



## United Nations Environment Programme DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Information Sheet No. 4.1

### Promoting Dialogue

# South African Multi-stakeholder Initiative on the World Commission on Dams (WCD) Report

#### Process:

#### Symposium on the WCD report

Following the launch of the WCD Report, a two-day multi-stakeholder symposium on the WCD report was held on 23-24 July 2001. It was jointly organised by the South African National Committee on Large Dams, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the Environmental Monitoring Group and IUCN – the World Conservation Union. The Symposium hosted a briefing on the WCD Report followed by different groups presenting their perspectives on the implications for South Africa. A series of South African case studies were also presented. Following a series of presentations and discussion sessions, the Symposium agreed two resolutions:

#### Resolution 1

This Symposium declares itself to be broadly supportive of the strategic priorities outlined in the WCD report, but believes that the guidelines need to be contextualised in the South African situation.

#### Resolution 2

This Symposium supports the process of taking the WCD guidelines further in the Southern African context

The Symposium elected an interim multistakeholder Steering Committee to prepare a plan for achieving the objectives set out in the Symposium Resolutions.

#### Interim Steering Committee

Two representatives from each of the groups participating in the Symposium were elected to serve on the Steering Committee. Representatives were from the government, NGOs, affected parties, utilities, private sector, academic, research and finance.

#### Timeline

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| 23-24 July 2001                                      | First multi-stakeholder Symposium to discuss the WCD report. Committee established.  |
| ↓  |  |
| 15 October 2001                                      | First Interim Steering Committee Meeting to determine process  |
| ↓  |  |
| 14 November 2001<br>23 January 2002<br>12 March 2002 | Coordinating Committee Meetings to identify the way forward  |
| ↓  |  |
| 23 April 2002<br>19 June 2002                        | Working group meeting to discuss Scoping Report  |
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| 8 July 2002  | Presentation of the South African Multi-Stakeholder Initiative to the 1st Dams and Development Forum   |
| ↓  |  |
| 23 July 2002   | Second multi-stakeholder forum to review Scoping Report and plan the way forward   |
| ↓  |  |
| 14 August 2002<br>30 August 2002                     | Presentation of South African Multistakeholder Initiative to the Stockholm International Symposium and at the Water Dome associated with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Coordinating Committee will meet regularly to address the priority items identified in the final Scoping Report |
| ↓  |  |
| 11 November 2002                                     | Discussion on Gaining Public Acceptance  |
| ↓  |  |
| 13 February 2003                                     | Discussion on Comprehensive Options Assessment   |
| ↓  |  |
| 25 June 2003   | Gaining Public Acceptance and Comprehensive Options Assessment drafts reviewed. Discussion on Addressing Existing Dams   |
| ↓  |  |
| 25 September 2003                                    | Presentation of the South African Multistakeholder Initiative to the 2nd Dams and Development Forum  |

## Co-ordinating Committee

The Steering Committee was reconstituted as the Co-ordinating Committee with two representatives chosen from each of the Steering Committee sectors, with additional representation sought from agriculture and labour.

## Scoping Report

A Scoping Report has been prepared that analyses the key issues in the South African context. It will form the basis for more substantive analysis and research where necessary that in turn will lead to policy and procedural recommendations to all South African institutions involved in dams and their alternatives.

## Timeline continued

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 30 September 2003  | Discussion on 3rd Multistakeholder Forum preparatory arrangements  |
| ↓                  |  |
| 23-24 October 2003 | Third Multi-stakeholder Forum convened by the Coordinating Committee   |
| ↓                  |  |
| 24 November 2003   | Review of post-forum versions of Gaining Public Acceptance, Comprehensive Options Assessment and Addressing Existing Dams      |
| ↓                  |  |
| October 2004       | Scheduled Fourth Multi-stakeholder Forum to finalise report and prepare recommendations for changes in policies and procedures |

## 2nd Multistakeholder Forum Meeting

The Scoping Report was discussed and refined by a second meeting of the wider multi-stakeholder forum on 23 July 2002. About 75 participants representing a broad range of perspectives came together in a constructive dialogue on the main issues raised in the report. Based on the discussion at the Forum, the Scoping Report was finalised in October 2002, [http://www.unep-dams.org/files/sa\\_scoping\\_report.doc](http://www.unep-dams.org/files/sa_scoping_report.doc)

## 3rd Multi-stakeholder Forum Meeting

The Coordinating Committee convened a third meeting of the multi-stakeholder forum on October 23-24 2003 at the Valley Trust, Durban. The main objective of the meeting was to consider a draft report on three strategic priorities (gaining public acceptance, comprehensive options assessment and addressing existing dams) elaborated under the guidance of the Coordinating Committee. The revised final report highlighting emerging recommendations from this meeting is expected to be circulated in 2004. The initiative is now entering the phase of more substantive analysis of issues raised in order to consider specific areas of reform appropriate to the South African context and is expected to be completed by October 2004.

## Funding

The main organisations that have provided resources and financial support to the process are: Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Global Greengrants Fund, Heinrich Böll Foundation, National Research Foundation, Rand Water, South Africa National Committee on Large Dams (SANCOLD), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Water Research Commission, WCD Secretariat and the UNEP – Dams and Development Project (DDP).

## Organisations on the Coordinating Committee

- Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) (2 representatives)
- Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
- Elsenburg Agricultural Research
- Ethekwini Metropolitan Government (Durban)
- Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG)
- Eskom
- Gariep and Van der Kloof Dams Community Water and Environmental Networking (GAVADWEN)
- Jones and Wagener Consultants
- Ninham Shand (private consultants)
- Rand Water
- Research Human Rights Empowerment Development (RHREDI)
- South African Water Caucus
- Water Research Commission (WRC)

## OBSERVERS

- UNEP-Dams and Development Project (DDP)
- NAWISA – Network for Advocacy of Water Issues in southern Africa
- Southern African Development Community: Water Division



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