

Water & for Growth & Development

Background

The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry announced at the first National Water Summit in 2006 that Water for Growth & Development 'WfGD' would be adopted as the theme for the third phase of the Masibambane programme (2007-2012).

This was endorsed by a series of Provincial Water Summits which preceded the national forum. WfGD recognises the need for a collaborative working environment in the water sector as a whole and acknowledges that whilst the national water sector priority is to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation, water is an essential input for virtually every aspect of



existence, from food, to shelter, energy to recreation and the conveniences that raise the quality of life.

Masibambane Phase III

The Masibambane partnership is a water sector support programme led by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and was launched in 2001. A partnership between the Department of Provincial and Local Government, the South African Local Government Association, The European Union and its member states, the Swiss Government and Ireland Aid, The Masibambane Sector Wide Support Approach works from the premise of coordinated strategies and joint implementation involving all players in the water sector: national and provincial government, municipalities, civil society, donors, water utilities and the private sector.

Phase III runs from 2007 to 2012 with a comprehensive programme of actions and projects in support of the Local Government Support Agenda and involves levels of funding to the tune of R69billion from SA government and donors.

Service delivery targets are still sharply in focus, and Masibambane aims to support local government in meeting water (2008) and sanitation targets (2012) on time.

"Working together", the meaning of Masibambane, and its theme of WfGD firmly underpins the objectives of the Government's Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGIISA) which puts emphasis on building capacity at local government level, increasing growth and employment and reducing poverty to achieve the 6% growth rate to which the country aspires.

The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry has launched a process to develop a strategy on Water

for Growth and Development which aims to provide clear, accessible information to inform decision-making at all levels, to harness the productive potential of water at the same time as limiting its destructive impacts in order to ensure that water is allocated equitably and sustainably as a resource which can leverage growth and development.

Key Outcomes for Masibambane III

- Effective stakeholder collaboration
- Catchments Management Agencies established and operational
- Municipalities are proficient in their designated water resources and water services functions
- DWAF is a strong capacitated leader
- Mainstreaming of civil society and provide training and support
- Review of alternative financing mechanisms for water sector
- Effective and efficient water services providers
- Sustainable ecosystem based IWRM contributing on social development

What is WfGD?

- WfGD explores how water can be best managed and developed to promote economic growth and alleviate poverty, including rectifying past inequitable distribution of water and sanitation infrastructure.
- WfGD is about looking beyond eliminating service backlogs and providing services, to achieving sustainable economic and social developments which are environmentally friendly. Local Economic Plans, Provincial Growth and Development Strategies and national growth strategies must all be informed by clear understanding of the impact of climate change, increasing environmental degradation and those water supply constraints we cannot overcome.



- WfGD looks at across the board constraints and opportunities for optimal water development and use from rainwater harvesting opportunities for local food security, to efficient use of water in our homes, farms and factories, to augmenting our energy requirements, such as hydro-power and to the large schemes needed to transfer water from areas of plenty to those constrained by water shortages; from basic sanitation to the safe functioning of sophisticated waste water treatment works, to protect our health and environment.
- WfGD means building and supporting water institutions, human capacity and skills in the sector in order to ensure effective management of resources and delivery of services.
- There is a need to engage on a process of developing a strategic framework that reflects the needs of communities, informed by distinguishing between various water sources and matching water needs, uses and its availability.
- There is a need to bridge the first and second economies, water allocation reforms, job creation, skills development and small business development.



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Key Contacts:

Director General DWAF
Pam Yako

Programme Leader
Thandeka Mbassa 012 336 8972

Programme Manager
Kalinga Pelpola 012 336 8797
motlhaleng@dwaf.gov.za

Content Coordinator
Shantal Harigobin 012 336 6561

Communications & Logistics
Jabu Mtolo 012 336 8943
mtoloja@dwaf.gov.za

Stream Leaders:
Economic:
Silas Mbedzi 012 336 8752
Social:
Mandisa Mangqalaza 083 419 1023
Spatial Development:
Lehasa Moloi 012 336 8092
Environmental:
Deborah Mochotlhi 012 336 7255

CSO coordination:
Operation Hunger Rosetta Simelane / Frans Themba

www.dwaf.gov.za/masibambane

Developing the Water for Growth Process

The process of formulating the WfGD strategy will be driven by wide-ranging consultations, to ensure that the views of those in the water sector and needs of other sectors are understood and acknowledged.

The sector, led by DWAF, is committed to a sector wide approach of collaboration, support and shared knowledge and already through Masibambane a marked change in the working culture of the water sector has resulted in the sector being better organised and therefore better able to deliver.



Alignment of functions across content within the umbrella of WfGD

Conclusion

Water for Growth and Development reframes the debate on water management and provision in South Africa. The process of developing the strategy will bring in the views and suggestions of all sectors of society. The process will help build momentum for integrated sustainable economic development and water planning and implementation to ensure that water provides the maximum benefits to the people of South Africa, and to neighbouring states who share water resources with us.

Key milestone dates:

- 10 - 12 March 2008**
IWRM Conference:
International and national experts input.
- 17 March 2008**
WfGD National Conference:
Stakeholder input.
- 28 - 29 March 2008**
African Water Week:
National and international expert input.
- April 2008**
WSLG:
Special meeting for public consultation of the draft.
- 24 April 2008**
WISA Conference:
Expert and Stakeholder input.
- 11 - 12 June 2008**
WSLG:
Stakeholder and public consultation.
- July 2008**
Cabinet Lekgotla.