



water affairs

Department:
Water Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES: INTRODUCTION

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RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES



1: Delineate units of analysis and describe the status quo



2: Initiation of stakeholder process and catchment visioning



3: Quantify EWRs and changes in Ecosystem Services



4: Identification and evaluation of scenarios within IWRM



5: Draft Management Classes



6: Resource Quality Objectives (EcoSpecs & water quality (user))



7: Gazette class configuration



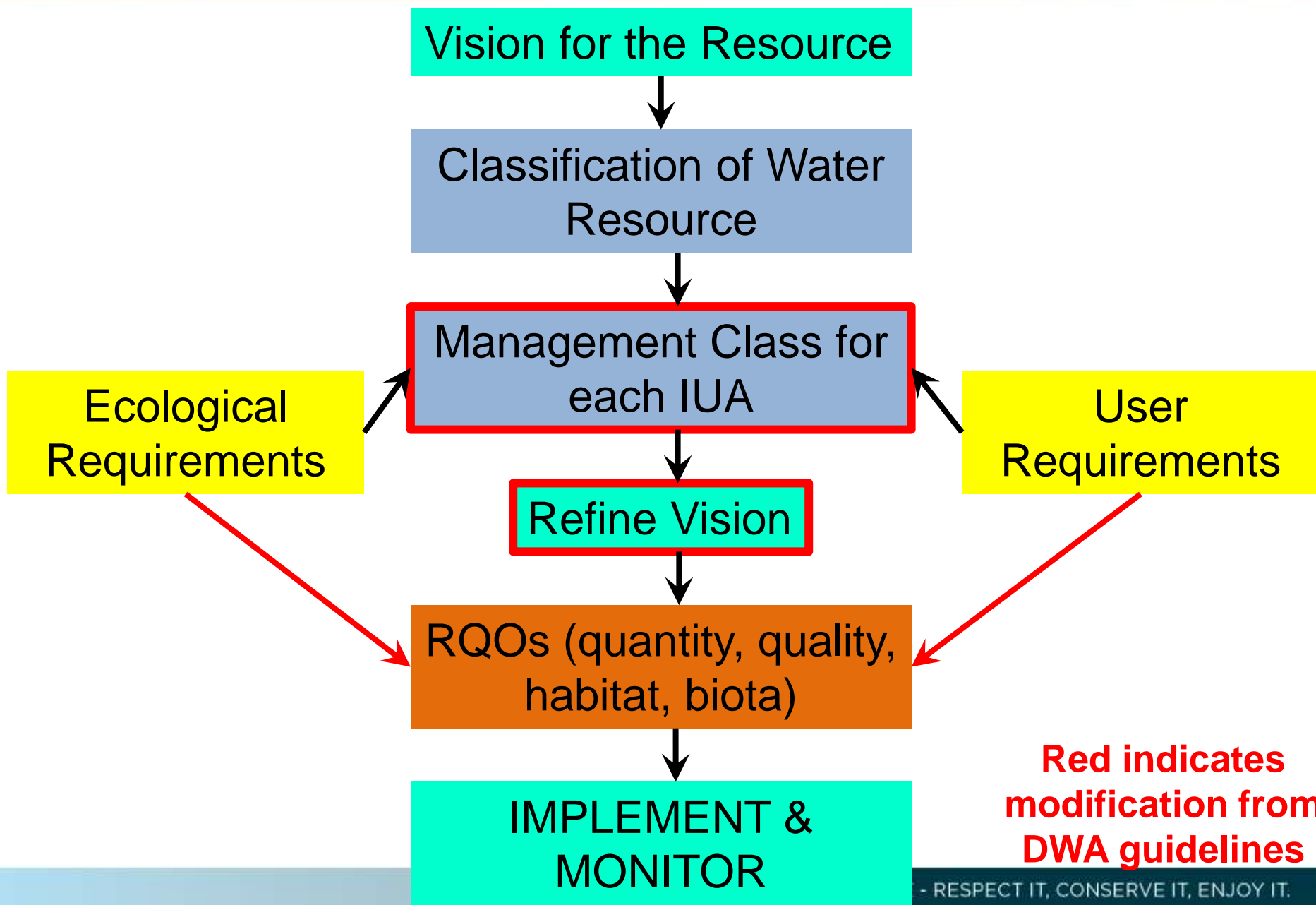
RQOs: Where does it fit in?

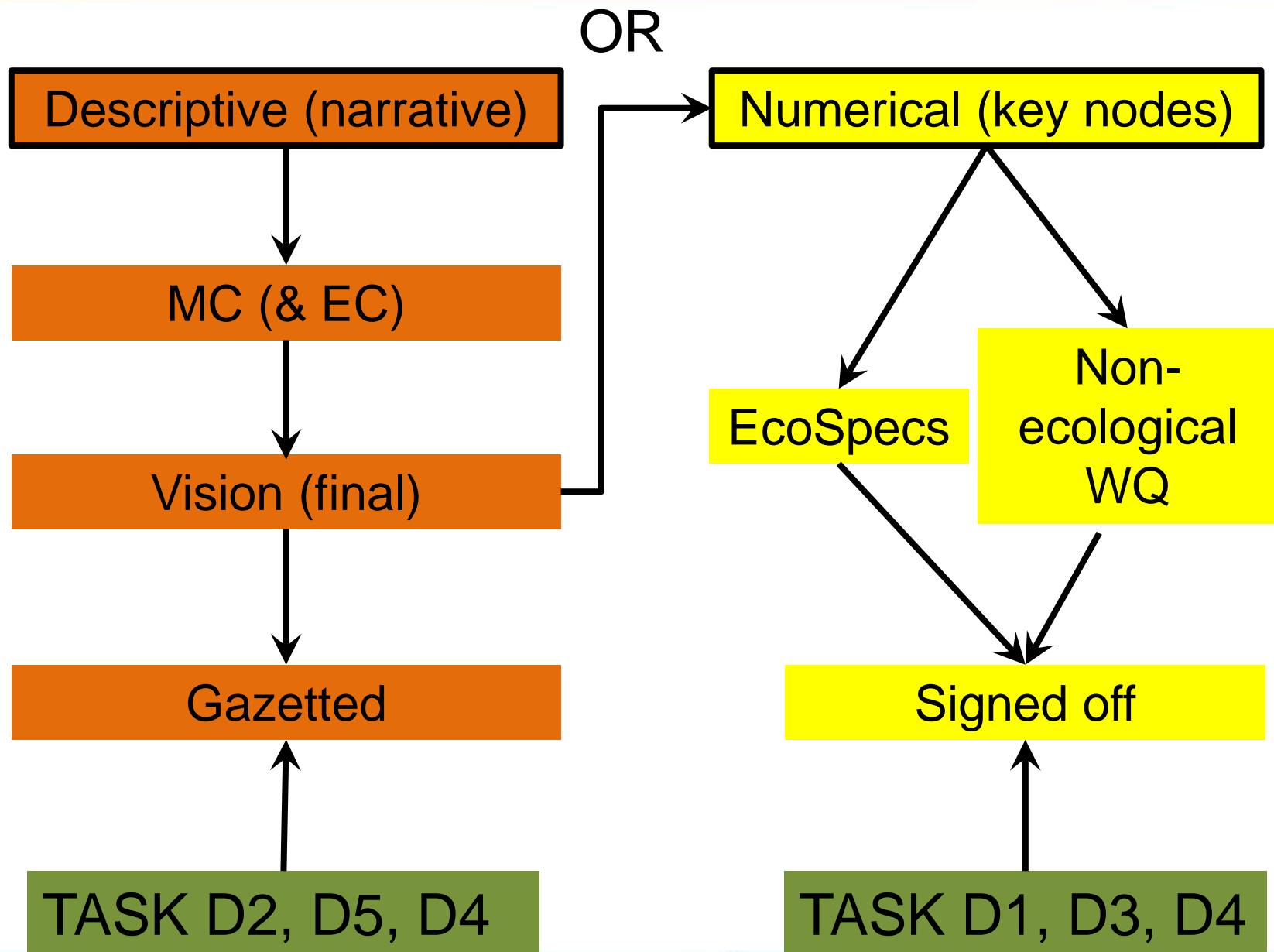
WHAT ARE RQOs?

RQOs capture the **Management Class** of the Classification System and the **ecological needs determined in the Reserve** into **measurable management goals** that give direction to resource managers as to how the resource needs to be managed.

*RQOs for a water resource are a **numerical or descriptive statement** of the conditions which should be met in the receiving water resource, in terms of resource quality, in order to ensure that the **water resource is protected.**"*

Resource Quality Objectives provide **numerical and/or descriptive statements** about the **biological, chemical and physical attributes that characterise a resource for the level of protection defined by its Class**. The NWRS therefore stipulates that *“Resource Quality Objectives might describe, among other things, the quantity, pattern and timing of instream flow; water quality; the character and condition of riparian habitat, and the characteristics and condition of the aquatic biota”*.





Numerical RQOs unpacked

MANAGEMENT
(IMPLEMENTATION)

EC MONITORING

Quantity (FDT) (MC)
Quality (MC)
'non-water related
recommendations'

ECOSPECS

Habitat
Biota
Riparian

for
PES (detail) & MC related
EC (broad)

ASSUMPTION IS THAT STANDARD
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY
MONITORING IN PLACE AS BASELINE INFO

RQO STEPS	INTEGRATED STEPS
1. Delineate IUAs & define RUs	1. RUs & IUA delineation – status quo assessment. (Desktop level RUs identified)
	3. Quantify EWRs (Detailed RUs defined for key rivers with EWR sites)
2. Vision for the IUAs	2. IUA vision
3. Prioritise RUs &	1. Status quo assessment – hotspot assessment (ecological and SCI important areas overlain with WRUI)

RQO STEPS	INTEGRATED STEPS
4. Sub-components for RQO determination – indicators & driving variables	3. Quantify EWRs – select indicators
5. Draft RQOs & numerical limits	6. RQOs, EcoSpecs and UserSpecs
6. Agree on RUs, RQOs, numerical limits	5. Stakeholder process
7. Gazette RQOs	7. Gazetting process

END