



Sustainable Management of the Sarakata Watershed

Progress Snapshot

Project Objective

Provide an operational network and mechanism to plan for and monitor all developments in the watershed that may affect the ecology, availability and quality of water and other natural resources in the Sarakata Watershed.



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Process

✓ **Multi sector APEX body established**

In 2009 the Sanma Water Advisory Committee (SWAC) was re-established as the IWRM Steering Committee. This Committee includes departments such as Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture and Livestock.

✓ **Establishment of the Sarakata Basin Integrated Flood Management Plan**

To assist the establishment of the Sarakata Basin Integrated Flood Management Plan, feasibility studies and Flood Hazard Maps were completed for flood prone areas. These studies incorporate early flood warning systems that provide at least one hour warning and processes for incorporating floodplains into planning regulations. It is envisaged that by the end of the project phase, Cabinet will endorse a Sarakata Flood Management Plan.

✓ **Increased proportion of community engaged in water related issues**

The Vanuatu IWRM has focused on working with different targeted community groups to participate in clean-up campaigns, composting toilet construction, forest replanting and the establishment of agriculture demonstration plots. Mass awareness campaigns have been successful with high numbers of community members attending inclusive of women's groups, Chiefs and elders of communities.

✓ **Increased national staff across institutions with IWRM knowledge and experience**

The project seeks to increase staff knowledge of IWRM through training and workshops. To complete previous work on a Water Demand Management project, the IWRM team brought in consultants from FSM to assist the Public Water Works (PWW) Team with the outstanding work. The activity helped the PWW team through theory and field training on installation and readings of flow meters and installation of Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV). This project has helped to build capacity among the PWW Team.



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IWRM Steering Committee

- Alsen Obed
Chairman
- Dick Tomker
Dept. of Forestry
- Peter Lulu
Dept of Water
- Rogatien Andre
Public Works Dept.
- Oli Ravo
Public Works Dept.
- Keith Jacob
Rural Health
- Philip Anaclet
Dept. of Environment
- Phillip Banban
Dept. of Agriculture
- Lemon Kalomar
Dept. of Forestry
- Benual Tabi
Dept. of Lands
- Gina Tari
Live and Learn
- Prosper Buletare
Sanma Provincial Council
- Yankee Wass
Agriculture Consultant
- Erickson Sammy
Dept. of Water Resources



WWD 2012, Sarakata River Clean Up



FSM consultant assisting the PWW Team with PRV installation

Stress Reduction

✓ 40% reduction in sewage pollution across the Sarakata Watershed

The Sarakata IWRM Demonstration project is located in the growing town of Luganville on the Island of Espiritu Santo where demand is high for resources, putting stress on the environment's ecology and biodiversity.

To reduce stress on water resources the project has constructed pilot composting toilets in the Solway and Pepsi areas of Sarakata. These areas have shallow ground water that are prone to pollution from pit latrines. As household managers women have been targeted in this pilot as being seen to influence behavior change in the family and community.

✓ Sustainable Forest and Land Management practices established and trialed with Landowners and Leaseholders.

To increase the amount of land managed, rehabilitated and protected in the Sarakata Watershed, the Government of Vanuatu compensated 62.5 hectares of land for the protection of water source and the establishment of Water Protection Zones. In addition, more than 1000 hectares of upland catchment areas have been proposed for Conservation and Protected Areas and more than 20 hectares have been identified as priority for reforest rehabilitation.

Landowners have agreed to conservation areas, and there are three main conservation areas where Draft Management Plans have been established with the respective communities involved. These are in the process of being declared by the cabinet.

Nursery sites were identified and selected during open discussion workshops and have been established at a number of communities within the Watershed. Seedlings from the nurseries will be distributed to other communities and schools for planting when they are ready for transplanting.



Composting toilet in Solway



Participants potting planter bags for nursery site

Water Resource and Environmental Status

✓ Increase in population with access to a safe water supply

In the first year of the project, baseline assessment through pollutant source surveys and water quality testing was carried out by the project. Assessment is continuing on a quarterly basis. The assessment indicated that there were pollutant sources discharging into the river. Both Coastal Water & Surface Water qualities were monitored.

Although none of the communities within the Sarakata Catchment tapped directly into the Sarakata River for Water Source, most of the communities do not have a proper formal supply system to their household.

Water Quality monitoring in those communities using H₂S kits indicate high levels of coliform. In one of the worst affected communities of Butmas, the project has established a rainwater catchment (picture left) and is in the process of supplying a small-scale formal system in one of the worst water contaminated areas in Luganville.



Construction of rainwater catchment at Butmas Community