

Inkomati Flows

22nd Edition

A weekly newsletter from the office of the CEO

Our relationship with Groot Salland grows bigger and better

Reflecting on the recent excursion by Groot Salland, Mr. Keimpe Sinnema, the International Coordinator of the Waterschaap Groot Salland, instructed these way in anticipation of the visit by the colleagues from Holland:

“About the rest of the planning:

The first activity is the visit of two specialists of Groot Salland and 2 specialists of Fryslân. They will leave to Cape Town on Saturday. I heard some good items for the program from Sylvia. Sounds good. You can make them work hard, squeeze every bit of information out of them and send them back with invaluable experiences and knowledge from your side. If you visit Swaziland with them, then you might use the opportunity to discuss the planned workshop with the Swazi colleagues too”.

As we all know, the Dutch colleagues are workaholics. During the visit by the Board in 2007 May they engaged the ICMA Board so much so that there was no breathing space. Sylvia, our coordinator of these programmes, had a huge challenge to match the standard set by the colleagues.

Quite pleasing indeed, Mr. Keimpe Sinnema had this to say after the visit of the four colleagues down south:

“Dear Silvia,

My compliments for the program that you and your colleagues offered for your Dutch friends. It was a great and interesting program and they enjoyed it very much. It is again a step forward in our cooperation. They were impressed by the quality of your work and came back with enthusiasm about the cooperation. So now they can advocate the continuation and expansion of the program in our organization. Thank you for everything you did.

The only problem for me now is how to match the quality and quantity of the work that you have offered in the program for the coming visit of the delegation of the Inkomati CMA Governing Board members. You almost worked my colleagues to

death (and I am afraid I asked you to do that), but I cannot do that with the board members. So I will not try to match it. That is simply impossible”.

It is indeed befitting to say thanks to Sylvia for having developed a great and interesting program and (which) they enjoyed very much. It is again a step forward in our cooperation, as Mr. Kemp commented. Fair to say this was not an individual programme. The management of the ICMA took time to work with the coordinator to get this programme in place.

Again, Mr. Mabunda spent the whole five days with the colleagues from Holland. He was indeed leading from the front. A commitment like this will always put the ICMA tops in everything we do. The team work displayed by the management and staff was a demonstration of the philosophy of learning for work excellence. There are other colleagues who made this visit a success. Every contribution is greatly appreciated.

In this way, we are looking forward to the following:

“I was also delighted to hear that after the visit in November the Inkomati CMA has established good contacts with the colleagues in Mozambique, that the Mozambican colleagues already participated in one of your stakeholders meetings and that you are going to Mozambique tomorrow to meet ARASUL and to join in one of their meetings.

This is a very good opportunity to discuss the planning and organization of the workshop on CMS and the workshop on trans-boundary water management.

Both workshops are planned in September and we think it is more worthwhile and easier to combine these workshops into one. We propose to organize these workshops in the week from 25 till 29 of August. Considering the two subjects we suggest a three days workshop on 26, 27 and 28 August.

We had planned to organize this workshop in Mozambique, but unfortunately the funding agency VNG International does not allow us to spend money in Mozambique. So we have to organize it in Nelspruit. Maybe – if this workshop is a success, and I am sure it will be! – we can have a next workshop in Mozambique. The first workshop was an initiative of the SA Inkomati CMA and the second workshop could be an initiative of the Mozambican Incomati CMA. The audience of the workshop will be representatives of the CMA's in South Africa and the invited people from Mozambique, Swaziland and the Netherlands.

During the workshop we can discuss the state of the art of CMS's in 4 countries: The draft Inkomati CMS is a case for South Africa. Mozambique can present their part of CMS in the Incomati Catchment. Swaziland can present her version of CMS. The Netherlands can present the CMS for the Rhine catchment.

In this way we will have contributions of 4 countries in which we can learn from each other.

The four countries can give an overview on:

- how is water management organized
- who is responsible, how is cost recovery being done
- with which partners do you cooperate (cooperative governance)
- what are your goals in the CMS in Integrated Water Resource Management and Water Services and the interaction between those two.

I trust that the Inkomati CMA in Nelspruit can take the lead in the organizational aspects of the workshop: organizing a venue, distribution of the invitations, making a program and so on. Of course we will help and advise from our side where ever we can. The contact person on our side is Anton Kuypers, who has the lead in organizing the CMS workshop on this side. And as you know in our project we have budget available for costs of venue etc.

I hope this proposal will suit you and please react on it as soon as possible. I will be in the office today and tomorrow morning. Please discuss it in Mozambique when you visit ARASUL tomorrow”.

So, we can patiently look forward to a great improvement in the cooperation amongst the four countries. This cooperation as it has been lowered to this level, as against the high-level Ministerial interaction, has caught the attention of Ramboll International and about 17 other African and Asian countries who visited Nelspruit to learn about international cooperation in river basin management.

Conclusion

We are on course. We believe that we will be able to lead the way until we earn respect. Sizonqoba.