



Department : Water Affairs  
and Forestry

# Integrated Water Resources Management



**Institutional Roles and Linkages: Crocodile West - Marico WMA**  
Executive summary



**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY**

**INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND LINKAGES  
SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT: WMA3:  
CROCODILE WEST AND MARICO**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGIES, GUIDELINES AND PILOT IMPLEMENTATION  
IN THREE WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS, SOUTH AFRICA

**DANIDA**  
FUNDING AGENCY

**Edition 1**

**March 2004**

**TITLE:** INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND LINKAGES  
SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT: WMA3:  
CROCODILE WEST AND MARICO

**FUNDING AGENCY:** DANIDA

**CATEGORY:** Situation Assessment

**PURPOSE:** To identify progress in the process toward the establishment of IWRM and to describe the current duties and functions of DWAF and other institutions in the Water Management Area with regards to the management of water resources.

**TARGET GROUP:** DWAF, IWRM Project Consultants and implementers in three water management areas.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The legislation governing management of water resources in South Africa has developed rapidly since the introduction of the country's democracy, which put emphasis on redressing past imbalances for water allocation and use. Principles of optimal use and environmental sustainability also form the cornerstones of this legislation. The Department of Water Affairs & Forestry (DWAF) and other support institutions therefore have an obligation to implement these policies, despite limited resource availability. This calls for collaborative structures to be put in place and processes and policies aligned so that they become complementary and effective.

This DWAF project, funded by the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA), entails development of guidelines for institutional arrangements based on information collected from the three water Management Areas to be used as pilot implementation for Integrated Water Resources Management. The three areas are the Crocodile West & Marico, the Mvoti to Mzimkhulu, and the Oliphants-Doorn Water Management Areas. This report specifically focuses on the Crocodile West & Marico Water Management Area.

Initiatives already taking place in the three Water Management Areas in terms of establishment of Catchment Management Agencies were taken into consideration in the process. This report reflects, as far as possible, specific characteristics of the Crocodile West & Marico area in terms of available institutions, their geographic locations, policies governing them, their functions and relationships with other institutions.

The Crocodile West & Marico Water Management Area is one of the many water stressed catchments in South Africa. Surface water resources are used extensively, particularly in the Crocodile River catchment, with the main water users being agriculture, industry, mining and urban use. Agriculture accounts for about 33.5 % of total use and largely utilises privately owned dams and Government schemes. Rand Water, Magalies Water and the North West Water Authority supply most of the mining, industrial and domestic sectors from sources within the catchment and from the upper Vaal river system, which receives a significant amount of return flow from Tshwane. There are approximately 3,99 million people who live within the Water Management Area of which about 70 % live in urban areas and the remainder in rural areas. Economic activities revolve mainly around mining, agriculture and light industry.

Initiatives on institutional development and alignment have been ongoing, taking place at different levels and contexts, depending on the agenda and legislative imperatives in force. The main developments that are relevant to implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management in this Water Management Area are the establishment of new forums and revival of existing ones in support of the Catchment Management Agency establishment process and transformation of water services institutions. The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has also taken a big stride in terms of involvement in water services in support of local government, including, presenting a position statement with regard to the relationship between local government and the CMA.

Many important lessons have been drawn over the past few years based on information sharing and initiatives taken by different players such as the current DWAF-DANIDA Integrated Water Resources Management project through its different work packages and training of catchment mentors and champions; interdepartmental environmental forum meetings; and alignment of the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry and Department of Provincial & Local Government around issues of support and transfer of assets to local government.

The Coordination and Liaison Committee (CLC), which is a body that coordinates all activities of the existing fora in this Water Management Area, has undertaken numerous tasks in relation to the Catchment Management Agency (CMA) establishment process, facilitation of stakeholder participation and in drafting of the proposal for establishment of the CMA. This committee has attracted stakeholders from various types of institutions providing it with a broad spectrum of expertise and knowledge base to address Integrated Water Resources Management issues. The skills and knowledge available is one of the unique characteristics of this Water Management Area, and is likely to continue to be utilised once the Catchment Management Agency is in place.

The Catchment Management Agency establishment process has been driven by the DWAF Regional Offices (Gauteng and North West) and the Coordination and Liaison Committee (CLC) with support from consultants. Nine catchment management forums were established as part of the process. Stakeholder participation, however, especially the previously disadvantaged individuals, was not adequate in many instances, which compromised the strength of the Catchment Management Agency establishment proposal.

The following were extracted from the Catchment Management Agency establishment proposal documents:

- ✧ *The members of the Coordination and Liaison Committee (CLC) have been exposed to the Situation Assessment and the Viability Study. The latter was discussed in detail at a special Coordination and Liaison Committee meeting on 22 June 2001.*
- ✧ *The Strategy and Planning Theme Teams (SPTT) discussed the Viability Study in August 2001, and its contents were agreed upon in principle.*
- ✧ *The first draft Proposal was discussed and modified at joint workshops of the Strategy and Planning Theme Teams and the Project Management Committee (PMC) in September 2001 and October 2001, respectively.*
- ✧ *The Strategy and Planning Theme Teams and the Project Management Committee approved the second draft Proposal on 13 November 2001.*
- ✧ *The revised Proposal (3<sup>rd</sup> draft) was presented to a full meeting of the Coordination and Liaison Committee on 19 November 2001. The principles and key recommendations were approved by the Coordination and Liaison Committee. This mandated the Strategy and Planning Theme Teams to work with the Project Management Committee to refine the Proposal in the light of the comments and subsequent comments from DWAF: Catchment Management.*
- ✧ *The Strategy and Planning Theme Teams and Project Management Committee (PMC) met on 14 April 2002 to confirm the final inputs to the Proposal.*

Despite issues raised, the regional office made attempts to communicate the need for co-operation with most provincial departments and local government structures. This communication was largely through written correspondence. An intensive marketing strategy and information dissemination mechanism needs to be put in place to take this further and popularise the Catchment Management Agency process.

It was also noted that consultants had a major role to play in the Catchment Management Agency establishment process. While this had advantages of efficient and timely delivery within tight schedules, the disadvantages appeared to be loss of control or ownership over the intellectual property by DWAF, which could weaken the support role that they could play in future. Interventions made through the DANIDA training of trainers, deployment of catchment champions and related programmes have given the process more meaning and legitimacy and the process now needs to be taken forward into practical action plans.