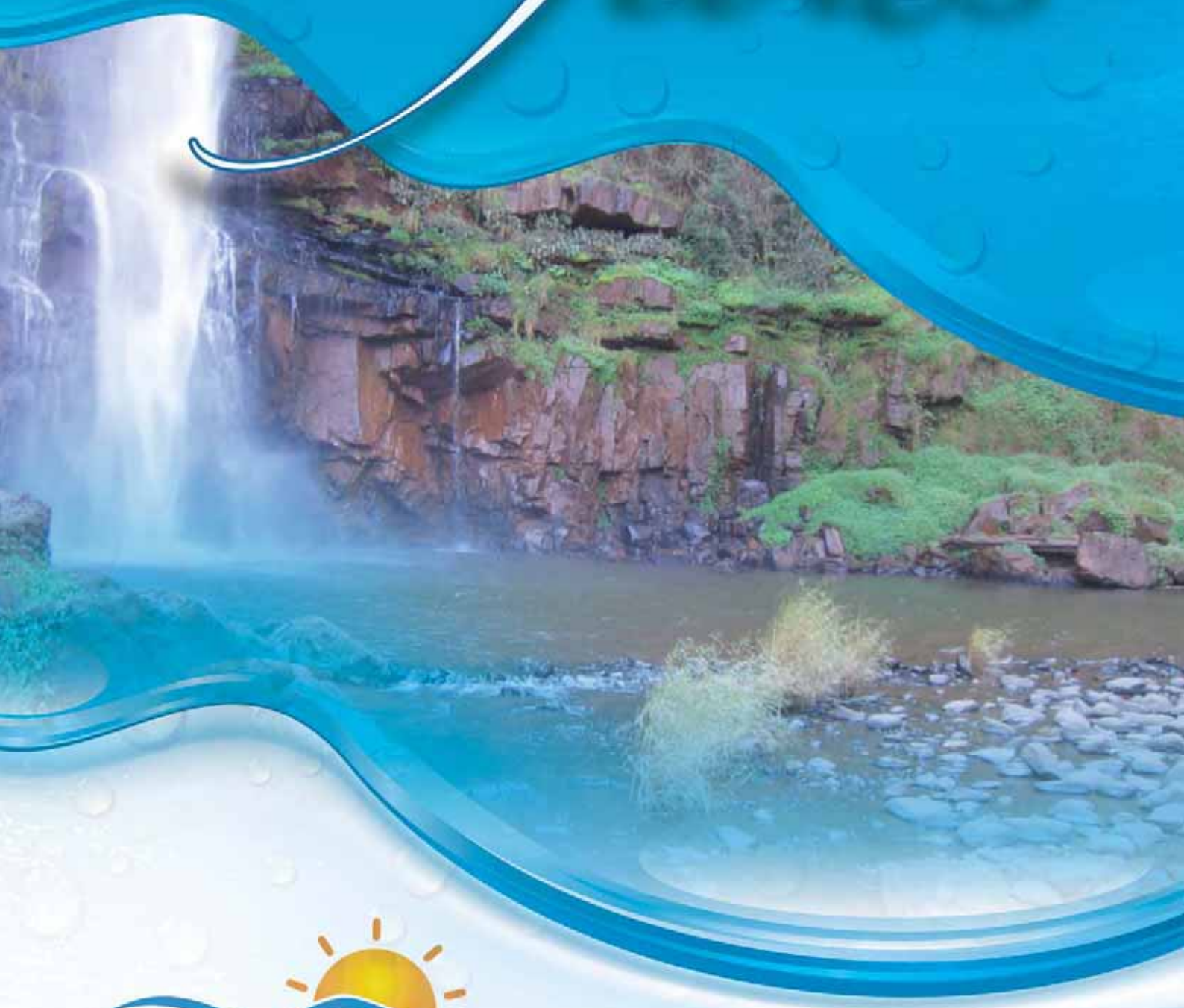


INKOMATI

1ST EDITION • 2012/3

Flowers



INKOMATI
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Water is life _____	Page 2
National Arbor Week _____	Page 4
Invitation to register in the ICMA Stakeholder Database _____	Page 5
Water Resources _____	Page 6
Women Summit _____	Page 8
Did you know - facts about water _____	Page 9
The Status and Beneficial use of Groundwater _____	Page 12
The Water Cycle _____	Page 14
Report of the Inkomati CMA Equity Working Group _____	Page 15

VISION

Water for all in Inkomati

MISSION

Our mission is of a pioneering catchment management system that empowers stakeholders to engage in consensual and adaptive decision making, to achieve reform, and to promote persistent social, economic and environmental justice across the Inkomati catchment.

- The Inkomati CMA supports the co-operative management of the Inkomati basin as an internationally shared water course
- The decision-making environment of the Inkomati CMA, including delegated functions, enables collaborative action towards equity, sustainability and efficiency in a continually evolving socio-economic system
- The Inkomati CMA manages the resources adaptively, co-operatively and progressively to achieve social, economic and environmental justice, and promote healthy living

OUR VALUES

- The Inkomati CMA acknowledges the interdependence of our responsibilities for caring for the resource and there is explicit recognition of the diversity achieved by what individual/ group contributes to promoting equity, efficiency, and sustainability as defined in the National Water Act
- Decisions, actions and outcomes are subject to performance evaluation against measurable goals, indicators and timeframes
- The Inkomati CMA strives for a trusting, transparent and corrupt-free system of catchment management that is cognisant of existing agreements and promotes fairness before the law, environment and economic development
- Management is adaptive, open to critique and outcomes driven, with solutions being practical, achievable and implementable
- The Inkomati CMA practices problem solving that embraces:
- Ethics of Ubuntu (our humanity is defined by how others experience our behaviour), Simunye (we are one) and Batho-pele (people first)
- Consensus driven stakeholder participation
- Decision within our mandate are made and are justified on the basis of the best available social, technical, economic, environmental and governance knowledge

WATER IS LIFE

BY SYLVIA MACHIMANA

Water is a remarkable substance – central to life, it feeds our nations, drives our industry, washes away our troubles, quenches our thirst, and brings beauty and pleasure into our lives.”Barbara Schreiner

South Africa is a country that, contrary to belief, does not have an abundant supply of water and could well be described as a semi desert region with a water shortage.

Factors contributing to a serious water crisis in South Africa are:

- Our increasing human population leads to an increase in water consumption – many of whom who do not have adequate access to water.
- Water loss through a high evaporation rate.
- Siltation of dams.
- An increase in droughts (Maybe a cause of global climate change, due to pollution?)

Pollution

Pollution as a negative Impact on Water quality Pollution takes place as a result of point sources such as the discarding of waste through the end of a pipe, and diffuse sources such as fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, fuel, diesel, oil, etc., finding their way into groundwater sources.

Humans are always the last receptors in environmental pollution and pollution will therefore affect human health!



Water Efficiency

There are essentially three ways to save water:

Reduce, Re-use and Repair.

1. Water Efficiency at work:

Reduce your daily usage of water and identify ways in which you can be efficient in water usage. Be more water wise.

Re-use water wherever possible. Virtually all water coming out of a tap can be used at least twice and is called grey water. Identify water that you can re-use elsewhere. Some plants don't respond well to soaps and detergents, but grey water can be re-used on most lawns.

Repair leaking pipes, taps and toilets cisterns. A dripping tap can waste as much as 60 litres of water per day or 1 800 litres per month. A leaking toilet can waste up to 100 000 litres of water per year.

2. Invasive plants and the environment

Invading alien plants waste 7% of our water resources, intensify flooding and fires; cause erosion, destruction of rivers, siltation of dams



and estuaries, poor water quality and can cause a mass extinction of indigenous plants and animals.

They consume more water than indigenous plants and therefore lead to the loss of water in catchments.

3. Water Wise Gardening

Gardens are one of the biggest water consumers and can be designed and maintained in a water efficient way.

a. Water at the right time

- (Watering at the right time of the day saves water and money.)
- Avoid watering on windy days, as evaporation rates are higher than on a calm day.
- Water less often in winter and more often in summer.
- Water less often in cool weather and more frequently in hot weather.
- Water at a cool time of the day to reduce evaporation – evening or early morning. Watering in the morning decreases the chance of mildew.
- When good rains fall, stop watering for a few days.
- Water deeply but less often. Deep soaking encourages roots to utilize moisture deep in the ground and enable plants to thrive between watering and in times of drought.

b. The amount of water needed depends on the soil type

- Water clay soils heavily but slowly and less often.
- Water sandy soils frequently with less water.
- Water loamy soils with a moderate amount of water but less often than sandy soils.

c. Zone the garden

Group plants together according to their water requirements.



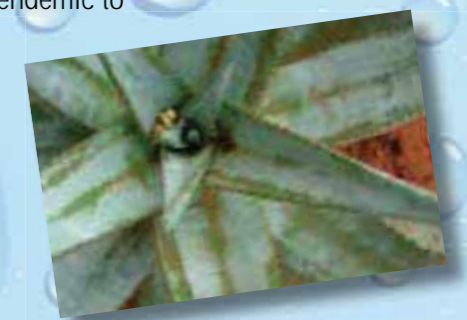
The Low – or No- water zones will contain plants, which use very little water and essentially survive on the rainfall available in the region. The medium water zone will contain plants that will need some extra watering. The high water zone will contain plants that require regular frequent watering.

d. Mulching

Keep flowerbeds well mulched. Mulch keeps the roots of plants cool and moist, and also saves water by preventing evaporation. Mulching also reduces erosion by allowing water to penetrate the soil. Types of mulch are large bark chips, pine needles, partially decomposed compost, fallen leaves and lawn clippings.

e. Choosing the right plant

Another way of conserving water is to choose climate-appropriate plants. This includes all indigenous plants that are endemic to your region, as well as plants from other parts of the world with a similar climate to your own regional climate.



Planting indigenous plants is always more of an advantage with regards to the conservation of South Africa's indigenous flora and by preserving ecosystems in the garden. Naturally drought –resistant plants This is an example of water saving plant. These were just a few ideas on how to be water efficient. In the end we will all benefit from being water wise as well as ensure the availability of this precious resource for ourselves... and most importantly for our children.

Although our country does have the National Water Act to regulate all matters relating to water, the saving of water should not be seen as a nuisance and something we have to do. It should be part of our daily routine and a way of life.

NATIONAL ARBOR WEEK

BY SONNYBOY
MHLANGO
COMMUNITY OFFICER

Arbor Day originated in 1872 in the United States territory of Nebraska.

Mr J. Sterling Morton, a new resident to the treeless plains of Nebraska, was a keen proponent of the beauty and benefit of trees. In South Africa, Arbor Day was only first celebrated in 1983. The event captured the imagination of people who recognized the need for raising awareness of the value of trees in our societies as sources of building material, food, medicine, simple scenic beauty and biological benefits. Trees play a vital role in the health and well-being of our communities and environment.

In 1999 the celebration of Arbor Day, in RSA was extended to National Arbor Week starting from 1 to 7 September every year. During National Arbor Week, people from all walks of life are urged to get involved in, and many more are made aware of the benefits of trees, especially indigenous forests.

Indigenous forests provided home for many wild life species, and also provide trees and herbs that humans depend on for survival. They provide protection against soil erosion and sustains the environment that supports biodiversity.

The ICMA is actively involved in promoting arbor week. Our primary target is to educate the Youth (leaners) and Community Tribal Leaders about the benefits of keeping our environment as green as possible. The Inkomati

CMA and Kruger National Park (KNP) has embarked on a partnership to raise awareness and celebrate the Arbor week together through planting of South African indigenous trees within different schools and communities.

Arbor week 2012

The ICMA/ KNP partnership kick started with a tree planting ceremony at 3 schools at Magogeni Village in 2012. 9 trees were planted, 3 trees at Magogeni tribal office, 2 trees at Magogeni Primary School, 2 trees at Soshangane High School and 2 trees at Mhlosheni Primary School.

The ceremonial activity was graced by the Chairperson of Governing Board of the ICMA, Ms TP Nyakane-Maluka. The Chairperson addressed the primary kids about the importance and establishment of Arbor Day, and spoke about the importance of a tree and the benefits we get from different trees.

INVITATION TO REGISTER IN THE ICMA STAKEHOLDER DATABASE

The Inkomati Catchment Management Agency (ICMA) is an agency of the Department of Water Affairs responsible for the management, conservation, and control of water resources in the Inkomati Water management Area, which is a geographic area comprised of the Crocodile East catchment, the Komati catchment and the Sabie and Sand catchments including their respective tributaries. For appropriate management, conservation and control of water resources to take place, it is mandatory for the ICMA to consult and collaborate with stakeholders in all its activities.

Successful integrated water resource management is one that takes into account the requirements of the users and the environment in the management and control of land based activities.

It is in view of the above background that the ICMA invites all water users in the Inkomati Water Management Area to register in its database. An up-to-date stakeholder database will enable the ICMA to consult all users in the water management area regarding all water use activities as well as on decisions that are to be taken that may affect them.

You are welcome to visit the ICMA offices at 13 Streak Street (Cnr Streak and Ferreira), MAXSA Building, 8th Floor in Nelspruit.

For more information you can contact Mabunda Joseph at 0137539000 or e-mail at mabundaj@inkomaticma.co.za

WATER RESOURCES

What are Water resources?

Water resources are defined as the sources by which we can get the water for our different types of uses and also those sources that gives the huge benefit to the life of the humans is referred to as the water resources.

The water that is used in the production of different types of useful products, like electricity, is also included in the water resources. Basically the function of the water resources is that to overcome the desires or the requirement of the water for the agricultural, industrial, social or household purposes.

Types of Water Resources:

The water resources are divided into different categories because of their composition and also on the basis of their uses for the benefit of the humanity. Some important types of water resources that are used to provide the useful sources of water are as follows

Surface Water Resources:

Another type of the water resources is the surface water resource. It is that type of water resource in which the water present in the rivers or in the streams plays an important role in maintaining different types of technologies and also used to upgrade the productivity. Basically this type of water is used in many useful purposes such as for the industrial use, for agricultural



▲ Driekoppies dam in Malelane

use and for the generation of different types of energy i.e. hydro electrical energy. Surface water is very important because its 98% is used in the industry for manufacturing of different products.

- **Underground Water Resources:**

It is that type of water resource that is comprised of the different types of water resources that are fresh in nature, found under the surface of the earth. Because of its high usefulness people use groundwater to increase the growth rate of plants. The ground water makes the soil moist and increases its productivity. Another common type of underground water is an aquifer. This is a porous rock that can allow water to pass through it, it can usually hold water for a long time.

- **Wetlands:**

A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, such that it takes on characteristics that distinguish it as a distinct ecosystem. The primary factor that distinguishes wetlands is the characteristic vegetation that is adapted to its unique soil conditions: Wetlands are made up primarily of hydric soil, which supports aquatic plants.

- **Dams:**

A dam is a barrier that impounds water or underground streams. Dams generally serve the primary purpose of retaining water, while other structures such as floodgates or levees (also known as dikes) are used to manage or prevent water flow into specific



▲ Kwenena Dam in Lydenburg
(this is the main dam in the Crocodile River)

Crocodile River (east) at Komatipoort ▶

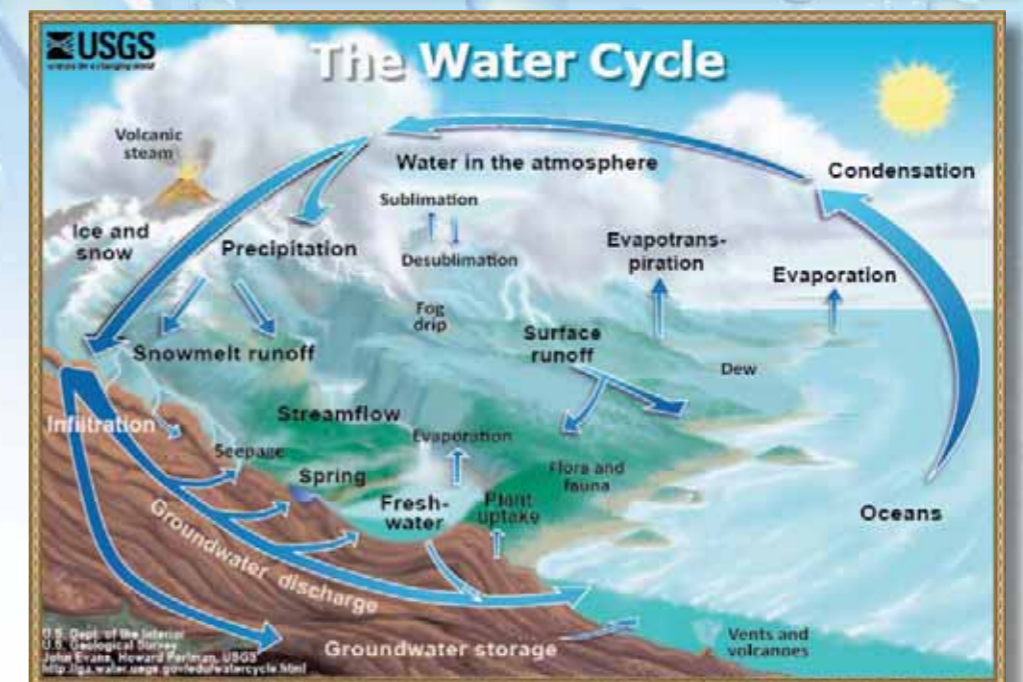
land regions. Hydropower and pumped-storage hydroelectricity are often used in conjunction with dams to generate electricity. A dam can also be used to collect water or for storage of water which can be evenly distributed between locations.

- **The Water Cycle**

Earth's water is always in movement, and the natural water cycle, also known as the hydrologic cycle, describes the continuous movement of water on, above, and below the surface of the Earth. Water is always changing states between liquid, vapour, and ice, with these processes happening in the blink of an eye and over millions of years.



Blyde River Canyon in the Mpumalanga Panorama route ▲



WOMEN SUMMIT

As the rest of the country was celebrating woman of our society, the Inkomati CMA also celebrated its woman, from stakeholders to female staff members. The celebration was held at the Greenwaywood under the stewardship of the Chairperson of the Governing Board Mrs. Patience Nyakane-Maluka.

The event was attended by 115 women from all sectors of our stakeholders, including sector departments like DWA, DARDLA, Rural Development and Land Reform. Woman

were honoured and also received critic talks from how woman can access water and how they can be assisted to access funds from the department of water affairs. But most importantly we deliberated on gender issues and how woman can break the barriers in the workplace or in the water sector.

A declaration was made during the summit as follows: -

ICMA WOMAN SUMMIT DECLARATION

On the 7th August 2012 held at the Greenway wood hotel, declared as follows: -

We the women of the Inkomati Water Management Area from different sectors gathered at the Greenway wood to discuss challenges that affect women in accessing water and also to learn on how the ICMA and DWA can assist us.

We acknowledge that it is very difficult for women to access water and get necessary support. There is no financial support that is focused on women.

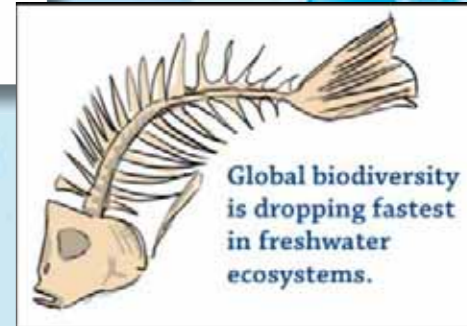
We therefore declare that: we will not sit and wait, but we will stand up and fend for our families through agriculture and other projects and that the ICMA will develop programmes focusing on financial support to the women emerging farmers.

As women we need to support each other against the triple oppression of the PHD (Pull Her Down) and QUEEN BEE syndrome and that is attacking women. We also have the responsibility to shape the society starting from our homes.



DID YOU KNOW? FACTS ABOUT WATER

Guinea Worm Disease is caused by drinking dirty water: the worm can grow to 3 feet long!



Global biodiversity is dropping fastest in freshwater ecosystems.

Some Interesting and Useful facts about water

1. Roughly 70% of an adult's body is made up of water.
2. At birth, water accounts for approximately 80% of an infant's body weight.
3. It is said that drinking too much water too quickly can lead to water intoxication. Water intoxication occurs when water dilutes the sodium level in the bloodstream and causes an imbalance of water in the brain.
4. Water intoxication is most likely to occur during periods of intense athletic performance.
5. While the daily recommended amount of water is eight glasses per day, not all of this water must be consumed in the liquid form. Nearly every food or drink item provides some water to the body.
6. Soft drinks, coffee, and tea, while made up almost entirely of water, also contain caffeine. Caffeine can act as a mild diuretic, preventing water from traveling to necessary locations in the body.
7. Pure water (solely hydrogen and oxygen atoms) has a neutral pH of 7, which is neither acidic nor basic.
8. Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid. Wherever it travels, water carries chemicals, minerals, and nutrients with it.
9. Somewhere between 70 and 75 % of the earth's surface is covered with water.
10. Much more fresh water is stored under the ground in aquifers than on the earth's surface.
11. The earth is a closed system, similar to a terrarium, meaning that it rarely loses or gains extra matter. The same water that existed on the earth millions of years ago is still present today.
12. The total amount of water on the earth is about 326 million cubic miles of water.
13. By the time a person feels thirsty, his or her body has lost over 1% of its total water amount.

Disease

- At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

- The majority of the illness in the world is caused by fecal matter.
- Almost one-tenth of the global disease burden could be prevented by improving water supply, sanitation, hygiene and management of water resources. Such improvements reduce child mortality and improve health and nutritional status in a sustainable way.
- 88% of cases of diarrhea worldwide are attributable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation or insufficient hygiene.
- 90% of all deaths caused by diarrheal diseases are children under 5 years of age, mostly in developing countries.
- It is estimated that improved sanitation facilities could reduce diarrhea-related deaths in young children by more than one-third. If hygiene promotion is added, such as teaching proper hand washing, deaths could be reduced by two thirds. It would also help accelerate economic and social development in countries where sanitation is a major cause of lost work and school days because of illness.

Environment

- Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or about 0.007% of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.
- More than 80% of sewage in developing countries is discharged untreated, polluting rivers, lakes and coastal areas.
- The UN estimates that by 2025, forty-eight nations, with combined population of 2.8 billion, will face freshwater "stress" or "scarcity". Our Water.org High School Curriculum
- Agriculture is the largest consumer of freshwater by far: about 70% of all freshwater withdrawals go to irrigated agriculture.
- At home the average American uses between 100 and 175 gallons of water a day. That is less than 25 years ago, but it does not include the amount of water used to feed and clothe us.
- Conserving water helps not only to preserve irreplaceable natural resources, but also to reduce the strain on urban wastewater management systems. Wastewater is costly to treat, and requires continuous investment to ensure that the water we return to our waterways is as clean as possible.





“We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one”

Jacques Cousteau

THE IMPORTANCE OF GROUNDWATER



By Siphon Magagula,
Hydrologist, ICMA

Introduction

When rain falls to the ground, the water does not stop moving. Some of it flows along the surface to streams or lakes, some of it is used by plants, some evaporates and returns to the atmosphere, and some percolate into the ground (Figure 1). Groundwater is water that is found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. Groundwater is stored in-- and moves slowly through-- layers of soil, sand and rocks called aquifers. Aquifers typically consist of gravel, sand, sandstone, or fractured rock, like limestone. These materials are permeable because they have large connected spaces that allow water to flow through. The speed at which groundwater flows depends on rock and sediment properties and the groundwater's flow potential. Porosity, permeability, specific yield and specific retention are important properties of groundwater flow.

The use of groundwater

South Africa's water resources are very unevenly distributed across the country, and in arid or water-scarce areas, water supply is a constraint to social and economic development. Groundwater is a key component of the water resources of South Africa. As such it will provide much of the water required for basic needs, especially since the country's surface water resources are unevenly distributed and cannot cope with the growing demand for water. The demand for water has increased over the years and this has led to water scarcity in many parts of the country. The situation is aggravated by the problem of water pollution or contamination

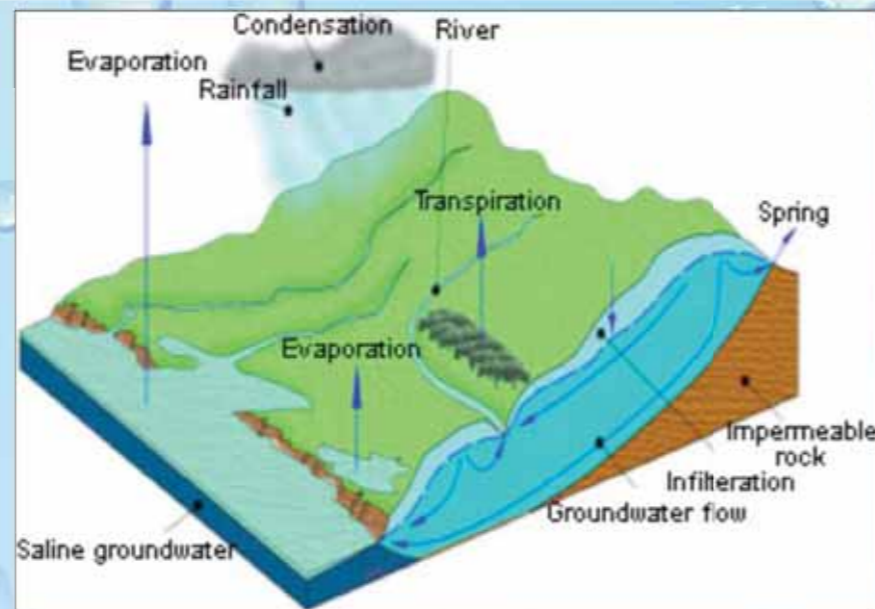


Figure 1. Hydrological cycle [UK Groundwater Forum]

The use of groundwater, in conjunction with surface water, could form a key part of the solution to South Africa's water crisis. South Africa is currently using between 2-billion and 4-billion m³ a year of this groundwater. Therefore there is the potential to considerably increase groundwater supplies in South Africa. Groundwater is not as easily measured as surface water, resulted in an incomplete understanding of the local hydro geological conditions and poses numerous challenges.

Groundwater is used for a multitude of purposes, such as domestic, potable supply (including town water supply), irrigation for intensive horticulture and nurseries, livestock watering and for light industry (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Groundwater users [Foundation of water research, Diagram courtesy of the Groundwater Forum]



Groundwater is vulnerable

It is common for groundwater to be poorly managed. This is because of its invisible nature - it takes a long time to notice when it has become polluted and, unlike surface water, it has limited ability to purify itself. It is difficult, and often impossible, to restore polluted groundwater, and certainly very expensive.

The major reason for poor management of groundwater resources, however, is ignorance. Water managers lack knowledge and information about where it occurs, the importance of its protection, and how to protect it.

Groundwater Issues

Certain problems have beset the use of groundwater around South Africa and the world. Groundwater crisis is not the result of natural factors; it has been caused by human actions. During the past two decades, the water level in several parts of the country has been falling rapidly due to an increase in extraction. The number of wells drilled for irrigation of both food and cash crops have rapidly and indiscriminately increased. South Africa's rapidly rising population and changing lifestyles has also increased the domestic need for water. The water

South Africa is heading towards a freshwater crisis mainly due to improper management of water resources and environmental degradation, which has led to a lack of access to safe water supply to millions of people. This freshwater crisis is already evident in many parts of South Africa, varying in scale and intensity depending mainly on the time of the year.

Intense competition among users - agriculture, industry, and domestic sectors - is driving the groundwater



table lower. The quality of groundwater is getting severely affected because of the widespread pollution of surface water. Besides, discharge of untreated waste water through bores and leachate from unscientific disposal of solid wastes also contaminates groundwater, thereby reducing the quality of fresh water resources.

Importance of groundwater

Groundwater is used by about two billion people worldwide; making it the single most used natural resource. The total amount of water on the earth is estimated at 1 358 million cubic kilometers. Of this total, more than 97% is sea water. An appreciable part of the world's total water, 2%, is frozen in ice caps and glaciers. Virtually all of the remaining water is ground water. The importance of groundwater for the existence of human society cannot be overemphasized. Groundwater is the major source of drinking water in both urban and rural South Africa. Besides, it is an important source of water for the agricultural and the industrial sector. Being an important and integral part of the hydrological cycle, its availability depends on the rainfall and recharge conditions. The main groundwater benefit is that;

- it occurs widely, even in the drier two-thirds of the country where there is little or no surface water;
- almost two-thirds of South Africa's population depends on groundwater for their domestic water needs; and
- essential domestic needs can be met cost-effectively from groundwater sources

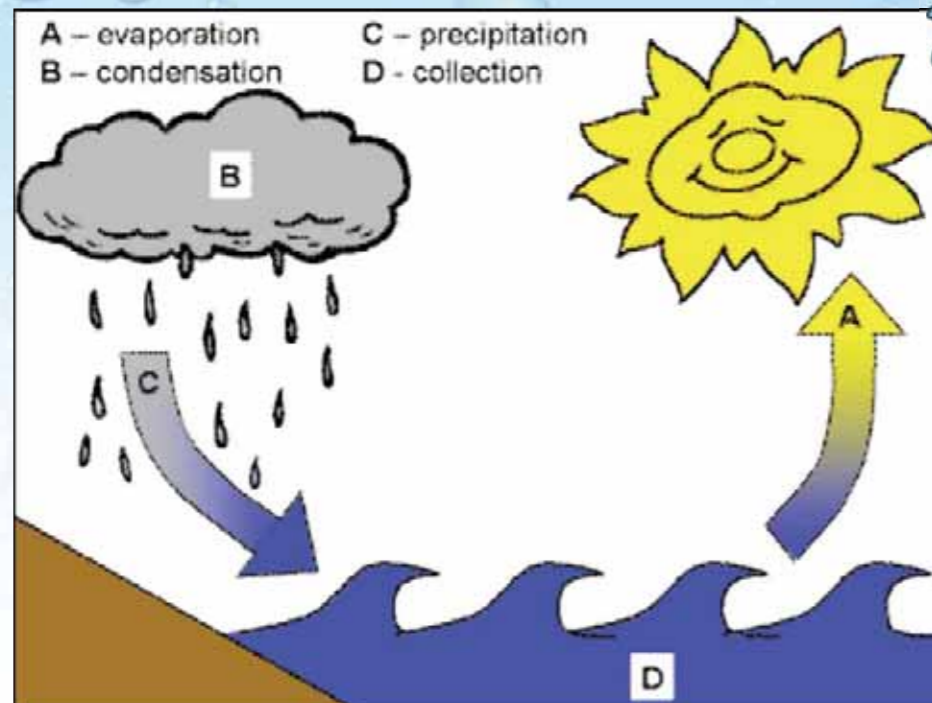
Groundwater also discharges as springs and seepages throughout the plateau and provides critical base flow to streams. Hence, the environmental dependencies on the groundwater resource also need to be recognized as a beneficial use.

THE WATER CYCLE

The water cycle, also known as the hydrologic cycle or H₂O cycle, describes the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth. Water can change states among liquid, vapour, and ice at various places in the water cycle. Although the balance of water on Earth remains fairly constant over time, individual water molecules can come and go, in and out of the atmosphere. The water moves from one reservoir to another, such as from river to ocean, or from the ocean to the atmosphere, by the physical processes of evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration, runoff, and subsurface flow. In so doing, the water goes through different phases: liquid, solid, and gas.

The earth has a limited amount of water. That water keeps going around and around and around and around (well, you get the idea) in what we call the "Water Cycle".

This cycle is made up of a few main parts:



Evaporation:

Evaporation is when the sun heats up water in rivers or lakes or the ocean and turns it into vapour or steam. The water vapour or steam leaves the river, lake or ocean and goes into the air.



Do plants sweat?

Well, sort of... people perspire (sweat) and plants transpire. Transpiration is the process by which plants lose water out of their leaves. Transpiration gives evaporation a bit of a hand in getting the water vapour back up into the air.



Condensation:

Water vapour in the air gets cold and changes back into liquid, forming clouds. This is called condensation.

You can see the same sort of thing at home... pour a glass of cold water on a hot day and watch what happens. Water forms on the outside of the glass. That water didn't somehow leak through the glass! It actually came from the air. Water vapour in the warm air turns back into liquid when it touches the cold glass. Ever wonders where dew and frost come from?

Precipitation:

Precipitation occurs when so much water

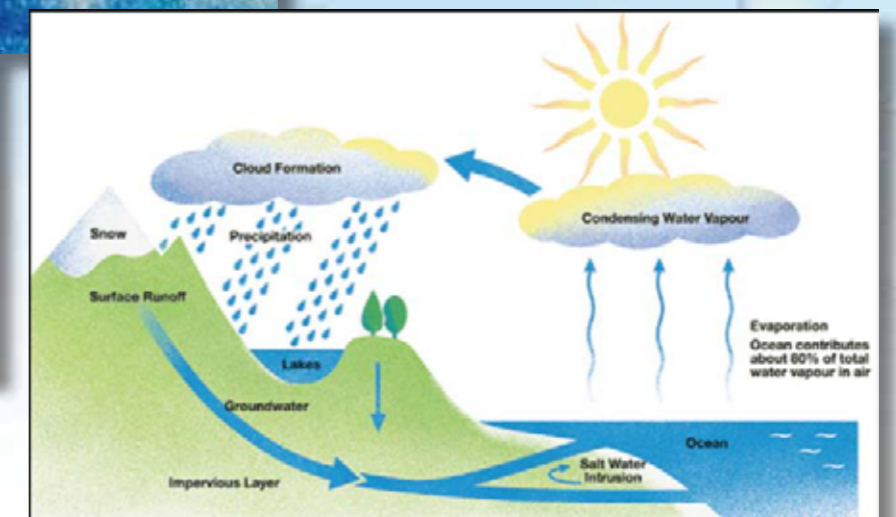


has condensed that the air cannot hold it anymore. The clouds get heavy and water falls back to the earth in the form of rain, hail, or snow.

Collection:

When water falls back to earth as precipitation, it may fall back in the oceans, lakes or rivers or it may end up on land. When it ends up on land, it will either soak into the earth or become part of the "ground water" that plants and animals use to drink or it may run over the soil and collect in the oceans, lakes or rivers where the cycle starts

The same goes over and over and over again, that is why it's called the water cycles.



REPORT ON THE INKOMATI CMA EQUITY WORKING GROUP



By *Rebecca Luton*
WITS: Center for Water in the Environment

1. Background

The equity working group came in to being as a result of discussions held between the ICMA (Dumisani, Sylvia and Van Rooi) and Professor Kevin Rodgers, Rebecca Luton' (Wits/Water Research Commission). The broader discussions centered on strategies that would ensure meaningful and beneficial participation of emerging farmers, and the historically disadvantaged individuals in general.

This had to be achieved based on the principles of equity, sustainability and efficiency that underpin the National Water Act 36 of 1998. Although all the three principles are all equally important, the group felt that it would be more appropriate to call itself the 'equity working group' since its strategies and outcomes were more focused in achieving equity in terms of access to the resource, equity in terms of meaningful participation in water resource management.

The equity working group started its work on the 12 April 2011.

2. Terms of reference for the equity working group

Name

The Inkomati Equity Working Group (EWG)

Preamble

The ICMA has come a long way since 2006, when it only had initial functions. It has now developed its first generation Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) which is yet to be approved by the Minister, and a key challenge will be the implementation of the strategy. The delegation of functions by the

Minister has removed one of the major obstacles towards the full implementation of the CMS.

It is important for the ICMA to ensure that all stakeholders are fully empowered and capacitated to take part in water resource management and to derive maximum benefits from water resource use. This is more so for historically disadvantaged individuals and resource poor farmers.

Unless people's lives are changed and the status quo is changed there will be very little incentive for people/stakeholders to participate in ICMA projects and programmes.

The Inkomati Equity Working Group seeks adaptive participatory ways to address stakeholder needs in the Inkomati Water Management Area (IWMA), by implementing the strategic actions programmes of the CMS.

Without effective stakeholder participation and empowerment the goals of equity, efficiency and sustainability will not be achieved.

Objectives

The broad aim is to ensure that there is maximum stakeholder understanding of the CMS and effective participation in its implementation and review processes.

- Develop and implement project based empowerment programmes
- Promote transformation of IWRM decision making processes



and structures to redress current imbalances in empowerment, access and resource use.

- Facilitate and coordinate the creation of cooperative governance processes and outcomes in the catchment.

Guiding Principles

- Use current and future ICMA/DWA projects and programmes as vehicles for empowering the previously disadvantaged to achieve equity goals.
- Do not "parachute" in to stakeholders. Begin by understanding their obstacles, needs, aspirations, etc. and work from there.
- Co-learning.
- Empowerment principles.
- Consensus.

Group structure and membership

The Equity Working Group is a committee comprised of ICMA staff members (Van Rooi Khoza: CEO's office; Dumisani Nxumalo: Institutions & Participation; and Sylvia Machimana: Communication and Marketing) and WRC/Wits project team (Prof Kevin Rogers; and Rebecca Luton).

Meetings

The Equity Working Group will meet at least on monthly basis. Participatory Implementation of the Inkomati CMS:

3. Equity Working Group Deliverables

In order to achieve its objectives the equity working group set deliverable targets for itself within the operational plan of the ICMA. These targets were to be



achieved through the leadership of the group and the practical involvement of all staff members in the Institutions and Participation division. The following are the targets which were set and the progress so far

- 3.1. Assess the effectiveness of current platforms of participation and transform structures, processes and outcomes for improved performance.

The assess has been done using an agreed set of criteria and a final report will be completed by the end of November for submission to ICMA management and the Governing Board. The aim of the exercise is to review the current platforms of participation. The ICMA established catchment forums in its four sub catchments (Lower and Upper Komati, Sabie and the Sand and the Crocodile). All the four except the Crocodile were established by the ICMA.

One of the outcomes of this process was the successful launch of the Sabie River Catchment Forum on the 28 October 2011, at Umbhaba lodge in Hazyview. All stakeholders representing various sectors supported the launch.

In additions to the forums there are also Irrigation Boards which have to be transformed in to Water Users Associations (WUA). The review process will also assist in the transformation process.

The draft report has already identified serious challenges and opportunities for the reconfiguration of the current platforms of participation.

- 3.2 Establish an emerging farmer (HDI) forum at a catchment level to promote informed and empowered participation. Use this forum as a template for developing forums to empower other sectors where needed.

The main purpose of this objective is to create a structured platform of participation

REPORT ON THE INKOMATI CMA EQUITY WORKING GROUP CONTINUED

for emerging farmers in the Inkomati water Management Area (IWMA). This is informed by the practical reality that emerging farmer's challenges are enormous and only peculiar to them.

Our history ensured that most if not all emerging black farmers do not effectively participate in water resources. The National Water Act enjoins the ICMA to ensure that there is meaningful participation by the HDIs in the management of water resources.

As a strategy to achieve this objective it was agreed that emerging farmers associations should be established in all the sub catchments. The Suid Kaap emerging farmers association was established on the 13 October 2011. The Lower Komati Farmers association will be established and launched on the 24 November 2011. The other associations will also be established within the current financial year. The forum at catchment level will be established in the 2012/2013 financial year.

It must be emphasized that the ICMA is doing this work in collaboration and cooperation with the Departments of Agriculture and Land Administration (DARDLA), Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and Water Affairs.

3.3. Explore and implement external mechanisms (funding, mentoring, etc.) that allow RPFs to step beyond current bureaucratic constraints to achieving objective one (e.g. Dingleydale and New Forest canal systems).

The ICMA acknowledges that emerging farmers require a lot of capital and financial assistance. Transformation in the water sector will not happen until the 'Resource Poor Farmers' are adequately empowered and capacitated to use water resources for socio-economic benefit.

Emerging farmers must not remain emerging farmers forever. They must graduate to commercial business like their historically advantaged white counterparts. The ICMA actively support a number of projects in the catchment.

These projects include but are not limited to the MABEDI now LIMA project for the refurbishment of the Dingleydale and New Forest irrigation schemes (Sand sub catchment), the Badplaas Lemon project (Upper Komati), the Tikhonte/ Lomshiyo



community trust project for the revitalization of sugar cane farming (Crocodile).

The ICMA is still exploring and soliciting donor funding to support these and the many other projects of the core function departments. The success of these projects is key to the fundamental transformation of the water sector

3.4. Develop and distribute simplified communication tools and marketing materials (e.g. brochures, posters, media releases, etc.) that explain the ICMA mandate/functions and the CMS processes and expected outcomes.

The ICMA has to constantly inform its diverse stakeholders about its activities. The ICMA communication strategy takes in to account the diversity of its stakeholders in terms of language, cultural and educational background etc.

The equity working group objective is to simplify communication materials in the best way possible by using various media. We have already produced a distributed to stakeholder the ICMA mandate/functions including the delegated functions poster, the bridged Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) brochure.

The CMS made simple brochure is almost done and it will be ready for production and distribution in the last quarter of this financial year. The document will be user friendly in the sense that there will be less text and more illustrative pictures. The document will also be available in the local indigenous languages.

3.5. Identify individuals and institutions to participate in co-operative

governance ventures. Understand their needs and the ICMA role in achieving co-operative outcomes.

This has already been done. The broad objective is to enable the ICMA to fulfill one of its initial functions of coordinating the activities of water users and water management institutions within its water management area and to promote co-ordination between the implementation of its catchment management strategy with implementation of water services development plans of water management institutions (municipalities).

The equity working group is exploring the best mechanisms of achieving this objective and this will be finalized in the 2012/2013 financial year.

3.6. Empower staff members in facilitation strategies and techniques to be used to ensure that the CMS projects/programmes are stakeholder centered.

b) Partner with Wits University to develop and present empowering courses on a range of IWRM Skills, Knowledge and Attitudes (SKA).

A facilitation training workshop was conducted on the 10th and 11th of October.

3.7. Develop a manual of equity working group processes, outcomes and experiences that may be used as an empowerment tool for stakeholders and staff members.

The final product of the equity working group's work will be the development of a manual that will incorporate the lessons learnt during the entire period.





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