



Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program

Draft Operational Plan 2012 to 2015







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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”

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program (TKMP) has been in operation since September 2005. The program has evolved over the years as Tweed and Kenyan participants respond to changing circumstances, lessons learnt and experience gained. TKMP has established an effective model of cooperative community development at the grass roots level, based on the strength of personal relationships across two continents. The program uses the strength and mutual understanding of those relationships to deliver outcomes in safe water access for Kenyan communities. The Tweed community has gained insights into a vastly different culture, and an enhanced appreciation of the need to value and protect its lifestyle and natural assets.

The 2012/2015 Operational Plan presents a more refined operational focus for the program, and represents yet another step in the TKMP journey.

TKMP's fourth Safe Water project was successfully delivered in February 2012. It represented a significant milestone, in that for the first time, field work in Kenya was undertaken in conjunction with Kenya-Health, a Murwillumbah based NGO established to deliver medical and community health programs in Kenya.

The success of the more holistic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) approach has been a primary driver for refining the TKMP focus.

In summary and as outlined in more detail throughout the Plan, the refined WASH focus will result in a withdrawal of resources from TKMP's Nairobi based youth and environmental education initiatives. This will allow strengthening of WASH support services in the Siaya district, and in conjunction with Kenya Health, allocation of resources to community health and hygiene education initiatives. These changes will add value and sustainability to the existing Safe Water projects completed by TKMP volunteers and local communities.

TKMP will undertake activities within the themes of:

- Governance
- Siaya WASH Project
- Environmental Education and Advocacy
- Youth Engagement
- Cultural and Technical Exchange

Context

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program (TKMP) Operational Plan 2012 to 2015 describes the strategy, objectives and annual budget estimates required to implement program activities around the vision of:

Increasing access to safe water and sanitation, improving community and environmental health for Kenyan families, and strengthening bonds of friendship with the Tweed community

This Operational Plan has been informed by a review of TKMP activities over the period 2010 to 2012 and builds on the experience of TKMP Kenya personnel, community users of existing TKMP installations, the Tweed based TKMP working group, the International River Foundation and other community partners.

TKMP has successfully delivered on most objectives documented in the previous Operational Plan, 2010-2015. The program is strong and well supported, however important changes continue to occur internally and within local areas of operation. To accurately reflect existing activities and build on strengths, achievements and opportunities, it is important to redefine program objectives for the next three years.



This Operational Plan describes the mentoring program as of July 2012 and highlights the program history and recent achievements.

It also details for next three years (2012 to 2015):

- Program vision.
- Goal.
- Objectives.
- Management structure.
- Financial arrangements.
- Reporting commitments.

Program history

Mike Rayner, former General Manager (and then Director of Engineering) of Tweed Shire Council met Olita Ogonjo, a community development worker from Kenya's Maji na Ufanisi (Water for Life) at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in March 2003. At the conference, the two immediately saw the vast contrast and common themes in their organisations work, and this presented 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 healthy environment. Maji na Ufanisi however, presented the plight of communities struggling to survive without access to basic water supplies and sanitation services.

Following the Kyoto contact, the feasibility of establishing a long-term relationship with Kenya was pursued, and in February 2004 a mentoring partnership was officially launched. The objective of the relationship was to use Tweed's experience in water and sanitation management to assist partner communities increase their own capacity to access these services. It has also become clear that the relationship provides unique insights into life in a developing country, which promotes reflection on the great advantages enjoyed by Australians due to our healthy environment and strong community institutions.

The program has since been hosted in Kenya by Gallamoro Network (GNet), a registered charity whose aim is to increase community access to information on the care and support of people affected by HIV/Aids. GNet has mainstreamed water, sanitation and environmental education into its core activities, and operates in poor areas of Nairobi and the rural district of Siaya in western Kenya.

Key achievements 2010 to 2012

- 2010-2011 Olita Ogonjo attains Masters Degree in Integrated Water Resources Management through the International Water Centre in Brisbane, after having been awarded the Ken Thiess scholarship.
- February 2012: Rehabilitation/excavation of Gona Dam (village of Obambo Kadenge,) and replacement of four Skyjuice filters to restore operations at the site of TKMP's first Safe Water 1 project. Works also included installation of gutters and rain water tanks and concreting class room floors at Kubar Primary School.
- February 2012: Community health education and clinic treatments in Safe Water villages in conjunction with Kenya Health.
- 2010 - 2012: Maintenance of Safe Water projects 2 and 3 at Tinga and Ochillo villages. Includes providing support to dam water user committees. Good quality drinking water available to t of residents and three schools.
- March 2010: Completion of Safe Water 3 Project. Water filtration system installed at Ochillo school. System provides water to village and school students.
- 2010 - 2012: Ongoing planting of trees in the upper Nairobi river catchment with school students.
- 2010 - 2012: Urban program activities - ongoing environmental awareness lecture series and establishment of environmental clubs, environmental leaders awards and school seedling nurseries and gardens in Nairobi.
- 2011: Establishment of Siaya rural office to focus on maintenance of Safe Water operations.
- 2011: Successful registration of YCLEAN (Youth Community Lead Environmental Action Network) as a youth association.

PROGRAM GOAL AND OBJECTIVES 2012 to 2015

GOAL

To maintain financial sustainability within the program, increase the human and technical capacity of the Siaya WASH Project, and add value to existing water infrastructure projects by promoting health, sanitation, hygiene and environmental management within recipient communities.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives have been set for the program, 2012 – 2015. Specific objectives will be subject to confirmation in an annual action plan, expressed as actions / targets, and reported on each quarter. Objectives are grouped according to the program themes of:

- Governance.
- Siaya WASH Project.
- Environmental Education and Advocacy.
- Youth Engagement.
- Cultural and Technical Exchange.

Governance

1. Maintain base program funding at \$50,000 per year, covering personnel, office and communications costs.
2. Maintain accurate and transparent financial records and submit quarterly reports to the satisfaction of project supporters.
3. Respond to water, sanitation, hygiene and health needs expressed by community water user committees in recipient communities.
4. Cooperate with and support local government water agencies in Siaya.
5. Increase the capacity and skills of TKMP personnel.
6. Communicate project progress and outcomes on a quarterly basis to all TKMP supporters.

Siaya WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Project

7. Deliver one Safe Water project each year, focusing on either hygiene, water access, sanitation, community health or catchment management.
8. Increase the management capacity and technical skills of Safe Water user committees.
9. Pursue ongoing improvements in the financial and social sustainability of existing Safe Water projects.
10. Deliver consistently safe and reliable water supplies at Gona, Tinga and Ochillo dams through appropriate operation and maintenance of existing Safe Water filtration plants.
11. Increase community demand for and use of safe water and sanitation systems, working to eliminate the practice of open defecation and contaminated drinking water.
12. Incorporate health and hygiene education into all TKMP activities, with a focus on engagement of females at school and in the home.
13. Use the WASH project as a foundation to deliver broader improvements in community health, education, environment and livelihoods.



The area where Gona Dam now stands in March 2011 prior to earthworks.



Gona Dam filled with silted water and reeds before the Safewater 4 project.



The heart of Gona Dam now - filled with usable water after Safewater 4.

Environmental Education

14. Expand the Siaya district in-school environmental education project to four schools.
15. Establish a native plant nursery in at least four schools.
16. Increase youth community knowledge of factors leading to improved water quality, environmental health, biodiversity conservation and waste management.
17. Undertake local catchment revegetation with appropriate native species.
18. Undertake cleanups, recycling and other solid waste management demonstration projects.

Youth Engagement and Development through Sport

19. Support and promote a network of youth groups working to make positive changes in their communities and environment.
20. Facilitate the running of an annual Youth Soccer Tournament.

Cultural and Technical Exchange

21. Maintain and increase the Tweed and Kenyan communities' personal commitment to and satisfaction with the Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program.
22. Facilitate continued cultural exchange by arranging for a visit of at least one person from each country, to each country, each year.
23. Promote TKMP activities and the benefit to Kenyan partners broadly, within the Tweed Community and beyond.
24. Pursue opportunities for education and training for TKMP personnel.



PROGRAM STRUCTURE, RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE:

Tweed Working Group – The Roots of the Program

TKMP Australia is comprised of volunteers from Tweed Shire Council staff and local community members, and is underpinned by important support from the International River Foundation. This group is responsible for the program's strategic direction and management, provides technical support, and undertakes communication and fundraising tasks. Volunteers from the group assume responsibility for the planning, design and implementation of Safe Water 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.

TKMP Operations Office - Siaya, Kenya

The TKMP staff and office are based in the town of Siaya, Nyanza Province, Western Kenya. Rural Siaya is one of poorest areas in Kenya and suffers some of the country's worst human health and welfare indicators, including high infant mortality and very limited water and sanitation service levels. Due to climate and geology, surface water is very scarce in the district, and ground water is restricted to deep brackish aquifers.

TKMP staff facilitate and report on activities undertaken to achieve the TKMP objectives.

Key tasks undertaken include community education and mobilization, training of Safe Water operators, liaison with local government staff and maintenance of the three Safe Water projects.

TKMP staff are committed volunteers who receive an allowance for their work on the project.

Position descriptions are as follows:

Program Manager: Undertakes overall management of TKMP activities, in particular supporting the existing Safe Water project users access good quality drinking water. Responsible for budget management, reporting and coordination of other staff.



WASH Education Officer: Undertakes community health and hygiene education focusing on promotion of safe water and sanitation, with an emphasis on working with women and girls in schools and households.

Youth, Sport and Environment (YSE) Education Officer: Works across the Safe Water communities to promote WASH and catchment management activities amongst schools, youth groups, community networks and government. Sport, in particular soccer, will be used as a means of developing networks and promoting youth involvement in WASH and environmental initiatives.

Safe Water Assistant: Support the Program Manager and work with Safe Water user committees, operators and community groups to maintain infrastructure and promote group level development.

Accounts support at GNet -To provide timely and quality records of income and expense, and ensure prompt payment/onward remittance of funds to TKMP activities.



Local Water User Committees

Water purification stations and other assets established through TKMP are owned and operated by and for the communities that they serve. TKMP is committed to ongoing support of these communities, working through water user committees. Water user committees are a mix of genders and age groups. A major role and challenge for water user committees is to generate revenue to contribute to the ongoing cost of operating and maintaining water and sanitation projects. Committees appoint operators, collect water tariffs and maintain records.

The people of Tinga, Ochillo and Obambo Kadenge

Siaya's Obambo Kadenge[1] and Ting Wangi[2] communities who live in the area of TKMP operations are a proud and resilient people. Despite suffering under conditions of severe and continual hardship, these communities have great cohesion and a desire to improve their standard of living, particularly when it comes to health and education. There are many social assets that can be built upon, and personal skills and energy that can be contributed to TKMP initiatives.

Due to a combination of severe poverty and associated social





and environmental conditions, these villages are unable to make improvements in water and sanitation without external assistance.

Access to clean water and effective sanitation is a human right, enshrined for all people in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Providing universal water and sanitation access is also a fundamental objective of the Millennium Development Goals.



TKMP seeks to provide the people of Tinga, Ochillo and Obambo Kadenge with the information, skills, resources and motivation they need to make positive changes for themselves.

- [1] The area describing Gona Dam and Tinga Dam users
- [1] The area describing Ochilo Dam user



Budget and Financial Management:

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program is funded by four project partners, namely Tweed Shire Council, Tweed Shire Council staff (voluntary contributors), International Riverfoundation and Peden-Thiess. Skyjuice Foundation have been regular Safe Water Project sponsors.

Program funds are held in trust by the International Riverfoundation and transferred quarterly 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.

Estimated Annual Operating budget for the 2012 – 2015 financial years.

Particulars	Jul-Sep 2012	Oct-Dec 2012	Jan-Mar 2013	April-June 2013	Total KSH	Total AUD
						\$1 = 80 KES
1. Office support						
office rent water/elect & security	37500	37500	37500	37500	150000	\$1,875
Stationery	6000	6000	6000	6000	24000	\$300
Tel/email	10000	10000	10000	10000	40000	\$500
Transport	10000	10000	10000	10000	40000	\$500
Office furniture/equipment	5000	5000	5000	5000	20000	\$250
					274000	\$3,425
2. Personnel						
Program Manager	195000	195000	195000	195000	780000	\$9,750
WASH Education Officer	135000	135000	135000	135000	540000	\$6,750
YSE Education/Network Officer	90000	90000	90000	90000	360000	\$4,500
SafeWater Assistant	90000	90000	90000	90000	360000	\$4,500
Accounts officer	105000	105000	105000	105000	420000	\$5,250
					2460000	\$30,750
3. Project Cost						
Water Committee Training /exchange	15000	15000	15000	15000	60000	\$750
WASH Education and Awareness	30000	30000	30000	30000	120000	\$1,500
Community Health	40000	40000	40000	40000	160000	\$2,000
SafeWater O&M	70000	70000	70000	70000	280000	\$3,500
Dam Protection	40000	40000	40000	40000	160000	\$2,000
Youth, Sport & Environment	30000	30000	30000	30000	120000	\$1,500
					900000	\$11,250
4. SafeWater Projects 2013	Safewater Delivered With Project Specific Sponsorship					
SafeWater Upgrades						
Household toilet subsidy project						
School toilets						
5. Staff development						
Training	50000	50000	50000	50000	200000	\$2,500
					200000	\$2,500
Total					3834000	\$47,925

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 TKMP working group in Tweed. The quarterly report is received on or before the twenty fifth day of the third month in a quarter. This allows time for review prior to funds transfer on or before the tenth day of the first month in the quarter.

Sponsorship and partners

The Tweed Kenya Mentoring Program needs more 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
Kenya Health
Skyjuice Foundation
International Riverfoundation
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



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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