



## *Major Water Infrastructure Development in Africa: Balancing economic, environmental and social aspects for sustainable outcomes*

*Regional Seminar, convened by SADC, EAC, NEPAD and AMCOW*

*25-27 July 2007, held at Ezulwini Valley, Swaziland*

### *Key Recommendations on the Way Forward*

#### Vision:

- To derive the greatest benefit from the envisaged water infrastructure development through sustainable outcomes, there is a need to adapt and incorporate new approaches to mobilise and utilise resources effectively.
- To this end the participants recommend the establishment of a **"new African culture of balancing social, environmental and economic components of water infrastructure development"** – encompassing policy development as well as practical implementation.

#### Concepts:

- To move towards the above vision, implementation of capacity building needs to be enhanced by learning from good practise in the region as well as internationally from reference material such as the UNEP DDP Compendium and adapting these lessons to local conditions.
- Appropriate individual capacity building should compliment the development of institutional and policy frameworks.

- Capacity building initiatives should include all relevant sectors (horizontal) as well as different levels (vertical) – encouraging networks and partnerships at all levels.
- Capacity building activities should include the enhancement of the skills and knowledge of civil society to interact meaningfully in decision-making and planning processes.

### **Embedding in political processes**

- The participants request the forthcoming SADC Summit (Aug 2007) as well as the EAC structures to commit to the sustainable balancing of the social, environmental and economic factors in the development of water infrastructure.
- The participants request the SADC Heads of State and the EAC to support the implementation of a capacity building programme in support of the above commitment.
- The participants recommend to SADC and EAC to submit the outcomes of this seminar and the resultant capacity building programme to the AMCOW Presidency and the NEPAD Secretariat.

### **Establishing Partnerships**

- Further, the participants recommend the wide dissemination of the key messages from this seminar to development partners regionally and internationally through a variety of forums, such as World Water Week in Stockholm, the Petersburg Dialogue in Bonn, and the African Water Week in Tunis.
- The participants recommend that a reference group, comprised of key development partners, be formed to champion the capacity building initiative and establish a partnership for the development of water infrastructure.

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