

Development of the National Eutrophication Strategy

Project Steering Committee Invitation 1- Background Information Document
May 2020



water & sanitation
Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to invite key stakeholders on the initiation of this study being undertaken by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to develop the National Eutrophication Strategy.

Stakeholders are invited to participate in the process by contributing information on technical reports and at meetings and workshops, or by corresponding with the technical team or the stakeholder engagement office at the addresses below.

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BACKGROUND

The National Water Act, 1998 (No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) provides for the protection, use, conservation, management and control of our water resources in an efficient, sustainable and equitable manner. Chapter 3 of the NWA lays down series of measures which together are intended to ensure the comprehensive protection of all water resources. The aim of protection of water resources is to ensure that water is available for current and future human use and sustaining our ecosystems.

The issue of eutrophication had not received adequate attention then, which could have been one of the reasons the situation exacerbated even more. An urgent need to rectify this situation was therefore identified, that led the DWS to revise, update and consolidate its policies and strategies and came up with the Integrated Water Quality Management (IWQM) Policies and Strategies for South Africa in 2016 and 2017 respectively. The IWQM Strategy emphasised eutrophication as an issue of priority amongst others such as salinization, Acid-Mine Drainage, urban pollution and sedimentation.

In 2019, the Chief Directorate: Water Ecosystem of the DWS reinstated a project (as was initially started in 2002 and was never completed) with the objective to develop the National Eutrophication Strategy. The project is aimed at the development of the National Eutrophication Strategy as an outcome. The development of the National Eutrophication Strategy is giving effect to the strategic objectives and actions identified in the IWQM Policy (2016), IWQM strategy (2017), and the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (2018). Eutrophication management is one of the pressing water quality challenges that form an IWQM Policy statement.