

What is the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group?

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BACKGROUND

- The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) was launched in 1971 by renowned economist and policy advisor Barbara Ward, making it one of the very first organizations to link environment with development.
- It is an independent, non-profit organization promoting sustainable patterns of world development through collaborative research, policy studies, networking and advocacy.
- IIED's mission is to build a fairer, more sustainable world, using evidence, action and influence in partnership with others.

Background contd.

- The institute's work is divided into five main areas:
 - Natural Resources
 - Climate change
 - Human settlements
 - Sustainable markets and
 - Governance

Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG)

- The PCLG is an international network of conservation, development and indigenous/local community rights organisations concerned with the links between conservation and poverty.
- Established by IIED in 2004.
- Latest phase (from 2008) funded by the Arcus Foundation which led to its focus on great apes.
- Collects and disseminates information on conservation-poverty linkages, undertakes or supports research on specific themes and organises targeted learning events
- Operates predominantly at the international level but now starting to organise at the national level with two pilot groups in Uganda and in Cameroon.

PCLG contd

The Learning Group is intended to address a number of perceived problems:

- An ongoing divide between conservation and development practitioners and policy makers on how - and whether - to link biodiversity conservation with poverty reduction so that poverty reduction policy better reflects biodiversity concerns and conservation policy pays greater attention to issues of poverty and social justice;

PCLG contd

- The Mission of the Learning Group is therefore to promote better understanding on the links between conservation and poverty linkages in order to improve conservation and poverty policy and practice

PCLG contd

We seek to achieve this mission through four main strategies:

- Maintaining an overview of relevant poverty-conservation activities and outcomes
- Informing international and regional policy processes
- Promoting dialogue between and within different communities of interest
- Collecting and disseminating information

PCLG Contd: What we try to address

- The potential duplication of effort by a number of different organizations that are trying to strengthen this linkage but are currently grappling independently with the issues and not learning from each other;

PCLG Contd

- The lack of an established forum through which participants from a range of backgrounds can participate on an equal footing to share and analyze emerging experience in conservation-poverty linkages and identify knowledge gaps and research needs.

PCLG Contd.

- In November 2010, an international workshop of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCGL) was convened in Masindi.
- Brought together conservation organizations from different African ape range states to share experience on what works (and what doesn't) in linking conservation and poverty alleviation
- Also attended by CIFOR, Indonesia to provide a contrasting Asian experience
- Participants all felt they could learn a great deal - and equally had much experience to share – from closer networking and collaboration with like-minded organizations and institutions in Asia.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE MASINDI WORKSHOP



The Uganda Chapter

- The Masindi workshop made a number of recommendations.
- One of the recommendations of the workshop was the formation of country level chapters of the learning group.
- In March 2011, a meeting of Ugandan participants of the Masindi workshop met at the Uganda Museum and resolved to form the PCLG-Uganda chapter.

Uganda Chapter contd

- The agenda at that meeting was to:
 1. *Discuss and agree on the need for a PCLG for Uganda,*
 2. *Agree on its institutional home and mode of operation,*
 3. *Draft a one year work plan to kick start the activities of this learning group.*

Uganda Chapter contd

What was agreed:

- The U-PCLG should be big enough to accommodate as many partners as possible.
- To enable such a large forum to work effectively, it would only meet as agreed but have a working group, smaller in size; to address the details of identified issues and report back to the forum.
- The working model is shown below:

Conservation Agencies and resource user groups

Policy Makers and Government Institutions

Development agencies and other stakeholders

Forum through which to convene all identified stakeholders – Nature Uganda was considered as a possible institution to host this forum

Working Group: (JGI – Chair, PROBICOU – vice chair, IGCP – Member, CTPH – Member, ITFC – Member, FFI – Member)

Founding members

- Members who founded the Uganda chapter came from the following institutions:

Fauna and Flora International (FFI)

Village Enterprise Fund (VEF)

International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP)

Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT)

Jane Goodall Institute (JGI)

Probiodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOUG)

Rwenzori Mountains Development Association (REMODA)

Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS)

Others

- ACODE was invited to the Masindi workshop to share its experiences with the FGLG and so, it was also invited to the meeting in March to establish the Ugandan Chapter but was unable to attend. It however continues to play a key role in PCLG-U activities.
- The Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC) also became a member.
- The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) was represented in Masindi but has not communicated lately.

Current situation

- PCLG-U selected JGI to act as coordinator for the group.
- There is a Working Group composed of JGI as Chair, PROBICOU as Vice Chair, CTPH, IGCP, ITFC and FFI as members.
- PCLG-U got some funds from IIED to facilitate meetings and undertake some limited activities.

Activities to date

- There is currently an intern compiling a database of conservation and development organizations in the Albertine Rift region. We need to know who is working where and on what.
- There is a Masters student mapping where these organizations are working so as to identify gaps. The gaps could be used to target future initiatives.
- In collaboration with ACODE, a briefing paper on the extent of integration of biodiversity conservation issues into Uganda's development policy and institutions is being prepared.

Activities to date contd

- A mini study of previous work on human-wildlife conflict has been completed and the draft report is under revision.
- An assessment of the extent to which the NDP adopted recommendations of the report on wildlife and prosperity is under way.
- A proposal that will involve building capacity of PCLG members in advocacy was submitted by IIED to the U.K.'s Darwin Initiative and has been approved.
- Lawrence Zikusoka helped the group to establish pclguganda@yahoogleroups.com ; a platform for information sharing and discussion amongst members.

Activities to date contd

- The Coordinator represented the group at the Africa-Asian Great ape conservation and poverty workshop in Bogor, Indonesia in January, 2012.
- A Makerere student is being partially supported with her work on wildlife-human conflict in two sub counties of Hoima District; Kiziranjumbi and Kabwoya

The Future?

- Expand membership of PCLG to include more players from the “development” sector.
- Hold regular meetings to exchange experiences.
- Develop capacity for research on issues of poverty and conservation.
- Generate information that can influence decisions on conservation as it relates to poverty and development as it relates to conservation.
- Develop capacity to influence policy and practice in conservation and development.



THANK YOU!