



**United Nations Environment Programme  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre**

**MISSION REPORT**

<b>Distribution:</b>  UNEP UN-REDD team UNEP-WCMC Climate Change & Biodiversity Programme	<b>Name of person(s) that undertook mission:</b> Ulf Narloch
	<b>Period (including travel days):</b> 19 – 20 Sept 2012
	<b>Projects:</b> 02650.05.E (UN-REDD), task 8 (capacity building), activity 6 (international meetings)
	<b>Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s):</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Annual BIOdiversity and Economics for CONservation Conference at Kings College in Cambridge
	<b>Main Person(s) contacted:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andreas Kontoleon (Cambridge University) and Daan van Soest (Tilburg University)</li> <li>• Christian Neumann (UNEP/Grid-Arendal), Ina Porras (International Institute for Environment and Development), Julia Martin-Ortega (James Hutton Institute), Matthew Cranford (LSE)</li> <li>• Tim Liang (LSE), Roman Carrasco (National University of Singapore) and Pallab Mozumber (Florida International University)</li> <li>• Karl Wurster (USAID, Kinshasa), Joseph Bull (Imperial College London), etc.</li> </ul>
<b>File(s):</b>	<b>Objective(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ raise awareness of UNEP-WCMCs work on the economic assessment of ecosystem services and biodiversity impacts of REDD+ options</li> <li>➔ increase our understanding of recent economics work on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management</li> </ul>

**I. SUMMARY**

The BIOECON is an interdisciplinary network aiming to advance economic theory and policy for biodiversity conservation. This network assembles economists, lawyers and scientists from leading international academic and research institutions and main policy organisations working on design and implementation of cutting edge economic incentives for biodiversity conservation. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual BIOECON conference on Resource, Economics, Biodiversity Conservation and Development took place in Cambridge.

UNEP-WCMC chaired a special session on *PES design and implementation: new insights and approaches*, which had been organised jointly with UNEP/Grid-Arendal. Further contributions came from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), The James Hutton Institute and the London School of Economics (LSE). UNEP-WCMC also chaired a session on *Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation* and gave a presentation titled “*Towards a holistic assessment of national REDD+ options: Evaluating ecosystem service and biodiversity impacts*”.

Generally, the conference covered a wide range of conservation-centred topics, such as international policy, valuation, conservation theory, adaptation to climate change, deforestation and land use change, agriculture and livelihoods & participatory management. Although there were a lot of presentations on PES and carbon payment schemes, only a few directly dealt with potential REDD+ mechanisms.

Most contributions came from the academic sphere. There still seems to be a wide gap to bridge between the research community and conservation policy. In order to make research results more applicable, scholars were

urged to get involved in policy relevant projects and identify relevant research questions with conservation practitioners and policy makers early on in their research. It was acknowledged that economic valuation is extremely challenging and that many results from such exercises are not widely accepted. It was also pointed out that policy makers quite often do not want to have rigorous number estimates placing a monetary value on nature, as this could limit their options. Cost-effectiveness analysis can serve as a good way forward to identify conservation priorities.

The main questions for policy-relevant follow-up research that appeared are as follows: (i) How to mainstream ecosystem services and biodiversity in development planning? (ii) How to make economic valuation estimates more robust and acceptable? (iii) How to make use of such estimates in policy planning? (iv) How to capture economic values and create financial streams for PES? (v) How to find a balance between rigor and practicality in impact evaluation?


## II. SPECIFIC FINDINGS

- The Global Canopy Programme is planning a new publication as part of its little book series. **The Little Forest Finance Book** will have more of a focus on site level projects than larger scale policy mechanisms (as in the Climate Finance Book) or on generic policy instruments (as in the Biodiversity Finance Book). The new book is going to be launched at the CBD COP11 in Hyderabad.
- There is a group with researchers from the University of Kent, LSE and the Zoological Society of London working on a **Marxan exercise** including carbon and biodiversity considerations in Guyana.
- There is research by Jonah Busch at Conservation International using the OSIRIS model to assess land use change and deforestation rates if a **biodiversity premium** would be paid **as part of REDD+**.
- Alexander Pfaff (Duke University) and Juan Robalino (CATIE) are working on how forest policies can trigger **spill-over effects** and have found that deforestation rates in the Brazilian Amazon have been much lower in buffer zones to protected areas than in other zones: [http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th\\_2012/HerreraGarcia.pdf](http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th_2012/HerreraGarcia.pdf).
- Saraly Andrade de Sa (ETH Zurich) and Charles Palmer (LSE) are looking into **indirect land use changes** by trying to link sugarcane expansion to deforestation in the Amazon: [http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th\\_2012/Andrade\\_de\\_Sa.pdf](http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th_2012/Andrade_de_Sa.pdf).
- Roman Carrasco (National University of Singapore) proposes a **reference free REDD+ payment mechanism** that is based on a country's carbon sequestration potential and adjusted by a penalty for carbon emissions: [http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th\\_2012/Carrasco.pdf](http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th_2012/Carrasco.pdf).
- Tim Laing (LSE) models how different sectors may seek to **influence the distribution and scale of carbon payments** within a REDD+ mechanism: [http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th\\_2012/Laing.pdf](http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th_2012/Laing.pdf).
- Tobias Wuenscher and Stephien Engel review existing literature to come up for recommendations for the **targeting of biodiversity conservation sites within international payment for ecosystem service** schemes (forthcoming in Biological Conservation): [http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th\\_2012/Wuenscher.pdf](http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th_2012/Wuenscher.pdf).
- Joseph Bull (Imperial College) reviews **biodiversity offsetting** schemes synthesizing the offsetting literature and pointing out practical challenges: [http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th\\_2012/Bull.pdf](http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/14th_2012/Bull.pdf).

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Follow up action	Responsible	Time-frame (by)
Follow up with Matthew Cranford on latest Forest Finance Book and on non-carbon finance options	UN	In due course

Contact Tim Laing from LSE about Marxan project	UN	done
Get in contact with Karl Wurster from USAID in Kinshasa for new CAPRE contact	UN	done

<b>Detailed report</b> <input type="checkbox"/> encl. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A.	<b>Documents</b> <input type="checkbox"/> encl. <input type="checkbox"/> list <input type="checkbox"/> non	<b>Date</b>
<b>Classification</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> restr. <input type="checkbox"/> unrestr.	<b>Signature(s) staff member(s)</b> 	<b>Signature(s) supervisor</b>