
BREED-GOURITZ

Catchment Management Agency
Opvanggebied Bestuursagentskap
I-Arhente yoLawulo lomMandla nokungqongileyo

Launch of the development of the Catchment Management Strategy for the Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area

INVITATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

30th March 2016 from 12h00 to 14h30, Main Hall, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) George Campus, 2 Madiba Drive, George

Dear Stakeholder,

You are invited to participate in the launch of the development of the Catchment Management Strategy for the Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area to be held at the Main Hall, NMMU George Campus, 2 Madiba Drive, George on the 30th March 2016 from 12h00 to 14h30.

1. Introduction

Chapter 2, Part 2 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)(NWA) requires every Catchment Management Agency (CMA) to progressively develop a Catchment Management Strategy (CMS) for the water resources within its Water Management Area.

The CMS is a statutory document that provides the **vision and strategic actions required to address water resources management** in a specific catchment or group of catchments, based on the best available information and founded on the principles of sustainability, equity and efficiency.

The NWA requires that every CMA progressively develops a CMS for the water resources within its WMA that must align with the National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS). In the process of developing this strategy, a CMA must seek co-operation and agreement on water-related matters from the various stakeholders and interested parties, including local communities, forestry, industry, commercial and subsistence farmers, environmental protection groups and historically disadvantaged groups within the WMA. The CMS must set out principles for reallocating water to existing and prospective users taking into account all matters relevant to the protection, use, development, conservation, management and

control of water resources and must contain the content set out in Section 9(a)(i) of the NWA.

Golder Associates Africa (Golder) has been appointed by the Breede-Gouritz Catchment Management Agency (BGCMA) to provide professional services for the development of a Catchment Management Strategy for the Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area (WMA).

2. The Study Area

The Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area (WMA) is bounded by the Indian Ocean to the South, the Berg-Olifants WMA to the West, the Orange WMA to the North and the Mzimvubu-Tsitsikama WMA to the East, falling largely within the Western Cape Province as illustrated in Figure 1 attached.

The Breede-Gouritz WMA includes the catchment area of the Gouritz River and its major tributaries (the Gamka-, Groot- and Olifants Rivers), as well as the catchments of the smaller coastal rivers that lie to the east and west of the Gouritz River mouth, the Breede River and the catchments of the smaller coastal rivers that lie to the west of the Breede River mouth: the Palmiet-, Kars-, Sout-, Uylenkraals-, Klein-, Onrus- and Bot-Swart rivers.

3. Purpose of the Catchment Management Strategy

Water of adequate quality and quantity is central to the integrity of the environment in that all species

(the simplest to the most complex) are adapted to a limited range of physical and chemical environments, of which land and water are the most significant. For the most part water determines the ecological richness and diversity of a particular catchment. Any marked change in the quality or quantity of water will result in an immediate change in the range and structure of ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are also known to confer indirect benefits on human water users.

Water is just as important in terms of the economic and social structures of society. Water as an economic input, to a large extent, determines the capacity of a catchment's resources to be converted into marketable outputs, be they derived from mining, manufacturing, recreation or irrigation and other agricultural activities as is the case in the Breede-Gouritz WMA. The availability of adequate supplies of clean water for domestic and economic use has shaped the geographic population distribution, its quality of life and culture.

The scope and complexity of water resources management issues together with the socio-economic commitment involved in maintaining sustainable water resources appropriate to the particular sub-catchments needs makes this an important project. However, it must be recognised that resources water quality management is an integral part of the broader environment and that some solutions to a particular resource water quality problem could adversely impact on other parts of the environment and society.

Balancing the degree to which water, and water quality, is used (*for example* for socio-economic development) with the degree of protection of water resources, such as natural systems (for current and future generations) requires both political and scientific considerations. Therefore integrated, strategic and practical solutions, approaches and actions are needed within an integrated institutional environment, in order that the objectives of the catchment management strategy are achieved and water resources remain sustainable.

When and where?

The launch will be held on the **30th March 2016** at the **Main Hall, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) George Campus, 2 Madiba Drive, George** from **12h00 until 14h30** when finger snacks will be served after which there will an opportunity for further discussion with members of the BGCMA and the Project Team. No registration fees apply however please note that no provision has been made to compensate delegates financially for attending the workshop and delegates must carry their own transport and accommodation costs. The proposed agenda will be:

1. Welcome by the Breede-Gouritz Catchment management Agency
2. Background and introduction to the Project
3. Formal address and launch by the Department of Water and Sanitation
4. Technical components of the project that will comprise the final Catchment Management Strategy:
 - a. Situational Assessment (current), projected trends and potential future scenarios;
 - b. Water Reconciliation Strategy;
 - c. Visioning;
 - d. Water Resource Protection;
 - e. Regulation of Water Use;
 - f. Monitoring and Information Management;
 - g. Financial Strategy
5. Stakeholder Engagement and Visioning approach
6. Discussion
7. Closure and way forward

For further information please contact:
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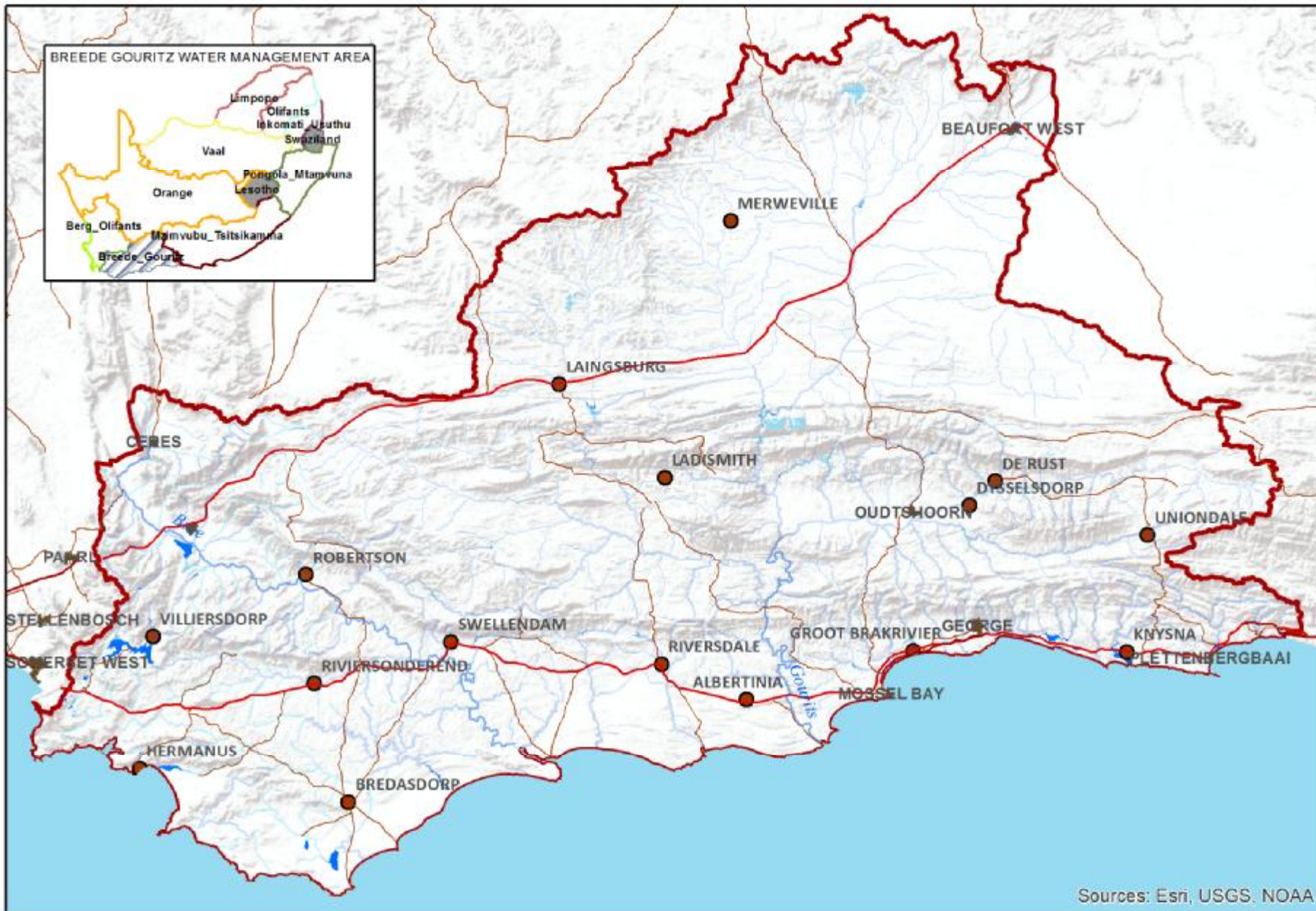


Figure 1: The Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area (study area)

REPLY SHEET

Launch of the development of the Catchment Management Strategy for the Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area

Stakeholder Workshop: Launch

Please complete by 18th March 2016 and return to:

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TITLE		FIRST NAME	
INITIALS		SURNAME	
ORGANISATION			
POSITION			
ADDRESS			
		POSTAL CODE	
TEL NO		FAX NO	
EMAIL			

I will attend the launch to be held on the 30th March 2016 in George at the Main Hall, NMMU George Campus, 2 Madiba Drive

Comment on specific issues that you would like to see addressed in the project:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE AND COMMENTS