

Rehabilitation Management Guidelines for Water Resources

Project Steering Committee Meeting 1 - Background Information Document

November 2021



PURPOSE

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is:

- To assist Project Steering Committee (PSC) members to prepare for the upcoming PSC Meeting 1 scheduled to take place on **10 November 2021**; and
- To provide progress on the development of the Rehabilitation Management Guidelines for Water Resources Project.

The BID consists of the following:

- Scope of Work & Project Progress;
- Stakeholder engagement platforms; and
- Way-forward

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) study team can be reached as detailed below.

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1. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

Chapter 3 of the National Water Act (NWA), 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) provides for the protection, use, conservation, management and control of water resources in an efficient, sustainable and equitable manner in South Africa. Sections 19 and 20 of NWA Chapter 3 focus on *prevention and remedying effects of pollution* and *control of emergency incidents*, respectively.

Protection of water resources is critical for ensuring healthy ecosystems and water availability for current and future use. To this end, sustainable development of water resources requires that water quality degradation be avoided, minimized, and remedied where applicable.

In 2020, the DWS Directorate: Sources Directed Studies (SDS) initiated an in-house project for the development of the Rehabilitation Management Guidelines for Water Resources in South Africa. The project responds to one of the objectives of the Chief Directorate: Water Ecosystems Management to conduct sources directed studies as informed by broader DWS strategic objectives.

2. SCOPE OF WORK & PROJECT PROGRESS

To date, the project planning phases have been completed. These included establishment of stakeholder engagement committees (see Figure 1) and completion of the Gap Analysis Report, Framework Document, PSC Terms of Reference. Five themes have been identified for the Rehabilitation Guidelines to be developed and these have been categorized into Rivers, Wetlands, Estuaries, Lakes and Groundwater as per the National Water Act.

The scope of work for the project has been outlined and described in the Draft Inception Report as follows: Project Inception, Situation Assessment, Best Practices Guidelines and Guidelines into Practice.

The Draft Inception Report is currently available and it is envisaged to be finalized at the end of November 2021 once it has been circulated for inputs to all the project committees and teams.

3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The process of developing the Rehabilitation Management Guidelines is stakeholder driven and will be strengthened by a diligent stakeholder engagement process as required by Batho Pele Principles i.e. consultation, openness, transparency and access to information. The project process will therefore entail consultation and engagement with all three spheres of government, civil society, private sector and participation of the entire water sector stakeholders in order to ensure appropriateness and acceptability of the guidelines by different sectors and role-players responsible for implementation and overall water resource management.

Stakeholders are selected on the basis of their expertise and bear great responsibility to provide strategic management support as well as much needed technical guidance through the project lifespan. **Figure 1** below illustrates the composition of the different platforms of stakeholder engagement (Sub-TT, TTT, PMC and PSC) and frequency of envisaged engagements.

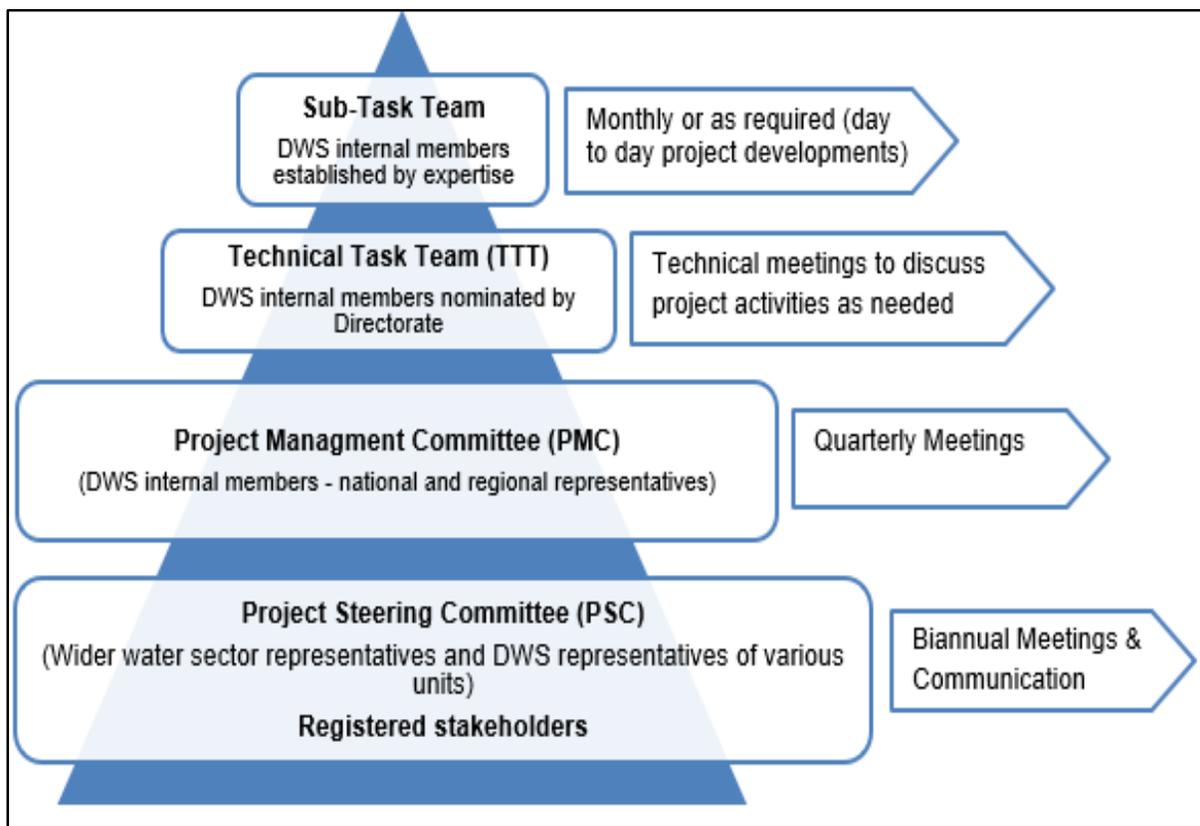


Figure 1: Stakeholder engagement structures

4. WAY FORWARD: SITUATION ASSESSMENT

The next phase of the project is Situation Assessment which will involve a comprehensive review of available studies, publications, reports, projects, programmes and initiatives that are specific to South Africa and have been implemented in support of rehabilitation of water resources. This review is expected to gather detailed information in terms of rehabilitation and identify knowledge gaps. This data will be utilised to guide and inform the extent of work to be conducted in the current project. Therefore, the outcome of this situation assessment will guide the rest of the project programme.