

**Example on gender-sensitive approaches and tools, including good practices for the application of these approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change<sup>1</sup>**

**Inputs provided by:**

Conservation International

**Title of practice/tool**

Integrated Population-Health-Environment programming

**Description of practice/tool**

Through an integrated approach to conservation - including environmental conservation initiatives, health education, and access to family planning– women are targeted with environmental messages that they might not otherwise have received. Too often, environmental messages reach primarily men, who have the time and ability to attend trainings or educational sessions. Through the PHE approach, messages and outreach about environmental issues are combined with messages about health, which tend to draw a larger proportion of women. With this knowledge, women feel more empowered to become active in local natural resource governance and better environmental stewards. Furthermore, this integrated messaging can relay critical knowledge and skills about climate change that women need in order to prepare for, and adapt to, a changing climate.

The PHE approach can also foster adaptation by facilitating access to health services and allowing women to choose when and how many children to have. A healthy mother who has access to community health services, including family planning, can more easily adapt to climate change. She is better able to care for her family during a climate emergency, has more energy and time to devote to food production and income generation thereby buffering her household from food shortages, and likely has fewer expenses and therefore more money to save for the future or to put towards more robust housing to withstand storms. In this way, the PHE approach empowers women to take climate change adaptation into their own hands, and provides them with the skills and services they need to help themselves, and their families, respond to and thrive in our changing climate.

Finally, the PHE approach is a social-inclusive method to foster ecological adaptation to climate change. Studies have shown that when a woman is empowered with the right to plan when and how many children to have, she usually chooses a small family with more spaced out children. These smaller, healthier families exert less pressure on the surrounding environment. By reducing anthropogenic pressure, ecosystems such as reefs are better able to withstand climate change impacts such as high water temperatures.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please use this template for providing inputs related with one example. If you have more than one example, please provide them in separate files using this template.

## Region

- Africa and the Arab States
- Asia-Pacific
- Not region-specific

## Country

Conservation International has implemented a PHE project in Cambodia, Madagascar, and the Philippines, although this approach is not country-specific and has been used around the world. Traditionally, it is implemented in rural areas of high biodiversity, but could be expanded to urban environments and areas that do not necessarily exhibit high biodiversity.

## Sector

This approach can be used in all settings, and results in positive social and ecological adaptation

- Food security, agriculture and fisheries
- Forestry
- Human health
- Marine and coastal ecosystems
- Mountains
- Other terrestrial ecosystems
- Transport, infrastructure and human settlements
- Water resources

## Name of implementing institution/s

Conservation International has led a PHE program in Cambodia, Madagascar, and the Philippines, although a number of other organizations are actively implementing this approach at different scales

## Further information

[http://www.conservation.org/Documents/CI\\_gender\\_and\\_conservation\\_experiences.pdf](http://www.conservation.org/Documents/CI_gender_and_conservation_experiences.pdf)

## Contact details

**Kame Westerman**

[kwesterman@conservation.org](mailto:kwesterman@conservation.org)

**Shyla Raghav**

[sraghav@conservation.org](mailto:sraghav@conservation.org)