

Mainstreaming Activities in the WILD Field Sites

In all projects involved with the initiative or in field sites, a variety of activities involving gender and population are included, such as:

- Undertake staff self-assessment about gender and demographic mainstreaming
- Collect information and draft education modules for gender awareness
- Develop education tools with specific messages and techniques for different genders
- Ensure that staff incorporate lessons learned on gender and demographics in community-based coastal resources management work
- Provide training on demographics
- Establish and maintain a CRM resource center, that makes available information, publications and materials on CM, ICM Population/Demographics/Gender
- Sensitizing ICM local programs and partners on the importance of mainstreaming Gender and Population in ICM
- Use gender focal points of donors and embassies as an entry point for a long-term funding strategy

WILD Partners

- World Conservation Union-IUCN
www.iucn.org
- Population Reference Bureau
www.prb.org
- David and Lucile Packard Foundation
www.packard.org
- U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

After the workshop, the field teams began implementing their action plans, applying new & adapted approaches and tools for mainstreaming gender and demography in ICM. Each field site has two assigned mentors from CRC and partner organizations who are in periodic contact with the teams, assisting them in verifying and adapting their assumptions, action plans, and tools. Mentors or others with specific gender, population, and coastal management expertise are available to provide short-term on-the-ground technical assistance to the teams.

One important aspect of the WILD initiative is disseminating and communicating results and lessons learned both internally and externally. Information is shared internally through the e-mail listserve and site visits. Participants are required to provide periodic updates and materials which will be used in preparing case studies from each field site.

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MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND POPULATION INTO INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT

THE COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER WILD INITIATIVE

For over three decades, the Coastal Resources Center (CRC) at the University of Rhode Island has worked with partners to develop strategies for effective management of coastal environments—formulating and refining policies and actions to promote a better balance between coasts and the people who inhabit them. The core of this work has always been the underlying principles of empowerment, equity and sustainable development. Yet, CRC recognizes that the challenge of achieving sustainable coastal resource use, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing the quality of life of coastal people is made much more difficult by the reality of rapidly expanding coastal populations and the lack of equity for certain segments of the population, especially women. People view coasts and their social and environmental resources in different ways:

- *For ICM practitioners, coasts are threatened ecosystems* where participatory planning, policies and institutions will lead to sustainable economic development and the protection of unique biological resources
- *For gender specialists, coasts are settings of inequality* in which men, women, and their children have different levels of access to productive resources, resource decision making and leadership opportunities
- *For population specialists, coasts are sites with high birth rates*, increasing numbers of economic and ecological migrants, rapid urbanization and globalization and tenuous food security

Although the global community has recognized the importance of environment, gender and population linkages, CRC observed that there has not been enough collaborative work in these fields. If ICM is to make its full contribution to equitable sustainable development, then coastal managers must team with others to find ways to better integrate gender equity and population concerns into their plans, programs and policies. That we can only do through asking and analyzing difficult questions, such as:

- Who is moving to the coast, what are the driving forces behind migration, what do the newcomers need, and how do you plan for mitigation of the impacts which their numbers have on coastal management

- How do you give women a meaningful voice in planning and decisionmaking for their coastal community – including but not limited to decisions on how resources are used, who benefits from those uses, and alternative ways of doing what has always been done

There are a number of factors that have kept ICM practitioners from considering the issues of gender equity and population in their programs. Turning the tide requires investments within three areas that constitute the core of mainstreaming gender equity and population issues into ICM projects:

- **Acquire “how to do it” knowledge and/or access to the right tools.** The challenge is to adapt or combine elements of ICM tools with aspects of gender and population tools to take a more integrated and holistic approach to what is being done.
- **Gender and population become integrated into the jobs of every individual working within ICM projects.** While each ICM practitioner does not need to be a gender or population expert, they do need to have an understanding of how these two topics impact the coastal management work they do.
- **Develop a repertoire, of tangible examples of experience, tools and findings, on how ICM projects have addressed population and gender issues.** Until substantial experience develops and sharing happens, mainstreaming and replication will remain sporadic and inefficient at best.

The WILD Initiative

The initiative got its name during its more narrow first phase, “Women in Leadership Development (WILD)” initiative implemented in 2001. It was supported by a small grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation’s Population and Environment Program, along with funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.N. Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC), and in-kind technical assistance from the World Conservation Union-IUCN. Initial activities included:

- *A Mainstreaming Gender, Population and Leadership into Coastal Management Programs* workshop which brought together a diverse group of academics, scientists, field practitioners, advocates, and donors with a common interest in the challenges of and solutions for better mainstreaming gender and population considerations into coastal programs and vice versa
- A special session on *Integrating Gender into Mainstream Coastal Programs* at the international Coastal Zone 2001 Conference
- Contributions to agenda-setting for the Oceans and Coasts segment of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)—through presentations, publications and participation in multiple preparatory events

- Publication of an *InterCoast Network* CRC newsletter issue, entitled *Gender, Population, and the Environment: Finding Common Ground for Coastal Managers*
- Publication of an adapted version of the paper presented at the WSSD preparatory conference, *Cross Currents: Navigating Gender and Population Linkages for Integrated Coastal Management*, in the *Tropical Coasts* newsletter and in the *Journal of Marine Policy*

The experience gained through the first phase of WILD activities inspired CRC to embark on a larger follow-on project to mainstream demographics and gender issues in ICM. The second phase of the WILD initiative, primarily funded by the Packard Foundation and USAID, began in December 2002. CRC invited representatives from eight ICM initiatives in Mexico, Indonesia, Fiji, Tanzania, Kenya, and the Philippines to take part in a learning network aiming to test various tools to mainstream gender and demographics. This phase has two overarching objectives:

- Encourage and facilitate population and gender equity issues to become routinely considered at all stages – i.e. at the design, implementation, and evaluation stages – of participating coastal and marine conservation programs
- Test and incorporate knowledge, tools, experience and lessons learned on how to integrate gender equity and population change considerations into the design and implementation of coastal and marine conservation programs, and disseminate them among an active network of coastal practitioners; gender, population, and environment specialists; major NGOs; and selected members of the donor community

The initiative’s first major undertaking was a learning workshop in February 2003. Gathering more than two dozen participants from the eight field sites and partner organizations, the workshop aimed to provide training and assist the field teams to prepare action plans for how to mainstream demographics and gender into their projects. This workshop also marked the beginning of the ICM-population-gender learning network. The network allows the team members to have a continuous dialogue through an e-mail listserv.

Expected WILD Outputs

- A gender-ICM-population learning network
- Two learning workshops
- Technical assistance to selected field sites by gender, population and coastal experts
- Field-tested tools and techniques for integrating gender and population into ICM
- Case studies documenting the impacts of gender equity and population on ICM
- Dissemination of research and lessons learned through publications, training and a learning-network web site