



Strategic Water Partners Network  
SOUTH AFRICA

## CALL TO ACTION FOR WATER SECURITY SWPN AND DWS CALL ON BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT CLEAR RIVERS PROJECT

In 2015, South Africa had the lowest rainfall on record since 1904. To address the need for water security in the face of global climate change, DWS, with support from the SWPN and other strategic partners has launched the 'Clear Rivers' campaign which calls for collective action to protect the country's freshwater ecosystems, including rivers, wetlands and broader catchments.

Linking the project to 'Mandela Month' and the premise that healthy rivers allow for a healthy nation, the DWS, SWPN and partners plan to mobilise industries and communities to volunteer 67 minutes of their time to clearing rivers and other waterways, thereby achieving both pollution-free rivers and environmentally savvy communities. Closing the water gap requires not only addressing the quantity of water available but ensuring that it is of a decent standard and quality to support social, economic and environmental development and sustainability.

SWPN and the DWS recognise that achieving water security and pollution-free fresh water will require all South Africans to become active citizens. To this end the partners have begun collaborating with community advocacy groups; corporates, individuals, civil society, schools, academic institutions and government departments to take up river clearing as a key strategy to protect the critical river ecosystems.



## WORLD CLASS TRAINING FOR IRRIGATION IN AFRICA TAUNG AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE PUTS NEW QUALIFICATION ON THE MAP

With agriculture being the biggest user of water, colleges such as the TAC are responsible for ensuring that the country's future agriculturalists protect this precious resource at source. TAC's outreach programme which includes the creation of food plots within the grounds of the Taung District Hospital by the college have become an important factor in addressing poverty and food security within the community whilst placing emphasis on water efficient irrigation practices. This outreach programme has also seen monthly supplies of milk, seeds, vegetables, eggs and chickens to five worthy organisations within the area.

On 27 May 2016 the SWPN Programme Manager had the privilege of delivering an address to the graduates on the role of educational institutions in water management in South Africa and the opportunities for the agricultural sector to spearhead the industrial revolution. These avenues include provision of inputs into clean energy production, food security and the beneficiation of sanitation related waste through production of useful commodities such as fertilizers.

The impressive achievements of this one-of-a-kind facility will certainly put TAC on the map as a world class irrigation training centre in Africa, and this will contribute to the long term innovations and solutions that will be available for improved water management in South Africa and Africa.





Zama Siqalaba addressing the graduates at the Taung graduation



### QUEST FOR WATER SECURITY CREATES WIN/WIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

#### SWPN PRESENTS THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIP APPROACHES TO SOLVING WATER CHALLENGES AT THE SAFMA CONFERENCE 2016

SWPN's participation in the SAFMA conference provided the perfect opportunity for a call to action for industry to play their part in conserving water and reducing the urban demand for this commodity.

**SWPN emphasised the need for collaboration between the private and public sectors in achieving water security and pollution-free fresh water ecosystems. The conference also presented an ideal opportunity for SWPN to introduce its value proposition to delegates.**

The SWPN reported that water is a key risk area for businesses across the globe and that under current efficiency levels, South Africa will face a supply-demand deficit of 17% by 2030 with some areas already in deficit. The scale of the risk is such that it now requires collective action through non-traditional and strategic partnerships with several key focus areas highlighted where collaborations could have significant impact. Among these were the prioritisation of water use efficiency on company facilities through promotion of education and awareness

for staff, water use monitoring through the development of weekly or monthly water balances for all facilities and the need for companies to partner with the public sector particularly at the municipal level. Avenues for partnership could include the sharing of human resources and technical expertise to capacitate municipalities with water loss reduction and wastewater treatment and management capabilities.

The SWPN also urged delegates to become active in the pursuit of water security and to partner with the network either through the working groups at which the projects are selected and crafted, or on a project basis, which involves project funding, technical input and expertise and project management.

### WATERLESS CAR WASHING - ADVANCING JOB AND WATER SECURITY GOVERNMENT AND COMMERCE URGED TO SUPPORT BUDDING ECO CAR WASH ENTREPRENEURS

GDED together with the Gauteng Propellor (GEP) and Eco Wash have announced funding for young entrepreneurs to acquire Eco Wash Mobile Dispensing Units for waterless car washing.

**Upon completion of training, Eco Wash will supply each entrepreneur with an Eco Wash Mobile Dispensing Unit and all products and consumables to wash 14 cars per day for 30 days per month.**



The equipment uses just **one litre** of water as opposed to the 250 litres used through the conventional car washing methods. The SWPN is a keen supporter of this initiative which is geared towards helping to preserve our water resources whilst well aligned to the development of sustainable skills for the water sector. Several forward thinking car dealerships, including Barloworld, Imperial, McCarthy's and BMW and corporates, such as De Beers, Anglo American, Boogertmans and Norton Rose, have already started using these eco-friendly units.





The Department of Economic Development, GEP and Eco Wash are calling on Government Departments, commerce and industry sector role players to make their malls, office parks and commercial facilities available to the newly trained budding entrepreneurs to conduct their new businesses.

Eco-Wash is a perfect example of an enterprise which reduces both urban water demands and the output of toxic chemicals into the environment.

## 2016 NO DROP REPORT: NON-REVENUE WATER AND WATER LOSSES STILL A CHALLENGE FOR MANY MUNICIPALITIES WAR ON LEAKS CRITICAL TO SDGS

In a joint session at the recent WISA conference held on 15 – 19 May 2016, SWPN and DWS provided official feedback on the progressive No Drop certification and the status of non-revenue water and water losses in municipal water systems in South Africa, based on the 2014 assessment results. The No Drop Metro Audit report and the No Drop 3% assessment report were both officially released to municipalities at this auspicious event.

**The No Drop certification system, co-developed by the SWPN, its private sector partners and the DWS provides certification to municipalities for efficient water use and water loss management. This initiative complements previous incentive-based regulation assessments such as the Blue Drop certification for drinking water quality management and the Green Drop certification for wastewater services regulation.**

Opening the session, Ms. Lindiwe Lusenga, DDG for International Water Cooperation at DWS, reiterated the value of collaboration in developing the No Drop as a key tool to drive South Africa's 'War on Leaks' programme and to address the current challenges of non-revenue water. She highlighted the critical role of water loss management in achieving the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) focusing on long term sustainable water and sanitation provision.

The No Drop assessment results revealed that while a certain level of progress in the reduction of non-revenue water has been realized, there is significant variation in performance at municipal level across the nation. The results also highlighted

the significant scope for improvements in reporting levels, data accuracy, NRW targeted activities and improved efficiency, as outlined in the '2016 No Drop Report – Benchmarking of Water Loss, Water Use Efficiency and Non-Revenue Water in South African Municipalities'.

- ▶ [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE NO DROP REPORT](#)
- ▶ [CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE '2016 NO DROP REPORT – BENCHMARKING OF WATER LOSS, WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND NON-REVENUE WATER IN SOUTH AFRICAN MUNICIPALITIES'](#)



## ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT POLICY – EDITION 1

The Department of Water and Sanitation's newly-released Draft Edition-1, Integrated Water Quality Management Policy (IWQMP) underpins the need for the entire population to be responsible for ensuring sustainability of our water resources. The draft IWQMP, released in June 2016 is an overarching policy which sets out guidelines for an integrated approach to water management.

This water quality management policy for South Africa emphasises the country's multi-faceted water crisis which combines increasing demand for water in the face of deteriorating water quality and a decreasing supply of the country's most valuable resource.

This significant deterioration of water quality increases costs and has a severe impact on the country's economy, human health, and aquatic systems.

In September 2015, a set of sustainable development goals (SDG) were adopted by countries. These goals target the protection of the planet; an end to poverty; and, prosperity for all.





Goal 6, which emphasises ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, recognises that water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation have a negative impact on food security, livelihood choices and education opportunities for poor people globally. Goal 6 targets are;

- By 2030, **improve water quality** by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, having the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
- By 2030, **implement integrated water resources management** at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.
- By 2020, **protect and restore water-related ecosystems**, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

In drafting the IWQMP for South Africa, the project team drew from a series of discussion documents which examined the current water quality management challenges and international experiences.

The document is divided into three parts and outlines the policy response, which is defined by a set of principles which are guided by the vision of 'a government-wide approach, in alliance with the private sector and civil society that will improve resource water quality in SA in order to prevent pollution and ecological degradation and support ecologically sustainable economic and social development and use of the nation's water resources'.

It is envisaged that this policy will enable government to fulfil its role as custodian of the country's valuable and limited resources.

**The Policy will be Gazetted for comments in the near future and if you want to register as a stakeholder please visit, ([www.dwa.gov.za/projects/iwqms](http://www.dwa.gov.za/projects/iwqms)).**

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Include your contact details and preferred email address.

