



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Climate change strategy for the water sector

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*Climate change is a global challenge and requires attention, extra efforts and planning to deal with. The National Development Plan (NDP Vision 2030) of 2012 recognizes climate change as a critical factor that affects development plans in South Africa. It identifies the impact of the phenomenon on the water and sanitation sector as well as other areas of development.*

*This challenge has advised the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) National Water Resource Strategy 2 (NWRS2) Chapter 10 which points out actions to be taken in the management of water resources within the changing climate.*

*South Africa has been divided into six climate water zones. These are Zone 1 comprising of Limpopo, Olifants, Luvuvhu-Letaba and Inkomati, Zone 2 which is Pongola and UMzimkhulu, Zone 3 comprising the Vaal, Zone 4 around the Orange, Zone 5 is Umzimvubu and Tsitsikama, and Zone 6 which is Breede, Gouritz, Berg and Olifants.*

*In the zones, different climate behavioural patterns have been identified and are pushed hard by the global change in climate.*

*Pointing out the implications for the climate change response strategy, DDG Planning and Information Ms Deborah Mochotlhi said “the critical impact on water resources by climate change includes an increase in water requirements and decrease in supply, increase in magnitude and the duration of extreme occurrences, e.g. drought and floods”. She also pointed out the implication on the resource quality and infrastructure strength relating to safety, design and operation, resilience and planning.*

*The DDG said “key strategic actions aimed at building resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate impact include integrated water management, water governance and institutional aspects, as well as the development of infrastructure, operation and management”.*

*Water management plans include water conservation and demand management, vulnerability management and planning. Water availability will be assessed and resource management, protection and water quality will also form part of the plan.*

*There is also a water management strategy which looks at disaster management and mainstreaming of climate change response measures into water planning and management.*



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*Water governance is aiming at building adaptive institutions, inter-governmental collaborations, awareness and communication. It will also look at building resilience and reducing vulnerability, research and development as well as stakeholder participation and regional engagement.*

*Infrastructure development, operation and maintenance will look at increasing water mix supply, that is use of ground water, artificial recharge, rainwater harvesting, desalination and rainfall enhancement.*

*In conclusion DDG Mochotlhi said “the strategy sets out some of the key issues pertaining to the impacts that climate change is likely to have on water resources and water services in South Africa. Actions that have to be taken to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability have also been identified”.*

*“Most of the actions required for adaptation on the climate change impact are part of the integrated water management or best practice water management. The overall conclusion is the need for implementation of the climate change response strategy”, she closed.*

**Zwakele Thabede**