



WfSGD CSO PRESENTATION

26 March 2009



How can we meet the
needs of today without
diminishing the capacity of
future generations to meet
theirs?



- Sustainable growth and development implies focusing on the consequences of our actions and activities of “TODAY”
- We as CSOs believe in the full involvement of civil society to reach viable solutions in this process



For Civil Society:

In this process it is important for Civil Society to focus on the considerable number of areas where there is agreement and common ground for involvement and to agree to respectfully disagree on the smaller number of areas of difference.



For Government:

Where previously it presented a problem, government should recognise that in this process one of the strengths of Civil Society stems from its diversity and broad local knowledge



- Civil society actors all across of the world have – in their own, often small, ways – always practiced sustainable development through their actions, projects, research and programmes.
- Where political will has been ambiguous, market incentives have been inadequate, academics been off the mark, – **the actions of civil society has always been in pursuit of sustainability**



- Sustainable development for Civil Society is not a blueprint.
- It always involves newness --a new way of pulling things together, new ways of mobilizing and saving resources, new ways of building communities, stimulating economic activity or adapting technology.



- For Civil Society it is not so much about *measuring* sustainable development, but *recognizing* sustainable development
- Recognizing processes and actions that have the potential to lead to sustainable development.
- The key question to ask is how to identify qualities that characterize sustainable development—how to know what will be successful



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- Excited about this initiative and process
- Assure the WSLG of our commitment to this process
- Already initiated a CSO process to input into documents and to help search for opportunities and solution



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- In November last year at a small CSO meeting a presentation raised several issues of which sustainable growth and development was but one burning issue.
- At that juncture we as CSO representatives requested a meeting with DWAF, the drafting team of the strategy etc to be able to engage the strategy as it was drafted.



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- In February 2008 Civil Society representatives attended the National Water Summit and joined the pillar discussions on WFSGD
- To show the commitment -- 4 CSO champions were identified by DWAF as CSO representatives to initiate and co-ordinate a CSO perspective and input as the strategy was developed.
- A co-ordinator among the CSO's was identified to coordinate and drive the process



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- Since the summit and the acceptance by the champions to take forward the matters several CSO processes has unfolded.



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS



- An initial CSO meeting was held at Willow Park to introduce and discuss the WFGD strategy and to obtain the initial round of input as response to the very draft strategy that had come out
- The DWAF WFSGD Team made a presentation to this meeting and vibrant discussion ensued.
- The next day a team wrote up a substantial response to the very draft strategy--meeting the April 11 deadline.



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- On the 18th April the CSO champions met with DWAF, to develop a plan of Action for the CSO process
- A series of activities and deadlines were identified, to make our participation as broad as possible, but still meet all the deadlines as set by the process.



CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS



- Will post our workshop dates and timeline here





CIVIL SOCIETY PROCESS

- Through our CSO process and participation, we will help to identify solutions and actions



We identify seven key investments that are likely to yield sustainable development dividends:

- Investment in people
- Investment in innovation
- Investment in institutions
- Investment in communication
- Investment in partnerships
- Investment in support systems
- Investment in imitation—learn from what have been done



- Sustainable development will bear fruit if it is rooted in the practices and perspectives of communities; if it enhances the coping and adaptive strategies of these communities; if it uses the available resources (metaphorically sunlight, water, and bio-matter) wisely and efficiently; if it rests upon the integrity of the ecosystem in which it is being planted; if it can adjust its growth as conditions change; if it can weather extremes; and if it develops mechanisms for cross-fertilization and exchange with other processes.



However, from the perspective of civil society organizations that work in such communities, it is the local impact that determines whether an initiative will lead to sustainable development.

- Sustainable development is by nature interdisciplinary; it cuts across issue boundaries – and so does community knowledge.--

Sustainable development must be rooted in the priorities of the community and in people itself



Sustainable development is not about making tradeoffs between environment and

- development; it is about seeking synergies between the two. Sustainable
- development is not about solving a single problem; it is about developing the
- capacity to solve a succession of problems. This is impossible unless the goal of
- building a community is placed at the center, viewed as a necessary condition rather
- than an ancillary benefit of sustainable development. The community's interests and
- involvement, therefore, are not just important because they make implementation
- easier; they are important because the building of communities is, in and of itself, a
- measure of sustainable development, a key identifying mark.



WFSGD is a critical strategy for the sector and is indeed the space in which CSO's can by and large make valuable input.

- As CSO' many of us have our ears and eyes on the ground and are acutely aware of how the current use and approach to water use impacts broader society.
- By nature of who we are it is in our interest to see water both as a resource and service be used sustainably and equitably.
- But since water is not just significant to CSO's in WATSAN, we have taken it upon ourselves to involve our fellow CSO's in other sectors –mining, agriculture, health , energy, gender, academic, churches, environment etc etc since they too directly and / or indirectly will be impacted by the strategy.
- Equally important they will bring a sector specific perspective and raise issues related to water in their sector.



It is hoped that through this eclectic approach a comprehensive strategy that takes cognizance of the broader issues will be developed.

- One which address: the current inefficiencies, inadequacies and misuse of water as a valuable resource and as a service.
- The vision is that through a common understanding and point of departure water can be used effectively as a catalysts for sustainable growth which in turn leads to sustainable development.
- Sustainable socially, environmentally and economically