



North West NGS workshop comments

NGS Theme/ Chapter	Comment	Sector
Theme 1, 2 and 7	<p>The NGS should address the political interferences in water supply and sharing of domestic water with livestock.</p> <p>Constant monitoring of groundwater use. There should be maintenance plans and their implementation. Proper groundwater studies should be conducted to determine groundwater availability in specific locations.</p> <p>There are no funds available for development of groundwater schemes.</p> <p>Interdepartmental communication should be improved to determine availability of services.</p>	Water board
	<p>Municipalities are not taking responsibility; DWS together with municipalities should fix contamination of streams by contaminants such as sewer systems.</p> <p>The NGS should address that compliance is currently applicable to mining.</p>	Mining
	<p>The current legislation does not instruct agricultural water users which are the biggest groundwater users, to practice appropriate monitoring of groundwater abstraction because without legislation compliance is not effective.</p>	
	<p>Stakeholder engagement should be at all levels, including provincial level.</p>	
	<p>The DWS should take action towards implementation; there is currently a lack of implementation.</p>	Mining
	<p>DWS and municipalities should get farmers on board in terms of</p>	

	monitoring boreholes in their properties.	
	Regulation of groundwater related issues such as construction of septic tanks at different areas, development of cemeteries next to wetlands and construction of pit latrines on shallow aquifers or dolomitic areas.	
Theme 3-6 & 8	In terms of groundwater resource protection, municipal boreholes don't have pump test data; they are not equipped with groundwater management tools which make it difficult to manage groundwater resources.	
	Prevention of groundwater resources should take priority in all sectors to avoid the reactive approach. There should be a core infrastructure approval process before any development. Enforcement should be applied on all sectors.	Mining
	In most municipalities there is no drilling and pump test data in their archives and this makes it difficult for DWS to assist in terms of groundwater management.	DWS
	Resource planning should include infrastructure. There is a need for updated South African groundwater maps which will show quantity and quality.	Mining
	There strategy should include methods that can be used to prevent pollution of groundwater.	
	A buy in from municipalities especially from rural areas is important in terms of groundwater quality and quantity.	
	There should be regulation of drilling of boreholes.	
	Awareness raising of groundwater use relating to over abstraction is very important. The public including municipal operators should know the risks related to over abstraction in terms of water quality. DWS should work with all sectors especially with mining to develop best groundwater guidelines for each sector	
Theme 3-6 &	There should be a clear separation of domestic and livestock water	

8	<p>Department of agriculture and farmers should be involved in groundwater related discussions.</p> <p>There should be a constant monitoring of groundwater use which will enable proper groundwater management.</p> <p>The strategy should also address the issue of lack of funds for operation and maintenance.</p> <p>Private boreholes must be regulated in terms of quality and quantity and by-laws should include control of drilling boreholes.</p>	Water board (Sedibeng)
	<p>Guidelines concerning groundwater protection should address and protect aquifers from being over abstracted.</p>	
	<p>With regards to Integrated groundwater resource planning, municipalities should include registering of private boreholes so as to quantify water use properly and improve communication to alert the community about the behavior of the aquifer.</p>	
	<p>There should be an improved communication between departments to prevent development without proper infrastructure for water, power and other services.</p>	
	<p>There should be an establishment of an auditing culture for councils and provinces so as to hold people accountable. Furthermore young engineers should be employed in municipalities to get technical standards in place based on required standards by DWS.</p>	
	<p>Integrated higher level planning is essential for groundwater management because mostly groundwater is affected by poor surface water management.</p>	
	Chapter 9-11	<p>Water Resource management should be incorporated in school curriculum as a long term plan.</p>
<p>DWS together with municipalities should drive the groundwater awareness campaigns for skills transfer.</p>		
<p>The DWS regional offices should report on what they are doing in terms of collection information.</p> <p>In terms of groundwater resource utilization, the strategy should be made mandatory through water use licence authorization by</p>		

	developing guidelines on groundwater abstraction and other groundwater activities that relate to management.	
	The scope of the work for consultants should include capturing of data on central database. The NGS should address the issue of lack or no formal training courses for groundwater personnel.	Water board (Sedibeng water)
	Capacity building on groundwater should be driven by DWS.	
	There should be an accessible database in which all sectors can record groundwater data. Projects that need to be done should be linked up with universities and be conducted as MSc degrees.	Water board
	Norms and standards for irrigation should be developed and they should include times and methods of irrigation to ensure sustainable groundwater utilization.	
	Water resource classification and resource quality objectives for priority aquifers should be included in the NGS.	
	There is a lack or no implementation of new technologies which relate to use of water efficiently and awareness raising on efficient water use and conservation.	DWS (Water regulation)
Local Action	The strategy should be introduced through regional institutions whereby presentations of the strategy can be done in catchment management forums.	
	There should be a list of solutions to municipal borehole vandalism; armed response could be one of the solutions.	
	There should be regional groundwater champions who will report to the national champions in terms of groundwater management progress.	
	The strategy should not be left to the local government for implementation; DWS together with all sectors including local government should be part of the implementation process with clear directions on how to implement it.	
	NGS should address how to improvise for community gardens and groundwater use statistics should consider population growth, influx from African and from closed down mines.	Water board