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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Our Future - make it work

PSC Meeting 2: WP11340

Reserve determination study for selected surface Water, Groundwater, Estuaries and Wetlands in the F60 and G30 Catchment within the Berg-Olifants Water Management Area (WMA 9)

Presented by: Ms. G Makhado

Date: 21 July 2022



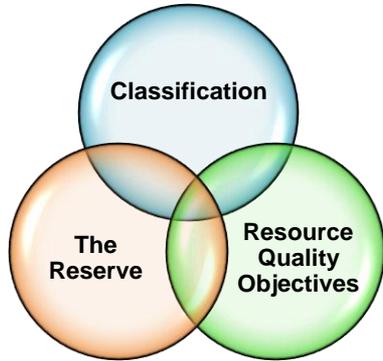
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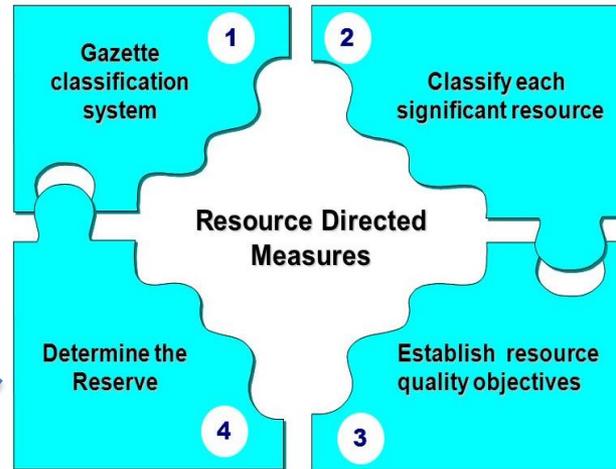


Background to the study



September 2010

Classification:
Gazette - April 2016



Reserves:

- Olifants-Doring Preliminary Reserve - 2006
- Rapid Reserve - 2003 (Sandveld)

Gazette – March 2018

RQOs:
Gazette – April 2016

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- Comments received during the public commenting period indicated a number of gaps;
- The main omissions relate to the appropriate level of Environmental assessment for the priority and significant water resources in the **F60 & G30** catchments;
- Comments received as part of the public comment period associated with the classification process, highlighted the lack of specific protection measures to support the Ramsar site (Verlorenvlei and its associated Peat wetlands) and water resources left out in G30 and F60;
- Further to this, previous studies also highlighted the **over - abstraction of Groundwater** and the influence that this had on the surface water and downstream users;

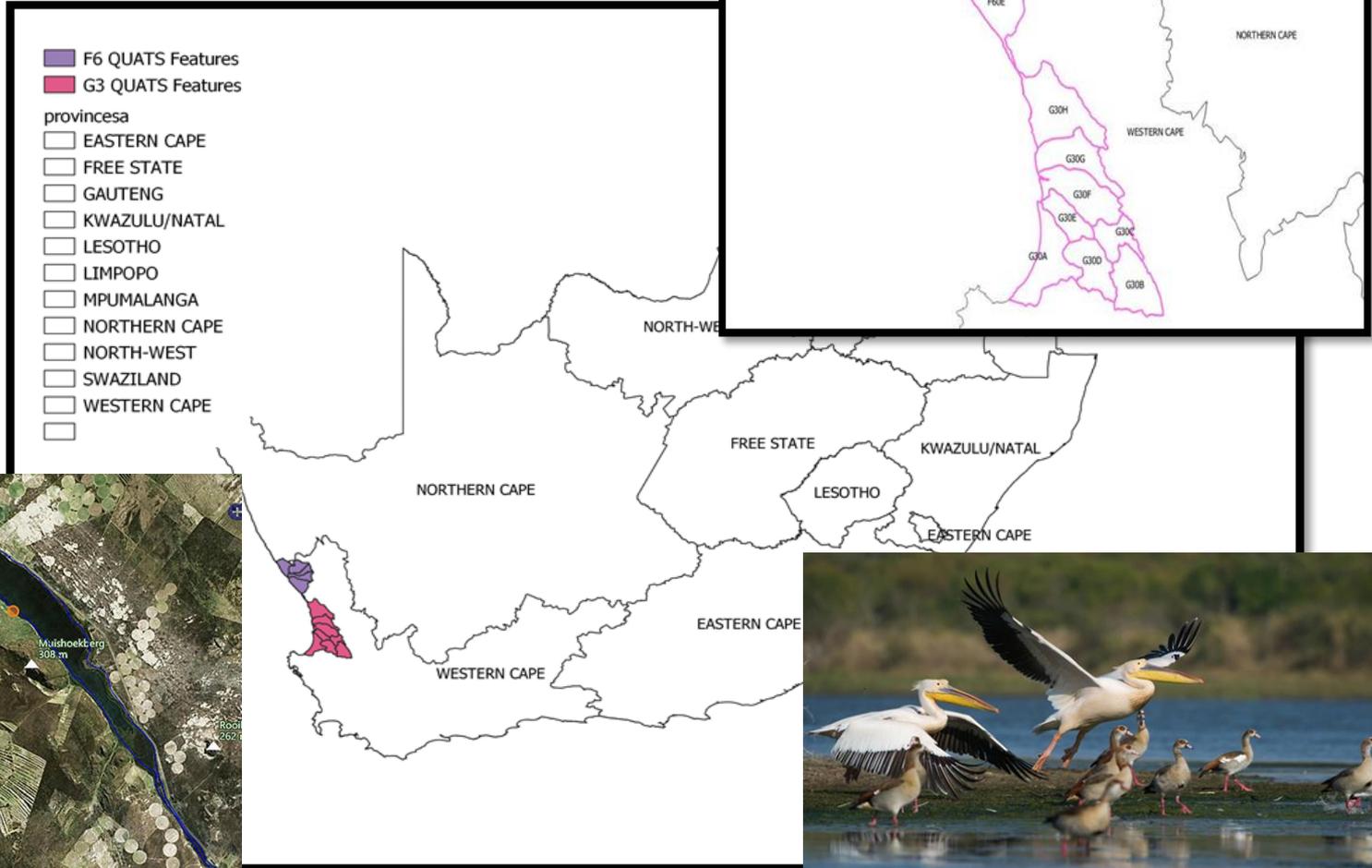
- The Verlorenvlei Estuary study was undertaken when the various resource Methodologies (especially those for estuaries) were still in its development stage, using coastal wetland methods, which did not adequately address the needs of an estuary and in particular, a Ramsar site;
- That there was no well established surface water hydrological model for the catchment at the time of the studies, and hence the consequentially low confidence in results;
- The groundwater-surface water interactions were not captured satisfactorily, in particular the peat and wetlands that are dependent on groundwater as its freshwater sources were overseen.

Introduction

- The DWS under the Chief Directorate: Water Ecosystem Management (CD:WEM), Directorate – Reserve Determination, has initiated a study to determine the Reserve in the **F60 and G30** catchments in the Berg-Olifants WMA.
- The project lifespan is 24 month and will end in May 2023.
- The PSP group: **Blue Science** with its associated specialists have been appointed to assist the Department with this study.

Study area

F60 Catchment G30 Catchment



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ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW

- The **Reserve** refers to both the **quantity and quality** of the water required to:
 - satisfy basic human needs, and
 - protect water 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 user.

Environmental Protection

ONLY ONE RIGHT TO WATER,
ACCORDING TO THE NWA - WATER
FOR THE RESERVE

BHN - Water that is reserved for people that are directly dependant on the water resources for their subsistence living -
Such as

- Water for drinking
- Water for food preparation
- Water for personal hygiene
- Not water for commercial use.

Basic Human needs
(BHN)

Ecological Reserve (EWR)

EWR - Water required for the natural functioning of the water resource, to allow for the production of the ecological goods and services, that the water resources (i.e. rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater) require.

EWR – is further required as part of the Integrated Water Resources Management Process, to firstly secure the protection of the required quantity and quality for the water needed for the aquatic ecosystems and to ensure that the water resources are sustainably used, managed, conserved and controlled for future generations.

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Reports

- **Finalized**
 - ✓ Inception Report
 - ✓ Gap Analysis Report

- **Waiting to be finalized**
 - ✓ Delineation Reports
 - ✓ Site Survey Reports
 - ✓ Eco-Classification Report (comments closed 15 July 2022)

Meetings

- 1st meeting
Held on 26 January 2022
Virtual
- 2nd meeting
21 July 2022
Venue – Clanwilliam (option for virtual)
- Next PSC meetings
PSC 3 - 13 October 2022
PSC 4 - 25 January 2023

Objectives of the PSC

- To provide strategic direction and guidance of the study processes
- To provide technical input and support to the study processes
- To provide comments on the reports for the completed project milestones.
- Represent stakeholder bodies and provide feedback regularly

Roles & responsibilities of the PSC members

- Attendance of PSC meetings on a voluntary basis
- Assist in converting study into practical solution
- Facilitate sharing of information and data
- Promote linkages with other stakeholders
- Provide strategic support and guidance
- Acting as advocates of the study outcomes

Conclusion

The output of the study should contribute to the:

- ✓ Legal templates for the Reserves determined;
- ✓ Development of monitoring programs that will identify the indicators that need to be monitored; and
- ✓ Determination of Ecological Specifications/ protection measures to support the Reserve requirements

THANK YOU

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Project document accessible at this webpage:

[Water Resource Classification System – Current Studies \(dws.gov.za\)](http://dws.gov.za)

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