

## **Issue 84 | January 11, 2013 | Focus on WASH and Environmental Conservation**

This issue focuses on the integration of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and conservation initiatives. Improvements in WASH conditions can enhance the sustainability of environmental conservation and climate change interventions. David Bonnardeaux from Conservation International, in a 2012 USAID report, concludes that development projects that connect conservation and WASH goals are a natural intersection of interests and can be more effective than single sector efforts. The report also found that health programs often have more immediate benefits to community members than those focusing solely on conservation. Joint programs, therefore, can create greater community buy-in, which is vital for environmental preservation. The [report](#) also noted that while a number of conservation programs are integrating WASH elements, fewer WASH programs consider the ecological impacts of their activities.

### **NEWSLETTERS/MAGAZINES**

- **Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People.** *USAID Global Waters, Dec 2012.* ([Full text, pdf](#))

This issue of *Global Waters* describes USAID environmental programs in Botswana, Madagascar, and Mozambique that stress the integration of WASH activities. The introduction states, "The most compelling reason for tackling environmental and health challenges together is that the two are inextricably linked. While it is common knowledge that polluted air, dirty water, and compromised ecosystems lead to more disease, it is less well known that the inverse is true as well: Unhealthy populations are actually more likely to mistreat their environment."

### **REPORTS/VIDEOS**

- **Animal Waste, Water Quality and Human Health,** 2012. World Health Organization. ([Full text, pdf](#))

Domestic animals contaminate recreational waters and drinking water sources with excreta and pathogens, but this threat to public health is inadequately understood and is insufficiently addressed in regulations. More than 85 percent of the world's fecal waste is from domestic animals such as poultry, cattle, sheep, and pigs. These animals

harbor zoonotic pathogens that are transported in the environment by water, especially runoff.

- **Discussion on Sustainable Water Technologies for Peri-Urban Areas of Mexico City: Balancing Urbanization and Environmental Conservation.** *Water, Sept 2012.* T Nanninga, Lettinga Associates Foundation. ([Full text](#))

The introduction of decentralized technologies allows for the development of new opportunities that enable the recovery and reuse of resources. This resource-oriented management of water, nutrients, and energy requires a sustainable system aimed at low resource use and high recovery and reuse rates. Instead of investigating each sector separately, as has been traditionally done, this article proposes and discusses a concept that seeks to combine the in- and outflows of the different sectors, reusing water and other liberated resources where possible.

- **Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Experiences from Sub-Saharan Africa,** 2012. D Bonnardeaux, Conservation International. USAID. ([Full text, pdf](#)) ([Executive Summary](#))

This paper aims to build the evidence base for how implementers have integrated WASH and freshwater ecosystem conservation to date in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and to document lessons learned from projects taking a more holistic approach to conservation and development. After an extensive review of existing projects that integrate freshwater conservation and WASH approaches, the report summarizes four projects that provide good models for future efforts in SSA. The report also provides an analysis of opportunities and challenges associated with implementing integrated health and conservation projects.

- **Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Community-Based Peer Education System: A Guide for Training PHE Community-Based Distributors,** 2012. USAID Building Actors and Leaders for Advancing Community Excellence in Development Project (BALANCED). ([Full text, pdf](#))

This training guide was developed for use in courses to train population, health and environment (PHE) community-based distributors (CBDs) who work on integrated PHE activities. A PHE CBD is a Ministry of Health community volunteer, local storeowner, storekeeper, accredited drug dispensary, community village worker, or a member of a people's organization or a cooperative that/who is trained to provide information on PHE, family planning (FP) methods, and the stocking and sales of FP commodities.

- **The Reference Guide for PHE Community-Based Distributors and PHE Adult Peer Educators,** 2012. USAID BALANCED Project. ([Full text, pdf](#))

This reference guide is intended for PHE community-based distributors and PHE adult peer educators who have attended the training on the PHE Community-Based Distribution and Peer Education System and who work on integrated PHE activities. It includes key information from the training that PHE CBDs and adult peer educators

need when educating community members about PHE, including FP and modern contraceptive methods.

- **WASH and Environmental Conservation Fact Sheet**, n.d. WASH Advocates. [\(Link\)](#)

WASH directly impacts environmental conditions. Poorly planned WASH projects that incorrectly collect and dispose of human excreta, wastewater, solid waste, and sludge can negatively impact communities and ecosystems downstream. The poor and most vulnerable populations are the most likely to be affected by water-related climate change impacts such as more severe and more frequent droughts and floods.

## VIDEOS

- **Family Planning and the Environment: Interview with Robert Engelman**, Worldwatch Institute. [\(Video\)](#)  
In this interview, Robert Engelman, president of Worldwatch Institute, discusses how family planning can benefit the environment, why the perceived gap between population and environmental concerns persists, and how to bridge the gap.
- **Integrating Family Planning with Conservation in Madagascar: Interview with Vik Mohan**, Blue Ventures, 2012. [\(Video\)](#)

In this interview, Vik Mohan of the UK-based marine conservation organization Blue Ventures describes the population and environment challenges of rural coastal Madagascar and how Blue Ventures has successfully integrated family planning with ongoing conservation work to benefit communities' health and livelihoods.

## WEBSITES

- **Population Health and Environment Toolkit**. K4Health. [\(Link\)](#)  
The intended audience is practitioners; program managers; and health, conservation, and development professionals interested in projects and policies that integrate community development activities with a focus on environment and health interventions.
- **Population Reference Bureau (PRB): Population, Health and Environment Project Map**. [\(Link\)](#)  
PRB created this interactive map to highlight the diverse efforts of organizations to integrate components of population and reproductive health services with environmental projects and programs.
- **USAID Global Health: Population and Environment**. [\(Link\)](#)  
PHE programs can play an important role in areas where demographic trends such as growth and migration place pressure on the environment; where degraded natural resources impact the health and livelihoods of local communities; and where a lack of effective health services, including reproductive health, threatens long-term prospects

for sustainable development. This website covers the PHE programs USAID has put in place.

## PROJECTS

- **USAID Madagascar—RANON'ALA: Rural Access to New Opportunities for Health and Water Resource Management Project.** ([Link](#))

The RANON'ALA project aims to improve health in vulnerable and poor communities by improving hygiene practices and increasing access to sustainable safe water and sanitation. Principal activities include engaging the private sector to provide and manage WASH services and products. The project works with microfinance institutions to establish village-level savings and credit schemes that empower communities to support and sustain their activities.

- **USAID BALANCED Project.** ([Link](#))

An innovative five-year initiative to improve access to health services, especially family planning, secure livelihoods, and help conserve the critical biodiversity and natural resources upon which people depend. Supported by USAID, this project takes a holistic, intersectoral approach to development—one that acknowledges and addresses the complex relationships between people, their health, and their environment.

## EVENTS

- **BALANCED Project February 2013 East Africa PHE Course in Tanzania—Course Overview.** ([Download PDF](#))

BALANCED announces a two-week skills-building course on PHE for nongovernmental organizations and institutions already implementing PHE or interested in implementing PHE projects in Africa. The course will take place in Tanzania from February 18–28, 2013.

- **Linking Biodiversity Conservation and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Experiences from Sub-Saharan Africa,** September 10, 2012. ([Link/Video](#))

This event at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC, featured David Bonnardeaux of Conservation International and Dennis Warner, the WASH director for Catholic Relief Services. Warner noted that WASH organizations do stand to benefit from incorporating conservation into their projects. Conservation efforts can make the ecosystems people live in more sustainable, which help preserve both water resources and people's livelihoods. Warner stated that some conservation approaches have great potential for the WASH sector and that he was especially impressed by environmental flow assessments, which are a method of measuring and preserving natural water flow as much as possible.

Each WASHplus Weekly highlights topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Hand Washing, Integration, and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send

them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus knowledge resources specialist, at [dacampbell@fhi360.org](mailto:dacampbell@fhi360.org).



**About WASHplus** - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air pollution (IAP). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit [www.washplus.org](http://www.washplus.org) or email: [contact@washplus.org](mailto:contact@washplus.org).

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