

Institution

Vancouver Island University

Principal Researcher

Dr. Grant Murray

Dr. Rick Rollins

Dr. Phil Dearden

Research Field

Geography, Environmental
Management

Student Involvement

37 student researchers

14 employed students

Partners & Collaborators

Ghana: Sunyani Polytechnic;
Ghana Wildlife Division

Tanzania: College of African
Wildlife Management;
The Kesho Trust

Canada: University of
Victoria; University of Guelph;
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations;
Pacific Rim National Park
Reserve; and many others

Funding Sources

International Development
Research Centre (IDRC)

Social Sciences and
Humanities Research Council
of Canada (SSHRC)

Project Location

Tanzania: Saadani &
Serengeti National Parks

Ghana: Mole National Park

Canada: Tla-o-qui-aht First
Nations Tribal Park, Pacific
Rim National Park Reserve
and many other project sites

Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction

PAPR: A Canada-Africa Research and Learning Alliance

Alleviating rural poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability are two of the biggest issues facing the planet. They are fundamentally and inextricably linked – extreme poverty inhibits environmental sustainability and degraded natural environments exacerbate rural poverty.

Vancouver Island University researchers are part of an international team that is addressing this issue. The Protected Areas and Poverty Reduction Canada-Africa Research and Learning Alliance (the Alliance) seeks to address the challenges of reducing rural poverty and ensuring environmental sustainability through a focus on protected areas and adjacent communities in Canada, Tanzania and Ghana.

Protected Areas (PAs) can and do mitigate biodiversity loss, protect ecosystem function and integrity, and generate significant socio-economic benefits at local to national scales. If PAs are to succeed in reducing poverty and supporting environmental sustainability, ways must be found to: 1) maximize the delivery of equitable benefits; 2) better manage human-wildlife interactions; 3) re-conceptualize and improve PA governance; and 4) mobilize knowledge between academic researchers, community organizations, visitors, and managers.

Our Alliance supports innovative research and learning in each of these four areas. As an international community-university research alliance, PAPR has important objectives that range beyond research. At a more general level, our Alliance involves four key activities: 1) conducting original team research in four linked thematic areas; 2) fostering a variety of partnerships; 3) training and capacity building for students, researchers, community leaders and practitioners; and 4) communicating information to/from communities, Universities, protected areas, NGOs and others.

Along the way, we have involved and trained over 50 students in community based research, knowledge mobilization activities such as community workshops and academic conferences, and internships with agencies.

Our researchers have taken the results back to the communities with the aim to, for example, create or enhance tourism products, minimize human wildlife interaction and crop predation, and provide best practice in protected area governance.

PACE Research Report

We are proud of our researchers and students, and we invite you to watch our student produced video PAPER - Introduction to Student Activities <http://www.paprproject.com/p/papr-videos.html>.

A multi-authored project blog was created by Nicole Vaugeois, PhD, Vancouver Island University and Brianne Labute, graduate of the Bachelor of Tourism Management program, Vancouver Island University. This blog features research highlights from our many researchers and serves as the project website housing PAPER project information, videos and student presentations. Please visit our blog at <http://www.paprproject.com/>



Ghana 2009 Photo Credit: Jennifer Schofield