



#### **Acknowledgements**

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#### **List of Acronyms**

GWP-SA Global Water Partnership – Southern Africa IWRM Integrated Water Resources Management

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG Millennium Development Goals

MEWC Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate

MIS Management Information System

O&M Operation and Maintenance

SADC Southern African Development Community

SDG Sustainable Development Goal

UN United Nations

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene WRM Water Resource Management

WRMIS Water Resource Management Information System

ZWP Zimbabwe Water Partnership

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#### 1 Preamble

The Zimbabwe National Consultation on Water in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place on the 28th of March, 2014 in Harare. The meeting was organized by the Zimbabwe Water Partnership with the financial and technical support from GWP SA and UN Water. The process drew participants from government, academia, quasi government and non-governmental organisations that play critical roles in the planning, development, management and protection of water resources in the country.

The purpose of the national consultative process was to afford Zimbabwe the opportunity to contribute to the global process and negotiations on the development of a goal dedicated to water under the post-2015 global Sustainable Development Agenda. The forum was therefore a platform to facilitate the provision of an integrated stakeholder input into this global process. The specific objectives of the consultations were to:

- obtain views from Zimbabwe's key stakeholders in the water sector on the post-2015 development agenda for water and sustainable development;
- build awareness and examine the recommendation presented in the UN-Water paper on a dedicated goal for water from the country perspective;
- afford the country the opportunity to contribute to the global policy dialogue to ensure water is not neglected in the future development agenda;
- examine implications of adopting the goal and targets for Zimbabwe.

The meeting was officially opened by the Director in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate (MEWC). In a speech read on his behalf by Mr. Z. Manyangadze, he highlighted the centrality of water in the national development processes and poverty reduction. He pointed out that any new sustainable development agenda should seek to improve equal access to water and make such access a human right. He also highlighted the need to develop adequate capacities for Water Resources Management (WRM) as well as the development of innovative financing for the water sector. His address also elaborately dwelt on the challenges in the water sector such as water pollution,



siltation and inadequate infrastructure. He looked forward to a goal on water that will be inspirational and easy to communicate, hence lead to the efficient utilisation and equitable access to water.

The Zimbabwe National Consultations on Water in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda also benefited from the presence and participation of Mr. Alan Hall of the GWP and Ms. Ruth Beukman of GWP-SA. The two enlightened the participants on the global processes for the post-2015 development agenda and the water related consultative processes led by UN–Water (and GWP as a member). The importance of the national consultative processes in the strategic bottom-up approach to the development of the goal on water was emphasised. They highlighted the Africa consensus (in 2013) on the need for the SDG on Water: "Ensure a Water Secure World for All'. The SDG on Water will build on existing commitments and unfinished business on Water Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) MDG; need to implement Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) plans agreed to at the Johannesburg WSSD 2002; outstanding need to build stronger institutions and regulations, as well as establish accountable, participatory and transparent processes in WRM;

addressing challenges relating to Waste Water and Water Quality and strengthening of water-related disaster coordination as called for at Rio +20 Summit.

### 2 Introduction and Country Background

Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in Southern Africa with a total area of 390,757 square kilometres, of which 3,910 square kilometres are covered by water. In 2012 the country had an estimated population of 13 million people, with a population growth rate of 1.1 percent per annum. About thirtythree (33) percent of the population lives in urban areas (Zimstat, 2012).

Zimbabwe has limited water resources and generally depends on surface and ground water for its water needs. All of Zimbabwe's major rivers are shared with other members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Zimbabwe cooperates actively with other members of SADC on the shared management of the region's river systems, and it is a signatory to the Revised Protocol on Shared Water Course Systems, which provides the basis for management of the international rivers in the region. It is also an active member of the Limpopo and Zambezi Watercourse Commissions which oversee joint management of these international rivers.

On the policy and institutional front, the Zimbabwe Constitution makes access to water a human right. The national blueprint – Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim Asset) – also seeks to promote investment in water resources. Zimbabwe has a Government ministry dedicated to water and environmental management. The Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate is charged with the administration of the Water Act [Chapter 20:24]. The Ministry realises its mandate through the Zimbabwe National Water Authority, the Catchment Council and its Subcatchment Councils. The Environmental Management Act of 2002 is also another important legal instrument for WRM with a focus on water quality protection and management.

The largest user of water in Zimbabwe is the agricultural sector which accounts for about 80% of total consumption, followed by the Urban, Industrial & Mining sector which accounts for about 15 percent and other uses taking the remaining 5 percent. In order to improve access to water, Zimbabwe has invested in infrastructure development for harnessing water for agriculture, industrial needs, urban consumption and energy generation.

The increasing demand for water is driven by a number of factors, chief of which are: population growth and its increasing density; the need to meet the water consumption requirements of developing economy for both industry and mining; the need to make up for the regional energy deficit which is curtailing power imports; and expansion of the agriculture sector.

The major sources of risk for water in Zimbabwe are climate change, water pollution, siltation and lack of investment in infrastructure development. Access to safe water and sanitation has declined tremendously in both rural and urban areas owing to the economic challenges, aging infrastructure and low investments in the water sector, making it almost impossible for Zimbabwe to meet the WASH MDGs targets. Access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation services are currently at 79% and 67% respectively. Urban WASH is mainly affected by low production rates due to ageing infrastructure, shortages of water treatment chemicals, losses in the conveyance system; wastewater overflow from burst pipes and erratic water supply. In rural areas, aaccess to safe water supply is declining owing to low investment in water infrastructure rehabilitation and lack of a sustainable maintenance system. More than 65% of the 75,000 hand pumps in the country are not functional.

Zimbabwe has already embarked on process of developing its broader post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda that seeks to broaden the MDG vision. The process is led by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Services. For the national consultative process on the proposed SDG on Water, it will be critical for this process to be linked with this proposed broader national sustainable development framework so that it also becomes an integral part of the country's new thinking on MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

## 3 Key National Priorities for the Sustainable Development of Water

Zimbabwe adopted the proposed SDG on Water – 'securing sustainable water for all 'and the five priority components / target areas of the proposed Water Goal i.e. WRM, WASH, Water Pollution and Water Quality, Water-related Disasters and Water Governance. Stakeholders were of the opinion that Water Financing must be taken into consideration on the crafting of the Water Goal.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, also emphasized that the importance and centrality of water to national development although it was often overlooked. In addition, all water related issues in the country has an effect on its neighbouring countries as all rivers are transboundary. Stakeholders discussed the key issues and priorities relating to the proposed SDG and target areas.

#### 3.1 Water Resource Management

There is inadequate information and data collection throughout the sector which seriously reduces the ability to manage resources. Adequate information is not being collected on dams, rivers, groundwater and water related infrastructure. The system of issuing and monitoring water use permits is not being coordinated adequately as envisaged by the Water Act. There is inadequate inspection and maintenance of dams partially as a consequence of an inherent conflict of interest between ZINWA's dual role of being both the regulator and the operator of large dams.

The management and development of water resources and the provision of water services needs to be under-taken from a sound scientific and technical basis. It is therefore important that relevant institutions involved in water affairs have the technical capacity and instruments necessary to undertaken systematic collection, storage, processing and analysis of data and information.

Continuous research needs to be undertaken, in association with national and international institutions, to enable a full understanding of the changing social, economic, environmental and technical aspects of the water sector. Appropriate data bases which communicate with each other and are based on open source codes will be need to be employed.

#### 3.2 Water-related Disasters

Water-related disaster preparedness and responsiveness is critical for the protection of human lives. The increase of floods, droughts and hailstorms in the last 30years has been blamed on the effects of Climate Change where global climatic models have also predicted similar effects in Southern Africa.

In Zimbabwe disaster management is under the oversight of the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) in the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing. DCP works closely with other institutions such as Meteorological and Hydrological Offices, National Early Warning System in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministries responsible for Defence and Home Affairs, and local authorities and international agencies operating in Zimbabwe. For these agencies to effectively realise their mandates, there is need to strengthen the national early warning mechanisms, risk

management capacities and institutional disaster preparedness in terms of both human capacities and equipment. There is also need to develop models that put accurate value to the loss of life, infrastructure and economic capacities from water-related disasters.

#### 3.3 Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

There has been a decline in water infrastructure development and maintenance. Water infrastructure rehabilitation and expansion in both urban and rural areas is a major priority. In rural areas the priority will be to rehabilitate as well as construct new boreholes and water points and, also reduce distance to the nearest water point. In urban areas the priority will be the rehabilitation and expansion of piped water and water treatment and recycle systems.

In order to achieve optimal access to sanitation, Zimbabwe will also prioritise the adoption of new sanitation infrastructure technology. It will also prioritise the capacity building of WASH governance structures at all levels for effective and efficient management of WASH service delivery. In the rural areas, the priority will be the promotion of community-based management drinking water infrastructure and water points. A WASH Management Information Systems will also be critical to support sustainable WASH sector recovery. Through the WASH MIS, the country will be able to track progress on this component of the SDG on Water.

#### 3.4 Waste Water, Pollution and Water Quality

Industrial and municipal effluent contributes 75% of all water pollution in Zimbabwe. Siltation and alluvial mining are also major threats to availability of water in Zimbabwe. The protection of water resources against these risks will, therefore, be a major priority for Zimbabwe. This will call for the following measures:

- Reduction of mining effluent through elimination of informal alluvial gold mining and adoption of environmental friendly technologies for small scale miners;
- Promotion of efficient agricultural practices that minimise water pollution through nutrient run-off, pesticides and siltation of water bodies;
- Rehabilitation and expansion of municipal water systems and water infrastructure to cope with increasing urbanisation to minimise raw sewerage discharge into water bodies as well as unnecessary water loss through leakage of water supply pipes; and
- Promotion of industrial predisposal treatment of used water and water reuse.

#### 3.5 Water Governance

The overall planning, development and management of water resources in Zimbabwe is presided over by the MEWC, supported by ZINWA, Catchment Councils and Sub-Catchment Councils. The coordination in the water sector is undertaken by the National Action Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation (NAC), chaired by MEWC and supported by a National Coordinating Unit. It is the apex inter-ministerial body that was formed to coordinate all aspects of water development and management in Zimbabwe. It comprises 3 sub-committees; the Water Resources Management, Urban and Rural Sub-committees, responsible for sub-sector coordination.

Infrastructure development and the water supply are not in the domain of one agency. Local authorities provide the water infrastructure but bulk water is provided by the Zimbabwe National Water Authority. Different agencies in water development, agriculture, environment, catchment management, health, etc. also administer various legislative instruments that have a bearing on water development and supply. For Zimbabwe to efficiently deliver on the water goal there will be need for the integration and coordination of these multiple actors at a level higher than the national Coordination Unit. Water management will also need to ensure harmony between water

management structures from the Water Act which uses catchment boundaries and local government structures which use political boundaries.

Stakeholder participation and ownership is critical for the achievement of the water goal in Zimbabwe. Whilst stakeholder and community participation has been fostered in rural areas for the development and management of smaller water infrastructure such as boreholes, bigger infrastructure water projects have excluded stakeholders, especially communities. The non-involvement of communities has usually led to flood-related disasters. The displacement of communities for the purposes of constructing water infrastructure without community buy-in usually leads to conflict.

Effective participation should therefore be fostered through the institutionalization of stakeholder participation for good governance, accountability and transparency in water development, management and provision.

All institutions in the water sector need capacity strengthening for good governance through the institutionalization of accountability systems that have adequate checks and balances. Such systems should make these institutions accountable to the water users. Water development, management and supply should be founded on the principles of integrity, accountability and transparency.

Most importantly, equitable access to water for all will not be achieved if value considerations are not taken into account for the development and provisioning of water to the population. Towards upholding the principles of good governance, in Zimbabwe it is a statutory requirement that agencies charged with management of the water sector report to stakeholders through AGM, annual reports, and audited financials reporting.

## 4 Suggested Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Sustainable Development Water Goal

With regard to target setting approach, Zimbabwe opted for an agreed set of broader target statements (called a "dashboard" by the UN) with each country setting their own target values to meet the aims articulated in a globally agreed statement, as opposed to the adoption of globally set targets agreed by the UN General Assembly for all countries.

The country's targets on water related activities are derived from ministerial 5 year strategic plans and the national economic blueprint, Zim Asset which are supposed to be achieved within the timeframe of the present government i.e. up to 2018. These targets which are framed around results based budgeting and implementation, are also coordinated and monitored at the Office of the President and Cabinet Level to ensure they also contribute to national development.

#### 4.1 Water Resource Management

**Target**: Increase provision of raw water for agriculture, industrial, urban and mining from 50% to 80% by 2018 (MEWC, 2012) It is also suggested that the following issues could be considered for the further improvement of this target:

- Improving and develop water infrastructures;
- Strengthening existing policies, structures and institutions;
- Targets should be about water efficiency; and
- Water resource protection of wetlands. The achievement of this target will require: (i) strengthening the management of fresh water withdrawals; (ii) improved protection of

water resources, restoration and maintenance of the ecosystem in the provision of water-related services; and (iii) increasing water productivity by all users.

#### 4.2 Water-related Disasters

**Target**: Reduced loss of life and property due to severe weather and seismic activities by 25% and also improve accuracy, timeous dissemination and accessibility of weather forecasts and seismic information by all Zimbabweans in all major languages, from 45% to 70% by 2018 (MEWC, 2012). It was felt that for this target and its scope to be clearer, there is need to develop a common and shared understanding on the meaning and scope of water-related disasters. It has to be clear whether the term includes all or part of the following disaster categories: flood-related; storm and lighting related; water-borne diseases; water shortages leading to famine, extreme thirst, etc. Once these have been clarified, the proposed target might need to be rethought and recast.

In addition to loss of life, the target formulation also has sub-targets relating to:

- Strengthening of early warning systems;
- Minimising economic loss;
- Strengthening the resource base of agencies charged with disaster prevention, mitigation and response.

#### 4.3 Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Target**: Increase access of potable water to rural and urban population to 80% by 2018 (MEWC, 2012).

This target will be achieved through the construction of planned dams and water supplies stations and also rehabilitate most of the water reticulation systems which have outlived design life where water losses in the systems can be in excess of 40%

#### 4.4 Waste Water, Pollution and Water Quality

**Target**: Reduce pollution, deforestation and land degradation in all areas of Zimbabwe by 10% by 2018. This target was also adopted with the following proposals for its enhancement:

- Reduce informal alluvial mining; and
- Incorporate an element of good farming practices to address nutrient pollution.

The broader target will also need to focus on the following elements: (i) Reduction of untreated domestic and industrial water (including point source agricultural); and (ii) increasing wastewater safe reuse.

#### 4.5 Governance

**Target**: All countries strengthen equitable, participatory and accountable water governance. This target was adopted as is. The good water governance target will also call for:

- Implementation of integrated water resource management at local, sub-catchment and national levels with full stakeholder participation and involvement. There are proposals to form structures which are smaller than subcatchment councils to manage water at ward and village levels to ensure harmony with local government structures;
- Delivering all drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene services in a progressively accountable, sustainable and financially and environmentally sustainable manner;
- Strengthened regulatory frameworks for WRM, infrastructure and service provision; and
- Strengthened knowledge sharing, transfer and skills development.

# 5 What it will take for Zimbabwe to Achieve the SDG on Water and Targets

#### 5.1 Water Resource Management

The achievement of the water target on WRM in Zimbabwe will need to:

- Invest in research and development of new WRM technologies that adaptable to the geoclimatic conditions of the country also taking into account the predicted impacts of climate change;
- Develop effective M&E systems that are advised by a strong Water Resource Management Information System (WRMIS);
- Improve water use efficiency through a strong information, education and communication drive; and
- Invest in bulk water storage and supply infrastructure.

#### 5.2 Water-related disasters

For this component, Zimbabwe will require to invest in strong disaster response mechanisms and systems. This will call for adequate equipment, a decentralised disaster response system and adequate human resources. There will also be need for stronger institutional harmonisation and coordination among all agencies that have a role in disaster risk management. In addition, there will also be need for the alignment of regulations/policies on disaster risk management.

#### 5.3 Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Given the current challenges, Zimbabwe is likely not to meet the water and sanitation MDG targets. There is still need to address the investment gap so as to build a strong foundation for the broader SDG on Water. To sustain the gains the country has made so far and use the same as the foundation for the hygiene targets beyond 2015, Zimbabwe will need to continue scaling down on WASH subsidies in rural areas and strengthen its information, education and communication campaign for a shared vision.

There will be need to invest in research and development for new technologies that will be adaptable for the development of safe sanitation in those areas where the geo-physical conditions do not allow for the construction of the traditional ventilated latrines. This will be critical for the pursuit of the near-universal access to sanitation and hygiene.

#### 5.4 Waste Water, Pollution and Water Quality

There will be need to invest in the rehabilitation, maintenance and expansion of deteriorated infrastructure, mainly municipal sewerage systems to curb raw sewage discharge into water bodies. With regards to industry, there will be need to foster pre-treatment of water and reuse. For these municipal and industrial issues to be addressed properly there needs to be good financial plans to do research and maintenance.

#### 5.5 Water Governance

The adoption of priorities and targets for the SDG on Water will require Zimbabwe to strengthen water governance systems at all levels. This will include enhancing transparency and accountability in WRM, development of water infrastructure, supply and costing of bulk and domestic water to improve accessibility and security to safe water for all users. This will also call for greater alignment of water infrastructure and bulk water providers to ensure efficient delivery of water to final

consumers. There will also be need to strengthen accountability water resource protection from pollution through increased stakeholder awareness and participation.

Good water governance will also call for Zimbabwe to see through the implementation of Rio +20 agenda on integrated water resource management at local, sub-catchment and national levels with full stakeholder participation and involvement. It will also require the strengthening of regulatory frameworks for WRM, infrastructure and service provision. The coordination of the various players in water development, supply and use will require strengthening through stronger harmonisation and integration.

#### 6 Conclusion

#### 6.1 Priorities for Water Development

Zimbabwe adopted the five priority components of the proposed Water Goal: WRM, Waste Water, Pollution and Water Quality, Water-related Disasters and Governance. However, the country's stakeholders there proposal that a sixth component – Financing of the Water Goal be added. Governance could also be mainstreamed into all the other components and cease to be a standalone component.

The priorities identified for the development of these components included: (i) Establishment of component MIS and knowledge networks supported by baseline survey data for benchmarking progress towards achievement of the goal targets; (ii) Institutional capacity building for improved forecasting and response and strengthening of good governance; (iii) Improvements of coordination and integrated management of all the components of the SDG on Water; (iv) Improvement of water supply through water infrastructure rehabilitation, maintenance and expansion; (v) Improvement of water sources protection and conservation measures; (vi) Strengthening public-private partnerships in water resource development; and (vii) Investment in R&D for new technologies for all the goal components.

The priorities for Zimbabwe were guided by the need to address the major sources of risks for water which included, among others: deterioration of hydrological conditions of rivers, water table and other public water resources; global climate change; water pollution through non-treatment of waste water; deterioration of water quality in rivers and other public water resources; lack of financing for investment and infrastructure development; and lack of good governance which is affecting water financing, sector human resource capacities, maintenance of infrastructure and water quality.

#### 6.2 Targets for the SDG on Water

Zimbabwe adopted the proposed formulation of the five targets of the proposed SDG on Water. However, for the clearer formulation of the WRD target there was need to develop a common and shared understanding on the meaning and scope of water-related disasters. On the WASH target "universal access" might be unachievable as there are always factors beyond human control that will prevent the attainment of such universal access. Zimbabwe, therefore, proposed the use of a percentage that is below universality.

#### 6.3 Implications of the SDG on Water and its Targets on Zimbabwe

The achievement of the water targets on the five goal components in Zimbabwe will require: (i) investment in research and development of new technologies that are adaptable to the geo-climatic conditions of the country; (ii) development of effective M&E systems that are advised by a strong MIS; (iii) improvement of water use efficiency through a strong information, education and

communication drive; (iv) investment in bulk water storage and supply infrastructure; and (v) strengthening of water governance systems though improved regulatory systems, stakeholder participation and coordination.

#### 6.4 The Water Goal in Zimbabwe's Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

For the effective implementation of the SDG on Water in Zimbabwe, there will be need for the Zimbabwe Water Partnership to continue the dialogue with the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Services, which is leading the national process for the preparation of the comprehensive post-2015 agenda for Zimbabwe. The national consultations on the proposed water goal (held on 28 March) will be shared with the Ministry for the goal to be an integral component of the country's proposed broad post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda.

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## **Annex 2: List of Participants**

Full Name	Organisation and Position		
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B.M. Mangwende	Min of Energy and Power Development		
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L. Betera	Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and Urban Development –		
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## **Annex 3: Meeting Agenda**

## NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING ON WATER: SUPPORTING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

#### 28 MARCH 2014

#### Meikles Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe

**Chair: Ministry of Environment, Water & Climate** 

Time	Event	Responsible
0800-0830	Arrival and Registration	All
0830-0900	Introductions	ZWP Chair
0900-0910	UN Consultations – Remarks on Global process	Alan Hall - GWPO
0910-0930	Global Overview of post-2015 Development	Global Water Partnership
	Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals	Southern Africa Exec. Secretary
0930-0945	SDG Targets/Goals in Zimbabwe	Ministry of Public Service, Labour & Social Welfare
0945-1000	Opening Speech	Director of Water,
		Ministry of Environment,
		Water & Climate
1000-1030	Group Photo/Tea break	All
1030-1045	Water Resources Management &	Upper Manyame
	Governance	
1045-1100	Waste Water, Pollution and Water Quality	EMA
1100-1110	WASH	NCU
1110-1120	Water Related Disasters	Met office
1120-1130	Discussions	Facilitator
1130-1150	Group discussions (Presentation of guiding	Facilitator
	questions and group formulation)	
1150-1300	Group discussions	Group leaders
1300-1400	Lunch Break	1200-1300
1400-1500	Group discussions continued	Group leaders
1500-1515	Tea Break	
1515-1545	Group presentations and Plenary Discussions	Group leaders
1545-1600	Concluding Remarks	GWP SA
1600	End of day	