

Erongo stakeholder Focus Group Discussions (FGD): Kuiseb Basin Management Committee (KBMC) and Omaruru Basin Management Committee (OmBMC)

Date: 23 September 2009

Time: 14:30

Present: Susan Roux, Joel Kooitjie, Maria Amakali, Sebedeus Swartbooi, Emily Mutota, Uahorehua, E.P. Shiluama, H Mufadda, D.J. Kuaere, E.E. Nowaseb, Joh Henschel, Patrik Klintonberg, Ben van der Merwe, Fransiska Gamises and Clarence Mazambani. (see annexure 1)

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. BMC functions
3. Challenges
4. BMC objective in the IWRM Plan
5. Proposed actions
6. Annexure
7. Acronyms & abbreviations

1. Introduction (presented by Clarence)

The objective of the meeting was to look at components of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plan with relevance to the Basin Management Committees (BMC).

2. Functions of the BMC based on of Act 2004 (presented by Clarence)

Questions (SH): Can I have clarification? Does it mean that the BMC cannot conduct research or is the capacity to develop a water research agenda lacking?

Response (JV): Generally, there are limitations experienced in the BMCs. For example, the Ishana BMC cannot conduct the research agenda due to lack of capacity and skills.

Comments: You don't need to be a researcher to identify limited information on a particular subject. What is indeed required is to identify the needs in the basin and then bring forth the experts to investigate and conduct research. **(SH)**

Don't remove the development of water research agenda as one of the functions of BMC. If the BMC does not have the skills, then it becomes the goal on the agenda to develop the skills. **(SH)**

Comment: The BMCs don't need to carry out all the listed functions. It depends on the capacity, the need and the importance of the function to the basin. **(JV)**

3. Challenges with implementation

Comment: Aune is the coordinator within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry for all the BMCs under the Basin Management Committee coordination unit. The structure is such that there is a representative attached to each BMC. For example, Reinhold is attached to Kavango, Kuniberth is attached to the Fish river basin, Sylvanus is attached to Ishana (he is on the government structure) and Eben Nowaseb is attached to the Omaruru basin. **(JV)**

There is limited stakeholder engagement due to unclear benefits. For example, in the Fish river basin, it was difficult to involve NamWater with the project that was ongoing. Ishana also had challenges to engage the regional and town councils. Similarly, in the KBMC, it was difficult to engage the people of Walvisbay to attend meetings about the 2006 disasters (3 weeks of water shortage). **(JV)**

The OmBMC has consistent involvement with the stakeholder's forum (technical manager of Omaruru municipality, chairperson of regional council, traditional headmen etc.) that consists of 32 committee members. **(SH)**

Outcomes, Intentions and Progress of OmBMC

- Intend to meet with the Minister with the recommendation on things that need to be accomplished.
- The following are the steps taken so far and the intentions;
 - Agenda was developed
 - Submitted the agenda for approval
 - Will start with approved items based on priority
 - Will conduct data gap assessment of DWAF database to establish facts
 - Will propose a project to fill the gaps in data
 - Will set up of database based on the gap analysis to complement the database of DWAF
 - Will source funding
- There is limited direction provided on what to do from the DWAF to OmBMC
- Good support from stakeholders
- Need someone to provide guidelines for what OmBMC needs to do.

- In order to fill the gaps in capacity building, OmBMC want DWAF to tell them what skill need to be developed
- OmBMC waited 10 months for government to give legal recognition so that the committee can legally constitute to sign the lease.
- The intention of OmBMC was to set an agenda that will meet the needs of the government.
- The way the concept of BMC was introduced in Omaruru seemed liked the BMC would be spoon fed, thus dependant on the government for direction. Further, OmBMC wanted to have clarification on what their mandate and functions are.
- Problems were also encountered in opening a bank account for OmBMC since the legality of their existence was not clear.

Outcomes from KBMC

- KBMS was established before the Water Resources Management Act (WRMA) was in place and this guided the formulation of the WRMA to a certain extent based on the lessons learned.
- There is close link with DWAF but little buy in from Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET).
- Limited funding
- The involvement of stakeholders ceased after the ELAK phase, which included a series of workshops that led to the formation the KBMC.
- The main challenge is to get the reflections from the stakeholders on how they can be engaged.

Comments:

- Currently, DWAF is in the comparison stage of the BMCs. OmBMC waits on government to approve what needs to be done whereas KBMC doesn't wait for instructions from the government to initiate a task. (JV)
- The Ishana basin committee had similar challenges in engaging the stakeholders (Water Point Committee). (JV)
- There is a standard constitution for the Water Point Committee (WPC). It can be worthwhile to set up something similar for the BMCs, with a framework on what the BMC can do. (JV)
- KBMC drew up their constitution in 2003 outlining how the KBMC operates but not including the roles and responsibilities. OmBMC also has a constitution that was adapted from the constitution of KBMC and officially approved by the government. (SH)
- The Act that keeps on changing is an issue of concern because the constitution of the BMCs has to be changed accordingly to reflect what is in the act. (SH)
- The strategic plan for the BMC was rolled out in 2004 and was derailed due to changes in the act. Now, with the IWRM Plan and the revised act, the path of the BMC will be easily formalized. (JV)

4. Objectives for the BMC in the Plan

- *BMCs will be formalised and their contributions will be evolving and deepening – should we set targets as was done for Community Basin Management (CBM)?*

Comment: It is suggested to set targets instead of wanting to accomplish all the functions of the BMCs which are currently difficult to execute. **(JV)**

The targets are linked to the basin plans. Also, the time frame is attached to the Plan. (JV)

Question (SH): How will the Kuiseb Water Resources Plan align to the under way IWRM Plan? Will the IWRM Plan incorporate the KWRMP?

Response (JV): IWRM Plan will be used as a guiding tool for the basins that have not yet developed their plan.

Question (JV): How does the Community Based Management (CBM) program for rural water supply operate?

Response (SH): The aim of CBM is to hand over the water points for ownership. Before handing over, legal entities are required that will be recognized to legally own government assets/properties. Therefore, there are structures in place like the water point associations (community members sharing a water point), constitution and a management plan (differ from water point to water point, depending on the need). There is however an executing structure within the water point association, called the water point executive. By 2010, all water point associations under the rural water supply will be handed over in 3 phases; capacity building for staff and community members, operation and maintenance (water points leased to community to see how capable they are to run the water points), water point hand over for ownership.

Some challenges experienced in the CBM are lack of cooperation between water point association and the water point members, poor contributions from community etc.

Comment: There is a mentality in the topnaar community that water must be free. This implies that there is no willingness from the community to contribute to the association. The solution is to change the mindset of the community. **(SH)**

OmbMC

Challenge: The financial budget ends in October 2009 and there is no chance to plan passed October. The strategic plan on the way forward is to be developed by the OmbMC. The problem is that the OmbMC doesn't know if what they planned to do is in line with the IWRM Plan. "We know where we are going, but we do not know if this is what the government wants..."The budget was submitted in October 2008 and approved in September 2009.

The OmBMC now has only 2 months to implement their budget as government took about 10 months to approve the basin plan.

Question (JV): Who is to play the role of guiding and giving directions to the BMCS?

Response (SH): OmBMC has a plan but the following steps can be followed to get the government to acknowledge that basin plans are in line with the IWRM Plan:

- Guidelines were given which gives the functions of the BMC
- Stakeholders identify the issues with the basin
- These issues are put in a plan that has a vision, objective and an action plan with targets.

Question (JV): Who is providing funding for OmBMC and do you fully depend on it or is there co-funding?

Response (SH): The funding is from the Danish (Danida) and we depend on donor money fully. We also recognized that it is not sustainable.

Question (JV): Does the WRMA make provision for the abstraction money to be allocated to BMC. Is it still in the act?

Response (SH): Yes, some of the intention is that money generated from the abstraction within a basin will be allocated to the BMC

Question (SH): Will OmBMC be able to spent the N\$ 200 000 before the end of October?

Response (SH): Yes, the money will be spent on salaries, travel and maintenance, which is over N\$ 70 000. Other activities include IWRM training (including this focused group meeting), development and design of the logo and materials.

■ *BMCs will have a recognised statutory/advisory role?*

Comment: There is opportunity for BMC to assist DWAF, e.g. in collecting water abstraction data information especially in the Karst Area or sensitising the government on issues like security of supply within the basin as in the case of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay which experience infrastructure problems. **(JV)**

Question (SH): Do water point committees have a statutory role?

Response (JV): From the reading of the act, it appeared statutory, though there were limitations like opening a bank account.

Question (JV): What is your opinion on the role of the BMC? Is it statutory or advisory? Is BMC a body corporate in terms of the legal status?

Response:

OmBMC view

- OmBMC has a statutory role because it exists, functions and levies funds.
- It also has an advisory function due to the role it plays by informing and advising DWAF on what is taking place on the ground in the basin.
- BMCs and DWAF should work in a cooperative paradigm to meet both their needs.

KBMC view

- The foundation of the BMC is designed to serve as the representative of the citizens, therefore, emphasis is on the stakeholders
- BMCs are linked to government but are not an arm of the government or civil servants
- KBMC doesn't direct what should be done in the basin, but is a link between the government and citizen needs.

Comments: BMC and local authorities need to have the mandate to inform the public on pollution control issues and not wait for central government to react and inform the public. **(JV)**

Question (SH): According to the Water Resources Management Act (WRMA), can the BMCs license the boreholes for production and capacity? What about the source of income for the basin?

Response (JV): No, BMC can only advise if they support the approval of a licence as the function for licensing is with DWAF. The BMC receives an income from the levy charged on the abstraction licence which requires a statutory status.

Question (JV): In the WRMA, BMC is an association. Can such entities receive money from government or donors?

Response (JV): The suggestion is to have a basin office, run by government staff in each basin. Once the basin plan as per activity is submitted and approved, the funds will be made available through the basin office.

5. Proposed actions

Recommendation (JV, SH):

- ✓ On review of delineation of the BMCs, the Omaruru, Swakopmund (lower Swakoppoort) and Kuiseb basins should unify in the future based on the similar features, concerns and interests they share. In addition, the basins should have a joint plan, vision and information exchange.

Additions and final remarks

- Basin Water Resource Plan must be in line with the IWRM Plan. (SH)
- According to the Act, BMCs have an advisory role. Based on the discussions, BMC would like advisory role and, as capacity develops, move to intermediate and then to statutory role. (SH)
- Change the wording “service sales” to abstraction charges (proposed actions, slide #9 , bullet 2)
- The impact of climate change (water level rise). The storm waters, spring tides have currently surpassed the present infrastructure in the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvisbay. (SH)
- Pollution from old mines is leaking into the Kuiseb river. (SH)
- High level of brain tumors (8 cases in 6 years) are observed in Omaruru. (SH)
- Water quality monitoring needs to include additional tests on heavy metal content, especially the uranium and copper content for Kuiseb basin. (SH)

6. Annexure

Annexure 1: Attendance list

Erongo IWRM Focused Group Discussion for Kuiseb and Omaruru basin management committee, held in Walvisbay, 23 September 2009 (14H30- 16H30)

Name	Organisation	Position	E mail address	Contact details & Fax number
Susan Roux	CETN/ KBMC	Chairperson/Member	seafish@iway.na	0811294935 & 064 206594 (fax)
Joel Kooitjie	DEES/ KBMC	Agricultural technician	joelkooitjie@yahoo.com	0812766922 & 207056 (telefax)
Maria Amakali	DWAF/KBMC		amakalim@mawf.gov.na	0812900823
Sebedeus Swartbooi	Topnaar community	Representative	sebedeus@gobabeb.org	0814109813
Emily Mutota	Gobabeb	Secretary	emilym@gobabeb.org	064 694199
Uahorehua	DRWS	RH (Erongo region)	ujaruau@africa.com.na	064 550383/4 & 550058 (fax)
E.P. Shiluama	KBMC/NamWater	Area Manager	shiluamaE@namwater.com.na	064 716200 & 064 716289 (fax)
H Mufadda	OMBMC	Secretary	Haynes@Ctc.com.na	064 570356
D.J. Kuaere	DRWS	Control/RWEO	Dkuaere@mawaf.gov.na	064 570356
E.E. Nowaseb	OMBMC	Basin support officer	enowaseb@gmail.com	0812262313
Joh Henschel	Gobabeb	Executive director	Joh.henschel@gobabeb.org	064 694198 & 064 694197 (fax)
Fransiska Gamises	DRFN			
Patrik Klintonberg	DRFN			
Clarence Mazambani	DRFN			

Ben van der Merwe	ENVES			
-------------------	-------	--	--	--

Annexure 2: Presentation on Basin Management Committee

7. Acronyms & abbreviations

BMC	Basin Management Committee
CBM	Community Based Management
DRFN	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JV	Joint Venture Team
KBMC	Kuiseb Basin Management Committee
OmBMC	Omaruru Basin Management Committee
SH	Stakeholder
WDM	Water Demand Management
WRMA	Water Resources Management Act