



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate: National Water Resource Planning

ORANGE RIVER WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECONCILIATION STRATEGIES FOR LARGE BULK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS: ORANGE RIVER

Terms of Reference for members of the Study Steering Committee

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998) requires consultation with “society at large” in the progressive development of water resource strategies such as the development of the Reconciliation Strategy for the Orange River Water Supply System.

The institutional framework is one of the most important aspects of water resources management, because it determines the effectiveness of policy implementation. Institutions (statutory and non-statutory) are also important in that they are the focus for the Act's requirements to consult widely with water users and other interested persons before policies and strategies relating to the management and use of water resources are implemented. Although there is no specific provision in the National Water Act for creating non-statutory forums, the experience of the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) is that these voluntary bodies have proved to be of great value in the management of the country's water resources. Stakeholder groups have also made significant contributions to water resources management at a local level, by, among other things, providing essential local knowledge, expertise and information. In this respect the DWA expect them to play an important role in the implementation of water resource management strategies.

A Reconciliation Strategy for the Orange River Water Supply System has to be developed by the DWA to ensure the future availability of water to key municipal and development areas in the catchment.

The primary function of the Study Steering Committee (SSC) will be to provide guidance for the development of the Strategy and to make sure that the various sectors are participating in its development. Various sectors receive water from the Orange River Water Supply System to maintain their operations. These include agriculture, irrigation, industry, urban and rural communities. These representatives must play a significant role in decisions regarding the management of the Orange River Water Supply System and need a committee to ensure that their requirements can be met.

It is envisaged that the SSC will be converted into a Strategy Steering Committee towards the end of the study. The role will then shift towards maintaining and monitoring the implementation of the Strategy on a continuous basis.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the SSC are to:

- Ensure the development of the Orange River Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy;
- Ensure that the Strategy and its recommendations are appropriately communicated; and
- Ensure that the Reconciliation Strategy, after its development, is implemented.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The roles and responsibilities of the SSC could include the following:

- Members have to attend meetings of the SSC and make certain that they are well prepared for meetings. In the event that they cannot attend, a mandated representative may attend in their absence;
- Providing executive support and guidance to the direction and outcomes of the Orange River Water Supply System's Reconciliation Strategy;
- Identify practical solutions that will improve the Orange River Water Supply System;
- Sharing information and data or facilitate the sharing of data where possible;
- Facilitating strategic linkages of the study with other stakeholders;
- Studying of status reports and giving comments on the findings;
- Providing strategic advice to ensure that the national perspectives on water management are maintained;
- Provide feedback to their organisations; and
- Communicating with stakeholders to provide feedback. This will entail the following:
 - ✓ Liaise with Departments involved in producing National and Provincial Strategies and provide input into Provincial Strategies;
 - ✓ Brief relevant municipalities and Water User Associations (WUAs) on imminent decisions;
 - ✓ Inform politicians of process and need for the reconciliation of supply and requirement; and
 - ✓ Provide information for relevant institutions' websites.

3.1 Scope of work in developing the Reconciliation Strategy

The study will focus on the water resources of the Upper and Lower Orange River Water Management Areas (WMAs), while also considering all the tributary rivers and transfers affecting the water balance of the System. The objective of the study is to develop a reconciliation strategy for the bulk water resources of the Orange River System to ensure sufficient water can be made available to supply the current and future water needs of all the users up to the year 2040.

This Strategy must be flexible to accommodate future changes in the actual water requirements and transfers with the result that the Strategy will evolve over time as part of an on-going planning process.

Appropriate integration with other planning and management processes as well as cooperation among stakeholder will be key success factors in formulating coherent recommendations and action plans.

The outcomes of the Strategy will be specific interventions with particular actions needed to balance the water needs with the availability through the implementation of regulations, demand management measures as well as infrastructure development options. Members of the SSC will actively participate in assisting to fulfill the scope of work in order to take ownership of the strategy and take up respective responsibilities for the implementation of specific interventions that will be identified.

4. ARRANGEMENTS

The SSC of the Orange River Water Supply System Reconciliation Strategy is a study committee formed to ensure the development of this Strategy. Whilst the committee comprises representatives from national government, provincial government, local government, organised agriculture and civil society the meetings will be facilitated and chaired by the DWA: Integrated Water Resource Planning.

It is envisaged that two meetings will be held each year at approximately six monthly intervals in accordance with the study programme.

A secretariat was appointed to perform the following functions for the SSC:

- Send out invitations to the meetings;
- Organise the venue and catering;
- Assist with drawing up the agenda;
- Keep a database of all members; and
- Compile and timeously distribute the minutes of every meeting.

Workshops with specific stakeholders to discuss specific technical matters may be held from time to time. Feedback on the deliberations of such workshops will be provided at the SSC meetings. The public at large will be invited to proposed stakeholder meetings which will be held at specific milestones in the project. The SSC members will be invited to these stakeholder meetings and feedback will also be provided at the SSC meetings.

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