

### PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NO.5

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

Presented by: Mohlappa Sekoale  
 Designation: Scientist  
 Directorate: Water Resource Classification  
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### PURPOSE

- To provide background to the study
- To provide progress to date on the study in the Usutu to Mhlathuze Catchment

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### BACKGROUND

- 33 months project; from December 2021 to August 2024
- Output:
  - **Water Resource Classes:** describe what state the water resources need to be in to satisfy beneficial use.

	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>

- **Resource Quality Objectives:** conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource. Give effect to the implementation of the classes. RQOs 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 habitat should be
  - what the condition of the biota should be.

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### STUDY AREA

Usutu - Mhlathuze Catchments

- Mhlathuze, W1
- Mfolozi, W2
- Mkuze/Hluhluwe, W3
- Pongola, W4
- Usutu, W5
- W7 catchment.

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### STUDY PROCESS & PROGRESS

1	Delineate Integrated Units of Analysis (IUAs) and Resource Units (RUs) and describe the status quo	Completed	Stakeholder Engagement (In progress)
2	Prioritise RUs and select study sites	Completed	
3	Quantify Basic Human Needs (BHN) and Ecological Water Requirements (EWRs)	Completed	
4	Identify and evaluate scenarios within the IWRM process	Completed	
5	Determine Water Resource Classes based on catchment configurations	In progress, report reviewed	
6	Determine RQOs and provide implementation information	In progress	
7	Gazette Water Resource Classes and RQOs	Not yet started	

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### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

	Public	PSC	TTG	RQO Workshop
1	04 May 2022: Introduce the project	07 Jun 2022: IUA Delineation @ Status Quo description	03 Nov 2022: Identify water quality subcomponents and indicators	21, 22, 24 Aug 2023: Development of draft RQOs
2	Nov 2023: Present 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: RQOs		

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**THANK YOU**

Contacts:

	Email address	Telephone	Mobile
Ms Koleka Makanda	<a href="mailto:makandac@dws.gov.za">makandac@dws.gov.za</a>	012 336 8406	066-514-2662
Ms Mohlapa Sekoele	<a href="mailto:sekoem@dws.gov.za">sekoem@dws.gov.za</a>	012 336 8329	082 809 5418
Ms Lebogang Mallala	<a href="mailto:matlalal@dws.gov.za">matlalal@dws.gov.za</a>	012 336 6707	082 884 5399
Ms Nolusindiso Jafta	<a href="mailto:jaftan@dws.gov.za">jaftan@dws.gov.za</a>	012 336 6635	082 875 9015

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

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