

Cuvelai-Etосha Basin (CEB) Annual Planning Coordination Workshop

The 8th CEB Annual Planning Coordination Workshop took place in Oshakati on the 18th and 19th of April, 2013, with the objective to share information, evaluate past activities and recent issues in order to obtain an integrated planning at basin level. The workshop involved the attendance of different institutions and organizations of the private, public and civil sector.

The first day began with a warm welcome provided by the Director of Planning and Development Services of the Ohangwena Regional Council, followed by a summary and discussion of the key issues identified from the last coordination workshop and the development of the 1st CEB Annual IWRM Plan which will be taken forward by the newly launched Cuvelai-Etосha Basin Management Committee. As a follow up on the last coordination workshop, a status report was provided on the previously identified thematic areas of: pollution control, sanitation, disaster management and water supply, along with an evaluation of the activities assigned in the annual operation plan under each thematic area.

In the afternoon The Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) of South Africa provided a presentation in order to illustrate the attendants with their lessons learned in terms of challenges and proper way forward to decentralize the responsibility and authority for water resource management to catchment management agencies and, at local level, to water user associations. The afternoon concluded with each of the four Sub-BMC of the CEB presenting their issues and concerns.

The second day of the workshop began with the presentation of the CEB Project results and phasing out announcement, this presentation also included the actions to be taken by the CEB project office before the phase out. The day continued with a presentation provided by the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) on the development of the CEB IWRM Plan which highlights the purpose to give integrated, strategic focus for the future, aligned to the National IWRM Plan which was adopted two years previously and popularized by the Government of Namibia. The IWRM Plan would be basin-specific and endorsed at the highest level, giving a solid mandate for the BMCs to operate from.

The final item on the agenda of day 2 was to establish the way forward which can be summarized as follows:

- Funding by the EU through GIZ would come to an end in September 2013. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) will take over responsibility for complete funding of the project as of September 2013. Budget provision has been made.
- The CEB IWRM Plan will be developed by DRFN by end August 2013.
- A link has to be established between the BMCs and Regional Development Coordination Committee (RDCC) reporting mechanisms. BSOs, in future, have to present the BMC plans as agenda item at RDCC meetings.

- Conducting of a capacity gap analysis at the same session during which the CEBMC constitution is to be discussed and drafting of a plan to close the gap.
- Clarification of the operational modalities and the drafting of the CEBMC constitution in a participatory manner.
- The leadership in the region has to be sensitized on IWRM and the CEBMC through a workshop.
- A draft document on Incentives for BMC members should be distributed to stakeholders; thereafter a technical discussion meeting to translate the document into actionable steps needs to take place.
- A proposed structure for the decentralization of the BM Approach is at the Public Service Commission which would create a new Division: Basin Management Support under the Directorate: Resource Management in MAWF, once approved. This would result in the creation of a fully-fledged Basin Support Office in the regions.