

Water Quality Management Interviews

The following water quality managers were interviewed as part of the process of determining water quality requirements:

- Andrew Brown, Deputy Director: Water Quality Management, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Wouter van der Merwe, Manager: Scientific Services, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

- JLJ (Sakkie) van der Westhuizen, Director: Water Quality Management, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
- Henk van Vliet, Director: Institute for Water Quality Studies, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

The following questions were used as a basis for discussion on management information needs for aquatic ecosystems management:

1. What do you understand under the concept of "the health of an aquatic ecosystem".
 - What makes up an ecosystem; what would its boundaries be? what different types of ecosystems need to be managed?
 - How will you know whether or not it is healthy?
 - What kinds of measuring sticks do you think one should use to determine its health? e.g. biodiversity, integrity etc.; and what the perceived advantages/disadvantages of each?
 - Can one, after this discussion, formulate a quantitative definition for "ecosystem health"?
2. What are the purposes and/or benefits of maintaining healthy ecosystems?
 - What is the goal(s) of ecosystems management?
 - Are there specific policy and/or legal requirements/implications of this goal?
 - Who are the important stakeholders (I&APs); what are their expectations?
 - Are specific benefits to be derived from maintaining healthy ecosystems for the utilization and management of water resources in general and water quality in particular?
3. How will DWAF go about meeting the goal of ecosystems management, in terms of:
 - Selecting and prioritising management interventions
 - Setting water quality guidelines
 - Setting receiving water quality objectives

- Evaluating the impacts of effluent discharges
 - Measuring compliance
 - Reporting on the state of water resources
4. How will DWAF report to the stakeholders on the success of its ecosystems management?