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GIBB'S FARM Reed Bed Filtration System Reclaims Greywater

Karatu, Tanzania --- April 4th, 2008 --- Guests to GIBB'S FARM can enjoy a long soak in new luxury-sized bathtubs without worrying about wasting water. The farm's new reed bed filtration system reclaims all greywater from bathtubs, kitchen and laundry for use in irrigating the gardens.



Gibb's Farm reed bed reclaims all greywater used in bathtubs, sinks, kitchen and laundry for use in irrigating the extensive vegetable gardens, coffee and flowers.

Reed bed filtration has become an increasingly popular wastewater management technique, both for household use and for large institutions. Re-using greywater utilizes a valuable on-site resource, conserves precious fresh water and reduces the load on wastewater disposal systems, both on-site and centralized. And, when appropriately managed and applied, greywater re-use presents very few environmental and health risks.

Reed beds vary from place to place depending on the resources available, but the basic principles are always the same. The first stage in filtering greywater is to remove large particles like hair and lint by filtering the water through

wire mesh. The water is then fed into the top of a large tank filled with layers of sand and gravel before trickling out the bottom of the tank and into the reed bed. Plants chosen for the reed bed help to absorb nutrients and aid evapotranspiration of the water. At GIBB'S FARM, Typha, Calalilies and Papyrus reeds are used for their known abilities to remove pathogens, nitrogen, phosphorous and fecal coliforms from greywater.

This is one of many efforts on the part of GIBB'S FARM staff to practice responsible tourism and sustainable farming methods. With 10 acres of vegetables and fruit, 30 acres of coffee and extensive flower and herb gardens, this is a huge step for GIBB'S FARM in our efforts to conserve water. For more information, or for our complete environmental statement, please contact John Cowan at johnc@gibbsfarm.net.

About GIBB'S FARM

GIBB'S FARM is a working farm located on the forested slopes of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It comprises a warm and friendly community where the rhythm of farm life has calmed and restored the weary safari journeyer for over 40 years. ###