

# Partnership Market Place

## *Strategic Water Partners Network*

When: Wednesday, 13 May, 17:00-18:30  
Where: Tent in the fountain area  
Speaker(s): Will Davies, Head, Africa, 2030 WRG, [wdavies@ifc.org](mailto:wdavies@ifc.org), [www.2030wrg.org](http://www.2030wrg.org)

### **What is the green growth challenge you are trying to overcome? What are the key barriers to change?**

By 2030, the world is predicted to face a 40 percent gap between available renewable water supply and demand. Water scarcity and competition for water use is already a fundamental challenge to development in many countries. In South Africa this gap is projected to be 17 percent gap by 2030. No actor alone has the ability to solve these challenges, but much can be achieved if water users work together to identify shared solutions and implement strategies, policies, plans, and programs.

### **What is your partnership approach / hypothesis?**

The Strategic Water Partners Network (SWPN) is a multi-stakeholder platform addressing South Africa's most pressing water issues: water efficiency and reducing leakage, managing effluent and wastewater management and managing agricultural and supply chain water. Inaugurated in November 2011, the partnership addresses issues that could not be resolved through existing mechanisms with a key focus on solutions, actions, and implementation.

### **Who are the partners involved and how? Who are the other stakeholders?**

SWPN is chaired by the Department of Water and Sanitation and co-chaired by South African Breweries on behalf of business. Senior representatives from Nestlé, Eskom Holdings SOC Limited and Coca-Cola Company lead the projects. Funding comes from the corporate supporters alongside global partners such as 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG), which brokered the establishment of the SWPN, and the German based development agency GIZ. Civil society is represented by, amongst others, by WWF South Africa. A key focus for the partnership has been building trust between government and the major water using companies. However the impact of the partnership will be felt much broadly – by current and future water users in South Africa.

### **What are your partnership objectives and what achievements have there been to date?**

An early success was the "No Drop Scorecard and Strategy" to assess the status of each municipality's water usage and incentivize action to reduce municipal leakages. This was adopted by government in mid-2013 and is already starting to influence municipal plans and targets. A constructive dialogue has been established to address mine water issues, including the institutional and financing models for sustainable mine-water management solutions are now being developed. SWPN is also developing a program to expand the reach and improve implementation of the national Water Administration System, an integrated irrigation water management tool.

### **What is the potential of this partnership to achieve impact and scale?**

The SWPN is a national partnership addressing barriers through multi stakeholder collaboration. Impact and scale will come as these barriers are being unlocked and solutions are implemented. Also central to the concept of scale, is mainstreaming this dialogue between business and government – within the water community and beyond. Learning however, is felt beyond South Africa's borders, as partners institutionalize new approaches and solutions are replicated through membership of the 2030 WRG network of country partnerships.