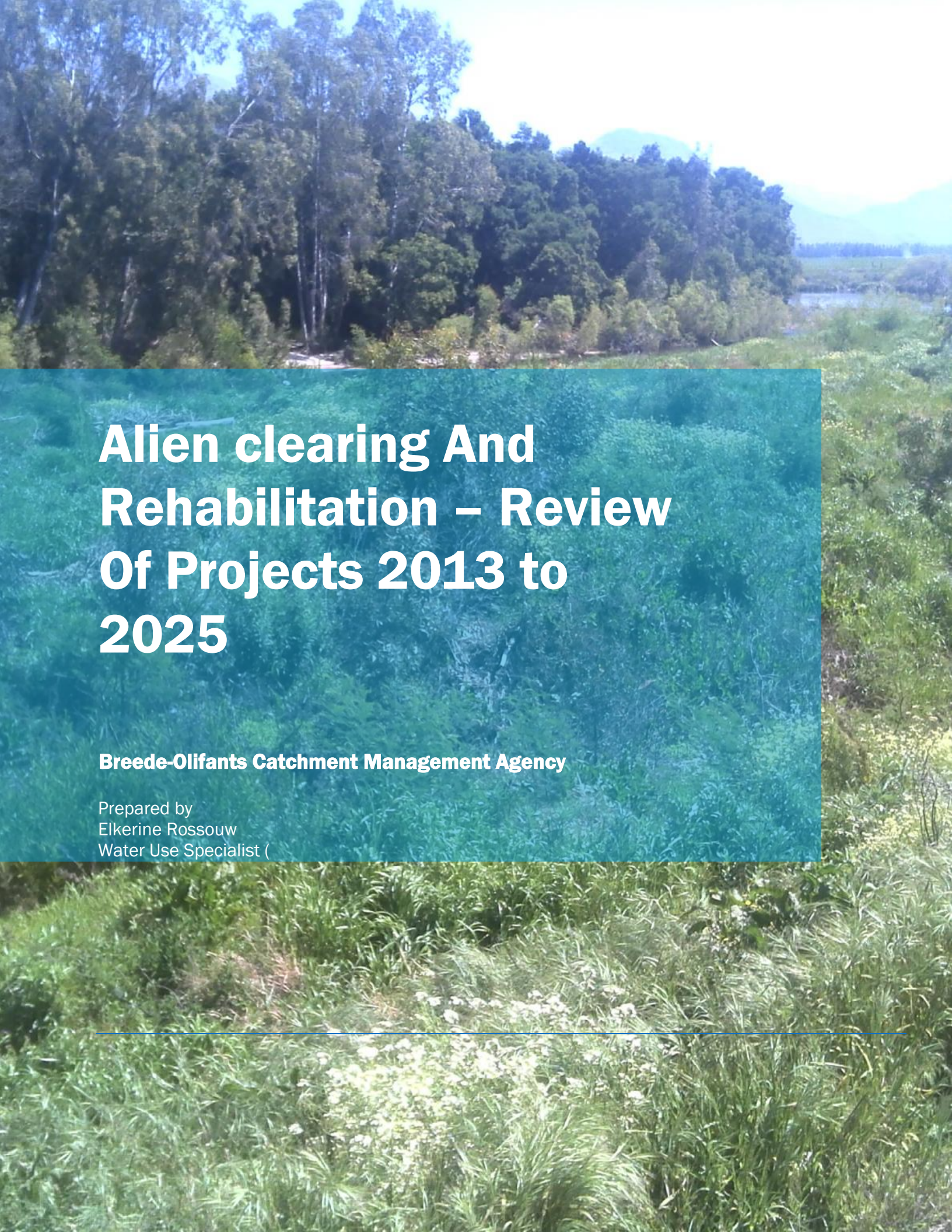


Alien clearing And Rehabilitation – Review Of Projects 2013 to 2025

Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency

Prepared by
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Executive summary

This review covers the Alien Clearing and Rehabilitation projects supported by the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA) from 2013 to 2025. Alien invasive plants use water, crowd out indigenous fynbos, fuel high-intensity fires that damage soils, and increase erosion and the risk of poorer water quality. Clearing them is therefore central to protecting water availability for the agricultural sector, the largest in the catchment, and for the aquatic environment.

BOCMA delivers these projects through partnerships with Water User Associations (WUAs) and implementing agents such as CASIDRA do the work on the ground, alongside the Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), and Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), as well as municipalities and landowners. Partners plan and report jointly through platforms such as the Upper Breede Collaborative Extension Group, the Boland Groter Winterhoek Collective, which avoids duplicated funding. Projects follow a consistent approach of desktop and site assessment, priority-species identification, a choice of physical, biological or chemical clearing methods, and monitoring. Initial clearing is often mechanical, and hand teams then carry out follow-up work to protect the gains. Since 2021, DFFE has been less active in the Western Cape, and BOCMA funding has increasingly been directed to follow-up work.

Projects have been delivered across the Breede, Overberg, Gouritz, Berg and Olifantsdoorn Water Management Areas. Key results recorded in the report include:

- **Upper Breede (Wolseley WUA):** MOAs from 2013 to 2024 totalled R10.6 million. The 2024–2026 project cleared 1,423 ha (95% of the 1,500 ha target) and created 10,317 person days of employment. It assisted 31 landowners against a target of 20, trained 75 people and propagated 20,000 plants.
- **Upper Breede (CASIDRA N1 project):** R4.43 million was fully spent, clearing 2,378 ha and generating 20,399 person days.
- **Central Breede River WUA:** About R10 million of BOCMA funding was spent over 13 years, within a partnership that has attracted almost R119 million in total investment. The project reports 3,426 ha cleared and 15,013 person days.
- **Tributary and other partnerships:** Funding was also provided to the Hex River, Worcester East, Zonderend, Duivenhoks, Kamanassie, Berg River and Tulbagh WUAs, to Overstrand Municipality and to the Pietercieliesklоof project. These projects extend clearing to tributaries and other catchments, create local jobs, and support indigenous revegetation and landowner participation.

Common challenges are the high cost of machine work and inflation in labour and fuel, the rapid regrowth of aliens that makes follow-up clearing essential, and flood damage, notably the May 2026 floods in the Upper Breede and the 2024 floods in the Olifants catchment. Funding has also shifted as national programmes have changed priorities, and some project records and data are incomplete. Looking ahead, the review points to sustained follow-up clearing, continued partnerships with WUAs, and restoration of cleared riparian areas as the priorities for protecting water resources.

Key achievements

- *Increased Alien Clearing footprint*: About 9,400 ha of invasive alien plants are recorded as cleared in the project tables, including 2,997 ha by the Wolseley WUA, 2,378 ha on the CASIDRA N1 project and 3,426 ha by the Central Breede River WUA. The 2024–2026 Wolseley project cleared 1,423 ha, 95% of its 1,500 ha target.
- *Establishment of rehabilitated sites*: The Wolseley WUA propagated 20,000 indigenous plants and had planted 17,500 along the riparian zone, although the May 2026 floods damaged areas that were not yet established. The Zonderend project propagated 35,500 plants and reports a successful pilot and flood-resilient rehabilitation, and follow-up work has maintained earlier gains in wetlands such as Papenkuils and Kluitjieskraal.
- *Collaboration and innovation*: Joint planning through the Upper Breede Collaborative Extension Group avoids double funding, and the group won the 2019 Service Excellence Award for Best Public Service Innovator. BOCMA funding is leveraged: the Central Breede River WUA partnership has attracted almost R119.1 million in total investment, and on the Berg River landowners and the WUA co-funded R194,000 for biomass chipping and project management.
- *Job creation and skills*: More than 64,000 person days of work are recorded, including 22,315 at Wolseley, 20,399 on the CASIDRA N1 project and 15,013 at the Central Breede River WUA. The Wolseley team of 52 included 19 women and 16 youth, 75 people were trained, and three additional all-female follow-up teams were trained and equipped on the Central Breede River.

Financial performance

The project tables record BOCMA agreements with a combined value of about R43.0 million across 12 projects, of which about R36.1 million is reported as spent. The largest are the Wolseley WUA (R10.6 million), the Central Breede River WUA (R10.0 million), the Overstrand Municipality Onrus catchment project (R5.0 million, of which R0.88 million has been spent so far) and the CASIDRA N1 project (R4.43 million). Most agreements were spent within a small margin of their value; Worcester East spent R518,286 of R550,000, while the Central Breede River WUA and Berg River WUA spent slightly more than their agreement amounts.

The Central Breede River WUA partnership shows how BOCMA funding is leveraged: almost R119.1 million has been invested since it began, of which BOCMA provided R9.76 million (about 8%), DFFE R79.0 million, the Department of Agriculture R12.8 million and the WUA's own funds R17.5 million. Since 2021 DFFE has been less active in the Western Cape, so BOCMA funding is now directed mainly at protecting cleared areas through follow-up work, as in the R5 million Wolseley agreement for 2024–2027, of which R4.997 million was spent within two years.

BOCMA funding by project	Agreement amount (R)	Reported spent (R)
Wolseley WUA	10 612 000	10 600 486
Central Breede River WUA	9 996 000	10 029 094
Overstrand Municipality (Onrus catchment)	5 000 000	875 672
CASIDRA N1 project (Upper Breede)	4 430 000	4 430 000
Kamanassie WUA (Stompdrift)	3 000 000	3 000 000
Duivenhoks WUA	2 887 134	2 887 134
Zonderend WUA	2 800 000	2 800 000
Pietercielieskloof (CASIDRA)	970 000	970 000
Berg River WUA	950 011	951 585
Hex River WUA	900 000	900 000
Tulbagh WUA (Klein Berg River)	900 000	900 000
Worcester East WUA	550 000	518 286
Total	**42 995 145**	**36 062 257**

– The report gives only the agreement amount for these projects. The Overstrand agreement is a three-year agreement that is still under way, so its total reflects spending to the end of 2025/2026. Figures are taken from the project tables in Section 5.

Future outlook

The review points to the following priorities:

- **Sustain follow-up clearing:** Follow-up treatment protects earlier investment and stops cleared areas reverting to costly initial clearing. Duivenhoks has a five-year vision for the river from the N2 bridge to the dam, and the Wolseley project runs to 2027.

- **Treat tributaries and headwaters:** Seed from tributaries such as the Hex, Nonna and Nuy rivers reaches the main stem of the Breede River, so tributary clearing supports the gains already made.

- **Plan for floods and biomass:** Plans should allow for post-flood repair and seedling control, as after the 2024 Olifants floods and the May 2026 Upper Breede floods, and budget for handling cleared biomass from the start.

- **Secure stable co-funding:** Continued WUA, landowner and departmental contributions are needed as national funding declines.

- **Improve record keeping:** Project records were lost or incomplete for some projects, including Pietercielieskloof and the early Wolseley years, so shared project archives are needed.

Conclusion

Between 2013 and 2025, BOCMA's partnerships with Water User Associations, implementing agents, government departments and landowners cleared invasive alien plants over thousands of hectares and created tens of thousands of person days of local work. They also began restoring riparian areas and wetlands that are important for water security and the agricultural sector. The projects show that initial clearing only pays off when it is protected by follow-up work, that tributary clearing supports the main rivers, and that shared funding and landowner involvement are essential. Floods, regrowth, biomass disposal, falling national funding and incomplete records remain the main risks, and the BOCMA will continue to work with its partners to address them.

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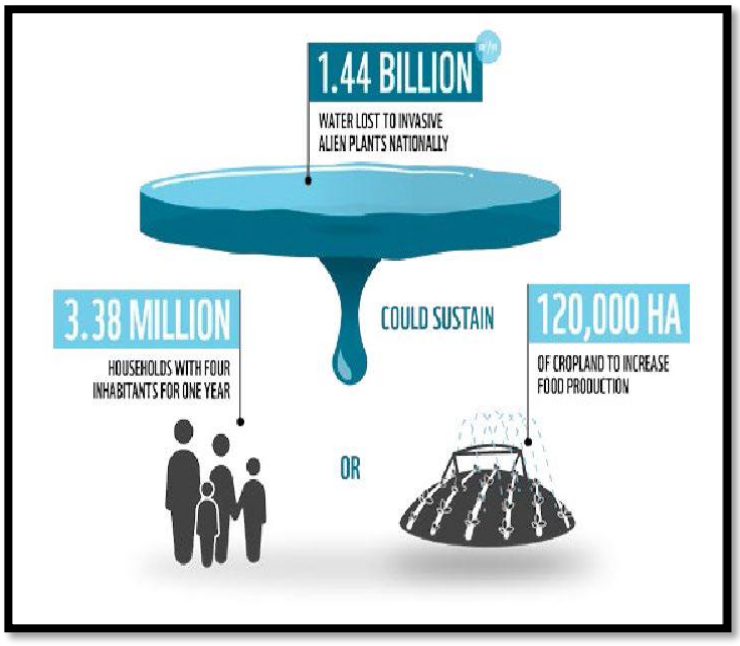
Alien Clearing and Rehabilitation projects

2013 – 2025

1. Background

One of the functions of the Catchment Management Agency is the management of quantity and quality of water in the Water Resources of the catchments under its control. Alien invasive plant species are not only using about 3% of the available water in the catchment, it also crowds the indigenous, natural veld and worsens the impact of veld fires on the fynbos region.

Alien invasive plant species are difficult to control and already out of hand in some areas, including in critical catchments providing the livelihoods to the agricultural sector (the largest sector within the CMA boundaries). Not only are they using more water compared to fynbos, but these high-intensitity fires associated with and fueled by alien trees also damage the soil and make it water repellent. This then increases the risk of erosion and poorer water quality.



The Breede-Olifants Water Management Areas (WMA) is facing increased pressures upon available water resources. Various studies in the Breede WMA (and other areas) have shown that there is considerable potential to increase the availability of water in the WMA by the removal of invasive alien plants. Indications are that should the spread / density of invasive alien plants not be addressed, further substantial losses in water availability are likely.

By managing resources, the CMA will be enabled to support continued socio-economic development, provide for emerging agriculture and water allocation reform, improve water quality management and fundamentally ensure sufficient flow, of adequate quality, together with habitat protection and restoration, to protect aquatic environmental health.

Breede-Overberg CMS

The then Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Strategy, Chapter 4 referred to the strategic focus areas linked to strategic measures and actions that should be implemented to ensure the water resources and the freshwater ecosystems are sustainable. One of these priorities identified as Action 1-E4: Align alien invasive vegetation clearing plans with the Breede-Overberg priorities. The priority milestones were set for 2015 and 2012 respectively and provided significant ways forward to achieve milestones.

To achieve the abovementioned milestones, the CMA undertook an investigation to align the CMS priority areas with the LandCare (Department of Agriculture), CapeNature, Local Municipalities, District Municipalities and Working for Water targets. These entities were requested to provide the BOCMA with their shape files (and or jpeg files) for the areas where they already targeted for alien removal as well as their priority areas.

The priority areas, in the then CMS, were linked to the rehabilitation of the mechanically impacted tributaries in the Central Breede and Overberg East, as well as alien vegetation encroachment in the mountain headwaters.

The BOCMA's role, together with the Department of Water and Sanitation and other Provincial Government departments were setout in the aforementioned milestone set at 2015 are summarized as follows:

- Priorities the development of management plans for Freshwater Ecosystem Priority areas;
- Identify the smaller streams and habitats within the river Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area that require protection and delineate management buffers that will be required for their protection;
- Form a collaboration with relevant implementing agencies to support the development and implementation of management plans for these river habitats;
- Engage with water user associations to support the protection of these priority river habitat areas;
- Engage with the relevant land owners to ensure that they comply with the protection of River Habitats.

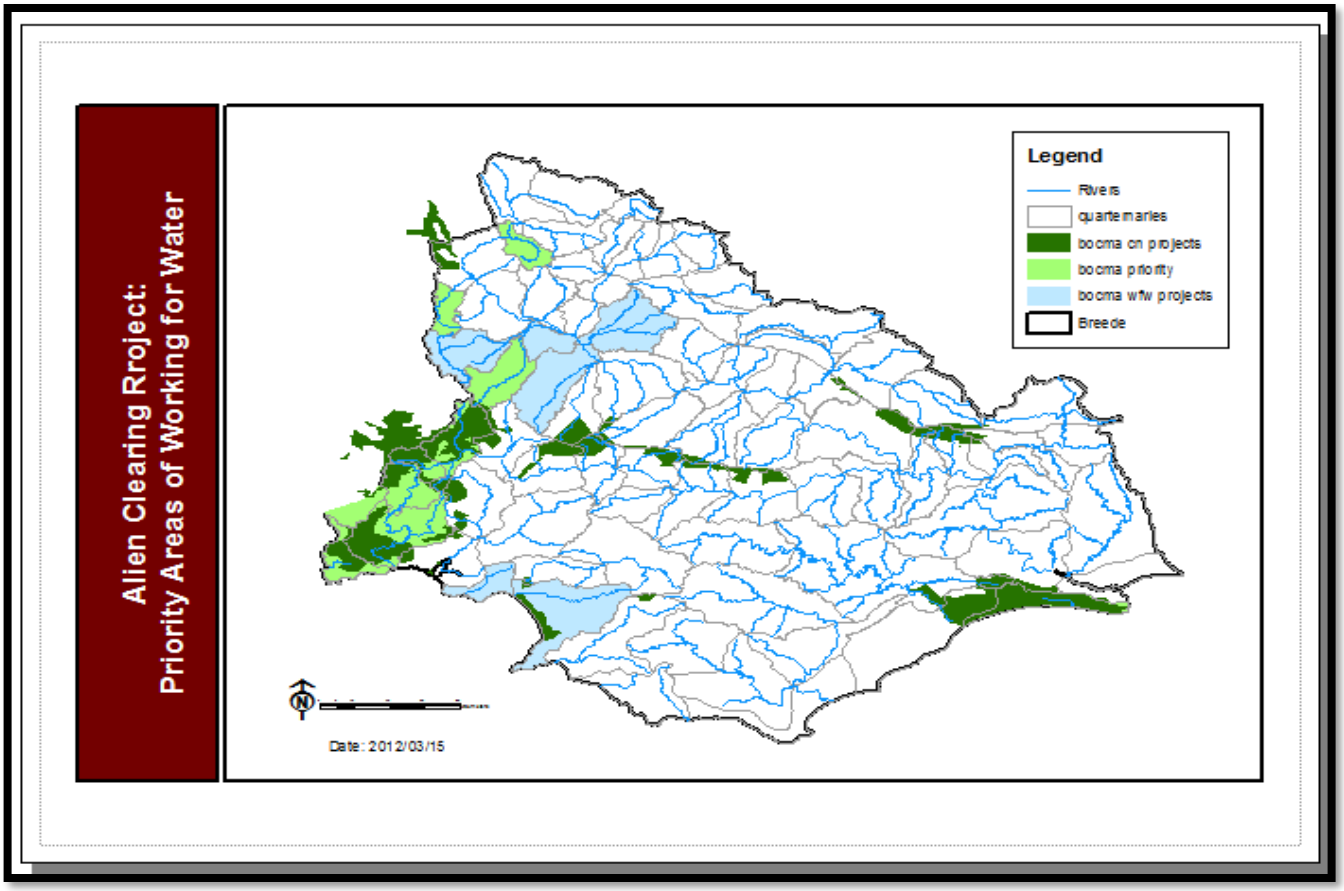


Figure 1: 2012: Working for Water priority areas in the Breede WMA was used as baseline for prioritisation

Breede-Gouritz CMS

The Breede-Gouritz CMS links up with the Breede-Overberg CMS in Section 6.0 – Strategic Area 1: Protection for People and Nature where the sustainability aspects of the CMS and the careful management of water resources and freshwater ecosystems are discussed in detail. Various strategic measures and sub-actions are identified for the CMA to achieve this. Amongst these are:

- Strategic Measure 1.5: Natural Asset Conservation
- Strategic Measure 1.5.3: Develop and implement plans for priority wetlands
- Strategic Measure 1.5.4: Develop and implement plans for riparian habitat protection for priority rivers
- Strategic Measure 1.5.6: Develop and implement plans for alien vegetation clearing, concentrating on the riparian areas along the major rivers
- Strategic Measure 1.5.7: Develop and implement plans for instream habitats conservation

Breede-Olifants CMS

The Breede-Olifants CMS is currently being developed but, being a stakeholder driven strategy, it is foreseen that the emphasis on water conservation through strategies, plans and projects will be key to the management of the catchment. It is also foreseen that the need to collaborate with other partners and government entities will be seen as the preferable way to achieve the goals set out in the CMS.

2. Legal Framework

OVERARCHING LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)

Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) makes provision to the right of an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and have the environment that is protected for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that

(i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
(ii) (ii) promote conservation; and
(iii) (iii) secure ecologically sustainability.

There is a variety of legal tools (i.e. acts, gazettes) that need to be considered when undertaking river rehabilitation activities.

The two main pieces of overarching legislation in South Africa are the National Water Act (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998) and National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998). These two legislative tools in some instances give provision for some small-scale rehabilitation activities to be undertaken without prior authorization (NEMA) or are eligible for General Authorization (under the NWA). Medium to large scale rehabilitation activities may require different types of approvals prior to commencement, such as licenses, environmental authorizations, permits or rights.

The various types of environmental approvals are discussed below. There are other related environmental legislations that can apply to river rehabilitation activities depending on the cause for rehabilitation and different activities of rehabilitation that may need to be carried out. The overarching pieces of legislation applicable to river rehabilitation are as follows:

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996;
- National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA);
- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA);
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA);
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004) (NEM: BA)
- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act 57 of 2003) (NEM: PAA);
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1993 (Act 43 of 1983) (CARA); and

- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002) (MPRDA).

Table 1 provides a summary of Legislative Tools Applicable to Alien Clearing and River Rehabilitation projects..

Table 1: Legislative Tools Applicable for Alien Clearing and River Rehabilitation projects

Institution	Legislative Tool	Sections	Process
DWS	National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998)	21, 36, 40, 41, 43, 19	Water Use License Application (WULA), Waste Discharge Charge System (WDCS), General Authorization (GA)
	Government Notice (GN. 704)	21 (j), (g), Reg 4(c)	GN.704 Exemption Application for backfilling activities
	GN 509	21(c) and (i)	GN509 allows water users to apply for Section 21(c) & (i) under a General Authorisation (GA), as opposed to a full WULA. These water uses may include general construction, maintenance and/or emergency work, river and stormwater management activities and undertaking river rehabilitation works within the regulated area of a watercourse. In order for a water use (or potential) to qualify for a GA under GN 509, the proposed water use/activity must be subject to analysis by a suitably qualified natural scientist that is professional registered with the South Africa Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) using the DWS **Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM).** ***Note: GN509 does not exempt the water user from compliance with any other provision of the Act or from any other applicable legislation, regulation, ordinance, or by-law.*** *The GA makes provision for rehabilitation work in general that will enhance the PES of watercourses / water resources. In general, the RMGs*

Institution	Legislative Tool	Sections	Process
			do not only concentrate on water use authorisations for new applications but also on historic activities that were undertaken without proper authorization.
	GN 1198	21(c) and (i)	GN1198 relieves a water user from the need to apply for a license for impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse in terms of section 21(c) or altering of the bed, banks, characteristics of watercourses in terms of section 21 (i) of the NWA **for the purpose of rehabilitation, provided that the use is within the provision set out in the Notice.** ***Note: GN1198 does not exempt the water user from compliance with any other provision of the Act or from any other applicable legislation, regulation, ordinance, or by-law.***
DALRRD	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act 43 of 1983)	6, 7, 12	Application for consent Section 12
DFFE	Mountain Catchment Areas Act, 1970 (Act 63 of 1970)	2, 3, 4(1), 11, 14	-
	Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989)	26	Scoping
	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004)	52, 53, 56, 57, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 73, 75, 76, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Basic Assessment Report (BAR)
	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998)	Section 28, Regulation 386, Activity 1 (m) gazetted in terms of Section 24	EIA, BAR, Environmental Management Plan/Programme (EMP)

Institution	Legislative Tool	Sections	Process
	National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008)	45	Wate Management License (WML), Licence in terms of section 45
South Africa Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act 25 of 1999)	34(1), 35, 36, 38, 45, 28,	Permit in terms of section 48
Department of Minerals Resources and Energy (DMRE)	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act 28 of 2002)	5A, 22, 23, 27, 38A, 98, 99, 106	Permit in terms of section 27 or right in terms of section 23

Alignment with Policies and Strategies

Various policies and strategies inform River Rehabilitation Management in South Africa, and these include, but not limited, to the items:

- The National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS)
- The National Water and Sanitation Master Plan (NW&SMP) Volume 1 (2018)
- The Draft Environmental Rehabilitation Policy (2014)
- The Integrated Water Quality Management (IWQM) Policies (2016) and Strategies for South Africa (2017)
- The implementation of RDM, particularly the Reserve, RQOs and SDCs is founded on principles of improving water resources quality and reducing deterioration where applicable
- Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)
- The Catchment Management Strategy is informed by the National Water Policy and promotes the sustainable balance between utilisation and protection of water resources in a catchment.

3. The approach of Alien Clearing and Rehabilitation projects

BOCMA considers Alien Clearing and Riparian Rehabilitation as an opportunity to work jointly with other stakeholders. Each project consists of partnerships who have assisted in developing a project plan. By involving land owners and stakeholders benefiting from the projects, communities and land owners are taking ownership of projects through active participation albeit financially or co-operatively.

Considerations

- Identify partners to assist with projects on the ground
- Identify the areas where work will be done,
- At desktop level, employ tools such as Google Earth / CapeFarmMapper and remote sensing to identify infested areas,

- Describe the infested areas – visual description catchment area, extent of infestation, conditions within the watercourse and if possible categorize the alien invasive vegetation types including other aquatic species like hyacinth, water lettuce etc.

Planning and assessment

- Conduct a site visit to confirm the findings of the desktop exercise,
- Where possible use photographs, GPS location and landscape identifiers to describe the area.
- Identify priority plant species for control and clearing
- Identify sensitive habitat and vegetation that should be protected during operations
- Identify appropriate clearing method(s)
- Identify approaches and areas for disposal of cleared material.

Identify objectives

- Define the rehabilitation objectives such as:
    - Increase space for flood alleviation by clearing vegetation;
    - Improve biodiversity of natural indigenous riverine flora and fauna.

Identify Methods

- Physical
    - Manual / mechanical
    - Hand pilling, cutting, slashing, burning, felling, brush cutting
    - Larger Contractors for machine work
- Biocontrol
    - Pathogens / grazers
    - Insects, mites, fungi, bacteria
    - Cattle
- Chemical
    - Application of approved herbicides
    - Herbicides can be selective and non-selective.

Monitoring

- Conduct site visits to ensure treatment methods employed are adequate
- Compile fixed point photographic record
- Use historical google images to observe spatial records



Figure 2: Why is machine work necessary for initial clearing?

4. Partnerships

Government Departments

During 2012 the BOCMA (Then Breede-Overberg CMA) became part of the Upper Breede Collaborative Extension Group (UBCEG), a group of Government Departments working and planning together to conduct work alongside each other where mandates overlap or align closely. During one of these meetings, concerns were raised that the then Department of Water and Sanitation's Working on Water Funds would not be available for crucial follow-up within the Papenkuils wetland. This Wetland was identified as being a key ecological infrastructure both in terms of the wetland ecology and its function within the Breede River as water storage for slow release during the hot summer months.

The UBCEG has since become an integral part in the joint planning and reporting of projects in the Upper Breede River to the confluence with Riviersonderend River. Quarterly meetings are conducted during which feedback from partners are provided on key aspects of projects and challenges as well as solutions are given. Possible funding and funding gaps are also discussed during these meetings. The session on Alien Clearing and Rehabilitation projects are used to (a) Map the various partner's area of work, (b) discuss the densities found in areas and (c) to provide an oversight of where funding streams are located to avoid any "double dipping" within the areas of work in a particular year.

Through the above engagements, the BOCMA continued individual partnerships and ongoing relationships with the Departments as part of the call for Intergovernmental Cooperative Governence (three spheres of government) in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) and the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (2005).

The Department of Agriculture (LandCare) contributes towards projects both financially and as an oversight role in-field. Finances are limited from their own sources, but DOA also received funding from Disaster Risk perspective which is used towards compiling Maintenance Management Plans and active restoration work after the last couple of flood events in the Western Cape. Some of the projects done as partnerships with the DOA were conducted through their implementing agents CASIDRA.

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning contributed towards projects such as the establishment of the Kluitjieskraal Nursery and funding the management of the Nursery and staff attending to the plants in the Nursery. They also contributed towards actively rehabilitating areas cleared by other projects through re-introduction of indigenous plant species and research on the success of establishment of such areas. Recently they stopped funding these projects but are still actively involved in working with the Water Users Associations.

Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Environment contributes as a National Government office towards funding EPWP projects within the catchment. DFFE has always been the major funder in the area, but since 2021 have become less and less active in the Western Cape Alien Clearing Projects as

their focus turned towards Fire Protection Agencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic DFFE continued support to the Alien Clearing projects through implementation of the Presidential Employment Stimulus (PES) funding alongside the limited BOCMA funding.

Metros, Local and District Municipalities, under NEMBA, are legally required to manage invasive species on land under their direct control. They indirectly partnered with the BOCMA in projects around river stretches in the Boland, while some direct projects targeted areas around key Estuaries in the Overberg catchment.



Figure 3: 2019 service Excellence Awards (Category Best Public Service Innovator) for the UBCEG group;

Water User Associations

Water User Associations are statutory, co-operative organisations established under Chapter 8 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 98). These associations enable individual water users – such as farmers, industries and local communities to pool resources, manage local water infrastructure collaboratively and address shared water related needs.

Their key functions include infrastructure management such as canals and pipelines, resource protection and to assist water users with their compliance and allocation management. Within the Western Cape they play a critical role as local partners in Alien Clearing and Rehabilitation projects.

The BOCMA partner with WUAs to do these projects in priority river stretches, wetlands and around key infrastructure for these associations.

5. Projects

BREEDE RIVER WMA

Upper Breede River projects: Wolseley Water Users Association

The first Memorandum of Agreement with the Wolseley Water Users Association was signed in 2013 for clearing areas in the Upper Breede River from the White Bridge (at the intersection of the R43 and R46 between Wolseley and Ceres). The following table (Table 2) is a summary of MOAs signed with Wolseley Water Users Association.

The Wolseley Water Users Association boundaries (as gazetted) reaches between the White Bridge and the Darlingbrug bridge (R101 – Bainskloof pass). The Water Users Association agreed that their project coordinator, who initially was funded by WWF and Woolworths, could coordinate and work within a larger area. This was done to enable projects in the lower part of the Upper Breede River, where there is no established Water User Association or Irrigation Board. This agreement led to the expansion of the areas of work with the Wolseley Water User Association to the upper part of the Central Breede River Water above the Papenkuils Wetland.

The Wolseley Water Users Association mainly uses teams from the Wolseley and Tulbagh area for work in this catchment. During 2021 the Association agreed to further expand their footprint of assistance to the Titus River in the Ceres Basin.



Figure 4: Alien clearing photos indicating the conditions before and after clearing in the Upper Breede and the teams working in these conditions

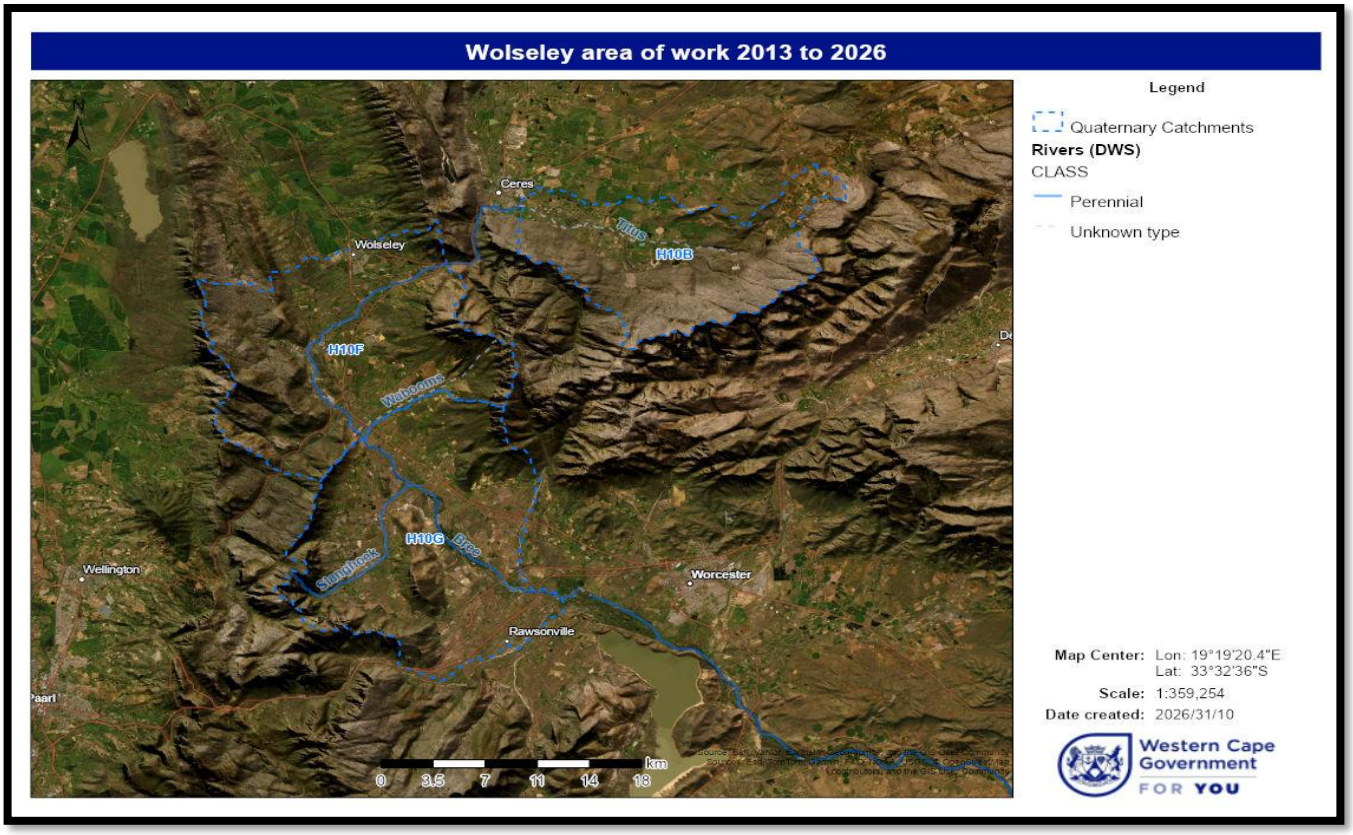


Figure 5: Wolseley Water Users Association areas of work

Table 2: Wolseley Water User Association partnership finance

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent
2013	1 year	800000,00	800000,00
2014/2015	1 year	400000,00	400000,00
2014/2015	1 year	270000,00	270000,00
2016/2017	1 year	450000,00	450000,00
2017/2018	1 year	499000,00	498992,81
2018/2019*	1 year	499000,00	499007,19
2019/2020	1 year	499000,00	498906,27
2020/2021	1 year	495000,00	495000,00
2021/2022	1 year	450000,00	441648,25
2022/2023	1 year	450000,00	450000,00
2023/2024	1 year	800000,00	799897,51
2024/2027	3 year (2024-2027)*	5000000,00	4997034,02
Totals	**14 Years**	**10612000,00**	**10600486,05**

*The project was approved to fund the protection of cleared areas (Mainly labour-intensive follow up work and some areas of initial mechanical clearing) when DFFE funding no longer assisted with projects within the Western Cape. The project was not limited to an annual expenditure but to an area of priority

and limited to the funding budgeted. The Wolseley WUA used the funds successfully within 2 years, providing the last invoice on 28 February of 2026.

The project is reported on annually as per the MOA agreements. The following tables and figures are typical to the final annual report back.

Table 3: Project statistics 2024-2026

Project objectives	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Notes
1) Clearing of 500 follow up hectares per year	Hectares treated	No follow-up in critical areas	500 hectares cleared per year. 1500 hectares cleared over 3-year period	1423 hectares cleared over two years of funds.	95% achievement. The slight under performance was due to unforeseen machine costs as well as the increase in labour and fuel cost due to inflation.
2) Employment created	Number of days employed	No additional employment or expansion of activities	4360 days of employment created per year. 13080 total over 3 years	10317 days of employment created over 3 years of funds.	95% achievement. The slight under performance was due to unforeseen machine costs as well as the increase in labour and fuel cost due to inflation.
3) Assistance to landowners	Number of landowners assisted	No additional landowners assisted	20 landowners assisted	31 landowners assisted	155% achievement, due to smaller areas on properties needed for follow up work.
4) Training	Number of people trained	No training	65 people trained per year.	75 people trained.	
5) Propagation	Indigenous Plants produced	No indigenous plants produced	20 000 plants propagated for revegetation	20 000 plants propagated for revegetation	
6) Restoration	Hectares treated	No revegetation in critical areas	20 000 plants planted along the riparian zone per year.	17500 plants planted along the riparian zone thus far.	It should be mentioned that this target was greatly affected by the May 2026 floods, causing severe

Project objectives	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Actual	Notes
					damage and losses to areas not yet established and sand deposits on other areas.

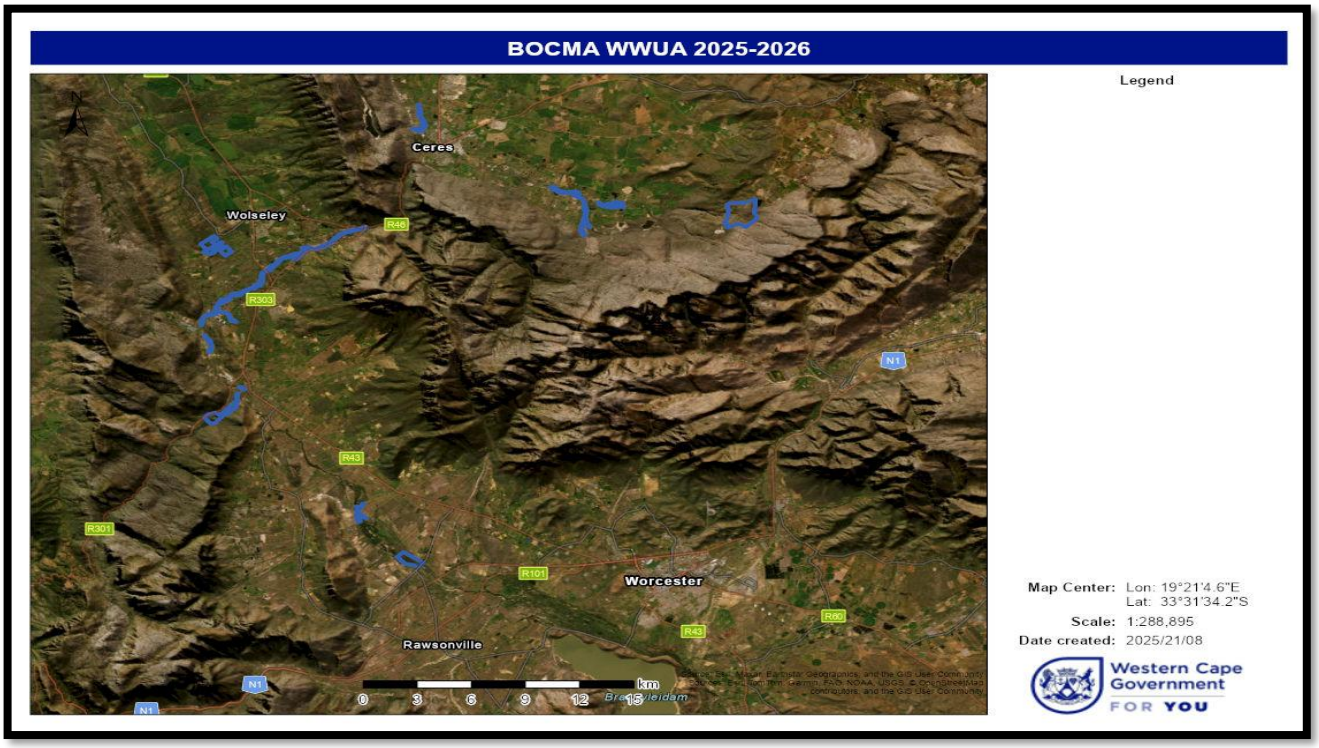


Figure 6: Areas of work for 2024 - 2026 project

Table 4: Team composition for Wolseley WUA contracts

	GENDER				
Type of Beneficiaries/ Gender:	**Women**	**Men**	**Youth**	**Disabled**	**TOTALS**
Labour	19	16	16	1	52
TOTALS	19	16	16	1	52
No. of jobs created	52 people for 110 days				
Activities to create jobs	Labour to clear aliens and re-establish indigenous plants				

Typical - Project plan and reporting maps

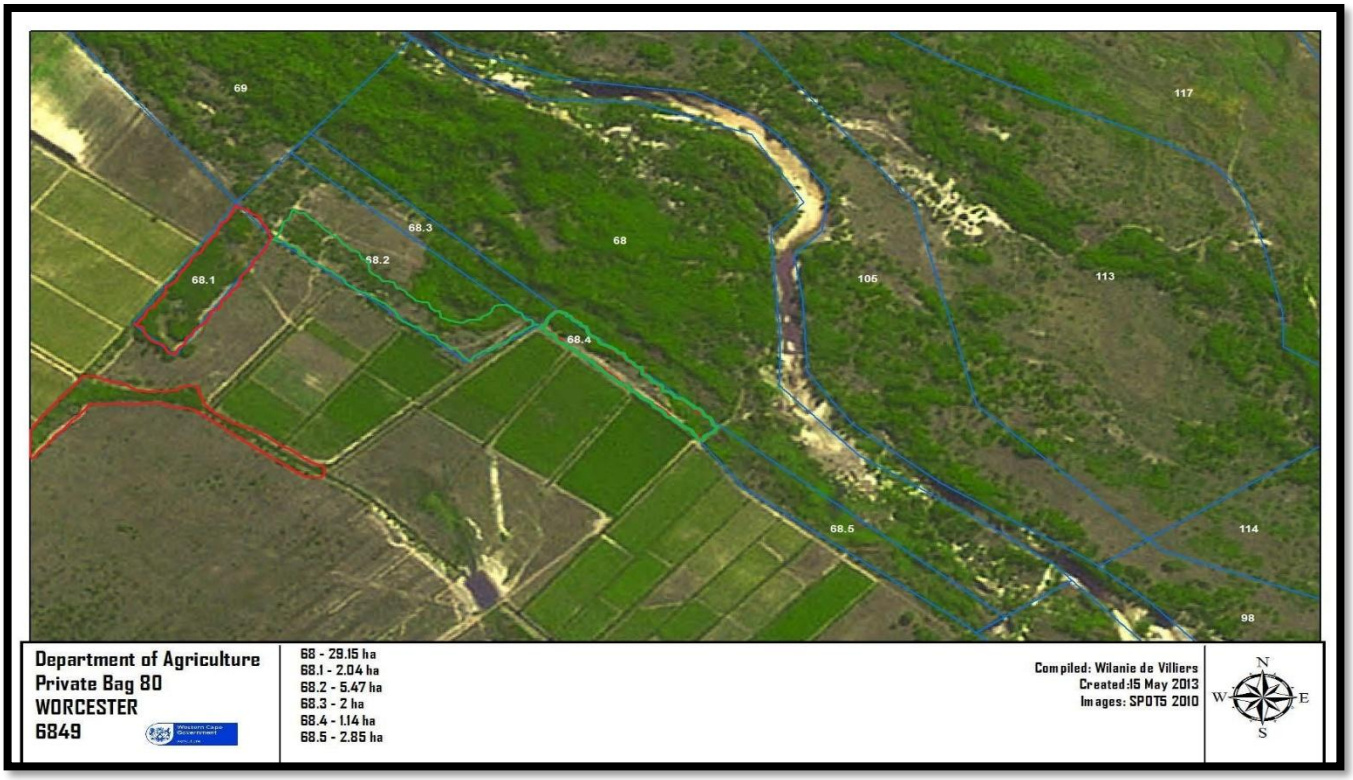


Figure 7: Upper Breede project plan 2013



Figure 8: Upper Breede project plan and map 2016

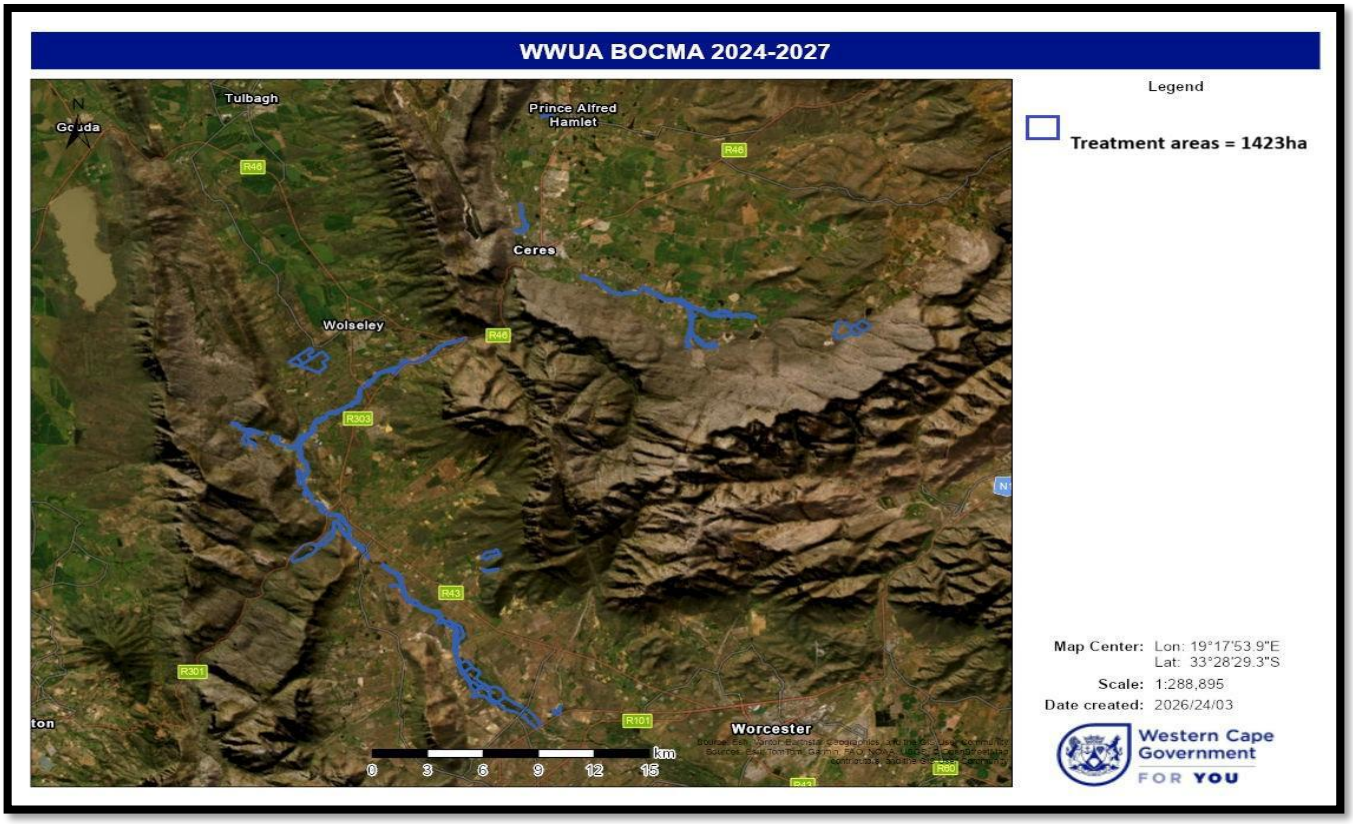


Figure 9: Final report map for the Upper Breede River 2024-2027

Table 5: Summary of areas cleared and person days

MOA date	Hectares cleared	Person days	Notes
29/05/2013	72,3	1325	53,7 % labour 46,3 % machines additional funds for 2014 fin year
2014	14,46	77	
22/01/2015	268,03	415	
20/05/2016	141,9	2990	
17/10/2017	298,2	1267	
30/07/2018			
29/10/2019	155,91	1657	only follow up work done
17/08/2020	211	1474	
01/08/2021			
22/09/2022			
13/07/2023	412	2793	Work concentrated on the Kluitjieskraal wetland to maintain the gain on work previously done by DFFE & DEADP

MOA date	Hectares cleared	Person days	Notes
06/2024	1423	10317	31 landowners assisted, lower person days since machine work needed after floods to restore riparian rehabilitation sites and initial clearing in some of the areas where not worked before.
Totals	**2996,8**	**22315**	

*Due to data losses the table is incomplete.

Upper Breede River: CASIDRA project

A Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Casidra as implementing agent for DOA and the then Breede-Overberg CMA was entered into on 2 April 2013 to the amount of R2 600 000. The project was known as the N1 project and was located between the upper reaches of the Papenkuils Wetland and the Wyzersdrift Bridge. The reasoning for the agreement (as 3-way agreement) was that the area is not under the management of a Water Users Association and the Department of Agriculture will in the absence of a WUA assist with the quality control on the ground and the management of the project.

The BOCMA agreed to continue funding for a minimum of 3 years, and some follow up MOAs were signed for the project. CASIDRA went out on tender, and NCC Environmental Services were contracted to manage the N1-projects. The follow up areas for the remaining area were divided in two smaller projects. (Table 6)

The feedback reports submitted provided detail on each team contracted to do individual sections of work as well as photos of work done.



Figure 10: Photographic evidence of work done

Table 6: Casidra N1 Project between the upper part of the Papenkuils wetland and the Darling brug

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent
02/04/2013	Upper Breede project 2013-2015	2600000,00	2600000,00
2014/2015	N1-Lower (2)	450000,00	450000,00
2015/2016	N1-Lower (3)	450000,00	450000,00
2014/2015	N1-Upper (2)	480000,00	480000,00
2015/2016	N1-Upper (3)	450000,00	450000,00
	Total	**4 430 000**	**4 430 000**

Table 7: Impact - Hectares cleared and Person days generated

MOA date	Hectares cleared	Person days	Notes
02/04/2013	1482,4	15504	only 68% of the funding was spend at the end of the 2013/2014 financial year. (727,47ha; 7342 pd)
2014/2015	405,9	1442	
2015/2016	357,6	1339	
2014/2015	39,2	1074	
2015/2016	93,4	1040	
Totals	**2378,4**	**20399,0**	

Central Breede River: Central Breede River Water Users Association

The Central Breede River Water Users Association (CBR WUA), together with the Department of Environmental Affairs (Working for Water), Cape Nature and the Department of Agriculture (Land Care) were collaborating efforts to address the removal of invasive alien plants in the water management area of the CBR WUA.

Initial project planning and new mapping of the project area, clearly showed that vast areas within the Breede River riparian zone, could only be cleared safely, functionally and cost-effectively, by utilizing heavy machinery, and as such a different approach to that of WfW Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), would have to be introduced.

A detailed mapping of the Central Breede River between the N1 bridge and the Red bridge at Bonnievale was done as part of the Central Breede River Management Plan (CBRMP). The mapping provided the following detail per management area:

- Hectares to be cleaned
- Density of aliens to be removed

The aim of the CBRMP is to attain approval from the relevant authorities to conduct management of the catchment and maintenance on infrastructure along the Breede River. These include the prevention of flood damage to weirs, the reduction of erosion of the riverbed, removal of sediment etc.

Annual planning of operations (APO) includes, as a starting point, follow-up treatments of all areas that were cleared in the previous year (whether by hand-teams, or mechanically), and a new allocation of funds for mechanical clearing. It is understood that although machines are used in certain areas for initial clearing efforts, all follow-up work will be undertaken by hand teams. Three (3) additional all-female teams are identified, trained and equipped, to undertake follow-up clearing activities.

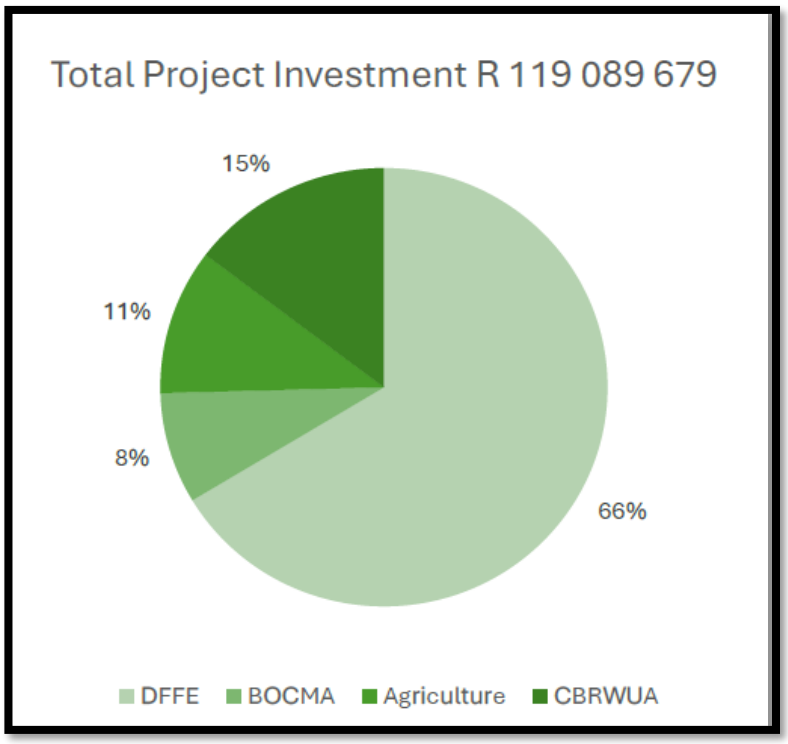
The CBR WUA is an overarching association managing several smaller Water Users Associations that abstracts water from the Breede River as one of their sources. The CBR WUA projects focussed on the main stem of the Breede River for the majority of the 13 years that the BOCMA-CBR WUA

partnership is in existence. In 2020 the CMA and WUA agreed to start initial clearing on the tributaries feeding the Breede River while maintaining the gain on the main stem of the Breede River with BOCMA funding.

The following is an excerpt of the Central Breede River Water Users Association project funding report (supplied).

Investments Made

Since its inception, a total of almost R 119 089 679 has been invested in the project. These funds have been crucial in supporting our efforts to clear invasive alien plants from the banks of the Breede River and preserve its ecosystem. The investments are detailed as follows:



- ***Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment:*** *Contributed R 79 049 048, demonstrating their commitment to environmental conservation and ecosystem restoration along the Breede River.*
- ***Breede Olifants Catchment Management Agency:*** *Provided R 9 756 890 in funding, supporting integrated water resource management and biodiversity conservation initiatives.*
- ***Department of Agriculture:*** *Allocated R 12 806 000 to enhance agricultural sustainability and environmental stewardship in the Breede River region.*
- ***CBRWUA Own Funds:*** *A total of R 17 477 741 has been contributed from our own resources, excluding project management costs such as office administration and salaries, highlighting our dedication and financial commitment to the project's success.*

These investments have enabled significant progress in clearing invasive species, restoring native habitats, and ensuring the long-term health of the Breede River ecosystem. The diverse funding sources reflect strong partnerships and collective efforts towards achieving common goals.

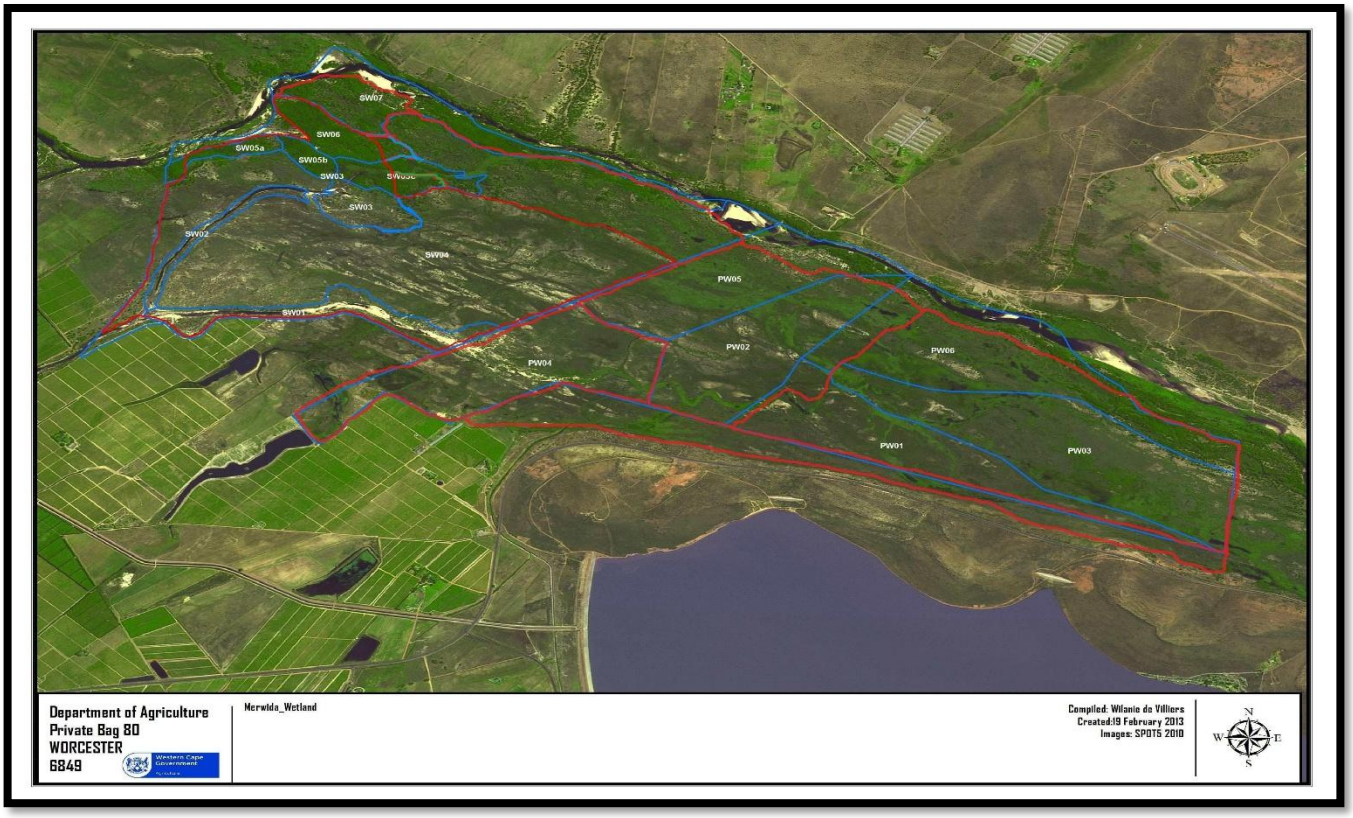


Figure 11: Papenkuils Wetland near Worcester (approximately 840ha from confluence with the Smalblaar river to the Nekkies Bridge)

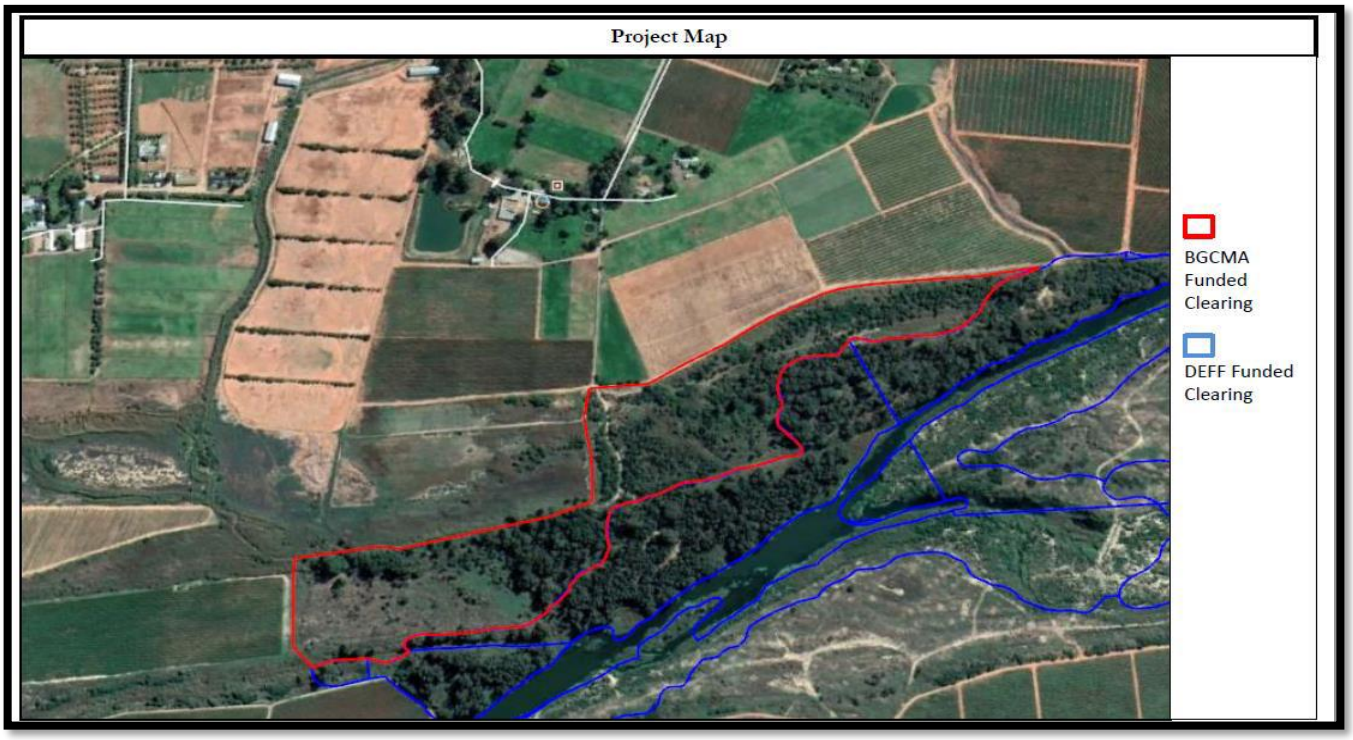


Figure 12: Planning for funding differentiation between CMA and DFFE funding

Table 8: CMA funding towards alien clearing and rehabilitation projects through the Central Breede River WUA as implementation agent.

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent
2012/2013	1 year	700000,00	700000,00
2013/2014	1 year	400000,00	400000,00
2014/2015	1 year	450000,00	450000,00
2015/2016	1 year	2950000,00	2950000,00
2017/2018	1 year	499000,00	491680,86
2018/2019	1 year	499000,00	490000,00
2019/2020	1 year	499000,00	490000,00
2020/2021	1 year	499000,00	490000,00
2021/2022	1 year	450000,00	450000,00
2022/2023	1 year	450000,00	450000,00
2023/2024	1 year	800000,00	809820,29
2024/2025	1 year	900000,00	957593,01
2025/2026	1 year	900000,00	900000,00
	13 years	**9996000,00**	**10029094,16**

Table 9: Summary of project targets reached - CBR WUA

MOA date	Hectares cleared	Person days	Notes
2012/2013	878,5	301	Papenkuils wetland: Mechanical clearing of large alien invasive species such as Eucalyptus trees. Follow up twice a year thereafter resulted in additional person days during the project. Being a wetland, accessibility is an issue during extremely wet years.
2013/2014		4335	
2014/2015			
2015/2016		195	
2017/2018	75	782	
2018/2019	75,03	412	Goree / Robertson Weir upper catchment (Mainly mechanical clearing)
2019/2020	39	497	WC Bricks
2020/2021	12	652	Riverton initial clearing mainly
2021/2022	18,2	908	Willem Nels clearing to assist the Municipality with ongoing safety issues associated with alien invasive "bush" area
2022/2023	30,5	810	Follow up in Willemnels River (18,2ha) and initial clearing in Boesmansrivier
2023/2024	810	1670	Clearing of Papenkuils wetland and Goedemoed wetland area
2024/2025	750	2130	Silwerstrand / Goedemoed / Papenkuilswetland
2025/2026	737,6	2321	Papenkuils wetland
	3425,83	**15013**	

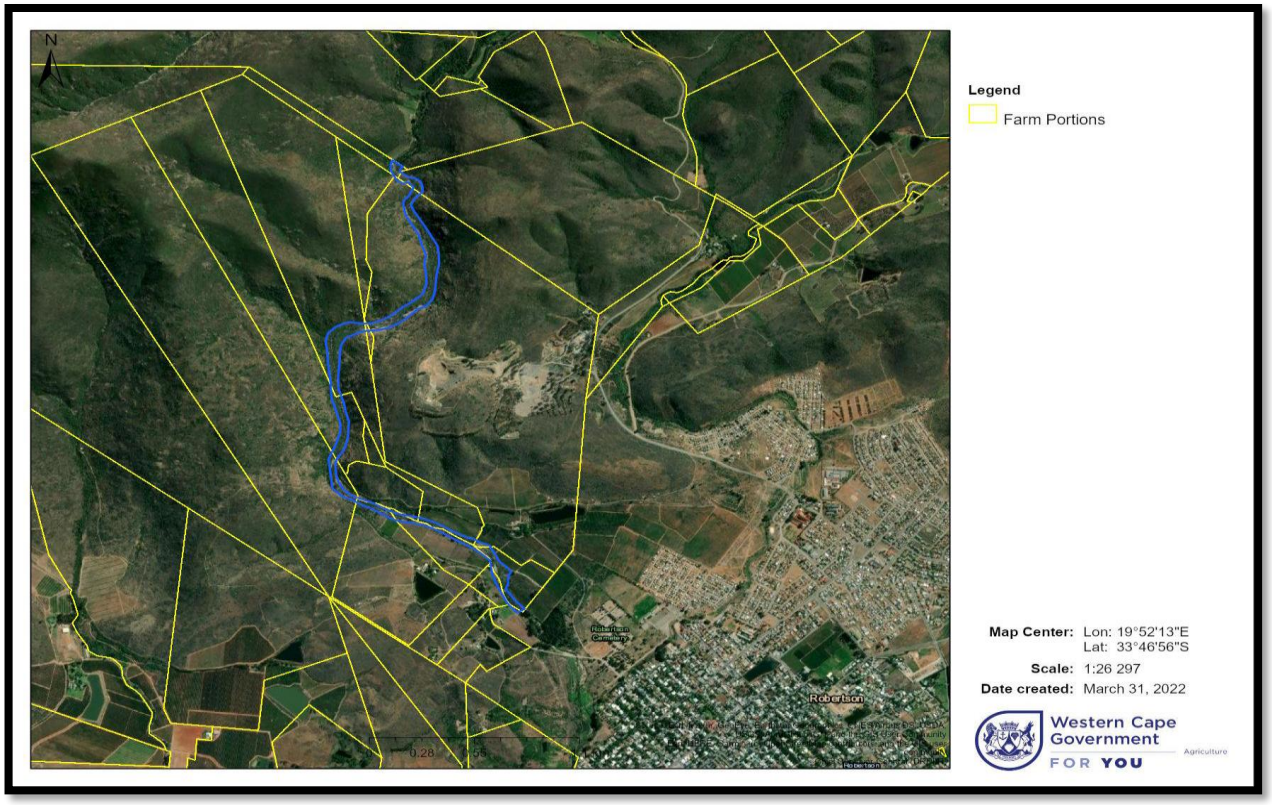


Figure 13: Willemnels river (Willemnels WUA area)

Hex River : Hex River Water Users Association

The Hex River Valley WUA (HRV WUA) manages water resources within the De Doorns area that includes the Upper part of the Hex River, the Amandels River and the Grootkloof River catchment on behalf of its members. This project supported the work done on the main stem of the Breede River within the catchment as these tributaries contributed to the seed deposits that eventually enters the main stem of the Breede River.

The HRV WUA received funding during 2018 as contribution towards clearing of areas within the Upper Hex river. The HRV WUA has been managing the catchment with own funding but required some assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep the work force going through supplementing funding. The CMA entered into two agreements with the HRV WUA to the amount of R350 000 for the period 2020 to 2022. The funding were spent in the Spek Rivier (upper Lakenvallei area) through removal of Pine trees within the riverbed of the river and along the smaller tributaries of the Upper Hex River. Approximately 230ha of riparian zone were done across 12 landowner properties.



Figure 14: Upper Hex River tributaries



Figure 15: Spek River work. Upper Lakenvallei near Touwsriver





Figure 16: Spekrivier clearing project

Table 10: HRV WUA Alien Clearing project funding

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent
2018/2019	1 year	500000	500000
2019/2020	I year	250000	250000
2020/2021	1 year	150000	150000
Total	**3 years**	**900000**	**900000**

Nonna, Nuy and Lower Hex rivers: Worcester East Water Users Association

The Worcester East WUA (WEWUA) manages water resources within the upper reaches of the Central Breede River area that includes the Lower part of the Hex River, the Nonna River and the Nuy River catchments on behalf of its members. This project supported the work done on the main stem of the Breede River within the catchment as these tributaries contributed to the seed deposits that eventually enters the main stem of the Breede River.

The WEWUA received funding during 2018 as contribution towards clearing of areas within the Lower Hex river, and continued with the projects during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep the work force going through supplementing funding. The CMA entered into two agreements with the WEWUA to the amount of R350 000 for the period 2020/2021. The funding were spent in the Lower Hex River. Approximately 230ha of riparian zone were done across 12 landowner properties.

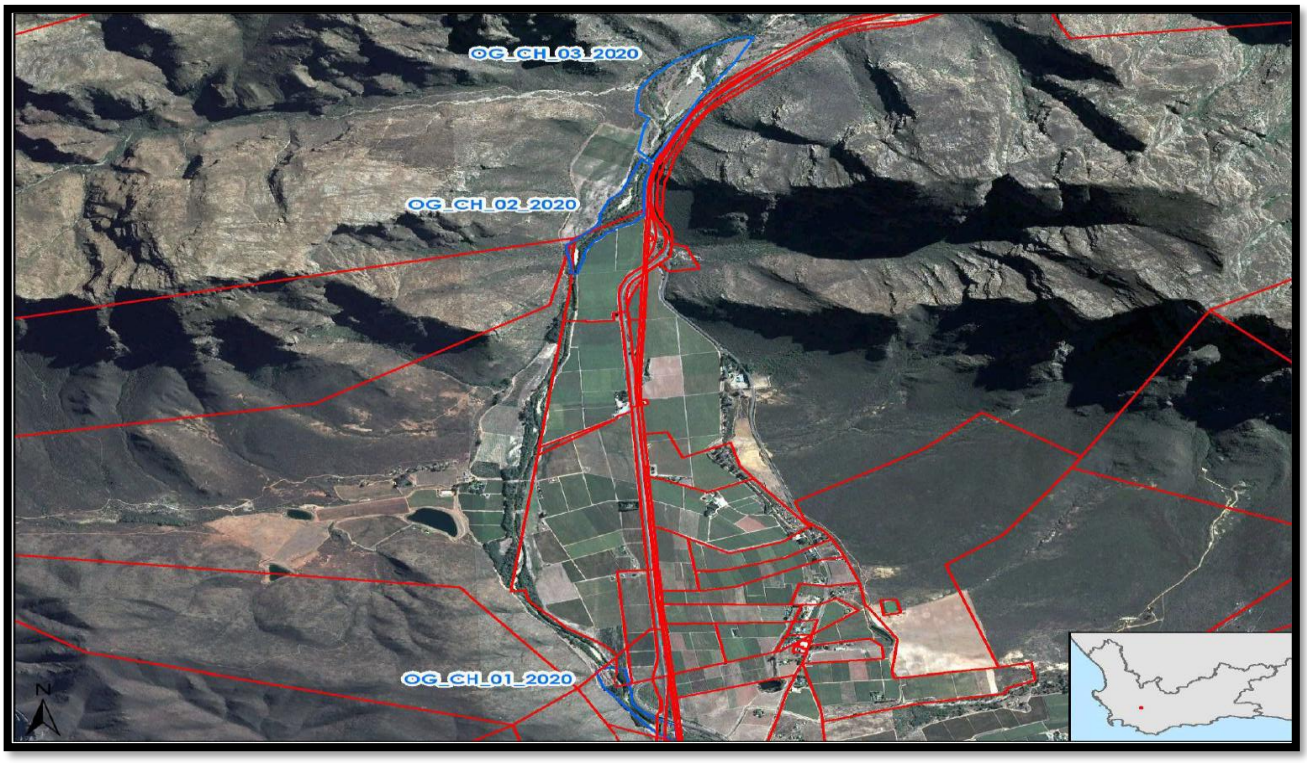


Figure 17: Lower Hex River clearing



Figure 18: WE WUA site (1)

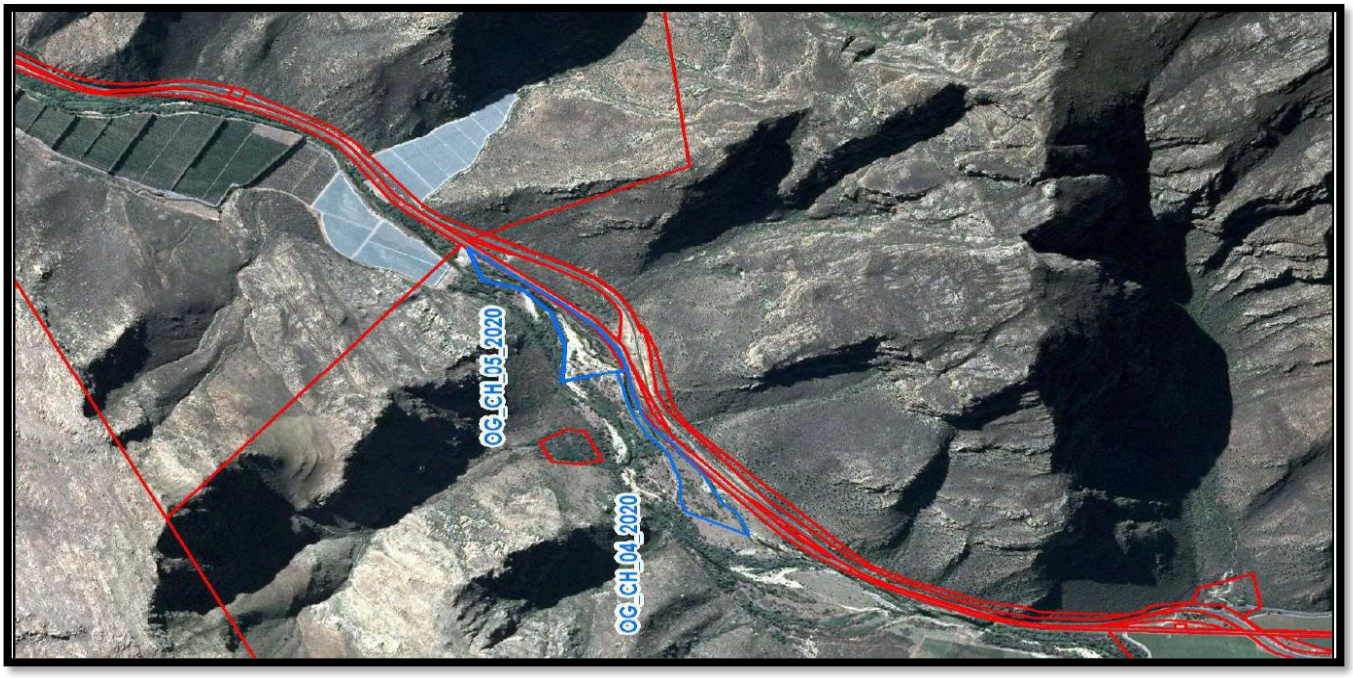


Figure 19: WE WUA site (2)

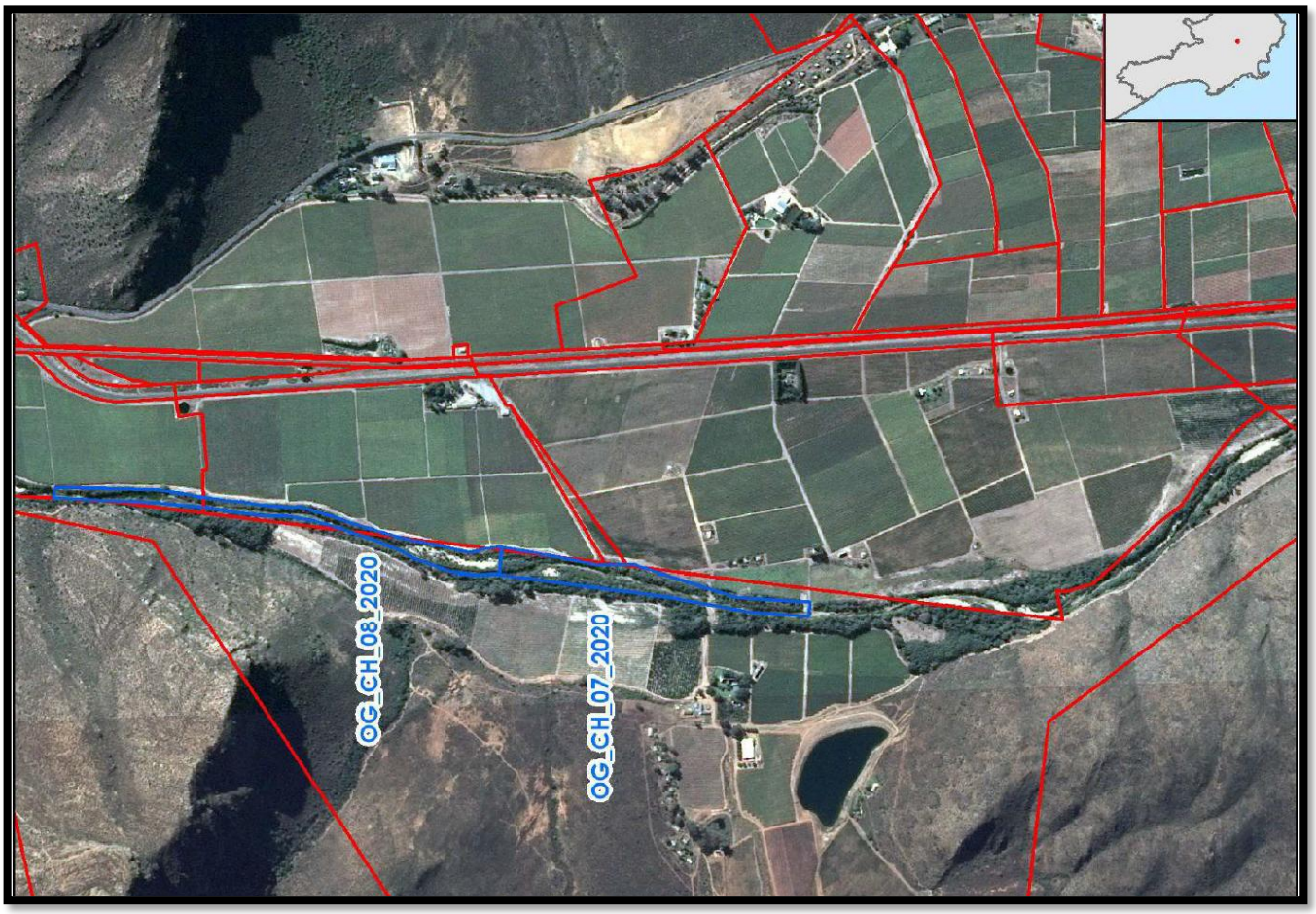


Figure 20: WE WUA site (3)

Table 11: Worcester East WUA funding

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent
2018/2019	1 year	300000	268 285,50
2019/2020	1 year	250000	250000
Total	**2 years**	**550000**	**518285,50**

Lower Breede River: Zonderend WUA

The Riviersonderend contributes to flow into the Breede River and this project aims to enable bottom-up collective catchment management with alien invasive clearing and restoration as a catalyst. The Zonderend WUA requested assistance from the BGCMA with a project in the lower catchment the Riviersonderend river which aims to mitigate the risks of soil erosion and gully and head-cut formation as well as the loss of natural biodiversity by means of the incorrect methodology or alien invasive plant species control.

This agreement aids in the successful removal of the larger Blue Gum and Black Wattle trees within the Riviersonderend River itself and its riparian zone. A small area within the Riviersonderend River was identified as a pilot site to encourage farmers to assist with future projects and to establish a working relationship between the Zonderend WUA, the CMA and the Department of Agriculture. This pilot site has successfully been cleared with the aid of the WUA as well as the private funding contribution from the Landowner. It has also since been kept clear of alien invasive regrowth with private funding and CMA funding. The area has also been rehabilitated successfully and has withstood the recent floods.

Recent Disaster Risk Funding, contributed to the effective clearing of islands at the confluence, while the CMA funds were adjusted to assist with riparian clearing at these bottleneck areas.

Zonderend WUA also agreed to assist with clearing in Swellendam at the confluence of the Klippe river and the Breede River. This work was to initiate a relationship between the Swellendam Municipality and to clear an area suspected of ongoing pollution from the local Industries. The cleared area is now better accessible and visual monitoring of the pollution site is easier.

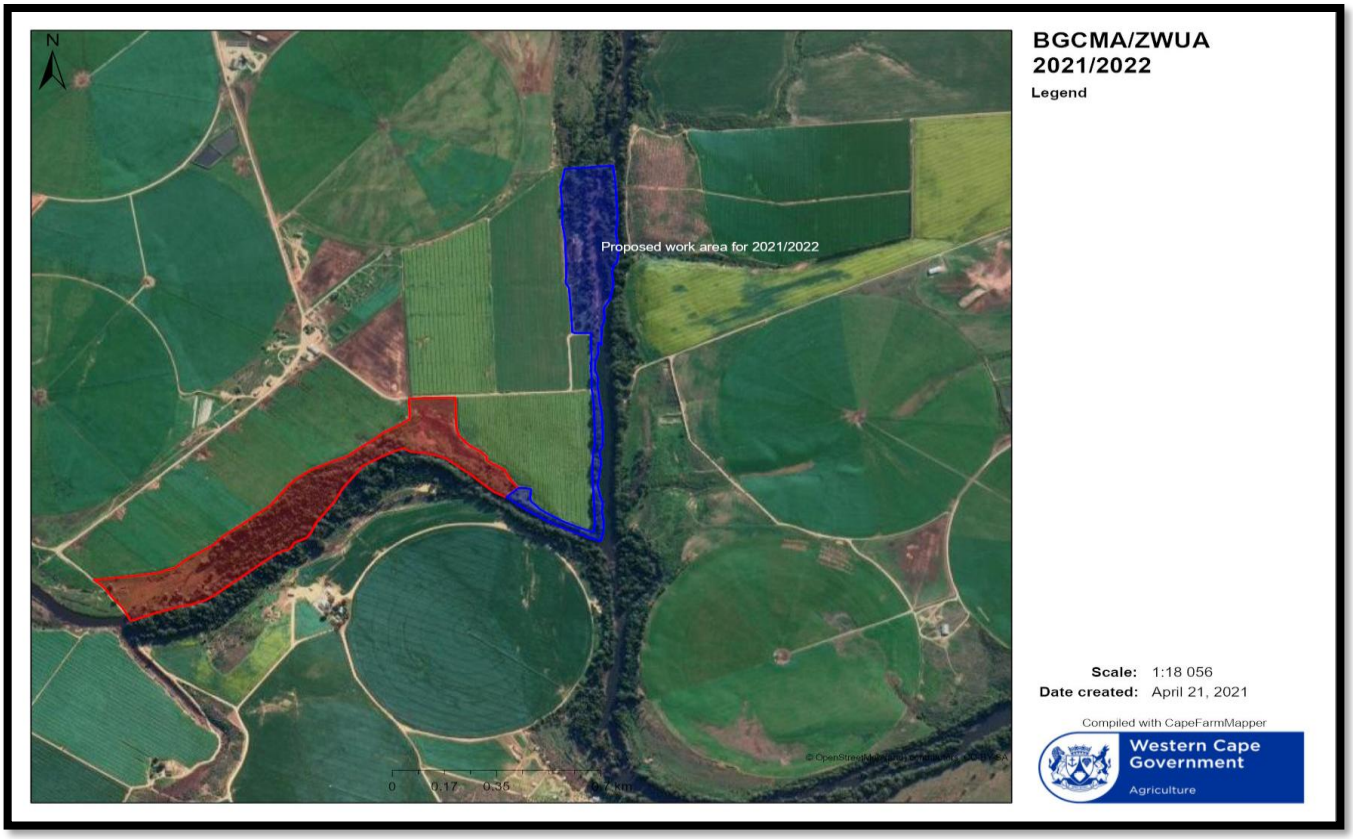


Figure 21: Zonderend River confluence with Breede River

Table 12: Zonderend Confluence with Breede project

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	Hectares cleared	Person days	Notes
2019/2020	1 year	250000	12		Initial clearing
2020/2021	1 year	450000	38,0		initial clearing
2021/2022	1 year	450000	26	1290	3ha revegetated with propagated plants
2022/2023	1 year	350000	48		Initial clearing of 5ha through machine work; 43,9ha follow up work and active revegetation of 15000m2
2023/2024	1 year	800000	224,83		35500 plants propagated
2025/2026	1 year	500000	10		Flood damage rehabilitation of already rehabilitated sites and clearing of aliens on island at the confluence
Total	**6 years**	**2800000**	**358.83**		

OVERBERG WMA

Pietercielieskloof Co-Operative Alien Clearing Project: Casidra

Very little is available for this project due to the passing away of Mr. Van Coller and inaccessibility to his project information. The project was for work to be done in the Pietercielies Kloof area in the Overberg with funding of R970 000. The project implementation was across an area of 2500 hectares within a 3km radius. The MOA was signed in February 2013. The partners were emailed in the hope that they still have some information on the project. This report will then be updated with the latest information.

Riviersonderend – CASIDRA

Casidra was asked to provide information on the project from 2013.

Riviersonderend – WWF

WWF was asked to provide information on the project from 2013

Overstrand Municipality

In March 2025, Overstrand Municipality entered into an agreement with the BOCMA to clear the Onrus Catchment of alien invasive plant species. A challenge at one of the sites was that stacked material were destabilised by informal wood harvesters, following which the municipality decided to leave the material until October 2025 when the “burn season” can be utilised to remove biomass. Steep slopes also added to the challenge to conducting initial clearing in the area. Table 13 just indicates the current status of a 3 year project.

Table 13: Overstrand Municipal partnership (C2C agreements)

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent	Hectares cleared	Notes
2025/2026	3 years	5 000 000	875 672	82,34	At end of 2025/2026



Figure 22 Fernkloof Nature reserve before and after clearing

GOURITZ WMA

Duivenhoks River: Duivenhoks Water Users Association

The Duivenhoks Water Users Association (DWUA) is an organization based in the vicinity of Heidelberg in the Western Cape. This organization manage the water resource in the catchment area of the Duivenhoks River as well as the river itself. The DWUA supply water for irrigation as well as domestic & industrial use to users in the region.

The Duivenhoks River is an important water source for the farming community of Heidelberg, and the residents of Heidelberg, Slangrivier and Witsand.

With all the Alien Invasive Plant species in the riparian zone and landscape of the Duivenhoks River, the need to have these species eradicated has become a priority for the DWUA. The DWUA requested assistance to aid in the process of getting the riparian zone cleared and under control.

The initial strategy to get the Duivenhoks River under control was a bottom-up strategy starting in the section of river with the lowest density of trees. The river was divided into sections starting at the N2 bridge stretching all the way to the Duivenhoks Dam. The vision of the DWUA was to get this stretch of river to maintenance phase over the next 5 years.

For the first year, the aim was to start with a 2km section of the river that measures about 14.4 hectares. This section has been divided into smaller portions to make managing of the operation easier. The plan is to do clearing of the first 5 sections, from the N2 bridge, in year 1, with a total of 665 person days.

This project will provide work for a SMME from Heidelberg that is accustomed to the work that need to be done due to lots of experience with this type of work on other similar projects in the region.

DWUA is committed to comply with all the necessary certifications and registrations to complete the project to the specifications laid down by BOCMA and any relevant Department.

Before DWUA started with the project, there will be consultation with all the relevant landowners, where the clearing will take place during the project, to get everybody's buy in.

According to their progress report, they have encountered several challenges such as formidable Beefwood Stand, persistence regrowth, workforce reduction, environment and terrain barriers, and biomass & debris management. They have this far implemented various strategies to overcome the challenges and they are satisfied with the progress made.

One of the key operational challenge is the navigation of a mature Beefwood stand with dense infestation of trees averaging between 10 and 18 metres in height and a canopy cover exceeding 80%. The deep shade suppressed all underlying growth, complicating safe felling operations and highlighting the stand's disruptive ecological effect. Spanish reed within the river beds, with rapid regrowth and deep root systems required continuous clearing activities on top of the already difficult and cluttered terrain, especially for use of mechanical equipment.



Figure 23: Duivenhoks River project

Table 14: Duivenhoks River funding (DWUA)

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent	Notes
Oct-24	1 year	1000000	1000000	finalised in June 2025
Jun-25	1 year	900000	900000	finalised October 2025
Feb-26	1 year	987 134	987 134	finalised in July 2026
Total	**3 year**	**2887134**	**2887134**	

The project is currently funded with a R4 200 000 for a period of 3 years.



Figure 24: Duivenhoks River Project

Kamanasie River: Stompdrift Kamanassie Water Users Association

The Stomdrift Kamanassie Water Users Association (SKWUA) partnered with the Bo-Kammanassie farmers and farmers below the Kamanassie Dam to target the Kamanassie River downstream from Uniondale. The targeted area is 40.52ha across 6.75 km of river. The project supports job creation during the implementation of the project while at the same time supporting an increased flow to the Kamanassie Dam. The SKWUA supplies water to ± 10800 hectares below the dam. The enhanced water security will benefit the agricultural sector in the Klein Karoo through sustainable employment security while supporting the revegetation of indigenous species in the area. Landowners support the project through continues clearing on other areas of their properties as well as supporting the Working on Fire projects. The project is monitored by the Department of Agriculture team as well as the BOCMA team. River rehabilitation is done by landowners.

Table 15: Kamanassie project funding

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent	Hectares cleared	Person days
2023/2024	1 year	1 000 000	1 000 000	40,52	2127
2024/2025	1 year	1 000 000	1 000 000		

2025/2026	1 year	1 000 000	1 000 000	20	840
key	**3 years**	**3 000 000**	**3 000 000**	**61**	**2 967**

BERG RIVER WMA

Lower Berg River Catchment: Berg River Water Users Association

The Berg River Water Users Association (BRWUA) represents a significant evolution in water resource management within the Berg River Catchment. The BRWUA manages several traditional irrigation boards, including the Berg River Irrigation Board.

The project focusses on the Berg river itself that flows through a number of Strategic Watersource Areas for both surface and groundwater. Water releases from the Berg River dam and Voëlvlei dam feeds the Misverstand Weir, from where the water is distributed through the Withoogte water reticulation system to feed water to towns as far as Velddrif. Follow up in areas cleared is considered a priority for the BRWUA to maintain the gain where previous initial clearing took place and current funding are not forth coming from other sources, in order to prevent the area from becoming an area to be cleared as an initial clearing site.

Clearing projects provide primary job opportunities for impoverished communities nearby Gouda, Saron, Tulbagh, Porterville, Piketberg and Moreesburg, but also secondary opportunities for entrepreneurial enterprises.

The project management had to decide about the removal/handling of all the biomass created by clearing the targeted areas. Leaving this task for the owners to stack burn or remove off site would be a risk as the task would only be completed after the project end date. This posed a further risk of being left incomplete and with the rise in water levels during the winter, logs/material could be washed downstream and result in major blockages of the river.

Including the cost of removal from the site, under the specialized machine team, is too costly. The cost of this team is already negotiated down as the contractor subsidizes his expenses with the logs he is allowed to remove from the site and market as an income supplement.

The two landowners therefore agreed that the rest of biomass can be chipped/shred by obtaining a chipper from a reputable company. The cost of this was offset against the income generated from selling the chips/shreds. The shredder operated for 12 days at an average cost of R10 500 per day. This included diesel, operation and establishment costs. The total cost for this period amounted to R126 000 excluding VAT.

Overall project management is provided by the BRWUA. Time of implementing the project, quality control and finance administration is estimated at around 8 business days per month which represents a contribution of approximately R68 000 to the overall project. The total co-funding from Landowner and the BRWUA to this project therefore amounts to R194 000.

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent	Hectares cleared	Person days
2025/2026	1 year	950 011	951 585	16,1	824
Total	**1 years**	**950 011**	**951 585**	**16**	**824**



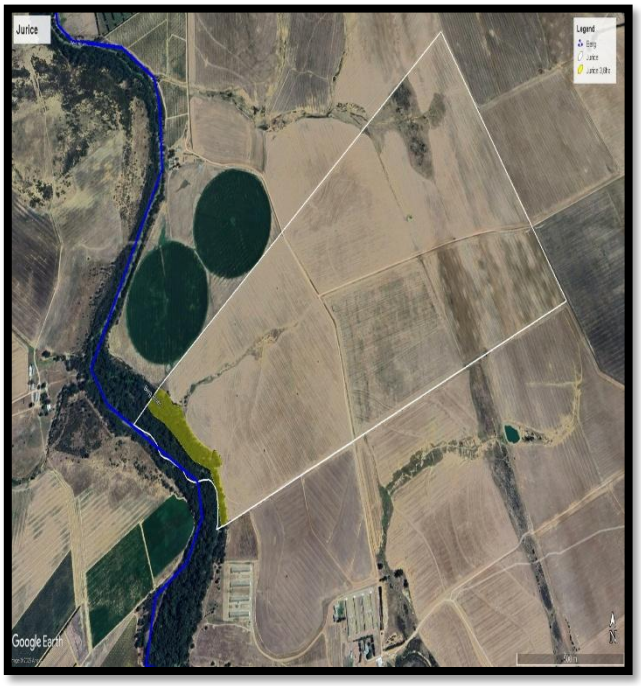




Figure 25: Berg Revier areas targeted

Klein Berg Rivier : Tulbagh Water Users Association

The Tulbagh Water Users Association (TWUA) manage the river systems in the Tulbagh area in an integrated manner. The removal and management of invasive alien vegetation, posing a risk to the resource for the mutual benefit of all its members and the communities downstream, is one of the key priorities. This area has been selected based on new relationship with landowners and the importance of creating a lasting awareness and diligence with regards to alien clearing efforts. In the light of the recent natural disasters this farming community has realised the importance of investing in ecological infrastructure to ensure the security of water resources for future generations.

The target group for job creation will be unemployed previously disadvantaged individuals in the Tulbagh area with a focus on youth and women. The type of jobs that will be created, are suitable to unemployed people as a first-time employment option due to the non-technical nature of the initial work.. Unemployed individuals will be exposed to onsite training, equipping them with the skills and experience to be able to find employment in an area where employment is mostly seasonal due to the nature of the fruit and wine industries. The project makes a positive contribution towards restoring our natural heritage, building trust relationships with farmers and conservation partners and promoting responsible natural resource management in schools and local communities.

Table 16: Tulbagh WUA funding for Kleinberg River

MOA date	Time period of the MOA	MOA amount	MOA spent	Hectares cleared	Person days	Notes
2025/2026	1 year	900 000	900 000	47,0	1245	6 landowners
Total	**1year**	**900 000**	**900 000**	**47**	**1 245**	

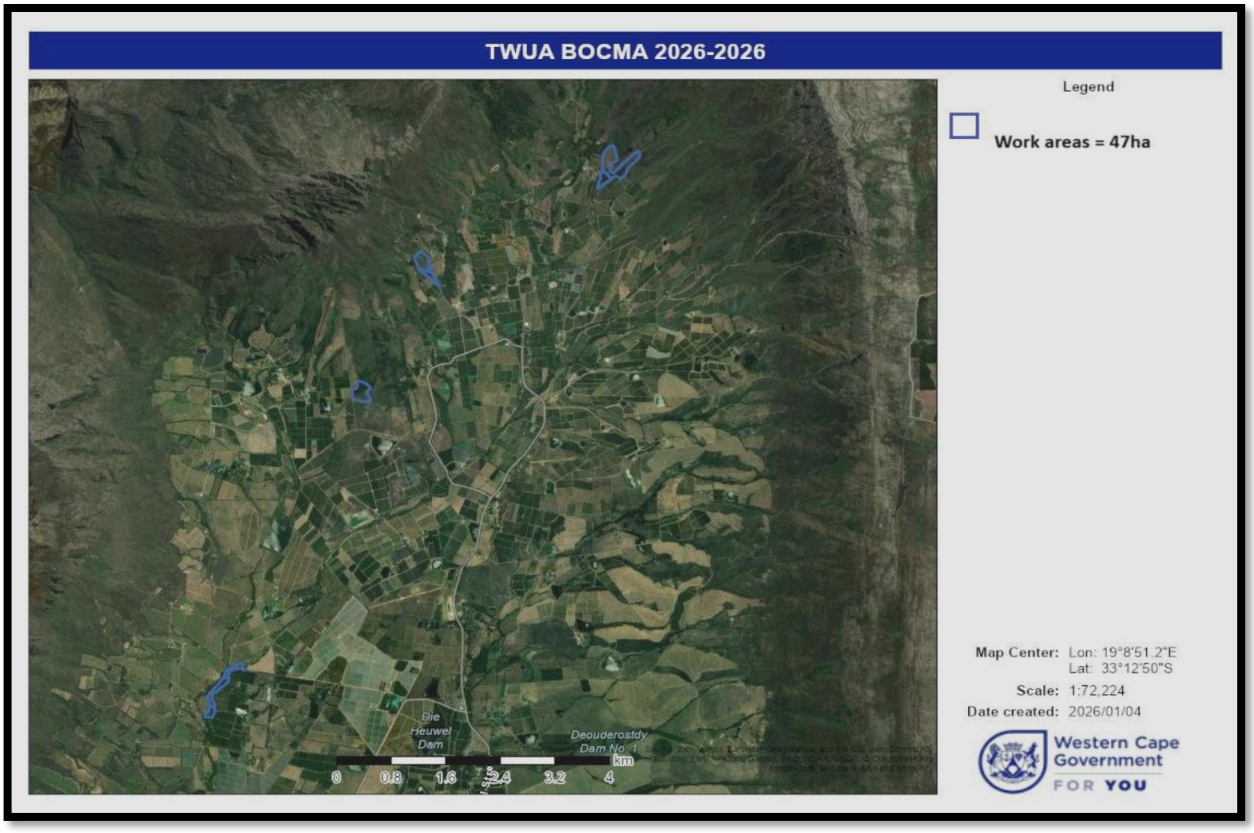


Figure 26: Kleinberg River project areas

OLIFANTSDOORN WMA

Upper Olifantsriver and complementing Tributaries: Citrusdal Water Users Association

The Citrusdal Water User Association (CWUA) is through the National Water Act, mandated to clear invasive alien plants that have a negative effect on existing water sources. Much of the water losses could be contributed to the extent to which invasive alien plant species within river riparian, wetlands, mountain catchments, and natural springs have increased over the past decade and more. The effect was exacerbated during the severe drought the Western Cape experienced in recent years. As a result, the clearing of invasive vegetation, both aquatic and terrestrial, was prioritised by the landowners within the catchment. However, due to the drought, financial limitations caused current clearing work to be limited to small areas within the bigger catchment, and as a result, landowners are not able to maintain the gain made in recent years.

The area where the removal of invasive alien vegetation should be given the highest priority is along upper reaches of The Olifants River and complementing tributaries. For years, CWUA and Working for Water co-funded the project, but this part of the project is currently only funded by the CWUA. All the Tributaries adjacent to the Olifants river has been removed from the priority list by the Department and therefore only portions of these sites can be cleared by the Citrusdal Water Users Association. The

restoration and maintenance of these tributaries is crucial to the main river especially to allow a constant flow to the Clanwilliam and Bulshoek dam from where water is provided through the Olifants River to the lower regions Klawer, Vredendal, Lutzville and Ebenhaezer. The removal of regrowth at places where alien invasive plants have previously been removed should also be a priority to ensure that where gains were made it isn't lost to become initial areas again. The investment made previously should be protected.

The project's main purpose was the restoration of ecological infrastructure, through the clearing and maintenance of Invasive Alien Plants (IAP's). With the focus to ensure the safeguard and management of the critical water resources, for agricultural and domestic use in the Upper-Olifants River catchment.

Following the 2024 flood events, several challenges emerged:

- Areas where flood mediation works were done is overgrown with Invasive Alien Plant seedlings.
- Proliferation of dense carpets of alien seedlings in new areas where invasive plants had not previously been established.

These conditions have increased the complexity and intensity of clearing operations.

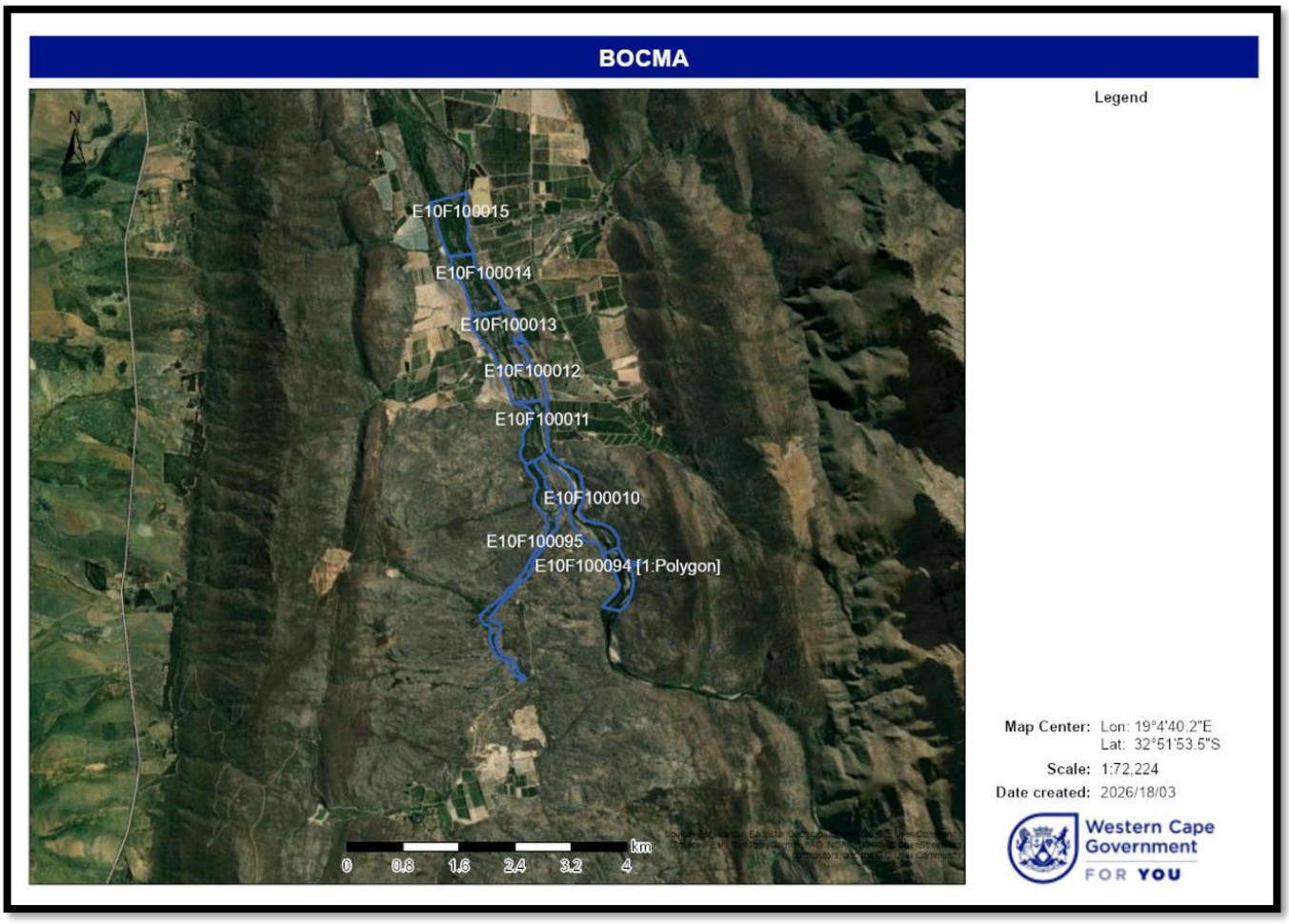


Figure 27: Citrusdal Alien Clearing project

- Watervoogdyskap: Só boer jy vooruit, WWF Verslag ZA, 2017