



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 684

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 07 NOVEMBER 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 42)

★684. Mr B N Herron (GOOD) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

Whether, noting the importance of ecosystem services in rural communities that have access to little water supply and that individuals who have dedicated their time to preserving their water supply are poorly compensated if at all, his department has any committed plans in place to address the desperate need for a standardised ecosystem service dedicated to water protection nationwide; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION


The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has a standardised ecosystem service dedicated to the protection of water. Chapter 3 of the National Water Act deals with the protection of the country's water resources which is achieved through a series of resource directed measures. These measures, namely the classification of water resources, setting of Resource Quality Objectives and the Reserve, are being set progressively for all significant river systems. These measures ensure that water is set aside for basic human needs as well as for environmental requirements in the quest to maintain ecological sustainability. This is critical to ensure that the ecosystem can continue to supply goods and services which rural communities are dependent on. Ecosystem goods and services are categorized mainly as:

- Provisioning services: Provision of tangible products to communities such as fresh water, fish, fibre, wood for fuel. Community members may for example use natural resources provided by the catchment to craft curios which can be sold to tourists. In this way, community members derive economic benefit from the goods and services provided from the ecosystem.


- Regulation services: indirect services provided to communities through regulation of hydrological processes that attenuate floods and mitigate droughts, and natural purification capacities of wetlands, lakes and floodplains.
- Cultural services: the provision of locations (settings) for religious ceremonies, recreation and aesthetic value for the community.

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DRAFT REPLY: RECOMMENDED/ ~~NOT RECOMMENDED~~/ AMENDED


DR SEAN PHILLIPS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 09/11/23

DRAFT REPLY: APPROVED/ NOT APPROVED/ AMENDED


MR SENZO MCHUNU, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 14/11/23