



IMPLEMENTING IWRM IN ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN SMALL ISLANDS

IWRM DEMO PROJECT IN CABO VERDE



COMBATING POVERTY THROUGH THE USE OF TREATED WASTEWATER

Poor people, and especially women, spend hours each week collecting and transporting water, limiting the household's earning potential. Sanitation is another big problem among poor households. Only 40 percent of the country has access to sewage networks or septic tanks; in rural areas, fewer than 16 percent of households have such access. This has led to a high incidence of waterborne diseases and also makes Cabo Verde less attractive as a tourism destination, thereby limiting economic growth.

Tarrafal was selected for the project because it is growing in popularity as a tourist destination, but still faces serious challenges with respect to the provision of clean drinking water and sanitation services to its 24 000 residents.

Although the Municipality of Tarrafal has established a sanitation infrastructure, the system is not working as efficiently as it should and many households are yet to be connected to the system; instead they utilise septic tanks for the disposal of sewage.

Moreover, as the town grows, so the adjacent agricultural area is shrinking owing to a lack of water for irrigation and the intrusion of salt water to coastal aquifers – caused in part by the extraction of sand from beaches. The demonstration project has begun to tackle some of these issues.



OBJECTIVES

The IWRM AIO demonstration project is promoting reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural production in Cape Verde.

By addressing sanitation and related health challenges, the project has the potential to significantly improve the quality of life of island residents.

The use of treated wastewater for agricultural production has the potential to considerably boost agriculture in the Colonato agricultural perimeter and strengthen the efforts of the Municipality of Tarrafal to improve the lives of the poor, while also conserving groundwater resources and preserving the coastal environment from wastewater discharge.

The successful implementation of the project could be replicated in other parts of Cabo Verde where water is scarce and the provision of sanitation services could significantly improve people's lives.

PROGRESS

The laboratory at the Tarrafal waste water treatment plant was refurbished to ensure that water is regularly tested for safety.

Farmers have been trained to the use of treated wastewater for agricultural production. In parallel, several public awareness campaigns have been launched to educate local communities about the safety of eating crops irrigated with treated wastewater.

Women and students from the local community have attended workshops and public events focused on water use efficiency best practices.

A company was hired to build a reservoir and connect 500 low-income households to the sanitation network.

Pipes to provide treated wastewater to the farmers have been bought.

The Government of Cabo Verde provided USD 440,360 to co-finance the project, achieving 299 per cent the initial target.



Scope: Regional
Countries: Cabo Verde, Maldives, São Tomé and Príncipe, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros
Partners: UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS
GEF grant: USD 10,670,000
Co-financing: USD 39,422,535
Project website: www.aio-iwrm.org

