

# Nature, Poverty and Power

## Assessing Challenges to Sustainable Development

DevNet Conference November 25-26, 2010, CSD Uppsala, Sweden

### *Call for Abstracts*

DevNet, the Development Research Network on Nature, Poverty and Power, invites to an interdisciplinary conference that explores the interrelationship between natural resource use, poverty and power. We call for presentations that address the challenges to globally sustainable development posed by conflicts of interest and an unequal distribution of power.

People in poverty are often identified as exposed and vulnerable to environmental degradation and disasters, but the power-related aspects of this condition are less frequently discussed. In countries with high levels of poverty, access to natural resources are commonly structured by unequal patterns of ownership, production and trade, in turn largely determined by processes of decision-making on global arenas beyond local control or influence. Furthermore, poor people in the South are especially affected by the process of climate change induced in large part by the consumption and production patterns of the highly industrialized and globally powerful countries. This conference addresses the institutions and the social, political and economic dynamics that influence the unequal access to resources and the various effects this has on people living in poverty.

The conference focuses furthermore on how people in poverty strive to ensure livelihood security and access to natural resources, while facing local, national and global power structures. This includes the strategies used by people in poverty to increase their power in political and economic decision-making on different levels, as well as the institutional options available to them for political participation and impact.

Key-note lectures by **Amita Baviskar**, **Mohammed Salih** and a third key-note speaker (to be confirmed) will address the conference theme from different perspectives. Eight parallel sessions under the following headings are open for presentations by scholars, development practitioners and activists:

- Sustainable development as a problem of global distribution
- Community-based and community-driven natural resource management – a tool for poverty reduction and sustainable development?
- Movement and the neoliberal state – probing the politics and contestations of poverty/displacement
- Health, resilience and poverty
- Global patterns of production and consumption, and their effects on people in poverty
- Cities, marginalisation, rights and citizenship
- The politics of climate change, gender and development
- Bare necessity: subsistence and displacement at the resource frontier

This is an open call to submit abstracts for these parallel sessions. Abstracts should be ½-1 page and include: title of presentation, name and affiliation of presenter, name of the session the presentation would fall under, and text describing the presentation. **The deadline for abstracts is June 3, 2010.** Authors will be notified of abstract acceptance on June 21, 2010. Deadline for general conference registration is September 24. Read more and register at [www.csduppsala.uu.se/devnet](http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/devnet)



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The Development Research Network on Nature, Poverty and Power