



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Development of the National Water Resources Strategy Third Edition (NWRS-3)

## Goal 2: Promoting International Co-operation

**NWRS-3 CONSULTATION WORKSHOP**

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# NWRS-3 CH10: Promoting International Co-operation

## **The aim of this chapter is:**

To advance the African agenda and to shape the global water agenda while ensuring that, in South Africa, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is implemented in a manner that conforms to international water protocols and treaties as well as the legislative framework governing water while addressing new national and international water and sanitation development imperatives as well as ensuring that regional and international sanitation obligations are met and complied with.

## **This chapter consists of the following 4 sections:**

- Context and Current Challenges
- Guiding Principles
- Baseline and Status Quo
- Strategic Objectives and Strategic Actions for implementation

## NWRS-3 CH10: Context & Current Challenges

South Africa is a signatory to the following conventions:

- ❑ The Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, an international treaty of May 1997.
- ❑ The Revised Protocol on Share Water Courses in the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- ❑ This is against the background that South Africa shares four major international river systems with neighbouring countries:
  - The Orange/Senqu system is shared with Lesotho (trans boundary), Botswana and Namibia (contiguous);
  - The Limpopo system is shared with Botswana, and Zimbabwe (contiguous) and Mozambique (trans boundary);
  - The Nkomati system is shared with Eswatini and Mozambique (transboundary); and
  - The Usutu/Pongola-Maputo system is shared with Mozambique and Swaziland (transboundary).

## NWRS-3 CH10: Context & Current Challenges

- ❑ Recently South Africa served as a member of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) where South Africa's President served among the 11 sitting Presidents to advance the goal 6 on Water and Sanitation for all.
- ❑ South Africa has strategic partnerships in the following areas:
  - SADC countries and the rest of Africa;
  - South-South Cooperation;
  - North-South Cooperation;
  - Multilateral cooperation in Africa;
  - Multilateral cooperation outside Africa;
- ❑ From time to time, DIRCO invites DWS to participate in International Presidential Projects aimed at advancing national water sector interest, and for DWS to deliver Presidential International Projects aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and supporting reconstruction and development of countries recovering from crisis.

## NWRS-3 CH10: Guiding Principles

- ❑ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
- ❑ The National Development Plan, 2030.
- ❑ National interest on water and sanitation in line with foreign policy imperatives including Foreign policy discussion documents from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.
- ❑ The United Nations Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, an international treaty of May 1997
- ❑ The “Revised Protocol on Shared Water Courses in the Southern African Development Community” to which South Africa is a signatory.
- ❑ Presidential Outcome 11 on “creating a better South Africa and contributing to a better and safer world”.
- ❑ African Union 2063 Agenda.

## NWRS-3 CH10: Guiding Principles

- ❑ SADC Regional Strategic Implementation Plan of 2016 – 2020.
- ❑ AMCOW Work plan.
- ❑ Ramsar Convention (DWS/DEFF/DALRRD management of wetlands of international importance).
- ❑ Sharm el Sheik Declaration of AMCOW.
- ❑ Ethekwini Declaration on sanitation of AMCOW.
- ❑ The International Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030.
- ❑ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, (SDG6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all).
- ❑ Relevant South African legislation and policies governing international water cooperation.
- ❑ Bilateral cooperation Indicators for Active Water cooperation.
- ❑ Report on the outcome of the High level Panel on Water of 2018.

## NWRS-3 CH10: Baseline and Status Quo

- ❑ The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has adopted the Revised Protocol on Shared Water Courses in the Southern African Development Community (SADC Protocol).
- ❑ The primary purpose of the SADC Protocol is to develop closer cooperation between SADC member states for the sustainable and coordinated management, protection and utilisation of shared watercourses in the most beneficial way to advance the SADC Agenda of regional integration and poverty reduction.
- ❑ This primary purpose is achieved through the establishment of shared watercourse institutions or River Basin Organisations (RBO).

## NWRS-3 CH10: Baseline and Status Quo

South Africa shares four major rivers systems with six neighbouring countries:

- Orange/Senqu system shared with Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia through the Orange-Senqu River Commission.
- Limpopo system shared with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique through the Limpopo Watercourse Commission.
- Inco- Maputo and Usuthu/Pongola systems shared with Swaziland and Mozambique through the Tripartite Permanent Technical Committee (TPTC).

Furthermore, South Africa cooperates with some SADC countries that South Africa shares rivers and borders with through the following Commissions:

- RSA/Botswana Joint Permanent Technical Commission (JPTC);
- RSA/Kingdom of Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC) on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project;
- RSA/Namibia Permanent Water Commission (PWC);
- RSA/Mozambique Joint Water Commission (JWC);
- RSA/Zimbabwe Joint Water Commission (JWC);
- RSA/the Kingdom of Eswatini Joint Water Committee (JWC);
- RSA/DRC; Joint Water Commission (JWC).



## CH10 Strategic Objective 1:

To advance the African agenda through sustainable development by multilateral and bilateral cooperation in Africa.

In order to achieve the above strategic objective, the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Service and implement existing Africa bilateral agreements and obligations.
- Develop new strategic bilateral agreements which yield results in technology transfer opportunities and water and sanitation business opportunities for RSA Entities.
- Advance South Africa's interest in SADC, AMCOW and AfriSAN and related platforms by influencing the water and sanitation agenda.
- Ensure that RSA fulfils its reporting obligations in the SADC, AMCOW and other key related Africa multilateral platforms.

## CH10 Strategic Objective 2:

To advance the water and sanitation agendas in the global system of governance and water and sanitation diplomacy in support of political and economic relations through multilateral cooperation.

In order to achieve the above strategic Objective the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Facilitate access to sources of funding,
- Continued participation in the UN Water related engagements and in particular, as a Steering Committee Member at the UN-Decade on Water 2018 to 2028.
- Identify trends and practices that can contribute to the refinement of South African policies, strategies and practices
- Facilitate the participation of RSA water experts in International multilateral platforms with a view to contribute to knowledge generation and validation of their expertise by their peers.

## CH10 Strategic Objective 3:

To advance strategic global bilateral relations, particularly South-South and North-South relations.

In order to achieve the above strategic objective the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Service and implement existing global agreements and obligations
- Develop new strategic bilateral agreements which yield results in technology transfer opportunities and water and sanitation business opportunities for RSA Entities.
- Position the South African water and sanitation sector as a preferred destination for investment in water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Share knowledge, expertise and technical cooperation exchange training programmes aimed at benefiting the water sector.

## CH10 Strategic Objective 4:

To enhance technical and development cooperation regarding international resources.

In order to achieve the above strategic objective the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Exchange technical, engineering and scientific expertise to advance the national interest by providing capacity building and expertise to partners who can be assisted by South Africa.
- Leverage international resources for the benefit of the water sector.
- Advance the interest of water entities in technical cooperation with strategic partners in Africa, and globally.
- Tap into the expertise available through international partnerships with a view to support RSA institutions to implement the Water and Sanitation Master Plan.

## CH10 Strategic Objective 5:

To promote and facilitate the establishment of shared resources agreements and shared watercourse institutions for the management of share watercourses (including for aquifers that are transboundary but with no River Basin Organisations established).

In order to achieve the above strategic Objective the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Provide guidance to the water and sanitation sector in the shared watercourse institutions.
- Influence and support the full development of river basin organisations such as the Limpopo Watercourse Commission and the Tripartite Permanent Technical Committee and support the capacity building of their related secretariats through secondments where necessary.
- Advance the implementation of the respective transboundary Strategic Action Plans in line with RSA national interest.
- Enhance the sustainable, equitable and reasonable utilisation of the watercourses through participation in the Commissions where RSA is a member.
- Use international relations as a benchmark for sharing lessons and experiences with other global River Basin Organisations.

## CH10 Strategic Objective 5 continued:

To promote and facilitate the establishment of shared resources agreements and shared watercourse institutions for the management of share watercourses (including for aquifers that are transboundary but with no River Basin Organisations established).

In order to achieve the above strategic objective the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Promote a co-ordinated and integrated environmentally sound development and management of share watercourses and sanitation programmes for the benefit of RSA water resources regime.
- Promote the harmonisation and monitoring of legislation and policies for planning, development, conservation of watercourses and allocation of the water and sanitation resources.
- Actively participate in and grow appropriate regional and international partnerships towards groundwater resource understanding and optimal utilization, including transboundary resource management.

## **CH10 Strategic Objective 6:**

To promote research and technology development, information exchange, capacity building and the application of appropriate technologies with partner countries in Africa and Globally.

In order to achieve the above strategic objective the following strategic actions must be undertaken:

- Utilise strategic partnerships to harness opportunities for capacity building and exchange of expertise and information in addressing challenges faced by the water sector.
- Identify international opportunities for job creation, research partnerships, and provision of services in strategic partner countries.

## Discussion and Inputs

### Chapters 10