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CEB Stakeholders Exposure to Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency 13-20 October 2012

1. Introduction

The Cuvelai-Etoshia Basin Stakeholders Exposure Trip to Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) which is situated in the south-west corner of South Africa and falls entirely within the Western Cape Province took place on 13-20 October 2012. Stakeholders from Iishana, Olushandja, Niipele, Tsumeb, 4 representatives from other basins, namely, Kavango, Omaruru, Kuiseb and Orange-Fish and importantly representative from MAWF participated. They were accompanied by two staff members from the CEB project. The exposure trip started with a formal meeting session on 16th October, whereby presentations were given about the government drive to establish the CMA in South Africa and the regulatory framework in which they are operating as well as on the topics of water resource management, stakeholder participation and IT system of BOCMA. Three reasons given for the establishment of CMAs are: to achieve equitable access to water; to achieve sustainable use of water and to achieve efficient use of water.

Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency is established in terms of the South African National Water Act (36 of 1998). It is governed by the board that report to the national Minister of Water and Environment Affairs. BOCMA is supported by the Chief Executive

officer and a current team of 26 staff members that support implementation of IWRM on the ground through water users associations and water users' forum. The BOCMA is responsible for the development of a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) which guides the actions of the BOCMA and as well as other institutions conducting water resources related activities, and participation and coordination with partners is key to the success of the strategy. Find the copy of the CMS on: www.bocma.co.za

2. Snapshot of the field trip

During the trip, the CEB Stakeholders visited the following sites:

- The Central Breede Water User Association (WUA) has a compliment of 10 staff members, including the Chief Executive Officer, an experience civil engineer (a requirement profession according to their WUA constitution). The water users in their association are farmers, tourism, industry, recreation and domestic use (municipalities); the association manage water infrastructure (government property) dealing with administration for 13 WUAs; it is having voluntary committee members.
- The Alien Clearing Project Site, a partnership between the department of agriculture, the Wolseley WUA and BOCMA to remove invasive alien plants (ever thirsty) and replace them with indigenous plants and importantly making water available for farming. The cleared wood is used for charcoal and this project has resulted in generated employment creation.
- The Hex River Valley WUA, one of the best finance managed association in Breede-Overberg and responsible for managing water in Hex Valley; 4000 hectare of land for table grape; use a combination of surface water (30%), ground water (70%); all water users pay for their water; farmers are allowed to pool their water quotas and other farmers can buy it. Finance for all WUAs are drawn up based on an expense budget and tariffs for water is drawn up based on it.
- Overstrand Water Services, the Overstrand municipality is responsible for overstrand water management, waste water management and reuse; it consist of 11 town spread over 230 km of coastal line and a population of 84 000 people; its water sources consists of 6 dams, 16 boreholes, 3 springs, 3 rivers. The water demand still increasing hence future plans for

water re-use for domestic use and desalination; building a bio filtration plant for the removal of iron and manganese from ground water.

- Hermanus Solid Waste Management Coupon System, the management of solid waste and recycling of recyclable waste; this create an opportunity for employment for women and a clean environment.

3. Lessons learned

- Word of encouragement from the Chairperson of BOCMA “the plane takes off against the wind but it reach its destination” we have to show perseverance in our efforts to implementing IWRM
- -Compliance to legislation – IWRM is implemented within the law
- Full-time technical staff at basin level i.e. the Catchment Management Agency and the Water Users Association
- Updated data management
- Political will – open door policy and clear mandates
- Leadership commitment (ownership of the process)
- Understanding of the value in water, and over most added economic value of water existing – (water users)
- Institutional coordination – coordination between BOCMA, WUAs – having the same vision and talking the same language
- Gap in Namibia: inclusion of all stakeholders LWCs & BMCs “Power” to operate
- Integrated Development Plans
- Water is a controlled resource
- Public Private Partnership in the water sector

4. Recommendations

- Add economic value to the water
- BMCs to assist water users associations (WPC,LWCs) with business plans
- BMCs to address strategic issues at hand and develop strategic plans based on the issues identified
- Integrate BMCs (through BSOs) in other institutions meetings (planning, etc.), especially NamWater’s and DWSSC’s.
- Water Demand Management by Municipalities (introduce awards as incentives for improved management) (pipe leak management)

- Encouragement of all stakeholders to actively participate - incentives for participation? CEB office will draft an incentive option proposal and discuss it further with the participants of this stakeholder tip to finalize the proposal in order to table it to the SC for approval. The approved option will then be implemented and supported through the CEB office and the sub-BMCs as a pilot option.
- Water to be on the political agenda
- Enact Water Resource Management Act, transfer power to BMCs
- Make information available on water resources per basin
- Solid waste management – look into the option of “rent a drum” – Silvanus will spearhead this process

5. Wrap up and way forward

A memorandum of agreement was signed between BOCMA and Olushandja Sub-Basin Management Committee. The two institutions will cooperate in terms of capacity building at an institutional and stakeholders level; institutional establishment; information sharing on best practices and programme, programme and project management.

Together with BOCMA it was identified that the Namibian BMCs need to get clarity on the role of an institution and the role of the department. It was also recommended by BOCMA to first concentrate on stakeholders which have either an impact on the water resource or are affected by its management. Therefore the suggestion was to focus on the stakeholder around the canal. Overall the conclusion was that there is the need to add economic value to the water in the Cuvelai in order to create the interest in the source and to recognize it as an economic, social, religion source and treat it in a good and sustainable manner.

6. Acknowledgement

The project would like to thank the BOCMA team, WUAs, farmers and municipality officials that made this trip a success. It also worth mentioning that BOCMA covered one dinner and all lunches for the group during their stay in BOCMA and we would like to thank them for their “Ubuntu”. The Cuvelai-Etosha Basin Project would also like to thank all stakeholders for their commitment and active participation during the trip.