

Best Practices



in the IAEA's technical cooperation programme

Encouraging local community involvement in TC rural water resource assessment projects

Best Practice Description:

The impact of TC projects to improve the assessment and management of water resources can be improved, especially in rural areas, if local communities are informed and involved in a project from its very start, and not only once the technical results have been obtained.

Recent experience under TC project ECU/8/026 demonstrates the importance of the work carried out by the counterpart in engaging local rural community leaders and encouraging them to take an active part in the project. Through seminars and talks, the counterpart provided the community leaders with valuable information about the objectives of the project. The counterpart was, thus, able to successfully involve the community leaders in monitoring work, as well as in conveying relevant messages about the importance of preserving scarce water resources in this region in Ecuador.

The studies carried out under the TC project identified more favourable areas for borehole drilling, and increased the success rate in drilling productive boreholes that were able to provide water to several communities. A sense of ownership was established among local users, ensuring their involvement in maintaining the operation of the boreholes. Additionally, communities were made aware of risks and potential issues that might affect the sustainability of the new water sources.

As a result of the project, new boreholes are now drilled after the counterpart has carried out the relevant hydrological studies in the area. In this instance, the combination of technical and social components was the key factor of the success of the project.

TC project: ECU/8/026

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Category:

C.7: Project Results

Sub Categories:

- Sustainability of a transferred technology
- Adoption and utilization of technology by end-users
- Educational impact
- Impact on decision and policy makers