Final Progress Report  
Sustainability Science Program, Harvard University  
Term: September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2010  
Submitted: July 2010

Name: Kamaljit S. Bawa

Research fields:  
Conservation Biology

Degree program, institution and expected graduation date:  
PhD, Biology, Punjab University, 1967

Faculty hosts at Harvard:  
William C. Clark (Harvard Kennedy School) and Noel Michele Holbrook (Faculty of Arts and Sciences)

SSP-related research activity:  

Title: Sustainable Livelihoods, Small Scale Agriculture and Conservation

Abstract: There is considerable debate about the success of integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) in meeting the twin goals of conservation and poverty reduction. Recently I started a long-term project on sustainable livelihoods at several sites in the Eastern Himalayas to test the idea if conservation of biodiversity can be enhanced while alleviating poverty. I seek to quantify changes in economic, social and economic parameters resulting from economic and institutional interventions. I am also dovetailing this work on sustainable livelihoods to my second interest, and that is, Human Dimensions of Biodiversity Change (a program that I am directing for the International Union of Biological Sciences). Specifically, I seek to examine the role of small-scale agriculture, institutions, and development on land use change and ecosystem services, and how these drivers of change are being impacted by climate change. This analysis will further contribute to the test and development a model of conservation that integrates livelihoods and conservation. Finally, I am completing three books: 1. Mountains of Life: People, Life, and Prospects of Conservation in the Eastern Himalayas Biodiversity Hotspot, 2. Contested Domains: Conflict and Reconciliation in Protected Areas, and 3. Conservation Biology: A Primer for South Asia.

Key question you ask about the problem:  
Is it possible to integrate conservation with alleviation of poverty?

The methods by which you answered that question:  
I use approaches that integrate concepts and tolls from natural and social sciences.

Empirical data acquisition description:  
For my empirical work, I collect data using ethnographical and ecological methods.

Geographical region studied:  
India

A description of the final product(s) you have/are aiming to produce:  
See below

Please list citations for reports, papers, publications and presentations that built on your fellowship research:  
Journal Articles


Pashupati, C., and K.S. Bawa. 2010. Local perceptions of climate change validated by scientific data in the Himalayas. Submitted to *PLOS One*.


*Books*


*Organization of Symposia and Workshops*

Organized several symposia and workshops on Indigenous knowledge, community based conservation, and human dimensions of biodiversity change at the DIVERSITAS Open Science Congress and the International Union of Biological Sciences General Assembly in Cape Town in October 2009.

*Principal collaborators outside Harvard:*
Dr. Richard Primack, Boston University
Dr. S. Lele, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bangalore

*List any awards or grants that you have received this year for the current or coming year:*
Blue Moon Fund: Enhancing Conservation and Livelihood Security in Biodiversity Hotspots

MacArthur Foundation: Two Year Grant: Exploration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Eastern Himalayas