



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Development of Operating Rules for Water Supply and Drought Management for Stand-Alone Dams and Schemes : Eastern Cluster

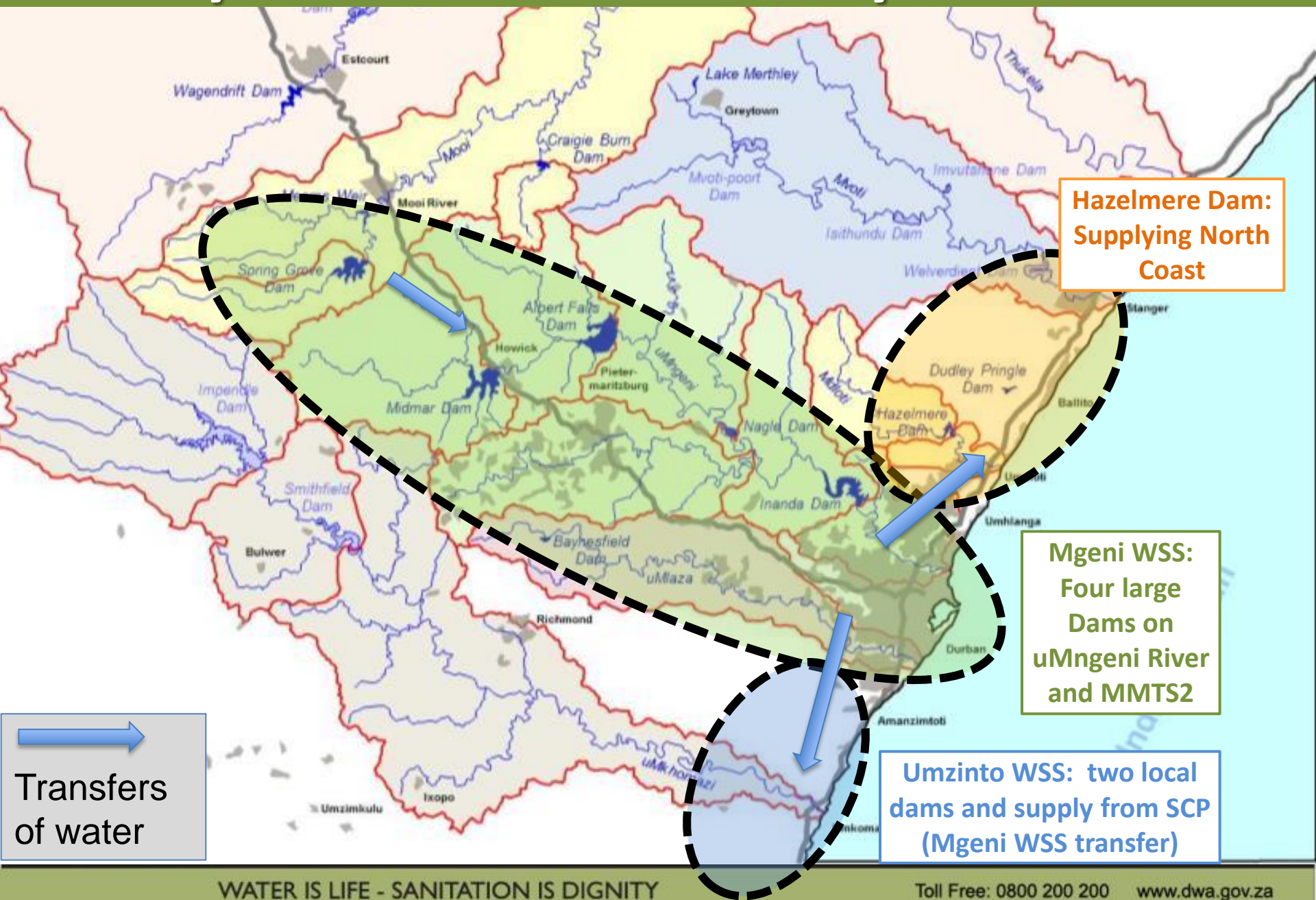
Purpose of an System Operating forum (SOF)

- During long term planning we plan to keep systems in balance to minimise the risk of drought to an acceptable level. However,
 - We have to accept that there will be some risk of droughts impacting water resources (We are a water scarce country and new water resource developments are costly -> 100% assurance is not possible).
 - Therefore our reconciliation strategies accept these realities and we need to be prepared to react to extreme events, when they happen.
- **This is the purpose of the System operating forums SOFs**

Structure of SOF

- Mgeni SOF has been taking place each May for some years.
- DWS developing water supply and operating rules for other smaller stand alone systems in the KZN province.
- SOF is now a combination of existing Mgeni SOF with smaller neighbouring Umgeni Water operated systems (operating rules already developed by DWS study), added.
- Membership expands to include the WSA's that are part of the stand alone systems added.
- Meet in May as this is the end of the rainy season, and time to decide if the storage in the system is sufficient to supply the full requirement.

Systems to be covered by this SOF



Purpose of System Operating Forum (SOF)

- The purpose of the SOF is to be a consultative platform to agree on the operation of a system:
 - Confirm water requirements with users (e.g. irrigation and domestic)
 - Review the status of the three WSS
 - Make recommendations for the operations of the systems throughout the winter period
 - Confirm and agree with users on the short term allocation of water resources for the 2015/16 period and their implementation, i.e. need for water restrictions.
- The above is to be undertaken on an annual basis (i.e. again in May 2016)



Thank you