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## APPLICATION OF SWAT TO WATER QUALITY MODELLING IN THE RIETSPRUIT BASIN OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Rietspruit sub-basin

- Located in the Upper part of the Vaal basin of South Africa
- Occupies approximately 1120 km<sup>2</sup>
- The Upper Vaal WMA is important as it contributes about 20% towards South Africa's GDP
- Pollution from mining activities and wastewater plants
- Rietspruit flows into Vaal River where it exerts chemical and microbial stresses













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#### AIM OF THE RESEARCH

To develop catchment management tools that will support restoration of the Vaal basin to good Health, one sub-basin at a time



## Vaal River pollution load impacts water quality in the Orange River







#### **RIETSPRUIT SUB-BASIN IS STRATEGIC TO SOUTH AFRICA'S GROWTH**





- Vaal Dam has good quality water
- Vaal Barrage is polluted
- Downstream stakeholders eg. potable water treatment plants use polluted water



#### **Rietspruit sub-basin's water quality points of interest**



B. Dzwairo and F.A.O Otieno. 2014. Chemical pollution assessment and prioritisation model for the Upper and Middle Vaal water management areas of South Africa. *Journal of Water and Health.* Accepted for publication. (USED NINE PARAMETERS INCLUDING N AND P)



Therefore SWAT is being used to model the sub-basin processes in order to understand the basin processes specifically NUTRIENTS LOAD (water quality) and the WATER BALANCE

These processes have a major impact on sustainability of the water resource and the environment

## **Data Sources**

- Flow, weather and water quality data ranges from 2005 to 2010.
- It is split for calibration (2005 to 2007) and validation (2008 to 2010).
- Sources were the global weather data website and SA's DWA
- SOTERSAF and SA's DAFF soil data were used to construct user soil data for the study area
- 2009 landuse map from the DWA
- LibreOffice 4.1 was used to format, edit and/or save dbf files
- ArcGIS 10 and ArcSWAT 2012





#### DEM

## **SRTM 90**



#### Elevation 1842 – 1388 m



Superimposed shape file shows that there is no defined outlet at the basin outlet



#### **NO OUTLET**



#### **NEW OUTLET ADDED**



#### **DELINEATED WATERSHED**



#### REACHES





#### **MANUALLY ADDED OUTLET**



## 73 sub-basins and 164 reaches created







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# The research is in its initial stages and is on-going

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- CV Raman Visiting Fellowship for 2013 to IIT-Bombay, India, Civil Engineering Department
- Global Weather Data

http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org/SELECTION/inputCoord.aspp





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# NDINOTENDA NGIYABONGA I THANK YOU