

Water and Poverty Alleviation - A Dialogue for Action



INTRODUCTION

At the time when most of the world was watching the smiling faces of the Rainbow Nation's soccer fans, Salome, with her lawyer, served a writ upon her local municipality for the infringement of her basic water rights. Salome represents an example of the empowerment of marginalized communities that has taken place through the Danida supported DWA-COGTA-SALGA Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme.

Many of the communities involved in the almost eighty projects implemented under the auspices of the IWRM programme have been directly contracted, delivered services to communities, introduced water efficient and harvesting technologies. Above all they, have contributed to local development, improved livelihoods and community wellbeing. You will be able to meet and interact with some of these communities at this event. The experiences of this programme

dovetail into the ambitions of the ANC Polokwane Resolutions, in particular those concerning empowerment, the commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), access to water, health and rural development.

This Water and Poverty Alleviation - A Dialogue for Action will expose participants to a draft implementation framework and the necessary tools for its operationalization.

WHY DURBAN?

Given its human and institutional resource base eThekweni Municipality was chosen to partner with the IWRM programme to implement projects that can be readily replicated in other municipalities throughout the country. Participants will have the possibility of visiting a number of these projects.

DOCUMENTATION

Documents that will be available at the Water and Poverty Dialogue (Developed by the DWA-COGTA-SALGA-Danida IWRM Programme)

- 📄 A proposed implementation framework for community driven IWRM and local development
- 📄 Guidelines and Toolkit
- 📄 A guide to Indicators
- 📄 Training Programme

THE STRUCTURE OF THE DIALOGUE

The Water and Poverty Alleviation - A Dialogue for Action aims to focus on a strong interaction between all stakeholders, policy makers, those responsible for service delivery, NGOs, CBOs, researchers and representatives of marginalized communities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE

- 📄 To showcase how communities can be empowered to engage in service delivery to improve livelihoods and community wellbeing
- 📄 To develop a policy dialogue around these issues in line with current government policies and thinking on poverty alleviation and rural development with water as the catalyst.

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To

showcase products and lessons learned (documents-technologies-methodologies) developed through the DWA-COGTA-SALGA - Danida IWRM programme

To identify potential new areas of applied research focused upon IWRM and poverty alleviation

This Water and Poverty Dialogue for Action Event aims to demonstrate that much can be achieved through “breaking down silos” and believing in the capacities of communities to shape their own destinies if provided with the appropriate catalyst.

Participants will also have the opportunity to a preview of the documentary *Water for All* that will be transmitted by BBC World in early 2011. The documentary is based primarily upon the experiences of the DWA - COGTA-SALGA Danida funded IWRM Programme and highlights issues concerning water security and the problems of access to water by the marginalised poor.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Policy makers from a broad spectrum of government departments, (this conference talks to, among other, the issue of IWRM and cooperative governance)

Researchers with a particular interest in IWRM and poverty alleviation and the results and rights-based approach to development

Researchers and policy makers with an interest in appropriate technologies to support community driven IWRM

NGOs and community representatives interested in results and rights-based service delivery and holistic approaches to IWRM and poverty alleviation.

THE ISSUES

The Rational - the Why

The Polokwane Resolutions can be viewed as the vehicle to operationalise the South African Constitution and the Bill of Rights that are considered to be among the most comprehensive in the world. These in turn reflect the intentions of various international

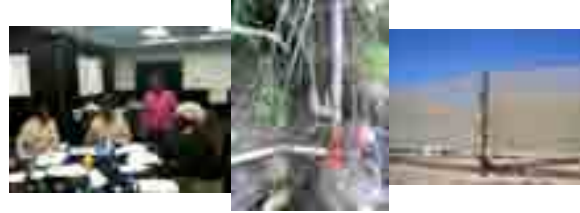
conventions and agreements to which South Africa is a party and which also influenced the drafting of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Response Strategies

The response strategy of the DWA-GOCTA- SALGA--Danida IWRM Programme took into account the following methodological considerations:

- Matching the needs of government (e.g. capacitated marginalized communities empowered to actively engage in local institutions) and those of the communities e.g. food security, health, local economic development.
- Ownership (including participatory Monitoring and Evaluation)
- Understanding how to engage (different approaches - Community Health Clubs, Art of Living, Mentoring)
- Testing different implementation models
- Flexibility in reaction to capacity building and technical support

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- ☛ Lateral thinking, especially in relation to cooperative governance
- ☛ Procurement issues, contracting of communities, technical call down facility

The Results

Almost eighty projects have been implemented in three water management areas. In the majority of cases projects have been identified, designed and implemented by the communities themselves as contracting parties. As a result communities have:

- ☛ Gained a broad spectrum of technical and management skills through on-the-job learning and ad-hoc training and technical support.
- ☛ Been capacitated, especially women, to engage actively in water in management

institutions and other bodies that influence their daily lives
Been provided with a range of low-cost, low maintenance technologies that enables them to improve their access to water and use it efficiently.

- ☛ Been exposed to, and taken advantage of, new economic opportunities At the same time they have been supported to improve the way they are organised and in gaining market access

Poster/Paper Exhibition Side Event

A number of communities will be exhibiting presenting papers related to their experiences of implementing projects. Researchers and practitioners are also invited to present at the side event.

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Outline Programme

11th October

Registration by 11.30

13.00 - 17.30 Site visits

18.30 Official Opening (Minister DWA)

19.00 Welcome dinner followed by
community theatre -

12th October (08.30 -17.00)

Introduction to the Dialogue
Deputy Minister DWA

Session One : *Understanding the
Enabling Environment*

Session Two : *Understanding the Context*

19.00 Buffet Dinner and social event

13th October (08.30 - 16.30)

Session Three : *Understanding the Needs
and Potential*

Session Four : *The Way Forward -
Resolutions*

19.00 Closing Dinner and Cultural
Event

Key Note Speakers

Senior Government Officials from:

-  Water Affairs (DWA)
-  Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries (DAFF)
-  Cooperative Governance and
Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
-  Science and Technology
-  Rural Development

In addition there will be introductory
presentations by:

-  South African Local Government
Association (SALGA)
-  Water Research Commission
-  Practitioners from the IWRM
Programme
-  Communities

ENQUIRIES

More information on the conference can be
obtained from:
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REGISTRATION

On-line Registration can be made via the
IWRM Programme website

www.iwrm.co.za

Alternatively

Please complete the attached registration
form and forward to: mst@durban.gov.za

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Free