

Guidelines for **CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

**Towards equity,
sustainability and efficiency**

First Edition

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
In conjunction with the Association for Water and Rural Development
(AWARD), Zinkwazi Consulting & Water for Africa.



water & forestry

Department
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Guidelines for the development of Catchment Management Strategies: Towards equity, efficiency and sustainability

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Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

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Water Management Institutions Governance

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Acronyms

BHNR	Basic Human Needs Reserve
CAS	Catchment Assessment Study
CD	Chief Directorate
CDF	Community Development Forum
CMA	Catchment Management Agency
CMC	Catchment Management Committee
CMF	Catchment Management Forum
CMS	Catchment Management Strategy
CSC	Catchment Steering Committee
DDG	Deputy Director General
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DME	Department of Minerals and Energy
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DPLG	Department of Provincial and Local Government
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP/EMP	Environmental Implementation Plan/ Environmental Management Plan
ER	Ecological Reserve
FBW	Free Basic Water
GA	General Authorisation
GIS	Geographic Information System
GL	Guideline
HDI	Historically Disadvantaged Individual
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
IBT	Inter-Basin Transfer

ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEM	Integrated Environmental Management
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IWRMP	Integrated Water Resource Management Plan
LG	Local Government
MAIS	See WRMAIS
MC	Management Class
MCDA	Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis
MSA	Municipal Systems Act (No 32 of 2000)
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NDWAF	National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998)
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPS	National Pricing Strategy or Non Point Sources
NWA	National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998)
NWRCS	National Water Resource Classification System
NWRMC	National Water Resource Monitoring Committee
NWRS	National Water Resource Strategy
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act (No. 2 of 2000)
PAJA	Promotion of Administration Justice Act (No. 3 of 2000)
PDI	Previously Disadvantaged Individual
PGDS	Provincial Growth and Development Strategy
RDM	Resource Directed Measures
RHP	River Health Programme
RO	Regional Office
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDC	Source Directed Controls
SFRA	Stream Flow Reduction Activities
STEEP	Social, Technological, Environmental, Economic and Political
WAP	Water Allocation Plan
WARMS	Water Authorisation and Registration Management System
WAS	Water Allocation Schedule
WC/WDM	Water Conservation and Water Demand Management
WDCS	Waste Discharge Charge System
WDM	Water Demand Management
WMA	Water Management Area
WMI	Water Management Institution
WRC	Water Research Commission
WRFMC	Water Resource Functional Management Committee
WRIM	Chief Directorate: Water Resources Information Management
WRM	Water Resources Management
WRMAIS	Water Resources Monitoring and Assessment Information Systems
WRSAS	Water Resource Situation Assessment Study
WSA	Water Services Act (No. 108 of 1997)
WSDP	Water Services Development Plan
WSP	Water Service Providers
WUA	Water User Association

Foreword

The establishment of catchment management agencies is an important building block in the institutional arrangements for managing South Africa's water resources. The main aim of setting up catchment management agencies is to decentralise responsibility for managing water resources so that water users and the public at large can play their part. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is making good progress with these new water management institutions. The Governing Board of the Inkomati Catchment Management Agency is already in place and working. A further seven agencies have been established through formal announcement in the Government Gazette, and we are expecting many to have their governing boards in place during the 2007/08 financial year.

The preparation of a catchment management strategy is described in section 80 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) (the Act) as one of the initial functions of each catchment management agency. This means that the authorisation and instruction for the agencies to prepare their strategies comes directly from the Act. However, the Act also allows me to prepare guidelines for the preparation of catchment management strategies. I see the establishment of these guidelines as an essential measure to ensure that all the new institutions - some of which will have staff that are relatively new in the Water Sector - work from the same platform of understanding, and so that consistency can be achieved among all the strategies in all water management areas throughout the country.

It is crucial that these catchment management strategies align with the key programmes of Government, particularly in support of job creation, poverty eradication and sustainable social and economic development.

The publication of these guidelines comes at exactly the right time to guide the work of the eight new agencies in preparing their first catchment management strategies. The guidelines provide a description of the overall framework for integrated water resource management, and much effort has been put in to capture all the water resources management processes and aspects into one document.

Although the guidelines have been prepared in extensive consultation with staff of my Department and a range of external stake holders, it would be naïve to believe that they are now carved in stone. The guidelines are not a set of rigid prescriptions and recipes that must be slavishly followed, because I am well aware that new issues will arise as the agencies begin to prepare their strategies and, after all, we live in a country characterised by variability and extremes. We should therefore regard this publication as the first generation guidelines, and accept that there will be more editions to come as we learn from our experiences.

I would, however, like to emphasise that the preparation of a catchment management strategy should be a collaborative process - in the first place between the agency and its stake holders, as the Act requires and as the guidelines explain. The strategy must also address the water use requirements covered in other planning instruments such as Integrated Development Plans and Water Services Development Plans which Local Authorities are obliged to prepare, as well as the Provincial Growth and Development Strategies prepared by Provincial Governments. Collaboration between the agency and my Department is equally important. Each strategy will describe some activities that will have to be performed jointly by my Department and the catchment management agency, especially during the early days as the agency is progressively empowered and authorised to take on more responsibilities.

This transitional period will have to be carefully described, managed and timed but, irrespective of who is responsible for the various activities when the strategy is prepared, I shall expect each strategy to be a comprehensive and integrated account of everything that needs to be done to ensure that our precious water resources are optimally managed.

I trust that these guidelines will equip the group of recently-established catchment management agencies to prepare their first catchment management strategies. I look forward to hearing about the issues that arise as the guidelines are used in earnest, so that we can refine and improve them, and so that the agencies that will be established in the years to come can profit from our learning experiences.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L B HENDRICKS", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

MRS. L B HENDRICKS MP

MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY
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Consultants

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