



POPULATION & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Population & Environment Program (P&E Program) is an integral part of NWF's mission to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. NWF's P&E Program works to achieve a sustainable balance among the world's population, environmental quality, wildlife habitat and our finite natural resources through reaching the following long-term goals:

- 1) Increase unrestricted funding for international family planning.
- 2) Place population growth on the U.S. and international governmental agendas of environmental problems; and place environment on the U.S. and international population and development agendas.
- 3) Change human behavior to take into account human impacts on the environment, natural resources and wildlife.

The National Wildlife Federation believes that conservation efforts cannot be divorced from the social and economic well-being of people, and therefore supports family planning initiatives that address general and reproductive health care, education, economic opportunities and gender equality as described in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action.

To that end, the Population & Environment Program works on supporting international family planning programs and also on "greening" U.S. international development-ensuring that development aid supports environmental sustainability for the long term benefit of people and wildlife.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Millennium Development Goals include Reproductive Health- In 2000, the nations of the world agreed to the Millennium Development Goals, eight priority goals to alleviate poverty and attain sustainable development. However reproductive health was omitted as critical to meeting the goals (which include improving child and maternal health as well as environmental sustainability.) In September 2005, the UN World Summit reaffirmed their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, this time including access to reproductive health as a necessary target. NWF brought an environmental voice to grassroots efforts in the U.S. supporting the UN Millennium Campaign for the Millennium Development Goals and to the international coalition of NGOs lobbying for the inclusion of reproductive health in this blueprint for development.

Sen. Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act Becomes Law – In December of 2005 the Water for the Poor Act was signed into law helping sustain healthy freshwater ecosystems globally and provide adequate sanitation, which is essential to wildlife and

people. This bill represents the first Millennium Development Goal that the US has signed into law. NWF was instrumental in developing this crucial bill.

Women for Sustainable Development, Building Future Leaders- In January 2006, NWF held its fourth annual professional development conference in Washington, D.C. for college women interested in a career in international sustainable development. At the conference participants discuss the issues, network with women professionals in the field, and participate in skill building workshops. WSD participants then use these new skills and contacts to organize events on population, environment and development in the spring semester. Alumnae from the program have not only become advocates for our issues, but have found work with: The Peace Corps, E Magazine, Population Institute, and the National Council on Science and the Environment.

NWF'S CURRENT AND NEXT STEPS

Focus on Family Health Worldwide Act (H.R. 4188) – This bipartisan bill offers a common-sense, common-ground solution that will improve the health of people and the planet. If passed, this bill authorizes an increase in U.S. funding for international family planning programs and directs that funding go to areas most in need, including areas where population growth threatens biodiversity, and food and water supplies. The bill brings together a coalition of environmental, faith-based, development and health organizations.

The Global Poverty Act (H.R. 3605) – The National Wildlife Federation is working in concert with anti-poverty organizations to advocate for the Global Poverty Act. This bill requires the administration to have a strategy to ensure that U.S. foreign policy includes implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to alleviate poverty and ensure that U.S. development assistance and foreign policy are promoting long-term sustainable options that improve people's lives.

Rewarding Leaders, Building Networks- Starting in 2006, the Population & Environment Program will be starting a new program to identify leaders in target communities and bring them together as an advisory panel. These leaders will be picked based on their interest and success at organizing in their communities. The first panel will convene in April 2007 so that members can take part in NWF's annual meeting, as well as visit the Washington office of their elected officials.

Thinking Locally, Acting Globally- The Population & Environment Program is launching a new initiative to connect wildlife enthusiasts with the need to protect habitat locally as well as globally. The campaign will focus on migratory species threatened by population growth and poor development practices in their southern habitat.

The National Wildlife Federation brings a diverse national constituency and a variety of tools and resources to the cause of action on population and environment. In recent years, we have undertaken broader public outreach, built more activist support and helped strengthen efforts of civil society through the public policy process. We work to help build public understanding and the political will and behavioral changes necessary to ensure a sustainable future will lead to solutions to these complex problems.