



Quick Brief

A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

23 August 2018

The uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership - changing the water landscape together

The early days of the uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership (UWASP) has laid crucial foundations for public and private collaboration on water security interventions in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

In 2016 the founding partners comprising of the National Business Initiative (NBI), WWF, GIZ's International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP), Mondi and Tongaat Hulett came together with key public sector role-players to formalise the partnership. Together the partners combined their diverse perspectives to identify priority water stewardship interventions in the catchment area.

These interventions have now been put in motion, with the employment of two full time staff members (based at the NBI and WWF respectively) and technical expertise provided by IWaSP. Success to date is due to local presence, effective engagement, and on the ground understanding from these key partners.

Current focus areas

The partners have agreed that supporting the provincial Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the City of uMhlathuze are priority areas for the partnership interventions.

UWASP is currently collaborating with DWS to enhance management of local water resources, including:

- The provision of work experience and mentoring to science and engineering graduates (from within the Department's Learning Academy);
- Mobilising action and participation in local water forums and platforms;

- Improving the catchment’s water monitoring and metering systems; and
- Connecting DWS to specific private partners.

For example, a recent UWASP study tour to the Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency in Mpumalanga connected KwaZulu-Natal’s provincial DWS staff and the local sugar industry to best practices in catchment management elsewhere in the country, while strengthening resource planning ties between government and industry at home.

UWASP is also working closely with the City of uMhlathuze to identify community-based enterprise opportunities around the waste management and water challenges in the informal areas surrounding the City’s important coastal lake system. The City of uMhlathuze has also benefited from support on reducing water losses in the municipal system, through the provision of technical expertise.

Both the DWS and the City of uMhlathuze are active participants in the UWASP biannual Partners Platform, where business, government and non-profit partners come together to provide input and shape the work of UWASP. Through sustainable financial models and ongoing collaboration, UWASP aims to ensure effective support to the governance of water in the catchment, in the process assisting in securing water for all.

Presentation:

Introducing the **uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership**: please click [here](#) to view.



For more information on UWASP and the next Partners’ Platform meeting, kindly contact: [Michelle Hiestermann](#).

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