



Strategic Water Partners Network
SOUTH AFRICA

A WARM WELCOME TO 2016 FROM ALL OF US AT THE SWPN SECRETARIAT!

It's been a super-charged start to the year for the SWPN. Over the past six months, our network has expanded to include 12 new companies and organisations which are participating at the working group level, while an additional three new working groups have been established to help drive some innovative projects which are geared to contribute to improved future water security and management in South Africa.

The SWPN also welcomed a new programme manager Zama Sigalaba in June 2015. Owing to the support of all members during this transition, significant progress on both new and existing projects between June and December 2015 has been achieved. **Here's a snapshot of a few project results that warrant highlighting:**

EXISTING PROJECTS

1. WATER USE, EFFICIENCY & LEAKAGE REDUCTION (WELR)

The No Drop project

The No Drop project has now been completed. This pioneering initiative has catapulted South Africa into a global leadership position in terms of water loss benchmarking. The development and implementation of the No Drop Assessment has received considerable recognition and commendation, most recently in Davos during the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2016. A hearty congratulations goes out to everyone who played a role in making it such a success. The SWPN looks forward to the outcome of the current review of the results for release by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).



Vaalharts Canal



“Over the last six months, the SWPN has welcomed 12 new members and included an additional 3 new working groups”

2. AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAIN WATER (ASC)

Water Administration System (WAS)

The roll out of the **Water Administration System (WAS)** has, thus far, demonstrated significant results with cumulative savings of 927 891 m³/week. This represents projected water savings of 48 million m³ per annum which amounts to 1,8% of the water gap per year! This was calculated from the results of 3 out of the 4 irrigation schemes supported under this initiative, including Vaalharts Water Users Association (WUA), Orange-Riet Water Users Association and Haartebeespoort IB (West Canal). The SWPN has also been supporting the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) in developing a funding and investment plan for the upgrading of the Vaalharts irrigation scheme. Through the multi-stakeholder workshops facilitated by the SWPN, R7.5 million has been unlocked to aid in the preparation of this project towards feasibility.



WATERING OUR WORLD

HOW ARE YOU MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

We'd love to hear about what you're doing on your water stewardship journey. Tell us your stories by emailing us at: swpn.secretariat@thenbf.co.za





3. EFFLUENT & WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT (EWWM)

Mine Water Management Catchment Base

The work of the EWWM working group has thus far focused on identifying the most appropriate solutions for addressing the serious mine water challenges faced by the water sector. A catchment-based intervention was recommended which prescribed the establishment of a mine water coordinating body in the Olifants Catchment that will serve to support the Olifants Proto-CMA in the management of this resource. The establishment of this coordinating body has been approved by the DWS and will be the first of its kind in South Africa.



The Honorable Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms. Nomvula Mokonyane, at the Water Stewardship event

NEW PROJECTS AND WORKING GROUPS

During the latter part of 2015, the SWPN kick started new key strategic working groups which are in the process of formulating inspiring pieces of work. These new working groups are:

- Water, Stewardship and Incentives (WSI)
- Skills Development and Transformation (SDT)
- Sanitation (SANI)

1. WATER STEWARDSHIP & INCENTIVES (WSI)

In October 2015, the SWPN in partnership with the GIZ IWaSP Programme and the National Business Initiative (NBI), held the first ever regional water stewardship event which drew 207 participants over the two days from 15 different countries. These participants gathered to share their ideas and best practice strategies on water management.

This event showcased how the industry can tackle water stewardship within the context of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

2. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & TRANSFORMATION (SDT)

This working group is at the development phase and is exploring ways in which it can support national objectives and initiatives. This group will focus its efforts on finding ways to improve and develop sustainable and economically viable skills for the water sector.

3. SANITATION (SANI)

The Sanitation Working Group is also still in the planning phase. This working group will be reviewing opportunities to support the development of resilient, innovative and water efficient sanitation solutions which will aid in bringing dignity to communities with limited access to key sanitation infrastructure.



EWWM working group

ALL HANDS ON DECK

2016 has begun with a few bumpy climatic and economic conditions. Against this backdrop, the role of the SWPN and the work it seeks to accomplish becomes all the more necessary and valuable.

The SWPN Secretariat is excited about the projects set out this year and wishes to thank each and every funder, partner and member for the dedication, commitment and passion they invest in the network. Your contributions are making





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fundamental difference to future generations of South Africans.

Let's tackle 2016 with an "All Hands on Deck" philosophy, focusing on strengthening our partnerships and working together to do whatever is needed in order to protect the future of our country's water.

THANK YOU AgriSA!

A special note of thanks to AgriSA for its unwavering support! To help spread the word to South Africans about the SWPN's work, AgriSA recently placed one of our media releases on its website.



NESTLÉ TO THE RESCUE

INNOVATIVE INTERVENTIONS

Nestlé's innovative approach to assisting its suppliers in the drought stricken milk districts of KwaZulu Natal and the Free State shows how collaborative partnerships can make a huge difference and provide immediate relief for desperate farmers and communities.

With dairy farmers frantic to save their livestock during the recent drought, Nestlé put into place an action plan to turn redundant containers into water harvesting tanks for their suppliers.

Nestlé's Harrismith factory made 1000l plastic Lecithin tanks available to farmers for water harvesting. This water management measure was first successfully piloted in Nestlé's Mossel Bay factory during the 2009/10 drought in the Southern Cape.

To try and bring immediate relief to suppliers in the QwaQwa district, Nestlé also worked with the Harrismith Municipality to arrange for water to be collected from its Harrismith Factory via fire hydrants. This water was then delivered by 10 000 l milk tankers free of charge to Nestlé suppliers in the QwaQwa district.

In another initiative, Nestlé assisted Milk SA with effective feed distribution to emerging farmers in need, while some Nestlé

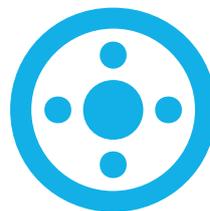
producers in the Southern Cape made surplus feed available to drought stricken areas in the Free State for free.

These innovative interventions demonstrate how companies can use resources at their disposal to address both short- and long-term concerns when it comes to water-related matters.

We all have a responsibility to do whatever we can to help our nation weather this drought and Nestlé, we applaud you for the creativity you displayed in your commitment to come to the assistance of your communities.



Redundant milk containers used to harvest water



Nestlé put an action plan in place to repurpose redundant containers into water harvesting tanks for their suppliers

WHEN IN DROUGHT, IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK

While the primary focus of the SWPN remains on long-term, sound water management and the improvement of water security, the prevailing and devastating pressures of the current drought highlight the need for some immediate interventions.





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Vaalharts Canal refurbishment

The solution to minimising the impact of the drought and maximising the water we do have lies with each and every person! Use water mindfully and as sparingly as possible. This principle applies to businesses, individuals, government – everyone has a responsibility to pull their weight and take steps to consciously save water.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Drop the Block!

Why not give each and every one of your employees a brick to drop in their toilet cistern? For every employee, you could be helping to save thousands of liters of water every month!

So it's a call to action, for **All Hands on Deck**. Even the simplest measures can make a profound difference. The SWPN is fully behind the DWS's Drop the Block initiative. By placing a brick in your toilet cistern, the amount of water used in the flushing process is reduced by up to 2 litres with every flush. This could dramatically reduce the amount of clean municipal water that gets flushed away each day!

The SWPN also urges its members to educate their employees, families, stakeholders, and surrounding communities about being water savvy. Let's educate, educate, educate!

In addition to practical projects that seek to improve water security, education is vital to sustainable water security. By creating large-scale awareness programmes about what our members are doing to promote water conservation and harvesting, the SWPN continues to work towards its goal of addressing the 17% water gap by 2030.



Dropping a brick in a toilet cistern can save up to 2l with every flush

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