

BioSoc: the Biodiversity and Society Bulletin

Research highlights on biodiversity and society, poverty and conservation

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HOW DO YOU DEFINE GOOD PRACTICE IN CONSERVATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION? THE NATURE AND POVERTY PROGRAMME PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE

Innovative, effective, sustainable and replicable: these are the four key qualities that a group of Dutch environmental organisations consider integral to good practices in linking conservation and poverty reduction. *Natureandpoverty* was a collaborative venture of WWF Netherlands, Friends of the Earth Netherlands, the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL) and their international partners. Its main aim was to alleviate poverty through a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. The partners pursued a combination of three interrelated intervention strategies often integrated around a certain theme (e.g. land rights) or commodity (e.g. fish, forests):

1. Direct poverty reduction through improved ecosystem management;
2. Capacity building of Southern stakeholders and partner organisations;
3. Influencing policies and practices to improve ecosystem management and to enhance the positive effects on poverty.

A central focus of the *natureandpoverty* initiative was on learning from each other, and this is the purpose of a recently released report on good practices which the collaborating partners say has been compiled “to help those working for nature conservation and poverty reduction to share experiences, and to stimulate debate on good practices”. *Natureandpoverty* was implemented in fifteen countries spanning four continents and the good practices draw on examples from across the programme. Issues covered range from engaging in participatory processes for the establishment of marine protected areas in Senegal, to environmental education in Bolivia, and influencing the purchasing policy of European shrimp retailers in South East Asia.

Natureandpoverty defines good practice in the context of nature conservation and poverty reduction as: “a method, process or approach that has resulted in a breakthrough and that has a lasting effect in the area of poverty reduction and sustainable ecosystem management.” Collaborative learning and sharing experiences – of successes and failures – as the programme has been open in doing should perhaps be added to this definition. *Natureandpoverty* is seeking to stimulate debate on good practices: let the debate begin...

SOURCE

IUCN-NL, WWF-NL, FoE-NL (Eds) (2007) Good Practices From the *natureandpoverty* Programme. IUCN-NL, WWF-NL, FoE-NL, Amsterdam.

The report is available to download from: <http://www.iucn.nl/sbeos/doc/file.php?nid=4824> or in hard copy from **IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands, Plantage Middenlaan 2K, 1018 DD Amsterdam. E-mail: mail@iucn.nl**

Queries about the *natureandpoverty* programme should be directed to Peter van Sluijs: peter.vansluijs@iucn.nl

BIOSOC

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