

Facilitating the creation of a National IWRM Plan in Botswana

Attributable Impact

- Allocation of USD 31 million from the national budget for the implementation of IWRM/WE plan priority activities
- Funding of USD 25 million raised from the World Bank for the implementation of a pilot project on wastewater reuse for irrigation

Summary

In Botswana, at the request of the Department of Water Affairs, GWP led the technical preparation of the country's Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This included the facilitation of stakeholder consultations and the coordination of demonstration projects on efficient water management solutions. The formal approval of the national IWRM plan in 2012 resulted in an integrated approach being firmly embedded into the National Development Plan 10, through which prioritised IWRM activities have been allocated funds of more than USD 31 million.

Background

Botswana is dry, prone to recurring droughts. Due to limited surface water resources, the country depends largely on groundwater reserves, particularly for agricultural, domestic, and mining needs. Existing water resources are coming under increasing pressure due to rising consumption, pollution, and climate change, which is expected to result in reduced rainfall over most of the southern African region. With few opportunities to increase water supplies, future solutions are largely limited to water demand management and resource conservation.

The country's first Water Act was adopted in 1968, but by the 1990s the shortcomings of the legislation were becoming apparent, partly due to a lack of coordinated institutional planning to address the fragmented and sector-based approach to water development and management. Water sector reform included the 1991 National Water Master Plan (NWMP) which redefined the governance framework for the development of water resources. A review of the NWMP in 2006 made several recommendations for further reform, including the need to shift from meeting water demand through the development of surface and groundwater resources, to adopting an IWRM approach with an emphasis on demand management solutions identified through multi-stakeholder engagement. Covering a 30-year period (2005-2030), the recommendations in the review have provided a policy framework for water sector planning and investment.

In line with the reform recommended in the review of the NWMP, a national IWRM and Water Efficiency (WE) plan was developed between 2010 and 2012 to guide the implementation of an integrated approach. Driven by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA), the IWRM/WE plan identifies strategic areas for action in the short, medium, and long-term. The NWMP and the IWRM/WE plan together constitute Botswana's water resources strategy.

Implementation is mainstreamed into existing national and district development planning frameworks. At the national level this is most notable in the National Development Plan 10 (2009-

2016), through which annual ministerial budget allocations fund much of the IWRM/WE plan implementation. At district level, local development plans and programmes incorporate identified activities according to need.

The IWRM planning process was funded by UNDP GEF.

GWP Contribution

The development of the Botswana IWRM/WE plan was led by the DWA under the Ministry of Mineral, Energy, and Water Resources (MMEWR). GWP's experience of developing IWRM plans in other African countries, and its position as an established, neutral organization, led to GWP Botswana (hosted by the Kalahari Conservation Society) being formally requested to facilitate the process.

The development of the plan started with GWP producing a national IWRM survey and status report as part of a scoping study aimed at identifying water related opportunities, challenges, and issues, as well as the key stakeholders. The results from the study formed the framework for plan preparation.

The development of the IWRM/WE plan included stakeholder consultations jointly facilitated by GWP, the DWA, and the Centre for Applied Research. Consultations were initially carried out during the scoping phase of the planning process, followed by sectoral, institutional, and district level engagement initiatives during the preparation of the plan itself.

GWP was instrumental in coordinating a number of demonstration projects on efficient water management, implemented with the aim of informing the IWRM/WE plan and encouraging widespread uptake of local interventions to demonstrate the benefits of IWRM. The projects targeted the use of recycled water in the private sector, stormwater harvesting in the mining sector, and rainwater collection in schools.

Beyond GWP Botswana, the GWP Southern Africa Regional Secretariat (GWP-SA) provided a support role for the communication, awareness raising, and capacity building initiatives that accompanied the development of the plan. GWP-SA was also brought in to provide expert input to the final consultations of the IWRM/WE plan itself.

After the approval of the IWRM/WE plan, GWP has continued to lobby for implementation through various means, including the organisation of an annual *Water Pitso* – a consultative forum convened by the DWA and GWP, which brings together stakeholders representing almost all branches of government, the private sector, civil society organisations and community leaders, and directs the operations of the MMEWR and its departments for the coming year.

Results

The IWRM/WE plan was formally adopted and endorsed in early 2013 by the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources and is currently being implemented.

Together with the NWMP review, the IWRM planning process directly influenced the 2013 mid-term review of the National Development Plan (NDP 10) which makes reference to the IWRM/WE plan and the key role it plays in addressing national and transboundary water management priorities. The NDP 10 is the main national level planning process through which strategies and initiatives for water resources management are financed. As a result, activities from the IWRM/WE plan have been allocated funds of more than USD 31 million.

The IWRM planning process also accelerated the establishment of an independent Water Resources Council to oversee and allocate the nation's scarce water resources. Since the plan's finalisation, the DWA, in collaboration with GWP, has been lobbying for the approval of the first Botswana National Water Policy which is based on IWRM principles and identified by the plan as a priority area to be addressed. The draft policy was approved by the Botswana Cabinet in 2013 and presented to Parliament in June 2015. Approval of the draft policy will result in the establishment of an energy and water regulator.

The IWRM/WE plan has also impacted the agricultural sector. Spin-off investments include USD 25 million from the World Bank to fund the Ministry of Agriculture to pilot the reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation purposes in Palapye. As a key stakeholder in the development of the IWRM/WE plan, the Ministry of Agriculture deliberately sought funding for a priority activity from the plan related to its mandate – a good example of the benefits of achieving ownership of IWRM planning beyond the water sector.

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