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Oikos East Africa staff showing solar panel to the local Tanzanian partners, Arusha

Case Study: BEST RAY

Project reference: 2007/195-964

Country: Tanzania

Subtitle: Bringing Energy Services to Tanzanian Rural Area

Facts and Figures

ACP- EU Facility contribution
€1,125,000 (75% of total)

Duration: January 2008 – July 2011

Implementing body

Istituto Oikos

Partners

Oikos East Africa, WODSTA, Arusha and Meru District Councils, University of Insubria, Terre Solidali Onlus, Corridoio Zero Onlus



Abstract

The project seeks to provide access to sustainable energy resources, promote local economic development and improve the governance of the energy sector in order to alleviate poverty.

Context

The project takes place in northern Tanzania within nine villages belonging to two wards – Oldonyo Sambu in the Arusha District and Ngarenanyuki in the Meru District. The area has been subject to heavy deforestation, mismanagement of resources and unsustainable agricultural practices, which has led to environmental degradation, such as severe erosion, loss of biodiversity and dried up rivers. As the majority of the population are dependent on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods, this has had a knock-on effect on the level of poverty within the local communities.

Objectives

- Reduce poverty by providing access to appropriate, affordable sustainable energy services to poor un-served rural communities and stimulating new productive and income-generating activities.
- Support good governance strategies of the rural energy sector through the preparation of District and Ward Energy Plans and capacity building, in addition to creating awareness on energy needs and solutions at all institutional levels.

Quotes

On the Community Energy Resource Centre (CERC):

“The CERC represents the core of Project Best Ray and the principal point of reference between the Project and the various actors involved at local level. The two CERCs that have been made are a living reality that can perform a wide range of functions of great importance in terms of communication and training along with commercial services but also leisure. The CERC, in fact, represents a privileged meeting place for people of different villages (even hours away on foot) who are to discuss and work together on projects that can provide opportunities in a cultural but also in an economic field.” *External project mid-term evaluation.*

On the production and sale of energy efficient stoves:

“The success of this initiative is evidenced by the more than 500 orders received (more than double what had been planned). So far, through the project, some 20 improved stoves had been installed” *External project mid-term evaluation.*

Impact

- Total final beneficiaries are approximately 1.8 million people. The target group amounts to around 39,000 people.
- The installation of energy technologies such as solar PV systems, solar water heating systems, domestic biogas plants and small hydro systems has created an annual energy output of 153,592 kWh. The energy saved by the introduction of energy improved stoves amounts at 1,657,674 kWh.
- The project has established two CERCs (Community Energy Resource Centres) to provide access to energy products, 20 women cooperatives trained for production and delivery of energy services, and implemented a large awareness raising itinerant campaign, aiming to reach 50% of the local population in order for a minimum of 20% of households to utilise new technologies.

Women's training course on food conservation, Mkuru Training Camp



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For more information:

European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI)
<http://www.euei.net>

ACP-EU Energy Facility
<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/energy-facility>

Monitoring of the ACP-EU Energy Facility
<http://www.energyfacilitymonitoring.eu>

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