

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

LESOTHO

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Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

A consultative process was followed in Lesotho to collect data for the reporting of IWRM SDG6.5.1. The Focal Person with the assistance of the Country Partnership Secretariat had plenary and consultative meetings on how best the process could be done. A facilitator and 3 data collectors were engaged to support the process. Data was collected in the form of surveys and physical interviews and workshops.

The first workshop was conducted on 20th August 2020 at Lesotho Avani Hotel. There were 40 participants which included: Government officials, Water Authorities (parastatal), Civil Society, academic and curriculum representatives, media houses as well as local authorities. The consultative process during the workshop was done in groups and different thematic areas were given to different groups for discussions. Four groups of around 10 people each group were formed.

The second workshop which was for validation purposes was held on the 25th October 2020. There were 35 participants which included: Government officials, Water Authorities (parastatal), Civil Society, academic and curriculum representatives, media houses as well as local authorities. Presentations were made for the whole group along the four (4) thematic areas. After each presentation, discussions were held to validate the findings.

During the discussions, it was realised that the past report was biased towards water institutions and lacked some details and gaps on the implementation. The support received by the country from UNEP allowed the process to be more of a multi-stakeholder approach and this seemed to be giving a reality reflection on the national IWRM implementation. Engaging in a multi-stakeholder approach is a direction the country has already taken through the National Integrated Catchment Program and this allowed the process to happen easily.

It was realised that prior the consultation workshop the past report was supposed to have been shared. To give the participants the idea of the baseline.

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

a) What are the main challenges to progress in the Country?

It was clear that the Policies, Laws and Strategies that govern water resources management exist in Lesotho and are based on IWRM. However, inadequate capacity for water resources management and non-involvement of local governance structures and local communities in management of water resources and local communities in catchment management make the policies, laws and strategies difficult to implement and the grassroots level. The stakeholders also indicated that there is still silo mentality for water resources management in the country and this makes it difficult to implement Policies, Laws and Strategies for water resources management.

b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

Stakeholders clearly understood the concept of IWRM, hence mentioned that Policies, Laws and Strategies from other responsible agencies should also be considered. A typical example made was the Ministry of Forestry, Range Resources and Water and Soil Conservation and the Ministry of Tourism,

Environment and Culture. Stakeholders also indicated that communities at grassroots level should be informed when the Policies and Laws are reviewed.

- c) At the question level or in general what is the perceived rate of progress and likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030

The progress is the score of 72 which is high. The country has the potential to move to higher score with some interventions that are proposed. Integrated Catchment Management Programme (ICM) that started implementation in 2020 and expected to end in 2023 has the potential to increase progress to the higher percentage. One of the outputs of this Programme is ICM/IWRM policy harmonisation which seeks to promote an effective and efficient right based, gender sensitive and climate-resilient policy framework. ICM is an approach which considers sustainable natural resources use and conservation planning from a broad, cross-sectoral catchment perspective. It follows that implementation of ICM has to ensure that the entire range of relevant governance frameworks existing in numerous policy and legislative instruments applied across a range of sectors and concerns contributes in a mutually consistent and coherent manner to realisation of ICM objectives

- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

Stakeholders did not agree on the scoring for arrangements of transboundary water resources management because it seemed that, there are still some components of the transboundary water resources management that need to be addressed. The ecological aspect of the transboundary water resources management was made as a typical example that needs to be addressed and basin EIA guidelines.

- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion

Range Conservation department indicated that, there is National Range Resource Management Policy (2014). They further indicated that, there is capacity building for livestock keepers to enhance the implementation of the IWRM. It was clear that Range department use the bottom up approach to enhance the implementation of this Policy.

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

- a) What are the main challenges in the country.

There is lack of implementation of IWRM plans in Lesotho because of silo mentality within different departments and lack of capacity building for stakeholders outside water sector especially at the community level. There is limited budget for IWRM implementation and that the budget does not include vulnerable groups and women. Consultations with some stakeholders are made but they are not effective and do not inform decision-making and thus can be defined as "symbolic consultations". These type of consultations also prevent implementation of IWRM because people have realised that they are often just taken for a ride.

Inclusion of all stakeholders, such as women, youth and vulnerable people is still a challenge. Inclusion of all groups appears in most policies and legal instruments but there are no follow-ups on whether this is occurring. The problem starts with lack of reporting systems including using disaggregated data.

- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

The Technical working groups created by the key Focal Area (KFA) of Long Term Water and Sanitation Strategy should also involve implementers because they are the ones who know the challenges in depth more than the chiefs that make that group. Thus, work will be easy to do. The government can reach a wide geographic area if they create partnership with civil society organisations such as World Vision because they do community capacitation.

Improve coordination and the on-going interactions between different stakeholders

- c) At the question level or in general what is the perceived rate of progress and likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030

The progress is 46 which is rated as medium low. The issue of stakeholder engagement and participation is at the core in the implementation of the ICM Programme. One of the outputs in this programme is effective, efficient and inclusive institutions. There are activities that are dedicated in developing mechanisms and systems of including all stakeholders at all levels. The importance of capacity development of all stakeholders, especially of communities to develop their own plans for implementation as well as to monitor and evaluate them cannot be over-emphasised. ICM will facilitate capacity, skills and knowledge of public, private sector and civil society for sustainable ICM. There is a likelihood of the country reaching very high score in 2030.

- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

The stakeholders agreed on all the points addressed.

- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion

Creation of a shared vision about water resources must be done so that motivation is the same. This can be done by creating tools or guidelines for planning and management of water resources that must be followed by every stakeholder. There should be the link between the water sector and IWRM Masters Degree students. When they are at school, the sector should be giving them the problems they need solutions on. For existing Researches done by IWRM graduates, they must be looked into and considered by the government.

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

The main challenges in the country were found to be lack of funds, lack of human resource, lack of enforcement of legislation as well as lack of up to date tools, equipment and models to assist in making well informed decisions. The country still relies on going out physically to collect data instead of using latest technology like remote sensing and other tools which are fast, efficient, and reliable. Available data is inconsistent and as such cannot be relied upon in decisions making. Some of the available information is in raw form and becomes difficult to understand and use to useable produce information. Equipment available is outdated and there is a lack of maintenance plan. There are a few people with the technical expertise to maintain the available instruments.

- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

To address the out dated instruments challenge, new and improved instruments can be used such as the automatic tools being used in developed countries. This prevents data gaps by providing consistent data. Through localization of project related material, new and up to date instruments will be kept functional well beyond the project's life. To further ensure the safety of the instruments, a bottom-up approach should be used in which people at the grass-roots are also included in the decision making process. Citizen science is one of the approaches that could be used and be further developed.

Management Instruments should be included in the curriculum to help in addressing the main challenges. Making informative reports and managing interactions was also suggested as a way to address the main challenges. Integration between all sectors involved is also one of the ways to

address the main challenges. An increase in the budget allocated towards the water sector also help increase the lack of funds challenge.

- c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

The perceived rate of progress is very slow and as such it is highly unlikely that by 2030 there will be High or Very high implementation. This section scored 38 which is a medium-low score. It does not seem to be any dedicated interventions on the table that would enable the country to move to a higher score. This is evident given the ever-decreasing budget allocation for management instruments.

- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?

There were no major points stakeholders did not agree upon.

- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

Different targets groups should be included in the decision-making process. An example of one of the groups was that of the herders and traditional healers. Herd-boys were said to at times vandalise monitoring equipment mainly due to the lack of knowledge and understand of their purpose. This also shows that there was not full engagement with herders.

4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

- a) What are the main challenges to progress in the country?

Stakeholders agreed that, budgets for water resources infrastructure and development at all levels are limited. An example was made for a multi-phased Lowlands water supply project. The project was developed in mid-2000 with the aim to supply water to 75% population in the lowlands for domestic, industrial and agricultural activities. This Programme is currently implementing the second phase due to limited budget. They concluded that the budget is low for protection and management of water resources compared to the budget for development of infrastructure.

- b) How can the main challenges be addressed?

To address these challenges, it was suggested that every stakeholder from Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) should provide finance to enhance the implementation of integrated water resources management. Stakeholders also agreed that the investments for water resources management and development should be more on operational costs than other costs. Stakeholders further indicated that, sufficient funds should be fully disbursed for planned projects and activities. It was agreed that, there is a need to coordinate interactions between technical officers and planners in order to enhance appropriate budget for water resources management and development.

- c) At the question level or in general, what is the perceived rate of progress, and what is the likelihood of reaching High or Very high implementation by 2030? Is there a need for national (interim) target setting (which may be taken up in more detail in Stage 2 of the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme)?

The progress is very low for financing and this section scored the lowest at 23 which is defined as low. ICM Programme is facilitating the development of the Lesotho Water Security Investment Programme (LWSIP). LWSSIP aims at leveraging financial resources from various sources such as development partners, private sector actors and regional and national stakeholders to support IWRM implementation. The Programme will also determine a sustainable, long-term, financing, and investment mechanism based on revenues (levies, tariffs, fees, investments) collected from the catchment services on the other hand. Hopefully the country will improve its financing mechanisms that it goes to a higher score.

- d) What are the major points stakeholders do not agree on and why?
Stakeholders agreed on all points.
- e) Other interesting points of note from the discussion?

Involvement of technical officers in budget planning for water resources management and development was an interesting point as stakeholders shared the same view on how this can help to enhance appropriate budget for water resources management infrastructure and development in the country. The need to instill urgency for water budget allocation with planners during budgeting was similarly underscored.

5. Next steps

IWRM seems to be analysed as a water sector process whereas it is a multi-stakeholder approach which touches on many sectors including, land, water and livelihoods. It is key for the linkages to be established by the country so that the process will produce more and better results. Information dissemination, awareness raising and capacity building at different levels are the urgent issues that need to be dealt with so that everybody can understand IWRM and benefit from it's application. The nation has embarked on implementation of Integrated Catchment Management, this will help in putting in place IWRM.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

Annex 4: Photos

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants

Workshop 2: Validation

Name	Organization	Position	Email address
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Other stakeholders engaged (not in workshops)

Name	Organization/Position	Email address	Summary of inputs (e.g. question number(s), or full survey)
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Dr. Makoae Masopha	Water Institute (National University of Lesotho) Member of Metolong Catchment Management Committee	mfmasopha9@gmail.com	1&2
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Workshop 1: Data Collection

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Annex 2: Agenda

LESOTHO UN IWRM SDG 6.5.1. SURVEY SUPPORT

Validation Workshop

14 October 2020

Venue: *Avani Lesotho Hotel*

Time	Session topic	Facilitator
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	Lesotho Water Partnership (LWP)
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome by Chairperson - LWP	Chair
09:10 – 09: 15	Overview of Draft Report	National Focal Person
09:15 – 09:30	Enabling Environment	Facilitator
9:30 – 10:00	Discussions	Facilitator
10:00 – 10:30	Tea Break	Facilitator
10:30 – 10:45	Institutions and Participation	National Focal Person
10:45 – 11:15	Discussions	National Focal Person
11:15 – 11:30	Management Instruments to support IWRM implementation	LWP Secretariat
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion	LWP Secretariat
12:00 – 12:15	Financing	Facilitator
12:15 – 12:45	Discussion	Facilitator
12:45 – 12:55	Wrap-up	National Focal Person
12:55 – 13:00	Closing Remarks	LWP
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	LWP

LESOTHO UN IWRM SDG 6.5.1. SURVEY SUPPORT

Workshop 1

20 August 2020

Venue: *Avani Lesotho Hotel*

Time	Session topic	Facilitator
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	Lesotho Water Partnership (LWP)
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome by Chairperson - LWP	Chair
09:15 – 09:40	Introducing and background to IWRM SDG	National Focal Point
09:40 – 10:00	IWRM SDG 6.5.1 Initiative at Global level	United Nations - (UNEP)
10:00 – 10:30	Clarifications and Discussions	National Focal Point
10:30 – 10:50	Tea Break	Facilitator
10:50 – 10:15	Introducing the indicators to be monitored	Facilitator
10:15 – 11:30	Group Discussions on the indicators the country will report on	Facilitator
11:30 – 12:30	Report back by groups	Facilitator
12:30 – 12:50	Wrap up and next workshop 2 expectations	Facilitator
12:50 – 13:00	Closing remarks by Chairperson	Chair
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	LWP

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

The process of reporting on the implementation of SDG 6.5.1 went well. The forum consisted of a variety of stakeholders from different sectors and it created a platform for discussion in a wide range of topics relevant to IWRM. The discussions indicated that IWRM seems to be understood better by stakeholders from the water sector. This showed that the champions of IWRM have to reach out to all stakeholders at all levels especially local levels where there are user groups. There are many initiatives that are part of IWRM but stakeholders did not realise that these initiatives build up to implementation of IWRM which shows lack of coordination.

Annex 4: Photos



Madam Focal Point (left) and Madam Facilitator (right)





Interactive discussions on IWRM Implementation