A hot climate for civil society engagement with climate change and water in eThekwini

Dr. Mary Galvin, Umphilo waManzi, August 2010
Personal introduction

- Drought, rural development and community organising CSO 1990s, focus on water policy/implementation lobbying

- PhD on how NGOs change local power dynamics in rural areas (case studies of water, land and agricultural NGOs)

- Research on community based organisations and NGOs, also on the role of CSOs in the water and sanitation sector

- Coordinated The Water Dialogues South Africa, a multi stakeholder research and dialogue process

- Started Umphilo waManzi, focus on grassroots realities for change upwards through action research and advocacy
Is There a Water Crisis in eThekwini?

Although local and national government have planned ahead for our water needs, our demand for water is too high for existing supply - there is a shortfall in eThekwini.
Especially while we wait for the new Spring Grove Dam to be built, there is a shortfall between our demand and available supply.
At the very least we need to be following the water conservation scenario!
Water restrictions are likely....

400 litres of water per household per day.
Right now middle class households use close to that much per person.
Poor households use an average of 50 litres per person per day, which is 9 kilolitres of free basic water per month for a household of 5 people.
Variable rainfall due to climate change is expected to put more pressure on water resources—and poor people.
Civil society in South Africa and eThekweni

- Affected by apartheid and high level on industrialisation, eg South African “exceptionalism” around use of land for subsistence farming, aims of youth

- Strong rights based approach, people look to state to deliver but frustration to widespread protest

- CBO/NGO relationship, enter social movements.. What is civil society and what is its role?

- Strong ideological differences amongst CSOs, eg CJN! and SACAN
Continuum of Organisations

- Social change organisations
- Grassroots organisations
- Technical organisations

3rd Sector

1st and 2nd Sector

Private sector

State
Figure 1: Stakeholder engagement process.
Civil society’s role well established in legislation and policy

- Chapter 4 of the **Municipal Systems Act, 2000**
- The **Strategic Framework for Water Services**
- The **National Water Act** legislates community participation in CMAs and WUAs
- The **National Water Services Regulation Strategy** was formulated as a means of making sure that goals are achieved, with its main aim to protect users.
- The aim of **Masibambane** was to adopt a sector wide approach, including civil society.
- CSO Strategy document, proposed CSO/ Government Policy Framework
What stories can tell

- Citizen voice project
- CSO Regulation Group
- Water Dialogues engagement

- IDP ticking boxes,
- CMA process cut off,
- CSOs and Indabas, and
- CSOs and communities...

Clearly NOT happening as intended!
What is Umphilo waManzi doing?

Umphilo is a non profit organisation that engages in action research and advocacy. We are presently focusing on three areas relevant to climate change and water:

- Research on CSO relationships with municipal govt (hydropolitics of eThekwini) with P Bond.

- Dialogue and advocacy around eThekwini’s dry sanitation, Urine Diversion toilets with University College London.

- Raising awareness about the need for rainwater harvesting and greywater systems (Sustainability Expo). Because poor people are always squeezed, we are surveying middle class households to assess attitudes/ perceptions and willingness to install such systems and producing a participatory video.
Change your water usage

Typical Household Water Use

- Drinking/Cooking: 3%
- Garden: 38%
- Bath/Shower: 20%
- Laundry: 13%
- Toilet: 29%

Rainwater harvesting and grey water usage save water and money

Source: Water Rhapsody
YOU can make a difference
Rainwater harvesting and grey water usage

Rainwater that falls on the roof can be captured and used outside for the garden, swimming pool, car washing or inside for laundry, toilet flushing, or bath/showers.

Why not use water again? Wastewater from the bath, shower, sinks or washing machine can be used for garden irrigation and other purposes, if treated. Reusing water lowers your fresh water usage, saving your water bill and the environment!
Umphilo’s relationships

- Relationship with eThekwini Water based on previous work (The Water Dialogues)
- Part of national multi stakeholder committee that coordinates the water and sanitation sector
- Recently organised meeting of all CSOs working in water in KwaZulu Natal
- Part of a newly formed national rainwater harvesting network
- Member of SA/KZN Climate Justice Now!
What could be replicated or expanded into the future

**Governance/ Participation in existing fora**
- Catchment Management Agency/ Water User Association participation (being formed)
- Take issues through eThekwini’s user platforms, ensure climate change realities are part of citizen education
- Strengthen CJN! on water, engage with organisations that are part of CJN! about their approaches, also eThek CSO group

**Project work/ activities**
- Awareness raising throughout eThekwini, translate overall issue into what it is likely to mean for people
- Engage with communities on RWH with intensive household agriculture and ongoing work on RWH for middle class
Future ideas (continued)

Watchdog role
◆ Make blue and Green Drop watchdog role a reality in a few critical spots
◆ Citizen Report Card for eThekwini municipality, based on “consumer” charters and parallel to municipal governments’ own performance management system on water and sanitation... in the face of climate change

Advocacy and protest
◆ Municipal service level and cost: steeper tariff curve, per person not household