African Civil Society
facilitating meaningful participation in
Integrated Water Resources Management

African Civil Society Network on Water

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Session participants

Local Actions from:

- Environmental Monitoring Group South Africa
- Pitio Ndyeshumba – WATSANET Tanzania
- Essam Nada – AOYE Egypt
- Frank Habineza – Rwanda Wildlife Clubs Rwanda

Expert Panelists:

- Prof Edward Kairu – Maji na Ufanisi
- Simphiwe Nojiyeza – SA Water Caucus/ Earthlife Africa
- Barbara Schreiner – Dept Water Affairs and Forestry

Rapporteur:

- Yunia Mussazi -- WaterAid Uganda
Introduction 1

- There are 300 million people without access to potable water in Africa
- By 2025, 25 African countries will be subject to water scarcity
- Much of Africa’s water resources are not yet utilised

What is integrated water resources management?

- IWRM promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize economic and social welfare, in an equitable manner, without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems (GWP 2000:2)
- IWRM is about managing physical/natural resources **AND** reforming human systems that enable people – especially marginalised people – to benefit from these resources
Introduction 2

- IWRM principles and polices are considered an essential prerequisite for water resources development
- Meaningful participation of water users is crucial to implementing IWRM
- IWRM is crucial to meet the Millennium Development Goals
- The implementation of IWRM will play a significant role in the socio economic development of Africa and will require reforms in policy, strategy and institutional arrangements
- GWP, AfDB and NEPAD are working to create IWRM awareness and capacity
Introduction 3

Article 26 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation calls for the development of IWRM and water efficiency strategies, and recommends that these strategies should:

- Help countries and regions move towards integrated management and more efficient use of water resources
- Cover institutional, financial and technological change and promote action at all levels
- Give priority to meeting basic human needs, especially the poor
- Address the challenge of balancing the need to restore and protect ecosystems with the needs of water users
- Respect and be adapted to local situations
- Ensure stakeholder participation, capacity building, monitoring performance and improving the accountability of public institutions and private companies
- The river (or water) basin should be used as the basic unit for integrating management
Purpose and objectives of the session

- To provide a platform for African civil society organisations to share their experiences and lessons from public partnerships for effective participation in implementing IWRM

The session will focus on lessons and experiences in:

- Forming collaborative relationships with government
- Facilitating collaborative linkages across multi stakeholder groups
- Facilitating the meaningful participation of community groupings

The session will also explore the implications for:

- Policy and institutional changes
- Regional advocacy and learning agendas and activities
Lessons learned 1

- How to foster collaboration and partnerships with government and communities:
  - Design initiatives that address their needs and priorities – across sectors, e.g. tourism, energy, livelihoods
  - Build relationships
  - Start with targeted sensitisation and awareness building

- A willingness to reflect, take on new ideas, admit errors and learn lessons strengthens initiatives, especially where there are diverse stakeholders

- Civil society teams add value through their commitment to meaningful participation and partnership, in development and conservation
Lessons learned 2

- Local government presence on the ground, in contact with communities, fosters trust

- How to foster behaviour change:
  - Address felt needs and priorities
  - Offer alternatives that are easy/easier to implement
  - Involve people in identifying local solutions
  - Targeted awareness building
  - A enabling legal framework (with enforcement)
  - A flashpoint/spark helps – work where there is energy and concern
Key messages 1

- Government commitment to IWRM, including environmental conservation and meaningful participation, is critical and needs to be a primary focus of advocacy agendas at all levels.
- Local people are able to solve local development and conservation problems with support.
- Factors that facilitate meaningful participation in IWRM include decentralisation, effective partnerships and effective methodologies.
- A collaborative, partnership driven process is key to success.
Key messages 2

- Appropriate low cost or no cost technologies are crucial – solutions need to be easy to implement or they will not be implemented.

- Effective participatory methodologies involve people in designing solutions that address their needs, ensure the active participation of women, and address priority felt needs and issues.

- National conservation and efficiency strategies can be implemented by local people at local level (river basin).
Draft recommendations

- There is a need for country and regional-level advocacy strategies
- There is also a need for mechanisms for documenting and disseminating lessons and experiences
- Greater integration in water resources management requires better linkages between sectors (e.g. agriculture, energy, tourism) and between scales (e.g. community, catchment, sub region, transboundary)
- CSOs have a role to play in fostering multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration in the governance of water resources
- National and transboundary policies and priorities need to take water resources implications into account
- Stakeholders, especially women and the poor, must have a voice in water planning and management