

Who bears the cost of forest conservation?

Date: 23 November 2016

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: Seminar room, National Museums of Kenya

There is growing awareness that although conservation may result in many benefits, it can also come at local cost. Estimating the costs of a policy such as a new protected area to local people is difficult. We have estimated the magnitude and distribution of the costs of conservation restrictions to local people around a protected area in Madagascar and the proportion of local incomes which this represents. We also explore the magnitude and distribution of compensation. Many involved in tropical conservation believe that effective compensation for all those negatively affected by conservation restrictions is neither affordable nor practical. Currently some of the poorest people on the planet are bearing the cost of tropical conservation. Conservationists need to face up to the issue of local costs of conservation, however uncomfortable they may be.

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Julia is interested in how people interact with natural resources and how incentives can be best designed to maintain ecosystem services; for example the growing field of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and how schemes such as REDD+ can effectively deliver global environmental benefits while also having a positive impact on local livelihoods. She also has a strong interest in the design of robust conservation monitoring using different types of data, and in analysing the evidence underpinning environmental policies and decisions.