

School project evaluation begins in Kenya

How do you score a recycled lorry tyre converted into a water tank against a sustainable chicken and fish production unit? Can you compare roof guttering made from recycled food tins with a solar powered water heater? These practical solutions to environmental concerns are just a small sample of the wide variety of ICC school projects that have been developed in Kenya over the past six months.

The challenge to rate projects against each other is now handed to a panel of judges. These *Project Evaluators* will spend four weeks visiting 110 schools in the ICC Kenya Programme, to assess the work of each school group. Whether the gutter project beats the solar heater will depend largely on how well the evaluators feel the respective project meets the set criteria. Aspects such as raising community awareness, creativity and sustainability are considered, as well as the central connection to climate change.

The evaluators – in total a team of 15 – will visit each school in pairs, spending up to one hour to view the ICC project and listen to the group's presentation. They are *critical friends*, who will ask questions, receive answers and provide feedback, along with perhaps some advice on how to improve the project even further.

At the end of the four-week evaluation period (March 15th) the ICC team in Kenya, working from the evaluation results, will award 20 of the 110 schools with *ICC Gold Certificates*. Then in mid-May these *golden projects* will move forward to, what promises to be, very exciting regional presentation events – one for ICC West region in Nakuru; the other for ICC East and South regions in Embu. To make sure that no really good projects 'slip through the net', the ICC team will also award one 'wild card' per region – thus three in total.

This year's prize for the Gold Award Schools will be an invitation to attend an intensive live-in workshop, where students will be challenged to come up with innovative but practical solutions to local problems, and in doing so develop adaptation methods for climate change.



Senior evaluator, Peter Thou questions students, while ICC Programme Leader, Miriam Githongo films proceedings at the first evaluation, Moi Mbiruri High



Project evaluators, Alphonse Mollo checks that the group has planted at least 25 trees, while Peter Thuo take notes.



Evaluators Alphonse and Peter discuss the merits of the 'Portable Tree' project at St Teresa's High School, Embu.