



CC DARE: Climate Change and Development – Adapting by Reducing Vulnerability

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NEWSFLASH

CC DARE Spurring a Green Economy in Seychelles Schools!

Schools save 250 USD on their monthly water bills from CC DARE Rainwater Harvesting programme

The Republic of Seychelles – a Small Islands developing State in the Indian Ocean east of the African continent – is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Challenges that face Seychelles include sea-level rise, increase in sea-surface temperatures, and changes in rainfall patterns. All this have adverse impacts on the health and functioning of ecosystems and consequently on the human well-being; as it affects social and economic systems. The country's need for a robust adaptation strategy cannot be over-emphasized. There is urgent need to improve water resources management to meet the change in the rainfall pattern, and protect coral reefs from bleaching.

Seychelles has two seasons, a rainy and a dry season. During the rainy seasons, when rain is in abundance, most of it is lost through run-offs. And during the dry season, water is scarce and what has been collected for distribution is usually not enough to meet consumption demand. Moreover, due to increased economic and social development, as well as population growth, the demand for water consumption has increased tremendously. To address this, the country invested heavily in the construction of reservoirs and desalination plants, but this didn't help but instead skyrocketed the use of fossil fuel which only helped to emit more GhGs. Increased

school population and the local educational campaign to green school grounds, resulted in increased demand for water resulting in high water bills which led to cuts in the school budget.

In an effort to address this and at the same time demonstrate adaptation to climate change in Schools, CC DARE assisted Seychelles with a timely-targeted rainwater harvesting project whose outputs created enormous economic benefits and helped paved the way for other donors to inject funds into this great initiative.

The outputs of this project enabled the school for the first time to make a saving of **US\$ 250** on water bills. This is a great saving for the school as the money will be invested on other teaching and learning resources which are very much needed after the local economic crisis. The Water harvested at the school is now being used for school gardens, clean ups and toilets as well as during the dry seasons when there is water restriction. This project has addressed MDG Goal 2, 3, 7, & 8. This project is also assisting in the capacity building of teachers on climate change.

The Ministry of Education, with the support of the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), Sustainability for Seychelles, Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF), Department of Environment and the Sea Level Rise Foundation is building on the successful CC DARE implemented project and further helping schools carry out the project. At the same time a bill is under consideration to include rainwater harvesting systems in building codes. This has attracted donor interest such as the Environment Trust Fund which has pledged to sponsor 5 schools and another local organization SIF is also assisting two schools in co-funding the project.

This is a true testament that small but well-timed and targeted interventions can have significant impact in , moving policies forward and spurring development of larger efforts- an important aspect in the transition from demonstration to policy actions. This success story from Seychelles is just one amongst many under this programme that has helped removed barriers and further the integration of CC DARE country projects. <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=20152>.



a). Rainwater Harvesting tanks in Schools



b). Pupils using rain water for their garde

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