

The Poverty and Conservation Learning Group

Project Update

May 2005

The Ford Foundation is providing support for IIED to coordinate the establishment of the "Poverty and Conservation Learning Group". Since the launch of this initiative in November 2004, IIED has been working with a wide range of organisations to:

- scope out the need and demand for such a Group;
- identify potential members;
- document the development of the conservation-poverty debate over time;
- map the ongoing initiatives of existing institutions and networks;
- conduct a preliminary review of on-the-ground experience in linking conservation and poverty reduction;
- explore alternative models and structures for the Group; and,
- investigate its potential research, learning and communications activities.

At the end of this process (December 05) the Learning Group will be formally constituted, and an inaugural meeting will be held. This first meeting will serve to confirm commitment to an ongoing process of learning, to shape an agenda for future research and to discuss options for the future structure, reach and ongoing operation of the Group.

Progress to date

I. Launch and initial feedback from stakeholders

The Learning Group initiative was formally launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Bangkok in November 2004. A preliminary meeting was organised during the Congress in order to raise awareness about the initiative, to solicit feedback on the need for the Group from key stakeholders, and to begin the process of consultation on different options for the structure and remit of the Group. Key issues raised include:

Who should be involved?

- No one should be excluded – but should proactively seek members rather than self selection, otherwise will be preaching to the converted.
- A core group – and then a wider – open membership – group of interest?
- An international group and then a series of national level groups?
- Developing country perspectives
- Representation by those directly impacted by conservation activities – although probably through umbrella organisations
- Rural development agencies as well as conservation organisations
- Developing country governments
- Financial institutions
- People that can make an impact

Links with existing initiatives

- Should interview key stakeholders and identify what is already being done
- Should make links to established networks and use existing outreach mechanisms. Examples include:
 - The MacArthur Initiative
 - The IUCN Dialogue Process
 - The Poverty Environment Partnership
 - The IUCN Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities and Protected Areas (TILCEPA)
 - SocialImpactsofConservation.net
 - The ecoagriculture network
 - The Equator Initiative
 - Post-WSSD initiatives
 - ASECFOC
 - Forest Peoples' Programme
 - The Regional and International Networking Group (RING Alliance)

Structure and Remit

- Legitimacy through membership
- Manageable size
- Interest at a wider level
- Driven by issues of concern
- Strengthen local community agenda
- Do not focus on fracture lines and bring different groups together in a constructive manner to strengthen resilience
- How to define scope – wild and domesticated species? Just wildlife or also forests, fisheries etc? Poverty reduction or development/livelihoods?
- Move from learning to building

Hot issues

- Practical ways to address conflict and compromise
- Rights based approaches to conservation
- How to integrate biodiversity into PRSPs
- How to influence change at the national level
- Can or should biodiversity conservation be done with or without community involvement?
- Risk analysis for people and biodiversity
- Displacement/resettlement
- Links with MDGs
- Identify examples of effective dialogue mechanisms where people have been able to engage in a non-threatening way
- Identify example of conservation practices that have taken place with respect for indigenous peoples rights.

Constraints

- Language
- Information transfer mechanisms (eg difficulty of accessing web/email in some locations)
- Location
- How do we develop a more inclusive group?
- Need to understand world views/values of different groups

II. Literature review

The main focus of activity since Bangkok has been a literature review to document the evolution of, and changes to, the debate on conservation-poverty linkages. To date we have concentrated on identifying the key texts, events and initiatives within the fields of conservation, human rights and international development and plotting these on a timeline in order to track similarities in schools of thoughts, spreading of influence and merging of ideas.

Conservation narratives have changed considerably over the last 150 years. In the mid 19th century Colonial conservation policy was driven by fears of extinction with local people seen as a threat to an elite tradition of trophy hunting. For almost 100 years, conservation policy focussed on large terrestrial mammals - particularly in Africa. However as early as the 1940s there was increasing recognition of the needs of rural Africans for economic development and that that conservation provided revenue generating opportunities (trade, tourism) that could contribute to that development. In the 1960s, however, poaching became the headline conservation issue and was accompanied by a groundswell in membership of conservation organisations and the linking of conservation with animal welfare concerns. Since then conservation narratives have changed from “top-down” protection and preservation – largely manifested in the protected areas movement; to integrated conservation and development; to community-based conservation; and then disenchantment with the above and a return to protectionism (“back to the barriers”). In recent years, however, significant steps have been made in mainstreaming issues of poverty reduction, social justice and human rights into the international conservation agenda. The 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress included a large delegation of indigenous people’s organisations and, as a result, developed a range of recommendations addressing social concerns – governance of protected areas, poverty, indigenous rights and so on. The 2004 Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity also agreed to address issues of governance, participation, equity and benefit sharing as part of its new programme of work on protected areas. Some sceptics argue that these changes are more connected with changes in conservation funding than real changes in institutional thinking. Regardless of the motivation, however, there is no doubt that these developments represent a fundamental paradigm shift in international conservation policy.

The development community has a shorter history. The term “Development” as we currently understand it was coined by President Truman in 1949 in reference to the desire to consolidate the post-war hegemony of the United States and spread its influence to the “underdeveloped” areas of the world. As, with international conservation policy, development discourse has also undergone a series of paradigm shifts – from a focus on economic growth; to integrated economic and social planning; to addressing “basic needs”; to structural adjustment in the 1980s and then sustainable development in the 1990s. The current focus on poverty reduction has emerged since the late 1990s with the OECD launch of a set of International Development Targets in “*Shaping the 21st Century*” and then the United Nations Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals.

Despite these separate evolutionary paths, international development and conservation policies have crossed paths and become interwoven over time. In addition, a human rights agenda – particularly focussing on indigenous peoples – has been incorporated into the rhetoric of both communities. Key texts and events include:

- 1948** *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* – includes clauses on property rights
- 1961** *Arusha Declaration* emphasises importance of conservation but also notes potential of wildlife as an important economic resource.
- 1968** *African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources* which focuses on the needs of Africans
- 1971** *UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme* links wildlife conservation/preservation to sustainable use.
- 1972** Stockholm conference: The point at which environment enters the international development agenda; IUCN GA in Banff has Conservation and Development as theme; *Limits to Growth* and *Blueprint for Survival* published
- 1974** *Cocoyoc Declaration* (UNEP) – people have to be able to secure basic needs
- 1975** *Zaire Resolution on the Protection of Traditional Ways of Life* passed at IUCN GA. Calls on govts not to displace people from protected areas and to take special account of needs of Indigenous people
- 1980s** Community conservation narrative becomes important – wildlife numbers continuing to decline despite fortress conservation; lack of state capacity to finance and enforce exclusion. Shifts in development discourse from top down to bottom up, participation, decentralisation /de-bureaucratisation.
- 1980** *World Conservation Strategy* – seeks to link conservation with development
- 1981** Robert Chambers *Rapid rural appraisal: rationale and repertoire* published. Participatory approaches to development strongly championed in donor agencies; *African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights* (adopted 1986): All peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.
- 1982** 3rd World Parks Congress (Bali) marks a turning point in conservation by encouraging participation and sustainable use; World Bank publishes *Tribal Peoples and Economic Development*
- 1984** World Bank guidelines on indigenous people – development projects should not cause resettlement
- 1985** WWF launches *Wildlife and Human Needs Programme*

1987 *The Brundtland Report* launches the concept of Sustainable Development

1988 CARE launches *Development Through Conservation* initiative

1989 ILO *Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples NO 169* - affirms right of IPs to use, ownership, mgmt and control of traditional lands. Also includes IPs right not to be removed from their land without free and informed consent.

1990 World Rainforest Movement establishes Forest Peoples Programme to “challenge conservation projects imposed on local people”;

1991 West and Brechin: *Resident Peoples and Protected Areas* – highlights social impacts of conservation; *Principle of Environmental Justice* ratified at First National People of Color Leadership Summit, Washington DC; *World Bank Policy on Indigenous Peoples* – calls for informed participation in development projects; UK Overseas Development Agency publishes *Biological Diversity and Developing Countries: Issues and Options*

1992 4th World Parks Congress (Caracas) –results in *IUCN policy on Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Protected Areas*; *Earth Summit* and *CBD* (includes specific reference to poverty reduction); International Conference on Territory, Environment and Development held immediately before Earth Summit – produces *Indigenous People’s Earth Charter*; Wells and Brandon: *People and Parks* – critiques the achievements of ICDPs.

1994 Western and Wright – *Natural Connections* and IIED *Whose Eden?* highlight successes in community based conservation; Draft *UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples* – addresses legal right of ownership of their lands, water and related resources (not yet signed)

1996 IUCN WCC in Montreal recognises rights of indigenous peoples with respect to land and resources that fall within protected areas and the need to reach agreement with IPOs prior to the establishment of PAs within their territories; WWF adopts *Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation* – but includes caveat that indigenous peoples’ activities must be environmentally sustainable and support conservation; OECD launches a set of International Development Targets in “*Shaping the 21st Century*”

1997-1999 “Back to the Barriers” movement: (Overall: Community participation a noble goal but channels funding away from conservation and has minimal effect on biodiversity protection. Conservation strategies should stop trying to do everything and focus on core goal of biodiversity protection. Key texts include: *Requiem for Nature*; *Myth and Reality in the Rainforest*; *The Last Stand*; *Parks in Peril*.)

1998 DFID and EU DG-Dev launch 3 yr *Biodiversity In Development* project – implemented by DFID and IUCN.

2000 IUCN Council adopts policy on *Social Equity in Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources*; *UN Millennium Declaration* and MDGs.

2002 *World Summit on Sustainable Development* includes biodiversity as one of 5 key issues; UNDP launches *Equator Initiative*; Conservation International produce brochure – *People, Poverty and Biodiversity*; IUCN produces flyer on “pro-poor conservation”.

2003 *Vth World Parks Congress* – produces recommendations on Poverty, Indigenous Peoples, Governance and so on; Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides substantial grants to conservation organisations to mainstream livelihoods/poverty reduction issues into their work programmes

2004 *CBD Cop7* in Kuala Lumpur adopts Programme of Work on protected areas, which includes a stream on equity, participation and benefit sharing; The Nature Conservancy produces report on biodiversity-poverty links; SwedBio undertakes review of Swedish aid biodiversity strategy.

We are now completing our identification and mapping of key texts and events onto an historical timeline and are part way through reviewing and summarising key documents. Once we have a first draft of the timeline we plan to circulate this widely and seek feedback on key documents, events or initiatives that have had an influence on conservation-poverty reduction linkages that we might have missed in our search. We will then finalise the timeline and write up the literature review.

We currently have a number of options for presentation and dissemination of the literature review findings:

- The main literature review could be presented as an annotated bibliography (with accompanying analysis that highlights key themes and issues); a standard literature review – eg in the form of a detailed discussion paper; a “reader” on conservation and poverty reduction that includes excerpts of key texts covering the main developments in conservation, development and human rights policy (we are currently exploring the potential of commercial publishing of this kind of output with Earthscan). All of these options are currently open and we will seek advice on which - or which combination – would be the most useful.
- The timeline currently exists in tabular format (from which the above list has been extracted). This will be included, in this summary format, as an annex to the literature review - in whichever format we decide to pursue and as a stand-alone document. In addition we are exploring the possibility of

publishing one – or more – peer-reviewed journal articles based on the timeline, in order to promote its uptake in academic circles.

- The references for the literature review are currently being entered into a bibliographic database. This could potentially be made available as an on-line resource, in addition to the written outputs above.
- Dissemination: again a number of options. We are currently building an email list of institutions and individuals interested in the Learning Group. We can disseminate the literature review outputs (drafts and final) electronically via this list and/or in hard copy format. We will also explore the use of other dissemination networks such as the TILCEPA¹ membership. We also plan to set up a Learning Group website and will post this and other outputs on the website. We will also explore the potential for e-consultations via this website on the draft review and on other Learning Group outputs.

III. Mapping existing initiatives

This activity has, to date, only been running in an ad hoc manner – we have not proactively started to detail existing initiatives as we are not yet into the consultation phase of the project. However, inevitably some initiatives have been brought to our attention already and others we know about through personal involvement and so on. These include:

Development Agencies Addressing Biodiversity/Conservation Issues

- The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) has recently awarded large grants to conservation organisations to assist in mainstreaming poverty/livelihood concerns into their work, including Birdlife International, Wetlands International, Fauna & Flora International
- The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has run a seminar series on biodiversity and poverty and also funds the FRAME programme (www.frameweb.org), a knowledge-sharing network of natural resource professionals. Components include the Nature Wealth and Power initiative in rural Africa and the Conservation and Governance network.
- The UK Department for International Development has recently (2002) undertaken a study of wildlife - poverty linkages and has a "Programme, Partnership Agreement" with WWF -UK to enhance the poverty reduction/sustainable livelihoods dimensions of WWF's work.
- The Swedish International Development Agency is supporting work on linkages between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction through its biodiversity implementing agency - SwedBio. SwedBio has recently held a strategy workshop to identify its future funding priorities.
- UNDP has established the Equator Initiative to showcase community-based initiatives that have successfully linked biodiversity conservation with poverty reduction. UNDP also coordinates the Poverty-Environment Initiative and has a programme of work on biodiversity.
- Care International is one of the few development NGOs to deal with biodiversity conservation and has a significant programme of work on integrated conservation and development. Care is also conducting research in East Africa on displacement from protected areas.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has run the BIOTRADE Initiative since 1996. Its objective is to stimulate trade and investment in biological resources to further sustainable development in line with the three objectives of the CBD.
- A number of bilateral and multilateral organisations (World Bank, UN) have established the Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) – and informal network that is concerned with promoting the links between environment and poverty reduction. With 2005 being the year of the UN Millennium Review Summit, the PEP is particularly concerned with the integration of environment and poverty reduction in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

Conservation Agencies Addressing Poverty Reduction Issues

- A large body of work has been conducted by and with indigenous people's organisations to examine the impact of national and international conservation policy on their traditional livelihoods (for example the Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA), a joint initiative of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) to mobilise indigenous peoples' participation in the 2003 World Parks Congress).
- The Nature Conservancy has produced a discussion paper on biodiversity and poverty (2004)

¹ Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas – a joint initiative of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission on Economics, Environment and Social Policy (CEESP).

- Conservation International address poverty issues as part of its Human Dimensions of Biodiversity Programme within the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS)
- IUCN HQ has recently conducted an internal exercise to examine how to best incorporate pro-poor conservation into its work agenda for the next 5 years. Its various international Congresses have produced a raft of resolutions and policies on indigenous peoples issues, poverty reduction and governance. It launched – at the Bangkok Congress – a dialogue process between the big international conservation organisations and indigenous peoples groups.
- FFI – with Dutch funding – is undergoing an internal review of its field activities to determine best practice in addressing livelihoods issues.
- Wetlands International is launching a major programme of work on the links between wetland conservation and poverty reduction. It has also established an international Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group.

Activities of other organisations

- The Forest Peoples' Programme runs a number of projects designed to investigate the links between conservation and indigenous peoples rights
- Worldwatch Institute published an article on the activities of big US conservation organisations – in particular their impacts on indigenous peoples – and is following this up with a series of seminars in collaboration with Syracuse University.
- The MacArthur Foundation is supporting a major research programme on "Conservation in a Social Context".
- Various academic institutions are involved in research on the Social Impacts of Conservation (eg Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Rhodes (South Africa))
- UK academics, conservation and development organisations have established the UK Poverty and Conservation Working Group to share information on current and new research.
- CIFOR have launched a Poverty Environment Network which aims to analyse and synthesis PhD research on poverty-forestry links over the next three years.
- The recently published (2005) Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is the most extensive study ever undertaken of the linkages between the world's ecosystems and human well-being.

IV. Reviewing Potential Models for the Learning Group Structure

As with the mapping of existing initiatives, we are also planning to use the consultation process to review possible structures for the Learning Group. We are already aware of a number of existing networks and structures which might provide partial models – but we anticipate identifying other alternatives during the consultation. Existing examples include:

- IIED's Forest Governance Learning Group – this brings together key stakeholders in different countries of West and Southern Africa to conduct policy research, develop practical governance guidance materials and tools, and improve shared understanding of key issues in forest governance for poverty reduction. It operates very much on a national level – eg Ghana shares experience with, and learns from South Africa and Tanzania, and so on.
- Population-Environment Research Network at CIESIN – an online network that promotes exchange and learning between researchers and other experts. It runs e-seminars, hosts an online bibliographic database and produces a regular e-newsletter.
- FRAME is a USAID-funded program to build knowledge-sharing networks of natural resource professionals. It aims to foster discussion on emerging trends in environmental and natural resource management across disciplinary and geographical boundaries; and provide timely and relevant information on innovative and strategic options to address these issues.
- The Forest Dialogue is a forum that brings together experts on forestry issues including NGOs and forest companies to address key issues of international concern. It has a small core group of 20 people but with wide and broad participation depending on the specific issues being addressed at each meeting.
- The UK Tropical Forest Forum is open to all British-based governmental agencies, NGOs, companies and individuals, with an interest in the sustainable utilisation and conservation of tropical forests. The Forum meets regularly to discuss tropical forest issues. Information is also distributed by newsletter and other correspondence. It runs a number of specialist working groups – eg on bushmeat.
- Ecoagriculture Partners is an umbrella organization for NGOs, research institutes, farmers' organizations, academia, public and private agencies with an interest in promoting ecoagriculture. Ecoagriculture Partners

provides a platform for documenting ecoagriculture systems and practices, analysing and catalysing research, and raising awareness amongst the public and amongst policy-makers as to the potential of ecoagriculture and how best to support its development.

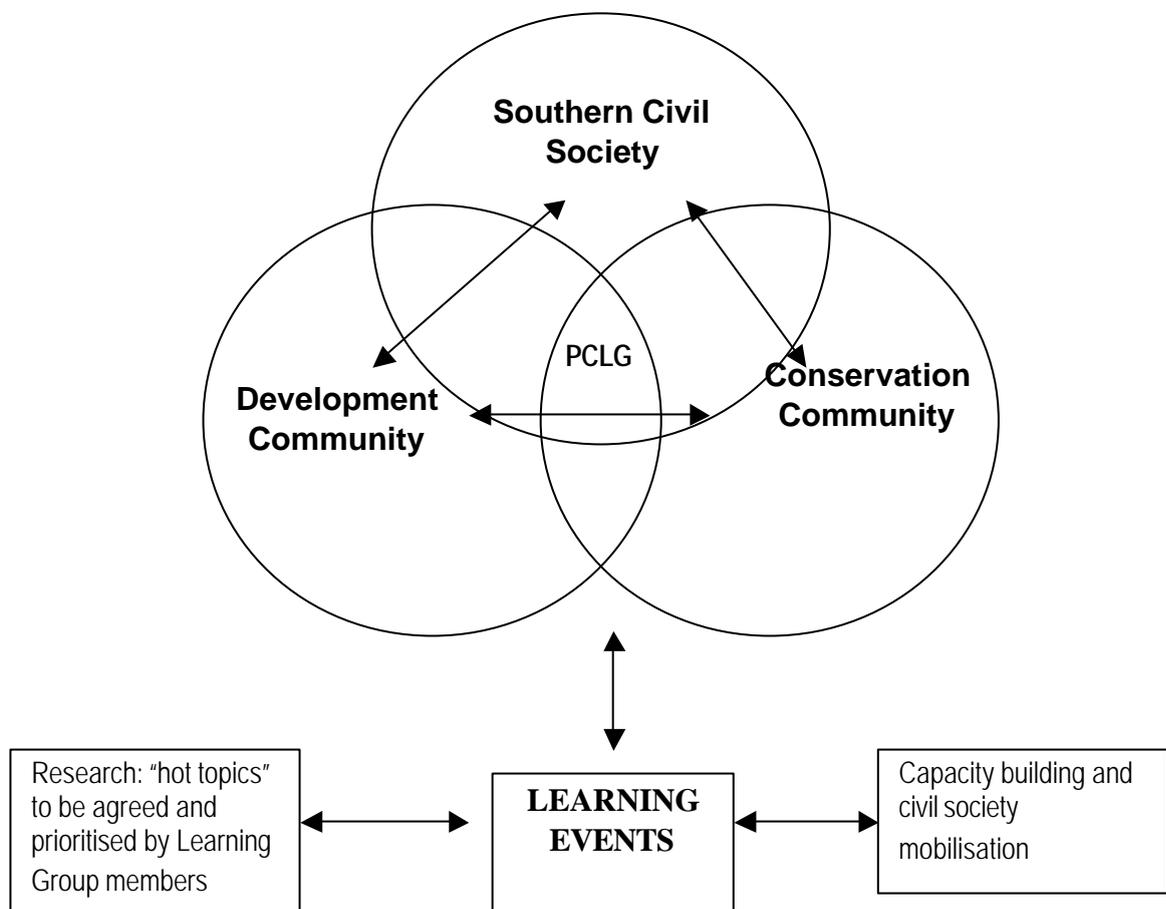
- TILCEPA is network of individuals with an interest in indigenous and local communities rights in relation to conservation. TILCEPA promotes the participation of indigenous peoples and other local communities at regional and global conservation events and works with the Indigenous Peoples Forum and World Alliance of Mobile and Indigenous Peoples
- The Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania is a good example of a local network. It encompasses a number of researchers and operational actors originated from different institutions, both public, private or NGOs, that deal on a day to day basis with the issue of management of natural resource. Some of the members of the forum are NGOs representing the interest of indigenous communities.

The model for the Learning Group that we are using as our starting point – to be discussed and debated during the process of consultation and review – is for a forum that facilitates participation by different groups in a neutral, non-confrontational and non-threatening way. We envisaged it operating in two key dimensions:

- a) Linking conservation and development communities of practice (and promoting inter- and intra-community sharing and learning);
- b) Linking Northern policy makers with Southern “policy-makers” in order to increase Southern voices in the international policy making process.

Making this forum work as a learning process would entail it being underpinned by a research programme which provides the “meat” for learning events; and, in the longer term, a capacity building programme that ensures participation by Southern civil society organisations moves beyond the tokenism that is often characteristic of “local community” participation in international conferences and other events. The diagram below summarises this model.

A potential structure for the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group



Since launching this initiative, however, we have quickly realised that there is much in this model that is already going on in different organisations. Given that one of the motivations behind setting the Learning Group initiative in process was to prevent duplication of effort and reinvention of the wheel, the last thing we want to do at this stage is to establish another structure that seeks to be all things to all people but doesn't necessarily add any value to other, related activities. A more appropriate model, therefore, might be to establish a series of strategic partnerships with other initiatives.

For example, the MacArthur Foundation funded research programme *Advancing Conservation in a Social Context* will address many of the key research questions that are likely to arise within the Learning Group. Like the Learning Group, this initiative is currently in the planning phase and so there is considerable opportunity to develop collaborative links between the two (a meeting is planned to be held in New York in June to discuss this further) and for the two to help shape each other's agenda.

CIFOR is also coordinating research over the next three years on forestry-poverty linkages. The *Poverty Environment Partnership* is encouraging PhD students to register their studies with CIFOR so that the data generated by a wealth of individual studies can be aggregated and synthesised.

Wetlands International's *Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Programme* is another example of a major research initiative that is operating in parallel to the Learning Group and with whom a partnership is likely to be of mutual value. Similarly IIED's *Forest Governance Learning Group* has an ambitious collaborative research programme on forest governance and poverty reduction. Elements of this will be relevant to the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. Indeed, many of the initiatives and activities listed above are likely to be generating research findings that would make valuable inputs to the Learning Group.

Other initiatives at the international, regional and local level exist - both long term research initiatives and shorter term (or one-off) workshops, seminars - whose findings would be of relevance to the Learning Group and with who partnership could be mutually beneficial (eg the planned WorldWatch/Syracuse seminars).

Assuming this model is of interest to potential partners and is seen to add value to their research, it is thus possible to envisage the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group becoming a forum for dissemination and discussion of research findings from a wide range of initiatives that provide some really in-depth analysis of key issues and specialist sectors (wetlands, forests, agriculture etc). A similar approach could be adopted with the capacity building component - partnering with existing initiatives that have similar or shared goals rather than launching a new capacity building programme. Obviously the nature of any partnerships will have to be thought through carefully in order to avoid any perceptions that the Learning Group is attempting to subsume other initiatives. The partnership will only work if the Learning Group is seen to be adding value to the research or capacity building activities - eg through its dissemination activities, learning events, role as a neutral forum etc. This is something that will be followed up with potential partners (those identified above and others) in the coming months.

5. Linking with Southern Stakeholders

Identifying international organisations and initiatives that might be potential participants in - or partners to - the Learning Group is relatively straightforward. The challenge for the Learning Group will be identifying key Southern members and partners - and encouraging their participation in the Group. IIED is fortunate in this regard in that our standard way of working is through partnership with Southern organisations. IIED provides the secretariat for the Regional and International Networking Group - the Ring Alliance. The Ring is a global alliance of research and policy organisations that seeks to enhance and promote sustainable development through a programme of collaborative research, dissemination and policy advocacy. This provides IIED with unique access to Southern expertise and knowledge and a wide network of contacts - given that each of the Ring partners has its own network of local collaborators. Southern Members include:

- Africa Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS, Kenya)
- Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS, Bangladesh)
- Centre for Sustainable Development (CENESTA, Iran)
- Development Alternatives (DA, India)
- Environnement et Developpement du Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM, Senegal)

- Instituto para o Desenvolvimento, Meio Ambiente, e Paz (Vitae Civilis, Brazil)
- IIED América Latina (IIED-AL, Argentina)
- Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team (NEST, Nigeria)
- Recursos e Investigación para el Desarrollo Sustentable (RIDES, Chile)
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI, Pakistan)
- ZERO Regional Environment Organisation (ZERO, Zimbabwe)

Synergies between the Ring members and the Learning Group will be explored in the first stages of the consultation process. Discussions have also been initiated with TILCEPA on potential linkages with the Learning Group – especially given it's the degree of indigenous peoples organisations and grassroots organisations in Asia, Africa and Latin America that its membership represents. TILCEPA is going through a process of reviewing its structure and remit and links with the Learning Group will be explored as part of this process. The forthcoming Protected Areas Working Group of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Italy in June, will provide a good opportunity to take forward this discussion with TILCEPA, including consultations with some of its members. The Equator Initiative is another established partner of IIED. Equator Initiative finalists and award winners are community-based organisations and initiatives that have succeeded in linking biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. The individuals and/or the organisations they represent are another group of potential Learning Group participants.

In addition to TILCEPA, direct links have been made with a number of umbrella organisations that represent indigenous peoples and other civil society groups. Some of these attended the first Learning Group meeting in Bangkok while other contacts have been subsequently. These include:

- World Alliance of Indigenous Mobile People, Iran
- International Indian Treaty Council, US
- Kalpavriksh, India
- Talamanca Initiative, Costa Rica
- ResourceAfrica, South Africa
- Programme on Land and Agrarian Studies, South Africa

Some organisations - eg the Tebtebba Foundation – have a capacity building remit and might become partners as well as participants in the Group. Further links will be established during the consultation process with groups in all three regions. It is anticipated that Ford Foundation offices and grantees will be a valuable source of contacts in this regard.

6. Immediate Next Steps

- Finalise identification of key texts and events and circulate for comment/additions/revisions (late May/early June)
- Meet with representatives of the Macarthur Foundation *Advancing Conservation in a Social Context* Initiative to discuss short- and long-term collaboration (New York, mid June)
- Explore links with other potential partners (eg CIFOR, Wetlands International) (late June)
- Launch consultation phase and begin process of expanding and fleshing out list of existing initiatives, useful models, partners and participants (late June/early July).

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