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## **Annual Report 2007**

# **TransLinks: Promoting Transformations by Linking Natural Resources, Economic Growth and Governance**

### ***Introduction***

The TransLinks project (short for Promoting Transformation: Linking Natural Resources, Economic Growth, and Good Governance) has been funded to explore the relationships among good governance, poverty alleviation, conservation, and the sustainable management of natural resources. In so doing, we will better understand how to achieve conditions and support efforts that mutually reinforce these multiple goals and avoid those conditions that lead to antagonisms among them. The project builds on the Nature, Wealth and Power (NWP) framework that evolved out of the work led by Jon Anderson, then Natural Resource Policy Advisor at EGAT.

### ***Summary of Fiscal Year 2007***

TransLinks was funded in October 2006 and, although the program has been in existence for twelve months only, TransLinks partners have generated an impressive array of outputs over the past year. TransLinks is an extremely interdisciplinary program that focuses on identifying knowledge gaps, best practices, lessons learned and tool development across a range of field sites in the thematic areas of poverty reduction, conservation and natural resource governance. The TransLinks annual report represents an opportunity to collate the products generated throughout the year and present them as a unified body of work. Due to the nature of the work, most of the products are self explanatory, but where they are not, we have included a description of the output and intended applications for the work within this document.

In general, this first year of the program has focused primarily on strengthening the partnership, knowledge building and tool development. The collective body of work produced by WCS and the TransLinks partners has laid the foundation and helped create the framework for the applied research that will be conducted at a diverse suite of case study sites beginning in Fiscal Year 2008 and continued throughout the upcoming years of the program.

## **Activity: 1 Knowledge building through applied multi-sectoral research**

### **Subactivity: 1.1 *State-of-knowledge briefs (Lead Partner: EI)***

In the first year of the project, TransLinks partners, the Land Tenure Center, Forest Trends and Enterprise Works/VITA, identified a set of key issues that reflected their specialized knowledge and for which guidance briefs on the issues were needed and would be useful for the environment/development community. The key issues that were selected included payments for ecological services (PES) (Forest Trends), natural resource market chains (Enterprise Works/VITA) and zoning of protected areas (Land Tenure Center). These briefs were developed with the assistance of graduate students in the Master of Public Policy and Administration of Environmental Science and Policy program at the School for International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

The students completed two guidance documents presented as brochures on Natural Resource Marketing and Zoning of Protected Areas and 11 case studies on PES. In the brochures, they attempted to synthesize current knowledge and provide guidance points on how to begin addressing each issue. Lisa Naughton from the Land Tenure Center further developed the briefing document on zoning (see sub-activity 1.2 for more details) and Ann Koontz from Enterprise Works/VITA is refining and expanding upon the briefing document on Natural Resource Based Market Chains (see sub-activity 2.3 for more details). The group of students working on payments for ecological services with Forest Trends produced synthesis documents on 11 PES case studies that were used in presentations given by Beto Borges of Forest Trends at the International Funder for Indigenous People's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, "Weaving a New Path in Philanthropy," in San Francisco, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – 2007 and the ITTO and Brazilian Ministry of Environment's conference "Community Forest Management and Enterprises: Global Issues and Opportunities," in Rio Branco, Acre, Brazil, July 15-20 – 2007. The case studies are also being posted on the Ecosystem Marketplace hosted by Forest Trends.

### **Subactivity: 1.2 *Governance and human rights in resource conservation (Lead partner: NI/LTC with WCS)***

The Land Tenure center and WCS produced key briefing documents related to Nature, Wealth and Power.

The Land Tenure Center has prepared four state-of-knowledge briefs on the following issues:

1. Ecological complexity and the management of common property resources;
2. Gender and shifting water governance: Differential effects of privatization, commoditization, and democratization;
3. Balancing the needs of people and wildlife;
4. Collaborative Land Use Planning: Zoning for conservation and development (which built upon the work started by the SIPA students in sub-activity 1.1).

WCS led the development of two briefing documents on 1) Human Rights and Conservation and 2) Direct Payments for Conservation.

1. Karin Svadnelack-Gomez has worked with TransLinks to produce a policy briefing document “Integrating Rights into Conservation Programming” which synthesizes current ideas and issues surrounding the inclusion of human rights in conservation plans and outlines key considerations for developing conservation programs that respect and uphold human rights.
2. Karin Svadlenak-Gomez, Tom Clements, Charles Foley, Nikolai Kazakov, Dale Lewis, Dale Miquelle, Renae Stenhouse and David Wilkie have produced a briefing document synthesizing WCS experience and results using direct incentives/payments for conservation entitled “Paying for Results”.

**Subactivity: 1.3 *Practical introductions to Payments for Ecological Services (Lead partner: FT)***

Forest Trends has developed a primer on payments for ecological services which has synthesized current knowledge and information on establishing payments for ecological services (PES) programs. This document provides a general description of what PES is, where and when it should/should not be pursued, examples of current PES programs and clear, practical guidance on how to start a PES program.

**Subactivity: 1.4 *Identification of knowledge gaps and defining a comparative case study research program (Lead partner: WCS)***

During the first year, TransLinks partners have worked together to design a research program of comparative case studies that will begin in FY08. The case studies have been developed to address two key issues of current and growing critical importance to integrated efforts in poverty reduction and environmental conservation in rural areas: payments for ecological services (PES) and resource tenure/property rights. As PES markets grow as a conservation and poverty reduction mechanism, their sustainability and ability to deliver conservation and income generating benefits at the community scale (where local stewards will be key to PES sustainability) will depend heavily on having effective and equitable governance systems in place to deliver those benefits. WCS and TransLinks partners have identified a suite of sites where these issues will be addressed. They include the following:

*Property rights and resource tenure for income security and resource conservation: a cross-regional study of livelihood best practices*

- Ruaha, Tanzania; Eastern Steppe, Mongolia; and Niger River Delta, Mali: a study of governance structures that support conservation and livelihood security in pastoralist societies
- Gran Chaco, Bolivia – farmer-stock people

- Nagarahole National Park, India-voluntary displacement for protecting endangered species, mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and improving human livelihoods

*Private sector payments for ecological services— a cross-regional study of the enabling conditions for local income growth and biodiversity conservation through community-based resource use*

- Ruaha, Tanzania – photographic tourism and safari hunting
- Makira, Madagascar – forest carbon
- Northern plains, Cambodia – photographic tourism
- Eastern steppe, Mongolia – economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services
- Simanjiro, Tanzania – payments for conservation easements on community lands
- Peten, Guatemala – community-based ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) trophy hunting
- Cebu, Philippines- furniture sector and sustainable forest resource use

*Small livestock health— a gender-focused approach to income security and wildlife conservation*

- Ruaha Tanzania
- Luangwa, Zambia

The sites for each of these studies were selected using a few key criteria:

1. Sites that were reflective of the PES and governance issues;
2. Sites where there was a willingness of field staff to participate;
3. Sites that represented an opportunity to leverage previous USAID support;
4. Sites where there were clear opportunities for exchange of knowledge/skills/tools between sites and TransLinks partners;
5. Sites that embodied a range of social-ecological conditions. It was critical to select an array of different ecological and social contexts so that conclusions/findings will be robust across case studies. For this reason, we have decided to address two types of unique governance issues: pastoralist systems and stationary indigenous property rights systems. We have also chosen PES case studies that embody a variety of ecosystems that produce a range of critical ecosystem services.

## **Activity: 2 Tool development: decision support systems for more effective planning and adaptive management**

Subactivity: 2.1 ***Simple and reliable tools for measuring the household welfare impacts of conservation and development investments (Lead Partner: WCS)***

Dr. David Wilkie at WCS has produced a document that provides clear guidance on best-practices for assessing household welfare in rural communities. The briefing document provides guidance on how to measure both household and community level measures of welfare. This user friendly manual

can be used to obtain baseline data on socio-economic conditions and to monitor livelihood impacts of conservation and development programs.

**Subactivity: 2.2 *A tool for identifying the most appropriate mix of actors to sustainably manage natural resources (Lead Partner: WCS)***

Dr. David Wilkie has produced a 16 page briefing document that provides practical guidance for identifying the ideal combination of stakeholders for achieving conservation goals. This tool builds on the field experience of WCS and its partners for bringing together the most appropriate mix of stakeholders to sustainably manage common pool natural resources. Although, originally designed in the context of conservation planning, this type of approach and planning could be applied in other types of natural resource management and development initiatives.

**Subactivity: 2.3 *A tool for evaluating natural products market opportunities (Lead Partner: EW/V)***

Enterprise Works/VITA is completing the development of a tool for evaluating natural products market opportunities. The tool will be a power-point presentation which will be accompanied by speaker's notes to be shown at brown bags, meetings, partner meetings, and other venues to introduce the tool and characterize how it helps to maximize synergies among poverty alleviation, natural resource governance, and resource conservation.

A short companion document has been developed for Tran slinks partners, other international and local conservation and development organizations, their contractors and partner host country national government representatives, and other appropriate stakeholders. The document will lead project designers and implementers through a set of questions that will help them to identify economic interventions that better account for the interplay of natural resource governance, poverty alleviation and resource conservation (this was developed from the briefing document produced by the SIPA students). A guidance document on integrating nature, wealth and power considerations into value chain work is also being developed and will be disseminated to project partners and other interested stakeholders.

**Subactivity: 2.4 *An interactive self-learning tool for understanding payments for environmental services (Lead Partner: FT)***

Forest Trends developed a Payments for Ecological Services (PES) soft-ware game and a user friendly companion document. This tool and informative accompanying document have been designed to assist natural resource managers and stewards in making decisions about the trade-offs and benefits of establishing/engaging in a PES program. The PES game is in an excel spreadsheet format for easy usage. The companion document is presented as a comic strip in Spanish and highlights the concerns, challenges and possibilities for farmers/rural land managers who are considering pursuing PES rather than engaging in other natural resource management practices that might have negative environmental impacts.

## **Activity: 3 Cross-partner exchange, training and capacity building**

### **Subactivity: 3.1 *Payments for environmental services: Katoomba Workshops (Lead Partner: FT with EI)***

This activity has been delayed until FY08 during which we will have two Katoomba Workshops and two additional PES workshops of USAID staff.

### **Subactivity: 3.2 *Economic options in biodiversity-rich areas: Introductory workshop (Lead Partner: EW/V)***

This workshop was hosted in the Philippines by Enterprise Works/VITA and led by Ann Koontz in June 2007. The workshop was attended by WCS field staff from Cambodia as well as the director of TransLinks, Dr. David Wilkie. The workshop proceedings and summary lessons learned have been completed and are available for dissemination on the NRM portal and the TransLinks website.

### **Subactivity: 3.3 *Options for effective distance learning (Lead Partner: WCS)***

Dr. David Wilkie attended a workshop on web-based information and dissemination tools hosted by USAID in Washington. TransLinks/WCS staff are in the process of conducting a comparative evaluation of different web-based options for distance learning and sharing of learning resources.

### **Subactivity: 3.4 *Protected areas and local livelihoods (Lead Partner: WCS)***

During FY07, WCS, its partners and other expert practitioners participated in a 3 day workshop at the White Oak Conservation Center. The conference examined, through a series of case-studies, the positive and negative impacts of protected area establishment and management on local livelihoods. The proceedings of the workshop are in the process of being published as a WCS Working Paper and will be posted on the USAID NRM Portal and WCS website when completed.

## **Activity: 4 Global dissemination**

### **Subactivity: 4.1 *Ecosystem Marketplace (Lead Partner: FT with EI)***

TransLinks contributions to the Ecosystem Marketplace in FY07 included the case studies produced by the SIPA students, which will be permanently archived and distributed through the Community Forum newsletter and the community Portal webpage

### **Subactivity: 4.2 *Annual knowledge leadership conference (Lead partner: WCS)***

This activity has been delayed until FY08.

### **Subactivity: 4.3 *TransLinks advisory group (Lead partner: WCS)***

This activity has been delayed.

### **Appendix of Additional Activities Supported by TransLinks in 2007**

1. David Wilkie presented at a WCMC sponsored conference in Cambridge in March 2007 that focused on the integration of livelihood measures into protected area management effectiveness monitoring and assessment.
2. David Wilkie and Carter Ingram attended a talk on the previous NWP award given at USAID on April 4, 2007. They also attended a talk on “The Next 4 Billion”, a project led by World Resources Institute, on April 5, 2007.
3. Carter Ingram attended Peter Veit’s talk at USAID on Eminent Domain on May 3, 2007.
4. Ann Koontz and Carter Ingram attended the Forest Trends sponsored workshop on Water markets in the Chesapeake Bay in Washington, DC on May 9, 2007.
5. Ann Koontz and Carter Ingram attended the “Dialogue for the Future” panel on indigenous entrepreneurship which was co-supported by Enterprise Works/VITA and held at the United Nations on May 23, 2007.
6. David Wilkie presented the WCS approach for developing monitoring frameworks and livelihood assessment tools in a 2-day workshop organized by FFI/AWF on methods for assessing the livelihoods impact of conservation activities.
7. Carter Ingram attended Society for Conservation Biology Conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa from July 1-6, 2007.
8. Carter Ingram visited the Millennium Village in Ruhira, Uganda in July 9-14, 2007 to assess ways in which TransLinks and the Earth Institute’s Millennium Village project could collaborate.
9. Gifford Pinchot was hired as an intern to work with Ray Victrine on developing a business plan for the Wildlife Enterprise Network from July- August 2007. A final draft of the business plan is being reviewed.
10. Carter Ingram co-organized an oral session on the role of Ecology in Poverty Reduction at the Ecological Society of America meeting in San Jose, California in August 7-9, 2007. She gave a presentation on “Restoration for promoting social-ecological resilience in Madagascar”.
11. Lisa Naughton went to Ecuador on a Fulbright fellowship in the summer of 2007 where she is conducting on-going research that will support applied research for TransLinks in FY09. TransLinks gave travel support to Lisa to begin this research.
12. On September 6, 2007, David Wilkie and Carter Ingram attended a meeting organized by Diane Russell in Washington, DC entitled “Reinvigorating the Conservation and Social Science Engagement: A Focus on Livelihoods Emerging Trends and Resources for Practitioners”. David gave a presentation on TransLinks at this meeting.
13. On September 6, 2007 David Wilkie and Carter Ingram traveled to Washington, DC where David presented the TransLinks workplan for 2008 to USAID.