



BREEDDE-GOURITZ
CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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JULY-SEPTEMBER 2019

BGCMA **NEWS**

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The Huis River Project

By Philisiwe Ntanzu



Assessment of onsite water quality



Identification of macroinvertebrates

The Huis River project focuses on the monitoring of the Huis and Tradouw Rivers in Barrydale. This monitoring follows the discovery of the Barrydale Redfin fish which is a rare indigenous fish species. The presence of indigenous fish is one of the signs of a healthy riverine ecosystem, making indigenous fish good bio-indicators of healthy rivers.

The project involves co-operation between different Government Departments including the Breede-Gouritz CMA, Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Department of Water and Sanitation, Cape Nature, Department of Agriculture, other stakeholders as well as the land owners. Four tasks have been

identified for the project:

- ▶ River Maintenance Management Plan (RMMP) – Tradouw River
- ▶ Alien Clearing and Maintenance
- ▶ Water Health Monitoring (SASS, Redfin, Water & Sediment Monitoring and Flow Monitoring)
- ▶ Specialised Studies (Infiltration and water loss determination, parasite infestation).

BGCMA is currently assisting in terms of biomonitoring using SASS5 protocol and assessing onsite water quality. The first sampling run was undertaken in February 2019, autumn sampling was undertaken in May 2019; other sampling run will be done in winter and spring. This is a test sampling run that will serve as a baseline study to check the current status

of the rivers and will inform whether continuous monitoring is necessary. The main challenge in the area is the drought, during the summer most of the sampling points were dry. One factor that might be contributing to the loss of water is the alien vegetation. Part of the project includes alien clearing and maintenance.

The BGCMA will continue with assisting with monitoring of these rivers for all the seasons together with other teams. At the end the overall eco-status of the two rivers will be produced and recommendations taken into consideration. This will inform further actions to be taken in order to preserve this special species (Barrydale Redfin).

The Karoo area is still dry despite good rains

The Breede-Gouritz CMA, Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation & Beaufort West Municipality hosted a media tour to the Gamka Dam in Beaufort West.

The main aim for this tour was to assess the water situation of the Central Karoo in particular the Beaufort West, as a result of a devastating drought that has hit the Western Cape.

While good rains have fallen in some parts of the province, the Gouritz Management Area still remains a concern, as this impacts negatively on agricultural fraternity and even supply to households.



Gamka Dam is at 38% compared to 0% of December 2018

Nelson Mandela International Day 2019

By Eben Saal



At BGCMA we strive towards maintaining good working relationships and collaboration with stakeholder's in different spheres of government in order for us to ensure optimal service delivery.

As a result, BGCMA joined several other stakeholders from different government

Departments on Wednesday, 24 July 2019 in the clear rivers campaign in Riversdale as part of the 10th annual celebration of Mandela Day.

The theme for this year's Mandela Day celebration was dedicating 67 minutes to clearing streams and rivers.

In true Madiba spirit all partners put

shoulder to the wheel in order to clean-up the polluted Vetteriver in order to address some of the causes of our natural resource decline.

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference."- Neslon Mandela

Mandela Day River Clean-Up Campaign: Zwelethemba

By Jowahl Le Roux

On the 19th of July 2019, BGCMA celebrated Nelson Mandela Day by doing a river clean-up of the Hexriver in Zwelethemba.

This event was hosted in collaboration with the Zwelethemba Youth Development Organisation and the Khulisa Food and Nutrition Security Project and with the support of ward Councillor for ward 8.

Both these organisations have community projects that are funded by the BGCMA's grant funding for water related community projects.

The Zwelethemba Youth Development Organisation (ZYDO) was established with the purpose of making a difference in the community amongst the unemployed youth. They have a vegetable gardening project that benefits the local community and youth. They build positive relationships with the youth in Zwelethemba, run local awareness campaigns that includes the basics of agriculture by promoting training programmes such as soil bed

preparation, trench beds, seed sowing, vegetable care and maintenance, compost making etc.

The Khulisa Food and Nutrition Security Project provides a social support intervention system for TB patients and malnourished children within the Zwelethemba community where food insecurity and malnutrition exists due to the high rate of unemployed TB patients. They host TB awareness programs and events; food and nutrition education; establish food gardens for TB patients at local police station and Zwelethemba High School; offer food garden support at all local ECD's; set-up household backyard food gardens; create job and skills development for cured patients.



Understanding the Water Use Authorisation process

Understanding the Water Use Authorisation process

The National Water Act (NWA) (Act No 36 of 1998) fundamentally reforms the law relating to water resources, recognising that water is a scarce and unevenly distributed national asset that belongs to the people of South Africa and provides the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) with the mandate to protect, use, develop, conserve, manage and control the country's water resources in an integrated manner.

The NWA therefore provides the legal basis upon which to develop tools and the means to effect this mandate.

One of the means is the authorisation of water use as defined in Chapter 4 of the NWA. The online Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (e-WULAAS) is a tool to facilitate the authorisation and manage the authorisation of water use.

Water Use Authorisation Process

South Africa's National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998) replaced all previous rights to water use with an entitlement under the new Act. The National Water Act (NWA) now only makes provision for one's "right" to water, the Reserve. This is the water required to maintain the ecosystem and basic human needs. Except for the water required for this Reserve and basic human needs use, all other water uses must be authorised by the Department of Water and Sanitation or a Catchment Management Agency (CMA).

The legal framework for water use authorisation is:

- ▶ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa
- ▶ The National Water Act (No. 26 of 1998)
- ▶ The National Water Amendment Act (No. 27 of 2014)
- ▶ The Procedural Requirements for

Water Use Licence Applications and Appeals (Regulation).

It is necessary to authorise water use:

- ▶ To protect water resources
- ▶ To promote equitable access to water
- ▶ To facilitate social and economic development
- ▶ To protect aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity and
- ▶ To meet international obligations.

There are four types of water use authorisations:

Schedule 1:

Schedule 1 Water Use constitutes -

- ▶ water taken for reasonable domestic use in a person's household from any source
- ▶ small gardening (but not for commercial purposes)
- ▶ watering of livestock (excluding feedlots) that graze on that land (within the carrying capacity of that property)
- ▶ storing and using run-off water from a roof (rain water harvesting)
- ▶ in emergencies, e.g. fire-fighting
- ▶ recreation, e.g. swimming, angling, etc.

A Catchment Management Agency (CMA) may limit the taking of water in terms of Schedule 1 (Schedule 3(2)(e) of the Act). Water users in this category can commence with their activities without informing the Department.

General Authorisations:

General Authorisations is an authorisation to use water without a licence, provided that the water use is within certain limits and complies with conditions set out in the Gazetted General Authorisation. This authorisation requires a registration with the Department prior to exercising the water use(s).

Existing Lawful Use:

Existing Lawful Water Use means the use of water authorised by or under any law that took place at any time for a period of two years before the commencement of the NWA.

An Existing Lawful Water Use, with any conditions attached, is recognised but may continue only to the extent that it is not limited, prohibited or terminated by this Act. No licence is required to continue with an Existing Lawful Water Use until a responsible authority requires a person claiming such an entitlement to apply for a licence. If a licence is issued it becomes the source of authority for the water use. If a licence is not granted the use is no longer permissible. This authorisation requires a registration with the Department.

Licensed Water Use:

A responsible authority may dispense with the requirement for water use licence if it is satisfied that the purpose of this Act will be met by a licence, permit of other Authorisation granted under any other law. Person(s) intending to use water in this category should write a letter, attaching the relevant authorisation to request the Department to dispense with the requirements of a water use licence.

The following activities constitute water uses and require authorisation in terms of Section 21 of the NWA:

What is the Electronic Water Use Licence Application and Authorisation System (e-WULAAS) and how do I apply for a Water Use Authorisation?

e-WULAAS is the online web portal for the submission, processing and authorisation of water use licence applications. This online portal allows prospective water users to register free of charge, submit their applications for water uses, make payments and interact

with DWS in a secure online environment.

Water Users registered on e-WULAAS can engage with DWS online regarding the:

- ▶ Submission of applications and related documentation
- ▶ Tracking of applications through the authorisation process
- ▶ Communication

▶ Support and assistance.
Using the online application process is as easy as

1. Register your water use profile
2. Login with your details
3. Start your application by following the online prompts.

Prospective water users that do not have access to the online portal will still

be able to submit their applications by contacting their nearest DWS Office for assistance or access the website by using this link <http://ewulaas.dwa.gov.za/ewulaasprod/>.

For assistance you are free to call the toll free call centre 0800 200 200.

Water Use	Example
a) Taking water from a water resource.	Abstracting water from a river or borehole for the following purposes: - domestic use - irrigation - watering of livestock - industrial - mining - water bottling, etc.
b) Storing water.	Raw water containment facilities constructed in-stream and in off-channel dams.
c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.	Construction of structures/facilities within surface water resources, e.g. weirs, bridges, pipelines, etc.
d) Engaging in a stream flow reduction activity.	Plantation of forestry species (Eucalyptus, Pine and Wattle).
e) Engaging in a controlled activity identified as such in section 37(1) or declared under section 28(1) of the NWA.	Irrigation with water containing waste, artificial recharge of aquifer, modification of atmospheric precipitation and in-stream power generation activities.
f) Discharging waste or water containing waste into a water resource.	Discharging of water containing waste into a surface water resource, e.g. discharging treated effluent into a river or a wetland.
g) Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource.	Disposal of effluent into a water containment facility, dust suppression and stockpiles.
h) Disposing of waste in a manner which contains waster from or which has been heated in any industrial or power generation process.	Discarding of industrial/power generation waste water or water which has been heated.
i) Altering the bed, banks, courses or characteristics of a watercourse.	Construction of structures/facilities within surface water resources, e.g. weirs, bridges, pipelines, etc. Introduction of unnatural characteristic to the resource.
j) Removing, discharging or disposing of water found underground if it is necessary of the efficient continuation of an activity or for the safety of the people.	Extraction of water from underground workings for safe continuation of activities.
k) Using water for recreational purpose.	The use of surface water resources for fishing, boating, etc.

Women's Day 2019

By Eben Saal

National Women's Day is a South – African public holiday celebrated annually on 09 August to commemorate the 1956 march.

This year the BGCMA partnered with Hessequa Municipality to celebrate Women's Day in Gouruizmond.

About 120 women from different races and social classes united and joined us for the celebrations.

Hessequa Mayor Grant Riddles applauded women for their sacrifices and the important roles that they fulfil in their families and in their communities.

Guest Speaker, Ivor Adams had the audience in tears with his life story, about hope and courageous women who never gave up on him whilst local musician Oom Hannes Coetzee had everyone dancing with his guitar playing and singing.

Feedback from some of the BGCMA employees who attended the event include the following:

"The event was so empowering, well organised and beautiful. - Andiswa Sam

"I learned from the Guest Speaker that if you cover your child with prayer, your child can conquer anything."-Noncedo Lesele

"Together as women we can make the world a better place." - Kathleen Makgatho

"The attendance was impressive that community is united, I have learned that no matter what challenges that you are going through you need to share with your mother and leaned that our mothers they want all the best for us



they are praying for us and protecting us. Women will carry heavy loads on their shoulders but they still put smile on their faces and walk tall and say it is well." – Thuliswa Tafeni

Women's Day Celebrations

By M. Mlabateki



The first National Women's Day was celebrated in 1995. South Africa had just become a democratic country at the time, and the day was declared a national holiday. Since then annual celebrations take place throughout the country. It has become one of the national holidays where activities are

organised with women giving speeches at different venues across the country. August has since been declared National Women's Month.

Women in South Africa face many challenges, including discrimination in the workplace, the gender pay-gap, poverty, sexual harassment and

extremely high levels of violence against women and girls. This is often headline news, where shocking statistics and heart-breaking stories are shared in evidence of women's suffering. The BGCMA staff gathered in pursuit of deliberating about these challenges faced by women in different set-ups and in future they can find ways of overcoming them.

Mrs Mathabang Mothibe, a friend of the organisation since its' inception was the guest speaker of the day and touched on different aspects including how women should conduct themselves and how women should cease that "pull her down syndrome". She emphasised that women should show love and support each other in all their difficulties through prayer.

Another speaker who gave a powerful speech was Ms Bonita Mdoda, who talked about introspection and women emancipation. "We must take



responsibility individually and collectively and we must work to strengthen those institutions tasked with protecting the rights of women, human rights, equality and other such progressive institutions of our democracy," she said.

She continued to say "This is a

challenge to men and women in South Africa. For men, the challenge is to not only include women, but to have them lead. For women, the challenge is to be aware of the power imbalance present between women – be it due to education, race, or position – and to rectify that

imbalance through intentional and creative inclusion strategies. Let Women's Day and Women's Month be a reminder not only of the need to better the lives and circumstances of women, but to have women front and centre in this process."

George Municipal Health officials reach out to Lancewood Primary School learners



The Environmental health Practitioners from the George office (Wilderness region) celebrated Mandela Day on 19 July 2019 at Lancewood Primary School. Lancewood Primary school is one of our local rural schools in George, and has a total number of 66 children.

Prior to the visit on the 19th, the team conducted a needs assessment to determine the needs of the learners. During their visit on the 19th the team surprised the school and learners with: netball balls, soccer balls, a rugby ball,

made and galvanized netball poles; sanitary towels; assorted color chalks and chalk board dusters; covered and painted cable drums to recycle as dining tables and two (2) outside dining tables that were made from recycled materials.

During the visit the Breede Gouritz Catchment Agency donated puzzles, board games, recyclable water bottles and lunch boxes to the learners and Mortgage Max Sonet Calitz handed out food parcels and stationary.

The event was organised in collaboration with the GRDM

Maintenance Team, Mortgage Max Sonet Calitz, as well as the Breede Gouritz Catchment Management Agency and it was indeed a great success.



BGCMA wishes you all many more years to come....

09 JULY Elmarie van Rooyen	13 JULY Jowahl Le Roux	20 JULY Luvo Gantolo	23 JULY Thembekile Sambo
27 JULY Sylvia Mbombo	04 AUGUST Malehlohonolo Mlabateki	07 AUGUST Rushda Adonis	05 SEPTEMBER Prudence Mahlaba
08 SEPTEMBER Rafeeq Le Roux	20 SEPTEMBER Duwayne Meiring	24 SEPTEMBER Devian Fredericks	

G	H	W	A	H	E	G	O	N	I	T	U	M	T	E
K	E	C	O	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	I	O	N	M
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O	P	T	H	O	V	D	U	S	I	L	E	P	A	V

WORD SEARCH

- BARRYDALE REDFIN
- CONSTITUTION
- DROUGHT
- DISCRIMINATION
- EMANCIPATION
- EQUALITY
- GENDER
- HESSEQUA
- KAROO
- MADIBA
- ZWELETHEMBA