

Ways to contribute:

We would like to hear from you if you are interested in any way. In particular:

- **Register your interest:** please send information about your project, organisation and any contact details including website if relevant;
- Contribute material to the issues and options paper (before December 2001) which will guide the structure of the workshop;
- Participate in the workshop: we will be looking for thematic overviews and for case studies to highlight the issues and options.

Where and when?

Internet workshop hosted at the ETRN website: www.etfrn.org, 7-25 January 2002

One day policy seminar: organised by the Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University, UK. February 2002

Key dates:

30 Nov 2001: contribute background material to the **issues and options paper**

12 Dec 2001: contribute a summary of your project to the **research inventory**

7-25 Jan 2002: **internet workshop**

February 2002: **policy seminar**, date to be set in consultation with key participants.



Farmers in Bolivia assess changes in species composition on their grazing land.

More information from:

Dr Anna Lawrence

Environmental Change Institute

5 South Parks Rd

Oxford OX1 3UB, UK

Tel: +44 1865 281214

Fax: +44 1865 281202

Email: anna.lawrence@eci.ox.ac.uk

Website (from early Nov): www.eci.ox.ac.uk

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An ETRN Workshop

PARTICIPATORY MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF BIODIVERSITY

Internet workshop and policy seminar
convened by the Environmental Change
Institute, University of Oxford

**Environmental
Change Institute**
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



Key themes for the workshop

- What are the objectives of the various stakeholders who assess, monitor or evaluate biodiversity?
- How do rural people value genes, species and ecosystems, and how do local and scientific assessments compare?
- Which methods and tools are most useful for exploring how different natural resource users value and assess biodiversity?
- What information do policy-makers need about biodiversity, which can be provided through participatory approaches?
- How could policy measures enhance the contribution made by local stakeholders, to national biodiversity assessments?
- What are the costs and benefits for local people, of assessing biodiversity?
- How can policy and institutions ensure that local stakeholders benefit from contributing to these processes?

What is participatory monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity?

Participatory monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity involves non-scientists in observing, measuring or assessing biodiversity or its components. It is often understood to mean assessment by rural communities, but can also involve other stakeholders. It can refer to scientists and local people working *together* to assess bio-diversity. This can help to understand each other's perspectives better, so that scientists support local people in managing biodiversity, or local people contribute to national biodiversity monitoring processes.

'Participatory monitoring and evaluation' is often used as a single phrase (PM&E) but in the biodiversity context, it may be useful to distinguish between *monitoring*, which requires agreement between stakeholders to measure according to scientific or other standards; and *evaluation*, which is value-laden and stakeholder-differentiated.

What does this have to do with policy?

Countries which have ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are committed to the identification and monitoring of biodiversity (article 7), to respect and conserve relevant indigenous

knowledge (article 8 (j)) and to the sustainable use of components of biological diversity (article 10). They are developing national strategies and policies to make this possible.

Fulfilling these commitments requires large amounts of information. Participatory monitoring can contribute if research and practice are synthesised and communicated to policy-makers. As the World Summit on Sustainable Development approaches (Rio +10) it is time to do so.

How to participate:

Sharing experience, research results and policy information needs is essential for the success of this workshop. We welcome:

Researchers and practitioners: to share experience and establish common understanding, identify key research areas for future work and link up with policy makers.

Policy makers and advisers: to explain their information needs; to communicate innovative policy approaches; and to assess research and practical experience in relation to the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) process, and other policy for conservation and community development.