

LoGo Water is an EU funded project that brings together African and European researchers along with local governments from Southern Africa, for jointly contributing to support local governments to improve water resources management in the region.

Workshop 'Local Action for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)' Gaborone, Botswana, 27-28 July 2006

Outcomes

An increased dialogue with local and regional stakeholders, functioning communication mechanisms and higher involvement of local governments in water institutions at regional and catchment level: these are some of the needs to be addressed to enable local governments to contribute to their water resources management through an "integrated" approach. These conclusions were drawn by the participants of the workshop "Local Action for IWRM", which took place in Gaborone, Botswana, from 26 to 28 July 2006.

The representatives of local and national entities, who met at the event, were introduced to the background, principles and benefits of IWRM and learned about tools and challenges of stakeholder involvement. Coming from different realities, but sharing common difficulties, the participants actively exchanged their views on the opportunities, constraints and needs of local governments to engage in IWRM.

The necessity for local governments to get a better understanding of the impact of their own activities on the water cycle, and – vice versa – on how the water cycle affects their activities is one of the key points identified.

The impact of other stakeholders on the local situation and the resulting need for these actors to also become part of water resources management is considered equally relevant. Local NGOs and underprivileged people are often overlooked but yet significant stakeholder categories that have to be considered as well.

The "de-mystification" of IWRM is perceived as important by the workshop participants. Local government and other local stakeholders are usually interested in providing their contribution to water resources management, but at the same time feel overwhelmed by the complexity of the IWRM concept. This process of "de-mystification" can be done, for example, by providing simple, illustrative documents in the form of guidelines and tools and by presenting case studies that make IWRM 'real' for local government, i.e. that link IWRM to their institutional realities.

Financial constraints and the lack of accountability of civil servants are considered additional difficulties to overcome.

Despite the existing challenges, the participants identified clear opportu-

nities for implementing the IWRM approach, such as the visible political will in the region to support local government participation in water resources management and the possibility of applying IWRM principles starting from local or small-scale situations, without waiting for catchment level or national initiatives.

The workshop report is already available on the LoGo Water website.

What's new on our website?

The publication "*Local Governance in IWRM in the Netherlands*" is now available under 'Project downloads'!

www.iclei-europe.org/logowater

How to get involved

- Get subscribed to the LoGo Water Newsletter!
- Join the LoGo Water Network!
- Take part in LoGo Water events!
- Send us your contributions and comments!

LoGo Water Newsletter

You just need to send us an email containing your contact information with the subject line: SUBSCRIBE LOGO WATER NEWSLETTER.

LoGo Water Network

The Network started with a core group of water specialists, who participated in the workshop in Botswana, and will continue until the end of the project (end of 2007). The network will focus on issues relevant for IWRM implementation at local level in the SADC region and serve as a forum for expert exchange. Please write us indicating your interest in joining the Network.

LoGo Water events

An International Seminar, planned to take place in May 2007 in Johannesburg, South Africa, will be organised to present the results and discuss the further uptake of the tools and conclusions of the LoGo Water project. If you are interested in the seminar, send us an email, giving some background information about you and stating your specific interests.

Contributions and comments

You can contribute to the project's discussions and results by sending us your contributions and comments. Please consult the project website for all project reports and other outputs.

Please always address your e-mail to logowater@iclei.org.



Field visit at Department of Water Affairs

Workshop 'Local Action for IWRM' (contin.)

Facts and figures

The workshop and field visit "Local Action for IWRM" was hosted by the Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) in Gaborone, Botswana, from 26 to 28 July 2006. The workshop convened 43 representatives from local governments, municipal associations, national governments, international organisations and institutes specialising on environmental and particularly water issues. With only a few exceptions, the participants came from Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, the countries sharing the Limpopo river basin.

On the first day, Mr Joe Matome, KCS Chairman, welcomed the participants; the Director of Water Affairs in Botswana, Mr. Boikobo Paya, officially opened the workshop and Ms. Maria Lisa Santonocito, representative of the European Commission, gave the keynote address.

On the last day, during the field trip organised by KCS, the participants visited the Department of Water Affairs, where an efficient example of water recycling was presented, and Botala Farm, located on the Notwane river and affected by floods during recent heavy rainfalls.

The participants were really satisfied with the workshop and provided the LoGo Water partners with some useful insight and suggestions for the project's future activities. They also expressed interest in being involved in the LoGo Water network and being kept up-to-date on the project achievements.

Local and national media showed high interest in the event as well and broadcast a report on Botswana television, both on the Setswana and the English news. The workshop was also covered by the *Botswana Guardian* newspaper.



Working group

LoGo Water project presented to Limpopo River Commission

LIMCOM Meeting, Gaborone, Botswana, 13-14 September 2006

The Limpopo River Commission invited a LoGo Water representative, Mr. Felix Monggae of the Kalahari Conservation Society, to present the project at its technical and commissioners' meetings, held in Gaborone, Botswana, on 13 and 14 September 2006 respectively.

The technical committee was impressed that the project was bridging a gap in their mandated water management activities while the commissioners also welcomed the project.

The following opportunities were identified for future actions:

- The LoGo Water project on the Limpopo river basin is a pilot and it could be replicated in other basins, funds permitting.
- The materials being developed could be utilized in other basins within the SADC member states.
- The SADC Water Division and LIMCOM will be invited to

LoGo Water activities and materials being developed would also be shared accordingly.

- When invited, LoGo Water will be prepared to address relevant water institutions in the basin through its country partners or the ICLEI-Africa Secretariat in South Africa.
- LoGo Water will strive to share information with the projects 'Managing flows for sustainable development: Learning from the Limpopo River Basin' (IUCN ROSA) and 'Sustainable Land Use Planning for Integrated Land and Water Management for Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerability Reduction in the Limpopo Basin' (UN-HABITAT) as all the three projects are addressing water related problems on the Limpopo river basin and vice versa.

Contribution by Felix Monggae, KCS

General info on LoGo Water

The aim of the LoGo Water project is to support local governments in the Southern Africa region to actively engage in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The project's approach is based on the close collaboration between nine organisations from Southern Africa and the European Union and eight cities and towns in the Limpopo river basin between January 2005 and December 2007. The expected outcome is a contribution to improve the capacity of local governments in fulfilling their role in the adoption of sound integrated water resources management solutions and thus contribute to the achievement of the water-related Millennium Development Goals.

The project partners are: ICLEI European Secretariat, Germany · Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH-W), United Kingdom · Foundation for a New Water Culture (FNCA), Spain · International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), Netherlands · ICLEI Africa Secretariat, South Africa · Institute of Natural Resources (INR), South Africa · Institute of Water and Sanitation Development

(IWSD), Zimbabwe · Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS), Botswana · The World Conservation Union-Mozambique Office (IUCN), Mozambique.

The Associated Local Governments are: Beitbridge Rural District Council and Bulawayo City Council (Zimbabwe) · City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality and Makhado Local Municipality (South Africa) · Municipal Council of the City of Chokwe and Municipal Council of Xai-Xai (Mozambique) · Serowe/Palapye District Council and Selebi-Phikwe Town Council (Botswana).

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