



Projects in China and the Solomon Island win the 2008 International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management

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Zurich, 21 February 2008 – A reservoir watershed project in China and a watershed forest preservation initiative on the Solomon Islands have won Swiss Re’s 2008 International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management. In total, the two awarded projects will receive USD 157 500.

The projects of the winning contestants distinguish themselves by actively involving the various stakeholder groups and creating strong emotional ties and local support. They facilitate safe and clean water supply to the local communities and are cost efficient.

The China Program of The Mountain Institute will coordinate the project which aims to implement participatory community watershed management to ensure safe and clean water supply for Shangri-la Town in Yunnan Province. The Mountain Institute is a non-profit organisation dedicated to conservation, community development and cultural preservation in various mountain ranges of the world. The aim is to ensure clean and safe water supply for Shangri-la Town by facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration in a dynamic reservoir watershed model.

The project’s main output will be an integrated watershed management plan and a functioning committee with community and stakeholder representatives responsible for developing and implementing improved practices as well as adapting guidelines and regulations geared towards managing the watershed and other natural resources of the community in a sustainable manner. The project will receive USD 82 500 to launch the project as proposed in the award submission. The overall cost of the pilot project is around USD 212 000, and the remaining USD 129 500 will be covered by the local government and The Mountain Institute.

Solomon Islands: Watershed forest preservation

“Voices and Choices for the Chivoko Community” is the project title of the second award winner 2008. It was submitted by the Lauru Land Conference of Tribal Communities (LLCTC), an associated body registered in the Solomon Islands whose initiatives have received national recognition. The project’s goal is to protect 8 000 ha of Chivoko watershed forests and place them legally beyond the reach of industrial logging ventures. In order to achieve that goal, LLCTC will draw on national expertise to produce a collaborative watershed management plan that provides a pathway for sustainable forest development practices.

The two main activities of this award winning project are to abate the threat of clear-fell logging of the Chivoko watershed system by external interests and to secure the commitment from the tribal council of Chivoko. The project will receive USD 75 000. The overall project is USD 95 000 and third-party contributions will ensure the realization.

About the ReSource Award

Launched in 2002, the ReSource Award is an internationally recognised prize for leadership in implementing the principles of sustainability in watershed management. With these awards, Swiss Re demonstrates its support for watershed management efforts by governmental and non-governmental parties. The programme focuses on sustainability and humanitarian projects and on supporting the communities in which the Group operates.

Notes to editors

Swiss Re

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