

**DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERIC
FRAMEWORK FOR A CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Final Draft

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Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERIC FRAMEWORK FOR CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) calls for the development of strategies to facilitate the proper management of water resources in South Africa. The National Water Resource Strategy will provide the framework for the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources for the country as a whole. A Catchment Management Strategy is required for managing water at regional level, in defined Water Management Areas.

The purpose of this document is

- to present a generic framework for a Catchment Management Strategy
- to present the structure of the framework as a template to facilitate preparation of the Strategy
- to highlight as many issues as possible that relate to the development of a Catchment Management Strategy, but refer to other relevant documentation should more detail be required.

PLEASE MAKE COMMENTS TO:

Mr Haroon Karodia
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
Directorate: Catchment Management
Private Bag X313
Pretoria, 0001

Tel: (012) 336 8829/30
Fax: (012) 336 8849
Email: qmg@dwaf.pwv.gov.za
qmd@dwaf.pwv.gov.za

Web site: <http://www-dwaf.pwv.gov.za/>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) (NWA), a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) is required for managing water resources at regional level, in defined Water Management Areas and within the framework provided by the National Water Resources Strategy. The main objective of a CMS is to facilitate the management of the water resources environment and human behaviour in ways that achieve equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water.

A CMS is a phased implementation of a dynamic, participative, integrated process of managing water resources that must be reviewed at least once every 5 years. The development of a CMS is one of the initial functions of a Catchment Management Agency (CMA), although this function will be carried out by the relevant Regional Office of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) if a CMA is not yet established.

There are three main components of a CMS, namely

- A **situation assessment**, which characterises the various features and aspects of a Water Management Area, thereby providing adequate and relevant information for formulating strategies and planning.
- **Foundation strategies** that provide the over arching framework for managing water resources in the WMA but do not deal with specific aspects of water resource management. These strategies create the framework for human and financial resources and the institutional development necessary to involve and deal with stakeholders as well as to implement the supporting strategies.
- **Supporting strategies** to protect, use, develop, conserve, manage and control water resources in the WMA. These strategies are viewed as the minimum requirements for covering as many aspects as possible of water resource management of the WMA.

The need for integrated management of all aspects of water resources as part of the fundamental reform of the law is exhorted in the National Water Act. To implement this and to achieve sustainable water use for the benefit of all users through meaningful participation, it is imperative that the three components of the Strategy be thoroughly integrated.

The development of a CMS is affected by various conditions related to the National Water Act, Water Services Act and other legislation. These conditions either provide input to, or constitute prerequisites or challenges to CMS development or implementation. Typical examples include the declaration of Water Management Areas, CMS gazettement procedures, the National Water Resources Strategy, basic principles of water allocation, licencing issues, raw water pricing policy, and water services development plans.

Catchment Management Plans (CMP) must be prepared for all catchments in a WMA. CMPs for stressed catchments will receive priority, where attention will be focussed on remedial action in addition to other management objectives. CMPs for catchments with little or no stress can be prepared in a phased manner, as resources permit. Institutions have a key role to play in the development and implementation of CMSs. In addition to performing specific assignments which form part of the CMS, involvement of stakeholders through a participation and consultation approach needs to be promoted.

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