Applying the WCD Report in South Africa

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Mexico, March 2006
WHY A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVE IS IMPORTANT TO SOUTH AFRICA

It is the developing countries that can least afford to make the mistakes of the developed world.
Pretoria Launch of WCD
Civil Society Call for a
Moratorium on Large Dams
and a Statement of
Acceptance from DWAF
Key factors contributing to Multi-stakeholder ownership from the very beginning

• Joint planning
  – Symposium provided equal space for different perspectives
  – Neutral facilitator
  – Ensured delegates from all stakeholder groups
  – MS workshops to plan the way forward after the Symposium
First Multi-stakeholder Symposium
June 2001 Resolutions

- Broad support for strategic priorities
- Need to contextualise to Southern Africa
- Elected Steering Committee
- Need to take WCD recommendations into SADC
Election of Multi-stakeholder Committee

- Government
  - Utilities
  - Eskom
  - Dept Water Affairs
  - Dept Agriculture
- NGOs
- Dam Affected
- Private Sector
- Finance Org (DBSA)
- Research Org (WRC)
Key elements of the 3-year process
2001 - 2004

- MS Committee
- Good Chair – DBSA
- Analytical Approach
- Annual Forums
- Scoping Report
- Substantive Report
- Neutral Author
Analytical Approaches of 7 Strategic Priorities

• Check relevance to SA

• Check against existing policy, regulation and legislation

• Make Recommendations re
  – Gaps, inadequacies, implementation
  – specific institutions and stakeholder groups

• Identify research needs
• Use illustrative SA examples
Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forums

- Provide mandate & legitimacy
- Review work of Committee
- Debate issues

- Agree way forward
- Elect new committee
- Approve Substantive Report

Created by Brian Hollingworth and Liane Greef
March 04
Scoping Report

- Very useful tool for resolving conflict
- Get all the differing viewpoints from all stakeholders
  ~ People feel they have been heard
- Contextualised for South Africa
- Comments and inputs from Forum delegates
- Defines boundaries for substantive issues
Substantive Report

• Using Scoping Report as base
• Each WCD Strategic Priority in turn
• Consensus seeking
• Focus on recommendations and research needs for all stakeholders
• Forum and committee inputs
• Neutral author

Presented to Oct 2004 Forum
Substantive Report Approved by October 2004 Forum
Published in March 2005

• Presented to Minister of Water Affairs, Water Week 2005

• Look at incorporating Recommendations into SA Decision making Processes
Our Analytical approach compared SA Policy and Practice against the WCD and found large overlap.

Main challenge that of IMPLEMENTATION.
• Remarkable achievement for individuals & organisations with at times vastly different perspectives

• Few points which we were unable to come to consensus

• Willingness of both stakeholders in the MS Forum and the Committee to approach task with open minds, mutual respect, whilst still remaining true to their values & beliefs
October 2004
Participatory Process to Determine Priorities for Implementation

- Forum 2004 participatory process to determine priorities for implementation out of many recommendations
FIRST PRIORITY: Addressing social impacts

• Addressing unresolved social issues of existing dams
• Explore and implement mechanisms for recognizing entitlements and sharing benefits for new dams

• Development of 2 new policies:
  - Compensation policy for new dams
  - Policy for outstanding social issues
Addressing unresolved social issues of existing dams continued

- Multi-stakeholder Reparations Committee
- Working together with DWAF on Social Audit of existing dams, which is new territory........
SECOND PRIORITY: Enhancing governance of water and energy resources development

- Macro level planning
- Public participation and developing the process of gaining public acceptance
- Build capacity and allocate finances to facilitate empowerment
- Promote water demand management through comprehensive options assessment
- Monitoring and evaluation systems
THIRD PRIORITY: Promoting river health & sustainable livelihoods

- Prioritize resources needed to sustain rivers and livelihoods
- Maintain existing pristine rivers (very few left)
- Monitor implementing of ecological and basic needs reserve
- Agree on methodologies to determine environmental water requirements on a regional scale
ADDITIONAL PRIORITY FOR ACTION
Promoting Regional Good Governance

- Promoting the uptake of WCD principles in NEPAD and other African Initiatives
- Outcomes of the recent hydro power conference
- As well as in the actions of South African Institutions operating throughout Africa
- We would be happy to share our experiences of the SA Initiative with neighboring countries & throughout Africa... encourage AMCOW MS dialogue
Way Forward

- New Committee with renewed commitment and energy elected at October 2004 Forum
- To publicize and disseminate our report
- To encourage the adoption of the recommendations
- We need all players to become involved in the implementation and monitoring of the recommendations
We acknowledge the ongoing support from the DDP which made our process possible.

- Financial contributions
- Attending and presenting at annual forums
- Advice

Complemented by support from SSNC, DBSA, DWAF & Rand Water
In the tradition of our political transformation the South African Initiative, including members of my Department, has worked tirelessly over the last 3 years to build consensus on how we should respond to the WCD Report and how here in SA we can improve our decision-making on dams - the ultimate purpose of the whole process.

Minister Sonjica
2005
Thank you

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