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Yellow pages of sanitation, a data base of services and material providers to support large scale implementation of sustainable sanitation systems in Africa

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Abstract

In order to strongly support the large scale implementation of appropriate sanitation systems and technologies in Africa, it is imperative to identify and map providers of technical and non-technical requirements. Therefore, an entire work package of NETSSAF was focussed on the identification and mapping of possible regional suppliers of technological requirements (local producers, sanitation materials traders, constructor companies and operation and maintenance suppliers, etc.) and the identification of key actors in the field of sustainable sanitation, such as capacity building associations, technology transfer institutions, universities, donors, foundations, financial institutions, NGOs, FGOs and CBOs. This process made possible to create a data base of stakeholders in Africa, providing the necessary information to facilitate the implementation of large-scale sanitation programs in Africa by using local and foreign infrastructure and support.

Keywords

Market information system, sustainable sanitation, yellow pages, providers.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The NETSSAF Coordination Action aims to “coordinate and integrate the current scientific research, technological innovation and execution activities, creating synergies to support large-scale implementation of sustainable sanitation systems in peri-urban and rural areas, in order to propose feasible solutions for the achievement of the Sanitation Millennium Development Goals in Africa”. Among the most important outputs, the development of sustainability criteria for the evaluation of sanitation systems, a check list for identification of settlement conditions and a methodology for the identification of key stakeholders can be cited (see Barreto and Hänel, 2007). Using the mentioned criteria of evaluation, a screening in the region describing 66 peri-urban, semi-urban and rural communities without access to sanitation in 11 West African countries was carried out. Moreover, a throughout characterisation of the existing sanitation systems and their different technical components was also performed, with the aim of schematising the technical basis for the construction of support tools for the promotion of sustainable sanitation concepts in the region. Finally, a deep identification of the technical and non-technical requirements for large scale implementation of sanitation systems in West Africa was carried out, including sourcing, designing, management and logistics, implementation, O&M, transformation and sanitation of products, logistics for distribution and application, stakeholders, financial, economic, environmental and health, political and policy, training, education and dissemination aspects. All outputs mentioned above were result of the joint efforts of the NETSSAF partners, and can be found in the public library available at www.netssaf.net.



Introduction to the NETSSAF WP5

In order to complement the work of systemising the existing knowledge and information, supporting thus the large scale planning and implementation of sustainable sanitation systems in the region, an entire work package was designed as the “WP5: Regional identification of possible suppliers / actors”. The main objective of this work package, which started after the identification of technical and non-technical requirements, was to identify and map suppliers of sanitation services, components and equipments, as well as organisations related to the implementation of sanitation projects and programmes, such as donors, capacity building institutions, NGOs, CBOs, Universities, etc. The main idea behind was the development of a data base of key capacities for Africa, offering an African marketing information system, which is now available for the sanitation planners, authorities and individuals involved in sanitation planning and implementation. This tool has been defined as the “The yellow pages of sanitation and wastewater treatment solutions” and it is available in internet at <http://www.yellowpagesofsanitation.com/>

Justification of the need of a supply chain for sanitation services in Africa

It is well known that stimulating the demand for sustainable sanitation will put a high pressure on the supply side of components, such as toilets, pipes, latrines, as well as qualified server providers. Thus, there is a need to organise a suitable supply chain, identifying companies and suppliers that could cover the demand.

A supply chain or logistics network is a system of organisations, people, technology, activities, information and resources involved in moving a product or service from supplier to customer. Supply chain activities transform natural resources, raw materials and components into a finished product that is delivered to the end customer. The importance of the supply chain is to ensure that the final end users are provided with options of getting easy access to the materials and products needed for the proper practice of sustainable sanitation.

To be able to contact the sourcing agency for the implementation of sanitation programs and projects is compulsory for the success; otherwise any planning effort will be useless. Therefore, in order to support implementers of new projects in finding the right service providers for the planning, design, construction, implementation, operation, management and monitoring of sanitation projects, the NETSSAF team has created the yellow pages of sanitation and wastewater treatment solutions. This online database is already available and ready for any sanitation planner or individual preparing to start such a project and will enable the planner connect to businesses and organisations offering the required sales and services.

IMPLEMENTED METHODOLOGY

Identification of key factors

The database was created after a thorough analysis of technical and non-technical requirements needed in the planning and implementation of sustainable sanitation programmes was carried out. The technical factors were related to the various sanitation systems, particularly the technical components needed for the constructions of sanitation facilities, for instance: toilets, pipes, reactors, tanks, etc. The non-technical factors were identified to include the financial, social, legal, economic and technical (e.g. technical counselling, research & training) aspects of the carrying out of such programmes.



Mapping the companies and organisations

Upon the identification of those technical and non-technical factors, companies and organisations providing those services in West Africa were mapped out according to the services being offered (technical, non-technical), location, years of experience, company/organisation type (private, government, NGO, profit, non profit, etc.). To effectively achieve this mapping out, questionnaires were made and distributed among the partners of the NETSSAF project who in turn distributed these questionnaires to companies and organisations previously identified located not only in West Africa, but around the world.

Launch of the online sanitation database

With the aim of having a wider outreach, it was agreed that the database would be launched on the internet and would be easily accessed by all stakeholders involved in sanitation. The information gathered from those mapping exercises was used as the information feed for the database as it provided the various contact details and company/organisation profile of the sanitation companies and organisations currently offering service and support in Africa.

An excerpt from the online sanitation database (yellow pages) is shown below.

YellowpagesofSanitation // **Les Pages Jaunes de l'assainissement**

Your expert in sanitation and wastewater treatment solutions // Votre expert en assainissement et les solutions de traitement des eaux usées

NETSSAF

Welcome Registration Search Glossary Members Login

You are here: Welcome

Keywords / Mots clés: Please choose a country: Start searching

Welcome to our online sanitation and wastewater treatment solutions yellow pages
The ideal place to locate the providers of sanitation services you need!

Are you looking for providers of complete sanitation systems or individual components for: the collection, transportation, treatment and reuse of waste? Or just for the designing, planning and general consulting on both the technical and non technical aspects of sanitation? Well, look no further as through these yellow pages, we aim to connect you with businesses and organisations providing these services in Africa. This is ideal for engineers, planners of sanitation and waste water treatment systems, and individuals interested or needing sanitation materials and support for the implementation of projects.

This site offers you two options: to register as a company / organisation or to search for companies and organisations involved in sanitation related activities in your choice of location in Africa and beyond. This market information system contains the service data and contract information of local producers and traders of sanitation materials, as well as local constructors companies and operation and maintenance suppliers, providing the necessary information to make feasible the implementation of large-scale sanitation programmes in Africa by using local infrastructure.

Find all companies and organisations
Just choose one of the countries to get a list of all registered companies and organisation that offer their products and services there.

Algeria (1)	Gambia (0)	Nigeria (1)
Angola (1)	Ghana (4)	Rwanda (1)
Benin (2)	Guinea (1)	Senegal (2)
Botswana (1)	Guinea-Bissau (0)	Seychelles (0)
Burkina Faso (3)	Ivory Coast (2)	Sierra Leone (2)
Burundi (1)	Kenya (1)	Somalia (0)
Cameroon (1)	Lesotho (0)	South Africa (1)
Cape Verde (0)	Liberia (1)	Sudan (0)
Central African Republic (0)	Libya (0)	Swaziland (0)
Chad (1)	Madagascar (1)	São Tomé and Príncipe (0)
Comoros (0)	Malawi (1)	Tanzania (2)
Congo (1)	Mali (3)	Togo (2)
Djibouti (0)	Mauritania (1)	Tunisia (2)
Egypt (2)	Mauritius (0)	Uganda (1)
Equatorial Guinea (0)	Morocco (2)	Zambia (1)
Eritrea (0)	Mozambique (1)	Zimbabwe (1)
Ethiopia (1)	Namibia (1)	
Gabon (0)	Niger (2)	

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Figure 1.- Shot screen of the Yellow pages of Sanitation (www.yellowpagesofsanitation.com)



Pathways towards Sustainable Sanitation in Africa
in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 24-27 September 2008



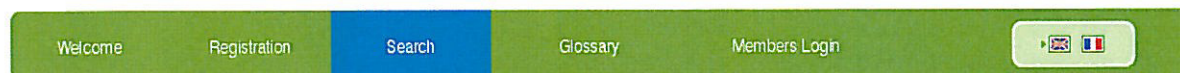
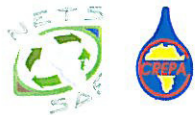
The online database has been designed to act as the “yellow pages” of sanitation and offers the user two options:

- a) To register as a company/organisation/expert (see figure 2).
- b) To search for companies and organisations involved in sanitation related activities in all countries located in Africa (see figure 3).

When registering, the companies have the opportunity to select the type of service that they offer, which includes:

- 1) *Services*, such as economical aspects of sanitation projects, policy issues, social issues of sanitation programs, health and hygiene, awareness raising and technical assistance;
- 2) *Complete sanitation systems*, including design, planning & consulting, implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation, operation and maintenance, quality control & stabilisation and upgrade of existing systems.
- 3) *Individual components of sanitation systems*, related to user interface/toilets, on-site collection, transport and off-site treatment.

Figure 2. – Registration form for companies / organisations / experts that provide their products / services related to sanitation issues in African countries



You are here: Search

Keywords / Mots clés

Insert your company / organisation profile now
[Click here to register for free](#)

[Click here for the advanced search. The advanced search allows more detailed searches.](#)

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Figure 3. – Searching tool of the Yellow pages of Sanitation

JUSTIFICATION AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

Contrary to the belief that there are no computers in West Africa, it is estimated that there are approximately 2 million personal computers within ECOWAS Member states. This represents about 1 computer per 125 inhabitants compared to 1 computer for 5 inhabitants in a more developed country like Spain. Although this is much lower than in other developed regions, it still means that there is a growing access to computers and therefore the preparation of such an online “sanitation yellow pages” software is not a far – fetched idea.

It is expected that this database will encourage and promote small and medium enterprises in the business of sanitation in Africa, improving their market performance thus generating extra profits and empowering the local economies. That is because this innovative tool is ideal for engineers, planners of sanitation and waste water treatment systems, and individuals interested or needing sanitation materials and support for the implementation of projects and programs in the region.

That way, these online yellow pages will thus serve as a means of connecting the planners of sanitation to the companies and organisations offering sales and services in both the technical and non-technical aspects of sanitation.

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

Ttz Bremerhaven (Germany, General Coordinator), Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg - TUHH (Germany), Le Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement - CREPA (Burkina Faso), BioAzul S.L (Spain), Bureau Ouest-Africain d'Appui Organisationnel et de Technologies Appropriées – BOATA (Mali), International Ecological Engineering Society – IEES (Switzerland), International Water Association – IWA (UK), Université Abobo-Adjamé



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- UAA (Côte d'Ivoire), Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet – SLU (Sweden), Maire de Matam – MTM (Senegal), Eidgenössische Anstalt für Wasserversorgung, Abwasserreinigung und Gewässerschutz - EAWAG (Switzerland), Commune de Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), EcoSan Club (Austria), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology - KNUST (Ghana), University of Leeds (United Kingdom), Stockholm Environment Institute - SEI (Sweden), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit - GTZ (Germany), Tampere University of Technology - TUT (Finland).

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