

Presentation given at the Katoomba XV Meeting entitled

Integrated Solutions: Water, Biodiversity and Terrestrial Carbon in West Africa

October 6-10, 2009

Accra, Ghana

Hosted by:

The Katoomba Group, Forest Trends,
and the Nature Conservation Research Center



This workshop was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), under the terms of the TransLinks Cooperative Agreement No.EPP-A-00-06-00014-00 to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). TransLinks is a partnership of WCS, The Earth Institute, Enterprise Works/VITA, Forest Trends and the Land Tenure Center. The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.

Payments for Hydrological, Coastal and Marine Services

Wli Water falls



XV Katoomba Meeting
La Palm Hotel Accra,
6 – 7th October 2009



Keta Lagoon




Mangroves at Salo



Background

- Scale
- Scope
- Speed (Pace)
- Spread
- Strength

Copenhagen? - Never in the history of humankind have the fate of so many been decided by the deliberations and actions of so few.

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- **Yadvinder Malhi** is Professor of Ecosystem Science at the University of Oxford and the Director of the Oxford Centre for Tropical Forests. His research focuses on the ecosystem functioning of tropical forests, the impacts of global change on tropical forests, and on managing tropical forests as a strategy for tackling climate change. He is currently on sabbatical leave in Ghana exploring opportunities for climate change research in African ecosystems.
 - **Gordon Ajonina**, is a Forester, consultant involved in Wetland Management issues especially mangrove conservation issues in Africa He is a Founding member of African Mangrove Network (AMN) and current Pioneer National Coordinator of Cameroon Mangrove Network (CMN) hosted by his NGO the Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS).
 - **Winnie Lau** is an oceanographer, currently the Program Manager for the Marine Ecosystem Services (MARES) Program. Prior to joining the MARES Program, she worked at the U.S. Department of State on international science and technology and marine issues.

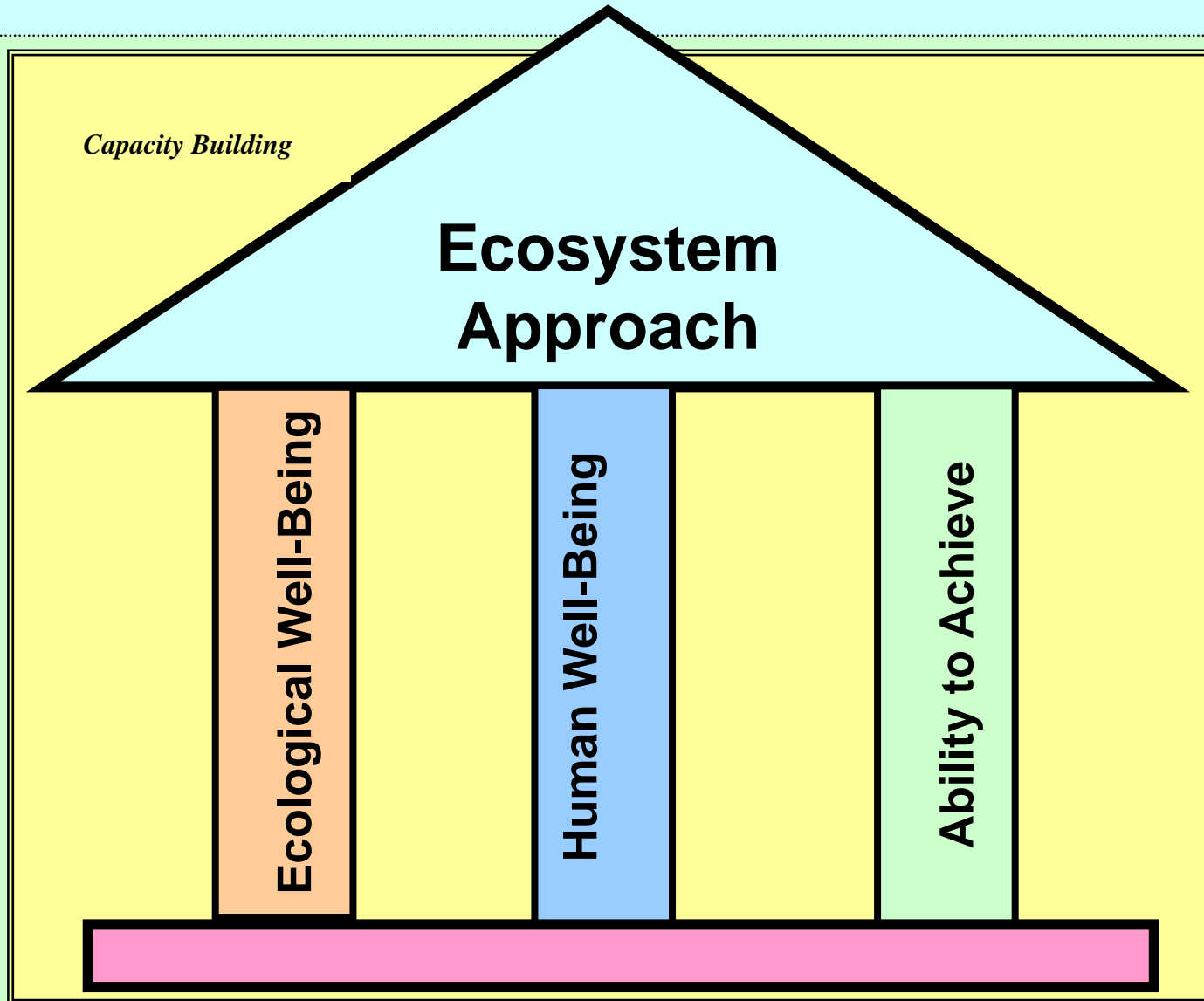
Moderator: **Chris Gordon**

Volta Basin Research Project/Department of Zoology

University of Ghana, Legon

Coastal/Aquatic Resource Management, Limnology & Ecotoxicology

Payment for Ecosystem Services



Key Issues

- Need for Integration between Land, Water Coasts and Oceans
- Transboundary nature of processes
- **The lack of scientific knowledge, especially in the developing world**
- *“the precautionary approach should be widely applied and that, where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, **lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent**”*
- Knowledge Sharing



**Do Not Forget Why We Are Here:
Time is running out**