National Stakeholder Consultations on Water: Supporting the Post-2015 Development Agenda

South Africa
April 2013

THE WORLD WE WANT

Global Water Partnership
Southern Africa

The Post 2015 Water Thematic Consultation

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMCOW	African Minister's Council on Water
AMD	Acid Mine Drainage
CCR	Country Consultation Report
CMA	Catchment Management Area
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
GDS	Growth and Development Strategies
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
NDP	National Development Plan
NGP	New Growth Path
NWA	National Water Act
NWRS - 2	National Water Resource Strategy
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
RSA	Republic of South Africa
UN	United Nations
UNCSD	United Nation's Conference on Sustainable Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WRM	Water Resource Management
WR	Water Resources
WS	Water Services
WSA	Water Services Authority

National Consultations on Water in the Post -2015 Development Agenda
Country Consultation Report
April 2013

1. Background and Purpose

1.1 Background

The outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20, June 2012) elicited a need for a broad stakeholder consultative process by member countries to inform the post - 2015 Development Agenda. The objective is to have UN post - 2015 Development Agenda that is informed by member countries through a full stakeholder engagement process within their respective countries.

Based on the above, South Africa has begun its country internal broad stakeholder engagement process. The aim is to provide an integrated stakeholder input to the RSA position on post - 2015 Development Goals as determined by government through DWA as the water sector leader. It is expected through this process that RSA will help support UN achieve the following:
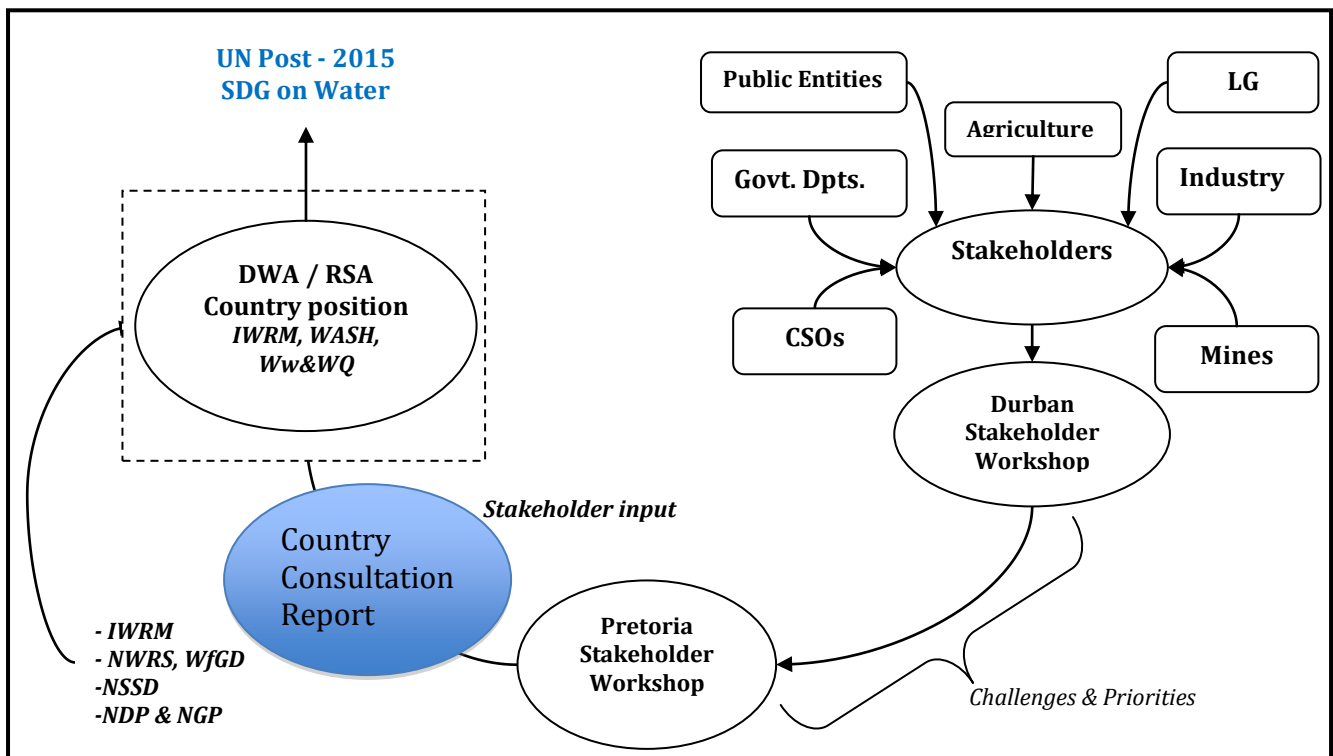
- ➢ Set the agenda for water and sustainable development post 2015;
- ➢ Mobilise stakeholders to participate in the national development consultations therefore influencing the objective of the point above;
- ➢ Make the UN and the world understand the identified and agreed RSA government priorities on water in the post - 2015 Development Agenda with input from stakeholders;
- ➢ Give an opportunity to RSA and its stakeholders to engage in dialogue and contribute in shaping the post - 2015 sustainable development goals;
- ➢ Monitoring and reporting system for WRM as per Rio+20 outcomes that is informed by RSA as a member country.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Country Consultation Report (CCR) is to provide an integrated stakeholder input to the RSA position on post - 2015 Sustainable Development Goals on water as determined by government through DWA as the water sector leader. It is not a RSA government position but it is a reflection of what government can consider as stakeholder input as it develops the country's position.

The diagram below indicates the process that was followed. In summary, the process involved the following activities:

- ➢ *Identification of relevant stakeholders:* The stakeholders included civil society organisations, government departments, industry, mines, agriculture, local government, etc.
- ➢ *Initial stakeholder workshop:* The workshop was held in Durban (KZN), 19-20 February 2013, Protea Edward Hotel. In this workshop stakeholders identified challenges, solutions and priorities on water.
- ➢ *Second Stakeholder workshop:* The workshop was held in Irene (Gauteng), 04 April 2013, St. George Hotel. In this workshop stakeholders relooked at the outcomes of the initial workshop. Then made amendments and / or additions on the solutions, challenges and priorities on water.
- ➢ *Country Consultation Report:* Following the second stakeholder workshop. A stakeholder Country Consultation Report was developed, which is this report. This report will be a stakeholder input to RSA government position on UN Post – 2015 SDG on Water.

Country Consultation Report on Water in the Post – 2015 Development Agenda:
Republic of South Africa

2. Importance of Water in National Development

Water is central to human needs, equitable growth and development. It is one of the key drivers of sustainable economic growth through contribution to activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, mines, energy and transport. It contributes to social activities such as productive use of water within households (poverty alleviation), water for drinking, sanitation and health, etc. It should therefore be managed in a manner that is sensitive to and supportive of the many competing demands that is placed on it. Further, the management activities should not compromise the requirements of the future generations as well as ecological requirements. Based on these elements, water should be central to the integrated planning and development processes of a country.

In the RSA context, legislation such as the Constitution, NWA and WSA. Secondly, development planning frameworks such as the NWRS-2, National Development Plan (NDP), National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD), New Growth Path, WfGD, etc. are central to the realization of the elements in paragraph above and subsequently contribution to the post - 2015 sustainable development goals. [1]The NWRS-2 places three objectives that should be realized to achieve equity in water. These are: (i) equity in access to water services (quantity, quality and assurance of supply) (ii) equity in access to water resources for productive purposes (irrigation, industry and business) (iii) equity in access to benefits from water resource use (benefit to all whether directly or indirectly affected by water).

[2]The NDP vision 2030 highlights the objective that all South Africans should have access to clean running water in their homes. Secondly, the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the National Water Resources Strategy should be addressed for effective management of water thereby contributing and supporting a strong economy and a healthy environment.

[3]Within the NGP, water sector is identified as one of the infrastructure jobs drivers. Through development and maintenance of infrastructure activities jobs will created. Secondly good infrastructure will contribute to social and economic development of the country.

[4]The NSSD promotes the ecological aspects that should be managed sustainably to realize the socio-economic development goals. It further stresses the need to develop and promote new social and economic goals based on ecological sustainability and build a culture that recognises that socio-economic systems are dependent on and embedded within ecosystems   . Lastly, it stresses the need to increase awareness and understanding of the value of ecosystem services to human well-being and country's development. Water is therefore important to the country's national development.

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[1] Proposed National Water Resource Strategy 2, 2012
[2] National Development Plan, Vision 2030, Executive Summary
[3] The New Growth Path, The Framework
[4] National strategy for Sustainable Development, Action Plan 2011-2014

3. Key National Priorities for Sustainable Development of Water in RSA

3.1 Background to Priorities

The NWRS 2 makes reference to core water strategies important to RSA in order to realize sustainable growth and development. It is within these core water strategies that the RSA stakeholders contributed upon, therefore making an input to the post – 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The core strategies are: Implementation of Equity Policy, Putting water at the centre of integrated development planning and decision-making, Ensuring water for equitable growth and development, Contributing to a just and equitable South Africa, Implementing water use efficiency, Conservation and water demand management, Protecting water ecosystems, Optimising and stretching our water resources, Achieving effective water governance and Developmental Water Management (DWM), Embedding sustainable business principles and practices, Implementing a water sector investment framework and Engaging the private and water use sectors.

3.2 Cross-cutting National Priorities as Identified by Stakeholders

Three subsets or streams have been identified as key in making water contribute to sustainable development in post – 2015 Development Agenda. These are Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Wastewater / Water Quality (WW/Q) and Water Resource Management (WRM). [5]The stakeholders saw important to use the UN Reporting Framework as a guide to identify and place accordingly the key national priorities for sustainable development on water. The reporting framework sets among others key reporting categories as, Policy and regulation; Finance (sources of finance and financial management); Governance and Institutional Framework; Management Instruments; and Monitoring and reporting. The reporting framework together with the RSA core water strategies guided the stakeholder input.

The following reflects the common national priorities cross-cutting along the three themes:
  (a) *Policy and Regulation*
    ➢ DWA must strengthen and implement the Enforcement   Protocols as the sector leader responsible for regulation
    ➢ The policy and legislative framework needs to be strengthened to make DWA an effective regulator.
    ➢ There is a need for consensus on water regulation for legal international compliance.
  (b) *Finance (sources of finance and financial management)*
    ➢ DWA must have a Long Term Programme focus and mobilize funding for sustainability of water infrastructure management programmes,

    ➢ There is a need for increased funding for infrastructure development and maintenance (O&M and asset management).

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[5] Questionnaire to UN Member Countries on Integrated Approaches in the Development, Management and Use of Water Resources for UNCSD, 2012

> ➤ There is a need for increased reinvestment on infrastructure through appropriate billing and revenue collection.

(c) *Monitoring and Reporting*

> ➤ Regional Water Management Offices must continue with consistence on Monitoring and Evaluation of water services and water resources;

> ➤ There should be a long term monitoring framework supported by appropriate funding to support and sustain national programmes. The frameworks should be for both WR and WS.

> ➤ Sector programmes must use and align with available data e.g. Growth and Development Strategies (GDS) figures;

> ➤ Increase progress monitoring on Water Allocation Reform;

> ➤ The programes for monitoring must be structured to reflect at least the following elements:
>   - o Who / What pollutes our water?
>   - o Rank polluters (i.e. wastewater treatment plants / agriculture / industries / mines / urban run-off)

(d) *Governance and Institutional Arrangements*

> ➤ Emphasis for water management and implementation must work on collaborative institutional arrangements, i.e. internal and international countries.

> ➤ Strengthen International transboundary water management through bilateral, trilaterals and RBOs.
> ➤ Increased Capacity building and skills development. This should be at institutional level, firstly within Water Affairs, particularly regulation and enforcement. Secondly, it should be at municipal level on implementation and operation of infrastructure. Lastly, it should be at water use level in order to manage downstream impacts.

> ➤ There is need to focus on increased collaboration between sectors for sustainable water management, e.g. Food, Energy, Mining, Industry etc.

> ➤ Promotion of institutional arrangements for cooperative governance between institutions for sustainable management of water. The cooperative arrangements should begin by understanding the role of water in various activities and the need to promote its management through integrated planning. Based on this role players must consider the following to promote

cooperative governance:

⇒ Identify areas of interface between role players

⇒ Develop mechanisms for cooperation, e.g. effective structures and systems, joint strategy development, etc.

⇒ Institutionalise and fund cooperative governance.

(e) *Sustainable Infrastructure Management*

> There should be an increase in the use of sustainable infrastructure management methods for both water (WRM & WS) and sanitation. This should include use of international full cycle asset management methods like ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation. The current aging infrastructure is not reflecting use of such standards.

3.3 Key WRM Priorities

The stakeholders agreed that all the elements of Integrated Water Resource Management cycle are a priority. Therefore efforts should be made to implement them simultaneously. The elements of WRM include water resource classification, water conservation and water demand management, water resource planning and reconciliation, etc. IWRM approach will ensure that impacts such as AMD, Climate change; sewage spillage, eutrophication, etc. are sustainably managed.

Further to the above agreement. Stakeholders agreed that the following issues are a priority within water resources management:

> Diversifying the water mix, i.e. alternative water supply sources to decrease pressure on water resources through desalination; wastewater recycling / re-use of water.

> Introduce a comprehensive participatory planning and implementation tool to address lack of Integrated Water Resources Management understanding. Thereby, ensuring a balance between social and economic water needs while protecting the ecosystems.

> Increase the involvement and use of water resource management institutions in management of water at basin or catchment level, e.g. CMAs and RBOs.

> Strengthen transboundary water management systems through bi/trilateral Commissions and RBOs. This should further lead to technical expertise and information exchange between countries involved.

> Strengthen Regional Participation through government political structures, e.g. SADC and AMCOW as well as their related structures.

3.4 Key WASH priorities

Within the theme of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the stakeholders agreed that the following are the priorities.

- ➢ There should be a drive towards revenue enhancement and management through billing and collection within Municipalities. Not all households are indigent. Those who can pay must pay to support O&M activitties.

- ➢ There should be continious capacity and skills development support on WASH aspects. Strong focus should be at household level where it is also linked to adult basic education and training (ABET) .

- ➢ Promote alignment of legislation to manage water and sanitation. Legilation to be aligned include among others, WSA, NWA, Local government Acts, Housing Act, etc.

- ➢ Promotion of Integrated planning between all spheres of government, and other stakeholders.

- ➢ Risk management (assets, budget, O&M, planning). This should include all risks aspects and associated mitigation strategies, e.g. sewage effluent spillages

- ➢ Intensive investment and promotion of Rural Sanitation (O&M of VIP - desludging) for sustainable management of assets and impact on health.

- ➢ Inhouse development of institutional capacity and succession planning. This should have spin-offs on decentralization of information to ordinary community members

- ➢ Need to expedite and strengthen the role of private sector in WASH activtities.

- ➢ Institutions should be incentivised for good compliance on sustainable asset management.

3.5 Key Wastewater and Water Quality Priorities (Ww/WQM)

Within the theme of Wastewater and Water Quality, the stakeholders agreed that the following are the priorities.

- ➢ The need to get the wastewater treatment plants to work through
  - o Appropriate technology;
  - o Appropriate skills; and
  - o Appropriate operations and maintenance practices

➢ The need to fast-track licensing for wastewater treatment plants. This should be aligned to DWA having adequate number of skilled staff to implement regulatory functions.

➢ The need to improve performance of wastewater infrastructure. The focus should be to look at the entire business of water at municipal level.

➢ The need to focus on targeted, efficient and effective regulation. Regulation should be incentive and risk-based supported by Compliance and Enforcement. Further, regulation should focus on technical and economic aspects.

➢ Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water. This includes ensuring that water complies with health and monitoring requirements.

➢ Prioritise Research and development to monitor chemicals and emerging determinants

3.6 Suggested Areas for Future Sustainable Development Targets for Water:

South Africa has previously set targets and met them on various aspects within the three themes identified, particularly, some of WASH targets. However, these targets are changing or moving as they are influenced by the circumstances within the country as well as the government's key focus areas and vision at the time. Stakeholders, therefore, agreed that it would be difficult to make pronouncements on these unless there is a clear guidance that is influenced by the government position. It was therefore agreed that these would be thoroughly dealt with in the follow on stakeholder engagement processes.

While stakeholders expressed the above position. The following was suggested as elements for future sustainable development targets for water:
➢ A need to compare with existing targets then monitor and evaluate what has been achieved to date. Targets should only be set for new initiatives.
➢ In the context of RSA, MDG targets, Presidential targets and National targets (Government outcomes) should be used as the base for looking at water targets. The NWRS and the DWA business plan should influence the targets.
➢ Regulation and capacity building are the other areas on which targets could be set.

4. Water Resource Management Monitoring and Reporting

Considering the three thematic areas being assessed. Monitoring and reporting on water resource management is the last level where impact should be monitored, managed and reported upon. The monitoring and reporting process should be encouraged and supported to begin within WASH and Ww/WQM level. Therefore, reducing impact at water resource management level. This aproach promotes integrated water resource management, thereby contributing to sustainable management of water resources.

South Africa already has a number of monitoring and reporting programmes. Stakeholders therefore agreed that it would be prudent to assess the existing programmes and therefore make priorities on improving on them. Based on this, stakeholders agreed that the priorties should be the following:

> Assess the effectiveness of the Blue and Green Drop Certification Programmes as an example. Based on the outcomes, ways of continious improvement should be considered. The continious improvements should also be strengthened by appropriate allocation of financial resources and skills.
> DWA should move fully on implementing its regulatory function. Thereafter it should do full measurement of the effectiveness of regulation.
> Information on outcomes should be disseminated and reported to all stakeholders, particularly non technical information.

One of the priorities of WRM is diversifying water use and sources. Stakeholders agreed that there is a need to monitor and report on these alternative sources and initatives so as to improve on the diversification priority. This will lead to reduced impact on surface water resources. Monitoring and reporting should therefore focus on among other things, desalination, conservation and ground water use.

Other WRM areas where monitoring and reporting is important, includes Water use efficiency for all sectors, i.e. volumetric measurement of water (Quantity), water resource classification (Quality), infrastructure monitoring, as well as information management systems.