



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Pollution Reduction through Improved Municipal Wastewater Management in Coastal Cities in ACP Countries with a Focus on SIDS

GEF ID#: 3181, PIMS ID#: 3776

Project Status: Completed



Key results:

1. 1,377 participants from 29 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries were trained in environmentally friendly wastewater management.
2. A majority of participants reported increased willingness to cooperate with and systematically involve stakeholders in all stages of the planning process.
3. All trained project managers and finance committee members obtained access to internet-based wastewater management tools.

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The discharge of untreated municipal wastewater into rivers, lagoons and estuaries or directly into the ocean is one of the most serious threats to the marine environment, the health of coastal populations and sustainable coastal development worldwide. This project responded to the daunting challenges faced by African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) in addressing municipal wastewater problems. According to UNEP (2005), the percentage of untreated wastewater reaching fresh or coastal waters is 86% for the Caribbean, 80% in West and Central Africa, and 50% for East Africa. Data on coastal water quality in Pacific Island Countries is very limited, but poor water quality in some areas has led to the degradation of important fishing and tourism resources.

The project sought to improve skills and knowledge at the municipal level by training managerial staff in project identification, planning and financing in water, sanitation and wastewater management. .

Jointly with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and in cooperation with the UNDP-GEF funded Train-Sea-Coast Programme of the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN/DOALOS), the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) has developed a training course entitled "Improving Municipal Wastewater Management for Coastal Cities". This course has been delivered thirteen times in four languages, and has successfully trained 300 professionals and thirty instructors. The content is based on the UNEP/WHO/UN-HABITAT/WSSCC Guidelines on Municipal Wastewater Management.

The project built on this successful inter-agency training programme and aimed at cost-effective replications in 29 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands. It was also a continuation and expansion of the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS Global TSC Programme (2000-2005).

RESULTS: PROCESS

INDICATOR #1: Increased capacity in ACP countries to identify and formulate feasible and environmentally friendly wastewater projects. [*Target: 80% of 1,200 wastewater managers in a training course who understand and are able to apply objective-oriented planning in water and wastewater projects.*]

100% of 1,377 trained participants from 29 countries met all criteria in accordance with UN/DOALOS accredited TRAIN-SEA-COAST (TSC) standards. This number includes 55 participants from catalytic output courses.

INDICATOR #2: Increased capacity to plan sustainable multi-year financing of municipal wastewater projects. . [*Target: 80% of 280 participants of the finance training who understand benefits and method of multi-year financial planning and are willing, competent and able to apply these methods.*]

An expert group consisting of UNEP and UNESCO-IHE staff plus a consultant was formed in order to develop a training course on Multi Year Financial Planning for Municipal Infrastructure Investments (MYFP). A training needs analysis was conducted in line with the UN/DOALOS Train-Sea-Coast Methodology (with target population and job analysis). A course curriculum was designed and under review by experts from ACP countries. The curriculum developed can form the basis of future course development on MYFP. However, the component on MYFP was halted after it became apparent that in order to provide high quality relevant training on this issue, a much more comprehensive approach involving more stakeholders and levels of government would be required – which was identified as clearly outside of the possibilities of this project.

INDICATOR #3: Increased willingness of managers and finance staff to cooperate with and systematically involve stakeholders in all stages of the planning process. [*Target: 20% of trained project staff working on demonstration projects willing to cooperate and to involve stakeholders in the planning process.*]

It was found that after the training, over 66% of the 970 participants assessed were willing to take into account the interests of various stakeholders. Over 50% found that their organisations were increasingly paying attention to the interests of stakeholders when dealing with wastewater management issues.

INDICATOR #4: An improved knowledge base and strengthened information exchange between practitioners and other GEF projects. [*Target: 100% of trained project managers and finance committee members have access to TSC tools on wastewater issues through IW:LEARN and TSC-GPA web sites.*]

Information access was made available to 100% of trained project managers and committee members via IW:LEARN and TSC-GPA web sites and networking tools. The TSC-GPA website was made available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

1) The project was funded from two sources (GEF and EU) and at the design stage it was decided to prepare a separate project document for each donor to satisfy different reporting requirements, resulting in different explanations on strategy and approach. If unavoidable, the use of two reports demands a very clear definition of the content and clear and concise budget detailing. One solution could be a framework / master document to describe the project and how it is divided.

2) Means of verification for an indicator should be something that the project can access and that is not dependent on external action.

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