

DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONCILIATION STRATEGY FOR THE LUVUVHU AND LETABA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

Classification of Water Resources and the determination of Resource Quality Objectives in the Letaba Catchment

Study Steering Committee meeting
31 October 2012



PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

1. Purpose
2. Legal Mandate
3. Water Resource Classification System (WRCS)
4. Classification and determination of the RQOs in the Letaba Catchment

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PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

- To provide a brief overview of the Water Resources Classification System (WRCS) and Resource Quality Objectives (RQOs)
- To provide progress to date on the classification and determination of the RQOs project in the Letaba Catchment.

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LEGAL MANDATE

- The classification of South Africa's water resources is required by the National Water Act (NWA) (No. 36 of 1998) (Chapter 3 regarding the protection of water resources)
 - ❑ **Class**
 - ❑ Reserve
 - ❑ **Resource Quality Objectives**
- Regulation 810 published in Government Gazette No. 33541 dated 17 September 2010 defined the water resource management classes and a procedure (Water Resource Classification System – WRCS) to determine a Class.
- According to the NWA, once this WRCS has been gazetted all significant water resources must be classified.



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MANAGEMENT CLASSES

CLASS I	Minimally used/Altered
CLASS II	Moderately used/Altered
CLASS III	Heavily used/Altered

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RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES (RQOS)

- The NWA states that the purpose of RQOs is to establish clear goals relating to the quality of the relevant water resources; and
- Stipulates that in determining RQOs a balance must be sought between the need to protect and sustain water resources and the need to use them.
- The RQOs can be numeric or descriptive statements.

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THE LINK OF RQOS WITH WATER RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON THE PROJECT

- Alignment with the existing work and current studies
- Transparency and Stakeholder engagement
- Consultation and collaboration
- Capacity Building
- The classification and determination of the RQOs are step-wise processes

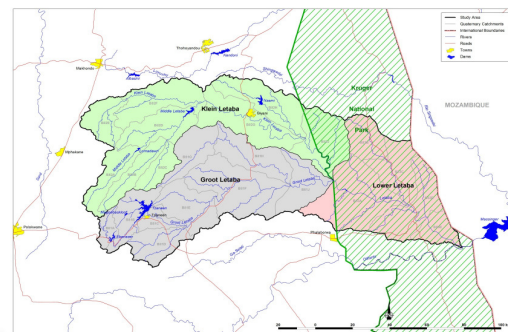
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CLASSIFICATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE RQOS IN THE LETABA CATCHMENT

- The classification and determination of the RQOs study in the Letaba Catchment was initiated in September 2012
- The Rivers for Africa e-Flows was appointed to assist DWA.
- Timeframe: 24 months
- The objective of the study is to classify and determine RQOs in the Letaba Catchment

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LETABA RIVER CATCHMENT



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WHY LETABA CATCHMENT ?

- Agricultural runoff impacting on water quality – salts
- Conservation Area (KNP)
- Meeting ecological water requirements

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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 3 X Project Steering Committee (PSC)
 - Inaugural PSC meeting: 15 March 2012
- Stakeholder Consultation meetings
- Study Newsletters
- Background Information Document
- Technical Background Information Documents in support of each PSC meeting
- Water Resource Classification System Brochure (2010)
- Ad-hoc (one-one) meetings with stakeholder organisations
- All issues and responses are being captured in a register (ongoing)
- Public 60 day comment period – Gazetting Process
- For more information visit the DWA web site: www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx

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TARGETED STAKEHOLDER

- Agriculture
- Mining
- Industries
- Local government – local and district municipalities in WMA
- Conservation bodies
- NGOs
- Regulators – DWA & DEA (regional and national), DMR, Department of Agriculture, Land Affairs
- Unions & House of Traditional leaders
- Catchment Forums & WUA
- International bodies
- Civil society and the environment representatives
- Community members (public at large)

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STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS

- RECONCILIATION STUDY
- VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION PROJECTS
- COMPREHENSIVE RESERVE
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
- NATIONAL FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM PRIORITY AREAS (NFEPA) MAPS
- ALLOCATION PLAN
- COMPULSORY LICENSING

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ALIGNMENT WITH RECONCILIATION STUDY

- Reconciliation strategies are developed in order to ensure sufficient and reliable supply of water of appropriate quality to all existing as well as future users
- 1st order of alignment is information. This includes
 - Water availability
 - Current & future water requirements which includes the quantity & quality of water required to satisfy ecological water requirements (Class, Reserve & RQOs)
- 2nd order of alignment is providing decision support for evaluating options to meet ecological water requirements
- Finally, the Strategy Steering Committee is a key platform for engaging with stakeholders.

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WAY FORWARD

- Inaugural PSC meeting: 15 March 2012
- Compilation of the stakeholder database
- Announcement of the project and invitation to be a PSC member
- Finalisation of the Inception Report
- Water resource information gathering & identifying gaps in the information available
- Delineation of the Resource Units

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THANK YOU

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