



International Resources Group

# Natural Resources



## Capabilities

- ◆ Natural Resources Management Assessments
- ◆ Community-based NRM and Forest Co-management
- ◆ Policy Reform Assistance, Environmental Governance
- ◆ Training and Capacity Building for Rural Producers and Community-based Organizations
- ◆ Biodiversity Needs Analysis and Tropical Forest Conservation
- ◆ Forestry Sector Reforms, Capacity Building for Reforestation, Forest Resources Management
- ◆ Sustainable Financing Strategies for Natural Resource Institutions and Protected Area Management

**International Resources Group** works in non-industrialized countries to sustain the natural resource base underpinning and transitioning agricultural activity, helping to grow rural economies and improve lives. Our technical experts offer strategic planning, policy analysis, and capacity building assistance to foster sustainable production and enterprise and market development. We are a leading advocate of participatory approaches to community-based natural resource management with applied and refined co-management of forest, energy, pasture, wildlife, coastal, and freshwater resources worldwide.

Overall, we strive to help public and private organizations manage valuable natural resources in ways that are environmentally sustainable, equitable, financially viable, and supportive of economic development.

## Representative Projects

### Improving the Management of Protected Areas

IRG is developing a working model of co-management for government and community interests to improve environmental conditions and meet conservation needs through a program funded by USAID. Forest preservation and the management of open water are key initiatives and IRG's Nishorgo project, launched in 2003, has made notable strides in developing transparent co-management agreements that allow for a local voice and build on efforts to increase the amount of protected areas. ***Bangladesh: Co-Management of Tropical Forest Resources***

### Countering the Negative Effects of Degraded Resources

To assist Madagascar in achieving effective management and control of its forest ecosystems, USAID contracted IRG to provide technical assistance, training, and grants. The project focuses on restructuring and revitalizing public sector environmental and forest institutions that are critical to improving the forest management systems. Foremost, IRG is helping revitalize the Malagasy Forest Service to ensure sustainable forest management. Additional areas of involvement include: developing mechanisms for sustainable finance, formulating and securing adoption of applicable environmental policies, and strengthening environmental sector management capacity. ***Madagascar: Support Sustainable Environment and Forest Ecosystems Management***

### Preserving and Sustaining Fragile Ecosystems

BIOFOR addressed ecosystem issues by providing technical assistance to government agencies that helped develop leadership capability,

policy improvements and implementation, and sustainable management of Peru's biologically diverse areas, fragile ecosystems, and tropical forests. **Peru: Biodiversity and Fragile Ecosystem Conservation and Management (BIOFOR)**

## Supporting NRM Legislation and Information Networks

IRG helped to establish environmentally sustainable management practices in Tanzania in six areas: natural resource management and environmental policy, institutional strengthening, community conservation and game reserve regimes, community conservation and national park regimes, partner support, and program performance monitoring. Along with coordinating national policy issues, IRG developed resource management information networks; facilitated program reporting; established a policy framework; and supported field studies, data collection, and training. IRG also supported preparation of enabling legislation, regulations, and policy guidelines, including community-based wildlife management and conservation programs. The project's top priorities were wildlife policy, corridor and buffer zone management, hunting concessions, NGO participation, and integrated coastal management. IRG also conducted studies in game ranching, joint ventures, and economic opportunities. **Tanzania: Natural Resource Management Program**

## Managing Wildlife Reserves and Preserving Biodiversity

Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture was mandated to establish and manage wildlife reserves and preserve biodiversity. IRG assisted the Ministry in developing a preparation report that lead to a grant from the Global Environment Facility for work in the conservation of medicinal and herbal plants and identification of cultivation practices that can give field crops industrial value. **Jordan: Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants**

## Linking Communities and Environmental Conservancies

Under the Namibia LIFE Project, IRG plays a primary role in building the institutional capacity of Namibia's nascent nature conservancies. IRG provides technical assistance to conservancies through support to institutional aspects of conservancy management plans and for developing linkages between emerging Community Land Boards in their

interactions with communal area conservancies. IRG also captures and disseminates lessons learned from the Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Program through USAID's FRAME Project. The third pillar of this project is to assist the University of Namibia (UNAM) Multi-Disciplinary Centre to establish a sister university relationship with an affiliated stateside academic institution.

**Namibia: Living in a Finite Environment (LIFE)**

## Developing Recommendations for Policies and Reforms

IRG evaluated policy and institutional reform measures associated with Asian Development Bank natural resource management (NRM) lending in Sri Lanka. A framework for monitoring policy and institutional changes was established, including enhanced cross-sectoral coordination and better NRM integration into national and regional development planning. Through the use of workgroups and seminars, IRG developed recommendations in three areas: restructuring of the environment ministry; restructuring of institutions to integrate environmental and economic development policies; and legal reforms to improve the implementation of NRM programs and policies. **Sri Lanka: Sustainable Natural Resource Management for Development (SUNREM)**

## Achieving Significant Impacts in Natural Resources Management

IRG implemented the initial NRM program in Indonesia in 1997 and subsequently implemented NRM II and NRM III, which was completed in 2004. During the course of the project, IRG clarified the roles of various interested parties, both public and private sector, developed broad-based articulate constituencies for resource management at the local level, and rationalized and informed both planning processes and policymaking by providing clear examples of successes elsewhere. The NRM program emerged as a policy think tank among donor projects and NGOs on a number of NRM issues, including Forest Industry Restructuring Analyses, National NRM Governance Reforms, and Decentralization Implications and Institutions, especially for Forestry and Protected Areas Management. **Indonesia: Natural Resources Management**