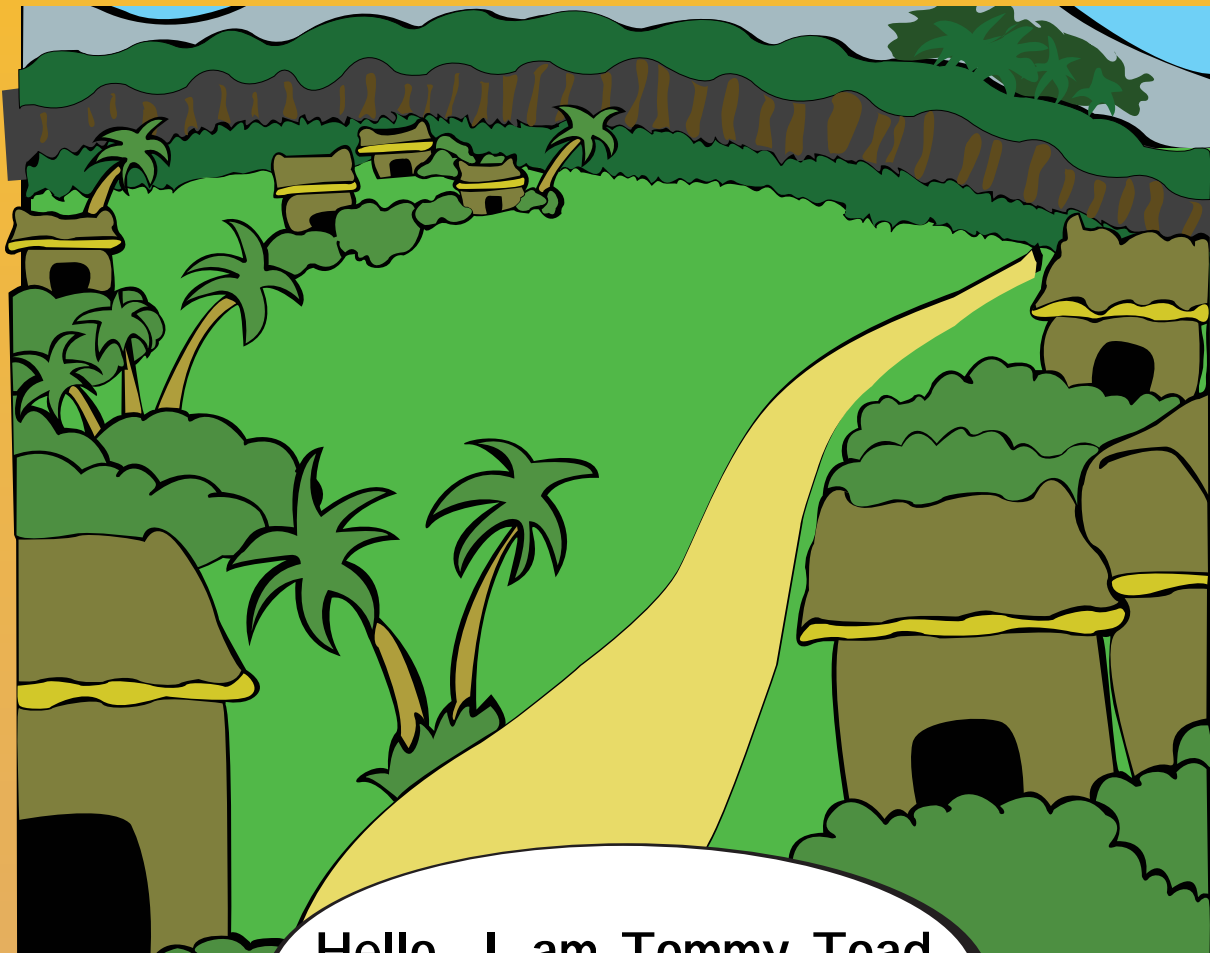


A GENDER TALE OF WATER AND ENERGY



Hello, I am Tommy Toad.
Let me tell you a story...



SOPAC



SOPAC Miscellaneous Report 669, February 2008



Foreword

This comic booklet has been jointly developed by the Pacific Energy and Gender Network (PEG) and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme of the Community Lifelines Programme of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC).

The aim of this booklet is to create awareness on water, energy and gender issues. Water and energy is used on a daily basis, but the importance of using these wisely is often forgotten.

The target audience for this booklet is mainly primary and lower secondary school students, communities and community leaders. It will also be used as awareness materials for World Earth Day and World Water Day.

We hope that the readers find this booklet both exciting but at the same time educational.

Acknowledgement

The concept notes on energy/gender and water/gender was provided by Yogita Bhikabhai and Kamal Khatri from SOPAC respectively and created by Darren Whiteside, Graphic Artist. Deep appreciation to all those who contributed to the production of this booklet.

We would also like to dedicate this booklet to John Robinson for his efforts in creating awareness on the use of natural resources and protecting our environment in the Pacific region.

This publication has been prepared with the assistance from the Asia Pacific Regional Energy Program for Poverty Reduction (REP - POR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Regional Centre in Bangkok (RLB) and New Zealand's International Aid and Development Agency (NZAID).

There was a village...



the village seemed to be a happy place to live...



A little girl named Tia came to the village from the city where she goes to school, to spend the holiday with her Grandparents...



Will you help me fetch some firewood?

OK Grandma!



They collected firewood late into the afternoon.



Then they made the long tiring trip home.



Tia was concerned about her Grandmother who had a bad cough due to the smoke from the open fire!!



Are you alright?



The next day...

Aunty we are going to get water.

Hold on, Tia and I will come with you.



they set out for the water well.



At the water well Tia began to notice that all was not right...



Are the containers clean?
What about the water?

I need to rest I am getting too old for these long walks!

Sure...my back hurts but we still have to wash clothes at the river.

I am going to the toilet.

Hmmmm... I wonder where she will wash her hands?



Boys, can you please carry this water back to the house?

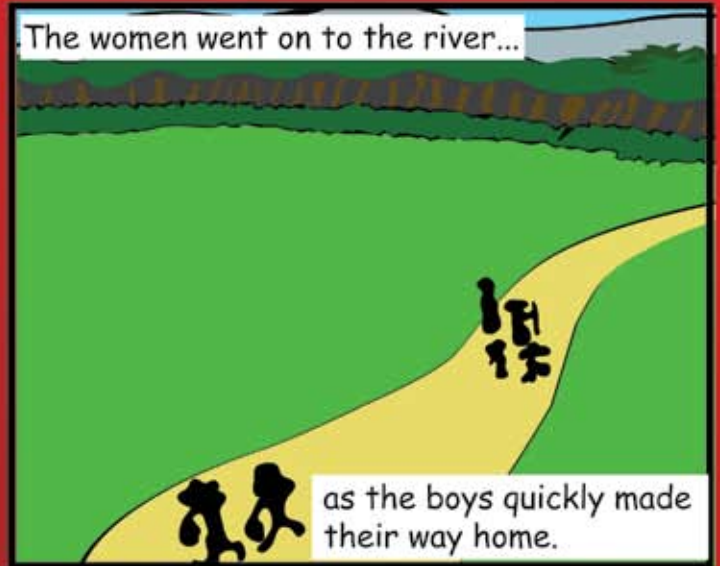


I WON'T, that's a woman's job!!

WELL IF THIS WATER DOESN'T GET HOME THIS WOMAN WON'T GIVE YOU DINNER!!



The women went on to the river...



as the boys quickly made their way home.

Tia decided to ask her cousin about her hands.....

You didn't wash your hands did you?

There is no tap around, but that's ok my hands are clean...see!



No matter how clean your hands look there are tiny germs that you cannot see that can make you sick.....it is very important to wash your hands after using the toilet and before eating.



Things at the river weren't much better...

People use contaminated water from the river for drinking and washing

People urinating and piggery waste gets discharged into the river where people bathe, wash clothes and fetch water...



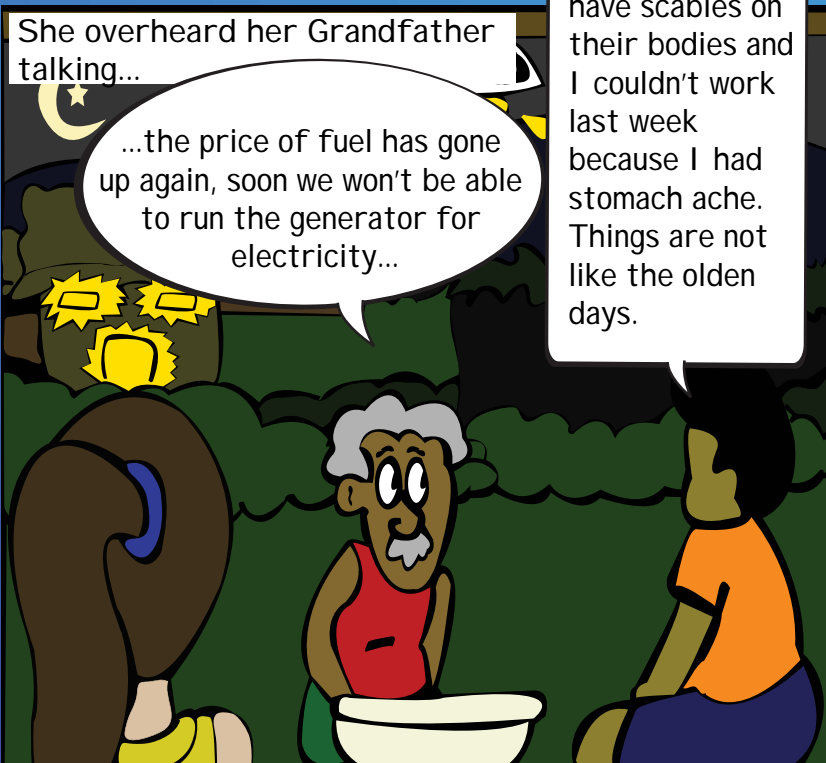
Soon Tia began to compare all the things she was seeing with what she had learned in school.



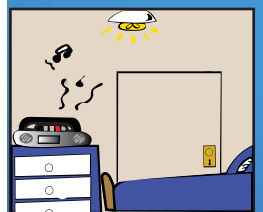
True, but we have other problems as well, my children have scabies on their bodies and I couldn't work last week because I had stomach ache. Things are not like the olden days.

She overheard her Grandfather talking...

...the price of fuel has gone up again, soon we won't be able to run the generator for electricity...



She also began to notice other issues, such as skin diseases, people would leave lights on and leave appliances on when they weren't using them...she decided to have a talk with her Grandfather about her concerns because he was the Village Headman.





Grandpa, I have noticed some problems here with the water and energy use...



Really? Why do you say that?

...I have been learning in school about proper use of water and energy and I have seen a lot of it being wasted...

The well isn't dry we have a generator for our electricity and the women can wash in the river!

...but the women have to walk very far to get to the water well and river, and they have to go a long way to get firewood. They could be doing more productive things like weaving mats for sale if they didn't have to travel so far everyday!

Things have always been this way, we don't need to change them now!

The old way isn't always the best way Grandpa! People are polluting the water and wasting energy, this can lead to a lot of sickness and even poverty! As the Village Headman you should do something about it!

I will call a meeting tomorrow and see what the village men have to say.

What about other members of the community?



The next day the men of the village held a meeting to discuss the problems...



...the women showed up and demanded to be a part of the decision making process...



...all that was left was to decide what to do.



They decided to call in Government experts to help..



Men and women within a community and a household have different needs and roles. The village men decided to include women in the meeting so that their needs are included. Women who are mostly responsible for water and firewood collection are able to decide on the best ways on how to get water into homes and how much energy should be used for cooking and lighting using the new technologies such as solar, wind, water tanks etc.



They soon saw that the village had many problems....like the long tiring walk the women and children make to collect firewood...



Cooking over a wood fire causes health problems such as asthma and eye problems.



Pit toilets should at least be 30m away from any water source.



Using dirty containers for water collection is not a good habit



Polluting the river sources from upstream is not good for others



Contaminated water sources can lead to skin diseases and diarrhoea-



Turn off lights and radios when not in use.



They called a meeting and told the villagers what they could do...

Compost Piggery - Pig manure is very good for gardening. It will improve your garden and increase the amount of vegetables you grow. You do not need to buy more fertilizer if you use composting.

Solar Power - direct sunlight using a solar panel will provide you energy to light up your homes. You do not need to buy more diesel for the generator and therefore you can save money.

Hydro Power - a dam is required to collect energy from the water. This will provide you power 24 hours compared to diesel generators.

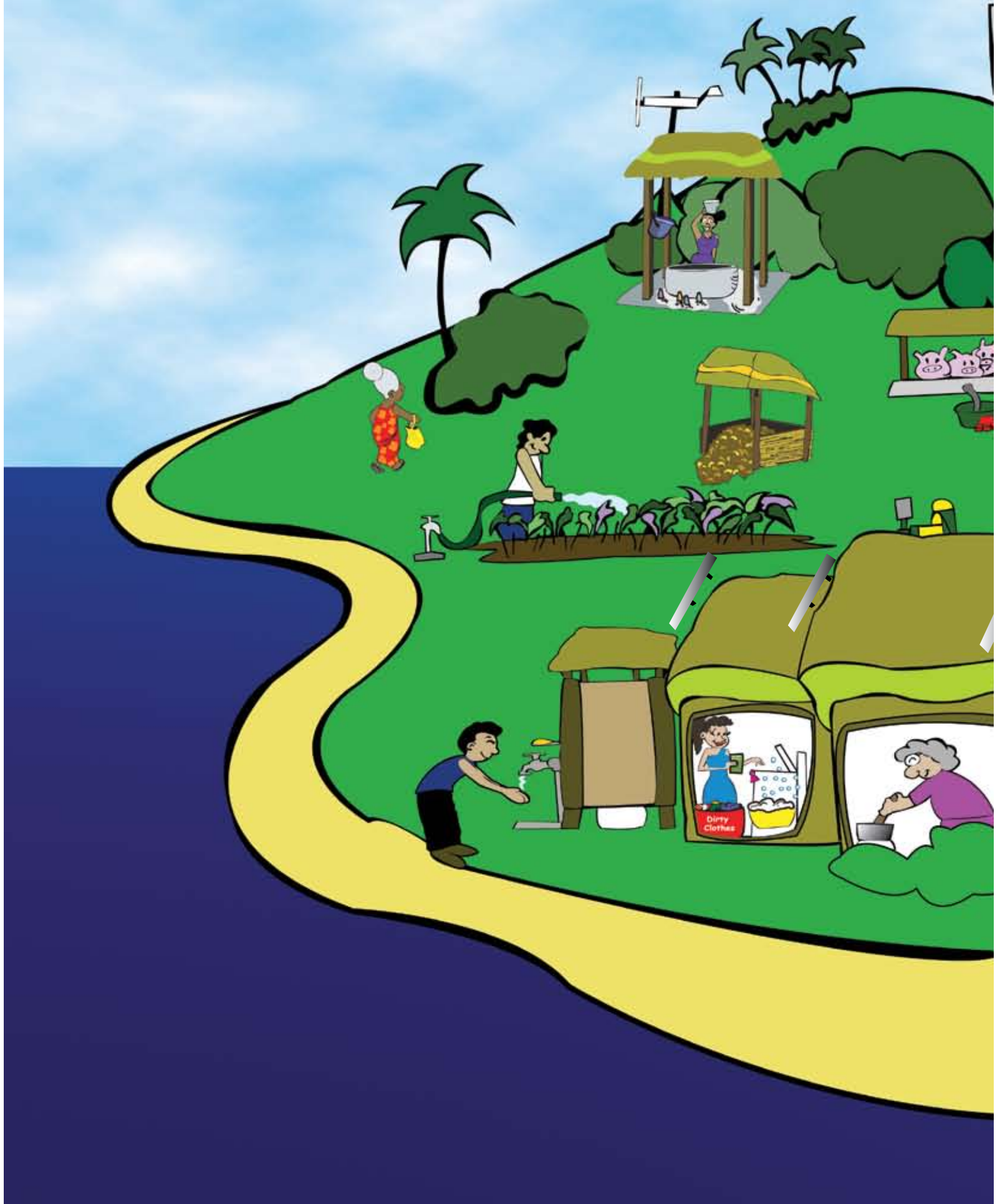
Water Tanks - will reduce the time taken by women and children to collect water from wells. Water from tanks can be used for washing, cleaning and cooking. Children can have more time to do homework and women spend more time with children and engage in income generating activities.

Wind Farm - Wind power can also be harnessed using wind turbines which will create electricity. Reduce the need for diesel use in generators and use more renewable energy sources that last long. Drinking water from wells can be pumped to your homes through the use of electricity generated from a wind turbine.

Government grants - ask for government assistance to provide guidance and advice on the best technology for the community.



One year later the village was a better place...





Medical
Centre



The Villagers made great progress in twelve months. They installed Water Tanks in their homes so they wouldn't have to make the long journey to gather water. The Water Tanks allowed the villagers better access to drinking water, and they also used it to cook and bathe. Water pipes were also installed in their homes to improve hygiene.

They also installed Solar Panels to get energy from the sun, this reduced their reliance on fossil fuels and generators. A few villagers installed compost piggeries to power their homes as well.

The villagers are far from done. They are now trying to set up a Wind Farm to harness the energy of the wind. They are also planning to build a dam over the next ten years. Now the village involves both men and women in the decision making process as smart consumption of resources is everyone's business.

To think that all this started with one little girl. So
no matter how old or young you are, whether
you are a boy or girl you can make a difference...
so take a look around and ask yourself:

WHAT CAN I DO?



Goodbye!!





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