



**Directorate: Water Ecosystems**

**DETERMINATION, REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESERVE IN THE OLIFANTS/LETABA SYSTEM**

**KEY STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DATE:** Thursday, 26 May 2016  
**TIME:** 10:00 –13:30  
**VENUE:** Tzaneen Country Lodge, Tzaneen

**TABLE OF ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 3D    | Three Dimensional                                  |
| AWARD | Association for Water and Rural Development        |
| BHN   | Basic Human Needs                                  |
| CM    | Catchment Management                               |
| CMA   | Catchment Management Area                          |
| DWS   | Department of Water and Sanitation                 |
| EWR   | Ecological Water Requirement                       |
| KNP   | Kruger National Park                               |
| NGO   | Non-Government Organisation                        |
| PSCM  | Project Steering Committee Members                 |
| Qn    | Quantity   |
| Qi    | Quality  |
| RQOs  | Resource Quality Objectives                        |
| SANBI | South Africa National Biodiversity Institute       |
| WMA   | Water Management Area                              |
| WRC   | Water Research Commission                          |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

|           |  | <b>ACTION</b> |
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| <b>1.</b> | <b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS</b>   |               |
|           | <p>The Chairman, Mr Atwaru (Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Director: Reserve Determination) welcomed everyone at the Key Stakeholder Meeting for the Determination, Review and Implementation of the Reserve In the Olifants/Letaba System.</p> <p>Mr Atwaru made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Resource Quality Objectives (RQO) and classes have been gazetted for the Olifants River. The comments received from the stakeholders have been incorporated into the RQO that have now been gazetted for implementation.</li> <li>The Classes and RQO for the Letaba River Catchment have also now been gazetted and a comment period of 60 days is allowed. Comments received from the stakeholders will be assessed and where relevant it will be incorporated into the updated RQOs and Classes gazette before the final RQO and classes will be gazetted.</li> </ul> |               |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the final classes and RQO have been gazetted, the DWS is required by the National Water Act to determine the Reserve (Sec 16 of the NWA) (both ecological and basic human needs). Up until now, preliminary Reserves have been used for assessing water use licencing (section 21 requirement). The reserve configurations related to the approved classes with its ecological specifications (captured in the RQO) will be gazetted. A comments period will also be allowed after which the Ecological Water Requirements to the Target Ecological Categories will be gazetted. The requirements for the Reserve set at the EWR sites will be used as the primary indicators for compliance and will form part of the primary water monitoring network.</li> <li>The Olifants Water Management Area has been well studied. The aim of this project is to use the available information and information obtained via surveys (conducted on a Rapid Reserve level) focusing on priority wetlands, tributaries and areas that have been identified as having serious water quality problems. This information is important for future management and decisions related to water use in the Olifants catchment.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Atwaru further informed the stakeholders that the purpose of the meeting is to share the information obtained thus far, during this project with them, report on the progress made thus far and to take them through the study process. The stakeholders were also informed that they will have another opportunity to comment during the public comment period when the results of the study are Gazetted. This stakeholder process is also an important opportunity for the stakeholders to assist and guide the DWS with their specific local knowledge, their skills and technical expertise. These are needed to add value to the process and to ensure that, at the end of the day, stakeholders and the DWS can be proud of the product achieved and implement the results to obtain sustainable water resource management and protection in the OWMA.</p> <p>PSCM and stakeholders were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Stakeholders were informed that an electronic copy of the presentations will be e-mailed to them.</p> | Nicolene Venter         |
| <b>2.</b>  | <b>ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES</b>  | Appendix A              |
|            | <p>The attendance register is included as <b>Appendix A</b>. The following apologies were received at the meeting:</p> <p>Mr Mark Surmon, Phalaborwa Mining Company Ltd<br/> Mr John Dini, SANBI<br/> Mr Lodewyk de Jager, Watervals River Farmers' Association<br/> Ms Jo Burgess, WRC</p>  |                         |
| <b>3.</b>  | <b>AGENDA</b>  |                         |
|            | Mr Yakeen Atwaru presented the agenda to the stakeholders and it was accepted without any changes.   |                         |
| <b>4.</b>  | <b>PRESENTATIONS</b>   |                         |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>RESERVE DETERMINATION PROJECT - DWS</b>   | Presentation Appendix B |
|            | <p>Ms Gladys Makhado presented information on the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protection of the water resource;</li> <li>The series of measures of the Resource Directed Measures;</li> <li>The contextualization of Water Resource Protection;</li> <li>The Reserve – Water Resources in the Catchment;</li> <li>The Study Area and sub catchments</li> <li>Background to the Olifants WMA Reserve study; and</li> <li>Determination and Gazetting of the Reserve in the Olifants WMA.</li> </ul> <p>The presentation also covered the DWS' stakeholder engagement activities such as:</p>   |                         |

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|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The purpose of the stakeholder engagement;</li> <li>• The targeted stakeholders; and</li> <li>• Communication Methods and approach.</li> </ul> <p>Ms Makhado requested stakeholders to please inform the project team if a key stakeholder or stakeholder grouping (as presented) was omitted from the stakeholder list so that they can be contacted and invited to the next round of key stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>All information regarding the Reserve can be obtained from the DWS website: <a href="https://www.dws.gov.za/rdm/currentstudies/default.aspx">https://www.dws.gov.za/rdm/currentstudies/default.aspx</a>. Stakeholders are welcome to contact Ms Makhado at tel. 012 336 6744, cell 082 6586849 or e-mail <a href="mailto:makhadon@dws.gov.za">makhadon@dws.gov.za</a> or Nicolene Venter (Public Participation) at tel. 011 207 2060, cell 083 377 9112 or e-mail <a href="mailto:nicolenav@zitholele.co.za">nicolenav@zitholele.co.za</a>.</p>   | All |
| <b>Discussions</b> |  |     |
| 4.1(a)             | <p><b>Ms Sharon Pollard, Association for Water and Rural Development:</b> It was requested that AWARD be registered with the study team as a stakeholder.</p> <p>Ms Pollard stated that AWARD has a 5 year programme funded through USAID on water related matters in the Olifants CMA. The value of the contract is between \$2.5m to \$3m and endorsed by the DWS. It is important to note that AWARD are conducting analyses of all water quality and flow data and are further involved in activities with the Olifants CMA.</p> <p>It was asked for clarification purposes, what is meant by implementation of the Reserve. The reason for requesting clarification is that AWARD is involved in various activities with the DWS and the CMA. It is AWARD's understanding that one does not implement reserves but develops the plan and the CMA will then implement the strategies.</p>  |     |
|                    | <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman, Golder Associates Africa:</b> The "implementation" referred to in the presentation is the <i>Implementation Plan</i> and involves the identification of gaps in the EWR network. Nodes will be added to the network with the aim of protecting certain areas and improving others. It would further include measuring and monitoring the aquatic environment from a water quality and ecological perspective.</p> <p><b>Mr Yakeen Atwaru, DWS:</b> The implementation Plan includes monitoring and management action plans to ensure the Reserve is implemented, and these activities and actions will support the CMA Strategies.</p> <p>It was confirmed that AWARD is registered as a stakeholder and is included under the category of NGOs.</p> <p><b>Ms Barbara Weston, DWS:</b> The DWS are now, in terms of the National Water Act, Section 18, at the point where they are going to complete the whole package and ensure that the activities are legally Gazetted so that the DWS can commence with monitoring and evaluation to ensure that people are complying. Section 18 also stipulates that as soon as the Resources have been Classified and the Resource Quality Objectives have been set, the Reserve needs to be set. The Reserve will subsequently be published. The DWS will identify the work conducted by AWARD, the KNP and other stakeholders in terms of monitoring and any thresholds set. This study is making sure that the Category B and C streams that are still in a fairly natural condition and contribute to flow and good quality water to the system, are protected as these streams play an important role in maintaining the overall class of the IUAs. The technical team will set specific conditions to maintain the functionality of these areas and the system. These conditions will be included in the monitoring programme. The DWS are not redoing any work already done; the DWS is only adding certain things for specific protection measuring and ensuring EWR compliance.</p> |     |

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| 4.2 | <b>OLIFANTS/LETABA SYSTEM RESERVE STUDY PRESENTATION – Dr Trevor Goleman, Golder Associates Africa</b>   | Appendix C |
|     | <p>Mr Trevor Coleman gave a brief introduction to the Reserve Determination study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced the study and presented the objectives of the study viz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to provide feedback on the progress made to date on the finalisation of the Reserve;</li> <li>○ Provide the necessary information to stakeholders on the ecological status, assessment of wetlands and groundwater, key areas of ecological protection, and to engage with them on the proposed scenarios to assess ecological consequences; and</li> <li>○ An overview of the way forward.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Outlining the processes undertaken to date were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Resource Classes – Completed</li> <li>• Resource Quality Objectives – Completed</li> <li>• Preliminary Reserve – Current</li> </ul> <p>The Reserve will be Gazetted once the Reserve Determination process is completed.</p> <p>This study is being undertaken to identify gaps in the priority catchment areas i.e. ecological specifications required for flow and quality</p> <p>The presentation also covered aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why the Olifants Catchment Area;</li> <li>• The Study Objectives;</li> <li>• The Water Resource Classes set;</li> <li>• The present Ecological State;</li> <li>• Priority wetlands identified;</li> <li>• Hot spot areas related to water quality;</li> <li>• The Shingwedzi catchment has been included;</li> <li>• Basic Human Needs i.e. water for drinking, food preparation &amp; personal hygiene; and</li> <li>• Status Quo Summary.</li> </ul> <p>The same presentation was presented at the key stakeholder meeting held yesterday, Wednesday, 25 May 2016 at Loskop Dam.</p> |            |
|     | <b>Discussions</b>   |            |
|     | No questions were raised or comments submitted   |            |
| 4.3 | <b>ECOLOGICAL STATUS ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION – Mr Warren Aken, Golder Associates Africa</b>  | Appendix C |
|     | <p>Mr Warren Aken presented a summary of the ecological status information as obtained during the team's field survey, the site selection process and how areas were prioritised for sampling to address information gaps. In terms of the EWR sites visited, a brief overview was presented as to what was found at these sites.</p> <p>The sites visited included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper and Middle Olifants Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elands River</li> <li>• Lower Wilge River</li> <li>• Olifants River</li> <li>• Wilge River</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |            |

|            |   |                   |
|------------|---|-------------------|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Klein Olifants River</li> <li>• Selons River</li> <li>• Kranspoortspruit</li> <li>• Middle and Lower Olifants Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olifants River</li> <li>• Spekboomspruit</li> <li>• Upper Blyde</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lower Olifants Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olifants River</li> <li>• Lower Blyde</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Letaba Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broederstroom</li> <li>• Letaba River</li> <li>• Letsitele</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Shingwedzi Catchment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shingwedzi River</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The challenges that needed to be taken into consideration were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality issues impacting on large parts of the system (mining and urbanization);</li> <li>• Low flows resulting from the drought in the catchment causing systems to be under stress;</li> <li>• Key conservation areas that needs to be protected; and</li> <li>• Important fish species.</li> </ul> |                   |
|            | <b>Discussion</b>   |                   |
| 4.3(a)     | <p><b>Mr Vincent Machaba, Department of Agriculture:</b> It was enquired if the previous studies conducted at the EWR sites located on the Letaba for the period up to now, were considered during this study, and was this information carried forward to look at any changes over time.</p> <p><b>Mr Warren Aken:</b> For all the stages that have been done, the main report includes a table documenting the studies conducted in 1992, 2006 and current and it includes a column on the trajectory of change indicating whether it went up or down and an explanation why. Should there be any significant change (i.e. an improvement), the study team went back to the original studies and discussed the differences in the findings with the selected specialists. This resulted in a better understanding of the trajectory of change.</p>  |                   |
| 4.3(b)     | <p><b>Mr Vincent Machaba:</b> It was asked, with specific reference to the Letaba Catchment, whether the surveyed EWR site were new sites or the original sites.</p> <p><b>Mr Warren Aken:</b> In reference to the map, the red sites are the ones previously studied (i.e. 1999) and the yellow dots are now the ones on which the full suite of assessments were done. Some sites were moved slightly owing to access constraints and flows. The intention was to see whether there were any changes or not.</p>  |                   |
| 4.3(c)     | <p><b>Unidentified Stakeholder:</b> It was enquired as to what extent are the population of indigenous fish species in the Letaba Catchment under threat.</p> <p><b>Mr Warren Aken:</b> It is difficult to quantify. There are definitely high numbers of alien fish species in the system. For example in the Letaba catchment, before the impoundments, there are a large number of Large Mouth Bass present. Consequently, the numbers of indigenous fish species namely the <i>Barbus</i> species were absent owing to predation from this alien fish species. It was stated that this situation is not only present in the Letaba catchment, but throughout the country.</p>   |                   |
| <b>4.4</b> | <b>WATER QUALITY STATUS AND ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES PRESENTATION – Mr Trevor Coleman, Golder Associates Africa</b>  | <b>Appendix C</b> |
|            | Mr Coleman informed the stakeholders that the team would appreciate any inputs regarding the water quality status and the ecological consequences identified within the priorities areas,   |                   |

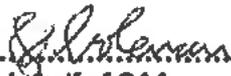
|        |   |              |
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|        | <p>and whether anything was missed or whether the team needs to cover more. He referred to a map displayed on the wall showing the location and extent of the priority areas.</p> <p>Part of this process was to set up the system of ecospecs in terms of quality and flow at the different points in the system. The flow specifications will then be input into the planning model that was used for the Recon Study and the consequences of the flows set at the nodes on water supply to current and future users will be determined. A scenario requested by the Joint Water Forum representing the mines in the Middle Olifants and Mogalakwena area was included in the scenarios to be analysed.</p>   |              |
|        | <b>Discussion</b>   |              |
| 4.4(a) | <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> it was requested that additional information be provided as to how the study team arrived at the priority areas.</p> <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> The nodes were selected based on the results from the biological surveys conducted for this project, where it is considered important that flows be maintained to support the ecological integrity and health of the system. Through this process preliminary nodes within the Olifants, Letaba and Shingwedzi catchments were identified for the setting of flows and may include additional ecological specifications. It is important to note that this forms part of the preliminary selection of the nodes and the final refinement and prioritisation will take place during the EWR refinement step of the project. The preliminary priority nodes best represent the upstream reach or area of the aquatic ecosystem requiring conservation and protection measures going forward.</p>   |              |
| 4.4(b) | <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> It was asked for clarification purposes that those priority areas are for monitoring purposes.</p> <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> It would be for monitoring and control purposes.</p>   |              |
| 4.4(c) | <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> The study team was informed that AWARD is developing a system for working out priority areas but these would be for strategic management purposes based on water quality and flow. AWARD will be working with the CMA to strategize on areas. It is believed that the DWS and AWARD will use the same terms which could be confusing.</p> <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> It was enquired whether AWARD is writing out the specs.</p> <p><b>Ms Barbara Weston:</b> As was mentioned at Wednesdays (25 May 2016) Key Stakeholder Meeting, that one of the implementing strategies is the Water Quality Strategy which is currently being developed for the Olifants River. Stakeholders present would be invited to attend yet another meeting to discuss the management plan for Water Quality as Water Quality is one of the main drivers in the Olifants.</p> <p>Stakeholders were requested that should they or any of their colleagues be interested in attending the meeting, to contact the DWS team.</p> | Stakeholders |
| 4.4(d) | <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> AWARD is linking the water quality and flow deterioration to human well-being so that one can make a more sensible link of what the basic human needs reserve means. i.e. in the Lower Olifants, where heavy metals are present in the water and people are drinking the water from the river. This information will assist the DWS in making some predictions of what it means for human well-being.</p> <p><b>Ms Barbara Weston:</b> Thanked AWARD being willing to share this information with the DWS as this direct link is not present with the other studies i.e. if you have impacts, what will the consequences be on the basic human needs primarily on water quality.</p> <p><b>Mr Yakeen Atwaru:</b> It was asked for clarification purposes, what are AWARD's criteria for human well-being?</p> <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> AWARD had to use human health as their five characteristics of wellbeing and AWARD do not have enough data on the others.</p>                                     |              |
| 4.4(e) | <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> For clarification purposes, it was mentioned during the presentation that the study team obtained information regarding pesticides.</p> <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> The study team does not have instream water quality information on pesticides. Pesticides are included in the RQOs.</p>   |              |

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| 4.4(f) | <p><b>Mr Tendani Nditwani, DWS:</b> It was enquired as to how the study would deal with the Basic Human Needs for the Reserve, as the DWS are already supplying water for domestic needs.</p> <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> The census will be used to determine the population that is dependent directly on the river and groundwater for water supply. The reconciliation strategy information will also be used to determine what communities have been included in the water requirement projections so that the basic human needs is not accounted for twice.</p>   |            |
| 4.5    | <p><b>GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION – Dr Eddie van Wyk, Golder Associates Africa</b></p> <p>Dr Eddie van Wyk presented the outcome of the Groundwater Assessment undertaken for the study which covered the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the existing quantification of the groundwater component of the Reserve (Quantity/Quality);</li> <li>• Set conditions for implementation to protect the groundwater resources;</li> <li>• Zoning of areas where over-utilization of groundwater resources could negatively impact on local water supplies (i.e. Schedule 1, General Authorizations and existing uses) and ultimately, maintaining discharges to surface water resources where applicable; and</li> <li>• Reserve will be expressed as a Water Resource Category (guided by attributes such as Stress Index, Gw allocations, Basic Human Needs and EWR (surface water).</li> </ul>   | Appendix C |
|        | <b>Discussion</b>  |            |
| 4.5(a) | <b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> It was enquired that in terms of surface and groundwater, did the study team do any simulations around climate change.   |            |
| 4.5(b) | <p><b>Dr Eddie van Wyk:</b> Climate change is one of the aspects that the study team still need to assess. Should the annual recharge not be sufficient, one will have to put in a warning system based on a hydrological monitoring plan, especially during the dry seasons. The team is also dependent on the reporting of water levels. Considering the fact that effective recharge events still occur on a 7 to 10 year cycle, by managing the aquifer saturation levels the groundwater supplies could sustain local water supplies to breach dry periods. From a groundwater perspective, the study team has decided to link the aquifer resource units into the quaternary catchment areas; thus linking the groundwater resources with the local surface water components.</p> <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> AWARD will only be incorporating their climate change modelling in about four (4) months' time. However, by assessing the increase in temperature especially in the Lowveld, and the impacts it is having on evaporation rates, it is predicted that the hydrology/water balance will change significantly.</p> <p><b>Dr Eddie van Wyk:</b> Rapid transpiration and evaporation is extremely high within these systems and thus if one is using the groundwater for irrigation, it is vital that all water users are being monitored.</p> |            |
| 4.5(b) | <p><b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> It was enquired from AWARD whether their climate changing model shows a dramatic change in climate i.e. will the Kruger National Park be transformed into a desert and where the EWR in 2 years' time will represent an ecology that is not naturally supported.</p> <p><b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> It is too early to say as AWARD is busy with their climate change assessment. A study is being carried out on the Selati. The results will be available in about 6 months' time. The initial assessment indicated that the impact on surface water could be significant.</p>  |            |
| 4.5(c) | <b>Mr Trevor Coleman:</b> It was enquired whether the impact of climate change could kick in 2030 and whether climate change is going to be eminent i.e. quicker than is anticipated.  |            |
| 4.5(c) | <b>Dr Sharon Pollard:</b> Indications are that the impacts are already evident.  |            |
|        | <b>Mr Yakeen Atwaru:</b> The results of the climate change, once all the work has been done, would be interesting to see what the future holds for the Olifants/Letaba water management area.  |            |

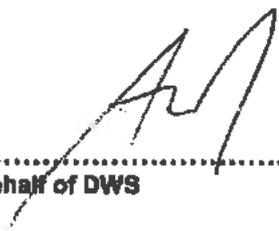
|               |  |            |
|---------------|--|------------|
|               | <p><b>Mr Hugo Retief:</b> Some studies have been done on the Olifants/Letaba, however detailed studies are being done on the Selati. The results of the Selati study will be used to provide a broader view on the climate change impacts on the Olifants River Basin.</p> <p><b>Mr Yakeen Atwaru:</b> It was requested that the information be shared with the study team and also requested the members of AWARD to present those studies at the next meeting.</p>   | AWARD      |
| <b>4.6</b>    | <p><b>WETLAND ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION – Mr Gary Mameweck, Wetland Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd</b></p> <p>Mr Gary Mameweck informed the stakeholders that available information has been utilised for this study and that it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline wetland data that is available from various sources including several DWS and other wetland reports and wetland inventory databases; and</li> <li>• The Revised wetland data layer for the Mpumalanga Highveld Region.</li> </ul> <p>The limitations associated with this study were presented as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inherent inaccuracies in remotely mapped wetland data;</li> <li>• Limited verified ecological categorisation information for most of the systems for which there is coverage;</li> <li>• Possible other data sources that may exist but that the study team do not know about; and</li> </ul> <p>Limited site access i.e. not easy to undertake field verification.</p>  | Appendix C |
|               | <b>Discussion</b>  |            |
| 4.6.(a)<br>5. | <p><b>Mr HP Chauke, Shingwedzi Sub-Catchment:</b> The study team was informed that elders have been performing sacred rituals at various wetlands and rivers that might have not been visible during their field visit.</p> <p>Consultation needs to take place with the correct people in the Kruger National Park viz the elders who perform their rituals. The wetlands and surface water might not be visible or have low flows, but after the elders performed their rituals, the wetlands and rivers are full of water. It was recommended that a participation process be held with the elders or people who reside in the study area rather than people who do not know the area. Maps are available at the Kruger National Park indicating the wetlands that are not recorded in the wetland study as presented. Mr Chauke offered his assistance to the project team to ensure that those wetlands are mapped on the Reserve Determination's wetland maps.</p> <p><b>Mr Yakeen Atwaru:</b> It was requested that Mr Mameweck meet with Mr Chauke after the meeting to discuss the wetlands referred to and also to ensure that the cultural significance of those wetlands are recorded.</p> |            |
|               | <b>AWARD'S PRESENTATION</b>  |            |
| 6.            | <p>Upon request from AWARD, a brief presentation regarding the impact of climate change on South Africa's water resources was presented. A presentation was also given by Stephen Mallory on the development of operating rules for De Hoop Dam and Hugo Retief on the assessment of water quality.</p>  |            |
|               | <b>NEXT STEPS</b>  |            |
|               | <p>Mr Trevor Coleman presented the next steps to be undertaken with the Reserve Study and they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refinement of the EWR and flow determination at key nodes in the system;</li> <li>• Ecological consequences assessment – analysis;</li> <li>• Draft Reserve for Gazetting – envisaged consultation to take place in August 2016</li> <li>• Development of the ecological specifications and Reserve Template – September 2016;</li> <li>• Management and Implementation Plan; and</li> <li>• Gazette Reserve.</li> </ul>  |            |

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| 7. | <b>WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE</b>  |  |
|    | <p>No further matters were raised. For any comments and questions not raised, the stakeholders were informed that they have "comments cards" in their meeting pack. Access to all documents, if full details, links provided.</p> <p>Thank stakeholders for their participation and the meeting closed at 13h30.</p> <p>(Presentations are available on: <a href="https://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/currentstudies/default.aspx">https://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/currentstudies/default.aspx</a>)</p> |  |

**Signed:**

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 On behalf of GAA

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 04-10-2016  
 Date

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 On behalf of DWS

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 04/10/2016  
 Date

**Appendix A**  
**Attendance Record (Alphabetical according to Surname)**

**ATTENDEES**

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**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# **DETERMINATION, REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESERVE IN THE OLIFANTS/LETABA SYSTEM: WP10940**

## **(STAKEHOLDER MEETING)**

**Date: 25 & 26 May 2016**

# Content

- Water Resource Protection
- Study area
- Background to the Olifants WMA
- Purpose of this stakeholder meeting
- Way forward

# PROTECTING THE WATER RESOURCE

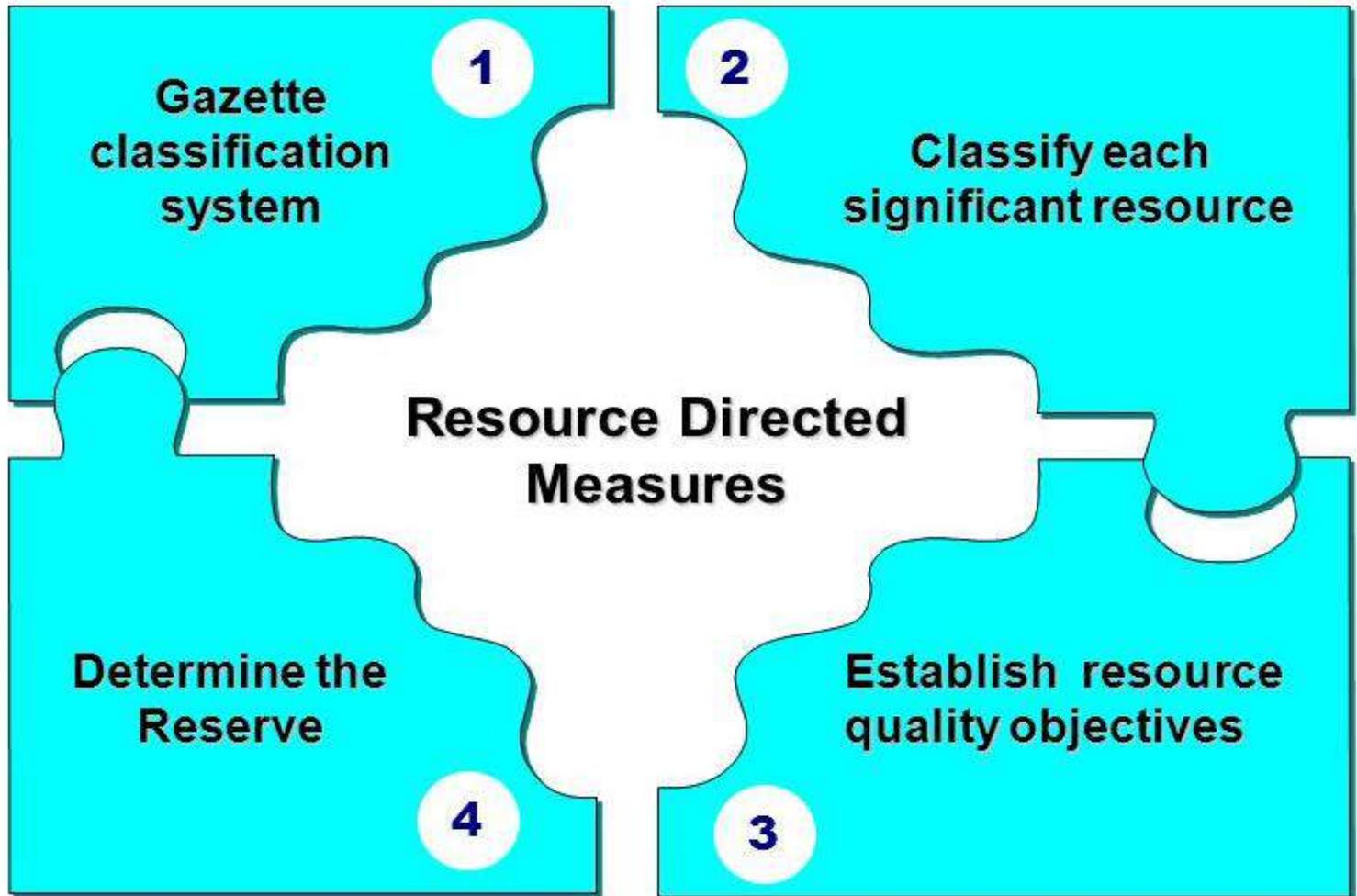
- *Water Resources* need to be managed so that they are **protected** on one hand and,
  - Sustainably **utilised** on the other for social and economic development.
- **The National Water Act** is one of the Environmental Acts that provides the regulations and protection tools to achieve a balance between protecting and utilising.



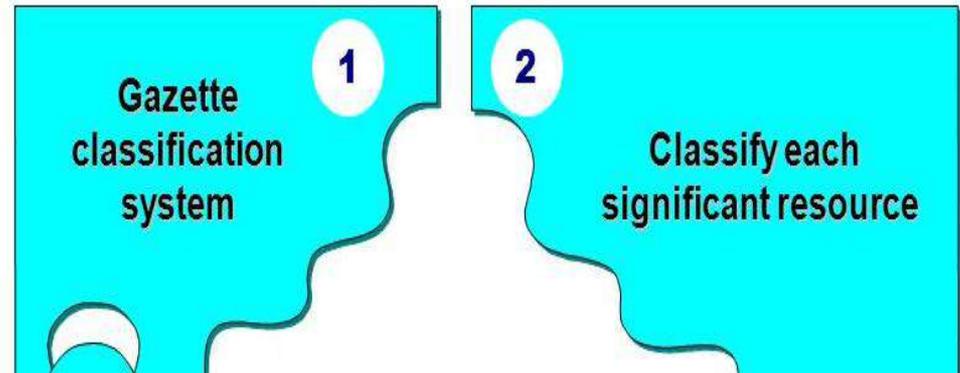
**Protect**

**Utilise**

Chapter 3 of the **National Water Act** (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998) lay down a **series of measures** which together are intended to ensure the comprehensive protection of all water resources



# CONTEXTUALIZING WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION



## Classification system and determination of water resource classes

### THREE MANAGEMENT CLASSES (MC)

| Classes          | Description of use | Ecological categories |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Class I</b>   | Minimally used     | A-B                   |
| <b>Class II</b>  | Moderately used    | C                     |
| <b>Class III</b> | Heavily used       | D & lower             |

# CONTEXTUALIZING WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

## Each class represents:

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

## Classification is used in two ways:

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

## Determining Resource Quality Objectives

Establish resource quality objectives

3

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 characteristics)
- 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.

# CONTEXTUALIZING WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION

## Determining the Reserve



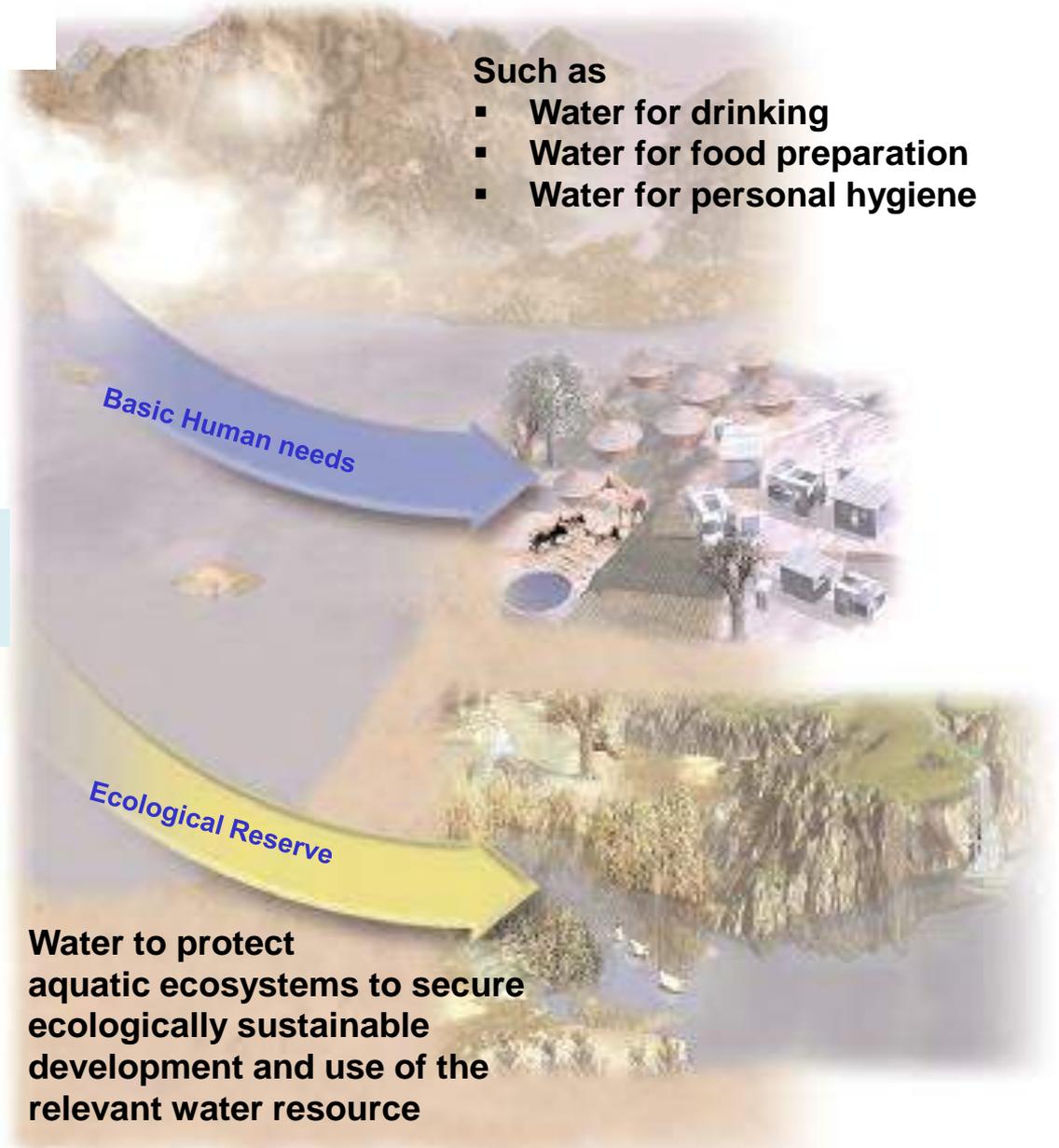
- The Reserve refers to both the quantity and quality of the water required to:
  - satisfy basic human needs, and
  - protect water ecosystems.
- It has priority over all other water use. Water required for the Reserve must be met before water resources can be allocated to other water user.

# THE RESERVE

## WATER RESOURCES IN A CATCHMENT

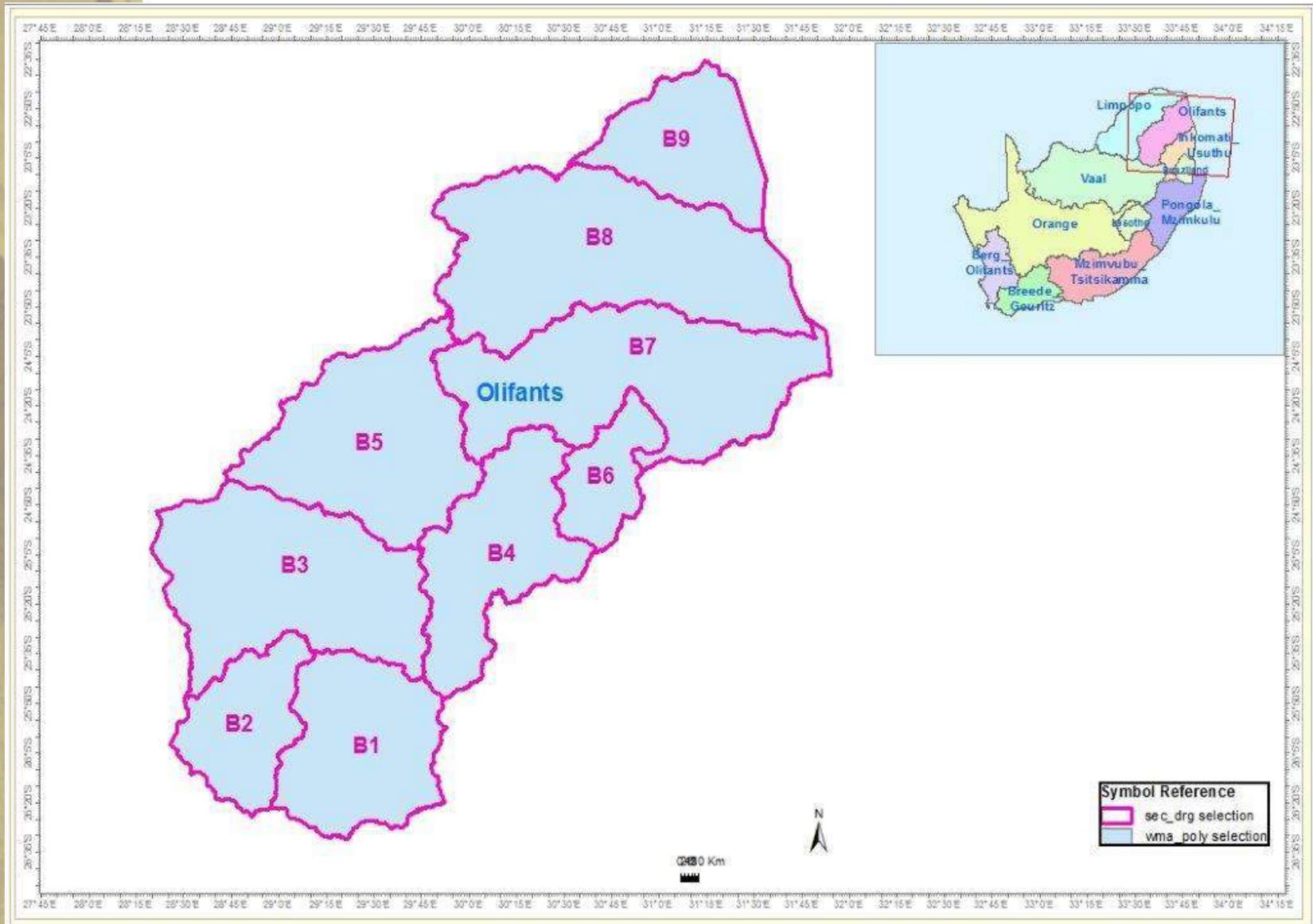
Such as

- Water for drinking
- Water for food preparation
- Water for personal hygiene



Water to protect aquatic ecosystems to secure ecologically sustainable development and use of the relevant water resource

# Study area

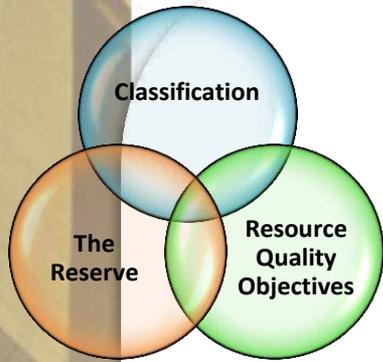


Map showing secondary drainage regions

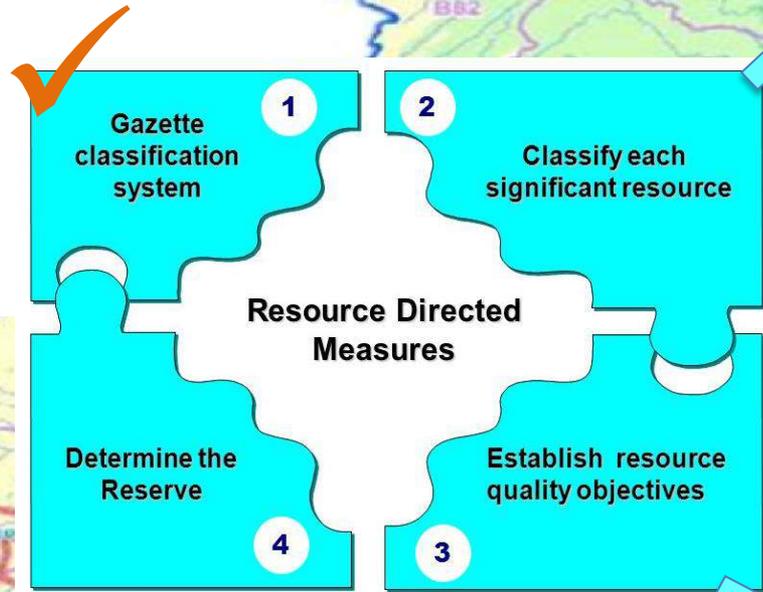
# The study area sub-catchment

- The study will cover the Olifants WMA and the area includes;
  - The Olifants catchment - B11, B12, B20, B31, B32, B41, B42, B51, B52, B60, B71, B72 and B73,
  - The Letaba Catchment - B81, B82 and B83, and
  - B90, the Shingwedzi catchment.

# BACKGROUND TO THE OLIFANTS WMA



**September  
2010**



**Classification:**  
Olifants 2013  
Letaba 2014

**Preliminary Reserves:**

Olifants: 2001 and review of PES 2009

Letaba: 2006

**RQOs:**

Olifants – Final Gazetted April 2016

Letaba – Draft Gazetted 22 March 2016

# Determination of the Reserve in the Olifants WMA

- The study was initiated in July 2015
- Timeframe: 18 months.
- Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd was appointed to assist DWS.
- First Reserve to be gazetted and this will exclude the Shingwedzi Catchment.



# **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

# PURPOSE OF THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- To engage with stakeholders on the determination and gazetting of the Reserve.
- To involve stakeholder engagement as wide as possible.
- To establish partnership in the management of water resources in the Olifants WMA.
- To enable the Department and stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise.
- To share the department vision and mandate with its stakeholders.
- To obtain valuable knowledge, inputs, insights and recommendations that will assist with the future protection and management of the Olifants WMA

# TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS

- NGOs – Olifants River Forum, Federation of Sustainable Environment
- Regulators – DDET (Mpumalanga and Limpopo), DWS (regional and national), DMR, Department of Agriculture
- Water boards and WUA – Lepelle WB, Lebalelo WUA  
Agriculture – Agri SA, NAFU, Irrigation boards, Tvl Agric Union of SA
- NGOs – Federation of Sustainable Environment, Water Service Authorities/Providers, BCT Water, etc
- Emerging Farmers
- Mining – COM and mining houses
- Industries – Eskom, SAPPI, TSB Sugar, etc
- Local government – local and district municipalities in WMA

## TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS [Cont.]

- Conservation – SANBI, Sanparks, WESSA, Bird Life Africa
- Information/Academic institutions – (i.e. schools, universities)
- Unions & House of Traditional leaders
- Catchment Forums & WUA
- Civil society and the environment representatives
- Community members (public at large)

(did we leave someone out?)

## COMMUNICATION METHODS/ APPROACH

- Direct – Stakeholder meetings
  - Distribution of documents and presentations for comments; and
  - Compilation of comments and response register.
- Printed Documents – BID, Newsletters & Brochures.
- Electronic media – DWA website:

<https://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/currentstudies/default.aspx>

E-mail (database list)

# WAY FOWARD

The output of the study will be used for:

- The preparation of the legal templates for the Reserves to be gazetted;
- Preparation of technical documents that will support the gazetted values;
- Development of monitoring programs that will identify the indicators that need to be monitored;
- Development of a Reserve Implementation Plan;
- Provide essential information in the operating rules for infrastructure and the assessment of WULA; and
- Regulatory tool for compliance, monitoring, evaluation and enforcement

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