

| March 2013 |



CSOs Engagement With the Water Sector

Concept Notes On:

- Water Conservation and Water Demand Management
- Catchment Management Forums
- Rainwater Harvesting

Dear Reader

As many of you know the EU donor funding to the Masibambane program has come to an end. This being said, the Department of Water Affairs has remains committed to partnering and supporting the Civil Society Organizations in the water sector.

For the period 2012/13, three key thematic areas were identified, based on a national audit done with CSOs.

Subsequently 3 concept notes were developed and will culminate into an exit strategy that recommends opportunities for partnerships with communities and broader civil society organizations as a whole.

The 3 key areas are: Water Conservation Water Demand Management, Catchment Management Forums and Rainwater Harvesting. Each of the concept notes speak to specific activities that were undertaken over the last year with communities and have elements of advocacy, capacity building through training and the establishment of partnerships.

The continued support towards the publication of the CSO newsletter by DWA is an illustration of its continued commitment to the work done by CSOs in partnership with the department.

This is fully demonstrated in marketing this work and highlighting it as a contribution to the sector.

This issue of the CSO Bulletin focuses on the Concept Notes that were developed and the CSO activities that were instrumental in the development of these Concept Notes.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) appointed the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, more specifically the Centre for Water and Sanitation Research as the National Civil Society Support to the civil society program under the Masibambane program.

As part of the responsibilities, the CSOSP had to conduct a national audit with existing Masibambane CSO structures and where possible broader civil society organizations in the water sector. The aim was to establish what was being undertaken by CSOs and who were these civil society social activists advocating for changes. Another key aim was to investigate the key thematic areas in which CSOs were involved in and how this existing work can form a basis for a strategy and program for CSO engagement within the water sector beyond Masibambane, noting the ending of the program. This objective was critical if one was to sustain the participation of CSOs in the water sector without dedicated funding from DWA through Masibambane.

At the end of the audit, concept notes in three thematic areas were developed, namely Rainwater Harvesting for sustainable livelihoods, Water Conservation and Demand Management and Catchment Management Forums. Each concept note presents value propositions which are opportunities and spaces in which CSOs in partnership with sector partners can engage. Both the River Health and Water Conservation And Demand Management concept notes advocate for job creation and empowerment through certified training, (capacity building) and also infuse knowledge and awareness through advocacy on the issue. The Catchment Management Forums concept note is more of an advocacy tool, noting both the Second National

Water Resource Strategy (NWRS2) process underway and the establishment of Catchment Management Agencies which must have active and representative Catchment Management Forums and user platforms. This concept note presents an opportunity to develop a model for proactive CSO involvement and /or participation at catchment level. This concept note also harnesses the potential for job creation that extends beyond the EPWP/ CWP which translates into meaningful jobs through river health as opposed to adopt the river.

In September 2012, a meeting was held with the CSO regional coordinators to workshop the 3 concept notes and invoke interest and partnerships with the regional coordinators despite the end of Masibambane funding for regional CSO programs. Out of the 9 regions, there were only 4 regional coordinators present. Despite the small number there was vibrant discussion with an action plan as an output. In summary, rainwater harvesting will be undertaken in the Eastern Cape in collaboration with the regional DWA Eastern Cape office, Water Conservation Water demand management will be in the N cape, Kimberly at schools as determined by the regional DWA office, and CMF will be in the form of a learning journey between the Western Cape and Mpumalanga.

The following sections present the three concept notes and articulate the value propositions for the continued meaningful and sustainable participation of CSOs in the water sector.

CSO Concept Note 1:

WATER CONSERVATION WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT

Participatory approach to leak repairs

1. BACKGROUND

Non-Revenue Water (NRW) or unaccounted for water stemming from water losses which occur anywhere from the point of distribution along the water reticulation network, including household leaks, continues to be a major problem in municipalities.

Despite several noteworthy efforts on the part of local government, DWA, the “War on leaks” program, DBSA supported programs etc., the problem persists. Many of the interventions have had an approach that is technical or practical. In other words, it involved engineering solutions either at the network level- pressure reduction valves, logging, flow meters, replacement of infrastructure, or at the household level it has meant, refurbishment of infrastructure coupled with prepaid meters, management devices or some or other form of restrictor. What each of these efforts has lacked is a truly comprehensive understanding of the problem in an integrated way- Integrated Water Resource Management (from source to tap). A key omission has been interventions at the socio-technical nexus or interface.



2. VALUEPROPOSITION

Engaging and collaborating with communities not only as recipients of a service, but as partners to a workable solution in which they are one of the main beneficiaries. The approach motivated here offers the opportunity of a

bottom –up approach that places the intervention at the socio-technical interface through a partnership between DWA, Local government, (councilors) and communities. The approach also offers the potential for job creation through training, advocacy through community awareness, involvement and water wise practices, all of which encourage citizens’ regulation. Key is the immediate benefits gained from focusing on the lower hanging fruit-domestic leaks, which have both monetary and water resource savings for all concerned.



3. INITIATION FACTORSA

Engaging and collaborating with communities not only as recipients of a service, but as partners to a workable solution in which they are one of the main beneficiaries. The approach motivated here offers the opportunity of a bottom –up approach that places the intervention at the socio-technical interface through a partnership between DWA, Local government, (councilors) and communities. The approach also offers the potential for job creation through training, advocacy through community awareness, involvement and water wise practices, all of which encourage citizens’ regulation. Key is the immediate benefits gained from focusing on the lower hanging fruit-domestic leaks, which have both monetary and water resource savings for all concerned.

4. CAPACITY BUILDING

There is potential for job creation through accredited training for both the municipal workers and community representatives as accredited leak operators and leak monitors coupled with improved relations between the users and their local municipality, and communities and municipal workers. Community members can then either be employed by the municipality or render their services privately or seek alternative forms of employment as a direct off-spin from the training they received.

Methodology: multi-pronged approach Community

Community awareness campaign – during water week- water wise practices and importance of leak reporting.

Municipality

Intense discussion with municipal officials and workers on WCWDM and water leaks

Aspects of the training

Conduct an onsite/ household leak detection audit a sample of houses identified by the municipality
Developing of training material for leak operators adapted to the problems identified during the audit
Provide 2 week training- theory and practice
Implement intervention through 3 months of practical training- fixing the leaks

Accreditation

Development of Portfolio of evidence (POE) by trainees
Present POE for Moderation
Certification of trainees



5. SUB-CONTRACTING SERVICE PROVIDER

This multifaceted approach creates the opportunity for service provider CSOs who are accredited trainers to be contracted to provide the accredited training and or certification through moderation.

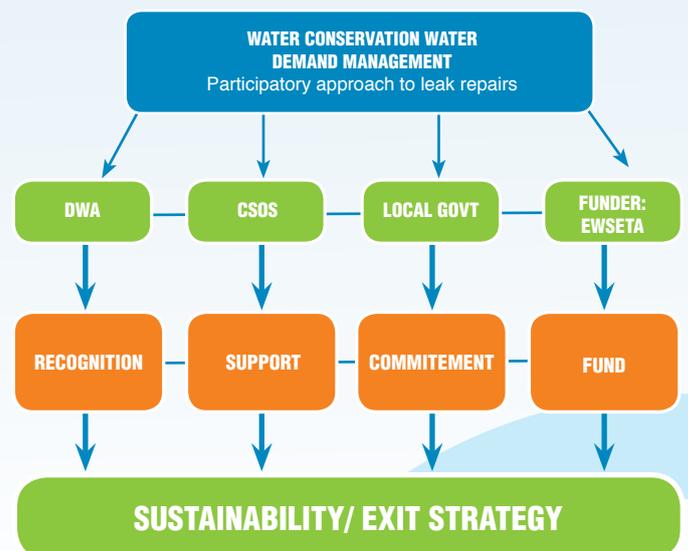
6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Since this program is located at the socio-technical interface and communities have been identified as key partners, role players and beneficiaries their involvement underpins the program, this initiative can be enhanced through learning journeys between the community in which the initiative has occurred and those in which the intervention can be replicated. It also lends itself to heightened advocacy around water resource management, water-wise practices and citizens' participation in regulation.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Direct outputs emerging from the program will be communicated to stakeholders and CSOs broadly through newsletters and presentations of this success to DWA and stakeholders forum. Learning journeys will be used as another communication tool to exchange ideas and information sharing between CSOs in various provinces.

8. PARTNERSHIPS



CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT FORUM PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES



1. BACKGROUND

DWA has over the last two to three years held discussions around institutions under the jurisdiction of the department. As part of this process, several engagements with various stakeholders including CSOs on the Institutions Reform and Realignment (IRR) process as well as the National Water resources strategy were held. A highlight of this process was the decision taken to amalgamate the 19 CMAs into nine. This formalization was accompanied by the introduction of regulations, legislation and mechanisms to facilitate the establishment and workings of CMAs, their Catchment management forums, establishment of water user associations and user platforms. However, despite there only being three official CMAs set up thus far, there are several water user associations. However, these appear to be the old existing irrigation boards with the interests of commercial agriculture, that were simply transformed into user association. Mechanisms for participation, especially

from communities have in reality not been realized and both community voice and representation has yet to be realised.

2. VALUE PROPOSITION

Another key initiative started by the department and supported by the Deputy Minister is the River Health Program. The program emphasizes the need for community involvement through adopting a river. Despite the program being run and supported by the EPWP and stipends paid, the sustainability and true ownership of rivers has not been realised. In bringing a new approach, the aim is to bridge the existing gap between these programs through recognizing and augmenting the efforts and finding the synergies. A catchment is defined by its water source which is the river, and community members who are part of the river health program following this logic should naturally been integrated into the Catchment management forums and user platform processes and water user associations.

3. INITIATING FACTORS

Identify opportunities to create or solidify a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing water services and water resources related issues. To do so, consider contexts where sufficient momentum and/or initiatives exist amongst communities and their organization, on water resource issues- with rivers and river health at the interface, i.e. Acid mine drainage, forestry, water quality monitoring, wetlands the NWRS, etc.

Methodology:

Identify other communities and or community organisations in different provinces that have initiated a program around the river/ catchment health and investigate what their links are to the CMA or user platform of water user association

- The national water resources strategy
- Acid mine drainage and pollution of rivers and other water resources
- Sewerage Spills
- Pollution by commercial and or agriculture enterprises
- River health programs that are outside of the DWA adopt the river or river health program
- To work closely with the IRR directorate within the DWA national office and obtain support and collaboration for this initiative
- Support the CMF by hosting and facilitating the Strategic partnership workshop

4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

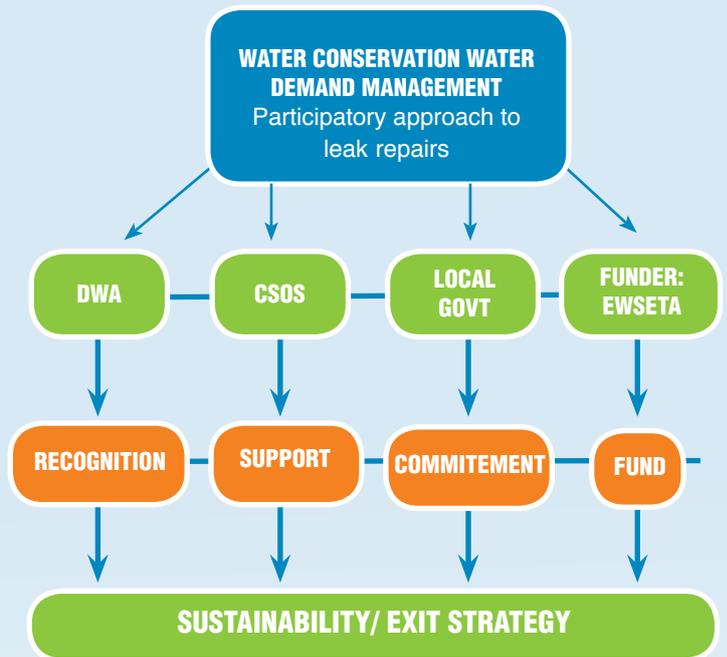
Since this program is aimed at communities, they are the key role players and beneficiaries and as such their involvement underpins the program. This initiative can be an enhanced through learning journey between the communities to share experiences on how to integrate locally established CMFs or platforms into the formal CMA process. The initiative also lends itself to advocacy around water both resource management, CMA, CMF and user platforms, thereby encouraging citizens' participation in water resources regulation and the national Water Resources Strategy (NWRS).

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Direct advocacy emerging from the program will be communicated to stakeholders and CSOs broadly through newsletters and presentations of this success to DWA and stakeholders forum. Learning journeys will be used as another communication tool to exchange ideas and

information sharing between CSOs in various provinces.

6. PARTNERSHIP



7. CASE STUDY

The community members from Makhaza, Khayelitsha as part of their commitment to their catchment voluntarily began cleaning the wetlands in the Kuilsriver catchment. The City of Cape Town (CoCT) who entered as local government into a multi-stakeholder platform comprising of Cape Peninsula University, engineering students, the CSOSP, DWA Western Cape Regional Office, Centre for Environmental Justice and South African Water Caucus. City of Cape Town put money towards rehabilitating the Wetlands Park, while the DWA regional office secured a small budget to remunerate the volunteers for a period of three weeks. They also secured additional funding from the private sector. Key characteristics of this Kuilsriver initiative is that it is catchment oriented, community driven is a multi-stakeholder platform and the community has truly adopted the river and established a CMF for the Kuilsriver as a consequence. The community has continued to clean the river and ensure the maintenance of the wetlands, they had secured sponsorship to attend a horticulture workshop and have thus started organic gardens in their homes with aim of having every home in Makahaza growing organic vegetables that can be sold to community members. They also proactively want to formalize themselves into a sustainable structure and are looking at opportunities to maximize their own internal resources before going to source funding outside. From the regional department

side, DWA is encouraging nominations for training from the community, which will be funded by DWA.

The CoCT is still on board and together with the councilor in the area, has dedicated budget for work in this area. CPUT with the engineering department and CoCT have decided to work with this community and other communities in W. Cape around the waste water treatment works. The Makhaza CMF has identified several commercial and municipal violations of spillage and pollution into the Kuilsriver, and as a result has stimulated a second phase of the initiative in partnership with the City of Cape Town

waste water department and CPUT. The Makhaza CMF will be directly involved in the visits to the Bellville treatment works with the engineering students and will be engaged by the CoCT to find a joint solution. The aim is to replicate the community involvement on this aspect to the various areas where wastewater treatment plants are located within close proximity of communities. This process will be facilitated by the national CSOSP. Noting this progress the recommendation is to replicate this multi-stakeholder initiative and profile it as an integrated approach.

RAIN WATER HARVESTING



1. BACKGROUND

The Department of Water Affairs has been supporting a program which promotes the installation of plastic or built-in concrete rainwater harvesting tanks. The tanks are being implemented with a key focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods particularly in rural communities noting the context of climate change and the need for communities to have access to water.

2. VALUE PROPOSITION

Rainwater harvesting and access to water, while creating and supporting sustainable livelihoods, also hold the potential for water to be used as a key input for job creation. The training and support for sustainable livelihoods can easily be linked to training community members to build and maintain their own tanks. The advantages this offers are the skills transfer, and spin-off of job creation, sense of ownership by communities of the tank, the maintenance thereof is in-house and most importantly the fact that the tanks are concrete, implies durability and therefore a viable investment in the long-term. RWH as an area of focus also provides opportunities for job creation and livelihoods that extends the building of tanks and thus various forms or methods of harvesting rain water for the purposes of gardens will also be explored, particularly if the construction of tanks due to climate variability might only be viable during certain times of the year, and presents a challenge. As such recharging ground water or the creation of furrows are fed directly from rainwater run-off from roofs will also be explored, and where required be implemented instead of the construction of the tank.

3. INITIATING FACTORS

The success of any program or intervention lies in the recipe of a combination of initiating factors. Departing from a firm foundation that has recognition, support and is established among the various stakeholders is paramount. The success factors needed for this process are communities where access to water through rainwater harvesting has been identified by the community as a need. Some understanding or practice of rainwater harvesting at the household level, existing sustainable gardening or food gardens already in operation (added advantage). Community Based Organisations and formal structures with whom to partner, willing partners from government structures, Dept. of Agric. and Land Reform are key to the success of any initiative, as is funding. Securing resources externally from donors or redirecting funding through existing programs are possible options to be explored.

Meeting the community and visiting the site

This would require a feasibility phase in which the viability of the project can be gauged. In other words, the earmarked community must be visited and preliminary discussions with the community representatives held. The site for the tanks must be visited and factors that could impact the site such as where the tank will be built, conditions of roof, gutters, place for storage of tools and equipment, accessibility and distance of site from main road, proximity of site to trainees, transport requirements, conditions of the roads, and weather.

Establishing the CSO partnership and support

On securing this information the next step would be to establish the possibility of working with the trainees and community members through a CSO or NGO with whom

an MOU will be drawn up. Assessing the stability of the organizations, their track record and working relations with other partners would be paramount and is central to the success of the trip. A meeting with them and/or other stakeholders to establish this is central to the field trip.

Support facilities: Accommodation, training venue, etc

Since the training is train the trainers and involves bring 6 trainees from KZN to Nqushwa, finding suitable accommodation and catering as well as a venue to conduct the train the trainers is key. Facilities such as photocopying machines, and printing facilities must be established before-hand so that proper planning around these logistical matters can be considered and addressed.

Catering

Catering for the duration of the training is another consideration and needs to be taken up in the community or CSO /Ngo space.

Methodology for initiation:

Building on the existing capacity of the trainees who were trained during 2011/12, has been identified as the initiating factor in this context: a) since it presents the opportunity to upscale the current training to accreditation. b) They can be trained on various irrigation methodologies for sustainable livelihoods, c) they can be trained as trainers, i.e. train the trainer.

Following this rationale the methodology would be to identify a community in the vicinity of the trainees as a pilot site. The use of the pilot would be to demonstrate the skills acquired by the trainees (critical noting the time lapse between the last tank built and the renewed initiative and applications of the skills). It will also be used as an opportunity to showcase their skill and the trainees in action, to illicit confidence and buy-in from donors for the initiative. The pilot also affords the opportune time to conduct the additional SETA accredited training and will take place during the intermittent drying stages required for building the tank.

Once the pilot and accredited training has been concluded the train the trainers both in relation to the building of the tanks and sustainable irrigation methods will be conducted in the identified community and in accordance with the factors identified as initiators above.

4. CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building as outlined in under the methodology section will be two-fold:

1. Accreditation: Up-scaling and expanding the initial training of the existing trainees.
2. Train the trainers

The potential for job creation as a result of both these

process are one of the key outputs from this initiative resulting directly from the capacity building.

5. SUBCONCRATING SERVICE PROVIDER

A relevant service provider CSO will be identified to support this initiative, and preferably one that is locally based, has worked with the CSOP, has the required capacity and is accepted by the trainees. Subcontracting a CSO service provider comprises the following:

- MOU and Subcontract CSO organization to provide CSOSP role for the trainees during the train the trainers with oversight from National CSOSP
- Between the CSO service provider and the trainees (to become trainers)
- Develop MOU between DWA regional office, regional CSOSP, CSO service provider and the trainers
- MOU between CSOSP region and community members to be trained
- Purchase material and mould

6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Since this program is targeted at communities, their direct involvement as beneficiaries underpins the program. This initiative can be enhanced through learning journey between the community in which the initiative has occurred and those in which the training is to be replicated. It also lends itself to advocacy around water resource management and various methods applicable for sustainable livelihoods.

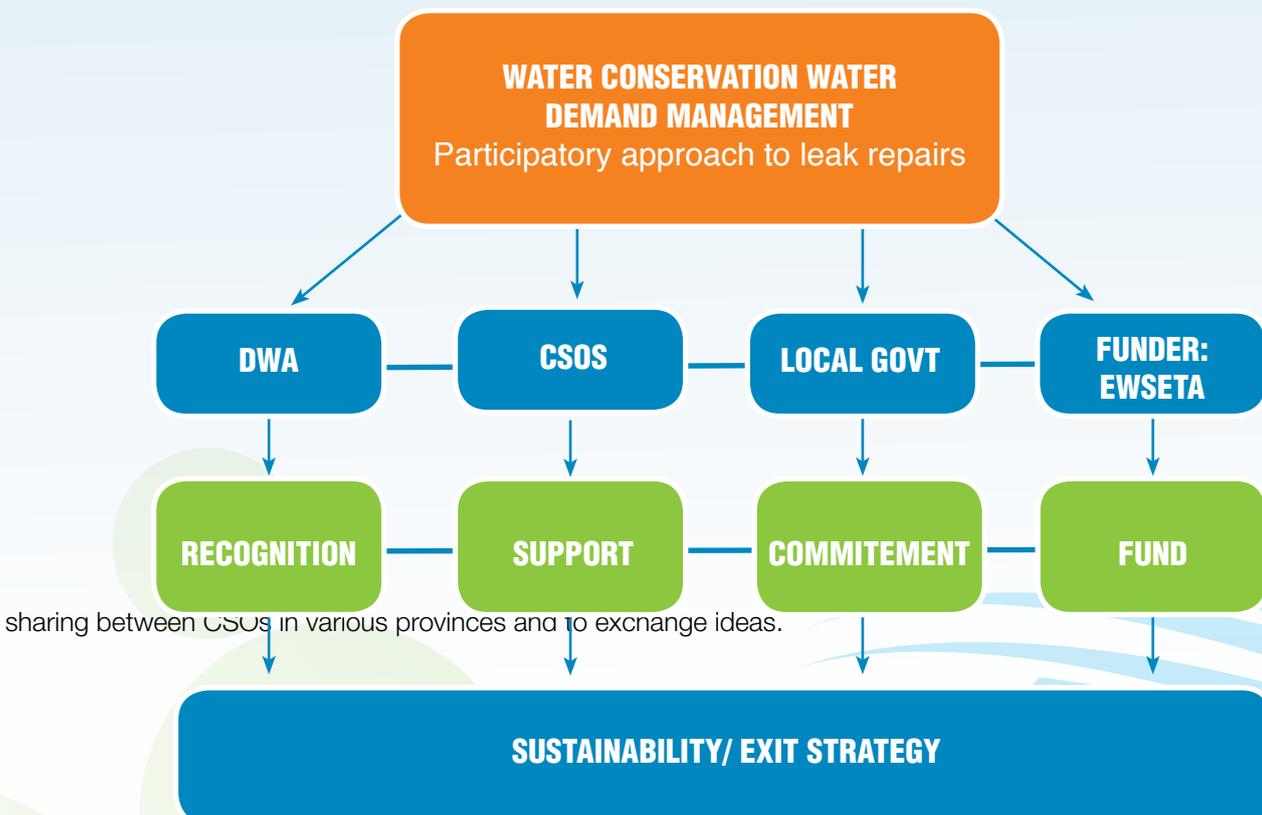
7. COMMUNICATONS

Direct outputs emerging from the program will be communicated to DWA, CSOs and other stakeholder forums broadly through newsletters and presentations. Learning journeys are another communication tool that will be used for information





8. PARTNERSHIPS



Interesting Publications

1 FSM2: 2nd International Faecal Sludge Management Conference Report.

In March 2011, the first Faecal Sludge Management Seminar was held in Durban, South Africa, with the theme: What Happens when the Pit is Full? Developments in On-site Faecal Sludge Management. The seminar was attended by 120 local and international delegates from four continents. The Second International Faecal Sludge Management Conference was held in Durban from the 29th to the 31st of October 2012, attended by some 320 delegates from around the world, representing more than 30 countries and five continents. This report is a summary of the proceedings and presentations of the conference.

2 SANITATION JOB CREATION: Learning From Alfred Nzo DM's Zonal Distribution Approach.

Alfred Nzo DM commenced a district-wide sanitation provision programme in 2004, using the zonal distribution approach and adopting the Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine as the standard. WIN-SA documented the Alfred Nzo District Municipality Sanitation Job Creation Project in 2005, under the WIN-SA Lessons Series, with the aim of sharing the way the municipality had managed to integrate planning and implementation across various government departments. This lesson is an update of the 2005 lesson, and aims to share the lessons and challenges the Alfred Nzo Sanitation Job Creation Project has generated over the intervening years.

3 MEETING THE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY OF FRESHWATER SYSTEMS IN SOUTH AFRICA: Exploring Enablers & Constraints Within the Context of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Catchments of the Lowveld.

The Olifants River ceased flowing in 2005, prompting widespread concern and calls for an integrated focus on all of the easterly-flowing rivers of the lowveld of South Africa (the Luvuvhu, Letaba, Olifants, Sabie-Sand, Crocodile and Komati Rivers). In response, the Shared Rivers Initiative (SRI), an action-research programme funded through the Water Research Commission, was initiated in 2007. The study aimed to answer the central question: 'What factors enable or constrain achieving environmental flows in the Lowveld Rivers?' This lesson aims to present summarised findings of the study and also presents some lessons from case studies that were analysed to elucidate what lay behind the successes or constraints found.

4 SANITATION FOR ALL: Four Innovative Sanitation Projects in Zambia - Faecal Sludge Management Aspects and General Lessons.

Zambia's Devolution Trust Fund (DTF) was established by the national water services regulator as an instrument to assist Commercial Utilities to improve water supply and sanitation services for the urban poor. In 2009, the DTF initiated implementation of four sanitation projects in collaboration with four Commercial Utilities. This fieldnote captures the DTF's sanitation implementation approach and

experiences during the implementation of these projects, focusing on faecal sludge management

5 Sanitation Matters Magazine (Issue 4).

Issue 4 of Sanitation Matters covers some of the developments, research and innovations in Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in Africa, as presented at the recently held 2nd International Faecal Sludge Management Conference (October 2012). The conference attracted both continental and global speakers, an indication that there is a lot of knowledge and experience to be shared in this critical area of Faecal Sludge Management.

6 ACHIEVE GREEN DROP – Using a Wastewater Risk Abatement Plan (W2RAP) to Secure ACIP Funding and Achieve Green Drop Status: Lessons from Buffalo City Metro Municipality

The 2012 WIN-SA Green Drop Lessons focused on the use of a Wastewater Risk Abatement Plan (W2RAP) to identify and manage risks successfully on the road to Green Drop status. This lesson looks at how Buffalo City Metro has used W2RAP to secure ACIP Funding and improve its Wastewater management.

7 ACHIEVE GREEN DROP: Using a Wastewater Risk Abatement Plan (W2RAP) to Achieve Green Drop Compliance: Lessons from Drakenstein Local Municipality.

The 2012 WIN-SA Green Drop Lessons focused on the use of a Wastewater Risk Abatement Plan (W2RAP) to identify and manage risks successfully on the road to Green Drop status. This lesson looks at how the Drakenstein LM identified human resources as its greatest risk and therefore used W2RAP to address this and improve its Green Drop standing.



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