Workshop World Water Monitoring Challenge Kit

Accra - At the beginning of June the Staff of ProNet attended a workshop about the World Water Monitoring Challenge test kit. The workshop was organised by IWA.

The staff learned how to use the test kit and how to guide monitoring activities in communities and schools. In the theoretical part of the course the staff first thoroughly got to know the background of the kit and its goal, being educating and engaging citizens in the protection of water resources. After this theoretical training the World Water Monitoring website was explained. The use of both the test kit and the special website makes it possible to connect with other (inter) national partners. And the website gives tips on how to approach schools and has promotional and event planning resources. Besides the theoretical training, the ProNet staff also learned how to work with the testkit by doing tests themselves.

The staff was trained in order to be well prepared for their awareness raising campaigns on water quality issues. They will execute campaigns in selected communities and schools in the Barekese region. ProNet will soon start its campaigns.

Training Capacity Building and Water Quality Monitoring

Koforidua - In May 2014 twenty representatives of water quality institutions and organisations in Ghana attended the training ‘Capacity Building in Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance for Ghana’.

The training was organised by the Dutch trainers Peter Kelderman of UNESCO-IHE in Delft and Geo Bakker and Siemen Veenstra from Vitens Evides International.

The goal of the program was to facilitate, encourage and strengthen the interaction between people – and thus organisations – and to transfer and exchange common experiences and state of the art knowledge on this particular topic.

The participants were pleased with the informal and sometimes provocative way the programme was organised. It allowed them to fully and actively participate in it. During evening hours trainings were given on social and soft engineering, which are often considered to be harder than the” hard stuff itself”.

Lack of coordination

Safeguarding water quality is a baseline for economic development and protection of public health. Having said so, the institutional setting is characterised by a weak coordination, cooperation, and communication on this issue. This fragmentation is hampering the political “agendizing” of this topic.
Until today untreated sewage in Accra flows via open drains and sewers and discharges into the ocean. Another major challenge is the illegal and uncontrolled mining for mineral resources, which currently have reached such alarming proportions that the topic is upgraded to an issue of state security.

**Barekese region: awareness raising on importance of water quality**

Kumasi - *The Water Resources Commission (WRC) held a workshop ‘awareness raising’ in May 2014, at the Sunset Hotel, Danyame in Kumasi. The attendees were stakeholders in the Barekese Dam catchment and officials whose specific roles and decisions directly or indirectly affect the water quality in the Dam.*

The Ashanti regional Minister, Honourable Dr. Samuel Sarpong welcomed everybody. He emphasised on the importance of the meeting, and expressed the government’s commitment to help prevent pollution.

A presentation by the Water Resources Commission gave an overview of the state of the quality of the lake and surrounding rivers over the course from 2005 to 2013. It showed the rate of deterioration of the Offin River and the Barekese Dam which is situated on it.

The attendees outlined the main problems or situations they had in their districts that affected water quality of the river bodies leading to the Lake, deliberated on the issues and came with possible solutions. One of the things WRC will do, is the monitoring of the activities of the attendees in the districts. Via a workshop WRC will assess the effect of the interventions in the districts and share with stakeholders and officials the water quality index, which gives the status of water quality in the Barekese Dam.

**Examples of the identified problems**

- Domestic use of the water bodies
- Farming along the river
- Fishing with chemicals
- Poor drainage
- Indiscriminate defecation
- Solid waste disposal
- Water supply
- Elevated Iron content levels
- Liquid waste management
- Encroachment
- Water transportation, source- house
- Siting of filling stations

- Sand and stone mining
- Washing of agro-equipment
- Enforcement of laws
- Deforestation
- Illegal mining
- High turbidity
- Discharge municipal waste water
- Algal bloom (Eutrophication)
- Use of agrochemicals
- Illegal chainsaw operations
- Sedimentation of dam
- High cost of water treatment

**EU-ACP Water Facility**

The EU-ACP Water Facility started in 2004, as a tool of the EU Water Initiative. Its overall goal is to support access to water and sanitation in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean through two main types of actions: improving water management and governance and co-financing drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, both being critical Millennium Development Goals.

Up to date, the Water Facility of the European Union has helped more than 32 million people to gain access to improved water supply and more than 9 million people to sanitation facilities. In Ghana the EU-ACP is funding two projects from the Water Facility at a value of EUR 2.8 million.