NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION SOUTH AFRICA

WIS NEEDS ANALYSIS

KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCIAL WASTE INFORMATION SYSTEM WORKSHOPS 9 NOVEMBER 2004

FINAL REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Workshop opening, welcome and introduction

Mr Stewart Green, Environmental Officer responsible for the KZN Provincial WIS, of the Directorate Environment, Technology and Development, Sub-Directorate Waste and Chemicals welcomed everybody to the workshop. Mr Green mentioned that the developers of the KZN WIS, Intermap, would be joining the group following the workshop, to allow for more detailed technical questions regarding the KZN WIS.

2 Purpose of the Workshop

Ms Godfrey outlined the purpose of the workshop as being:
- For the KwaZulu Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA) to share with National Government their progress made in the development of their current WIS and future plans regarding the KZN WIS;
- For National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to share with representatives from Province and Local Government, the objectives of the National Waste Management Strategy Implementation Project, and in particular the objectives, outputs and activities of the national waste information system;
- To identify the needs with respect to waste information and information systems by Local and Provincial Government;
- Through information sharing, to build capacity within the Local, Provincial and National Government around waste information systems.

3 Presentations

3.1 KwaZulu Natal Provincial WIS – plans and progress

Mr Stewart Green provided an introduction to waste information systems, the need and outline of such systems. He then provided a live demonstration of the web based 'Wastemap' KZN WIS. Functionalities of the KZN WIS include:
- IT platform – Internet
- Approach – Geographical Information System (GIS) based framework
- Various levels of access, from basic 'public login' to full functionality as 'administrator login'. Intermediate level access provided to local authorities to submit information required by the Province.
- Public domain access – restricted to 'maps', 'documents' and 'reports'
- Administrator access – functionality includes 'sites', 'site visits', 'service providers', 'pollution sources', 'reports', 'maps' and 'admin'
- Information within the KZN WIS is currently limited to landfill sites and APA scheduled processes (air pollution sources).
- All 1:50 000 topographical maps are provided within the GIS system against which landfills and scheduled activities can be shown.
- Focus is mainly on static, site specific information which was collected as a once-off, status quo assessment.
- Currently no regular updating of this static information.
- No regular reporting of waste quantity information to the WIS.

The following questions were posed to Stewart by the audience:

Q: It would seem as if the KZN WIS is only a database of information, this is not adding any value to Local Authorities. Ethekwini Metropolitan Municipality already has all of this information and more already available.

Q: How will the KZN WIS be updated and how often ?
A: No final plan yet as to how this will be done, although each District Municipality will have a DAEA Officer assigned the responsibility to update info for District. KZN will be going the route of enforcement through waste information regulations.

Q: Will the system be expanded to include information on recycling?
A: Yes, will expand at a later stage to include this.

Q: Will the WIS be able to track polluters with respect to a particular waste stream :
A: Not sure on whether system will be expanded to include that.

Q: Most local authorities don't have the capacity to capture and provide the information requested in the KZN WIS.

3.2   NWMSI WIS Overview

Mr Obed Baloyi, Deputy Director: WIS from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism gave an overview of the National Waste Management Strategy Implementation (NWMSI) Project, in particular addressing the national context, the NWMSI project outputs and activities, the project deliverables and the way forward in terms of development and implementation.

3.3   NWMSI WIS Framework

Ms Linda Godfrey, Local Support Consultant to the DEAT gave an overview as to the current thinking with regards to the framework of the national waste information system, i.e. the system concepts, information providers, reporting obligations and the roles and responsibilities.

Ms Godfrey stressed that a phased implementation is planned, such that not all needs may be met in the short to medium-term. DEAT will provide, as part of the project, the minimum software required by local and provincial government, however, DEAT will not be prescriptive should local or provincial authorities wish to develop their own systems, so long as these systems can provide the information required by national DEAT. She outlined that the first step in the development of the WIS, was to determine the needs of Local and Provincial Authorities, to ensure that the national WIS took cognisance of these needs in the development of the WIS Framework Document.

The DEAT presentations used are available for further review on the project web site, at www.nwmsi.co.za

4   Needs Analysis

In order to determine the specific waste information and information system requirements of those stakeholders represented at the workshop, the Partici-Planning [TM] process was utilised. Questions were posed to the audience and delegates were requested to provide a short written responses to each question.

The following four questions were posed to the audience:
- Why do we need a Waste Information System ?
- What is standing in the way of the KZN having a successful WIS [(1)] ?
- If we fulfill all of these requirements will we be able to implement a Waste Information System ?
- What data should a Waste Information System collect ?

Each of these questions is dealt with in more detail below and the responses received detailed in Annexure A.

4.1   Why do we need a WIS

The main responses received as to why a WIS is required were the following:
- Gather data on waste roll-players
- To monitoring waste/trends
- To support public access to information
- To aid enforcement
- To aid decision-making
- To facilitate waste management planning
- To assist with strategy development
- To support business
- To gauge success of policy implementation

4.2   What is standing in the way of a successful KZN WIS ?

The main responses received as to what may stand in the way of a successful KZN or LA WIS were:
- Lack of information and/or accuracy of information
- Lack of political & managerial support
- Lack of capacity
- Uncertain regarding responsibilities
- Lack of enforcement
- Lack of public awareness of WIS

4.3   If we fulfil all of these requirements will we be able to implement a WIS?

It was agreed by all present, that if we can address all of the above aspects, it is feasible that a sustainable national waste information system can be implemented in

3

[(1)]   Note, in previous workshops, the question was asked "Why don't we already have a WIS ?"
Since KZN already has a provincial WIS, the question was phrased as "What is standing in your way of having a successful WIS"

South Africa. The question raised though is whether the WIS, once developed, will be successful in terms of it's original objectives.

It was requested by those present, that indicators be developed to gauge the success of the implementation of the WIS. Examples of possible indicators include:
- Has the presence of waste information changed the way government manages waste,
- Has the presence of waste information changes the way government makes decisions regarding waste.
- Have tonnages to landfill decreased since the WIS was implemented ? i.e. showing evidence of a change in behaviour with regards the management of waste, thereby supporting policy implementation.

5   Discussion Session

Following the presentation and planning session, the workshop was opened for general discussion and questions. The details of the discussions cannot be summarised here, however, the basis of the discussions focussed on the value of a waste information system in the province and the low or lack of priority given to waste management at local government.

Some of the questions are listed below:
- How will reporting be enforced to the WIS?
  - The Provincial and National Departments will develop regulations
- How will capacity problems be addressed at local authorities?
  - The Provincial Department has written letters to local authorities offering funding for capacity building and they are still waiting for responses. They are also planning to have a Departmental waste officer for each District Municipality.
- How will the WIS be successful provincially?
  - The Provincial Department should make the WIS part of their business plan so that there can be a driver for the system
- How will the WIS team get political buy-in?
  - There is a concern about the low priority given to waste management in local authorities. Ethekwini Municipality has surveyed 100 wards to find out what is important, many things were mentioned but waste management was never mentioned. It is never discussed or budgeted for at council meetings. A suggestion was made that the NWMSI team should make presentations to political structures (e.g. Portfolio committees) to educate them about waste and the project and what the intended outcomes of the project will be. This will help in getting councillors involvement and support for the development and implementation of the waste information system.

ANNEXURE A
PARTICI-PLANNING

Question A:
Why do we need a waste information system ?

A1   Gather data on waste roll-players

- Identify waste types being generated
- Volumes and types of waste generated, transported and disposed
- Updated, relevant information
- Waste generation by area, population, industry type, sector

A2   To monitoring waste/trends

- Evaluate/monitor waste type production trends

A3   To support public access to information

- Access to information for the public
- Information sharing between Government Departments

A4   To aid enforcement

- Monitor the control of disposal of waste generated within local municipalities
- Regulatory purposes

A5   To aid decision-making

- Info required for compiling reports to assist in decision-making and assessing the need for new policies, regulation etc.

A6   To facilitate waste management planning

- Future planning of disposal sites
- Strategic planning for waste management
- Planning and evaluation
- Planning e.g. IDP, IWMP

A7   To assist with strategy development

- Establish strategy (LA)
- Assist in strategic planning i.t.o its goals, visions, mission
- To be able to classify the types of waste generated and develop relevant strategies
- To allow government to make strategic decisions regard waste management

A8   To support business

- Looking at waste trends – might impact on funding (LA, Province) e.g. less funding for landfill operation budget if evident reduction in waste to landfill.

- Secure funding for waste management at provincial level, e.g. additional funding for waste initiatives if success in policy implementation evident from WIS

A9   To gauge success of policy implementation

- To measure progress in policy implementation e.g. how successful are our waste minimisation and recycling policies.
- Planning and evaluation

Question B:
What is standing in the way of KZN having a successful WIS ?

B1   Lack of information and/or accuracy of information

- Problems with updating data from LA
- Accuracy of information
- Data collection problems, e.g. no weighbridges at some sites
- Too many sources of data
- Ensuring that the information is kept up to date, e.g. recycling companies continuously changing
- Difficult getting data from role-players
- Lack of useable and relevant information
- Private sector already has info, but may require more detail for Province reporting
- Lack of information

B2   Lack of political & managerial support

- Lack of high level support
- WIS must be part of Departments performance plan to ensure that WIS receives priority
- Low priority for waste info

B3   Lack of capacity

- Lack of capacity, funding
- Lack of training of key personnel
- Resource limitations, people and hardware
- Budget constraints and capacity limitations
- Lack of resources (staff, money) – other priorities
- Lack of capacity, budget

B4   Uncertain regarding responsibilities

- Must appoint personnel who will be accountable for updating WIS

B5   Lack of enforcement

- Not a legal requirement to report to WIS
- No enforcement in place from the Department

B6   Lack of public awareness of WIS

- Lack of public awareness of WIS and available waste information
- Information sharing from province back to LA

Question D:
What data should a Waste Information System collect?

Entity specific
- Operator name e.g. company
- Generator name
- Facility process
- Lifespan
- Address
- Location
- Contact details
- Class of landfill
- Year of establishment
- Permitting status
- Facility type
- Ownership status
- Services provided e.g. garden waste to landfill, recycling
- Waste to energy services
- Rehabilitation/post-closure use
- Route identification/planning (?)
- Details of funding set aside for closure/rehabilitation
- Compliance with legislation (% compliance against permit)
- Future planning – e.g. landfill planning in LA, transfer stations (regional, local)
- Identify needs, tracking progress of LA, PA actions
- Type of equipment on site
- Economic sector (SIC) of generator

Waste specific
- Sources of waste
- Classification of waste/types of waste
- Quantity/volume
- Where waste is going to
- What is being done with it (compacted, treated, landfilled, recycled)
- Method of transportation

Incidence reporting:
- Complaints
- Incidence/accidents
- Illegal dumping

ANNEXURE B
DELEGATE LIST

KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE
WORKSHOP DELEGATE LIST

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