

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 6293

6 June 2025

NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998

**WATER RESOURCE CLASSES AND RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES
FOR USUTHU-MHLATHUZE CATCHMENTS IN THE INKOMATI-USUTHU
AND PONGOLA-MTAMVUNA WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS**

I, Pemmy Castelina Pamela Majodina, in my capacity as Minister of Water and Sanitation, in terms of section 13(1) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), hereby determine the classes of water resources and the associated resource quality objectives, as set out in the Schedule hereto.



MISS PEMMY C PAMELA MAJODINA (MP)
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 24/03/2025

SCHEDULE

DEFINITIONS

1. In this Schedule any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have the meaning so assigned and, unless the context indicates otherwise -

“Class I water resource” means a water resource in which the configuration of ecological categories of the water resources within a catchment, results in an overall condition of that water resource that is minimally altered from its pre-development condition, and as defined in the Water Resource Classification System;

“Class II water resource” means a water resource in which the configuration of ecological categories of the water resources within a catchment, results in an overall condition of that water resource that is moderately altered from its pre-development condition and as defined in the Water Resource Classification System;

“Class III water resource” means a water resource in which the configuration of ecological categories of the water resources within a catchment, results in an overall condition of that water resource that is significantly altered from its pre-development condition and as defined in the Water Resource Classification System;

“Water Resource Classification System” means the Regulations for the Establishment of the Classification System, 2010 as prescribed in Government Notice No. R. 810 of 17 September 2010;

“Ecological category” means the ecological condition of that water resource in terms of the deviation of its biophysical components from a predevelopment condition;

“Ecological Water Requirements” in relation to a water resource, means the quantity and quality of water of that resource that is required to maintain the said water resource in its assigned Ecological Category;

“Integrated Unit of Analysis” means a water resource catchment that incorporates a socio-economic zone, but is defined by a watershed;

“Percentile” means the non-exceedance probability i.e., at the 95th percentile, 95 percent of values must be less than or equal to the value; and at 50th percentile, 50 percent of values must be less than or equal to the value;

“Present Ecological State” means the current health or integrity of various biological attributes of the resource, compared to the natural or close to natural reference conditions;

“Recommended Ecological Category” means a category indicating the realistically attainable ecological management target for a water resource;

“Resource Quality Objectives” means descriptive qualitative statements and numerical values for the biological, physical, and chemical attributes of the significant water resources throughout the catchments;

“Resource Unit” means a basic unit of a water resource to which Resource Quality Objectives will apply;

“Target Ecological Category” means the ultimate target to achieve a sustainable system both ecologically and economically, considering the Present Ecological State and Recommended Ecological Category.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WATER RESOURCE

2. The Water Resource Classes and Resource Quality Objectives are determined for all or part of every significant water resource within the Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna Water Management Areas as set out below:

Water Management Areas: Inkomati-Usuthu and Pongola-Mtamvuna
Drainage Region: W Primary Drainage Region (excluding Eswatini)
River(s): W1 catchment (main river: Mhlathuze).
W2 catchment (main river: Umfolozi).
W3 catchment (main river: Mkuze).
W4 catchment (main river: Pongola) - part of this catchment area falls within Eswatini.
W5 catchment (main river: Usutu) - much of this catchment falls within Eswatini.
W7 catchment (Kosi Bay and Lake Sibaya).

DETERMINATION OF THE CLASSES OF WATER RESOURCES

3. (1) The water resource classes, which are in accordance with the Water Resource Classification System, for the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments (W1 - 5, and 7) are as listed in Table 1 below according to the overall class per integrated unit of analysis; and as illustrated in Figure 1 of Annexure A.
- (2) The integrated units of analysis in the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments (W1 - 5, and 7) are listed in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 2 of Annexure A.
- (3) A summary of the resource units and quaternary catchments are listed in Table 3 below and indicated in Figure 8 (Annexure A).
- (4) The summary of water resource classes per integrated unit of analysis and ecological categories for the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments (W1 - 5, and 7) are as listed in Table 4 (Annexure A).

RESOURCE UNITS SELECTED WITH RESOURCE QUALITY OBJECTIVES

4. (1) Table 5 of Annexure A provides:
 - (a) the listed Integrated Unit of Analysis in the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments for which Resource Quality Objectives are determined;
 - (b) the selected water resources (Rivers, Wetlands, Groundwater, and estuaries) for which Resource Quality Objectives are determined; and
 - (c) reference to subsequent tables that list the Resource Quality Objectives per selected sub-components (quantity, quality, habitat, biota or groundwater, or estuary) per Resource Unit.
- (2) Resource Quality Objectives for rivers per Integrated Unit of Analysis and Resource Unit within the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments are specified in Table 6 (hydrological RQOs) of Annexure A.
- (3) Resource Quality Objectives for rivers for habitat and biota for Ecological Water Requirements sites are set out in Table 9 of Annexure A

- (4) Resource Quality Objectives for rivers for water quality (ecological and user) in high priority Resource Units containing Ecological Water Requirements sites or high priority water quality sites are set out in Table 9 of Annexure A.
- (5) Resource Quality Objectives for priority wetland clusters and systems in selected Resource Units in the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments are set out in Table 10 of Annexure A.
- (6) Regional and Resource Unit specific Resource Quality Objectives for groundwater and groundwater fed lakes in priority Groundwater Resource Units in the Usuthu to Mhlathuze catchments are set out in Table 11 and Table 13 of Annexure A.
- (7) Resource Quality Objectives for Estuary components in priority Resource Units are as set out in Table 16 of Annexure A.

COMMENCEMENT

5. The Notice shall come into operation on the date of publication hereof.

The Annexure to this Notice, containing water resource classes and Resource Quality Objectives, can be accessed from:

<https://www.dws.gov.za/wem/WRC.aspx>

Or requested from:

Director: Water Resource Classification
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178 Francis Baard Street
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0001
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UMNYANGO WEZAMANZI NOKUTHUTHWA KWENDLE**UMTHETHO WAMANZI KAZWELONKE, 1998****IZIGABA ZEMITHOMBO YAMANZI KANYE NEZINHLOSO ZEZINGA
LEMITHOMBO EZINDAWENI EZIBAMBA AMANZI ZO-USUTHU-
MHLATHUZE EZINDAWENI ZOKULAWULA AMANZI E-NKOMATI-
USUTHU KANYE NE-PONGOLA-MTAMVUNA**

Mina, uPemmy Castelina Pamela Majodina, esikhundleni sami njengoNgqongqoshe Wezamanzi Nokuthuthwa Kwendle, futhi ngigunyazwe ngokufanelekile ngokwesigaba 13(1) soMthetho Wamanzi Kazwelonke, 1998 (uMthetho No. 36 we-1998), nginquma izigaba zemithombo yamanzi kanye nezinhloso ezihambisana nezinga lemithombo, njengoba kubekiwe Ohlelweni.



NKSZ PEMMY CASTELINA PAMELA MAJODINA
UNGQONGQOSHE WEZAMANZI NOKUTHUTHWA KWENDLE
USUKU: 12/03/2025

UHLELO

IZINCAZELO

1. Kulolu Hlelo noma yiliphi igama noma inkulumo elinikezwe incazelo kulo Mthetho, liyoba nencazelo enikezwe kanjalo futhi, ngaphandle uma umongo ubonisa okuhlukile -

“Umthombo wamanzi wesigaba I” sisho umthombo wamanzi lapho ukwakheka kwezigaba zemvelo zemithombo yamanzi ngaphakathi kwendawo ebamba amanzi, kuholela esimeni esiphelele salowo mthombo wamanzi osushintsha kancane esimweni sawo sangaphambi kokuthuthukiswa, futhi njengoba kuchazwe OHlelweni Lokuhlukaniswa Kwemithombo Yamanzi;

“Umthombo wamanzi wesigaba II” sisho umthombo wamanzi lapho ukwakheka kwezigaba zemvelo zemithombo yamanzi ngaphakathi kwendawo ebamba amanzi, kuholela esimeni esiphelele salowo mthombo wamanzi oshintsha kancane esimweni sawo sangaphambi kokuthuthukiswa futhi njengoba kuchaziwe OHlelweni Lokuhlukaniswa Kwemithombo Yamanzi;

“Umthombo wamanzi wesigaba III” sisho umthombo wamanzi lapho ukwakheka kwezigaba Zemvelo zemithombo yamanzi ngaphakathi kwendawo ebamba amanzi, kuholela esimeni esiphelele salowo mthombo wamanzi okushintsha kakhulu esimeni sawo sangaphambi kokuthuthukiswa futhi njengoba kuchaziwe OHlelweni Lokuhlukaniswa Kwemithombo Yamanzi;

“Uhlelo Lokuhlukaniswa Kwemithombo Yamanzi” lusho Imithethonqubo Yokusungulwa Kohlelo Lokuhlukanisa, 2010 njengoba kubekiwe kwiSaziso sikaHulumeni Nombolo R. 810 sika-17 Septhemba 2010;

“Isigaba semvelo” sisho isimo semvelo salowo mthombo wamanzi ngokwemibandela yokuchezuka kwezingxenye zawo ze-biophysical kusuka esimeni sokuthuthukiswa kwangaphambili;

“Izidingo Zamanzi Zemvelo” maqondana nomthombo wamanzi, zisho inani nezinga lamanzi lalowo mthombo odingekayo kugcinwe lowo mthombo wamanzi Usesigabeni sawo Semvelo esibekiwe;

“Iyunithi yokuhlaziya edidiyelwe” (i-IUA) isho indawo abamba amanzi emithombo yamanzi ehlanganisa indawo yenhlalakahle yezomnotho, kodwa echazwa yisizinda samanzi;

“Amaphesenti” asho amathuba okungeqile okungukuthi, kumaphesenti angu-95, amaphesenti angu-95 amanani kufanele abe ngaphansi noma alingane nenani; futhi kumaphesenti angu-50, amaphesenti angu-50 amanani kufanele abe ngaphansi noma alingane nenani;

“Isimo Sezemvelo Samanje” (i-PES) sisho samanje sempilo noma ukuphelela kwezimpawu ezahluahlukene zemithombo yezinto eziphilayo, uma kuqhathaniswa nezimo ezijwayelekile zemvelo noma eziseduze nemvelo;

“Isigaba Semvelo Esiphakamiswayo” (i-REC) sisho isigaba esibonisa lokho okuhloswe ukufinyeleleka kokulawulwa kwemvelo emthonjeni wamanzi;

“Izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo” (i-RQO) zisho izitatimende ezichazayo zezinga namanani ezinombolo ezibaluli zebhayoloji, ezibonakalayo, kanye namakhemikhali emithombo yamanzi ebalulekile kuzo zonke izindawo ezibamba amanzi;

“Iyunithi Yomthombo” (i-RU) isho iyunithi eyisisekelo yomthombo wamanzi okuzosebenza kuyo Izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo;

“Isaga Semvelo Esihlosiwe” (i-TEC) sisho okuhlosiwe okuyinhloko ukuze kuzuzwe uhlelo oluzinzile kokubili kwezemvelo nakwezomnotho, kucatshangelwa Isimo Semvelo Samanje kanye Nesigaba Semvelo Esiphakanyiswayo.

INCAZELO YOMTHOMBO WAMANZI

2. Izigaba Zemithombo Yamanzi kanye Nezinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo Yamanzi kunqunywa kuwo wonke noma ingxenye yawo wonke umthombo wamanzi obalulekile ngaphakathi Kwezindawo Zokulawulwa Kwamanzi e-Inkomati-Usuthu nasePongola-Mtamvuna njengoba kubekiwe ngezansi:

Izindawo Zokulawulwa Kwamanzi: Inkomati-Usuthu kanye Pongola-Mtamvuna

Isifunda Sokuthutha Indle: Isifunda Esiyinhloko Sokuthutha Indle W
(ngaphandle kwe-Eswatini)

Imifula: Indawo ebamba amanzi W1 (umfula omkhulu: uMhlathuze).
Indawo ebamba amanzi W2 (umfula omkhulu: i-Umfoloji).
Indawo ebamba amanzi W3 (umfula omkhulu: uMkuze).
Indawo ebamba amanzi W4 (umfula omkhulu: uPongola) - ingxenye yale ndawo ebamba amanzi iwela ngaphakathi kwe-Eswatini.
Indawo ebamba amanzi W5 (umfula omkhulu: Usutu) - ingxenye enkulu yale ndawo ebamba amanzi iwela ngaphakathi kwe-Eswatini.
Indawo ebamba amanzi W7 (iKosi Bay kanye ne-Lake Sibaya).

UKUNQUNYWA KWEZIGABA ZEMITHOMBO YAMANZI
NGOKWESIGABA 13(1)(a) SOMTHETHO

3. (1) Izigaba zemithombo yamanzi, ezihambisana nohlelo Lokuhlukaniswa Kwemithombo Yamanzi, ezizindaweni ezidonsa amanzi Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze (W1 - 5, kanye no-7) zibhalwe kuThebula 1 ngezansi ngokwesigaba ngasinye esiphelele kwiyunithi yokuhlaziya edidiyelwe; futhi njengoba kubonisiwe kuMfanekiso 1 weSithasiselo A.
- (2) Amayunithi adidiyelwe okuhlaziya ezindaweni zokubamba amanzi e-Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze (W1 - 5, no-7) abhalwe kuThebula 2 futhi aboniswe kuMfanekiso 2 weSithasiselo A.
- (3) Isifinyezo samayunithi emithombo kanye nezindawo ezibamba amanzi angaphansi ngekwata zibhalwe kuThebula 3 ngezansi futhi sikhonjiswe kuMfanekiso 8 (Isithasiselo A).
- (4) Isifinyezo sezigaba zemithombo yamanzi ngeyunithi ngayinye edidiyelwe yokuhlaziywa kanye nezigaba zemvelo ezizindaweni ezikhongozela amanzi Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze (W1 - 5, no-7) zibhalwe kuThebula 4 (Isithasiselo A).

AMAYUNITHI EMITHOMBO AKHETHWE NGEZINHLOSO ZEZINGA LEMITHOMBO

4. (1) Ithebula 5 (Isithasiselo A) linikeza:

- (a) Iyunithi Edidiyelwe Yokuhlaziya elisohlwini ezindaweni zokubamba amanzi ezisuka e-Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze lapho izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo zinqunywe khona;
 - (b) Imithombo Yamanzi ekhethiwe (Imifula, Amaxhaphozi, Amanzi Angaphansi Komhlaba, Nezizalo Zomfula) okunqunywa ngayo izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo; futhi
 - (c) ukubhekisela kumathebula alandelayo abala izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo ngamunye zezingxenye ezincane ezikhethiwe (inani, izinga, indawo yokuhlala, i-biota noma amanzi angaphansi komhlaba, noma isizalo) Ngeyunithi Yemithombo ngayinye.
- (2) Imigomo Yezinga Lemithombo yemifula ngaminye Yeyunithi Edidiyelwe Yokuhlaziya kanye Neyunithi Yemithombo ngaphakathi kwezindawo ezibamba amanzi e-Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze ichazwe kuThebula 6 (ama-RQO amanzi).
- (3) IThebula 8 (izindawo zokuhlala kanye nama-RQO e-biota ezindaweni ezibaluleke kakhulu)
- (4) IThebula 9 lesithasiselo A likhombisa ama-RQO wezinga lamanzi ezemvelo nabasebenzisi manzi kuma-RU aqukethe izindawo ze-EWR nezindawo ezibekelwe phambili kakhulu
- (5) Izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo emaqoqweni ezindawo ezingamaxhaphozi ezibekelwe phambili kanye nezinhlelo Kumayunithi Emithombo ezindaweni ezibamba amanzi e-Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze zibekwe kuThebula 10 (Isithasiselo A).
- (6) Izinhloso eziqondene Nezinga Lemithombo Yesifunda kanye Neyunithi Yemithombo eqondene Namanzi Angaphansi Komhlaba Emithonjeni Yamanzi Angaphansi Komhlaba Ezindaweni Ezibamba Amanzi e-Usuthu kuya eMhlathuze zibekwe kuThebula 11 kanye neThebula 13 (Isithasiselo A.).
- (7) Izinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo zezingxenye zeSisizalo Kumayunithi Emithombo ezibalulekile zibekwe kuThebula 16 (Isithasiselo A).

UKUQALA

5. Isaziso siyoqala ukusebenza ngosuku lokushicilelwa kwaso.

Isithasiselo salesi Saziso, esiqukethe Izigaba Zemithombo Yamanzi kanye Nezinhloso Zezinga Lemithombo, singatholakala ku-:

<https://www.dws.gov.za/wem/WRCS/utm.aspx>

Noma sicele ku-:

Umqondisi: Ukuhlukaniswa Kwemithombo Yamanzi

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