

# REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF RESOURCE CENTRES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: WORKSHOP REPORT



*Kadoma, Zimbabwe (25 - 29 September 2000)*



**Institute of Water  
and Sanitation  
Development**

**STREAMS  
OF KNOWLEDGE**

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## INTRODUCTION

At the dawn of the new millennium, unresolved water and waste management problems of the past decades were carried over into the new millennium. As a result morbidity and mortality from water and sanitation related diseases remain high with women and children being the most affected. There is therefore an urgent need to put in place strategies that address both the unsolved problems of the past decades as well as the challenges of the new millennium. Such strategies can partly be identified when resource centers change from centre to centre, nationally, regionally and internationally work closely together to solve these common problems. Such a strategy is vital in that it avoids the duplication of effort that leads to wastage of vital scarce resources. In addition, it enables pooling and sharing of resources and allows exchange of ideas. Sharing of information and experiences has been recognised as one of the best approaches to solving problems that affect the people of the same geographical region.

It is against this background that a workshop of resources centres in the Southern Africa region was organised. The workshop aimed at identifying methods of strengthening networking and collaboration among resource centers working in the water and sanitation sector was jointly funded and organized by IRC and the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development. The workshop was organised within the framework of the Streams of Knowledge initiative. The Streams of Knowledge is a network of global and regional resource centres that share a common mission: to ensure equitable access and enhanced use of information and knowledge to empower poor people in their role as stakeholders and decision makers.

It is appreciated that sector professionals need to have access to accurate and up to date information and knowledge that can help them to make important decisions and prevent them from making the same mistakes that others made. Sharing past experiences makes it easier to devise strategies for the future. It helps all stakeholders play their roles more optimally and prepare strategies needed to face the

challenges of the coming decades. However, for the resource centres to play their role more effectively, it is important that such centres develop their own capacities in order for them to be able to position themselves strategically in the sector at both a regional and global level. It is also imperative that such centres do not work in isolation but should be built upon each other's strengths and endeavour to share experiences where possible.

### Objectives of the workshop

On the first day of the workshop J Ndamba outlined what he felt were the objectives of the workshop. The participants suggested that there should be acknowledgement of existing networks and mechanisms of forging linkages with already existing networks be identified in order to compliment efforts. It was also proposed that some of the objectives could be combined, rephrased and presented as one idea. Other objectives were seen as outcomes of the workshop. It was further suggested that the gender objective should be linked to what is being done by the IWSD through Mrs. Musabayane so as to avoid duplication of effort. After these discussions on the objectives, the workshop participants agreed that the following should be the objectives of the workshop:

- Introduce participants to the concept of a resource center and to present and discuss the objectives of the Streams of Knowledge initiative within the context of the Southern Africa region.
- Provide a forum where resource centers working in the water and sanitation sector can share experiences and define areas for potential collaboration.
- Identify key issues, challenges and constraints that resource centers in the region face and propose ways to overcome these through the Streams of Knowledge initiative.
- Discuss the Vision for water and sanitation in the region and identify roles of resource centres towards the fulfillment of the Vision.
- Discuss resource center self assessment tools and identify institutions that might be interested in using them.
- Draft the objectives and operational guidelines of a regional alliance of resource centers in the Southern Africa region.

- Set up a gender network among the regional resource centers and agree on the operational guidelines for such a network.

### **HOPES AND FEARS OF THE PARTICIPANTS**

A participatory approach was used to identify the hopes and fears of the participants concerning the proposed alliance. The participants hoped that concrete action plans would be drawn up leading to improved exchange and sharing of information among relevant stakeholders. It was also hoped that the alliance would assist regional practitioners in their efforts towards the fulfillment of the Southern Africa Vision for water and sanitation as well as identification of information gaps in the water and sanitation sector. The participants also hoped that the alliance would be acceptable to others, find means of being sustainable and be operational by the end of 2000. Above all it was hoped that the alliance would not be another talk show and would provide continuous feed to members through electronic newsletters or otherwise.

In spite of the hopes expressed by the participants, there were fears that the network would be a duplication of what is already being done elsewhere and that it may not be acceptable to others already in the region. Furthermore the network may just be another talk show whereby the agreed plans would not be implemented. Participants doubted the effectiveness, sustainability and flexibility of the alliance. The resources available for successful operation were also of concern to many participants. Yet others feared that the legal implications of the workshop may result in bureaucratic delays in operationalising the alliance.

### **STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT) OF THE RESOURCE CENTERS**

The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the resource centers that were represented were identified. This was done in order to formulate mechanisms that can be used by resources centers to

strategically position themselves in the water and sanitation sector in the region. Among the strengths identified is the fact that most resource centers have strong linkages with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and government ministries which allows them to share information and experiences through training and workshops. Most of the resource centres also had facilities and highly skilled personnel that enable them to reach to grass root communities where they can provide rapid technical responses. In addition most resource centers have specific areas of expertise making it very easy for them to compliment each other in their efforts to meet the information needs of the sector.

Some of the weaknesses identified include limited financial resources that result in donor dependency, inadequate human and material resources, inability to attract and retain highly skilled professionals. In addition, in an effort to remain financially sustainable, resources centers end up taking too much work thereby compromising the quality of their work. Communication is also a problem as shown by the limited networking and collaboration within and among institutions. Poor information dissemination strategies and inaccessibility of some resources centers by the target groups all contribute to making the resources centers ineffective. Other resources centers lack support from national governments and thus lack clearly defined mandates.

The opportunities open to resource centers were identified as the fact that there is a large demand for the services provided by the centers largely because of the limited number of players in the water and sanitation sector in most countries. It was also pointed out that some resource centers have earned themselves respect and recognition in their respective countries and as a result governments usually consult them. This close collaboration between governments and resource centers provides such centers with information that is important in the development of strategic plans. Research programs that some resource centers embark on often provide the centers with a long term finance base while at the same time giving them an

opportunity to always be at the cutting edge of developments in the sector. The autonomy that some resource centers have creates room for flexibility within the organization thereby allowing them to respond quickly to sector needs.

Limited donor funding due to harsh economic environments, hostile political conditions, and increasing poverty were some of the threats identified. The harsh economic conditions prevailing in most countries in the region coupled with the HIV/AIDS epidemic have resulted in the loss of highly skilled personnel in the region. In addition, competition among resource centers has led to a reduction in the core business as centers end up taking up other non core business activities in order to remain financially viable. It was also emphasized that some governments make retrogressive policies which threaten the existence of some resource centres.

#### **The major problems of resource centers and possible solutions.**

The major problems of the resource centres were classified into four broad categories namely finance, human resources, communication and policy environment. To address the financial problems it was suggested that resource centers in the region should endeavor to share the resources that they have, create a database indicating financial opportunities open to resource centers and identify common problems that they can jointly solve. Members were encouraged to promote private sector involvement to allow for financial sustainability. It was suggested that resource centers could try to combat their problems of shortage of human resources through sharing of expertise thereby complimenting each other's efforts and skills. In order to improve communication among resource centers, they should make use of the Internet, e-mail, regional workshops and newsletters.

Resource centers, it was suggested, should endeavor to bring changes in policies in their own countries through their involvement in government strategic development plans as well as advocacy to the policy and decision makers. It was suggested that resource centers should strive to earn recognition within the sector and in

their respective countries in order to create an environment where it would be easier for them to influence policies. Those resource centers present that were not autonomous stressed the need for them to advocate for autonomy to allow them to be more effective as resource centers.



*Participants discussing during the workshop*

#### **THE CONCEPT OF A RESOURCE CENTRE**

Mr. Mudege gave a presentation on the concept of resource centers based on the paper that he and colleagues from the IWSD had prepared for the STREAMS project. He mentioned that the knowledge gap between providers and recipients was responsible for the poor co-ordination of activities in the water and sanitation sector. Furthermore it was realised that institutions providing water and sanitation services were weak because they relied heavily on the central government leaving little room for other players like the private sector. This realisation resulted in a global initiative to form ITN centres whose initial mandate was to strengthen capacities of institutions in providing low cost technology in water and wastewater management. He informed the meeting that the intention was to have 15 ITN centres in Africa but so far 5 are functional and IWSD is one of these centres.

He pointed out that the greatest challenge for resource centres was to develop institutions that are highly responsive to local needs using the often scarce and centralised resources. Resource centres can be classified by their origin which can either be through statutory or non statutory means. Statutory resource centers, he pointed out

are mainly government institutions which have routine, standardized and formalised ways of responding to sector needs. These institutions are very stable. Non-statutory created resource centres are characterised by high penetrative abilities and are very quick to respond to sector needs. However these centers are financially unstable and thus there is a need to blend these two types of centers to come up with ideal resource centres.

Mr Mudege went on to point out that resource centers in Zimbabwe can be classified into six categories based on their core business as follows:

- **Research and Information dissemination:** These conduct applied research so as to better understand and articulate sector problems, influence policy, develop strategies, promote efficient service delivery and design relevant intervention measures.
- **Advocacy:** These influence policy change through advocacy.
- **Facilitative and creating an enabling environment:** These focus on creating enabling environments for water and sanitation projects through sourcing of funds and partnerships with host public institutions and NGOs.
- **Technical oriented:** These focus on the provision of user friendly and low cost technologies.
- **Career related:** These offer in house training services for improved efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery and management of services.
- **Academic:** These offer a wide range of programs and services of an academic nature.

Mr. Mudege mentioned that normally, there are four types of networks in the Southern Africa region namely government, personality, external and mutual benefit driven networks. These networks communicate through established

associations, electronic media and general print media. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing that every institution has a target group and thus it is a resource centre for that group.

#### **Issues arising from the presentations**

The participants noted that many resource centers were being multi-focused and dynamic largely because of the need for financial sustainability. However it was emphasized that it is important for resource centers to establish their core business in order for such centers to be effective and to allow information sharing. Although resource centers were encouraging sharing of information there was a need to harmonise sustainability and provision of free information especially for those centers where the information generated is a major source of their income. It was apparent that activities of resource centers could be successful if mutual benefits between the provider of information and the recipient are obvious. It was noted that conflicts between service providers and recipients may arise when resource centers provide information to recipients that may have long term negative implications. An example is when information on water quality implies that the quality of water does not meet all the criteria for water suitable for human consumption.

#### **STREAMS OF KNOWLEDGE**

Maria-Lucia Borba reported that the Streams of Knowledge was initiated by IRC. The main purpose of the initiative is to build capacities of resource centers so that organisations can respond to the challenges of the water and sanitation sector. The specific objectives were outlined as below;

##### **Specific objectives**

- Establish a global core group to lead a network of Resource Centres (RCs).
- Establish a favourable policy environment and financial viability for RCs and their networks.
- Strengthen up to 10 RCs that would play an initiating, facilitating and coordinating role in the network.

### **Gaps identified by IRC among RC**

It was pointed out that case studies of 11 resource centres in the water and sanitation sector identified the following gaps:

- Resource centres lack financial independence.
- Some resource centres are removed from target groups and are therefore, not able to meet the needs of marginalised communities.
- Resource centres are responsive and not proactive.
- The concept of a resource centre was never clearly thought out and this caused problems in the way they operated.
- Poor information documentation and dissemination. In some cases information is not packaged in user friendly ways for the target group.
- Many resource centres did not have access to electronic communication.
- Most of the resource centres did not have mechanisms of sustaining their activities after donor funding ceases.

The findings of the case studies led to the establishment of a Sound Board Group (SBG) whose priorities are to continue regional alliances, establish contacts with the private sector, analyse strategies in the sector and identify gaps in knowledge. She reported that to date, four SBG meetings had been held and one advocacy paper written. The meeting was told that the SBG has defined a resource centre as a place or an organisation where information and key skills are brought together to support activities that will strengthen the provision of water and sanitation services.

### **Discussion.**

In the discussion that followed, participants were worried that the Streams of Knowledge initiative was concentrating at forming global and regional alliances and not much effort was put on strengthening national networking. Participants suggested that the Streams of Knowledge should support the creation of national resource centers where they do not exist. The need for the Streams of Knowledge to provide seed money for the creation of the regional alliances was highlighted as it would be difficult for such alliances to mushroom on their own.

Participants were worried about the fact that most government institutions do not have the characteristics of resource centres yet they play a key role in policy formulation. It was further mentioned that NGOs have most of the characteristics for resource centres but sometimes do not have the mandate to influence policies. Members agreed that for NGOs to influence policy they should strive to earn credibility and recognition by government officials through the quality of their products. The group commented that it was difficult to find resource centres with all the ideal characteristics and further suggested that an inventory of resource centres should be carried out.

### **Resource center assessment tools**

The participants were asked to review the self assessment, impact assessment, quality control and strengthening of resource centers draft tools which have been developed by CINARA, NETWAS, SKAT and IRC respectively. The meeting decided that the information provided on the strengthening tool was too much for people to comprehend and give comments within one hour. The impact assessment tool was judged to be poor as it lacked detail on how it was to be used and what the indicators were. The participants also queried the effectiveness of a self-assessment tool and expressed the view that an outsider's perspective was probably more important and unbiased. The participants further inquired whether basic training on the use of the tools would be given to those wanting to test them. In addition the group wanted to know if there would be any support given to those who would like to test the assessment tools. Ms Borba said that such issues are best discussed between the individual resource centres and the Secretariat of the Global Alliance.

### **GENDER SESSION**

Maria Lucia conducted a session on gender issues in which the participants responded by either showing a yellow or blue card, the colour indicating whether the response is either male or female. The questions asked touched many aspects of life. After the session the participants concluded that gender issues are dynamic, have a cultural

dimension and depend on the attitude of individuals.

The meeting was also informed that situations where governments provide water and sanitation services that they think society needs are characterised by unreliable supply of adequate drinking water and limited leisure time for women and children. On the contrary, when supply was in response to the demands of the users, the communities and households have the option to choose the technology, administration and management systems that they prefer. This leads to reliable water supplies providing women and children more time for other productive activities within the homes.

#### **Conclusions from the gender session**

After the session, it was concluded that in general;

- Awareness of the importance of a gender approach in water supply, sanitation and hygiene is gradually increasing.
- Programme and project planners have come to realise that equitable gender participation is an essential element throughout the project cycle.
- It is important to have data on roles and responsibilities between men and women for the impact of the project to be clearly visible.
- A gender approach gives both men and women self-confidence and better chances of participation.
- Men and women look at their roles and responsibilities from a new perspective.
- Balanced gender participation throughout the project cycle enables men and women to consider a range of options and their consequences.
- Therefore sustainability is more effective and this is both a condition for and a part of wider socio-economic development.

#### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN VISION FOR WATER, LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Zeria Banda from the Global Water Partnership – Southern Africa Advisory Committee (GWP-SATAC) secretariat presented the Southern African Vision for Water, Life and the Environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century which is part of the global vision. Issues that were covered during the presentation include vision development process, the Southern Africa vision statement, and framework for action.



*One of the participants presenting the Southern African Vision for Water, Life and the Environment*

It was pointed out that the vision was developed in light of the following critical issues:

- That the Southern African region is characterised by a rapidly growing and urbanising population.
- There is wide spread poverty and food insecurity in the region.
- A significant proportion of the urban and rural poor communities still lack adequate access to safe drinking water and sanitation resulting in high incidences of water and sanitation-related diseases and premature deaths.
- Most of the people in the region depend on agriculture.

- There is increasing concern over water pollution and low levels of energy supply.
- The region has trans-boundary river basins with complex water rights issues.

### **The Southern Africa Vision for Water**

The region's vision statement is "Equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social and environmental justice, regional integration and economic benefit for present and future generations". Sub-vision statements were developed to operationalize the regional statement. These are:

- Equitable and sustainable social and economic development in the region.
- Equitable access to water of acceptable quality and quantity.
- Proper sanitation for all and safe waste disposal.
- Food and energy security for all.
- A sustainable environment.
- Security from natural disasters.
- Integrated water resources development and management.

### **Framework of action**

The meeting was informed that a framework for action is being formulated so that all stakeholders act in ways that ensure that the Vision is realised. National governments should ratify shared watercourses protocol and accelerate water sector legislative and institutional reforms. Researchers should investigate and recommend best practices. Public and private sector partnerships should be formed so that the private sector can effectively contribute towards the achievement of the Vision. Equally important is the need to promote community participation in water projects through the adoption of participatory approaches.

### **Discussion**

Although there was wide consultation in the Vision formulation process, participants felt that this was only at the institutional and professional levels and not much was done to involve communities in the process. There is also need to widely disseminate information on the Vision not only to rural communities but even to some professionals in the water sector as some of the

participants at the workshop were hearing about the Vision for the first time. The meeting was informed that consultations during the formulation of the Vision were constrained by the short global timeframe but people can still submit their comments.

Participants questioned whether the Vision was achievable given its wide and cross cutting issues. In addition, it was pointed out that it was necessary to fully co-ordinate activities as the tasks required for the fulfillment of the Vision were spread in different ministries and would need to be carefully monitored and evaluated. The GWP-SATAC said that the assumption is that the signatory to the Vision would consult all the relevant stakeholders. The meeting was also told that the general sentiment from communities in eight countries consulted during the formulation of the Vision was that they were tired of being used with no tangible benefits ever being realised.

Participants then discussed how the framework for action should be developed and who should be involved. Some felt that every institution that is really interested in water supply should act and formulate an action framework aimed at realizing some of the elements of the Vision. However, others felt that there should be one clear framework of action to achieve the Vision and this should not be left to individual NGOs. Participants felt that this was critical given the failure of other visions such as that of "Health for all by the year 2000". The need to learn from past experiences with other Visions and incorporate these lessons in the action plan for achieving the regional water Vision was stressed.

The problem of raising the necessary financial resources in order to realise some of the elements of the Vision was highlighted. Participants wanted to know if there were any donors committed to assist financially in order for some projects that are aimed at achieving the Vision to be implemented. The meeting was informed that the Vision has a component of fund raising but at the moment the GWP-SATAC could not comment on specific donor commitments. However, it was pointed out that there is need to draw resources from national and local communities if the



framework for action is to be realized. There was a lengthy discussion on the commitment of the signatories (ministers) to raise funds for implementation of the Vision framework for action. It was difficult to evaluate the ministers' commitment but the participants concluded that by attending the meeting in The Hague, ministers showed that they were committed to the Vision and therefore organisations should invite them to all relevant workshops.

#### **Video on Vision**

Participants watched a video on the Vision for water, life and the environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the Southern Africa region. The Vision was developed noting the wide range of problems that the region is currently facing that include poverty, uneven distribution of water, environmental degradation and water pollution through activities such as gold panning. The video also showed the important role played by women in the water sector. There was a call for the application of IWRM principles especially when dealing with shared trans-boundary watercourses.

#### **Comments on the vision video**

The participants felt that the video concentrated on interviews with professionals and little effort was made to include the views of the rural communities. It was noted that aspects of livestock watering, use of rivers for sewage disposal, floods and droughts were not given enough coverage. Furthermore, it was felt that the video should have included more information on household water supply problems, productive use of water such as small-scale agriculture and should show an ideal situation of access to clean water and proper sewage disposal. Finally it was suggested that the video should provide possible alternatives/solutions to current problems.

After these discussions the participants split into two groups. One group was asked to discuss how networking and collaboration among institutions in the Southern Africa region could be strengthened while the other one discussed how resource centres can contribute towards fulfillment of regional Vision 21.

## **RESULTS OF THE GROUP WORK**

### **Collaboration and networking**

The group that was discussing networking and collaboration defined this as forging links between water and sanitation resource centres and further recognising that each resource centre serves as a node in the region as well as the local catchment. Networking and collaboration was seen as a necessity because it allowed sharing of information and expertise that exist in the region thereby either eliminating weaknesses or complimenting the work of other resource centres. The group suggested that the best way to network and to collaborate was through;

- Documentation of experiences.
- Production and distribution of newsletters among resource centers.
- Organising regional workshops.
- Connecting with each other's websites where possible.
- Sharing experiences and improved communication within the resource centers.
- Formation of a regional network of resource centres working in the water and sanitation sector.

### **How resource centres can contribute towards fulfillment of Vision 21**

The group proposed that resource centers could contribute towards the achievement of the Vision through the adoption of the Vision as a guide for resource center activities. Furthermore, resource centers should build their capacity so that they have enough personnel to implement water related issues. Each resource center should disseminate Vision messages to its target group. Resource centers were also urged to fine tune their programs and plans so that they are in line with the Vision. It was noted that most resource centres were working on projects that already aim to address issues identified in the Vision.

Members stressed that each resource center should document its activities relating to the fulfillment of the Vision. There should be an identification of gaps within the water and sanitation sector that the resource centers will strive to address. Each resource center should have in place a monitoring system to assess their progress towards implementation of the Vision framework for

action. The issue of financial resources should also be looked at when adopting the water and sanitation Vision. It was however observed that funds were not required for currently running programs but resource centers need only to fine tune their programs to take into account issues highlighted in the Vision.



*Participants during a groupwork discussion*

## **FORMATION OF A REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF RESOURCE CENTRES**

It was agreed that the formation of a regional alliance of resource centers for Southern Africa was essential in order to strategically position regional resource centers to tackle sector issues. All participants agreed to advocate strongly to their superiors so that their institutions would become part of the alliance. Participants went on to discuss the mission, goal, objectives, institutional framework and financial arrangements and workplan for the alliance. Below is a summary of what was discussed and agreed.

### **Preamble**

The Regional Alliance of Resource Centres in the water and sanitation sector in the SADC region commits itself to help achieve the Southern African Vision for water in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which is equitable and sustainable utilisation of water for social and environmental justice, regional integration and economic benefit for present and future generations; by adopting the Streams of Knowledge concept which aims at strengthening resource centres.

### **The mission**

The mission of the Regional Alliance of Resource Centres in the SADC region is to enhance collaboration in the generation, equitable sharing, access and use of information in a way that will contribute towards the achievement of the Southern African Vision for water in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **The Goal of the alliance**

To promote networking and collaboration among resource centres in the SADC region within the framework of the Streams of Knowledge initiative.

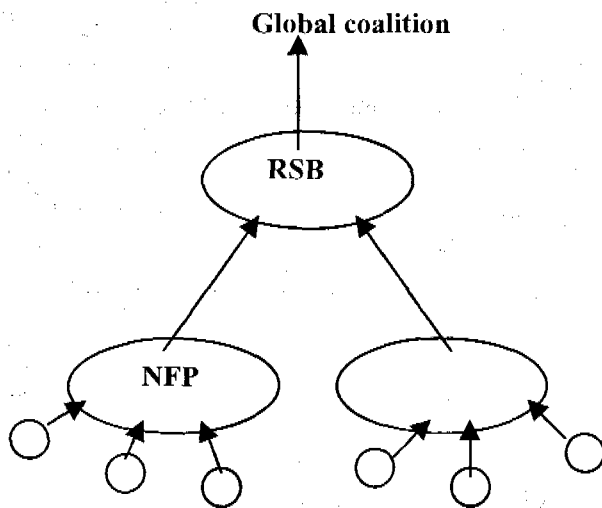
### **Objectives of the alliance**

- To identify and encourage projects that can be implemented jointly by resource centers in the region.
- To provide leadership and advocacy in the implementation of key water and sanitation issues.
- To encourage use and sharing of information on water and sanitation at a national and regional level.
- To promote equitable and sustainable utilization of existing resources.
- To strengthen resource centers in order for them to effectively address national and regional water and sanitation issues.


### **The institutional framework**

The proposed institutional arrangements are shown in figure 1. It was proposed that:

- The regional alliance should have a regional steering body made up of elected national focal resource centers (RCs).
- The regional steering body (RSB) members will have a specified term of office on a rotational basis. The members of the regional steering body would then elect a chairperson who would co-ordinate their activities.
- There should be a secretariat that will be responsible for the day to day running of the alliance.



**RSB – Regional Steering Body**  
**NFP- National Focal Point**

 RCs within each country.

*Figure 1: Proposed institutional arrangements for the regional alliance.*

The participants discussed at length the composition of the regional steering body. Some felt that the composition should be along thematic issues to be addressed by the alliance while others suggested that there should be a country representation in the organisation allowing each country to choose its representative. It was decided that an interim committee should be put in place while members discuss further the composition of the regional steering body.

#### **Office bearers of the interim committee**

The following institutions were nominated to be in the interim committee.

- Global Water Partnership Southern Africa Advisory Committee (GWP-SATAC) –(Regional).
- National Action Committee (Zimbabwe)
- India Musokotwane Environment Resource Centre for Southern Africa (IMERCSA) – (Regional)
- Water Utilities Cooperation (Botswana)
- Water and Sanitation Program (WSP)-Africa (Malawi)
- Institute of Resource Assessment (Tanzania)
- University of the Copperbelt (Zambia)
- Blair Research Institute (Zimbabwe)
- Institute of Water and Sanitation Development (IWSN) – Secretariat.

The interim committee was to be chaired by the Copperbelt University which was represented by Danford Banda.

#### **Operational guidelines of the alliance**

The alliance would operate on the following guidelines:

##### **Support capacity building**

The alliance shall concentrate on supporting the capacity of members to implement water and sanitation projects. This can be done through strengthening of human resources and provision of facilities such as computers. Training is one of the activities that the alliance should strive to do so that the critical mass of expertise in the region is expanded. The alliance should also encourage institutional exchange of staff to help compliment capacity among members.

##### **Adopt a demand responsive approach**

The alliance should continually be proactive so that it keeps track of the changes and new needs in the water and sanitation sector. This will position the alliance in such a way that it addresses the pressing needs in the member countries. The meeting agreed that the alliance should address water and sanitation issues before they reach a level where they can result in disastrous consequences. They should be close enough to the communities to allow them to be informed.

##### **Facilitate access, generate, document and disseminate information**

The alliance should facilitate documentation of information on water and sanitation issues by all the member countries. Furthermore the alliance should ensure that the documented information is accessible to other members who should then distribute this information within their own countries to potential beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

##### **Apply IWRM principles in water and sanitation sub-sector**

The alliance should advocate strongly for the implementation of the integrated water resources management (IWRM) principles. In addition they should ensure that each RC is implementing these principles.

##### **Mainstreaming gender and putting gender equity principles to practice**

The members agreed that the alliance should put in place policies that address gender mainstreaming and equity so as to take on board the disadvantaged members of the society.

##### **Workplan for the alliance**

Following careful consideration of the alliance's objectives, a draft workplan was drawn up (Table 1).

**Table 1 Proposed workplan for the alliance**

Activities	Responsible	Time
Report of this workshop	IWSD	End of October 2000
Conduct needs assessment and inventory of capacity of RCs	RCs	January 2001
Analysis and classification of RCs needs and capacities	Secretariat	March 2001
Recommendations on linkages between RCs	Secretariat	Ongoing
Identify existing networks in the region (country)	All participating RCs	December 2000
Creating a database, profiles of RCs	Secretariat	March 2001
Identification of key advocacy issues and sharing with secretariat and other RCs	RCs	Ongoing
Identification of gaps in the sector		
Identification joint projects by thematic groups and fundraising	RCs	Ongoing
Strategy papers for activities to be carried out by the RC (priority areas) e.g. Peri-urban sanitation	Secretariat	Mid 2001 (upgrading)
Publicize alliance and recruitment of other RCs	RCs	Ongoing
Links through webpages	RCs + Secretariat	On going
Launching of Newsletter	Secretariat	End December 2001
Memorandum of Understanding (Draft)	Interim Committee	End of December 2000
Review of meeting to monitor progress	Secretariat	September 2001
Webpage for coalition within IWSD initially, extend when funds available	Secretariat	October 2001

#### **Roles and responsibility of the secretariat**

The duties of the secretariat were presented under administration, finance and communication.

#### **Administration**

In line with the mission and objectives of the alliance, the secretariat would prepare a strategy paper addressing fund raising, information dissemination and sustainability issues. Furthermore the secretariat should prepare annual plans and budgets and then coordinate the implementation of the alliances programmes. They should also provide organisational and logistical support for meetings of the alliance and maintain dialogue with other global coalition alliances.

The members stressed that the secretariat should promote joint research and action learning programs among alliance members. It was also agreed that the secretariat would screen applications for membership.

#### **Finance**

The secretariat will be responsible for the financial management of the alliance fund.

#### **Communication**

Members agreed that the secretariat would be the mouth-piece of the alliance and would thus represent the alliance at either regional or global coalition meetings. They would also organise, implement and maintain the alliance's database and webpage. One of the

important functions would be to promote and maintain the network communication channels among members.

consideration the one proposed by the meeting.

**Table 2 Proposed workplan for the secretariat.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Needs assessment of RCs present here	Mid October	Secretariat to send questionnaire to RC
SBM – Colombia	October	Secretariat
Draft strategy paper	Mid December	Secretariat
Memorandum of Understanding (criteria, fees, obligations, etc) for circulation to all RCs for comments – then adoption	Mid December	Secretariat
Promotion and advocacy in local and regional newsletters websites, workshops, etc	Starts now	All RCs
Meeting to review activities and develop workplan for 2001	January 2001	Interim Committee

**FURTHER DISCUSSION ISSUES**

The participants discussed the following issues:

**Role of the secretariat**

The secretariat was given to IWSD and it was supposed to assume duty with immediate effect.

**Legal status of the alliance**

It was agreed that there was no need to hire legal experts to draft a detailed document but that a memorandum of understanding between members would save the purpose well.

**Membership (fees)**

Members could not agree on a figure but it was decided that there would be a joining fee which would be coupled with a minimal annual subscription fee.

**Financing for secretariat**

It was agreed the secretariat should look within its own organisation to finance its activities if external funding cannot be obtained.

**Workplan**

It was decided that the secretariat would devise an appropriate workplan taking into

The proposed workplan for the secretariat is shown in Table 2.

**Fund raising strategy**

It was decided that the interim committee and the secretariat should produce such a document and members would put in their contributions.

**Advocacy**

It was agreed that all members would advocate strongly the vision 21 issues in their respective countries to their target groups.

**Potential RCs**

It was agreed that members could also identify potential RC and then help them overcome the weaknesses which prevent them from becoming a proper RC.

**Management and control**

The management was left to the interim committee. The interim committee would also produce a strategic planning document for all members.

**Effectiveness**

All members were asked to ensure that the new organisation would be very effective so that it does not become one of the many ineffective networks.

**ANNEX 1 : PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP ON NETWORK RESOURCES CENTRE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA  
25<sup>th</sup> TO 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2000**

	<b>MONDAY 25/09/00</b>	<b>TUESDAY 26/09/00</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 27/09/00</b>	<b>THURSDAY 28/09/00</b>	<b>FRIDAY 29/09/00</b>	
<b>8:30 am</b>	Registration  * Welcome remarks * Introductions * Ground rules	Strengths of institutions  Weaknesses of institutions	Role of institutions in strengthening networking and collaboration (Vision/ SWOT)	Drafting of SADC regional alliance constitution	Departure	
<b>10:00 am to 10:30 am</b>	<b>MORNING TEA</b>					
<b>10:30 am</b>	Workshop objectives  Expectations  What is a resource centre? The case of the IWSD.	Opportunities for institutions  Threats to institutions	Synthesis of case studies  Rapid scan	Discussion on operational guidelines of the regional alliance  Adoption of regional alliance constitution		
<b>1:00 pm to 2:00 pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>					
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Institutions and their activities	Vision for water and sanitation in Southern Africa	Presentation of STREAM management and resource centre development tools  Testing of tools	Gender and equity		
<b>3:30 pm to 3:45 pm</b>	<b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>					
<b>3:45 pm</b>	STREAMS project: Objectives Roles Activities	Vision for water and sanitation in Southern Africa: Video	Presentation of draft objectives of the SADC regional alliance	Regional plan of action		

## ANNEX 2 : ORGANISATIONS THAT WERE PRESENT AND THEIR ACTIVITIES .

Name of organisation	Mission	Main activities
BLAIR RESEARCH INSTITUTE	Promoting Health Development through scientific research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmentally friendly (brickless) latrines</li> <li>2. Non-mechanical options for pit sludge removal.</li> <li>3. Rainwater harvesting.</li> <li>4. Domestic water purification option</li> <li>5. Monitoring effluent from pit latrines into ground water.</li> <li>6. Technology transfer to stakeholder.</li> </ol>
GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP)	To support countries in the sustainable management of their water resources	Integrated water resources management (IWRM)
SARDC- IMERCSA	To inform, motivate and empower people at all levels of environmental decision making in Southern Africa, from the individual and Non-Governmental Organisations to the private sector and governments, to take positive actions to reverse environmental degradation and move towards sustainable development paths by providing them with clear, objective and meaningful information on the environment.	Collection, analysis and dissemination of environmental information in Southern Africa through state of the environment reporting
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY SWAZILAND	To provide clean and safe drinking water supplies to residents in the rural areas of Swaziland for the reduction of water borne diseases and healthy lives for the rural populace	<p>Rural water supplies.</p> <p>Design and construct water projects for rural communities</p> <p>Solicit funds from donors for the construction of the water projects</p> <p>Provide water to rural government institutions e.g. schools , health centres and police posts</p> <p>Monitor water quality through water quality section to meet WHO guidelines.</p> <p>Water used mainly from boreholes or mountain streams/springs</p> <p>Provide slow sand filters where necessary.</p> <p>Teach communities about hygiene</p>

		education and sanitation and environmental awareness. (PHAST) HIV/AIDS Teach communities about maintenance of their water systems
SOMARELANG TIKOLOGO, BOTSWANA	To improve the quality of life of the people of Botswana by promoting a clean and healthy environment and mobilising members of the public to monitor, raise awareness and lobby for improvement of the environment.	Community empowerment Research Education Gender and Equity
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, THE POLYTECHNIC	To establishment of the Livingstone centre for Water, sanitation, health and appropriate technology development.	Training Research Consultancies
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY [LESOTHO]	In the service of provision of sustainable and adequate portable water to rural communities. Work in partnership with other departments, the private sector, NGO's and communities to improve quality of life of our people.	Assessment of community readiness Feasibility studies Design and capacity building Construction of water supply systems Maintenance of established systems
INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COPPERBELT UNIVERSITY, ZAMBIA	To promote environmental training, studies, research, and public education in environmental technology and management in Zambia, with particular emphasis on environmental problems and issues in the Copperbelt region of the country.	Manpower development for Local Authorities Resource bases of Local Authorities Refuse collection Cost recovery, improvement of Willingness to pay for services Reduce illegal connections Short courses in environmental monitoring and training
CFPAS (WATER AND SANITATION PROFESSIONAL TRAINING CENTRE), MOZAMBIQUE	Not supplied	Focussing efforts on decentralisation of training at provincial level Increased capacity for development of tailor-made courses To offer services to other Lusophone countries and to the South African Region
WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME - AFRICA (WB)	To help poor people gain sustainable access to improved water and sanitation services	According to stage of achievement and demand implement monitor and evaluate sector policies



		Gender issues Emphasise on building in-country capacity for learning and communication through promotion of good practices and Regional/Global Networking.
NATIONAL ACTION COMMUNITTEE (NAC) - ZIMBABWE	Improved Health and well-being of rural population through clean water, safe sanitation and improved hygiene through	Advocacy, capacity building, research promotion, information management
WATER UTILITIES CORPORATION	Not supplied	Supply and distribute water to urban centres and other designated areas (by Ministry) primarily from dams Operate business along sound commercial lines' and generate a reasonable return on fair value of asset Pay dividends to government and full cost recovery for primary infrastructure development, operations and maintenance etc Governed entirely by Board appointed, by Minister
INTER-COUNTRY PEOPLE'S AID	To create opportunities for marginalized children, women and men living in peri-urban informal settlements to pursue a better future. Our programs aim to ensure that individuals' basic rights are met, specifically by facilitating access to education, health, water, sanitation, and improved living standards.	Community water management pilot project (Zimbabwe) Appropriate technology peri-urban (pilot project - Zimbabwe) Development of policy and administrative guidelines (Regional Proposal)
IUCNROSA - THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION - SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE	The mission of IUCN globally is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diveristy of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.	Zambezi Basin Wetlands Conservation and Resource Utilization Project, Water Demand Management Project, SADC Wetlands Conservation Project Phase I and II and the Global Water Partnership. Networking and Capacity Building Project (NETCAB) Institutional Development Programme,
WET CONSULTING	To assist communities and organisations	Resources management plans

	in the development of strategies and methodologies for equitable and sustainable utilisation of water resources in development process	Project development Information dissemination Water resources research Health and hygiene education
IRC, INTERNATIONAL WATER AND SANITATION CENTRE	To facilitate the creation, sharing and use of knowledge so that sector staff and organisations can better support poor men, women and children in developing countries to obtain water and sanitation services they will use and can sustain.	Training Advisory services Information/Dissemination Advocacy
ASSOCIATION FOR WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	Not supplied	Capacity building of institutions Research Water supply Training on efficient management of resources.
MVULA TRUST, SOUTH AFRICA	To improve the health and welfare of poor and disadvantaged South Africans in rural and peri-urban communities by increasing access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation services.	Policy Development and Analysis Monitoring and Evaluation; Training Sanitation, Health and Hygiene Promotion; Facilitating Municipal Community Partnership; and Facilitating Water Services Development Plans Building local capacity Promoting cost recovery-efficiency Sound public financing
DESERT RESEARCH FOUNDATION NAMIBIA	The DRFN is dedicated to creating and furthering awareness and understanding of arid environments and developing the capacity, skills and knowledge to manage arid environments appropriately.	Training Implementing community based programmes Environment Impact Assessments on proposed developments in Namibia Research and information synthesis
INSTITUTE OF WATER AND SANITATION DEVELOPMENT	To promote capacity building in the water and sanitation sector	Research Information dissemination Training Consultancy

### ANNEX 3 : EXISTING NETWORK CENTRES

The group identified the various networks involved in water and sanitation related work. These networks and their areas of focus are presented below.

#### Existing Networks and their areas of focus

Network	Type
WaterNet	Academic (Zimbabwe) – University of Zimbabwe
SAWNET	Intergrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) information (Zimbabwe) – GWP
NetCab	Capacity building (Zimbabwe) IUCN
NETWISE	Information – DFRN
SANTREN	Information of Environment – (Zimbabwe) University of Zimbabwe, IES
GWP-SAWP	Information – IWRM (Zimbabwe) – GWP
SAFARI-2000	Research – (South Africa) Cape Province
APINA	Information on Air Pollution
ACT	Land and Water Management
GW Alliance	Gender – Global
PHAST-ASN	Health and hygiene education
WUP	Water Supply and Sanitation – Nairobi
WASAI	Advocacy and Information (OAU) – Addis Ababa
AWP	World Bank – Nairobi
OLG	Capacity Building

**Annex 4 : List of Participants**

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