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WEATHER SMART – WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

As the proverb says that “We learn from those who have achieved what we wish to achieve”. This was testimonial for the Inkomati Usuthu during the third week of April 2018 (16-20 April) wherein IUCMA Staff members were afforded the opportunity to attend a Weather Smart – Water Resources Management specialized training conducted by AquaDactics and the World Water Academy from the Netherlands. The training was part of the continuous professional development among members of staff within the IUCMA. This specialized training was also attended by IUCMA interns as part of their induction in Water Resource Management. Although the basic entry requirements to this course is a University Degree in Hydrological Sciences, for the benefit of the organization Other disciplines such as Institutions & Participation, Marketing & Communications, etc. were accommodated as well.

The main objectives of this training among others, were to harness basic knowledge of integrated water resource management, in-depth understanding of weather and water management and the use of the HydroNET. This 5-Day long training was split into three modules: Basics of water resources management, Weather & Water Management and an optional Hands-on Training on HydroNET. The distinguishing feature of this training was the fact that International Experts in WRM i.e Dutch partners from the Netherlands (AquaDactics & World Water Academy), Local partners (South African Weather Services) and Inhouse Experts and Specialists in Hydrological Sciences (IUCMA Specialists) and Divisional Managers together managed to deliver the course. This also included the Board Secretary (Adv. Johan Boshoff) who outlined the Legislation & Legal Frameworks within which the IUCMA operates.

The training also focused on Weather & Water Management focusing on the integration of weather information in assisting daily operations of the IUCMA and dealt with topics such as climate, weather information and weather models, interpretation of weather forecast, using weather data for water quantity, how to make weather smart decisions and communicating such decisions to stakeholders.

The course concluded with an optional hands-on training on Hydronet. This was more targeted on staff members who are not familiar with the system. Members of staff demonstrated enthusiasm and participation throughout the training duration as it also encompassed group activities in which trainees worked together in practically demonstrating what they have learnt. (Cloud formation and types, Soil saturation etc.). There was also a training of Trainers who will continue assisting others in the long run.

This course also demonstrated the integration of water quality and water quantity. This emphasized the relationship and interdependence between water quality and water quantity. The training closed with a certification Ceremony wherein all delegates were insured with attendance Certificates. This Ceremony was graced by the CEO, Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio and other members of the Management Team graced the event.