

Communities Demonstrating IWRM in the Olifants-Doorn WMA

Western Cape Water Indaba
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Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) II Programme



water affairs

Department: Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SALGA
South African Local Government Association



Danida

Water for the Environment



IWRM Outputs Achieved

- Community is more aware of the role of water in the environment and effects of climate change
- Participants trained in environment and natural resource management
- Problems identified and solved – erosion, water pollution, water wastage, groundwater monitoring & invasive plants
- Improved water use (water for the Reserve), monitoring of groundwater quality and levels, water pollution and climate change

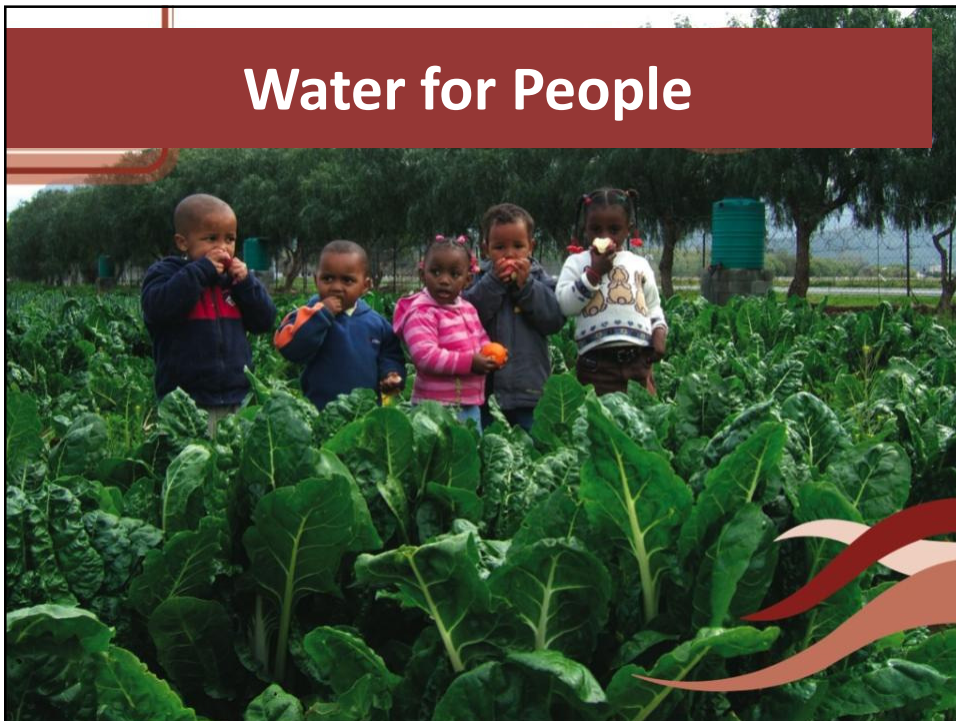
Lessons Learnt

- West Coast is a very sensitive environment, especially with respect to climate change, soil & vegetation
- Partnerships and cooperation is important for success
- People management is not easy
- Informed people work better together

Way Forward

- Participate in DWA programmes wrt Adopt-a-River, Groundwater Monitoring, Working for Water, Water Use Compliance & Monitoring
- Additional funding should be made available for training, empowerment & awareness on the sustainable management of water and the environment
- With the assistance of other institutions (WWF, CAPE, WfW) environmental projects can be sustainable (products & services)
- Implement similar projects in other areas

Water for People



IWRM Outputs Achieved

- 200 + Rainwater tanks installed
- Participants capacity built especially regarding
 - National Water Act
 - Installation and maintenance regarding irrigation systems
 - Organic farming methods and soil improvement
- Good harvests were obtained and contracts made with markets
- Production of food for households and small scale commercial
- Offices and stores erected at gardens (also used for value added production)

Lessons Learnt

- Sustainable water resources is a big challenge
- Municipal water is unaffordable R3,50 – R20,00 per 1000 l (compared to raw water 0.18c / 1000 l)
- Ownership / long term lease agreements regarding land is critical
- Current production levels cannot support the participants economically (income is too low)

Way forward

- The sustainability of the food gardens are based on a strong functioning forum.
- Cheaper water for irrigation must be made available (DWA Rainwater & Fog Harvesting, WUA's make water available, groundwater, canal, dams)
- Investigate value-add opportunities within the project – processing of vegetables, herbs & fruit
- Buy input collectively & create a common market for produce
- Financial support is still required

Water for Growth & Development



Emerging Farmers

IWRM Outputs Achieved

- Agricultural land for production accessed by emerging farmers
- Infrastructure developed, improved & upgraded
 - Cleaning of storage dams
 - Pumps & irrigation systems purchased and installed
 - Water tanks & pipelines (replaced earthen canals)
 - Upgraded boreholes & pumps (solar)
 - Stock watering networks
- Improved availability of water (WUA's & municipality)
- Reuse of water (sewerage water for fodder crops)
- Capacity built admin, finances & water resource management
- Emerging farmer forums supported
- Awareness of DWA Subsidies, National Water Act & water use rights
- Participation of emerging farmers in Water User Associations

Lessons Learnt

- Too few storage dams, groundwater should be used
- Slow pace of water reform
- Water rights for emerging farmers must be recognised by DWA, WUA's (municipality)
- DWA application for subsidies should be simplified, accessible, greater support provided and feedback given
- Land too small for sustainable farming (economic unit)
- Municipal commonage land policy – lease agreement not finalised
- Little support given by local government (loss of income, causes conflict)

Lessons Learnt

- Dept Agriculture's support should improve (better service levels of extension officers, more transparent, listen to the needs of emerging farmers)
- State Departments do not cooperate with each other
- Conflict management and cooperation is very important
- Poor cooperation from certain commercial farmers
- Climate change should be part of planning
- Power connection fee and cost of electricity is too expensive

Way Forward

- REQUEST HON. MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE EMERGING FARMER FORUM & DEPT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY POOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE (& Moravian Church)
- Water Affairs must stay involved with communities (as per the IWRM programme)
- Emerging farmers must remain engaged and participate in the Water User Associations
- Community projects should have business plans, financial records in order to show sustainability
- Need support to develop products and access markets
- Require more information regarding State Departments, their policies and subsidies
- Obtain information wrt climate change
- Speed up access to more land and water!

Empowerment & Water Management Institutions



IWRM Outputs Achieved

- Increased water awareness
- Training programme presented
 - Effective water management and use
 - Water resource protection
 - National Water Act
 - DWA subsidies
 - Groundwater
- Offices established and communication improved

IWRM Outputs Achieved

- Engages in all Water User Associations in the Olifants-Doorn
- WUA pre-meeting support through DWA / IWRM
- Members are active and pressurise the WUA's, municipalities, churches & commercial farmers
- Marches arranged to municipalities, Moravian church and Parliament
- Forum members are part of DWA IWRM program management (monthly PMG meetings)


Lessons Learnt

- Transparency & accountability of finances & funding is critical for a healthy organisation and to prevent conflict
- Forum should be informed / involved in developing programmes from inception (as in DWA IWRM programme)
- WUA's do not really recognise the emerging farmer forums
- Emerging farmer forums were late in getting involved with the WUA's, wrt the composition of the management board, developing the business plan, and other policies wrt billing agent, Working for Water (implementing agent) , personnel appointments, etc
- Pre-meeting support from DWA IWRM helps wrt building capacity and empowerment
- Women empowerment resulted in women participating in every WUA, youth involvement remain a challenge (training for youth though New Venture Creation has helped gain youth)


Way Forward


- Forums need continued support from DWA (water & subsidies), Rural Development (land & sustainable development), Cooperative Government (local government)
- Establish a cooperative to be a sustainable service provider to members, facilitate collective purchases, processing, marketing and sales.
- Forum facilitate access to land and water (for training)
- Provide services to members wrt DWA subsidies (rain water harvesting, infrastructure & water rights)
- Improved relationships with DWA, and other State Departments, especially local government
- DWA & Forums should ensure that BBBEE is applied correctly and monitored
- Women must stay involved with the forums and WUA's
- Youth involvement should be encouraged through practical training


Questions



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