

**CARL BRO INTERNATIONAL
IWRM PROJECT OFFICE
SOUTH AFRICA**

**ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF IWRM PROJECT ON PREVIOUSLY
DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS IN THE THREE PILOT WATER
MANAGEMENT AREAS**

DECEMBER 2003

Prepared by:
M Mayet (Pr Eng)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
Objectives	4
Refinement of Objectives	4
Approach	5
Summary of Field Trips	6
Assessment of Impacts	8
Overall Assessment	9
Detailed Assessment	11
Record of Field Visit Findings (by WMA)	16
Olifants Doorn WMA	16
Mvoti-Mzimkulu WMA	19
Crocodile West/Marico WMA	22
Closing Remarks and Recommendations	25

ABBREVIATIONS

CMA	-	Catchment Management Agency
DWAF	-	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
IWRM	-	Integrated Water Resources Management
KAP	-	Knowledge, Attitude and Perception
LSP	-	Local Service Provider
PDI	-	Previously Disadvantaged Individual
ToR	-	Terms of Reference
WMA	-	Water Management Area

INTRODUCTION

The IWRM Project was initiated in 2000 to support DWAF with the implementation of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998). The overall objective of the project is to introduce Integrated Water Resource Management principles into South Africa's water resource management. DWAF is currently pursuing this via the introduction of Catchment Management Agencies, which is being supported by this project.

The first phase of the project concentrated on producing generic guidelines on specific elements of IWRM, covering issues such as information dissemination, institutional roles and functions, public participation, capacity building, financial viability, groundwater and water conservation/demand management. The second phase was aimed at testing these guidelines in the three trial water management areas, namely Crocodile West/Marico, Mvoti – Mzimkulu, and Olifants Doorn). The final phase, which is scheduled to be complete by June 2004, is concerned with implementing the guidelines in selected sub-catchments of the trial WMAs, thereby demonstrating the benefits of IWRM.

IWRM, as reflected in the National Water Act, is guided by the principles of equity, participation by local communities, redress of past racial and gender discrimination, efficiency and sustainability. In this respect, the project is particularly concerned about the participation, empowerment and inclusion of previously marginalized groups. An evaluation of participation by previously disadvantaged individuals (PDIs) in the CMA establishment process in the 3 WMAs was undertaken in 2001/2 as a way of refining the focus areas of the IWRM project activities. Several issues that were identified during this exercise were incorporated into subsequent developments within the project.

In its continuous efforts to monitor the impact of its activities in relation to its objectives, the project initiated an assessment of the impact of its interventions (phase 3 in particular) on the involvement, participation and empowerment of PDIs in the selected sections of the 3 WMAs. This report contains the objectives, approach, findings and recommendations of the assessment.

Objectives

The overall objectives of this assignment were:

- To ensure the appropriate actions are being taken to address the issues of PDI involvement,
- To ensure that the principles and impacts of IWRM on the stakeholders are being adequately monitored by Work Package 3 (phase 3) Local Service Providers
- To create an overview of the impact of IWRM activities in the different WMAs

Refinement of objectives

The first two objectives were aimed at establishing whether satisfactory measures were already in place through their respective Work Package 3 contracts with various LSPs. Where this was not the case, changes that involve minimal variation/disruption to the contract(s) would be recommended. Towards this end, Terms of Reference for each of ten contracts were reviewed and recommendations concerning changes with regard to impacts on PDIs were made where appropriate. Progress reports submitted by LSPs were also reviewed for evidence of impacts on PDIs, and additional recommendations were also made based on these findings. This applied in particular to LSP contracts related to institutional arrangements, capacity building, stakeholder awareness, groundwater and water conservation/demand management.

However, in view of the constraints experienced by most LSPs regarding fee budgets and time limits in which to fulfill their overall contract requirements, the recommendations were not implemented. This decision was further supported by the ample evidence from the review of progress reports and discussions with the three IWRM Project Co-ordinators, that considerable progress **was** being made in all three WMAs with regard to the impact of the project on PDIs, and that further interventions in any of the WP3 contracts was not really necessary. For completion of this assignment's objectives however, a summary of the relevant findings and recommendations with regard to WP3 ToR's is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

The third objective, namely to create an overview of the impact of IWRM activities in the different WMAs, was then pursued in earnest. Preliminary information regarding the scope, nature and extent of the impacts of the project on PDIs was obtained from LSP progress reports, as well as discussions with and information supplied by the three project co-ordinators. This provided the basis for planning intensive two-day tours through each of the WMAs in order to visit numerous PDIs (as individuals and groups), to investigate and record the project's impacts. Over a period of 6 days covering all three WMAs, detailed interviews were conducted with more than 50 PDIs to determine first hand their impressions, feelings and concerns about how the project affected (or did not affect) them. The interviewees were selected by the project co-ordinators; all of the interviewees (except two) were PDIs, and had direct or indirect contact with the project.

Approach

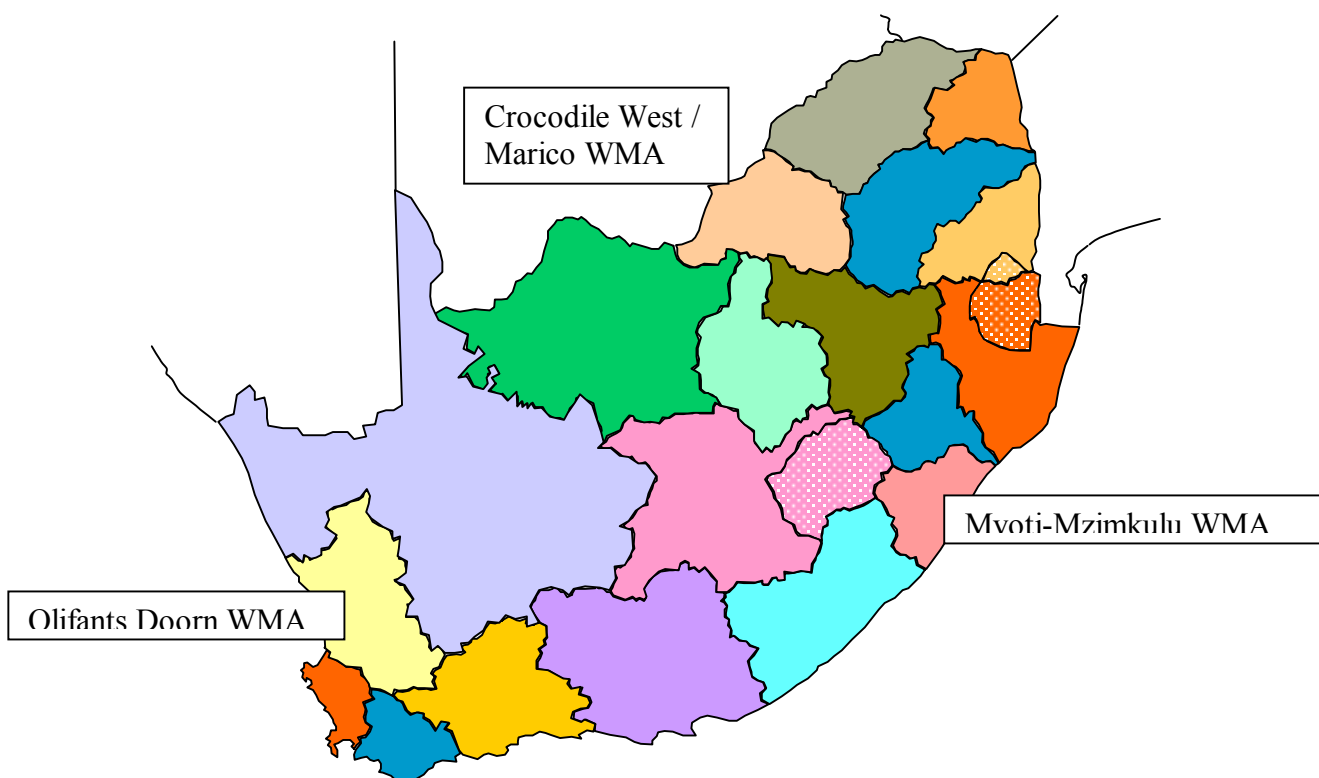
The challenge of making an objective overall assessment of the project on PDIs consisted of numerous facets:

- Assimilating and interpreting contributions from a number of PDIs coming from a variety of backgrounds and different interactions with the project, many of whose perceptions are based on a relatively short involvement with the project
- Keeping a holistic view of the project's impacts whilst at the same time giving attention to detail, making sure that repercussions and ripple effects of project interventions are captured where relevant
- Being a debut assessment makes it difficult to make comparative evaluations in the same area or community, but it is still important to give a sense of time scale to the impact being recorded.

The basic approach to the assessment was to conduct a series of interviews with PDIs who reside in the three WMAs. The project co-ordinators selected PDIs (most of whom were Water Champions who received intensive training) for the interviews in a way that provides a good spread of PDI backgrounds and a healthy balance of coverage by way of project activities and interventions. The "free" format of interviews conducted in the home environment of the interviewees had a distinct advantage, in that interviewees felt quite relaxed, were able to speak in their language of choice, and were usually relieved to know that it was a general discussion and **not** a meeting. Most interviews were recorded in order to increase eye contact and build trust with interviewees, not only because of the somewhat delicate nature of the subject matter, but also to enable timely and appropriate follow up questions to be asked with appropriate sensitivity.

Some background knowledge of the project's activities in each area was obtained through the earlier review of progress reports that were prepared by service providers and IWRM project co-ordinators. However, it was decided not to use any of this information to structure the interviews or prepare checklists, in order to encourage the individual's unguided response, thereby adding to the authenticity of the assessment as perceived by the beneficiary of the project.

The central theme in each interview was to establish the interviewee's relationship/knowledge of the project, and how he/she felt that the project has made (or not made) an impact on their lives and of their community. Ad hoc questions were posed as each interview developed, intending to capture the individual's feelings and experiences. At the same time it must be emphasized that the findings of this assessment in no way detracts from or diminishes the numerous other achievements of the project in the implementation of IWRM, which may not have been known to or perceived by the interviewees.



THREE WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS OF THE IWRM PROJECT

Summary of field trips

OLIFANTS-DOORN WMA (Field visit: 15 and 16 October 2003)

Place of Interview & General locality	PDIs interviewed	Affiliation/relationship to project
Witzenberg Valley farm Agter Witzenberg	Gerrit Kallemeyer	Member – Agter Witzenberg Water Forum, farm worker Water Champion
Op-die-Berg, offices of Aksent (NGO) Koue Bokkeveld	Johnny Cupido	Member Koue Bokkeveld Forum, employee of Witzenberg Municipality Water Champion
Farm on smallholding: Elandskloof valley Elandskloof	Elize Carolus	Member Upper Olifants Water Forum Water champion

Clanwilliam Hotel Middle Olifants	Shirley-Ann Sampson Shirley September Niklaas Mouton	Secretary Middle Olifants Water Forum, employee of Cederberg Municipality, Water Champion Deputy chair Middle Olifants Water Forum, Water champion, unemployed Member Middle Olifants Water Forum, Water champion, unemployed
Matzikama Municipal Office, Ebenhaeser Lower Olifants	Sarlon Mannel Willem Fortuin Gerrit Don Petie Hahn Sylvester Coetzee	Member Lower Olifants Water Forum, Water champion, working for NGO Member Lower Olifants Water Forum, Water champion, Municipal official Member Lower Olifants Water Forum, Project Cycle Management course participant Chairperson Lower Olifants Water Forum, Water champion, PCM participant, member Advisory Committee for CMA Governing Board, Chairperson Water Committee of Ebenhaeser, emerging farmer Vicechair Lower Olifants Water Forum, Water champion, councilor West Coast District Municipality
Vanrhynsdorp Nama Karoo subcatchment	Isak Jenner	Deputy Chairperson LORWUA, councilor Matzikama Municipality, member Nama Karoo Water Forum, water champion

MVOTI-MZIMKULU WMA (Field visit: 23 and 24 October 2003)

Place of Interview & General locality	PDIs interviewed	Affiliation/relationship to project
Office of Hambanathi Environmental and Social Organisation (HESO) Hambanathi Township (Tongaat)	Nduduzo Mbuyisa Andrew Langa Kumbuzo Khanyile Thokozani Mthethwa Thule Bhlose Thulani Gumede Lindanhle Jali	Member of Mzansi Environmental Association, office bearer for HESO, Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion
Ndwedwe Agricultural Office Mdloti Catchment Forum	Norman Sibiya Sphelile Mayentsa Bongekile Mgobhozi Mduduzi Gumede Mandlenkosi Cele	Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion Water Champion, Ndwedwe Community member, Works for Dept of Agriculture Water Champion, member of Tandulwazi Youth Organisation Forum
KwaQiko village Resource Centre Vulamehlo Municipality	Godola Bele	Chairperson KwaQiko Water Committee
Emphopomeni Municipal office Howick Municipality	Vincent Gumede Mthoko Maphanga	Technician, Emphopomeni municipality GIS technician, employed by local service provider
Umgeni Water offices Msunduzi Catchment Forum	Alex Vato Asha Ramjatan Ndabuko Majola Thabile Duma Mandla Hlongwane	Water Champion, member of Duzi forum Water Champion, member of Duzi forum Water champion Member Siyatutuga organization, involved in IWRM microproject Representing Radio Maritzburg
Mpophomeni township	Vincent Gumede Mthoko Maphanga Occupier Lindiwe Chili Mthlane	Technician, Municipality GIS technician, employed by consultants (DMM) House No 2459 – part of KAP survey House No 2556 – part of KAP survey House No 2563 – part of KAP survey

CROCODILE WEST/MARICO WMA (Field visit: 3, 10 and 11 November 2003)

Place of Interview & General locality	PDIs interviewed	Affiliation/relationship to project
DWAF office, Mafikeng Molopo Water Forum	Gideon Morule Thandi Moche Mike Mokgwamme Gavin Morutloa Tebogo Molaka Alice Thebe	President, North West African Farmers Union, member Molopo Water Forum Community Development Officer, DWAF Mafikeng Local Municipality (Infrastructure) Personal Assistant to Councilor Nko (Ward 18) ISD unit, DWAF Geohydrologist, WRM (DWAF)
Central District Municipality office Lehurutshe – Marico Water Forum	Boitumelo Hlongwa	Development officer (Municipality), water champion
Subdirectorate: Premier's Office (NW) Lehurutshe – Marico Water Forum	Isiah Molokwane	Traditional Leadership & Institutions, water champion
Marico Water Forum	Raisibe Tshweu	Founder of Twafalo Training and Advice Centre, member Provincial Executive for SANGOCO, member Marico Water Forum
Rustenburg Civic Centre Elands Water Forum	Sheila Mabale-Huma Kabelo Nonyana Joel Khoza Solly Bele Mary Phadi Kgomotso Setshedi Kebareng Bogopang	Councilor, local municipality Rustenburg Youth Councilor, local municipality Councilor, local municipality, Chair – Elands Water Forum Councilor, Deputy Chair Elands Water Forum, Acting Convenor Financial Business Unit Extension Officer Royal Bafokeng Nation
Thabazimbi Municipal Office Thabazimbi forum	Neels du Preez Bill Mc Cormick Margaret Musi	Councilor Ward Committee member ANC Women's League, new forum member
DWAF Gauteng office Pretoria	Khululiwe Kunene Motlalepule Mangweng Sharol Enele Nosie Majola Freddie Letsoko Winnie Morake Pamela Nqulwana	Water Champion, DWAF employee Water Champion, DWAF employee Water Champion, DWAF employee Water Champion, DWAF employee Water Champion, DWAF employee Water Champion, DWAF employee Water Champion, DWAF employee

ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The feedback obtained from the numerous interviewees “on the ground” gave a fairly good detailed indication of how the project is affecting people “at the receiving end”, ie those that were supposed to be beneficiaries of implementing IWRM at a **local** level. However it is equally important to give an overall perspective of the project's impacts; the guidelines produced in the early stages of the project were in fact of a generic nature, which should be applicable at WMA scale. It was therefore decided to compile the findings of the assessment in two stages. Firstly, how did the project as a whole impact on PDIs, was there a fundamentally positive or negative impact on PDIs? The second part of the assessment is more directly linked to the outcome of the field visits to the three WMAs.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

As this assignment was not meant to be a project **evaluation** (measured against predetermined criteria) but rather an **assessment** (largely of a qualitative nature) of the project on PDIs, it was decided to use certain generic yet objective characteristics which define “wise practices”, and to assess the extent to which the project complied with or fulfilled each characteristic. These characteristics are based on a Field Project Assessment of a project entitled “Municipal Environmental Management and public participation”, conducted through the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Coastal Development at the University of Latvia, and are well suited to this assignment. The Latvian field project started in 1999 and the assessment was done in 2003.

It must be stressed that although the approach of “wise practice” characteristics was used to assess the impact of the project on PDIs **as a whole, the focus is on previously disadvantaged individuals**. The next section looks at more specific impacts that take local scale into account. The local scale is equally important because the project made a deliberate choice to focus on small sub-catchments in the implementation of the guidelines produced in the early stages.

Have the project activities ensured long term benefit?

Selecting PDIs from the community to be trained as champions was a calculated step towards long term benefit. Because of the empathy that they have with the communities they serve, the champions are in an appropriate position to marry the benefits of IWRM (which they have learnt about) with the needs and disposition of the people, for maximum benefit. There may be some uncertainty regarding the future prospects for champions with regard to qualifications and career options, but the seeds for IWRM to flourish have certainly been sown.

Do the project activities provide for capacity building?

The project provided for direct and indirect capacity building. Water champions were the recipients of intensive training to build their skills and capacity. Indirect capacity building has taken place through many of the micro-projects, varying from improved communication skills (by going from house to house talking to people about water conservation, giving presentations etc), to acquiring plumbing skills for repairing leaking taps and pipes, to learning how to do a basic water quality check by checking the change of colour on a nitrate stick.

Do the project activities strengthen local identities?

By virtue of applying their skills within their own communities, champions have earned the respect of their people, and with the appropriate guidance and support, should have little difficulty in getting others to join them – some champions were progressive enough to have already employed other people to assist them. The champions themselves have a sense of pride about their accomplishments and most of them are anxious to get on with new projects.

Do the project activities provide for institutional strengthening?

The project has provided for institutional strengthening in that several water forums have been successfully revived in two of the three WMAs. Stakeholder databases have also been strengthened with the inclusion of local government and ward councilors, as well as key roleplayers like the Royal Bafokeng Nation in the Elands Water Forum. There is some concern however, about tensions along racial lines (farmers and labourers) in some of the Olifants Doorn forums. Although the project’s intervention cannot hope to resolve historical differences, at least it has succeeded in getting both parties to participate in the forums.

Do the project activities incorporate participatory processes?

Expression of viewpoints, resolving differences of opinion and collective action are the hallmarks of forum meetings. There are repeated announcements to spread meeting invitations to other stakeholders who ought to be involved.

Are the project activities sustainable?

The current phase of the IWRM project comes to an end around the middle of 2004. Local service provider contracts also come to an end sometime before then. A major investment in sustainability was the appointment and training of water champions, selected from the community, the idea being that they continue implementing IWRM in their own environment through micro-projects, speaking to communities, schools, institutions and government, thereby keeping some sort of momentum to the process. Forum establishment with adequate support is another mechanism for keeping IWRM sustainable. Not only does it serve as a conduit for getting support from DWAF, but will hopefully become the “eyes and ears” of the CMA.

Have the project activities been transferred (to other interested parties)?

An evaluation of the participation of PDIs in the establishment process of the CMA in the three WMAs was undertaken in late 2001/early 2002. Many of the lessons and experiences of that investigation were in fact incorporated into the third phase of the project. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation bears relevance to the kinds of PDI issues being assessed in this assignment. The report on the evaluation should be available in due course. Guidelines covering various aspects of the project, namely, capacity building, stakeholder participation, institutional arrangements, communication, financial viability, groundwater, water conservation and water demand management, were produced in the first phase of the project. Through the testing and implementation phases, the intention is to finalise the guidelines, taking account of the experiences and lessons learned from the practical application in small-scale projects. The finalized guidelines, which are not yet complete, will then be accessible to other initiatives/projects concerned with implementing IWRM.

Are the project activities intersectoral and interdisciplinary?

In the inclusion of more stakeholders and in the implementation of the numerous micro-projects, PDIs from various disciplines and backgrounds are becoming involved.

Do the project activities include effective and efficient communication?

One of the bugbears of many public participation processes is effective and efficient communication. In the earlier stages, much of the communication to stakeholders was done by consultants, and did not always work too well. The more recent appointment of project co-ordinators for the three WMAs has improved communication drastically. One area of concern will always be the feedback loop, where the forum member or participant in an initiative is expected to report back to his constituents (community, colleagues, employer etc). The use of local PDIs for champions has proved very successful from a communication perspective, because of the good rapport and use of appropriate language with the local community.

Are the project activities culturally respectful?

Inherent in projects of a local scale is the absorption and incorporation of issues perceived as important amongst the community, and champions are acutely aware of this in managing their projects and communication with the community.

Do the project activities reflect the equity principle of the National Water Act?

A crucial element of the equity principle is participation by local communities and PDIs, and much emphasis has been placed on increasing their involvement in this last phase of the project.

Have the project activities been documented?

Progress reports are prepared by the project co-ordinators on a regular basis, capturing all relevant developments in Institutional, participation and capacity building issues

DETAILED ASSESSMENT

In terms of stakeholder involvement, the last phase (Work Package 3) has made great inroads into creating more awareness among PDIs about IWRM, increasing PDI involvement, encouraging and supporting PDIs to initiate and participate in water related projects, and cultivating a sense of ownership and sustainability. However, the development of PDI Water Champions is probably the most incisive and precocious intervention of the project as far as having a positive impact on PDIs is concerned.

About a year ago, the project created the concept of catchment mentors (later called water champions) to increase community awareness about IWRM, promote effective stakeholder participation at community level, enable communities to be effectively represented in planning and resource management, to facilitate integration of water services initiatives with water resource management by developing capacity at grassroots level, and to serve as a communication conduit between catchment forums and communities.

All 81 mentors that were selected in the three WMAs are previously disadvantaged individuals. Each mentor received weeks of intensive training covering various issues, such as planning, project cycle management, finance, administration, resource management and administration. The practical component of their training was to apply their knowledge by speaking to schools, local authorities and other institutions. It was hoped that the mentors would provide the vital link between formal institutions and processes, and communities thereby contributing to sustainable and meaningful participation.

Many of the PDIs interviewed during this assignment were water champions, and the field visits have proved that they have come a long way towards fulfilling the overall objectives of this project initiative. Not only are they resourceful and enthusiastic about applying themselves, but their empathy with the communities which they serve puts them at a particular advantage in understanding the plight and needs of their people. Starting with successful small projects, many of them have shown great resolve in broadening their horizons and spreading the benefits of IWRM to other stakeholders.

Based on the findings of the interviews, certain key cross-cutting issues emerged which were not only convenient indicators of impact, but also provide an appropriate structure for the field assessment, which could be applied equally to all areas and aspects of the project. The criteria that were developed for this impact assessment are:

- Awareness:
- Capacity building / skills transfer
- Increased stakeholder involvement
- Initiatives in own area
- Initiatives in other areas
- Institutional development
- Employment creation
- Working with municipalities

A table summarizing the findings in respect of the above indicators has been compiled by WMA, and is appended at the end of this report.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF IWRM PROJECT ON PDI'S IN THREE WATER MANAGEMENT AREAS			
IMPACT	OLIFANTS/DOORN	MVOTI-MZIMKULU	CROCODILE WEST/MARICO
<p>Awareness: To what extent has the project impacted on PDI awareness in general?</p>	<p>81 PDI champions are aware of IWRM, its importance and implementation, through the project training courses</p> <p>Witzenberg: champion informs others of forum matters at community meetings. Op-die-berg: Residents of 250 homes received talk on water cycle, water conservation and leak repairs Middle Olifants: Residents of 197 homes received talk and pamphlet on water conservation. Awareness includes several schools, businesses, magistrates office etc Lower Olifants: Micro-project on water conservation awareness for residents of Ebenhaeser (pop 3000)</p>	<p>Hambanathi: Arbor Day celebration (notified all in township), KAP survey of 240 dwellings, IWRM workshop with 80 people, talks to 4 schools, talks in nearby informal settlements Mdloti: High level of awareness among champions and community – gathered from forum meeting discussions and number of participants KwaQiko: awareness about groundwater in schools, field visit involved limited number because of difficult terrain but residents aware of siting pit latrines and keeping borehole area clean, water committee aware about nitrate test for borehole water quality Msinduzi: Awareness spread to two townships, Municipality, members of new Environmental Association, Maritzburg Radio being used to spread IWRM issues Mpophomeni: Municipal official aware of leaks, random check on residents show differing recollections of KAP survey</p>	<p>Molopo: Awareness definitely increased with more than 50 stakeholders attending recent forum meeting. Township residents becoming aware through involvement of ward councilors. Marico: Champions spreading awareness through their official network channels: village meetings, water committees, Chiefs. Awareness spread through projects handled by new member who has Training and Advice Centre. Elands: Awareness spreading to townships around Rustenburg through involvement of ward councilors. Royal Bafokeng Nation now aware of IWRM – new contact. Thabazimbi: Awareness spreading as new members joining forum. Use of Junior Town Council expected to increase awareness among youth</p>
<p>Capacity Building, Skills Transfer: Has capacity building taken place within PDI community through the project's intervention?</p>	<p>81 PDIs received intensive training courses covering IWRM, administration, finance, planning etc. Many also received a “train the trainer” course, and participated in a Project Cycle Management course. Champions also received ongoing guidance from project co-ordinators, and participated in a three day workshop. Some secretarial skills training also took place in Olifants Doorn</p>		

	<p>Op-die-berg: two PDIs were trained by champion to give a presentation on water issues (with the use of charts), and in plumbing skills to repair water leaks.</p> <p>Middle Olifants: 3 champions acquired plumbing skills and learnt how to repair leaks around water meters. They also acquired communication skills through their water awareness project. Champions have trained 28 school learners (20 primary, 8 high) as water champions, and informed teachers about water audits at school.</p> <p>NamaKaroo: champion feels his strategizing skills have improved through the courses. Champions received simplified version of business plan application “form”</p>	<p>Hambanathi: champions acquired communication skills through water awareness efforts.</p> <p>KwaQiko: members of Water Committee learnt how to use nitrate sticks to get an indication of borehole water quality</p> <p>Mpophomeni: Mthoko Maphanga given training in GIS and employed by consultant, where he is likely to acquire more skills. PDI plumbing contractors received training before doing leak repairs.</p>	<p>Field visit focused on forum revival issues - capacity building is expected to follow as forums develop.</p> <p>Use of water quality testing kit was taught in Kroondal (not part of field visit)</p>
<p>Stakeholder involvement: How has project impacted on involvement of PDIs in IWRM?</p>	<p>Initial forum establishment was done with thorough public participation with good PDI representation. About three forums are in need of revival.</p>	<p>Three forums were to be revived because of poor participation (Tongaat, uMzimayi and Mdloti). Visited only Mdloti forum - showed significant and meaningful PDI participation – revival has been effective.</p> <p>Greatest PDI involvement has been outside forum structure, with numerous Environmental clubs being formed and being active in their communities.</p>	<p>Good progress made with large numbers of PDIs joining the forums. Inclusion of PDI ward councilors in several forums has been a significant achievement.</p> <p>Number of stakeholders expected to increase with recent inclusion of key individuals, particularly in Elands, Thabazimbi and Marico forums.</p>
<p>Initiatives in own environment: Has the project led to PDIs initiating their own projects?</p>	<p>Olifants Doorn has most number of micro-projects led by champions:</p> <p>Op-die-Berg: Leak repair and water awareness. Ideas for 3 more projects</p>	<p>Hambanathi: KAP survey (240 homes), Arbor Day celebration – all on voluntary basis. Project ideas: stream clean-up, organic farming, remove alien vegetation</p>	<p>Projects linked to business units of forums – not part of field visit.</p>

	<p>Middle Olifants: Water awareness at schools, business, public sector, homes. Leak repair in homes. Plans for 2 more projects.</p> <p>Lower Olifants: Six projects at various stages of development: water conservation (awareness), organic food gardens, wetland revival, irrigation techniques, effect of fertilizer on fishing, water quality awareness.</p> <p>NamaKaroo: Small Scale Farmers Assoc project – 5ha for growing cash crops with “grey” water, half hectare for crops for Old Age Facility (using micro-flooding)</p>	<p>Mdloti: Health, Hygiene & sanitation micro-project in line. Forum projects: soil erosion to prevent siltation in Hazelmere dam, establish Fire Protection Association</p> <p>Msunduzi: Slangspruit project, with several associated micro-projects, sanitation survey in two townships, infrastructure upgrade along Slangspruit, establish Disaster management advisory forum</p>	
<p>Initiatives in other areas: Has project development extended to a much wider scope or that benefits are being generated in areas outside their immediate environment ?</p>	<p>Op-die-berg: champion wishes to construct storage dam to harness spring water from mountainside away from town.</p> <p>Middle Olifants: Living Landcare wetland revival – involves archaeological input, tourism potential</p>		
<p>Institutional Development: To what extent has the project evolved beyond individual participation to group actions?</p>	<p>Witzenberg: champion is chairperson of Agter Witzenberg Klein Boere Vereeniging – link with forum to empower people with land reform</p>	<p>Hambanathi: champions encouraged establishment of environmental clubs in nearby Maqhaweni and Nqabeni. IWRM project instrumental in establishing Mzansi Environmental Association, which has many smaller clubs, with PDIs who are active.</p> <p>Msunduzi: champions have established an Environmental Association, and Disaster Management Advisory Forum</p>	

<p>Employment creation: Have any of the projects activities grown to the extent that PDIs were employed to assist in their implementation?</p>	<p>Op-die-berg: champion trained and employed two PDIS to assist in leak repair project – now have opportunity to get paid for additional repair work Middle Olifants: 3 champions formed business partnership with employment for 4 women</p>		
<p>Working with municipalities Have any of the project’s beneficiaries (champions) taken the initiative to work with/create links with local government?</p>	<p>Middle Olifants: Clanwilliam municipality worked with champion’s project. Cedarberg also working with champions – not part of field visit. NamaKaroo: Vanrhynsdorp working with champion’s project.</p>	<p>Msunduzi: Pietermaritzburg working as partner with forum in several projects</p>	<p>Great strides have been made in involving local municipalities in IWRM activities eg Mafikeng, Thabazimbi, Britz, Rustenburg and others</p>

RECORD OF FIELD VISIT FINDINGS (BY WMA)

OLIFANTS DOORN WMA

Witzenburg

Situated in the upper reaches of the Olifants Doorn catchment, Witzenburg is a high rainfall area receiving typically 2000 mm per annum. The area consists of about 15 farms covering a total of some 15 000 ha. The main crops grown are apples, pears, peaches, potatoes and onions. Dairy farming is also practiced. The resident PDI population, consisting primarily of farm workers, is about 4000. With migrant workers, the total population increases to around 7000. Ordinary farm workers earn a minimum wage of R 850 per month.

Gerrit Kallemeyer, a farm worker and water champion, is also a member of the Agter Witzenburg Water Forum, and chairperson of the Agter Witzenburg Klein Boere Vereeniging. Gerrit regards the forum as a good initiative, makes “things clear”, and now understands about how to manage water effectively. (Establishment of forums was one of the initial steps of the IWRM process in supporting the CMA establishment process). He feels empowered through the capacity building courses that he attended, and wants to make use of the skills he has acquired as the opportunity arises. Gerrit’s main focus is to acquire land for his people, and with it access to water. All farms are owned by white commercial farmers, who appear to express willingness to empower farm labourers in forum meetings and elsewhere, but nothing has come to pass. Given the suspicion with which white farmers’ intentions are viewed by their PDI workers, the frustration of no prospect of land ownership, and the strong arm tactics still employed by farmers regarding discipline amongst workers, racial tension is evident at Witzenburg.

Gerrit has been able to increase awareness of IWRM issues in community meetings and at the Boere Vereeniging, but despite several attempts to talk to commercial farmers, no significant land reform has taken place. No IWRM related initiatives have yet emerged. With regard to institutional development, Gerrit is not familiar with Water User Associations, but is likely to learn more from his contacts in the neighbouring Koue Bokkeveld who intend to establish 4 WUA’s in their area.

Op-die-Berg (Koue Bokkeveld)

Op-die Berg is a small town of some 2 000 people, most of whom are PDIs. The water champion here is Johnny Cupido, who is also a member of the Koue Bokkeveld Water Forum, and an employee of the municipality. Johnny motivated and undertook a water leak repair project in which 250 homes were covered in a period of 20 days. The project was funded by the IWRM project.

Two PDIs, Sophia Slinger and Jerome Fortuin, were employed and trained by Johnny to assist him with the project. During the house visits, residents were first informed about the water cycle and hygiene issues with the aid of DWAF 20/20 Vision charts. Leaks were then identified and repaired at no cost to the residents. A log of every repair was maintained. Johnny was able to demonstrate the savings incurred through the repairs by comparing municipal water bills of some of the residents. In one instance, the resident’s consumption dropped from 376 kl for the month to 43 kl after the repair of leaks. The two project assistants now have the skills and the opportunity for ongoing repair work as a source of income in the future.

Johnny also has a few other projects in mind, for which he intends preparing business plans to be submitted to DWAF for funding, via the water forum. These projects include installing water drums to collect rainwater from downpipes, building a storage dam to harness the spring water that flows from the mountain near the town, and instigating a river clean-up project in a bid to curb constant dumping in the river by children.

Elandskloof (Koue Bokkeveld)

About 308 non-white families were forcibly removed in 1962 from the Elandskloof, a fertile valley of some 3 000 ha. As a landmark Land Restitution case for the post 1994 Government, Elandskloof has been returned as communal land, to which the 60 remaining families may return. Elize Carolus, a water champion, came back to Elandskloof two years ago, and has been employed as an administrative assistant for the past four years by the Elandskloof Community Committee.

Although the impact of the project is primarily at a personal level at this stage, there is considerable potential for Elize through her crucial position with the Committee to influence future developments in the valley from an IWRM perspective. One example of this is the existing community orchard from which the oranges, pears and peaches are currently sold to cover expenses only. Mr Carolus has already applied some of his 12 years of experience to improving the crop, but the orchard has the potential to become a profit-making venture for the community. Another example is the application by the Community Committee to increase the size of the existing dam that serves the valley.

Clanwilliam (Middle Olifants)

Shirley-Ann Sampson, Shirley September, and Niklaas Mouton are the three champions from the Middle Olifants Water Forum that were interviewed. The initial impact of the project was about personal benefit, namely a better understanding of water and its scarcity, and improved communication skills. However, with their first micro-project successfully completed, the champions are now sharing the benefits of IWRM with the greater community.

The micro-project consisted of repairing water leaks in 100 homes, initially, but due to a demand from the community, this number was virtually doubled to 197 homes. Four women were trained and employed to assist with this project. An awareness talk about water, its scarcity and financial implications of its abuse was given at every home that was visited, and to this end, a handwritten pamphlet, designed and printed by the group, was provided to each home as a reminder of basic water issues that were discussed. As the project progressed, the group acquired skills (on their own initiative) to repair leaking water meters as well, although this was not part of the initial project deliverables. The campaign also covered public and private sector properties. The group received letters of gratitude from certain institutions: from the Clanwilliam Magistrate's Office, who also indicated their intention to plant more environment-friendly trees, and from schools. Water-conscious residents still notify the champions if they spot water leaks, well after the micro-project was completed. The group is still willing to help municipality if people still waste water (by printing more pamphlets etc). Following on the success of this micro-project, the group of 3 champions and 4 assistants have established the Middle Olifants Champions Partnership – a legal business entity with its own bank account.

The impact of the champions on schools was particularly impressive. At one level, school learners were made aware of water issues and participated in essay and drawing competitions around the subject.

At a higher level, 28 learners were trained as water champions and taught how to read water meters; educators were supplied with a manual on how to conduct water audits.

The champions a few more projects in the pipeline with much wider impacts. Living Landcare has been identified as a wetland revival project near Clanwilliam, with professional input from Prof John Parkinson. The wetland is threatened by uncontrolled dumping at the adjacent dump site. Attempts to contact the municipality in this regard resulted in no response. The group has identified the potential for tourism by linking the site to nearby San paintings which are of archaeological interest. Training tour guides is envisaged as part of the process. A “water wise” garden project with the use of “ecotraps” is also earmarked for large residential plots in the high profile area along the dam.

Ebenhaeser (Lower Olifants)

Ebenhaeser is a small rural town of about 3 000 people near the Cape West Coast, situated at the downstream end of the Olifants Doorn catchment. Sarlon Mannel, Willem Fortuin, Gerrit Don, Petie Hahn and Sylvester Coetzee were interviewed at the Matzikama Municipality office in Ebenhaeser. All the interviewees are water champions and Lower Olifants Water Forum members, except for Gerrit Don.

The major water issue at Ebenhaeser is that it has no allocation for domestic consumption, but relies for this use on the 257 ha of irrigation quota to 150 emerging farmers whose primary crops are beans, peas and tomatoes. This water sharing arrangement, coupled with occasional restrictions on water use from Clanwilliam Dam, makes water conservation a high priority issue for Ebenhaeser and a priority amongst the several micro-projects that are in various stages of development, namely

- Water conservation (awareness)
- Organic food gardens
- Wetland revival
- Irrigation techniques
- Effect of fertiliser (runoff) on fishing
- Water quality awareness (children)

The water conservation issue in Ebenhaeser is compounded by the fact that the typical monthly water bill for the town is inordinately high, with monthly accounts for an individual house owner in excess of several thousand rands. Residents simply cannot pay such accounts. This clearly indicates, that in addition to creating awareness among residents about using water wisely, there could be a significant amount of water leakages at meters, in the reticulation system, and within homes. The water conservation micro-project is therefore expected to have a major impact on water usage by Ebenhaeser residents.

VanRhynsdorp (Nama Karoo)

Just east of Vredendal is the small town of Vanrhynsdorp, which has a population of about 2 500, majority of whom are PDIs. Water champion Isak Jenner feels that the capacity building courses that he attended has improved his strategizing skills and is now in a better position to delegate, discuss and negotiate on water related issues at institutional level.

Mr Jenner has also made significant achievements with regard to promoting initiatives in his area. The first one is the Small Scale Farmers Association project, involving 27 farmers.

The project, located on 5 ha of land adjacent to the waste water treatment works, has an approved business plan for growing cash crops using “grey” water from the works (ie treated effluent). The beneficiaries have 10 years of access to the land; thereafter a lease will be negotiated based on the outcome of a progress report on the project. The second initiative is a micro-project, which involved the use of half a hectare of land for growing crops using the technique of micro-flooding. This project is linked to an Old Age Care Facility, the focus of benefits being on the elderly.

MVOTI-MZIMKULU WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

A fundamental difference in the nature of participatory structures between Olifants Doorn and Mvoti-Mzimkulu, is that whereas the system of water forums worked well as structures for increasing PDI participation in the Olifants Doorn, a more diverse approach has paid dividends in Mvoti-Mzimkulu. An important facet of the project regarding PDI impact was to revive some of the crucial forums in the WMA. In the process, what developed was the establishment of new environmental groups with IWRM as one of their focus areas.

Hambanathi Township (Tongaat)

Seven water champions pool their resources together under the banner of Hambanathi Environmental and Social Organisation (HESO), working voluntarily in modest offices within the Hambanathi Resource Centre. Each champion is committed to applying the skills acquired through the IWRM project to benefit their community.

The most significant impact that HESO has made is that of increasing awareness of IWRM among the community through carefully planned initiatives. The Arbor Day celebration was a memorable event, where a large number of local residents were addressed by the Councilor and Government Department officials. Among some of HESO’s achievements are:

- Conducting a Water Conservation “Knowledge, Attitude and Perception” (KAP) survey covering 240 dwellings in Hambanathi and surrounding areas, also talking to residents about how to use water wisely
- Conducting a IWRM workshop, with about 80 local participants, 50 of whom were children
- Giving water related talks at four local schools, including safety and drowning

HESO members were also instrumental in developing new institutions. Through their efforts in neighbouring areas, environmental clubs have been established in the informal settlement of Maqhaweni and Nqabeni (sections 1 and 2). Teaching organic farming to local residents is part of HESO’s numerous initiatives.

Among their future plans is to conduct a stream clean-up campaign, coupled with removal of alien plants and an educational/awareness drive.

Mdloti Catchment Forum

A significant aspect of the IWRM project’s activities related to PDI participation is the revival of several catchment forums, the Mdloti forum being one of them. As part of the field trip assessment, it was decided to attend a typical forum meeting to observe the attendance and participation by PDIs in particular. The meeting in question took place on 23 October 2003, at the Ndwedwe Agricultural Office, overlooking the Mdloti valley.

Twenty one out of the twenty three people who attended the meeting were PDIs; of these, five were water champions of the IWRM project. From the perspective of forum revival and the extent of its impact on PDIs, the overall assessment was that the initiative was successful in view of the following observations:

- The water champions were particularly vocal throughout the meeting in a constructive way, adding individual perspectives and experiences, and in many instances, driving the discussion. (In the early stages of forum development, meetings tended to be steered quite noticeably by DWAF officials, with occasional input from PDIs whose poor attendance was always a concern)
- The subject matter under discussion consisted largely of **real** issues and projects, and less procedural, logistical and administrative issues which tended to hog the agenda during the early stages of forum development, particularly around the issue of which other stakeholders should be present. The main items under discussion during this meeting were:
 - soil erosion project in valley – effect on Hazelmere dam, lack of continuity, support from Umgeni Water
 - pollution from Verulam Sewage Works has become evident, steps to address the problem
 - issue of retaining existing chairperson (PDI) who is being relocated by his employer
 - Eco-tourism week planned for 2004 – help sought from forum members, has great marketing potential
 - Proposed establishment of a Fire Protection Association in the area
 - Health, Hygiene & sanitation micro-project proposed by water champions

Some of the water champions were anxious to formalize their ideas into proposals and business plans, and were keen to obtain some guidelines towards this end. It was clear from these observations that not only has the forum revival impacted on PDI involvement, but there was ample evidence of enthusiasm and commitment to make the forum sustainable.

KwaQiko Village – Multi-Skills Centre

In facilitating the trial implementation of selected elements of groundwater management in IWRM, the project selected an area called KwaQiko in the Vulamehlo Local Municipality, and Ugu District Municipality.

The KwaQiko community of some 3000 people relies on groundwater for their water supply. The intention was to educate the community about borehole water supply, and to match the project initiatives with their needs. The concept of IWRM was to be workshopped with members of the community to raise their general levels of awareness. Links will also be established with the appropriate member(s) of the Development Committee that looks after overall development in the area. The interview took place with Mr Godola Bele, chairperson of the Water Committee, and five other PDI members.

The major impact has centred around awareness creation in the sense that

- interviewees recall the field visit to the boreholes , accompanied by an explanation about keeping the area around the borehole clean, and locating of pit latrines a distance away from boreholes
- the project was regarded as an “eye opener” for the community
- training with regard to groundwater monitoring was given at school, where teachers were included
- the committee was trained on how to use a nitrate “stick” as an indicator of poor borehole water quality
- a concern was expressed that young villagers who received the training were leaving the village in search of employment opportunities in urban areas.

As the borehole project progressed, it appears that the District Municipality decided to conduct their own monitoring of borehole data; as a result, none of the villagers acquired this experience, and although the Committee was in possession of a groundwater monitoring chart, they did not understand how to use it.

Msunduzi Catchment Forum

The IWRM project had arguably the most far reaching impact on members of this forum, in particular the three water champions that were interviewed, namely Alex Vato, Asha Ramjatan, and Ndabuko Majola. Not only have they internalized the objectives and facets of IWRM, but have applied themselves successfully in projects in their area as well as outside their area.

The Slangspruit project is a good illustration of their efforts. This stream was chosen as their pilot area because disadvantaged communities living along its banks suffered heavy losses during recent floods, and many parts of the watercourse require significant rehabilitation. Among their achievements in this project are:

- many micro-projects have been launched along the Slangspruit, for example, infrastructure upgrade along stream in conjunction with the Municipality, conduct sanitation survey in 2 townships, establish Disaster Management Advisory forum (involving all Council Departments). Educational material has also been developed for disadvantaged communities.
- Made use of schools and involved ward committees in forum activities thereby enhancing communication with disadvantaged communities
- mobilised communities (townships), and enabling interaction with other key stakeholders

The champions were also instrumental in starting a new Environmental Association, which can now be drawn into the forum, provides a vehicle for preparing proposals, and acquiring funding from the Municipality, and to ensure sustainability when the IWRM project comes to an end. They also have plans to implement a number of projects aimed at improving quality of life of disadvantaged communities, (such as establish a multi-resource center for local communities to have easy access to information and communicate their problems), to initiate similar projects in other sub-catchments (like water quality), to make greater use of Radio Maritzburg, and to provide support to the Environmental Association.

Mpophomeni

uMngeni Municipality (uMM) is responsible for water and sewerage services in the mid west of the WMA, the main urban areas being Howick, Hilton and Mpophomeni. The total population served is approximately 40,000. A pilot project aimed at implementing several water conservation/demand management measures in Mpophomeni was launched before embarking on implementation of the full Business Plan across the whole municipality. Mpophomeni has 7 500 houses with water connections. Forty three percent of water losses were unaccounted for prior to the start of the project.

The idea behind the interviews in this area was to determine the extent to which the project's interventions have impacted on the Municipality and some of the residents. The Municipality has now become more aware of water leaks, and has reduced its volume of bulk water purchases for its resident population. They also intend to utilize the skills of the emerging contractors that were used by the project (Siyabonga and Mandla) in cases where they cannot cope with water service repairs.

Other significant impacts of the project include the training and employment of small PDI contractors to repair leaks, and awareness among residents of water saving, leaks and meter reading. Random interviews with some residents revealed a mix of responses regarding their perception of the project's impact. Some of the responses were:

- Not much has changed
- we must use water efficiently
- free water means restricted flow from the shower
- it took them 5 weeks to repair a pipe leak.

Whilst it is difficult to draw conclusions from the few interviews that were possible in the time allowed, it appears that there was a sense of acknowledgement that some intervention regarding water saving in the township did take place. There was also some confusion among some residents with another social survey undertaken earlier by another project.

CROCODILE WEST/MARICO WMA

Molopo Water Forum

The Molopo is among the four forums that were programmed for revival in the final phase of the IWRM project. Based on project progress notes, the revival during the past six to eight months appears to have been effective, with more than 50 stakeholders attending, better representation from local authorities, and the regular agenda back on track dealing with CMA establishment, Advisory Committee and Business Unit issues.

The interview was conducted with six people, three of whom were DWAF staff. Much of the discussion revolved around the concerns of these members and what needs to be done, which is indicative of the momentum that is already in place in the revived forum. The involvement of ward councilors has been a major achievement in the forum revival process, and the Molopo forum is no exception. The committed participation of Mafikeng municipality through Mr Mike Mokgwamme was also evident.

Marico Water Forum

As in the case of the Molopo forum, considerable progress has been made in increasing the stakeholder database, with participation from at least 3 local municipalities. Meetings of the revived forum have already tabled discussions on CMA issues and Business Units. Arbor Day celebrations were also held.

With regard to PDI interviews, individual visits were made to three members of the revived Molopo Forum, namely Boitumelo Hlongwa, Isiah Molokwane and Raisibe Tshweu.

Ms Hlongwa is a Development Officer at Central District Municipality. As a champion, she is now aware of managing resources (even though she has just started), and her involvement thus far has stimulated her interest. She feels capacitated to make her community aware at meetings about water scarcity and cost recovery, and is concerned about poor borehole maintenance and boreholes drying up. She has access to 32 villages in total, and meetings take place in every village. Water committees are now more actively involved since her participation in the IWRM project.

Isiah Molokwane, also a water champion, is employed at the Premier's Office in the Traditional Leadership and Institutions Sub-Directorate.

He is now aware of the National Water Act and feels that the forum is important for the needs of the people. Isiah disseminates information acquired at the forum to the people via his bi-monthly meetings with the Chiefs. Through his position, Isiah is actively rectifying traditional perceptions about water; for instance:

- Traditional authorities claim to “own” water but are now aware that Water Resources can be managed.
- Villagers now aware that Minister is the custodian of the nation’s water resources – previously, the people of Dinokana expected compensation from the residents of Welbedacht, whose water is reticulated via a water transfer from Dinokana.

Isiah is determined to streamline the thoughts and actions of traditional authorities and ward councilors with respect to water resource management, and for the two streams to eventually work together. In this respect the two chiefs of the area (MJG Moiloa and E Lencoe) have nominated two representatives to accompany him to forum meetings. Isiah is also concerned about the cost recovery problems with the installation of prepaid meters. In the villages of Madutle and Matlhase, the people cannot afford the R5 payment, so they walk between 2 and 5km to fetch water for their cattle from open tanks, which could be polluted.

Raisibe Tshweu

Raisibe is the founder of Twafalo Training and Advice Centre, which has been training preschool teachers and guiding projects with business proposals from as far away as Mafikeng. Having attended the “Greening the Communities” course and the Marico forum meeting, she finds the IWRM project informative and is excited at the greater networking potential. As member of Provincial Executive Committee for SANGOCO, she is aware of numerous projects related to land and food security, and poverty alleviation, which could now be streamlined with IWRM initiatives. A classical example of streamlining is a project that she is aware of that is funded by Department of Agriculture, which provides equipment for farming, but there is no water available for irrigation.

Ms Tshweu also has several ideas that could add value to the work of the forum; for instance, the potential for arranging some development around the springs/fountains in the area, and the potential for using trained but unemployed tour guides for “catchment tourism”.

Elands Water Forum (Rustenburg)

The Elands forum revival process did not have a successful start which compounded the sense of disillusionment that was evident during the interview with four ward councilors and a member of Rustenburg Youth. With their experience in the political arena with respect to organizing meetings, marketing and listening to people’s concerns, the councilors had a rather mature view of the forum and its activities. The use of (what is perceived as too many) consultants in the institutional arena, and the lack of any real progress is leading to some skepticism. “We don’t know where we are going” was one of the comments from the interview. Funding is critical to the forum’s sustainability, particularly for traveling to meetings: the forum is mainly rural, great distances separate adjacent municipalities, and meeting attendance is getting smaller because only those who have resources and live close to town (Rustenburg) come to meetings. The chairperson of the forum lives 60km from Rustenburg, and does not have his own transport.

According to Kebareng Bogopang, as the biggest supplier of services in the Rustenburg area, the Roya; Bafokeng Nation must be part of the Elands forum. They have already secured water to 29 villages at a cost of R 41million, and wish to work together in serving the community by avoiding duplication of effort. The introduction of the RBN to this forum was a crucial step towards continued support and sustainability.

Thabazimbi Water Forum

As the fourth forum that was scheduled for revival, Thabazimbi have already conducted three meetings, and elected three PDI members on the Executive. Attendance has varied in number and continuity, but this does not detract in any way from certain key stakeholders whose participation is very encouraging, namely:

- Stephen Leruma, member of one of the Business Units of the forum, is in the process of creating exposure for the forum through the “Junior Town Council”, who will be encouraged to get involved in forum activities and attend meetings as well;
- A PDI from Skilpadnes (informal settlement outside Thabazimbi), having attended a forum meeting, was inspired to assist with the water problem in the settlement, and arranged to get water from two boreholes belonging to a farmer – this kind of initiative reflects the true spirit of water resource management at local level.
- Margaret Musi, a resident of Regorogile location in Thabazimbi, is a member of the ANC Women’s League, and would like to arrange meetings with the community to teach them about saving water. The League already have mechanisms in place for printing of pamphlets, and get at least 200 people attending their meetings. Ms Musi was invited to the forum, and could only attend one meeting to date.
- Refilwe, another new forum member, is the co-ordinator for Itelereng Skills Development Centre, a community upliftment project sponsored by an iron ore mining company at which people are taught various skills such as sewing, leatherwork, and other crafts. Links with this Centre hold exciting options in store for the water forum.

Interview with DWAF staff (PDIs)

Part of the IWRM project’s activities was the training of DWAF staff and their integration with the project in order to build capacity and sustainability in the implementation of IWRM. An informal discussion with about 14 DWAF staff from the Regional Offices provided some useful insight into their perception of the project’s impacts and related issues, some of which are listed below. Most of the interviewees were either Institutional and Social Development Officers (ISDO) or Pollution Control Officers.

- IWRM is well integrated with our activities – now we inform and consult with communities in addition to conducting various investigations. We feel capacitated to deal with socially related issues such as community participation. However, getting back to forums to engage regularly with communities is difficult to fit in with our normal DWAF duties.
- Training was conducted long ago – there is no link with it now. The Greening Communities and IWRM courses are for self enrichment only.
- As ISDO’s we see to it that stakeholders are on board, so
 - we wanted to include Royal Bafokeng Nation into Elands forum,
 - we suggested translation of presentations (by consultants) into the local language
 - we notice that participation is only from people who have jobs.
- Kwena Water Forum: supposed to be driven by the community, but they are not really doing anything. Informal settlements do not have proper sanitation and waste removal.
- Hennops Water Forum: generally inactive, guidance needed from project co-ordinator on how to revive forum. People in Thembisa and Ivory Park settlements are not aware of IWRM issues – an awareness campaign is necessary. The settlements have inadequate sanitation, resulting in downstream pollution. Planning for flood events is also necessary.

- Thabazimbi Water Forum: Greening Communities course was beneficial. Have gone to communities and spoke to councilors – Management Committee is not well represented. Transport (costs) is still an issue. Have identified small projects – eg:
 - Rooiberg has no proper water supply, only boreholes – water pipes installed
 - Smashers Block (informal settlement) has no services – farmer is willing to supply water
- Elands Water Forum: (joined recently): Initially IWRM did not make sense, but now clear that it is complementary to our core functions, focusing on community development. Integration needs to be people-driven – believe in bottom-up approach. Projects must be issue driven. IWRM is integrated in practice and people are indirectly impacted by it. Representivity is a problem in forums.
- Magalies Water Forum: Forum consists mostly of farmers and municipality – PDIs are not at meetings. Lack of sanitation in squatter camps is a major problem. People depend on groundwater. Currently involved in reviving forum.
- Jukskei Water Forum: Members only from municipalities, business and community groups – no one from Alexander, no one representing Crocodile river. DWAF organized forums initially, wanted to get people invited, appeared to have lost control, focus seemed to be on CMA. IWRM is now giving a chance to get involved in forum (Co-ordination for Forum Committee). Tourism is a big drawcard – should get community involved. Outsourcing (to consultants) is not good – need a sense of ownership.
- Apies Pienaar Water Forum: Consultants just “grabbed” PDIs, represented on Business Units – but were they the right people? There are no issues to discuss – how will we sustain attendance?

CLOSING REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It would be instructive to reiterate that the above assessment of impacts of the IWRM project on PDIs in the three WMAs, is based on field visits during which interviews were conducted with selected PDIs. This was a slight change from the original objectives, in which a review of the Terms of Reference of the Local service providers was included to ensure that appropriate impact monitoring measures were in place and an overall review would then take account of the monitoring reports compiled during the LSP’s contract period.

The general impression gathered from the field study is that, overall, the project has had a definite positive impact on PDIs who have interacted with the project in some way or another. A major contributing factor to this success is that careful attention was given to the lessons learned from the earlier evaluation of PDI participation, and deliberate corrective and remedial steps were taken in the last phase of the project. Another significant factor was the appointment of dedicated project co-ordinators who researched the areas carefully, kept a tight control on activities, and communicated and reported regularly and efficiently.

In hindsight, the decision to select and train PDIs as water champions, to “champion the cause of IWRM” in their own areas, was probably the most significant intervention from the point of view of PDI impact. Building local capacity to implement IWRM at a local scale, spreading benefits locally, was a wise investment, and the large number of success stories in this report bear testimony to this. Local champions are not only resourceful and enthusiastic but empathetic to the plight of their communities, taking into consideration culture, gender and sensitive “area-specific” issues.

Based on the numerous thoughts and suggestions made by interviewees, and personal observations, the following recommendations are proposed with regard to further enhancement of the project’s positive impacts on PDIs:

- Consideration should be given to developing capacity building material and communication strategies/tools at a lower level than that of water champion. It would be prudent to develop a separate stream of input by local individuals to IWRM, one that is relatively easy to join and that would foster the development of a support framework around each champion. This is already taking place in some instances where champions have employed people to assist them with micro-projects. The water champion route should remain constantly open, but with certain selection criteria which could be based on the highly successful choice of individuals that was made in the “first round”.
- A continuation of the Project Cycle Management type of course was suggested on several occasions, particularly where champions had advanced the application of their training to many projects and high level interactions with communities and institutions.
- Many champions were brimming with ideas for projects in their areas but were anxious to translate them into action. Preparation of proposals and business plans is a necessary prerequisite before funding or other support can be obtained (from DWAF in particular). In this respect, it might be useful to simplify the process of preparing these documents, so that they are perceived as administrative/monitoring procedures rather than stumbling blocks.
- Meaningful, accessible participation, capacity building, information sharing, community based projects, and participation in decision making processes are the cornerstones of successful IWRM at a local level, and the catchment/water forum is perceived as the appropriate vehicle for all this to happen. However, there were repeated concerns from interviewees about the cost of travel to meetings, which tend to take place in urban centers. Are current forum mechanisms stifling participation? Should more attention be given to ease of access to all (particularly to PDIs) rather than logistical convenience (venues, catering, proximity to government offices etc)?