



# COMMUNITY WATER INITIATIVE PROJECT PORTFOLIO REVIEW



November 2006

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Smaller images: © UNDP  
Water supply point in Lufumbu, Tanzania  
Community meeting in Tzucubaal, Guatemala

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## Executive Summary

The Community Water Initiative (CWI) supports decentralized, demand-driven, innovative, low-cost, and community-based water resource management and water supply and sanitation projects (WSS) in rural areas. CWI projects began in 2004; to date, CWI has allocated grants amounting to more than USD \$620,000 for implementation of 39 projects, benefiting over 10,000 rural households (US \$10 investment per capita) in six countries: Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uganda. A seventh country, Ghana came on board in July 2006.

CWI works in close partnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme<sup>1</sup>. It takes advantage of and builds upon several SGP strengths, among others: 14 years of experience on the ground, a country-driven programming approach, and local decision making and implementation mechanisms. Additional benefits of this partnership include SGP's local country programme staff, partnerships and grantee networks; and ability to fund key aspects of WSS relevant to the global environmental values promoted by the GEF, such as sustainable land management and ecosystem conservation.

CWI uses the SGP's National Steering Committees and National Coordinators to carry out the programme locally, including identification of local co-financing, while using the SGP's global database to monitor and record the progress of CWI projects and country portfolios.

Driven by an innovative approach to grassroots development through informed and active community participation, CWI has demonstrated impacts and learned valuable lessons from implementation in a number of areas. CWI follows an approach that attempts to influence policy from practice. It demonstrates a feasible and low-cost approach that relies on informed and active participation by stakeholders and local level decision-making.

Links between communities and national policy decision-making are facilitated through the National Steering Committees (NSCs) of the GEF's Small Grants Programme, which have responsibility for project guidance, selection of grantees and strategic oversight.

CWI faces the challenge of scalability and sustainability of a proven and successful grant making model for development of remote rural communities. Target groups are clearly defined in every project: The CWI is reaching poor, marginal, and indigenous groups (the Maya in Guatemala and the Maasai in Kenya) and is empowering women – *"We are helping to reduce the workload of women and children in all our projects (Tanzania); "Local women's committees participated in the project... At community workshops, women outnumbered men"* (Guatemala).

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<sup>1</sup> For additional information on the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme, please see Annex 2.

CWI has proven ability to develop community capacities and self reliance. It offers potential for development of community enterprises (the establishment of kitchen gardens for the Maasai is an innovative practice introduced by CWI).

CWI has a rich and diverse portfolio of innovative projects ranging from sanitation in schools, to rock water harvesting, to the use of wind mills and solar energy for pumping, domestic and productive uses of water, including irrigation. CWI is implementing projects that improve livelihoods and serve as entry points for poverty reduction, improvements in food security, health (reduction of incidences of water borne diseases in Lufumbu, Tanzania by 80%), education, gender equity, democratic governance at local level, and environment management (bio-remediation of nitrate in wells in Sri Lanka through improved agriculture and forestation practices).

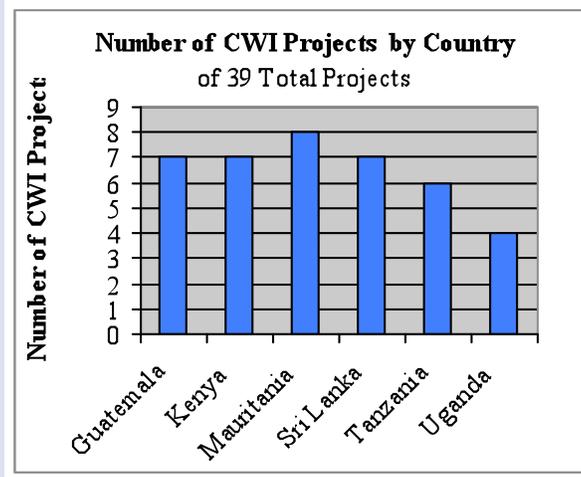
CWI is implementing projects in partnership with over 30 international and local organizations. Pages 10 through 19 feature highlights from completed CWI projects in Guatemala, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda.

## CWI Project Portfolio Overview

The Community Water Initiative (CWI) was developed in response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development's call for concrete actions to meet global challenges in the field of water and sanitation. The initiative began with a US \$1 million contribution from the Government of Sweden (Sida).

The Community Water Initiative has functioned as a decentralized, demand-driven funding mechanism for community-based water and sanitation projects. With an investment of US \$621,170.21, 39 projects have been implemented in six countries: Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda (see Figures 1 and 2 for distribution). Regionally, most of these projects are located in Africa (Figure 3).

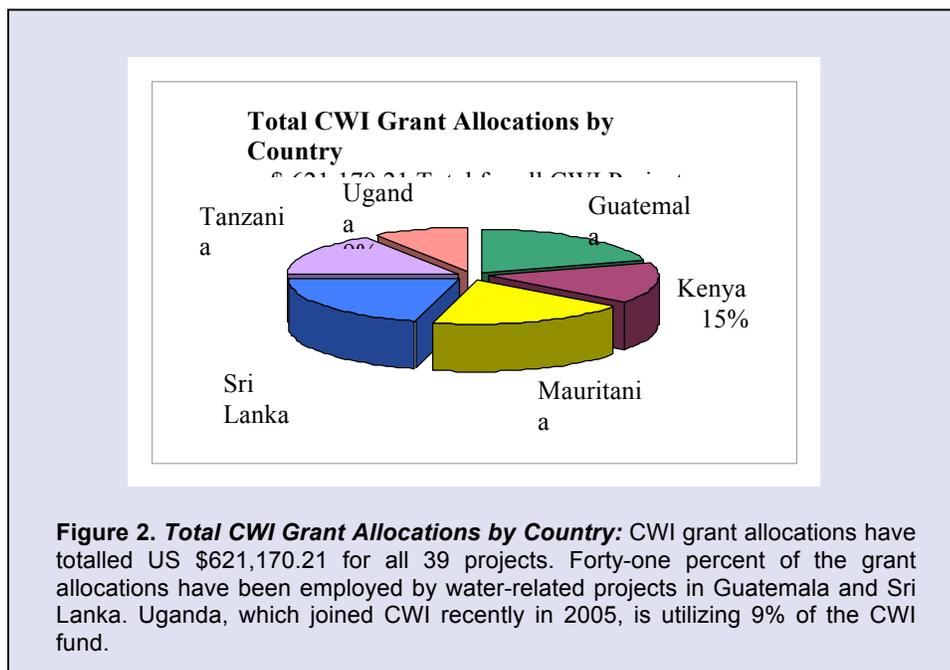
At the country and local levels, project selection is carried out by the SGP National Steering Committees. The use of the SGP mechanism has allowed CWI to be implemented with lower operational costs than otherwise be the case if it were forced to establish its own operations in every country.



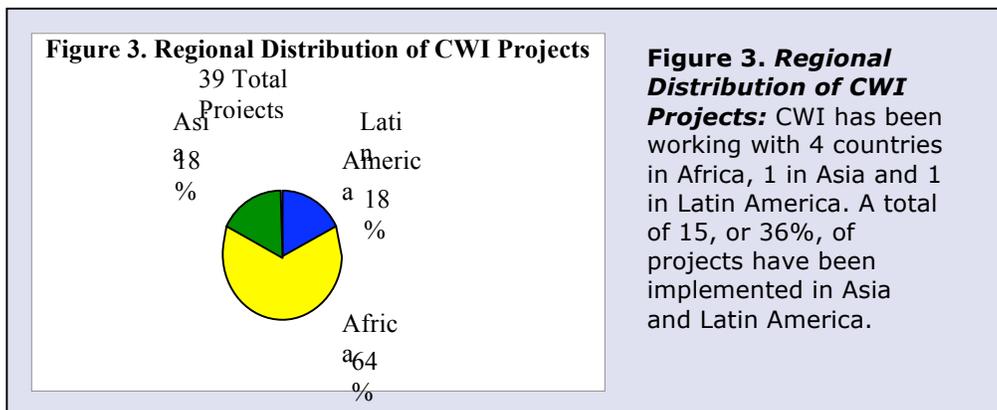
**Figure1. Number of CWI Projects by Country:** Each country has used the CWI grant allocations towards a variety of water supply and water quality, sanitation development and water resource management projects. Overall, there are 39 CWI projects. On average, each participating country has supported 7 different demand-driven projects.

## Scope of Projects

- Projects average about 19 months to complete.
- Each CWI project directly benefits up to 17,000 people.
- Most projects include local capacity development, gender participation, local training in infrastructure maintenance and management, innovative financing and management structures, documentation and dissemination of good practices, pro-poor policy development, improved livelihoods, as well as collection of fees for operation and maintenance.



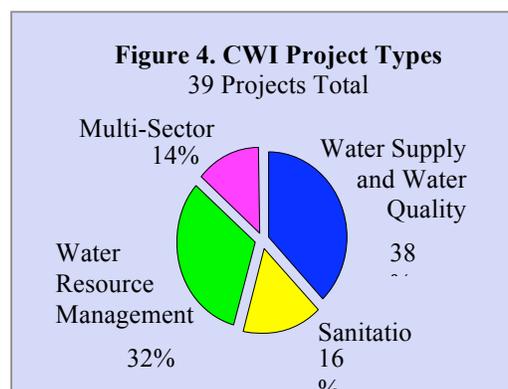
Latrine construction by community members in Butiaba, Uganda



**Supported activities include 3 major areas:**

1. Water supply and water quality improvement
2. Household and village sanitation
3. Water resource management

The largest share of these demand-driven projects (about 38%) focuses on water supply and water quality (Figure 4).



**Project Criteria**



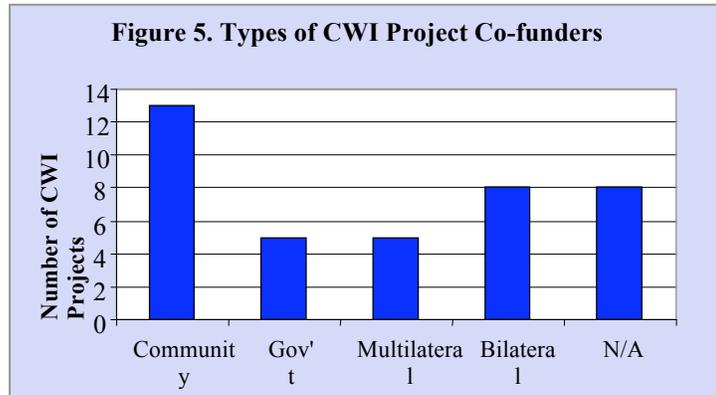
Small grants amounting from US \$20,000 - \$30,000 were made available for each community in order to implement projects under the following criteria:

- Demonstrable innovative approaches
- Focus on strong involvement of community
- Providing reliable, sustainable management systems and affordable services
- Demonstrable improvement of livelihoods
- Low cost, appropriate technologies
- Demonstrable gender mainstreaming approach
- Long-term sustainability
- The grant allocation for each project averages US \$16,000

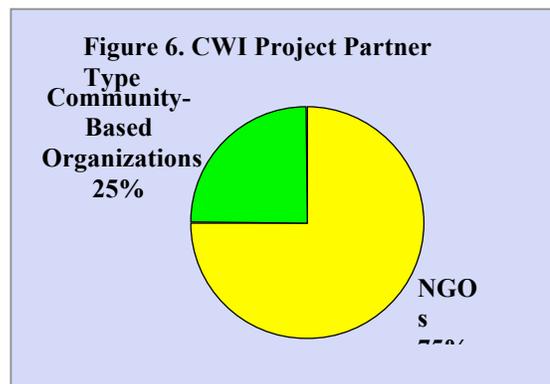
Sanitary water vessel for income generation project in Boghé, Mauritania.

## Partners and Co-funding

Aside from its relationship with GEF's Small Grants Programme, CWI has established partnerships with over 30 organizations. In addition, the projects have been supported through co-funding by several other agencies, including private foundations, international NGOs and the Government of Japan (JICA) which supported five projects in Africa.

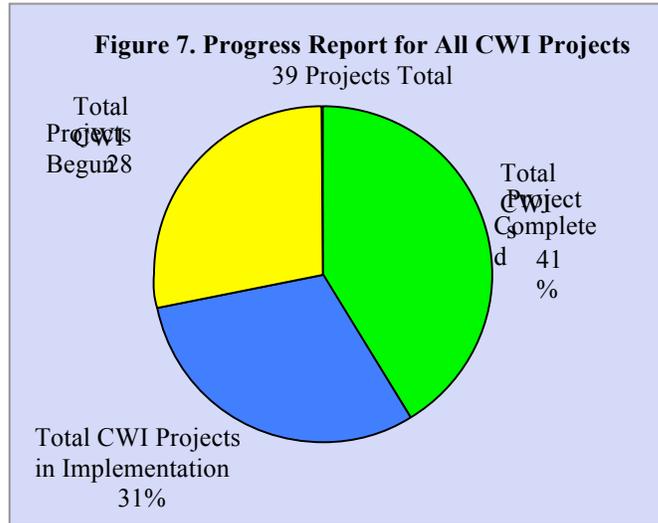


The majority of CWI projects, about 75 percent, are being implemented through Non-governmental Organizations (*Figure 6*), and about 25 percent directly by Community-based Organizations. All projects include cost-sharing by respective local communities through in-kind contributions. Other cost-sharing agreements, such as parallel funding for CWI projects have been established with local governments and bilateral or multilateral agencies (*Figure 5*)



## Project Progress Reports

At the time of this portfolio review, most CWI projects have been completed. The majority of the projects (72%), are either under final stages of implementation, or are fully completed. About one quarter of all projects have just begun (*Figure 7*)



## Moving forward

As a result of CWI's on-going success, additional resources have been mobilized. A private philanthropic foundation's grant of US \$100,000 allowed launching of CWI in Ghana in 2006. Additional funds from the Governments of Luxembourg and Norway will allow for the continuation of CWI well into 2008. Additional contributions expected in 2007, will allow expansion of CWI to three additional African countries: Mali, Niger and Senegal for implementation throughout 2009. Over the long term, CWI is expected to expand to a growing number of countries, especially in light of its cost-effective delivery mechanisms and on-the-ground impacts.



Water supply project in Towoye diery, Mauritania

## **Illustrative CWI Projects**

### ***POTABLE WATER SYSTEM ENLARGEMENT FOR TZUCUBAL***

*Tzucubal, Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán, Sololá, Guatemala*

**Implementing Partners:** Guatemalan Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross,  
Asociación  
Indígena para el Desarrollo Económico Social (AIDES),  
**Project Duration:** May – September, 2004  
**Budget:** US \$30,775

#### **Project Overview**

The indigenous community of Tzucubal suffered from inadequate water supply due to deficient infrastructure, lack of municipal support, population pressure, and deforestation. The Guatemalan Red Cross, with funds from the Spanish Red Cross, responded by initiating a project to provide equipment for a new water conduction system. UNDP's Community Water initiative (CWI) provided the additional resources that were required to build community capacities to manage the new water supply system. CWI's support facilitated the creation of a Community Water Committee and implemented 10 workshops on community health and hygiene. The project also included monthly monitoring and evaluation of the activities.

#### **Beneficiaries**

The entire population of the village Tzucubal – a total of 2,247 indigenous peoples (321 families) – directly benefited from the project

#### **Impacts**

- Monthly household fees were established to ensure sustainability (operation and maintenance costs) of the water and wastewater systems built.
- A community water committee was established in order to effectively manage the water supply system.
- Community members were trained in health and hygiene practice.
- 1,000 trees were planted and over 2 hectares reforested.
- 321 household soak pits were built to manage waste water.
- Local women's committees participated in the project. At community workshops, women outnumbered men.
- The hands-on labour contribution provided by community members was valued at \$42,788.
- Community-led management was established and supported by broad local participation, managing water supply infrastructure, resource use, environmental protection and education.
- Awareness was heightened throughout the community on issues of health, hygiene, and environmental stewardship.

#### **Innovative Approaches**

- The project relied on broad-base participation from women in the community.

- The project emphasized raising community awareness of important environmental issues -- hardly discussed before in Tzucubal.
- The utilization of soak pit technology for managing grey water runoff was completely new to this region of Guatemala.

### Lessons Learned

- Financial sustainability is possible through tapping into the management capacities of the community. The monthly household fees will provide for the continued success of the water system.
- Women's participation is crucial to the broad impact of the project. While women were sometimes discouraged from participation due to lack of literacy skills and family commitments, women consistently outnumbered men at workshops.
- AIDES identified that training on women's rights could further increase women's participation in the future.
- Community contribution is important for cost reduction, project impact, community ownership, and sustainability.
- A miscalculation regarding the timing of tree planting showed that in the future, reforestation efforts should take place earlier in the rainy season.
- The involvement of a local NGO is important in order to involve local experts and disseminate the project's experience to the larger community in the region.



Training session on hygiene, health and the rational use of water in Tzucubal, Sololá

## **RAINWATER HARVESTING FOR NEEDY COMMUNITIES**

*Nguu Division, Makueni District, Eastern Province, Kenya*

**Implementing Partners:** German Agro Action (GAA) and Embassy of Japan  
**Project Duration:** March 2005 – September 2006  
**Budget:** US \$7,040

### **Project Overview**

Rainfall in the Makueni district is erratic, insufficient, and unreliable, and in recent years water resources have been affected by prolonged dry spells. The lower-lying divisions, including Nguu, have been the most seriously affected. The aim of this UNDP CWI project – implemented in partnership with the German Agro Association -- was to improve access to water through rainwater harvesting and storage in three Nguu communities: Vololo, Nthungui, and Mwingati. Community members contributed labour and raw materials, including sand, ballast, and stones. This CWI project oversaw the installation of infrastructure and provided the capacity building necessary to establish a rainwater harvesting program with solid water management practices.

### **Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries include 5,616 individuals (429 households) in 3 communities.

### **Impacts**

- A financially and environmentally sustainable water harvesting and storage system was established, serving three communities.
- During seasons of heavy rain, these communities will have excess water storage capacity and will be able to sell water to members outside of the immediate community, broadening the socio-economic impacts of the project.
- Community access to safe drinking water has increased substantially.
- Prevalence of water-borne illness has decreased.
- Distance to water supply has been greatly reduced, increasing women's time for other important activities.
- Water availability for tree planting and the productivity of kitchen gardens has increased.
- Training sessions were facilitated for small enterprise development and community management training.

### **Innovative Approaches**

- Using suitable rocks, communities in the Nguu division are now able to harvest the rainwater for storage in new water tanks. While the rock water harvesting method for rainwater collection is not a new technology, it is greatly under-exploited in this region.
- A newly convened and recently trained committee manages the maintenance of the facilities and the vending of the water to the community.

## Lessons Learned

- Economic potential has increased through vending excess water in storage to the other communities.
- Community member's contributed in-kind, thus reducing costs (sand, ballast and unskilled labour). Participation was vital in achieving project ownership and sustainability.
- Rainfall, after the installation of the water tanks, was not as substantial as anticipated, and the 250 cubic meter tanks remained just half full. However, past experience suggests 150 cubic meter tanks can fill in a single downpour.
- The availability of suitable rocks in the area suggests that rock water harvesting might be the best potable water solution for the local population.
- The construction of water storage tanks is not currently affordable for the local population. For more storage tanks, the communities depend on external resources. However, now that community members are trained, storage tank maintenance is inexpensive.
- Due to the success of the technology, the grantee plans to expand the water supply model, as funds become available.



Using a newly installed water tap in Eastern Province, Kenya

## **EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY WATER SCHEME**

*Lufumbu, Ludewa, Tanzania*

**Implementing Partners:** Lufumbu Village Council, Roman Catholic  
**Project Duration:** May 2004 – December 2005  
**Budget:** US \$20,090

### **Project Overview**

In 1993, Lufumbu village implemented a gravity water supply project through support from Africa 2000 Network. Since then, increased population and establishment of new settlements has called for expansion of the project in order to widen water supply coverage. The village relies on agriculture and villagers live on less than a US \$1 per day. UNDP's Community Water Initiative partnered with the local communities in order to enable project expansion. In the year 2004, the CWI grant succeeded to expand and consolidate the water supply scheme by establishing an additional intake and storage tank, expanding distribution mains and facilitating public training in health and sanitation.

### **Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries include the entire population of Lufumbu Village – a total of 3,670 people.

### **Impacts**

- There has been a reduction of incidences of water borne diseases with hospital records showing that rate of water borne diseases have decreased by 80%.
- Crop production has increased as a result of health improvements, increasing local income.
- Accessibility to a water source has decreased from an average of 2km to within 150 metres, reducing the workload on the part of women. This is far less than the national target of 400 metres.
- A storage tank with 10m<sup>3</sup> capacity has been built, servicing an additional 4 settlements.
- Increased water supply has allowed for coffee and other tree species to be cultivated in nurseries. Coffee nurseries allowed for coffee farming expansion and tree nurseries have increased tree-planting activities in the village surroundings.
- Farmers are using water from the project to make burnt bricks, which they use to modernize their houses. Formerly, construction of houses was done by using poles. To date, over 120 brick houses could be seen in Lufumbu village.
- A strong water committee has been established, improving local water governance. The committee handles day-to-day management of water supply issues. It also handles broader integrated activities such as sanitation, environment and conservation of natural resources at the water source.

### Innovative Approaches

- The reservoir tank is constructed of stones which are locally obtained. This reduced the cost by 30% when compared with the use of cement blocks.
- Community members have participated throughout the project and have a management committee to ensure project sustainability and continued benefits for fellow villagers.

### Lessons Learned

- Use of participatory methodologies during the construction phase prompted all villagers to participate actively in project activities, creating sense of user-ownership that allows for greater long-term project sustainability.
- Active participation can be maintained with community-based operation and maintenance by local beneficiaries. The original water supply project has had continuous services for more than 10 years as a result of this local participation.
- Operation and maintenance costs can be lowered with careful utilization of scheme infrastructures. Accumulated savings from this project are now used for other village development projects such as construction of classrooms for village schools and caring for AIDS orphans.
- Indirect benefits to sufficient water supply, such as improved health, crop production and tree nursery possibilities, will increase economic potential and local livelihoods.
- Simple project design, appropriate technology and full involvement of stakeholders allows for cost-reductions.



Women drawing water from water tap at Lufumbu, Tanzania

## **BIOREMEDIATION OF SELECTED DRINKING WATER WELLS IN NAWAKKADUWA THROUGH TOTAL ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT**

*Nawakkaduwa, Kalpitiya, Sri Lanka*

**Implementing partner:** *Neo Synthesis Research Centre, Sri Lanka*

**Start date:** *January 2004 – January 2006*

**Budget:** *US \$21,487*

### **Project Overview**

The leaching of agrochemicals into the ground water table has had a significant impact on ground water quality in Sri Lanka. Water sources in the Kalpitiya Peninsula, located on the west coast of Sri Lanka, show high ground water concentrations of nitrate, chloride and potassium. There is a clear correlation between ground water quality and agricultural land-use. A research study conducted by the University of Ruhuna (1995) on the effects of nitrates in drinking water in Kalpitiya showed that 64% of the infants suffered from malnutrition and potential Methaemoglobinaemia. Preliminary surveys conducted by NSRC revealed that 20% of the population was directly affected. The CWI project set out to remediate nitrate pollution in wells through changes in agricultural practice and community awareness.

### **Beneficiaries**

25 drinking water wells in Nawakkaduwa, Mampuri, Daluwa and Nirmalapura villages in the Kalpitiya peninsula serving a minimum of 500 persons.

### **Impacts**

- Bio-remediation of nitrate and Nitrite pollution in 25 drinking water wells in Nawakkaduwa, Mampuri, Daluwa and Nirmalapura villages. Level of nitrates dropped dramatically and the water is now potable, a mere two years later!
- Present land management practices changed to organic agriculture including the use of diverse tree crops in the landscape design of 25 home gardens.

| <b>Ecological</b>   | <b>Economic</b>   | <b>Social</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| Increase in shade   | Alternative income source   | Increase in nutrition with the increase in crop diversity                   |
| Increase in biomass   | Increase in home garden cultivation to supplement daily needs                   | Increase in food security   |
| Increase in surface biodiversity with the increase in habitat | Decrease in outsourcing food and other utilities like fuel wood                 | Availability of potable water   |
| Increase in soil biodiversity with increased fertility        | Reduction in watering costs due to increased mulching of crops                  | Improved health status especially for women and children                    |
| Reduction in contaminant level in drinking water              | Reduction in chemical fertiliser costs with the adoption of organic agriculture | Positive change in attitude towards an ecologically sustainable agriculture |

## Innovative approaches

- The cost of using modern technologies like 'reverse osmosis' to mitigate the contamination of drinking water is beyond the reach of poor countries like Sri Lanka; hence the use of biological means is low cost and affordable.
- This is the first time that bioremediation has been implemented in Sri Lanka and on such a large scale. This low cost technology is being implemented 'by the people for the people'. Furthermore, it is now endorsed by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board and will thus be replicated wherever the problem of nitrate/nitrite contamination occurs in Sri Lanka.
- The work on the bioremediation of water has been carried out in partnership with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board and the beneficiary communities. The Neo Synthesis Research Centre is now extending the technology to other public wells in the Kalpitiya area in keeping with the request of the Kalpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha (Local Government) who greatly supports the Project.
- The project has built capacity within its staff, the beneficiaries, local government and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board by creating awareness on the problem and the means to rectify it.
- The type of restoration implemented will, in addition to purifying the water, provide income, food, medicine, fuel wood and a host of other benefits. It will also increase habitat for biodiversity. The fact that the local government requests for the extension of the work to other areas in the peninsula is a singular sign of success in terms of its replicability.

## Lessons learned

- The greatest challenge posed for a project of this nature is the conversion of conventional agriculture into one that is ecologically sustainable. The difficulty is magnified by the promotion of the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. People have gotten used to the easy application of agrochemicals to grow their crops even though they know that the chemicals contaminate their drinking water source. The problem is exacerbated by the free and uncontrolled sale of dangerous agrochemicals that have a persistent life in the water source.
- The technology, on the other hand, is simple and highly effective. It is low cost and provides additional benefits. Further it can be implemented anywhere by anyone and is viable both on a small or large scale.
- Community awareness is the key to success. Monthly meetings were held with the farmers/beneficiaries to monitor and evaluate the work done in the past month, draw up the activity plan for the next month and to provide a platform for discussing whatever problems people encountered.

## **COMMUNITY ECOLOGICAL SANITATION AND HYGIENE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

*Butiaba Fishing Village, Masindi District, shores of Lake Albert, Uganda*

**Implementing partner:** Uganda Fisheries & Fish Conservation Association (UFFCA), Uganda  
**Start date:** June 2005 – June 2006  
**Budget:** US \$15,000

### **Project Overview**

The Butiaba fishing village comprises three landing sites experiencing hygiene and sanitation problems due to lack of proper excreta disposal facilities thereby contributing to the spread of communicable diseases, water and general environmental pollution which adversely affects the health and livelihood of the local fishers community. The situation is further compounded by the topographical nature of the fishing village whose soils are predominantly sandy with a high water table, which makes it difficult and expensive for the community to construct conventional pit-latrines. Open defecation and runoff has negatively impacted the environmental conditions of the Lake Albert ecosystem.

### **Beneficiaries**

Include the fisher folk, men, women and youth groups involved in fish harvesting, and artisanal fish processing and Local Authorities.

### **Impacts**

The project contributes to improved quality of landing sites, livelihoods of local community and environmental quality of the lake through:

- Controlling and lakeshore pollution and environmental degradation through the construction of “Ecological Sanitation Toilets” and dustbins.
- Reducing the spread of communicable diseases and contamination of food and fish products by pathogens through the construction of fish handling facilities “raised fish slabs” at the respective landing sites.
- Providing simple systems for humus and urine production for soil nutrient enrichment and improved land productivity.
- Fostering improved community health, better hygiene and sanitation conditions around the Lake Albert ecosystem.

### **Innovative approaches**

- The fishing community was sensitized and made aware of the need for improved hygiene and sanitation conditions at the landing sites.
- Ecosan toilets were constructed and used, confidence building among the local community was undertaken in parallel to construction activity.
- Basic health information availed at community level.

- Project management committees were established.
- The community agreed that a trust levy of Ug.Shillings.100 introduced on each boat / Canoe landing at each site daily will be used to pay for the services of a person employed to maintain the cleanliness of the Ecosan toilets, general repairs, management and maintenance of the facilities.

### Lessons learned

- Community leaders were trained with “Training of Trainers” approach to provide informed guidance and leadership for cultural acceptance and replication of Ecosan toilets.
- Awareness raising and information dissemination on the need for improved community hygiene and sanitation conditions was essential for project success.

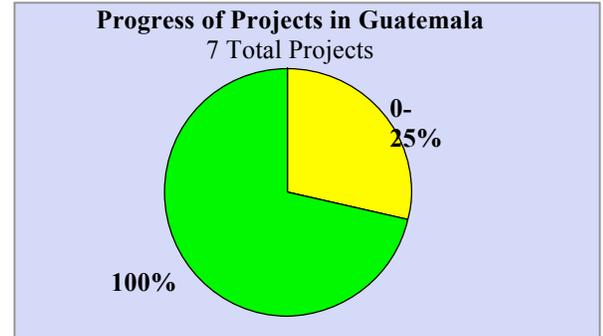


## Annex 1

### Complete Project List (as of June 2006)

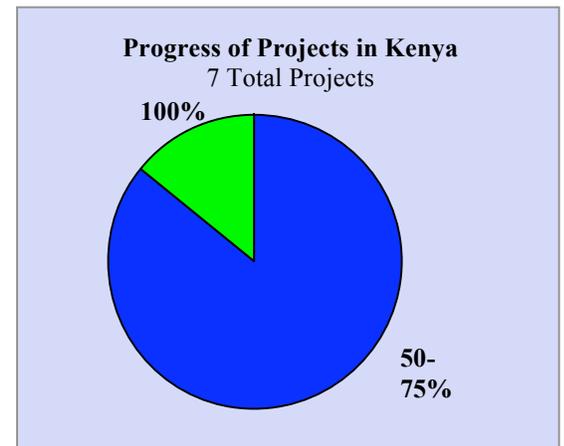
#### Guatemala

1. Coyolate Solar Energy for Community Potable Water
2. Panajachel Integrated Solid Waste Management
3. Ceasam Maza Lagoon Water Resources Management
4. Tzucubal Potable Water System Enlargement
5. Zunil Community Micro Irrigation Systems Recovery
6. Planning grant for Comité Pro Mejoramiento San Jorge La Laguna
7. Planning grant for Comité Colonia Belén, Tacana



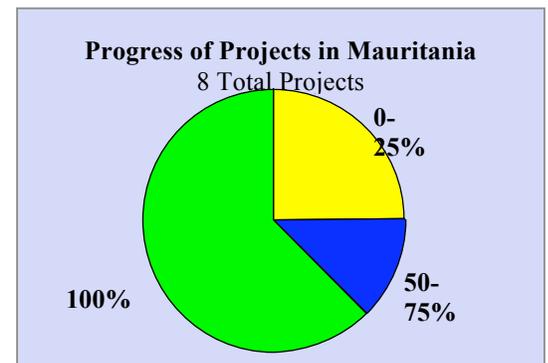
#### Kenya

1. Olkinyei Protection of Natural Springs
2. Wind energy for Maji Moto; Water for Maasai in Narok
3. Dam rehabilitation & purification of water for Lusi community Namanga
4. Water harvesting from hill spring- Oloiren community Namanga
5. Rock water harvesting & storage for Nguu
6. Kamurugu community dam on seasonal stream
7. Kathuni river intake water project



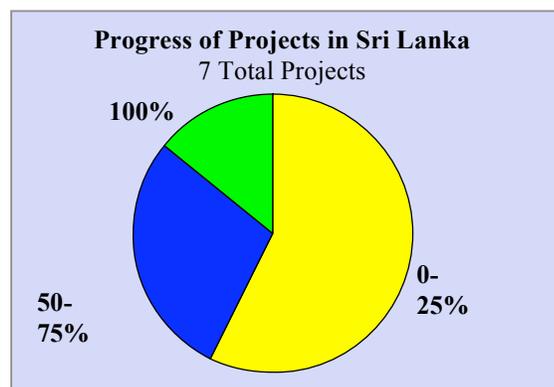
#### Mauritania

1. Dar El Barka Windmill Rehabilitation & School Latrines
2. Boghé School Sanitation
3. Bababé Latrines and Pedal Pumps Repair
4. Stakeholders workshop on CWI issues in Mauritania EDEN
5. Community management in Magtar Lahjar (Club Unesco)
6. Potable water adduction project for Timzine village
7. Community water project for the Toweï Dieri Village (ADM)
8. Community water project for Pk 7 (AU secours)



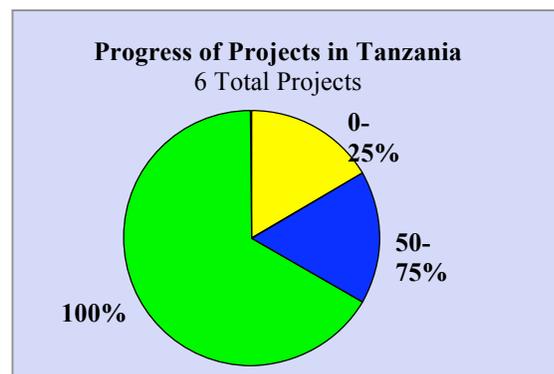
## Sri Lanka

1. Nawakkaduwa Bioremediation of Nitrate in wells
2. Matale Watershed Management, Conservation & Policy
3. Eppawala fluoride water purification
4. Community watershed management and rainwater harvesting in Sigiriya
5. Rehabilitation of Delgaskanda Water project & restoration of water sources
6. Safe drinking water for Eppawala Grama Niladhari Division Community
7. Extension of Bioremediation of water wells in Nawakkaduwa



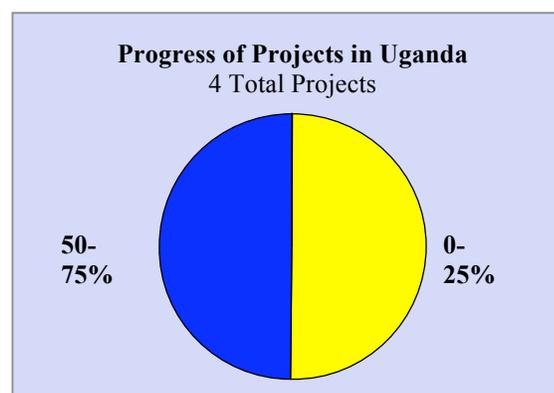
## Tanzania

1. Lufumbu Community water supply scheme
2. Lutewele Farmers water tank for irrigation expansion
3. Lusala Community water supply scheme (Phase 1)
4. Ziwani Completion of Water Supply Scheme
5. Lusala Community Water Supply Scheme (Phase II)
6. Documentation of CWI Projects



## Uganda

1. Acomia EcoSan Project Serere-Lake Kyoga
2. Community Ecological Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement in Butiaba on the shores of Lake Albert
3. Lake Victoria Ssesse Islands EcoSan Demonstration
4. Bugoma Community Ecological Sanitation



## **Annex 2**

### **CWI and the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme**

The SGP (host and partner of CWI), has been in operation since 1992 and is currently operational in some 95 countries worldwide; having provided over 6,600 grants to local NGOs and CBOs.

Three independent evaluations have recognized SGP's highly positive achievements, both in directly supporting grassroots level activities and in indirectly influencing policy dialogue, and the latest overall evaluation of the GEF found the SGP to be its most cost effective programme.

GEF funding requires that SGP focus on implementation of community-based activities related to the international environmental conventions. In the course of implementation, it became clear that for many of the participating communities, access to safe drinking water was an important priority with strong linkages to environmental conditions.

CWI pilot phase demonstrated a strong relevance of the SGP approach to reaching the most marginalized sectors in the area of WSS. Certain lessons and insights have been derived which will serve to guide the Programme in a full phase and refine its niche and focus to most effectively reach its objectives, with emphasis on poverty and environment dimensions.

CWI implementation has also demonstrated the potential for using and adapting the SGP mechanism for managing complementary activities in the WSS sector, given the close relationship between water resource management and the environment, particularly at community levels. SGP National Coordinators and National Steering Committees in those countries are being guided in project selection, monitoring and evaluation by a global CWI Strategic Framework.