

Notes from the DWAF Gauteng-hosted Knowledge Sharing

Workshop on the Sustainability Pillars

28/29 January 2009

Emerald Casino Resort, Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng

"It was recognised that there is difficulty in integrating the sustainability pillars because they are not part of DWAF's core business. However it is hard to ignore them as the core business works best when the sustainability pillars are addressed"
(Quote from a workshop participant).

Purpose of the workshop:

The workshop was organised by DWAF Gauteng office in order to facilitate knowledge sharing between regional champions responsible for integrating the sustainability pillars into DWAF's operations. All the regions and DWAF national were represented with the exception of the Eastern Cape. Four of the provinces gave presentations sharing their experiences in addressing the sustainability pillars.

Key challenges:

- Integration of the sustainability pillars into all DWAF water sector programmes
- The need for inter-governmental relations between government departments and across tiers of government
- Emphasising relationship building as a key to successful initiatives
- Constructively engaging the WSA's and municipalities on the sustainability pillars
- Need for capacity building and showing the value of the sustainability pillars
- Increasing capacity within the regions to address the sustainability pillars
- Critical need for communication and sharing of lessons learnt
- Role of implementing agents, procurement agents and CSO's

Field visit to Evaton project

The workshop participants visited the Emthonjeni Multi-Purpose Centre in Evaton. The centre was established as a non-profit organisation in 2002 by Maria Manoto. The centre deals with community concerns such as HIV and AIDS, unemployment, poverty and income generation. They engage in a range of activities including food gardening, a bakery, candle-making, a child day care facility and counselling. DWAF have supported the centre through the provision of a borehole which enabled the food gardens to be expanded.

Agreed Way Forward

- Regional champions will participate in the Masibambane Supporters Club and there will be a dedicated item on the agenda for the sustainability pillars
- There will be bi-annual workshops for knowledge sharing. The next workshop is scheduled for the first half of the next financial year in the Western Cape
- The regions will interact with each other on specific aspects and share learning, e.g. a communication plan on an on-going basis

Potential areas for CSIR involvement

- Explaining the value of the sustainability pillars for DWAF and its partners
- Developing guidelines for the regions on addressing the sustainability pillars in a consistent manner
- Develop communication and lessons learnt material for distribution to the regions
- Encouraging municipality and WSA involvement in the sustainability pillars
- Work closer with WIN-SA to share findings/ case studies/ lessons
- Support the Masibambane Supporters Club

Note: The attendance register and electronic versions of all the presentations will be circulated in due course.