

Network to address SA's looming water crisis

At the recent World Economic Forum (WEF) Africa meeting, South African government, Nestlé and the WEF announced a new public-private partnership to oversee the South Africa Strategic Water Partners Network (SASWPN), which aims to address water

conservation and demand management in the country and develop a sustainable way of managing groundwater resources. The SASWPN will see South Africa join Jordan, Mexico and the state of Karnataka in India in the Water Resources Group, supported by the WEF

and the International Finance Corporation.

Water demand should rise by 52% over the next 30 years in South Africa, while supply is sharply declining.

A WEF statement said, "If current trends of leakage from aged and poorly maintained municipal infrastructure and

the loss of wetlands persist, growth in demand will intensify competition for water resources across all sectors of the economy." Should the management practices status quo remain, there'll be a 17% gap between water demand and supply by 2030.

– Denene Erasmus