



International Resources Group

# Environment



**International Resources Group** is widely recognized as a world leader in environmental policy. Our focus is on building in-country capacity for critically analyzing, managing, and ameliorating degradation of all environmental media, using combinations of legal, regulatory, economic, and information tools appropriate to particular circumstances. Our experts offer advisory assistance to public and private institutions to address environmental quality problems associated with industrial production, household consumption and provision of services. IRG is a leader in environmental management system (EMS) consulting for companies and government agencies worldwide. We specialize in helping organizations implement performance-focused EMS programs within strict budget and time constraints while providing world-class guidance. IRG is ISO 14001 certified.

## Representative Projects

### Managing Environments and Strengthening Institutions Worldwide

IRG and its partners provide advisory services and technical assistance to USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT), country missions, and regional bureaus. Through EPIQ, IRG helps decision makers in developing countries analyze, develop, and implement policy options that balance growth with environmental sustainability, thus enhancing economic development while reducing long-term threats to the global environment. IRG was the sole awardee of the EPIQ I IQC (1996-2002) under which the firm implemented \$105 million in contracts in 40 countries. IRG is the prime contractor of the multiple-award EPIQ II IQC (2003-2008) that has a \$250 million ceiling. The contract also helps EGAT's sustainable environmental management program, which includes natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, sustainable urban development, and sustainable energy systems. **Global: Environmental Policy and Institutional Strengthening Indefinite Quantity Contract (EPIQ)**

### Helping to Increase Cooperation for Defense and the Environment in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

IRG was asked to facilitate a regional workshop in Costa Rica as part of the Central American Environmental Defense Program in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. This environmental security conference was established to strengthen and improve the relationships between the armed forces, police corps, environmental officials and civil society in order to manage the natural resources in Central America in a sustainable way. Under the sponsorship of the

## Capabilities

- ◆ Environmental and Economic Policy Reform
- ◆ Finance Strategies and their Implementation (including capital development user fees, permitting, cost recovery systems)
- ◆ Eco-tourism, Cultural Tourism, and Non-Competitive Uses of the Environment
- ◆ Technical Assistance and Training in Forestry, Water, and Other Resource Management
- ◆ Knowledge Management Systems for Environmental Applications
- ◆ Training in Various Aspects of Environment and NRM

US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), the course focused on examining the intersection between national security and environmental problems with repercussions at the local, national and regional levels. ***US Army War College and US Southern Command Central America Environmental Security Training Course***

### **Fulfilling Social and Legal Environmental Mandates**

IPEP is helping the Secretariat of the Environment (SOE) to become a mature organization able to fulfill its legal mandates. IRG is providing technical assistance and training to SOE and civil society groups, providing study and observational tours for select key officials of the SOE and civil society and managing a \$1.25 million grant fund for civil society to raise awareness and promote public participation in protection of environmental resources.

***Dominican Republic: Improved Policies for Environmental Protection (IPEP)***

### **Evaluating Water and Soil Quality to Reduce Pollution Effects**

IRG helped reduce the environmental impacts of nitrates and phosphates from agricultural sources located in the Calarasi Judet on the Danube. This area, very near the delta and the Black Sea coast, is heavily polluted as a result of high-nutrient discharges from agricultural sources. IRG assisted the Judet environmental and agricultural units by evaluating water and soil quality and identifying pollution sources. IRG also developed solutions to reduce chemical discharges into the environment and introduced ecological management systems to reinforce pollution-reduction efforts. In addition, IRG provided technical and logistical support for facilitating information exchange between key elements of this effort. IRG was a subcontractor under this USAID Water IQC Task Order. ***Romania: Romania Agricultural Pollution Reduction***

### **Protecting Biodiversity and Establishing Sustainable Practices**

IRG helped USAID/Madagascar in its efforts to manage and protect biologically diverse ecosystems in priority conservation zones. Providing technical assistance, training, and grant administration for the project involved establishing sustainable financing mechanisms; implementing adaptive

management practices; developing and applying environmental policies, legislation, and procedures; and bolstering strategic planning, communication, management, and monitoring. ***Madagascar: Enabling Conditions for Sustainable Organization and Policies (PAGE)***

### **Implementing Reforms to Mitigate Environmental Constraints**

IRG provided core management and analytical support for environmental reform efforts in Egypt to improve waste management, reduce industrial pollution, conserve marine biodiversity, and overcome institutional, financial, and economic constraints to sound environmental management.

***Egypt: Environmental Policy Program***

### **Enabling Environmental Economic and Social Development Programs**

IRG is helping the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) set up an institutional framework for environmental policy and impact monitoring necessary for conserving natural and environmental resources while embarking on future economic and social development programs. Work includes developing an initial skill base and institution capacity, impact assessment training, environmental policy and regulation training for GOSS staff and EIA alumni, and completing an environmental assessment of Sudan's infrastructure. ***Sudan: Sudan Environmental Transition Program***

### **Using Demand-Driven Systems for Societal Interests**

IRG is implementing this project to address four priority challenges of Peru's environment: tropical forest loss, threatened biodiversity, urban pollution, and industrial pollution. IRG uses a demand-driven Environmental Management System (EMS) approach that involves systematic voluntary self-interest undertakings to meet environmental needs and societal interests. EMS will be used to help address industrial pollution, and USAID support of a Clean Production Center. IRG is building an information database for practical EMS applications and providing technical and financial support to selected EMS "early adopters" in the four priority areas. ***Peru: Peru Strengthened Environmental Management Activity (STEM)***