



Strengthening Cooperation in Namibia's Water Sector

Swedish and Namibian water institutions are jointly implementing a one-year programme to build capacity and strengthen cooperation in the Namibian water sector.



BACKGROUND

As the most arid country in sub-Saharan Africa, Namibia faces several challenges in meeting the water needs of its people. The two lead organisations in the water sector are the Namibia Water Corporation (NamWater), which is responsible for bulk water supply to municipalities and industries, and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), responsible for water resources management and rural water supply.

In 2013, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), DWAF and NamWater have embarked on a series of joint activities to build capacity, strengthen cooperation and provide technical support in specified subjects that are of current concern to the Namibian water sector.

FIVE MODULAR COURSES

A set of five courses has been designed to meet the specific demands of NamWater and DWAF. Each course consists of two one-week modules, spaced approximately 6 weeks apart. This modular structure enables participants to more effectively integrate their learning into their day-to-day work, and avoids long absences of essential staff from their duties.

COURSE 1: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The new Water Resources Management Act will introduce new institutions in the Namibian water sector and likely lead to changing roles for many individuals and organisations. It is essential that DWAF mid-level managers are empowered to effectively perform their revised functions and that managers at NamWater understand how the new Act might affect the Corporation's functions. The courses seeks to equip managers with a clearer understanding of the human and organisational dimensions of water governance, and the evolution of the Namibia water sector as guided by the new Act. Topics that will be covered include:

- Introduction to the new Water Resources Management Act
- Mapping exercise among legislation governing the water sector
- Implementation of Namibia's Integrated Water Resources Management Plan
- Organisational change management
- Water sector-specific project planning and management
- Leadership skills for the water sector
- Learning from other countries' recent water sector reforms

COURSE 2: INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT

The ability of an organisation to effectively manage its infrastructure is dependent on its capacity for life-cycle infrastructure planning and management. Infrastructure asset management (IAM) is an integrated process of decision making, planning and control over the acquisition, use, safeguarding and disposal of assets to maximise their service delivery potential and benefits, and to minimise their related risks and costs over their entire life. NamWater has developed an infrastructure asset management policy and strategy in order to guide asset procurement, operation, maintenance and replacement. This course aims to support the implementation of the asset management policy and strategy, and covers the following topics:

- Introduction to infrastructure asset management
- Lifecycle planning processes
- Risk management
- Development of asset management policy and strategies
- Roles and responsibilities of Namibian water sector stakeholders in managing micro- and macro-infrastructure

COURSE 3: TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT

All four of Namibia's perennial rivers (Okavango, Orange, Zambezi and Cunene) and an important ephemeral system (Cuvelai) are shared with neighbouring countries. Namibia is impacted by water use activities by upstream states; with potential negative changes to river flows including quantity, timing and quality of water. In order to improve the ability of Namibia to secure equitable benefits from these shared waters, staff members involved in transboundary affairs in DWAF, NamWater, and others will participate in a course specifically designed to respond to Namibia's requirements in this field. Topics to be covered include:

- International Water Law: key concepts and principles
- International Basin Institutions
- Namibian Transboundary Rivers: their physical, economic, legal and political environments
- Negotiation skills
- Hydro-politics
- Hydro-economic modelling
- Assessment and allocation of environmental water requirements

COURSE 4: COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

Managing water resources and services in collaboration with local communities is a multi-faceted challenge that requires consensus-based decision-making. Mid-level management staff of NamWater and DWAF – at head office as well as in the field – be better equipped with the relevant approaches and methodologies that can be applied to achieve this. This course will improve knowledge of collaborative management approaches and consensus-based decision making. The course covers:

- Stakeholder Analysis
- Stakeholder Participation
- Strategic Communication
- Adaptive Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Cultural sensitivity
- Legal Principles
- Gender sensitivity and mainstreaming in the water sector;
- HIV issues in the water and sanitation sector
- Pro-poor approach
- The human rights based approach to water and sanitation.

COURSE 5: RESERVOIR AND DAM SAFETY, OPERATION AND MONITORING

NamWater owns and operates a number of existing reservoirs countrywide and has identified a need to raise awareness among technical staff associated with reservoir safety. This course will be based at different reservoir sites to allow participants to observe the practical aspects of reservoir safety. Topics to be covered include:

- Legal Dam Safety Framework, Guidelines and Procedures as applied to existing reservoirs
- Operational Criteria for Existing Reservoirs
- Periodic Reservoir Safety Inspection
- Day-to-Day Reservoir Operation
- Downstream Flood Impacts and Monitoring
- Standard surveillance practices for inspection of dams and supporting infrastructure
- Roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, dam owners and independent professional engineers.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

Development of new water sector institutions

As required by Namibia's new Water Resources Management Act, three new institutions – a Water Regulatory Board, a Water Advisory Council and a Water Tribunal – are to be created in the near future. SIWI will partner with DWAF to support the establishment of these bodies, drawing on international best practice. Following consultations with relevant stakeholders, the project team comprised of SIWI and DWAF staff will produce a set of guidelines for establishing the new regulatory board, advisory council and tribunal.

Strategic research and knowledge management

In order to be able to respond effectively to current and future challenges, NamWater must ensure that it retains existing knowledge in an accessible format and generates new knowledge through applied research. SIWI will work with key NamWater staff to draft a research and knowledge management policy. This will enable NamWater to adopt an approach of "continuous learning" from within; in so doing reducing its reliance on outside experts and consultants.

Assessment and guidance on hydrological and hydraulic modelling

SMHI will work with regional experts to provide an independent assessment of the hydrological/hydraulic modelling tools that NamWater is currently using for both water resources management and disaster management. Based on the assessment, the expert group will provide input that will guide the formation of a strategy to update NamWater's hydrological models and identify additional modelling systems and support tools suitable to the Namibian context.

Improved management of water quality data

NamWater's current mode of managing water quality data does not allow easy access to those who require it for determining solutions to emerging problems. With a reliable laboratory information system, NamWater would be able to quickly diagnose potential water quality concerns and take remedial actions to render the water potable again.

SMHI will support NamWater in identifying a system to consolidate microbiological, chemical and biochemical water quality data collected by staff at NamWater's boreholes, dams and water supply reservoirs, as well as by private clients.



PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Namibia Water Sector Cooperation Programme is co-funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and NamWater. The Programme is administered through a Management Team under the guidance of a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is the decision-making body of the programme. It meets every three months to evaluate the programme and make recommendations for its improvement.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

NAMIBIA WATER CORPORATION (NAMWATER)

NamWater is Namibia's national bulk water utility, a state-owned commercial entity supplying water in bulk to industries and municipalities.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY (DWAF)

DWAF is the government department responsible for water resources management, rural water supply and forestry. DWAF is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF).

THE SWEDISH METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL INSTITUTE (SMHI)

SMHI is the Swedish national agency responsible for meteorological and hydrological services. SMHI has long experience working within the areas of meteorology, hydrology, oceanography and climatology. It provides services to Government and society, as well as business operations. SMHI has extensive experience in capacity building for weather and water organisations throughout the world.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI)

SIWI is a policy institute that generates and promotes knowledge, solutions and tools leading to water wise decisions for sustainable development. SIWI integrates its applied research, capacity building and advisory services to bridge the gap between theory and practice, with a view to incorporating science into policy and planning frameworks. The combined expertise of SIWI's staff enables the institute to provide applicable policy recommendations for decision makers, tools for specific water policy areas and innovative water strategies for clients. SIWI's clients include international research institutions, United Nations agencies, bilateral donors, as well as governments in several developing countries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Mr Anton Earle
Director
Capacity Development
anton.earle@siwi.org
+46 8 121 360 83



Ms Chibesa Pensulo
Programme Manager
Knowledge Services
chibesa.pensulo@siwi.org
+46 8 121 360 90



Ms Alice Jaraiseh
Programme Manager
Water Governance
Facility
alice.jaraiseh@siwi.org
+46 8 121 360 42



NAMIBIA WATER CORPORATION

Private Bag 2013
Windhoek
Namibia
+264 61 71 0000

www.siw.org/knowledge-services/capacity-building

