



## Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program

Operational Plan 2010 to 2015







Tinga SafeWater Project

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**“Increasing access to SafeWater and Sanitation, improving community and environmental health for Kenyan families, and strengthening bonds of friendship with the Tweed Community”**

### 1. Background

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program (TKMP) Operational Plan 2010 to 2015 describes the strategy, objectives and annual budgetary estimates needed to implement program activities around the vision of:

#### 2. Program Vision:

“Increasing access to SafeWater and Sanitation, improving community and environmental health for Kenyan families, and strengthening bonds of friendship with the Tweed Community.”

This operational plan has resulted from the review of TKMP activities over the period 2003 to 2010 and builds on the experience of Tweed Shire Council Volunteers, TKMP Kenya Staff, International River Foundation (IRF) and other community partners.

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program has achieved significant success in the implementation of its Operational Plan 2007-2010. The program is strong and well supported, and therefore it is timely to set an agenda for the next five years.

Kenya’s socio-economic and political environment is dynamic and significant events have occurred over the life of TKMP, which have influenced the program’s activities.

The TKMP 2010 to 2015 operational plan describes the mentoring program as of September 2009. It highlights the program history, operations and achievements since 2007.

It also sets our:

- program vision.
- goal.
- strategic objectives.
- the 4-project streams.
- management structure.
- financial arrangements.

### 3. Program history

Mike Rayner General Manager of Tweed Shire Council (TSC) and Olita Ogonjo, a community worker from Kenya’s Maji na Ufanisi (a local NGO) met at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003. At the conference, the two immediately saw vast contrasts as well as common themes in their organisations’ work, and this led to an opportunity to share and learn from each other. In Kyoto, Tweed highlighted its success in working with a well-informed and resourced community to maintain a comparatively healthy environment. Maji na Ufanisi however, presented the plight of a community struggling to access basic water supplies and sanitation services.

Following the Kyoto contact, TSC pursued the feasibility of establishing a long-term relationship with Kenya, and in February 2004 a mentoring partnership was officially launched. The program has since been hosted by Gallamoro Network (GNet). The objective in establishing the relationship was to apply the technical and organisational resources of Tweed Shire Council and the Tweed community to the ongoing operations of GNet, increasing the capacity of their target community to access adequate clean water and sanitation services. GNet is an HIV/ Aids NGO registered under the Kenyan NGO Act 1999, whose aim is to “increase community access to information on the care and support of people affected by HIV/Aids.” GNet has since mainstreamed water safety, sanitation and environmental resource education into its core activities. Most GNet activities target the low income urban settlements in Nairobi and the rural Nyanza province in western Kenya.



Tree planting and environmental education - Upper Nairobi River Catchment, "In-school Program"

#### 4. Key achievements 2007 to 2010

The TKMP has grown from a simple idea in 2003, to, in 2010, a successful model of community organisations working together to increase access to safe water and a healthy environment.

Key, specific achievements include:

##### 4.1 Environmental Education and Advocacy:

- Increased youth community knowledge of factors leading to improved environmental conservation, waste management and care of waterways.
- Youth community leaders identified, groups established and a network organisation called YCLEAN developed (urban) and water users association (rural).
- Documentation of and education on indigenous tree types, and development of a demonstration seedling nursery and seed bank.
- Ongoing school student and teacher mentoring and training in tree planting activities and environmental lectures and exchange.
- Actively linking and collaborating with other key non government organisations to advocate for pro-poor best practice in environmental management.
- Integral involvement in the Nairobi River Basin clean up campaign, particularly in the area of information dissemination and awareness.
- August 2009 the TKMP desk asked by government to participate in National Climate Change strategy discussion and development.

##### 4.2. Cultural and technological exchange:

- 2004 Olita Ogonjo and John Nyachieo from Maji na Ufanisi undertake a three week study tour in Tweed Shire. Strong bonds of friendship and commitment to the mentoring relationship established.
- High levels of media and Tweed Community interest are generated.

- 2004 Tweed Shire Council environmental scientist undertakes a three month voluntary visit to Kenya to investigate local conditions and undertake a program needs analysis.
- 2005 Natalie Baker, PHD student at the University of Queensland undertakes a three month field study visit to the program desk in Nairobi.
- 2006 Olita Ogonjo travels again to Tweed Shire Council to the launch of the SafeWater program.
- 2006 Dr Viki Ulman and Nick Ulman undertakes a two month visit to the program desk in Nairobi and produce a video on youth activities towards the conservation of the Nairobi River.
- 2007 three Kenyan youth from Kibera, Nairobi (the largest slum in Africa) visit the Tweed Shire Council for training and exchange.
- 2007 Dr. Marty Hancock travels to Kenya to deliver the 1st SafeWater project.
- TSC staff member Debbie Souter visits Nairobi and the program in August 2008.
- 2008 Tom Alletson travels to Kenya to deliver the second SafeWater project.
- 2009 Leigh Abernethy, a Tweed resident and landscape architect travels to Kenya to volunteer at the program desk.
- 2009 Olita and Kori attend Riversymposium. Olita receives the inaugural Ken Thiess memorial scholarship to study a Masters in water management with the International Water Centre, Brisbane.



### 4.3. Youth mobilisation and network for environment conservation:

- 2005 Launch of program in Kenya at the “First Great Nairobi River Youth for Environment Soccer Tournament”. Function attended by Australia’s High Commissioner to Kenya. Hundreds of pieces of soccer kit donated by Tweed clubs distributed through youth clubs.
- A youth network of 100 clubs (5000 youths) by the name YCLEAN mobilized and launched to undertake community clean ups and re-vegetation of the Nairobi River Basin upper catchment areas.
- February - September 2009 YCLEAN defined its constitution and by-laws. The Network will hold a democratic election and register as a youth association.
- Dam water user committees have been developed at SafeWater project sites. Other sites that have not yet benefited from the initiative are being encouraged into a network to promote best practice in dam water source protection and environmental conservation.
- The Great Nairobi River Tournament event has been running since 2004 with an estimated total of 40 clubs participating each year. The 4th Great Nairobi River Tournament 2008 saw 1200 tree seedlings planted in upper Nairobi River Catchment.



Urban waterway pollution

### 4.4. SafeWater project:

- 2006 TKMP makes links with Sky Juice Foundation to enable the planning and launch of the SafeWater project
- 2007 Dr. Marty Hancock travel to Kenya to deliver the 1st SafeWater project.
- 2008 Tom Alletson travels to Kenya to deliver the 2nd SafeWater project.
- Operations and maintenance training and systems in place – training and set up of 2 water committees in management, overseeing record keeping, revenue collection and banking, recruitment and supervision of water operators.
- Tinga Water project registered and operating own bank account and managing ongoing water education and training.
- Initiation of Gona and Tinga dam water user’s network with a view to forming a water user’s association.
- 2010 third SafeWater Project underway.



Measuring turbidity, Tinga SafeWater Project

### 4.5. Staff and management

- Program desk is established in Kibera, Nairobi and program coordinator recruited.
- Two project officers are recruited, networking/advocacy officer and youth development talent officer are recruited and paid allowance.
- 2008 the program moved office more spacious area in Dagoretti.
- 2009 the first TKMP Advisory Committee of four professionals is constituted and meetings held.
- 2009 the organisations draft Katiba (by laws) are written.
- Quarterly reports are forwarded to the TKMP committee in the Tweed.



Kori Kinuthia, TKMP youth support officer at TKMP office in Dagoretti, Nairobi

## 5. Program Streams 2010 to 2015

TKMP will maintain its simultaneous focus on four program streams:

### Rural SafeWater

SafeWater is the direct result of TSC staff making a regular contribution from their wage into a fund for 'on-ground' infrastructure projects in Kenya. The first two SafeWater projects have witnessed volunteer TSC staff members take Skyjuice water filtration equipment to Kenya and commission it in two dams in Obambo-Kadenge, namely Yawo Gona (2007) and Yawo Tinga Komieno (2008). These villages have a combined population of 6000, all of whom used to rely on heavily contaminated dams as a primary water source. A key lesson for the projects is that 'safe water' is a way of life, and for an installation to be effective and sustainable, it must be linked to the broad factors that affect a community's ability to access clean water and sanitation, starting at the household, and addressing community and district level issues. SafeWater must also work with and attract the support of other key stakeholders such as government, business and NGOs in the sector.

SafeWater will continue to use the capacity of the program desk in Nairobi to identify priority projects and undertake essential community consultation and pre commissioning works. SafeWater also now has the advantage of a technical officer based in the locality to help local water user committees maintain the infrastructure. A mentoring project volunteer will travel to Kenya each year to oversee the implementation of additional SafeWater projects, gaining invaluable personal and vocational experience as a result. The third SafeWater project will be delivered in 2010.

### Education and Advocacy

A primary task in increasing the target communities access to reliable and safe drinking water and other sanitation services is empowering the community to negotiate with the government to provide services, and wherever possible, become self sufficient in service provision. The mentoring desk works at a grass roots level to provide training in environmental hygiene, water and sanitation, and is an advocate for the needs of poor families, in both the urban and rural localities in which we are active.

## Youth organisation and network capacity development

Youth constitute almost 70 per cent of the total Kenya population. In spite of their numbers the youth continue to face exclusion and marginalization in service delivery, lack employment, and are faced with HIV/Aids risk and the brunt of state violence. Youth lack leadership and organisation that they can use to voice concerns and make far reaching change.

The mentoring desk is linking sports and the arts throughout Nairobi, in particular the upper Nairobi River Catchment, and spreading the message of urgent action to restore the rivers and environment. Identifying and mentoring youth leaders and developing youth network organisations is a key aspect of this work. The program has been most successful through its facilitation of the annual 'Great Nairobi River Youth Soccer Tournament', in-school tree planting activities and monthly lecture series that provides key information to the youth. As a result a network of 100 youth clubs called "YCLEAN" has been formed.

## Cultural and technical information exchange and training

Tweed is a highly skilled and well resourced community, from technical aspects of urban water infrastructure provision, to the organisation of sporting competitions and implementation of community based conservation projects. There is a strong desire and track record within the program to encourage regular visits of individuals working within the Kenyan arm of the project to Tweed. Experience shows that mentoring relationships form unprompted where ever and whenever our Kenyan partners meet local activists, and it is these multiple contacts that create the programs depth of commitment. Likewise, visits from Australian project volunteers to Kenya are an invaluable source of information, and inspiration, for those involved but who have never experienced the highs and lows of life in Africa. A key aspect of this cultural and technical exchange has been the ability of Kenya program participants to attend the International Riversymposium in Brisbane, as delegates sponsored by the International River Foundation.

## 6.0 Program Goal 2010 to 2015

To achieve and maintain financial sustainability within the program, increasing the human and technical capacity of the Kenya Desk, and delivering the four project streams efficiently and simultaneously.

Marty Hancock and friends at Gona SafeWater Project



## 7. Objectives 2010 to 2015

The following specific objectives have been set for the program, 2010 – 2015. Specific objectives will be subject to confirmation in an annual action plan, comprised of targets, which will be reported on each quarter.

### Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program Objectives are:

1. To maintain an equivalent minimum base program of \$50,000 per year.
2. To resource the Kenya desk to an extent that at least four individual staff receive sufficient recognition and remuneration to remain committed to the project.
3. To maintain accurate and transparent financial records and submit quarterly reports to the satisfaction of project partners and sponsors, and the individuals working to manage the project.
4. Through Education and Advocacy increase awareness, knowledge and skills on factors leading to improved environmental conservation, waste management and care of waterways.



**Mercelin, face of the first SafeWater project**

**Olita Ogonjo – TKMP Coordinator and Granny Sarah Obama (the US President's paternal grandmother).**

### Rural SafeWater

5. To successfully deliver at least one SafeWater project each year.
6. To increase the capacity and technical skills of rural SafeWater user committees and establish a network of SafeWater user committees.
7. Continued delivery of safe water through adequate operation and maintenance of existing projects.
8. To increase the capacity and skills of the SafeWater project officer.
9. To pursue financial and social sustainability of SafeWater projects delivered through local community ownership.
10. To use SafeWater as a foundation to deliver broader improvements in community life.

### In-School Project

11. To build the in-school project to a minimum of six schools.
12. To document the in-school project model for environmental education.
13. To set up a native plant nursery in at least four schools (one per year over period of plan).
14. To increase youth community knowledge of factors leading to improved environmental conservation, waste management and care of waterways.





Participants in the Great Nairobi River Soccer Tournament



Tinga SafeWater project

### TKMP, Youth and Network Capacity Development

15. To increase the capacity of TKMP to link and negotiate with government, civil society and business to achieve improved environmental policy.
16. To support and promote the network of youth groups working to make positive changes in their environment.
17. Continue to facilitate the Annual Great Nairobi River Youth Soccer Tournament.
18. To undertake cleanups, recycling and other solid waste management demonstration projects.
19. To engage with the Government to support the Nairobi River Basin clean up campaign.
20. To provide mentoring and physical support to the Y-CLEAN organisation.
21. To maintain and expand TKMP tree nursery.

### Cultural and Technical Information Exchange and Training

22. Maintain and increase the Tweed and Kenyan communities' personal commitment and satisfaction with the program.
23. Maximise cultural exchange by encouraging and advocating for a visit of at least one person each way each year.
24. Promote TKMP broadly to Tweed Community and beyond.
25. Pursue opportunities for education and training for TKMP employees.
26. Attract broader disciplines to actively participate in the program.

### 8. Program structure and governance:

#### Tweed Support Team – The Roots of the Program

TKMP Australia is managed by a committee comprised of TSC staff members and greatly supported by the International River Foundation. They are responsible for on the program's strategic direction and management, provide technical support, and undertake communication and fundraising tasks. The Tweed Project Team is directly responsible for the planning, design and implementation of SafeWater projects. The team are the roots of the mentoring project and secure it within the community through their interaction with friends, colleagues, family, local businesses and sporting clubs.

### Nairobi Desk – The Hub of TKMP

The mentoring program desk is hosted by GNet. It is managed by Olita Ogonjo, Program Coordinator from a small rented office in Dagoretti/Kibera, Nairobi. Kibera is one of Africa's largest slum settlements and is afflicted by serious environmental degradation resulting from extreme poverty and poor service delivery. The key role of the Desk is to facilitate and report on the four project streams. The desk is responsible for the community mobilization, training and monitoring of the SafeWater projects. The program has three additional permanent staff and a part time accounts officer, all of whom receive remuneration for their work on the project.

### Kenya Advisory Committee – Local Support

The Kenya desk is supported by TKMP Advisory Committee composed of 4 professionals. They advise on policy and program direction. The Desk Coordinator convenes Advisory Committee meeting once every three months and reports on program progress.





## 9. Budget and Financial Management:

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program is funded by the 4-project partners, namely Tweed Shire Council, Tweed Shire Council staff, International Riverfoundation and Peden/Thiess. The program funds are held in trust by the International Riverfoundation and released quarterly to the Program Desk through GNet in Kenya, following the receipt and approval of quarterly progress reports and expenditure statements.

The International Riverfoundation is a not for profit company limited by guarantee, registered as a deductible gift recipient, and therefore all contributions to the program are tax deductible.

SafeWater Project funds are sourced primarily from regular contributions by individual Tweed Shire Council staff members, an annual grant from Peden/Thiess and supplemented by fundraising from local businesses and community organisations. When tax deductibility is not required for a donor group, funds are held in a SafeWater Project account with the Commonwealth Bank in Murwillumbah. When tax deductibility is required, funds are held by the International River Foundation.

### Indicative Annual Budget for TKMP Desk Activities 2010 - 2015 - in Kenyan Shillings

PARTICULARS	July -Sept	Oct -Dec	Jan-March	April - June	Totals
<b>1. Office support:</b>					
Rent, (including security electricity and water)	69000	69000	69000	69000	
Stationery and p/copy	9000	9000	9000	9000	
Telephone and internet	3000	3000	3000	3000	
	<b>81000</b>	<b>81000</b>	<b>81000</b>	<b>81000</b>	<b>324000</b>
<b>2. Personnel cost:</b>					
SafeWater Project Officer (Opondo)	90000	90000	90000	90000	
Youth Support Officer (Godi)	60000	60000	60000	60000	
Urban Project Officer (kori)	90000	90000	90000	90000	
Account Officer - part time	20000	20000	20000	20000	
Desk Coordinator (Olita)	330000	330000	330000	330000	
	<b>590000</b>	<b>590000</b>	<b>590000</b>	<b>590000</b>	<b>2360000</b>
<b>3. Urban Program - youth education, sports and environment:</b>					
Youth training and seminars	15000	15000	15000	15000	
Tree nurseries and revegetation	40000	40000	40000	40000	
In school program	40000	40000	40000	40000	
Ecoshield soccer tournament	50000	50000	50000	50000	
	<b>145000</b>	<b>145000</b>	<b>145000</b>	<b>145000</b>	<b>580000</b>
<b>4. Rural Program - SafeWater facilitation and support:</b>					
SafeWater operations and maintenance	25000	25000	25000	25000	
Community capacity building	20000	20000	20000	20000	
	<b>45000</b>	<b>45000</b>	<b>45000</b>	<b>45000</b>	<b>180000</b>
<b>Grand Total Kshs.</b>					<b>3444000</b>
<b>*Australian (exchange rate \$1 = 60 Kshs.)</b>					<b>\$57,400.00</b>

## 10. Reporting:

Tweed Shire Council receives written reports from the Kenya desk quarterly. These contain detailed records of activities and expenditure. Reports are provided to the International River Foundation and reviewed by the program steering committee. The quarterly report is received on or before 25th Day of the 3rd month in a quarter. This allows time for review prior to funds transfer on or before the 10th Day of the 1st month in the quarter.

## 11. Sponsorship and partners

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program needs additional sponsorship. Community members and businesses interested in sponsoring this initiative should contact the project steering committee. Sponsors are recognised on the TKMP website, media and promotional events undertaken by the program.

**Project Partners:**  
**The Tweed Shire Council**  
**Tweed Shire Council Staff**  
**International Riverfoundation**  
**Skyjuice and**  
**Peden/Thiess**





**International Riverfoundation is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a world in which all rivers and waterways are healthy and sustainably managed.**

Established in 2003 in response to the critical state of many of the world's rivers, International Riverfoundation has grown to become a leading advocate and catalyst for the protection and restoration of the world's rivers.

By creating partnerships around the world, International Riverfoundation is constantly striving to have a meaningful, measurable and life-changing impact on individuals and communities by helping them restore and sustainably manage their rivers for improved health, ecological, economic, and social outcomes. For further information about International Riverfoundation, please visit [www.riverfoundation.org.au](http://www.riverfoundation.org.au)



**Skyjuice Foundation – Sustainable water Solutions for Humanitarian and Disaster Relief**

Skyjuice Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organisation whose mission statement is "Pure water for every child". Skyjuice™ utilises a unique world validated and proven Australian micro pore water filter that produces safe drinking water which is completely sustainable. This unique low pressure water purification system operates under as little as one metre gravity head and without the need for electric power for the treatment process. The micro porous membrane removes suspended solids, bacteria, protozoa such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium and some viruses.

Over 600 SkyHydrant™ units are now distributed with major NGOs, International NGOs, government agencies and authorities throughout Sri Lanka, Indonesia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Oman, Kenya, South and Central America and India. The water purification units are installed in schools, hospitals, clinics, internally displaced persons camps and villages. Skyjuice Foundation technology and support means that thousands of people now have access to continuous, safe drinking water.





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