



Project status: Prepare



Assess



Commit



Act



Scale & Exit

Commit Phase - Lessons Learnt & Success Factors in Saint Lucia

Name of Partnership: Saint Lucia Water Stewardship Partnership

Location: The 'Saint Lucia Water Stewardship Partnership' operates in the mountains surrounding the town of Vieux Fort at the southern tip of the East Caribbean island of Saint Lucia

Sectors involved: National water supply utility (WASCO) and multi-national beverage industry (HEINEKEN)

Partners: Tripartite arrangement between the Water and Sewerage Company Inc. (WASCO), the Windward and Leeward Brewery Ltd. (HEINEKEN), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Commit Phase - Lessons Learnt & Success Factors in Saint Lucia

This partnership formed to achieve several objectives in a participatory manner. Among the objectives were to identify fast-working, effective measures to improve erratic water supply and security in the Vieux Fort area at the southern tip of the island of Saint Lucia, to collectively secure the water supply for communities and businesses in the area, and to generate and foster active participation from villagers and civil society organizations in collaboration with the public water utility and private businesses in the area.

The initial commitment phase during which GIZ and HEINEKEN presented their individual or particular interests and worked towards a common understanding on water stewardship in Saint Lucia spanned just over a half a year from the first contacts made in September 2014 to the final project agreement in early 2015, during which time formal approval had to be sought from the two GIZ donors, namely the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the U.K. Department for International Development (DfID). WASCO's (the national water utility) commitment was a given from the beginning.

Once all formalities had successfully been taken care of, the three partners engaged in comprehensive stakeholder consultations in the area identified for first action, namely Vieux Fort in southern Saint Lucia. This area was chosen because, first, it is complementary to the "Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project" for which GIZ had co-financed the feasibility study along with the 'Caribbean Development Bank' (CDB). Second, the Windward and Leeward Brewery Ltd. (HEINEKEN) is located in Vieux Fort.

The feasibility study for the "Vieux Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project" identified a number of measures to be carried out in and around Vieux Fort and for which the Government of Saint Lucia secured a loan from the CDB and the European Investment Bank (EIB) respectively, amounting to US\$ 24 million. But the loan does not cover all measures identified,

in particular in smaller villages in the water catchment areas in the surrounding mountains of Vieux Fort. Hence, several stakeholder consultation and planning meetings were held, which zoomed in on the critically important need for additional water storage facilities. To this end, a complementary business case was developed by the 'Saint Lucia Water Stewardship Partnership'. The business case elaborated on how best to improve water supply and security in three mountainous villages. As a result, it was agreed to procure extra water storage tanks for these villages so as to provide for steady potable water supply and also for buffer storage capacity in case of an emergency, such as a hurricane, when water supplies are often interrupted. The village of La Haut was chosen for the pilot project because the financial risk was the lowest and the village offered the possibility for much relevant learning.

Looking back on the important lessons learnt during the commitment phase and the factors that yielded final commitment between GIZ-IWaSP and HEINEKEN, clearly, the most crucial precondition for entering into the 'Saint Lucia Water Stewardship Partnership' in the first place was the realization of a favorable convergence of partners' rational self-interests and the fortunate compatibility of social responsibility ethics and values among partners!

In addition, partners shared a conducive and deep-seated understanding that cooperation reduces the risk of individual engagement and unilateral investment. In other words, partners understand that cooperation also pays!

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