

## 15. FUNDING YOUR RHP

Although a considerable amount of WRC and government money has been invested in the initial research and development of the RHP and its associated biomonitoring indices, the provincial implementation of RHP remains an unfunded mandate (not funded by the national RHP). Given the paucity of available funds at the provincial level, this may be a stumbling block. However, this need not be the case. Successfully attracting an initial injection of external funding for the purchase of equipment, training and marketing and promotion of your programme could hinge on the effectiveness of your business plan, marketing and promotion of your programme.

The greatest amount of funding is required initially for purchase of equipment, vehicles, training and skills development, promotion and local research and development. Remember that it is not necessary to obtain all the required funding for all the aforementioned aspects before embarking on your RHP.

### 15.1 POTENTIAL RHP FUNDING SOURCES

The following organisations may be approached to provide the initial investment to get your RHP rolling. These include:

- \$ Water Research Commission - particularly for research and development aspects.
- \$ Dept. Water Affairs and Forestry - may contribute seed money to purchase equipment.
- \$ Dept. Environmental Affairs and Tourism - may be in a position to do the same through the provincial environment affairs government department..
- \$ Your local Water Board - has a vested interest in monitoring the state of rivers from which it draws its water.
- \$ Local and District Councils - these organisations may contribute to the monitoring of sites which are important to them.
- \$ Overseas funders such as DANCED, European Union and a number of other organisations.
- \$ Local industries within the river catchment - may contribute funding for the monitoring of sites which are potentially being impacted by their activities.

**NOTE:**

For additional potential avenues of funding, contact the RHP National Co-ordinating Team (NCT). The NCT can assist in strengthening your RHP funding motivation. Also both DEAT and DWAF are focal points for overseas funding organisations and can be contacted in this regard.

In the long-term, the RHP will probably become a recognized programme of the relevant provincial environment affairs department by virtue of its objectives of monitoring environmental and ecological trends. The RHP's potential for contributing to the knowledge of the State of the Environment (SoE) is another strong motivation for these organisations to adopt and fund the programme. Similarly, the RHP should become integrated into the monitoring programmes of the regional DWAF department and a budget allocated to the programme. Once established, it is envisaged that the relevant CMA will assume the funding and management of the RHP.