Water and Poverty Alleviation
A Dialogue for Action

New directions for policy and research

The Role of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in addressing poverty alleviation and meeting the objectives of Water for Growth and Development in relation to achieving the Millennium Development Goals

11 - 13 October 2010
Durban City Hall
(first announcement)
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 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 eThekwini 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.
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-COGTA-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 relation to capacity building and technical support
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.
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 t registration form and forward to: mst@durban.gov.za

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