

Local Government Capacity Programme | LGCP

LGCP | Country programme 2012-2016

> South Africa



OBJECTIVE	Contributing to social and economic development through stimulating Local Economic Development (LED)
TARGET GROUP	15 local governments, 3 Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) and the national association of local governments SALGA
INTENDED RESULT	Local governments are better able to promote economic development
ACTIVITIES	Coaching, training, workshops and network meetings

The South African economy has seen remarkable growth figures in the past few years, but that growth barely reaches the poor population groups. Unemployment remains high, and inequality grows.

Decentralised governments play a crucial role in the national policy for economic development. It is, amongst others, their role to create an enabling environment for economic activity at local level, aiming to have more local people benefit from the increase in prosperity. But the mandate of local governments is not always equally clear; in addition knowledge and experience is often lacking.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CMAS

The LGCP South Africa programme wants to contribute to local governments being better able to formulate and implement plans for Local Economic Development. 15 municipalities have been selected, as well as 3 Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs, comparable to Dutch water authorities). The national local government association SALGA is also closely involved in the programme.

The participative method is focal point in the approach. Councillors and officials are being trained in how they can facilitate an enabling environment for the business community. It is evident to involve all relevant parties in the local approach.

- The LGCP aligns with the objective of the Dutch government to expand the economic cooperation with South Africa. South Africa has requested for international knowledge, expertise and contacts in areas like water management, sanitation, housing and urban planning. The programme responds to this.



South Africa

• **'We know most of the participating local governments from earlier cooperation. There have been good working relationships with the CMAs Breede Overberg and Inkomati for years, as well as between VNG International and SALGA. There are now new perspectives, but the programme is benefiting enormously from that wealth of experience and the existing network.'**

Anne-Marie Tosserams, Country Programme Manager of LGCP South Africa •

Background

Local governments implement their Local Economic Development policy by focusing on infrastructure (water, electricity supply), housing construction and urban regeneration. It is also important to remove barriers for business, such as lengthy procedures for the granting of licences.

However, the local governments are struggling with unclear rules and regulations regarding their mandate. In view of the limited capacity of local governments, a lot of work is outsourced. Existing plans for Local Economic Development are often fleshed out by external consultants and do not always align sufficiently with practice.

South Africa is in the middle of a process of decentralisation of the water management. Currently, two Catchment Management Agencies are already established and fully functioning. A total of seven CMAs should be added in the coming three years.

Aim

The LGCP aims to assist 15 local governments to enhance their capacity so that they are better able to draw up and implement plans for economic development. They must also be able to contribute to a favourable business climate in their region.

The new Catchment Management Agencies will be responsible for the allocation of water and the quality control of waste water being discharged by local governments. Through this CMAs play an important role in the facilitation of a favourable business climate. A good relationship between local governments and the CMAs is necessary.

The umbrella organisation SALGA is supported by VNG to adequately represent the interests of local governments with regard to Local Economic Development and to provide greater clarity regarding the mandate of local governments in this area.

Activities

A large number of activities are planned. A few of the most important are:

- Councillors and officials must translate national policy into strategies for Local Economic Development. On the basis of participative workshops, a support base is being created among relevant stakeholders for such a strategy, which helps in the actual implementation.
- The Catchment Management Agencies receive support in setting up systems for monitoring and evaluation. The newly to be established organisations can use this knowledge to their advantage.
- Local governments can also learn a lot from each other – and from external stakeholders. Training, coaching and platform and network meetings provide the exchange of experience and knowledge.

➔ What do we want to achieve?

- **15 local governments and 3 Catchment Management Agencies are able to design effective policies for Local Economic Development and water management.**
- **15 local governments and 3 CMAs have the capacity to implement that policy.**
- **The CMAs have designed strategies for the further development of their organisations.**
- **Local governments, CMAs and the umbrella organisation SALGA know how to engage external parties to better implement their policies.**
- **Councillors and officials understand the importance of Local Economic Development and work on that together.**



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