

**CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCES IN
THE MVOTI TO MZIMKULU WATER MANAGEMENT AREA:
(WMA 11) -
WP 10679**

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Directorate: Water Resource Classification

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water affairs

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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: MVOTI TO UMZIMKULU CLASSIFICATION PROJECT

1 Background

The purpose of this project is to implement the Water Resource Classification System (WRCS) to classify all significant water resources, determine the Comprehensive Reserve and Resource Quality Objectives (RQOS) in the Mvoti to Umzimkulu Water Management Area (WMA). The outcomes of the project are the Management Class (MC), the Reserve and RQOs. The determination of the MC will be undertaken using the generic seven steps as outlined in the WRCS Regulation published in the Government Gazette No 33541(R810 dated 17 September 2010) and guideline documents. The guidelines developed to support the WRCS Regulations are:

- Volume 1: Overview and 7-step classification procedure, February 2007
- Volume 2: Ecological, hydrological and water quality guidelines for the 7-step classification procedure, February 2007
- Volume 3: Socio-economic guidelines for the 7-step classification procedure, February 2007
- Volume 4: Decision-analysis (including the stakeholder engagement process) guidelines for the 7-step classification procedure, February 2007
- Volume 5: Proceedings of the WRCS stakeholder workshops held at Midrand and Durban, February 2007

The WRCS regulation and guideline documents emphasise the need of stakeholder engagement through-out the project, as the outcomes of this project will affect both ecosystem health and the economic activities that rely on water supply. The process of trade-offs will need to be assessed and evaluated at a number of scales. It is recognised that the process of classification of water resources requires a strongly driven stakeholder engagement and communication component supported and guided by the necessary technical and institutional components. Stakeholder engagement is a key consideration, however the outcome in terms of this process is essentially technically driven and supported by the appropriate institutional structures. Thus the classification of the significant water resources in the study area will not be successful if these components are not able to complement each other.

It is for the reason indicated above that the engagement plan that includes the communication plan and extensive stakeholder database needs to be developed in consultations with the stakeholders and will be continuously updated.

2 Purpose of the engagement

2.1 Purpose

The Department will engage with stakeholders on the determination of the Management Classes, Comprehensive Reserve and RQOS in the Mvoti to Umzimkulu WMA. The engagement will primarily be from the initiation phase to the conclusion phase of the project.

Stakeholder Engagement process will serve as a supplement for the Project Management Committee (PMC), Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Task Group (TTG) platforms indicated as part of the technical project. All the different sectors represented in the study area (Agricultural, Industrial, Mining, Municipality and Domestic sectors) will be covered, to ensure that adequate engagement, consultation and collaboration is undertaken at the onset.

2.2 Objectives

The stakeholder engagement has the following outcomes:

- The stakeholder engagement must improve the management process of this project.
- The stakeholder engagement must build consensus and reduce the potential for future conflict.
- The engagement must enable the Department and stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise.
- The engagement will inform and educate stakeholders about the Department's function and responsibilities.

2.3 Outputs

The following documents will be produced and updated through-out stakeholder engagement:

- Updated data sources
- Final scenarios report
- Issues and response register
- Report on the stakeholder engagement and updated stakeholder database
- Final technical reports

2.4 Principles

The stakeholder engagement will be based on the accountability principles of inclusively, materiality and responsiveness. All stakeholders with material interests in the process will be included in the classification of the Mvoti to Umzimkulu process, their material interests will be identified and addressed and the Department will respond to their interests. The stakeholder engagement will be done in a way that makes effective use of the Department and stakeholders' resources, including time. Stakeholders will receive feedback on a regular basis as per the attached communication plan.

3 Extent of the engagement

The stakeholder engagement will be limited to the Mvoti to Umzimkulu Project. The engagement will end when the MCs, Reserve and RQOS have been gazetted/ or approved by the minister.

The issues that will be engaged on will be determined by the needs of the stakeholders, subject to the Department's obligation to exercise efficient control over the management of water resources.

4 Ownership of the stakeholder engagement

The stakeholder engagement will be managed by the Directorate: Water Resource Classification and supported by other Directorates as well as Kwazulu-Natal (KZN) regional offices.

5 Target Audience/Members

Stakeholders are persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its

outcome, either positively or negatively. Stakeholders may include locally affected communities or individuals and their formal and informal representatives, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organisations and groups with special interests, the academic community, or other businesses. The stakeholders identified or who may have interest in this project are as follows:

1. Internal officials who have interest in the outcome of the project

- KZN Regional Office
- Directorate: Regional Coordination and Support
- Directorate: Water Allocation
- Directorate: National Water Resources Planning
- Directorate: Options Analysis
- Directorate: Water Quality Planning
- Directorate: Hydrological Services
- Directorate: Reserve Requirements
- Directorate: Resource Directed Measures Compliance
- Directorate: Resource Quality Services
- Directorate: Institutional Oversight
- Directorate: Resource Protection and Waste
- Branch: Water Resource Infrastructure

2. Government departments that may affect or be affected by the outcome of the project

- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Provincial Departments of Agriculture
- Department of Cooperative Governance
- Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs
- Department of Mineral Resources
- Department of Energy
- Department of Environmental Affairs
- Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs

3. Governmental institutions

- National Water Advisory Council
- Water Research Commission

- Water Tribunal

4. Water resource management institutions

- Water User Associations
- Catchment Management Agency
- Irrigation Boards
- Water boards

5. Regulated persons

- National African Farmers Union
- AgriSA (Water Committees)
- Individual irrigators who are not represented in organisations.

6. Research institutions and academia involved in irrigation

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

7. Irrigation sector associations

- South African Association of Water User Associations
- Water Sector Leadership Group
- South African Irrigation Institute
- South African Committee on Irrigation and Drainage
- Local Irrigation associations

8. Other sectors and associations

- South African Association of Water Utilities
- South African Local Government Association
- District and Local Municipalities
- Water Sector Leadership Group
- Industrial sector
- Urban sector
- Mining sector (Chamber of Mines)
- Energy (Eskom)
- Domestic sector

9. Persons representing civil society and the environment

- Water Institute of South Africa
- Tourism and Parks boards
- Forums
- Business and free market foundations

- Birdlife SA
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa
- Federation for Sustainable Environment (FSE)

6 Issues

The issues to be engaged on will be determined as they emerge in the meetings. However, stakeholders can engage on the following initial list of aspects:

1. Status quo of the study area in relation to ecological and socio-economic aspects
2. Technical aspects of the project
3. Data and Methodology used
4. Practical implementation of the scenarios and implications of the recommended classes
5. catchment context and visioning

7 Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

7.1 Communication methods

To ensure relevant coverage for the project, the following processes are envisaged

- ***Direct***

Communication will be effected by direct contact with stakeholders via meetings and workshops.

- ***Specific Interviews***

Specific interviews will be scheduled with relevant stakeholders within DWA and externally to discuss matters related to data and methodology. Discussions will be scheduled with people from the following sections:

- Chief Directorate: Resource Directed Measures
- Chief Directorate: Water Resource Planning
- Department of Agriculture
- Chamber of Mines

- ***Print Media***

The following print media will be employed:

- Background Information Document and Newsletters will be printed prior the meeting and made available to all delegates attending the meetings.
- A once-off advert and media release will be placed in the national and local newspapers to announce the project.
- Another once-off advert, in a form of newspaper release will be released to inform stakeholders of the publication of recommended classes, Reserves and RQOs gazetted for public comment.

- ***Electronic Media***

The following electronic media will be employed:

- Notices and information about the project will be posted on the DWA internet on the regular basis (<http://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRC.aspx>).
- As stated above, certain selected DWA and other key stakeholders will be invited to the meetings via email.

7.2 Engagement methods

The following engagement methods will be followed as required:

- Meetings (PMC, PSC, TTG and stakeholder engagement) and written submissions.
- Distribution of documents and invitations for comment/s.

7.3 Engagement levels

The engagement will empower stakeholders on several levels, depending on their needs:

- Some stakeholders (PMC, PSC and TTG members) will be invited to comment on the draft technical reports

- All stakeholders will be engaged with on regular basis and feedback on the project through different platforms (stakeholder meetings, forum meetings and specific one-one sector engagement) will be documented.

7.4 Documents required for the engagement

The following documents are required for the engagement:

- Background Information Document
- Newsletters
- Brochures available in local languages.

8 Communication Plan

As this project will not be able to reach each individual member living in and around Mvoti to Umzimkulu WMA, organizations and the communities that are either interested or affected by this project. A communication plan is required to illustrate the engagement with representative groups of stakeholders to inform the determination of water resource classes (Table 1).

Table 1: Proposed Communication Plan

| Stakeholder group | Message/purpose | Mechanism | Timeframe | Responsibility |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Community representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate Payers Associations Municipalities/councillors Municipality with proposed dates: Ethekwini Municipality - Little Amanzimtoti study Traditional leaders Local clinic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage with them on water resource protection issues (water pollution, health related issues such cholera outbreak and information on water resource use) of the area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brochures in local languages Forum meetings (Upper Mngeni Catchment, Lower Mvoti Catchment, and Isipingo) Municipalities and Domestic sector meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 60 days of gazetting At regular meetings or forums at quarterly intervals. Little Amanzimtoti study meeting with the Ethekwini Municipality on 9 May & 18 June 2013 | <p>Project Manager & Production scientist (Stakeholder empowerment Communication)</p> |
| <p>DWA (HO and Regional Offices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platform with proposed dates: Water Quality Liaison Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To liaise with other Directorates on Classification and RQOs projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMC, PSC, TTG and Water Quality Liaison meetings Individual meetings with each Chief Directorate or Directorate BIDs Reports Newsletters Presentations to each regions Regional Management | <p>PMC - Bi-monthly PSC – After every six months.</p> <p>Next Water Quality Liaison Meeting on 11 – 12 October 2013</p> | <p>Project Manager & Production scientist</p> <p>Chief Directors/Directors Support</p> |

| Stakeholder group | Message/purpose | Mechanism | Timeframe | Responsibility |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | Meetings | | |
| National Departments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries • Department of Cooperative Governance • Department of Rural Development and Land Affairs • Department of Mineral Resources • Department of Energy • Department of Environmental Affairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform them about the project • To source information related to national planning (agriculture, health, population, mining activities) • To engage in order to receive comments and inputs on technical milestones developed in the classification process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings (PSC, Individual and sector group meetings such as forums) • Newsletters • BIDs • Draft Reports • Media release during the 60 days of gazetting. • Progress report • Forums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders engagement meetings • TTG meetings • PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones are achieved). • Quarterly forum meetings | Project Managers & Production scientist Departmental Representatives |
| Provincial Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Departments of Agriculture • Provincial Department of Health • Office of the Premier (KZN) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform them about the project • To source information related to national planning (agriculture, health, population, mining) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings (PSC, Individual and sector group meetings such as forums) • Newsletters • BIDs • Draft Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders engagement meetings • TTG meetings • PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones | Project Managers & Production scientist Departmental Representatives |

| Stakeholder group | Message/purpose | Mechanism | Timeframe | Responsibility |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| | activities) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage in order to receive comments and inputs on technical milestones developed in the classification process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media release during the 60 days of gazetting. Progress report Forums | are achieved). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly forum meetings | |
| Mining and industries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber of Mines Mining houses Industries (Eskom) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To source information related to data & methodology in relation mining and industries activities To engage in order to receive comments and inputs on technical milestones developed in the classification process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (PSC, One-on-one and sector group meetings Newsletters BIDs Draft Reports Media release during the 60 days of gazetting. Progress report Forums Chamber of Mines monthly meetings: Environmental Policy Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders engagement meetings TTG meetings PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones are achieved). | Project Managers & Production scientist Chairperson of the different forums and organization representative |
| Conservation/environmental groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ezemvelo Wildlife KZN Museum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage in order to receive comments and inputs on | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (PSC, Individual and sector group meetings such as | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenario evaluation Stakeholders engagement | Project Managers & Production scientist Chairperson of the |

| Stakeholder group | Message/purpose | Mechanism | Timeframe | Responsibility |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duzi-Umnjeni Endangered Wild Life Trust Balanced Environment Environmental society of South Africa (WESSA) Coastwatch Underberg Himeville Trout Fishing Club | technical milestones developed in the classification process. | forums) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletters BIDs Draft Reports Progress report Forums | meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TTG meetings PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones are achieved). | different forums and organization representative |
| Knowledge Sector/Academic institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Research Commission Agricultural Research Council SANBI CSIR Academic Institutions Libraries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To engage in order to receive comments and inputs on technical milestones developed in the classification process. To source information related to conservation, ecology (fish, invertebrate), wetland delineations and soil type. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (PSC, Individual and sector group meetings such as forums) Newsletters BIDs Draft Reports Newspaper adverts (Local or National) Media release during the 60 days of gazetting. Email requests Regional Management Meetings Progress report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenario evaluation Stakeholders engagement meetings 60 days of gazetting Stakeholders engagement – Information sharing TTG meetings PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones are achieved). | Chairpersons of the forums Project manager & Production scientist |

| Stakeholder group | Message/purpose | Mechanism | Timeframe | Responsibility |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forums | | |
| Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGRISA National African Farmers Union Irrigation boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To source information related to farming activities, soil type, irrigation methods, land cover, fertilizers and pesticides and etc. To source comments and inputs on technical milestones developed in the classification process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (PSC, Individual and sector group meetings such as forums) Newsletters BIDs Draft Reports Progress report Forums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-on-one basis – Project Inception for data and methodology framework TTG meetings PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones are achieved). Monthly or Quarterly forum meetings | Chairpersons of the forums Project manager & Production scientist |
| Water Institutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Users Associations (WUA) Water Boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gather information related to farming activities and water use allocation. To engage them on the proposed options developed in this project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (PSC, Individual and sector group meetings such as forums) Newsletters BIDs Draft Reports Progress report Forums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders engagement meetings TTG meetings PSC meetings (every six months or where milestones are achieved). Quarterly forum meetings | Chairpersons of the forums Project manager & Production scientist |

9 Capturing and synthesis of stakeholder information

An Issues and Responses Report will be compiled and updated throughout the three-year period of the project. This report will list all the comments from stakeholders (to be received from comment sheets, at meetings, via e-mails etc) and responses from the project team.

10 Feedback to stakeholders

Feedback to stakeholders will be done by means of:

- Direct answers to any questions or requests for additional information through letters and emails. Issues and Response Register will be distributed on a regular basis and made available in the website (<http://www.dwa.gov.za/rdm/WRCS/default.aspx>).
- The provision of information in the various BIDS, newsletters, websites and other communications means that have been identified. In addition to this the project and relevant information will be shared at various meetings and forums that are continually held within the WMA.

11 Engagement framework link with project deliverables

The following figure provides an approximate guideline to the scheduling of the respective communication methods and activities (Figure 1).

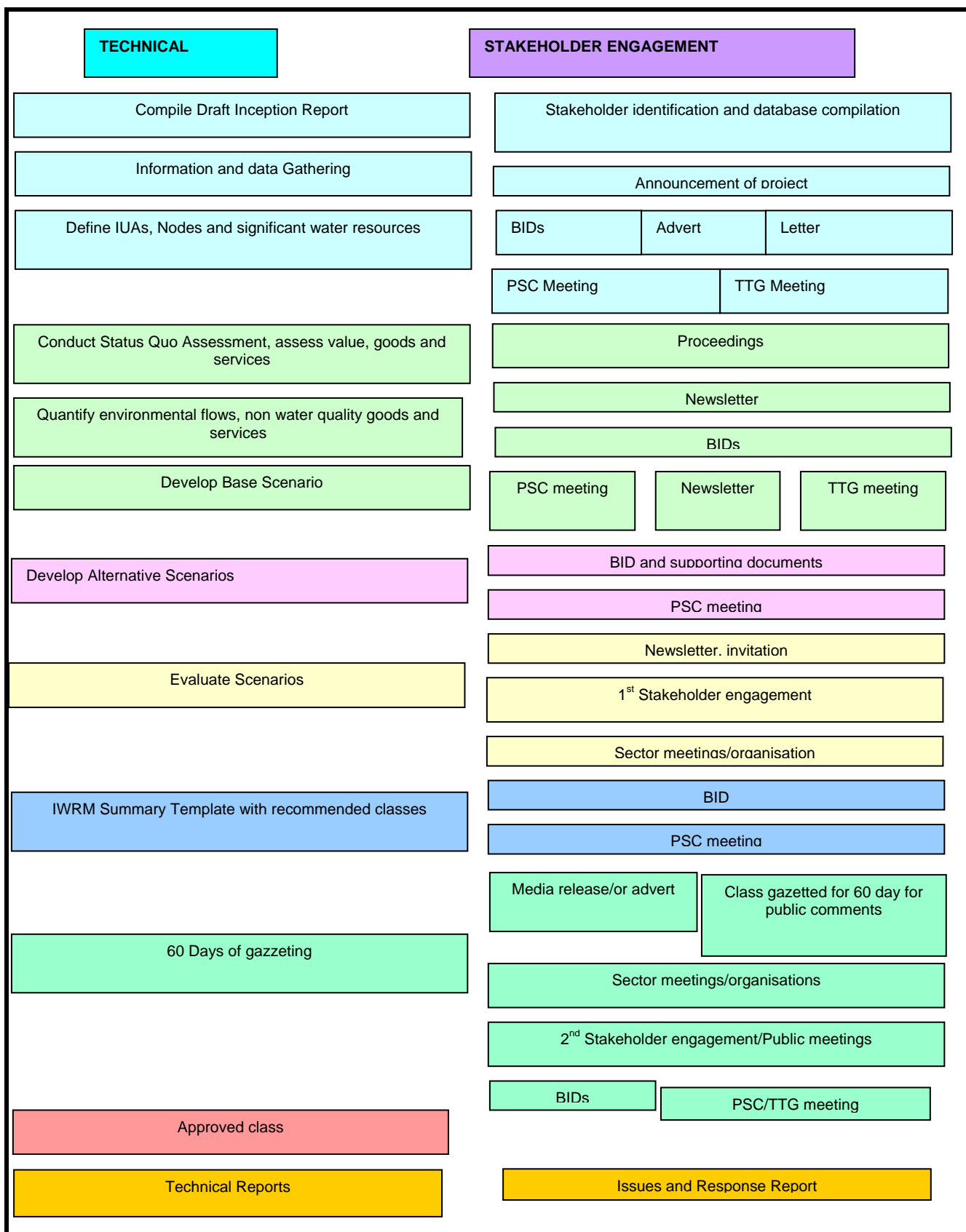


Figure 1: Overview of technical and stakeholder engagement processes

12 Engagement and Communication status

12.1 Engagement Structures

The following engagement structures and communication methods have been established.

12.1.1 The TTG meetings

This meeting will be arranged to address issues of a technical nature and to give advice to the project team when required. These issues can range from data, methodology and development of water resource management scenarios.

12.1.2 Forums

Several forum meetings were attended by the project team such as the Upper Umngeni, Lower Mvoti and the Isipingo Catchment Forum. In these forum meetings, either presentations were made or progress reports were given to the forum members.

12.1.3 Individual meetings

These meetings are arranged to discuss a particular issue/s raised by individual member/s representing certain sector/s or organization. Through-out the project the following meetings were held and issues raised were captured either on the minutes of the meeting and/or Issues and Response Register:

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI): This meeting will be arranged to discuss issues related to National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) Maps, data set as well as the how they will be incorporated into the classification process.

Department of Agriculture: This meeting will be arranged to discuss issues related to agricultural data such as crop type and socio-economic impacts of agricultural activities in the Olifants area.

12.2 Communication

- 12.2.1 Several Background Information Documents (BIDs) and newsletters will be prepared and distributed to all PSC and TTG members through emails and hard copies prior the meetings.
- 12.2.2 A once-off advert was placed on the National Newspapers to announce the project.
- 12.2.3 Minutes as well as Issues and Response Register will be distributed to all PSC and TTG members through emails and hardcopies.
- 12.2.4 The meeting presentations will be distributed as hardcopies during the TTG and PSC meetings.
- 12.2.5 All technical reports will be distributed to the PSC Members for comments through emails. The PSC members will be given three to four weeks to provide comments to the project members.