

## Project manager – Water Advocacy and Outreach

### JOB DESCRIPTION

---

Delivering water to all South Africans that is socially, economically, politically and environmentally sustainable presents a huge challenge. You will help meet this challenge by managing a project that nurtures and amplifies the voices of civil society water activists in the Western Cape (see project description below), as well as contributing to other related projects.

### Responsibilities

- **networking and relationship building** with the Western Cape Water Caucus (WCWC) and other interested parties
- **strategic planning** with EMG, the WCWC and other interested organisations
- provide **support to Community Based Organisations** that will help strengthen their work on water justice
- conduct or oversee **desktop and action research** that will strengthen civil society advocacy
- **popular writing** on key issues emerging from the project
- monthly invoices with accompanying narrative **reports** to funder
- **project management**, including project planning and implementation, financial reporting, budgeting, contract management, liaison with funder
- contribute to EMG's **organisational development**

### Description of project

#### Title

Strengthening civil society advocacy on water issues at local and provincial levels – a Western Cape case study

#### Aim

Improve the social and environmental aspects of water services delivery in the Western Cape through integration of capacitated civil society voices in decision making and implementation.

#### Key components

To meet the aim outlined above, this project has three components that are mutually reinforcing.

1. A structured process of self-reflection, and strategic discussion that will help build a committed, dynamic, innovative, accountable network of CSOs working on water issues in the Western Cape.
2. Take forward critical issues raised by the Western Cape Water Caucus (WCWC), including on water demand management, leak fixing, affordability, water restrictors and catchment management.
3. Build stronger and more productive relationships between civil society (WCWC) and government (City of Cape Town and DWAF-Western Cape).

The first will take members of the Western Cape Water Caucus, and any other interested CSOs through a structured process of self-reflection, and strategic discussion that will help build a committed, dynamic, innovative, accountable network of CSOs working on water issues in the Western Cape. This process will provide an example to networks in other regions and nationally who want to do similar work.

The second component is working with critical on-the-ground issues that members seek help and support on. Currently many issues are raised within the WCWC but they are not taken forward. This component will work with one or two issues by way of example to demonstrate how to transform them from concern to resolution and action. Activities will include desk-top research, community or action research, internal meetings within civil society to discuss and enhance research findings, education materials, meetings or dialogue on the issue with government and sharing what we have learnt with networks in other parts of South Africa. For example, household level water demand management and leak fixing has been a key focus of the WCWC and preliminary work has been done in Harare Khayelitsha. This could become a case study for taking what is emerging from the research and developing advocacy strategies around it in such a way that both government and residents are able to feel that things are moving forward. Another example is unaffordable household bills and financing. At our most recent meeting with the City, they asked for our help in getting people to make use of the indigent grant. We need to do research as civil society on tariffs and pro-poor policies so we are clear on their implications, and so we can then work with the city in improving delivery for poor households.

The third component will explore how to build a more workable relationship with local and provincial government. Currently our relationship with the City of Cape Town and DWAF-Western Cape is not straightforward. We have good contacts and in principle commitment to co-operate. Yet historical mistrust and suspicion makes it hard to move forward. This is exacerbated when the City adopts measures that we as civil society do not support (such as the instalment of flow-restrictor metres in low income areas). The intention of this part of the project is to find ways in which to raise the issues of key concern to us with government so that they are heard and there is space to look for joint solutions.

### **Activities (year one)**

- Initial discussions with key people in WCWC
- Strategic planning workshop with WCWC
- Coordination of WCWC (regular meetings, update database, follow up on minutes, tasks, etc.
- Support to CBO members of WCWC
- Structured discussions within WCWC
- Desk top research (data gathering) on 2 key issues
- Action research

**-end-**