

**“IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COASTAL
MANAGEMENT BY ADDRESSING GENDER AND
POPULATION ASPECTS “**



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Bergengren House, 53 Pender Street, Suva.

Compiled by:

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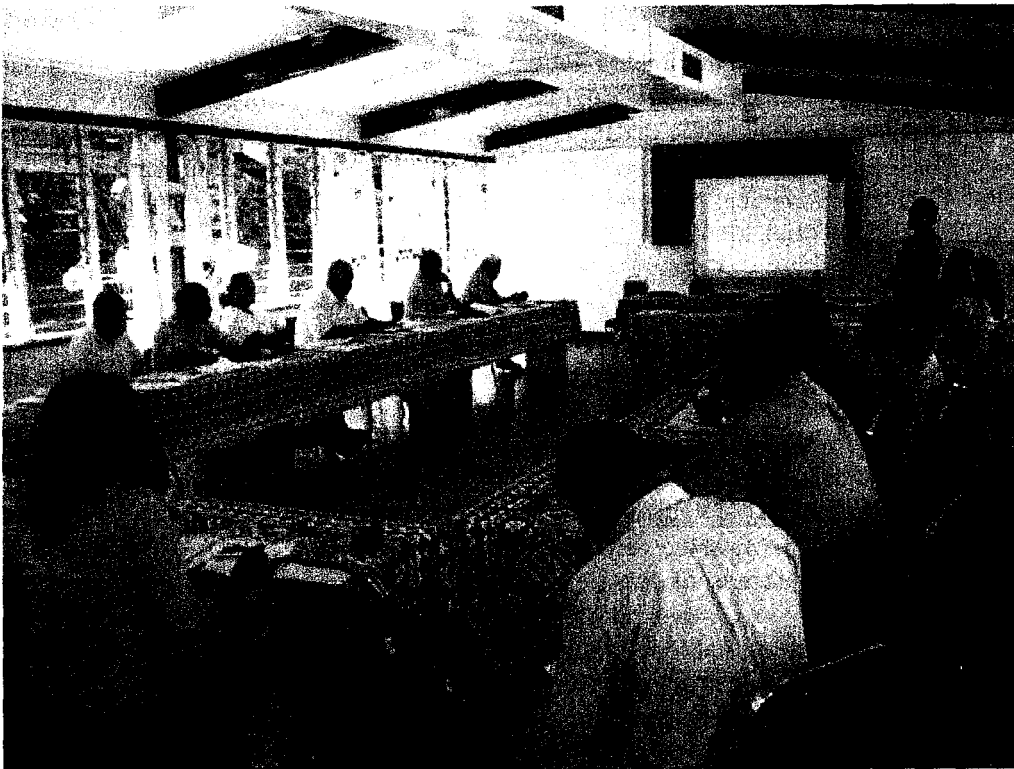
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

The Institute of Applied Science would like to thank all the participants and all the facilitators who assisted in this workshop. A special thanks to Dr. Irene Novaczek and Lorna Rolls for sharing with us their knowledge on the importance of gender and population in coastal management and the International Oceans Institute (IOI) through Dr. Joeli Veitayaki for sponsoring this workshop.



I. INTRODUCTION

One of the early actions for the Integrated Coastal Management Project (ICM) in Fiji is to mainstream gender and population into their coastal management plans and activities. Collecting and analyzing gender and population related information is one of the first steps of this action plan because such data helps us to understand how gender relations, gender roles and population trends shape human activities. Another step is to understand how gender and demographic trends are connected to ICM. This creates a more integrated, holistic coastal program, which seeks the improvement of both the coastal environment and the quality of life of the communities who live there. This means, among others, reducing poverty, empowering young girls as well as boys and promoting the fair distribution of benefits in the communities.

This project promotes gender equitable relations, actions and outcomes when carrying out the Integrated Coastal Management program in the Coral Coast of Nadroga. There is therefore a need to understand the gender and demographic trends of the people living in the Coral Coast and pay constant attention to this when designing and implementing the Integrated Coastal Management program.

II. OBJECTIVES:

The workshop aimed to discuss the importance of gender and population aspects in coastal management and identify gender and population mainstreaming opportunities in the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) project in Fiji.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. To bring about awareness of the importance of gender and population in coastal management.
2. To encourage gender equitable relations, actions and outcomes when carrying out the Integrated Coastal Management program in the Coral Coast of Nadroga.
3. To promote more dialogue and support among the workshop participants with respect to gender and demographics.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

1. A list of opportunities for mainstreaming gender and demographics into the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) project.
2. More sensitized approach to gender and demographic issues by the National and Coral Coast ICM committees. Increased capacity of local counterparts with respect to gender and demographics.

V. ORDER OF EVENTS:

Opening:

Ratu Osea Gavidu of the Tourism Resource Owners Association opened the workshop with words of advice from the bible and a prayer.

Introductions:

Prof. Bill Aalbersberg thanked everyone present for coming and introduced the process of ICM that led up the workshop.

Presentation 1:

Mainstreaming gender and population in Integrated Coastal Management in Fiji. By Lavenia Volavola and Erami Seavula. See Appendix 1.

Lavenia explained what was meant by mainstreaming gender and population into the ICM project and how they had designed this initiative with the help of the Women In Leadership (WILD) network coordinated by the University of Rhode Island. Erami explained some of the work they had begun to do, such as interviewing some of the women in the Coral Coast and trying to determine their level of awareness about environmental projects being carried out in their villages. Lavenia then revealed some of the findings that showed that women were generally unaware of environmental initiatives and do not participate in any decision-making processes.

- *Mr. Gonewai agreed that information and awareness were not being passed on to the women in the villagers and that communication was a problem.*
- *Ratu Osea commented that networking among the villagers, researchers and the experts like MSP/FSP/UNFPA/Ministry of Women was important for coastal management. He also mentioned that the lack of awareness among the women in a village was partly to do with ownership. Women come from outside to marry into a village so it is the men who own resources and make the decisions. However, their daughters should be encouraged to be more involved.*

Presentation 2:

Integrating Population, Reproductive Health & Gender Perspectives into CBPE Projects. By Lorna Rolls, National Programme Analyst, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). See Appendix 2

Lorna Rolls spoke of UNFPA's initiative in integrating population, reproductive health and gender into CBPE projects. This is encouraged through family planning, balancing population and development and empowering women. An adaptive management approach similar to that used in the ICM project was advocated.

Presentation 3:

The Importance of gender in Integrated Coastal Management. By Dr. Irene Novaczek. See Appendix 3.

Dr Novaczek related the recent history of women in development, and pointed out how past efforts in industrial development in countries such as Fiji disadvantaged the poor and other vulnerable groups, and ignored women's contributions and potentials. The concept of gender was defined and the importance of gender considerations in the development of resource management strategies was highlighted.

CASE STUDIES:

Dr. Irene Novaczek gave a brief overview of three Pacific Island case studies, highlighting the main events that took place in each community that brought out the importance of considering gender in fisheries management.

1. Feast or Famine? Fishing for a living in rural Solomon Islands. By Alan Sepe Agassi. See Appendix 4
2. Gender, Generational Perceptions and Community Fisheries Lelepa, Vanuatu. By Jean Tarisesei and Irene Novaczek. See Appendix 5.
3. What Women Can Do: A case study of Safa'i village, Samoa. By Malama Jasmine Siamomua Momoemausu. See Appendix 6.

Participants were divided into three groups and discussed a case study each. Each group was to look at issues in the case study, try to relate it to their own experience in Fiji and talk about some of the lessons learned. They were then required to list recommendations for mainstreaming gender in ICM. These recommendations were shared by presentation to the rest of the participants.

GROUP 1:

Group 1 consisted mostly of members of the National Committee because the case study from the Solomons looked at sectoral conflicts in fisheries, which involves the national policy and decision making level.

National Committee (Feast or Famine? Fishing for a living in rural Solomon Islands. By Alan Sepe Agassi.) :

- a. Alifereti Tawake,
- b. Batiri Thaman
- c. Manasa Sovaki
- d. Mataiasi Labati
- e. Va
- f. Vina Ram Bidesi
- g. Zaidy Khan

The group discussed the steps required in avoiding or resolving conflicts over development, and the data requirements for sound decision-making.

Results:

Issues:

1. Competing interests of commercial versus subsistence fisheries
 - a. Conflict/competition for resources
 - b. Commercialization
2. No equitable distribution of benefits – Abuse of power by chiefs
3. Institutional conflict between chiefs and people, between chiefs and church.
4. Change from subsistence to cash economy
 - a. Need income
 - b. Changes/depletion of resources and assets, traditional knowledge no longer applicable
 - c. Social values change from communal to individual

Impacts:

1. Economic change can be negative, with impacts on vulnerable groups/women. Benefits may be unequally distributed.
2. Change may be positive through access to new technologies or negative if there are limits to access. However, new technologies may also be destructive and lead to unsustainable efforts.
3. Government involvement weak.

Recommendations: Steps in Avoiding or Resolving Conflict and Data Required for Decision-making:

1. Identify all resource users/stakeholders, villagers, commercial fishers, government, primary and secondary interests.
2. Have policy in place to regulate users, distribution of benefits, policing (government or community level).
3. Involvement of all users in decision making. (Suggested approach: Set up small management committees outside of traditional leadership, where all can be represented).
4. Pursue agreement among all stakeholders.
5. Provide awareness / training on relevant legislation, policy ownership rights, traditional leadership.
6. Determine interests of all stakeholders/groups (for example by collecting disaggregated data).
7. Research into actual involvement of stakeholders (what the chiefs are doing, who are the stakeholders, roles of women and men, girls and boys).
8. Determine the level of awareness, information needs of different groups.
9. Build partnerships at all levels (with transparency and accountability to community at large).
10. All projects to undergo feasibility using gender lens
 - a. Integrated approach to project (need networking among organizations, clear leaders)

- b. Analysis of whom will experience benefits/impacts.

GROUP 2

Group 2 consisted mostly of members from the community because the case study from Vanuatu looked at general perception of the community about gender and fisheries.

Community Group (Gender, Generational Perceptions and Community Fisheries Lelepa, Vanuatu. By Jean Tarisesei and Irene Novaczek.) :

- a. Alifereti Qauqau
- b. Sanaila Corivatu
- c. Jese Verebalavu
- d. Luisa Kaumaitotoya
- e. Kini
- f. Lanieta Veileqe
- g. Ratu Timoci Batirerega

Group discussed how to improve dialogue and understanding at the community level.

Results:

Issues:

- Role of the Church
- Past and present gender roles
- Impact of market economy change in gender roles
- Increase in conflicts (men vs. women, elders vs. youth, chiefs vs. community members)
- No enforcement
- Poaching
- Degraded resources and need for local management
- Pulse fishing in protected area, periodic lifting of the fishing ban
- Resistance (youths)
- NO DIALOGUE
- Lack of awareness at village level, district and province councils on importance of involving/educating women and youth on management decisions.
- Opportunity - Chiefs/men and village meetings to do more outreach to women/youth on coastal management decisions.
- Ownership – patrilineal, women married into villages

Similar experiences:

Namada village:

- Coral harvesting
- Royalty (small chiefs)

Korolevu I Wai:

- Depleting resources
- Increase in population leading to over fishing
- Conua
- Coral harvesting
- Naviti (Gunu village)
- Youth discouraged to participate

Recommendations to improve dialogue and understanding:

1. Identify and analyze traditional management structures
 - a. Consult provincial office
 - b. Consult NLC office
2. Determine the following and use them as indicators
 - a. Economic capital (natural resources)
 - b. Tradition capital (culture)
 - c. Social capital (human resources)
3. Promote awareness
 - a. Chiefs, sub-clan chiefs
 - b. Men, women and youth
 - c. Start with gender analysis
 - d. Communicate results to all levels and/groups
4. Government involvement
 - a. Income generation schemes e.g. livestock farming
5. Proper protocol is needed
6. Translating concepts to men, women and youth so they can understand.
Intend to LISTEN more

GROUP 3:

Group 3 consisted mostly of community facilitators because the case study from Samoa looked at the success of mainstreaming gender into coastal management.

Community Facilitators (What Women Can Do: A case study of Safa'i village, Samoa. By Malama Jasmine Siamomua Momoemausu):

- a. Isoa Korovulavula
- b. Lavenia Volavola
- c. Isaia Gonewai
- d. Erami Seavula
- e. Peni Tauvoli

Groups discussed how to document, analyze and share experiences in gender sensitive approaches and processes.

Results:

Issues:

- Samoan culture facilitates this process better than in Fiji.
- Government systems in the past were male focused and decisions were made by men.
- Women may fear to take up challenges because of other women's gossip.
- Culture prevents good communication e.g. when men come back from work and are tired, the women usually don't want to ask them what they did or learned and so information is not shared.
- Role of women in fisheries is undeveloped why? Culture.
- Involvement of women as well as men is vital to the success of local management efforts.

Similar Experiences:

- Unusual to have women as Mata ni tikinas.
- Easier and more accepted for women in urban areas to find employment compared to women in the villages.
- Concept of gender equity is important and awareness and action needs to begin at the top with chiefs and government.
- In the Coral Coast, more of the men and the young boys work at hotels therefore there are more expectations of the women. This means they have no time to attend workshops etc. Therefore, as facilitators we should recognize this when we conduct workshops in the villages.
- Women's focus is more on family rather than community.
- Only the women of chiefly status will speak; therefore they can be selected to be part of the process. However they must be the right leaders, i.e. ones who will communicate with non-chiefly women and represent the views of others.
- Women's groups often work effectively on their own e.g. Soqosoqo Vakamarama group in Nadroga.

Recommendations for how to document analyze and share experiences in gender sensitive approaches and processes.

- Provide separate space for mataqali/clan leaders to discuss issues.
- Document existing success stories.
- Give the women's groups responsibilities in the process e.g. some of the biological monitoring.
- Target the "taukei" or the native women to take the lead.
- Bring out church principles that encourage sharing, good relations as an approach.
- Encourage projects and activities targeted at family units e.g. church and health workshops.
- Government to make policies that require the involvement of women

- Have workshops/environmental awareness that specifically target women's groups and youth groups
- Women and other groups should meet separately, as they do in church organizations.

Recommendations were then listed together and we discussed in a plenary session whose recommendations were suited for the National Committee or the Coral Coast Committee and whether they were HIGH priority activities or not.

VI. WORKSHOP OUTCOME

<u>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ICM (GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS)</u>	<u>PRIORITY LEVEL AND WHO TO INITIATE:</u>
1. Identify stakeholders e.g. resource owners/government/industry and civil society and research the various stakeholder needs.	HIGH – Coral Coast committee to start this and the National Committee to provide guidance.
2. All projects to undergo feasibility under gender lens (benefits and impacts on different groups) and continual monitoring and evaluation of all projects/development. Determine and use social capital, economic capital and traditional capital as indicators.	HIGH – Both committees.
3. Use integrated approach for project planning and implementation.	Both committees
4. Improve communication process – individual/group/community levels. Translating concepts (new ideas) to chiefs, sub-clan chiefs, men, women and youths so they are understood. Stakeholders need to listen more. Communicate stakeholder needs. Gender analysis can be done and results communicated to all groups.	HIGH – Coral Coast Committee
5. Identify and analyze traditional management structures that are suitable for provincial/tikina village management	HIGH –National Committee (FAB) and Coral Coast Committee (Provincial Office).
6. Conduct separate meetings/workshops for women, youth, clan leaders (mataqali) before calling the “bose va koro”.	HIGH – Coral Coast Committee
7. Document stories and processes (who said what using a gender analysis approach) at every stage of the project/development	HIGH – Both committees.
8. Give the various existing groups separate responsibilities in the management process e.g. part of the biological monitoring.	HIGH
9. Use existing groupings to extract and monitor information (e.g. youth	HIGH

groups, women groups) for decision making.	
10. Influential or recognized women to be selected as representatives to decision-making bodies.	HIGH – Coral Coast pilot site

ICM GOALS:

1. Agreement of all stakeholders (men, women and youth) and improved partnerships at all levels.
2. Awareness and education to inform all age and genders on issues and impacts.
3. Encourage the documentation of success stories of women’s involvement in business/village/provincial settings and other resource management initiatives.
4. Use Christian principles to encourage and facilitate unity and sharing of responsibilities.

VII. EVALUATION OF WORKSHOP BY PARTICIPANTS:

1. What did you enjoy about the workshop?

- Interacting with people from the community and understanding their views, concerns and practical realities.
- A good representation of men and women participants from community, government and institutions.
- Recognizing the important roles played by women at all levels.
- Understanding the importance of the role of women.
- The workshop itself “gender and population aspects”.
- Really enjoyed the emphasis that is being articulated – “the importance of acknowledging women’s participation”.
- Discussions brought out a lot of important issues and the importance of women’s roles.
- The subject itself is interesting “gender and population related to ICM”.
- Gender issues and arguments for the inclusiveness of women and youth in sustainable development.
- How to take part in improving the effectiveness of coastal management by considering gender and population aspects.

2. Was there anything about this workshop that you disliked?

- Venue was too hot.
- Poor ventilation in hot weather.
- Hot weather makes it difficult to concentrate and pay attention.
- Venue was too noisy so we were not able to hear everyone.

- The interaction and discussion in groups could be give more time.
- No air condition.

3. What are some of the ways you think that this workshop can be improved?

- When doing gender analysis, it may be helpful to do a pre-situation analysis to see how participants perceive the issue of gender.
- Could have had some women from the communities to be participants.
- Not to make one session consume most of the time in the presentations.
- Could have had a 3 day workshop for this.
- Could have had the workshop at a more comfortable venue.
- To also have representatives of the Soqosoqo Vakamarama to be present at the workshop.
- Include more case studies and perhaps and presentations by other players e.g. Ministry of Women and Culture.
- Structure more discussion time on group presentations.
- Need more females in the workshop.

4. Would you like to make any other recommendations?

- Perhaps look at the project process using a case study (or a project proposal) and how to make it more gender sensitive. In that way participants could get a feel of what gender analysis is all about.
- Could make it a two day workshop to let participants have time to think and reflect on the discussions.
- Have a two-day workshop to thoroughly cover important issues.
- Have more practical case studies presented but preferably by practitioners and researchers.
- Invite more government representatives to this kind of workshop.
- Similar workshops could be conducted at each district level.
- Disseminate this concept of “gender participation” to religious bodies.
- For 2004, let us monitor ICM progress in the Coral Coast in terms of the issue of gender and population. In other wards will there be an improvement.
- Gender participation in sustainable development should be enlarged and strengthened.
- Gender and population concepts to be relayed to the community.

The workshop was closed by Mr. Isaia Gonewai from the Nadroga Provincial Office thanking everyone for their participation and especially the facilitators for bringing to light the importance of women’s roles in coastal management.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

Based on the participants' evaluation of the workshop, the specific objectives of creating awareness and promoting more dialogue and support for gender and population in coastal management have been met. The workshop provided an ideal opportunity for the ICM committee members to discuss the importance of gender and population in coastal management and the list of ten recommendations that resulted will be incorporated into the ICM Project to ensure that gender and population is mainstreamed into coastal management.

One-day workshop program

Time	Program	Method
9:00a.m.	Opening prayer – Ratu Osea Gavidi	
9:05a.m	<i>Opening and Introductions</i>	An opening speech and introductions of participants by Prof. Bill Aalbersberg.
9:20a.m.	<i>Presentation 1: Overview</i>	Background on Mainstreaming Gender and Population work, WILD initiative and General objectives of the workshop by Lavenia Volavola and Erami Seavula..
9:35a.m	<i>Presentation: 2 Population</i>	Simple Population terminologies and possible links to the environment. Role of UNFPA by Lorna Rolls.
9:45a.m	<i>Presentation: 3 Gender</i>	Gender terminology and history by Dr. Irene Novaczek.
10:15a.m.	MORNING TEA	
10:45a.m	<i>Case Studies</i>	Overview of 3 case studies by Irene Novaczek: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mbili, Solomon Islands 2. Lelepa, Vanuatu 3. Safa'i, Samoa.
11:30a.m	<i>Breakout Groups</i>	Participants will break into groups for further analysis of the case studies.
1:00p.m	LUNCH	
2:00p.m	<i>Group Presentation ,and Discussion</i>	Each group will then be asked what was learned and recommendations made.
3:10p.m.	AFTERNOON TEA	
3:30p.m	<i>Plenary Discussion</i>	Opportunities for ICM at the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Level 2. Coral Coast level