# Manual for using electronic water quality management system (eWQMS) and waste stabilisation ponds assessment tool

Philip de Souza & Unathi Jack



## MANUAL FOR USING ELECTRONIC WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (eWQMS) AND WASTE STABILISATION PONDS ASSESSMENT TOOL

Report to the Water Research Commission

by

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on behalf of Emanti Management (Pty) Ltd

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This document is the user manual for the waste stabilization ponds assessment tool which resides on the electronic Water Quality Management System (eWQMS) which has been developed for the purpose of assisting the water services departments to effectively manage the water quality. The eWQMS contains numerous tools useful for Water Service Authorities (WSAs) in terms of identifying key areas of risk in the water services so that they plan and implement remedial measures accordingly. The waste stabilisation ponds assessment tool is one of the tools within the eWQMS.

This manual has been developed in illustrated screenshots which have been captured from the eWQMS. This manual has been developed with the purpose of:

- a) Providing a simple step-by-step method of accessing the eWQMS and using the waste stabilisation ponds tool.
- b) Providing further guidance regarding other components of the eWQMS.

The waste stabilisation ponds tool itself provides assistance in terms of planning, design and maintenance of these systems and introduces practical methods and tools for ensuring good service delivery. The waste stabilisation ponds tool can be used by WSAs to:

- Self assess the status of their wastewater pond systems
- Assist in planning (short/medium or long term needs)
- Identify areas of risks and needs (short/medium or long term needs)
- Assist in identifying and tracking emergency issues
- Assist in understanding of required maintenance.

## **PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL**

The purpose of this manual is to:

Introduce the eWQMS to the reader

Highlight some of the key features/functions of the eWQMS

Provide step-by-step guidance as to how to use the waste stabilisation ponds assessment tool on the eWQMS.

## WHO SHOULD USE THE MANUAL?

This manual is intended for use by:

- Manager of water and sanitation services within a Water Service Authority and/or Water Service Provider who is responsible for planning and management of water and wastewater services.
- DWAF staff who need to understand the WSAs water quality.

- SALGA, IMESA, DoH and LGH departments who are also role players in the water services to make sure that water provision of good quality is achieved.
- Water quality manager who should be following up on water quality issues and taking corrective measures.
- Environmental health practitioner conducting water quality monitoring to understand the water quality for his/her area of responsibility and take corrective measures.
- Water resources people to understand the resource water quality.
- Anyone responsible for water and wastewater services.

*NOTE:* If an electronic version of this report is available it is strongly advised that a colour copy be printed in order to clearly see and understand the colour coding used to highlight issues of concern (e.g. blue, green, yellow, red).

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1	E	BACKGROUND	1
2	IJ	MESA LEAD ITERATIVE ENHANCEMENT PROCESS	1
3	E	BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE EWQMS	1
	3.1	System Access	2
	3.2	SYSTEM COMPATIBILITY	4
	3.3	LOGIN/LOGOUT	4
	3.4	Water Quality Management	5
	3.5	Infrastructure	. 13
	3.6	RISK TOOLBOX	. 13
	3.7	ADMINISTRATION	. 16
	3.8	GUIDING INFORMATION	. 16
4.		STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE OF HOW TO USE THE WASTEWATER POND SYSTEM	
	STEP	2: ACCESSING THE WASTEWATER POND SYSTEM QUESTIONNAIRE	. 20
	STEP	3: LOADING INFORMATION FOR THE WASTEWATER POND SYSTEM ASSESSMENT TOO	L21
	STEP	4: COMPLETING THE WASTEWATER POND SYSTEM ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE	. 23
	STEP	5: ACCESSING THE WASTEWATER POND SYSTEM ASSESSMENT TOOL REPORT	. 25
	REFE	RENCE	. 27

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: eWQMS access via the internet	3
Figure 2: eWQMS access via DBSA's LGNET	3
Figure 3: eWQMS login (Delmas Municipality, Mpumalanga)	4
Figure 4: WSA homepage (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)	4
Figure 5: eWQMS Management Dashboard [Madibeng, North West (NW)]	5
Figure 6: Detail of "Red" failure and actions taken to address issue of concern (Madibeng,	<i>NW)</i> 5
Figure 7: eWQMS Overview (microbiological safety) (Local Municipality of Madibeng, NW)	6
Figure 8: eWQMS Overview (chemical) (Madibeng, North West)	7
Figure 9: eWQMS Analysis (tables and graphs)	7
Figure 10: Compliance table example (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)	8
Figure 11: Point analysis graph example (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)	8
Figure 12: Percentage failure graph example (Breede Valley, Western Cape)	9
Figure 13: eWQMS reports (Stellenbosch, Western Cape)	9
Figure 14: eWQMS data entry via the internet (Sol Plaatje, Northern Cape)	10
Figure 15: eWQMS data entry via spreadsheet (submitted via e-mail) (Umzinyathi Munic	ipality
KwaZulu-Natal)	10
Figure 16: eWQMS data loading via import script/patch (Ethekwini Municipality, KwaZulu-	,
Figure 17: eWQMS e-mail with report as attachment (Drakenstein Municipality, Western	• •
Figure 18: eWQMS e-mail with report accessible via internet link (George Municipality, W	
Cape)	12
Figure 19: Extract from an automatic monthly summary report	12
Figure 20: eWQMS Infrastructure component	13
Figure 21: Example of wastewater treatment works details on the eWQMS (Steller	nbosch
Municipality, Western Cape)	13
Figure 22: Gap analysis questionnaire and spider diagram output (City of Johanne	esburg
Gauteng)	14
Figure 23: Water supply system questionnaire and spider diagram output (Kani	naland
Municipality, Western Cape)	15
Figure 24: Sample point administration (City of Tshwane, Gauteng)	16
Figure 25: Information examples	17

## 1 Background

Water Services Authorities (WSAs) have responsibilities including protection and management of water resources, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, monitoring and management of water quality, reporting to DWAF with regards to the aforementioned, etc. In order to ensure an effective and sustainable water service, the above mentioned aspects must be addressed by WSAs. However, a number of recent surveys have indicated that many WSAs in the South Africa are not effectively monitoring and managing water quality. Accordingly, DWAF and other water sector partners (e.g. IMESA, SALGA, WRC) have undertaken various initiatives to assist WSAs with operation and management of water services. In particular, DWAF, together with IMESA have rolled out the eWQMS to all 169 WSAs in South Africa. The eWQMS allows WSAs to interpret water quality data and highlights issues of concern requiring intervention. Data loaded by WSAs onto the eWQMS are transferred to the National Information System (NIS). Recent developments to the eWQMS have further enhanced functionality including the ability of WSAs to conduct self assessments of DWQM, infrastructure, etc. The Wastewater Pond System Assessment Tool falls into this category allowing a WSA to conduct a self-assessment of their wastewater pond systems and identify key risks/issues which need to be addressed.

## 2 IMESA Lead Iterative Enhancement Process

IMESA's specific roll is as an impartial honest broker ensuring that the eWQMS solution is appropriate and supportive of Municipal Engineering requirements. This is achieved by IMESA participating in both initial municipal interaction forums, and subsequently by IMESA led iterative feedback sessions with municipal users. At these sessions, recent new developments are presented to WSAs, ideas are brainstormed with WSAs, and WSAs are given the opportunity to provide feedback regarding:

- Useful features/functions of the eWQMS
- Features/functions that could be improved/amended
- Future desirable features/functions

WSAs are also asked to rank new and/or desirable features/functions from High to Low.

The above process helps to determine the actual on-the-ground needs at WSAs. Feedback obtained from these sessions is collated and desirable features/functions categorised and ranked. Subsequently, incremental improvements and enhancements are introduced to the tool.

## 3 Brief Overview of the eWQMS

The eWQMS is a well proven comprehensive Water Quality Management tool, which has an established track record of being successfully used by WSAs, Regional and National DWAF offices, and the public. eWQMS has been set up to assist WSAs to meet the National Drinking Water Quality Management Framework requirements, and is a full management system. In addition, roll-out of the wastewater component of the eWQMS is currently being fast-tracked. In particular, the eWQMS able to guide:

- Regulatory compliance by WSAs
- The timeous supportive intervention in water quality failures (chronic and acute)
- Infrastructure improvement
- Capacity development of municipal staff.

The eWQMS is an internet accessible database system (accessible at www.wqms.co.za) utilising open source components (mySQL, XML, etc.), and has been found following detailed assessment by DWAF's IT support team to be fully compatible with and compliant to DWAF Water Services National Information System and DWAF Regulatory System requirements.

Importantly, the eWQMS has been developed in a "bottom up" approach with WSAs, IMESA, DWAF and the Water Research Commission. Data can be loaded by WSAs onto eWQMS via the internet, spreadsheet or specific import scripts. Furthermore, the eWQMS can provide useful automated regulatory compliance reporting to all WSAs and sector partners. The eWQMS also provides easy access to useful water quality tools and information. Presently, the eWQMS consists of the following main components:

- Login/Logout
- Water Quality
- Infrastructure
- Risk Toolbox
- Administration
- Information.

Considering the above, the following main features are described (**NOTE**: A full demonstration can be provided by the eWQMS team on request at the following e-mail address: info@emanti.co.za)

## 3.1 System Access

The system is usually accessible via the internet for full use (including via DBSA's LGNET), providing considerable costs and operational efficiency benefits over local application based systems. Nevertheless, the system can run as an independent local application if required. Information and reference material can be accessed without the need to login (this is especially useful to members of the public, e.g. teachers, students, etc. and saves municipal officials time).

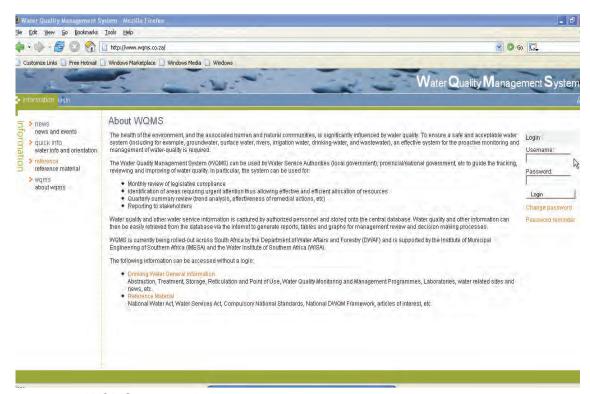


Figure 1: eWQMS access via the internet

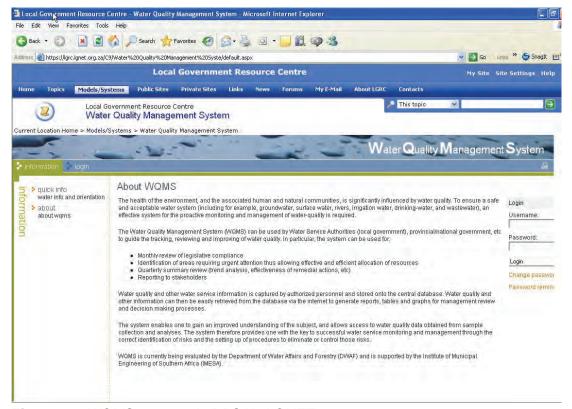


Figure 2: eWQMS access via DBSA's LGNET

## 3.2 System Compatibility

The system can be set up to run off existing water quality management systems, such as LIMS systems. A number of "import scripts/patches" already exist, and where necessary additional will be written for data import, e.g. of import scripts/patches includes Johannesburg Water and eThekwini.

## 3.3 Login/logout

A user is provided with username and password. A particular user will be provided with a WSA, District, Provincial or National view. Furthermore, limited detail "public" views of DWQ can be set up if required, e.g. of Provincial view includes Free State; public view includes Stellenbosch.

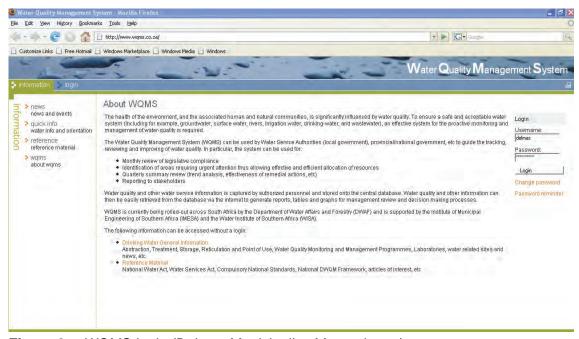


Figure 3: eWQMS login (Delmas Municipality, Mpumalanga)

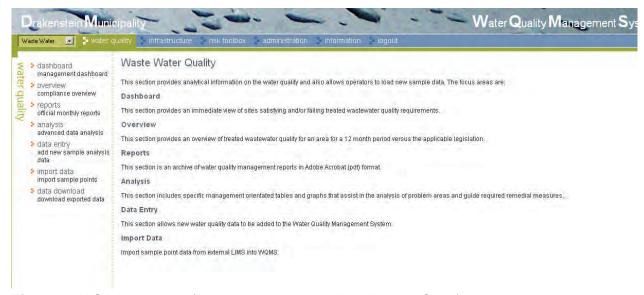


Figure 4: WSA homepage (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)

## 3.4 Water Quality Management

A key functional requirement is easy water quality data loading and interpretation. The system can interpret data against a range of standards, but defaults to SANS 241. The system is capable of interpreting wastewater and river water quality data. Current functionality includes:

**Management Dashboard** [summarised monthly view of legislative compliance & identification of areas requiring urgent attention; easy colour coding to show compliance (green), failure of some physico-chemical parameters (excluding faecal coliforms and COD) DWAF General Authorisation General Limits (yellow), and failure of DWAF General Authorization General or Special Limits (where applicable) (red)].

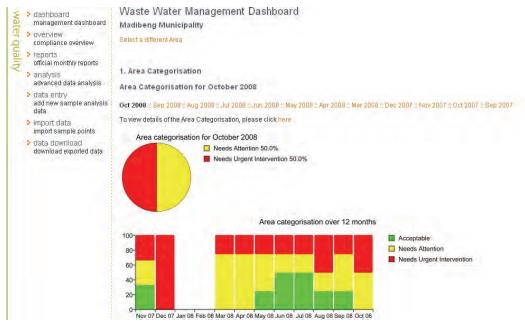


Figure 5: eWQMS Management Dashboard [Madibeng, North West (NW)]

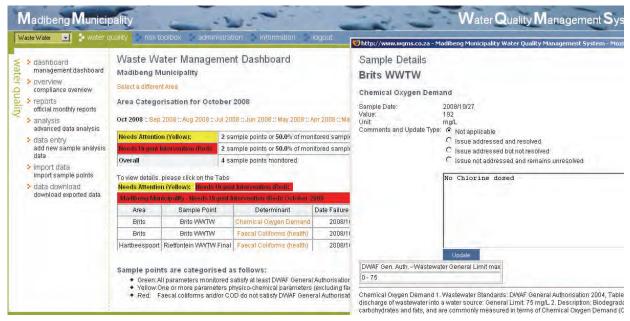


Figure 6: Detail of "Red" failure and actions taken to address issue of concern (Madibeng, NW)

**Overview** (map-based interface with "period based" compliance summary of bacteriological, physical and chemical DWQ).

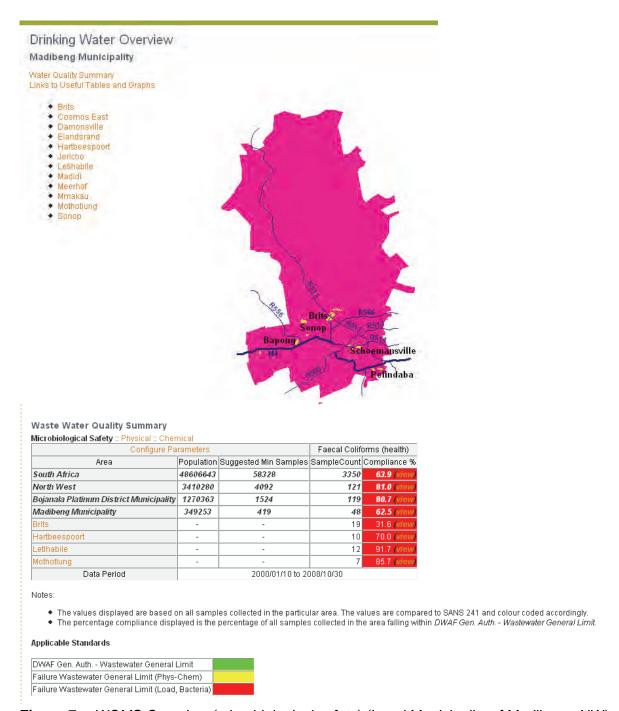


Figure 7: eWQMS Overview (microbiological safety) (Local Municipality of Madibeng, NW)

### Waste Water Quality Summary Microbiological Safety :: Physical :: Chemical Configure Parameters Chemical Oxygen Demand Ortho-Phosphate Ammonia (operational) Population SampleCount Compliance % SampleCount Compliance % SampleCount Compliance % South Africa 48606643 9380 9449 62.1 ( 6623 88.0 ( 56.9 ( 73.1 ( 77.6 82.3 North West 3410280 431 450 498 Bojanala Platinum District Municipality 1270363 190 66.8 ( 204 73.5 ( 204 56.9 Madibeng Municipality 349253 151 152 152 55.3 70.9 ( 73.0 51 52 88.5 52 36.5 Hartbeespoort 84.8 ( 39.4 ( 33 63.6 ( 33 33 Letlhabile 97.8 ( 66.7 ( 45 84.4 100.0 **(**M Mothotlung 22 22 22 63.6 2000/01/10 to 2008/10/31 Data Period

## Notes:

- The values displayed are based on all samples collected in the particular area. The values are compared to SANS 241 and colour coded accordingly.
- The percentage compliance displayed is the percentage of all samples collected in the area falling within DWAF Gen. Auth. Wastewater General Limit.

## Applicable Standards DWAF Gen. Auth. - Wastewater General Limit Failure Wastewater General Limit (Phys-Chem)

Failure Wastewater General Limit (Load, Bacteria)

Figure 8: eWQMS Overview (chemical) (Madibeng, North West)

### Detailed Analysis (dynamic Tables and Graphs with full flexibility) Waste Water Analysis dashboard management dashboard Report Selection overview compliance overview Point Analysis Table > reports single determinant | determinant set The point analysis table provides a detailed water quality analysis for a selected sampling point vs. the applicable water quality standards. A single determinant or a pre-defined determin official monthly reports analysis advanced data analysis set can be selected and analysed for any single sample point Point Analysis Graph data entry add new sample analysis data single determinant. The point analysis graph provides a graphical water quality analysis for a selected sampling point and determinant vs. the applicable water quality standards. import data import sample points Median Value Graph single determinant. The median value graph shows the median value of a particular determinant in an area vs. the applicable water quality standards. data download download exported data single determinant. The mean value graph shows the mean value of a particular determinant in an area vs. the applicable water quality standards Compliance Table The compliance table analyses the percentage compliance in an area vs. the applicable water quality standards. This can either be done for a single determinant or for multiple determin (full SANS 241 list). Failure Table The failure table highlights failures in an area vs. the applicable water quality standards. Failure Graph single determinant The failure graph shows the percentage failure of a particular determinant in an area vs. the applicable water quality standards. Statistics Table statistics table for multiple determinants The statistics table shows statistical values (Min, Max, Median, Mean, etc) for an Area and Determinant Group.

Figure 9: eWQMS Analysis (tables and graphs)

	June 2008		July 2008		August 2008		September 2008	
Area	Samples Complied	% Compliance	Samples Complied	% Compliance	Samples Complied	% Compliance S	Samples Compli	ed % Compliand
Drakenstein Municipality	5/9	55.6%	5/10	50.0%	3/7	42.9%	5/6	83.3%
Gouda	0/2	0.0%	0/2	0.0%	0/2	0.0%	0/1	0.0%
Paarl	4/4	100.0%	3/5	60.0%	1/3	33.3%	4/4	100.0%
Saron	171	100.0%	0/0	-	0/0	-	0/0	8
Wellington	0/2	0.0%	2/3	66.7%	2/2	100.0%	171	100.0%

Complying samples indicates the number of samples complying with DWAF Gen. Auth. - Wastewater General Limit vs. the total number of samples collected in an area.
 The percentage compliance displayed is the percentage of all samples collected in the area falling within DWAF Gen. Auth. - Wastewater General Limit limits.

Figure 10: Compliance table example (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)

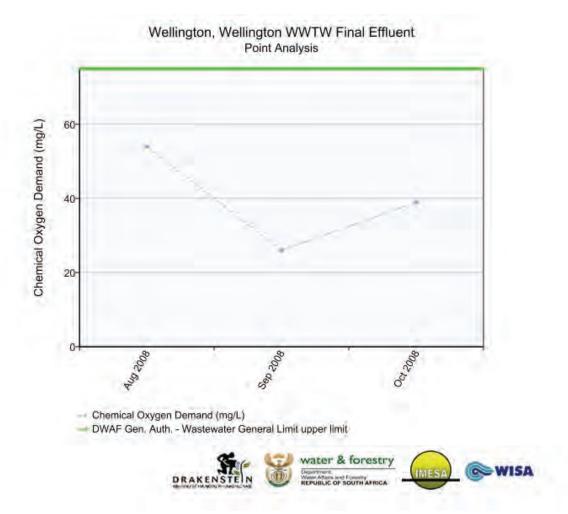


Figure 11: Point analysis graph example (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)



Figure 12: Percentage failure graph example (Breede Valley, Western Cape)

Reports (archive of water quality management reports in Adobe Acrobat format).

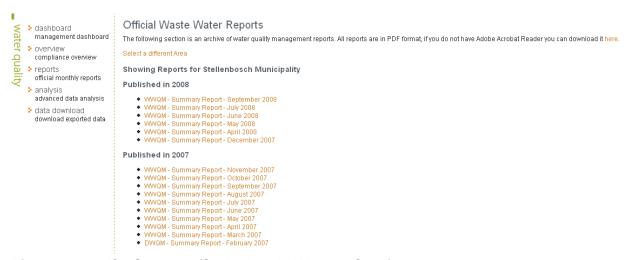


Figure 13: eWQMS reports (Stellenbosch, Western Cape)

**Data Entry** – mostly via internet and/or Excel, but patches exist and can be developed for to link to existing systems such as LIMS/UNIX/etc. for specific clients)

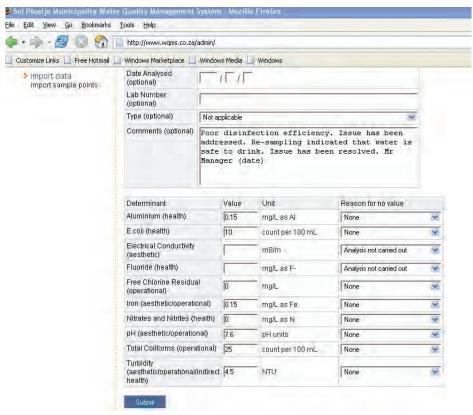
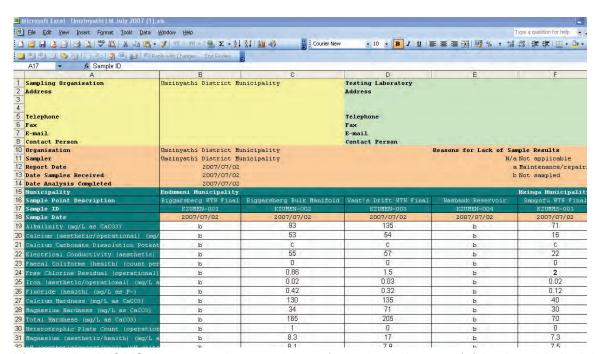


Figure 14: eWQMS data entry via the internet (Sol Plaatje, Northern Cape)



**Figure 15:** eWQMS data entry via spreadsheet (submitted via e-mail) (Umzinyathi Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal)

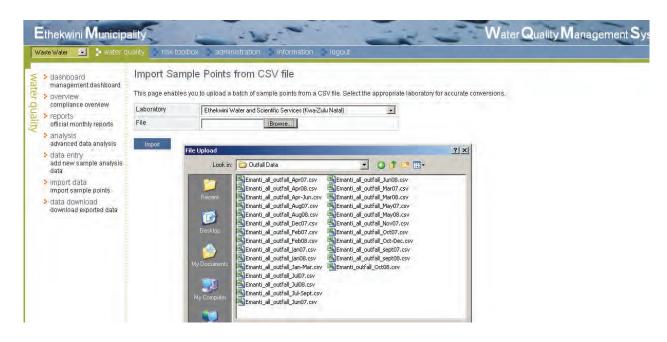


Figure 16: eWQMS data loading via import script/patch (Ethekwini Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal)

**Automation** (auto-notification by e-mail of failures, generation of auto-reports and summary reports for feedback to the full range of participating parties)

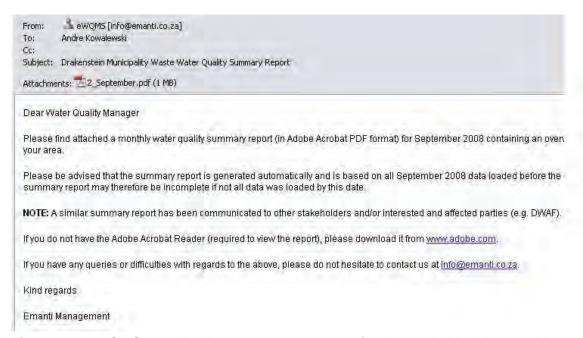
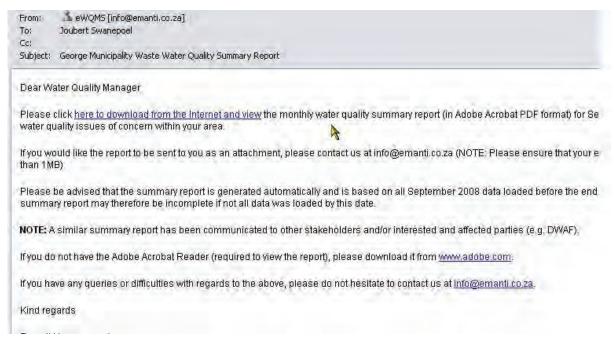


Figure 17: eWQMS e-mail with report as attachment (Drakenstein Municipality, Western Cape)



**Figure 18:** eWQMS e-mail with report accessible via internet link (George Municipality, Western Cape)

## 3. Waste Water Quality Overview

## 3.1. Management Dashboard

Sites are categorized as follows:

- . Green (Acceptable): All parameters monitored satisfy at least DWAF General Authorisation General Limits
- Yellow: One or more parameters physico-chemical parameters (excluding faecal coliforms and COD) monitored do not satisfy DWAF General Authorisation General Limits
- · Red: Faecal coliforms and/or COD do not satisfy DWAF General Authorisation General Limits

The following results are presented for August 2007:

Acceptable (Green):	1 sites or 3% of monitored sample points
Needs Attention (Yellow):	14 sites or 48% of monitored sample points
Needs Urgent Intervention (Red):	14 sites or 48% of monitored sample points

Detailed information related to the above table can be accessed via the Management Dashboard of your website. The following table presents details of those sites which were classified as being Red (i.e. failing DWAF General Authorisation General Limits).

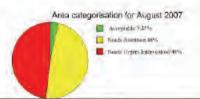


Figure 19: Extract from an automatic monthly summary report

## 3.5 Infrastructure

Captures WSA infrastructure details related to pump stations, treatment systems, reticulation (e.g. pipelines), Final effluent Quality Programmes (frequency of monitoring, parameters, etc.) and laboratories utilised. The treatment section under infrastructure has to be filled before filling in the waste stabilisation ponds questionnaire.

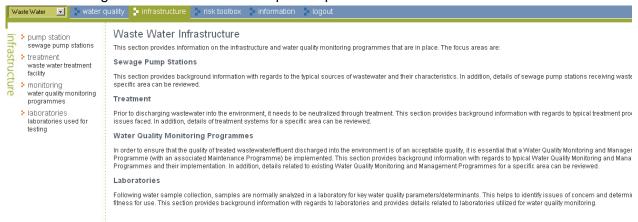


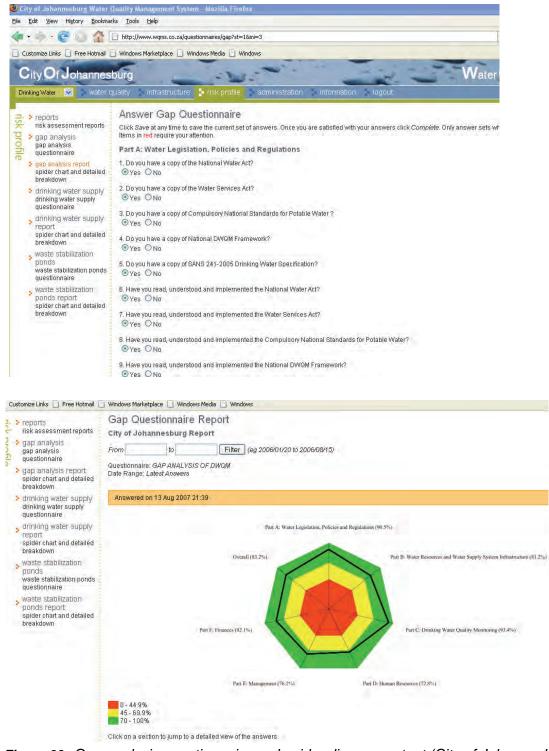
Figure 20: eWQMS Infrastructure component



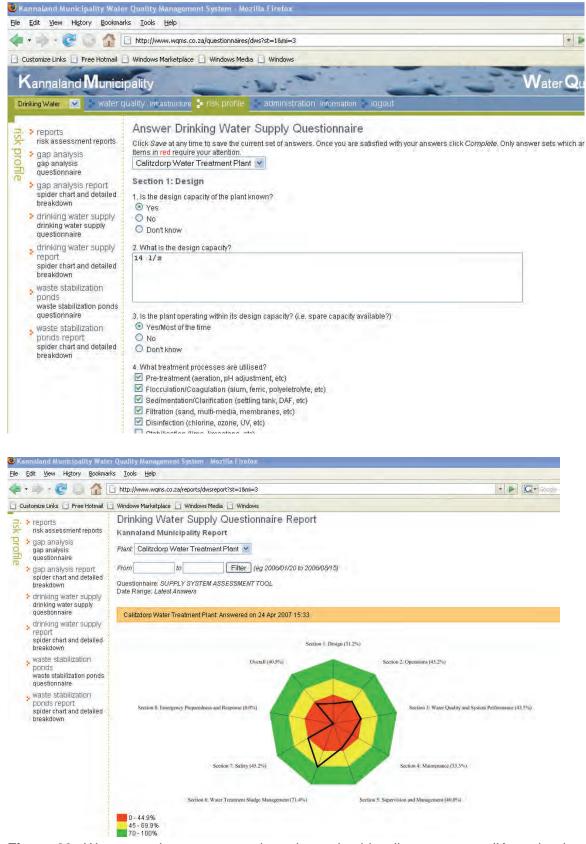
**Figure 21:** Example of wastewater treatment works details on the eWQMS (Stellenbosch Municipality, Western Cape)

## 3.6 Risk Toolbox

Assessment tools have been introduced which allow WSAs to perform a self-assessment of the status of their WSA. Examples include a strategic level WQM Sustainability Analysis (Gap Analysis) and a Water Research Commission "Drinking-Water Treatment Plant and Distribution Network Assessment and Risk Profile" system. **The waste stabilisation ponds tool has been included within this section.** 



**Figure 22:** Gap analysis questionnaire and spider diagram output (City of Johannesburg, Gauteng)



**Figure 23:** Water supply system questionnaire and spider diagram output (Kannaland Municipality, Western Cape)

## 3.7 Administration

Current WSA functionality includes the ability to manage sample points (add new/edit existing), manage recipients/distribution lists for automated communications, manage required automatic notifications (e-mail, summary report), data entry (water quality, infrastructure, etc.) and ability to add comments related to drinking-water failures and actions taken to address issues of concern (i.e. comments serve as an action record taken to address issues of concern).

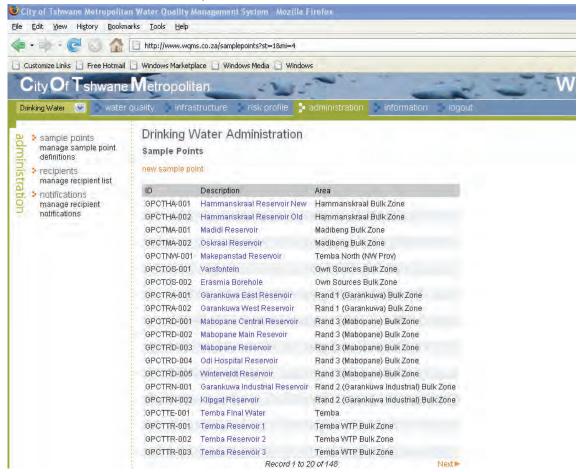
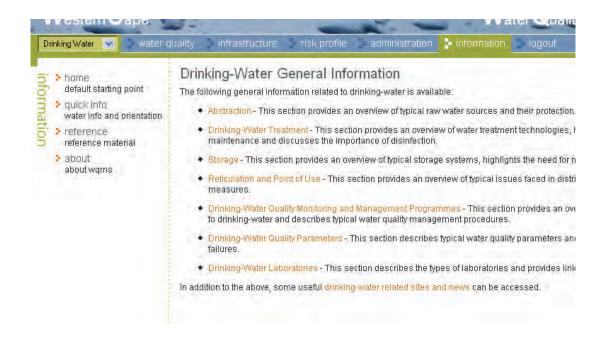


Figure 24: Sample point administration (City of Tshwane, Gauteng)

## 3.8 Guiding Information

Current functionality includes a convenient repository of drinking-water related information including: abstraction, treatment, storage, reticulation and point of use, Water Quality Monitoring and Management Programmes, water quality parameters, their effects and how to rectify issues, laboratories, water related sites and news and References including National Water Act, Water Services Act, Compulsory National Standards for DWQ, National DWQM Framework, etc.



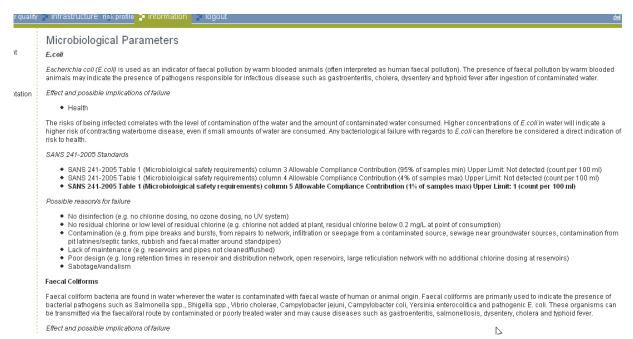


Figure 25: Information examples

## 4. Step-by-Step Guide of How to Use the Wastewater Pond System Assessment Tool

A waste stabilisation ponds system description may be filled in under infrastructure as explained in section 3.5. This information would assist in understanding issues including:

- The location of the waste stabilisation ponds system
- The layout of the system in terms of number of ponds, the shape and flow regime
- Class of the system and staff qualifications

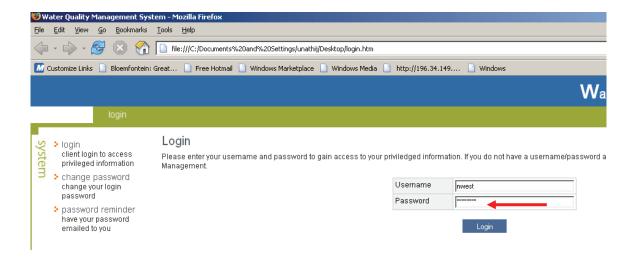
Detailed information could then be provided by filling in questions the system assessment. (Please see arrows for guidance)

## Step 1: Accessing the eWQMS

Make sure you are connected to the internet. Go to <a href="www.wqms.co.za">www.wqms.co.za</a>. The following screen prompting a username and password should appear.



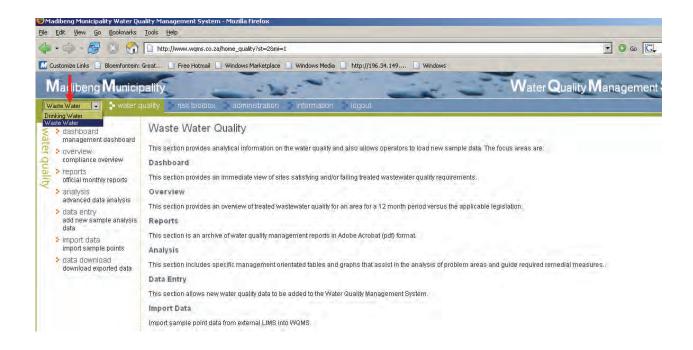
Fill in your username and password as required. If you don't know the username and password please contact your Municipal Technical Director or Manager for those details. Alternatively contact <a href="mailto:info@emanti.co.za">info@emanti.co.za</a> and request login details.



Once logged in; the name of your municipality or logged client appears on top with all the features of the eWQMS.

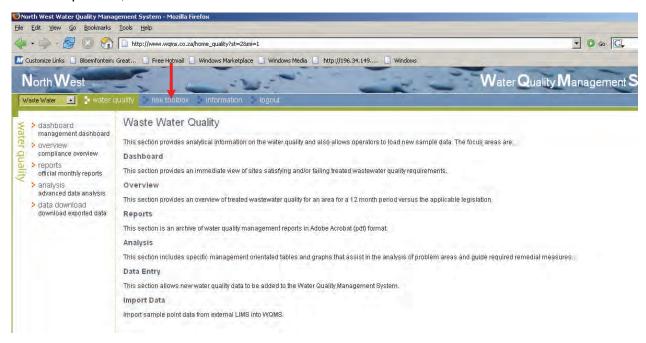


Access wastewater component by using the drop down menu on the left hand side of the screen as shown in the figure below.

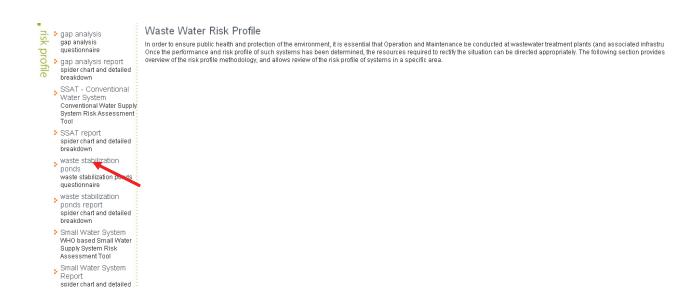


## Step 2: Accessing the Wastewater Pond System Questionnaire

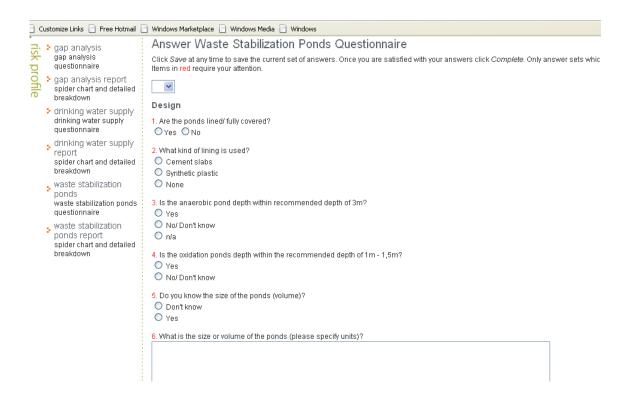
On the top menu, click risk toolbox as indicated below.



The screen shown below should appear. On the left hand side of the screen click wastewater stabilisation ponds questionnaire.



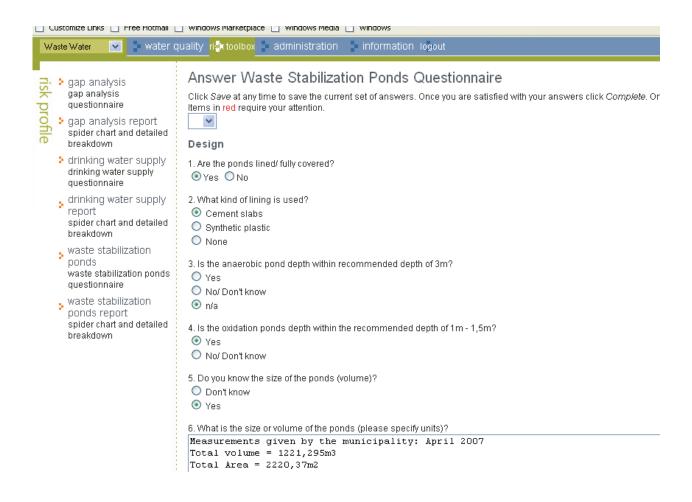
A screen showing the questions should appear as shown below.



## Step 3: Loading information for the Wastewater Pond System Assessment Tool

**NOTE:** Before the questionnaire can be completed, a site visit of the wastewater pond facility is required. It is advisable that a copy of the questionnaire be printed out prior to the site visit. This can then be pre-completed during the site visit for population once back at the office.

Once you have all the information, fill in the questionnaire by clicking on the possible provided answers as shown in the example below. Answer all questions. (*NOTE:* If an answer is not known, please indicate "don't know". To receive an output, all questions MUST be filled in.)

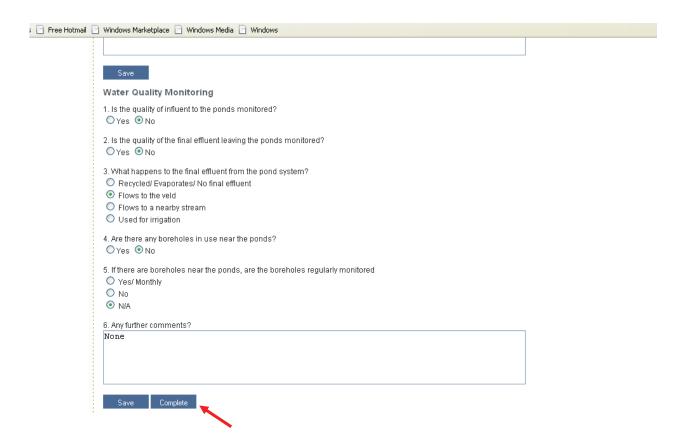


Complete each section and then click the "save" button at the end of each section. **NOTE:** The "save" button can be clicked at any stage, for example, after completing only 2 or 3 questions. It is recommended that the save button is clicked at least every 10 minutes, and more frequently if you are in an area with variable internet connection speed/poor connectivity.

Free Hotmail Windows Marketplace Windows Media Windows
Mostly Middle
Mostly Upper
10. Is there a flow meter at the inlet?
O Yes ⊙ No
11. Is the flow meter at the inlet functional?
O Yes ● No
12. Is there space available for future upgrades/expansion?
● Yes O No
13. Are there any fluctuations in input load (e.g. seasonal variations)?
● Yes O No
14. Are the fluctiations frequent?
O Seasonal
O None
O N/A
15. Any further comments?
None
Save
Maintenance
4. Do the needs leak well maintained /areas out corresponder removed, needs not blooked/accetlemina/9

**Step 4: Completing the Wastewater Pond System Assessment Questionnaire** 

Once you have completed all sections click the complete button at the end of the questionnaire.



If there are questions that are not filled in or incorrectly filled in, an error message will appear.

## Answer Waste Stabilization Ponds Questionnaire

Click Save at any time to save the current set of answers. Once you are satisfied with your answers click Complete. Only answer sets which are Items in red require your attention.

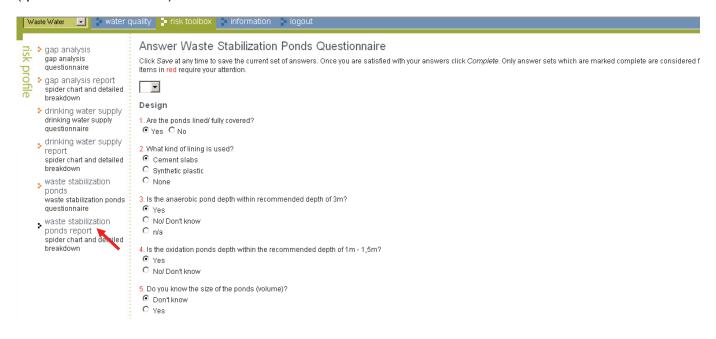
- Please select Yes / No for Is the quality of influent to the ponds monitored?
- Please select an option for Is the pond system appropriately sized for this population?
- · Please select an option for Are the fluctiations frequent?
- Please select Yes / No for Have there been any cases of vandalism (e.g. fence stealing)?
- Please select Yes / No for Is the quality of the final effluent leaving the ponds monitored?
- Please select an option for What happens to the final effluent from the pond system?
- Please select Yes / No for Is a checklist/logbook regularly completed or updated?
- Please select an option for Is dilution water available for nightsoil dumping?
- Please select an option for Are screenings regularly removed?
- Please select an option for Are the screenings discarded appropriately?
- Please select an option for Is there population growth in the area?
- Please select an option for How far are the ponds located from community dwellings?
- · Please select Yes / No for Do the ponds look well maintained (grass cut, screenings removed, ponds not blocked/overflowing)
- Please select Yes / No for Is there a responsible person assigned to cut grass/weeds around the ponds
- Please select Yes / No for Are there any fluctuations in input load (e.g. seasonal variations)?
- Please select an option for Is the population served low/middle or upper class?

If you have successfully completed the questionnaire, then you are able to view the Wastewater Pond System Assessment Tool report.

## Step 5: Accessing the Wastewater Pond System Assessment Tool report

Once you have successfully completed the questionnaire, access the report by clicking on the available link.

The report should automatically generate with a "spider-diagram" and associated supporting text (questionnaire answers).

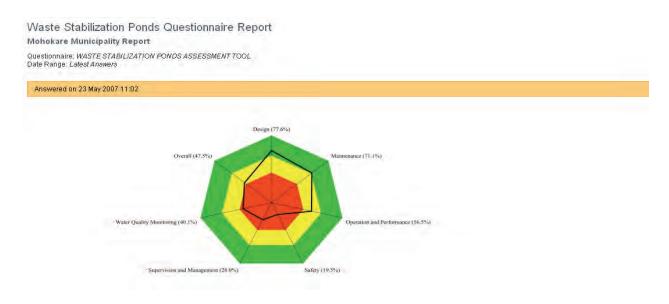




To generate a print friendly version of the report, click on the printer icon in the top right hand corner.



A print friendly reports looks is shown below.



If you have any difficulty with the above please contact the eWQMS team at info@emanti.co.za

## **Future updates**

It is advised that the infrastructure be updated prior to completion of the questionnaire. The infrastructure component is being upgraded at the moment therefore the date of publication of this document need to be noted. Structural change on the eWQMS should be expected.

## Reference

www.wqms.co.za