



Organization Details:

Organization Name Mitsubishi Corporation (MC)
Website www.mitsubishicorp.com
Location /Address MECA: P.O. Box 323, PC 100, Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman
 MC: 2-6-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8086, Japan

Award Category Green Research Award

Project Details:

Project Title Mist –Catcher Project for Re-vegetation of the Mountainous Area in Dhofar
Location of Project Between Qairoon Herretti and Hagif, Dhofar
One Line Description of Project N/A

Effectiveness

What were your goals?

At the plateau areas of mountainous areas in Dhofar, their original vegetations have been severely damaged by over-grazing by domestic animals for long time. This is a kind of typical desertification. This Project is aiming at recovering the original rich vegetation in the areas to combat on-going desertification caused by over-grazing by transplanting indigenous plant species, to grow them by irrigation using water collected from mist by mist-catchers during Khareef.

How have you measured your success?

The facility was constructed and started their operation in June 2009. Even though the Khareef 2009 was weak and with short period, the facility collected around 200 cubic meters of water. The total capacity of the reservoirs of the project is about 400 cubic meters. We hope the coming Khareef will fill-up the reservoirs.

250 seedlings of local plants were already transplanted at the end of August and at the beginning of September 2009 and they have been irrigated every 3 days in hot season and every 5 days in cool season consecutively. At this moment (as of April 2010), more than 80% of the transplanted trees are surviving. Before the coming Khareef, the irrigation for these trees will be stopped and we will see whether the trees are stabilized and rooting deep enough to survive without irrigation or not. If they can survive till the Khareef 2011, we can say they will survive for good. According to the forestry standard world-wide, if the survival rate of transplanted trees is above 30%, the activity is considered successful.

Innovation & Creativity

How were innovative methods, strategies or ideas applied?

The technology used in the Project is not new and used in many places in the world. In fact, in Oman, there are several researches carried out in the past and their conclusion is that “Economically not feasible”. As a result, no implementation was observed since then. But, economic feasibility is not applicable to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project Scheme, because CSR Project is not necessarily economical. The objective of this Project is Re-Vegetation of the area desertified by Over-grazing for long period. In Dhofar, we can expect Khareef every year even though the duration is just two month and a half maximum, but we can call Khareef as a sustainable water resource that we can rely on every year. We are using the water captured for re-vegetation purpose, but the same water can be used as drinking water after chlorination and this is practiced in Chile and Peru where drinking water is scarce.

Impact

How has the project/initiative/work motivated others to contribute to a greener Oman

This project triggered the similar three projects in Dhofar under MECA.

Originality and Leadership

How has the nominee demonstrated vision, foresight and persistence?

In order to minimize the cost the Project is utilizing materials available anywhere. USA and Namibia are producing 3-D mist-catching net but we must import them and the price is more than doubled, therefore, we use normal shading net easily available in agricultural shop.

Continuity & Sustainability

How sustainable is the initiative carried out?

The project period is 5 years. We started the construction of the facility using budget 2008/2009. We started the operation of the facility in FY 2009. Since the very beginning of the project, staffs from MECA (Day-to-day Counterpart) were involved and have been working closely with an environmental specialist from MC. Local people working in the nursery of MECA in Qairoon Herretti also played a great role in the context of “Public Participation”. Such activity was on-the-job-training in the field. Because, only through the on-the-job-training the transfer of knowledge can be achieved. After 2 years, MECA started similar project in Dhofar, this indicates that human resources in MECA and in the region are growing through participating themselves to this project.

Explain how it will be effective in the long term

Human resources, facilities and budget are three essentials for any activities. If there is no human resources, how can we transfer our knowledge and experiences. If we don’t have facility, how can we show tangible and visible result of our work to others. If we don’t have budget, how can we implement a project. This Project satisfies all these three essentials. Once these three essentials are secured, the project will continuously going on. The most important thing is to motivate the people involved for long term activity.

Refer Details: (mandatory)

Referee 1:

Refree 11:

Title Mr. _____

Title Sayyid _____

Name: Ali Amer Al-Kiyumi

Name: Nasr Bin Badr Al-Busaidy

Organization: MECA

Organization: MECA

Position/Designation Director General of Nature Conservation

Position/Designation Environmental Planner

Email Address

Email Address

Telephone Number 2460 2285

Telephone Number 2440 4838

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DATE : _____

REMARKS : _____
