Natural Resource Issues

Natural resources and the livelihoods of those dependent upon them are at risk.

As the pressures and trade-offs between natural resources become increasingly evident, investment, production and consumption patterns are being reshaped. Large-scale land acquisitions and volatile commodity prices have highlighted the vulnerability of the poor to food and energy price rises and the associated drain on natural resources, including:

- Biodiversity
- Energy
- Food
- Forests
- Land
- Water

The Natural Resource Issues series presents topical, peer-reviewed information on issues affecting these sectors and the rural poor. We work with local researchers to document opportunities for benefit sharing and smallholder investment, whilst generating evidence and conclusions relevant for policy makers, investors, donor agencies and practitioners.

Water ecosystem services

Freshwater ecosystem services — the benefits obtained by people from rivers, swamps, floodplains and groundwater systems — are central to human wellbeing. But these services are being degraded and the poor are being hit hardest. Our research in this area explores issues of irrigation and agricultural water use, benefits and externalities, and resilience to climate change — while promoting equitable allocation and effective governance of water services.

**Water ecosystem services and poverty under climate change: Key issues and research priorities**

*Natural Resource Issues 17*

James Mayers, Charles Batchelor, Ivan Bond, Robert Hope, Elaine Morrison, Breana Wheeler

Benefits to people from water ecosystems like rivers, swamps, floodplains and groundwater systems are central to human wellbeing. But ecosystems are in trouble and freshwater ecosystem services are particularly vulnerable. Water problems for poor people are exacerbated by the abuse of ecosystems, and global climate change looks certain to increase the stresses and variability they face. To help shape a research programme proposed by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), this report seeks to highlight some of the critical issues facing water ecosystem services in Africa, South Asia and Latin America and makes recommendations on the research that is needed to fill the current gaps in knowledge and practice.

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**Fair deals for watershed services: Lessons from a multi-country action-learning project**

*Natural Resource Issues 13*

Ivan Bond, James Mayers

This overview report and associated country case studies provide in-depth information on this action learning project.

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**All that glitters: A review of payments for watershed services in developing countries**

*Natural Resource Issues 11*

Ina Porras, Maryanne Grieg-Gran, Nanete Neves

A growing international debate calls for downstream beneficiaries of wise upstream land and water use to dig into their pockets and pay. IIED stimulated the debate several years ago with a ground-breaking review of the scene. Now we have gone further — with this in-depth international review and analysis of all accessible ongoing initiatives and advanced proposals for market mechanisms for watershed services.

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Carbon management and REDD

Deforestation accounts for roughly a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions and is a major driver of climate change. Other land uses that change vegetation cover and soil carbon are also major drivers. Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) is one important way forward. Our research shows that, to realise their potential, REDD and other carbon management support mechanisms must be integrated with broader governance improvement, focused on local livelihoods and tailored to address specific national and local drivers of land use change over time.

REDD+ in dryland forests: Issues and prospects for pro-poor REDD in the miombo woodlands of southern Africa

Natural Resource Issues 21
Ivan Bond, Muyeye Chambwera, Brian Jones, Isilda Nhantumbo, Monica Chundama

Implementing REDD+ programmes involves providing sufficient incentives to land users and requires a supportive policy, legal and institutional environment. Community-based natural resources management has addressed these issues in the miombo ecoregion of east and southern Africa, with some success. This report, drawing on well-documented experiences and wide consultations undertaken by country experts, looks at the lessons learnt from the work in the miombo ecoregion and applied to REDD+ in dryland forests. Case studies from Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia were examined and could be used to inform pro-poor REDD as well as providing the likely opportunity costs of REDD+.

Incentives to sustain forest ecosystem services: A review and lessons for REDD

Natural Resource Issues 16
Ivan Bond, Maryanne Grieg-Gran, Sheila Wertz-Kanounnikoff, Peter Hazlwood, Sven Wunder, Arild Angelsen

Paying people to protect forests can be an effective way to tackle deforestation and climate change but only if there is good governance of natural resources, claims this study funded by the Norwegian government. This report explores existing efforts to pay people in developing nations to protect ecosystems in return for the services they provide. A review of 13 schemes in Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America concluded that local people can be part of REDD but only if important preconditions are met.

Tenure in REDD: Start-point or afterthought?

Natural Resource Issues 15
Lorenzo Cotula, James Mayers

As new mechanisms for REDD are being negotiated in international climate change talks, resource tenure must be given greater attention. Tenure over land and trees – the systems of rights, rules, institutions and processes regulating their access and use — will affect the extent to which REDD and related strategies will benefit, or marginalise, forest communities. This report aims to promote debate on the issue. Drawing on experience from seven rainforest countries (Brazil, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guyana, Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea), the report develops a typology of tenure regimes across countries, explores tenure issues in each country, and identifies key challenges to be addressed if REDD is to have equitable and sustainable impact.

Laying the foundations for clean development: preparing the land use sector. A quick guide to the Clean Development Mechanism

Natural Resource Issues 1
Louise Aukland, Pedro Moura Costa, Stephen Bass, Saleemul Huq, Natasha Landell-Mills, Richard Tipper, Rebecca Carr

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Rural livelihoods and carbon management

Natural Resource Issues 2
Stephen Bass, Olivier Dubois, Pedro Moura Costa, Michelle Pinard, Richard Tipper, Charlie Wilson

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Environmental governance

The challenge to mainstream environmental issues in development policy and planning has never been more urgent. Fair and equitable governance of the environment and its resources is central to the livelihoods of millions of people across the developing world. But there is growing concern that people’s connections to their resources are being undermined. We seek to generate and present evidence on a range of strategic issues concerning environmental governance.

Investment contracts and sustainable development: How to make contracts for fairer and more sustainable natural resource investments

Natural Resource Issues 20
Lorenzo Cotula

Increased investment may create opportunities to improve living standards, but it also creates risks such as environmental damage and loss of key livelihood assets like land, water and grazing. Investment contracts define the terms of an investment project and the extent to which it advances – or undermines – sustainable development. Government capacity to negotiate and manage contracts and civil society capacity to scrutinise government dealings can make a real difference to getting a better deal from natural resource investment.

Order no. 17507

Creating and protecting Zambia’s wealth: Experience and next steps in environmental mainstreaming

Natural Resource Issues 14
Lubinda Aongola, Imasiku Liayo, David Ndupu, Steve Bass, Joseph Makumba, Imasiku Nyambe, Juliana Chileshe, Maswabi Maimbolwa, Adam Pope, Julius Daka, Kalaluka Munyinda, Mwape Sichilongo, Barry Dalal-Clayton, Nosiku Munyinda

How much does Zambia benefit from its rich forests, wildlife, soils and water — and what more could it do to ensure the protection and wise use of these ‘environmental assets’? This report offers a positive, lessons-learnt approach — identifying what has worked in key sectors and through institutional innovations. It concludes that Zambia could increase income and welfare if its environmental assets are planned, allocated, managed and governed better.

Order no. 17502

Sharing the benefits of large dams in West Africa

Natural Resource Issues 19
Edited by Jamie Skinner, Madiodio Niasse, Lawrence Haas

Food security, energy concerns and the potential impacts of climate change (including floods and droughts) have brought dams back to the forefront of the development agenda. This report reviews the experience with displacement of affected people in West Africa over the last 40 years and examines mechanisms for distributing the benefits of dams more equitably and ensuring that affected people are better off. Making affected people one direct beneficiary of dam projects promotes public acceptance, reduces risks to developers and reduces the risk of long term conflicts between those displaced and the villages that host them.

Order no. 13543

Towards better practice in smallholder palm oil production

Natural Resource Issues 5
Sonja Vermeulen, Nathalie Goad

Order no. 13533
Conservation and Development

Many of the world’s most biodiverse protected areas are found in developing countries with high levels of poverty. Through our research in this area we explore the complex relationships between conservation and poverty, and seek to influence policy change so that conservation policy takes better account of poverty concerns; development policy takes better account of biodiversity concerns; and both pay attention to human rights.

Development and gorillas? Assessing fifteen years of integrated conservation and development in south-western Uganda

Natural Resource Issues 23
Tom Blomley, Agrippinah Namara, Alastair McNeiliage, Phil Franks, Helga Rainer, Andrew Donaldson, Rob Malpas, William Olupot, Julia Baker, Chris Sandbrook, Robert Bitariho, Mark Infield

Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga Gorilla National Parks are extremely important biodiversity areas due to their populations of the highly endangered mountain gorilla. Gazettement of the parks in 1991 caused high levels of conflict and resistance from the surrounding communities, seriously threatening the ability of the protected area authority to manage the parks. This report summarises the findings of a study into a range of ‘integrated conservation and development’ strategies in Bwindi and Mgahinga, and their effectiveness in reconciling biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic development interests.

Order no. 14592IIED

Social assessment of conservation initiatives: A review of rapid methodologies

Natural Resource Issue 22
Kate Schreckenberg, Izabel Camargo, Katahdin Withnall, Colleen Corrigan, Phil Franks, Dilys Roe, Lea M. Scherl, Vanessa Richardson

Despite widely voiced concerns about some of the negative implications of protected areas, and growing pressures to ensure that they fulfil social as well as ecological objectives, no standard methods exist to assess social impacts. In this publication, some 30 tools and methods are reviewed, with a view to understanding how different researchers have tackled the challenges associated with impact assessment. This experience is used to inform a framework for a standardised process that can guide the design of locally appropriate assessment methodologies.

Order no. 14589IIED

Community management of natural resources in Africa: Impacts, experiences and future directions

Natural Resource Issues 18
Edited by Dilys Roe, Fred Nelson, Chris Sandbrook

This review provides an unprecedented pan-African synthesis of community-based natural resources management (CBNRM), drawing on multiple authors and a wide range of documented experiences from Southern, Eastern, Western and Central Africa. The review discusses the degree to which CBNRM has met poverty alleviation, economic development and nature conservation objectives. In its concluding chapter, the report suggests a way forward for strengthening CBNRM and addressing key challenges in the years ahead.

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Local action, global aspirations: The role of community conservation in achieving international goals for environment and development

Natural Resource Issues 4
Dilys Roe, Brian Jones, Ivan Bond, Seema Bhatt

Community conservation processes are often isolated and marginalised from mainstream conservation efforts. This review documents how community conservation can contribute to human well-being and the preservation of natural resources in southern Africa. Additional examples and experience are drawn from India, South East Asia and Central America. The report concludes with eight recommendations to further advance community conservation processes.

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Integrating global and local values: A review of biodiversity assessment

Sonja Vermeulen, Izabella Koziell

Biodiversity is managed and valued locally but also provides value globally, attracting many interest groups. Formal biodiversity assessments have tended to emphasise global values. But this focus is being replaced by awareness that pluralist, adaptive management of biodiversity requires assessments that are able to express and communicate its multiple values. This review looks at some of the assessment tools on offer, and some examples of actual practice, to identify how biodiversity assessments do — and could — integrate the different values that people attach to biological variety and variability.

Order no. 9100IIED

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About IIED’s Natural Resources Group
The limits to growth on our fast-changing planet are ever more apparent. Using natural resources fairly and sustainably has become a paramount concern for us all. IIED’s Natural Resources Group works towards that overall aim by building capacity and promoting informed decision-making. Our priority is on local control and management of natural resources and other ecosystem services.