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**Maasai: Creative Solutions for Clean Water**

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*Below is an excerpt from an article published by The Daily Evergreen:*

The Maasai of Eastern Africa are a nomadic tribe of cattle-herders who rely on access to dependable water sources to survive.

However, the Maasai, like many residents of the Third World, are facing a growing global problem – a lack of safe drinking water. More than 8,000 miles away, a small group of students from the University of Idaho is trying to make a difference.

Five UI students departed to Nairobi, Kenya, on Thursday to begin testing months' worth of work of designing and redesigning methods of water filtration and storage. For the past six months, the students, along with seven others, worked on the project for the Maasai people. The projects, Clearwater-Aid and H2Oasis, are a part of a senior engineering requirement at UI.

“The basic idea is to remove what’s hazardous in the water so it’s fit for human consumption,” said Donald Elger, a UI mechanical engineering professor and adviser for Clearwater-Aid and H2Oasis.

“One in five people in the world don’t have safe drinking water.” According to a report by the United Nation’s Global Environmental Monitoring System, 5 million people, mostly children and infants, die annually from water-borne diseases.

“The issue isn’t getting any better,” said Gregory Contreras, a UI mechanical engineering major, U.S. Navy reservist and member of Clearwater-Aid. “The quality of water is just not there.” The two teams will test a variety of water treatment methods in Kenya, all of which the students engineered from conception to design, Contreras said.

The Clearwater-Aid project is in its second phase. This year’s team expanded on previous designs that were tested in Kenya during the project’s first phase in February 2006.

The purpose of the new prototypes is to reduce turbidity, or muddiness, in the water and remove the harmful biological material that can lead to illness, Elger said.

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UNPO Participates in Earth Day Festival 2006

**Notice**

This website is still being developed. We apologise for any inconsistencies or errors you may encounter.

UNPO

**Newsletter**

The image shows a stack of newspapers or magazines, with the top one slightly offset to show the edges of the others.