

PUBLIC MEETING NO.2

CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCES AND DETERMINATION OF RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR WATER RESOURCES IN THE USUTU TO MHLATHUZE CATCHMENT (WP11387):

Presented by: Mohlapa Sekoele
Designation: Scientist
Directorate: Water Resource Classification

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WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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)
- The Resource-Directed Measures for protection of water resources are:
 - Classification (S13)
 - Resource Quality Objectives (S13)
 - Reserve (S16)
- 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
- According to the NWA, once the WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified

What is Classification?

- Classification defines the desired state of the water resources by setting a Water Resource Class;
- The Class reflects a balance between protection and use of the water resources;
- This balance is determined by taking into account the social, economic & ecological landscape;
- Process requires co-operation & transparency with all stakeholders.

What are the classes?

Classes	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. 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 represent the requirements for water quantity, quality, habitat integrity and biotic integrity to be maintained in aquatic ecosystems.
- RQOs are the objectives or goals which can be measured or monitored to determine whether the Class is being achieved;
- They are intended to give effect to the Class determined.

DETERMINATION OF CLASSES AND RQOS IN THE USUTU-MHLATHUZE CATCHMENT

- The study was initiated in December 2021 and will be ending in August 2024
- WRP was appointed by DWS as a service provider to provide technical assistance
- The objective of the study is to determine classes and RQOs in the Usutu-Mhlathuze Catchment

Where are we in the process?

In accordance with the Classification and RQOs guidelines

- 1 Describe the status quo and delineate the study area into units of analysis (IUAs)
- 2 Delineate and prioritise Resource Units (RUs)
- 3 Quantify the ecological water requirements (EWRs)
- 4 Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process
- 5 Determine Water Resource Classes
- 6 Determine RQOs
- 7 Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs

Stakeholder Engagement

We are here

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Stakeholder Engagement

	Public	PSC	TTG	RQO Workshop
1	04 May 2022: Introduce the project, invite nominations	07 Jun 2022: IUA Delineation and Status Quo description	03 Nov 2022: Identify water quality subcomponents and indicators	21, 22, 24 Aug 2023: Development of draft RQOs
2	05 & 07 Mar 2024: Present proposed Classes & RQOs	04 Nov 2022: Quantification of EWRs & BHN		
3		02 Dec 2022: Identification of scenarios		
4		13 Apr 2023: Scenario consequences & proposed classes		
5		19 Sept 2023: Proposed RQOs		

THANK YOU

Contacts:

	Email address	Telephone	Mobile
Ms Koleka Makanda	makandac@dws.gov.za	012 336 8406	066-514-2662
Ms Mohlapa Sekoele	sekoelem@dws.gov.za	012 336 8329	082 809 5418
Ms Lebogang Matlala	matlalal@dws.gov.za	012 336 6707	082 884 5399
Ms Nolusindiso Jafta	jaftan@dws.gov.za	012 336 6635	082 875 9015

<http://www.dws.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx>