

## CONCEPT PAPER: FLAGSHIP PROJECTS FOR ADOPT-A-RIVER

The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs appealed in her budget speech to the members of parliament serving in the water and environment portfolio committee, the public, private companies and NGOs to: “Adopt a river” so that we can jointly protect and manage the nation’s water resources in order to meet the needs of current and future generations.

### 1. RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

The Adopt a River project aims to piece together in a sustainable manner the objectives of aquatic ecosystem health, economic growth, human health and co-dependent land and water use principles. Human behaviour lies at the hub of most, if not all, of these aspects and will be treated as the key success factor in sustainability of the programme.

The Adopt-a-River approach enables active participation of communities in our Programmes and projects to ensure sustainability. The municipalities, sector partners, tertiary institutions, schools, private sector, agricultural communities, industries, community leaders and women in the vicinity of targeted rivers will be the key role players of the Adopt a River project. The spin offs here will be water saving, skills development for our youth, job creation, improvement of water quality and of the state of our rivers. The Department intends to swiftly broaden this initiative to other areas in future engaging with, these sector partners; i.e. municipalities, industries and agricultural sectors. And to share lessons learned through this initiative.

“I would like to encourage more partnerships in water conservation, such as a widening of the “Adoption” concept, and other practices aimed at reducing consumption” (taken from the budget vote speech of the Deputy Minister on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010).

### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- Cleaning solid waste from river banks
- Provision of **work-based training program** including basic water quality testing to monitor quality of water in the rivers that increase opportunities for women to participate in the workforce
- To create training opportunities that promote self-esteem and life skills development
- To alleviate poverty and create temporary jobs
- Promote the spirit of volunteerism
- To enhance community participation in cleaning their environment and promote more public sector accountability
- Provide education on preserving the environment

- To provide communities with a caring and trusting environment that encourages personal development and a breeding ground for talent
- To promote partnerships and volunteer actions that will facilitate the fulfillment of the Departmental mission of provision of sustainable water resources.

### 3. PRIORITY RIVERS AND REGIONS IDENTIFIED

The following rivers have been identified as priority rivers for the initial implementation of Adopt-a-River project. The Department of Water Affairs will be focusing on these rivers during Phase 1 of the implementation phase.

Name of river	Province	Implementing Agent
Isipingo	*Kwa Zulu Natal	Umgenti Water Board
Luvubu River	Limpopo	Lepelle Water Board
Buffalo River	Eastern Cape	Amatola Water Board

### 4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

**The following institutional arrangements will be put in place;**

- A national project manager to manage the Adopt-a-River project
- National project coordinator for the Adopt-a-River initiative who will coordinate project activities and support Regions in the implementation the project. The national coordinator will ensure required training and capacity building needs are catered for.
- National Gender focal person will have the responsibility of ensuring the appointment of relevant Water Boards in each Region for the implementation and management of the projects, Monitor implementation and report on Gender targets reached in each project.
- A Regional co-coordinator (DWA Regional offices) will be responsible for implementation and coordination of project at regional level. This coordinator will be responsible to bring together all sector role players and partners in the region. The coordinator is also responsible for reporting on monthly progress of the project.
- Local coordinator at municipal level to work with the Water Board in the identification and selection of women participants, coordinate local sector and stakeholder role-players and to monitor the project at the local level. The local coordinator will work closely with the Regional Coordinator

The Municipalities and the Regional office will be responsible for identification of and selection of women participants,

The Water Boards will be responsible for payment of stipends to women participants; project management and report progress bi weekly to the Regional Heads

- Regional Gender focal person will be responsible to ensure that gender targets are met and report on those gender targets. The Regional Gender focal person will also work closely with both Regional Coordinator and Local Coordinator
- National Technical Expert will be responsible for technical support and advise during initiation and duration of implementation of the project
- There will also be National Task team that will serve as a link between the office of the Deputy Minister and the Region

The National task team will oversee and support the Regional office to ensure smooth implementation of the project. It also has the responsibility of coordinating the Ministerial launches of these flagship projects during August 2010 as one of the commemoration for women's month. Report progress to the office of the Deputy Minister

The Provincial Task team coordinates project activities at local level. These activities includes;

- Lobbying for support of local politicians to the project.
- Facilitate and coordinate the launches of the Ministerial event at local level.
- Assess and request promotional material and protective clothing to be used during implementation of project.
- Mobilize institutional and community stakeholders, as well as potential sponsors and patrons before launching a along a specific river reach.

## **5. ADOPT A RIVER PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS**

- DWA
- Municipalities
- Water Boards
- Sector Departments (Environmental Affairs, Nature Conservation, Agriculture)
- Water User Associations
- Community representatives ( Civil Society Organizations)
- Women Participants
- Institutions of High learning
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Schools

The different roles and responsibilities on national, regional and local level are set out in the table below.

<b>Roles to be accommodated in a governance structure/ institutional framework for Adopt-a-River</b>	<b>National level</b>	<b>Regional level</b>	<b>Local level/ Mun, WUA, community</b>	<b>Water Boards</b>
Co-ordinate and facilitate implementation of Adopt-a-River project	x			
Inputs into operational design of Adopt-a-River programme	x	x	x	x
Mobilize and support Adopt-a-River task teams	x	x		
Develop programme publicity and training material	x			
Consultations in development of programme publicity and training material	x	x	x	x
Co-ordinate and disseminate information regarding programme	x	x	x	x
Marketing towards fund raising	x	x	x	
Provide adequate budget to sustain programme – seed money for volunteer monitoring also to be provided where necessary	x	x	x	
Ensure linkages to relevant national Programmes	x			
Representation on task teams to provide strategic guidance to Adopt-a-River programme	x	x	x	
Provide contact point and follow up mechanism for queries	x	x		
Implement policies to conserve and manage water resources		x	x	x
Procure, mobilize, coordinate and support Adopt-a-River expertise and resources - local and small scale initiatives will gradually develop	x	x	x	x
Identify source of funding for awareness, training, monitoring, river clean-ups and rehabilitation	x	x	x	x
Maintain communication channels between stakeholders, in accordance with national guidance	x	x		
Find patrons for the programme at a senior level		x	x	
Mobilise and involve role-players at local level to implement Adopt-a-River programme		x	x	
Ensure sustainable practices by riparian users who affect water resources			x	
Identify and coordinate local clean-up or restoration initiatives			x	
Support capacity building and knowledge sharing initiatives at local level		x	x	x

## 6. TARGET GROUPS

For Phase 1 of implementation, the “flagship” projects as identified above will target women.

Once Phase 2 of implementation starts, the benefits of this project can be extended to all individuals.

This project is aimed at improving the lives of women (with or without disability) within or without the youth category. The beneficiaries should be from poor rural background, should be from female headed households of the identified vicinity or location. The composition should be from the following categories:

- 100% women:
- 2% women with disabilities
- 60% from youth category.
- 40% women outside youth category

Women will be identified by the regional and local co-coordinator as they have knowledge of the communities within the area where the project will be done.

## 7. BUDGET

The payment of stipends will be from, the Directorate: Gender and Disability (Head office) which has been allocated funds from donor budget allocation. The funds will be transferred to the Water Boards for payment of stipend and management of the entire project. Phase 1 of this project will be implemented over a period of 12 months starting 01 July 2010 to 31 June 2011. The women participants will work three days per week receiving R70.00 per day. The stipend will be paid monthly. The working hours will be from 9h00 to 15h00 per day.

A summarized draft breakdown of the budget (for all 3 provinces/regions) is given below:

Activity	Budget
Training of beneficiaries	R100 000 x 3 = R300 000
Stipend	R1 051 200 x 3 = R3 153 600
Working tools	R50 000 x 3 = R150 000
Protective clothing	R50 000 x 3 = R150 000
Monitoring	R50 000 x 3 = R150 000
Certificates of participation	R20 000 x 3 = R60 000

Activity	Budget
Project Management	R300 000 x 3 = R900 000
IA Administration Fees @ 5%	R81 060 x 3 = R243 180
<b>Total</b>	<b>R5 106 780</b>

**Note:** The budget is VAT inclusive

## 8. TRAINING

Once the women who have to implement the project have been identified, they will be trained before commencement of the clean-ups. Training will include:

- Water safety and First Aid
- The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Separation of different waste streams.

In addition, additional training and capacity building will be on an ongoing basis during the duration of project implementation. These trainings will be provided based on the training needs identified.

## 9. TIMEFRAMES

For the flagship projects, the following timetable has been proposed:

Activity	Time frame	Responsible stakeholder
Presentation of the concept paper to the stakeholders and inputs	May 2010	Gender office Regional offices
Identification of the rivers and exact spots to be cleaned	Second week of June	Regional Offices Water Resource Management Support Resource Quality Services Municipalities Gender Office
Identification of project beneficiaries	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of June 2010	Municipalities ,appointed water boards, gender focal persons and regional coordinators
Induction Training of the beneficiaries For a week	4 <sup>th</sup> week of June	Regional Offices Working for Water Water Resource Management Support Resource Quality Services National and Regional Task teams Water Boards
Commencement of the Project	First week of July 2010	Regional Offices Identified Municipality Water Boards
Deputy Minister's project Launches	August 2010	Politicians

Activity	Time frame	Responsible stakeholder
		Communities Industries Agricultural communities Regional Offices Water Resource Management Support Resource Quality Services Municipalities Gender Office Water Boards
Monitoring and Evaluation for the duration of the project	Weekly/ Monthly	Directorate: Gender and Disability National coordinator with Regional coordinators and local coordinator Water Boards

## 10. ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

- Finding sources of pollution
- Develop interventions to curb further pollution
- Cleaning of solid waste in and around the river
- Training of participants on identified training needs, e.g. technical training such as water quality monitoring, health and safety including swimming, women empowerment training, different types of pollution;
- Taking of samples for monitoring
- Public education and Awareness about project and pollution in communities

It is important that these flagship projects are implemented before August 2010, so that the projects can be launched during commemoration of Women's Month.