



AAPA Lighthouse Award Project Highlight Sustainable Communities Project - Eufrasina Island



Ports of Paraná
Paraná, Brasil

Project Overview

Sustainable Communities Project

Award Category: Excellence in Environmental Practices

Completion Date: 9/19/2025

Description: The project addresses historical sanitation deficits in coastal communities, installing 42 decentralized wastewater treatment systems on Ilha de Eufrasina and engaging residents in workshops, training, and environmental education. Key goals include improving water quality, promoting sustainable practices, empowering communities, and fostering income generation through local labor.

The initiative has reached approximately 500 people directly and indirectly, demonstrating replicability and scalability. By integrating technical innovation with social and environmental engagement, the project promotes health, local economic development, and a stronger port-community relationship.

Inspiration

The project was inspired by the need to address long-standing sanitation challenges in communities historically marginalized and directly affected by port activities. Ports of Paraná aimed to go beyond regulatory compliance, integrating sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion in a collaborative model with the university and local residents.

Challenges

Physical and logistical constraints, such as steep terrain, rocky outcrops, and homes built along the waterline, made conventional wastewater infrastructure unfeasible. Additional challenges included limited access to technical resources and the need to engage communities with low prior exposure to environmental education. The port overcame these challenges by adopting low-cost, decentralized treatment technologies, conducting participatory diagnostics, and engaging the community in design, implementation, and maintenance.

Lessons Learned

Key lessons include the importance of community engagement for project ownership, the effectiveness of combining technical innovation with social education, and the value of interinstitutional collaboration. Projects addressing sanitation and environmental health benefit from participatory approaches and integration of local knowledge, which enhance replicability and long-term sustainability.

Value

The project makes Ports of Paraná proud because it demonstrates how public ports can be agents of social and environmental transformation. It strengthens the port-community relationship, improves quality of life, promotes local income generation, and positions the port as a benchmark for sustainable development and responsible public management.

Quotes

“Sustainable Communities Project is important both environmentally and socially. By strengthening our relationship with local communities, especially fishing communities surrounding Ports of Paraná, we are transforming the territory sustainably and improving the quality of life for residents. Through technical innovation, education, and active community engagement, the project demonstrates how ports can be agents of positive change, fostering environmental stewardship and social empowerment.”
— [Luiz Fernando Garcia da Silva, CEO Ports of Paraná]

Additional Information

The project is designed for scalability and replication in other coastal and island communities. Future plans include expanding the installation of decentralized systems, continuing environmental education, and fostering research and innovation in sustainable sanitation technologies.

Contact

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Resources

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO8yy5lhW-E>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXbrUp1k5Yc>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DEz1mBkOWMo/>
- <https://www.portosdoparana.pr.gov.br/Noticia/Portos-do-Parana-ensina-comunidade-da-ilha-de-Eufrasina-instalar-sistema-alternativo-de>
- <https://www.portosdoparana.pr.gov.br/Noticia/Portos-do-Parana-implanta-sistema-de-tratamento-de-esgoto-alternativo-na-ilha-de-Eufrasina>