

# Partnership session summary

## Water Resources Management

15:00-16:30, Wednesday 13 May

### Moderator & Speakers

- *Simon Thuo, Senior Technical Advisor, 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG)*
- *Cornel Krummenacher, CEO Equatorial Africa, Nestle*
- *Vimal Shah, CEO, Bidco*
- *Eng. Lawrence Simitu, Director of Water Services, State Department of Water, Government of Kenya*
- *Anders Berntell, Director, 2030 WRG*
- *Sareen Malik, Programme Coordinator, KEWASNET*
- *Andre Kruger, Public Sector and PPP Financing Specialist, Barclays Africa*

### Partnership session background

Water is arguably the most important resource on our planet. We are already consuming too much water and demands are increasing dramatically due to higher levels of food- and energy production and population growth. By 2030, the world is predicted to face a 40% gap between available renewable water supply and demand.

Unlike other green growth challenges, we do not lack solutions. We do not lack the technology required to close this gap. There are many best practices on which to draw. What we do often lack is the cooperation, prioritization and the political will to implement these solutions. Traditional approaches to water resources management are inadequate to deal with the increasing complexity of water demand and supply and unlikely to close the predicated gap. Alongside water scarcity, is the issue of competing demands between agricultural, energy, manufacturing and domestic users. And as competition increases, so will the complexity of managing water. This complexity requires a collaborative approach.

The partnership session was hosted by the 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG), a public-private-civil society partnership. 2030 WRG facilitates open, trust-based dialogue processes to drive action on water resources reform in water stressed developing countries. The ultimate aim of such reforms and actions are to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030.

### Partnership session goals

- Demonstrate, through practical examples, the potential to establish action-oriented, locally-owned multi-stakeholder partnerships on water resources in Africa
- Provide a platform for the launch of the Kenya 2030 Water Resources Group partnership, Kenya hydro-economic analysis and case study on the Strategic Water Partners Network in South Africa
- Engage other countries interested to establish similar multi-stakeholder partnerships for water resource reform under the 2030 WRG umbrella

The partnership is contributing to the proposed SDGs:

1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Session Summary

- The session was opened by, Simon Thuo, who framed the agenda around exploring how public-private-civil society can collaborate to create joint solutions to water resources challenges.
- Anders Berntell, Executive Director 2030 WRG, presented in the context of growing concerns of the emerging gap between water supply and demand in the region and with particular emphasis on how a multi-stakeholder partnership could generate solutions to the water situation in Kenya.
- The first panel focused on the case for collaborative action on water management with representatives from the Kenyan Government (through State Department for Water) alongside leading private sector actors (Bidco and Nestle). Overall, the focus was on the high level motivations for engaging in dialogue and co-creation of solutions to address water challenges at a macro-level, i.e. responding to the question ‘why’ different actors ought to engage on WRM.
- The second panel consisted of representatives from both civil society and the private sector and addressed the issue of ‘how’ multi-stakeholder partnerships can be designed to strengthen sustainable use of water resources. Representatives from KEWASNET, Barclays and 2030 WRG provided concrete suggestions on ways of closing the gap between water demand and supply drawing upon practical examples of joint action from e.g. the Strategic Water Partners Network (SWPN) in South Africa.

“Water is a key ingredient for almost all economic activity in Kenya, as well as for society and the environment. The Kenya 2030 WRG partnership will help ensure it does not become a barrier to growth.”

Discussions covered the specific roles and responsibilities of the public, private and civil society in establishing joint partnerships on WRM. Questions included how different actors could engage and how linkages can be strengthened between national and local-level initiatives. Different models of public, private and civil society partnerships in driving solutions to the growing water resources challenge in Kenya and the region were explored such as Payment for Ecosystem services-schemes. Finally, a case study on SWPN was launched through a discussion on the success factors to support transformation in the South African context.

“This shouldn’t be about CSR as “Cosmetic Social Responsibility” but rather about business taking a proactive stance in becoming part of the sustainability solution”

## Results and outcomes

The session enabled knowledge exchange among key partners of the South African and Kenyan national 2030 WRG partnerships and further resulted in an open dialogue around how stakeholders can learn from existing examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Key outcomes included the launch of the SWPN Case Study. As a result of this session, the participants have acquired a better understanding of how multi-stakeholder partnerships for water resource reform can be created under the 2030 WRG umbrella. A stronger foundation has been created for the Kenya 2030 WRG Partnership, following the launch of the Kenya Hydro-economic Summary which illustrates that the country could face a 31 percent gap between water demand and available water supply by the year 2030 (based on current water demand and future national development plans).

“We believe in the power of collaboration and actually we do not lack the technologies required to close this gap. What we do often lack is cooperation and the collective will to implement these solutions. This partnership shows that the commitment is there in Kenya”

For more information, please contact: Josephine Gustafsson: [jgustafsson@ifc.org](mailto:jgustafsson@ifc.org)