



# Regional Groundwater Plans

# What benefits can accrue from these Plans?

- Regional Management will understand the groundwater requirements and can budget for projects
- Formalise the current knowledge and/or lack of knowledge about groundwater in each Region;
- Identify potential projects and prioritise them;
- Systematically structure proposals to address shortcomings;
- Communication tool between adjacent Regions;
- Communication tool between Head Office and relevant Region;
- Communication tool between Region and adjacent country;

# What should such plans contain?

Based on a chosen geographical area, e.g. Vegter Hydrogeological Region, the following aspects should be described: -

- Geology
- Geohydrology
- Economic activities
- Description of groundwater functions as described in NWA, i.e. protection, utilisation, development, conservation, management and control
- Potential and/or real impacts the economic activities exert on the groundwater sources using a Risk-based approach

# Where do the descriptions lead to?

Identification of shortcomings in terms of: -

- Data/information/knowledge;
- Protection measures;
- Level of current groundwater utilisation;
- Level of development and/or additional capacity for, *inter alia*, augmentation;
- Level of conservation required;
- Where groundwater management is needed;
- Where control is inadequate and is needed.

# Linkages to other initiatives

Groundwater Plan can inform: -

- Catchment Management Strategy (ISPs);
- WRC's list of priority groundwater issues
- Inform HO's Groundwater Programme

Formalise the co-operation between: -

- Different DWAF-directorates (WQM, WS, etc);
- DWAF and WRC;
- DWAF & Academic Institutions regarding research opportunities

# Where has groundwater plans been completed?

- Mpumalanga (Completed – Mar 2006)
- KwaZulu-Natal (Completed –Jan 2008)
- Northern Cape (in preparation)
- Northwest (in preparation)

# Other groundwater issues to be addressed in time

- GRA III – Results of 5 projects to be incorporated into Plan (methodologies has been established but in most cases lack of data lead to low-level confidence results);
- Relevant WRC Project results, i.e. Arsenic, Selenium & Uranium as toxic minerals;
- Impacts of coal mining (Mpumalanga & KwaZulu-Natal Provinces)

How can my Region get  
assistance? - Just ask

What will I do – all the footwork  
plus the writing!