



FACT SHEET

Establishing a multi-partner Catchment Management Forum

Embedding collaborative capabilities in a city team for building multi-partner forums that ensure inclusive and sustainable management of catchment areas.

CONTEXT

The City of Cape Town's Catchment, Stormwater and River Management (CSRM) branch sought to establish the Zeekoe Catchment Management Forum (ZK-CMF). This forum is part of ongoing work to enable and foster a socio-economically diverse, inclusive and effective platform for water resource management in strategic catchments in the City of Cape Town (CoCT).

There are many historical legacies, socio-economic realities and environmental risks within the Zeekoe catchment specifically. This complexity made the Zeekoe catchment an ideal site for establishing an inclusive catchment management forum (CMF) and building city capabilities to do this going forward.

The EDP's involvement built on existing processes and initiatives to ensure that all stakeholders – particularly non-governmental actors – are actively engaged in the forum's activities.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To support the CSRM branch with stakeholder engagement, build trust between government and non-government stakeholders and create an inclusive space for non-government stakeholders to actively participate in the ZK-CMF.

INNOVATION

Combining tailored stakeholder engagement strategies, trust-building and co-design processes to establish an inclusive CMF integrates adaptive management principles, local socio-cultural context and builds on what is already known to institutionalise inclusive CMF operations citywide.

STRATEGY & ACTIVITIES

Being a collaborative intermediary gave the EDP the distance necessary to design a stakeholder engagement process, mainstream reflections and embed learning into the establishment process, and capacitate the CSRM team with the necessary tools and capabilities to sustain the forum as inclusive.

Activities to execute this project included convening regular support meetings; designing, facilitating and coordinating multiple workshops; building capacity to ensure inclusive engagement; and facilitating reflection and learning.

PARTNERS

- City of Cape Town
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit



EXPECTED RESULTS

The ZK-CMF was successfully established by June 2024, where stakeholders appointed a chair and vice-chair.

Despite initial challenges with stakeholder engagement, the process fostered diverse representation, including CoCT directorates, civil society and executive leadership from across the catchment.

Lessons learned were integrated into the CMF establishment guidelines to embed this kind of engagement for future processes.

Key outcomes from this project included a co-created template for CMF establishment and strengthened relationships among stakeholders that lay a strong foundation for future multi-stakeholder partnerships.

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