



IDENTIFYING PRIORITY ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE UMNGENI RIVER CATCHMENT

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WRC 2002. State of the rivers report – uMngeni River and neighbouring rivers and streams. **WRC report no.TT 200/02**



BACKGROUND

- Supports water and sanitation requirements of Durban and Pietermaritzburg including surrounding towns
- Increasing economic and population growth around the catchment
- Demand exceeding supply of water in the catchment
- Limited capacity of the catchment to meet water service delivery demands



- Focus on built infrastructure to address water security
- Policy not recognising the potential of ecological infrastructure to supplement built infrastructure
- **Ecological infrastructure** = Naturally functioning ecosystems that generate and deliver valuable services to people
- Under-investment in ecological infrastructure, existing investment inadequately coordinated



UMNGENI ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP (UEIP)

- Founding partners of the initiative
 - SANBI, eThekweni Metro, DWA, Umgeni Water
 - MoU between the key role players
 - Growth in the partnership
- To foster collaboration and coordination of ecological infrastructure investments to improve water security in the uMngeni catchment



UEIP Partners



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Advancing the inclusion of ecological infrastructure to support water security in the uMngeni River catchment
- Developing a plan to guide investments in ecological infrastructure in the greater uMngeni River catchment
- Include investment in ecological infrastructure in decision-making and policy development



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Develop methods for mapping ecological infrastructure

2. Undertake situation analysis

3. Identify sites and interventions with potential to enhance water security in the catchment

4. Identify potential governance, institutional and financial mechanisms, as well as funding sources

5. Identify monitoring and evaluation approaches required to assess the outcomes of the interventions.

6. Strengthen integrated water resource management initiatives in the catchment

7. Compile an investment plan

8. Extract policy-relevant lessons to feed into key policy processes and decision making.



THANK YOU

