

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 THE 'ENGENDERING' EDEN PROGRAMME

In recent years there has been an increasing emphasis on linking conservation and development through CBNRM (Community Based Natural Resource Management) and ICDPs (Integrated Conservation and Development Projects) (Hughes and Flintan, 2001). At the same time NGOs and donors have realised that to achieve this social issues, such as gender equity and the marginalisation of women, need to be addressed. However there is inexperience and a lack of knowledge concerning how to do this. This is particularly true for conservation organisations who, due to their technocratic and natural science-based roots, have struggled with an integration of social issues.

The '*Engendering*' *Eden* research programme aimed to fill some of the gaps on gender, women and ICDPs<sup>1</sup>. It aimed to achieve a better understanding of the linkages between gender issues and ICDPs and indicate ways forward to achieve a more equitable and 'successful' conservation and development process. The central objective was to provide an assessment of the role of gender for enhancing the social and environmental sustainability of ICDPs, and to develop a more empirical understanding of how gender shapes the ways local people participate, invest in and benefit from them.

The programme focussed on six sets of key questions:

1. What gender differences/inequities exist in local communities involved in ICDPs? What other social divisions are important in relation to natural resource use and its conservation?
2. How do these differences/inequities affect the way men and women participate in, contribute to, and benefit from ICDPs?
3. To what extent, and how, are these gender differences being addressed and accounted for in the planning, implementation and evaluation of ICDPs?
4. Where gender issues/inequities have been addressed, which methods have been successful and which have not? To what degree are other social divisions important? What lessons can be learnt?
5. Where gender issues/inequities have *not* been addressed, what are the implications for project 'success'? What lessons can be learnt?
6. How successful is the ICDP model in addressing gender inequities in relation to poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation? Should changes or adjustments be made to achieve more successful links between conservation and a more *equitable* development of local communities? How can the ICDP process be more effectively guided and achieved?

The research programme was carried out over two years, 2000-2002. Two regional studies were made – Africa and South and South-East Asia. A number of ICDPs were visited and gender

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<sup>1</sup> A distinction is made between ICDPs (integrated conservation and development projects) and CBNRM (community based natural resource management). ICDPs are viewed to be project-oriented and more conservation focussed – usually linking local development with the conservation of a National Park or other protected area. CBNRM is more of a movement or process of increasing community 'ownership' over and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner and which contributes to their development. This includes resources that exist outside protected areas and thus is less geographically defined. Enabling legislation must exist for CBNRM to work. This research project focussed on ICDPs though important lessons were learnt from CBNRM.

assessments carried out. The results are published in two volumes: this volume and *'Engendering' Eden Volume III. Women, Gender and ICDPs in South and South-East Asia: Lessons Learnt and Experiences Shared*. The overall experiences and lessons learnt from the regional studies, plus examples from other parts of the world, are synthesised and analysed in the summary document: *'Engendering' Eden. Volume I. Women, Gender and ICDPs: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward*. **It is suggested that this volume be used in conjunction with the summary document.**

## 1.2 'ENGENDERING' EDEN IN AFRICA

This volume, *'Engendering' Eden Volume II: Women, Gender and ICDPs in Africa Lessons Learnt and Experiences Shared*, describes in some detail the relationships between gender, women and ICDPs. Section 2 focuses on the gender differences and inequities that exist in local communities in relation to natural resource use. Although some similarities were found between communities, there are also some differences that are dependent on cultural, social, economic and geographical contexts. Thus, the importance of understanding gender differences within local contexts is emphasised.

Sections 3 and 4 focus on the impacts of conservation and ICDPs on the gender differences and inequities that exist in local communities. Though there are certainly impacts - both beneficial and detrimental - on men and women, because of women's marginalisation from conservation and development processes and their greater dependence on natural resources for fulfilling daily household needs, the impact on them tends to be more negative than on the men.

Sections 5 and 6 describe some of the experiences of ICDPs on the continent and their variable degrees of focus on gender issues and the inclusion of women. Despite a growing recognition that such issues are important for the success of ICDPs and conservation processes, few projects have achieved any ground in addressing gender inequities or in promoting a higher degree of women's inclusion and participation. ICDPs, their process and impacts, are still gender differentiated, with men participating to a greater degree and gaining more direct benefits.

The final two sections, 7 and 8, focus on lessons learnt from the more development-oriented CBNRM projects found in Africa as well as the ICDPs. Reasons are suggested as to why women are not participating to a greater degree in ICDPs, and ways to increase their participation and benefits are highlighted.

Case study fieldwork that contributed to this research programme was carried out on the following projects:

- Luangwa Integrated Rural Development Programme (LIRD), Zambia
- Bale Mountains National Park ICDP, Ethiopia
- Borana Collaborative Forest Management Project, Ethiopia
- Jozani Forest and Chwaka Bay Conservation Project, Zanzibar
- Udzungwa Mountains National Park ICDP, Tanzania
- Kiunga National Marine Reserve ICDP, Kenya
- CBNRM Programme in Namibia