

# Sustainable Land Management



## Sustainable land management project spin-offs

### 1 Population Census

For the first National Population Census the partnership provided large-scale maps derived from satellite imaging for the country's 17 major towns. Authorities also use this cartographic base in urban planning for construction of roads, water supply and sewage stations, and for mapping electricity grids.

This portion of the project was funded by the United Nations, with the National Office of Statistics as local partner; these satellite pictures demonstrated how remote-sensing instruments are useful in map making.

### 2 Humanitarian De-mining

The UN-funded Landmine Impact Survey asked the project to prepare a nationwide map base for humanitarian de-mining.

### 3 Solar Power Promotion

The solar water heater project, initiated in the late 1990s, is now completely in the hands of the Swiss development organization Oekozentrum Langenbruck and its Eritrean partners. In 2002, a project sponsored workshop helped strengthen construction capabilities, with local first run of a small commercial units series in 2003. The project has orders for the solar power units from hospitals, vocational schools, and local Non-Government Organizations.

### 4 Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Activities in capacity building have their focus at the University of Asmara, where Eritrea's only GIS Laboratory for sustainable land management has been established. Beginning in 2002, it is meeting the needs of both students and government, including on-the-job training for administrative staff.

## 5 Regional and Local Planning and Development

In 2002, we also supported several small community-based projects:

1. at Afdeyu, rural electrification was installed through cost sharing arrangements with the community and the government. Over 50% of households, mainly subsistence farmers, have applied for private connection to the grid to date;
2. with financial help from Swiss Humanitarian Aid the project hired a private firm to expedite the delayed construction of a small dam at Afdeyu; and
3. together with local government, Eritrean NGOs, and UNICEF, we supported several other smaller local projects, mainly for improvement of village water supplies. In each of these cases, the SLM program chiefly provides expertise or “seed money” to close the final or minor financial gaps faced by development projects.