



Project status: Prepare



Assess



Commit



Act



Scale & Exit

# Exit & Scale up Phase. Lessons learnt story of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam.

**Name of Partnership:** Mlalakua River Restoration Project (MRRP)

**Location:** Mlalakua, Kinondoni Municipality, Wami Ruvu Basin, Dar es Salaam

**Sectors involved:** Liquid and solid waste management, good governance

**Partners:** Wami Ruvu basin Water Board (WRBWB), National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC), Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd (CC Sabco), Nabaki Afrika Ltd, Bremen Overseas Research Agency (BORDA), Nipe Fagio, IWaSP



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The overall objective of the Mlalakua River Restoration Project (MRRP) was to restore the health of the Mlalakua River and to prevent further pollution on a sustained basis. This could only be achieved through the collective engagement of all relevant stakeholders, restoring the river's natural functions, and building systems to ensure sustainable management of solid and liquid waste to prevent further pollution. From the start, it was clear that experiences drawn from this initiative would be used to inspire and to inform actions aimed at improving the conditions of other rivers and streams in Dar es Salaam. This case reflects a success in the Exit and Scale Phase of the WRAF. To assess impacts and lessons learnt in the MRRP, partners dedicated the last two steering committee meetings to ensure final commitments from each partner - i.e. what will they do to keep carrying out relevant activities after the project is closed - and to gather lessons learnt, which led to the publication of a jointly-written brochure on shared experiences.

The project was officially closed and handed over to the public sector and partners during the final learning event on 18 March 2016, held at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MOWI) and chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the MOWI. This was the occasion to present the partnership approach and the lessons learnt to a wide number of stakeholders, including community members, local government authorities, CSOs, water resources management authorities, and development partners.

In terms of scaling up, the Mlalakua partnership experience inspired at least three initiatives replicating the spirit of the project, i.e. the Cleanest Mtaa Competition, the Neighbourhood Solid Waste Practice, and a decentralized faecal sludge treatment plant. It was also the starting point of broader discussions on Dar Es Salaam industrial waste water management:

The **Cleanest Mtaa/Neighbourhood Programme** combines competitions, skills training, and awareness campaigns to drive behavioural change. The Mtaa compete for the title of the cleanest Mtaa (sub-ward). This innovative approach will encourage individual responsibility for keeping neighbourhoods clean.

A **Neighbourhood Waste Practice** has been inspired by the involvement of Nabaki Afrika (one of the private sector part-



ners, a supplier of specialized construction products, located in the Mlalakua project area) in the MRRP. The company has launched an in-house 'Green Team' committee that works towards ensuring that the company, its staff, and its neighbours follow best waste practices (BWP) and support sustainability efforts. Through close collaboration with Nipe Fagio and The Recycler (a commercial recycling company in Tanzania), Nabaki has built a recycling depot and has implemented the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink policy. In-house awareness raising, training, and BWP signage was extended to neighbourhoods in Nabaki's Mikocheni industrial area.

## **An innovative approach to manage and operationalize a decentralized structure for managing domestic wastewater.**

BORDA constructed a faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) with the capacity to treat 5,000 liters per day and to serve approximately 15,000 people in three sub-wards in the project area. Management and sustainability of the FSTP will be ensured through a partnership between the Municipal council, government utility, private sector, and service provider. BORDA developed standards of operation and a monitoring programme to ensure the service provided would be efficient and effective. The increasing demand from the communities for solutions to the wastewater problem is a key indicator that the system can be scaled up to other unserved areas with no access to sewer networks.

### **Contact:**

**Fridtjof Behnsen**

**IWaSP Tanzania Country Coordinator**

**[fridtjof.behnsen@giz.de](mailto:fridtjof.behnsen@giz.de)**