nations fear that richer ones will fulfil the US\$30 billion 'fast-start' climate finance promises made in the non-binding Copenhagen Accord by relabelling or diverting basic development aid, or by simply delivering on past climate finance pledges. The problem is simple: contributor countries are operating with no clear baseline against which their promise of 'new and additional' funding can be counted – and they do not accept the baselines put forth by developing countries. A viable solution for the short term is to use projections of business-as-usual development assistance as baselines. The longer-term benchmark could be the provision of truly 'new' funds from new funding sources. Substantial up-front negotiations may be required, but seizing this opportunity to

define baselines will build confidence on both sides and create predictability for future finance.

### Beyond cost-benefit: developing a complete toolkit for adaptation decisions

Cost-benefit analysis has important uses – and crucial blind spots. It represents only one of several economic tools that can be used to assess options for adapting to climate change in developing countries. The Nairobi Work Programme would best serve governments by considering not just cost-benefit approaches, but the entire range of tools. By developing a 'toolkit' that helps users choose from a variety of evaluation methods, we can support adaptation decisions that promote equity, put local people in control and allow for dynamic responses to climate change as it unfolds.

### Big emitters: how growth in consumption drives climate change

It seems obvious that the more people there are on the planet, the more the pressure on planetary resources and the larger the emissions of greenhouse gases. So it also seems obvious that population growth must be a major driver of global warming. But it is just as obvious that very poor households contribute very little to greenhouse gas emissions. So if most of the world's population growth is among very poor households, population growth is not the culprit. The greatest human driver of global warming is the number of consumers on the planet and their consumption level. Individuals

and households contribute to global warming by consuming goods and services that cause greenhouse gas emissions – for instance, by owning a refrigerator or a car. Through this they are responsible for all the fossil fuels that go into making, distributing, advertising, selling, using and disposing of it.

### Copenhagen's climate finance promise: six key questions

One of the promises emerging from the confusion of the Copenhagen climate talks focused on climate finance. Ramping up to US\$100 billion a year starting in 2020, the promised finance would support developing countries in adapting to climate impacts and adopting low-carbon pathways. This briefing explores the wording in the Copenhagen Accord to unearth six big questions about the promise – any one of which could seriously challenge the trust these funds were designed to build.

### Channels for change: private water and the urban poor

For the rapidly urbanising developing world, safe and affordable water is key to health and livelihoods, as well as meeting the Millennium Development Goals. But providing it demands innovative models. Where the context allows and the approach is appropriate, private sector involvement can generate win-win outcomes. Poor people can gain access to high-quality, affordable services, and companies can gain access to new and profitable business opportunities. Two examples of innovative 'private' water

suppliers are the Manila Water Company's Water for the Poor Communities programme, and the Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor partnership. Both have a multisector approach to service expansion and provision, including partnerships with local authorities; strong community involvement in selecting, designing and operating options; appropriate service levels to reduce costs; and a flexible range of services. Many elements of these models are also replicable.

## Opinion papers

### Why it makes more sense to invest in farmers than in farmland

Two years since the media spotlight turned on the so-called 'land grab' – whereby agribusiness, investment funds and government agencies acquire farmland in Africa, Latin America and Asia – the debate rages on. And rightly so. Private sector expectations of higher food and commodity prices and government concerns about longer-term food and energy security have made land a more attractive asset. But land is central to livelihoods, culture and identity for millions across the developing world. And large-scale land acquisitions can have lasting repercussions for the future of agriculture, including both agribusiness and family farming. Rather than rushing into land deals, governments and investors should properly consider the wider range of options to invest in agriculture. In many parts of the world, family farmers have proved efficient and dynamic. Working with them can generate healthy returns, avoid the risks

# Opinion Papers

associated with land acquisitions, and improve farmers' livelihoods.

## High-density housing that works for all

In an urbanising world, the way people fit into cities is vastly important – socially, economically, environmentally, even psychologically. So density, or the number of people living in a given area, is central to urban design and planning. Both governments and markets tend to get density wrong, leading to overcrowding, urban sprawl or often both. A case in point are the high-rise buildings springing up throughout urban Asia – perceived as key features of that widely touted concept, the ‘world-class city’. While some may offer a viable solution to land pressures and density requirements, many built to house evicted or resettled ‘slum’ dwellers are a social and economic nightmare – inconveniently sited, overcrowded and costly. New evidence from Karachi, Pakistan, reveals a real alternative. Poor people can create liveable high-density settlements as long as community control, the right technical assistance and flexible designs are in place. A city is surely ‘world-class’ only when it is cosmopolitan – built to serve all, including the poorest.



# Biodiversity media alliance links journalists with the web of life

Online network will enable journalists and biodiversity experts to interact and share their news and views about biodiversity issues.

Journalists worldwide now have a vital new resource to help their reporting on the world's biodiversity, what its decline means for humanity, and how it can be tackled.

The Biodiversity Media Alliance's online network is building bridges between journalists and the sources of information they need to tell this story well.

More than 500 biodiversity experts had already joined the network ahead of its official launch on World Environment Day (5 June). They include scientists, policymakers, non-governmental organisation staff and indigenous people from some of the most biodiverse parts of our planet.

The Biodiversity Media Alliance is a new partnership between the IIED, Internews and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which aims to boost the quantity and quality of media coverage of biodiversity around the world.

The new online network will enable journalists and biodiversity experts to interact and share their news and views

about biodiversity issues.

"This is a critical period for biodiversity, with crucial international treaty talks taking place later in the year and new reports emphasising the importance and challenge of protecting the web of life around us," says James Fahn, director of Internews' Earth Journalism Network. "But even in this, the International Year of Biodiversity, coverage of these issues in the mainstream media has been scarce. We hope that this new online resource will help to change that."

Mike Shanahan of IIED adds: "Our health, security and prosperity all depend on nature's riches but these riches are disappearing fast. As a species

we bite the hand that feeds us when we forget that we are part of the web of life and allow our life-support systems — such as forests and coral reefs — to decline so fast. Journalists have a key role to play in reporting this situation because it affects the future of everyone on the planet."

Keith A. Wheeler, Chair of the Commission on Education and Communication of IUCN highlights: "Today's challenges are moving towards more sustainable financial and energy systems, food security and international security - all these challenges ultimately depend on the services nature offers. Managing knowledge between conservationists and journalists

plays a key role in communicating the urgency for change, showing change is possible, providing examples that can be followed and creating new alliances. IUCN supports the new initiative of the Biodiversity Media Alliance".

The Biodiversity Media Alliance network is online at <http://biodiversitymedia.ning.com/>. To learn more about IIED and its work with journalists please contact **Mike Shanahan** ([mike.shanahan@iied.org](mailto:mike.shanahan@iied.org)) or visit [www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)

## Come and visit us at the IIED Exhibition Stand S29

Please come and visit our exhibition stand where you will be able to watch a variety short films produced by IIED and partners, and pick up free publications and other information. Drop by for a chat and meet staff from IIED and other Poverty Conservation Learning Group members. We've set up areas for informal exchanges and a little relaxation away from the main hustle and bustle.

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