



**CLASSIFICATION OF WATER RESOURCES AND
DETERMINATION OF THE RESOURCE QUALITY
OBJECTIVES IN THE LETABA CATCHMENT**

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

**Date: 12 March 2013
Venue: Tzaneen Lodge
Time: 09:00 – 13:30**



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PRESENTATION CONTENT

- **The Water Resource Classification System (WRCS) and Resource Quality Objectives (RQOS)**
- **Study Area**
- **Process for the classification of water resources and determination of the Resource Quality Objectives in the Letaba Catchment**



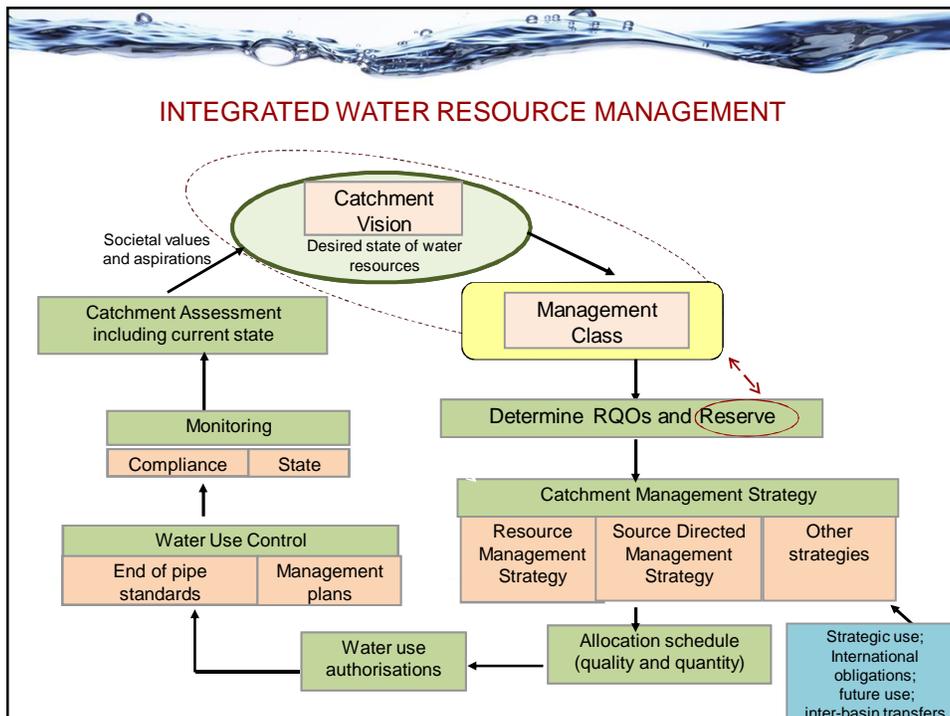
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LEGAL MANDATE

- “ The classification of South African water resources is required by the National Water Act (NWA) (No. 36 of 1998) (Chapter 3 regarding the protection of water resources)
 - . **Class**
 - . Reserve (Preliminary)
 - . **Resource Quality Objectives**
- “ Regulation 810 published in Government Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010 defined water resource management classes and the procedure to determine a Class
- “ According to the NWA, once the WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified



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CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

- The classification of water resources will help in maintaining the desired state of the water resources by setting a Management Class (MC);
- MC facilitates the balance between protection and use of the water resources;
- MC is defined by taking into account the social, economic & ecological landscape;
- Process requires co-operation & transparency with all stakeholders.



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THREE MANAGEMENT CLASSES (MC)

Classes	Description of use	Ecological categories
Class I	Minimally used	A/B
Class II	Moderately used	C
Class III	Heavily used	D

Ecological Category (EC) - means the assigned ecological condition to a water resource in terms of the deviation of its biophysical components from a pre-development condition.



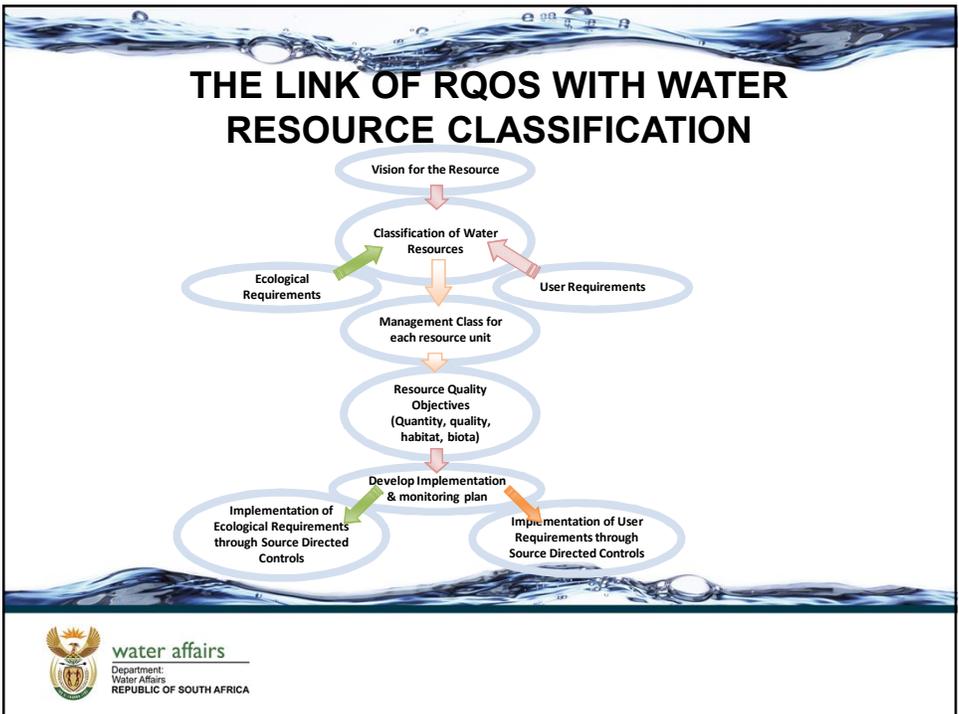
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RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (RQOS)

- The NWA states that the purpose of RQOs is to establish clear goals relating to the quality of the relevant water resources;
- RQOs captured the **Class and the ecological needs** into measurable goals that give direction as to how the resources need to be managed;
- The RQOs can be numeric or descriptive statements.
 - Biota
 - Habitat
 - Flow
 - Ecological and User water quality



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Classification and RQOs

The classification and determination of the RQOs are step-wise processes consisting of:

- **Assessment of the study area and delineate the IUAs**
- **Identify and evaluate the scenarios**
- **Setting of the class, userspecs and ecospecs**
- **Stakeholder engagement**



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HOW WILL CLASSIFICATION AND RQOS ASSIST IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CATCHMENT?

- The catchment vision requires a desired state of the water resources
- RQOs will give effect to the implementation of the MCs
- There will be management framework describing the following:
 - The extent to which every significant water resource can be used, and
 - The level of protection every significant water resource will be afforded.
- Develop plan of action for implementation of recommended classes and RQOs which must include a monitoring programme.



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CLASSIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE RQOS IN THE LETABA CATCHMENT



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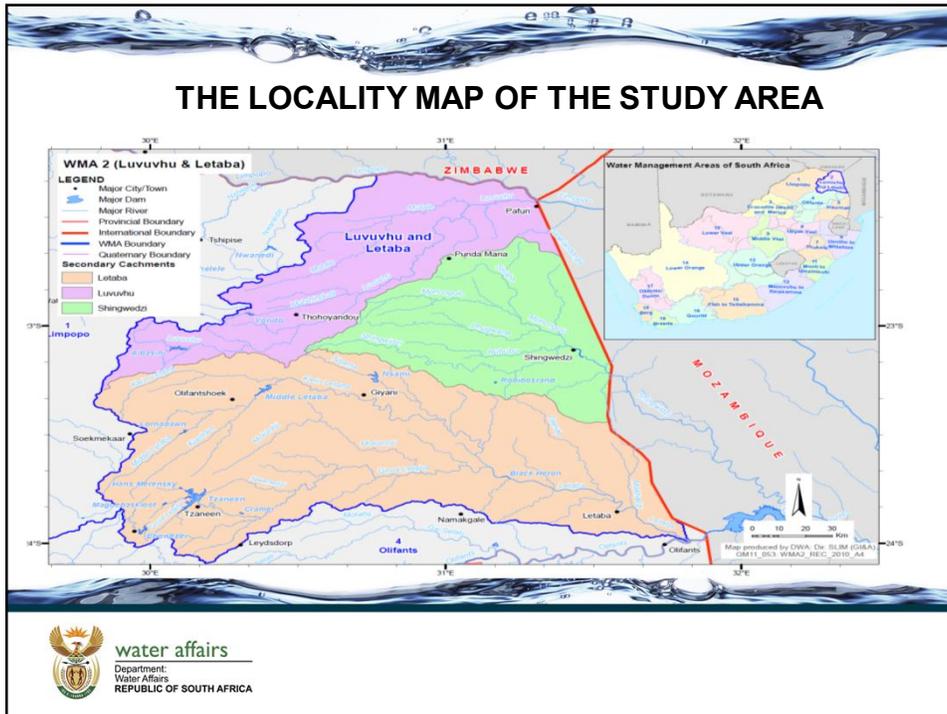
CLASSIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE RQOS IN THE LETABA CATCHMENT

- **The classification and determination of the RQOs study in the Letaba Catchment was initiated in September 2012**
- **The Rivers for Africa e-Flows was appointed to assist DWA.**
- **Timeframe: 24 months**
- **The objective of the study is to classify and determine RQOs in the Letaba Catchment**

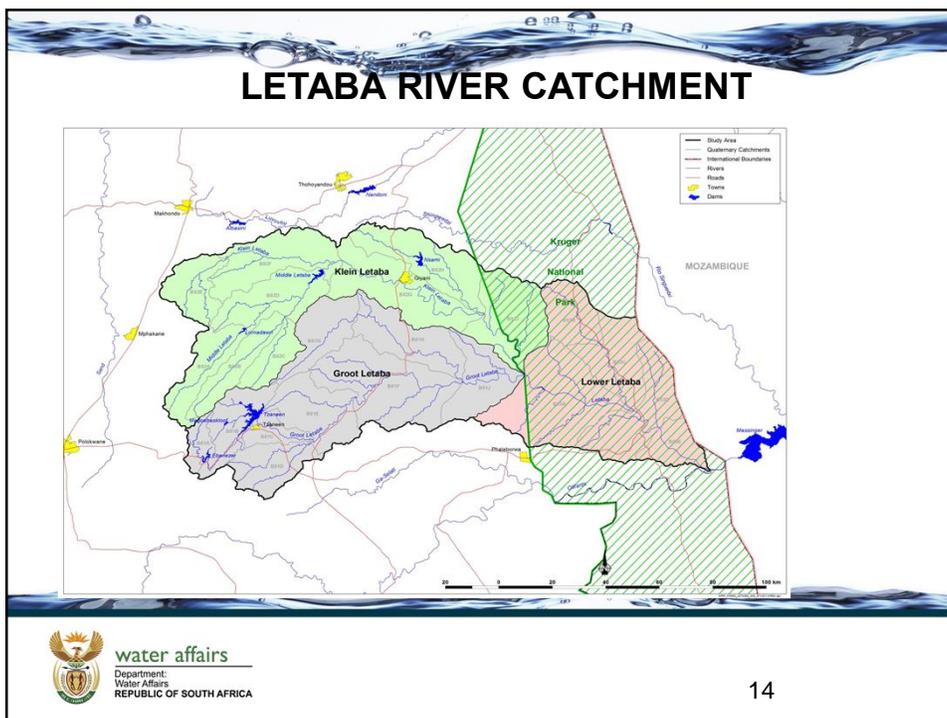


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THE LOCALITY MAP OF THE STUDY AREA



LETABA RIVER CATCHMENT





GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON THE PROJECT

- **Alignment with the existing work and current studies**
- **Transparency and Stakeholder engagement**
- **Consultation and collaboration**
- **Capacity Building**
- **The classification and determination of the RQOs are step-wise processes**



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INFORMATION REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE CLASS AND RQOS

The following information is required to classify and setting the RQOs of the water resource:

- **EWR data**
- **Land-use data**
- **Socio-economic data**
- **Infrastructure and existing allocations**
- **Conservation information**
- **Stakeholders**



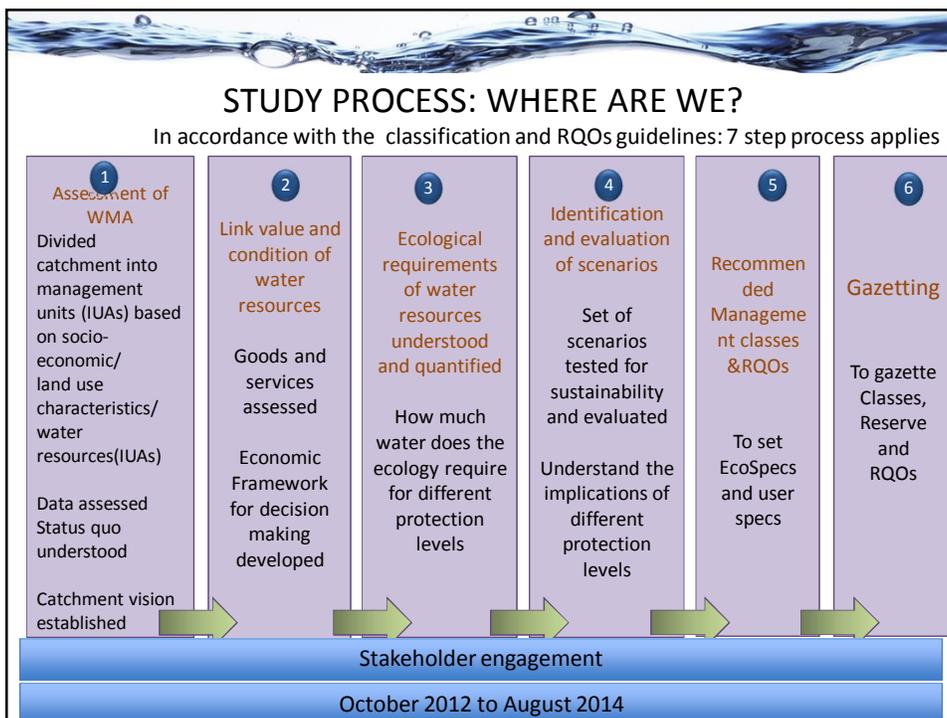
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WHY LETABA CATCHMENT ?

- Intensive irrigation farming
- Agricultural runoff impacting on water quality – salts
- Conservation Area (KNP)
- Meeting ecological water requirements



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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



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OBJECTIVES OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **Inform stakeholders (so that they may meaningfully participate)**
- **Present views, concerns and values (policy)**
- **Influence project decisions / design / outcome**
- **Obtain local knowledge**
- **Increase public awareness**
- **Ensure better transparency and accountability in decision-making**
- **Avoid conflict (people own the process)**
- **Ensure that adequate focus is placed on environmental and humanitarian issues**



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TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS

- Domestic (Community) Representatives
 - Local government – Mopani District Municipality and Giyani, Tzaneen, Letaba local municipalities in WMA
- Agriculture – Agri SA, Agri Letaba, NAFU, Irrigation boards (WUA)
- Mining – Chamber of Mines and mining houses
- Industries – Chamber of Commerce and other industries,
- Conservation – SANBI, Sanparks, WESSA, Bird Life Africa
- NGOs – Federation of Sustainable Environment
- Regulators – DWA & DEA (regional and national), DMR, Department of Agriculture, Land Affairs and Provincial government department (LEDET, Office of the Premier and COGHSTA)
- House of Traditional leaders

TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS CONTINUE

- **Targeted Stakeholders**
 - **International committees (LIMCOM)**
 - **Civil society and the environment representatives**
 - **Community members (public at large)**

COMMUNICATION METHODS/ APPROACH

- **Direct** –PSC, TTG meetings & Stakeholder engagement workshops
- Distribution of documents and presentations for comments
- **Interviews** – One-on-One and sector meeting (e.g. Dept. of Agriculture, Chamber of Mines, SANBI & SANPARKS)
- **Printed Documents** – BID, Newsletters, Brochures and reports for community members
- **Electronic media** – DWA Internet: www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx
E-mail (database list)



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PROPOSED PSC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

National Government Departments DWA HO and & Limpopo Regions, DAFF	Agriculture Agri SA and Agri Letaba,
Provincial Government Departments LEDET, LDA	Water Research Institutions Water Research Commission
Municipalities Mopani DM, Greater Letaba, Tzaneen, and Giyani municipalities, SALGA	Water institutions: Letaba WUA,
Traditional leaders Contralesa	Mining and industries : Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Mines
Water utility companies Lepelle Water Board	Conservation organisations: KNP, Birdlife, SANPARKS, SANBI
Parastatals:	Community representatives Community Development Workers (CDW)



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THE ROLE OF PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC)

- **Non-statutory, voluntary body.**
- **Oversight body for water resource management within WMAs**
- **Provide strategic direction and guidance on the study process and tasks;**
- **Serve as representatives of the stakeholder bodies and organisations and report back to them on an ongoing basis regarding the study decisions and results.**




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FUTURE MEETINGS

- **The PSC meeting will be held when the study team has reached milestones.**
- **It is anticipated that the PSC will not meet more than three times over the two-year period.**
- **The meetings will be facilitated by the DWA.**
- **Proposed dates for the meetings are:**
 - **12 March 2013: Inaugural PSC focuses on the delineation of the IUAs and establishment of the catchment vision of each of the IUAs**
 - **September/October 2013: EWR results for EWR sites, selecting and defining operational scenarios**
 - **March/ April 2014: Consequences of operational scenarios, proposed Management Classes and RQOs**




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NEXT STEPS IN STUDY

- Finalisation of the inception phase:
 - ❑ Finalisation of the Management Units (IUAs)
- Finalisation of the TOR for PSC
- Collating information arising from catchment visioning process
- Review and analysis of the ecological requirements
- Finalisation of the stakeholder engagement plan
- Distribution of the newsletter and reports for comments
- To engage with indetified stakeholders



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THANK YOU



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