

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PREFACE: Background to the <i>WET-Management Series</i></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Summary of <i>WET-Health</i></b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Acknowledgements, Citation and Feedback</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>SECTION 1: THE OVERALL ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>1.1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>17</b>
1.1.1 Background to terms and the approach.....	17
1.1.2 What is the purpose and scope of <i>WET-Health</i> ? .....	20
1.1.3 Who are the anticipated users of the system? .....	21
1.1.4 What are the key features of <i>WET-Health</i> ? .....	21
1.1.5 What is the level of expertise required to apply <i>WET-Health</i> ? .....	23
1.1.6 How do <i>WET-Health</i> and <i>WET-EcoServices</i> relate to each other? .....	23
<b>1.2 Framework and methodology</b> .....	<b>25</b>
1.2.1 Level of evaluation .....	25
1.2.2 Framework for assessment .....	25
1.2.3 Units of assessment .....	26
1.2.4 Quantification of impacts .....	29
1.2.5 Quantification of Present State of a wetland .....	30
1.2.6 Assessing the anticipated Trajectory of Change .....	30
<b>1.3 The Assessment Procedure</b> .....	<b>31</b>
1.3.1 Define objectives and scope for assessment .....	31
1.3.2 Determine the most appropriate level of assessment .....	31
1.3.3 Basic mapping and identification of HGM units .....	32
1.3.4 Identify information sources of key wetland and catchment characteristics .....	33
1.3.5 Desktop identification of key wetland and catchment characteristics .....	33
1.3.6 Field procedure for conducting a Level 2 assessment .....	33
1.3.7 Evaluate each component of Present State and Trajectory of Change separately for each HGM unit .....	34
1.3.8 Summarise the overall health of the wetland .....	34
<b>1.4 Inter-relationships between the three components of health: Integration of hydrological, geomorphological and vegetation scores</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<b>SECTION 2: HYDROLOGY MODULE</b> .....	<b>38</b>
Introduction .....	38
STEP 1: Identify HGM units in the wetland and describe the local climate .....	40
Step 1A: Identify the HGM types in the wetland and divide the wetland into HGM units .....	40
Step 1B: Assess the vulnerability of the HGM unit to altered water inputs based on local climate ....	40
STEP 2: Assess impact of changes in quantity and pattern of water inputs to the wetland .....	41
Step 2A: Identify, map and assess impact of land-use activities that reduce the inflow quantity to the HGM unit .....	41
Step 2B: Assess intensity of impact of factors potentially altering the pattern of water delivery to the HGM unit .....	45
Step 2C: Assess the combined magnitude of impact of altered quantity and pattern of water inputs, accounting for the wetland unit's vulnerability .....	47
STEP 3: Assess the degree to which natural water distribution and retention patterns within the HGM unit have been altered as a result of on-site activities .....	50
Step 3A: Assess magnitude of impact of canalization and stream modification .....	51
Step 3B: Assess magnitude of impact of impeding features .....	58
Step 3C: Assess magnitude of impact of altered surface roughness .....	60
Step 3D: Assess magnitude of impact of direct water loss .....	61
Step 3E: Assess magnitude of impact of recent deposition, infilling or excavation.....	63
Step 3F: Determine combined magnitude of impact of on-site activities .....	64
STEP 4: Determine the Present Hydrological State of the HGM Unit through integrating the assessments from steps 2 and 3 .....	65
STEP 5: Determine overall Present Hydrological State for the wetland by integrating scores of individual HGM units in the wetland .....	66
STEP 6: Assess the Trajectory of Change of wetland hydrology .....	68
STEP 7: Describe overall Hydrological Health based on Present Hydrological State and Trajectory of Change .....	69
<b>SECTION 3: GEOMORPHOLOGY MODULE</b> .....	<b>71</b>

Introduction .....	71
STEP 1: Map and determine extent of each HGM unit .....	73
STEP 2: Conduct individual assessments based on diagnostic features .....	74
Step 2A: Impacts of dams upstream of and/or on floodplains .....	74
Step 2B: Impacts of channel straightening .....	77
Step 2C: Impacts of artificial wetland infilling .....	79
Step 2D: Impacts of changes in runoff characteristics .....	80
STEP 3: Conduct individual assessments based on indicators .....	81
Step 3A: Impacts of erosion and/or deposition .....	81
Step 3B: Impacts of the loss of organic sediment .....	85
STEP 4: Determine the Present Geomorphic State of each HGM unit by combining diagnostic and indicator-based analyses .....	87
STEP 5: Determine overall Present Geomorphic State for the wetland by integrating scores of individual HGM units .....	87
STEP 6: Assess vulnerability and Trajectory of Change due to erosion .....	89
Step 6A: Assess vulnerability to erosion of each HGM unit .....	90
Step 6B: Describe the increased extent of gullies in relation to any external controls.....	91
Step 6C: Assess the likely Trajectory of Change of geomorphic state .....	92
STEP 7: Describe overall Geomorphological Health of the wetland based on Present Geomorphic State and Trajectory of Change .....	93
<b>SECTION 4: VEGETATION MODULE .....</b>	<b>95</b>
Introduction .....	95
STEP 1: Map and determine the extent of each HGM unit .....	96
STEP 2: Determine the Present Vegetation State of each HGM unit .....	96
Step 2A: Familiarisation with the general structure and composition of wetland vegetation in the area .....	96
Step 2B: Identify and estimate the extent of each disturbance class in the HGM unit .....	97
Step 2C: Assess the intensity and magnitude of impact for each disturbance class.. .....	102
Step 2D: Determine Present Vegetation State of each HGM unit .....	105
STEP 3: Determine the overall Present Vegetation State of the wetland .....	105
STEP 4: Assess threat and anticipated Trajectory of Change to wetland vegetation .....	106
Step 4A: Assess the anticipated Trajectory of Change to wetland vegetation within each HGM unit .....	107
Step 4B: Determine the anticipated Trajectory of Change to wetland vegetation in the wetland as a whole .....	108
STEP 5: Describe overall Vegetation Health of the wetland based on Present Vegetation State and Trajectory of Change .....	108
STEP 6: Record the alien vegetation that is present in the wetland .....	109
Case Studies .....	109
Appendix 4.1: Invasive alien plant species commonly found in wetlands .....	113
Appendix 4.2: Ruderal species common to wetlands .....	115
Appendix 4.3: Common invasive indigenous plant species in wetlands .....	118
<b>SECTION 5: LEVEL 1 ASSESSMENT MODULE .....</b>	<b>119</b>
Introduction .....	119
STEP 1: Divide the wetland into HGM units .....	119
STEP 2: Assess Hydrological Health of the wetland .....	120
Step 2A: Evaluate changes to water input characteristics from the catchment .....	120
Step 2B: Evaluate changes to water distribution and retention patterns within the wetland.....	122
Step 2C: Determine the hydrological impact score of the HGM unit based on integrating the assessments from steps 2A and 2B.....	127
Step 2D: Determine overall Present Hydrological State of the wetland based on integrating scores from individual HGM units .....	127
Step 2E: Assess the anticipated Trajectory of Change of wetland hydrology .....	127
STEP 3: Assess Geomorphic Health .....	127
Step 3A: Determine the Present Geomorphic State of the individual HGM units .....	127
Step 3B: Determine overall Present Geomorphic State of the wetland based on integrating scores for individual HGM units .....	132
Step 3C: Assess the anticipated Trajectory of Change of the wetland geomorphology.....	132

STEP 4: Assess Vegetation Health of the wetland.....	133
Step 4A: Familiarisation with the general structure and composition of wetland vegetation in the area .....	133
Step 4B: Identify and estimate the extent of disturbance classes.....	133
Step 4C: Assess the changes to vegetation composition in each class, and integrate these for the overall HGM unit.....	135
Step 4D: Determine the overall Present Vegetation State based on integrating the scores from the respective HGM units .....	137
Step 4E: Assess the anticipated Trajectory of Change of wetland vegetation .....	137
STEP 5: Represent the overall Health Scores for the wetland .....	138
<b>SECTION 6: CASE STUDY – NORTHINGTON ARM OF THE HLATIKULU VLEI .....</b>	<b>139</b>
1. Hydrology .....	139
2. Geomorphology .....	149
3. Vegetation .....	159
4. Combined final score.....	164
<b>SECTION 7: WATER QUALITY .....</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>168</b>