



**water & sanitation**

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

## Determination of Water Resource Classes & Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs) in the Breede-Gouritz WMA

Presented by:  
**Esther Lekalake**  
Department: Water & Sanitation

Date: 16 November 2016

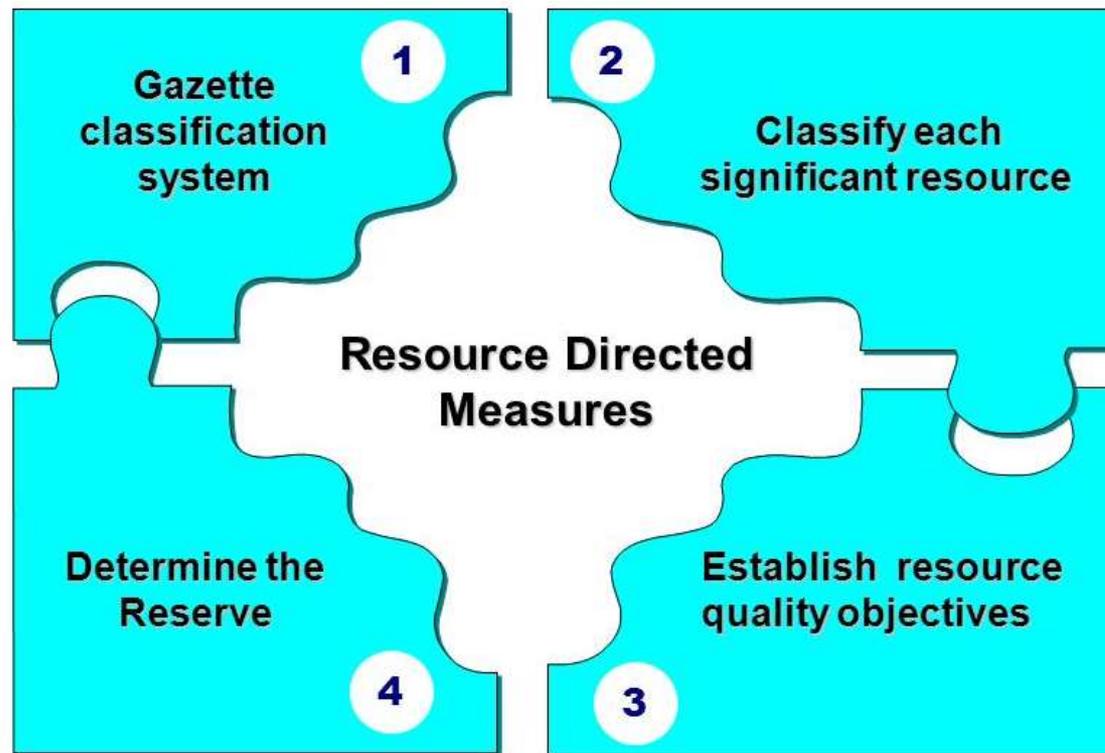
# Presentation Content

- **Legal Mandate**
- **The Water Resource Classification System (WRCS)**
- **Study Focus: Determination of Water Resource Classes (WRC) & Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs)**
- **Study Area**
- **Process for the determination of Water Resources classes and Resource Quality Objectives & Progress to date**
- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

# 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

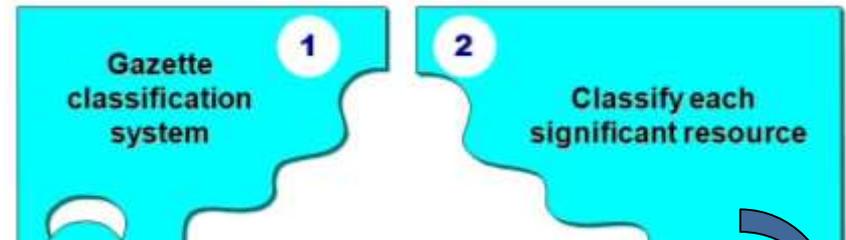
Classification defines the **desired state** of the water resources by setting Water Resource Classes;

**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).**

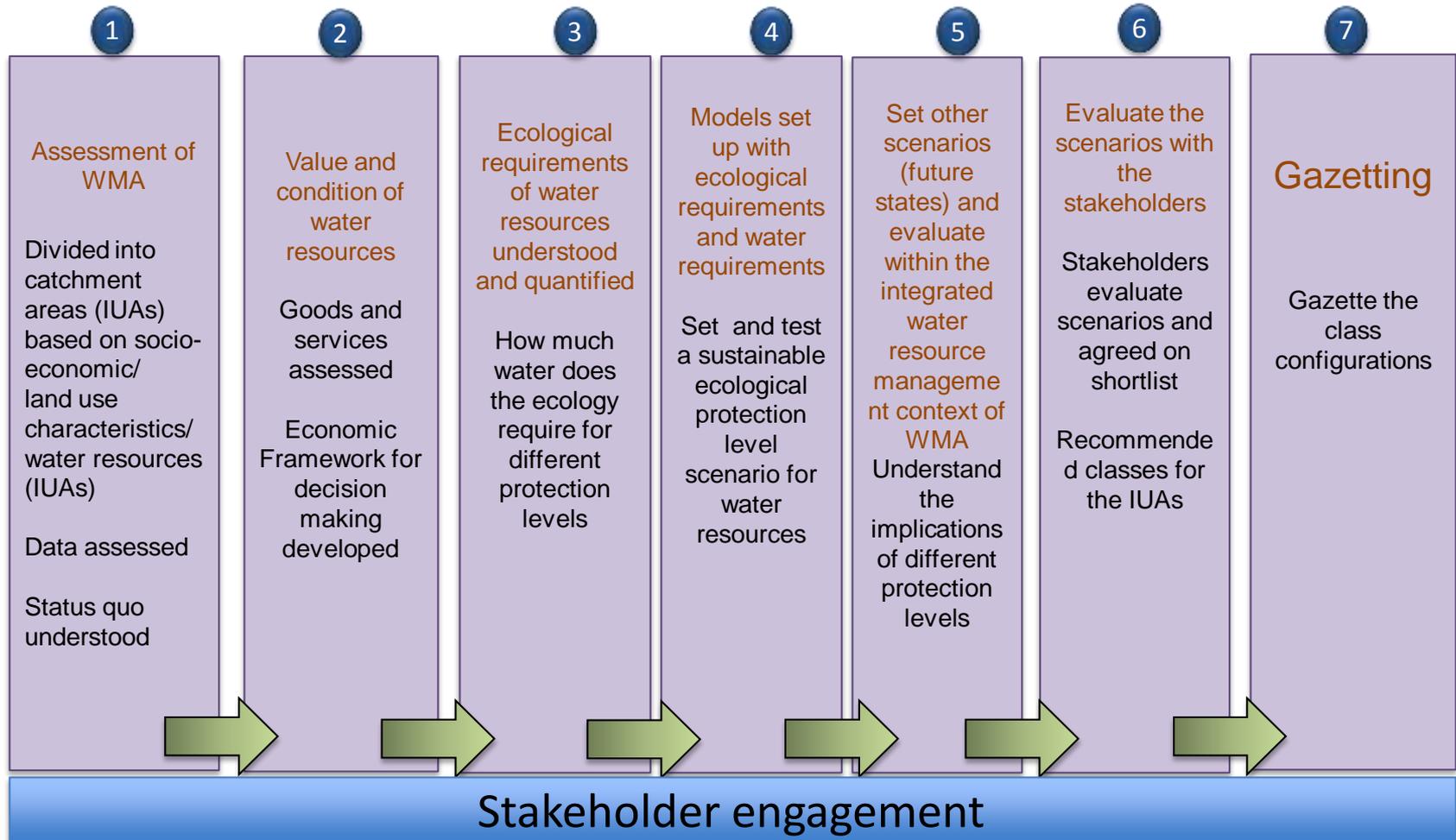


Surface water, groundwater, wetlands, estuaries

	Description of use	Majority of ecological categories
<b>Class I</b>	<b>Minimally used</b>	<b>A-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)

# Classification Steps



# Determining Resource Quality Objectives

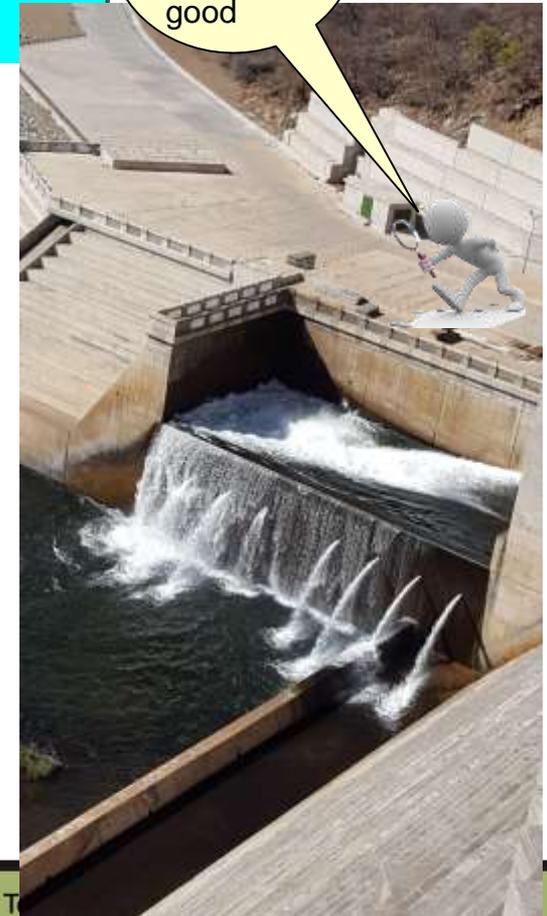
These objectives provide statements about:

- what the **quantity** of the water should be (water level, pattern, timing)
- what the water **quality** should be (physical, chemical and biological)
- what the **condition** of the **instream and riparian** (river bank) habitat should be
- what the **condition** of the **aquatic** (water) animal and plant life should be.

3

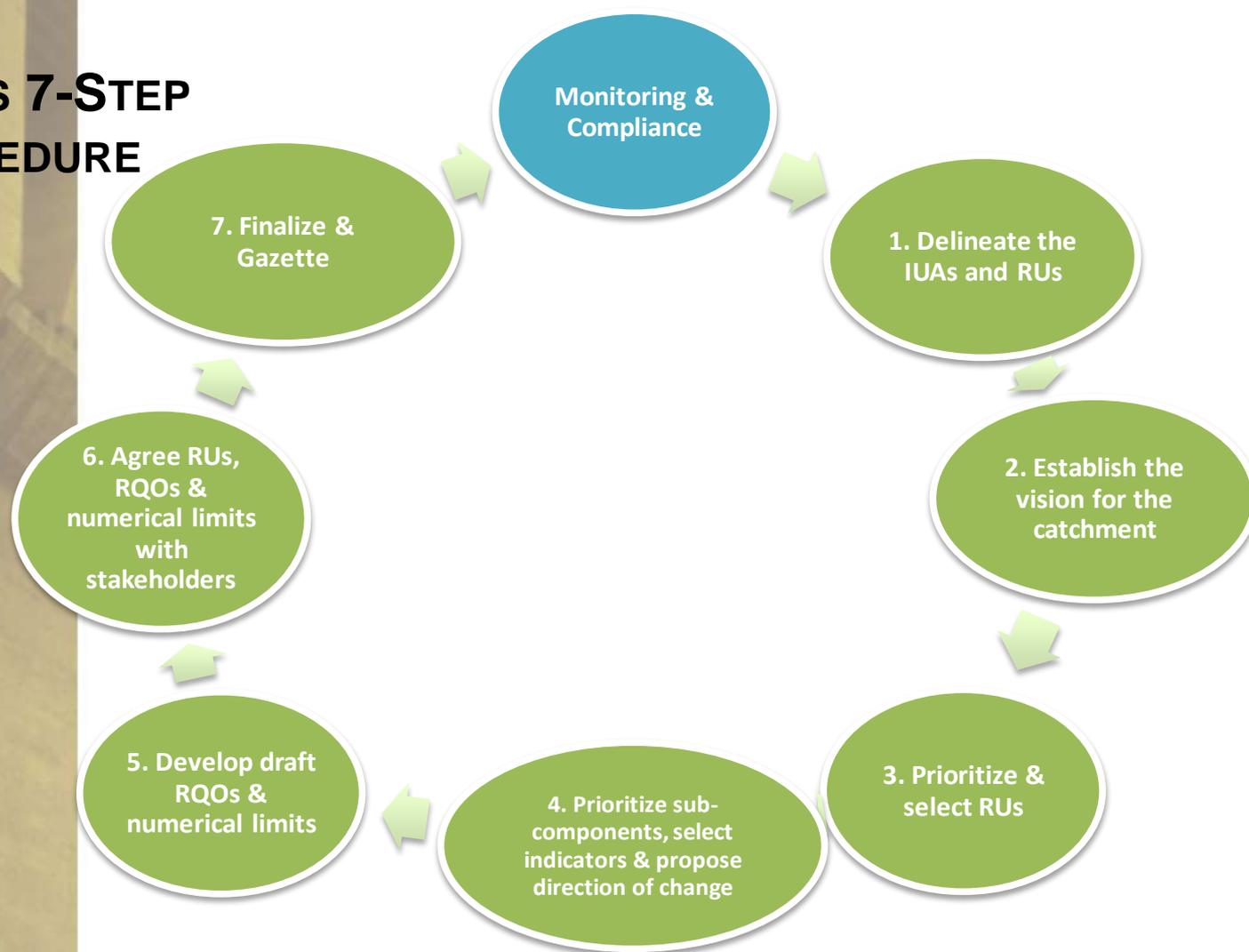
Establish resource quality objectives

Releases are looking good



# Process of determining Resource Quality Objectives

## RQOs 7-STEP PROCEDURE



# Determining the Reserve

The Reserve is an integral part of the resource quality objectives

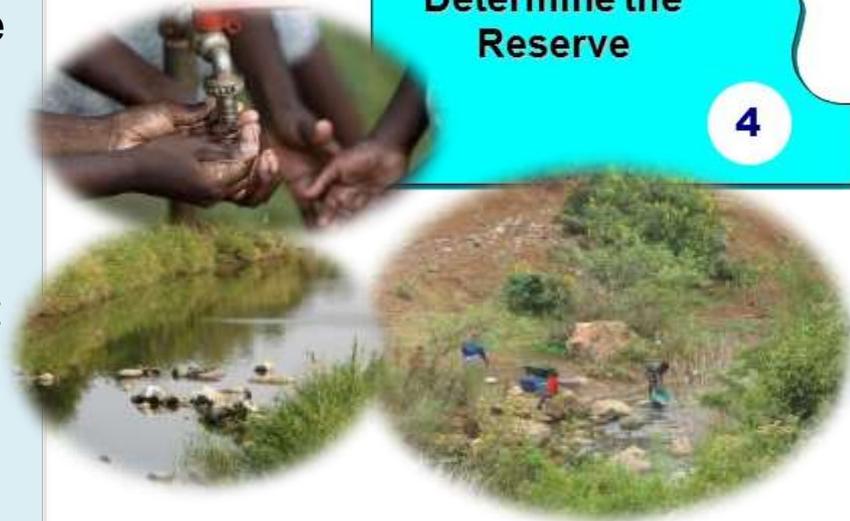
The Reserve is part of the water resource within each water management area that is under the direct control of the Minister. It is water that is 'set aside' to:

- provide for basic human needs, and
- protect water ecosystems (sustain healthy ecosystems).

It has priority over all other water use. Water required for the Reserve must be met before water resources can be allocated to other water users

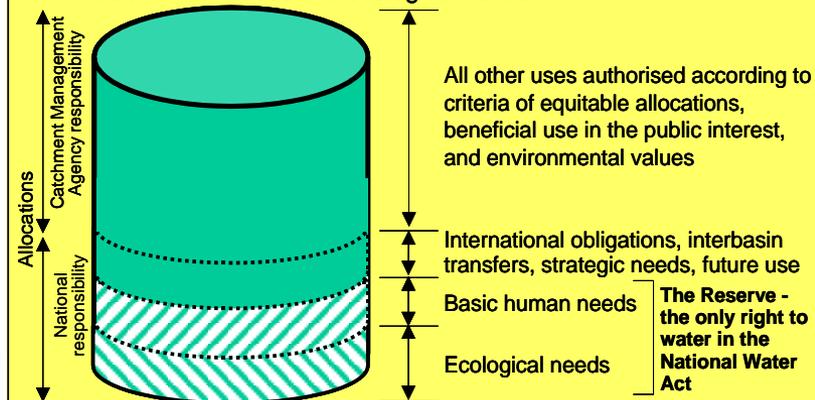
Determine the Reserve

4



## Balancing equity with sustainability - the Reserve

If all the water in the country could be put into a bucket, the "Reserve" is the water that must always be left in the bucket for basic human needs and ecological needs.



# **Study Focus: Determination of Water Resource Classes and Resource Quality Objectives**

- **This study was initiated in May 2016 and will concludes in May 2018 (24 months)**
- **The aim of this study is to co-ordinate the Determination of Water Resource Classes and Resource Quality Objectives in the study area**
- **The determined WRC and RQOs will be gazetted once approved by the Director- General.**

# Study Area: Breede-Gouritz WMA

- **Breede:** Breede, Riversonderend & Overberg catchments
- **Gouritz:** Gamka, Groot, Olifants, Gouritz and Coastal Rivers catchments



## Implications of Classes, RQOs & Reserve

- Once the Class is set, Reserve & RQOs in place, it is binding on all authorities or institutions when exercising any power, or performing any duty under the NWA.
- The implementation of Gazetted Class, Reserve & RQOs may necessitate the Department to:
  - Revise General Authorisations,
  - Update Discharge Standards,
  - Initiate Compulsory licensing,
  - Update Monitoring Programmes

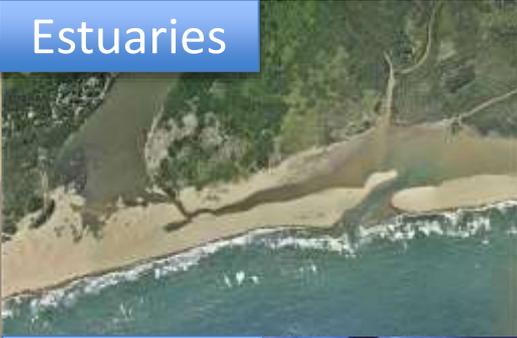
## Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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 Meetings	The broader public	To announce the project To present the proposed classes & RQOs
Forums	Catchment management forums	Information sharing
Sectors	Different sectors e.g. Domestic, Agriculture, mining etc. ( where necessary).	Information sharing

# THANK YOU!



Estuaries



Rivers



Wetlands



Groundwater



Dams



**WATER  
DOESN'T  
COME FROM  
A TAP.**

**Conserve**



# The Role Of Project Steering Committee (PSC)

- **Non-statutory, voluntary body.**
- **Oversight body for water resource management within WMA;**
- **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.**

# Way Forward

- Deadline for submission of nomination forms for PSC Members: 25 November 2016
- There will be four PSC Meetings.
- First PSC Meeting will take place by the end of January or early February 2017
- All the information on the project will be on the Project and DWS website.
- Comments on the delineated IUA and RUs can be sent through to the project email or Fax.