



an  company

International Resources Group

Local Governance



Capabilities

- ◆ Community and Civil Society Development
- ◆ Government/ Administrative Capacity Building
- ◆ Democratic Decentralization
Transparency and Accountability

Stability and steady economic and social growth depend upon structures of good governance including transparent and accountable state institutions as well as an actively engaged civil society.

International Resources Group supports reform-minded governments and those meeting the challenges of transition by working both at the national and local level. Through a variety of approaches, and with government assistance, IRG helps to empower local communities and elected officials. This includes promoting greater citizen participation in government, strengthening the capacity of non-governmental actors, and increasing the ability of government representatives and governance structures to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of constituents.

Representative Projects

Targeting Protected Areas for Community Co-Management Opportunities

IRG is developing a working model of co-management that will be feasible and replicable for government and community interests while meeting economic development and conservation needs. In tandem, IRG is implementing a public awareness campaign that informs public opinion about the importance of biodiversity conservation, outdoor recreation and ecotourism, vital environmental services, and the rationale for a co-management approach. IRG is examining the immediate needs and means for enhancing the capacity of the Forest Department and local officials to ensure the integrity of the targeted protected areas. ***Bangladesh: Co-Management of Tropical Forest Resource***

Developing Opportunities to Encourage Stakeholder Participation

The Municipal Disaster Mitigation Program aimed to reduce the loss of life, livelihood, and property resulting from natural disasters. IRG assisted in strengthening the capacity of municipalities to prepare for and mitigate natural disasters through participatory planning. Municipal emergency operations committees were established in 30 target locales that ensured balanced representation among women, vulnerable groups, and other stakeholders. Training workshops were coordinated that promoted participatory planning in community development, with a special focus on disaster preparedness.

El Salvador: Municipal Disaster Mitigation

Promoting Information as a Source of Power

IRG formed a core group of natural resource management leaders to collect information on experiences, and supported their responses to natural resource initiatives. As part of this effort, previous work



analyzing the dynamics of resource management was revalidated, and a major study, supported: Nature, Wealth and Power (NWP). IRG has spearheaded the use of NWP as a tool for promoting dialogue

throughout Africa, and with the Contact Group members. Information was also disseminated on areas of innovation and success through multimedia channels, including a continually updated Internet database-NRM Tracker. **Africa: Stock-Taking and Information Dissemination**

Decentralizing Decision Making to Increase Capacity

Through decentralization of water management decision-making and increased participation of rural water users, the LIFE project builds capacity through technical assistance, training, commodities, and small grant resources. The project supports the establishment of well-functioning branch canal water user associations and integrated water management districts. The project assesses training for irrigation equipment maintenance, develops approaches for local management of wastewater and solid waste, demonstrates the economic benefits (and the safety) of reusing treated wastewater, and provides graduate-level training opportunities abroad. **Egypt: Livelihood and Income from the Environment (LIFE) Integrated Water Resources Management Project**

Supporting Efforts to Rebuild in Post-Conflict Areas

IRG supported USAID in oversight of Iraq's local governance project which strengthened and promoted the following vital components of rebuilding effective governance: local government institutions and service delivery; local and district councils; independent media; civil society; community engagement and outreach; and decentralization. **Iraq: Implementation of Emergency Relief and Short-Term Rehabilitation Response**

Creating Tools for Developing Participatory Natural Resources Management

To further sustainable natural resource management for Indonesia's forests, protected areas, and coastlines, IRG helped to clarify stakeholder roles and responsibilities,

develop broad-based, articulate local constituencies, and rationalize the local planning process. IRG analyzed informed policy and planning decisions that resulted in a move toward democratic, participatory natural resource management. These efforts have laid the groundwork for a variety of tools, such as resource valuation, conservation finance techniques, collaborative management, and participation with partners at local and governmental levels. **Indonesia: Natural Resources Management Program (II and III)**