water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2030 NDP
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Our Future - make it work

CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCES AND DETERMINATION OF RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR WATER RESOURCES IN THE USUTU TO MHLATHUZE CATCHMENTS (WP11387)

RQO Workshop, Durban, 21 August 2023

MEETING STRUCTURE + BACKGROUND TO RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES



WORKSHOP STRUCTURE: *DAY 1*

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CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT WATER RESOURCES AND DETERMINATION OF RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR WATER RESOURCES IN THE USUTU TO MHLATUZE CATCHMENTS

WORKSHOP: DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Date: Monday and Tuesday, 21 - 22 August 2023
Venue: DWS office, 88 on Field, 88 Field Str, Durban Central, Durban

Objectives: (1) Provide background to the RQO process; (2) workshop the development of RQOs for water resources in the study area.

Subject	Time
DAY 1	Start 10:00
SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Welcome and purpose of the workshop	Lebogang Matlala, DWS
1.2 Structure of the workshop	Lara van Niekerk
1.3 Broad overview of RQOs	
	Start 10:30
SESSION 2: ESTUARIES	
2.1 Estuary RQOs & links to Management Plans	Lara van Niekerk
2.2 RQOs for aMatigulu/iNyoni Estuaries - presentation and discussion	
2.3 RQOs for uMlalazi and iSiyaya Estuaries - presentation and discussion	
2.4 RQOs for iNhlabane Estuaries - presentation and discussion	
LUNCH	**12:30**
	Start 13:30
2.5 RQOs for Mhlathuzi Estuary - presentation and discussion	Lara van Niekerk
2.6 RQOs for Kosi Bay - presentation and discussion	
2.7 RQOs for uMgobezeleni - presentation and discussion	
TEA	**15:00**
	Start 15:30
2.8 RQOs for St Lucia/Mfolozi - presentation and discussion	
Q&A Discussion session	*All*
CLOSURE	**16:30**

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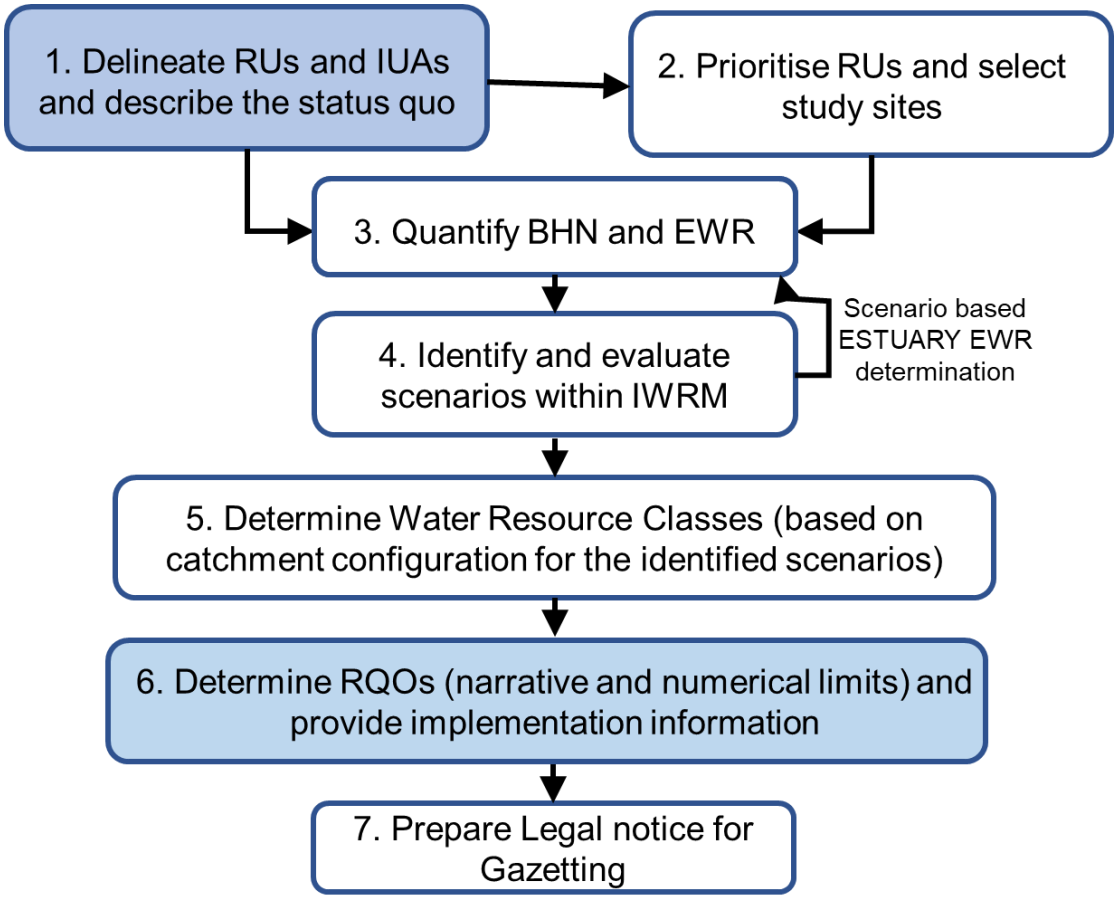
WORKSHOP STRUCTURE: *DAY 2*

Subject	Time
DAY 2	**Start 08:00**
Welcome and Day 1 recap	Lebogang Matlala, DWS
	Start 8:20
SESSION 3: WATER QUALITY	
3.1 Water quality hotspots	Patsy Scherman
3.2 Principles of developing WQ RQOs	
3.3 Water quality RQOs: High Priority EWR sites	
3.4 Water quality RQOs: High Priority WQ sites	
Q&A Discussion session	*All*
TEA	**11:00**
	Start 11:30
SESSION 4: RIVERS	
4.1 Rivers: RQO background in terms of EcoSpecs and TPCs	Delana Louw
4.2 Links to RQOs, monitoring and implementation	
4.3 Approach to RQO determination (priorities, links to EC, methods)	
4.4 RQOs at each KZN EWR site - presentation and discussion	
LUNCH	**13:00**
	Start 14:00
4.4 RQOs at each KZN EWR site - presentation and discussion cont.	
Q&A Discussion session	*All*
	Start 14:45
SESSION 5: GROUNDWATER AND WETLANDS (ONLINE)	
5.1 Groundwater RQOs	Karim Sami
Q&A Discussion session	*All*
TEA	**15:45**
	Start 16:15
5.2 Wetland RQOs	James Mackenzie
Q&A Discussion session	*All*
	17:30
CLOSURE	Lebogang Matlala, DWS



Project Plan for the Usutu-Mhlathuze Classification study

RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES

- **RQOs capture the Water Resource 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."***

RQOs ARE SET FOR THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS/INDICATORS:

- Quantity, pattern, timing of instream flow or river inflow distribution (hydrology), and hydrodynamics
- Water quality (numerical values that define the fitness of use and/or ecological requirements for various variables).
- Characteristics and condition of riparian/estuarine habitat and biota (e.g. % alien vegetation, cover, species, suspended sediment concentration).
- Characteristics and condition of instream habitat and biota (frequency of occurrence, species/taxa, abundance, habitat).
- NOTE: Not all RQOs are set for all river reaches and estuaries – depends on priority and indicators selected.