Wetskills-South Africa 2018

Overview of Study Cases

Case 1: The spark for accelerating practical training investments

Case owner: AquaDactics

Investing in staff and training is inevitable for a healthy and efficient water sector. A few years ago, the Non Profit Company AquaDactics was founded, in order to sustain training activities in South Africa in a self-supportive way. AquaDactics' philosophy of creating and maintaining a Pool of local Trainers and development of training material with a focus on the practice was co-created, spread and acknowledged by various partners in the South African water sector. However, it is still waiting for a spark to get this rolling. How can we create this spark in the coming year?

Case 2: Transboundary basin management: the challenge of creating a win-win situation

Case owner: Lesotho Department of Water Affairs

Water is one of the most important natural resources of Lesotho. The unique geographic location positions Lesotho as the 'Water Tower' of Southern Africa. Its wetlands sustain the perennial water flow of a.o the Senqu-Orange river system, shared by South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. Unfortunately, the water system in Lesotho is threatened by degradation and climate change, and so are its downstream communities, who are for their economic activities and water availability very much depending on quality water coming from Lesotho. Are there ways for the downstream riparians to influence the situation in the upstream watershed?

Case 3: Floods and droughts: Keeping awareness after the crisis

Case owner: Water Authority Drents Overijsselse Delta

Dams and dikes have long protected societies around the world from too little or too much water. However, citizens are largely unaware of the efforts those government agencies take to achieve water security and ensure water availability for the people. They suddenly wake up when an extreme event takes place, such as drought or flood. Extreme weather patterns intensify and societies have become more dependent on their water resources. To be better prepared for extreme events and to maintain support for (expensive) investments in infrastructure, it is critical to keep awareness among the population alive. But how?

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Case 4: A YES to Water Revenue Collection with…

Case owner: Kingfisher programme & Water Authority Rijnland

Paying for water management and treatment is a real challenge in parts of South Africa. Last year approximately 160 municipalities did not paid a cent of their water bills, although it is written in national laws that for water use and water pollution should be paid. Since the Dutch waterboards have a long-standing relation with many parties in the South-African water sector, there may be opportunities to collaborate on the issue of 'the polluter pays', and see what works and what does not in the Dutch setting that could be implemented in the South-African system, and vice versa. From this comparative analysis, can you think of creative ways of how more willingness can be created in both countries to have polluters (sustainably) pay for water?

Case 5: Climate Scan in African Cities

Case owner: Tauw

Climate change is here to stay, so we have to adapt. From surveys around the world (but mainly from Europe) it is concluded that people are in need of Best Management Practices (BMP) to motivate them to implement climate adaptation measures: both technical and governance aspects. International interactive open source tools (in our case www.climatescan.nl, check it out!) are used to promote engagement with stakeholders in the field of climate change and related environmental issues. But their potential is often not fully utilised. Can you help us with the question how to promote climate adaptation specifically in Africa, and make stakeholders implement and share their BMPs?

Case 6: Avoid Day Zero due to lowering Capetonians' Water Footprint

Case owner: City of Cape Town & Water Footprint Implementation

Cape Town was suffering the most serious drought in recent years. In 2018, the forecasts even warned for a Day Zero: the day when supply would come to an end. A large water saving campaign was (successfully) launched to lower the individual direct water consumption to almost a quarter of the normal use, at 50 l per capita per day. However, looking at the total Water Footprint of consumption, this direct water use is only just over 1% of the total of 3400 l per capita that is consumed each day. The remaining 99% of the water consumption is hidden in the production and use of cloths, food, drinks, transportation, etc. Taking measures in that 99% 'hidden' water use may lead to lower scarcity levels in the future, at perhaps a lower effort than for the direct consumption?