

SYMPOSIUM 37: SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF TROPICAL CONSERVATION
Bonito, 19th June 2012 (Tuesday)

Seline Meijer (ICRAF, Malawi & University College, Dublin)

Miguel Martínez-Ramos (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México)

Traditionally, conservation initiatives have used the biological sciences to deal with conservation problems and design policy and conservation programmes. Biological sciences are important to understand the ecosystem properties and the ecological, physiological, and genetic factors affecting the viability of natural populations of plants and animals. As such, it provides an important theoretical and empirical background to conservation issues. However, social, cultural, political, and economical factors play a key role in both the origin of the conservation problems, as well as in determining novel initiatives for conservation interventions and their success. Therefore, conservation efforts require to include not only biological knowledge to reach the conservation goals but they necessarily require to include knowledge emerging from humanities and social sciences. There is increasing recognition by conservation practitioners as well as scientists that conservation is as much about people as it is about ecosystems and biological processes. Nevertheless, the human dimensions of conservation issues are often overlooked in conservation science and practice. This symposium invites talks that focus on socio-ecological dimensions of tropical conservation issues and will provide a platform for social scientists and biological scientists to interact and discuss the potential for integration and collaboration between the different disciplines. The symposium will include talks approaching theoretical/conceptual issues as well as representative study cases.

TALKS (Karuha Room, 09h00-10h30)

09h00-09h15 (S37.OC.01) **Conservation of frankincense forests in Ethiopia needs integration of social and natural sciences.** *Frans Bongers*

09h15-09h30 (S37.OC.02) **Interdisciplinary studies on ecosystem services.** *Patricia Balvanera*

09h30-09h45 (S37.OC.03) **Perceptions, behaviour and environmental conservation in Malawi.** *Seline Meijer*

09h45-10h00 (S37.OC.04) **Do mythical dragons, dancing animals, and nature spirits prevent deforestation? Case studies in the Gambia, West Africa, and Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.** *Ashley Massey*

10h00-10h15 (S37.OC.06) **The ecosystem assessment approach: Narrowing the gap between science and policy.** *Tania Urquiza-Haas*

10h15-10h30 (FS11.P.03) **Sustainable agriculture: High Conservation Value or high confusion value?** *David Edwards*

POSTERS (Karuha Space, 15h30-16h30)

S37.P.01. **Threats of urbanisation to indigenous biological diversity: assessment of impacts on the remaining Iroko (*Milicia excelsa* Welw C.C. Berg.) in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.** *Folaranmi Dapo Babalola*

S37.P.02. How much worth is a jaguar alive? Alternatives to conflicts between livestock and large cats in the Brazilian Pantanal. *Henrique Villas Boas Concone*

S37.P.03. Conflicts between traditional populations and parks in a tropical dry forest region of Brazil: are conservation units of restricted use effective for conservation? *Mário Marcos do Espírito Santo*

S37.P.04. Belief systems, land tenure and customary conservation in Malaysian Borneo. *Ashley Massey*