

- International policies for adaptation and mitigation
- Financial options for protected areas and surrounding areas (REDD, carbon bonds, PES)
- Designing protected area systems resilient to climate change
- Protected areas and their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation

PARTICIPANTS AND REQUIREMENTS

A maximum of 22 participants will be selected for the course. This course will benefit:

Decision makers: government officials from agencies in charge of protecting and managing natural resources, including those responsible for parks and forests, agriculture and livestock production, fisheries, land use and planning, and water and sanitation

Natural resource management practitioners and environmental professionals: staff from government agencies and nonprofit organizations involved in the day-to-day management of natural resources, such as protected area directors, rangers and wardens, outreach and extension personnel, and scientific researchers.

Participants must have proficiency in English to allow full participation in course discussions, a résumé that demonstrates strong professional experience and leadership, affiliation with an institution concerned with conservation/environmental management/sustainable development, an accurate and timely completion of the application with a cover letter (maximum one page) and a letter from the institution supporting participation in the course.

COST

The course fee is US\$2,850, which covers the costs of instruction, lodging, meals, ground transportation, field trips in Guatemala and Belize, materials, certificate and medical insurance. Participants will be responsible for covering the cost of international travel and transfers, visas, passports, etc.

Partial financial assistance may be available for the most qualified applicants. Applicants should seek in advance alternative funding sources to cover the course fee and/or international travel expenses.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 30, 2010: Deadline to receive the application form and required materials

July 5-20, 2010: Presentation of the course

The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) is a regional center dedicated to research and graduate education in agriculture and the management, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Its members include the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela and Spain.



For additional information, please contact:

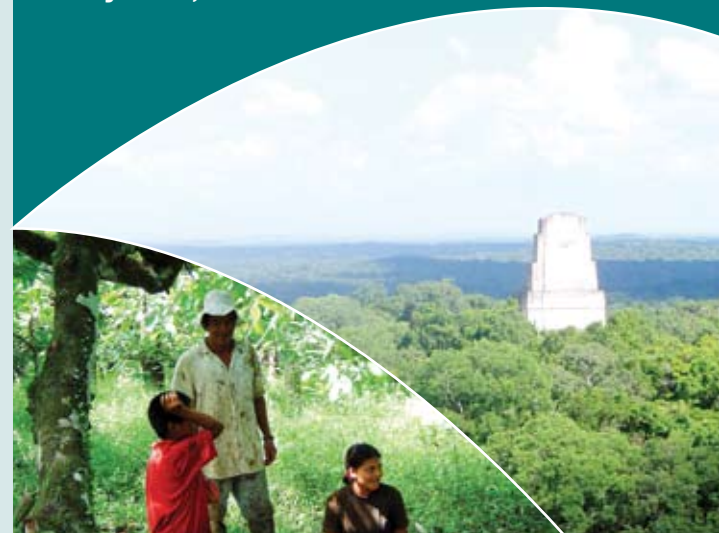
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VIII International Mobile Seminar on Protected Areas

Integrating People, Protected Areas and Landscapes: Issues and Strategies in the Face of Global Change

Guatemala and Belize
July 5-20, 2010



Course coordinators
M.Sc. Elena Florian, CATIE
M.Sc. Miguel Morales, CI
M.Sc. Jim Barborak, CSU



INTRODUCTION

During past decades, many countries around the world have achieved important advances related to the conservation of biodiversity through the creation and consolidation of protected area systems. However, many of these areas confront numerous challenges in effective protection and management.

A significant challenge is the lack of political and financial support to create and/or maintain protected areas due to a lack of understanding about the economic benefits that protected areas can generate for local communities and the importance of ecosystem services for poverty reduction. Others are related to deficiencies in the following areas: design and implementation of policies, management plans and strategies, integration of civil society in decision-making processes, creation of strategic alliances, buildup of institutional capacity and long-term financial sustainability. A relative newcomer to the list is the increasing threat of global climate change to biodiversity and human well-being.

It is vital that conservation strategies link people's needs and livelihoods to the sustainable use of natural resources; seek to bring benefits to local communities and contribute to their well-being through the provision of environmental goods and services; help to protect and enhance local culture and nature against the negative aspects of globalization; and contribute to adaptation and mitigation of impacts of global climate change. These strategies are particularly crucial in places where strict protected areas have failed because of the difficulties of securing support from local communities.

These complex and current challenges demand professionals trained with new and innovative tools that apply an integrated view in order to ensure the long-term permanence of individual areas and systems of protected areas. It is important that these professionals learn from successful lessons, practices and experiences that exist in the region in order to build more effective and appropriate capacities. This course provides theoretical and practical tools through direct contact with experts and hands-on experiences in Guatemala and

Belize. The interactions among participants allow them to compare and contrast potential solutions to these challenges in different countries around the world. The promotion and implementation of effective training tools is critical to the future of protected areas worldwide.

GOAL OF THE COURSE

Bring together natural resource managers, protected areas personnel and community leaders from countries around the globe to explore the theoretical underpinnings and practical aspects of ecosystem and landscape management as an approach to improve livelihoods in rural communities and improve integrated approaches in sustainable natural resource management.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen professional capacities for adequate planning and management of protected areas, conservation units and buffer zones in different countries through the application of innovative tools, methodologies and experiences that help address new global challenges
- Adapt and incorporate the principles of an ecosystems approach in the management of protected areas, conservation units, landscapes and seascapes
- Provide an opportunity for experts to share the knowledge and experiences in ecosystem and landscape management and develop contacts among key staff and partners to encourage the development of a learning network of practitioners in countries around the world.
- Enable learning through the exchange of expertise, lessons learned and collaborative engagement within and across regions around the globe.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The course combines a series of modules and activities on cross-cutting issues that involve an intensive and active engagement of the participants. Teaching methods include lectures, discussions, small-group exercises, participant presentations, field visits and informal exchanges among participants, faculty and invited speakers. Topics to be covered include:

Natural resource conservation and management

- Biological diversity, the extinction crisis, conservation priorities
- Pressures and global challenges
- Protected area categories
- Protected area governance and participation
- Protected area system planning
- Management plans
- Evaluation and monitoring for adaptive management
- Biological corridors and buffer zones
- Conservation and management of marine-coastal ecosystems
- The ecosystem management approach: from site to land and seascapes

Sustainable financing

- Funding mechanisms
- Financial planning
- Pricing services and facilities
- Trust fund establishment and management

Human well-being in protected areas and landscapes

- Governance, participation, decentralization and equity
- Community-based management and benefits sharing
- Land use options and alternatives
- Ecoenterprise development
- Certification schemes
- Payment for ecosystem services (PES)
- Conservation agreements
- Approaches and tools for engaging multistakeholder collaboration and conflict resolution

Climate change

- Global warming and climate change: impacts and challenges

