

U.S. Department of Agriculture Accomplishments Report AD-421 (investigator copy) U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations and Other Institutions			Date (Month, Day, Year) 10/30/2008
1. Accession 0204353	Agency Identification No. 2. CSREES 3. MD.	5. Work Unit/Project No. MD-ANTH-0616	6. Status Final Report
7. Title Linking Land Conservation and Rural Stakeholders through Cultural Model Research			
12. Investigator Name(s) (Last Name and Initials) Paolisso, M. J.; Weeks, P.			
20. Termination Date 07/31/2008		40. Period Covered (mo/da/year): 08/01/2005 TO 07/31/2008	
Outputs: <p>For both the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay and the Big Thicket region of eastern Texas, we have compiled a large database of qualitative and quantitative data on the cultural knowledge and values about land conservation held by farmers, environmentalists, land developers, local government officials, and land conservationists. The database is 100% computer ready for analysis through SPSS (survey/quantitative data) and Atlas.ti (interview, text data). The database consists of data from about 25 informal interviews, 100 semi-structured interviews and 1200 surveys on land conservation in both Texas and Maryland. All interviews were digitally recorded and coded for major themes by the project's research team to produce a "mega theme" database (also in Atlas.ti). Extensive SPSS sub-databases have been produced in the analysis of survey data. The project has provided teaching and training opportunities for two PhD students (one in anthropology and one in wildlife and fisheries sciences), six Masters level students, and one undergraduate student in conservation biology. Project staff participated in a number of events over the course of the project where we represented the project's activities and/or presented on project activities and findings. These conferences, demonstrations, symposia, field days and workshops include two NRI Rural Development Project Director meetings (2006 and 2007), one Rural Sociological Society annual meeting (poster presentation), one presentation at Maryland Day at the University of Maryland (2008), one Maryland land planning workshop (2008), one science conference in Texas (2007), one local, Texas biodiversity event (2007), one department event focused on communication and conservation (2008), one conservation leadership development conference in Texas (2008), one local citizen biodiversity event in Texas (2007), one national workshop on stewardship of conservation lands (2007), one international workshop for the Society of Conservation Biology (2008), and one internet collaborative learning community on community and conservation (2008). The below websites contain the specific information on the above events and activities. These websites will continue to host and be updated as additional reports, disseminations, publications and other activities from the project are produced, after the project's official end date. In addition, the project developed and disseminated two Information Briefs (2006 and 2007) on the project, which were shared with land conservation stakeholders in Texas and Maryland. Details and products produced for all these activities are currently available at http://wfsc.tamu.edu/jpackard/conservation.htm, http://www.harc.edu/OurWork/Projects/LandConservation, http://www.bsos.umd.edu/ANTH/Chesapeake/home.htm. We make special note of the materials prepared as part of the project for outreach to land conservation practitioners and conservation scientists, and in particular the teaching modules for scientists http://wfsc.tamu.edu/jpackard/conservation/knowledge.htm.</p>			
Outcomes/Impacts: <p>Prior to the project, we had not encountered any significant recognition or discussion of the systematic, and at times profound, importance of cultural knowledge and values to the development, implementation and evaluation of land conservation. The project has contributed a base of high-quality, comparative cultural knowledge on land conservation, which can be integrated with economic and ecological perspectives. Based on the project's research outputs (i.e., interviews, surveys, data analysis, publications, and dissemination (see above and listed websites)), we identified a cultural conceptual</p>			

framework for land conservation (a reinforcing circle of logical relationships that includes land as resource, threats to land, conservation action and approaches, and landscape) and six specific cultural models of land conservation as: 1) a moral imperative with a mandate to ensure long-term protection of public good against potential human and institutional misuse; 2) a dynamic, adaptive process that allows the natural resources on lands to be used and harvested to meet human food and material needs; 3) the application of technologies and planning to create the housing, goods and services needed by human communities in a manner that best protects the environment; 4) the equitable management of a public good that has multiple uses for different stakeholders; 5) the management of land in an ecologically sound manner consistent with agency mandates and the needs of different stakeholders; and 6) the saving of a way of life that is based on the ability to use what nature provides, see wildlife and experience nature around us. Project outputs have targeted a diverse group of stakeholders and participants in land conservation, including members of the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC), Center for Agro-Ecology, Queen Anne's Conservation Association, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth, Southeast Texas Resource and Development Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Livingston Service Area, Texas Forest Service, Texas Forestry Association, Big Thicket Association, Sierra Club, Resourceful Communities Program of the Conservation Fund, Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners, Big Thicket National Preserve, Nature Conservancy, Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust, Resource and Development Councils, Wildlife Urban Interface Program, Land Trust Alliance, Society for Conservation Biology, and the Culture and Agriculture section of the American Anthropological Association. For specific members of the above groups, and many more who participated as interview or survey respondents, we believe that the project has been instrumental in introducing new ideas and possibilities about the importance of cultural knowledge, formally represented as cultural models, to efforts to conserve land. Finally, the database we produced represents a source of information for researchers, land conservationists, local environmental, community and development groups, and land developers who are interested in fostering collaborative programs in conservation across traditional stakeholder boundaries.

Publications:

Packard, J.M., Weeks, P. and Paolisso, M. 2008. Amber, Rosy and Green: Cultural Lenses for Understanding Land Conservation for Different Stakeholder Groups. *Society and Natural Resources*. To be Submitted.

Paolisso, M., Weeks, P. and Packard, J. M. 2008. Cultural Models of Land Conservation: Maryland and Texas Compared. *Culture and Agriculture*. Submitted.

Weeks, P. and Packard, J. M. 2008. Feral Hogs: Invasive Species or Bounty from Nature? *Human Organization*. Under Review.

Packard, J. M. and Weeks, P. 2008. Hog Hunting to Protect Biodiversity: Integrating Perspectives on Biocomplexity. *The George Wright Forum*. In Revision.

Bernal Stoopan, J.F., Packard, J. M. and Reading, R. 2008. Lessons from Mexican Wolves: Endangered Species Cross Borders when Stakeholders Do Not. *Conservation along the US-Mexico Border: Binational Solutions for our Shared Problems*. Lopez-Hoffman, L. and Flessa, K. (eds). Forthcoming.

Bernal Stoopan, J.F., Packard, J. M. and Reading, R. 2008. Binational Collaboration in Endangered Species Recovery: A Framework for Consensus Analysis. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. In Revision.

Participants:

Individuals who worked on the project include: Michael Paolisso, Principal Investigator: responsible for overall project development and implementation and is taking lead in cultural modeling and data analysis, particularly for Maryland component; Priscilla Weeks, Co-principal Investigator: worked with principal investigator on all project activities/decisions and is leading project efforts in Texas; R. Shawn Maloney (Ph.D. student in anthropology), Research Associate: responsible for developing qualitative text analysis protocol, including training and use of Atlas.ti software, assisting principal investigator with developing survey instrument, and in charge of project databases; Jane Packard, Project counterpart to

co-principal investigator Weeks in Texas: responsible for in-field studies and data organization and linking project to issues in biological conservation; Marty Krizan, MAA student in anthropology: conducted interviews in Texas and Maryland and assisted with preparation of interview guides; Nicole Dery, MAA student in anthropology: conducted interviews in Texas and Maryland and assisted with preparation of interview guides; Mridula Srinivasan (PhD. Student in wildlife and fisheries sciences: assisted with Texas survey, data analysis and website design. Partner and Collaborating Organizations include the Harry Hughes Agro-Ecology Center, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, Queen Anne's Conservation Association, Southeast Texas Resource and Development Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Forest Service, Texas Forestry Association, Big Thicket Association, Sierra Club, Resourceful Communities Program of the Conservation Fund, Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners, Big Thicket National Preserve, The Nature Conservancy, and the Big Thicket Natural Heritage Trust. In terms of training, the project has provided teaching and training opportunities for two PhD students (one in anthropology and one in wildlife and fisheries sciences), six Masters level students, and one undergraduate student in conservation biology. Training was also provided to land conservation practitioners and conservation scientists, and prepared teaching modules for scientists <http://wfsc.tamu.edu/jpackard/conservation/knowledge.htm>. Project staff also facilitated the formation of a global collaborative learning community through a Society for Conservation Biology workshop and through development of curriculum materials (in review) to be disseminated through the Network of Conservation Educators and Practitioners at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History. Project staff also disseminated curriculum materials through the Learning Center of the Land Trust Alliance.

Target Audiences:

Our target audiences included researchers in the social and natural sciences, farmers, environmentalists, land conservationists, developers, local government officials and the broader rural public, specifically in two areas: Maryland's Eastern Shore and the Big Thicket area of East Texas. These included community leaders associated with Resource and Development Councils (local, state, national), landowners networked through the Wildlife Urban Interface program of the Texas state and national forest service, landowners, land conservationists active in the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and the Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, conservation practitioners linked through the Land Trust Alliance, and conservation scientists networked through the Society for Conservation Biology.

Project Modifications:

Nothing significant to report during this reporting period.

Approved (Signature)	Title	Date
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