

## **6. PROJECTS IN PRACTICE**

Those ICDPs that do include a focus on women in an attempt to address gender imbalances include a variety of elements. These range from health and population projects to capacity-building to reforestation. These main areas of focus are discussed below.

### **6.1 HEALTH PROJECTS AND POPULATION FOCUSED PROJECTS**

The support of health projects is an element of several ICDPs (for example Gashaka-Gumti, Nigera see Nadia McDonald, 1994; the Zambezi Basin Wetlands Project, see Beaudet and Nash, 2000; the Awash NP, Ethiopia see Muderis Abdulahi, 2000; Zanzibar, see Flintan, 2001c). This has included the installation of wells, growth monitoring, where women are trained to recognise the symptoms and causes of malnutrition in their children and to implement corrective diets, as well as providing training for volunteer birth attendants (Beaudet and Nash, 2000). Regular health education programmes have also been designed and implemented (Muderis Abdulahi, 2000).

To address the pressure of high fertility on biodiversity and to initiate better health access in local communities, WWF has in some instances (e.g. Madagascar and Congo) formed partnerships with health NGOs to increase communities' access to reproductive health care services, including family planning information (see Box 6.1). In other settings, including in the Udzungwa Mountains National Park in Tanzania, staff have linked with health professionals to provide training in family planning, birth spacing, HIV/AIDS awareness and sanitation for local communities.

### **6.2 REDUCING WOMEN'S WORKLOAD**

It has been suggested in Section 2.5 that women have little spare time to invest in environmental and conservation activities. To try to counteract this some ICDPs have focussed on ways to reduce women's workload. This has included the provision of diesel powered grinding mills (Kaounde, 1990) and the establishment of wells (Beaudet and Nash, 2000; Muderis Abdulahi, 2000).

Alternatively, in the Awash NP in Ethiopia, CARE supported a project where haymaking was introduced. Not only did this reduce women's workload because that they did not have to travel so far to cut the grass, but the hay was also more nutritious and stored better after drying (Muderis Abdulahi, 2000).

### **6.3 CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS**

Capacity building is an important part of promoting more gender equitable decision-making processes and the participation of women. Too few ICDPs have invested resources in this, and few have taken the opportunities opened up by the presence of women's groups (see section 2.10).

Some women's organisations in the region are already involved in environmental protection activities. In Cameroon they are engaged in tree-planting and in spreading the environmental message. For example the Korup NP commissioned women to disseminate information and educate the local people on the conservation of the environment (Abruquah, undated).

### Box 6.1 Contrasting Health Initiatives in Madagascar

In Madagascar three ICDPs received grants from a USAID funded five year project, 'APPROPOP', which aimed to increase the number of Malagasy practising modern family planning. The aim was to implement family planning programmes in buffer zone communities. One partner, Conservation International (CI), worked around the Zahamena Reserve and another, WWF, collaborated with a health NGO, Association Santé Organisation Secours (ASOS), to start a health programme near the Andohahela Reserve.

The health programmes of each ICDP were managed by mobile health teams comprising doctors, nurses and certified mid-wives. These teams made regular visits to remote buffer-zone villages to provide preventative and curative health care as well as health education.

Key assumptions:

- Implementing a family planning programme in the context of an overall health programme could increase the trust of the target populations in the ICDP by addressing their often pressing needs for contraceptives, vaccines, health care and health education. This trust would then enhance the likelihood of acceptance and success for the ICDPs other programmes such as resource management.
- Family planning services in the context of health programmes were important development activities for these remote rural populations.
- Family planning programmes in the buffer zones of parks and reserves could be part of a long-term strategy to decrease demographic pressures on protected areas.

The project mainly focussed on the first two assumptions because of the problematic nature of the third, which is controversial and difficult to measure. Clearly, family planning can only be a sustainable intervention if the local populations feel that it is a resource for *them* to improve the health and economic well-being of their families: not the tool of the conservation community.

As the programme proceeded it became clear that the WWF/ASOS partnership was far more successful in meeting its objectives (estimated at 69%) than CI (estimated at 28%). There were notable differences among the approaches. For example, WWF/ASOS employed local rural outreach workers trained in broad-based development; this training included outreach techniques as well as technical proficiency in conservation, agriculture, animal husbandry and health. Conversely, the CI project did not use a community based distribution aspect at all.

Lessons learnt:

Populations like those targeted are isolated, far from services and perhaps not even aware that such services exist. Thus education and demand-creation activities should be factored into the design of any programme addressing their needs. Development programmes for such populations must therefore build in greater lead-time before success can be measured and achieved. The following elements emerged as important for the success of the grant programmes:

1. The value of a CBD programme cannot be underestimated. Targeted populations are more responsive in general to their peers than to public health workers or ICDP health teams who may not be from their area or ethnic group.
2. Family-planning users associations provide an excellent means to increase the number of users and to reduce drop-outs through peer counselling as well as group assistance.
3. While perhaps unsustainable in the long-term the use of field-based rural outreach workers is an effective way of ensuring accurate reporting and the availability of contraceptive stocks to actual and potential clients.

(Whyner, 2001)

One ICDP was identified as providing training and support to enhance women's leadership (WWF-US, undated), and another is attempting to overcome the heavy male bias of existing power structures. This latter project, based at Gashaka Gumti NP in Nigeria is working with women's groups in the support zone and enclaves to help them register legally with the local and state governments (Dunn *et al.* 2000:143). In other instances women, often lead by particularly influential, educated or strong role models, have mobilised themselves to an extent that they have forced government authorities to recognise them and involve them in conservation practices (see Box 6.2).

### **Box 6.2 Involving Women's Groups in Conservation in Senegal**

The Popenguine National Park was the first experiment of community wildlife management in Senegal. Upgraded in 1986 from a forest reserve, the park includes both forest and marine habitats. A conservation education programme in the late 1980s caught the imagination of one particularly influential woman at Popenguine who established a women's group dedicated to wildlife conservation. The women co-opted the assistance of young men to help with reforestation activities, which have extended around the park as more communities have set up their own groups and merged with a co-operative group. This multi-village institution has now been officially recognised by the park authorities and has the authority to be involved in maintaining and guarding the reserve, as well as economic activities including tourism and rights of entry.

(Abbot *et al.*, 2000:38).

## **6.4 EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

A number of ICDPs see literacy initiatives and girls' scholarships as long-term investments in women's capacities, with the conservation pay-offs coming over both the short and long term (Flintan, 2002; Barnes, 2000). These may include increased, effective participation of girls and women in conservation activities and management; better understanding and acceptance of conservation messages and sharing of these messages with children, male partners and others in the community; and for young women, the likelihood of smaller, healthier families. At the same time they can build up women's self-confidence and self-esteem to a degree that they feel more comfortable and confident to participate in community and conservation decision-making processes. In addition, such initiatives can provide important entry points to the community and useful spaces to disseminate environmental messages. Literacy and scholarship initiatives clearly linked to conservation messages and activities seem to hold the most promise for positively impacting conservation (McDonald, 2002) (see Box 6.3).

## **6.5 REFORESTATION AND FUELWOOD ALTERNATIVES**

A number of projects have focussed on setting up nurseries, distributing seedlings in local communities and replanting forest areas (for Ghana see Abruquah, undated; for Kenya see Mwanduka and Thampy, 1995; for Tanzania see WWF-Tanzania, 2001). Women have been very much involved within these with several projects focussing entirely on women's participation.

### **Box 6.3 Combining Education and Conservation**

The WWF Girls' Scholarship program extends beyond the provision of scholarships to broader education and conservation actions and activities. For example, in Kiunga Marine National Reserve (see Appendix 1) WWF Girls' Scholarship recipients are exposed to WWF conservation work first-hand (through a week-long, mandatory conservation camp) and encouraged to learn more about environmental issues and consider environmental careers. During the camp, they participate in marine conservation work (such as surveying turtle nests), attend environmental education sessions, experience biodiversity by snorkelling and repairing coral (many had never before seen live coral in the ocean) and join in the creation of eco-friendly crafts.

A 19 year old scholarship recipient in Kenya made a strong case for the programme:

*"In our area people were eating turtles. Now I know the importance of conserving turtles. I've educated the whole community by telling them it is not good to eat turtles... WWF has helped our lives (and), our parents lives who depend on the resources".*

(McDonald, 2002; Flintan, 2002).

In Cote d'Ivoire a decision was taken in preparation of the Forestry Master Plan 1998-2015 to encourage sub-contracting for a greater part of the nation's forestry activities that do not require a high technical input. Taking advantage of this opportunity, many women established organisations to participate in forestry at a grass-roots level. These included the formation of cooperatives of, generally, illiterate women who carry out tasks such as seed collection, production of nursery plants and agroforestry. The income received by certain groups through contracted work has been substantial (Abruquah, undated).

Reforestation programmes, including reforestation of mangroves (Beaudet and Nash, 2000) and dryland areas (Williams, 1992) have also been developed and agro-forestry encouraged (WWF-UK, 2001). In addition, women have been trained in nursery management and disease control (*ibid*).

#### **Box 6.4 Promoting Sustainable Woodlots**

In Sudan, because women were not allowed to mix freely with men outside the household, the SOS Sahel-supported project trained young women from the region to work as forestry assistants with local women. In addition, a separate women's section was established in the village woodlot and constraints related to mobility were overcome by promoting women's home nurseries. In 1988, over 2,000 women in 18 villages had grown trees in home nurseries. It is noteworthy that the focus on women also permitted the resolution of problems faced by both men and women. For example, one problem was insect (particularly termite) damage to the nurseries. The women overcame this constraint by putting neem (*Azadirachta indica*) leaves in and near the seedling beds. This was both safer and cheaper than the use of commercial pesticides. In 1990, the project was working with women in 29 villages. The project has a well-developed extension programme which also features puppet shows.

(Williams, 1992:44)

The use of solar cookers has been introduced to a number of local communities as part of ICDP interventions and in an attempt to reduce fuelwood use (Mwanduka and Thampy, 1995; WWF-Tanzania, 2001; Flintan, 2002). McDonald (2002) suggests that through these initiatives in Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR), Kenya (see Appendix 1) and a similar Project in the Spiny Forest of Madagascar, the use of wood has been reduced.

However, on visiting the KMNR Project (as a case study for this research) there was little evidence to suggest that this was the case in the Kiunga context. The solar cookers were rarely used due to the length of cooking time; a need to protect the cookers from disturbance such as wandering livestock; and a lack of enthusiasm from the local women. They can also be expensive to make.

## **6.6 INCOME GENERATION**

Many ICDPs on the continent focus specifically on women in their support of income-generating activities. Many women tend to be more easily mobilised and have a greater entrepreneurial spirit than men (Flintan, 2001a). For example, CARE International's Women's Cooperative Enterprises Project in northern Cameroon began as a pilot subproject within a larger village agroforestry project. In the first two years, women extension agents helped 200 women in 18 villages to form women's cooperatives for income-generating activities. They produced fruit-tree seedlings for sale and have since expanded into vegetable production (Williams, 1992:46). McDonald (2002) suggests in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania (see Appendix 1) that forest cover has been kept intact as a result of such livelihood interventions.

Those ICDPs that focus on the utilisation of large wildlife tend to focus on the raising of funds from tourism and big game hunting which is then distributed to local communities. In the more development-oriented CBNRM projects (see Section 8) the community (in Namibia) or the local

governmental authorities (in Zimbabwe) control the process. In the majority of ICDPs the decentralisation of control has only been partial, and usually involves Park or other authorities as well as the ICDP itself. Though women have a smaller role in the decision-making processes that initiate the projects and determine the distribution of income, it would appear that in general, the households or community as a whole do benefit. Where income is allocated to community projects women often find that their priorities are not taken into account and thus projects tend to be more focussed on men's needs rather than those of the women (Barnes, 2000).

A number of projects in Botswana aim to improve the living standards of the local communities through the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources. Activities focus on sustainable management and indigenous use of veld products including the integration of women in veld resources management (Jones, 1999). Examples are given in Box 6.5.

Other activities that are supported include basket making, pottery and embroidery (Beaudet and Nash, 2000; Flintan 2001a, 2001c; Ngece and Nafuna, 2002); seaweed farming (Flintan, 2001c); beekeeping (Ngece and Nafuna, 2002); chicken rearing (WWF-Tanzania, 2001; Flintan, 2001c); livestock and livestock products such as butter making; petty trading and vegetable farming (Muderis Abdulahi, 2000).

#### **Box 6.5 Sustainable Utilisation of Resources**

A USAID funded NRM project in Botswana provided financial and technical support to establish an NGO-operated revolving fund to buy *Devil's Claw*, a veld product collected by over 2,500 household members in Southern Kgalagadi and Kweneng districts. The income predominantly goes to women, who are the primary collectors.

The development of a long-term strategic marketing plan for the NGO was also financed to enable them to market the product in international markets, enhancing economic returns to women (PACT-Website, undated). A primary objective of the NRM project was to:

*"improve the participation and role of women in resources management programmes, thereby improving their incomes."*

A similar project has been set up by the Botswana Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS), which is working with local community groups to develop sustainable use activities in order to promote an improved conservation ethic. Again a revolving fund was set up and a salaried liaison position with the aim of supporting women in the utilisation of *mopane* worms. Through organising themselves into a management group, the women are able to harvest up to twice the annual number of these caterpillars for wholesale and retail trade. Groups of collectors are given credit to allow them to store their harvest for sale once the peak production season is past. Improved storage will be provided in the form of containers supplied to retailers on a twelve-month repayment scheme. There is also a savings component of the project to help women keep their earnings. However:

*"one informant believed the project carried some risks as he thought the strengthening of the women's groups to improve their position in the mopane industry were challenging vested interests within the industry".*

In addition,

*"the increased income earned by the women and relative economic independence they are gaining threatened to upset gender relations within the community, particularly between husband and wife. Socio-economic research is being carried out to monitor the situation. A representative of the KCS did not agree with this analysis, pointing out that women were not threatening existing markets and that their earnings were not a threat to relations between husband and wife, as the project was not changing existing relationships within the market, but assisting women to be more productive".*

(Jones, 1999)

The establishment of a grain store and milling allows women to add value to the products: flour can be sold for a higher price than grain. Handicrafts such as basket making have the added advantage that they can be completed at times when domestic labour is not critical, as at night. This may, however, have the indirect impact of encouraging more fuelwood burning to give light.

In Zanzibar it has proved necessary to formally register women's groups such as those that produce handicrafts, in line with legislation. This has also had the advantage of encouraging the groups to formulate plans, strategies, membership guidelines and a constitution. Though this was not easy and took time to achieve, these more formal structures have improved the sustainability of the groups (Flintan, 2001c). Similarly in the Kiunga National Marine National Reserve, Kenya, women's groups have been supported and mobilised through WWF's 'eco-friendly' handicraft project (see Box 6.6).

#### **Box 6.6 Eco-friendly Handicrafts in Kenya**

The WWF-supported Kiunga Marine National Reserve ICDP has established an 'eco-friendly' handicraft project for women. It focuses on the collection of washed-up flip-flops from the beaches in and around the Reserve from which key rings, necklaces, bracelets, cushions, mosaic pictures and other innovative items are made.

The women make these handicrafts at home and, generally, to order. Once made, the crafts are checked for quality and 'finished off' by a core group at the Project base camp which consists of one woman from each of the participating villages. Such finishing touches are vital to maintain a sufficiently high quality for sale. If the crafts are considered to be of too poor quality they are returned to the women who made them with an explanation.

Each woman is paid individually and the money is spent on schoolbooks, household items, the repair of houses, food, clothes, cosmetics, earrings etc. All the women are very happy to have this extra income and as a result feel more empowered to take a more active part within community life. However, no money is given to the community as a whole despite encouragement by the Project staff to do so. By giving money to their villages, the women may be better supported in their work.

In 2001 a small group of women attended a craft fair, held in Nairobi, where potential contacts and new outlets were identified and some crafts sold. In addition WWF-Switzerland bought 15,000 key rings for distribution to its members. The crafts are also sold from the Reserve Education Centre, in local hotels and in craft shops in Nairobi. The Kiunga Marine Eco-friendly Handicraft Team participated in the UNEP organised 'Plastic Fantastic' fashion show, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001 by making a flip-flop dress worn down the catwalk by a top model. After the show the dress was auctioned. In the first last six months of 2001, 'Eco-friendly' sold over 3,000 USD worth of items.

However, marketing the products has proved problematic and is an area that the Project will be prioritising in the future. A number of women who have been actively involved in the handicraft production for a year or so complained that they needed more work and higher sales. Furthermore, they somewhat resented the fact that more women were being encouraged to join the handicraft production despite there being insufficient work for everyone. They also suggested that they would feel capable of continuing the work should a time arise when WWF was no longer able to support them.

(Flintan, 2002a) [For more details see Appendix 1].

The importance of transportation to markets and the marketing of the products have been taken into account in some projects. However many projects still fail to contribute significantly to the resolution of the problems that arise, mainly due to the lack of knowledge, power and connections that local people hold outside their close vicinity, and the scattered and non-cooperative nature of production. Box 6.7 describes how one project funded by UNIFEM overcame some of these problems.

Some projects may take time to establish, especially in communities unused to economic and trade activities. For example, in the Zambezi Wetlands it was found that though women have traditionally made clay pots for domestic use, producing them for markets can be a completely unfamiliar concept. Under such circumstances, it takes time for new entrepreneurs to decide whether they want to continue the activity and to learn the requisite skills, such as record keeping and billing. Only

time will tell which community members find sustained entrepreneurial activity suitable for themselves (Beaudet and Nash, 2000).

#### **Box 6.7 Shea Butter Production in Burkina Faso**

UNIFEM has been supporting the production of shea butter in Burkina Faso amongst women's groups. Liberalisation policies have opened up new market opportunities. However, when production is scattered and producers are not well organised, producers are less able to get a good price for their goods and are more vulnerable to price fluctuations. To deal with this problem, UNIFEM pioneered the development of a marketing strategy to link producers more directly to markets through five marketing centres. Here, women organise sales collectively, setting prices and negotiating directly with exporters. These sales points are linked to a marketing centre in the capital city, Ouagadougou.

To strengthen women's bargaining power, UNIFEM organised Shea Butter Trade Fairs, providing an excellent forum for product promotion, marketing and discussions with various partners. In addition, the producers organised themselves into a network that empowers them as a group to access larger markets and negotiate better prices. The cosmetic industry has been targeted as the key customer, breaking through the monopolistic pricing imposed by the large foreign food industries. By 1999 in the course of organising around better marketing strategies, the women upheld a common basic price, which together with quality improvements, enabled them to sell the butter at twice to three times the price obtained in 1998.

(UNIFEM, 2000).

### **6.7 RURAL CREDIT AND SAVINGS SCHEMES**

Micro-credit and savings schemes are often supported in conjunction with income generating projects. The schemes are seen as an entry point to other activities: they create social cohesion, increase mobilisation; and open up opportunities. Women are more often targeted than men because women generally have less access to financial resources and loans. Thus, micro-credit is seen as the necessary support for women to create opportunities to diversify their livelihoods, move away from a reliance on natural resources and enable them to afford alternatives for unsustainable commodities such as local fuelwood. Furthermore, women tend to be more readily mobilised than men and their cooperatives are therefore easier to establish and maintain.

Some ICDPs have seen the value of working with local government institutions or NGOs that support micro-credit and loan schemes. For example the USAID funded NRM Project initiated the establishment of rural women's Natural Resources Users Association through a Botswanan NGO in which women operated a group micro-lending and micro enterprise development programme. The Association brings together over 400 active resource users who, on average, increased veld resources-derived incomes by 500% per year in two years by working together to pool production, introduce new product lines and make changes in their marketing strategies (PACT-Website, undated).

Similarly, within CARE's project in Awash NP, Ethiopia, groups of pastoralist women have been organised to form credit and savings groups. They have started a rural savings system through regular monthly contributions. They use the money to discharge their social commitments such as those resulting from marriage and funeral ceremonies (Muderis Abdulahi, 2000). Micro-credit and savings projects have the added advantage of providing a reason for women to meet on a regular basis – a forum for the sharing of problems, exchanging ideas and supporting each other as well as maintaining control over the loan process.

However, micro-credit schemes can often be problematic. The poorest of the poor are likely to miss out; banking principles and their application are often impractical and are alien to many people; economic impacts are not very positive; and livelihood integration must be linked to the savings and credit scheme (Flintan, 2000). Problems may also arise where the money borrowed is invested in

livestock. This can be risky as livestock can die before producing offspring, leaving the borrower with a loan that cannot be serviced. An alternative scheme has been introduced by WWF in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania: the 'borrow a cow, give a cow' scheme, described in Box 6.8.

#### **Box 6.8 'Borrow A Cow, Give A Cow' Zero Grazing Scheme**

Around the Udzungwa Mountains National Park, WWF have supported a 'borrow a cow, give a cow' scheme. It has been designed to increase the standard of living of local communities and their nutrition through increased protein consumption in the form of milk. It is also seen as a way of reducing poaching and poverty by offering alternative sources of income.

WWF 'loans' a group of women a cow (a Friesian-indigenous cross breed) from which they breed. In addition, some financial support and technical assistance is provided for veterinary services and the construction of the shed or pen. The cow is fed on cut grass and salt.

Milk is taken from the cow and either used for household consumption or sold. Earnings can be high. For example from July to December 2000, Msolwa women's group was able to raise a profit of Tshs. 337,840/= (equivalent to US\$ 422 00). Half of this profit was distributed to members of the group (10 in all) and the remainder was reinvested.

Once the cow has produced a female calf, the calf is given back to the project in 'payment' for the 'loan' of the cow. The calf is passed on to another group who starts a new initiative. The original cow remains the property of the first group who can continue to breed from it and can either keep the successive calves or sell them.

Some women are now planning to introduce biogas production from the cow dung, and one group has also branched into poultry production.

(WWF-Tanzania, 2001; *personal observation*, 2001).

## **6.8 TRAINING**

Training elements within some ICDPs have increased. It has been realised that, due to a lack of education and capacity, training is vital and must accompany other activities such as income generating schemes or environmental protection. Training is particularly important for women, who are generally less educated than men. It is slowly being realised that the education of girls is as important as that of boys, if not a basic right, and, increasingly, it is being considered a worthwhile investment for future household security. Some ICDPs have initiated girl scholarship schemes for local secondary schools in an attempt to encourage girl attendance (Flintan, 2002a).

However, it is often difficult to find women to carry out the training and this compromises their success because there is less interaction between the teacher and pupil, and men are less likely to understand women's problems and needs. Even women extension workers have been found to work with men rather than women, following cultural norms. Unless women are specifically targeted or special efforts made to include them, it is likely that they will not receive training and technical assistance (Larson and Nzirambi, 1996).

### **6.8.1 Training in Environmental Issues**

The WWF-funded Lake Nakuru ICDP has given training in environmental issues both within the communities and at residential courses. Training in the field is open to all members, but a selection committee chooses the participants for the residential courses. No records have been kept of attendance levels at training sessions that take place within the communities, but staff suggest that there is a higher attendance by women. However, at the residential course only 16% of participants were found to be women (Mwanduka and Thampy, 1995). Additionally environmental education



may form an element of ICDPs which may be encouraged, for example, through the setting up of 'nature clubs' in schools (Ngece and Nafuna, 2002).

Agricultural extension is also supported by some ICDPs, though this tends to be targeted at men rather than women. In the Zambezi wetlands, training and demonstrations about increasing agricultural incomes were given with the aim of enhancing women's participation in environmentally sound agriculture, including inter-cropping and agroforestry. It is suggested that as a result food security in the area has increased (Beaudet and Nash, 2000).

### **6.8.2 Training in Income Generation and Production Methods**

Training in income generation, production methods and micro-enterprise is a feature of a number of ICDPs in the region. In Burkina Faso UNIFEM provides training on how to preserve shea nuts in order to postpone the processing work until after the agricultural season. Training also helps them ensure that the quality of the local butter meets international standards, even if it is produced in scattered, home-based or village-based units. By 1999, over 300 women in 25 associations had been trained in improved production techniques to meet the quality standards of international markets (UNIFEM, 2000).

Within the CARE-supported ICDP in Awash, Ethiopia, one women's group collected palm tree leaves, locally known as *Unga*, for sale to traders. However, they had not learnt how to increase the value of the leaves by processing them, and asked the project to give them training in handicrafts. Approximately 30 women were selected and trained for 15 days, in collaboration with the district's Economic and Social Development Office and the regional Women's Affairs Office (Muderis Abdulahi, 2000:8).

It has proved useful to initiate a training programme where village 'mobilisers' are trained and who then return to their villages to train others. The Kiunga Marine Reserve ICDP carries out its support for handicrafts in this manner. Women spend 3-4 weeks at the Project HQ being trained and practicing their skills. This promotes a feeling of cooperation and solidarity between them. They are then more confident to return home where they initiate further trainings and mobilise and encourage women to become involved (Flintan, 2002a, Appendix 1).

## **6.9 BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Some projects, particularly forest projects, have made constructive attempts to involve women as well as men in natural resource management. Those projects that have realised the need for increased community ownership of, and involvement in, the management processes tend to be those projects that have also recognised that 'community' is not equitable and heterogeneous, that a contribution from all the community is important, and that special efforts must be made to include marginal groups, including women.

In Cameroon, the Kilum-Ijim ICDP began by organising meetings with specific groups, such as men, youth and women in order to discuss their ideas regarding community forest management. It was found that each group tends to defend its own interest. For example, men tend to support the notion of traditional systems of management, while women and youth often advocate new forest management institutions (Hakizumwami and Fuchi, 2000).

In order to address the male dominance in natural resource decision-making, women, as well as other traditionally under-represented groups such as the youth and marginal ethnic groups, are represented in the new forest management institutions. The position of women on the committees is not tokenism: in almost all cases women take the role of treasurer and, in one case, a vice-president. By having women in these key positions, it is recognised that the committee 'can work'. Thus the new forest management institutions offer a first opportunity for women to take responsibility for natural resource management decisions (Hakizumwami and Fuchi, 2000:69).

Women are constrained by time and therefore find it difficult to attend meetings. A study in Zimbabwe showed that less than one third of women attended meetings in the area. Reasons for this included the dominant cultural ideology which posits men as spokespersons and decision-makers in public forums; 'sexual policing' involving husbands forbidding women to attend meetings without them because of a fear of adultery; and women's heavy workloads: in many cases they are expected to take on men's tasks when meetings are held so that their husbands can attend (Moore, 1996b in Scheyvens, 1999c:130). It is therefore important that more effort is put into organising meetings at times and places suitable for women, or providing alternative fora or 'spaces' that encourage their inclusion.

In Senegal, a project on the Popenguine Reserve was actually initiated by a Women's Association called 'Regroupement des Femmes de Popenguine pour la Protection de la Nature' (RFPPN) supported by the Senegalese Government and the EU. The main focus of the project is the promotion of community management within the Reserve. Activities include the restoration of biodiversity, scientific research, reforestation and co-management of village natural resources and the creation of a training centre in community management of protected areas (Zeba, 1998).

## **6.10 OTHER PROJECTS**

Other elements of projects that have focussed primarily on women include:

- Nature clubs (Flintan, 2002a; Mwanduka and Thampy, 1995)
- Urban and beach clean-ups (Flintan, 2002a; Mwanduka and Thampy, 1995)
- Soil conservation (Abbot *et al.*, 1999; Mwanduka and Thampy, 1995)
- Provision of meat from culled or legally hunted game (Barnes, 2000)
- Provision of wells and other water supplies (Flintan, 2001c)
- Provision of infrastructure necessary for electricity supply (Flintan, 2001c)
- Ecotourism (Ngece and Nafuna, 2002)