

## Abstract: Third International Conference on Ecological Sanitation

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| <b>Title</b>          | <b>The ecosan source book, toolbox and data sheets – GTZ information support for ecological sanitation</b>            |
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### **The ecosan source book, toolbox and data sheets – GTZ information support for ecological sanitation**

Decision makers and planners still currently lack a solid interdisciplinary knowledge base that would support them in adopting ecosystem based approaches to sanitation that solve the problems of their communities in a sustainable and productive manner. In spite of the encouraging increase in the number of ecosan projects being planned and implemented around the world in recent years, there is still very little experience regarding how projects may best be planned and implemented to contribute to their success, particularly in urban settings and on a large scale. Information, guidelines and tools are therefore sorely needed for the promotion of ecosan and the dissemination of know-how in order to provide information on the concept itself, the wide range of existing technical and organisational ecosan solutions available, and the hygienically safe treatment and reuse of the recyclates.

As a response to this increasing need for information among decision makers, planners and other stakeholder groups, several organisations, including the WSSCC and EcoSanRes, have recently published guidelines and tools that will be useful to ecosan practitioners for their activities. The GTZ ecosan project has also been working to contribute to this knowledge gap by preparing a range of information materials and tools, including an ecosan source book and accompanying toolbox, technical data sheets for different technical modules of ecosan systems, and project data sheets providing information on ecosan projects in implementation.

The information presented in the ecosan source book and toolbox aims to address the needs and interests of stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of ecological sanitation projects. They explicitly promote a participatory approach to planning and implementation insofar as this is possible. The source book aims to answer basic questions such as, what exactly is ecosan? What types of ecosan projects are there? What role does participation have to play in such projects? How can these projects be prepared and implemented? Who are the relevant stakeholders in the different types of ecological sanitation projects and what may their roles be? It also contains a step-wise planning guide for ecological sanitation, based on the Household Centred Environmental Sanitation approach as developed by the WSSCC.

The ecosan-toolbox contains a broad collection of field-tested instruments being used in the different preparation and implementation steps for ecological sanitation projects. As ecosan represents a holistic approach to close the nutrient loop between sanitation and agriculture, it goes far beyond the scope of conventional sanitation and thus requires an interdisciplinary and much broader planning approach and range of tools. The toolbox suggest tools that range from awareness raising materials to technical data sheets, design and planning tools,

participatory approaches information and guidelines on reuse, education materials, project examples and many other useful instruments.  
Along with the source book and toolbox, data sheets for ecosan technologies and worldwide ecosan project examples will be presented within the paper.