



water & forestry

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PROJECT CONSOLIDATE SUPPORT REPORT

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to report on the extent to which the DWAF has supported municipalities targeted through Project Consolidate in improving the delivery of water services to their communities.

2. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

2.1 Integrated Action Plans

Using Project Consolidate as a vehicle, DWAF has initiated a process of developing Integrated Action Plans to respond to municipal needs as identified through various process and for a, including the municipal izimbizo, Project Consolidate Municipal Action Plans, Water Summits, and the WSA checklist process. The process has been completed in the Free State Region, and the resultant plan details each municipality's water-related needs, the support required, responsibilities, resources and also highlights some of the areas that require the attention of other sector partners. The methodology followed and lessons learnt during the development of the Free State plan has assisted the other Regions in initiating the process of drafting similar plans. The plans will serve as DWAF's engagement and alignment tool with other service providers and state organs in terms of support priorities in each Region.

2.2 Municipalities' Technical Capacity Requirements and Deployment Strategy

One of the areas of focus within the process of developing Integrated Action Plans is the identification of municipalities' technical capacity requirements in order to inform the deployment of service delivery facilitators to municipalities within municipalities. The Free State exercise has identified water-related technical capacity needs ranging from direct water issues to financial management issues that have an impact on the delivery of water services.

Furthermore, the process has revealed that the identification of local government technical capacity needs has to be built into the development of the Integrated Action Plans to ensure that the actual support needs, rather than gaps on municipalities' organograms, are identified. Although specialists have been deployed to assist struggling municipalities with service delivery e.g. Sekhukhune and Kungwini, a deployment strategy is being developed, and will be linked to SIYENZA MANJE programme of DBSA, and will be informed by the typology of needs identified within the Integrated Action Plans in all Regions.

2.3 Municipal Izimbizo and Municipal IDP Forums

DWAF has and continues to actively participate in the municipal izimbizo as well as follow-up working sessions in cases where water related issues have been identified. Such follow-up sessions have proved to be instrumental in facilitating inter-governmental relations, resulting in concrete, time-bound plans aimed at addressing identified service delivery challenges. On the other hand, DWAF has and is participating in the IDP Forums and task teams to strengthen and support planning processes within municipalities. This is to ensure that issues that are randomly raised through various processes are identified and addressed within the structured and strategic planning processes of the municipalities.

2.4 Project Consolidate "Quick-Win Projects"

A number of projects were identified and declared Project Consolidate "quick-win projects" during the early stages of the programme, most of which were identified during the ministerial izimbizo. Those projects were declared as such due to the approach to the Project Consolidate concept then, whereby projects would be identified per Project Consolidate municipality in line with each PC Key Programme Elements. As Project Consolidate increasingly became viewed as an approach to service delivery than as a series of projects, the implementation of some of these projects slowed down. Through Regional Project Consolidate co-ordinators, the implementation of water services projects that fall within this category have been monitored (particularly in the Northern Cape), and as a result of that exercise, a process to identify and fast-track the implementation of similar projects in other provinces is now underway.

2.5 Local Government Capacity Building Initiatives

Various capacity building initiatives have been developed by different organisations and state organs. Examples of such would include Project Consolidate Service Delivery Facilitators; the DPLG+SAICE+DWAF Engineers' Initiative; National Treasury interns; ESETA learnerships; DBSA (Siyenza Manje and Academy); Tertiary training institutions, and others.

Partly due to the urgency of the need to support municipalities with service delivery, these programmes are not being co-ordinated at a single point, resulting in duplication in some cases. The DWAF Project Consolidate team is currently engaged in the process of compiling a list of all the initiatives focusing on the nature of the need, the targeted municipalities, the type of specialists being deployed as well as the timeframes. This information will assist DWAF and the entire sector in both the identification of further gaps and in informing future support programmes directed at Project Consolidate municipalities.

3. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

3.1 Challenges

- Facilitating the alignment between the needs of the non-Water Services Authority (WSA) Project Consolidate municipalities and the priorities of the relevant WSAs has been a challenge
- Less than adequate working relations between Project Consolidate PMUs and the DWAF Project Consolidate co-ordinators in some provinces
- The decrease in momentum and disruption of service delivery caused by political and administrative instability in some municipalities
- Inadequate qualitative data regarding the impact of the existing hands-on support being provided to Project Consolidate municipalities

3.2 Lessons Learnt

- Project Consolidate as an approach can be used to extend support to other struggling municipalities that were initially not declared PC municipalities
- Depending on Regional needs, the roles that Project Consolidate co-ordinators play within their respective Regions varies, with some providing hands-on support to municipalities, and others playing the Regional co-ordination role.
- Co-ordination of Project Consolidate activities between DWAF programmes needs to be strengthened to ensure information sharing and joint prioritisation

4. AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- Development and finalisation of Integrated Action Plans in all Regions
- Finalisation of the deployment strategy for service delivery facilitators
- Improvement of communication with national and provincial Project Consolidate structures to jointly monitor the impact of hands-on support within the targeted municipalities
- Improving the integration between various support programmes to priorities the targeted municipalities and facilitate information sharing
- Assessing the impact and relevance of support being provided by DWAF and other partners to Project Consolidate municipalities
- Reporting on such impact to the July 2006 Cabinet Lekgotla