



2020 VISION

“Looking forward
to the future
together”



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Toll-Free 0800 200 200

www.dwa.gov.za



"In the end we will conserve only what we love; We will love only what we understand and; We will understand only what we have been taught."
Ecologist, Dr Baba Dioum 1968, Senegal

WATER EDUCATION INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA

WHY DOES SA NEED WATER LITERACY?

South Africa is a water scarce country; water resources are already under pressure and climate change will lead to a decline in the availability of surface water resources. Water security in Africa is vulnerable to climate change. Education on water and climate change with the aim of affecting behavioural change is therefore no longer an option but a bare necessity.

The South African Water Sector, as is with other countries around the world is experiencing severe skills shortages. The Department of Water Affairs and the Water Sector Leadership Group has adopted a pipe-line approach to addressing these skills shortages – as short term responses focusing primarily in the workplace, have not yielded the desired results. The education system must therefore respond to ensure that learners and educators are informed of the various choices for water sector careers, so that more learners will choose careers in the water sector.

The Department of Water Affairs, as sector leader is taking a lead role in ensuring that there is national reach for public education for both behavioural change outcomes and to attract more learners into the water sector.

This programme is designed to address these key challenges of water scarcity and water sector skills shortages in a sustainable way

KEY OBJECTIVES

The underlying aim of all our water literacy programmes is to educate and empower learners and educators on the value of our water and our rivers, so that future generations will access for safe, clean water

The key objectives of the initiative are:

- To promote behavioural change on water use and water value through water literacy programmes and public education campaigns
- To promote water sector careers in the schooling system and provide opportunities for youth to pursue careers in the water sector
- To raise awareness of water and climate change issues and water sector careers to the broader public

KEY PROGRAMMES

The Department has various programmes that make up this initiative

- An education support programme focusing on resource materials and educator empowerment
- Baswa le Meetse (BLM) – a competition using arts and culture to convey hygiene and water messages
- South African Youth Water Prize
- (SAYWP) on science and innovation
- Aqua Enduro (AE) Competition on Drinking water quality
- Intervention Projects (IP) Programme
- A national Essay Competition on Impacts and Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change
- An Annual Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The cornerstone of our public water education and career promotions initiative is our education support programme, which aims to bring water education into all schools in the country. Our vision is that every learner and every educator in every school in South Africa will have access to water and climate change education across all education bands and all learning areas and subjects. The key pillars of this programme are: Development of curriculum-aligned resource materials for water and climate change education; and Empowerment of Subject Advisers and Educators on Water Value and Water Use

CURRICULUM ALIGNED RESOURCE MATERIALS

The Department of Water Affairs has already developed the curriculum-aligned resource materials for the General Education and Training band (primary schools) and is in the process of testing the material with learners and educators. The Department of Education will be reviewing these resource materials with the aim of approving them for use in Grade R to Grade 9. These materials will be ready for distribution and use in schools from April 2013, and roll out to all the targeted schools, which will be phased over a three-year period.

The key themes covered in the resource materials for the primary schools level are:

- Water is Life
- Water use efficiency
- Water Quality
- Sanitation, health and hygiene
- Water safety
- Climate change

The process of developing curriculum-aligned resource materials for the senior schooling level (Further Education and Training band) has begun in earnest. It is expected that these materials will be ready for distribution in schools from January 2013. These senior level resource materials for learners and educators will cover the following topics and will be infused into all learning areas and subjects

- Water is Life
- Water Quality
- Water efficiency
- Water Management
- Water careers
- Climate Change
- Water Safety
- Environmental conservation
- History and Indigenous practices of water



EDUCATOR EMPOWERMENT

A critical aspect of the education support programme is to expose and empower educators and subject advisors on issues of water literacy. This will expose advisors and educators to broader issues of the MDG's, broader environmental and socio economic issues around which water revolves.

The approach adopted by the Department is to work extensively with subject facilitators who will in turn work directly with educators in all the schools. The subject advisors in all the provinces will facilitate the roll out of the resource materials into the schools.

Additionally, the Department currently runs various workshops with educators on various aspects of water .

The roll out for subject facilitator empowerment is planned to be three months from January to March 2013. This will be followed by educator empowerment and support from May 2013

ACTION PROJECTS FOR WATER LITERACY AND CAREERS PROMOTIONS

BASWA LE MEETSE (YOUTH IN WATER)

The Baswa le Meetse Awards (Youth in Water): is aimed at recognising the role of learners in awareness campaigns related to water. This competition promotes health and hygiene, stimulates the interest of youth in water related careers, and promotes cultural diversity.

This competition targets grade six learners, who convey health and hygiene messages through arts medium i.e. drama, traditional music, poetry, praise singing and posters. Learners align their messages with the theme "Washing of hands, use and care of sanitation facilities for a healthy lifestyle".

The national competitions took place on 04 July 2012 and the winners were announced during the awards ceremony.

SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH WATER PRIZE

South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP): is a collaboration project with Sweden aimed at encouraging active participation of youth in integrated water resource management. Learners between grade nine and eleven are engaged in identifying problems and develop inventions and awareness projects to solve them. The project serves as an incubator for the Learning Academy.

Each year the winners compete in the Annual International Competition held in Sweden during the first week of September.

South Africa is proud to have produced two international winners in the past five years. The Department plans to promote this competition to other countries in Africa



AQUA- ENDURO COMPETITION

Aqua Enduro is one of the initiatives aimed at addressing the skills shortage in the scientific and engineering disciplines, targeting Grade 11 learners. The programme seeks to identify learners who not only have a passion for water but also the determination and discipline it takes to pursue a career in the water sector.

Aqua Enduro stems from World Water Monitoring Day celebrated on October 18th each year. This day under the auspices of the International Water Association highlights the importance of monitoring the quality of water both resource and drinking water.

The department has a campaign each year to spread the message about the importance of monitoring the quality of tap water and about knowing the quality of the water resources in one's area of residence. Bursaries are to be awarded to learners who excelled at every level of the competition.

INTERVENTION PROJECTS (ECO SCHOOLS)

Intervention Projects are projects that are identified by both the educators and the learners. They identify problems related to water, sanitation and develop a plan to solve the problems and later engage to various projects aimed at solving the problems. The schools participate for a period of three years and thereafter an impact assessment is conducted.

The objectives of Intervention Projects are:

- To implement intervention projects aimed at solving water and sanitation related problems in their schools and communities.
- To ensure that every educator and learner is exposed to environmental education.
- To improve the lives of the learners e.g. improve sanitation for better health.
- To ensure an environmentally sustainable attitude to life and development.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

This competition is targeted at Grade 11 learners. It focuses on the impacts of climate change on water resources and encourages learners to consider adaptation strategies and activities.

Each year, nine learners from all nine provinces compete on a given topic and the first three will be awarded with bursaries to study water-related courses at university.

This initiative is critical to ensuring more learners are aware of water sector careers, particularly in the engineering and sciences fields. The bursaries form part of the Department's Learning Academy Programme



“ The trouble with water- and there is trouble with water-is that they're not making any more of it. They're not making any less, mind you, but no more either. There is the same amount of water in the planet now as there was in prehistoric times. People, however, they're making more of - many more, far more than is ecologically sensible-and all those people are utterly dependent on water for their lives. Humans consist mostly of water, for their livelihoods, their food, and increasingly, their industry. Humans can live for a month without food but will die in less than a week without water. Humans consume water, discard it, poison it, waste it, and restlessly change the hydrological cycles, indifferent to the consequences: too many people, too little water, water in the wrong places and in the wrong amounts. ”

Marq de Villiers, Water, 2000



YOUTH SUMMIT ON WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A MINISTERIAL EVENT CELEBRATING YOUTH IN WATER

The Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change is an intensive education programme that addresses water, environmental issues and careers. It is a week-long event held in June each year – to coincide with Youth Month in South Africa.

The summit covers initiatives done on educational youth programmes from different units such as Water Use Efficiency, Working for Water, Water Quality and Transformation.

The key objectives of the Youth Summit are to:

- Bring together young people to a centralized venue for purposes of knowledge sharing on issues of water and climate change.
- Foster awareness of water and environment and increase enthusiasm in youth to pursue water and forestry related careers.
- Integrate Youth Education Programmes for maximum impact
- To expose learners and educators to topical issues on water and climate change

During this week, the Minister awards prizes and bursaries to winners of the various competitions in schools that promote health and hygiene, excellence in innovation and those who have conveyed effective messages of water use and water value

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE SUMMIT?

At the Youth Summit on Water and Climate Change the youth have access to various programs and activities that will further enhance their knowledge and interest in water and climate change.

Excursions: Learners are taken on excursions to various sites such as water treatment plants and river health projects.

Youth Debate: A forum for debate is held each year on issues of water and climate change. Teams of learners compete against each other on specified topics. The Minister at the Awards Ceremony awards the winning teams

Clinics: Experts in the field of water and climate change provide interesting lectures on topical issues.

Exhibitions: Learners are exposed to various stakeholders in the water sector – who exhibit and discuss water sector careers and latest technologies on water

African Participation:

The youth summit has a dedicated session for the out of school youth which is attended by the young people from African continent to:

- Provide an opportunity for countries in Africa to share various youth programmes being implemented in the water and sanitation sector and address challenges of climate change
- Provide a forum to discuss outcomes of various initiatives including Youth Programme Development Core Group meetings
- The Youth summit is also key in the process leading to the development and adoption of an AMCOW Africa youth strategy and implementation plan for the water and sanitation sector with a clear and harmonized strategy and action plan for active engagement of the youth in water and sanitation in Africa.
- Serve as a consultative forum to decide on strategic actions that need to be included in the youth strategy and streamline the institutionalization of the implementation plan across Africa.

National Awards Ceremony: The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs hosts an Awards ceremony on the final day of the summit to acknowledge excellence in teaching and learning on issues of water and climate change. Learners who have been competing in the various action projects of the Department, like BLM and Youth Debate will receive prizes and certificates of excellence from the Minister at the ceremony. The Awards Ceremony is followed by a celebratory function to mark the end of the Annual Water Summit.





2020 VISION

“Looking forward
to the future
together”

Mr. Curtis Mabena
Director
BBBEE, Schools
Intervention and Youth



Mr. Vukani Mtya
Deputy Director
School Interventions &
Water Literacy



Department of Water Affairs

Sedibeng Building
Schoeman Street
Pretoria
South Africa

PHONE:
012 336 8317

FAX:
086 746 9938

E-MAIL:
malemam@dwa.gov.za