

SETTING UP MONITORING PROGRAMMES – GUIDELINES

Monitoring programmes should reflect the evaluation and assessment process to done for water management area.

Kinds of monitoring

So far most regional offices look at 3 distinctly different kinds of monitoring i.e. Resource status monitoring, Waste discharge monitoring of data submitted by water users and Waste discharge monitoring audits done by regional offices. In addition some regional offices do drinking water assessments.

The different kinds of monitoring should be in different monitoring programmes.

Geographical Areas

Most monitoring look at impacts to resources such as river systems i.e. Crocodile river and all its major contributing tributaries in terms of catchments. Thus a water management area is subdivided into catchments. When one wants to look at impacts then monitoring programmes can be subdivided into catchments. Responsibilities are often allocated according to catchments and creating monitoring programmes in this way will support monitoring program owners.

Kinds of Discharge or Resource

Sometimes it is necessary to report on specific discharge sources such as all Sewage Works or Mines. In that case it is advisable to create different monitoring programmes for each subdivision.

Monitoring programs and system functions

Managing many small monitoring programmes is difficult and extracting data for many small monitoring programmes time consuming. It is not advisable to create monitoring programs with one or two monitoring points.

Managing one big monitoring program where all monitoring is lumped together is not advisable either when one has to do reports on only one aspect.

It is possible to overlap monitoring programs because consolidation of monitoring activities will ensure that duplication is reduced so long as the same points, monitoring action (sampling method), sample type (kind of sample e.g. microbiological or radioactivity samples), container, preservative, monitor (sampling office) and Laboratory is used.

Data can be extracted in many ways per point, geographical area (drainage region, provinces, WMA etc), coordinate blocks, etc but one can also extract data per monitoring program. It is also possible to extract data for 2 monitoring programs into the same reporting group.

Customised user defined groups of monitoring points can also be created for data extraction.

Proposed monitoring program structure

I would propose the following structure for monitoring programmes:

Kinds of monitoring

Geographical Areas

Kinds of Discharge or Resource

E.g. Resource monitoring per Catchment for Eutrophication, Radioactivity or Compliance to license conditions per catchment per Sewage Works, Mines, Industries, etc.