



# Opportunities for local govt in the implementation of IWRM in the Limpopo river basin.

Eng. Sibanda, Bulawayo City Council,  
Zimbabwe

# Presentation

- Introduction
- Challenges in the basin
- IWRM issues
- Organisational and focus areas
- Stakeholders expectations
- Opportunities
- Conclusions

# Introduction: Limpopo basin

- Statistics and background information
  - Catchment area: Around 413,000 km<sup>2</sup>
  - Rainfall: Average 530 mm per annum. Range: 200-1,200 mm
  - Evaporation: Average. 1,970 mm per annum. Range: 800-2,400 mm per annum)
  - Runoff: 5.5 x 10<sup>9</sup> m<sup>3</sup> per annum or 13 mm per annum
  - Water transfers: Water is transferred into the basin under 6 separate transfer schemes
  - Population: 14 million

# Introduction: Limpopo basin

- Statistics and background information
  - Irrigation: Present. 244,000 ha. Potential: 122,000 ha in selected sub-catchments. Current overdevelopment, where demand exceeds water availability is 70,000 ha
  - Other land use (dryland): Crops: 234,000 ha. Pastures: 1,780,000 ha. Forestry: 455,000 ha
  - Poverty indicators: Poverty rate: 75%. Pretoria, 75% and Mozambique flood plains, 34%. Average = 52%
  - Population dynamics: Within 4 years 10% of the population are expected to abandon their homes and migrate southwards and up to 10% of those remaining will die from aids-related illnesses.

# Introduction: riparian states

- 4 riparian states
  - Botswana:
  - Mozambique
  - South Africa
  - Zimbabwe
- Basin is recognised as a key resource for economic development
  - Need to conserve, protect and utilise resources in the basin
  - Principles of equitable and reasonable utilisation, efficient management and sustainable development
  - Importance evidenced by
    - Signing of the Protocol on shared water courses of SADC
    - Limpopo Joint Commissions (Zim. – SA, SA – Moza)
    - The ICLEI Logowater Project (+ other initiatives)

# Challenges in the basin

- Increasing water demand
  - Irrigation
  - Urban, mining & industrial growth
- Growing competition over water resources
  - Scarcity
  - conflicts
- Environmental concerns
- Poverty endemicity and persistence
- Co-ordination and harmonisation difficulties
- Recurrent droughts and occasional floods

# Some important IWRM issues

- Role of politics
- Catchment outline plans
  - Inputs from all stakeholders
- Protection of the environment
  - Minimising pollution, deforestation, erosion and gold panning
- Inadequate expertise
  - Brain drain, appropriate & sufficient
- Institutional and legal frameworks
  - Harmonisation
  - enforcement
- Monitoring and assessment
- Awareness of IWRM issues
- Gender mainstreaming

# Organisational and focus areas

- Riparian states at different levels of IWRM implementation
- Different political, economic, administrative and social frameworks
- National enabling environments being established
- National steering committees for IWRM launched and functioning



# Stakeholders expectations

- Improved water availability
- Protection of water resources
- Security of supplies
- Flood protection
- Co-ordinated and integrated development
- Capacity building
- Investment, job creation, "development"

# Local governments functions

- Provision of services (water supply, electricity, sanitation, etc.)
- Administration of local bye-laws
- Collection of local taxes
- Setting local policies
- Administering national government programs

# Opportunities

- Advocacy and political persuasion
  - Strong urban views have a higher advocacy impact
- Integration of local government institutions in IWRM institutions
- Sector representatives usually urban based
  - Local government agenda can easily be pushed
- Leadership by numbers
- Water demand management potential
- Financial muscle (as host to powerful stakeholders)

# Conclusions

- Need for co-operation between LGs
- Need for LG strategy for IWRM
- More to gain than lose

A wide-angle photograph of a calm ocean under a vast, blue sky. The horizon is visible in the middle ground, with a faint rainbow arching across it on the left side. The water is a deep blue with gentle ripples. The sky is a lighter blue with wispy white clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Thank you