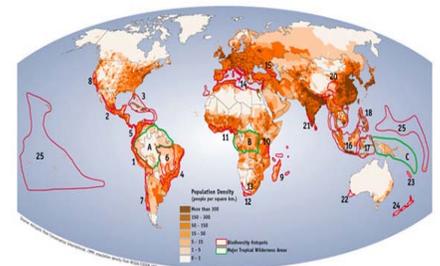




Population Environment Program

What is the Population Environment Program?

The Population Environment (PE) Program seeks to reduce human impact and pressure on limited natural resources in rural, high biodiversity areas. The program works to improve local conservation activities by providing communities with basic services, such as reproductive health and family planning (RH/FP) and information and training in improved natural resource practices.



World Population Density

Why is population an important issue for conservation?

The regions of the planet that are undergoing the most severe environmental degradation are the same as those experiencing the most rapid human population growth. Ninety-eight percent of the increase in population is taking place in developing countries - frequently the same countries where Conservation International (CI) focuses its work to protect biodiversity.



Working Through Partners

CI and partners use an integrated conservation and health approach to improve the welfare of community members by:

- **Improving community health outcomes** by providing health services and information, primarily related to family planning and reproductive health but increasingly focused on community health such as maternal and child care;
- **Raising awareness** about the links between smaller family size and decreased pressures on natural resources;
- **Highlighting the benefits** of participatory planning for integrated health and conservation initiatives;
- **Providing capacity building** and support for biodiversity-compatible production and enterprises to enable the achievement of conservation outcomes while meeting human welfare needs of local populations.



Activities

Healthy Families, Healthy Forests Program

The US Agency for International Development's (USAID) grant to CI includes work in Madagascar, Cambodia and the Philippines. CI works with local NGOs and partners to help rural communities understand the relationship between having smaller, healthier families and improved stewardship of natural resources and habitat for globally significant biodiversity. The goal of the program is a transition of communities from poor, subsistence agriculturalists to economically stable families with diverse livelihoods and working knowledge of resource management and biodiversity protection.

Philippines

CI-Philippines (CI-P) staff based in the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor have been working with PROCESS Luzon since 2002 to improve reproductive health and family planning practices through training of local health workers and IEC campaigns. CI-P and PROCESS are working closely with local government units to integrate PE into regional strategies for land use planning and policies to achieve biodiversity conservation. The program has been built upon their effective community engagement in PE to develop improved natural resource and family planning practices led by local community groups.

Madagascar

The Madagascar PE program partners with two local NGOs (Mateza and ASOS) to deliver comprehensive health services (reproductive health, maternal and child health) in the Zahamena-Mantadia conservation corridor. Due to the remote location of the communities, the program uses field agents to both deliver health services and educate farmers and their families about alternatives to slash-and-burn agricultural practices.

Cambodia

PE activities began in the spring of 2004 with CI partnering with CARE International and Save Cambodia's Wildlife in the Cardamons Central Landscape. The partnership is implementing a holistic reproductive health and family planning outreach program coupled with livelihood activities about sustainable forest management and use of non-timber forest products. CI has also engaged local stakeholders in community land use planning to determine local conservation and development priorities.

Meeting Population and Conservation Needs in Mexico

Mexico

Since 2001, CI has received support from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation to implement an integrated health and conservation project in the Selva Lacandona. The project increased contraceptive use from 7.7 percent in 2001 to 36.7 percent by the end of 2003; raised awareness of the impacts of harmful agricultural practices through agroforestry projects and environmental education; and improved economic opportunities for women through women's groups and microenterprise activities.

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Human Migration and Conservation Responses

As members of the Community Conservation Coalition, Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund have initiated an in-depth review



of the impacts of human migration on global conservation. Even though forces and trends of international and urban migration are better understood than rural-

to-rural migration, the latter likely has more direct impact on wildlife, natural resources, and ecosystem functions in high biodiversity areas. This study will soon provide conservation partitioners, policymakers and community planners with information about driving factors in human migration trends and their impact on conservation.

Incorporating Gender into Conservation

Since men and women access, use and control resources differently, their specific roles must be integrated into



key strategy and implementation plans. In collaboration with CI's Center for Conservation and Government, PE staff launched an in-house gender analysis training

for staff who write and review proposals in cooperation with field staff. The results of the trainings led to the creation of guidelines for incorporating gender into proposals.