

Service für Entwicklungsinitiativen



CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT – A BACKER FOR MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

Project: Mwanza (Tanzania) – Würzburg (Germany) Promoting the use of solar-powered fishing lamps

This project aimed to promote the use of solar fishing lamps at Lake Victoria. Until now, small-scale fishers at the lake have used mainly environmentally harmful and expensive paraffin pressure lamps to attract fish at night.

The project also drew on the experience of the partnership association Mwanza e.V., which has been supporting civil society dialogue and partnership projects between the two municipalities for several years. German volunteers were also involved in the public information work on project planning, implementation and reporting. On the Tanzanian side, a local NGO – the Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA) – played a crucial role in achieving strong participation by local stakeholders and in making the project scaleable. In cooperation with all participants, information events were held on the topic, and the target group were made aware of the advantages of using solar fishing lamps. Alongside the administrations of both partner municipalities, representatives of Mwanza e.V. were also involved in the political and civil society dialogue processes, as well as in the promotion of technology transfer, delegation trips and information events. The local NGO TAREA supported the municipal partners with the needs analysis, project design and project realisation.

Success factors

- → When establishing the climate partnership, and during this project, the project partners benefited from the long-standing engagement of the two municipalities in a city-to-city partnership. They also benefited from the network of the Mwanza e.V. association.
- → Use of synergies with civil society engagement, e.g. in education and health
- → Creation of good communication channels by involving German volunteers on the ground
- → Increased awareness of the project in Würzburg thanks to communication work by Mwanza e.V., and reporting by returning volunteers
- → Close links and strong alignment with needs thanks to collaboration with the local NGO TAREA

Practical tips

- Begin by identifying synergies with German NGOs, associations and private initiatives in the target region.
- **2.** Use synergies with existing civil society partnerships between the two municipalities.
- Work with a local NGO in the partner municipality to directly involve the target groups.
- Explore options for cooperation with volunteer sending organisations.
- 5. Work with civil society organisations in Germany to promote awareness-raising and outreach work.

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