



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Determination of Water Resources Classes and Associated Resource Quality Objectives in the Breede-Gouritz WMA

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Date: 14 February 2017

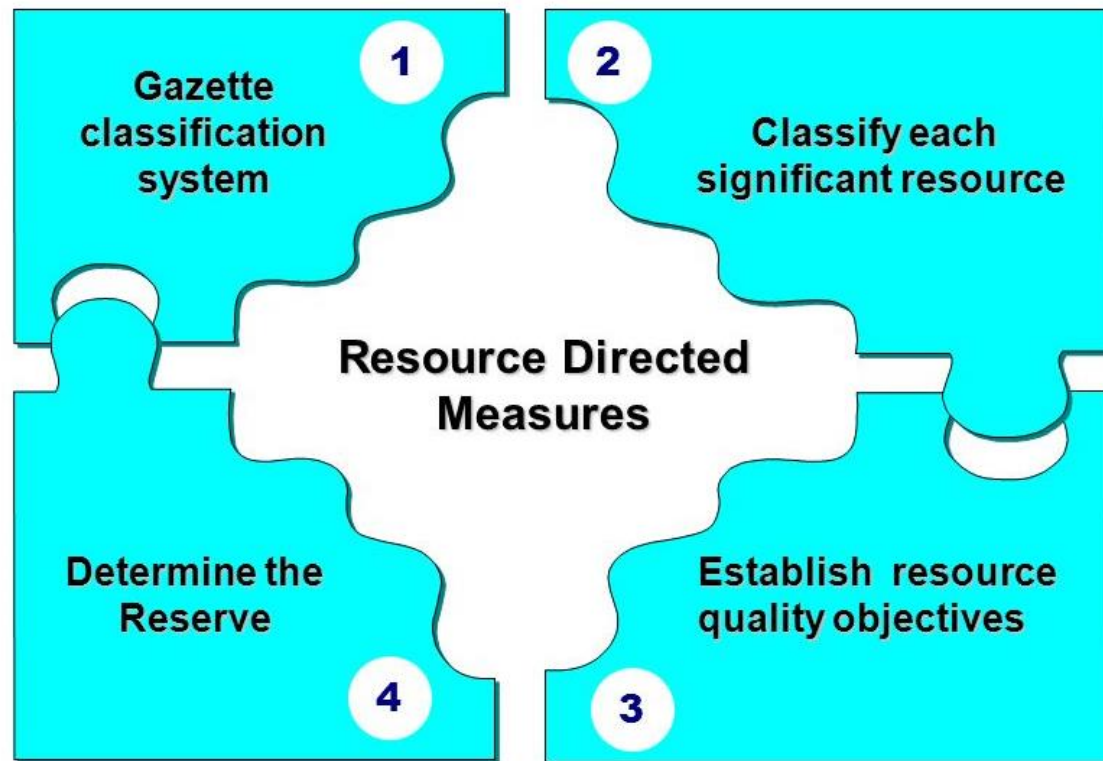
Presentation Content

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Legal Mandate

- Chapter 3 of the National Water Act, (No. 36 of 1998) deals with the protection of water resources
- The measures for protection of water resources are:
 - Classification (S13)
 - Reserve (S16)
 - Resource Quality Objectives (S13)
- S12 requires the Minister to establish the Water Resource Classification System, (WRCS)
- WRCS was published as Regulation 810 in Government Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010
- The WRCS defines:
 - water resource classes and
 - the procedure to determine Class, RQOs and Reserve
- According to the NWA, once the WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified and Resource Quality Objectives determined.

Contextualizing Resource Directed Measures



Determination of Water Resource Classes

Classification defines the **desired state** of the water resources by setting Water Resource Classes;

Each class represents:

- a different **level of protection** that is required for the water resource, and
- **the extent to which the water resource can be used.**

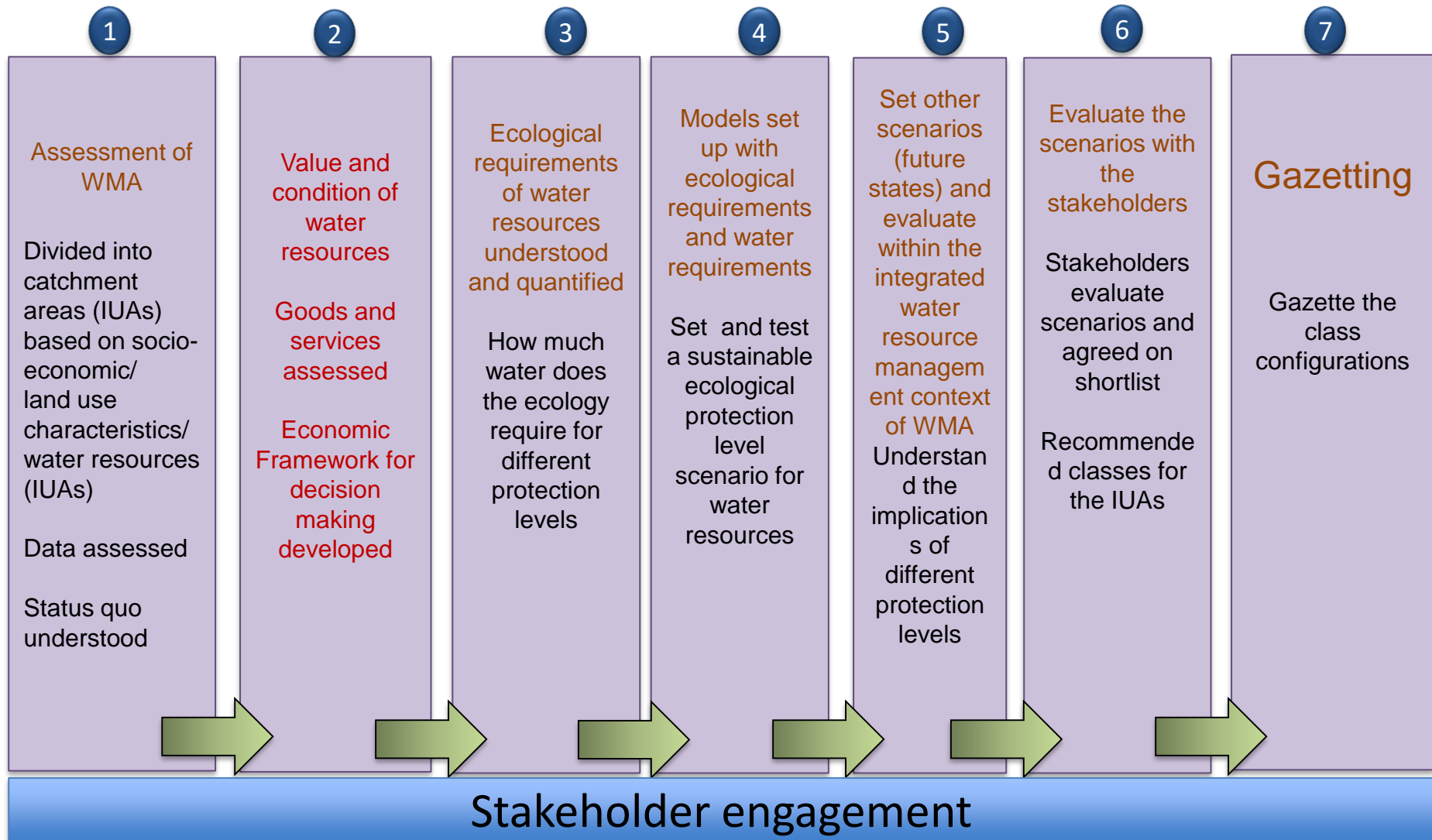
Classification is used in two ways:

- To describe the **present status** of the water resource
- To describe the state towards which the water resource needs **to be managed** sustainably (**future state**).

	Description of use	Majority of 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 . 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)

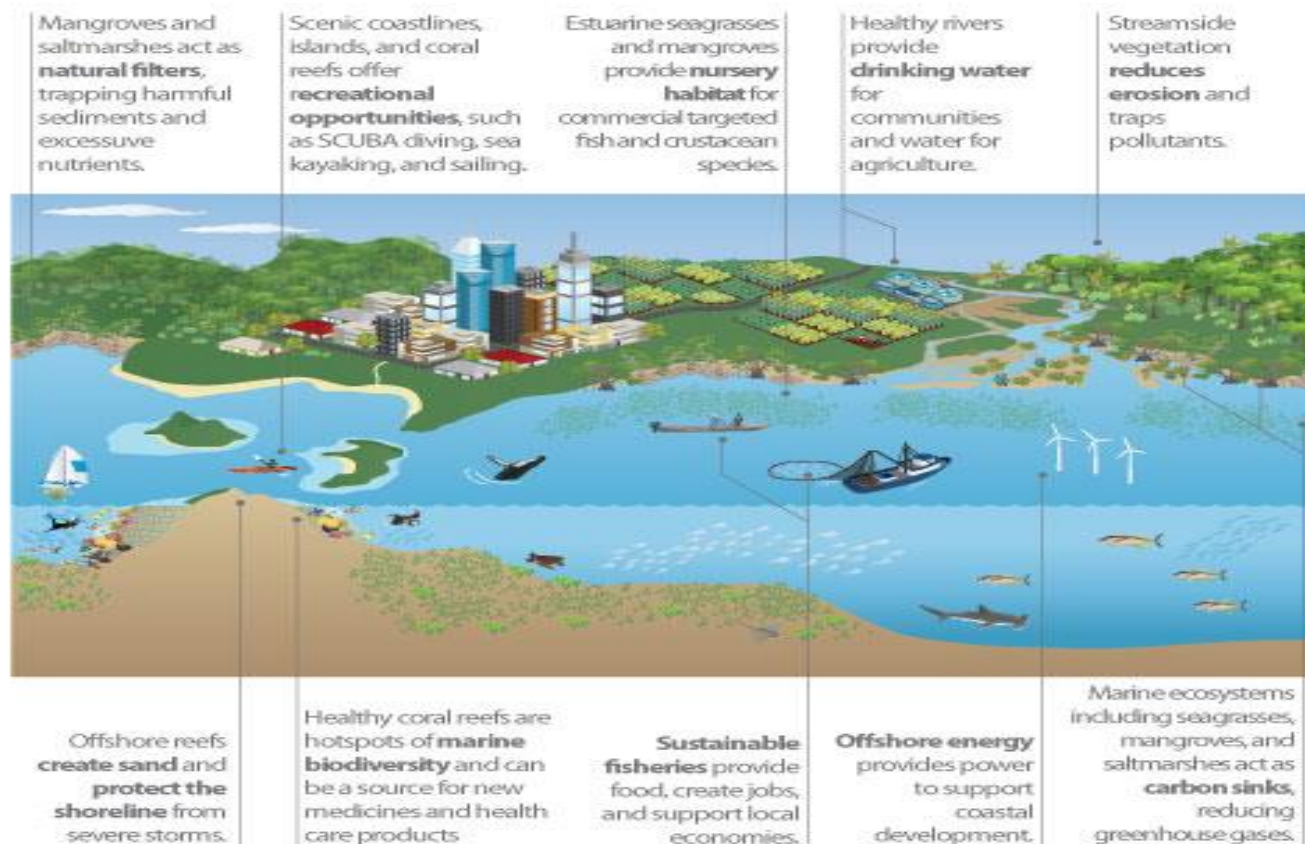
Classification Steps



Contextualizing step 2: Link the Value and condition of Water Resource

Value: what ecosystem services are provided by the water resource?

Valuing ecosystem services



Contextualizing step 2: Link the Value and condition of Water Resource

Condition: state of the water resource

Quality

Quantity

Aquatic
ecosystem health



Output of step 2: Link the Value and condition of Water Resource

A set of quantitative relationships that specify how different levels of

- Water use;
- Ecosystem condition and;
- Ecosystem goods and services

affect economic value and social wellbeing.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Platforms	Stakeholder groups	Purpose
Project Steering Committee	Representatives from various Sectors	To give strategic inputs to the project
Technical Task team Meeting	Representatives from sectors with technical knowledge of study area and water resource management	To source comments and inputs on technical aspects of the project
Public Meeting	The broader public	To present the proposed RQOs and numerical limits
Forums	Catchment management forums	Information sharing
Sectors	Different sectors e.g. Domestic, Agriculture, mining etc. (where necessary).	Information sharing

The Role of Project Steering Committee (PSC)

- To ensure appropriateness and acceptability of Water Resources Classes and RQOs
- To be representative of all water use sectors, organisations and role-players interested in or affected by the study
- Voluntary body, led by DWS
- Provide project team with strategic & technically sound guidance to ensure that intended study outcome is achieved
- PSC members to represent wider sectoral interests, & provide adequate feedback to the grouping they represent
- Help to ensure that process is transparent, open & consultative to promote cooperative governance & stakeholder buy-in

COMMUNICATION APPROACH

- Direct –distribution of reports for comments
- Interviews-One-on-One meetings
- Printed documents-BID &Newsletters
- Electronic media-DWS website:
www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx
- Email: Lekalakee@dws.gov.za or
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THANK YOU