



# ***South African Water Policy and Legislative Framework:***

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# Defining some concepts

Gender Equity- is not treating women and men equally, but women should be free to make choices without the limitations set by strict gender roles

Deprivation- preventing access to water for socioeconomic development

Gender Discrimination- is inequality in all human beings to be freely develop their personal abilities, and make choices without the limitations set by strict gender roles;

Gender mainstreaming-Is the public policy concept of assessing the different implications for women and men of any planned policy action, including legislation and programmes, in all areas and levels.



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# General observations

- Access to water empowers women.
- Gender inequality adversely impacts on poverty alleviation and sustainable development.
- Past racial and gender discrimination still have negative impact to-date.
- Women are key in community education (awareness)
- Women are source of citizens science & indigenous knowledge



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# Water as a Human Right

- South African Constitution, (Act 108 of 1996); Chapter 2- Bill of Rights:
- WSA Section 24: Everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being
- Section 27 (1): “Everyone has the right to have access to...sufficient food and water and ...Social security, including....appropriate social assistance.”
- Section 27 (2) “ The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of these rights.
- NWA: section 27 1(b) stipulates that redress & equity be considered in authorizing water use



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# Enforcement of the Rights – Regulations

- Basic sanitation: “*appropriate health and hygiene education*” plus “*a toilet which is safe, reliable, environmentally sound, easy to clean, provides privacy and protection against the weather, well ventilated, keeps smells to a minimum.....*”
- Basic water supply: “*...minimum quantity of potable water of 25 litres per person per day or 6 kilolitres per household per month...within 200 metres of household and ...effectiveness..*” (no more than 7 days)



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# Facts

- Gender equality and access to water are intertwined.
- Deprivation of water access to women leads to the following:
  - Exacerbated poverty
  - Exclusion of women in decision making
  - Inequality
- Whereas accessibility to water promotes:
  - Women empowerment
    - Active participation in decision making
    - Involvement in economic activities
    - Education
  - Poverty alleviation
    - Food security
    - Employment creation
  - Social Transformation



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# International framework

- **The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**
  - Adopted by UN General Assembly in 1979
- **Millennium Development Goals**
  - Women empowerment (Goal 3)
  - Access to water and basic sanitation (Goal 7)
- **IWRM Principle- Role of Women (Dublin 1992 GWP)**
  - Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water( principle 3)



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# Institutional framework

- Department of Water and Sanitation
  - National Policy, Oversight and Regulation
- Catchment Management Agencies
  - Planning, Monitoring & Local Water Management
- Regional Water Utilities
  - Bulk water supply
- Water Services Authority
  - Provision of water services and Service Delivery



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# Gender Mainstreaming - Progress

- New Policy Positions
  - Yard Connection
  - Free basic water
  - Water for socioeconomic development
  - Multiple approach in planning
- Support to resource poor farmers
- Adopt a river
- Water on water leaks



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# Policy Framework

- Speak to change and practical implementation (WAR)
- Consequence management
- Removes sources of inequality
- Benefits vulnerable and marginalised
- Takes into account depth national and international best practice
- Encourages women participation in the entire sector



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# Approved Proposed Policy Positions- Women Participation

1. Use it or Lose it
2. Water Trading between authorised users
3. Prioritising Social and Economic Equity in the Reallocation of Water
4. Multiple Water Use Approach in Planning Infrastructure
5. Access to Basic Water Supply
6. Free Basic Water Supply to Indigent Households



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## What needs to be done?

- Overcome ideologies, practice and cultural beliefs that promotes male dominance
- Elevate status of women in water management
  - Water is women's work
  - Women cares for the family
  - Women are food producers
  - Women are close to the environment
- Expansion of women water programmes and projects
- Ensure water for production is available for women



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# THE END

# THANK YOU



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