

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

Issues and Responses Report

September 2013

This Issues and Responses Report (IRR) captures the issues raised by stakeholders during the determination of water resource classes and associated resource quality objectives in the Letaba catchment. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the concerns and comments raised by stakeholders are noted and adequately and satisfactorily addressed through the study process. This study has been commissioned by the Department of Water Affairs (DWA). The report will form part of the supporting documentation that will be submitted to the Minister with the recommendations on the approval of proposed Management Classes (MCs) and RQOs.

All written and oral submissions received from stakeholders will be summarised in this report and it will be updated on a regular basis during the course of the study.

	COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ISSUES	COMMENTATOR(S)	SOURCE(S)	RESPONSE(S)	ACTION(S)
1	<i>What is the link between ecological categories and management classes? The Kruger National Park would like to improve the rivers running through the park according to a SANPARKS specific mandate, but not in such a way that other users, dependent on the water is negatively impacted.</i>	<i>Dr Freek Venter, (SANParks & Kruger National Park)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Rufus Nengovhela assured Mr Venter that the link between the ecological categories and the Management Classes will be explained in the next presentation and during the break away groups to discuss the visioning of the Letaba catchment.</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>
2	<i>The scenarios being investigated as part of the Reconciliation Strategy for the area should be noted by the members of the PSC. Several transfers are being investigated (e.g. a pipeline being constructed to transfer water from Luvuvhu to Giyani and options to develop the Klein Letaba). These scenarios are being investigated as it was found (amongst other) that the Middle Letaba is being over utilised. Future scenarios will have to take such findings as well as the visioning of stakeholders into consideration.</i>	<i>Mr Tendani Nditwani, (DWA)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Mr Pieter van Rooyen responded that the scenarios from the Reconciliation Strategy study will be considered</i>	<i>The outcome of the investigation of the scenarios in the Reconciliation Strategy study will be reported on at the next PSC meeting as it will be information that will be used for this study.</i>
3	<i>Has the risk been included and analysed for each of the scenarios presented?</i>	<i>Dr Stanley Liphadzi, (WRC)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Mr Pieter van Rooyen (DWA) responded that risk analysis is included when undertaking stochastic analysis in the modelling.</i>	<i>The risk will also be further investigated during scenarios development and analysis phase of this project</i>
4	<i>Were the impacts of invading alien plants in the scenarios investigated? Valuable information is available from the Sabie River Working Group and Mondli. They have looked at their plantation management plans, making sure to steer clear from water resources.</i>	<i>Dr Freek Venter, (SANParks & Kruger National Park)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Mr Pieter van Rooyen responded that the impacts will be investigated.</i>	<i>The team will investigate impacts of invading alien vegetation.</i>
5	<i>Maps of “water factories” are also available and should be investigated as a possible future source.</i>	<i>Dr Freek Venter, (SANParks & Kruger National Park)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March</i>	<i>Mr Pieter van Rooyen responded that the maps will be investigated.</i>	<i>The maps of the water factories will be used as one of the sources of the information.</i>

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6	<i>Forestry companies are required by law to steer clear of water resources with regards to the planting of trees. The forestry companies also have clear guidelines with regards to the management of invading alien plants.</i>	<i>Dr Dries Enslin, Merensky Timbers (Northern Timbers)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Ms Delana Louw responded that the companies' guidelines will also be used as source of information.</i>	<i>The forestry companies' guidelines regarding the management of the invading alien plants will also further investigated.</i>
7	<i>Concerned about the sustainability issues that were presented as part of the economic status of each IUA.</i>	<i>Dr Stanley Liphadzi, (WRC)</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Mr William Mullins (project team) said that in the context of the status of each IUA, the sustainability is linked to the risk that entrepreneur has to take. Risk in the context links to water – it also depends on managerial practices – some use more people than others – the team has worked on averages. If the allocation to a certain sector is changed – the team looks at the potential economic impact.</i>	<i>This issue will further investigated.</i>
8	<i>How does the project team obtain their information with regards to the status of the IUAs and what if the data, especially the Google Earth is too old?</i>	<i>Mr Bradley Nethononda, Department of Environmental Affairs</i>	<i>Project Steering Committee Meeting, Tzaneen Country Lodge 12 March 2013, Lodge 12 March 2013.</i>	<i>Ms Delana Louw (Rivers for Africa) responded that information is obtained through Google Earth, studies previously done in some of the areas and from experience as many of the team members have worked extensively in some of</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>

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				<p><i>the IUAs.</i></p> <p><i>Ms Delana Louw also said that local members of the PSC have an essential role to play as they are required to assist to verify that the local circumstances are still the same. As specialists the team members are also working in the area and can verify. We are not just relying on Google, but it is the best available technology in some cases.</i></p>	