



EUTROPHICATION INFORMATION BROCHURE

WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY

SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The National Water Act 1998 (Act 36 of 1998), (NWA), is a crucial legislation in South Africa that promotes sustainability and equity as guiding principles in the protection, use, development, conservation, management, and control of water resources. It works in conjunction with the Water Service Act, 1997 (Act 108 of 1997) to ensure the provision of basic water supply and sanitation services. The NWA focuses on pollution prevention measures, among others, and emphasizes the integrated management of water quality resources. It assigns responsibilities to various entities, including municipalities as water-service authorities, to provide water supply and sanitation according to national standards and norms. The NWA plays a significant role in safeguarding water resources for current and future generations through an integrated approach to managing water quality

EUTROPHICATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR SOUTH AFRICA

The Eutrophication Management Strategy for South Africa (EMSSA) aims to mitigate excessive nutrient enrichment in water bodies, protecting water ecosystems and securing suitability of water resources for various uses. The EMSSA was developed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), to address nutrient inputs from agricultural, industrial, mining, urban sources, and wastewater treatment plants and it aligns with national goals, including the Integrated Water Quality Management (IWQM) Policies and Strategies for South Africa (2017) and the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS), aiming to transform the water and sanitation sector concerning eutrophication management and pollution prevention.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The strategy targets nutrient input sources from agricultural activities, industries, mining, urban settings and wastewater treatment plants.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the EMSSA is to effectively manage eutrophication to protect aquatic ecosystems and ensure water resources remain suitable for various uses. The objective of the EMSSA includes:

- Limiting anthropogenic nutrient loading of water resources.
- Reducing excessive primary production in surface waters.
- Protecting aquatic ecosystems and their biological diversity.
- Securing water resources that are consistently fit-for-use.
- Supporting ecologically sustainable development and justifiable socio-economic growth.

ALIGNMENT WITH BROADER OBJECTIVES

The above listed objectives of the EMSSA are aligned with the broader objectives particularly those outlined in the IWQM Strategy and the NWRS. This strategy complements the IWQM Strategy's vision and mission, which calls for government, in conjunction with private sector and civic society, to secure water that is fit-for-use, forever.

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMSSA

The implementation of the EMSSA involves various activities aimed at managing nutrient inputs and preventing eutrophication. Some key activities involved in the implementation of EMSSA include:

- Incorporating Actions into Action Plans: Actions identified for the Anti-Pollution Task Team need to be monitored and evaluated to track progress quarterly.
- Strengthening Water Quality Management: Addressing challenges in water quality management components, including clarifying roles and functions within the new departmental structure.
- Regulating Phosphate Levels: Exploring regulations on zero-phosphate to address challenges related to phosphate reduction and its impact on water quality.
- Enhancing Municipal Sewer Regulations: Strengthening actions related to municipal sewers to address issues with industrial wastewater entering municipal wastewater treatment works.
- Collaboration and Engagement: Encouraging further discussion, engagement, and collaboration among different stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of EMSSA.

These activities highlight the multifaceted approach required for successful implementation of the strategy, emphasizing collaboration, regulatory enhancements, and stakeholder engagement as key components of the process.

THE EUTROPHICATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY INTO PRACTICE

The Eutrophication Management Strategy into Practice (EMSIP) Report is a comprehensive national document aimed at providing guidance on the implementation of EMSSA. Therefore, the EMSIP supports the EMSSA by arranging, and translating objectives, required actions and interventions into measurable outcomes.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The EMSIP addresses all National, Provincial, and Local Government departments, Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs), sectoral institutions, civil society members, non-governmental entities, private sector, and any other party involved in environmental management or socio-economic initiatives.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The EMSIP aims to provide guidance on the implementation of the EMSSA, by ensuring alignment with the NWA, NWRS, National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP), and the IWQM strategic objectives.

ALIGNMENT WITH BROADER OBJECTIVES

The EMSIP links to international sustainable development agendas like the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the International Sustainable Development Agenda (ISDAA). Additionally, the EMSIP outlines a stepwise approach to implementing EMSSA, emphasizing roles and responsibilities, supportive tools, and a monitoring and evaluation framework.



For more detailed information, visit the DWS website:

<https://www.dws.gov.za/RDM/SDCCO.aspx>