

catchments to maximize returns from investment. This analysis highlights the importance of catchment efficiency, and future *taanka* construction should incorporate these findings.

This research demonstrates that *taankas* are valuable rainwater harvesting systems in the Thar Desert and provide a domestic water supply for rural communities. The majority of *taankas* are worthwhile investments that provide substantial direct cost savings to beneficiaries, as well as numerous indirect benefits that have not been quantified.

About the author

Megan Konar carried out this research in collaboration with Wells for India, a UK charity.

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Solid Waste Management

■ Urban Solid Waste Management

This World Bank website outlines the issues relating to urban solid waste management. It expands on the needs of sustainable solid waste management project development, which include strategic planning, institutional and financial capacity building, and private sector involvement. It also has links to useful video resources on associated issues.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTURBANDEVELOPMENT/EXTUSWM/0,,menuPK:463847~pagePK:149018~piPK:149093~theSitePK:463841,00.html>

■ WEDC

WEDC's focus on SWM is concerned firstly with seeking solutions to the problems associated with inadequate collection and poor disposal of waste in low- and middle-income countries; and secondly, with those who derive their livelihoods from work with waste. The website has links to the many WEDC publications on this topic, many of which are available to download.

<http://wedc.lboro.ac.uk/specialist-activities/interests.php?area=6>

■ International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)

The ISWA is an international, independent and non-profit-making association, working to promote and develop sustainable waste management worldwide, having members around the world. Member benefits include access to publications, newsletters, conferences and meetings.

<http://www.iswa.org/web/guest/home>

■ SANDEC/EAWAG Solid Waste Management

SANDEC/EAWAG's web pages offer a range of useful resources, such as a primer on SWM in developing countries; the 'decomp database' which contains details of different composting schemes and related expertise; and key readings.

<http://www.sandec.eawag.ch/SolidWaste/SWM-Home.htm>

■ WASTE advisers on urban environment and development

WASTE is an NGO that works for organizations aiming at a sustainable improvement of the living conditions of the urban poor and of the urban environment in general, focusing on bottom-up development in relation to recycling, solid waste management, ecological sanitation and knowledge sharing. WASTE, located in the Netherlands, has alliances with organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

<http://www.waste.nl/>

■ UNEP Integrated Waste Management Scoreboard: A tool to measure performance in municipal solid waste management

This downloadable scoreboard is a planning tool that evaluates existing municipal solid waste management systems. It has been developed by the United Nations Environment Program for use by governmental authorities in the ASEAN Region as well as for communities and institutions that are involved in management of municipal solid waste. It can be applied at the national, regional, municipal, community and institutional levels.

http://www.unep.or.jp/etc/Publications/spc/IWM_scoreboard-binder.pdf

■ UN Habitat Best Practices database in improving the living environment: Environmental Management Practices

Lists cases of best practice from around the world, many of which are examples of successful solid waste management

<http://www.bestpractices.org/bpbriefs/environment.html>

■ Sanitation Connection: Solid Waste Management

One of Sanitation Connection's major themes is Solid Waste Management, for which it provides a general introduction, with selected links to key online publications and other useful resources.

<http://www.sanicon.net/titles/topicintro.php3?topicId=4>

Compiled by Julie Fisher, Water, Engineering and Development Centre, UK for WELL. WELL is a resource centre network providing access to information and support in water, sanitation and environmental health for the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government.