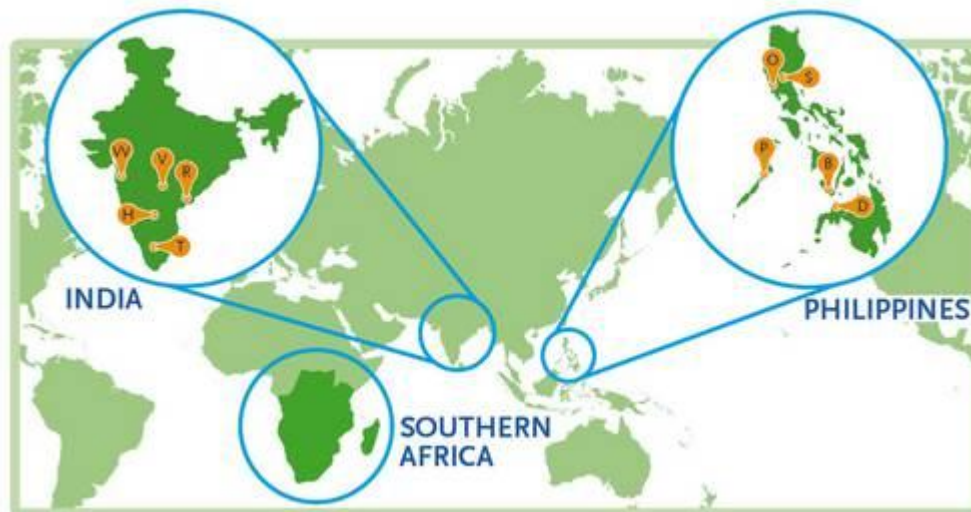




## ***ACCESSanitation - Accelerating City to City Exchange for Sustainable Sanitation***

Part financed by the European Commission and running from December 2009 to November 2012, the project **ACCESSanitation** is working directly with cities in India and the Philippines to tackle inadequate urban sanitation. The ACCESSanitation project is tackling inadequate sanitation in cities within three regions where the problem is at its most acute, namely south and Southeast Asia and Southern Africa. Partners for this project are ICLEI, ESF and Xavier University.



The overall goal of the project is to reduce poverty, improve health conditions and protect eco-systems by working with cities to advance local sustainable sanitation solutions. The focus of ACCESSanitation will be on making tangible improvements to sanitation services and facilities in the ten participating cities in India and the Philippines. This will be achieved through the development of local capacity to plan, design and implement sustainable sanitation systems and by launching campaigns to raise awareness on improved hygiene practices.

The project partners will support the participating cities in carrying out an integrated and cyclical management process for sustainable sanitation. As a first step in this process, each of the local governments involved - together with a group of key stakeholders - will identify the main sanitation issues and priorities in their city. Based on a review of different options to achieve more sustainable sanitation, an action plan will be drafted and implemented

following endorsement through the local council. National workshops, online exchanges and individual coaching for cities will help build the capacity of the actors involved.

The project is being overseen by an Advisory Board composed of selected experts from the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance ([www.susana.org](http://www.susana.org)) and in particular from the working group on 'Sustainable Sanitation in Cities'.

Population growth and urban sprawl is placing huge demands on city services. The strong link between sanitation, health and urban poverty means that the integration of wastewater management into city development plans is an essential requirement for increased sustainability.



Poorly managed wastewater has a large impact on the overall water cycle in a city. Sustainable sanitation solutions protect water supply sources from wastewater contamination



and present opportunities to reuse treated effluent for non-potable purposes.

Wastewater contains valuable nutrients that are typically disposed of within discharged effluent. Sustainable sanitation solutions instead aim to extract phosphorus and nitrogen from separated wastewater flows for use as a cheap and effective source of fertiliser for agriculture. This practice increases urban food productivity and prevents nutrients from polluting local water bodies.



Safe, clean and well designed sanitation facilities are needed in cities to prevent the practice of open defecation, spread of diseases and environmental pollution. Toilets need to be well maintained and socially acceptable. Education programmes encouraging more hygienic behaviour are necessary to ensure the benefits from new facilities are maximised.