# *Policy* **Matters**

# ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY: Why Nature is a Matter of Survival…

Issue 9

May 2002

## CONTENTS:

**CEESP**

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

**IUCN**

# Social Darwinism, or cooperation for environmental security?

M. Taghi Farvar

The second issue of *Policy Matters* in the present quadrennial programme of CEESP highlights new findings and hopes on a very old dilemma: are we condemned for ever to facing destructive conflicts over natural resources? Is there a chance to replace such conflicts with security and mutual cooperation among the actors advancing entitlements and claims? *Environment and Security* is an emerging field with great promise. For too long fresh thinking on the issues has been stifled by social Darwinists engaged in the misinterpretation of the master natural historian about "survival of the fittest" being the driving force of evolution. Their views served well the values and spirit of the dog-eat-dog free enterprise but did not serve the cause of knowledge. More enlightened natural historians and social scientists have well explained that capacity for mutual aid and co-operation, human ingenuity, not to mention good old chance, may be far more powerful shapers of our destiny as species and communities. In other words, far from being condemned to fight with tooth, nail and warplanes for every inch of space and ounce of natural resources, we can think, learn, talk, negotiate, agree and collaborate. Security and environmental care are, indeed, coupled. They are in our reach.

CEESP has dedicated one of its four working groups to understanding and action in this very field: the Environment and Security Working Group (ESWG) under the leadership of Mark Halle. The breadth of the work on the theme can be gleaned from the articles in this special issue of *Policy Matters*. On my part, I draw from them a clear message: investment in the prevention of environmental hazards and the promotion of dialogue and collaboration, as well as the timely management of environmental disasters and social conflicts when they occur, are mutually supportive endeavours. They are among the most effective and least costly ways to conserve the diversity of nature and enhance the livelihood of people.

In addition to the material in this issue, the Working Group on Environment and Security is planning a Conference jointly with IISD and IUCN for later this year, and a number of publications. More details are found in the Network News section.

CEESP has taken long strides in the first year of its new lease on life. There is now a new Theme on "Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas," jointly between CEESP and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Since the establishment of the first state-declared protected areas in Yosemite and Yellowstone, well over a century ago, conflicts between communities and protected area officials have been raging. And yet, communities have tremendous experience and capacities for conservation. They have been establishing and managing their own protected environments long before the states ever existed. Our inter-commission Theme is working to promote a better understanding of how more equitable relationships between communities and protected areas can end up diminishing conflicts and benefiting both. The Theme is co-chaired by two long-term members of both CEESP and WCPA—Dr. Ashish Kothari of India and Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend of Italy. This ground breaking initiative in IUCN's inter-commission work will have a milestone at the World Parks Congress in Durban (September 2003) where the theme will be a cross cutting key subject. For those interested further in this topic, please see the lead article in the forthcoming issue of *Parks* magazine. See also the *Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation*, reported in this issue, which is among the first products to which the Theme strongly contributed.

Under the guidance of Ricardo Melendez, the Working Group on Environment, Trade and Investment has launched, for the benefit of the IUCN community and beyond, a bi-weekly electronic Newsletter called *BioRes* which covers topics dealing with trade, investment and biodiversity. *BioRes* is a collaborative effort of CEESP together with IUCN and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. The readership of that e-letter constitutes an expanded membership for CEESP in this area, who use, read and supply information to a large number of others.

The Working Group on Sustainable Livelihoods has succeeded in bringing together a great deal of expertise in natural resource management—both traditional and modern—for a twin approach of policy and practice, including in relatively new areas for IUCN, such as ecological agriculture and sustainable community funding mechanisms. Following the premise that good policy grows out of good practice, the Working Group has helped set up initiatives—from sustainable agriculture in the Lake Chad region to

sustainable fisheries in the Caspian region, and is engaged in drawing good policy from their experience (see the Network News section in this issue). The latest such initiative has seen SLWG members joining forces with Afghan NGOs, the FAO's PAIA on Biodiversity and the Global IPM Facility for the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan. Afghan communities throughout the country are being involved in assessing, planning and taking action to restore and protect all that is left of their natural wealth.

The Working Group on Collaborative Management of Natural Resources (CMWG) has increased its active membership to over 240. The oldest CEESP working group has members involved in joint activities all over the world (see "The web is spinning" in the Network News section) and exemplifies the kind of pluralistic, multi-country, multi-initiative flourishing that characterises a really participatory endeavour. For the CEESP members who have not yet seen it, I recommend requesting a copy of *CM News 5* from Mariam Vafa (vafa@cenesta.org), which offers a perspective on the inspiring breadth of CMWG's on-going activities.

The membership list of CEESP is expanding, with most groups planning a further drive during 2002, consolidating the links we have with other networks such as the Réseau Cogestion of Central Africa, the RING, and the Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network. By the end of 2002, we expect the membership of CEESP to get close to a thousand individuals, active and determined to use the IUCN/CEESP platform to the fullest. Among those, I would like to give emphasis to "traditional experts" from indigenous and local communities, engaged in our South-South networking in support of action research, training, project implementation, policy development and evaluation

The next issue of Policy Matters will be jointly prepared by the Collaborative Management and Sustainable Livelihoods Working Groups and will be launched at the Rio + 10 Summit in Johannesburg, in August/September 2002. The Commission will hold its Steering Committee meeting in conjunction with this event and will participate in it with several specific initiatives. Members planning to attend the meeting and willing to get involved please contact Maryam Rahmanian (maryam@cenesta.org). Maryam is the new Executive Officer for CEESP, working in its support unit at the Teheran Centre for Sustainable Development. The unit includes also Mariam Vafa (vafa@cenesta.org), who is the new focal point for the Working Groups on Sustainable Livelihoods and on Collaborative Management. Mariam has just completed the second overhaul of the CEESP web site, which can be accessed through the IUCN home page, www.iucn.org, or directly at http://ceesp.cenesta.org, and will be delighted to hear comments and suggestions about the site from the CEESP members. I take this occasion to welcome also Marianne Jacobsen (mjacobsen@ictsd.ch) new focal point for GETI and Manju Menon (manjumenon@vsnl.net), focal point for the joint Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas.

I hope all of you, CEESP members and partners with this issue of Policy Matters in your hand, will enjoy the reading and get inspired for action. Please let us know how we can collaborate.

**Dr. M. Taghi Farvar** (taghi@cenesta.org)

CEESP Chair

# Why Security Should Matter to IUCN

Mark Halle

Both the wise use and degradation of the environment result from the interaction between humans and nature. As such, achieving the mission of IUCN hinges not only on the science of biodiversity, but on social, cultural, and economic insight and action. Indeed this is the very rationale for the existence of the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

High on today's political agenda is the issue of security. Yet the reordering of the security architecture in the wake of September 11, events in Central Asia and the Middle East, should not be left in the hands of military specialists, political scientists, and political leaders. Achieving security is a fundamental problem for the millions of people today who lack access to safe drinking water, who are forced to flee their homes at gunpoint, who are living on marginal lands, coastal zones and floodplains.

Development, poverty alleviation and sustainable management of the environment ultimately depend on social stability and peace. A failure to address local instability can have global implications, striking even to the main streets of the world's financial centres. For that reason, it is important that all sectors of society – including conservation – to seek to understand how best to contribute to peace.In this issue of Policy Matters, authors from a broad range of backgrounds, some within the IUCN family and some outside of it, weigh in on the emerging understanding of these links.

Since the end of the Cold War, conflict is increasingly fought within, rather than between nations, and is killing and displacing civilians as never before. Likewise, the frequency and impacts of disasters are on the rise, driven in part by an unpredictably changing climate. The poor and the marginalized are disproportionately affected by conflicts and disasters, and are the least equipped to recover. Moreover, as many of the articles presented here illustrate, evidence is emerging that mismanagement and appropriation of natural resources can drive conflict and shape disaster vulnerability.

It is apparent that **knowledge of the links between Environment & Security is critical** to the mission of IUCN as:

- Sustainable environmental management can be a **cost-effective means of building social cohesion**, reinforcing mechanisms for collaboration and reducing vulnerability to disaster and conflict;

- Conservationists are increasingly called upon to **operate in tense and even violent situations**, working in areas where conflict is ongoing and participating in post-conflict assessments and rebuilding.

- Understanding the link between conservation and social cohesion may offer important new avenues for disseminating the message of sustainable development and **reinforce the argument for investing resources in conservation**.

The **CEESP Working Group on Environment and Security** was established in 2000 to examine the links between conflict, disaster and environmental management. With International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) acting as secretariat to the Working Group, CEESP is seeking knowledge in four key areas:

**Natural Resources, Livelihoods and Security.** What are the links between natural resources, peoples' livelihoods and conflicts ? An IUCN/IISD book, with a broad sweep of cases studies from around the globe, will be published in summer 2002.

**Climate Change, Vulnerable Communities and Adaptation.** Given the links between resource degradation and vulnerability to disaster, can conservation of natural buffer systems reinforce livelihoods and shield communities from extreme climatic events ? An international task force led by IUCN, IISD and SEI is seeking the answers through cutting-edge research.

**Environment, Business and Conflict .** What role do companies – particularly in the extractive sectors – play in exacerbating livelihood insecurities and creating or fuelling conflict ? Linking with partners in Finance, Mining and Oil & Gas, this initiative seeks to develop tools for risk management that also benefit social stability.

**Trade, Aid and Security – The Role of Natural Resources.** Launched on the heels of the international campaign against 'blood diamonds' fuelling conflict in West Africa, this initiative seeks to identify how aid should be targeted and trade rules structured to ensure that international commerce in valuable natural resources leads to peace and not conflict.

## The Road Ahead

In the words of IUCN Patron, Queen Noor of Jordan, "Linking [conservation] to peoples' social and economic security – and ultimately to a reduction in human suffering – offer[s] the promise of making conservation relevant to the lives of a wider public".

Bringing an understanding of security into the practice of conservation will require IUCN to forge new kinds of partnerships, and to develop new tools for practice. Yet our experience with Peace Parks, with international River Basin Commissions, and with initiatives like the World Commission on Dams, provides convincing evidence that more sustainable and equitable use of natural resource can be a vital tool for peace.

We invite your participation in the challenging endeavor of turning an emerging knowledge base into tools for decision making, conservation practice and conflict prevention.

Mark Halle
Chair of Environment & Security Working Group,
Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
www.iisd.org/natres/security

# Security in a Shrinking World

HM Queen Noor of Jordan

*In this feature article, Queen Noor of Jordan describes the imperative made clear in recent months for conservationists to understand how their efforts can contribute to peace and human security.*

Amid the unprecedented disasters and conflict of the past weeks, it is more crucial than ever that we cling to humanity as the centre of our every endeavour. Any other approach is a disservice both to the Earth's human inhabitants and to the environments on which we all depend.

As the technologies and strategies of globalization ever widen their reach, local communities are feeling ever more marginalized. Global programmes, be they economic or environmental, are widely perceived to favour the 'haves' at the expense of the 'have-nots'. Cultures and beliefs that are being ignored are turning inward to preserve their identities, becoming radicalized, and resorting to extremism and even violence to get their message heard.

This disregard of local needs – whether by huge multinational corporations or by paternalistic centrally planned development – has given rise to a backlash against globalization, from World Trade Organization protesters to the ever increasing number of political and ethnic separatist groups, and even, most horrifying of all, to terrorists. Although their methods cannot be condoned, their motives are often linked to environments of inequality, alienation and desperation. Unfortunately, their actions – and the responses these incur – jeopardize people and, often, the natural environment.

## Global monopoly

Environmental problems know no boundaries. Nature was the first global monopoly. Air pollution does not stop at the factory fence, let alone at some line on a map. Water depletion does not recognize political boundaries, but – as we are all too aware in our region – has profound political consequences.

The adage 'think globally; act locally' is nowhere as apt as in environmental issues. Conservation decisions may be crucial on a global level, but they are doomed to fail if they ignore local concerns. Centrally planned dams, for example, have destroyed local communities and sparked unrest. Generalized fishing quotas are almost impossible to enforce – and can even be a source of conflict – if they ignore such issues as cultural attitudes towards compliance and the effect of the regulations on local economies.

For many nations, security concerns now centre less on boundaries and external military might than on increasing conflicts stemming from poverty, displaced peoples, economic instability and competition over shared resources.

## Unbreakable links

The unbreakable links between environment and security are all too apparent in the Middle East. Water and arable land shortages, in particular, cause increasingly tense and sometimes violent confrontations both among and within states. The environment is a cause of political tension around the globe and could become a substantial source of conflict in the years ahead. There is, however, evidence that resolving resource disputes equitably can help promote wider peace. Sharing water was a cornerstone of the 1994 Jordan/Israel peace accord; following the treaty, our country was able to launch a project to increase the captured flow of natural run-off from the Yarmouk River – the water source over which Jordanian and Israeli troops once exchanged gunfire.

The potential seriousness of such conflicts has prompted the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to launch a global initiative on environment and security, to help illuminate the causes of tension and conflict, and to identify how resource degradation leads to national distress. Linking this initiative to peoples' social and economic security – and ultimately to a reduction in human suffering – will hopefully make it possible to gain greater grassroots support for what, until now, has often been perceived as a largely elitist concern – offering the promise of making conservation relevant to the lives of a wider public.

Ecosystems and human activities are not separate realms. If we can spread the idea that social well-being, economic stability and the natural environment are interdependent – and that the degradation of any one endangers all three – even those who have not made the environment a priority will see that we can no longer overuse and misuse our resources. This awareness-building is the backbone of environmental sanity.

Environmental security must be viewed as a vital global interest. It cannot exist without peaceful cooperation among states, yet that peace itself can be threatened by inequity in resources. States must realize that without environmental security, we can never ensure political and economic stability.

This is no easy task. Wealth breeds indifference. Poverty breeds desperation. In the developed North, abundance of money and natural resources insulates the inhabitants from the consequences of waste. In the developing South – where the worst natural shortages occur – poverty prioritizes survival and pushes conservation to the fringes.

## Right to livelihood

Successful programmes make the local population central to decision-making and implementation – in what the late Misael Pastrana Borrero, the former President of Colombia, called 'the

community's ownership of the environment'. They recognize that people have a fundamental right to their livelihood and to the use of their own resources – and rely on education and participation to show that environmental goals are compatible with this.

Two IUCN concepts, in particular, now form the heart of environmental protection and economic development strategies in many countries: first, that the use of resources by local populations is not only inevitable but legitimate – so long as it is ecologically sound; and second, that conservation and development are inextricably linked. Synthesizing these two principles has yielded bold and innovative approaches to fuse economic development and environmental protection into a single dynamic.

Jordan is among many countries that have benefited from such technical assistance, first in developing our national networks of reserves and later in formulating a long-term national environmental strategy – the first in the Middle East. Our experience was a catalyst for establishing other programmes among the Arab states and helped to promote coordinated monitoring of regional environmental trends.

## Conservation and traditional use

The work of Huey Johnson, this year's winner of the 2001 UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize, exemplifies these principles. His seminal interest in local cultures and histories around the world, and his groundbreaking work in implementing projects that benefit local residents as well as local environments, shows the success of this approach.

His work demonstrates that any truly global conservation plan must be built from the ground up. It must be founded on the concerns of the people. It must include comprehensive approaches to the overarching, growing problem of human poverty, one of the main contributors to environmental damage. And it must acknowledge that differences in resources require different contributions.

It is unfair to place the bulk of the burden of ecological preservation on the very countries already staggering under supreme shortages of resources, education, infrastructure and money. Those who use the lion's share of the world's resources must share with those who have less. They must share not only their resources, but their expertise, and their understanding that the challenges faced in other parts of the world must also be recognized as their own.

Our globe's environmental resources are shrinking even faster than globalization is shrinking our world. We are destroying the very things that sustain us, from life-giving water, to soul-nourishing landscapes, to whole species of plants and

animals that may hold the secret key to some of our greatest health threats, to the whole web of biological resources that support life itself. Once gone, they are gone forever. We cannot create our world anew: we can only conserve what the creator has given us. Any other course robs our children, and theirs, of the gifts we have received – and squandered.

Conservation is crucial if our world is to have a future. But people are the world's most important resource. Ecological preservation must be part of a larger effort to preserve the human species, not just collectively but each precious individual. Preserving the environment and protecting people need not be conflicting goals. Indeed, each is impossible without the other.

## The sanctity of life

The Prophet Mohammed said: 'The world is green and beautiful and God has appointed you his stewards over it.' The sanctity of life, and the preciousness of the Earth that is its cradle and support are fundamental to all our faiths. As long as every voice is listened to and heard, as long as we ensure that no-one's concerns are excluded, these beliefs can bring us together, in cooperation and understanding, united for a higher goal.

As President Pastrana believed, peace is people living in harmony with each other, and with

nature. That is more than a dream. It is a goal that we have no choice but to achieve.

**HM Queen Noor of Jordan** is Patron of IUCN. This article is taken from the text of the Pastrana Borrero lecture delivered by her at the presentation of the 2001 UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize.

## Links

Our Planet: Special Feature – Security in a Shrinking World (condensed version of the Pastrana Borrero lecture delivered by HM Queen Noor)

http://www.ourplanet.com/imgversn/124/noor.html

Website of H.M. Queen Noor of Jordan

http://www.noor.gov.jo

IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative

www.iisd.org/natres/security

# Get Serious About Averting Trouble in the Forest

David Kaimowitz

*The complex links between illicit trade in natural resources such as timber and diamonds, and the purchase of arms, cannot be ignored. Peace is impossible as long as international trade contributes finances to armed insurrections. And managing resources for the future is impossible at the point of a gun. In this article based on his op-ed in a recent International Herald Tribune, David Kaimowitz provides some guidelines to policymakers on how to protect forests and people from conflict.*

## Resource Wealth Can be a Bigger Problem than Scarcity

With much of the world's attention riveted on Afghanistan, it is easy to forget that armed conflicts are bringing death and misery to millions of people in scores of countries around the world. Since 1989 the number of civil wars has tripled. Some are minor affairs, but others have paralyzed whole nations and have the potential to spark off wider violence. If the world wants to avoid endless turmoil, it needs to understand what causes such conflicts.

It is often claimed that the wars of the future will result from rapidly rising populations fighting over increasingly scarce resources, such as water and land. At present, though, what we see is that the desire to control natural resources such as timber, diamonds and petroleum lies behind many conflicts.

Take Nicaragua, which I recently visited to do research on forests. After reaching a remote region on the Atlantic coast, I suddenly found myself surrounded by several dozen Miskito Indian guerrillas, each carrying an AK-47 assault rifle. When it became clear to them that I was there to protect the forests, not plunder them, I was allowed to go. The Miskito had taken up arms because outsiders were seeking to exploit their timber and mineral resources.

The Miskito are not alone. Many violent conflicts occur in areas of dense tropical forest, where regular and irregular armies, timber and mining companies, indigenous people and drug cartels vie for control over natural resources.

In Cambodia both the government and the Khmer Rouge financed military campaigns by procuring and selling timber.

In eastern Congo, abundant supplies of timber and minerals have attracted a ragbag of invading forces eager to profit from the spoils of war.

Rebel forces in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone have prospered by exploiting diamonds and timber in regions that lie far beyond government control.

There are similar cases in Indonesia's Aceh Province, on Mindanao in the southern Philippines, in Nagaland in northeast India, in parts of Burma and in other parts of the world.

There is, it seems, a standard recipe for conflict. Take a remote and inaccessible forested area inhabited by ethnic minorities with little government presence. With its natural resources, such an area is well suited to illicit activities. Outsiders surge in to exploit the potential wealth. Add automatic weapons that can

easily be bought on the black market, and the profits of plunder, and you soon end up with jungle warfare between indigenous people and those they regard as invaders.

In this 21st century Wild West, both people and forests suffer. Take the recent horrors of Colombia.

While right-wing paramilitary forces have murdered tribal leaders who have sought to resist their territorial ambitions, the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have forced Indians to join their ranks. Tens of thousands of people have been killed. Both sides have appropriated the Indians' ancestral lands. Both have exploited natural resources and made vast profits from the cultivation and sale of cocaine.

## The Problem with Conflict in Forests

Violent conflict makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to adopt many traditional approaches to conservation. It is often associated with un-controlled logging and hunting, lack of institutional capacity in protected area systems, burning and defoliation for military purposes. If governments have no effective control over an area their official forestry and conservation policies are likely to have very little influence there.

Post conflict periods are particularly dangerous for forests. Displaced people, demobilized soldiers, and new migrants frequently move spontaneously or are re-located to forested areas. On the other hand, violent conflicts generally discourage the expansion of agriculture, and may even lead to large areas returning to secondary re-growth.

## An Ounce of Prevention

We need to plan for a safer future by nipping future resource wars in the bud. Can this be done? Yes, but it will require foresight and courage from some of the poorest governments, and considerable assistance from the rich world.

Neglecting remote, forested regions and those who live there invites future conflict. It is vitally important that governments invest in these areas to provide them with social services, such as clinics, schools and running water, and build their credibility among the local people.

Just as important is that governments promote law and order and guarantee forest dwellers secure property rights. Many of today's conflicts could have been averted if it had been clear a long time ago who owned what, and who had the rights to exploit timber and other resources.

In the meantime, greater efforts should be made to defuse current conflicts. Since the scramble for natural resources has sparked off many of these conflicts, it is clear that determining control of these resources must be central to any negotiations.

In addition, past experience in countries like Guatemala and Liberia suggests that there is often an orgy of resource grabbing once a conflict ceases. Negotiations must plan not just for peace, but also for the prudent use of natural resources once conflict is over.

Of course, peace comes with a price. The governments in most countries scarred by conflict lack the financial resources to invest in remote, sparsely inhabited regions.

This is where the rich world can help. Better, surely, to spend modest sums on avoiding conflict today than billions on resolving conflicts in the future. The forests and the people who live there will thank us for it.

**David Kaimowitz** is Director General of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

## Links

Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
http://www.cifor.org
Global Witness
http://www.globalwitness.org
IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative: Environment, Security and Development Cooperation
http://www.iisd.org/natres/security/esdc.asp

# Is Water for Fighting over?

John Scanlon

*Many contend that growing competition between uses of freshwater across borders is driving countries inexorably towards conflict. John Scanlon of the IUCN Environmental Law Centre draws on his extensive experience in water resource management to argue that the tools exist to ensure that water management leads to cooperation and not to war.*

There are 261 international river basins world-wide, and many more river basins that cross internal national borders, most of which do not have agreements covering water allocation principles.  Access to safe and sufficient water are basic human needs, yet 1.2 billion people live a life in poverty without access to safe drinking water.  At the same time the demands for water for consumptive uses, such as irrigated agriculture, continue to grow, thereby placing further stress on the environmental requirements of healthy river systems.

What this means in simple terms, is that not only do we have competing, and often conflicting, demands for water, but in many instances we also need to reconcile such demands between people living and working in different jurisdictions.

## Water Can Bring People Together

The allocation of water is a means of distributing wealth, be it to support basic human needs, the generation of electricity, the growing of food, the provision of recreational opportunities or the maintenance of a functioning and healthy ecosystem.  The quality of water is in large part determined by the manner in which a river basin is managed, which in turn relates to the manner in which land is used.

As such, the whole basin community is inextricably linked together by nature and the opportunities and challenges they confront cannot be addressed in isolation.  Are communities from different jurisdictions able to address all of these issues in a collective and constructive manner, or are we destined to a future marked by water wars?

The Chair of the World Commission on Dams, Professor Kader Asmal, addressed this issue at the Stockholm Water Forum in August 2000.  He observed that political bodies have signed over 3600 water related treaties since AD 805.  The seven minor water-related skirmishes, all began over non water issues.  Asmal concluded that:  "…water by its nature, tends to induce even hostile co-riparian countries to co-operate, even as disputes rage over other issues."

There are massive challenges ahead in managing water resources across jurisdictional boundaries, and there will inevitably be ongoing sources of conflict and disagreement.  Equally, there are many opportunities, as nature itself requires people to find a way to work together to address the many issues that will arise.  The perceived threat of war is not what will drive us forward, rather it is the genuine desire to alleviate poverty through meeting basic human needs and the recognition that fair and proper water resource management for healthy and functioning river systems is vital for sustained economic gain.

## An Enabling Regulatory Environment is Needed

Meaningful progress in improving water resources management across jurisdictional boundaries requires effective mechanisms to be developed for an informed and structured dialogue about contentious issues as a means of resolving disagreements as they arise, and an agreed means for implementing the decisions that are taken.  This will require an open and transparent process to be put into effect, one that provides for the collection and sharing of information and facilitates the development of mutual trust and understanding over time.

Effective river basin agreements, and supporting national (or sub-national) legislation, are a vital part the process.  These must be capable of providing the supporting framework to achieve the objectives outlined above, and of utilizing the many tools that are available for the equitable and sustainable management of river basins.  The Report of the World Commission on Dams and the Recommendations for Action arising from the International Conference on Freshwater, Bonn 2001 are particularly important guidelines in this regard.

**John Scanlon** is Head of the Environmental Law Programme and Director of the Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, Germany with the IUCN.

## Links

IUCN Environmental Law Centre
http://www.iucn.org/themes/law/elc01.html
UNEP: Dams and Development Project
http://www.unep-dams.org/
International Conference on Freshwater
http://www.water-2001.de/

# Towards Water Security

Elroy Bos

*Water is the source of life. And it is a scarce resource. If we continue to overuse and pollute our water, and to destroy our natural ecosystems, 30% of the world's population will have insufficient water for its needs by 2025. Elroy Bos of IUCN argues that ensuring water security requires the integrated management of water resources, by balancing between natural and human needs at the ecosystem level, and by accounting for the actual value of natural services in development decision-making.*

## The inextricable link between water and nature

Water is necessary for the survival of the ecosystems of our planet, and the plants and animals that live within them. Vice versa, healthy ecosystems play a vital role in the provision of water. The interdependence between water and nature is obvious when looked at on an ecosystem level.

Wetlands are important because they contribute unique biodiversities and (thereby) directly provide many people with a livelihood. Wetlands also serve an important role in regulating the quantity and quality of water by retaining water in periods of high rainfall and slowly releasing that water when dryer periods occur. It is well known that wetlands purify the water of heavy metals and other contaminants. Forests play an important role in the recharge of our groundwater, which can be used elsewhere for drinking water or irrigation.

Millions of people around the world depend on the goods and services ecosystems provide through the hydrological cycle. Ecosystems not only play a function in preventing floods, but also provide food, water and fuel in many areas. Globally, ecosystems provide an estimated US$ 32 trillion to societies.

## The decline of nature and water

We are overusing our water and our natural resources. In the past century, 50 percent of the world's wetlands were lost due to overabstraction of water and conversion into agricultural land. In 1999, 20 million hectares of forests were lost. The effects of such over- and misuse not only affect these species and ecosystems, it also backlashes on the human population.
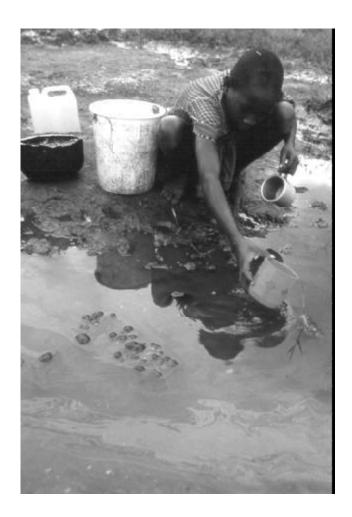
Forests secure the soil and prevent erosion within the water cycle. If deforestation is followed by abundant precipitation, the effect can be massive floods downstream and the loss of fertile topsoil. The recent floods in Mozambique (1999/2000) and Vietnam (1999) can to a large degree be attributed to the mismanagement of upstream forest areas and river banks.

Water abstraction from rivers for large-scale agricultural irrigation can take water away from downstream uses. As a result, seawater can come inland and make arable land infertile. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as mangroves on which important shrimp fisheries depend, can be destroyed because there is no longer the correct balance of freshwater and seawater.

Human water management behavior affects ecosystems and other people that depend on those ecosystems for a livelihood. Hydrological, ecological and social processes are closely connected. The management of water therefore demands that we look at the big picture: the management of fresh water within an ecosystem.

## The ecosystem approach

The ecosystem-based management of water resources is an integrated approach that realizes trade-offs between different uses. The approach focuses on maintaining ecosystem functions, sustainable production and safeguarding future options and production potential. It aims to look beyond specific sectors to find integrated solutions for the variety of demands we place on our freshwater resources. Integration is necessary because water management processes have become increasingly complex.

Upstream uses of water have an impact on downstream users, the management of the land affects the water resources and vice versa. The ecosystem approach is holistic when it tries to take these aspects into account in the management of water. The different human uses and behaviors in a basin are interlinked and actions of one can have impact on the other.

In 1972, a dam was constructed in Waza Logone (northern Cameroon) to supply water to a large irrigation scheme. However, there were some drawbacks. The biodiversity of the area changed and withered with the lack of water. Fish disappeared and grasses for livestock were no longer growing. The people downstream of the dam suffered as their livestock could not be fed and fish disappeared while the benefits of the dam went to the owners of the irrigated lands. The solution was simple: artificial flood releases from the dam restored biodiversity and livelihoods, a solution that was known in 1972, but not implemented.

All people that change the quality or quantity of water (the stakeholders) have to be involved and have a say in water management. It is necessary to realize the different needs and find the optimum solution for all involved parties because fighting over the resource will not work.

Households need water to drink and wash, agriculture needs water for irrigation and so on. Local communities, governments, technical institutions, companies and non-governmental organizations have to work together on problem definition, planning and management of the natural resource base. Political systems need to make the participation of stakeholders in basin negotiations possible, and effective laws are required to regulate the processes involved.

## Ecosystems for water

The protection of ecosystems should be fundamental to these deliberations. Certain ecosystems, such as cloud forests, springs and certain wetlands, directly provide us with clean water and others produce the goods upon which communities depend. Protection of these ecosystems means leaving a minimum amount of water for these ecosystems to function, instead of using everything.

The consequence of this approach would inevitably be that the amount of water abstracted from these ecosystems would have to reduce. Behavioral changes and technical improvements are needed to lessen the demand for water from irrigated agriculture (currently over 70% of global water use) and from industry and households.

The same line of thought could very well lead to the restoration of ecosystems that have been degraded. It can even be more economical, especially if clean water becomes a scarce resource, to restore an ecosystem to deliver certain functions. Many practical examples around the world prove this point. Attention to the financial aspects of water management needs to increase and should start with a proper valuation of the services ecosystems provide. At the moment, much of their value is taken for granted or underestimated, while their proper assessment would certainly lead to other choices for management.

## The path ahead

The effective management of our freshwater resources in the end is a technical question of how we use water and maintain ecosystems: when to open a sluice gate or what irrigation method is most efficient. But to find those technical solutions we first need to address the complex questions of politics, governance, finance, awareness and security with stakeholder participation.

The coming decade will be important for the management of water. The question is how we will use the available water to provide food, safe environments, health, and livelihoods to a growing world population, in harmony with nature. It is a question of daunting complexity, but one that has to be answered in the coming years.

The ecosystem approach to water management may provide answers to the social, economic and ecological problems we face, and it will certainly lead to the protection of critical ecosystems: water security is foremost based on protection of the ecosystems on which water resources depend. Recognizing the vital role of healthy ecosystems in the water cycle and their protection should form the basis of any water management decision.

**Elroy Bos** is Communication Officer of the Wetlands and Water Resources Programme of IUCN – The World Conservation Union.

## Links

IUCN Wetlands and Water Resources Programme
http://www.iucn.org/themes/wetlands/
IUCN Water & Nature Initiative
http://www.waterandnature.org/
Global Water Partnership
http://www.gwpforum.org/servlet/PSP

# Cultivating Peace

Daniel Buckles

*What strategies ensure equitable and sustainable natural resource management by communities?  How can researchers and policy makers help turn conflict into collaboration?  In his recent book* Cultivating Peace*, Daniel Buckles grapples with these questions – outlining the multiple factors that fuel natural resource conflict in the developing world.  In this edited volume which collects case studies from across Latin America and the Caribbean, Buckles weighs the merits and limitations of various conflict-resolution strategies when applied to community-based natural resource management.*

## Conflict and natural resource management

Conflict over natural resources such as land, water, and forests is ubiquitous.  People everywhere have competed for the natural resources they need or want to ensure or enhance their livelihoods.  Whether deliberately or not, resources may be used by some in ways that undermine the livelihoods of others.

Historically, states have fought for control of resources.  Domestically, they have contested with private individuals for control of resources, obstensibly for the public good (e.g. public health, conservation, or development), and to maintain political alliances that maintain their power.

At the local level, conflict may arise from land and water degradation or scarcity, disaster, or ambiguities in rights of access to resources. Those who own the resource battle against those who own nothing but whose work makes the resource productive.  Politics, class structure gender, age, and ethnicity all add to conflict over natural resources.

Conflict emerging over natural resources can vary from confusion and frustration among members of a community to violent clashes between groups over resource ownership rights. Such conflict can exist on many scales, including household, local, regional, societal, and global.

## Why does resource-related conflict occur?

Natural resources are embedded in an environment or interconnected space where actions by one individual or group may generate effects far off-site.  For example, the use of water for irrigation in the upper reaches of the Calico River, Nicaragua, pitted upstream landowners and communities against downstream communities in need of water for domestic use and consumption.

Natural resources are also embedded in a shared social space where complex and unequal relations are established among a wide range of social actors - small-scale farmers, indigenous groups, ranchers, landowners, private corporations, industrial interests – forestry,

mining, hydropower, etc.  Power differences allow resources to be used by some in ways that undermine the livelihood of others.

Land, forests, and waterways are not just material resources, but are also part of a particular way of life, an ethnic identity, and a set of gender and age roles, often with deep symbolic value.  As a result, conflict can as easily arise from ideological, and social roots as from political, economic or fundamental survival ends.

## From conflict to collaboration

Conflict over natural resources not only has negative impacts, but also has value as a catalyst for positive social change.

To take advantage of this opportunity, tools for conflict management are needed to address the underlying sources of tension between parties.  North American experiences with alternative dispute resolution (ADR) demonstrate the importance of making conflict management part of the conservationist's toolkit.  ADR uses collaborative approaches including conciliation, negotiation, and mediation to diffuse conflict.

A balance between negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and the systematic study of local practices, insights, and resources is needed to effectively manage conflict.  Cultural, symbolic, and psychological factors that emerge can be used to strengthen indigenous strategies for conflict management.

Conducting a multi-stakeholder analysis of conflict is a key step towards positive change.  This analysis of the interests at stake gives a framework for examining and identifying who is affected by and who can influence current patterns of natural resource management.

## The limits of collaboration

Sounds fine in theory. But how do you get the lion to sit at the table with the lamb? The most powerful stakeholders must be engaged in analysis of the causes and alternatives to conflict. Likewise, marginalized groups must have assistance in order to negotiate effectively and level the playing field, at least at the bargaining table.

Options exist that address the power imbalance in natural resource management.  Local alliances with advocacy groups, international bodies, and academics offer some scope for redressing imbalances.  Developing a common pool of data and shared scientific analysis can also help resolve ambiguities and conflicting academic opinions.

At the level of governments, new and participatory institutional structures and processes for managing natural resources management decisions are needed to help foster negotiation. National policies and legal frameworks must be changed to accommodate the development of relations between formal and informal institutions and negotiation processes at various levels.

Conflict stemming from natural resources must be addressed on many levels.  All stakeholders must be involved to limit the destruction caused by such conflict.  Collaboration is one way to enhance the capacity of all communities to manage and transform conflicts and to ensure security.

**Daniel Buckles** is Senior Program Officer at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada

## Links

IDRC: Conflict Over Natural Resources
http://www.idrc.ca/conflict/index_e.html

University for Peace: *Conflicto y Colaboración en el Manejo de Recursos Naturales*
http://www.upeace.org/opa/cyc/
IDRC: Communtiy Based Natural Resource Management, *Stakeholder Analysis – A Supplement to Cultivating Peace*
http://www.idrc.ca/cbnrm/documents/CBNRM_Toolkit/Vol7Main.htm

Conservation & Conflict...

# Ombudsman Centre for Environment & Development:

## Helping Foster Dialogue Towards Peace

Ambassador Frans van Haren
Dorothy Sleypan & Anne Hammill

Many regions possessing unexploited and highly-valued natural resources are often biodiversity-rich and home to traditional subsistence communities. Under these circumstances, development projects can pose serious threats to the integrity of valuable ecosystems and to the livelihoods and well being of local communities. Moreover, vast cultural and geographic distances frequently separate the beneficiaries of these projects from those who are directly impacted, and the latter are oftentimes politically or economically marginalized.

This combustible mixture of resource wealth, inequity and cultural contrast can be a recipe for conflict. In an effort to address such situations, IUCN and the Earth Council Foundation joined forces to establish the International Ombudsman Centre for the Environment and Development, (OmCED) in July of 2000. Above all, the Centre was a response to the long-perceived need for a non-adversarial, non-judicial, but well-respected international mechanism to prevent and resolve conflicts concerning environment, natural resources and sustainable development.[1]

The OmCED identifies, investigates, and mediates actual or potential conflicts relating to individual and group rights of access to land, resources and benefits from those resources. Cases are usually referred to the OmCED by National Councils for Sustainable Development, other professional bodies, NGOs, governments, international organizations, or when directly affected, individuals and communities.[2] The decision to undertake a case is based on a number of relevant factors, including:

a) The importance of the issue; especially to the interests of the poor and disadvantaged;

b) The availability of other dispute resolution mechanisms;

c) Attitudes of the concerned parties with respect to the role of OmCED;

d) The capacity of OmCED to mobilise the required expertise;

e) The availability of the funds necessary to undertake the case[3]

Upon accepting a case, the OmCED chooses it own methodology for handling the dispute, whether it is through convening panels or assigning issues and tasks to one or more individuals. The Centre relies on relevant national and international legal, social, and economic instruments and standards in formulating recommendations. While its decisions are not legally binding (unless parties agree to such an arrangement beforehand), it can facilitate and influence a resolution. Moreover, the Centre derives substantial authority from the extensive membership network of its co-founding organizations, IUCN and the Earth Council, as well as from its location at the United Nations affiliated University for Peace campus in San José, Costa Rica. [4]

The OmCED has since 2000 been operating on a trial basis. The following is a short overview of OmCED's recent activities:

[1] IUCN Press Release, "IUCN and Earth Council agree on International Ombudsman Function for the Environment and Development," Geneva, July 5, 2000, pg. 1.

[2] OmCED, http://www.omced.org/

[3] ibid

[4] IUCN Press Release, pg. 2.

## Towards Water Security
... continued from last page

1) Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) – Bolivia: Upon request of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Bolivia, formed a Panel of Experts to advise on a minimal set of social/ environmental measures to be taken to mitigate the possible negative effects of the upgrading of the road between Santa Cruz and Puerto Suarez. The report and recommendations were widely accepted by IDB, the government of Bolivia (GoB) and local authorities and communities.

2) OmCED has commissioned a desk study to identify potential or actual conflictive situations involving indigenous and tribal peoples, using the ITP-Center of the Earth Council and its network. The results are available on the OmCED Website.

3) OmCED is in correspondence with a coalition of NGOs who may request investigation of the Mexican-Central American development plan known as Plan Pueblo-Panama.

4) OmCED has been requested to facilitate between local indigenous communities and an electricity company on the issue of complaints and compensatory measures related to the construction of a dam. Discussions are under way.

5) OmCED has been looking into the matter of a possible complaint by an indigenous community in Chile related to an international logging company. No formal request has been made to date.

OmCED seeks to fill the need for dialogue where legitimate development ambitious clash or threaten to clash with equally legitimate environmental or social concerns. Addressing the lack channels for consultation and consensus building is a primary impediment to fostering a more equitable and sustainable development.

**Frans van Haren** is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Earth Council Institute, Vice Rector for Institutional Affairs of the

University of Peace, and Principle Advisor of the International Ombudsman Centre for the Environment and Development.

## Links

The International Ombudsman Centre for the Environment and Development
http://ww.omced.org
The University for Peace
http://www.upeace.org
The Earth Council
http://www.ecouncil.ac.cr/

# Collective security starts from thinking and acting together...

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend

*"Security is a socio-cultural phenomenon. For most traditional and local communities all over the world it is rooted in the capacity to be together, think together and act together to maintain their identity, cohesiveness and collective strength in the face of natural and man-made crises and calamities. This is much of what co-management of natural resources is all about. So, anything that has to do with co-management has to do, in a profound sense, with collective security". In this article, **Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend** illustrates how a community afflicted by a natural disaster bonded and seized the moment to enhance, through common thinking and action, its collective security.*

This summer I visited an old friend in the Ecuadorian Andes. For more than twenty years (and this is only as far as I know) he has been involved with community-liberation and community-strengthening activities. No wonder, I found him again in the middle of it all. I visited some of the initiatives he had been working with and heard the story of how they came about. I was impressed, and I thought that the experience of Paute could be of inspiration to many.

In the municipality of Paute, where Father Hanran Rodas lives and works, much has changed in the last nine years. It all started after—or should we say because of?— a disaster that disrupted everyone's life. Locally, they call it the "disaster of the Josephina". In the Spring of 1993, a landslide from the hill of Tamuga dammed the rivers Cuenca and Jadan. The natural dam resisted for some time, but eventually broke down and flooded a huge area, including several villages and the town of Paute. The resident of the town—originally not particularly friendly or cooperative folk—ended up sharing the same plastic tents and precarious uphill quarters for months. They had to live together, organise themselves for basic necessities, talk and listen to one another. Later, they had to clean up the town from the tons of mud that invaded it and rebuild all that had gone destroyed. From this long and humiliating but also empowering experience, a new sense of communality and solidarity was born.

They begun with an organisation called Paute Construye, which started rebuilding the damaged or destroyed homes through community involvement in all stages—from the definition of who should be helped on the basis of local "scale of need" (defined and established by the people themselves), to the local drawing of construction plans (all houses being different and designed according to the needs of the families to live there), to the cooperation between families and new organisations of local artisans in the construction of the houses themselves. A women network was created and it is still active today with training, productive and credit initiatives. The peasants from the driest rural areas became engaged in one of the most ambitious irrigation and water supply efforts in the region. The local artisans created new associations and dedicated much energy to improving their skills (I have seen some splendid furniture in inlaid wood, decorated with motifs of local flora). A new cooperative credit scheme was set up (now serving 11 municipalities and having more than 10,000

members). A gorgeous adobe building, decorated with mosaics and paintings and built around the trunk of a huge tree that had been deposited by the flood (the Casa del Pueblo) was collectively built and now hosts all sort of services for the people (when I visited it, I saw a woman lawyer giving free legal assistance to some indigenous women). I was also told that other buildings had been collectively raised, including a small church, entirely designed and decorated by the community. I asked where the resources for all this came from, and Hernan said that the national and international community helped a great deal, but that the most important resources were local. He mentioned that when too much outside money suddenly arrived (obviously controlled by the national government), this brought many more problems than solutions. The above was enough to impress me, but later I also discovered that the people of Paute have embarked in one of the most ambitious examples of participatory democracy I know of.

I was given a small booklet, called *Development Plan of the Municipality of Paute: 2001-2005*. The Plan was simple but extraordinary, as it centered on common visions of the relevant people about what they wanted their municipality, and their single parishes, to become. The visions had been developed in community workshops and, from the visions, areas of needed intervention were drawn and specific projects described. The document included all this, and the list of projects in operation. Hernan told me about the process that developed the plan, which for him was more important than its product. The engagement of all actors, and the local communities in particular, has been the true heart of it. Support was provided by the Church, a local NGO called CECCA and the municipal authorities. Innumerable meetings and workshops took place in forty-three villages and urban quarters of the seven parishes in the municipality, as well as many encounters with the main agricultural employers (production of flowers for the foreign markets) and the national, regional and district institutions. Early in 1999 as a consequence of these meetings and some contingent social rebellion against corruption, the process gave birth to the Municipal Development Committee, a local parliament with representatives of 27 organizations. The document I had been given was a product of their work. Ideas from grassroots workshops had been sent to the committee, which commented upon them and sent them back to the grassroots, which commented and sent them back again for approval, in an iterative process. In some cases, the committee had also established some local expert commissions to assess specific issues or problems. Once the decisions are taken, I was told that an Executive Committee has the responsibility of carrying them out. The Executive Committee is composed of four delegates from the Municipal Development Committee and four representatives



A gorgeous adobe building, decorated with mosaics and paintings and built around the trunk of a huge tree that had been deposited by the flood. La Casa del Pueblo was collectively built and now hosts all sorts of services for the people.

of the municipality, headed by the Mayor. This solved my last question, which regarded the interaction between this novel, participatory and rather spontaneous form of governance and the "representative democracy" governance system.

Not everything is well in Paute. Surely many peasant families, surviving on smallholdings in harsh environments, are not very satisfied about their life. Health and social problems are severe, and migration from the area is high, promoted by the long-standing national economic crisis and directly encouraged by the national government. Deforestation, overgrazing, rural pollution because of the indiscriminate use of pesticides and fertilizers, loss of local biodiversity, urban pollution and expansion of infrastructures without impact studies are serious problems, often with roots in the last fifty years of unplanned "development". With respect to other municipalities, however, Paute shows a tremendous difference in terms of local organizing, solidarity, achievements and sense of collective security and hope. Surely, this is because of the presence of generous and genial individuals such as Padre Rodas. Possibly, it may also be because of the community shock—and aftershocks—of the disaster of the Josephina.

**Dr. Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend** is Chair of the Collaborative Management Working Group – IUCN CEESP.

## Links

Co-management Working Group, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
http://www.cenesta.org/ceesp/CMWG.htm

# The IUCN in Afghanistan

Aban Marker Kabraji

*Afghanistan has become the primary focus of international attention since the launch of the War on Terrorism. In the post-war and post-Taliban aftermath, much effort has focused on stimulating development and providing people with basic infrastructure. Institutions for resource management are in complete disarray. What place does conservation have in the post-conflict reconstruction? What role should the IUCN play in Afghanistan?*

Two decades of conflict and recent years of drought have devastated the lives of Afghans, caused massive displacement of people and some of the largest refugee populations in the world, and destroyed or seriously degraded the natural resource base upon which Afghans have always depended. Although Afghanistan has never been a rich country, it has in the past been an agricultural and pastoral country capable of producing adequate wheat and livestock to feed its own people, and a country capable of exporting nuts, fruits and wool throughout the region. In 2002 Afghanistan has dropped to the very bottom of the Human Development Index – its people among the poorest, most illiterate and unhealthy in the world, its natural resource base severely damaged and degraded.

The international aid community is struggling to define a strategy and program of recovery and reconstruction for Afghanistan. There are still many obstacles for reconstruction because of political uncertainty within the country. The ideals of building a democratic nation state in a country that has never known a functioning centralized government seem to be far from the realities of tribal ethnic factions.

Questions remain about what needs to be done in Afghanistan and who should carry out such tasks. The IUCN may be able to provide much needed assistance in such a situation.

## History of IUCN's Role in Afghanistan

In 1990, the IUCN was invited to assist the Office for the Coordination of United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA),in identifying the environmental management measures most needed in the country.

Modest projects were proposed, such as: Increased support to community forestry projects, integrated watershed management, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage sites. However, by the end of the mission and into early 1992, both the security situation in Afghanistan had deteriorated and the international community had a

decreased interest in environmental projects. Such projects were seen as a luxury that could not be afforded at that time.

In spite of the rising insecurity, in 1996, *The Society for Afghanistan Volunteer Environmentalists (SAVE)* became the first official IUCN member NGO working in Afghanistan. The continued growth of IUCN's network of members has allowed IUCN to maintain access to the region.

## The IUCN experience of post-war environmental reconstruction

IUCN presence in Asia, Africa, the Gulf States, and Eastern Europe through both conflict and reconciliation have allowed the Union to gain some understanding of the needs of post-conflict societies. These experiences provide the main basis for drawing lessons learned about IUCN's strengths, weaknesses, and insights in this area.

On the one hand, it is clear that there is little donor awareness of the need to integrate environmental concerns into post-war reconstruction. On the other, although individual IUCN staff and the staff of IUCN partners and members may have experience in post-war environmental reconstruction, IUCN does not as an institution have a proven track record in this area. Involvement in such work in Afghanistan would likely require IUCN to move into a new technical area, and to start working with new partners and donors, and with new programme activities.

It is important to **identify the geographic and thematic priorities in the area** before engaging in a program of work. A clear statement of the areas in which IUCN wishes to work, and is demonstrably capable of working, helps to establish credibility and attract funds, and also provides a much greater likelihood of success in influencing other agencies' work and activities. Given the unstable and evolving situation, however, flexibility in time and resources need to be built in to the plan.

There is also a need to **ensure a diverse foundation of donors and of funding sources**, are present from the start. In a post-war situation, where IUCN has little experience, there may be a high level of competition for funding from agencies with proven track records in post-war rehabilitation and relief, and who already have close relationships and links with these funding sectors. IUCN is not well-known to many of the rehabilitation and relief

## Conservation During Conflict

Judy Oglethorpe & James Shambaugh

wings of donor and funding agencies. Extensive groundwork is likely necessary.

**Form strategic partnerships.** IUCN is likely to be working with a wide range of new partners. These new partnerships, as well as new funding sources, may call for different ways of working than is habitual for IUCN. Agencies and professionals unfamiliar with environmental conservation may be reluctant to work with IUCN. Existing national (and international) agencies overwhelmed by the sudden influx of donor funds may be very particular about what they work on and with whom they work. Although it is important for IUCN to forge alliances with as wide a range of agencies and partners as possible, this choice should be strategic, and caution should be exercised in working with newly formed NGOs with no prior track record. Significant time and funds may have to be invested in building awareness and capacity on environmental issues among both partners and donors.

**Ensure program sustainability.** Post-war reconstruction is of necessity a long-term process, especially environmental aspects. In-country capacity is also often weak, and future funding is uncertain. Strong considerations of sustainability should be built into IUCN's projects and programmes from the start, including a recognition of the need to work with national partners over the long-term.

**Aban Marker Kabraji** is Regional Director of the IUCN Asia Regional Office.

## Links

IUCN Asia Regional Office
http://www.iucn.org/places/asia/

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD): A Biodiversity Profile of Afghanistan
http://www.icimod.org.sg/focus/biodiversity/afgbio.htm

UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation: Environment Programme Post-Conflict Assessment Unit
http://postconflict.unep.ch/

*The practice of conservation during conflict poses many ethical and practical challenges. Practically, how do you know if a nation is disintegrating, and what can you do to prepare for it? Ethically, is conservation about protecting trees over people, preserving a fragile resource for the future, or helping to reduce a source of tensions? What constitutes an acceptable risk to personnel? Can and should armed groups – perhaps future political leaders - be engaged in the process of protecting nature during conflict? Drawing on their paper for the IUCN-IISD Task Force on Environment and Security, Judy Oglethorpe and James Shaumbaugh provide some practical thoughts on this complicated issue.*

Armed conflict has devastating impacts on people's lives and countries' economies. Although less immediately obvious, it also often has profound impacts on the environment. This in turn leads to more indirect and often longer term impacts for people and their future development.

The main impacts of armed conflict on the environment are destruction of habitats and wildlife, over-exploitation of natural resources, and pollution. Resource extraction occurs both for survival and for commercial profit during and after conflict. Wildlife populations are often particularly vulnerable. When conflict is over, renewable natural resources including timber may be mined unsustainably to finance national reconstruction. Pollution can occur from many causes, including side-effects of war such as illegal mining, sabotage of installations, and poor sanitation for refugees and internally displaced persons.

Although it is often extremely difficult to undertake conservation activities during conflict, maintaining a presence where possible and doing whatever is feasible at the time is extremely important. Our paper for the IUCN-IISD Task Force on Environment and Security presents recommendations for planning and implementing actions that can be taken during conflict. The immediate post-conflict phase is particularly critical, when a window of opportunity often exists for substantial policy change if the conservation sector is on the spot to provide inputs.

Environmental groups need to be very aware of the relevance of conflict to their missions, and understand and monitor the broader political and socio-economic setting. Although conservation organizations should continue to work towards their long-term goals, they may have to adopt new strategies and activities in light of changing circumstances. In particular, the linkage between livelihoods and the environment is likely to be enhanced, and collaboration with a wide range of atypical partners is important. Where appropriate they should become more vocal in advocating against the arms trade and other activities that fuel conflict and deplete resources.

## Conservation during Conflict
... continued from last page

Based on our experience, we believe that small investments can have dramatic positive results, and that conservation groups and donors should have flexible funding mechanisms for addressing these situations. A wide variety of organizations – ranging from host and donor governments, to non-governmental actors and including the full spectrum of IUCN members, offices and commissions, can have positively mitigate the impacts of conflict on biodiversity, whether working locally or from afar.

The defense of biodiversity in times of conflict is a complex affair. Many courageous and dedicated people are doing their best, often in isolated and dangerous conflict situations, and they deserve all the support they can get.

**Judy Oglethorpe** is the Executive Director and **James Shambaugh** is Senior Program Officer with the Biodiversity Support Program of the WWF-US. Their article on Biodiversity Conservation in Times of Conflict will be available for download from IISD in late summer 2002.

## Links

Biodiversity Support Program: Africa and Madagascar Program
http://www.bsponline.org/bsp/programs/africa/conflict.html
International Year of Mountains: Peace and Conflict
http://www.mountains2002.org/i-conflict.html

# Ecology and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa

Jeremy Lind

*A critical obstacle to African development, sustainable or otherwise, has been latent and ongoing violence. In 1998, according to UNDP, 14 of the continent's 53 countries were embroiled in armed conflicts, resulting in more than eight million refugees and displaced peoples.[1] Drawing on a detailed assessment of the role of natural resources in African conflicts, Jeremy Lind\* argues that ecology interacts with social factors in ways that have often not been accounted for in conventional 'environment and security' analyses of wars in the region.*

## Natural and Human Systems Interact and Shift Constantly

Ecology, including land, natural resources, agricultural commodities, and changes to all these, is central to the onset and duration of conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ecology is a system of multiple and interacting biotic components that are shaped by human management and abiotic fluctuations, such as rainfall and temperature changes.

Ecological systems in Sub-Saharan Africa are intensively diverse, and the micro-design of individually or commonly managed lands is complex and site-specific. Change is an essential function of Africa's ecology. Ecological variations condition differential adaptations in natural resource use and overall production systems. Systems for using natural resources are highly specialized and encompass a variety of site-specific adaptations to peculiar ecological variations. Over time, such systems have molded a patchwork landscape that is rich in biological diversity. Historically and today, systems for using natural resources are a fundamental aspect of conflict and peace in Sub-Saharan Africa (See Box 1).

## Political Power and Natural Capital

Politically charged competitions to control land and natural resources either directly or through control of the state are increasing. Conflicts in Rwanda and Somalia, for example, involve violent struggles between opposing elite groups to control the state and its structures to allocate land and natural resources (See Box 2).

Politically, land and natural resources are vital to maintain and form new political patronage and authority. Land and natural resources help to maintain patron-client networks that preserve political order and the allocation of national resources. Ecological resources such as wildlife, oil, timber and diamonds finance the maintenance of patron-client ties, or opposition activities to counter the influence of patrimonial ties and the power hierarchy these uphold. At the same time, political power in the form of larger patron-client networks is essential to maintain or claim rights to access, use or own land and natural resources.

[1] UNDP Human Development Report, 1998.

Competition to dominate the marketing and export of agricultural commodities is similarly politically charged. Struggles to dominate marketing and export structures so as to extract rents from producers and generate wealth to maintain political monopoly is common throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

In Burundi, conflict to control the state is inseparable from competition to control the marketing and export of coffee. Historically, government domination of coffee marketing and export ensured that the great proportion of coffee revenue was channeled to a minority ruling Tutsi ethno-regional elite. Ethnic Hutu peasant coffee farmers were consistently paid low producer prices by the government agency in charge of the coffee sub-sector. Predation in the coffee sector provided the fundamental basis for grievance among Hutu peasants in Burundi's long-running civil war.

The cultural and social significance of land and natural resources to many groups in Sub-Saharan Africa is important to a comprehensive understanding of the role of ecology in conflict. Group identities and cultural practices in Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, relate closely to land and natural resources. Social formations in Sub-Saharan Africa, furthermore, are closely associated to ways of production and to specialized adaptations to peculiar ecological conditions and changes. For example, pastoralist groups in Eastern and Southern Africa move between different key resource environments so as to benefit from favorable micro-ecological conditions and available resources. Mobility in pastoralist communities has conditioned unique systems of political and social organization, which are often in competition with the institutions of the nation state.

## No Easy Solutions to Complex Problems

While individual variables such as ecology, economy or ethnicity are important reasons for the formation and continuation of some conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa, it is clear that these variables interact with a broad assortment of other determining variables. It is extremely difficult to view ecology as an independent conflict variable. Conflict is the outcome of various intertwined factors. Many social, economic and political factors shape and mediate the role of 'ecology' in conflict, as the preceding section makes clear.

Analytical and policy attention to the role of ecology in conflict must recognize the broader political and economic context in which ecological factors are embedded. Conflict

research and policies must also appreciate that there is a compendium of variables interacting at different times and across specific geographical, social and historical contexts that lead to conflict.

### Box 1. Ecology, Adaptation and Conflict in South Sudan[2]

Ecological fluctuation is an important component of a very complex ecological variable in the conflict in South Sudan. Fluctuating ecological conditions of the floodplain occupied by the Dinka and Nuer peoples is a source of conflict between the two agro-pastoralist groups historically. The unpredictable, and at times dangerous ecology of South Sudan has conditioned adaptations to Nuer and Dinka resource use systems. The Dinka and Nuer adapted in different yet complementary ways to small variations in the elevation of the floodplain and to other dynamic and uncertain climatic changes in the region. The Dinka occupy an ecological zone supporting more generic farming activities. The Dinka are predominately subsistence cultivators who practice livestock herding to a limited extent. The Nuer concentrate on livestock production, but cultivate small plots where and when ecological conditions allow. Competition between the two groups to control natural resources in boundary areas is growing. Population pressure, together with the region's non-linear climatic fluctuations, is pushing the Nuer onto the fringe of their woodland-savanna environment. The result is increasing conflict between farmers (Dinka) and herders (Nuer) for resources in areas lying between the two groups.

### Box 2. Land, Politics and Conflict in Rwanda and Somalia[3]

Control of land is an important factor underlying conflicts in Rwanda and Somalia. Control of land lies at the center of Rwandan politics. Through armed struggle, the primary aim of the Rwanda Patriotic Army/Front (RPA/F) was to control the state in order to remedy structural imbalances between different ethnic groups and economic classes.

[2] See Goldsmith, P., Abura, L., and Switzer, J. 2002. *Draft Sudan Country Study.* Nairobi: ACTS.
[3] See Farah, I., and Hussein, A. 2002. *Draft Somalia Country Study.* Nairobi: ACTS; and Bigagaza, J., Abong, C., and Mukarubuga, C. 2002. *Draft Rwanda Country Study.* Nairobi: ACTS.

Sources of land scarcity in Rwanda included increasing population pressure, unequal distribution of land and government land policies. The land factor was intensified through its purposeful politicization by ruling elites, who framed the issue in ethnic terms. The polarization of different ethnic groups is partially linked to access to and control of land. Ultimately, land scarcity was a significant source of grievance in rural areas and aggravated hostilities leading to the civil war. Opposing sides in the conflict intended to ensure more favorable access to and control of land by gaining control of the state.

Control of land is an important cause of conflict in the Jubbaland region of Southern Somalia, a rich farming riverine environment. Jubbaland is where some of the most intense fighting in the on-going civil war in Somalia has been concentrated. Conflict in the Jubbaland centers on access to and control of *deegaan*, or land and its resources. The overall ecology of the Southern Somalia region is considerably drier and less favorable to cultivation and pastoralism than is the Jubbaland region. Different factions in the Somalia conflict have battled to control the Jubbaland, in part to stake claim to its resource rich *deegaan*. However, the mere existence of Jubaland's resource rich ecological base is not the proximate source of conflict in the region itself. Since political power in Somalia roughly correlates with control of a larger and ecologically more valuable geographic area, control of Jubbaland has been a persistent aim of different armed factions. Thus, political need to control resource rich *deegaan* in order to claim greater power at the national level is the proximate cause of conflict in Jubbaland, and in Somalia more widely.

**Jeremy Lind** leads the MacArthur Foundation-sponsored 'Ecological Sources of Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa' project at the African Centre for Technology Study in Nairobi.

## Links

Ecological Sources of Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa
http://www.acts.org.ke/Eco-Project.htm

International Crisis Group
http://www.intl-crisis-group.org/

Global Witness

# Conservation and Adapting to Climate Change

Norry Schneider, Erika Spanger-Siegfried & Anne Hammill

*Can protection of natural 'buffer' systems reduce community vulnerability to climate related disasters ? Is there a triple benefit to be reaped by doing so in terms of reducing disaster risk, conserving biodiversity and fixing carbon ? In this article, Norry Schneider, Anne Hammill and Erika Spanger-Siegfried argue that conservationists have a critical role to play in helping communities adapt to climate change, and outline their efforts to make this a reality.*

## Dealing with disasters

Several extreme events in recent years have illustrated the vulnerability of communities to current climatic conditions. While government representatives attempt to make progress in limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the incidence and severity of climate-related disasters, such as Hurricane Mitch, the floods in Mozambique and Bangladesh, and the coral bleaching events in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific are increasing.

Measured in terms of displacement of communities and lives lost, the cost of these hurricanes, floods, and droughts is high - and is anticipated to top $300 billion annually by the year 2050. According to Swiss Re, the costs of natural catastrophes are on the rise, with storm-related losses alone totalling $7.2 billion in 2001. The world's poorest populations, particularly those living on inherently fragile or degraded lands, are most likely to bear the brunt of these disasters. Their ability to respond to and recover from disasters is related to dependence from natural resources, access to finance, security of land tenure, diversification of income, and other socio-economic factors.

Developing countries already experience 96% of the world's disaster fatalities , which undermines regional economies, local livelihoods and conservation efforts, and deepens the divide between those who can afford to protect themselves and those who cannot. In some cases it can also contribute to social and political instability.

## Climate change adaptation – learning from the disaster management experience

While the cost of humanitarian relief is skyrocketing, reactive measures alone are unlikely to meet the task of reducing human vulnerability to disasters. In the same time public funding for development assistance steadily decreases worldwide. Because the impacts of climate-related disasters foreshadow the likely adverse effects of climate change, more anticipatory and adaptive measures are required that strengthen human resilience and livelihood security.

Adaptation to climate change must become a factor in planning for all countries, and a key element in achieving more sustainable development. With the Marrakech Accords to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, new financial

opportunities for promoting and supporting adaptation programmes and activities have been created, funding National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) in LDCs ; capacity building, adaptation and technology transfer in emission-intensive sectors in developing countries ; and adaptation projects and programmes .

One of the many challenges, however. to moving toward more proactive approaches is the fact that the benefits of risk reduction can be difficult to quantify. The absence of a disaster does not necessarily provide evidence for the effectiveness of a risk reduction investment. Learning to sell prevention has been a critical impediment to disaster reduction and climate change adaptation efforts.

## Improving resilience - protecting people and nature

While disaster managers have yet to incorporate the implications of climate change into their work, climate change researchers and policymakers have not spelled out how to integrate climate change adaptation with ground-level action.

Working from different points of departure, both of these disciplinary groups have reached a common conclusion: natural resource mismanagement contributes to the vulnerability of human systems, and enhanced management can provide a tool for vulnerability reduction.

Deforestation can, for example, increase runoff and exacerbate flooding in times of heavy rainfall. In many countries, the continuous expansion of the agricultural frontier into more fragile ecosystems – thereby eliminating stabilising forest cover from steep and unstable terrain – causes a substantial increase in floods, mudflows and landslides, spurred by climate-related events.

Measures that recognise and strengthen the protective value of natural systems in shielding communities and regions from disasters can therefore strengthen the adaptive capacity of people living in the most vulnerable settings.

In the context of identifying cost-effective climate change adaptation strategies, the conservation or restoration of natural buffer systems might offer several striking co-benefits that favour their application ahead of large infrastructure investments. Although both traditional communities and modern nation-states have developed disaster risk mitigation tools based on conservation of natural systems that provide "protective" services, there is little policy-relevant research on these links.

In the Thai Binh province of Vietnam, for example, the Red Cross has worked with local communities in the conservation of 2,000 hectares of mangrove swamp, in order to act as a buffer against the region's frequent typhoons, and to enhance the production of valuable aquaculture exports such as crabs. In 1996, the project area was struck by "the worst typhoon in a decade", yet was comparatively unharmed.

## The IUCN/IISD/SEI-Initiative

IUCN - The World Conservation Union, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) have joined forces on an initiative to reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate-related disasters and climate change, by promoting the use of environmental management and policy tools.

In this context, a Task Force on Climate Change, Vulnerable Communities and Adaptation, composed by a number of leading experts from the fields of disaster risk management, climate change science, and social and environmental policy has been formed. It met at a unique moment in time, immediately following the conclusion of the Marrakech Accords to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2001.

The Task Force reviewed the outcomes of the Marrakech negotiations and set in motion an effort to inform and influence the way the international community invests in climate change adaptation. Its members agreed to develop a conceptual framework for translating the knowledge and lessons from the fields of disaster reduction, environmental management and poverty alleviation into climate change adaptation policies and strategies.

The Task Force concluded that sufficient knowledge and practical experience about disaster management and climate change adaptation exist, but no conceptual framework for translating the knowledge into action is in place. Bringing together disaster management, climate change adaptation, environmental management, and poverty alleviation, these disciplines can and should be considered in an integrated manner.

There is much that can be done today, at low cost, to reduce vulnerability. Conservationists have an important role to play in reducing human insecurity.

**Norry Schneider** is a Project Officer with IUCN's Climate Change Unit. **Erika Spanger-Siegfried** is an Associate Scientist at the Stockholm Environment Institute's Boston Centre. **Anne Hammill** is an Associate at the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

## Links

IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative: Climate Change, Vulnerable Communities and Adaptation

http://www.iisd.org/natres/security/ccvca.asp

IUCN: Climate Change Initiative

http://www.iucn.org/themes/climate/

SEI-Boston Centre

http://www.seib.org/

IISD Climate Change Program

http://www.iisd.org/climatechange.htm

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: "Coastal environmental protection: a case study of the Vietnam Red Cross" Available at www.ifrc.org/what/dp/vietnam.asp

## IUCN-IISD Task Force on Climate Change, Adaptation and Vulnerable Communities

Achim Steiner, Director General, IUCN - The World Conservation Union
H.E. Lionel Hurst, Embassy of Antigua Mission to the OAS
Janet Abramovitz, Worldwatch Institute
Ian Burton, Environment Canada, University of Toronto
Maria Fernanda Espinosa, IUCN - The World Conservation Union
Pascal Girot, University of Costa Rica
Mark Halle, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
Jürg Hammer, World Institute for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)
Saleemul Huq, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
Terry Jeggle, Independent Advisor for International Hazards and Disaster Risk Management
Richard Klein, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
Andrew Maskrey, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Ajay Mathur, World Bank, Environment Department
Mark Sanctuary, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Maria Socorro Manguiat, IUCN - The World Conservation Union
John Soussan, University of Leeds
Brett Orlando, IUCN - The World Conservation Union
John Drexhage, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

# Is There a Business Case for Environmental Security ?

Jason Switzer

A central recommendation of the IUCN-IISD Task Force on Environment and Security is that greater attention must be paid to the role of natural resource-based industries – mining, oil & gas, and forestry – in exacerbating human insecurity. In this article, Jason Switzer outlines the business case for proactive conflict management, and describes what IISD and IUCN are doing to help companies make a more-positive contribution to peace.

## Why Should Conservationists Care About Conflict ?

Conflict is a central impediment to sustainability. The poor are the most threatened by violence, and the least able to recover in its wake. Development is set back by decades by the destruction of infrastructure and social bonds. Natural resource management systems are disrupted and planning for the future becomes impossible in the face of urgent immediate needs.

## Why is Conflict an Issue Central to Business ?

Conflict is a tremendous obstacle to investment. A 2001 survey of the mining industry sought to identify the reasons companies refrained or withdrew from otherwise sound investments in the last 5 years[1]. Seventy-eight percent indicated that political instability – in particular, armed conflict - was a key factor in the decision.

A failure to address local conflicts can have global implications, striking even to the main streets of the world's financial centres. For that reason, it is important that all sectors of society – including the private sector – seek to understand how best to contribute to peace.

According to research by the World Bank, conflict is most likely to emerge in countries during economic decline[2]. Given the limited pool of Official Development Assistance and the imperative for economic growth, private investment must therefore be seen as a critical factor in peacebuilding.

## What are the Key Issues facing Companies in Zones of Conflict?

- What is the legitimate role of business in areas of conflict ? How can they safeguard their reputations and 'license to operate' ?
- What constitutes a clear **'no go'** zone ?
- How can they ensure that revenues to government accrue to local communities as well ?

[1] MMSD/PricewaterhouseCoopers Survey of the Mining Industry, ( 2001) mimeo.
[2] Collier, P. Economic Causes of Conflict and their Implications for Policy. June 15,2000. www.worldbank.org

- How can companies avoid **complicity** in human rights abuses ?
- How can they **avoid alienating their host government** at the same time?

- **Is it practical to 'do no harm' or even 'to do good'** – to exercise a positive influence on development in the conflict-prone regions in which these companies operate ?

## What is the Business Case for Investing in Conflict-Prone Regions ?

The high risk of investment in zones of potential conflict is paralleled by their prospect for great financial returns. Untapped pools of valuable natural resources are most often to be found in places that have hitherto remained outside the formal market. Unmet basic needs can also represent compelling market opportunities[3].

For many companies, the potential for high economic returns is the sole litmus test for investment in sensitive regions. Others hold that investing in impoverished regions is a fundamental element of corporate social responsibility. Some further specify that they should not participate in an investment unless they can maintain compliance with internal social and human rights policies. Indeed, this is one reason for which Shell is believed to have given up petroleum exploration in the Camisea region of Peru.

## Does Investment Do More Harm than Good ?

Underlying tensions and conflicts exist in all social groups or interactions. The danger is that they may escalate to violent confrontations between groups or communities. While investment can promote economic growth, employment and opportunity, it can also deepen social fissures and undermine traditional livelihoods and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Mismanagement of the resulting conflicts can undermine a company's license to operate, threaten its investment and place its personnel and facilities at risk. Shell's staff in Nigeria is the frequent target of kidnapping and ransom attempts. Likewise, in 2001, the narco-communist FARC in Colombia bombed Occidental Petroleum's Cano Limon

pipeline 170 times, costing the company an estimated US$75 Million in lost revenues.

## What are IUCN and IISD doing about the links between Companies and Environmental Security ?

Following the task force's recommendations, IISD and IUCN began to explore the links:

- As part of a study of the role of oil in the Sudan conflict for the Canadian government;
- For the Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development project of the Global Mining Initiative/WBCSD
- For a group of Insurance companies and Banks within the umbrella of the UNEP Finance Initiative
- As part of the Business & Conflict dialogue of the UN Global Compact

## What is Needed ?

Based on research thus far, our conclusions are that:

- Multinational companies can play a positive role in peace building. Indeed, their presence is in many cases vital for generating investment, improving governance, and converting natural resources into wealth and social investment.
- Conflict poses a threat to company personnel, capital, investment and 'license to operate'. In such cases, the 'end-of-pipe' options such as private security and insurance may prove more costly than prevention.
- The private sector tools for conflict prevention are in their infancy.
- As a result, companies with a recognizable brand are under great pressure to avoid investment in conflict-prone regions, leaving these opportunities open to less-accountable companies who are also less likely to invest in social issues.

[3] The Business Case for Sustainable Development. World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 2002.
http://www.wbcsd.org/projects/wssd/business-case.pdf

Some consensus has emerged on conflict prevention principles:

*Look before you leap.* **No equivalent to environmental impact assessment** has developed to allow managers to anticipate, monitor, and assess how business operations impact local tensions, how the consequences impact business operations, and how emerging situations can be responsibly resolved[4]. A systematic Conflict Impact Assessment, undertaken with the help of external partners and stakeholders, can help. We intend to continue our efforts in its development.

*Ensure Long-term Development.* Revenue sharing structures become critically important. The per capita GDP of Nigeria has actually fallen since 1975, in spite of the $300 billion in oil pumped out of the ground. Options range from the ad hoc and expert-driven to the establishment of foundations and the ear-marking of government revenues for social development efforts (e.g. Chad-Cameroon). Important aspects:
- Public scrutiny of finances
- Multi-Stakeholder, transparent decision-making

*Establish Legitimacy through Partnership.* The greater a firm's direct involvement in the conflict, the greater the need to work in partnership with other businesses, civil society and international organizations.
- The involvement and leverage of the World Bank has been a critical factor in the pushing forward of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline project and balancing the governments' sovereignty desires with the companies' stakeholder demands. The jury is still out on whether this will indeed deliver benefits to local communities.

*Build Trust through Transparency and Verification.* Assuring outsiders that the firm is 'doing what it claims to be doing' requires disclosure of revenue streams & third-party verification of social impact and investment reports.

- In early 2001, in the face of intense pressure by activists who had argued that oil was financing the Angolan civil war, British Petroleum committed to disclose most of the payments it makes to the Angolan government, in spite of the government's displeasure.

*Create Incentives for Peace-Building.* 'Home' governments have many levers at their disposal to promote better conflict management by the private sector in 'host states'. These include:
- Targeted aid to build community negotiating capacity, and enhance management tools
- Tax and finance incentives for corporate investments in transparency, multi-stakeholder decision-making and conflict resolution.
- Briefings on local conflict dynamic by foreign missions

## In Closing
- We need to facilitate investment in zones of instability as a contribution to peace-building.
- We need 'good' companies to invest in these regions, companies who are accountable to more than only their shareholders.
- These companies complain that they are held to an impossible standard by civil society.
- Therefore, those of us who care about sustainable development need to help companies develop better conflict management tools, if we don't want private investment from less scrupulous or accountable companies to make things worse.

**Jason Switzer** is a Senior Project Officer at the International Institute for Sustainable Development and coordinates the IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative, sponsored by the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).

## Links
IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative: Environment, Business and Conflict
http://www.iisd.org/natres/security/ebc.asp

The International Business Leaders Forum: Business and Peace Programme
http://www.iblf.org/csr/csrwebassist.nsf/content/f1c2a3c4a5.html

The Global Compact
http://www.unglobalcompact.org/

---

[4] Bush, K.D. and Opp, R.J. "Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment". In Buckles, D. (ed.) Cultivating Peace – Conflict and Collaboration in Natural Resource Management
. IDRC/World Bank Institute, 2000:186.

# Forests and Environmental Security

## IUCN-IISD Task Force on Environment & Security

Jason Switzer

*What are the links between forests and human security ? In 2000, a task force of leading conservationists, policymakers, diplomats, and security analysts was assembled to probe the links between natural resource management and security, and identify the potential roles of conservationists. This article briefly distills some of the insights from cases in their forthcoming book 'Conserving the Peace', available from IISD in late summer 2002.*
*Quotation marks have been left out to enhance readability.*

## Forests for War, Forests for Peace

Contests over control of forest resources have often led to violent conflict. Exploitation of these valuable resources has in some cases sustained insurgencies, fuelling the slaying of civilians and combatants alike. Forests can be hiding places for rebel groups, and as such are often the target of military campaigns. Forests are also safety valves, vast storehouses of resources that communities turn to in times of crisis. Moreover, the loss of essential forest cover can expose communities and infrastructure to landslides, avalanches and other disasters.

Yet efforts to protect these resources can lead to conflict as well. There is a growing understanding that protecting forests can be a tool for building peace and security.

In addition to directly providing homes and livelihoods to millions of people, forests often are linked to the security of communities and nations. 'Security' is traditionally defined in terms of the integrity and continuity of a nation-state. More recently, some have advocated broadening this definition to include security of the environment, security of the community and security of the individual. Changing understandings of the nature of 'security' have implications for the way the military practices its trade, and more radically, for natural resource management and development planning.

This paper draws on the knowledge base of the IUCN-IISD Task Force on Environment and Security to clarify the links between forests and security.

## Current Trends

More than one quarter of the world's land surface is covered by forests, over half of which are in the tropics. It is believed that nearly the double of this was formerly forested, but has been cleared for agriculture, timber extraction or development, with the bulk of this loss occurring in the 20th Century. Between 1960 and 1990, one fifth of all tropical forest disappeared[1].

Forests and forest resources are critical to the survival of the poorest and most vulnerable. Worldwide, 2 billion people lack access to electricity and use traditional fuels for cooking and heating. For low-income households, firewood is the dominant fuel[2]. According to the FAO, about half of the wood cut worldwide is used for fuelwood and charcoal, particularly in dry areas like India and Nigeria. In tropical countries, however, the primary cause of deforestation is industrial timber production[3].

## Scarce Resources Can Cause Conflict

Resource degradation can create scarcities that push people out of the regions where they live. Insufficient supplies of firewood and timber, depleted aquifers, and soil erosion can form a feedback loop of poverty, insecurity, and environmental degradation.

The Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan, bordering with Afghanistan, illustrates this linkage between violence and deforestation[4]. Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, 3.5 million Afghan refugees crossed the border into northern Pakistan, placing an added burden on the environment of the region, already heavily deforested under the British colonial regime. Today, the province's forest cover is declining at the rate of between 1.4 and 8 percent annually, and could disappear within ten to fifty years. Many central and northern districts and villages have relied on old growth forests to provide essential ecological services such as flood control, and commodities like fuel and building materials. Today, extensive logging is causing hardship as well as widespread and often violent conflict over property rights. According to unofficial government sources, as much as 90% of forest rights in the region are in dispute.

## Abundant Resources Can Cause Conflict

Typically, struggles over abundant valuable natural resources occur in locations where central government control and national legal systems have been weak[5]. Indigenous peoples inhabit many of those locations, often as the result of having been pushed out of other areas coveted by more powerful ethnic groups.

Such areas tend to have difficult terrain, poor soils, low population densities, and bad roads, and lie far away from major markets. These 'non-state spaces' turn out to be the

---

[1] Abramovitz, J. Taking a Stand: Cultivating a New Relationship with the World's Forests. Worldwatch Institute, 1998.
[2] World Energy Assessment. Energy and the Challenge of Sustainability: Overview. UNDP/UNDESA/World Energy Council, 2000.
[3] Abramovitz, 1998.
[4] Matthew, R. and Ali Zaidi, A. Environmental Stress and Violent Conflict in Northern Pakistan. IUCN/IISD Task Force on Environment and Security, 2001. http://www.iisd.org
[5] Kaimowitz, D. Armed Conflict and the Bosawas Biosphere Reserve in Nicaragua. IUCN/IISD Task Force on Environment and Security, 2001. http://www.iisd.org

type of area where natural forest ecosystems have survived in their most pristine state, precisely because their natural resources had not historically attracted the sustained attention of government, business or migrants[6].

This situation is particularly true in Indonesia[7]. Most of Indonesia's land area is officially designated as forest land. The usurpation of longstanding local claims by government and private interests has left a legacy of bitterness and anger in many areas of the country, which were suppressed under the authoritarian Suharto regime.

Weak forest management capacity and pervasive state corruption have allowed illegal logging to grow into a sophisticated and organized criminal enterprise which now provides more than half of the country's timber supply, threatening the lives and livelihoods of millions among the country's traditional communities. The collapse of the Suharto regime and its repressive social measures in 1998 has exposed the deep and jagged ethnic, religious and regional rifts within Indonesian society. These have exploded in savage communal violence in many parts of the country, particularly in remote regions. Longstanding disputes over forest lands and resources are often a key flashpoint for these outbreaks of violence, threatening the integrity of the state and its near and medium-term development prospects.

## Financing Violence

Recent research suggests that a substantial number of civil wars in developing countries stem from different groups' desire to gain control over valuable natural resources such as timber, petroleum, minerals, and marketable animals. In many instances, they can also use the capital that control over the resources provides as a source of funds to finance their military endeavors. Thus, for example, both the government and the Khmer Rouge used timber to bankroll a large portion of their military operations in Cambodia[8].

## Strategic Hiding Grounds

By dint of their difficult terrain and abundant resources, forests are often the places where insurgent groups base themselves and hide from central government authorities[9]. In 1996, the Kibira and Ruvubu National Parks in Burundi were used as sanctuaries and entry points for guerrillas fighting the government. As a result they also became operational areas for government troops, with both sides heavily involved in poaching. Likewise, India's Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, a World

Heritage site, has been taken over by guerrillas from the Bodo tribe, who have burned down park buildings, looted most park facilities, killed guards, destroyed bridges, poached rhinos, elephants, tigers, and other wildlife, cleared forest and depleted fish stocks in the Manas river.

In Vietnam, US forces cleared 325,000 ha of land and sprayed 72,400 cubic meters of herbicides in order to track down insurgents. The impact on biodiversity was severe; spreading herbicides on 10% of the country (including 50% of the mangroves) led to extensive low-diversity grasslands replacing high-diversity forests, mudflats instead of highly productive mangroves, and major declines in both freshwater and coastal fisheries.

## Natural Sanctuaries

In addition to providing vital habitat to animals, forests are often the place people turn to in times of crisis[10]. The Virunga Volcanoes region - including parts of the Central African countries of Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda - is exceptionally rich in species diversity, including the rare and endangered mountain gorilla. In 1994, some 850,000 refugees were living around Virunga National Park, partly or completely deforesting some 300 sq km of the park in a desperate search for food and firewood. Up to 40,000 people entered the park every day, taking out between 410 and 770 tons of forest products. The bamboo forests were especially damaged, and the populations of elephants, buffalo, and hippos much reduced.

## War Can be Better for Forests Than Peace

While the impacts of war on forests can be vast, ranging from the foraging of refugees to the devastation wrought by herbicides and carpet bombs, the cessation of hostilities can lead to a firesale of resources to relaunch economic development. In the 1960s, when Indonesia and Malaysia were fighting over border claims on the island of Borneo, they did relatively little damage to its vast wilderness, but in the 1990s they peacefully competed to cut down and sell its forests; in Indonesia, the 1997-1998 forest fires that caused US$4.4 billion in damage were set primarily by businesses and military to clear forests in order to plant various cash crops.

## Going to War to Protect Biodiversity?

IUCN estimates that 12.5% of the world's 270,000 species of plants, and 75% of its mammal species, are threatened by the

[6] McNeely, J. Biodiversity, War, And Tropical Forests. IUCN/IISD Task Force on Environment and Security, 2001. http://www.iisd.org
[7] Barber, C.V. Flashpoint: Forests, Conflict and Security in Indonesia. IUCN/IISD Task Force on Environment and Security, 2001. http://www.iisd.org
8 Kaimowitz, 2001.
9 McNeely, 2001.
10 McNeely, 2001.

erosion of forest habitat. This destruction of genetic material is arguably a permanent loss of potential cures for diseases, food crops and varieties, and carbon storage capacity. Developing countries have taken the position that they should be compensated for the global ecological services provided by their current forest cover, yet intergovernmental financing for forest conservation has been in deadlock for over a decade[11]. Should the deadlock persist to the point of crisis, it may become a question of international security. According to one commentator cited by McNeely (2001), "The idea that the Amazon might be invaded by foreign armies aiming to stop the deforestation may appear ludicrous to foreigners, but it is taken seriously in South America and has been used to justify the Brazilian military's tight control of Amazonian policy".

## 'Parks for Peace'

As argued earlier, remote and conflicted regions are often the places whose natural systems have been least-disturbed by development. For example, the border between Thailand and Peninsular Malaysia was a hotbed of insurgency during the mid-1960s to mid-1970s. On the Malaysian side of the border, the military closed off all public access and potential logging activity in the Belum Forest Reserve. As a result, this extensive area of some 160,000 ha remained untouched by modern logging pressures and therefore is rich in wildlife resources. Malaysia is now converting this into a national park that will form a transboundary protected area with matching protected areas in southern Thailand[12].

As this example underscores, cooperation around environmental ends can often be the basis for peace building. Among those issues over which contention lies, environmental concerns may be those most amenable to resolution. The establishment of an international 'protected area' can be a means for removing some sources of international tension. Peru and Ecuador fought three territorial wars in the 20th century, but Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori and Ecuadorian President Jamil Mahuad resolved their violent border dispute in 1998 with an innovative plan that included creation of two national "peace parks" near the most contested stretch of their frontier[13].

## Protecting Forests Can Cause Conflict[14]

Unfortunately, the practice of creating protected areas can create conflict as well. Before the arrival of colonialists, indigenous Zimbabweans survived by a combination of agriculture and use of forest resources. Beginning with the British colonial invasion

in 1890, rural blacks were largely confined to so-called 'communal areas', while most of the remaining land was designated as white-owned commercial lands, with some tracts set aside for 'demarcated forests' or for national parks.

The creation of demarcated forests was to prove a doubled edged sword for forest management. The demarcated forests served both to provide timber for the colonial state and to conserve biodiversity. This meant excluding local people who previously derived direct benefits from these forests, and who had used these forests as a safety net in times of resource shortages. Without access to the majority of land and resources, these people were forced to subsist through overexploitation of resources on the communal lands, leading to resource degradation and resource-based conflicts.

This situation of growing desperation led to the liberation struggle in the 1970s, and eventually to the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980. With civil war came breakdown in forest administration, further exacerbating resource depletion and illegal settlement in both the forests and surrounding large-scale commercial farms. This legacy of inequitable land and resource distribution has arguably contributed to the current situation of forest and farm occupations and human insecurity in Zimbabwe.

## Disaster Prevention

In spite of the growing human and social costs of disasters, particularly for the developing world, the role of forests in preventing catastrophe remains undervalued in national policymaking. Switzerland learned the importance of conserving its high mountain forests over 100 years ago. Widespread flooding, avalanches and landslides in the late 19th Century demonstrated the link between deforestation and these catastrophic events and led to the passage in 1876 of an historic law aimed at conserving forested areas. The protective value of these forests to protecting villages, towns, infrastructure and tourism, and thus the economy as a whole, was estimated in the mid-1980s at US$2-3.5 billion per year[15]. The Swiss government provides US$25-35 million per year in subsidies for conservation of 'protective' forests, by any estimate a good investment in security through natural resources management[16].

## Forests for Security: A Shift in Understanding

Recognizing and valuing the many services provided by forests in service of social stability and security is vital for assuring their conservation.

11 World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development. Our Forests…Our Future. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

12 McNeely, 2001.

13 McNeely, 2001.

14 Katerere, Y. and Hill, R. Environment and Security in Zimbabwe: The Case of Struggles over Access to State Forests in Matabeleland North Province. IUCN/IISD Task Force on Environment and Security. www.iisd.org

15 Swiss Forest Agency. Sustainable development of Switzerland's forests. Federal Office of Environment, Forests and Landscape, 1995:8, 22, 28.

16 Mountain Agenda. Mountain Forests and Sustainable Development. Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, 2000:37.

Investment in conservation has expanded tremendously in the last hundred years. During the 20th century, some 30,000 protected areas were established around the world, arguably one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century. Together, these areas cover about 12.8 million sq. km, which amounts to 9.5% of the planet's land area, larger than the areas of China and India combined[17].

Yet the practice of conservation has undergone a decisive shift since the establishment of the first National Park, the Yosemite Valley in the State of California, in 1864[18]. One of the central challenges for conservation in the 21st Century is "to bring benefits to people, embedding protected areas more firmly in local economies so that communities, local, national and international, benefit from the full range of material and non-material values of protected areas" [19]. It is recognized that ethics alone are insufficient for preserving biodiversity, and that community will is vital for effective conservation. According to the former Director-General of IUCN, Martin Holdgate, "conservation of biodiversity and biological resources [needs to be placed] in the wider context of action to combat poverty and support development and economic growth"[20].

Perhaps no greater contribution can be made by conservationists to these ends than to better understand and harness the links between natural resources and human security.

**Jason Switzer (editor)** is a Senior Project Officer at the International Institute for Sustainable Development and coordinates the IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative, sponsored by the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).

## Links

IUCN-IISD Environment and Security Initiative
http://www.iisd.org/natres/security/

Matthew, R., Halle, M., Switzer, J. and Hammill, A. (eds.)
Conserving the Peace: Natural Resources, Livelihoods and Security. IISD/IUCN, 2002 (forthcoming).

17 WCPA. World Commission on Protected Areas in Action: Protected Areas – Benefits Beyond Boundaries. IUCN, 2000:2.
18 Holdgate, M. The Green Web: A Union for World Conservation. IUCN/Earthscan, 2000:253.
19 WCPA. World Commission on Protected Areas in Action: Protected Areas – Benefits Beyond Boundaries. IUCN, 2000:2.
20 Holdgate, M. The Green Web: A Union for World Conservation. IUCN/Earthscan, 2000:253.

# CEESP WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY—
## Establishing our Niche

Launched in Amman in 2000, the CEESP Environment & Security Working Group has made a compelling case to the IUCN family of the relevance of conflict and disaster to the protection of biodiversity. Our forthcoming book, made up of contributions from member organizations, regional offices and head office staff, responds to the need, made even more apparent in recent days, for all of us in the Sustainable Development community to understand how our work can contribute to resolving the sources of poverty, marginalization and hatred. Overall, we have achieved remarkable success in a short term in establishing a niche for IUCN in the field of Environment and Security, generating interest within the conservation movement and building bridges with key actors in the private sector and government.

Our flagship effort in 2002 is the climate change, vulnerable communities and adaptation project - a second collaboration spanning members and IUCN programs. What role can conservationists play in helping to address the sources of human vulnerability to disaster? In collaboration with IUCN's Climate Change Unit and the Stockholm Environment Institute's Boston Centre, we have brought together a task force of international stature to Gland on November 27-29, chaired by Ambassador Lionel Hurst of Antigua and Achim Steiner, DG of IUCN. Moving forward on several fronts in the coming months, our project seeks to identify where conservation of natural buffer systems - mangroves, swamps and forests - has provided triple benefits in terms of reduced vulnerability, increased carbon sink capacity and increased conservation of biodiversity; and enhance the role of these strategies in Climate Change adaptation policy.

International trade creates winners and losers, with implications for social stability. Likewise, an emerging body of evidence suggests that conflict may often be sustained as a cover for the looting of natural resources - illegally-harvested timber, diamonds and exotic animal parts - which are often exchanged for small arms. Development assistance can itself be a source of conflict and accelerated resource depletion. How can trade and aid related to natural resources be harnessed to promote peace? On February 23rd, IUCN HQ hosted an informal meeting of experts and practitioners from the fields of trade policy, aid, conservation and natural resource-related conflict, in an attempt to map out this complex system and provide policy recommendations to the Monterrey Summit on Finance for Development and the WSSD.

Our efforts to demonstrate the link between the private sector and environment-related conflict have also borne fruit. It is becoming increasingly accepted by companies that their activities do have implications for social stability and that proactive management can be less-costly to them and less harmful to the surrounding communities if they pay attention to the environmental sources of conflict. Our work in this field includes: a paper and workshop on Mining and Conflict for the MMSD, available at www.iied.org/mmsd; contributions to the UN Global Compact Conflict Management Toolkit, forthcoming in the Summer 2002; a paper and workshop on 'Insuring the Peace' for UNEP Finance Initiatives, forthcoming in the Summer 2002.

All in all, it has been a remarkable growth period for our 'Environment and Security' initiative. Through the rest of 2002 we

look forward to launching our steering committee and membership, continuing our efforts in support of mainstreaming this issue within the program of IUCN and its members, building on our base of research on Climate Change and Vulnerability; Conflict and the Private Sector, and on Trade, Aid and Security
Mark Halle (mark.halle@iprolink.ch)
Chair, CEESP Environment and Security Working Group

## CEESP WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS—
### Having Your Cake and Eating it Too!

For most of the last year, our just-born Working Group on Sustainable Livelihoods has been trying what its mandate requires: stretching to the brim conventional logic and resources. After all, we are only dealing with simple problems: "having your topsoil, your water, your biodiversity… and thriving crops in the fields!", "having your pasture, your sacred groves, your state-managed protected areas…and functioning telephone connections and secondary schools available to all!", "having your vibrant traditions, your own recognized language, your dignity as peoples… and well distributed health centres and infrastructures!".

What comes out of our work? The latest in time is an approved initiative to develop a Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Afghanistan, to be carried out by an institutional partnership in which the members of the Sustainable Livelihoods Working Group (SLWG) will provide some of the needed technical support. The initiative is grounded in Afghan civil society— Afghan NGOs constituting the link with the local communities involved in assessing, planning and taking action all over the country. Afghanistan signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 but was never able to ratify it due to lack of a suitable concerned organ of the government to do so. Because of this the Global Environment Facility (GEF) cannot fund projects in Afghanistan and yet, after years of rampant war and environmental disasters, the biodiversity of Afghanistan, both wild and cultivated, is gasping for help. Rehabilitation and protection activities cannot wait any longer. The SLWG can take pride in having gathered the consensus of the FAO and other local and international partners for this initiative, as well as one for fostering ecological agriculture in the country.

The second initiative that just got rewarded by approval and funding from the Rockefeller Foundation is a stocktaking exercise on technology issues thirty years after the publication of the 1972 classic "*The Careless Technology—Ecology and International Development*," which exposed the severe consequences of unbridled use of powerful technology in development. The book, based on a 1968 conference, will be reproduced in CD-ROM format and made available at WSSD. More importantly, key scholars and practitioners from all over the world are being invited to come up with the state of the art regarding key technology and environment issues and to assess the progress, if any, that has occurred since the book sounded one of the first strong alarm bells at the time of the UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Issues that will be covered include health technologies, sedentarisation of nomadic pastoralists, use of pesticides and fertilizers, genetic manipulation of crops, natural resource management and large dams and irrigation schemes. Preliminary reports will be aired

The Kobro community (North Cameroon) harvests its first communally owned and grown rice crop: they are now experimenting with non-chemical pest control methods in partnership with rice-growing villages in Iran, as well as with sustainable community investment funds as an alternative to micro-credit.



and discussed at WSSD and later collected for an IUCN/CEESP follow up publication.

Jointly with FAO and the IUCN-member CENESTA, the Sustainable Livelihood Working Group sponsored last March the Regional Civil Society Consultations of Tehran in Preparation for the *World Food Summit: Five Years Later* (Rome, June 2002). The Consultation, which took place in Tehran in March 2002, provided a forum for NGOs and CBOs from West and Central Asia and North Africa to provide their input to the World Food Summit. In conjunction with the Summit itself, the SLWG is also co-organizing two workshops as part of the civil society Forum for Food Sovereignty: one on *Rangeland Management and Pastoralism in Arid Lands*, and the other on *Domesticated Animal Genetic Diversity and Stockraisers' Rights,* in addition to involvement in alternative models of agriculture and food sovereignty issues.

An initiative of the SLWG that has been on-going since its beginning is an experiment in South-South (Asia-Africa, expanding to South America) exchanges in sustainable agriculture, focusing on non-chemical control of pests and plant diseases and simple production-enhancing technologies. A demonstration initiative and learning site has been technically supported in the Lake Chad region, in cooperation with a local NGO (Ittifaq-Keyke Mate: Solidarity with Communities in the Heart of Africa), an IUCN initiative in North Cameroon (CACID/ Waza Logone) and the Global Integrated Pest Management Facility (FAO). The initiative involves and benefits several local communities in one of the harshest natural environments on earth. The SLWG organized methodology workshops, participated in setting up a training programme, held discussions on policy lessons and provided technical advice on how to integrate biodiversity concerns into community work on agriculture and fisheries and on how to develop sustainable financing for participatory livelihood initiatives. In West Asia,

five learning sites on integrated, community-based, non-chemical production and pest management have also been set up in the Semnan and Guilan provinces of Iran.  Each site includes several communities and deals with different crop species—from rice and wheat to pistachio and pomegranate. In partnership with UNEP and the Amar Foundation (London), the SLWG has prepared an initiative on the rehabilitation of the marshlands of Lower Mesopotamia.  The marshlands are threatened by extensive dam building on the Tigris-Euphrates-Karkheh river complex, massive drainage work in Iraq, and the

consequences of two devastating wars in the region over the past two decades: environmental pollution and habitat loss, threatening people and wildlife together.  A project proposal has been prepared and submitted for funding, and action has been initiated at the behest of UNEP and the Department of Environment in Iran to release more water from Karkheh River for the rehabilitation of the marshlands. Members of SLWG have been participating in relevant meetings and initiatives all over the world.  They are contributing to the inclusion of local community experiences in SL and biodiversity conservation at WSSD as part of the "Equator Initiative," in partnership with IISD, UNDP,

## CEESP WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND INVESTMENT——

### Assisting IUCN to Understand and Participate in the Trade Debate

*Development of an IUCN Biodiversity and Trade Strategic Programme.*

As part of its "inward track" GETI has been actively involved in the planning and carrying out of a IUCN meeting (held on 22 April 2002) to discuss the future work of IUCN on trade. Amongst the meeting's conclusions is that IUCN should focus its trade work on international governance and market mechanisms and to ensure that trade and investment regimes are supportive of biodiversity conservation. Participants, which included representatives from IUCN global programmes as well as from regional and multilateral offices, also decided that the Policy, Biodiversity and International Agreements Unit would further articulate IUCN's work on trade in a strategic manner, with the help of a steering group, which amongst others includes GETI.

*BRIDGES Trade and Biological Resources News Digest.*

At the end of last year GETI in collaboration with ICTSD and IUCN initiated the publication of the new bi-weekly newsletter *BRIDGES Trade and Biological Resources News Digest (BRIDGES Trade BioRes)*. The newsletter was conceived to enhance and improve understanding of issues related to biological resources, international trade and sustainable development. *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* is targeted primarily at the conservation community and provides it with timely, reliable and comprehensive information on trade and the sustainable use/conservation of biological resources in the context of ongoing processes and negotiations. This information helps to build capacity in the conservation community to formulate the trade-related aspects of their biodiversity strategies. Issue covered by the *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* relate to the CBD overall framework and the specific topics covered by the CBD (i.e. biotechnology, alien invasive species, access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge) and the relevant discussion areas at the WTO (i.e. fisheries, intellectual property, health and phytosanitary measures, agriculture, environment) as well as other relevant processes such as the WSSD and the WPC, 2003. To date, *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* has more than 500 subscribers from a wide spectrum of interest groups including IUCN, IATP, Traffic, WWF, FIELD, trade negotiators, divisions of UNEP, UNCTAD, WTO research centres, and academics from both developed and developing countries. *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* is available on the ICTSD website: http://www.ictsd.org/biores. To subscribe, please send a blank email to: subscribe_biores@ictsd.ch

For further information, please contact:

Marianne Jacobsen (mjacobsen@ictsd.ch)

Programme Assistant & Liaison Officer with CEESP

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

## CEESP WORKING GROUP ON COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT——The Web Is Spinning!

For the first time since our creation six years ago, the Collaborative Management Working Group (CMWG) has crossed well over the bar of 200 members.  We span over forty countries (half of which in the South) and have all been selected by word of mouth, through personal recommendations of other members.  Indeed we are a "web" of professionals with concern and expertise on the practice and theory of collaborative management—a web with common and specific engagements, who keeps in touch despite enormous geographical distances and who is very supportive of individual members—something many of us appreciate a lot.

It is perhaps not surprising that the world of "conservation" and "development" is a giant who learns lessons despairingly slowly, if at all.  Particularly so, in fact, when lessons cannot be taken down as pills, easy little chunks or "to do" lists, but require a revision of attitudes and overall perspectives in addition to a variety of methods, tools, tricks, ideas and solutions carefully tailored to contexts.  To be sure, some collaborative management lessons can be offered as easy little chunks— books of guidelines do exist and indeed are helpful for professionals not to have to reinvent hot water at every step.  But the most important lessons have to do with a genuinely learning and collaborative attitude, and a capacity to elicit the best out of people and situations.  This kind of crafty, ingenious and patient expertise can best be transmitted on a person-to-person basis, and best of all while working together.  This is one of the most felicitous opportunities presented as part of being a member of an IUCN Commission.  And this is what many of our CMWG members are engaged in and appreciate IUCN for.

Looking back to the last year, and last few months in particular, we find CMWG members engaged together in countless initiatives.   There is grassroots organising in specific locations, as for the Swiss, French and Italian CMWG members taking the lead to demand a participatory form of trans-boundary protection for the Mont Blanc area (contacts: cchatela@nwc.fr and b.ehringhaus@freesurf.ch ).  There is innovative applied research, as with Ecuadorian and European CMWG members joining forces to develop an adaptive co-management system for the Galapagos Marine Reserve (pippah@fcdarwin.org.ec ).  Sustained joint learning efforts are pursued in Central Africa (a CMWG initiative now in its fifth year of life— mcpbuea@iccnet2000.com ) and new regional initiatives on co-management of rural environment (pfranks@cicdp.demon.co.uk ), marine protected areas (tinis@sol.gtelecom.gw and eco-pnba@toptechnology.mr ) and inland protected areas (ipbn@web.net ), respectively, are promoted by CMWG members in East Africa, West Africa and South America.

Policy advocacy is another hot subject for CMWG members.  Some have been developing far-reaching new recommendations on sensitive

subjects, as in the April 2002 meeting on Mobile People and Conservation in Dana, Jordan (gonzaloo@swissonline.ch and taghi@cenesta.org).  Others are currently organising major policy events (e.g. the World Park Congress in Durban, in 2003— ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in and gbf@cenesta.org ) and compiling inspiring results (e.g. a forthcoming book on innovative participatory management legislation (lawjs@ozemail.com.au ), a special issue of Parks (jbrown@qlf.org ) and a new book of guidelines on communities and protected areas (gbf@cenesta.org and natrails@pn2.vsnl.net.in ).  Some CMWG members took the co-management values and practices at the heart of major media campaigns, as in the international campaign to halt top-down, non-participatory development decision making in Andhra Pradesh, India (Michel.Pimbert@iied.org ).

How is the CMWG membership being helpful to individual members?  In four major ways.  First, is the on-going link through the CMWG discussion list, where individuals introduce their initiatives and ideas, call for reaction from others members and get to establish personal contacts.  The list is closed, meaning that only members can post and receive messages, but another open list—the CM Forum cm-forum@indaba.iucn.org —also exists and is used by members.  Second, are direct meetings initiated and financed with the limited financing of CMWG.  The one major meeting we could finance in 2001 took place in Cuba and gathered more than twenty CM practitioners from Caribbean countries to examine regional needs and opportunities for action (sibarim@cubarte.cult.cu , hgovan@csi.com , kellogg@iconsprojects.org ) .  The meeting promoted a revival of collaboration in the Caribbean and the members have developed two project proposals now awaiting funding.  Other meetings of CMWG members could be organised without direct CMWG funding and took place in Yemen, Cameroon, Mauritania, Switzerland and Jordan.  The third key way of work of CMWG members is to carry out joint initiatives.  Currently, CMWG members are working together around the co-management of the periphery of the trans-boundary Park W, uniting Burkina Faso, Bénin and Niger (az_issa@yahoo.fr , rafrabus@club-internet.fr ).  They are organising a learning network in Central America (vsolis@racsa.co.cr ).  They are developing a project proposal for exchanges among protected areas in dry land environments in Asia (schm2405@magicnet.mn , KSwe983887@aol.com scdp@y.net.ye) and a project proposal to promote co-management learning in Central and Eastern Europe (andrej.sovinc@guest.arnes.si , 101234.2170@compuserve.com erikas@mail.recep.ro ).  The fourth way is by documenting and diffusing information and lessons learned.  Besides the publications under preparation already mentioned, many CMWG members have prepared papers for CM News VI— a joint issue with Policy Matters on the theme of sustainable livelihoods to be to be launched at the Johannesburg's Rio + 10 event in the summer 2002.  Papers have been prepared on co-management cases in Benin, Mongolia, South Africa, Senegal, Congo Brazzaville, Spain and Germany, and many others are forthcoming.  Last but not least, many members of the CMWG are engaged in a fruitful inter-commission collaboration with the IUCS's World

*Some of the participants in the CMWG workshop in Cuba on the background of a palm species endemic to the island (December 2001).*



Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).  The joint CEESP/ WCPA Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in , gbf@cenesta.org) is providing a space and some resources for members to be even more engaged and effective.

In all, these last months offered indeed a memorable time for many of our CMWG members.

Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (gbf@cenesta.org)
Chair, CEESP Collaborative Management Working Group

## CEESP/WCPA THEME ON INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, EQUITY, AND PROTECTED AREAS



*The natural beauty of Dana Reserve, April 2002.*

Two commissions of the World Conservation Union—CEESP and WCPA (the World Commission on Protected Areas)— have joined forces to work on a Theme seeking learning and guidance towards participatory, equitable conservation of protected areas.  Ashish Kothari and Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend have been nominated as the co-chairs, and a core group is currently active on various tasks:  Among those are:

  -The participation in various policy events related to indigenous and local communities, equity and conservation, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

  -The preparation of a number of publications, distilling relevant lessons and proposing concrete options for action, including a book of guidelines on communities, equity and protected areas, a book on innovative legislative mechanisms for protected area participatory management, a book of case studies on community conservation and a special issue of the magazine *Parks.*

  -The participation in a project entitled "Ecosystems, Protected Areas and People" (EPP), which will establish mechanisms, especially based on learning from field sites, to exchange experience and build capacities on innovative policies, strategies and practices for dealing with the threats and opportunities of global change.

  -The preparation of the World Parks Congress (Durban, September 2003) where the Theme will figure as a cross-cutting subject and the issue of governance of protected areas will be explored in depth.

Among recent products to which Theme members contributed their time as volunteers is the following Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation:

*A group of concerned professionals including social and natural scientists from all regions of the world met in Wadi Dana Nature Reserve, Jordan, 3-7 April 2002, to consider a comprehensive approach to mobile peoples[1] and conservation. At the end of this meeting, they agreed the declaration reported below. The declaration is a contribution to narrowing the disciplinary divide. The ideas in it need to be tested, refined and further developed in dialogue with mobile peoples themselves and others. But these issues need to be considered urgently at national and international levels – and in particular at the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Parks Congress.*

The world faces unprecedented threats to the conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity. At the same time its cultural and linguistic diversity, which includes an immeasurable and irreplaceable range of knowledge and skills, is being lost at an alarming rate.

The linked pressures of human population dynamics, unsustainable consumption patterns, climate change and global and national economic forces threaten both the conservation of biological resources and the livelihoods of many indigenous and traditional peoples. In particular mobile peoples now find themselves constrained by forces beyond their control, which put them at a special disadvantage.

Mobile peoples are discriminated against. Their rights, including rights of access to natural resources, are often denied and conventional conservation practices insufficiently address their concerns. These factors together with the pace of global change undermine their lifestyles; reduce their ability to live in balance with nature, and threaten their very existence as distinct peoples.

Nonetheless, through their traditional resource use practices and culture-based respect for nature, many mobile peoples are still making a significant contribution to the maintenance of the earth's ecosystems, species and genetic diversity – even though this often goes unrecognised. Thus the interests of mobile peoples and conservation converge, especially as they face a number of common challenges. There is therefore an urgent need to create a mutually reinforcing partnership between mobile peoples and those involved with conservation.

In the light of this understanding, we commit ourselves to promoting conservation practices based on the following principles:

## PRINCIPLE 1. RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

Conservation approaches with potential impact on mobile peoples and their natural resources must recognise mobile peoples' rights, management responsibilities and capacities, and should lead to effective empowerment. These rights include:

1.1  Human rights: civil, political, social, economic and cultural
1.2  Land and resource rights, including those under customary law;
1.3  Cultural and intellectual property rights;
1.4  The right to full participation in decision-making and relevant negotiation processes at different levels;
1.5  The right to derive equitable benefits from any consumptive or non-consumptive use of local natural resources.

To this end, appropriate legislative reforms should be promoted as needed, at national and international levels. In addition, because mobile peoples often move through different territories, transboundary co-operation between national authorities may be required.

Recognition of mobile peoples' rights should lead to effective empowerment, and include consideration of gender and age.

## PRINCIPLE 2. TRUST AND RESPECT

Beneficial partnerships between conservation interests and mobile peoples should be based upon mutual trust and respect and address the issue of discrimination against mobile peoples. To this end partnerships should:

2.1  Be equitable;
2.2  Fully respect and acknowledge mobile peoples' institutions;
2.3  Balance the exercise of rights by all parties with the fulfilment of responsibilities;
2.4  Recognise and incorporate relevant customary law;
2.5  Promote the accountability of all parties in relation to the fulfilment of conservation objectives and the needs of mobile peoples.

## PRINCIPLE 3.  DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

In planning and implementing conservation of biodiversity with mobile peoples, there is a need to respect and incorporate their traditional knowledge and management practices. Given that no knowledge system is infallible, the complementary use of traditional and mainstream sciences is a valuable means of meeting the changing needs of mobile peoples and answering conservation dilemmas. In particular:

3.1  Traditional and mainstream sciences and management practices should enter into dialogue on a basis of equal footing and involve two-way learning;
3.2  Traditional and mainstream sciences should be appropriately valued and their dynamic nature acknowledged.

## PRINCIPLE 4. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Conservation of biodiversity and natural resources within areas inhabited or used by mobile peoples requires the application of adaptive management approaches. Such approaches should build on traditional / existing cultural models and incorporate mobile peoples' worldviews, aspirations and customary law. They should work towards the  physical and cultural survival of mobile peoples and the long-term conservation of biodiversity.

More particularly, such adaptive management approaches should:

4.1  Build on areas of common interest between the chosen lifestyles of mobile peoples and the conservation objective of sustainable resource management;
4.2  Allow for diversification of livelihoods, and ensure provision of a variety of benefits at all levels, including mobile services;
4.3  Recognise the diversity of systems of tenure and access to resources, including the customary sharing of resources;
4.4  Recognize and support the contributions made by mobile peoples to conserving and enhancing the genetic diversity of domesticated animals and plants;

---

[1] By mobile peoples, we mean a subset of indigenous and traditional peoples whose livelihoods depend on extensive common property use of natural resources over an area, who use mobility as a management strategy for dealing with sustainable use and conservation, and who possess a distinctive cultural identity and natural resource management system.

4.5 Learn from the flexible management practices of mobile peoples to enrich conservation;

4.6 Develop conservation planning at a larger landscape scale, using the notion of mobility as a central concept, and incorporating both ecological and cultural perspectives.

## PRINCIPLE 5: COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

Adequate institutional structures for adaptive management should be based on the concept of equitable sharing of decision-making and management responsibilities between mobile peoples and conservation agencies. This is only possible if the existing decision-making mechanisms for biodiversity conservation become more democratic and transparent, so as to allow for the full and open participation of civil society and mobile peoples in particular, and for the establishment of co-management and self-management systems. This requires that the relevant parties:

5.1 Develop processes and means that foster cross-cultural dialogue directed towards consensual decision-making;

5.2 Incorporate culturally appropriate conflict-management mechanisms and institutions;

5.3 Recognize the time-scale appropriate to cultural processes and the time required to build intercultural partnerships for adaptive management;

5.4 Foster locally agreed solutions to conservation problems;

5.5 Encourage diverse and pluralistic approaches to conservation planning and implementation;

5.6 Develop their capacities to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships.
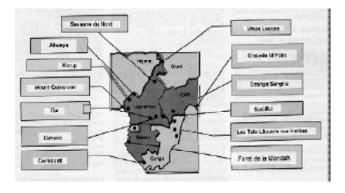
## RÉSEAU COGESTION—
### From Project-Supported to Independent Network

The Réseau Cogestion is a professional network in Central Africa, affiliated with CEESP and its Collaborative Management Working Group. Several conservation initiatives in the Congo Basin—one of the richest ecosystems in the whole world—are engaged in co-management processes, involving various stakeholders in the sharing of costs and benefits of managing natural resources (see the map on the side). From January 1998 to January 2002 a joint IUCN/GTZ project supported their practices and common learning. Now that the project



arrived at its end, the initiatives have themselves created an independent professional network called Réseau Cogestion. The Réseau, aims at:

●Promoting the participatory management of natural resources in the region;

●Promoting the exchange of relevant experiences



and the access to relevant information;

●Facilitating the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes;

●Documenting and capitalising experiences and lessons learned;

●Supporting relevant research and training, in particular in the major Faculties of Natural Resource management in the region.

The Réseau is open to all interested individuals and institutions, including the ones non-resident in the Congo Basin. On the side is the cover page of the most recent issue of the magazine of the FAO's Forests, Trees and People Network— entirely dedicated to lessons learned and future perspectives on the basis of the work of the Réseau Cogestion.

For more information and/or for joining the Réseau please contact Mambo Okenye (mcpbuea@camnet.cm ), Coordinator, and Norbert Gami (gami.forafri@assala.net ), Secretary General.

## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING GROUP
## (RING)——Gearing Up for WSSD and Keeping an Eye on Trade

The RING (http://www.ring-alliance.org/) 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.   It has had a close partnership with CEESP since its establishment.

The RING has been actively engaged in preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for the past months, focusing on policy advocacy. In association with IIED, it has produced a series of Briefing Papers and a Statement for WSSD, which outlines key priorities for action at the Johannesburg summit. The latest Briefing Paper, entitled Implementing the Rio Conventions: Implications for the South, was released in March 2002. Also in collaboration with IIED the RING produced a booklet on Financing for Sustainable Development, edited by Tariq Banuri and Tom Bigg, in January. The RING is currently providing policy guidance and analysis for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in preparation for the publication of the Global Environmental Outlook, 2002, (GEO3). In collaboration with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), the RING is currently collaborating in a project aimed at exploring elements of a Southern Trade and Environment Agenda.

The project will be led by a small team comprising the Director of one of the RING members, the Executive Director of ICTSD, and the European Director of IISD, and will be supervised by a small Advisory Committee comprising one key trade Ambassador each from Asia, Africa and Latin America. It will be administered by IISD's Geneva Office. The first phase consultations were organized and led by ICTSD; in the second phase, they will be undertaken with the RING partner organizations in the respective regions. In Phase II they will:

- Undertake a more targeted series of consultations at the regional and sub-regional level in selected parts of the developing world, deliberately aimed at broadening the search for developing country environmental interests in the trade context, including input from non-trade policy parts of government, the business sector and civil society, and stimulating new and creative ideas. (December 2001 - August 2002)
- Gather and present these in the form of a menu of elements from which developing countries might construct an Agenda on Trade and Environment that corresponds to their interest and priorities, and which fully supports their development aspirations, including creative policy proposals that might address key issues on the menu. (September 2002)
- Prepare a set of materials arising from the research and consultations that might serve as the basis for policy dialogues in developing countries and regions, focused on developing country environmental interests in trade. (September-November 2002).

The RING is made up of the following policy research organizations around the world:

- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED, UK – http://www.iied.org)
- Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS, Bangladesh – http://www.bcas.net)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD, Canada – http://www.iisd.org)
- Centre for Sustainable Development (CENESTA, Iran –http://www.cenesta.org)
- IIED América Latina (IIED-AL, Argentina -: iied-ac@sei.com.ar)

- Centro de Investigacion y Planificacion del Medio Ambiente (CIPMA, Chile – http://www.cipma.cl)
- Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team (NEST, Nigeria – http://www.nest.org.ng)
- Development Alternatives (DA, India – http://www.devalt.org)

- Stockholm Environment Institute Boston (SEI-Boston, USA – http://www.seib.org)
- Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM, Senegal – http://www.enda.sn)
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI, Pakistan – http://www.sdpi.org)
- Instituto para o Desenvolvimento, Meio Ambiente, e Paz (Vitae Civilis, Brazil – http://www.vitaecivilis.org.br)

- ZERO Energy Research Organisation (ZERO, Zimbabwe – http://www.zero.org.zw)

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

the UN Foundation and others.  They are also developing an initiative to support community based sturgeon culture in the Caspian region (see *Policy Matters* No. 8 on the Sturgeon) in partnership with the International Sturgeon Research Institute of Rasht, the SSC Specialist Group on Sturgeons, Centre for Sustainable Development of Iran, and The Caviar House of Geneva.  They are helping to elaborate SL approaches for mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on food production systems, in partnership with FAO.  They have been advancing the analytical understanding of the SL components, in partnership with UNDP and the Society for International Development.  They are supporting the establishment of an IUCN Regional Thematic Centre on Desertification in Iran, in partnership with the IUCN WESCANA office and the Ministry of Jihad for Agriculture's Forests and Rangelands Organisation.  And they are active in developing a comprehensive plan for the sustainable management of Socotra Island—the biodiversity jewel of the Indian Ocean with some 300 species of endemic plants and local communities fully engaged in conservation and sustainable use.  Last but not least, an effort is underway, led by Dr Jeff Gritzner (CEESP Vice-Chair) and Claudia Carr (University of Berkeley) and others, to produce a Red List of Endangered Cultural Heritage for the Sustainable Use and Management of Biological Diversity.

Despite all of the above, the SLWG is still a rather small group of a few dozen.  One of the main drives in the months to come will be the expansion of the membership and its improved linking through a dedicated electronic discussion list.   We will have plenty to exchange, in our efforts to explore and foster the achievement of the wonderful and demanding paradoxes of daily sustainable life.

M. Taghi Farvar (taghi@cenesta.org)
Chair, Sustainable Livelihood Working Group

## CEESP Steering Committee and Contacts

| Name & affiliation | Role/ area of responsibility | Nationality/ residence |
|---|---|---|
| *Themes and Working Groups* | | |
| **Taghi Farvar** (taghi@cenesta.org) Centre for Sustainable Development (CENESTA), Iran Global IPM Facility/ FAO | Chair of CEESP and the Working Group on Sustainable Livelihoods | Iran |
| **James Murombedzi** (j.murombedzi@fordfound.org) Ford Foundation, South Africa | Deputy Chair of CEESP & Regional Focal Point for Africa | Zimbabwe/ South Africa |
| **Alejandro Argumedo** (ipbn@web.net) n Quechua-Aymara (ANDES); | Vice Chair for Indigenous Peoples & Biodiversity Issues | Peru |
| **Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend** (gbf@cenesta.org) Ittifaq-Keyke Mate (IKM), Switzerland | Vice-Chair of CEESP Co-management of Natural Resources; & Co-Chair, Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas | Italy/ Switzerland |
| **Mark Halle** (mhalle@iprolink.ch) International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Switzerland | Vice-Chair for Environment and Security | Italy/ USA Switzerland |
| **Ashish Kothari** (ashish@nda.vsnl.net.in) Kalpavrish, India | Vice Chair of CEESP & Co-Chair, Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas | India |
| **Ricardo Melendez** (rmelendez@ictsd.ch) International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Switzerland | Vice-Chair for Trade & Environment | Colombia/ Switzerland |
| **Rob Monro** (r.monro@virgin.net) Africa Resources Trust (ART) | Vice-Chair for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and CBD issues | Zimbabwe/ UK |
| *Regional Focal Points* | | |
| **Abdul Rahman Al-Eryani** (scdp@y.net.ye) Yemen Island Promotion and Dev. Authority (YIPDA) Green Yemen | Arab Region | Yemen |
| **Jeff Gritzner** (jag@selway.umt.edu) University of Montana, USA | North America | USA |
| **Khawar Mumtaz** (khawarm@lhr.comsats.net.pk) Shirkatgah, Pakistan | South Asia | Pakistan |
| *Staff contact persons* | | |
| **Maryam Rahmanian** (maryam@cenesta.org) | CEESP Executive Officer | Iran |
| **Marianne Jacobsen** (mjacobsen@ictsd.ch) | Working Group on Environment, Trade & Investment | Denmark |
| **Manju Menon** (manjumenon@vsnl.net) | Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity & Protected Areas | India |
| **Jason Switzer** (jswitzer@iisd.ca) | Working Group on Environment & Security | Canada |
| **Mariam Vafa** (vafa@cenesta.org) | Working Groups on Sustainable Livelihoods and Collaborative Management of Natural Resources | Iran |

**CEESP Main office:**
c/o CENESTA  5 Lakpour Lane, Suite 24  Langary Street, Nobonyad Square IR-16936 Tehran, Iran
Telephone/fax: ++98 21 295-4217      International fax: ++1 253 322-8599
Email: ceesp@iucn.org  Internet: http://ceesp.cenesta.org or via www.iucn.org

**IUCN HQ contact person:** Steve Edwards (steve.edwards@iucn.org)

## Collaborative management of protected areas in Europe

**When**: 13 June, as part of the IUCN/ WCPA Europe Members' Meeting (12-15 June, 2002)

**Where**: Pörtschach am Wörther See, Carinthia (Austria)

**Themes**: Collaborative management of protected areas: reviewing evolving concepts, practices, needs and opportunities in Europe

The joint CEESP/ WCPA Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas and the CEESP Collaborative Management Working Group are organizing a workshop as part of the IUCN/ WCPA Europe Members' Meeting, which will gather the IUCN/ WCPA European network and partners to plan future activites, including a European contribution to the World Park Congress 2003. Our workshop is expecting to include presentations from Estonia, Germany, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden, plus the trans-boundary case of Mont Blanc (Italy, France and Switzerland). A presentation will be offered on general co-management lessons in the European context. Interested members will discuss the future of a project proposal to promote co-management settings in protected areas of Central and Eastern Europe (proposal currently in final draft stage).

**For more information**, please contact Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend gbf@cenesta.org

## Rome NGO/CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty

**When**: 8-13 June , 2002

**Where**: Palazzo dei Congressi, Rome (Italy)

**Themes**: "Hunger is not a problem of means, but of rights"

The right to food, farmers' rights and the cultural rights of indigenous peoples (which are closely linked to their food systems) are seriously undermined by the current system of industrial, corporate and globalised agriculture.

The NGO Forum condemns the agenda of the World Food Summit that limits its action to recall the political will of governments to implement the 1996 Plan of Action. That Plan has a "hidden agenda," implicitly based on market mechanisms.

The Forum seeks to place local trade ahead of global trade on the international agenda. Opportunities are now offered by the broad consensus - from farmers to trade unions to indigenous peoples – achieved on current agricultural issues, e.g. "NO DUMPING", "GMO MORATORIUM", and the need for agro-ecological approaches.

CEESP, together with the Centre for Sustainable Development, Iran, is organizing two workshops at the Forum for Food Sovereignty: on Rangeland Management, Pastoralism and Arid Lands, on 12 June and on Domesticated Animal Genetic Diversity and Herders' Rights, on 13 June.

**More information**: http://forumfoodsovereignty.org

## World Food Summit: Five Years Later

**When**: 10-13 June 2002

**Where**: FAO Headquarters, Rome

Themes: This global forum will take stock of gains made towards ending hunger and identify ways to accelerate the process. It will review advances made since the 1996 World Food Summit; outline the measures leaders envisage to reach the goals; and mobilize political will and resources to move forward at an accelerated pace.

**More information**: www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit

This meeting will gather Heads of State, as well as a Forum for the civil society, on the theme "The World Food Summit Plan of Action: results achieved, obstacles met and means of overcoming them". It will include a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue for country delegations and observers from various constituencies.

## The Global Forum

**When**: 19 August - 4 September, 2002

**Where**: Johannesburg, South Africa

**More information**: The Global Forum is being organised by the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) through the WSSD Secretariat - www.worldsummit.org.za

## World Summit on Sustainable Development

**When**: 26 August - 4 September 2002

The WSSD will bring together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State, and leaders from NGOs, businesses and other major groups to focus the world's attention and direct action toward meeting difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.

**More information**: www.johannesburgsummit.org

**IUCN at WSSD:** IUCN is setting up the IUCN Environment Centre at the Summit to provide a place for environment and development, business and NGOs, government and civil society to meet - both formally and informally.

**More information**: www.iucn.org/wssd

**CEESP at WSSD:** CEESP will host an event for the launching of the

reproduction of the 1968 classic "The Careless Technology" in CD-ROM format and will organize a workshop on the book themes. This will be made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. CEESP is helping to organize the inclusion of local community experiences in sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation at WSSD in partnership with UNDP (The Equator Initiative), Environment Canada, IDRC and the Ford Foundation.

The Commission will hold its Steering Committee meeting in conjunction with the WSSD.

**For more information** please contact Maryam Rahmanian at maryam@cenesta.org