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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROGRAM Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam

In Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, ESP takes a ridge to reef approach, integrating programmatic themes that focus on watershed management, biodiversity conservation, coastal rehabilitation, municipal water supply, community water and sanitation, and environmentally sustainable design.

ESP technical capacities are integrated in the context of a variety of programmatic themes, i.e. Blue Thread Integrated Program; Coastal Mini-ESP sites; Clean, Green and Hygiene sites in Lamkruet and Nusa.



ESP and the men and women of Lamkruet are rebuilding public toilet.



Participatory village assessment in Jruiek Balee.

The **Environmental Services Program (ESP)** is a five year program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented under the leadership of Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI). ESP began activities in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) in March of 2005 and will continue through September 2009. The goal of ESP activities is to promote better health through improved water resources management and expanded access to clean water and sanitation.

In Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, ESP takes a ridge to reef approach, integrating programmatic themes that focus on watershed management, biodiversity conservation, coastal rehabilitation, municipal water supply, community water and sanitation, and environmentally sustainable design. ESP uses technical assistance, capacity building, and community organizing to achieve its goals. ESP is active from Meulaboh to Banda Aceh and in the Krueng Aceh watershed in Aceh Besar. ESP has established collaborative relationships with government, private sector, NGOs, community groups and other stakeholders where ever ESP has been active.

A new initiative in Aceh is the **ESP Field School**, an educational approach that is designed to help communities gain greater control over their livelihoods and the environment in which they live. Field School participants learn how to apply technical skills in land rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, community-based clean water and sanitation systems management, and health and hygiene. During the Field School participants assess the physical, natural, financial, social and human resources

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in their community. They develop action plans based on this assessment plus establish a watershed management to improve the functioning of the watershed. With the completion of the Field School participants receive a small grant to ensure the implementation of their action plans.

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The goal of the **Blue Thread Integrated Program** in the Krueng Aceh Watershed is to improve the overall functioning of the watershed and create a network of communities that can speak locally for watershed-wide concerns related to water and the environment. Activities in the watershed reflect ESP technical components:

- Creating community-based nurseries to provide the seedling stock needed in agro-forestry, re-forestation and land rehabilitation activities in the watershed;
- Implementing small scale community infrastructure projects focused on providing the people with greater access to piped water from surface sources and the provision of public toilets;
- Conducting ESP Field Schools to build the capacities of communities;
- Developing new approaches in agriculture that will save water, lower pollution and increase yields.

The west coast corridor from Meulaboh north to Lhoknga is over 200 kilometers in length. Up to 10 **Coastal Mini-ESPs** will be established in villages along this corridor. Reconstruction efforts have yet to put everybody back in single household dwellings along the coast. Many dwellings that have been built do not have access to either water or good sanitation systems. ESP is helping NGOs through technical assistance to put good sanitation systems in place and find clean water sources. Three community nurseries have also been established along the west coast. These are providing the plants for coastal rehabilitation activities in at least 15 communities. Field Schools are being conducted to strengthen this program by helping communities to take action on specific problems that the communities identify.



Community training activity.

In Lhoknga, ESP has established the **Lamkruet and Nusa Clean, Green and Hygiene** integrated program. These two communities have been the focus of ESP community water and sanitation efforts. Re-greening activities have begun in the villages with the clean-up activities along the Krueng Raba. A distribution system for clean water system has been designed and a consortium of NGOs will build the system. ESP has been conducting solid waste and hygiene activities in the two communities. ESP activities are expanding at such a rapid rate in neighboring communities that this program will soon become the Lhoknga Clean, Green and Hygiene.

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