

NAME(s) : Network for Environmental Concerns and Solutions (NECOS)

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: Plot : 15/13 Twikatane Extensions, Barlastone, Lusaka

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O- BOX FW 153,Lusaka

BANKERS: ZANACO, Centre Branch & NATSERVE

CONTACT PERSONS: Obed Chibwe Kawanga (Mr.)

Telephone: 260- 01-0978782060/0977199622

Fax: Nil

Email addresses: Okawanga2001@yahoo.com
ngo.necosinfor.necos@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Who are we?

Network for the Environmental Concerns and Solutions (**NECOS**) is a local Community based Non Profit and Non Governmental Organisation founded in 2003 and registered under the law of Zambia in March 2004. NECOS has it's secretariat in one of the peri urban areas of Lusaka, in Madimba community (informal settlement).

Actuality

During the 2003/2004, Cholera broke out in Lusaka which claimed more than 1,000 people and Madimba was among the most affected communities due to poor sanitation and lack of wholesome drinking water supply. We mobilized ourselves to set strategies on how to improve environmental sanitation for Madimba and other basic services to achieve an eco-village concept for better urban future The project was planned and implemented through integrated Ecosan principles with the intentions to prevent ground water contamination, land degradation and improved livelihood. While addressing the issues of integrated peri-urban water supply and sanitation (waste management) and implementing eco-village concepts, the community adopted community participatory approach that considered gender, cultural, ecological, and political as well as the socio-economic situations of the vulnerable groups of the poor.

Actors

NECOS was the main actor in implementing peri urban community activities and it worked under the leadership of local professionals from different backgrounds such as environmental health (public health),

ecological experts, social scientists, surveyors etc. These local professionals worked on part-time basis as they are in formal employment.

Actions

NECOS took a multidimensional approach to plan and design integrated peri urban community up-grading projects aimed at improving the environment, livelihoods and the living conditions. Madimba was designed to focus on three dimensions, physical, social and economic upgrading. Capacity building, Gender, Governance and HIV/AIDS were considered as cross cutting issues. Demonstration sites were set up to develop a solid waste management strategy suitable for low income, peri urban un-planned informal settlement like Madimba, so that indiscriminate disposal of waste and ground water contamination is reduced. Source separation of waste, recycling and composting were encouraged as well as strategy to promote personal hygiene practices.

MISSION STATEMENT

Target the 21st Century and beyond where the people, their cities, communities and the environment in which they live are envisaged to be healthy and in harmony with nature; achieved through ecologically, economically, Socio-culture sound management practices and sustainable development. To design and develop an ecological, economical, socio-cultural community upgrading model through participatory approach and to be used for paradigm for peri urban community to understanding their own, socio-economic and environmental concerns and equipped with appropriate knowledge and indigenous technologies to address environmental concerns for sustainable development and to live in harmony with nature. **(Theme. Healthy People and Healthy Environment)**

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to upgrade peri urban and rural communities into an ecological, economical, socio-cultural and sustainable where people should live in health environment developed in an ecologically sustainable manner. The peri urban community upgrading programme includes socio-economic, cultural and physical environment upgrading. Supporting ecological sanitation as paradigm shift from the use of pit-latrines in cholera endemic areas of Lusaka, under the innovative initiative " household led total conservancy sanitation. To address environmental concerns and promote sustainable solutions such, ecological, economical, socio-cultural, and sustainable development of the Peri – Urban and rural settlement of Zambia.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDES

In order to accomplish it's mission, the organisation shall pursue the following objectives;

- • Community empowerment (good governance).

- ❑ • Improved health through ecological sanitation and availability of safe and sustainable water.
- ❑ • Improved attitudes towards environmental protection – Hygiene promotion and Education
- ❑ • Increased environmental consciousness or awareness.
- ❑ To identify and develop ecological prior indicators of public health importance which shall be monitored over time (e.g. control of mosquitoes, flies etc).
- ❑ To bring in issues of gender, governance, poverty and HIV/AIDS in environmental management.
- ❑ To integrate ecological sanitation into agriculture by promoting the use of waste as fertilizer e.g. human waste.
- ❑ To establish resource centre to avail sound knowledge transfer through education and training on environmental issues.
- ❑ To promote natural resource conservation (biological diversification)
- ❑ To promote non-motorised transport i.e. safe pedestrian and use of bicycles.
- ❑ To collaborate and network with communities, Institutions and organisations at local, national, regional and global levels with similar objectives.
- ❑ To promote ecological awareness–help people understand their place in nature, cultural identity, responsibility for the environment and help them change for better nutrition and to contribute to maintain high quality peri-urban ecosystem.
- ❑ (environmental landscaping i.e. tree planting, parks, plaza targeting learning institutions as well as communities).

FOCUS

People oriented, eco-residency development requires the comprehensive understanding of complex interactions between environmental, economic and socio-cultural factors based on ecological principles. Cities, towns and villages should be ecologically designed to enhance the health and quality life of their inhabitants and maintain the ecosystems on which they depend. We, health/ecological experts and environmental concerned persons wish to form this organization so as not only to help mitigate health and environmental related problems through the formulation of priority preventive and conservative actions but; to lobby, campaign, encourage and support the implementation of the remedial environmental concerns.

The following selected theme describes the focus of our main operational areas and the sub categories have been indicated to represent the main project activities within the context of community upgrading.

SOCIAL SERVICES PROVISION

- Hygiene Education
- Public Health and Social welfare
- Public safety and vector control
- Vulnerable groups including women and children
- Equal access to social services (especially by disability, women and Children)

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Pollution reduction
- Improved environmental health
- Ecological sustainability
- Good Governance
- Resource management
- Indicators of sustainability
- Environmental remediation
- Urban greening of the community and effective use of public space
- Incentives for sound management
- Eco-tourism and cultural diversity

WATER AND CONSERVANCY SANITATION

- Water supply & sanitation
- Low-cost sanitation
- Improved waste collection, recycling and reuse
- Provision for basic services by micro-enterprises
- Services for urban poor
- Eco-sanitation
- Public/Private/Community Partnerships

SUSTAINABLE PERI URBAN UPGRADING

- Safe water supply and sanitation
- Security of tenure
- Improvement of environmental health;
- More efficient energy use and production;
- Preservation of historically/culturally & important sites
- Crime reduction and prevention;
- Social integration and reduction of exclusion;
- Community development, care for disabilities and older people
- Community income generation

And Madimba eco-village model pilot project, the Community in partnership with NECOS, proposed and already implementing some of the following projects.-

- Madimba water Projects
- Madimba Ecosan (Dry Toilet) Projects
- Madimba Solid Waste Project
- Madimba Biogas Project
- Madimba HIV /AIDS Projects
- Madimba Malaria Control Projects
- Madimba Urban Agriculture
- Madimba Skills Training and Research
- Madimba Land tenure Security project
- Madimba Good Governance project

STRATEGY.

When commencing its intervention strategies in any community, NECOS begins with a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). This methodology is used as communication tool allowing NECOS to understand the community's problems as well as a means by which the community themselves can develop a Community Action Plan (CAP), together with other stakeholders in the community. The focal point is the mobilization of all different interested groups resulting in a consensus on a way forward. This approach assists communities in developing their capacities for managing and maintaining projects.

KEY MILESTONES.

The process of establishing NECOS was precipitated by key events or milestones that contributed to the successful formation of NECOS as it is today. The following are the key milestones

30th March, 2004, Registration of Network for Environmental Concerns and Solutions (NECOS) by Environmental Health experts and Madimba community come together after a stimulus Cholera outbreak which killed more than 1,000 people in Lusaka, Zambia. The significance was the coming together of community and environmental health professionals.

15th February 2005, Dissemination of baseline survey conducted in Madimba pilot community, where identified community problems were reported back proposed problem solving projects, designed through participatory way. The significance was winning community confidence.

30th March 2005, first International presentation of community ecosan project initiative designed through participatory approach. Then followed by solid waste project initiative strategy and integrated indigenous knowledge. The significance was that project designed for Madimba had international professional support.

25th February 2006, First Government support to Madimba multi-dimensional community projects. Two community training and sensitization workshops were organized and supported. Significance was Government partnership.

15th March 2008, Government and the Finish Ambassador launched Madimba multi-dimensional community upgrading projects with the support from International Organization, Dry Toilet Association of Finland. The significance was the implementation of community projects designed by community themselves.

WHAT NECOS DOES?

NECOS implements integrated community development projects focused on Water & Sanitation; Environmental & Natural Resources Management, and Community Development, Country wide, paying special attention to disadvantaged communities. Through facilitating dialogue and advocacy on Environmental issues such as water and sanitation, environmental degradation, deforestation, climate change and promoting eco village concepts for sustainable development. NECOS also stimulates and supports the vulnerable communities' own efforts to solve their problems by facilitating community initiative projects such as the Madimba Urban upgrading project currently being implemented.

NECOS has gained valuable experience through working in partnership with different local and international organization, such as Ministry of Local government and housing in provision of water supply, hygiene promotion and sanitation improvement to Madimba peri urban in Lusaka. Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland, Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company in improving water and sanitation in Peri-urban Settlement of Lusaka; University of Zambia, School of Community Medicine in Research.

ORGANISATION'S PHILOSOPHY

NECOS is committed to providing the highest quality service provision country wide. This commitment can only be maintained through the efforts of its technical team in the organization.

We believe that in order to maintain and grow this dedicated team, we must provide a challenging, stable and pleasant work environment, which offers many opportunities to grow both personally and professionally. NECOS, maintain an open, honest and comfortable atmosphere where the workers can feel free about their work and their colleagues. NECOS is commitment to the following ideals.

Quality Services – A commitment to quality is a commitment to the best in all of us. Self respect and respect of others are rewards that result from a quality job.

Accomplishment – Striving for perfection in anticipation of exceeding our target community's highest expectation is our goal. This we achieve by building good client relationships through leadership, innovative solutions and hard work.

Teamwork – At NECOS we believe that the team is greater than the sum of its individual parts. Simply stated, our organization is only as good as the chemistry that exists between us.

Individual Initiative – The courage and tenacity required to promote new ideas is result of the hero that exists in all of us. We encourage everyone to look for better ways of doing things and foster the forums in which expressing those ideas become reality.

Flexibility– Showing our willingness to change, adopt to ever changing scenarios, learning from others and committed to improve the living conditions of the poor people in our community.

These ideals are our driving force in our humble and heartfelt efforts in our pursuit for excellence in all our projects.

NECOS ORGANISATION STRUCTURE:

Governance Structure

To realize its objectives, the Organization has the following structures and powers:

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

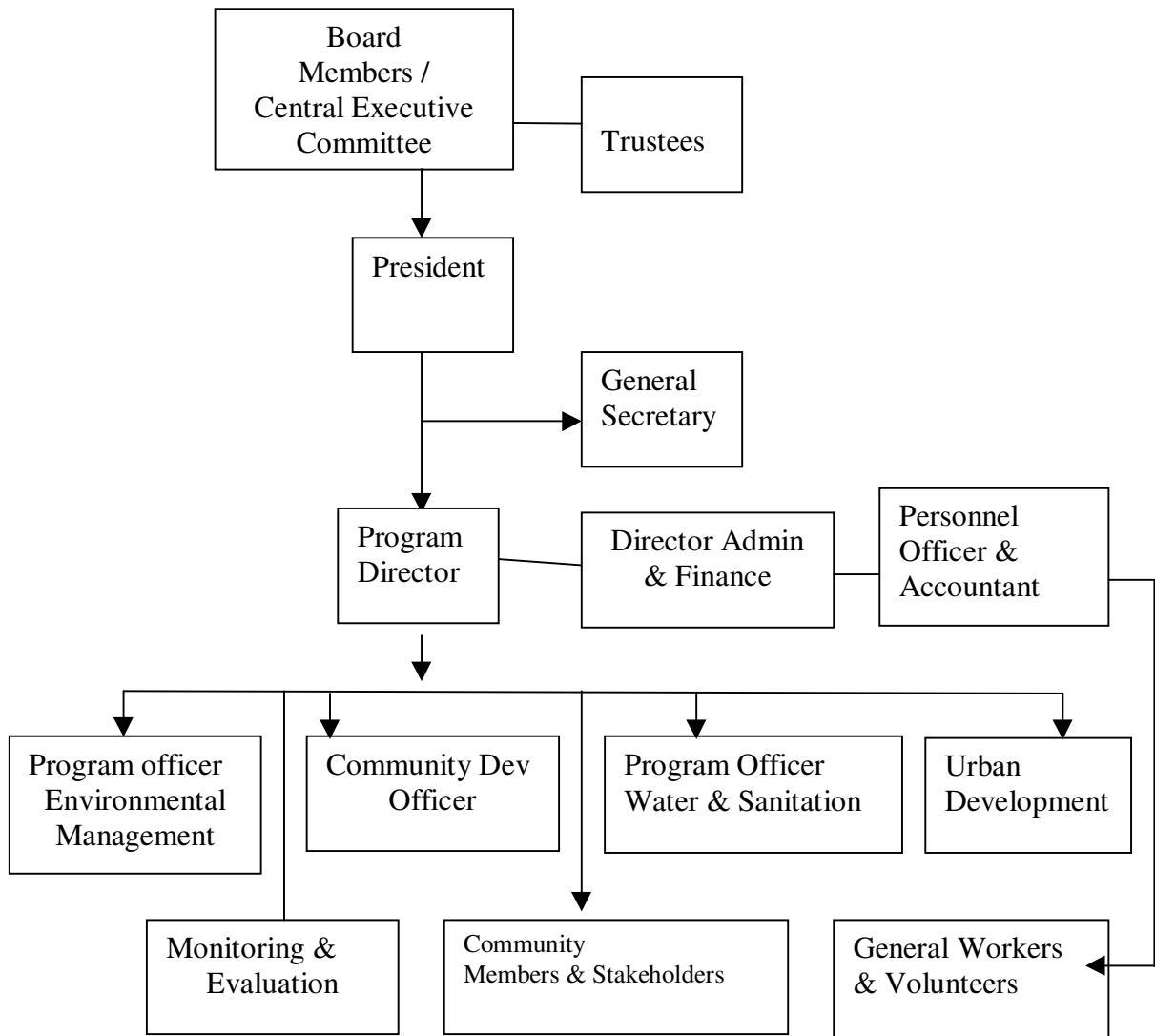
This is a policy formulation organ of the organization, which ensures an effective running of the organization by making sound and positive decisions. They have powers to employ any such officer at the secretariat. They are there to convene and organize for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) including budget and other plan preparations. Therefore NECOS is governed by its democratic constitution approved the Government of the Republic of Zambia – Registration of Societies.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

To ensure sound financial Management NECOS established a transparent and accountable financial structure. NECOS founder members and trustees are the signatory to the organization main account. The Central Executive Committee of the organization are the main authority of the organization's fund and they meet at the end of the year to make an annual action plan which the program officers follows to make any financial request based on the project action plan and budgetary requirements. The Central Executive Committee also engages independent auditors to audits books of accounts at the end of every financial year. The audits reports are open to the public and stakeholders. Both the internal audits and external audits ensure transparency and accountability of public funds.

The president of Necos is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all funds are used for the intended purpose according to the annual budget. He approves all expenditure of the organization.

NECOS ORGANIZATION CHART



COMPOSITION OF NECOS MANAGEMENT TEAM

At present NECOS has permanent staff, volunteers and community artisans based on gender considerations. There 7 (3women and 4 men) trained for solid waste as Madimba Solid waste enterprises. There 6 community based bricklayers responsible for construction of Dry Toilets in Madimba two (2) household based hygiene education providers 1 male and 1 female. NECOS has 5 HIV/AIDS focal persons trained by AWISA and 3 Environmental health inspector as well as other relevant professionals to make the active NECOS members to 20.

There are four main components of the project each with their specific technical functions. The following is the management team coordinating the four main Components.

President – Mr. Obed Kawanaga Masters International cooperation and Urban development studies major in ecological design and Public health and urban Planning.

General Secretary – Demas Chipalala : qualified Public health specialist with wide experience in peri urban development projects.

Program Director–Danny Choba – Postgraduate Sustainable Waste Management – Stuttgart University / InWent – Germany Capacity Building, Diploma Development Studies – Member International Solid Waste Association.

Program Officer Environment Management. **Program Officer Environmental Management.** Collins Chabala Msc- Environmental Pollution Sciences and Master of Philosophy / PHD student (Reading). Coordinator Water Resource Management & Conservation

Water & Sanitation. Joshua Chipasha – Bsc Agric Engineering UNZA

Community Development Officer – Tsoka Phiri sociologist and Art teacher with wide experiences in community outreach activities.

Director Finance & Administration – Kennystone Mukonda project accountant with experiences project management.

Monitoring & Evaluation – The combined team of professionals are responsible for the project monitoring and evaluation.

In addition to the permanent staff, NECOS makes extensive use of a network of its professional members, Community based people e.g. animators, community health workers, Community Based Membership.

1. Ordinary Membership – is open to any person or organization who/which agrees, promotes and supports and pursues the aim and objectives of the Network and has paid his/her membership fee and subscriptions. All employees of NECOS are encouraged to apply for and become ordinary members.

2. Associate Membership – shall be open to any Professional person or organization who/which promotes or supports the cause of the Network and has been approved by the Board of Directors and has paid the membership fee and subscriptions.

3. Honorary Membership – shall be offered to any person or organization who/which Promotes or supports the cause of the Network without having to pay membership fee and subscriptions and is approved by the Board of Directors.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The main thrust of the strategy Plan is based on a participatory approach – this is the engagement of all stakeholders in the development process at all levels of project implementation Planning, Project Design, Project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The main goals and Aims of the project implementation strategy is as follows: To enhance community participation and voluntarism in the community projects. Engender a spirit of ownership of all community initiated projects. Build capacity / empower the local people to spearhead the projects activities that are aimed to bring about improvement to their environment and their health. Instill a culture of hard work and environmental management consciousness.

Influence behavioral change through educational awareness campaign and sensitization of the local community in healthy living habits. Promote sustainable models of eco-village concepts and Environmental best practices. Provide solutions to environmental concerns.

The above stated goals and aims of the proposed project permeates all activities of the organization and are strategically planned to achieve the overall goals or objective of the organization ,its collaborating partners and stakeholders not only to assist in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but also effectively contribute to Sustainable development of the country.

CO-OPERATE PARTINERS

The following are some of the partners / stakeholders that NECOS has been working with at various levels of project implementation.

Partner1

a) **Name of Organization.** Lusaka City Council – Waste Management Unit

b) Address of the Organization: P.O. Box 30077, Lusaka, 10101, Zambia

Telephone: 260 211 253016 Fax: 260 211 252141

Email: kabungo@microlink.zm

c) Contact Person: Mr. Michael Kabungo Environmental Manager& Head of Waste Management Unit Email: kabungo@microlink.zm

d) Type of Organization: Local Authority

Type of Support: Technical support & administrative Support

Partner2

a) **Name of Organization.** Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Department of Infrastructure Support Services (MLGH-DISS)

b) (Church Road, P.O. Box 50027, Lusaka, 10101, Zambia,

Telephone: +260 1 251128/ 252335/ 252374 Fax: +260 1 252503/252632

Email: diss@mlgh.gov.zm

c) Contact Person: Mr. Layton Kanowa

Email: lytonekanowa@gmail.com

d) Type of Organization: Central Government

Type of Support:

Financial Support, Technical Support , Political Support

Partner 3

Name of Organization : Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland

Address of the Organization:

Kaupakatu 11C2 krs, 33200 Tampere, Finland

Telephone: +358 500 953 357 Fax: Email: secretary@drytoilet.org

c) Contact Person: Sari Haunthan Email: sambia@huussi.net

Type of Organization : Professional Association

Type of Support:

Financial and Technical Support

Partner 4

Name of Organization : Madimba Zone3 & Ward Development Committee (Representing the Madimba Community)

Address of the Organization: C/O Diana Kaimba Basic School

P.O. Box 39170, Lusaka, 10101, Zambia

Telephone: Nil Fax: Email:

Contact Person : Chairperson : Mr. Alex Jere

Type of Organization : Community Based Organization

e) Type of Support:

Political Support , Financial Support , Logistical Support Community Representation, Participation and Awareness Rising, Voluntary Service (Labor)

Partner 5

Name of Organization : Sustainable Sanitation Alliance of the UN (SuSanA)

Address of the Organization: Stockholm Environmental Institute

Lilla Road, P.O. Box 2142, SE-103 14, Stockholm, Sweden

Telephone: +46 (0) 8 412 14 00, Fax: +46 (0) 8 723 0348,

Email: arno.rosemarin@sei.se

Contact Person : Arno Rosemarin PhD

Type of Organization: International Agency / Technical Experts & Consultants.

e) Type of Support: Technical Support, Financial Support

Education Exchange programmes

Partner 6

Name organization :Aids Workplace Intervention Southern Africa (AWISA)

Address of the Organization: Plot 3834, Great East Road ,Olympia,

P.O. Box 50301, Lusaka. Tel/Fax: + 260-(0) 211 294232

Email: zambia@awisa.de

Contacts Email: awisa@iconnect.zm

Type of Organization: Regional Agency.

e) Type of Support: Technical Support, Training of HIV /AIDS focal Persons

Partner 7

Name of Organization : University of Zambia School of Community Medicine–

Address of the Organization: Department of Environmental Health

Project: Oka –Dry Toilet Research Project P.O.BOX 32379

Lusaka Zambia, Tel: +260-21 1250871, Fax: + 260 1-256181

Email: Contact Person: Mr. Siulapwa Head Environmental Healthy Unity

Email:

Type of Organization : Professional, Learning and Research

e) Type of Support: Technical Support

Partner 8

Name of Organization : Lusaka Water and Sewerage (LWSC) –

Address of the Organization: P.O.BOX

Lusaka Zambia, Tel: +2601 291918-20, Fax: + 260 96766486

Contact Person: Mayumbelo (Mr.)

Type of Organization : Water supply and sanitation providers

Type of Support: Technical Support – NECOS has concluded a Memorandum of understanding (MOU)

FINANCIALPROFILE

Using the table below, provide a financial overview of the annual budget of the best practice for

the past 3 to 5 years indicating the sources and amounts of contributions from each partner (up to 10 partners). Please also specify the name of each partner.

Partner	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	TOTAL
Partner 1: Japan International Cooperation Agency-Primary Health Care Project (JICA –PHC) (S\$5000)		\$5,000						\$5,000
Partner 2: Government – Pilot Environmental Fund (US\$15,000)	\$15,000							\$15,000
Partner 3: Ministry of Local Government and Housing-Department of Infrastructure Support Services (US\$ 3,000)				\$3,000				\$3,000
Partner 4: Durban conference on EcoSan CSIR Pretoria South Africa (US\$2,500)			\$2,500					\$2,500
Partner 5: International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) (\$2,500)					\$2,500			\$2,500
Partner 6: Department of Mathematical sciences & Technology University of Life Sciences –Norway (\$7,000)			\$7,000					\$7,000
Partner 7 Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland (Amount)				€2,000		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
Partner 8 Ministry of Local Government and Housing, Depart. of Infrastructure Support Services (MLGH-DISS) (Amount)						\$1,500		\$1,500
Partner 9 Sustainable Sanitation Alliance of the UN (SuSanA)								
Partner 10 Ward Development Committee (Madimba Residents)					\$400			\$400
Total Budget (US \$)	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$2,900	\$21,500	\$20,000	\$70,000

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The extent to which the project initiative can be measured is mainly qualitatively and this indicated in terms of general improvement in the environment as compared to the situation before the programme.

Basically before the project initiative the area was illegal and had no access to any social services. As a result of the project initiative the following achievements and lessons learned are recorded here.

1. Public Information /Awareness and Education

One the most important lessons learnt in this initiative is that Public information is very cardinal sustainable development .Providing easy access to information is one of the most important methods to broad participation and capacity building in environmental decisions and implementation of best practices. When those mostly affected by a decision participate in the process, the result is likely to be more environmentally sound and more broadly accepted. The success of the implementation of the project depended to a larger extent on how the information impacted the community viz –vie the broad acceptability and buying in of the community.

2. Community Participation at all Levels

If the community is involved at all levels of the project cycle they are more willing to participate because they buy-in the vision and this engender a spirit of ownership of the project – there is more participation

3. Gender Considerations

The participation of women in the project provided a critical push for the project success. The participation of women provided a broad based participation of people in the community and this resulted into increased community knowledge and willingness to participate in the community initiated projects.

4. Implementation of the project within the Institutional Framework

Institutional support was also one of the most lessons learnt during the implementation of the initiative, without the institutional framework it would have been difficult to mobilize resources and support from different stakeholders and the community. The existing institutional framework and the decentralization policy provided for a well articulated and harmonious guideline for stakeholders participation, synergies and linkages, without duplicating initiatives and focus targeting where the need is great. The institution framework lays a good foundation for rolling out of the best practices to other parts of the country and for sharing experiences.

5. Governance Considerations

The understanding Governance especially by low income communities would provide a critical push for the project success and sustainability. Governance provides a broad based understanding of Government development structure, Political and the best way the developmental projects can reach the participation of people and their community and can resulted into increased informed community with knowledge on the community initiated developmental projects.

6. The Madimba Peri-urban settlement was legalized as settlement by the local authority Lusaka City Council.

7. Network for environmental concerns adopted the settlement as a pilot project area to implement a multi dimension urban –upgrading programme. The area is earmarked for the development of a Eco –Village concept model which will be replicated or rolled out to other peri-urban settlement in Zambia.

8. The organization in collaboration with the community members, community Based organization and other stakeholders successfully conducted participatory meetings, action Research and Project Design, Planning and implementation Meeting.
9. Network for Environmental Concerns and Solutions working in collaboration with the local community succeeded in mobilizing funds for the implementation of the Project initiative.

As the result of the best practices of the project initiative the following results were recorded

- There has been improved knowledge on environment health and sanitation due to the information and Education awareness Program which are being done.
- More Women are being challenged to get involved in leadership of development process of there areas.
- The holding of Community Meeting has resulted to more social interaction and enhancement of cultural heritage.
- The Construction of Oka-Dry Toilets and the provision of primary waste collection services at Household level has greatly resulted into reduced incidences of preventable diseases and better health.
- Economic empowerment through income generating activity- Formation of Community Based Enterprise to manage Solid waste in the community.

The initiative has resulted in enhanced coordination and integrated approach to the development program in the community.

Conclusions

The main reasons of Necos existence is to raise awareness of environmental issues, advocate to policy makers and stakeholders to finding sustainable solutions that are consistent with the local frame conditions and in accordance to international best practices .Necos is proactively involved in addressing environmental concerns by promoting sustainable concepts such as the Eco Village Concept. The eco-village concept currently being implemented in Madimba Peri – Urban settlement of Lusaka aims at addressing bad practices in sanitation and Public health among other issues so as to improve the general living environment of the poor people living in peri – urban settlements. The concept also aims at creating a culture of cleanliness and sustainable development through promoting sustainable technologies such as the ecosan toilets (Oka- Dry Toilets) and household composting of organic waste.

The specific objectives are to establish a model eco—village concept that enshrines the living culture and attitudes of the people in developing a clean and sustainable environment that would not only contribute to the national agenda but also to the global agenda and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals .(MDGs) . This basically has been a community participatory project – Challenging the community to get involved in the development of their settlement and

transforming it into a clean and health environment so as to pass on a generation focused to make the earth clean and health for the coming generations.

The main achievements of the initiative has been information awareness ,Capacity Building and education this has been evident by public information which has resulted into a paradigm shift from a culture of depending on Government or local authority to community initiative in addressing community problems such as sanitation and waste management.

The initiative has also achieved a high level of knowledge on environmental sanitation and community/personal hygiene practices. The community is more aware and concerned about their environment and is more willing to participate to find solutions to community problems. This is a very important achievement in the initiative as it makes the community feel ownership to the project and the whole development process. The implementation of the projects have also been made easier as most community members have volunteered their time and resources to contribute to the development process in their community.