



## Sida/SEI 10 million Dollar Initiative to Build Regional Capacity in Sustainable Sanitation – Setting New Standards

Launching of the EcoSanRes Programme for 2006-2010  
at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Mexico City  
March 19, 2006

***Sida and SEI announce the launching of Phase 2 of the EcoSanRes Programme. This is a bold initiative to develop and promote pro-poor sustainable sanitation in the developing world through capacity building and knowledge management. This will involve collaboration with regional nodes that will manage projects dealing with awareness raising, training, policy and regulations reform, R&D, testing and development, demonstration and social marketing.***

### **General Objectives**

The demand for ecological sanitation services is not yet main-stream but indications of increased awareness and interest are showing that this could quickly change. In 2005 there were three international conferences dealing with ecosan in South Africa, India and Syria. Also, some 100 projects are currently underway in various countries. The need for improved sanitation services is enormous as outlined by the MDG work. Some 2.6 billion people currently lack sanitation services and this figure is increasing indicating that there is a need for significant innovation if this trend is to be abated. Enormous investments will be made over the next decade in order to help meet the MDG on water and sanitation and this goal has major and direct implications on several of the other MDGs. Sanitation as a sector has not really yet entered the era of sustainable development. Trends involving source separation and recycling seen within the solid waste sector have not really begun within the sanitation sector. The advocacy, development and demonstration of ecological sanitation approaches in developing countries will therefore help provide new possible solutions and choices and this clearly justifies the next phase of the EcoSanRes Programme.

Phase 1 of EcoSanRes between 2002 and 2005 has provided a broad foundation of knowledge, experience and an international network of partners within the field of ecological sanitation. The emphasis on developing urban solutions was and still is a major challenge for all countries in the North and South. That several new ecological sanitation initiatives are occurring around the world as independent local initiatives is a good sign that the efforts thus far are having positive effects. Phase 1 emphasised communications and

awareness raising, guidelines and methods, R&D and implementation in the form of ambitious full-scale pilot projects. Some of the pilot projects are in full swing while others are only commencing.

Building on this momentum, Phase 2 will be even more ambitious, primarily centred on mainstreaming of capacity building by engaging and further developing expert groups in the South that can take on regional leadership. As a contribution to poverty alleviation and reversal of environmental degradation, ***the prime objective of Phase 2 is to develop and promote pro-poor sustainable sanitation in the developing world through capacity building and knowledge management.***

- The Programme will facilitate the establishment and development of nodes of expertise that will conduct regional projects dealing with awareness raising, training, policy and regulations reform, R&D, testing and development, demonstration and social marketing. The Nodes will determine the programme content and priorities for their respective regions.
- The Programme will also further develop the Swedish and international expertise base adapting to the needs of the South, help coordinate international efforts, provide a communications and awareness raising function, and further develop the globally linked normative knowledge base (eg WHO eco-sanitation guidelines).

All components of the Programme will apply a gender-mainstreaming approach including the principles of sustainable development since these are considered vital to providing livelihood resilience and socio-ecological harmony.

The target groups of this programme cover local governments (public authorities, regulators and policy makers), NGOs, academia, the private sector, financial institutes, bilaterals, multilaterals, the media, and the informed public.

An annual budget of 2 million USD per year will be required for these efforts.

### **Global Sustainable Sanitation Fund**

Associated with ESR Phase 2 will be the formation of a global fund (called the Sustainable Sanitation Fund) for implementation and scaling up of sanitation projects in order to help meet the MDGs.

The global fund is presently being reviewed within Sida and will be presented in a follow-up project document in 2006. It is anticipated that the Fund will be an independent body with its own administration closely linked to the ESR Programme. It could also eventually become a facility representing several bi-lateral funding sources.

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For a copy of the Project Document describing the Programme in detail see  
[www.ecosanres.org](http://www.ecosanres.org)