

1 January 2023

CONFIDENTIAL

PER E-MAIL

Dear NGO Friends

CBSS POLICY ON ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES RELATING TO WATER GOVERNANCE MATTERS

CBSS was established in 2008 as an independent advisory service to assist both the public and private sector in finding sustainable environmental and knowledge management solutions for practical environmental governance, policy, procedure and authorisation difficulties, as well as for potential problems that could lead to environmental damage or pollution, with associated negative consequences.

We regard it as part of our corporate social responsibility to assist communities whose water supply and livelihoods are under threat as a result of neighbouring activities that (could potentially) cause water loss or water pollution and have assisted a number of such communities at a reduced cost (sometimes *pro-bono*) since our establishment.

Recently, however, it has occurred that some (mostly affluent) stakeholders who are concerned about a water governance issue, but whose livelihood are not under threat as a result of a neighbouring activity, required our services at a reduced rate. Unfortunately, providing assistance to such stakeholders has the effect that valuable resources are taken away from those communities who are in real need of our expertise, and who have an imminent threat towards their health, well-being or food security as a result of impacts on their water resources.

As we do not want to curtail our services to NGOs, we have decided that our services will no longer be provided at a reduced cost to stakeholders who are able to pay for our normal rate, or who are concerned about a water governance issue, but whose livelihood is not under threat. We will also no longer provide any *pro-bono* services, as past experience has shown that this leads to a lack of respect for our time and expertise.

We trust that you will understand our position in this regard, and we look forward to providing our water governance services to impoverished communities who lacks the expertise, and who have an imminent threat towards their health, well-being or food security as a result of impacts on their water resources. We will assist such communities at a reduced rate, and as each case has to be judged on its merit, you are welcome to contact us to discuss the basis on which we could assist any such community that you may represent, and to determine the cost associated with providing our expertise.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any aspect that you wish to discuss in this respect.

Yours in sustainability



Carin Bosman
Director: CBSS

