



# PEP Working Group and Focal Point on Ecosystem Services and Payments for Ecosystem Services

Newsletter 1 / November 2007

## Background

During the XI PEP meeting (June 2007 Copenhagen), one of the recommendations of the session devoted to Ecosystem Services (ES) and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) was to put in place a PEP Working Group on ES and PES. Some of the institutions at the meeting that expressed interest in participating in such a working group include: DGIS, SDC, Irish Aid, SIDA, Austrian Development Agency, World Bank, WWF, IUCN, UNDP, WRI, IIED, Katoomba Group and TNC<sup>1</sup>.

Recognizing that many institutions represented at PEP are already doing a lot on ES/PES, it was clear that this Working Group should neither duplicate, nor substitute them. Instead, the Working Group could be a clearing house to identify and inform PEP members and other stakeholders about shared opportunities to use ES and PES to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in general, and sustainable development and poverty alleviation in particular.

The Working Group activities could include (a) to identify and briefly communicate to PEP members who is doing what on ES and PES that may be of interest to the PEP perspective; (b) to identify opportunities to educate donor agencies, recipient countries, and others on ES and PES opportunities for poverty reduction and environment conservation; (c) to identify opportunities to engage national governments and businesses to promote pro-poor ES and PES approaches; (d) to facilitate communication between ES and PES practitioners and the donor community; (e) to identify specific education or communication activities that PEP itself may want to undertake or promote in this field; (f) to undertake or commission short term activities/products in support of the previous points.

Regarding its operation, the Working Group will be a virtual group, communicating mostly through the internet as well as through presentations, discussions, and other activities at PEP meetings or similar events. Participants come both from donor agencies and conservation NGOs, with occasional guest contributors at specific events or activities.

## The Working Group Focal Point

Participants at the Copenhagen meeting also agreed that some PEP members would have to volunteer manpower and resources to act as the focal point or secretary for this working group. Following suit on this, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and WWF have committed resources to put in place a Focal Point for the PEP Working Group on ES/PES for a one year trial period (1 September 2007 through 31 August 2008). The Focal Point is located at and manned by WWF's MPO PES program in Washington DC.

Responsible persons there are Pablo Gutman [Pablo.gutman@wwfus.org](mailto:Pablo.gutman@wwfus.org) and Sarah Davidson [sarah.davidson@wwfus.org](mailto:sarah.davidson@wwfus.org)

The Focal Point's activities during this one year period will include:

1. To organize a half day of discussions on the private sector perspectives on ES/PES, on November 19th in the afternoon as part of the forthcoming XII PEP meeting at the IDB's Washington DC headquarters on November 19-21, 2007.
2. To follow suit on the ES/PES proposals that may come up from the November 19th meeting (e.g. presentations at other international gatherings, commissioning of short publications, etc.).
3. To help organize the next PES activity during the PEP XIII meeting that will probably be held during 2008 in Switzerland, hosted by the SDC.
4. To produce a quarterly electronic bulletin on ES and PES news to be distributed to PEP members (4 numbers a year)
5. To explore with other members of the working group the opportunity to make a PEP ES/PES presentation or activity at the COP9 of the CBD to be held next May 2008 in Germany, or in other forthcoming international gathering (e.g. the Financing for Development Conference, in Doha 2008)
6. To manage an ES/PES window or link at the PEP website
7. To act as an information node to answer, address and coordinate response for ES/PES concerns or questions of PEP members.

The Focal Point also has modest resources to support travel expenses, publication and communication, and meetings' costs.

## A Few "To Do" Items For You

If you are interested in the activities of the PEP Working Group on ES/PES we ask you to

- Actively participate in the XII PEP meeting Session II on "Private Sector Views and Experiences on Ecosystem Services, Environment, and Poverty"
- Email Pablo Gutman and Sarah Davidson ([Pablo.gutman@wwfus.org](mailto:Pablo.gutman@wwfus.org): [Sarah.davidson@wwfus.org](mailto:Sarah.davidson@wwfus.org)) so that we can include your name in our mailing list
- Send us your ideas regarding ES/PES issues to address at the next PEP meeting
- Send us your ideas for possible PEP ES/PES side activities at forthcoming international gatherings (e.g. at the next COP9 of the CBD or the next FfD meeting)
- Keep the Focal Point in mind and use it as a resource to help you identify references, partners, and audiences for your ES/PES interests and activities

Looking forward to see you at the forthcoming XII PEP meeting,

<sup>1</sup>The recommendations was put forward by the break-out group A on "Role of donor agencies regarding ES and PES" and endorsed by the plenary session.

**Contact:** Pablo Gutman and Sarah Davidson  
WWF-Macroeconomics for Sustainable  
Development Program Office (WWF-MPO)  
1250 24th Street N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20037-1193 / USA  
[Pablo.gutman@wwfus.org](mailto:Pablo.gutman@wwfus.org)  
[Sarah.davidson@wwfus.org](mailto:Sarah.davidson@wwfus.org)

François Droz,  
Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
Environment Division,  
Freiburgstrasse 130, 3003 Berne / Switzerland  
[francois.droz@deza.admin.ch](mailto:francois.droz@deza.admin.ch)