

Development of the National Eutrophication Management Strategy

Project Steering Committee Meeting 2 - Background Information Document

July 2021



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to assist Project Steering Committee (PSC) members to prepare for the upcoming PSC meeting 2 scheduled to take place on 27 July 2021; and to provide progress on the development of the National Eutrophication Management Strategy to date.

The BID consist of the following items:

- Project progress;
- Project outputs (Inception, Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis);
- Finalization of the National Eutrophication Management Strategy;
- Stakeholder engagement platforms; and
- Way forward

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1. BACKGROUND

The National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA) provides for the protection, use, conservation, management and control of water resources in an efficient, sustainable and equitable manner. Chapter 3 of the NWA lays down a series of measures which together are intended to ensure the comprehensive protection of all water resources. The aim of protection of water resources is to ensure that water is available for current and future human use and sustaining our ecosystems.

Nutrient management in water resources is key to addressing and managing eutrophication. The Department has therefore initiated a project to develop the National Eutrophication Management Strategy which is giving effect to the strategic objectives and actions identified in the draft Integrated Water Quality Management (IWQM) Policy (2016), IWQM strategy (2017), and the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (2018).

2. STUDY PROGRESS

The National Eutrophication Management Strategy project was initiated by the DWS in 2019. To date the Inception, Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis phases have been completed. The DWS is in the process of finalizing the National Eutrophication Management Strategy Report (First Edition) which was distributed to PSC for comments and inputs on 30 June 2021.

Figure 1 below summarises the project milestones.

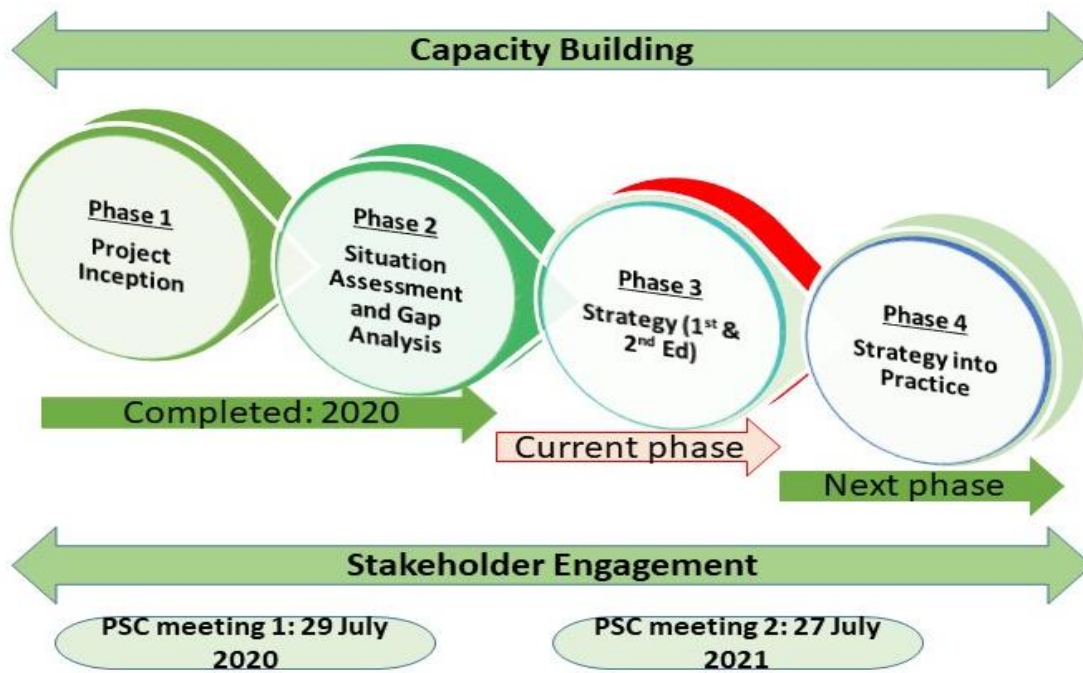


Figure 1: Development Process of the National Eutrophication Management Strategy

3. PROJECT OUTPUTS

3.1 Project Inception

The Inception phase defined the extent of work and associated costs. It also provided the opportunity for identification, assessment, interpretation of the nature and scope of the project and documented all the relevant information available to support the Strategy. This milestone produced an Inception Report which was distributed to the PSC members for comments and inputs in May 2020 and also presented to external stakeholders in the first PSC meeting held on 29 July 2020.

3.2 Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis

This phase was aimed at identifying current as well as emerging eutrophication issues, causes, impacts and challenges. The identification of the causes and challenges were conducted through the review of existing literature, reports, models, maps and other relevant information. The focus was on the international water quality landscape in relation to South Africa (SA), Policy and legislative framework, impacts of climate change on eutrophication and overall eutrophication management challenges in SA. This work component also looked at the current measures in place to manage eutrophication. The below gaps were identified based on the literature studies and current measures and tools in place:

- ◆ Delay in the implementation of the Protection and Regulation Measures (failure to implement interventions effectively);
- ◆ Inadequacy of relevant skills;
- ◆ Capacity building constraints;
- ◆ Lack of resource water quality models to implement RDM interventions; and
- ◆ Monitoring data gaps.

The outcome of this project activity was a Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis Report which was distributed to PSC for comments and inputs in July 2020 and presented at the first PSC meeting held on 29 July 2020.

3.3 National Eutrophication Management Strategy

The DWS is in the process of finalizing the first edition of the National Eutrophication Management Strategy Report. The anatomy of Strategy Report is given in **Figure 2** below.



Figure 2: Anatomy of the National Eutrophication Management Strategy document

The National Eutrophication Management Strategy comprises of three (3) inter-related and mutual supportive strategies which are directed towards realisation of the eutrophication management goal and objectives, viz.:

- ◆ Core Strategies – that are core to giving effect to the ambitions of the eutrophication management goal and policy, developed from management tools such as Resource Directed Measures, Sources Directed Measures and Remediation Directed Measures;
- ◆ Operational Strategies – to complement the core strategies by providing additional resolution on key stages within the water quality management framework of the “Plan – Do- Check – Act”; and
- ◆ Supporting Strategies – to strengthen the supporting implementation roles such as capacity building, research and innovation.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The process of developing the National Eutrophication Management Strategy is stakeholder driven. The study advocates for Cooperative Governance and therefore requires consultation, engagement and participation of all three spheres of government, civil society, private sector and the entire water sector stakeholders in order to ensure appropriateness and acceptability of the Strategy by different role players responsible for implementation. Stakeholder engagement liaisons undertaken in the development of this Strategy consists of the following committees as illustrated in **Figure 3**.

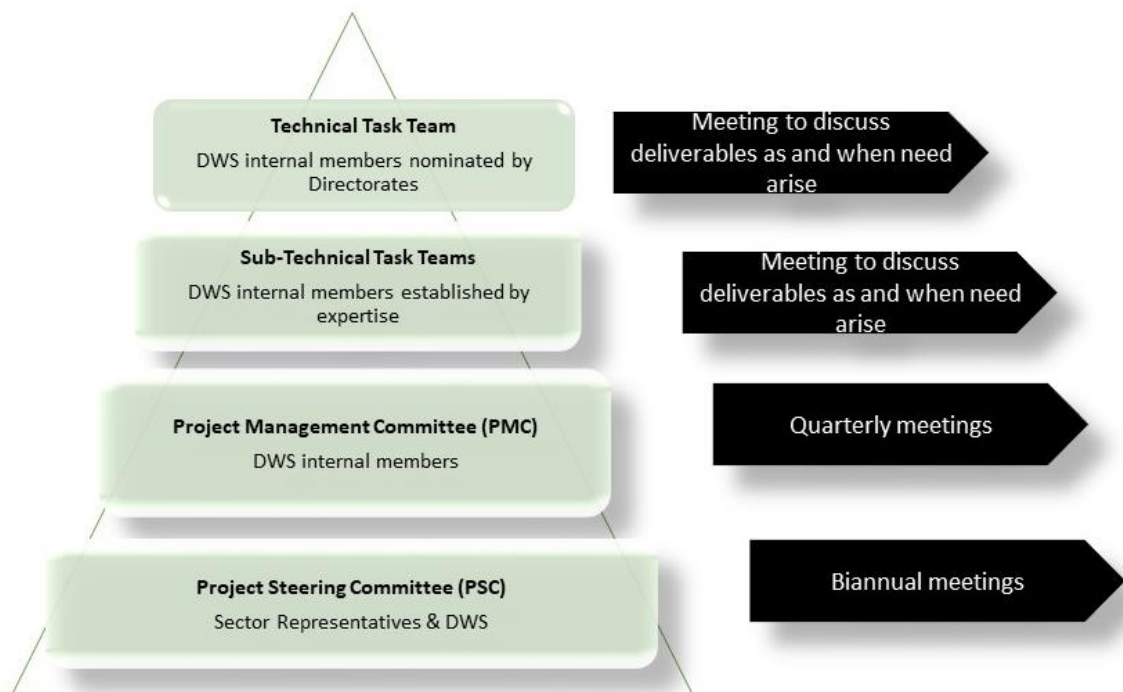


Figure 3: Scope of Stakeholder Engagement

The last engagement with PSC was on 29 July 2020 when the project was still at the Situation Assessment and Gap Analysis phase. The 2nd PSC meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 July 2021, with the aim to provide feedback and receive inputs from stakeholders on the National Eutrophication Management Strategy (First edition) report.

5. WAY FORWARD: PUTTING STRATEGY INTO PRACTICE

The Strategy must lead to actions illustrating roles, responsibilities and mandates within the Department and the entire water sector. Therefore, after finalization of the National Management Strategy phase, the next step will be to put the Strategy into Practice (refer to **Figure 1**). This component will entail the following:

- ◆ Developing actions that will provide details necessary to turn the National Eutrophication Management Strategy into action by:
 - clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of various eutrophication implementation role players; and
 - developing mechanisms and platforms for monitoring, integration and reporting on the progress, outcomes of those actions and the success of the strategy.

6. MORE INFORMATION

More information on the National Eutrophication Management Strategy can be accessed on DWS website on: <https://www.dws.gov.za/RDM/SDCCO.aspx>