

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO FULFIL IWRM POLICY

What Needs to Be Done?



David Cox
Institute of Natural Resources





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LoGo WATER: Towards effective involvement of local government in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in river basins of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region



EIGHT ASSOCIATED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Botswana: Selebi-Phikwe Town Council, , Serowe-Palapye Sub District,

Zimbabwe: Beitbridge Rural District Council, Bulawayo City Council

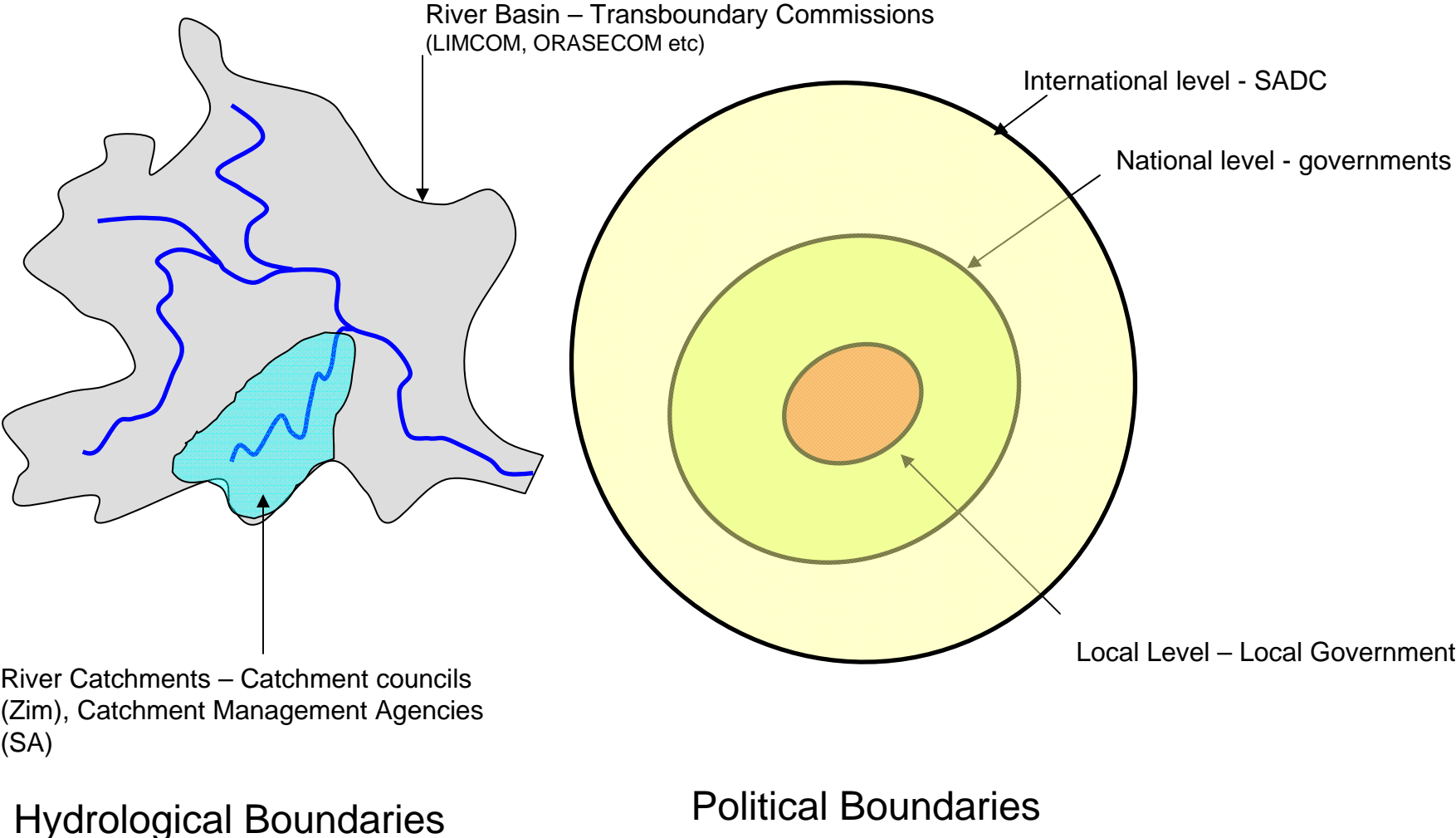
South Africa: Makhado Local Municipality, City of Tshwane,

Mozambique, Municipal Council Xai-Xai, Council City of Chokwe

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

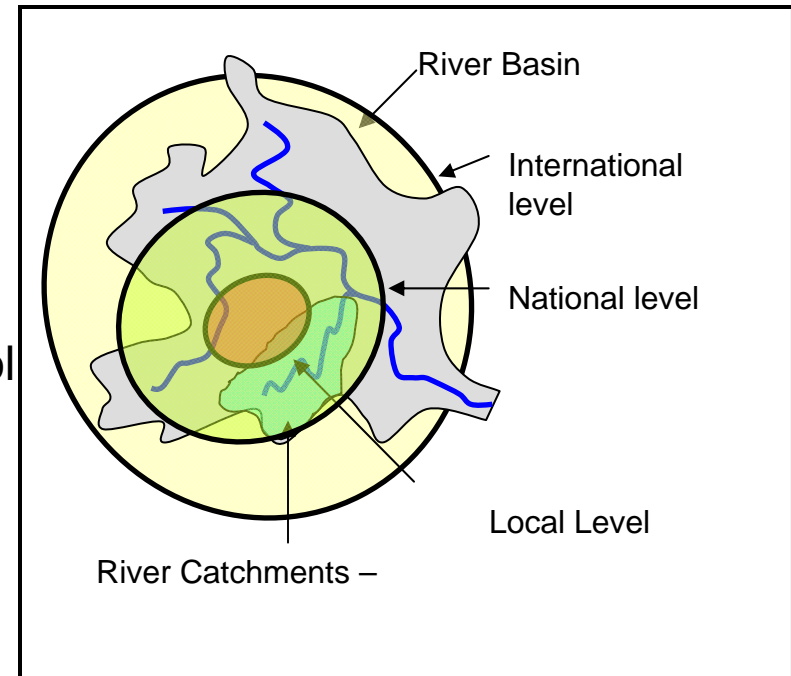
- $I + \text{WRM} = \text{IWRM}$
- Co-ordination and communication is central to achieving integration.
- Co-ordination requires the establishment and operation of a governance framework:
 - Policy and legislation (guiding aims, sets rules, defines roles)
 - Institutional structures (define authority & responsibilities)
 - Processes and mechanisms (link elements and enables implementation, thereby giving effect to the governance structure)

OVERVIEW - IWRM GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK IN SADC

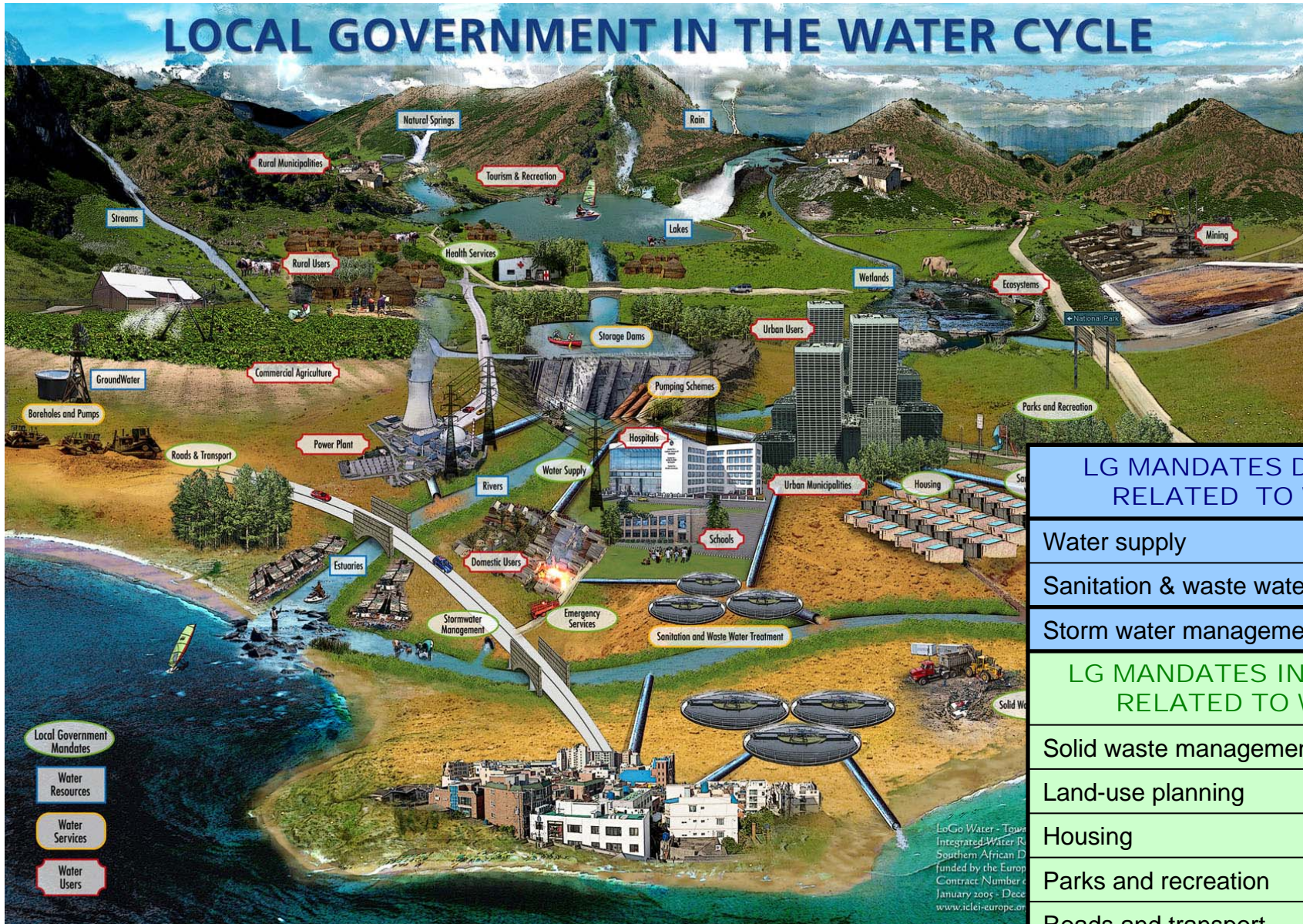


COMPLEXITIES OF WATER GOVERNANCE IN SADC

- Major IWRM reforms in past decade - development of policy & WRM institutions
- Policy developed at a SADC level - protocol on shared watercourses & development of river basin commissions
- Regional policy translated into national policy and legislation BUT country specific.
- Decentralization of water resources management mandate to sub/catchment level in certain countries (SA and Zimbabwe)
- In addition to water sector reforms there has been process of decentralisation over the last decade through LG specific Acts.
 - This has resulted in devolution of administrative authority to local levels.
 - LG responsible water related mandates (water supply and sanitation) and other functions that affect water resources (LED, land use planning).



LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE WATER CYCLE



LG MANDATES DIRECTLY RELATED TO WATER

- Water supply
- Sanitation & waste water management
- Storm water management

LG MANDATES INDIRECTLY RELATED TO WATER

- Solid waste management
- Land-use planning
- Housing
- Parks and recreation
- Roads and transport
- Health services
- Disaster management
- Local economic development

(Adapted from WRC 2007)

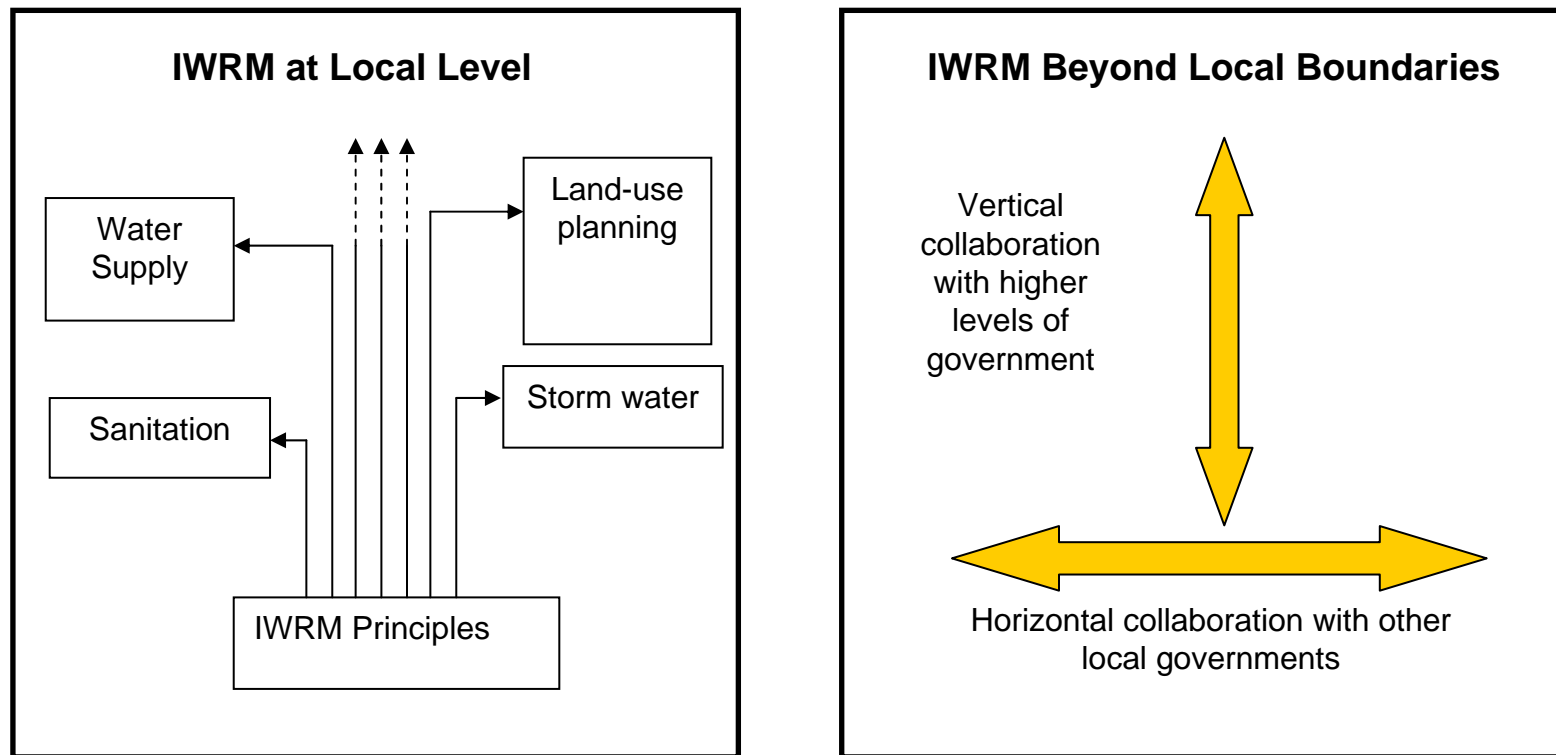
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & WATER RESOURCES

POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO IWRM

- WATER SERVICES – LG can assist in fulfilling policy and targets set at the regional and national level for efficient service delivery (MDGs on water supply and sanitation, Growth and development strategies in SA)
- WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – while LG have no clear water resources mandate, LG do have clear responsibility:
 - Limit degradation of natural resources (Constitution, EIA legislation, water quality guidelines, biodiversity legislation).
 - Access to safe and healthy environment for constituents (recreational use).
 - Support livelihoods and promote sustainable development (Local economic development use of goods and services generated by aquatic systems such as fish etc).
 - Adhering to these responsibilities requires that LG consider the way in which undertaking mandated functions will influence the state of water resources and other users.
- Challenge for IWRM lies in implementation. LG operate at the implementation level and interface with water resources and users. They are therefore well placed to give effect to IWRM policy.

HOW DO LG ENGAGE IN WRM

TWIN TRACK APPROACH



LIMITATIONS FOR LG INVOLVEMENT IN IWRM

- Mechanisms for participation and representation
 - many of the institutional structures are not yet in place (CMAs) or defined mechanism for participation in IWRM institutions.
- Mechanisms for coordination and collaboration
 - lack of alignment between water sector reforms and LG reforms (decentralisation) often results in conflict and weak co-ordination between LG and WRM institutions.
- Power and politics
 - LG is fairly small role player/user resulting in limited representation and weak input in WRM institutions
- Capacity financial and human resources
 - Who/which department is responsible? (don't understand that they all are!)
- Lack of understanding -“What is IWRM?’ coupled with a perception that it is an additional requirement to an already ‘full plate’.
- Political will – LG councilors are political appointees often driven by ‘Votes’ and short term benefits. This **CONFLICTS** with the often short term costs for long term benefits scenario associated with integrated solutions

SO WHY SHOULD LG ENGAGE IN IWRM?

- LG is BUSY and not yet 'sustainable' - coming to terms with new mandates and responsibilities.
- They don't know understand what IWRM is?
- There are various limitations – capacity, representation etc
- They don't have a WRM mandate.
- They don't have an apparent incentive

LG STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM ENGAGEMENT IN IWRM

Cost Savings/Financial Sustainability

- reduced leakage (don't pay twice for water)
- reduced operational costs
- reduced public expenditure on water related health issues
- reduced costs for clean up of pollution events
- reduced costs from e.g. flood damage
- reduced infrastructure development, e.g. storage dams, because of improved WDM
- avoid costs associated with non compliance, e.g. fines

Promote achievement of strategic objectives

- Poverty alleviation
- Sustainable economic development
- Creating healthy living environment
- Improving equitable access to basic services.
- Improved understanding of constituents needs and better working relationship.

Improved Trust and Working Relationships

- Improved accountability to constituents
- Increased co-ordination between departments
- More effective strategic planning
- Prevention and mitigation of conflicts
- Pro-active identification of competing demands
- Increased empowerment of local role players

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO FULFILL POTENTIAL FOR LG TO CONTRIBUTE TO IWRM

- Establish formal elements of governance framework
- Address capacity constraints etc.
- More importantly?
 - Create awareness and understanding within LG of their relationship with & responsibility for water resources.
 - Simplify the concept of IWRM “nothing new, just a better way of doing things’.
 - Explain how they become involved and start making a difference at the local level even in absence of GF.
 - Illustrate the benefits (Incentive) to adopt and apply the IWRM approach
- Requires recognition of LG’s role in IWRM and a co-ordinated approach from sector role-players including national government, research and academia, NGOs etc (DWAF–DANIDA project is good example of ‘learning through action).

LoGo WATER OUTPUTS

Part I: Reaping the Benefits: How Local Governments Gain from IWRM

- Explains relationship between LG and water resources
- Brief introduction to IWRM
- Considers how LG can engage
- Focus on the WHY (benefits of engaging in IWRM)
- Advocacy document aimed @ IWRM champions and decision makers (politicians)

Part II: Understanding the Context: The Role of Local Government in IWRM

- More information explaining the role of LG in the governance IWRM structure and how they may engage

Part III: Engaging in IWRM: Practical Steps and Tools for Local Governments

- Guidelines, steps and tools to assist LG in applying IWRM at local level and beyond local boundaries in their different mandates

Part IV: Ten Top Tips: Making Water Work for Local Governments

- Small document summarizing key messages and pointers for improved adoption and implementation of IWRM approach by LG

Other outputs – research reports, poster, PPT presentations, briefing note

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER INVOLVEMENT

- We learnt as much from them as they from us – highlights need for involvement of LG in developing Governance framework.
- Increased adoption and application of IWRM by LG partners
 - Makhado – successful motivation to national government for elevation from WSP to WSA
 - Bietbridge (ZIM) – Musina (SA) co-operation
 - Tshwane - interaction with neighboring municipality to address ground water pollution issues affecting Tshwane.
- Establishment of working relationship with project partners (Contribution to follow on project proposal)
- Identification of success stories involving LG in the SADC region, Windhoek (WDM), eThekweni (various projects) etc.
- Generally success is being achieved within large metros – challenge lies in smaller rural municipalities.

THANK YOU

LoGo Outputs - Available at end March 2008

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Africa Secretariat
44 Wale Street, Cape Town, or
PO Box 16548, Vlaeberg, 8018
Cape Town, South Africa
Fax: +27-21/487 2578
E-mail: iclei-africa@iclei.org

www.iclei-europe.org/logowater