

MARCH 2021 | WATER FOR ALL

WATER E-MANUAL

The ultimate water guide and awareness kit

NATIONAL WATER
WEEK 2021 EDITION

#WaterForAll
#WaterToMe
#ValuingWater

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The evolution of life, changes on a continual basis. With the need for development and population growth, pressure on our receiving environment are increasingly being threatened. Our very own resources are depleting and the quality compromised. As water management is a great contributing factor to environmental management the intention of this manual is aimed directly at water and its offerings to life on earth.

The release of this e-manual is tied to National Water Week (NWW) {15 - 22 March} and World Water Day {22 March} which are aimed at highlighting the key pressures and opportunities within the water industry. This e-manual will explore water realities and opportunities. This e-manual should be useful to all stakeholders that are water users. This information provided was intentionally incorporated to ensure that awareness is triggered, moreso planting the desire to change behaviours and contribute towards water protection.

In the drive of achieving the mandate of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), it is imperative to ensure that all levels of government, industry, schools and communities contribute towards fulfilling this mandate, as the water system needs a collaborative approach.



Kusini Water

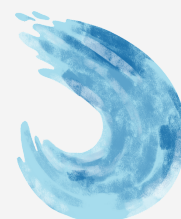
"Access to clean water changes a lot in a community, from food, health, days in school and reduction of communicable diseases. Working with communities, with youth and with partners we can ensure every child gets attend school with no fear of waterborne diseases. This is an important guide in ensuring that we create universal access to clean water by 2030."

Lantern Learning

Lantern Learning is an organisation that aims to promote emerging green leaders and environmental management through different creative mediums. This is done to uplift disadvantaged communities whilst highlighting sustainable livelihoods, establishing green solutions and further evoke environmental awareness and consciousness. Lantern Learning believes that South Africans should start doing their part in conserving the limited water resources that we still have, to assist those that have been tasked with providing us with this right, this e-manual acts as a point of reference for further action. We need to start protecting the very resource that gives us life.

KE Dinaledi

KE Dinaledi is an organisation that seeks to empower women and the youth in terms of sustainability, looking to environmental contributions, social justice, developmental opportunities and wellness. As an organisation, KE Dinaledi understand the value of integrated processes in driving change and as such strategically partner with different role players in addressing critical issues faced by our very own communities. With National Water Week, our aim is to further fast track the conversation and implementation to further eliminate the disparities tied to water and its access.





ALL THINGS WATER

#WaterForAll | #WaterToMe | #ValuingWater

The notion that water is life stems from the fact that our very existence and life on earth is centered around water and all its offerings. Water is a contributing factor to the growth and development of the country as serving multiple sectors; agriculture, industry and domestic. Essentially, water and its service offerings are critical in building an economy, social justice and achieving environmental protection.

South Africa is a water stressed country, prone to drought with less than 75% annual rainfall. Climate change is a big threat to the water cycle alerting processes such as evaporation, precipitation and transpiration. A change in these elements threatens our food security, drink water supply and access as well as development opportunities. Directly the impacts include the increased occurrence in natural disasters, wildfires and extreme weather conditions.

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WHEN THE WELL'S DRY, WE KNOW
THE WORTH OF WATER –
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

“

The water system is based on different elements that make it thrive and possible to fulfill its function. A threat or change in the water system is a direct reflection of the planning, management, monitoring and associated rehabilitation taking place. The consequence of the lack of implementation gives rise to socio-economic such as equalities, access restrictions, health complications and political unrest.

National Water Week (NWW) is aimed at educating the public about their responsibility in water conservation initiatives, raising awareness around the need to protect and conserve the country's water resources. The Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHWS) celebrates Water Week by urging everyone to use water sparingly to ensure 'Water For All'. The week runs from 15 - 22 March annually comprising of different activities in honor of the week and value of water thereof. World Water Day is the foundation of the Water Week which is honored annually on 22 March.





THE VERY RIGHT TO BE HUMAN IS DENIED EVERYDAY TO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF POVERTY, THE UNAVAILABILITY OF BASIC NECESSITIES SUCH AS FOOD, JOBS, WATER AND SHELTER, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. - NELSON MANDELA



SOUTH AFRICAN TALE

- 88% of SA households have access to water
- Piped water in less than 50% of SA homes
- South Africa has less water per person than Botswana & Namibia
- South Africa is the 39th 'driest' country in the world
- Just 66% of average annual rainfall in 2015, evidence of climate change

How are women and girls affected by lack of clean water?

Women and girls bear the greatest burden because in the developing world they are most likely to be responsible for hauling water to their homes. With the time and effort that is dedicated to collecting water daily compromises the the ability to focus on pursuing school and income activities to improve their lives.

Girls who attend school until adolescence are more likely to drop out when they start menstruating unless their school has clean water, latrines, sanitary supplies, and hygiene training. Helping young women to manage menstrual health is not just about providing appropriate facilities, but also includes addressing social norms.

At childbirth, lack of sanitation, clean water, and proper hygiene contribute to high rates of disease and death among mothers and newborns in the developing world. Many organisations have come together in the aim of addressing and accelerating the implementation of water strategies.





GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

#WaterForAll

Different levels of government have presented guidelines for which planning and implementation of activities impacting water need to adhere to. Some of the available guidelines include but not subjected to:

- The Constitution of South Africa.
- The National Groundwater Strategy; aims to improve the recognition of the strategic value and use and protection of groundwater in South Africa. This strategy is to ensure that groundwater is protected as part of the South Africa's water resources (DWS, 2010).
- National Water Act (36 of 1998); this act deals with all surface water and groundwater. It provides a framework that protects water resources from over-exploitation and to ensure that there is water for all future developments. The Act recognizes that water belongs to the whole nation and should be benefitted by everyone.
- Blue Drop Status; It is a programme implemented by the DWS to encourage continuous improvement and to acknowledge drinking water services management in South Africa. This programme renders a service to ensure that municipalities provide water services supply water that is safe to be drank by the communities (WRC, 2015).

Existing gaps

The biggest challenge in addressing water resource management lies in the integration of strategies and implementation to address the overall water related issues.

Government in its operation runs over different levels which feeds into the planning and practice of the set mandate.

At a local and provincial level, maintenance continues to be an issue leading to the direct impact on the environment. The sources include sewage and wastewater generation, domestic waste mismanagement, lack of functional stormwater infrastructure and lack of rehabilitation.

On all levels of government, the integration of the other levels of government are seemingly disjointed which allow for gaps and the mismanagement of the resource. This may be curbed by understanding the different elements that feed into this and the involvement of the contributing, interested and affected role players.

We cannot lose hope considering the potential for improvement. May we be reminded that guidelines are yet a framework for better management and implementation, and that our collective behaviours speak louder!



NEED TO KNOW FACTS

Water Services

- Food that is consumed relies heavily on water availability and quality.
- Irrigation practices contribute towards the agricultural industry
- Clothing
- Social
- Access, availability

Water is uniquely vulnerable to pollution, which increases the rate of risk to pollution. Known as a “universal solvent,” water is able to dissolve more substances than any other liquid on earth. Environmentally speaking, water is a natural processor for addressing toxins that exist in our environments and water bodies. This further stressed why water is so easily polluted.

We need to have a deeper look into ourselves to see which behaviours are triggering environmental harm and enforce change as far as practically possible.

Determine your generic water footprint

- Washing fruits and vegetables under running water
- Having broken faucets
- Having long showers
- Watering garden with the hose pipe and at midday
- Washing the car with a hose pipe
- Releasing wastewater
- Spillages and/or leaks
- Illegal dumping and littering

Due to water flow, the issues faced by a specified area are not necessarily a result or source of the adjacent community.

The global water crisis

- 844 million people lack access to basic drinking water, that is 1 in 10 people.
- Women and girls spend an estimated 200 million hours hauling water every day.
- The average woman in rural Africa walks 6 kilometers every day to haul 18 kg of water.
- Every day, more than 800 children under age 5 die from diarrhea attributed to poor water and sanitation.
- By 2050, at least 1 in 4 people will likely live in a country affected by chronic or recurring fresh-water shortages.
- 2.3 billion people live without access to basic sanitation.
- 892 million people practice open defecation.
- One of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals aims to provide universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030.
- 90% of all natural disasters are water-related.





GET INVOLVED

Context

An investment in clean water, combined with basic sanitation and hygiene education, is one of the most effective ways to improve lives and fight extreme poverty. The benefits include:

- Families become healthier: Water, sanitation, and hygiene programs work together to powerfully prevent the spread of most illnesses, and are one of the most effective ways to reduce child deaths.
- Children are better nourished: Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene help kids grow taller, smarter, and stronger. They get more nutrition from the food they eat because they are not sick. Families are able to use water to irrigate gardens for more nutritious food year-round.
- Children can attend and excel in school: When children don't have to walk long distances to get water, they have more time to attend school and more energy to learn. This is especially important for girls, who most often collect water for the family.
- Family income improves: Families spend less money on healthcare and are better able to pay for things like school supplies and fees. Water also is used for income-generating activities like making soap, bricks, and shea butter, as well as watering livestock and gardens.

How

- Reduce your plastic consumption and reuse or recycle plastic when you can.
- Properly dispose of hazardous waste (chemical, oils, electronic, non-biodegradable items and medical) to keep them from ending up down the drain.
- Maintain your vehicle to limit potential leakages.
- If you have a yard, consider landscaping that reduces runoff and take note of the fertilizers used.
- Add mulch to your soil to help retain its moisture and harvest rain water to water your plants.

Avoid

- Washing your fruits or vegetables under running water, consider using a bowl or contain the water with a stopper/plug.
- Running water to get cold water, keep a jug of cold water in the refrigerator at all times.
- Brushing your teeth while running water, use a cup.
- Washing your hands with running water, close the tap when scrubbing your hands.
- Leaky taps or pipes and report/fix as soon as possible. Additionally, close taps properly. Fixing leaking could potentially help you save 60 liters of water and save you from extensive damages to structural property and water bill.
- Not taking any sort of consideration into landscaping and the design.
- Watering your garden during the day, this is because the heat will evaporate the water before it reaches the plants or vegetables roots. Rather water your garden early in the morning or at the end of the day as this will help you save water.



CLOSING STATEMENT

Water makes all of life possible. However the demands imposed by the growing population and development, further threaten this resource. It is now more important to address the underlying issues tied to water and it's services. This requires a collaborative approach and relies not on a single body but community at large.



WATER IS LIFE



Sources:

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