

water & sanitation

Department: Water and Sanitation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WQM POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA WP 10978

WATER QUALITY POLICY TRENDS

B Schreiner Pegasys Institute IWQM Symposium 31st May 2017

WATER IS LIFE, SANITATION IS DIGNITY

A number of aspects influence water quality policy in an iterative process of development over time



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Effective policy must be context specific



Brazil classifies water bodies into different classes of use

- This is the basis for integrating the quantity and quality aspects of water management.
- There are standards for effluent discharge for each water class (13 categories).
- The classification is a planning device balancing quality standards with the costs of waste treatment, either to keep the standards or to restore the quality of degraded rivers and lakes.
- San Paulo has introduced regulations limiting the industrial use of potable water, forcing industry to use recycled water/treated effluent

In 2015 China launched a comprehensive water pollution plan

The plan sets targets for 5, 15, 35 years

- By 2020, 70% of water in 7 major watersheds are to meet an acceptable standard (75% in 2030)

The plan has 35 policy statements in 10 programmatic areas

- Pollutant discharge control
- Economic restructuring
- Conservation and protection of water resources
- Scientific and technological support
- Market mechanisms
- Environmental regulation and enforcement
- Environmental management
- Protection of the aquatic ecological environment
- Differentiated responsibilities
- Public participation and social supervision

Denmark uses a system of regional (sub-national) planning to manage water quality

- The focus of the regional plans has shifted as pollution has shifted over the years
- The regional planning focuses on the specific needs of an individual water body through an open and transparent process
 - However, agricultural pollution fell outside the remit of this regional water quality planning until the introduction of the EU Water Framework Directive
- Research institutes are used to evaluate different pollution management options
- Strict requirements forced Danish industries, farmers etc to develop new techniques and less pollution production methods
 - Industry is governed by the Best Available Technology principle
 - Land use and agricultural practice regulations control agricultural pollution

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Thank you

For more information, please refer to

https://www.dws.gov.za/projects/iwqms/d

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