

Annual Report 2003/2004



AWARD

Association for Water & Rural Development



Community Water Management Unit



Water provision is now the responsibility of local government, supported by national government and civil society

2003 was a time of reassessment for this unit, as it no longer seemed appropriate to deliver small scale water supply to villages. This responsibility now lies with local government, within the framework of Integrated Development Plans.

Completion of the Clare A project and the evaluation of village water projects AWARD had implemented, brought clearly to light that integrated planning and management is indeed the key factor to bring about the best use of water resources and infrastructure. Indeed the lack of coordination between departments and agencies and the lack of integrated understanding, is causing systems to be inefficient and interventions to fail. Despite many efforts to get coordination between the local water and garden committees, the departments of water and agriculture and ourselves, and the various parts of the infrastructure regarding water, the Clare A project reached an unsatisfactory conclusion. Seeking integration after infrastructure was already installed proved very difficult to achieve or maintain meaningfully.



Access to water remains a pressing issue in rural Limpopo

The Unit thus moved its attention into two major areas in 2003. The first was the development and piloting of the Water and Livelihood Planning Process (WALPP). An approach that took the lessons above and drew on a livelihoods approach to develop a process for integrated, holistic planning at village level was developed in partnership with the Whirl Project and Care-Sa Lesotho. The pilot was run in Utah village, with enthusiastic participation from the local departments of water and agriculture and some members of the District Council. A training process, village assessment and planning with the various stakeholders was carried out. The outcome was that it was recommended that AWARD develop this into a planning process at Ward level, to become part of the IDP process.

Choosing technologies...

Some options for water supply for household and agricultural use in the Bohlabela District



Working Draft 1

July 2003

GUIDELINES

FOR IMPLEMENTING A

WATER and LIVELIHOODS

PLANNING PROCESS

WHiRL

AWARD

Association for Water
and Rural Development

The IDP is clearly the mechanism that should be strengthened to overcome the problems we have seen regarding water development and management. Therefore that challenge was taken up, and with support from Care SA-Lesotho a ward planning process is now being facilitated by AWARD, with an approach we are calling Securing Water to Enhance Local Livelihoods (SWELL). We are working closely with departments and the Local Municipality on this. SWELL seeks to incorporate the many uses and also sources of water into the planning process. The previous work AWARD had done on rain water harvesting is being taken into this work.

The second major focus was a skills assessment carried out for the Bohlabela District Municipality on 67 CBOS involved in water management at village level. The purpose was to assess what skills there are and what further capacities would be needed for these CBOS to play a role as Water Service Providers in the newly emerging institutional arrangements for service delivery for water and sanitation. The assessment was carried out. The potential is certainly there, but the scale of training required would be expensive. This led AWARD into developing a project to develop a skills programme within the ambit of the National Skills Development Strategies and so access Skills Development funds from the Local Government and Water SETA. This would provide resources and incentives for local authorities, implementing and training agencies, and to community-based participants where water sources and supply improvement initiatives are located.

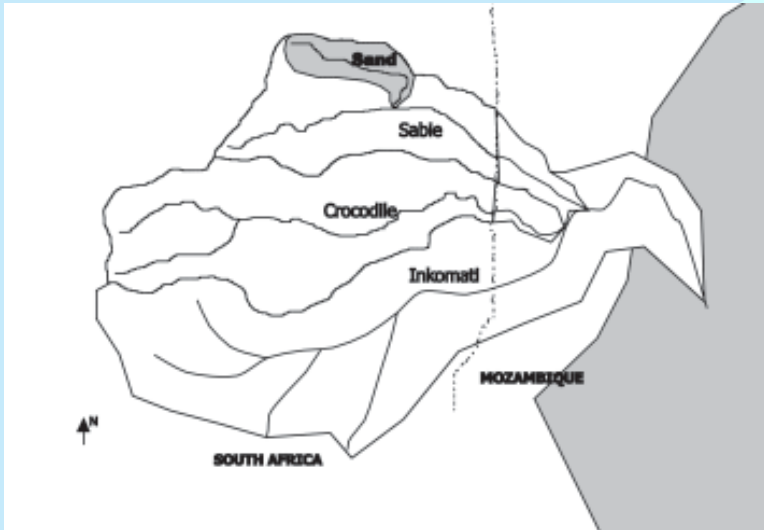


Water Resources Unit

Main achievements over the period 2003-2004

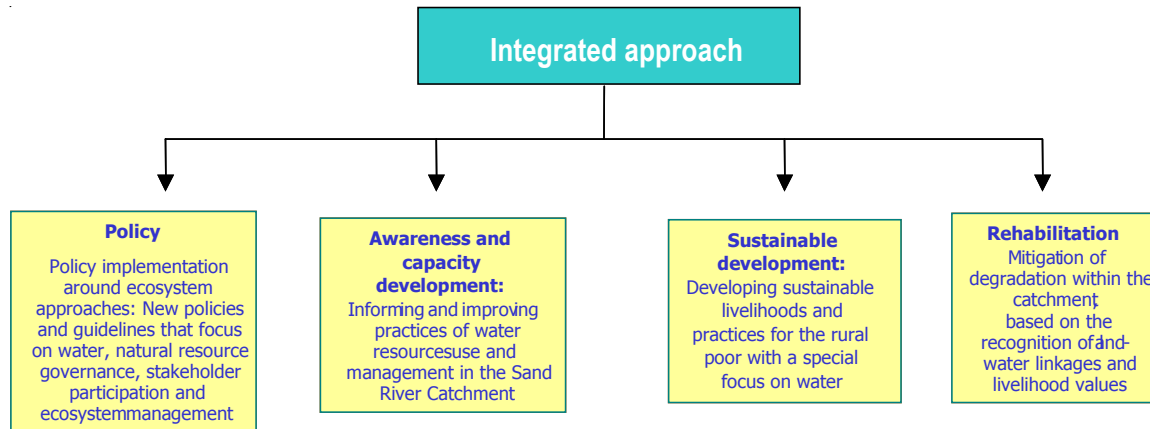
- ◆ We continue to be a key facilitator of Integrated Catchment Management processes in the Sand River catchment;
- ◆ Contribution to a growing body of knowledge of WRM in SA and the Inkomati WMA
- ◆ An action-research orientation in order to integrate theory and practice such as is evident in the integrated approach to wetlands rehabilitation for livelihoods and ecosystem health;

- ◆ Applied research within water resources management such as that on the Reserve;
- ◆ Capacity development with a range of sectors associated with WRM in the Sand River Catchment;
- ◆ Facilitation of multiple stakeholder platforms where a diverse array of sectors participate in management issues and interact in order to negotiate water resource allocation;
- ◆ Contribution to national research projects through piloting and testing of legislation;
- ◆ Production of learning support materials to support capacity development i.e Saving the Sand series;
- ◆ Participation in national and international dialogue;
- ◆ Lobbying for good environmental governance in the catchment.



The Water Resources Unit is working towards integrated water management

The Save the Sand Project



Without core funding, the SSP has worked on a project basis against the four strategic areas of focus as and when funds have been raised, so contributing to the overall objectives of the project as outlined by Phase 1 (feasibility report 1998). The projects within these areas of activity are described below:

1. Policy regarding holistic ecosystem management

The main focus relates to policy formulation, institutional development, and strategic planning for the SRC.

- The establishment of the CMA board and the facilitation of public participation and civil society involvement in WRM for the Inkomati WMA. Sharon Pollard was invited onto the Advisory Board to the Minister regarding the composition of the CMA board.
- Continued involvement in the development of the National Water Resources Strategy.
- The project provided input into the review Komati Internal Strategic Perspective of DWAF. This document is a Departmental perspective that provides the informational foundation upon which the first generation CMS can be built.

Key Project : Integrated Basin Management : a negotiated approach

A key project contributing to the policy area of activity continued during this period. The project is

The main issues emerging from the visits:

Cambodia: The partners witnessed how the building of Yali Falls Dam in Vietnam caused the Se San River to stop flowing and so impacting on peoples' livelihoods and ecology in the North East of the country. **Thailand:** Partners were introduced to communities who were contesting the erection of a diversion weir along that would impact upon their farming activities and the ecology by diverting water from the Mekong River for use in Bangkok. **India:** This was the semi-final meeting of the project team that was aimed at consolidating project outputs. The opportunity was also used to visit the Bhima Basin where the Indian partner is implementing an ICM project. **Hosted partners:** The SSP hosted partners from 5 of the participating countries along with DWAF national staff. Partners were given the opportunity to explore the South African context for implementation of ICM.

a partnership between the SSP, and 6 NGO's implementing ICM throughout the world. The project is managed by the Dutch NGO, Both Ends (non-implementing partner) and the Indian NGO, Gomukh. The main aim of the project is to support the different NGO's with the documentation of their experiences with ICM so as to ultimately contribute to a series of position statements on ICM grounded in experiences of local action. During the year the SSP project: documented and presented the SSP as a case study; visited 2 other case sites and hosted a number of the project partners in Sand River Catchment. The case study will form the basis for a number of documents that will be prepared in support of ICM initiatives and distributed at international conferences and strategic planning meetings.

Meeting requirements for the Reserve in the Sand River Catchment

A key issue for ICM is to examine water resource availability and allocation within the context of the legislative framework. The WhiRL/SPP project partnership explored the issue of securing the Reserve for the SRC under current water use patterns and for a number of alternative scenarios. To do this the project partners developed a framework called RiDE (Resources, Infrastructure, Development, Entitlements). This showed that neither the BHNR nor the ER were being met under current use patterns. Although, these could both be met through reallocation of water and improvement to infrastructure and management no future water- based development is possible without compromising the Reserve.

Addressing agricultural water use and the Reserve

The SSP, together with DWAF regional and the Sabi-Sand Wildtuin have continued to negotiate with Department of Agriculture to implement controls on water abstraction which severely reduces the flows of the Sand River during the dry season.



A departmental official investigates the state of the Sand River

2. Rehabilitation activities

The sustainable provision of ecosystems goods and services depends on a healthy natural resource base. In this regard part of the SSP is a focus on rehabilitation of degraded areas and associated practices such as overexploitation and mismanagement. Key activities in this area of the SSP are:

Project : Towards catchment water security: linking livelihoods and wetlands

The wetlands of the upper Sand River are thought to play an important role in terms of both catchment water security and to local livelihoods. However, drainage for subsistence farming and other activities has compromised not only their ecological integrity but also their ability to provide a basis for livelihoods in the area. As part of remedial action, the *Save the Sand*, initiated an action-research project to explore the social and biophysical roles of wetlands in terms of water security and livelihoods. By exploring the socio-political, economic and ecological interlinkages of the wetlands in a participatory and collective manner, this programme seeks to develop a longterm rehabilitation and management plan for the wetlands. The project is funded by Warfsa and Working for Water/ Wetlands. The project partners include University of Natal, independent researchers and community groups. It was initiated in June 2003 and continues to May 2004.

Project: Thlavekhisa Erosion control Project

In 2002 the Thlavekhisa water committee, with whom we have worked previously, approached AWARD to assist with the increasing erosion problems in the village. The immediate threat was to houses in the immediate vicinity. This initiative was taken up under the SSP. The point of departure expanded however, based on one key question: "Why did Thlavekhisa community feel unable to deal with the problem themselves?". Today, we have used the erosion problem to try to catalyse a land and water management plan for the village as a whole and, hopefully, to include the micro-catchment. Much of the erosion appears to be as a result of uncontrolled sand mining from the river (both by villages and 'outsiders'), compounded by poor road and path placement. Uncontrolled livestock and vegetation clearing have exacerbated this.

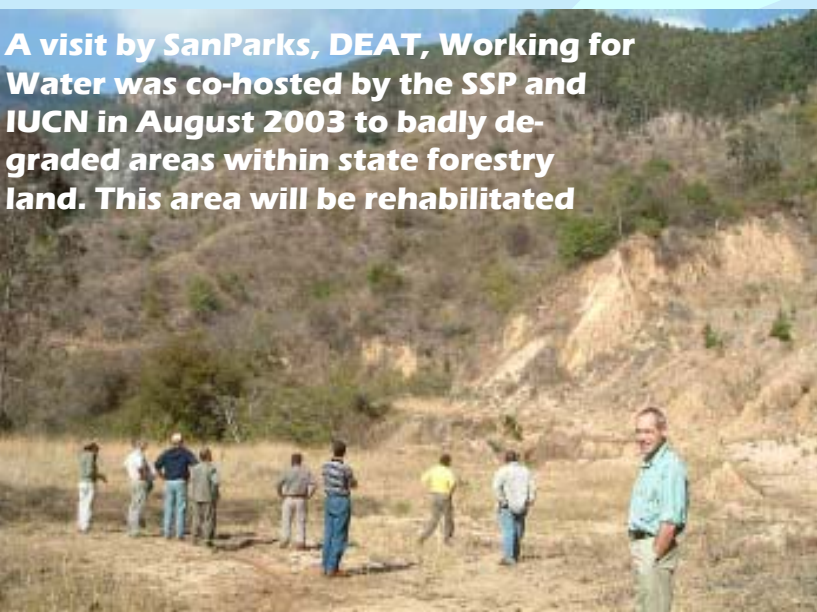
In terms of **actions** on the part of the SSP through 2003, we initiated the facilitation of a process that will culminate in the development of a proposal to secure both funding and partnerships to collaborate in the technical rehabilitation of the site. This process has also dealt with the longer-term management of the area.



Erosion at Thlavekhisa village

Conversion of commercial forestry land-use and the establishment of a National Park

The SSP has continued to support the transformation of landuse from commercial forestry in the upper Sand River catchment (see earlier annual report). Negotiations continued throughout 2003, facilitated by IUCN. This will involve a transfer from the DWAF under whose jurisdiction commercial forestry currently falls, to the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism. These negotiations involve the transfer of budgets and staff. The time frame for clearing of all trees is 2006 at which point all 12000 ha will be cleared and the land will be used for tourism. Working for Water is assisting with the removal of pines in natural pockets of vegetation within commercial forestry land.



A visit by SanParks, DEAT, Working for Water was co-hosted by the SSP and IUCN in August 2003 to badly degraded areas within state forestry land. This area will be rehabilitated

The SSP is pursuing a number of issues in this regard: (a) Calls for the implementation of the communication programme as people on the ground are starting to show confusion about the transfer and future land use. (b) The development of a rehabilitation plan. The SSP co-hosted key staff members from San Parks and DEAT to illustrate the level of the problem. (c) Initial discussions with IUCN/DEAT regarding a bioregional approach for the area.

Illegal sand mining in communal lands

Members of the SSP noted sand-mining activities in the communal lands being undertaken by a private company. In terms of actions on the part of the SSP, both Public Works and the Dept of Mineral & Energy Affairs (DME) were contacted and issues of concern regarding access and rehabilitation were raised. The deputy director visited the project site in Dec 02. They noted that the company, which is well known to them, is mining illegally and undertook to halt the activities. The tardiness of the Department however, meant that mining continued until April when SSP reinitiated contact. The department did in fact respond and contact the company and ordered them to cease operations pending the outcomes of a hearing. In the case of the private sand mining, the DME has reported uncontrolled sand mining in communal lands as a common problem, an issue supported by the Kruger National Park.

3. Public awareness raising campaign (PACAM)

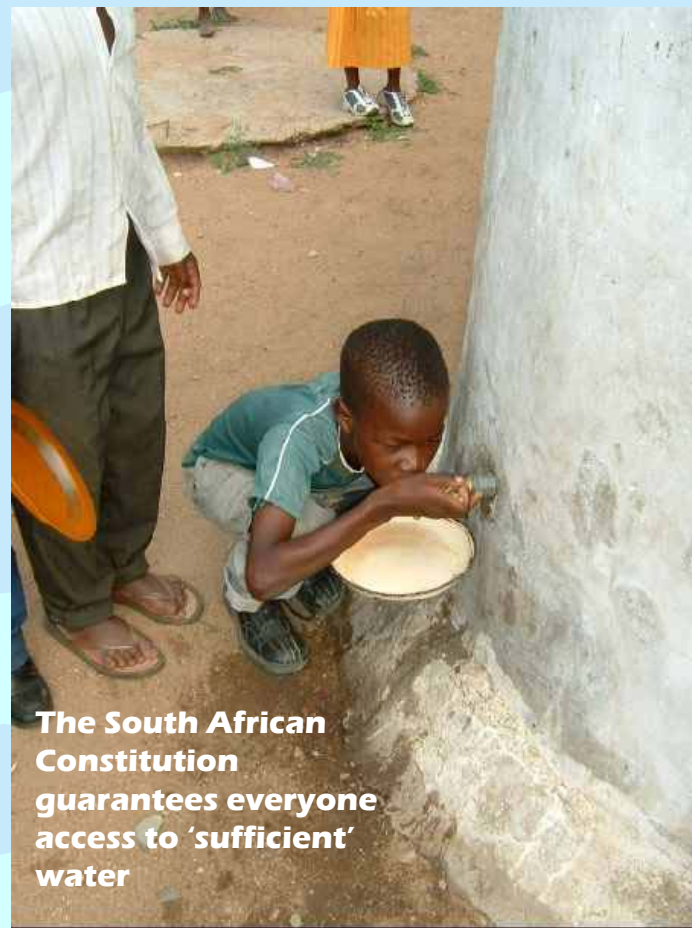
This area of activity continues to be a substantial part of all areas of work and projects implemented by the Water Resources Unit. Although the PACAM does not have any specified funds it continues to work within projects that are funded from a wide variety of sources. The main activities supporting PACAM are: workshops and mediation programmes, learning support material production, support for multiple stakeholder platforms associated with catchment management processes; action research processes aimed at improving learning and understanding of ICM and promoting public participation in WRM in general.



Dennis Mtsweni holds a workshop with DWAF members

Key project : Access to water as a human right

The Open Society funded a year long project that explores the notion of water as a human right. The focus of the project was on the “**Basic Human Needs Reserve**” as a legal and policy mechanism for ensuring that access to water for basic human needs can be implemented in the Bohlabela Municipal District. The project concerned itself with **awareness raising, improving understanding, and development of planning skills** associated with water allocation that respects **fundamental human rights** and the maintenance of the **ecosystems** that are the providers of water resources. The project produced two more units for the “Saving the Sand Series” and a series of workshops for local government, village water committees, and DWAF staff. The project was also the basis for the development of a research project that is funded by the WRC.



The South African Constitution guarantees everyone access to 'sufficient' water

Key Project: A critical review of participatory practice in integrated water resource management.

The SSP is a project partner with the Rhodes University Environmental Education Unit in the research inquiry into public participation in integrated water resources management in South Africa. The SSP is documenting experiences from the Sand River Catchment and the Inkomati WMA for inclusion in the final research report. The SSP has used part of the funding support to set up a 'Participation Working Group' for the Inkomati whereby different stakeholders can air their concerns regarding participation in water management process.



An early meeting of the Catchment Management Forum for the Sand River Catchment

A Multiple Stakeholder Platform for the Sand River Catchment

The SSP has initiated a prototype Catchment Management Forum for the Sand River Catchment. The CMF is a platform where different stakeholders can negotiate various aspects of water management. Although a lot needs to be done with respect to roles and functions of the CMF the endeavour represents a clear step forward in involving the public in water resources management.

Public awareness raising around The Reserve and scenario based planning for water allocation

As project partner to the WHiRL research project the SSP launched an awareness raising campaign that aimed at creating awareness of the Reserve and ways that planning for the reserve can secure water resources for basic human needs. This project involved producing learning support materials and holding a number of workshops and meeting with local government in order to clarify concepts and seek appropriate ways of planning for the reserve at the catchment level.

The cover features a vibrant illustration of a rural landscape with a winding river, fields, and a village. A large white box in the center contains the title and subtitle. A smaller white box at the bottom contains introductory text.

Saving the Sand Series

Professional Portfolio Unit 7

Learning to share...

Exploring ways of managing water for entitlements and productive uses in the Sand River Catchment

New water legislation in South Africa stipulates a Reserve - enough water for the basic needs of all people within the catchment, and enough water to keep our ecosystems functioning effectively. Above and beyond this, we need to manage our water carefully to promote sustainable economic and social development. What factors do we need to consider when it comes to making choices about water use in our catchment area?

The cover features a vibrant illustration of a rural landscape with a winding river, fields, and a village. A large white box in the center contains the title and subtitle. A smaller white box at the bottom contains introductory text.

Saving the Sand Series

Professional Portfolio Unit 8

Issues of access...

Water in the Sand River Catchment - legislation, rights, governance and infrastructure

In this unit we look at some of these new ways of working with water, and at some of our rights and responsibilities as regards access to water. We will look at our enabling water legislation, some of the institutions that are being set up for managing access to water and ensuring public participation in water management; and examine just a few of the many issues around infrastructure.

**ASSOCIATION FOR WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED UNDER S21)
(Registration number 1998/003011/08)**

**BALANCE SHEET
at 31 December 2003**

	Note	2003 R	2002 R
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	98,527	87,440
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	10	42,282	52,625
Accrued Income	3	546,750	324,239
Cash and cash equivalents	8,12.2	634,485	1,072,987
Total assets		<u>1,322,044</u>	<u>1,537,291</u>
Equity and liabilities			
Capital and reserves			
Distributable reserve		561,718	1,285,254
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		760,326	252,037
Deferred Income	9	231,298	87,849
		529,028	164,188
Total equity and liabilities		<u>1,322,044</u>	<u>1,537,291</u>

Financial Summary



**ASSOCIATION FOR WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED UNDER S21)
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**INCOME STATEMENT
For the year ended 31 December 2003**

	Note	2003 R	2002 R
Gross revenue		1,529,424	2,276,430
Other income		39,688	51,621
Operating costs		2,363,851	1,945,764
Operating (loss)/profit	5	(794,739)	382,287
Interest received	7	71,203	91,476
(Loss)/profit		<u>(723,536)</u>	<u>149,170</u>

