



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

WATER SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET STRATEGY FORMULATION

PROGRESS REPORT FOR MCC

15 MAY 2008

1. The Strategy: Background

With the declining condition of water services infrastructure in the country, the need for a strategy for improving water services infrastructure asset management was realised. In 2005, a rigorous process of fact-finding and identification of solutions was undertaken. The process had the following phases:

- Phase 1: Desktop strategic study of the state of water services infrastructure and the state of its management (*completed late 2005*)
- Phase 2A: Identifying key factors that drive these states and identifying elements needed for an enabling environment to ensure sound IAM (*late 2006*)
- Phase 2B: Priority actions (*early 2007*)

Resulting from the information gathered, a strategy was outlined and the first version of the Water Services Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy document was drafted in July 2007.

2. Progress of the project

2.1 Progress: The strategy document

The draft document has been through a series of iterations. It has been informed by in particular:

- DWAf internal task team meetings - September 2007 and March 2008)
- Reference group meetings (DWAf and external stakeholders) - October 2007 and April 2008
- Integration with the National Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy (NIMS)

The strategy document was finalised in May 2008.

In the most recent reference group meeting it was decided that the draft strategy should be submitted for the Minister or Director-General's approval in its current form, subject to any final comments from individual group members. It was also decided that a municipal workshop would be held at which the first draft of the implementation plan would be presented, and municipalities would have the opportunity to discuss their IAM-related challenges and possible solutions, so as to ensure that the implementation plan addresses the actual needs and priorities of municipalities..

2.2 Progress: contributions to related initiatives

The process of developing this strategy has enabled DWAF to build a better working relationship with key sector partners (e.g. DPLG, NT, WRC, DBSA), who now involve DWAF in all IAM-related initiatives.

Through this project, contributions have been made to related initiatives by others, particularly:

- Participation in the WS:SD Councillor Development Programme (CDP)
- Comments on NT draft 'Framework for the Financial Management of Assets' and 'Local Government Capital Asset Management Guideline'

2.3 Progress: presentations, papers and articles

Other outputs of this project have been:

- The presentation of a paper at 2007 IMESA National Conference
- Inclusion of an article on the strategy for 2008 Local Government Water and Sanitation diary
- Presentation of the strategy in 6 regions, to provincial water sector forums and regional IAM / technical task teams
- Participation in the LGSETA project steering committee for the development of an IAM learning framework.

3. The way forward

- The final version of the strategy shall be submitted for the Minister's approval in May 2008.
- A workshop on IAM and a paper on the strategy will be presented at the 2008 WISA Conference, in order to further promote water services IAM.
- The Directorate: Water Services: Policy and Strategy is to host a national workshop with municipalities to discuss and document their IAM-related challenges, so as to address these in the implementation plan.
- Bilateral meetings will continue with sector partners and DWAF regions, to gather input for the implementation plan.
- The implementation plan is to be developed by July 2008.