



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW- RESPONSE TO IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES FACING THE SECTOR

Department of Water Affairs and
Forestry

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- Drinking water quality
 - Water services infrastructure
 - Water resources infrastructure
 - Compliance and enforcement of the NWA
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- Water conservation and demand management
- Skills crisis
- Conclusion



Background



Why necessary?

- Aging water distribution & monitoring infrastructure,
- Poor investment history on preventative maintenance,
- High maintenance & operational costs,
- Population & economic growth – increased strain on water availability



IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES

- Drinking water quality
- Water services infrastructure
 - Water resources infrastructure
 - Compliance and enforcement of the NWA
 - Regulation and compliance in water services
 - Raw water quality
 - Water conservation and demand management
 - Skills crisis



Drinking water quality




Challenges

- Under-resourced municipalities- finance & necessary expertise
- Poor water quality impacts on lives & livelihoods
- Poor monitoring and reporting- esp rural water schemes



Drinking water quality

Response

- 
- Find options for placing water services functions under administration - where WSA is failing
 - Regulation of drinking water quality- Stds set but CEM essential
 - Use of WB - monitoring, auditing or to act as WSPs
 - Build capacity in regional offices to support municipalities in drinking WQ management.
 - Investigate incentives for good municipal asset management and sufficient budgeting



Water services infrastructure

Challenges

- Old, poorly maintained infrastructure leading to increased failures
- Lack of investment in maintenance and refurbishment
- Poorly managed waste water and sewage infrastructure leading to high pollution levels & sewage spills
- Bulk infrastructure insufficient for increased demand (sanitation and water)





Water services infrastructure

Response

- Investigate funding for bulk water services infrastructure and refurbishment to deal with backlog of O&M
- Measures to incentivise proper planning for this
- Review funding arrangements for FBS through Equitable Share to support sustainable water services.



Water services infrastructure



Response cont:

- Task Team to review current approaches to basic sanitation improvement, including
 - Review appropriate technology for communities previously served with VIPs.
 - Finalize and implement the National Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy
 - Review quantity of water allocated under FBW (FBW) and the mechanisms for providing/funding FBW,
 - Finalize FBSan Strategy and submit to Cabinet



Water resources infrastructure

Challenge

- Lack of asset management systems
- Augmentation options for major cities (Cape Town, Gauteng, Port Elizabeth)
- Infrastructure needed urgently to serve Eskom and SASOL



Water resources infrastructure

Response

- Establishment of (NWRRIA) to be fast-tracked
- Complete NWRI Action Plan with regard to Eskom urgently.
- Implement Government Water Scheme O&M systems and procedures
- Complete feasibility studies - augment



Compliance and enforcement under the National Water Act

Challenge

- High levels of unlawful water abstraction e.g. Vaal river
- Unlawful effluent discharge leading to high levels of pollution
- Illegal dam construction



Compliance and enforcement under the National Water Act

Response

- Strengthen Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement functions
- NEMA amendment – NWA as one of the specific Acts within NEMA



Regulation and compliance in water services

Challenge

- Poor regulation of WSAs and WSPs resulting in
 - Drinking water quality problems
 - Interruptions in supply
 - Low maintenance levels
 - Failing waste water treatment infrastructure



Regulation and compliance in water services

Response

- Determine appropriate institutional arrangements for WS regulation.
- Strengthen drinking WQ regulation by strengthening current capacity – September 2008.



Raw Water Quality

Challenge

- Poor maintenance and operation of WWTW leading to high levels of pollution
- Pollution from industry, mines and agriculture
- Non-point source impact



Raw Water Quality

Response

- Phased implementation of Waste Discharge Charge System
- Directives to be issued by Minister – Enforcement Week
- Develop Infrastructure Asset Management plans for all waste water treatment works and other municipal water services infrastructure.



Water conservation and demand management

Challenge

- High levels of water wastage in water services and agriculture in particular resulting in increased demand & need for new infrastructure,
- Impact of climate change,
- Meeting Reserve/Env. requirements



Water conservation and demand management

Response

- Establish mechanisms for funding WC/WDM
- Develop national programme for WC/WDM in key metropolitan and agricultural areas
- Regulations for WC/WDM to be completed by December 2008
- Operationalize National WUE Info System
- Enhance National Waterwise Campaign



Response to the skills crisis in the water sector

Challenge

- Shortage of technical skills in water sector
 - engineering
 - finance
 - technical and artisan
- Continuing skills drainage from the sector



Response to the skills crisis in the water sector

- Review designation of municipalities as WSPs
- Investigate involvement of private sector to enhance management and delivery of services
- Investigate legislative requirements to intervene in municipalities that are unable to provide effective service.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive sector skills response strategy (Vision for Capacity Building and Training 2025)
- Review of salaries and conditions of service for scarce occupational classes
- Enhance current programme of placing relevant scarce skills in municipalities



Conclusion

- Concerted action needed from all spheres of government
- Significantly invest in water sector needs to avoid potential water crises and to ensure water management supports ASGISA growth targets
- Substantial injection of funds from fiscus for next decade- improved revenue management



Thank you