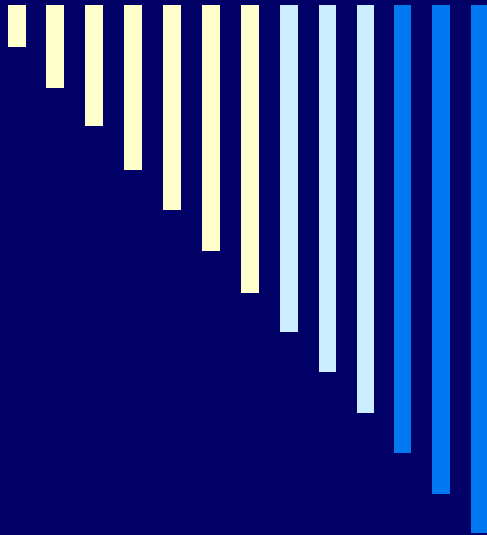


Innovative Actions for Community Based Water Management and Education Project – Papua New Guinea

Brief Background of the project

- In an agreement dated 22 August 2006, the Asian Development Bank granted Live & Learn Environmental Education Funds to implement the “Innovative Actions for Community-based Water Management and Education” project in Papua New Guinea.
- The aim of the project is to improve drinking water and sanitation for people in rural, resource constrained communities in West New Britain, Papua New Guinea using environmental education and micro-investment in sustainable technology as the two delivery tools
- The project worked with villages/ communities situated in West New Britain.

Community fresh water sources



□ Water holes and streams

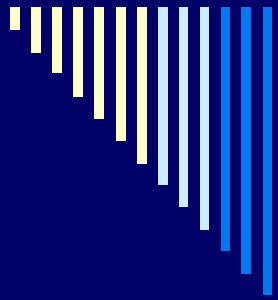


Women & Children collecting water



Where are we in PNG?





- Project Site - West New Britain
 - Target area 1. Communities around Kimbe Bay
 - Target Area 2. Communities on Vitu Island

Vitu Islands & Kimbe bay





Project Description

- ❑ Communities in which the project was implemented were identified through consultation between Local Level Governments or Area councils in which the communities are located.
- ❑ Local Level Government representatives from the individual communities provided back ground information about the communities and helped to facilitate our entry to the communities.
- ❑ Our first task was to carry out a Rapid Assessment of Perceptions workshop for selected community representatives. The purpose of the RAP was to find out community perceptions towards safe drinking water and related issues. This provided us the basis for intervention and evaluation.
- ❑ This was done because we wanted to take a strength-based approach to participation acknowledging and affirming the potential, strengths and resourcefulness of communities and people and ensure that all training activities and support builds on existing strengths. (Whole community approach)

Youth Participating in RAP Workshop





Expected Out puts

- The project was expected to be delivered over a period of 18 months and four overall and inter-connected; outputs were expected be delivered through 16 activities.
- These outputs are;
 1. mobilize an action-based community education program to safeguard drinking water and improve freshwater sources,
 2. support communities in constructing and maintain communal rainwater harvesting tanks
 3. support community monitoring of freshwater resources – incl. drinking water
 4. Evaluate impact and access opportunities for multiplying successes

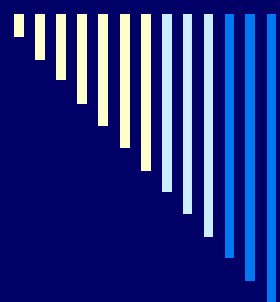


Outcomes

1. Communities Identified and notified
2. Rapid Assessment of Perceptions (RAP) of community attitudes towards water quality.
3. Introduction of the Project in the communities
5. Learning resources on safeguarding drinking water was developed and tested.
6. Live and Learn Staff in charge of the project obtained training on the construction of fiber glass moulds and construction of Ferro-cement tanks.
7. Demonstration tanks constructed in each target community .

Youth trainees preparing fiber glass mould





Outcomes

8. Construction of Ferro cement tanks in communities by community members.
9. Awareness on water related health and hygiene issues in the communities and training of selected community members to carry out water quality monitoring and testing in the communities.

Community tank builders – Vitu Island



Completed Ferro cement tank





Lessons Learned

- **Lesson 1:** Local contexts in PNG are highly complex and context varies greatly from one community to another. This also includes their capacity to deal with their own problems and issues. Therefore activity designs require good knowledge of these variations.
- **Lesson 2:** To reach maximum benefits, water projects should apply a 'strengths-based, inclusive approach' to community development and capacity building.
- **Lesson 3:** Community participation should be fully planned for and realistic time and resources should be allowed for within activities.



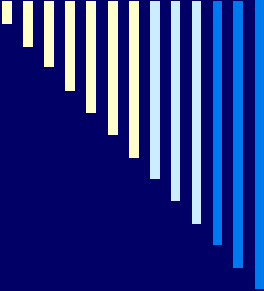
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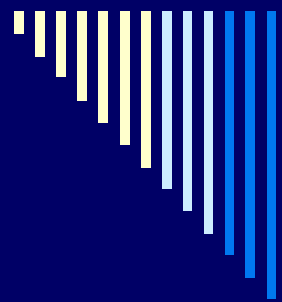
Lessons Learned

- ❑ **Lesson 4:** The community should be included in developing their own resources and processes.
- ❑ **Lesson 5:** Activities should not be rushed. They must happen according to community timelines and consider local capacities and skills.
- ❑ **Lesson 6:** Workshops and trainings should be tied into results and outputs. Training and workshops for the sake of participation are meaningless
- ❑ **Lesson 7:** Communities do not just mobilize and organize: they mobilize in response to something. It is important for the community to decide on the issues they wish to act on.



Community members mobilized and working together on the community Gravity Fed water supply system





Ferro cement tank under construction





Lessons Learned

- **Lesson 8:** Each community is different so generic approaches are not very effective, flexible approaches are needed.
- **Lesson 9:** There are many obstacles to community mobilization. It is important to reduce these obstacles by being responsive and adaptable with changing needs and strengths.
- **Lesson 10:** Building capacity for community-based environmental management is a long-term process and requires sustained support in terms of skills and physical means (infrastructure).



Lessons Learned

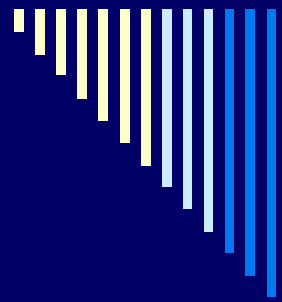
- **Lesson 11:** One of the biggest obstacles to community mobilization is disempowerment of communities.
- **Lesson 12:** Community mobilization does not just happen; in many cases it requires initial and on-going support and it requires strong, strategic partnerships between civil society and the government.





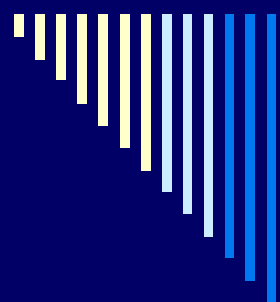
Lessons Learned

- **Lesson 13:** Realistic assessments should be made of the government's capacity to provide water services before infrastructure investments are made. Millions of dollars are spent yearly in PNG on infrastructure projects managed by the government with no benefits flowing to the poor. Alternative funding strategies need to be established with the aim to support organizations and groups that are better positioned to deliver services on the ground at a much lower cost.



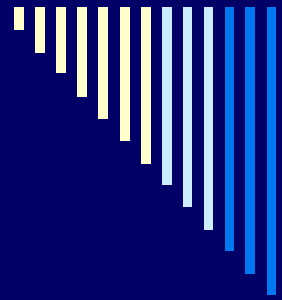
Potential for replication & Up scaling





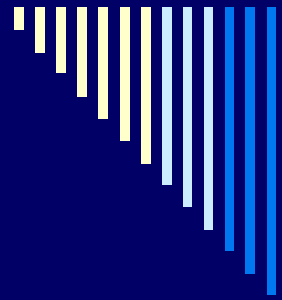
Potential for replication & Up scale

- The project has potential to be the key entry-point towards establishing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in West New Britain Province, using access to safe drinking water as an entry point and education and learning as the implementation tool
- Using IWRM as the key implementation principle for the project, will help to promote the coordinated development and management of water, and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and water resources



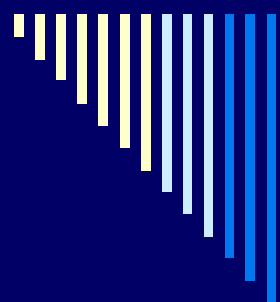
Potential for replication & Up scale

- Unsustainable use or exploitation of forest resources, commercial agriculture (oil plantations) has degraded most natural fresh water sources through erosion and contamination by pesticides and fertilizers mean less freshwater for drinking This has created the need to explore alternative ways of securing fresh drinking water (through establishment of water tanks).
- Quality of most natural water sources can be restored through better management of catchments. Many communities do not have alternative water sources. Have continued using the contaminated water and thus adding more problems



Potential for replication & Up scale

- Equally, growth in population, increased economic activity and improved standards of living lead to increased competition for and conflicts over the limited river resources. A combination of social inequity and economic marginalization, forces people living in poverty to overexploit soil and forestry resources, with damaging impacts on water resources.



Finally

- From our experience in communities we work with both in this project and a similar project funded by EU we are confident that this project has potential for replication and up scaling.
- The main obstacle to the replication, up scaling and sustainability of the project is the funding availability.
- Funds need to be secured for the project to be continued and replicated in other communities.