

## **WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORKS DASHBOARD**

- **What is this dashboard relate to?**

Functioning aquatic ecosystems and an adequate supply of usable water are fundamental to the survival and development of any nation, and particularly so for water-stressed countries like South Africa. The term useable is directly associated to the quality of water, which needs to be of an acceptable standard. Extensive monitoring programs are required for DWS to monitor the status of water quality in South Africa, and the objective of this dashboard is to summarise the extent of this network.

- **What type/s of questions does the information product aims to answer:**

The dashboard aims to provide information to help answer the following questions:

- Where are the points in South Africa where water quality is monitored, and for which the data is stored in the WMS?
- What is the breakdown of these locations in terms of the types of sites, such as rivers, dams, waste water treatment, water supply, etc?
- Where are the active / non-active water qualities monitoring points in South Africa?
- What is the available data at individual site level for point in the WMS systems?

- **Data / Information Discussion**

- **What data is used?**

The data source for this dashboard is the WMS systems. The WMS is a suite of computer programmes developed for the Department of Water and Sanitation to provide information for water sources monitoring and management in South Africa. The system is maintained by Resource Quality Information Services (RQIS).

- **How is it extracted and from where?**

The data is extracted from WMS system managed by RQIS and exported to NIWIS. RQIS provides national water resource managers with aquatic resources data, technical information, guidelines and procedures that support the strategic and operational requirements for assessment and protection of water resources quality. Functioning aquatic ecosystems and an adequate supply of usable water are fundamental to the survival and development of any nation, and particularly so for

water-stressed countries like South Africa. For more details on WMS and contacts for access to data, please visit [www.dwa.gov.za/iwqs/wms/](http://www.dwa.gov.za/iwqs/wms/).

The water quality monitoring dashboard provides a snapshot of the WMS database and may lag behind the live database. The WMS database is the definitive data sources. Please see above regarding WMS.

- **How often is it extracted?**

Data is extracted monthly.

- **Contact details of person/s who championed this dashboard**

Dr Nadene Slabbert Director, Resource Quality Information Services,  
Telephone: +27 12 808 9515 / +27 12 808 9619 Email:  
SlabbertN@dwa.gov.za

- **Links to other sources of related information**

The following link is for the RQIS and WMS website at DWS, with further links to relevant information about water quality monitoring done by DWS. There are also other information products available on the website.

- [www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/)
- [www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/wms/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/wms/)
- [www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/gis\\_data/](http://www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/gis_data/)

- **Are there any limitations / cautions related to using this information?**

Yes, please refer to the below:

**Copyright:** The copyright of the data/information remains with the Department of Water and Sanitation. This approval to use the data/information cannot be construed as a transfer of copyright. **Usage:** All data is supplied free of charge and may not be sold to third parties. The use of information data is restricted to use for academic, research or personal purposes. **Quality:** All data is supplied with no expressed or implied warranty as to its suitability for purpose, accuracy or completeness. **Status:** Meanwhile data is continuously updated; the data set(s) supplied are already historical on the day of supply. **Acknowledgement:** Whenever used in publications or the electronic media, the Department Water and Sanitation is to be mentioned as the proprietor of the relevant copyright.