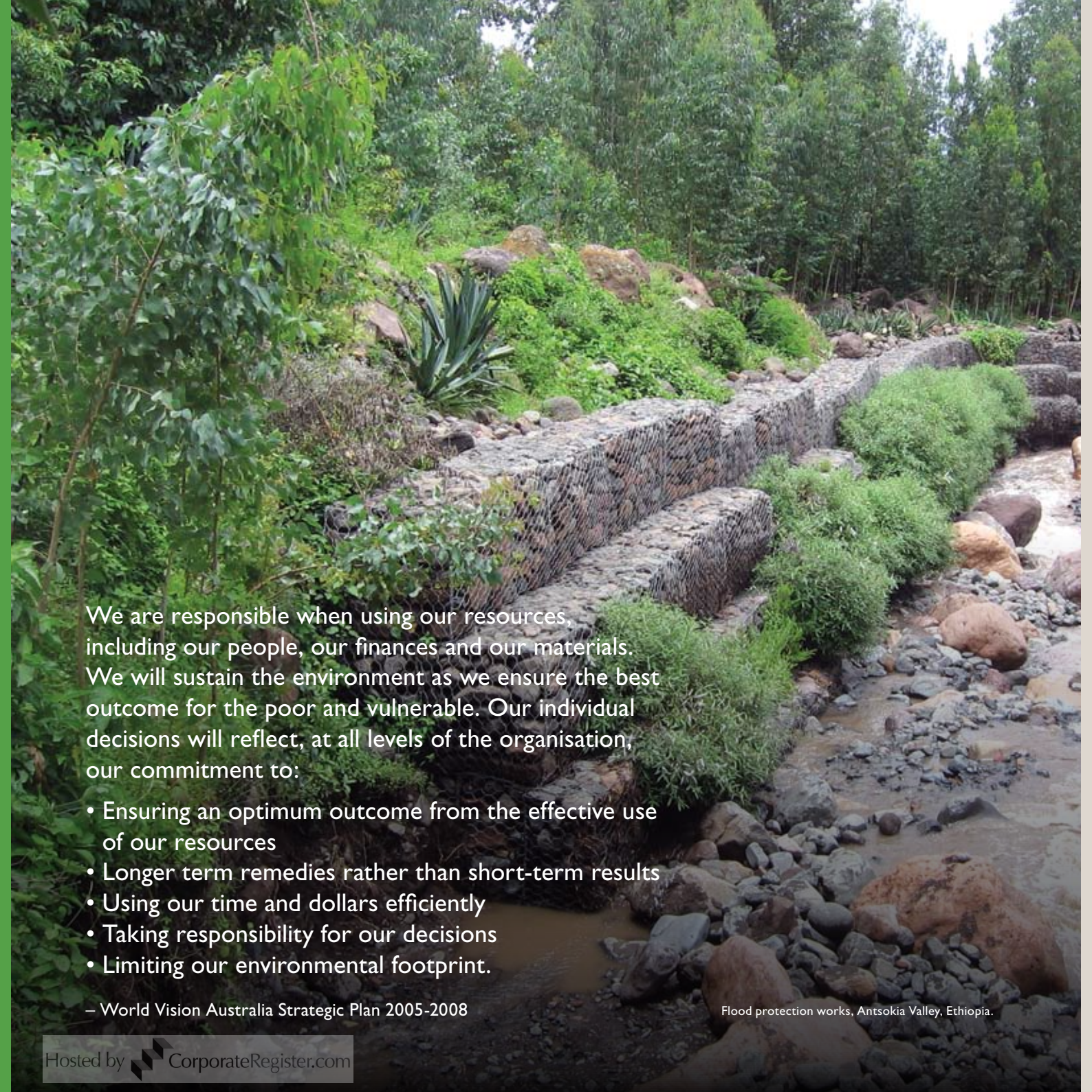


# Walking the talk:

## Environmental Performance Report #1



We are responsible when using our resources, including our people, our finances and our materials. We will sustain the environment as we ensure the best outcome for the poor and vulnerable. Our individual decisions will reflect, at all levels of the organisation, our commitment to:

- Ensuring an optimum outcome from the effective use of our resources
- Longer term remedies rather than short-term results
- Using our time and dollars efficiently
- Taking responsibility for our decisions
- Limiting our environmental footprint.

– World Vision Australia Strategic Plan 2005-2008

Flood protection works, Antsokia Valley, Ethiopia.

# Foreword

Environmental sustainability and poverty alleviation are inexorably linked. Addressing the challenges posed by environmental degradation and human-induced climate change is an increasingly important aspect of our work with communities in the developing world.

Experience has taught us that it is the poor who suffer the most as a result of environmental degradation and who are the least equipped to cope with the droughts, floods and famines that are escalating in frequency and intensity as a result of global warming.

And so, the need to promote environmental sustainability also drives our engagement and advocacy work here in Australia.

This comes with a recognition that if World Vision Australia seeks to convince governments, businesses and individual supporters of the need to reduce their environmental impacts, we need to ensure that our own house is in order and take concrete steps to reduce the impact of our domestic operations.

To this end, we present World Vision Australia's Environmental Performance Report #1. It is our first attempt to measure and disclose our environmental impact here in Australia, identify areas for improvement, and outline the strategies we have put in place to minimise resource use and waste.

This report, launched to coincide with World Environment Day 2008, forms part of a broader attempt by World Vision Australia to demonstrate transparency and accountability to all our stakeholders across a range of environmental, social and economic indicators. These efforts will culminate in the forthcoming publication of *Towards Sustainability 2008: A World Vision Australia Accountability Initiative*.

Paul Ronalds  
Director, Policy and Programs



Front cover:

Children stand amidst the lush foliage of banana and papaya trees in a World Vision-supported community garden in Haiti.



Drought conditions in Lesotho have turned this typically green landscape to dust. After two years of failed harvests, vulnerable local families are now dependent on emergency food relief.

# Introduction

This Environmental Performance Report documents our current environmental footprint, establishes targets for improvement, and outlines the initiatives we are undertaking to achieve these targets.

The publication of this report marks the first time that World Vision Australia has aggregated its environmental data to create an overall picture of the organisation's domestic environmental performance and impact. And, through this process, we have been able to identify data gaps and points of leverage that will help us achieve our environmental goals going forward.

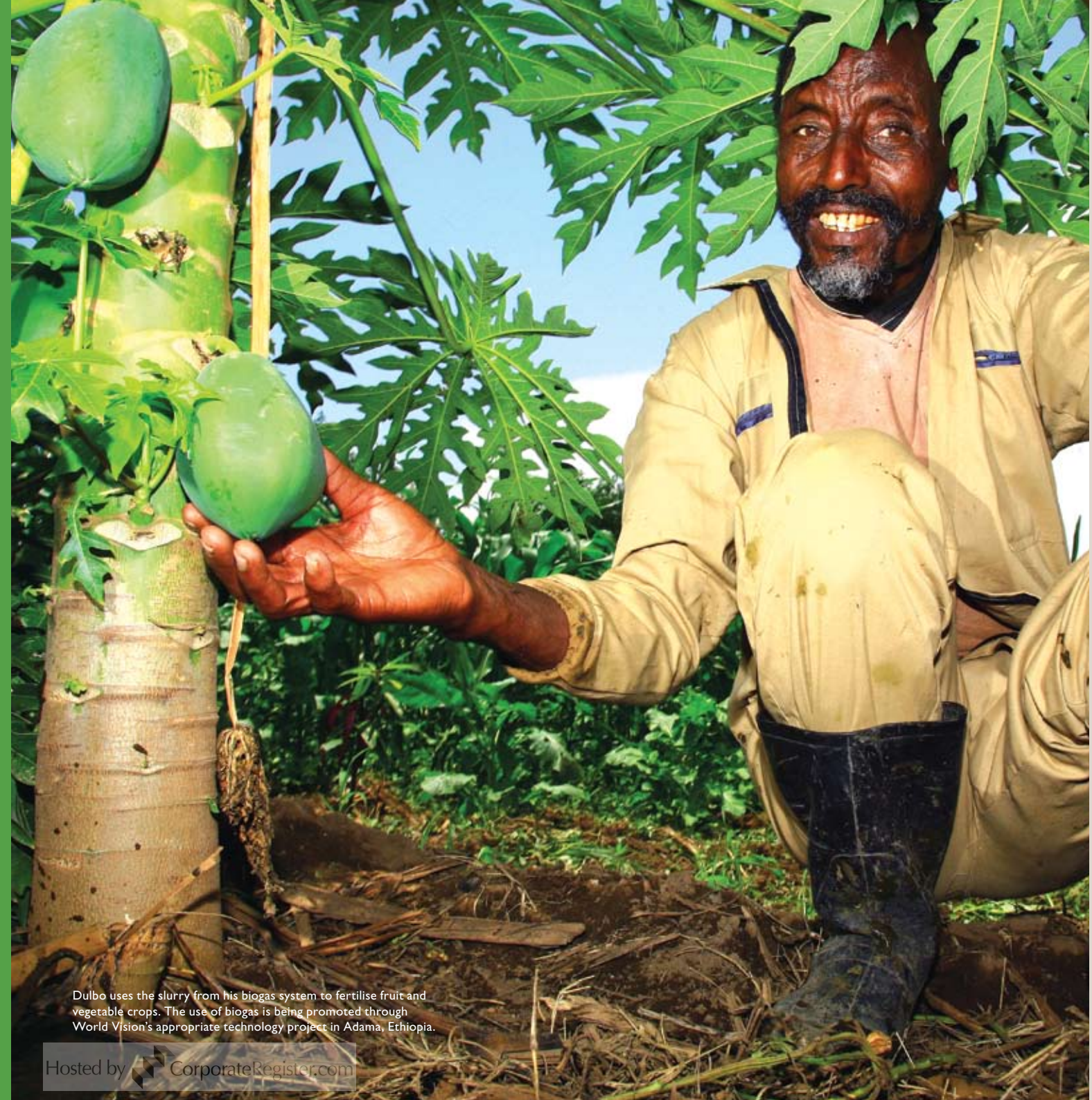
Our overall aim is to reduce harmful environmental impacts and consumption of resources through a range of corporate and individual behaviour change initiatives.

Where impacts are unavoidable, such as through our travel-related emissions, our aim is to measure these and establish performance benchmarks to drive improvements over time.

This report documents World Vision Australia's environmental performance, primarily from our East Burwood national office and where possible from all of our state office sites, in the period between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007, aligning with the World Vision International Partnership's financial year.

Misha Coleman  
Manager, Sustainability Group





Dulbo uses the slurry from his biogas system to fertilise fruit and vegetable crops. The use of biogas is being promoted through World Vision's appropriate technology project in Adama, Ethiopia.

# Section I: Performance Summary

Environmental Indicators*	
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions **	6899.2 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Total emissions from transport	2876 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Air travel (calculated via Greenfleet's methodology)	2681.8 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Car fleet (calculated vis Greenhouse Challenge Plus methodology)	194.6 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Offsets purchased	604 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity	3606.8 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Gas	434.9 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Total water use <sup>^</sup>	4237 kL
Total waste – (landfill, paper recycling and co-mingled recycling) <sup>^</sup> +	103.4 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Recycled waste collected (paper recycling and co-mingled recycling)	20.01 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Office paper purchased <sup>^</sup>	9171.6 kg
<p>* Data covers the time period 1 October 2006- 30 September 2007  **Total emissions reported as part of WVA Greenhouse Challenge Plus 2007 annual report, incorporating emissions from all WVA's support office operations  <sup>^</sup> East Burwood office only  + Calculated using estimated bin weights</p>	

## About the data

We have calculated our emissions using the tools available through our participation in the Greenhouse Challenge Plus program, which World Vision Australia joined in May 2007. These include the Australian Greenhouse Office Factors and Method Workbook 2006.

Data is based on the year 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007. We acknowledge that the data is not always comprehensive, with some information, such as gas and waste figures, only available for our national office in the Melbourne suburb of East Burwood. Where relevant, complete data sets have been indicated.

Throughout this time period World Vision Australia undertook significant building works at its East Burwood office, and moved many state offices to new sites. Consequently, the fluctuations in office space occupied throughout the year contributed to an overall increase of 463.7 m<sup>2</sup> as of 30 September 2007.

We have captured energy use data at every site occupied during this reporting period, with the exception of some small donated spaces.

## A commitment to becoming carbon neutral

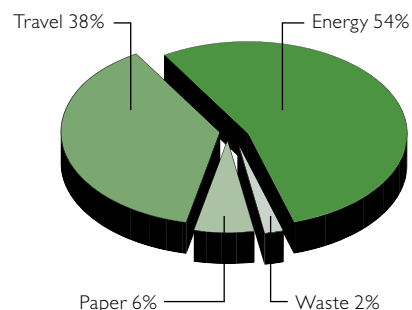
World Vision Australia is committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2015. We have developed tools and processes to continually monitor and improve our performance in this area, under the umbrella of the Australian Greenhouse Challenge Plus program.

Our participation in this program has highlighted energy use and travel as our major sources of emissions and we have responded to these findings by implementing measures to offset and reduce our energy consumption. Some of these measures include:

- Reducing the size of our car fleet;
- Installing an open plan office format in our East Burwood office and upgrading lighting controls to reduce hours of operation;
- Moving to hand dryers from paper towel dispensers to reduce our volumes of paper towel waste;
- Re-negotiating cleaning contracts to ensure appropriate recycling measures and replacing non-efficient kitchen appliances.

Our focus over the next reporting period will be to continue to work towards carbon neutrality by addressing high impact areas including air travel and technology-related emissions.

**World Vision Australia's  
carbon emissions breakdown FY07**



## Travel-related emissions

During 2007, our total emissions for air travel were 2681.76 CO<sub>2</sub>-e, calculated using Greenfleet methodology. Reducing travel-related emissions is crucial to improving our environmental performance overall. As many of our staff are required to undertake long distance air travel as part of their work, this is a key challenge for us. However, we are actively looking at ways to reduce employee air travel across all of our business units, including encouraging virtual meetings and teleconferences wherever practical.

## Green Power

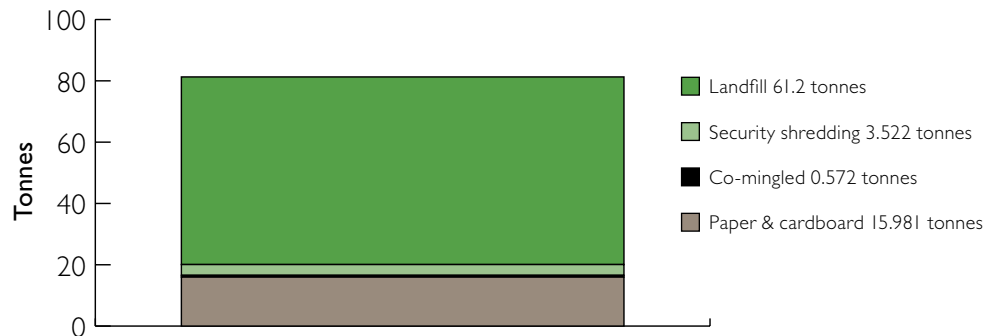
We offset 604 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions through our purchase of Green Power sourced from Australian wind farms.

## Waste


We are continuing to develop tools to track our resource use and this includes waste, both in terms of the weight produced annually and the ways that different waste streams are being utilised. Both paper and co-mingled recycling facilities are available at our East Burwood office site, which produced 81.3\* tonnes (103.4 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e ) of waste during FY07.

Annual waste audits are conducted at our East Burwood office by staff volunteers with support from World Vision Australia's Climate Change Analyst. Intended primarily as a staff behaviour change exercise, the most recent audit highlighted the processes used for recycling waste, produced some interesting insights into people's disposal habits and provided data to set objectives for year-on-year improvements.

### \*Breakdown of East Burwood office waste production (by tonnes)+



+Calculated using estimated bin weights



Moses is carefully nurturing this moringa tree as part of World Vision-supported environmental rehabilitation activities in Malawi.

## Water

Total water use for our East Burwood office for FY07 was 4,237kL, an increase of 2.3 percent from 4,140kL in 2006. Improved infrastructure, including the introduction of waterless urinals at our East Burwood office, contributed to an initial reduction in water consumption of more than 50% in the first three months following installation of the new urinals.

## Recycling

Recycling services are provided at our East Burwood office site by Visy Recycling and during the reporting period Visy collected 16.553 tonnes of material for recycling including paper, cardboard and co-mingled waste. In addition to this, Wanless Waste Management collected 3.522 tonnes of paper security shredding for recycling.

We hope to improve on these calculations by requesting more frequent reports on the materials collected from our operations by contractors and by including World Vision Australia operations beyond East Burwood.

## Paper

World Vision Australia moved to using 100% recycled paper in its East Burwood and Western Australian offices during 2007, with remaining state offices to follow in 2008. Based on purchase order records, our East Burwood office used 9,171.62kg of paper during 2007.

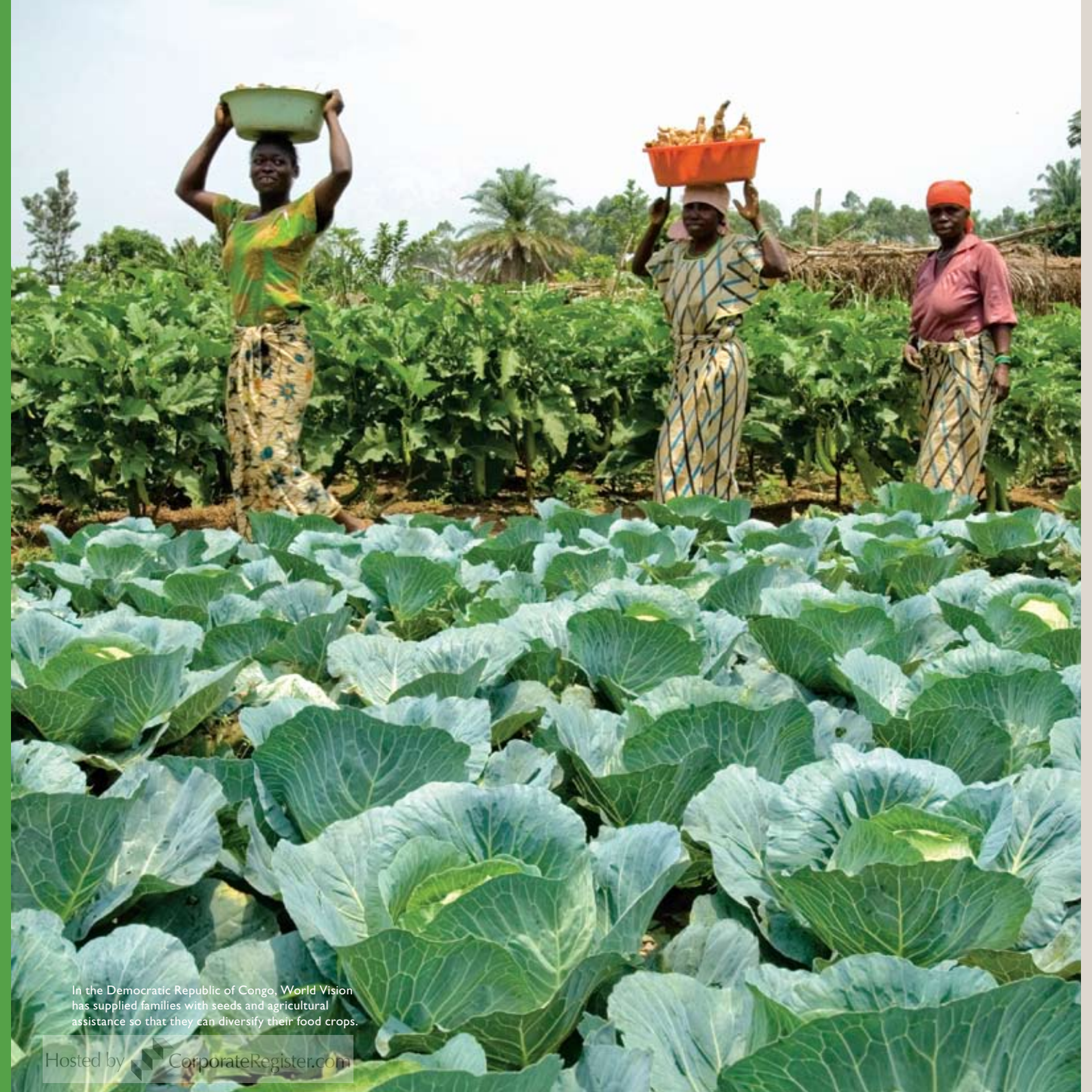
We assessed office and printed paper sources and we now use some recycled and sustainable forestry purchasing options alongside our existing supplies.

In addition to the waste audit, other actions to reduce paper consumption included simple modifications to printer settings and behaviours, such as a swipe-card login and default double-sided printing.

## Technology

World Vision Australia's Technology Department is currently rationalising computer network servers, moving to virtualised services and introducing blade servers. At the desktop level, hardware is to be refreshed with LCD units and laptop stands will replace duplicate monitors for laptop users.

We also plan to review computer power settings, exploring the implementation of automatic shutdowns for units left idle. We are committed to ensuring that obsolete IT equipment is not disposed into landfill, but rather donated to organisations that can give it a second lease on life. Faulty equipment is to be separated into component parts for recycling.



In the Democratic Republic of Congo, World Vision has supplied families with seeds and agricultural assistance so that they can diversify their food crops.

# Section 2: Walking the talk

When it comes to environmental stewardship, World Vision Australia aims to lead by example, particularly within the non-government organisation sector.

Our newly formed Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Group works both within World Vision Australia, and with current and potential corporate partners, on environmental and other sustainability initiatives. We also appointed a Climate Change Analyst, whose key performance indicators were directly linked to the organisation's achievement of emissions reductions.

The forthcoming publication of *Towards Sustainability: A World Vision Australia Accountability Initiative*, which will report on a range of environmental, social and economic indicators, will be a further demonstration of our commitment.

## Engaging our staff

Staff engagement in organisational sustainability initiatives is key to achieving environmental goals.

During the reporting period, we formalised our sustainability governance structure through the creation of World Vision Australia's Environment and Sustainability Committee, chaired by a member of the Executive Team.

We created the 'Green Vision' website on our intranet, which features staff surveys, green tips and resource use data.

Staff volunteers organised 'green' events, including on-site sales of energy efficient light bulbs and a screening of the film *An Inconvenient Truth* for staff and volunteers based at our East Burwood office.

Staff have also participated in waste audits, established a bicycle users group, and participated in the annual Ride to Work Day in conjunction with other organisations in the Tally Ho Business Park, where our East Burwood office is located.

During the next reporting period, our goal in the area of staff engagement will be to mainstream environmental improvement measures across all cost centres. We are also looking at setting up a 'carbon cops' system.

## Beyond our domestic operations

During the reporting period, the prominence and severity of climate change was acknowledged around the world with the release of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report.

World Vision Australia's collective knowledge and experience allows us to immediately grasp the dangers of global warming and our traditional development approaches are being expanded to help communities in the poorest countries adapt and respond to the consequences of climate change.

During 2007, we formulated a comprehensive Climate Change Policy which will guide our community development programs in poor countries, as well as our engagement and advocacy work going forward. This policy can be downloaded at [worldvision.com.au/learn/policyandreports/environment.asp#climatechange](http://worldvision.com.au/learn/policyandreports/environment.asp#climatechange)

We also launched Twice As Green, a new fundraising and awareness initiative to help us achieve the two-fold objective of advocating change and carrying out projects that will help those most affected by climate change in the developing world.

Our focus for the next reporting period will be to undertake Regional Climate Change Impact Assessments to inform our community development resilience programming.

### “No flush, you say?”

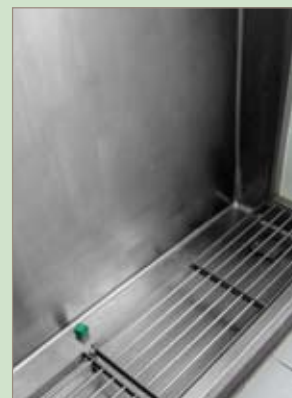
In today's working environment, 'change' is close to the most complicated challenge any business has to address. Whether it be changes in roles, seating arrangements, organisational structure or simply meeting dates and times, deviations from our everyday norms and routines can quite often send employees into a brave, new and often confronting world.

The more personal the change, the harder it can be, so when news spread that World Vision's male staff were going to be asked to amend their restroom behaviour patterns and support a waterless urinal system, there was an obvious and immediate surge in fearful resistance.

Being an environmentally conscious workplace, the door to acceptance was always going to be slightly ajar; however, sporadic internal communications and tactically positioned restroom stickers initially failed to win over the hearts and minds of the end users.

“No flush, you say?” quizzically spilled from the mouths of male staff who were flabbergasted, yet somehow slightly liberated by the sudden enforced abandonment of everything they've ever been incessantly taught by their mothers and partners. Whilst the concept was abstract, early sets of data indicate the desired effect of a decrease in water consumption already evident in the first three months after installation. To quote Remy from the animated movie *Ratatouille*, “Change is nature! It starts when we decide!”

– Zane, staff member, East Burwood office



# We have a Green Vision

**Twice As Green** is our new environmental program giving Australians an easy way to help change the lives of some of the world's poorest children and help the environment at the same time.

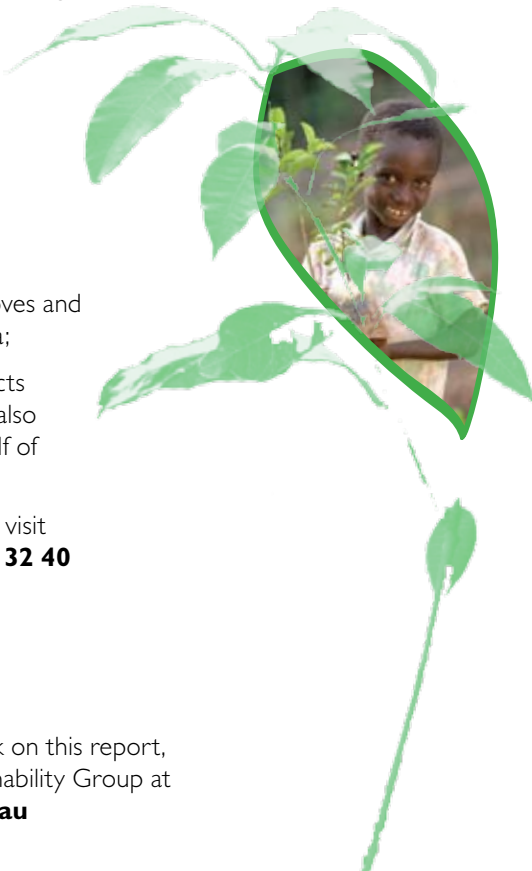
Through Twice As Green, World Vision Australia works with poor communities on environmental protection, restoration and sustainability work such as:

- Reforestation, tree planting and fruit tree initiatives across Asia, Africa and Latin America;
- Revegetation programs in four west African countries;
- Training in sustainability and organic farming to improve soil quality in countries like Zambia;
- Training in diversified farming options like agro-forestry and beekeeping to reduce communities' dependency on regular rainfall in countries like Ethiopia;
- Creating cleaner and sustainable fuel options like energy-saving cooking stoves and solar cookers in Tanzania and Ethiopia;

The tree planting and revegetation projects conducted through Twice As Green will also absorb greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>) on behalf of Australian supporters.

To learn more about **Twice As Green**, visit [worldvision.com.au/green](http://worldvision.com.au/green) or call **13 32 40**

For more information or to give feedback on this report, contact Misha Coleman, Manager, Sustainability Group at [misha.coleman@worldvision.com.au](mailto:misha.coleman@worldvision.com.au)



Back cover:

World Vision project area, Nyaruguru, Rwanda.



The FSC logo identifies products which contain wood from well managed forests in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.

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