



Department of Water  
Affairs and Forestry

## Wetland Awareness and Delineation course

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Directorate: Water Abstraction and Instream Use (Sub-directorate: Stream Flow Reduction) would like to invite officials from:

- Local Government (Municipal Managers, Town Planners and Environmental officers)
- Provincial and National Government managing environmental resources and
- Provincial Conservation Agencies

to Wetland Awareness and Delineation Courses that will be held in each province.

### Introduction

Two courses are to be run per province as part of the rollout of the recently completed “A practical field procedure for the identification and delineation of Wetland and Riparian areas” (DWAF, 2005).

### Aim of Course:

The *aim of these courses is to create an awareness regarding wetland and riparian zones as well as to develop the technical capacity in wetland delineation, within government in each province.* The National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) provides legal protection for the country’s water resources. For this legislation to be effective, various authorities must be trained in wetland and riparian awareness (legal requirements, functions, importance, etc.), identification and delineation.

### About the Courses:

## **I) Riparian and Wetland Awareness Course**

### **Duration: One day**

To ensure the successful implementation of the National Water Act, 1998 there is a need to capacitate the local, provincial and national government levels of decision-making to ensure that these levels of government are aware of the legal issues with regard to wetland and riparian protection.

To this end, *the one-day “Riparian and Wetland Awareness Course” aims to build capacity regarding wetland and riparian awareness*; specifically regarding the legal requirements in terms of wetlands and riparian areas, through the following components of the course:

- Introduce wetlands and riparian areas and the functions they can perform in the landscape;
- Teach target groups to identify wetland systems and discuss some of the functional attributes of different wetland types; and
- Alert the delegates to the legal requirements, government’s roles and responsibilities regarding this and the draft DWAF Wetland Position Paper,
- Create an awareness with delegates of the wetland and riparian delineation process.

Who should attend:

This short one-day course will be aimed at:

- a) Development planning and decision-making officials in local (municipal what about the district municipalities) government (Municipal Managers, Town Planners and Environmental/ parks officials);
- b) Environmental impact assessment and agricultural development officials (authorisation evaluation officials) within the Provincial Environmental and Agricultural Authority (DACE, DALA, DAEA, DEADP, etc); Department of Agriculture (National) and Provincial Conservation Agencies ;
- c) Officials of the Department of Minerals and Energy evaluating mining applications;
- d) Water use licence assessment officials of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and forestry extension officers; and
- e) Possible other departments that have an impact on wetlands/ rivers due to their activities, functions or decisions.

## **2) Riparian and Wetland Delineation Course**

**Duration: Additional two days following the one day Awareness course**

Pre-requisite: Delineation Course - candidates for this course will be required to have attended the one day Awareness course for background information and understanding.

A two-day long course will follow the one-day long Awareness course described above. This more technical-orientated **“Riparian and Wetland Delineation Course”** will further build upon the Riparian and Wetland Awareness course through:

- Discussing impacts of various activities on wetlands and riparian areas
- Discussing buffer zone functions and recommendations;
- Promoting the delineation (exclusion) and proper management of watercourses (wetlands and riparian areas);
- Teaching target groups to identify these systems; and
- Teaching target groups the delineation methods for wetlands and riparian areas.

Who should attend:

***This two day course will be aimed primarily at select wetland experts within provincial and national government; specifically to train these officials in the techniques to delineate wetlands and riparian areas.*** The longer duration of this course is necessitated due to the field-based training which is required to achieve this.

Please note that places on the delineation courses are restricted to the relevant officials (if interest exists, municipal officials would be considered for this course. However, please provide motivation for attendance). Alternatively, if sufficient interest exists, a specific course for these officials could be arranged later in the year. Officials attending this course should dress for field based training i.e. boots, hats, sunblock etc.

### **SCHEDULE OF COURSES:**

More detail on the venue and starting times of these courses will be provided in January 2007.

***The attached “expression of interest” should be completed and forwarded to the course organisers.*** The following people could be contacted for more detail in this regard should you not receive the relevant detail within January:

Presenters and organisers:

Mark Rountree

Allan Batchelor

Wetland Consulting Services (on behalf of DWAF)

Tel: 012- 349 2699

Fax: 012-349 2993

## **PROGRAMME:**

### **A. WETLAND AWARENESS COURSES (ONE DAY)**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b>
Wednesday 31 January 2007	Pretoria, <b>GAUTENG</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Mmabatho, <b>NORTH-WEST</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Durban, <b>KWAZULU-NATAL</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Nelspruit, <b>MPUMALANGA</b>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Bloemfontein, <b>FREE STATE</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Polokwane, <b>LIMPOPO</b>
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Port Elizabeth, <b>EASTERN CAPE</b>
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Stellenbosch*, <b>WESTERN CAPE</b>
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2007	Upington, <b>NORTHERN CAPE</b>

*\*venue to be confirmed*

### **B. WETLAND DELINEATION TRAINING COURSES (TWO DAYS; BUT MUST ATTEND PRIOR WETLAND AWARENESS COURSE)**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>LOCATION:</b>
Thurs & Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2007	Pretoria, <b>GAUTENG</b>
Thurs & Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2007	Mmabatho, <b>NORTH-WEST</b>
Thurs & Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2007	Durban, <b>KWAZULU-NATAL</b>
Tues & Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2007	Nelspruit, <b>MPUMALANGA</b>
Thurs & Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2007	Bloemfontein, <b>FREE STATE</b>
Thurs & Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Polokwane, <b>LIMPOPO</b>
Thurs & Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Port Elizabeth, <b>EASTERN CAPE</b>
Thurs & Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Stellenbosch*, <b>WESTERN CAPE</b>

*\*venue to be confirmed*