

REASWA

Newsletter No. 01 March 2004

Editorial

REASWA started the new year with the exciting news that the funding proposals that have kept us busy (and quiet!) for the past few months have been successful. Office staff are currently involved in a project to assess the "Energy Needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children." This is funded by the British High Commission. On completion, REASWA plans to implement the various interventions identified in the study. Swaziland Electricity Board has kindly agreed to sponsor REASWA, and we hope that this will signal a closer working relationship between the two organisations. We are currently seeking donors to continue our work in the field of Sustainable Biomass Use and Indoor Air Quality. We are expecting more news on this shortly. We are delighted to be working with Yonge Nawe on a regional environmental project proposal to the Department for International Development (DFID) through Skillshare International.

Meanwhile, REASWA has forged links with the Global Water Partnership - Southern Africa (GWP-SA), and is involved in a number of potential projects to use renewable energy for water supply in drought stricken areas of Swaziland. REASWA's Project Officer attended a course on Solar and Wind Technologies in Arusha, Tanzania, run and part-funded by ESAMI, with support from the British High Commission. She also attended as a Training of Trainers course run and funded by GWP-SA.

We look forward to involving members in our activities in 2004. With this in mind, we are inviting topic suggestions for our next forum. Please email your suggestions to reaswa@swazi.net. Many of you will have seen in the Times of Swaziland that REASWA is recruiting a Project Co-ordinator. Watch this space for a new face in the REASWA office! Look forward to hearing from you!

STOP PRESS: Prof. Shulze of the BioResource Engineering/Environmental Hydrology Department of the University of Natal will be giving a lecture on Climate Change at the Simunye Club at 09.00 on May 7th 2004. 5 places are reserved for REASWA members. Please contact the REASWA office if you wish to attend.

ENERGY NEEDS OF ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVCS)

REASWA has recently started the first study in Swaziland to address the link between energy and HIV/AIDS. There are in fact many links:

- AIDS sufferers and their carers are less able to collect wood
- Child-headed households and those headed by the elderly have less capacity to buy fuel and collect wood
- Fuel shortages mean that slow-cooking, nutritious legumes are neglected
- Poor indoor air quality from open fires exacerbates the effects of respiratory problems

The aim of this study is to identify, technically assess and cost sustainable energy interventions in orphan homesteads, schools, Neighbourhood Care Points, KaGogo centres and other places where OVCs gather. REASWA intends to work closely with NERCHA, UNICEF, the Deputy Prime Minister's office and other agencies that are involved in caring for OVCs.

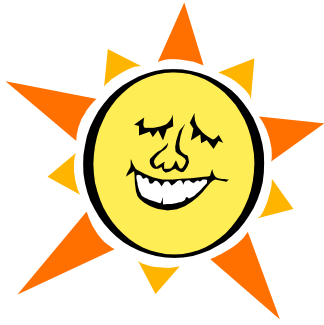
DID YOU KNOW....?

Swaziland has an operational Play Pump at Nyamane Primary School in Shiselweni region. These pumps use a roundabout, which pumps water as children play. REASWA staff recently visited the installation and found that it is very popular with children and staff alike. The pump was installed in 2000, and since then has required only two bolts to be replaced. REASWA aims to see further installations of this innovative technology in Swaziland.



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Capacity Building on the Clean Development Mechanism

REASWA has recently completed CDM-CAPSSA, a European Union-funded project to build capacity amongst the private sector for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The CDM is one of the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing climate change through promoting investment in low-carbon projects in developing countries. A number of potential CDM projects were identified in Swaziland, and these were presented to an Investor Workshop in the UK in April 2003. The project team produced guidelines for private sector partners interested in developing projects. A limited number of these documents are available for members in the REASWA Office.

Sustainable Biomass Pilot Programme

The Sustainable Biomass Pilot Programme was the first step in a major programme aimed at ensuring the sustainable supply and use of wood fuel in Swaziland. The pilot programme was carried out in 2003 and considered five case studies: Jabulani, Lomasha, Matsanjeni, Ndzevane and Manzana. Communities were greatly involved in the study, which included community meetings, questionnaires and air quality testing. REASWA now holds data on indoor air quality in Swaziland. The study concluded that a programme of intervention measures is required, including the following:

- Resource availability
- Efficient use
- Wood and kitchen management techniques
- Awareness-raising on alternatives
- Development of national standards.

REASWA is grateful to Skillshare International and the States of Guernsey who funded this pilot study. Further funding is currently being sought from various agencies for the main intervention programme.

WEBLINKS

Renewable energy and energy efficiency partnership	www.reeep.org
Sustainable Energy Africa	www.sustainable.org.za
Yonge Nawe	www.yongenawe.com
World Wind Energy Assoc	www.wwindea.org
International Solar Energy Society	www.ises.org
International Hydropower Assoc.	www.hydropower.org
International Conference for Renewable Energies	www.renewables2004.de

And not forgetting REASWA's website: www.ecs.co.sz/reaswa. We are grateful to Rex Brown of Environmental Consulting Services for hosting this website.

