



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

# The Determination of Water Resource Classes and RQOs in the Inkomati: Background

Public Meeting no.2

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# Legal Mandate

- National Water Act requires:
  - Classification of water resources
    - Prepared in accordance with the National Water Resource Classification System.
  - Resource Quality Objectives
    - Defines the goals to achieve the Management Class, numerically and as narratives.

# What is Classification?

- Classification defines the desired state of the water resources by setting a Water Resource Class , commonly known as Management Class (MC);
- Recommended MC reflects a balance between protection and use of the water resources;
- This balance was determined by taking into account the social, economic & ecological landscape;
- Process requires co-operation & transparency with all stakeholders.

# What are the classes?

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Description of use</b>	<b>Majority of ecological categories</b>
<b>Class I</b>	<b>Minimally used</b>	<b>A &amp; B</b>
<b>Class II</b>	<b>Moderately used</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Class III</b>	<b>Heavily used</b>	<b>D</b>

**Ecological Category (EC)** - means the assigned ecological condition to a water resource . It is measured by determining how much the ecosystem has changed from natural (pre-development condition). The scale is A (near natural) to F (critically modified)

# What are the Resource Quality Objectives?

- RQOs are numeric or descriptive statements of conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource;
- RQOs are the objectives or goals which can be measured or monitored to determine whether the Class is being achieved;
- The RQOs are intended to give effect to the Class determined.

# **DETERMINATION OF CLASSES AND RQOS IN THE INKOMATI**

- **The study was initiated in April 2013**
- **Timeframe: 24 months**
- **IWR Water Resources was appointed to assist  
DWS**
- **The objective of the study is to determine  
classes and RQOs in the Inkomati**

# Stakeholder Involvement

- Public Meeting to announce the project (June 2013)
- Established a Project Steering Committee to guide process
  - 3 meetings (August 2013, March and November 2014)
- Technical Task Group meetings
  - 2 meetings (16 October 2013 and 28 August 2014)
- Catchment Management Forums
- Information dissemination:
  - Advertisements and invitation letters
  - BIDs
  - Meetings with sectors

# Where are we in the process?

- Draft Water Resource Classes and Resource Quality Objectives have been compiled and will be presented.
- Publishing in the Gazette is underway.



# Thank You