

IMVULA IYEZA

Western Cape Newsletter Spring 2007

Berg Water Project Impoundment

Reconciliation Study

Raising of the Clanwilliam Dam

WC Water Sector Plan



THE RAIN IS COMING • DIE REEN KOM



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs & Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Editor's NOTE

Welcome to the all-new *Imvula Iyeza/Die Reen Kom*. We trust that you will find this issue informative and interesting to read. It has become another platform from which the Department speaks to you, as our stakeholders in the water and forestry business.

The constitution of our country, South Africa, emphasizes the access of basic services as a fundamental human right, and the policies of the Department follow this lead. Coupled with this mandate to redress the imbalances of the past and unlock basic services to all, comes the responsibility to liaise with and consult various communities about Government's processes and programmes. This is what we call Public Participation.

In this issue we look at various platforms used to reach stakeholders and communities in order to allow their voices to be heard in the management of water and forestry matters.

The biggest news this season is the tie-in and the impoundment of the Berg River Water Project in Franschhoek. The event was graced by senior dignitaries in the water sector: the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Lindiwe Hendricks, the DG, Jabu Sindane, the DDG Infrastructure, Dr Cornelius Ruiters and the Acting Chief Director Communications, Hilgard Matthews. MC for the day was the Acting Chief Director, Rashid Khan, who is also the pioneer of the Project. The project implementors, the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), were represented by their Chairman, Malixole Gantsho, CEO Martie van Rensberg, Communications Boss Thandi Mapukata and her team. The City of Cape Town's Executive Director, Bulumko Msengana, was backed by his Water Services management team, among others Lethlogonolo Mathloli, Paul Rhode, Zolile Basholo and Farouk Roberts. Senior engineers and project managers also attended the media event held recently in Franschhoek. The Working for Water Regional team were also present, led by Aadiela Moerat, who is also head of this programme in the Western Cape.

Also worth noting this season are preparations for the Arbor Week campaign, which will run from 1 to 7 September 2007. The Regional event will be held in Heideveld and you are all welcome to attend. For further information on Arbor Week and life-changing stories in the forestry sector, read the Arbor Week story.

Enjoy this issue!

Nandi Mgwadlamba



Internal DWAF employees site visit to the Berg Water Project in Franschhoek

Acting Chief Director's MESSAGE

It is surprising just how quickly the year has gone by. As I was sitting in front as MC for the Berg Water Project Impoundment event, looking at partners TCTA, City of Cape Town, and other structures contributing to the BWP and the Western Cape Supply System, I felt pride and gratitude. The BWP is right on time and has already been connected to the Western Cape Water Supply System. This December, it will officially supply water to Cape Town.

As our partners, you might also be aware of other projects in the Region, and we are delighted to always count on your partnership in water matters – whether resources or services. Also worthy of mention is the Provincial backlog study we conducted with the Department of Local Government and Housing earlier this year. We can safely say that we are working towards meeting the 2007 sanitation deadline for formal areas. My team tells me we have already met the schools and clinics targets and are working very closely with municipalities who are nervous about the formal targets.

Relationships forged among us as partners have enabled and fostered solid progress in the Region, and this is evident in the formation of institutions to assist the Department to manage the water business. We have listened and heard and passed your concerns, through our National Colleagues for their advice, to the powers that be.

Thus while the Department is reviewing its institutions, I am encouraged that your voice helped us to shape the CMA guidelines, and we have come as far as nearly appointing the Board of Directors for the Breede-Overberg CMA. The other ones (Berg, Olifants/Doom and Gouritz) have come as far as establishing advisory committees for their water management areas. We encourage you to keep participating in water and forestry-related studies and public consultation and participation sessions.

As we wrap up this season with a good dose of rains that have allowed the dams to rise to their all-time high, we also empathize with the flood victims, and thus become part of the JOC meetings to assist with a relief fund for disaster areas.

We request you again to get involved in the management of water and have your say, and call upon my managers for any assistance in the Western Cape. Just to ensure that you do get assistance when you call, the One-Stop Shop Call Centre facility has been developed, and I encourage you to dial our departmental toll-free number for further enquiries – **0800-200-200**.

Until next time!

Rashid Khan

Acting: Chief Director, Western Cape.

FACTS ABOUT IMVULA IYEZA

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DG MEETS VREDENDAL THE DEPARTMENT REVIEWS BRAINCHILD

The constitution of our country, South Africa, emphasizes the access of basic services as a fundamental human right, and the policies of the Department follow this lead. Coupled with this mandate to redress the imbalances of the past and unlock basic services to all, comes the responsibility to liaise with and consult various communities about Government's processes and programmes. This is what we call public participation.



From left to right: Silas Mbedzi, Chief Director, Institutions; the DG Jabu Sindane and Acting Regional head, Rashid Khan, walking to meet employees of the Department in Vredendal

In developing policies, laws and strategies, the Department constantly liaises with stakeholders and their communities – government departments (national, provincial and local), business and industry, civil society, academia, specialized institutions, community organizations and others.

We look at five big projects where public participation has paid off, not only in the initiation phase, but also the maintenance and sustainability phases. Whether the Department's initiatives have been reaching the poor, the previously disadvantaged and designated groups is a pertinent question.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is reviewing its institutions. With the transformation of former irrigation boards to Water User Associations (WUAs) under the National Water Act (1998), WUAs became agencies of Government. The Act aims to ensure that water is accessible to all, is sustainable and is effectively and efficiently used.

At the heart of establishing Water User Associations (WUAs) was the need to transform the water business and encourage active

participation in water-related matters by other organs of state, communities, businesses and institutions, emerging farmers and other partners. The object was to provide a platform for previously disadvantaged communities to have a voice in the management and running of the water business, within demarcated water management areas.

"The Department has to ask itself if the process is fair, consultative and reaching the goals of Government," said DG Jabu Sindane on a recent visit to one of the Western Cape's established WUAs, the Lower Olifants River Water User Association (LORWUA), which operates and maintains the Department's schemes in Vredendal.

Several role players who advise the Minister on the direction of WUAs have commissioned investigations into the management of these agencies. Silas Mbedzi, who heads up institutions of the Department nationally, also formed part of the DG's delegation. Mbedzi says that he is concerned about the transformation mandate lagging behind, and urged that more capacity building needs to be done. The DG was also accompanied by Mbedzi's Regional colleague Willie Enright, Maki Mofokeng, CD: HR, Shoeshoe Mopeli, Regional Corporate Service Boss, Keneiloe Ntshingane, labour specialist Ruth Thalagale and financial specialist Gavin Leak.

The transfer of Vredendal personnel to LORWUA has posed challenges for one of the Department's established Regions, the Western Cape. This Region boasts a good record of institutional development, with emphasis on stakeholder involvement and capacity building. The involvement of these stakeholders is seen as a cornerstone of democratization of water management in our country. Some 30 WUAs have already been established, as have three Catchment Management Agencies, and the process of appointment of the governing boards is progressing well.

LORWUA is a good example of the competence and skill that WUAs can bring to the water sector, in terms of technical and economic know-how, but the transformation mandate and people skills are just as important. We look at a case where key indicators were laid down prior to licensing the WUA. The Hex Valley WUA recently licensed the construction of a new dam to benefit users, resource-poor farmers among them. >>



Labour specialist Ruth Thalakgale and worker in Vredendal

LICENSING OF A WATER USER ASSOCIATION AND DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT (DE DOORNS CASE STUDY, MARCH 2007)

While the establishment of institutions to manage the water business is primarily to ensure that the public is given a voice in the management of services, it is currently under scrutiny. The process is rolling out slowly, with minor hiccups, but relevant questions around the public consultation process are raised. Who are we reaching with the message and mandate of Government? Where are they situated? Is the process fair? Is it inclusive, considering matters of equity, language preference etc? While the Catchment Management Agency (CMA) process claims to have included as many people, organizations and partners as possible, we revisit the De Doorns WUA case study to illustrate the effectiveness of public and stakeholder consultation in the water sector.

Consultation means holding discussions and talks, while participation implies going a step further. Public participation gives the public the opportunity to actually have a say and give their input into the process.

Departmental Generic Guidelines (September 2001) on the processes of both consultation and participation state that the public must be involved in the following phases:

- Plenary: analysing the decision, planning and implementing the plan
- Participation (interactive phase): meeting, informing, feedback, reporting
- Exit: Ensuring that all set goals in the abovementioned phases are reached, and that the participation process is brought to an end.

Although guidelines simply provide users with a usable format, they can also be used as a point of reference, as with the establishment of institutions.

HEX VALLEY WATER USER ASSOCIATION

In efforts to address the imbalances of the past, specifically where water and economically related matters are concerned, the Department has been transforming former Irrigation Boards to Water User Associations (WUAs). WUAs comprise a group of water users in an area abstracting or using water directly from a resource such as a river or dam. These associations have become the most practical method for the Department to ensure inclusiveness, representivity and democratization of water.

Unlike Irrigation Boards, WUAs are largely made up of people from all races, creeds and sectors. In the past, municipalities could choose to become members of an Irrigation Board, but today, with the establishment of WUAs as agencies of Government, local authorities are compelled to share water with other users and belong to a WUA.

Critical prerequisites for a WUA include the following:

- How many historically disadvantaged communities (HDIs) are represented in that Association?
- Will access promote Broad-Based Economic Empowerment (BBBEE)?
- Is the allocation of water to each user within the group fair? Is usage in the public interest?
- Does or will usage create a balance between economic development and the protection of our resources?

These associations also have a say in municipal management tools for infrastructure and growth, such as the Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Water Services Development Plans (WSDPs), which are crucial in ensuring that people in the area have adequate water supply and sanitation facilities.

The Department is currently reviewing the mechanisms and procedures used in establishing its agencies but the Western Cape Region, through the transformation of various Irrigation Boards to WUAs (such as the most recent case in De Doorns with the Hex Valley WUA), has allocated water for various resource-poor farmers.



Acting Regional Head Rashied Khan, MEC for Agriculture, Cobus Dowry and The Hex Valley Water User Association Chairperson Bernard Joubert

THE RECONCILIATION STUDY

Never has the drive to raise awareness of water issues been more proactive. The Department frequently calls members of the public to warn them on various matters, and vehicles such as the media, public libraries and information centres are also utilized, as well as channels through existing partners – all geared towards public buy-in to the Reconciliation Study.

Senior engineers of the Department of Water Affairs, both at a national and regional level, have warned that the current water supply initiatives in the Western Cape, including the nearly-completed Berg Water Project (BWP), will be unable to meet projected urban and agricultural demands beyond 2012. This highlights the need to develop strategies to reconcile long-term water demands with the available water supply sources for the Western Cape. A comprehensive study will therefore focus on all aspects involved in making an informed decision, taking into account the technical, environmental and socio-economic realities of the Western Cape.

Overberg and Berg CMA processes (the public was also afforded an opportunity to comment on a summarized strategy).

STEP 4 (November 2006 – July 2007) – obtain more public comment through public meetings.

STEPS 5, 6 AND 7 entail further studies, pilot projects and the initiation of intervention studies.

Some suggested water supply interventions for the year 2007 include conducting updated feasibility studies of:

- the Voelvlei dam
- the Mitchells Pass Diversion

The study hopes to engage the public and inform them of their local water resources and suggest ways to ensure the supply of water meets the need.

THE STUDY SET OUT TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Engage the public and inform them of their local water resources;
- Suggest mechanisms to ensure that the supply of water will never be outpaced by the growing demand for water;
- Advise on action to be taken, assign responsibilities and action.

- the Newlands Aquifer
- the Cape Flats Aquifer
- the West Coast Aquifer
- the Upper Wit River Diversion
- the raising of the Steenbras Lower Dam
- the Lourens River Dam
- Upper Molenaars Diversion, the issue of effluent treatment and the need to develop policy.

THE PUBLIC WAS CONSULTED DURING:

- STEP 1** (May – June 2005) – to introduce the study.
- STEP 2** (October – November 2005) – to provide feedback on interventions suggested.
- STEP 3** (December 2005 – October 2006) – taking into account public comment from the establishment process of the Breede-

The Department is partnering with the Department of Agriculture, the City of Cape Town and Ninham Shand for this initiative. For details on the study, consult Bertrand van Zyl (Berg Water Area Manager), on (021) 950-7100 or email VZylB@dwaf.gov.za.

BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING

3/4 Full Dams; Authorities Still Urge Public to Use Water Sparingly

The Berg River Dam, as part of the Berg Water Project (BWP), is now nearing completion and will be linked to the Regional Water Supply System. The linking of the Berg Water Project and the Theewaterskloof Dam will allow water to flow from the BWP to the dam via a tunnel system.

Although the dam levels are at 72,8% full, boosted by recent winter rains, the Department still urges the public to use water wisely, in view of the fact that the distribution of bulk water from the Department to its suppliers (municipalities supplied with water from the system) will be limited.

Combining the two storage dams will increase the total yield and the reliable volume of water from the dams. It is now necessary to link the pump station and pipeline from the Berg River Dam with the existing tunnel system from Theewaterskloof Dam. In order to do this, the tunnel will be shut down from 12 – 28 July 2007.

The building of the Berg Water Project was a precautionary measure, taken when the demand from the growing population of Cape Town and neighbouring municipalities was outpacing the supply from the system. As a strategy to consider viable options of water supply, the Department conducted a Reconciliation Study to review technical, economic and socio-political aspects of supplying water to needy towns. Water conservation and demand management will be an integral part of this strategy, to ensure that water is wisely and efficiently used and water resources are well managed and protected.

During this period, water will be supplied to the City of Cape Town from the other dams in the system. This will place a constraint on available water, in view of the fact that Theewaterskloof supplies 40% of water to the Western Cape Water Supply System.

Existing users of the Western Cape Water Supply System include the municipalities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Paarl, Wellington, and they extend to towns on the West Coast, in the Swartland areas and the Riviersonderend catchment areas. Other dependents on the system are irrigators along the Berg, Riviersonderend and Eerste Rivers.

The Western Cape Water Supply System includes the Theewaterskloof, the Steenbras Upper, Steenbras Lower, the Voelvllei and Wemmershoek dams as well as the Palmiet pump storage scheme.

Status of the Berg River Dam

The overall completion status of the Berg River Dam is at 90%.

The Berg River Dam is a concrete-face rock-fill dam. The concrete face of the embankment (dam wall) acts as the impermeable surface, while the rock-fill supports the face slab against the pressure of the water. The embankment (62m high, 990m long) is 99% complete.

The downstream side of the embankment has been revegetated with indigenous plants to limit the visual and environmental impact of the structure.

Water will be drawn out of the reservoir through the intake tower, which has openings at four levels, to provide the dam operators with the flexibility to choose water of appropriate quality at different depths in the reservoir. The concrete structure of the intake tower is 99% complete, while 80% of the mechanical and electrical components have been installed.

Should the dam reach full capacity, excess water will be diverted via the spillway on the left bank into a plunge pool in the Berg River. Construction on the 220m spillway is 90% complete.

ON TIME, AND ON BUDGET, A FOUR-YEAR WALK

reports Philemon Mahlangu of the TCTA, Franschhoek

Construction on the Berg Water Project is progressing according to plan and is on schedule to start delivering water to the City of Cape Town at the end of 2007.

The Berg River will be impounded by restricting the flow of the river through the diversion conduit so that water collects in the reservoir. Sufficient water will be released to maintain the minimum required flow rate of the Berg River.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The BWP, implemented by the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), consists of the construction of the:

- Berg River Dam in the upper reaches of the Berg River
- Supplement Scheme, 10km downstream of the Berg River Dam
- installation of pipelines through which water will be pumped from the Supplement Scheme to the Berg River Dam and from the dam into the existing Riviersonderend tunnel system.



THE RAISING OF THE **CLANWILLIAM DAM** AND EFFECTS ON HERITAGE

Another study making breaking news in this part of the country is the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall and the consultation and participation process involving Khoisan clans whose heritage is tied in with the very wall to be raised.



“We followed the standard EIA process and Heritage Impact Assessment process, including advertising in the press at regional and local level and holding three public meetings in the area,” says Karen Shippey of Ninham Shand, the company employed by the Department to do feasibility studies for the raising of the dam. “No Khoisan organizations or groupings have come forward to comment on the process nor raised any concerns in our public process, which was co-ordinated by Nosipho Consulting.”

The Department is compiling a study to raise the wall of the Clanwilliam Dam. Investigations are still under way, but a comprehensive report will be made available

to the public. Capital costs for this project are currently at R270 million, and the study includes a Technical, Economic and Financial analysis, as well as an Environmental Assessment Investigation.

The dam wall will be raised to accommodate a growing need and demand to upgrade the structure to comply with modern standards pertaining to maintenance and operations. “We are hoping that runoff from the catchment will be enough to fill the increased storage capacity, which is currently under 123 million cubic meters,” said Water Affairs Regional Director Rashid Khan.

The existing yield of the dam is currently under pressure, and completion of the

dam will provide more water. It is hoped that additional water supply from the Clanwilliam dam can go to resource-poor farmers and/or commercial small farmers.

Also under investigation, and forming part of the study, is the concern around the height of the wall to be raised. The study is exploring the viability of heights of 5, 10 and 15 metres. This decision is heavily dependent on existing infrastructure such as roads which will be affected.

Current beneficiaries of the dam include downstream users located around the dam (Clanwilliam, Klawer, Vredendal and others), as well as WUAs such as the Lower Olifants Doorn Water User Association (LORWUA).

CAMP

AIGNS

Our campaigns have enabled us to reach out to you as far as we possibly can through roadshows, exhibitions, door-to-doors, public meetings and media exposure, and we are slowly getting the required response. We are partnering with organizations and local spheres of Government more than ever. All campaigns are driven by a steering committee comprised of all regional stakeholders, and the net is thrown as widely as possible.

WATER WEEK 2007



School Choir organized by Municipal key front-runner for main Water Week Event 2007, Mrs. Elcharin Rossouw



The Swimming SA stand at the 2007 Water Week Exhibition



Executive Mayor of Cape Winelands DM, Clarence Johnson, in the background, MC for the day, Willie Enright from Water Affairs



De Doorns Community members



Representing the Breede Valley Mayor



Breede Water Area Manager: John Roberts

SANITATION 2007



DWA Stand in Moresburg, Sanitation Week Exhibition for 4 days



Drakenstein Municipal Stand



Communities attending exhibitions on Days 2 and 3 of Sanitation Week



Exhibitors



City of Cape Town Team



More communities



Learners were accommodated on the last day (Day 4) of Sanitation Week, seen here mesmerized by Hip Hop Artist Menzi



Launching Sanitation Week, speakers from left to right: Hennie du Plessis (Provincial MIG), Mervyn Doralingo (SALGA), Simphiwe Mashicila (Water Services, DWA), Bonzet (Provincial DoH)

DRINKING WATER

Report on the state of the Western Cape's drinking water, by Water Services Manager Simphiwe Mashicila

The Water Services Act of 1997 specifies the responsibility of local government/municipalities or Water Services Authorities (WSAs) with regard to the quantity and quality of drinking water supply.

In addition to this Act, the Compulsory National Standards for the Quality of Drinking Water (2001) require municipalities to implement drinking water quality programmes, to ensure that the quality of water supplied is safe and not a health risk.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY SUPPORTS LOCAL AUTHORITIES BY:

- Guiding and helping them to fulfill their mandated responsibilities in complying with accepted standards (DWQM criteria).
- Providing an electronic Water Quality Management System (e-WQMS), designed to specifically ensure that the water quality results are conveyed to all responsible parties.

Sixty percent (60%) of municipalities in the Western Cape currently participate in the Drinking Water Programme, which seeks to

– including the Metro – in the later half of this year,” said Water Services Manager Simphiwe Mashicila in a report to the National Office of the Department.

The report has also outlined specific interventions needed in specific areas, including the upgrading of water treatment works, a review of the chemicals that are added in the purification process, and funding for drinking water initiatives. In some areas, the study to determine the area from which a sample can be collected has become a concern that affects the drinking water audit results. “It is important to note whether the sample is coming from municipal supply or from farms in the DM [not sure what this stands for?],” said Mashicila. He added that the Department would place appropriate people in the respective districts of the Region to ensure that this matter is addressed.

“The report has also outlined specific interventions needed in specific areas, including the upgrade of water treatment works.”

comply with the WQM criteria. From the drinking water quality audits conducted in 12 of the 30 municipalities in the Western Cape, 39 health failures were recorded during the month of May 2007. “The Region has completed Drinking Water Quality Audits in Cederberg, Swellendam, Overstrand, Prince Albert and Laingsburg, and will be visiting the other remaining municipalities

While sampling data is important, the systems to communicate this message are just as crucial. The Department is therefore working at tying the Metro data system to the electronic Water Quality system (also known as the EWQS). This will enable automated reporting and allow results, interventions and recommendations to reach all relevant users more effectively and timeously.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A national Drinking Water Quality Conference is planned for 19 – 22nd August 2007, by the DWAF, WISA (Water Institute of Southern Africa) and WRC (Water Research Commission) This gathering will look at issues relating to drinking water for four days. For further information, contact Simphiwe Mashicila or Natasha Davis on (021) 950-7100.

Stellenbosch Masibambane Launch 2007

(NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE) REPORT BY THEMBA KHUMALO, NATIONAL MEDIA LIAISON

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, in partnership with the Water Institute of Southern Africa (WISA), gathered sectoral partners at Spier in Stellenbosch in June this year, to discuss water matters. David Grey, water expert from the World Bank, gave an inspiring talk on “Water as a key to unlocking growth”, which is a highly relevant topic in line with the context of the Minister's recent budget vote.

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Mrs Lindiwe Hendricks opened and chaired this meeting, saying she “hopes that this event will demonstrate political leadership in the sector and a commitment to water for growth and development as an economic driver.”

The Minister's proposed budget of R5,3 billion includes an increased allocation of R400 million to cater for water and sanitation initiatives. This is a clear indication that the Department has recognized the duality of roles it plays – to deliver services (social mandate), but also to ensure that water resources management pushes the economic agenda.

Other discussions at Spier focused on matters pertaining to finance and investment, planning for future demand, water asset management and municipal preparedness.

CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS GEORGE

report by Johan Knoetzen

The Eergis River Construction Management (ERCM) will be constructing a 130m-high gravity dam with a storage capacity of 2 400 million m3 on the river next year. A Chinese delegation led by Mr Zhang Lide, Director General of the Bureau of the ERCM, conducted a fact-finding mission to the site of the dam. Mr Lide was supported by his Deputy Director-General, Mr Si Quan. The delegation visited the left bank non-overspill crest, the top and inside of the inlet tower, the left bank drainage tunnel, the downstream outlet house and the left bank rock anchor slope protection area where coarse aggregate was stockpiled.



Chinese delegation visits the Wolwedans Dam



Delegation enjoying a meal with Johan Knoetzen from George Water Affairs Office

THE PRESIDENT COMES TO TOWN

REPORT BY AADIELA MOERAT, WORKING FOR WATER PROGRAMME MANAGER, WESTERN CAPE



President Thabo Mbeki and the Premier of the Western Cape, Ebrahim Rasool

The Presidential imbizo in Haasvlakte, Bredasdorp, an area within the jurisdiction of the Agulhas Municipality, took place on Sunday 22 July 2007. The President was flanked by national and provincial members of Cabinet. Local politicians and beneficiaries from all sectors within the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) also attended the event.

The Working For Water Programme of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry was represented by 20 beneficiaries of the Agulhas National Park (managed by SANParks), who enjoyed a delicious breakfast and lunch and who were delighted to attend a Presidential do. The function was very competently organized.



Working for Water Programme Manager Western Cape, Aadiela Moerat (far left) & her clearing teams

The main aim of the imbizo was for beneficiaries of the EPWP to highlight positives afforded to them through the programme, and emphasize the following:

- The importance of job creation and linked training programmes, in line with the Presidential State of the Nation address and the Premier's State of the Province address.
- The integration of the EPWP into municipal programmes.
- The role of private partnerships in taking trained people from the EPWP into growth sectors within the municipality.

The event was a huge success. Look out for the Department's Weedbuster Week 2007 calendar of events, to see whether we maintain this high standard! Weedbuster is in October 2007.

The Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mrs Lindiwe Hendricks, has instructed her Department to plant a million trees. This means that approximately 110 000 trees need to be planted in the Western Cape for the Financial Year 2007/08.

Plans for this project are underway, and consultation with partners has begun. If you are keen to become part of a solution, to ensure that this poverty alleviation programme takes off, call the Department's tree distribution units:
KNYSNA Siya Kobese (044) 382-5466
BELLVILLE Masi Falitenjwa (021) 950-7292

Every year the Department chooses two types of trees (one a common tree and the other a rarer species) to create awareness of the indigenous tree types found in South Africa. This year (2007), the Department chose the common wild currant (*Rhus pyroides*), and the less common poison bride's bush (*Pavetta schumanniana*).

COMMON WILD TREE

There are approximately 250 species of *Rhus* world-wide, and some 70 of them are found in South Africa. One of these is the common wild currant. The branches of this tree are used to build kraals in rural areas. It bears sweet-acidic tasting fruits.

POISON BRIDE'S BUSH

The poison bride's bush is a small tree with very pretty flowers. It averages 3,5 metres tall but can grow to more than 7 metres in KwaZulu-Natal and Tanzania. This species is rarely found in the Western Cape, but you'll spot it in KZN, Swaziland, Mozambique, the lowveld areas of Mpumalanga and the Limpopo Province.

ARBOR WEEK EVENTS 2007

1 – 7 September 2007

- Heideveld, 6 September 2007, the Minister, the Premier and the MEC Community Safety will be hosted by a community organization, GCU, the DWAF and the City of Cape Town (Ward 44)
- Cape Winelands
- Schools Drive
- Partnering organizations events (the SA Navy, Cape Nature, Amy Biehl Foundation, Tsoga, Abalimi Bezekhaya, additional municipal events, Uniondale event, Southern Cape events)

For a detailed list of Arbor Week Events happening in your area, visit www.dwaf.gov.za or call the distribution offices mentioned above.

When civil society and Government work together, communities benefit. We look at the story of community nurseries

STORY A

We spoke to Willie Pedro of Sizamile Nursery in Sedgfield

Raised in the Knysna forest, close to the Diepwalle Forestry Station, Willie Pedro watched his father interact with nature and was fascinated with trees from a tender age. Today Pedro is a proud owner of a community nursery co-funded by various Government departments. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has learnt to rely on Pedro for his trees during Arbor Week Campaigns – especially for redistribution to community events and centres.

"I want to put back into nature what man has taken from it, because we can only exist if nature continues to exist", says Pedro. His business is in Sedgfield and he told us that last year alone, at Cola Beach in Sedgfield, he planted at least 60 000 trees and shrubs to rehabilitate a site that had been prepared for a new beachfront development. He was also called to remove 1 000 invasive plant species in Knysna last year, and he replaced them with about 750 indigenous trees. He also does private gardening jobs.

Primary schools in the area have also benefited from Pedro's enterprise. At the Smutsville Primary school in Sizamile Township in Sedgfield, he established a vegetable garden where kids learn about organic gardening. The produce is used in soup kitchens and veggie stalls.

"I never buy seeds", he admits – even the 300 000-odd he has used thus far. He merely collects them along the Garden Route. His biggest concern is unemployment. "How can we empower people with skills so that they can create jobs for themselves?" he asks.

Contact: Willie Pedro on 082-678-8443

STORY B

A perspective from Sonwabo Ndandani of Tsoga

The new Tsoga Environmental Educational Centre recently invited all stakeholders – including Government departments from all three spheres (national, provincial and local), other civil society funders and international project donors – to an introduction to the new centre.

"The centre will be helping the community by bringing information down to their level," says Sonwabo Ndandani, co-founder of Tsoga, an NGO working in environmental education and projects. Ndandani revealed that the building of the centre cost R3,5 million.

"The main purpose of the centre is to ensure that environmental projects and awareness campaigns truly benefit the community, and become a lifestyle, not just a once-off," says Ndandani.

His game plan is to continue the roll-out of messaging and projects that can save water and electricity. He will also be simplifying and implementing concepts such as integrated waste management programmes to communities in Philippi and Samora Machel.

Ndandani says 340 people were employed to build the centre. To ensure the sustainability of the project, and to empower unemployed locals, the project will continue at a 100% manual labour rate, meaning that no machinery will be allowed on site.

A community nursery is also in the pipeline for Tsoga, and the focus will be on planting species that have a market, in order to create additional job opportunities. The centre will be officially launched in September, to coincide with Arbor Week celebrations.

Contact: Sonwabo Ndandani on 082-542-3356

2007
TREES OF THE YEAR
 DO YOU HAVE GREEN FINGERS?

THE WESTERN CAPE WATER SECTOR PLAN

After months of consultation with various stakeholders in the water business, the Western Cape Region finally has a revised draft water sector plan with measurable objectives.

The logic behind a water sector plan is to see all provincial water matters managed effectively and efficiently, in a sustainable manner. It also encourages an integrated outlook on water matters (services and resources), in an effort to achieve a healthier environment, a healthier economy and healthier people.

of the bucket system and shared services to backyard dwellers and overcrowding issues,” according to the co-pioneer of the study, Provincial MIG Manager Hennie du Plessis. Co-partners Regional Water Affairs Head Rashid Khan and Water Services Manager Simphiwe Mashicila injected funding and formed part of the think-tank to boost this study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WATER SECTOR PLAN

- To provide basic and sustainable services to all;
- To transform the sector, specifically looking at economic reform and social change through institutions;
- A more organized intervention of local government pertaining to services and resources;
- Compliance, regulation and monitoring matters.

Municipalities, including those in rural and farm areas, were consulted for this study. This means that 144 towns in the Region and one Metro were consulted. While the Department of Agriculture gathered figures from the rural areas, town engineers, housing planners, community workers and others were approached for urban and peri-rural figures.

Objectives of the water sector plan are to provide basic and sustainable services to all and to transform the sector.

DWAF/PROVINCIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING DEAL

In a move geared to address the backlog in the Western Cape Region, as well as capacity matters, the two big Regional players in water and sanitation matters formed a steering committee to tackle:

- A required skills boost for municipal works operators;
- A skills boost for technical personnel;
- Management of water demand and investigation into unaccounted-for water in the Region;
- Plan for water and sanitation matters.

The backlog study confirmed that a total 0,5% of sanitation backlog falls within rural areas, while 44% is from backyard dwellers mainly situated in the City of Cape Town. The average growth in backlog is estimated at 1,8%.

Du Plessis confirmed, at a sector meeting in Stellenbosch in February 2007, that the study indicated that a total amount of 10 479,654,634 is needed to eradicate all buckets in the Western Cape, combining rural, formal and informal areas of this Region.

Government has decided to tackle the sanitation backlog in formal areas while it plans for informal areas. The figures revealed by the study serve as a guideline on the amount of investment needed for the sanitation business.

“The backlog study looks at anything from no services rendered, use

LOCAL AUTHORITY	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS			Total existing backlog
	Informal housing with no access to basic sanitation (excluding BD)	Informal housing with access to shared service (excluding BD)	Backyard dwellers (BD) with access to shared service	
District Municipalities	14507	21365	73855	109727
City of Cape Town Metro	100	120000	180000	300100
TOTAL	14607	141365	253855	409827

