

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 1335

01 DECEMBER 2017

BREED-GOURITZ CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

PROPOSED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency was established in 2014 (Government Notice 412, 23 May 2014) by extending the boundary and area of operation of the then Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) (NWA). Section 80 of the NWA stipulates that one of the functions of a Catchment Management Agency is to develop a Catchment Management Strategy.

After a comprehensive stakeholder participation process, a Catchment Management Strategy was drafted for the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA). In terms of section 8(5) of the NWA, Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Strategy must make the Catchment Management Strategy available for public comment.

The Catchment Management Strategy is available on the BGCMA website, www.bgcma.co.za, at the offices of the BGCMA at 51 Baring Street, Worcester and 101 York Street, George.

The BGCMA will also ensure that copies of the Catchment Management Strategy are available at accessible locations throughout the Breede-Gouritz catchment management area. These locations will be advertised in the regional and local newspapers of the Western Cape.

In accordance with section 8(5)(a) of the NWA, the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency hereby invites comments to be submitted on the proposed Catchment Management Strategy.

Written comments must be submitted to the BGCMA by 2 March 2018 to the following address:

The Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency
Attention: Mr Jan van Staden
Private Bag X3055
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6849

Email Address: info@bgcma.co.za

MR B MNISI
CHAIRPERSON: GOVERNING BOARD BREED-GOURITZ
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DATE:

Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency Catchment Management Strategy

Executive Summary

Introduction

This Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) has been developed taking into consideration the previous draft CMS for the then Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA), the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) Annual Performance Plan and all other relevant studies that were used to inform the situation assessment and sub-strategies relating to reconciliation, water resource protection, water use regulation, monitoring and information management, financial aspects and importantly stakeholder engagement.

The Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area (BGWMA) falls into the category of being water stressed. The need for a Catchment Management Strategy to guide the management of water resources in the WMA is therefore critical. The WMA is predominantly a rural region with social, economic and environmental systems that are dependent on the water resources.

The BGWMA is extremely large and diverse. The area of the Gouritz catchment is characterised by the flat open plains of the Great and Klein (Little) Karoo, interrupted by steep mountain ranges orientated in an east-west direction which gives it three distinct zones of the semi-arid Great Karoo, the Olifants River and the Coastal Belt. The sub-catchments of the Breede WMA are characterised by the rolling hills of the Overberg, the Hex River Mountains to the north, the Langeberg Mountains in the east and the Franschhoek and Du Toit's Mountains in the west which flank the wide Breede River valley.

Almost twenty years since the promulgation of the NWA (Act 36 of 1998), which was put in place to provide for fundamental reform of the law relating to water resources; with sustainability and equity as central guiding principles in the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of water resources, challenges with its implementation still exist. It is therefore important that the aspect of inequity is addressed as part of this CMS when considering allocation and re-allocation.

The current water requirements in the BGWMA are stressed and the water balances show that there are greater requirements than the available water in the Gouritz sub-catchments. The Breede sub-catchments show a marginal volume that is available for further development. Measures are proposed that will allocate available or 'new' water according to a strict priority list, where allocation to emerging black farmers takes precedence.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) defines integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. As the water resource cannot be considered separately from the people who use it, a transparent and a participative approach to water resource management is extremely important.

Challenges and Opportunities

In the BGWMA it is recognised that population growth is likely to continue in the major centres and less so in the smaller rural areas. This will generate a growing demand for water services, both natural and built. However, economic growth is likely to be highly constrained in the short term, with little new investment in infrastructure, public or private. With a growing demand and little growth in the economy, government budgets will be constrained. The implication of this for water is that there is a strong alignment between water supply areas and water demand, which reflects the past history of a farming economy where settlement occurred in farming areas with abundant water. However, as the urban population grows, particularly in the Garden Route and the Overberg region, demand is starting to exceed supply and water shortages are becoming increasingly common, with Hermanus and Knysna being cases in point. Similarly, Cape Town's demand exceeds local geographical supply, and inter-catchment transfers are necessary from the Breede catchment to meet this demand.

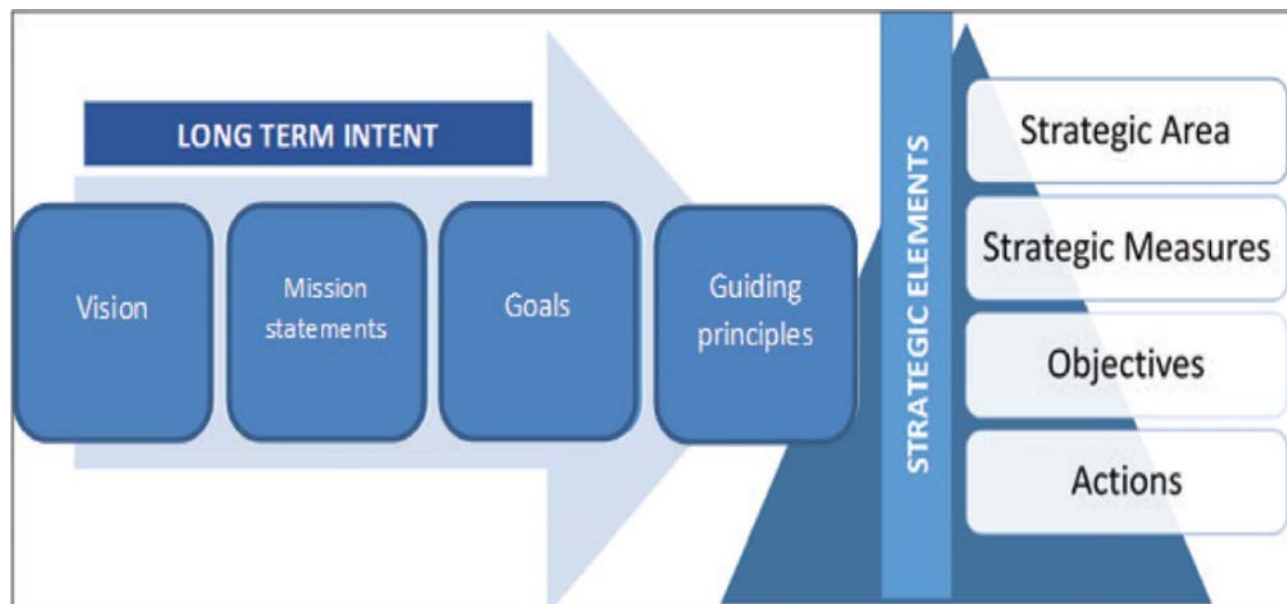
The development of a CMS is therefore an essential element in trying to put into place strategies that will assist in meeting the challenge of safeguarding the water resources in the BGWMA while allowing for growth. The strategy sets out some actions that can be taken in the short term, while further studies will need to be undertaken for other aspects.

Role of the Catchment Management Agency

BGCMA was established in 2014 (Government Notice 412, 23 May 2014) by extending the boundary and area of operation of the then BOCMA in terms of Section 80 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998) (NWA). The functions of CMAs as described in the NWA are to investigate and advise interested persons on the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of the water resources in its water management area; to develop a catchment management strategy; co-ordinate the related activities of water users and of the water management institutions within its water management area; and to promote the co-ordination of its implementation

with the implementation of any applicable development plan established in terms of the Water Services Act, 1997 (Act no. 108 of 1997); and promote community participation in the protection, use, development, conservation, management and control of the water resources in its water management area.

Structure of the Catchment Management Strategy



Vision

The vision for the WMA was formulated as a broader developmental vision reflecting the principles of NWRS2 as well as the other local planning imperatives for provincial and local government and ensuring the links between the various sub-strategies. The vision of the BGWMA is captured by:

Healthy water resources, for all, forever

Mission statements

The vision can be reflected by the following mission statements:

- Healthy water resources: Ensure sustainability of our rivers, groundwater, wetlands and estuaries to maintain functional catchments and clean and healthy water for the environment, people and the economy, through effective policy and regulation,

Which requires us to

- For all, forever: Allocate and use our water resources equitably, efficiently and responsibly to maintain existing desired activities, support new development, ensure social justice and reduce inefficient activities, adaptive to changing climate and development pressures,

Which obliges us to

- Collectively take responsibility to nurture and steward our catchments using the principles of ubuntu, through knowledge sharing, cooperation and implementation of innovative ideas within all communities, and by building strong flexible institutions supported by engaged stakeholders.

Strategic Areas

The mission statements are supported by the following three strategic focus areas to which strategic measures and actions have been linked.

- **Strategic Area 1: Protecting for People and Nature:** focussing primarily on management of streamflow, water quality, habitat and riparian zones related to riverine, wetland, estuarine and groundwater resources, to maintain important ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity.

Strategic Measure	Action
1.1	1.1.1 Conduct Water Resources Classification for the Water Management Area (WMA)
	1.1.2 Determine Resource Quality Objectives for the WMA
1.2	1.2.1 Assess gaps and undertake comprehensive Reserve determination studies for the WMA
	1.2.2 Implement water quality, quantity and ecosystems monitoring
1.3	1.3.1 Develop an Integrated Water Quality Management Plan
	1.4.1 Establish a groundwater unit with adequate experience and skills
1.4	1.4.2 Implementing monitoring programmes and networks
	1.4.3 Investigate and implement solutions to Iron Reducing Bacteria (IRB)
	1.4.4 Understanding potential impacts from unconventional gas production (UCG)
	1.5.1 Co-operate in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) with other role-players
	1.5.2 Develop and implement Estuary Management Plans
	1.5.3 Develop and implement plans for priority wetlands
1.5	1.5.4 Develop and implement plans for riparian habitat protection for priority rivers
	1.5.5 Develop and implement plans for alien vegetation clearing
	1.5.6 Prioritise and maintain endemic fish refuges
	1.5.7 Develop and implement plans for instream habitats conservation
	1.5.8 Develop a conservation strategy for groundwater protection
1.6	1.6.1 Develop and implement a system to consider impacts from existing and future land-use activities on water resources that will inform water use authorisations

- **Strategic Area 2: Sharing for Equity and Development:** focussing primarily on management of water use from surface and groundwater resources through the operation of infrastructure, in order to provide water for productive and social purposes within and outside of the WMA.

Strategic Measure	Action
2.1	2.1.1 Undertake validation and verification of water use
	2.1.2 Prioritise surface and groundwater areas for additional water availability studies and where compulsory licensing may be required
	2.1.3 Update water availability studies
2.2	2.2.1 Manage / operate selected schemes for reduced assurance of supply
	2.2.2 Investigate augmentation options
	2.3.1 Include Water Conservation/Water Demand Management (WC/ WDM) conditions for all Water Use Licences
2.3	2.3.2 Implement measures for scheme/ system operation
	2.3.3 Implement and support priority alien vegetation clearing projects and river maintenance plans
	2.3.4 Implement stringent WC/ WDM plans for urban areas (using Water Services Development Plans/ Integrated Development Plans)
	2.3.5 Implement stringent WC/ WDM plans for the agricultural sector
2.4	2.4.1 Reserve 15% of Mean Annual Run-off (MAR) for potential emerging farmers in the Breede catchments and consider a feasible % MAR and groundwater allocation to be set aside for the Gouritz catchments

2.5	Water Use Allocation	2.4.2	Identify, develop and support Historically Disadvantaged Individuals (HDI) opportunities
		2.4.3	Authorise and approve water use applications made for Historically Disadvantaged Individuals projects
		2.5.1	Revise the allocations once Validation & Verification study is complete
2.6	Water Use Authorisation	2.6.1	Assess and register water use applications
		2.6.2	Process water use licence applications
		2.6.3	Propose General Authorisations for particular uses and catchments
2.7	Climate change resilience	2.7.1	Build institutional capacity around climate change
		2.7.2	Adapt strategies to reflect climate change aspects as new data is received
		2.7.3	Create awareness amongst communities around climate change
2.8	Drought Resilience	2.8.1	Build institutional capacity around how and when to act during drought events
		2.8.2	Create awareness amongst communities around drought resilience
		2.8.3	Develop strategies for implementation during drought events

- Strategic Area 3: Co-operating for Compliance and Resilience:** focussing primarily on co-operation and management of institutional aspects to enable and facilitate the protection and sharing of water, including the more co-operative stakeholders, partnerships, information sharing, disaster risk and adaptation elements of the strategy.

Strategic Measure	Action
3.1	3.1.1 Develop strategic partnerships with other relevant institutions and government departments
	3.1.2 Foster co-operation with other relevant institutions and government departments, specifically in supporting emerging and resource poor farmers
	3.1.3 Establish, or extend existing, local water management institutions to operate at a restricted localised level to ensure wall to wall coverage of the WMA
	3.1.4 Collaborate with private sector
	3.1.5 Develop and maintain networks with other Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) in South Africa, basin institutions and globally
3.2	3.2.1 Develop decentralised platforms for on-going engagement
	3.2.2 Develop a communication method that is regular, open and accessible that will allow for meaningful, functional participation that will include Resource Poor Farmers and Water Management Institutions
	3.2.3 Monitor and report on communication
	3.3.1 Undertake compliance monitoring of all water use and dam safety authorisations
3.3	3.3.2 Compile and enforce directives
	3.3.3 Maintain a database of registered water users
	3.3.4 Implement a system to track water use authorisations (information management system)
3.4	3.4.1 Effective revenue generation
	3.4.2 Promote effective expenditure
	3.4.3 Effective leveraging of external resources for holistic catchment management
3.5	3.5.1 Implement a programme to monitor Resource Quality Objectives (RQO)
	3.5.2 Implement a programme to monitor against the Ecological Water Requirements (Reserve)
	3.5.3 Use all data collected to inform and update the Reconciliation Strategy
	3.5.4 Implement a programme to receive monitoring data from other projects such as the River Health Programmes and Estuary Management Programmes
3.6	3.6.1 Implement a schedule to manage the issuing and expiry of water use authorisations
	3.6.2 Implement a programme to assess compliance against water use authorisations
	3.6.3 Investigate the development of a central hub where the BGCMA can receive data captured by other water users, stakeholders can voice their concerns and have links to other relevant water resource related sites
3.7	3.7.1 Monitor trends in WC/ WDM in local municipalities
	3.7.2 Monitor implementation of BMP for WC/ WDM in the agricultural sector

3.8	Effective management of information	3.7.3	Develop and Implement a system to receive WC/ WDM data captured by other water users
		3.7.4	Monitor Alien invasive vegetation projects
		3.7.5	Monitor river rehabilitation projects
		3.8.1	Identify and develop information management needs
		3.8.2	Ensure communication of information to and from stakeholders
3.9	Adaptation and Disaster Management	3.9.1	Identify and develop information management trends
		3.9.2	Co-operate with other provincial and local disaster management institutions
		3.9.3	Assess water disaster risk and develop a WMA flood and drought strategy in collaboration with other relevant departments