

Conservation and Development Are Compatible Goals: Evidence from the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund

Susan Ruffo
Director of Ecosystem Services
The Nature Conservancy
SCB July 12, 2009

Today: Global population is 6.8 Billion

- Over 3 Billion people live on <\$2.5/ day
- 25,000 children die each day due to poverty
- Nearly a billion people entered the 21st century unable to read a book or sign their names.
- Some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation.

In 2050: Global population is expected to be over 9 Billion

How will conservation fit into this picture?

Now viewed as a narrow special interest that always comes in last in terms of priorities because it is unrelated to the “real” issues of development, poverty alleviation, health...

The Pew Research Center tracks attitudes in the U.S.

In a January 2008 survey, 56% said environment is important

In January 2009, that number was only 41% --the steepest drop of any issue

But is conservation incompatible
with economic development?

World Bank Projects: standardized reporting, large sample size

2,490 projects approved after June 1992 and now closed

692 of these had “Environment and Natural Resources Management” as a Major Theme

Randomly selected 100 of these 692 projects, rejecting any without an Implementation Completion Report

For 97 of the selected projects, we randomly selected a non-environmental project matched for the same nation

The Cape Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Project

- first GEF project in South Africa, 1998-2004

Total Project Cost = \$105.67 million, with \$12.19 million coming from GEF



Indicators of conservation success:

- 3 endangered plant species (one protea and two ericas) expanded their range and numbers
- Increased raptor breeding activity
- 54 klipspringers were reintroduced to the Park in 2004-5 after eradication of the Himalayan Tahrs

Indicators of social and economic success

- Income from Table Mountain National Park quadrupled, and now \$2M profit annually
- Several hundred jobs created



Outcome: Highly Satisfactory

Sustainability: Highly Likely



Ratings for achievement of objectives:

"High" for environmental

"Substantial" for physical, financial, and institutional development

"Modest" for private sector development & community partnership

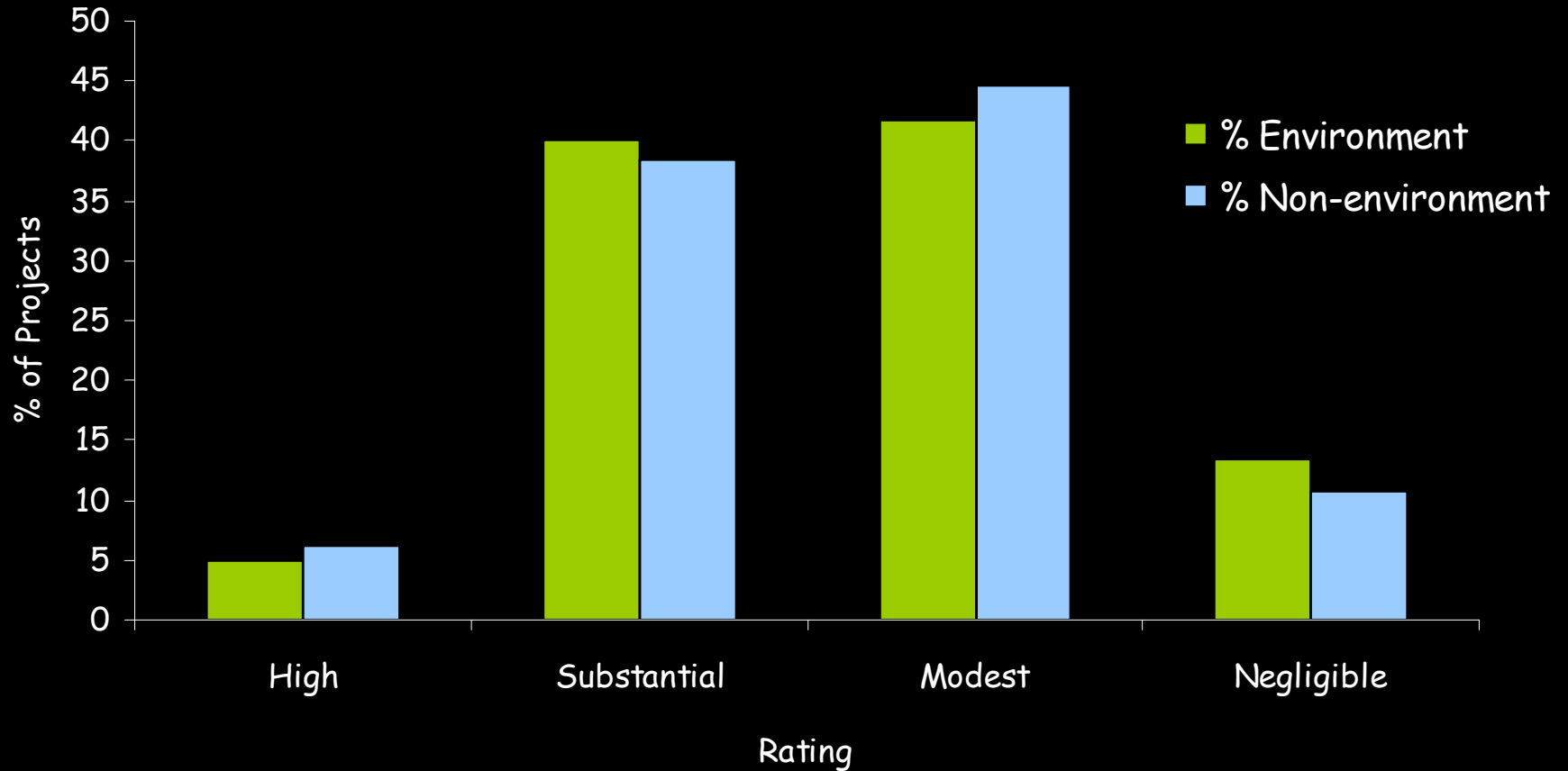
Environment + Development
projects

versus

Pure development
projects

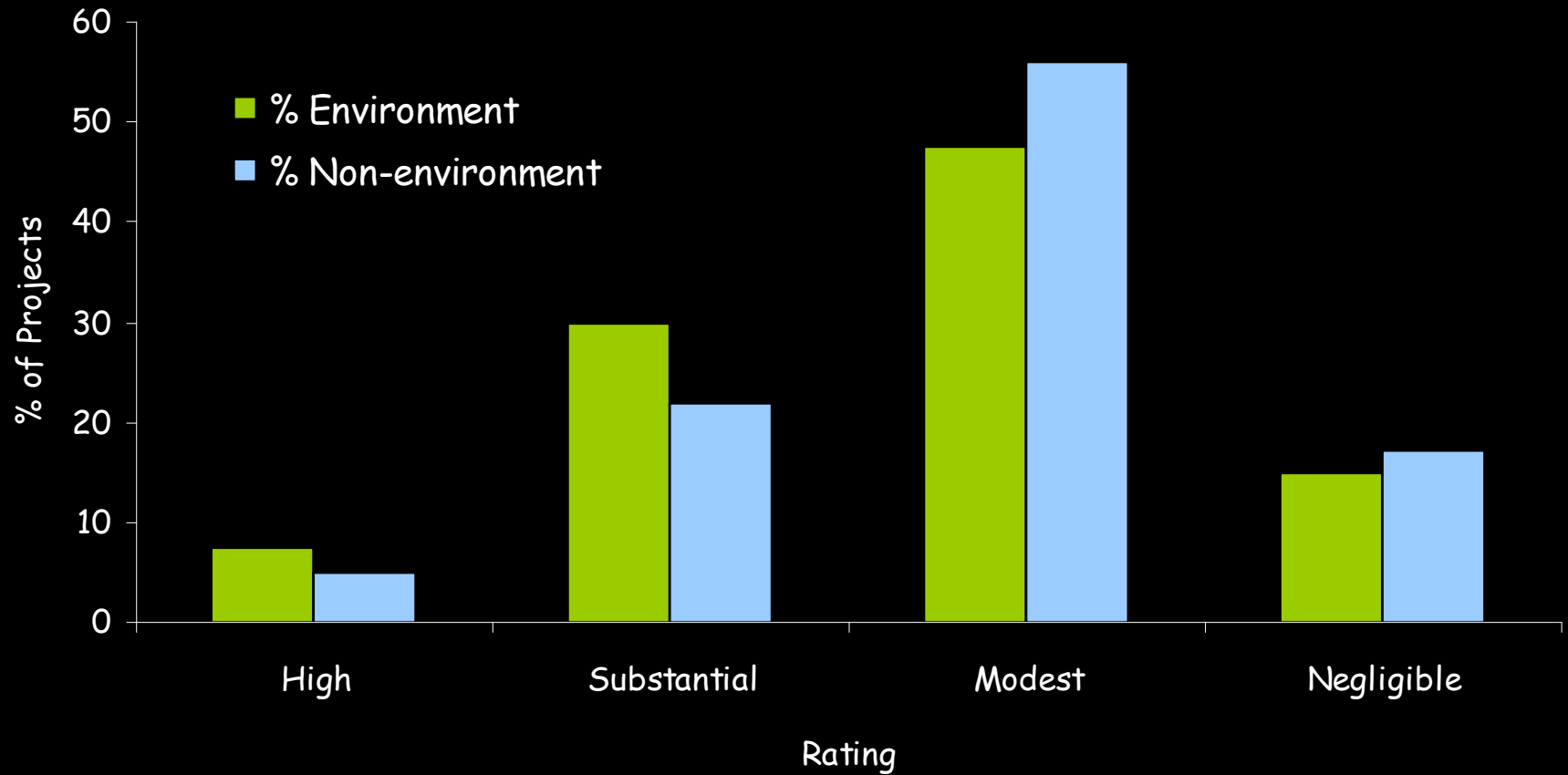
Achievement of Social Objectives - Poverty Reduction

Chi-square; n.s.



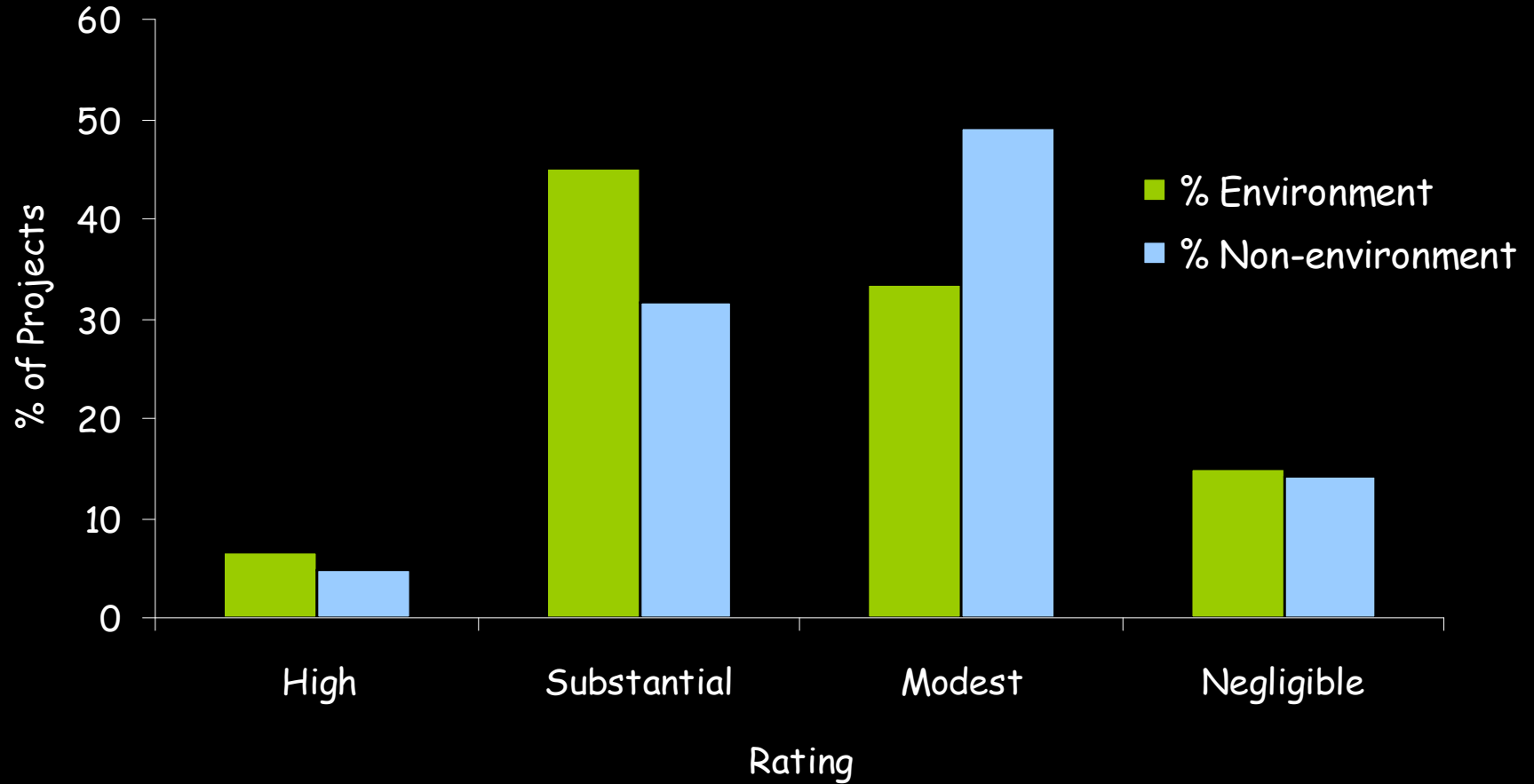
Achievement of Social Objectives - Gender

Chi-square; n.s.



Achievement of Private Sector Development Objectives

Chi-square; n.s.



Conclusion:

Projects whose primary objective is environmental have done as well on economic and social scores as pure development projects

“ Win-Win” is possible

This is NOT easy!

Less than 20% of ALL projects were rated
“highly satisfactory”

BUT

There is no evidence of reduced
performance if project goals include the
environment

"We must remember that the ultimate source of all economic capital is Nature's capital.....The true wealth of all nations comes from clean rivers, healthy soil and, most importantly of all, a rich biodiversity of life."

Prince Charles