

## 12. Proposals for future research

It is quite clear that there is a need for further research into the removal of urban litter from stormwater conduits and streams - in particular into:

- the source, type and amount of urban litter coming from different types of urban catchments (which is linked to land use and the level of environmental awareness). This knowledge will assist the appropriate allocation of resources for litter removal;
- the efficacy of various catchment management techniques in the reduction of urban litter reaching the drainage systems. Such knowledge would enable local authorities to develop sustainable integrated catchment management techniques that will, inter alia, drastically reduce the urban litter pollution in streams whilst realising considerable cost savings;
- the optimisation of declined screens, as these screens currently show the greatest potential as self-cleaning litter trapping devices; and
- new trapping structures.

In addition to the above, research is required into the control and removal of other pollutants from stormwater conduits and streams (see Section 1.2), in particular:

- heavy metals (often bound up in the sediments washing off urban catchments);
- excessive nutrient loads; and
- pathogenic organisms.