

The EcoSanRes Programme

Countries/Region:	Global
Project name:	EcoSanRes
Partners:	Strategic knowledge nodes, incl. WRC, Southern Africa; CREPA, Burkina Faso; NETWAS, Uganda; DINESBVI/SNV, Bolivia; ENPHO, Nepal; RRAS-CA, Central America; USTB and CWA, China; and PEN/CAPS, Philippines; Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA); UN Agencies; WSP of the World Bank; national governments; knowledge institutions re. sanitation, health, water and agriculture; international professional associations; regional academic networks; private sector; and NGOs
Funding:	Sida
Duration:	2001 - 2010

The sanitation challenge

According to the United Nations at least 2.5 billion people world-wide are without adequate sanitation and more than 5 000 children under five die daily as a consequence. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) include a Target of reducing by half the proportion of people without improved sanitation by 2015. This requires extending the provision of basic sanitation to a daunting 1.75 billion people.

The challenge, however, goes well beyond this, since much of the world's sanitation coverage is inadequate and threatens the lives and livelihoods of both rural and urban communities. The other major challenge is to move the sanitation sector into the area of sustainable development, whereby solutions are affordable, appropriate and resilient also in areas of the world that lack water and suffer from poor drainage and flooding.

Sustainable sanitation systems

Sustainable sanitation systems protect and promote human health, minimise environmental degradation and depletion of the resource base, are technically and institutionally appropriate, socially acceptable and economically viable also in the long term. Sanitation systems that safely recycle excreta and other organic waste products to crop production in such a way that the use of non-renewable resources is minimised are referred to as ecological sanitation systems or productive sanitation systems.

The EcoSanRes programme

The Sida-financed EcoSanRes Programme was initiated in 2001 through the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). The 2001-2005 phase focussed on communications and outreach, capacity development, R&D, policy promotion and implementation through pilot projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The second phase (2006-2010) builds on the accomplishments of phase one. In an effort to address the general lack of expertise, EcoSanRes is emphasising capacity development. Other foci are knowledge development, communications, networking and international coordination with other major actors in the development sector. EcoSanRes is designed to support the MDGs and to promote pro-poor sanitation solutions by developing evidence-based research through international collaboration within the scientific community and from pilot project experiences.



Capacity development, Bangladesh © C. Ruben

Capacity development and knowledge nodes

One major feature of the EcoSanRes programme is its work with capacity development through knowledge nodes. Eight contracted institutions work with knowledge and capacity development for sustainability issues of sanitation including curricula development, policy promotion, knowledge management and awareness-raising, all tailored to the specific needs of each country/region. The EcoSanRes knowledge nodes are:

- China: University of Science and Technology Beijing and Clean Water Alliance
- Philippines: Center for Advanced Philippine Studies
- Burkina Faso: RN CREPA Burkina
- Bolivia: DINESBVI/SNV



Comparison of urine and ureic fertilised crops, Burkina Faso © M. Bonzi

- Central America: The Regional Network for Water and Sanitation in Central America (RRAS-CA)
- Southern Africa: Water Research Commission (WRC)
- Nepal: Environmental Public Health Organization (ENPHO)
- Uganda: NETWAS Uganda.

In close collaboration with UNICEF-India EcoSanRes is engaged in national capacity development, pilots, research and policy promotion in regard to the Total Sanitation Campaign.

Knowledge development

EcoSanRes addresses knowledge development and within a systems framework and a view to safe reuse of the products. The aim is to learn how these systems function; how households, individual users and authorities adapt to them; how the systems can be safer; and how sanitation systems relate to other concerns, incl. water management, agriculture, nutrient recycling, soil protection, food security, vulnerability, sustainable development and livelihoods.

Knowledge development includes inter alia social, health and environmental impacts; systems analysis/material flow; handling and treatment of excreta and greywater, incl. safe reuse; fertiliser issues, including limited phosphorus rock reserves; social acceptance assessments; institutional viability and political support; gender-balancing; livelihoods and health vulnerability; economics; and school sanitation.

Communications and networking

Communications, outreach and networking is an integral part of all EcoSanRes initiatives in addition to laying a foundation for new interventions. Current resources comprise publications, incl. books, reports, posters and factsheets; a global map of ecosan initiatives; an online discussion group of nearly 600 participants (to sign up visit www.tinyurl.com/ESRgroup); the ecosan library service, which acts as a hub for published literature; international conferences; contacts with entrepreneurs and private industry; and the promotion of sustainable sanitation

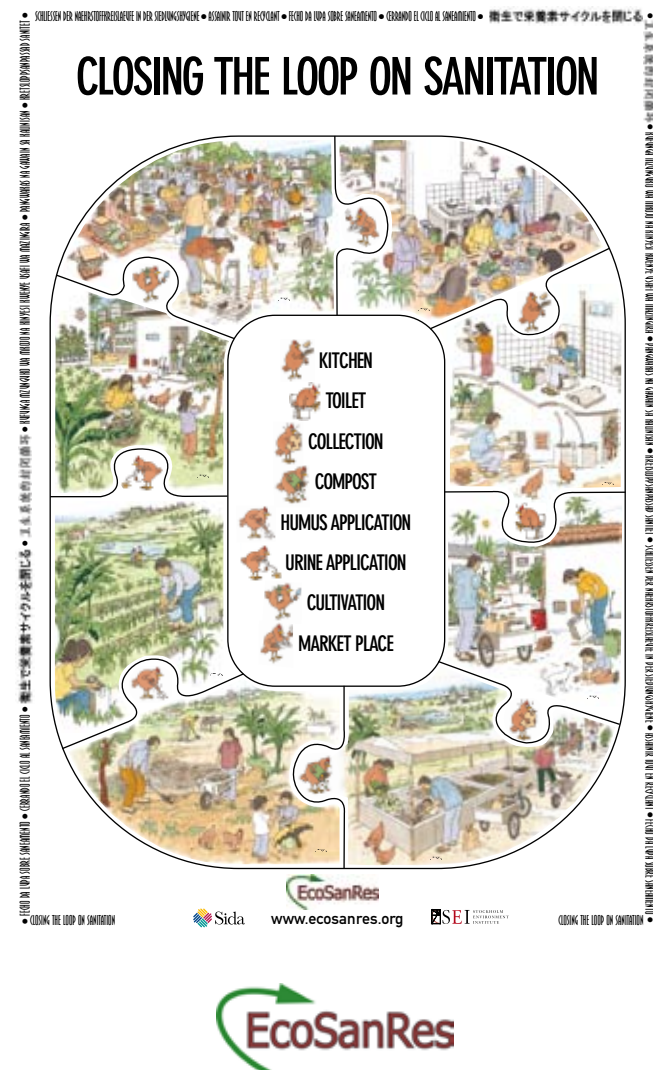
in media. All public source material is downloadable at: www.ecosanres.org.

International collaboration

The EcoSanRes collaboration through the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) with its over 100 partners is the basis for twelve thematic working groups, which are preparing fact sheets or reports on operations and maintenance, capacity, health, urban settings, environment, food security, sanitation as a business, emergency and reconstruction and public awareness, economics and gender. For further details, please refer to www.susana.org.

EcoSanRes also collaborates with experts, institutions, governments, resource centres and UN Agencies, incl. UNICEF, WHO, UNEP, IFAD, FAO, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT and Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank.

The EcoSanRes Programme is the largest SEI project. Integration with relevant SEI themes have been initiated and further developed in SEI's Strategic Plan and related steering documents, please refer to www.sei.se.



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