

Beyond the Gap Scenarios for Water Services in South Africa



South Africa has endorsed the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets and has committed to achieving these by 2030. In 2019, the World Bank produced a global report titled: Beyond the Gap: How Countries Can Afford the Infrastructure They Need while Protecting the Planet. The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) partnered with the World Bank to take stock of South Africa's progress towards achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through applying the Beyond the Gap methodology in a number of sectors. PDG was appointed to undertake the assessment of the costs to achieve the SDG 6 Goals pertaining to water and sanitation.

The Beyond the Gap Methodology aims to shift focus from a focus on more spending to spending better on the "right objectives", using relevant metrics to quantify the funding gap to achieve infrastructure SDGs by 2030, highlight key cost drivers and their policy and service delivery implications, and engage policy makers on the implications of policy choices, costs and service level targets, pathways and strategies. PDG, together with Abri Vermeulen and Dr James Cullis of Zutari, developed two bespoke models, for water services and water resources, to quantify the cost of achieving the SDG 6 targets as well as other associated impacts under different exogenous circumstances and policy choices.

The findings showed that without either an increase in the water tariff level, potentially impacting on affordability, or an increased allocation from the national fiscus, South Africa will be unable to afford to reach the SDG 6 goals by 2030. None of the 24 scenarios modelled achieved all of the sector objectives within the timeframe, indicating that important



trade-offs and policy decisions need to be made. The findings and policy recommendations were presented to high level panels of officials from the Department of Water and Sanitation, the DBSA and the Water Research Commission.

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WBBG PROJECT:

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