

# CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY

## ANTH 8500

Spring 2006

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### Course Description

At the beginning of the 21st century, as global environmental change is occurring at an unprecedented pace, conservation has emerged as a central element in the civic and political debates in the nations of both the North and the South. We are witnessing a rapid proliferation of efforts to strengthen the links between environmental science and management and a transformation of the institutional landscape in which conservation is shaped and debated. Accompanying these shifts, new forms of conservation practice are emerging. Some years ago we witnessed the proliferation of bottom-up models under the rubric of community-based conservation. More recently we have seen an increasing emphasis placed on top-down models under rubrics such as ecoregional planning, ecosystem management, and transboundary protected areas. All the while, conservation paradigms, practices and policies have become a focus of research by anthropologists, geographers, and others, and the relationship between conservation practitioners and academics has at times been difficult.

The goal of this course is to examine a series of issues related to the study of contemporary conservation initiatives through attention to specific case studies. Four sets of themes will guide reading and discussion throughout the course:

- (1) Fundamental questions: How is it that certain environmental concerns come to be recognized as risks or problems that demand state and/or NGO intervention? To what extent do conservation practitioners take account of local land use practices as well as the broader historical/political/economic contexts that shape those practices? How are images of local communities woven into environmental crisis narratives and are there alternatives to how we write them in?
- (2) Questions of agency: How do we take account of the role played by different sets of agents -- local communities, indigenous social movements, the state, transnational NGOs, donors, banks and corporations -- in the shaping and implementation of conservation initiatives? How have conservation initiatives been shaped or manipulated to fit larger political/institutional interests?
- (3) Paradigms and practices: How and where do parks and reserves get made? What are some of the paradigms and practices that shape contemporary conservation initiatives, including community-based conservation, ecoregional planning, transboundary protected areas, and ICDPs? What technologies of visualization (GIS, rapid ecological assessment, GAP analysis) are used to make natural and cultural communities legible? What kinds of

social research are being done in relation to specific conservation initiatives and in what ways are these problematic?

(4) Anthropological contributions: What sorts of analytical perspectives (historical ecology, political ecology, for instance) can anthropologists and other social scientists contribute to the shaping of conservation policies and practices that are both more effective and more just? What kind of relationship should we seek with the conservation community? Should we shape our research strategies to the needs of conservation practitioners, or are we more effective to the extent that we maintain analytical distance?

Students taking this course will be expected to read extensively from sources listed in the syllabus. Course grade will be based on four requirements: (1) a one page written commentary on each week's readings, (2) a 15 page research paper, (3) a bibliographic project that contributes to the *Advancing Conservation in a Social Context* project, and (4) class participation. All assignments must be completed on time in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Required Texts:**

Adams, W. 2004. *Against Extinction: The Story of Conservation*. London: Earthscan Publications

Brosius, J.P., A. Tsing, & C. Zerner (eds.). 2005. *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.

Oates, John. 1999. *Myth and Reality in the Rain Forest*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **Conservation and the Cultural Politics of Nature**

Wednesday, January 11: Introduction

Wednesday, January 18: Representing Natural Nature

Monday, January 30: Nature Defiled or at Risk

Wednesday, February 1: Configurations of Power, Regimes of Governmentality

### **Conservation and the Politics of Scale**

Wednesday, February 8: Participation, Livelihoods, and Community-Based Approaches to Conservation

Wednesday, February 15: Resurgent Protectionism

Wednesday, February 22: The Strategic Turn: Ecoregional Approaches to Conservation

### **Forms of Agency and Articulation**

Monday, February 27: The State: Political Cultures and Legal Codes

Thursday, March 9: Donors, Banks, Corporations and Transnational NGOs

Monday, March 20: Local Social Movements, Indigenous Mobilizations and Transnational NGOs

Monday, March 26: Communities and the Production of Locality

**ACSC Bibliography due.**

### **Technologies of Power in the Practice of Conservation**

Wednesday, April 5: Making Protected Areas

Wednesday, April 12: Community Mapping and Land History

Wednesday, April 19: The Uses of Local/Indigenous Knowledge

Wednesday, April 27: The Role of Social Science Methods in Conservation

**Research paper due.**

## COURSE READINGS

### Wednesday, January 11: Introduction

- Brosius, J.P. 2002. "Common ground? Envisioning conservation in the biological and social sciences." Unpublished ms.
- Guyer, J. & P. Richards. 1996. "The invention of biodiversity: Social perspectives on the management of biological variety in Africa." *Africa* 66(1):1-13.
- Pimm, S., et al. 2001. "Can we defy nature's end?" *Science* 293:2207-2208.
- Redford, Kent, et al. 2003. "Mapping the conservation landscape." *Conservation Biology* 17(1):116-131.
- Western, D. 2000. "Conservation in a human-dominated world." *Issues in Science and Technology*, Spring 2000. <http://www.nap.edu/issues/16.3/western.htm>
- Whitten, T., et al. 2001. "Conservation biology: A displacement behavior for academia?" *Conservation Biology* 15(1):1-3.

### Wednesday, January 18: Representing Natural Nature

- Adams, W. 2004. *Against Extinction: The Story of Conservation*. London: Earthscan Publications
- Cronon, W. 1995. "The trouble with wilderness or, getting back to the wrong nature." In W. Cronon (ed.), *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing Nature*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Fairhead, J. & M. Leach. 2001. *Practising Biodiversity in Guinea: Nature, Nation, and an International Convention*. Forest Science and Forest Policy: Knowledge, Institutions and Policy Processes Working Paper, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.
- MacDonald, Kenneth. 2004. "Developing 'nature': Global ecology and the politics of conservation in Northern Pakistan." In *Confronting Environments: Local Understanding in a Globalizing World*, J. Carrier (ed.). Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.
- Proctor, J & S. Pincetl. 1996. "Nature and the reproduction of endangered space: the spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest and southern California," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 14:683-708.
- Slater, C. 2000. "Justice for whom? Contemporary images of Amazonia." In C. Zerner (ed.), *People, Plants and Justice: The Politics of Nature Conservation*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Zerner, C. 1995. "Telling stories about biodiversity," in Stephen Brush & Doreen Stabinsky (eds.), *Valuing Local Knowledge: Indigenous People and Intellectual Property Rights*, Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

### **Monday, January 30: Nature Defiled or at Risk**

Fairhead, J. & M. Leach. 1995. "False forest history, complicit social analysis: Rethinking some West African environmental narratives." *World Development* 23(6):1023-1103.

Guthman, J. 1997. "Representing crisis: The theory of Himalayan environmental degradation and the project of development in post-Rana Nepal." *Development and Change* 28(1):45-69.

Forsyth, T. 1996. "Science, myth and knowledge: Testing the theory of Himalayan environmental degradation in Thailand." *Geoforum* 27:375-392.

Lowe, Celia. 2004. "Making the monkey: How the Togeian Macaque went from 'new form' to 'endemic species' in Indonesians' conservation biology." *Cultural Anthropology* 19(4):491-516.

Taylor, P. & F. Buttel. 1992. "How do we know we have global environmental problems?: Science and the globalization of environmental discourse." *Geoforum* 23(3):405-416.

### **Wednesday, February 1: Configurations of Power, Regimes of Governmentality**

Brechin, S., et al. 2003. "Crafting conservation globally and locally." In S. Brechin, et al (eds.), *Contested Nature: Promoting International Biodiversity with Social Justice in the Twenty-first Century*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Brosius, J.P. & D. Russell. 2003. "Conservation from above: An anthropological perspective on transboundary protected areas and ecoregional planning." *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* 17(1/2):39-65.

Chapin, Mac. 2004. "A Challenge to Conservationists." *Worldwatch Magazine*, Nov./Dec.:17-31.

Flavin, Chris, et al. 2005. "A Challenge to Conservationists: Phase II." *Worldwatch Magazine*, Jan./Feb.:5-20.

Luke, T. 1999. "On environmentality: Geo-power and eco-knowledge in the discourses of contemporary environmentalism." *Cultural Critique* 31:57-81.

MacDonald, K. 2005. "Global hunting grounds: Power, scale and ecology in the negotiation of conservation." *Cultural Geographies* 12(3):259-291.

Scott, J. 1998. "Introduction." In *Seeing Like a State*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Woods, K. ND. "Greening the Burmese military dictatorship: The politics of 'apolitical' conservation in Burma." Unpublished MS.

### **Wednesday, February 8: Participation, Livelihoods, and Community-Based Approaches to Conservation**

Alcorn, Janis. 2005. "Dances around the fire: Conservation organizations and community-based natural resource management." In J.P. Brosius, A. Tsing, & C. Zerner (eds.), *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.

Berkes, Fikret. 2004. "Rethinking community-based conservation." *Conservation Biology* 18(3):621-630.

Brosius, J.P., A. Tsing & C. Zerner. 1998. "Representing communities: Histories and politics of community-based natural resource management." *Society and Natural Resources* Vol. 11(2):157-168.

MacDonald, Kenneth I. 2003. "Community-based conservation: A reflection on history." Unpublished MS

Neumann, R. 1997. "Primitive ideas: Protected area buffer zones and the politics of land in Africa." *Development and Change* 28(3):559-582.

Newmark, W. & J. Hough. 2000. "Conserving wildlife in Africa: Integrated Conservation and Development Projects and beyond." *BioScience* 50(7):585-592.

Wagner, John. 200?. "The politics of accountability: An institutional analysis of the conservation movement in Papua New Guinea." *Social Analysis* 45(2):78-93.

Western, D. & R. Wright. 1994. "The background to community-based conservation." In D. Western and R. Wright (eds.), *Natural Connections: Perspectives in Community-Based Conservation*, Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

### **Wednesday, February 15: Resurgent Protectionism**

Brechin, S., et al. 2002. "Beyond the square wheel: Toward a more comprehensive understanding of biodiversity conservation as social and political process." *Society and Natural Resources* 15(1):41-64.

Brockington, D. 2004. "Community conservation, inequality, and injustice: Myths of power in protected area management." *Conservation and Society* 2(2):411-432.

Locke, H. & P. Deardon. 2005. "Rethinking protected area categories and the new paradigm." *Environmental Conservation* 32(1):1-10

- Oates, John. 1999. *Myth and Reality in the Rain Forest*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Terborgh, J. 2000. The fate of tropical forests: a matter of stewardship. *Conservation Biology* 14(5):1358-1361.
- Wilshusen, P.R., et al. 2002. "Reinventing a square wheel: Critique of a resurgent 'protection paradigm' in international biodiversity conservation." *Society and Natural Resources* 15(1):17-40.

### **Wednesday, February 22: The Strategic Turn: Ecoregional Approaches to Conservation**

- Brosius, J.P. 2003. "Seeing communities: Technologies of visualization in conservation." Unpublished ms.
- Olson, D.M., et al. 2001. "Terrestrial ecoregions of the World: A new map of life on Earth." *BioScience* 51(11):933-938.
- Pressey, Bob. 1999. "Editorial: Systematic conservation planning for the real world." *Parks* 9(1):1-6.
- Soulé, M. and J. Terborgh. 1999. "The policy and science of regional conservation." In M. Soulé and J. Terborgh (eds.), *Continental Conservation: Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserve Networks*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.
- Wikramanayake, E., et al. 1999. "Where can tigers live in the future? A framework for identifying high-priority areas for the conservation of tigers in the wild." In J. Seidensticker, et al. (eds.), *Riding the Tiger: Tiger Conservation in Human-Dominated Landscapes*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Younge, Amanda. 2002. "An ecoregional approach to biodiversity conservation in the Cape Floral Kingdom, South Africa." In T. O'Riordan & S. Stoll-Kleemann (eds.), *Biodiversity, Sustainability and Human Communities: Protecting Beyond the Protected*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **Monday, February 27: The State: Political Cultures and Legal Codes**

- Kull, C. 2002. "Madagascar aflame: Landscape burning as peasant protest, resistance, or a resource management tool?" *Political Geography* 21:927-953.
- Li, Tania. 2005. "Engaging simplifications: Community-based natural resource management, local processes and state agendas in upland Southeast Asia." In J.P. Brosius, A. Tsing, & C. Zerner (eds.), *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.

- Lynch, Owen. 2005. "Legal concepts and strategies for promoting community-based natural resource management: Insights from the Philippines and other nations." In J.P. Brosius, A. Tsing, & C. Zerner (eds.), *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press
- Moore, D. 1996. "Marxism, culture and political ecology: Environmental struggles in Zimbabwe's Eastern Highlands." In R. Peet & M. Watts (eds.), *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*, London: Routledge.
- Neumann, R. 1995. "Ways of seeing Africa: Colonial recasting of African society and landscape in Serengeti National Park," *Ecumene* 2:149-169.
- Peluso, N. 1993. "Coercing conservation: the politics of state resource control", in R. Lipschutz & K. Conca (eds.), *The State and Social Power in Global Environmental Politics*, New York: Columbia University Press.

#### **Thursday, March 9: Donors, Banks, Corporations and Transnational NGOs**

- Cline-Cole, R. 1996. "African and Africanist biodiversity research in a neo-liberal context." *Africa* 66(1):145-159.
- James, A., K. Gaston, & A. Balmford. 2001. "Can we afford to conserve biodiversity?" *Bioscience* 51(1):43-52
- Lewis, D., et al. 2002. *Practice, Power and Meaning: Frameworks for Studying Organizational Culture in Multi-Agency Development Projects*. International Working Paper 12, London School of Economics.  
[www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/publications/iwp/IWP12.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/publications/iwp/IWP12.htm).
- Sayer, Jeffrey & Michael Wells. 2004. "The pathology of projects." In T. McShane & M. Wells (eds.), *Getting Biodiversity Projects to Work*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Schroeder, R. 2005. "Community, forestry and conditionality in the Gambia." In J.P. Brosius, A. Tsing, & C. Zerner (eds.), *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.
- Smith, Richard. 2005. "Can David and Goliath have a happy marriage: Petroleum development and the long-term management of indigenous territories in the Peruvian Amazon." In J.P. Brosius, A. Tsing, & C. Zerner (eds.), *Communities and Conservation: Histories and Politics of Community-Based Natural Resource Management*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.
- WWF. 2001. *Center for Conservation Finance Business Plan: Building Conservation Capital for the Future*. Washington, D.C.: WWF.  
[www.worldwildlife.org/conservationfinance/pubs/business\\_plan.pdf](http://www.worldwildlife.org/conservationfinance/pubs/business_plan.pdf)



## **Monday, March 20: Local Social Movements, Indigenous Mobilizations and Transnational NGOs**

- Brosius, J. Peter. 2004. "Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas at the World Parks Congress." *Conservation Biology* 18(5):609-612.
- Dowie, M. 2005. "Conservation refugees." *Orion*, November/December.
- Escobar, Arturo. 1998. "Whose knowledge, whose nature? Biodiversity, conservation, and the political ecology of social movements." *Journal of Political Ecology* 5:53-82.
- Forest Peoples Programme. 2003. *Indigenous peoples at the Vth World Parks Congress: A Summary Report and Assessment*. Unpublished ms.
- Mayer, Judith. 1996. "Environmental organizing in Indonesia: The search for a newer order." In R. Lipschutz & J. Mayer, *Global civil society and global environmental governance: The politics of nature from place to planet*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Redford, Kent. 2002. "Creating natural alliances before the forest is destroyed." Unpublished MS.
- Redford, K. & A. Stearman. 1993. "Forest-dwelling native Amazonians and the conservation of biodiversity: Interests in common or in collision?" *Conservation Biology* 7(2):248-255.

## **Monday, March 27: Communities and the Production of Locality**

- Adams, William M., et al. 2004. "Biodiversity conservation and the eradication of poverty." *Science* 306:1146-1149.
- Agrawal, Arun, & C.C. Gibson. 1999. "Enchantment and disenchantment: The role of community in natural resource management." *World Development* 27(4):629-649.
- Li, T. 1996. "Images of Community: Discourse and Strategy in Property Relations," *Development and Change* 27(3):501-527.
- Wilshusen, Peter. 2003. "Territory, nature, and culture: Negotiating the boundaries of biodiversity conservation in Colombia's Pacific coastal region." In S. Brechin, et al (eds.), *Contested Nature: Promoting International Biodiversity with Social Justice in the Twenty-first Century*. Albany: State University of New York Press.
- Zerner, Charles. 1994. "Through a green lens: the construction of customary environmental law and community in Indonesia's Maluku Islands", *Law and Society Review* 28(5): 1079-1122.

### **Wednesday, April 5: Making Protected Areas**

- Brandon, K.E. & M. Wells. 1992. "Planning for people and parks: design dilemmas." *World Development* 20(4):557-570.
- Kaiser, J. 2001. "Bold corridor project confronts political reality." *Science* 293:2196-2199.
- Mahanty, Sango & Diane Russell. 2002. "High stakes: Lessons from stakeholder groups in the Biodiversity Conservation Network." *Society and Natural Resources* 15:179-188.
- MacKinnon, John. 2002. "Avenues of futility in conservation." Unpublished paper delivered at 2002 Annual Meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology, Canterbury, Kent, UK.
- Peres, C. & J. Terborgh. 1995. "Amazonian nature reserves: An analysis of the defensibility status of existing conservation units and design criteria for the future." *Conservation Biology* 9(1):34-46.
- Phillips, Adrian. 2003. "Turning ideas on their head: The new paradigm for protected areas." *The George Wright Forum* 20(2):8-32.
- Stevens, S. 1997. "The legacy of Yellowstone," "New alliances for conservation," & Lessons and Directions. In *Conservation through Cultural Survival: Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas*, S. Stevens (ed.). Washington, D.C.: Island Press.
- Twyman, C. 1998. "Rethinking community resource management: managing resources or managing people in western Botswana." *Third World Quarterly* 19(4):745-770.

### **Wednesday, April 12: Community Mapping and Land History**

- Alcorn, J. 2000. *Borders, Rules and Governance: Mapping to Catalyse Changes in Policy and Management*. Gatekeeper Series No. 91, IIED, London.
- Eghenter, C. 2000. Mapping people's forests: the role of mapping in planning community-based management of conservation areas in Indonesia. Peoples, Forests and Reefs (PeFoR) Program Discussion Paper Series. Biodiversity Support Program/WWF-US, Washington D.C.
- Ellis, D. & C.P. West. Forthcoming. "Local history as indigenous knowledge: Aeroplanes, conservation and development." In A. Bicker, et al (eds.), *Development and Local Knowledge: New Approaches to Issues in Natural Resource Management*. London: Routledge.
- Hodgson, Dorothy & Richard A. Schroeder. 2002. "Dilemmas of counter-mapping community resources in Tanzania." *Development and Change* 33:79-100.

Peluso, N. 1995. "Whose woods are these? Counter-mapping forest territories in Kalimantan, Indonesia." *Antipode* 27(4):383-406.

### **Wednesday, April 19: The Uses of Local/Indigenous Knowledge**

Baviskar, Amita. 2000. "Claims to knowledge, claims to control: Environmental conflict in the Great Himalaya National Park, India." In R.F. Ellen (ed.), *Indigenous Environmental and its Transformations: Critical Anthropological Perspectives*. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers.

Filer, C. ND. "Bridges and escalators: Metaphorical engagements with non-scientific knowledge in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment." Unpublished MS.

Filer, C. ND. "How can Western conservationists talk to Melanesian landowners about indigenous knowledge?" Unpublished manuscript.

Stripen, C. & S. DeWeerd. 2002. "Old science, new science: Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into contemporary management." *Conservation in Practice* 3(3):20-27.

Watson, Alan, et al. 2003. "The relationship between traditional ecological knowledge, evolving cultures, and wilderness protection in the circumpolar north." *Conservation Ecology* 8(2). [www.consecol.org/vol8/iss1/art2](http://www.consecol.org/vol8/iss1/art2)

West, C.P. 2005. "Translation, value and space: Theorizing an ethnographic and engaged environmental anthropology." *American Anthropologist* 107(4):632-642.

Zent, Stanford. Nd. "A genealogy of scientific perspectives of indigenous knowledge." Unpublished manuscript.

### **Wednesday, April 26: The Role of Social Science Methods in Conservation**

Batterbury, S., T. Forsyth, and K. Thomson. 1997. "Environmental transformations in developing countries: hybrid research and democratic policy." *Geographical Journal* 163(2):126-132.

Ervin, Jamison. 2003. "Rapid assessment of protected area management effectiveness in four countries." *BioScience* 53(9):833-841.

MacDonald, Kenneth I. 2003. "Political Ecology and the demand for Institutional Ethnography." Unpublished MS.

Mascia, Mike, et al. 2003. "Conservation and the social sciences." *Conservation Biology* 17(3):649-650.

Russell, D. & C. Harshbarger. 2003. Chaps. 1-3. In *Groundwork for Community-Based Conservation*. Walnut Creek: Altamira Press.

- Scoones, Ian. 1999. "New ecology and the social sciences: What prospects for fruitful engagement?" *Annual Review of Anthropology* 28:493-524.
- Vayda, Andrew P. 1997. "Managing forests and improving the livelihoods of foresty-dependent people: Reflections on CIFOR's social science research in relation to its mandate for generalisable strategic research." CIFOR Working Paper No. 16. [www.cgiar.org/cifor](http://www.cgiar.org/cifor)
- WWF-US. 2000. "A guide to socioeconomic assessments for ecoregion conservation." WWF-US Ecoregional Conservation Strategies Unit.