



INTERNET ARTICLE

Blue Deal programme strengthens South African Municipalities' efforts towards Green Drop certification

19 May 2023

The South African organisations collaborating in the Blue Deal Crocodile River partnership welcomed their Dutch Water Authority colleagues to the Mpumalanga region. The collaboration with the Dutch is part of the worldwide Blue Deal programme. The working visit proved to be a success, with high energy levels and motivation among all participants. The visit focused on the establishment of four different task teams, which have been made operational in the areas of:

- business planning and finance
- technical capacitation
- communication and intergovernmental relations
- data monitoring and sharing

Knowledge exchange

The purpose of this work visit was to exchange knowledge between South African and Dutch superintendents. In December 2022, the South African superintendents visited Netherlands as part of the Blue Deal 'buddying and twinning' peer learning programme and to learn from their Dutch counterparts. This time, the Dutch visited their South African counterparts to learn from and thus collaborate on the operation of participating Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs).

Green Drop

The collaboration between South Africa and Dutch is focused on the development of Green Drop improvement plans and asset registers, which are critical to improving the municipalities' score on the Green Drop and ultimately securing a Green Drop certificate. Working towards this certificate will enhance the operation of WWTWs, improve the discharge quality, and consequently boost the quality of the Crocodile River. A river water quality is vital for both the animals living in the Crocodile River and for those communities downstream that use water for drinking, for irrigating their crops and for religious purposes.

Reaffirm collaboration

Meetings between leadership of various national and local partner organisations and the municipalities of Mbombela, Nkomazi and Emakhazeni were held to reaffirm collaboration in the Blue Deal Crocodile River partnership and to celebrate the progress made.

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SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY



Sustainable future

The Crocodile River team is confident that this work visit will significantly contribute to improved Green Drop scores during new assessments later this year. This exciting development brings us one step closer to securing a sustainable future for the Crocodile River and surrounding communities.

Rianne Verhoef