GOVERNANCE IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: Progress in South Africa

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN WATER LAW

The new National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) sets out the framework for the management of water resources in South Africa.

– GUIDING PRINCIPLES
  • equity, efficiency, sustainability and representivity.

– THE PURPOSE
  – meeting the basic human needs of present and future generations,
  – promoting equitable access to water and benefits,
  – redressing the results of past racial and gender discrimination,
  – facilitating social and economic development.
THE HIERARCHY OF WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS

MINISTER

DWAF

RO

CMA

CMC

Catchment forum

WUA

Water Resources Management

International body

Accountability

consultation representation

representation cooperation

representation

representation

representation

services contract

services contract

services contract

accountability

accountability

accountability

accountability

oversight support

cooperation

support

Water board

Municipal Utility

Water Services
LESSONS

- Demand and supply
LESSONS

- Policies, regulations, guidelines. Policies, regulations, guidelines. Policies, regulations, guidelines...
LESSONS

- IWRM isolated from water services.
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Levelling the playing fields.
- Achieving representivity.
- Identifying the lowest appropriate levels.
- Operationalising cooperative government.
- Institutionalising interdependencies between WMI and local government.
- NGOs role in advocating IWRM principles.
- Mind shift to the common social good.