

# Progress Report

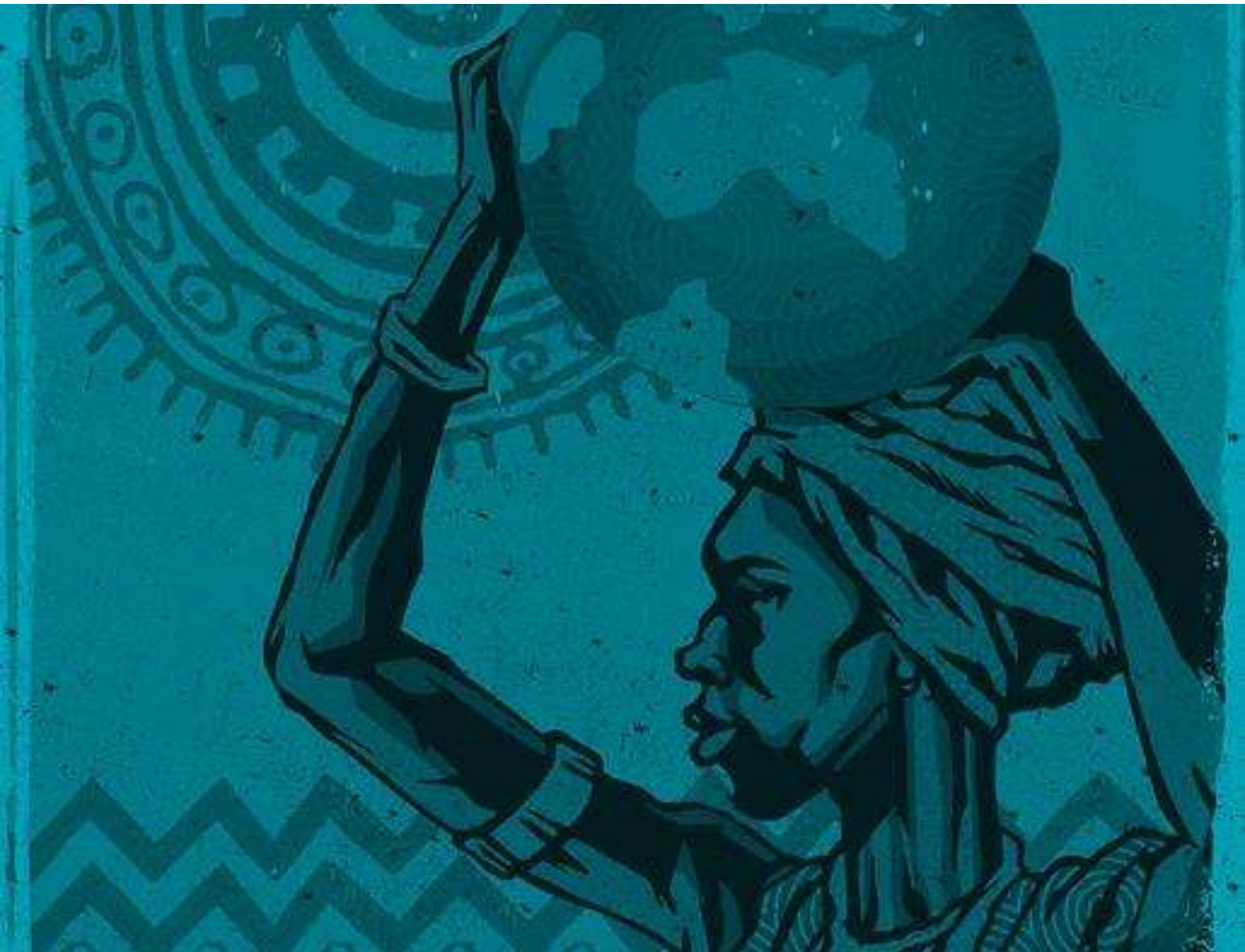
## Quarter 2 2018-2019 FY

---

### Resilience in the Limpopo - Olifants

---

Association for Water and Rural Development



# Acknowledgements

The USAID: RESILIM O project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under USAID/Southern Africa RESILIENCE IN THE LIMPOPO BASIN PROGRAM (RESILIM). The project is implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD), in collaboration with partners.

Cooperative Agreement nr AID-674-A-13-00008

## Authors

This report was compiled by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning team.

## Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)

P O Box 1919  
Hoedspruit 1380  
Limpopo, South Africa  
**T** 015-793 0503  
**W** [award.org.za](http://award.org.za)

Company Reg. No. 98/03011/08  
Non-profit org. Reg. No. 006 - 821



Local community participating in an environmental awareness campaign at the launch of the Mangrove Restoration project in Mozambique. Photo credit: CDS-ZC

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	6
1 Background .....	11
2 Progress in Key Result Areas .....	12
2.1 KRA 1: Enhancing Resilience through Systems Approaches and Capacity Development ....	12
2.1.1 Municipal Support Initiative: Capacity Building to Support Catchment Resilience in Municipalities .....	12
2.1.2 Civil Society Organisation Support Initiative (CSO-SI) .....	13
2.1.3 Institutions of Higher Learning Capacity Building Project (Sub-grant) .....	13
2.1.4 Mangrove Restoration through Community Participation in the Limpopo River Estuary, Mozambique (sub-grant) .....	14
2.2 KRA 2: Enhanced Long-term Water Security and Water Resources Protection under Climate Change .....	15
2.2.1 Support for Systemic, Accountable Water Governance .....	16
2.2.2 Networks for Collective Action .....	16
2.2.3 Developing an Integrated Water Resources Management Decision Support System (InWaRDSS) ..	17
2.3 KRA 3: Enhanced Natural Resource Management for Securing Biodiversity and Associated Livelihoods under Climate Change in High Priority Areas .....	18
2.3.1 Blyde Catchment Restoration for Enhanced Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services .....	18
2.3.2 Blyde Restoration Custodianship (Sub-grant).....	19
2.3.3 Support for Evolving Co-Management Arrangements for the High Priority Legalammeetse Nature Reserve .....	20
2.4 KRA 4: Reduced Vulnerability to Climate Change through Collective Action, Informed Adaptation Strategies and Practices and Tenable Institutional Arrangements .....	21
2.4.1 Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy and Adaptation (DICLAD) .....	21
2.4.2 Support to Small-Scale Farmers for Climate Change Adaptation through Agro-Ecology (Agriculture Support Initiative or Agri-SI) .....	22
2.5 KRA 6: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Learning and Media & Communications .....	24
2.5.1 Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) .....	24
2.5.2 Media and Communications.....	25
2.6 KRA 7: Internal Governance .....	25
2.6.1 Human Resources and Office Management .....	25
2.6.2 Project Management.....	26
2.6.3 Fundraising .....	26
2.6.4 Knowledge Management .....	26
2.6.5 Grants and Contracts Management.....	27
2.6.6 Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.....	27
2.6.7 Financial Report .....	28



# List of Figures

Figure 1: Map of the Olifants River Basin .....	11
Figure 2: Publications in the land use planning CBA resource pack .....	12
Figure 3: William Mponwana presenting AWARD's land-use planning work at the Biodiversity Learning Network launch in Pretoria .....	13
Figure 4: Screenshot from the Changing Practice course WhatsApp group .....	13
Figure 5: Members of the IHL network working together on course design .....	14
Figure 6: Natural Resource Management Committee at Zimilene (Mahielene) training workshop in March ..	14
Figure 8: Sharon Pollard meets with Dr Avene from IIP at their offices in Inhambane .....	15
Figure 7: Visit to the mangrove nursery in Xai Xai.....	15
Figure 9: Stakeholders interact with the 'issues prioritisation' exercise facilitated by the Middle Olifants team at the CMF meeting on 28 March .....	16
Figure 10: Composite image of participants presenting at the Middle Olifants River Network workshop on 13 March.....	17
Figure 11: Left - Working for Water practitioners trying out the MapIT app on their mobile phones for field-based mapping at the GIS training in February. Right - Collaborative planning of invasive species clearing operations by two partners, leading to complete coverage of the landscape.....	18
Figure 12: The Blyde Restoration Custodianship team on top of Hebron Mountain .....	19
Figure 13: Ring-barking of pine trees .....	19
Figure 14: Co-management shared learning event 25-27 February. Left - CPA representatives from across the country show solidarity. Right - field visit to Legalameetse Nature Reserve .....	20
Figure 15: Meeting between DRDLR officials and Makhutšwe CPA beneficiaries .....	21
Figure 16: Herb production and marketing workshop .....	22
Figure 17: Farmers sharing knowledge, innovations, experiences and produce at the Open Day on 14 March.....	23
Figure 18: Rearing chickens in Turkey! .....	23
Figure 19: A "green" garden in the Middle Olifants .....	24

# List of Tables

Table 1: Targets and results for the 2018/19 financial year to date.....	10
Table 2: Summary of RESILIM-O sub-grants as at end March 2019 .....	27
Table 3: Budget as per last modification versus actual project-life to date.....	29
Table 4: Summary of Financial Information - Project-life to date.....	30

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

Agri-SI	Agriculture Support Initiative
AWARD	Association for Water and Rural Development
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CPA	Communal Property Association
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DICLAD	Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy and Adaptation
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
GIS	Geographical Information System
IHL	Institution of Higher Learning
InWaRDS	Integrated Water Resources Decision Support
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
K2C	Kruger to Canyons
KRA	Key Result Area
LBCIN	Limpopo Basin Curriculum Innovation Network
LEDET	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
LMC	Legalameetse Management Committee
LNR	Legalameetse Nature Reserve
MDF	Mahlathini Development Foundation
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
MSI	Municipal Support Initiative
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs	Non-governmental Organisations
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRMP	Natural Resource Management Program
SANParks	South African National Parks
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
WWTW	Wastewater Treatment Works



# Executive Summary

## Overview of the Quarter

This report covers the period January to March 2019. The close-out period begins on 1 April 2019.

A couple of unexpected events tested the resilience of the team this quarter - firstly the injury of our Assistant Director Derick du Toit in a robbery, from which he has fortunately recovered. Secondly, a “ransomware” attack affected our financial software, resulting in much time spent recapturing financial information from paper records.

With river flows being key to water security, somewhat better rains were received in parts of the catchment, particularly in February and March, bringing relief from the drought of the past three years. We continued to run the de Hoop release model in early 2019 to ensure that the Lower Olifants River continued to flow.

Three important **network-building and shared learning** events took place this quarter:

- A co-management shared learning event in February brought Communal Property Associations (CPAs) from across the country together to share their lessons and establish valuable contacts.
- Following extensive preparatory meetings, the inaugural meeting of the Middle Olifants River Network was held in March, with representatives from more than 11 organisations. Subsequent meetings were also held with the Sekukhune District Municipality, which is an encouraging show of interest on their part.
- A Farmer Open Day for small-scale farmers saw 33 farmers from the Middle and Lower Olifants sharing seeds, experiences, farming practices and innovations. Many aspects of the day were organised by the farmers themselves.

The aforementioned work in the Middle Olifants also supported revitalisation of the Middle Olifants Catchment Management Forum (CMF) through educating stakeholders on the structure and function of a CMF and helping them to prioritise water management issues specific to the area. Our presentation on hydrological conditions provided an example of what DWS should be presenting once it has capacity to do so.

The land-use planning team attended the Biodiversity Learning Network<sup>1</sup> launch co-hosted by SANBI and SALGA in Pretoria. This allowed us to showcase our work nationally and secured great interest in the app for spatial land-use planning, which will be explored further at the next meeting.

Another highlight was the discovery of peat wetlands with high conservation value during a wetland assessment in the Blyde and Klaserie catchments, further emphasising the biological importance of these areas.

We are pleased to report that the University of Limpopo has re-engaged with the Limpopo Basin Curriculum Innovation Network (LBCIN), after a new contact was made through the Global Change Conference. Our network of tertiary institutions made significant progress with the development of a shared field-based course.

There were some important developments regarding **governance** this quarter.

- The Minister of Water and Sanitation has approved the establishment of the remaining seven catchment management agencies (CMAs). According to DWS, the Olifants CMA is at an advanced stage of “getting approval for the appointment of a Board” but no indication of time was given.

<sup>1</sup> A national network for biodiversity professionals involved in land-use planning

- AWARD continued to try to get follow-up by the DWS Regional Office on action items from the LORiN meeting in November, but there has been little progress. The key reasons appear to be the financial year-end and the upcoming elections on 8 May.
- SANParks approached AWARD for support in engaging the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. They have started with litigation for business lost to tourism due to sewage spills.
- Governance issues continue to be a key focus for our work on co-management. The Cyprus, Balloon, Paris and Madeira communities with claims on Legalameetse Nature Reserve are still battling to get resolution on their land claims despite our support. The stalemate between LEDET and the communities over the co-management agreement has also not yet been resolved. The communities are considering involving a mediator.
- In Mozambique, two Natural Resource Management Committees were successfully established in the Mangrove Restoration project areas (Mahielene and Zongoene-Sede).

**Training** events included a) a GIS training course for 25 Working for Water practitioners, b) training of the two newly established natural resource management committees in Mozambique, c) teacher training workshops for 88 teachers from 11 local Mozambican schools, and d) several field-based training workshops for farmers under the Agri-SI. Fifty applications were received for the Moletete Youth Program, from which participants will be selected in April.

Expressions of **collective action and agency** included further alignment of their Annual Plans of Operation by the members of the Blyde Restoration Group, commitments by partners to implement certain wetland restoration and protection measures in the Lowveld Plantations, and continued implementation of the Inaccessible Areas Clearing Plan<sup>2</sup>. A highlight was the successful clearing of invasive pines from the Klaserie headwaters by the Restoration Custodianship team (eight youth), who have cleared 80,947 ha since November 2018.

The communities at Legalameetse continued to plan for the Community Festival to be held at Legalameetse Nature Reserve (LNR) and the survey on natural resource use in the reserve, both of which they are planning and implementing themselves. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in securing funding through LEDET who indicated that they needed to sign the co-management agreement first. The six communities also worked together on zoning for the LNR Reserve Management Plan.

Early in the quarter, the Agri-SI project in the Lower Olifants experienced some challenges regarding perceptions and expectations of some farmers. These issues were addressed by the grantee (MDF) and things are now back on track. Farmers agreed to take full responsibility for marketing the herbs and vegetables and for ensuring quality.

Regarding **technical tool development**, we are finalising the Integrated Water Resources Decision Support (InWaRDS) desktop application in preparation for a training course for key partners to be held mid-year. Manuals and a comprehensive technical development report are also being compiled.

Agreements between AWARD and the Freshwater Research Centre to use the Freshwater Biodiversity Information System (FBIS) prototype for storage of biomonitoring data by the private nature reserves will save a huge amount of effort and cost. In relation to this, AWARD has submitted a proposal to JRS International to improve the freshwater bioinformatics capacity of key users in the Lowveld region. Three other proposals have also been submitted to continue the development of InWaRDS and expand it to include other catchments in the region, particularly the Crocodile and Sabie.

In addition to continued development of the abovementioned land-use planning app, the “RESIMOD” model interface previously developed for the Collaborative Dynamic Modelling project in the Selati Catchment was modified this quarter for use with wastewater treatment stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> A collaboration between HAT, the South African Air Force and AWARD

AWARD met again with K2C staff in February regarding a monitoring system for the Blyde catchment, including installation of further hydrological monitoring equipment and vegetation monitoring. This system will allow for long-term data collection to support assessment of the impact of the restoration work.

AWARD staff attended two significant engagements on provincial and national **policy development** for climate change (CC) this quarter.

- The Mpumalanga Climate Change Forum meeting in Middelburg focused on the initial results of status quo studies for a CC Mitigation Strategy, an Integrated Waste Management Plan and an Air Quality Management Plan for the province.
- A provincial stakeholder consultation facilitated by the National Planning Commission on a “Just Transition” to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society as part of South Africa’s National Development Plan (NDP). Notably, the socio-economic profile of the upper Olifants catchment is set to change fundamentally as the country transitions away from the use of coal.

Input into land-use planning policy continued through inputs to the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and the Greater Kruger SDF. We are working with the consultants and stakeholders to collate data for the region and are also serving on one of the advisory committees.

The **media and communications** team continued to improve and update the AWARD website (<http://award.org.za>) with improved access to resources, links to Facebook and Twitter and the addition of a “news” page for sharing local, national and international news of relevance to AWARD’s work. We also finalized our bumper newsletter to be distributed in April.

A wide range of communications materials was developed this quarter<sup>3</sup>. The focus of the February “RESILIM-O day” was on project final reports and the use of social media for communication.

Several community engagement events were also held to mark international environmental awareness days (Forests Day, Water Week, and Wildlife Day). These included a movie-showing, a field visit to Mariepskop by Grade 5 learners and a talk on water at a local school.

Nine **sub-grants** were active this quarter; their achievements are covered above. The Aves Africa Shared Learning and Rhodes University MOROC sub-grants are in the close-out phase and both have been awarded follow-on grants (April) to allow for the conclusion of work. Fixed Amount Award modifications were signed for the Mangrove Restoration and the IHL sub-grants, extending the periods of performance to October 2019 and June 2019 respectively.

Both Cryton Zazu and Vhutshilo Mushwana left AWARD (in January and March respectively) and their workloads are being taken up internally. Several AWARD staff moved across from full-time to part-time contracts this quarter (Reuben Thifhulufhelwi and William Mponwana who are continuing with RESILIM-O work part-time together with post-graduate studies, and Charles Chikunda).

### *Overview of the Quarter in Numbers*

Hectares under improved NRM, hectares under improved biophysical condition and all capacity development indicators will be reported annually, as agreed with USAID in January 2019.

This quarter, 456 people were trained in climate change adaptation and 597 people were trained in sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation (Table 1). Overall 53% of the people trained were women.

The following items were counted under both the “laws, policies or guidelines that address biodiversity conservation and/or other environmental themes” indicator and the “laws, policies, regulations or

<sup>3</sup> Including a comprehensive resource pack for land use planners, brochures on herbs and the “five fingers” principles as well as planting calendars for farmers, several climate change brochures and technical reports, a downloadable version of the game “Crossroads: A game of decisions and consequences” and electronic resources on invasive alien plants. Some of these resources have also been translated into Sepedi.



standards addressing climate change adaptation” indicator, since they strongly enable both biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation:

- Natural Resource Management Committee statutes for Mahielene, enabling community ownership and governance of mangrove restoration activities as a climate change adaptation strategy (proposed, adopted).
- Natural Resource Management Committee statutes for Zongoene-Seda (proposed, adopted).
- MoUs between Rhodes University and five institutions of higher learning for a 5-year period, for collaboration around curriculum innovation and implementation of a joint course on climate change resilience (University of Venda, University of Mpumalanga, South African Wildlife College, Pedagogical University of Mozambique and Eduardo Mondlane University).

The Our Olifants media and communications campaign reached 3,951 people this quarter. This figure was calculated from social media, website and newsletter reach statistics as well as readership, listenership or viewership figures published by the various print media, radio and television stations which have featured stories on RESILIM-O.

No peer-reviewed papers were published during the reporting period. The paper submitted to the *Journal of Simulation* in November 2018 received favourable reviews and will be re-submitted after comments have been addressed (Carnohan, S.A., Clifford-Holmes, J.K., McKnight, U.S. and Pollard, S. *Climate change adaptation in rural South Africa: Using stakeholder narratives to build SD models in data-scarce environments*). The MERL paper submitted to *Sustainability Science* last year is in the process of being re-submitted to a different journal.

Conference presentations:

- The AgriSI team and Hoedspruit Hub presented a joint paper at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Agroecological Conference in Cape Town (28-30 January). The session was attended by around 25 people, with 200 attending the conference overall. Participants included researchers and students, farmers, and NGOs.
- Sharon Pollard was invited to give the opening talk in the session on socio-ecological systems at the Savanna Science Network Meeting in Skukuza on 6 March. She spoke about “Rehabilitating ecological infrastructure: Exploring the role of networks and ‘connectors’ and their long-term sustainability”.

Table 1: Targets and results for the 2018/19 financial year to date.

Indicator	Annual Target	Q1 Results	Q2 Results
EG.10.2-1 Hectares under improved biophysical condition	22,520	*	*
EG.10.2-2 Hectares under improved natural resource management	542,925	*	*
AWARD Institutions with improved capacity to address NRM and biodiversity conservation issues	133	*	*
EG.10.2-4 Number of people trained in sustainable NRM and/or biodiversity conservation	2,500	696 274 men 422 women	597 295 men 302 women
EG.10.2-5 Number of laws, policies, or regulations that address biodiversity conservation and/or other environmental themes officially proposed, adopted or implemented	58	15	9
AWARD Number of stakeholders (individuals) with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change	1,118	*	*
EG.11-2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to assess or address climate change risks	167	*	*
EG.11-3 Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing climate change adaptation formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance	42	12	9
EG.11-1 Number of people trained in climate change adaptation	2,463	685 267 men 418 women	456 206 men 250 women
AWARD Number of people reached by Our Olifants campaign including social media	2,000,000	6,356	3,951
STIR-12 Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from USG support to research and implementation programs	10	1	0

# 1 Background

The RESILIM-Olifants or RESILIM-O program focuses on the Olifants River Basin (Figure 1), the health of its ecosystems and the dependence of residents on these, and how people may adapt to climate change and other change factors through increased resilience. The overarching goal of RESILIM-O remains as outlined in the original project documentation: “To reduce vulnerability to climate change through building improved transboundary water and biodiversity governance and management of the Olifants Basin through the adoption of science-based strategies that enhance the resilience of its people and ecosystems through systemic and social learning approaches”. For further detail on the background and rationale for this work, readers are referred to the 2018 Annual Report and the 2019 Workplan.

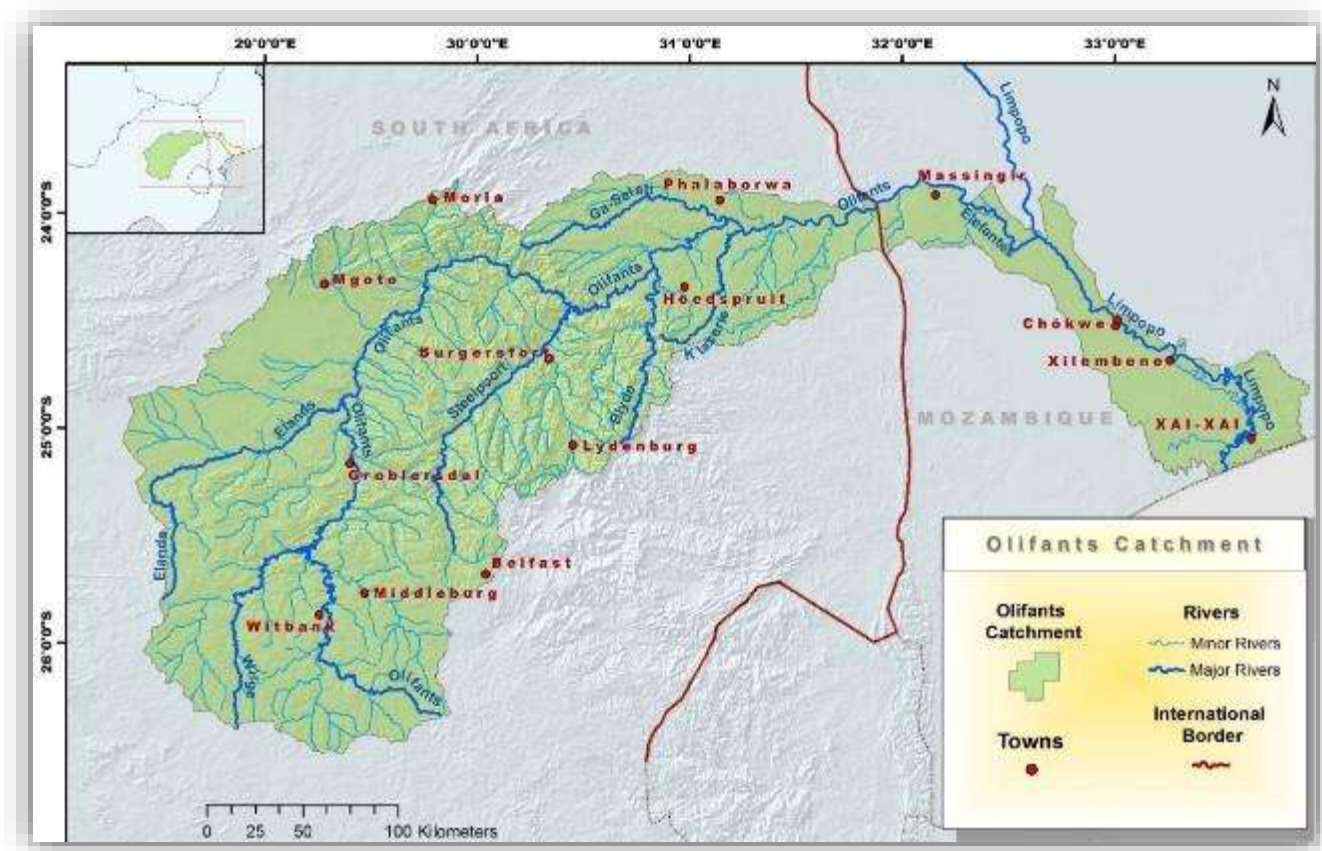


Figure 1: Map of the Olifants River Basin

## 2 Progress in Key Result Areas

### 2.1 KRA 1: Enhancing Resilience through Systems Approaches and Capacity Development

*Key Area 1 objective: To institutionalise systemic, collaborative planning and action for resilience of ecosystems and associated livelihoods through enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to sustainably manage natural resources of the Olifants River Basin under different scenarios.*

#### 2.1.1 Municipal Support Initiative: Capacity Building to Support Catchment Resilience in Municipalities

The Municipal Support Initiative (MSI) focuses on improving preparedness and responsiveness of local government (as institution) to deal with natural resource degradation and climate change vulnerability. It supports practitioners in a professional learning process through workplace support, tool development and application.

##### Land Use Planning

The MSI team continued to institutionalise biodiversity-compatible spatial planning at district and local municipality levels. In February they attended the first Intergovernmental Steering Committee meeting for the review of the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality's Spatial Development Framework (SDF), at which the status quo report developed by the service provider was reviewed. The team provided both general and specific, detailed inputs. They also participated in the inception meeting for the development of a Greater Kruger SDF. AWARD is working with the consultants and stakeholders to collate data for the region and is also serving on one of the advisory committees.

In March the MSI team attended the launch of the Biodiversity Learning Network co-hosted by SANBI and SALGA in Pretoria. This is a national network for biodiversity professionals involved in land-use planning. We were invited to present on our work on spatial land use planning in the Olifants, including the challenges and approach used to work with practitioners and decision-makers in the “mainstreaming of biodiversity into land use planning”. Of particular interest for the group was the idea of a land-use planning mobile app and it was agreed that this would be explored in detail at the next learning exchange.

A resource pack consisting of the following materials has been completed and is available on the AWARD website:

- Planning and Caring for Biodiversity: A Beginner's Guide
- A Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) overview brochure
- A series of 6 introductory brochures on various topics
- A3 CBA Mapbooks for Maruleng and Ba-Phalaborwa
- Biodiversity Handbooks (Sector Plans) for Maruleng and Ba-Phalaborwa
- Recommended Land Management Guidelines

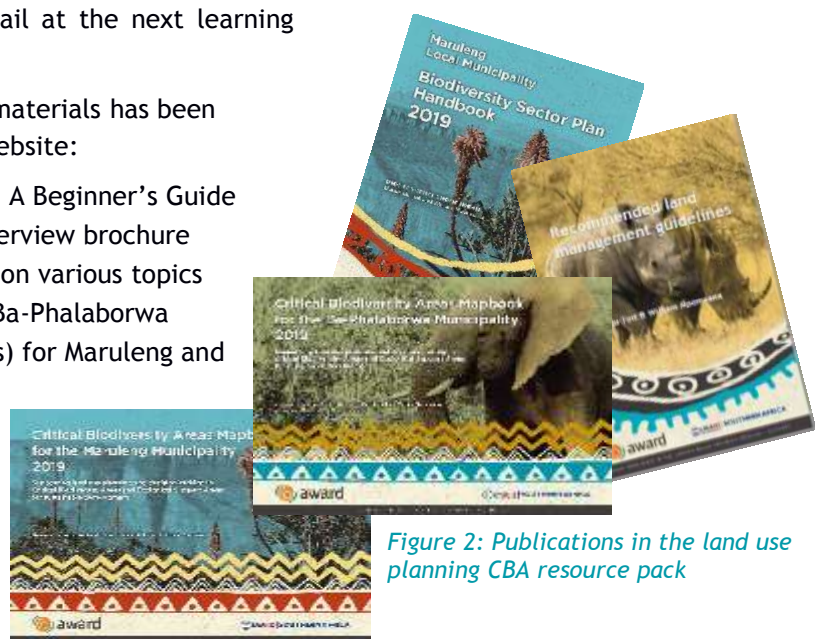


Figure 2: Publications in the land use planning CBA resource pack





Figure 3: William Mponwana presenting AWARD's land-use planning work at the Biodiversity Learning Network launch in Pretoria

light of the proposed litigation by SANParks and the tourism sector in Phalaborwa to hold the municipality accountable for business lost due to sewage spills. The WWTW turnaround plan and associated reports and resources developed by Water Group were handed over to the municipality and a proposal for a public-private partnership (PPP) model developed. The "RESIMOD" model interface previously developed for the Collaborative Dynamic Modelling project in the Selati catchment was modified for use with WWTW stakeholders. The new Assistant Director for Water Services at Ba-Phalaborwa has been helpful in dealing with the concern over spillages.

### 2.1.2 Civil Society Organisation Support Initiative (CSO-SI)

While there have been no formal activities under the CSO-SI since the completion of the Changing Practice course last year, support to Civil Society Organisations has continued through their involvement in water governance networks in the middle Olifants. The "Olifants CSOs" and "Changing Practice Course" WhatsApp groups have continued to be well used by CSOs to share updates on their work, resources and opportunities and to encourage one another, and course facilitators and AWARD staff continue to contribute to these conversations. The Changing Practice course graduates have all continued with their "change projects" and have made good progress, in some cases expanding the reach of their work substantially. One graduate recently recognised the value of the course for his ongoing work (see WhatsApp message in Figure 4).

### 2.1.3 Institutions of Higher Learning Capacity Building Project (Sub-grant)

This project, implemented by Rhodes University, aims to support institutions of higher learning in the Olifants basin to review, design and develop contextually relevant teaching and learning programs that reflect systemic and social learning approaches to climate change vulnerability reduction.

### Moletete Youth Project

Fifty applications were received for participation in Phase 2 of the training program for youth from the Moletete CPA. The project was approved by the new CPA committee, and training is due to start in April once the selection process has been completed.

### Water projects

AWARD has continued to use available opportunities to support the uptake and implementation of the work done last year under the Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) sub-grant. This has become especially important in

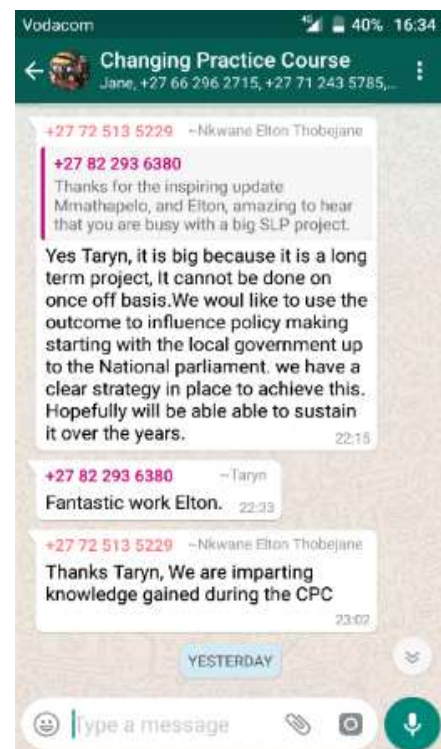


Figure 4: Screenshot from the Changing Practice course WhatsApp group

A highlight this quarter was the re-engagement of the University of Limpopo in the Limpopo Basin Curriculum Innovation Network, after a new contact was made at the Global Change Conference. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the other five institutions in the network cover a five-year period, laying a good foundation for medium-term collaboration.

The institutions of higher learning (IHLs) involved in this network made significant progress with the development of a joint, inter-institutional and inter-country field-based course on climate change resilience in the Limpopo Basin. A framework for the course has been developed, including course objectives, proposed modules, system-based content to be brought in, and social and transdisciplinary competences to be emphasised through the course activities. A significant shift in thinking took place during the design process for the course, from an earlier 'content heavy' framework to an engaged system-based curriculum which focuses on relevance, a place-based foundation and critical skills development for achieving the objectives. It was agreed to run this course in mid-2019 at a site where AWARD has been working and is well known. Five people from each IHL will be trained, and a certificate will be offered based on a credit system and a "co-badging" approach.



*Figure 5: Members of the IHL network working together on course design*

#### 2.1.4 Mangrove Restoration through Community Participation in the Limpopo River Estuary, Mozambique (Sub-grant)

This project, implemented by CDS-ZC, aims to contribute to increased resilience of the mangrove-livelihoods 'socio-ecological system' in the Limpopo estuary (Mahielene and Zongoene-Sede communities) through restoring and maintaining biodiversity and hydrological processes to provide natural resources and ecosystem services that sustain both local people and mangrove ecosystems.

This quarter 78 primary school teachers (61% women) from 11 schools were trained on how to integrate thematic content on mangrove ecology, climate change, sustainable use of mangroves, ecological and economic value of mangroves and mangrove restoration processes into the different disciplines and levels. Two training workshops were carried for the two Pedagogical Influence Zones (ZIPs) in which the project is working (Chilaulene and Zongoene-Sede). In the context of Mozambican policy which aims to link education and human development, the training included eight members of local communities and two technicians representing the district education, sports and technology services. The teacher training aims to ensure the



*Figure 6: Natural Resource Management Committee at the Zimilene (Mahielene) training workshop in March*



integration of the mangrove ecosystem into the local curriculum as a way to encourage learners to participate actively in conservation.

Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committees were also successfully established for the two areas. The election of 30 founding members for each committee took place at public meetings attended by community members and the respective community leaders. Three members of each committee are community facilitators trained during the RESILIM-B program. The NRM committees were trained on environmental legislation relating to land, forests, water and conservation, their rights and duties regarding NRM, climate change, gender and diversity, equity in decision-making and financial management.

In late March/early April, Sharon Pollard visited the project in Mozambique. Fortunately Cyclone Idai did not affect the project too seriously apart from power cuts and destruction of part of the nursery roof. The trip included visits to the Chef de Localidade for Chilaulene, one of the local primary schools, the mangrove nursery and the mangrove restoration area. The nursery curator had recently been on a 10-day workshop to Tanzania on mangrove restoration, where he was recognised for his knowledge and experience. The propagation of three mangrove species (the red,



Figure 8: Visit to the mangrove nursery in Xai Xai



Figure 7: Sharon Pollard meets with Dr Avene from IIP at their offices in Inhambane

white and yellow mangroves) appears to be going well. The success seems to lie in the irrigation regime, the type of soil used and the size of the seedling bags. CDS has supplied seedlings to Maputo and Inhambane and both areas have now started their own nurseries.

Sharon also visited partner organisation IIP in Inhambane which is being supported by CDS to explore upscaling of mangrove restoration. IIP has greater capacity to seed degraded areas and they seem to be trying to expand their footprint. The CDS work therefore has potential to act as a catalyst for other work on the Mozambique coast.

## 2.2 KRA 2: Enhanced Long-term Water Security and Water Resources Protection under Climate Change

*Key Area 2 objective: To enhance long-term water security and protection by supporting collective action, informed adaptation strategies and practices and tenable institutional arrangements for transboundary IWRM.*

This component of the program focuses on supporting the emerging governance of the Olifants Basin to secure sustainable plans and actions for water resources protection within Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). This is being done through:

1. Governance support to various institutions
2. Mobilising custodianship of water resources through the development of networks with greater capacity for monitoring and action in:
  - a. the Lower Olifants (LORIN or Lower Olifants River Network)
  - b. the Middle Olifants (MORIN - through a grant)
  - c. Protected Areas in the Lower Olifants through a network known as the Lower Olifants River Health Forum (LORHeF)
3. Development of tools and protocols in support of a decision-support system for IWRM and training in the use of these tools.

### 2.2.1 Support for Systemic, Accountable Water Governance

The KRA 2 team spent time following up on action items from the Lower Olifants River Network meeting in November and distributed the workshop report to stakeholders. However, attempts to follow up with key DWS stakeholders were largely unsuccessful. The reasons for the lack of progress seem to be the financial year-end and the upcoming elections on 8 May.

On 6 March the DWS National Director of Institutional Governance responded to our queries about the status of the catchment management agencies (CMAs) with the news that the Minister of Water and Sanitation has approved the establishment of the remaining seven CMAs, and that the Olifants CMA is at an advanced stage of getting approval for the appointment of a Board. Until the establishment process is completed we will need to work with the existing structures (the Regional Office in Nelspruit). How long this will take is still unknown; however, this appears to be a positive step forward after a long period of uncertainty.

The Middle Olifants Catchment Management Forum (CMF) has experienced problems getting off the ground, due to a perceived lack of action from the meetings, leading to frustration and low attendance. This was compounded by the fact that the meetings in 2018 lacked structure and purpose. The Middle Olifants sub-grant team used the CMF meeting on 28 March to educate stakeholders on the ideal structure and function of a CMF and facilitate an exercise which helped stakeholders to prioritise water management issues in the Middle Olifants. Our presentation on the current hydrological and expected meteorological conditions in the Middle Olifants provided an example of the information that DWS should be presenting once it has the capacity to do so.

KRA 2 staff submitted four proposals this quarter for further development of the INWaRDS water resources decision support system, including expanding it to the Crocodile and Sabie catchments (see under KRA 7). AWARD also submitted an application for the International Rivers Foundation's Riverprize, the world's foremost prize in river basin management which rewards inspiring initiatives that demonstrate Integrated River Basin Management.

### 2.2.2 Networks for Collective Action

An important part of the work on water governance is participation in and contribution to water networks in the region. In most cases, these networks were non-existent and, in a world of weakening governance and increasing complexity, they are regarded as key for long-term sustainability. They address a constitutional principle underpinning our democracy where people have a right to know and participate in governance. We have been supporting networks for water resources monitoring and management both in the Middle and Lower Olifants.



Figure 9: Stakeholders interact with the 'issues prioritisation' exercise facilitated by the Middle Olifants team at the CMF meeting on 28 March. This prioritisation will be used to help sharpen the description and ranking of issues in the MO draft charter.



A highlight of the quarter was the inaugural meeting of the **Middle Olifants River Network (MORiN)** held in Marble Hall on 13 March which involved participation of 19 representatives from 11 organisations across the full spectrum of stakeholders engaged in the middle Olifants to date. The Middle Olifants sub-grant team spent considerable time and effort meeting with stakeholders during February and March in preparation for the event. The project team has gained an understanding of the extent of the bulk infrastructure developments being led by Lepelle Northern Water (LNW) and Lebalelo Water User Association, aimed at transferring water out of the basin to supply the growing city of Polokwane. The participation of the Lebalelo WUA CEO and the LNW Head of Planning in the 13 March meeting showed interest and willingness on their part to engage with other water users in the middle Olifants. These include commercial irrigation farmers, small-scale farmers and the Sekhukhune District Municipality. The project still needs to secure better participation from DWS and the Traditional Authorities.



*Figure 10: Composite image of participants presenting at the Middle Olifants River Network workshop on 13 March*

The implementation of biomonitoring by the **Lower Olifants River Health Forum (LORHeF)** was delayed by the late rains, because monitoring sites can only be selected once flows subside. A decision was made to use the FBIS system (see above) as the platform for data storage and reporting, which will save considerable time and effort since it will no longer be necessary to develop a biomonitoring database from scratch.

### 2.2.3 Developing an Integrated Water Resources Management Decision Support System (InWaRDSS)

The Decision Support System and Early Warning System, supported by the near real-time flow and water quality monitoring system, is integral to all our work with stakeholders around water governance.

Work continued on the InWaRDS system including compilation of meteorological data and updating of the rainfall dashboard. The interface through which members of the public can upload their rainfall data is a first, and is helping to fill gaps in the South African Weather Service data and revealing local variations in rainfall. We are finalising the InWaRDS desktop application in preparation for a training course for key partners to be held in June. Manuals and a comprehensive technical development report are also being compiled.

Both DWS and AWARD gauges were affected by a suspected lightning strike but fortunately there was no damage to the AWARD equipment.

## 2.3 KRA 3: Enhanced Natural Resource Management for Securing Biodiversity and Associated Livelihoods under Climate Change in High Priority Areas

*Key Area 3 objective: To conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage high-priority ecosystems by supporting collective action, informed adaptation strategies and practices and tenable institutional arrangements.*

### 2.3.1 Blyde Catchment Restoration for Enhanced Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Blyde sub-catchment constitutes a high-priority biodiversity and water source area in the Olifants catchment. However, its functioning is being threatened through invasion by multiple alien plant species, particularly those associated with timber plantations.

A highlight this quarter was the discovery of peat wetlands in the upper Klaserie, Sand and Blyde catchments. A wetland assessment, carried out by two invited wetland specialists who were very generous with their time and expertise (Lulu Pretorius and Anton Linstrom), together with AWARD, K2C and DAFF staff, confirmed the conservation value of these wetlands. Most wetlands were in good condition although there were impacts in some. During a field visit in March with our DAFF and MTPA partners, restoration and management possibilities were discussed and several commitments were made for immediate action. The team also agreed to co-develop a funding proposal for research on the role of peat wetlands in the hydrology of these catchments.

In February AWARD ran a two-day GIS, mapping and data management training course for 25 Working for Water restoration practitioners in Nelspruit. They were shown how to use the MapIT-GPS app on their mobile phones together with Google Earth Pro, tools they have found very useful since collecting, locating and sharing data forms a major part of their work and they have significant issues with their old GPS devices for collecting field data.



*Figure 11: Left - Working for Water practitioners trying out the MapIT app on their mobile phones for field-based mapping at the GIS training in February. Right - Collaborative planning of invasive species clearing operations by two partners, leading to complete coverage of the landscape*

The Blyde Restoration Group continued to show the strength of their partnership for collective action. A workshop in March saw partners presenting their annual operational plans (APOs) for 2019/20 and engaging in meaningful discussions to ensure alignment of work and avoid duplication. On 7 February AWARD staff joined the High Altitude Team (HAT) in the field to plan upcoming remote area clearing. The northern slopes of Hebron Mountain were selected for clearing, adjacent to the area cleared last year, to allow for systematic top-down clearing. A grassland management burning exercise in the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve on 21 February provided a further opportunity for partners to interact in the field and discuss the use of fire for restoration and invasive plant control.



Other activities included meeting with K2C to continue coordinating hydrological and vegetation monitoring in the catchment, and sharing their experience in adaptive management with local and international PhD students at an event hosted by K2C and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

### 2.3.2 Blyde Restoration Custodianship (Sub-grant)

This project aims to support and enhance current efforts on invasive alien plant (IAP) control and ecosystem restoration in the larger Blyde area (including the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve and the sections of the Lowveld Plantations which are to be incorporated into this), as well as the beneficiation and capacity development of local landowners and community members.



*Figure 12: The Blyde Restoration Custodianship team on top of Hebron Mountain*

The Restoration Custodianship team of eight young people from the Blyde CPAs is still highly motivated and making fantastic progress, having cleared 80,947 hectares since November 2018. They finished clearing pines from the Klaserie headwaters this quarter, and have started work on the northern slopes of Hebron Mountain.

The team underwent training on governance, corruption and their rights as well as a skills assessment exercise to create a personal development plan for each team member. AWARD plans to support them through mentorship around mini-projects on a chosen topic related to their job and individual interests. The team leader attended the Blyde Working Group APO alignment meeting, where he had a chance to see the collective impact of all the clearing work and to learn from others. One team member resigned during the quarter to take up another opportunity and was replaced on at the beginning of March.



*Figure 13: Ring-barking of pine trees*

### 2.3.3 Support for Evolving Co-Management Arrangements for the High Priority Legalameetse Nature Reserve

Legalameetse Nature Reserve (LNR) was selected as a pilot project for supporting co-management of protected areas which have been claimed by local communities under South Africa's land restitution process. Legalameetse is a major biodiversity hotspot and important water source area for the Selati sub-catchment, and also has the potential to meaningfully contribute to the livelihoods of local communities with land claims on the reserve.

The highlight for the co-management team was the shared learning event held from 25-27 February in Hoedspruit. This provided an opportunity for CPAs from across the country to share their experiences and lessons on co-management governance and administration, beneficiation and development, and partnerships with government and the private sector. Case studies were presented by the LNR, Blyde and Doornkop CPAs (Mpumalanga), Makuleke CPA (Limpopo), Khomani San (Northern Cape), the KZN Provincial People and Parks Forum and the Swazi Tourism Authority. The event also included group discussions under five themes and a field trip to LNR. Participants expressed appreciation for the event and felt they learned a lot from each other.



*Figure 14: Co-management shared learning event 25-27 February. Left - CPA representatives from across the country show solidarity. Right - field visit to Legalameetse Nature Reserve*

Partners K2C and sub-grantees EMROSS held three workshops this quarter on the Beneficiation Framework for LNR and the Reserve Management Plan. The aim is to work on these tools in an integrated, systemic way together with the Development Framework, as all three will help the Legalameetse CPAs with proactive planning of co-management in LNR.

The Legalameetse communities also spent time planning for the cultural festival and the natural resource use survey, both of which they are undertaking on their own. The LMC Chairman (Mr Mangena) and Derick Thobejane agreed to lead the planning of this event, with the youth playing key roles in some of the sub-committees. A draft questionnaire for the natural resource use survey was also completed. This will help the LMC to quantify community use of bush tea, medicinal plants, thatch grass, firewood, and other natural resources being harvested in the reserve. One community representative shared, "you guys are really empowering us to undertake these activities and make us believe we can".

There are still many challenges regarding governance and institutional arrangements at LNR. The government is imposing developments in the reserve but has not shared important documents such as feasibility studies and EIA reports with the communities, and the communities have also not requested these documents. Despite AWARD's ongoing support, LMC members have a tendency to respond reactively to any job creation opportunities thrown at them. While this is understandable, it could potentially cause them to miss out on big opportunities, including job creation and other financial benefits. It is therefore critical for AWARD and partners to remind the LMC of the relevance of working through the Reserve Management Plan and what that means for development and benefit opportunities.



On 16 March an important meeting took place between the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) and Makhutšwe CPA beneficiaries, including the Paris, Balloon, Cyprus and Madeira communities with portions of land in the LNR who have been trying to resolve their CPA governance issues for several years now. The meeting was very well attended. The purpose was for the DRDLR to assist in resolving CPA issues as part of their “Total Compliance” program. Since the CPA constitution does not say anything about the term of office of the committee, the constitution needs to be amended. DRDLR officials outlined the amendment process - involving re-verification of beneficiaries followed by a meeting at which 70% of verified beneficiaries must be present. If these processes are successfully concluded, elections for a new CPA committee will be held on 24 August.



*Figure 15: Meeting between DRDLR officials and Makhutšwe CPA beneficiaries*

The communities were not satisfied with the meeting, since the official they have been working with on these issues, Mr Maluleka, did not arrive and Mr Moila (from a section that deals with post land claims issues) was not in a position to answer questions related to the four farm portions that are still to be settled under Makhutšwe CPA. He appeared unaware that only the agricultural farm portions have been settled and not the portions in LNR (state land). He furthermore threatened the communities that he would “leave and never come back” if they “misbehave”. People were unhappy with the chairing of the meeting and felt they were not given enough time for discussion.

Good news for work at Legalameetse is that K2C has obtained funding to extend the contracts of the Environmental Monitors (EMs) for another three years and wants to broaden the scope of their duties. AWARD also engaged in discussions with SANBI this quarter with a view to becoming involved in their Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative, which brings (claimant) communities together each year to share lessons on land reform projects and stewardship.

## 2.4 KRA 4: Reduced Vulnerability to Climate Change through Collective Action, Informed Adaptation Strategies and Practices and Tenable Institutional Arrangements

*Key Area 4 objective: To reduce vulnerability to climate change and other factors by supporting collective action, informed adaptation strategies and practices and tenable institutional arrangements.*

This Key Result Area contributes to the overarching RESILIM-O goal of building climate resilience in the Olifants Catchment. Due to the cross-cutting nature of climate change (CC), the majority of project activities in KRA4 are about embedding climate change thinking in other RESILIM-O projects. All these activities are supported by continual updating and collation of climate information relevant to the Olifants catchment.

### 2.4.1 Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy and Adaptation (DICALAD)

AWARD staff attended two significant engagements on provincial and national policy development for climate change this quarter. The Mpumalanga Climate Change Forum meeting in Middelburg focused on the initial results of status quo studies for a CC Mitigation Strategy, an Integrated Waste Management Plan and an Air Quality Management Plan for the province. This was followed by a provincial stakeholder consultation

facilitated by the National Planning Commission on a “Just Transition” to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society as part of South Africa’s National Development Plan (NDP). The socio-economic profile of the Upper Olifants catchment, encapsulated in the name “eMalahleni” (place of coal), is set to change fundamentally as the country transitions away from the use of coal.

The team concluded that while such policy engagements are important, if they are to lead to actual implementation and change, the facilitation process needs to be revised so as to get better input and stakeholder buy-in, the perceptions of decision-making power of stakeholders must be considered, and there must be more involvement by political leaders and champions.

The DICLAD team made considerable progress on communications materials this quarter, completing a technical report and flyer on climate regions in the Olifants catchment, technical briefs for selected municipalities, the DICLAD analysis guideline, climate change adaptation handbooks for specific sectors, planting calendars for farmers in English and Sepedi, and a Sepedi version of the core concepts flyer. The planting calendars and flyers on core concepts of climate change were distributed to farmers at the Agri-SI shared learning event in March.

#### 2.4.2 Support to Small-Scale Farmers for Climate Change Adaptation through Agro-Ecology (Agriculture Support Initiative or Agri-SI)

The Farmer Open Day held on 14 March saw 33 farmers from the Middle and Lower Olifants sharing seed, experiences, farming practices and innovations. It also provided an opportunity for capacity development and collective action as many aspects of the day were organised by the farmers themselves. Participants visited three villages in the Middle Olifants (Motetema, Tafelkop and Monsterlus). The 13 farmers who travelled from the Lower Olifants presented their stories using posters they had developed themselves with assistance from AWARD.

In the Lower Olifants the AgriSI team, working in collaboration with MDF and Hoedspruit Hub, continued to support livelihood diversification opportunities. The organic herb and vegetable marketing process with Hoedspruit Hub was re-launched in the form of a “box scheme”, where clients order boxes for a fixed price, with the box contents varying according to what is available.

The box scheme is a response to the challenges the farmers have faced in accessing the lucrative local organic foods market. Previous models led to Hoedspruit Hub making a loss of around R8000 in produce they could not sell after paying the farmers, and they are therefore not willing to continue with this model. They have suggested a more conventional marketing process with Hlokomela as the middleman. What this has meant for farmers in the short term, is a reduction in prices for their produce, higher transport costs and smaller orders. Some participants decided to withdraw in light of this. A herb production and marketing workshop was held on 27 March at Hlokomela, focusing on how to grow, harvest, process and package herbs.



Figure 16: Herb production and marketing workshop



*Figure 17: Farmers sharing knowledge, innovations, experiences and produce at the Open Day on 14 March*

#### **Lower Olifants (Mahlathini Development Foundation sub-grant)**

The AgriSI project in the Lower Olifants experienced some challenges early in the quarter, but things are now back on track. With the good rains, many farmers planted maize and some ploughed right over their agro-ecological gardening practices. This followed on from minimal planting last quarter caused by severe water shortages. Tensions also arose within some of the learning groups regarding perceptions and expectation of some farmers. The sub-grantee (MDF) addressed the issues at a review and planning meeting in Sedawa, including the roles and responsibilities of NGOs vs government, the emphasis of the project on learning and experimentation, farmers' responsibilities in the process, and the change to the herb and vegetable marketing model. Farmers agreed to take full responsibility for marketing the herbs and vegetables and for ensuring quality. They were reminded that apparent "favouring" of certain people is linked to what these people have committed to do. Although some time was lost, it does not detract from the learning people have engaged in and the great strides they are making in understanding and dealing with their very difficult conditions.

Activities for the quarter included conservation agriculture workshops in to demonstrate how to improve maize yields by using principles such as increasing soil organic matter, intercropping and minimal tillage, as well as revision of garden practices and pest control options. MDF also assisted a local community organisation in the village of Turkey to acquire and install a poultry layer cage, and provided appropriate training. Garden and tunnel monitoring was undertaken for 12 participants in four villages, as well as a review of water storage options being used by farmers. The Sedawa group decided to go ahead with the option of installing boreholes for agricultural water provision for their group members. To enable the water committee to work through the issues around cost, location and access, MDF put together a summary document to help them make their decisions.



*Figure 18: Rearing chickens in Turkey!*

Review and planning workshops were also held at Turkey and The Willows. Two meetings were held with farmers from The Willows to understand why the group became inactive and to re-initiate the learning



process. A major reason seems to have been the lack of water for irrigation. Only three of the 12 new participants were involved previously, so the process will be started over with this new group.

### **Middle Olifants (Ukuvuna sub-grant)**

This project supports farmers in the Capricorn and Sekhukhune districts in the Middle Olifants, covering two local municipalities, 5 wards and 16 different villages. The number of farmers involved this quarter was 230, 182 of whom are women. There was an increase in membership in the Tafelkop area, although a slight decrease overall from last quarter (from 239). Ukuvuna staff investigated starting more clusters in new villages, particularly in the Tshamahanse Section and Tafelkop Rakgoatha areas.

The major event this quarter was the Farmer Open Day, hosted by the farmers in the middle Olifants (see above). Ukuvuna also provided training for cluster leaders (including three youth trainers) in soil health, compost-making, garden assessment, propagation methods, training skills, respect and acknowledgement, report-writing and observation.

Unfortunately only two of the group of 12 youth farmers in Motetema are still participating. However, these farmers have come up with some interesting innovations such as an irrigation system constructed from old school desks, bicycle wheels and plastic bottles.

Garden assessments were carried out by the 16 cluster leaders this quarter for all 62 gardens in Sekhukhune and all 168 gardens in Capricorn. Results showed 61% of gardens were rated “green”, 25% “orange” and 14% “red”. The proportion of green and orange gardens has increased from last quarter. A focus of training has been on incorporating trees into the gardens, so it was pleasing to see that all gardens had at least three fruit trees. About 103 of the 230 farmers are producing enough to meet the needs of their families and also to sell.



*Figure 19: A “green” garden in the Middle Olifants*

## **2.5 KRA 6: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Learning and Media & Communications**

*Key Area 6 objective: Strengthen organisational learning, integration and coherency through continuous reflective and collaborative processes.*

### **2.5.1 Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL)**

MERL activities this quarter included submission of the quarterly report for Q1 on 31 January (with an agreement to submit the quarterly financial report in February due to the virus that affected AWARD’s financial records) and submission of annual targets to USAID. It was agreed at a meeting with USAID that all capacity development indicators will be reported only at the end of the year (Q4). Therefore, the following indicators will now be reported annually: the two institutional capacity indicators, the CC earmark indicator (people with improved capacity) and the two hectares indicators. All other indicators will be reported on a quarterly basis.

The MERL team ran a RESILIM-O day activity on 28 February to discuss project final reports and give staff a chance to think about their project outcomes and impacts. The proposed final report template was discussed in detail. Staff were then grouped by KRA to discuss factors that have affected project outcomes, impacts and sustainability, including unexpected outcomes and synergies with other projects. Useful



suggestions that came out of the day were the need for the MERL team to put together a “resource pack” to help staff with their final reports, including guidelines on how to integrate resilience principles and other themes in a consistent way.

The MERL team contributed substantially to the production of the first “bumper edition” RESILIM-O newsletter and website content linked to the newsletter (see below). The MERL paper submitted last year was not accepted by the targeted journal and is in the process of being re-submitted to a different journal. Work on a second MERL paper was started.

### 2.5.2 Media and Communications

The media and communications team continued to improve and update the AWARD website this quarter (<http://award.org.za>) with improved access to resources, links to Facebook and Twitter and the addition of a “news” page for sharing local, national and international news of relevance to AWARD’s work.

The first RESILIM-O newsletter was finalised for distribution in early April - this will be a “bumper edition” giving a summary of the achievements of RESILIM-O and insight into the scope of the work, with links to the website. Future newsletters will be shorter, with newsflashes on recent developments.

A wide range of communications materials was developed, including a comprehensive and professional-looking resource pack for land use planners and land users (see KRA 1), planting calendars for farmers, several climate change brochures and technical reports, a downloadable version of the game “Crossroads: A game of decisions and consequences” and electronic resources on invasive alien plants. Some of these resources have also been translated into Sepedi. Brochures on herbs and the “five fingers” principles are amongst the resources under current development. The focus of the February “RESILIM-O day” was on project final reports and the use of social media for communication.

Several community engagement events were also held this quarter to mark international environmental awareness days (Forests Day, Water Week, and Wildlife Day). These included a movie-showing, a field visit to Mariepskop by Grade 5 learners and a talk on water at a local school.

Regarding social media statistics, the quarter closed with 379 followers on the AWARD Twitter feed and 612 followers on the AWARD Facebook page. The post reach and tweet impressions maintained the dramatic gains made last quarter. Average post reach was 2,678 (up from 2,465 last quarter) and the average number of tweet impressions was 1,500 (down from 1,945 last quarter). The Our Olifants feed ended the quarter with 230 Twitter followers and 1,365 followers on the Facebook page.

## 2.6 KRA 7: Internal Governance

*Key Area 7 objective: To ensure good programmatic governance through developing and maintaining organisational capacity and effectiveness through tenable management systems and sub-contract management.*

### 2.6.1 Human Resources and Office Management

Cryton Zazu and Vhutshilo Mudau left AWARD in January and March respectively. Several staff moved across from full-time to part-time contracts this quarter, including Charles Chikunda, Reuben Thifhulufhelwi and William Mponwana. Reuben will be starting a PhD and William a Master’s degree at Rhodes University; their postgraduate projects are focused on RESILIM-O work.

Many staff appraisals took place in the month of February. One appraisal (to be reported to the board) required mediation and Sharon requested support from Charles, following which the issue appears to have been resolved.

The Office Management team carried out the usual essential tasks including management of leave, timesheets, overtime and medical aid, fleet management, supervision of the IT infrastructure, procurement

of goods and services, preparation of service-level agreements with suppliers and logistical support for meetings.

### 2.6.2 Project Management

An ongoing issue as we move towards the final year is continuing the management of existing projects as staff leave. This has particularly affected the co-management and Agri-SI projects, with project leaders not being on-site. A decision was taken in March to move the management of these projects back in-house. Derick du Toit will take over management of the Agri-SI project and Lilian Goredema will assist with specific tasks for the co-management project.

### 2.6.3 Fundraising

AWARD is currently heavily involved in submission and follow-up of proposals. These include:

- A technical proposal submitted to the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) for the development and testing of an integrative, systemic decision-support system to support IWRM in the Inkomati Basin (Crocodile and Sabie-Sand Rivers).
- A capacity development proposal to the IUCMA for training of key staff and stakeholders in the use of the proposed INWARDS decision support system in the Inkomati Basin.
- A proposal to the JRS on enhanced bioinformatics for freshwater biodiversity in the Kruger National Park region.
- DEA Land User Incentive (LUI) proposals for Blyde. AWARD was approached by DEA over a year ago to submit a proposal for continued work at Blyde through the LUI scheme. This was delayed due to audit issues within DEA and has now started again. A new proposal was developed during March to cover April 2019 to March 2022.
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals submitted to SANBI, this is currently in review. The proposal submitted is one of 125 currently under review.
- We had initial exploratory discussions with Duncan Hay and Fonda Lewis of the INR regarding potential joint funding proposals. In various proposals that we looked at, the amounts were insufficient to support a joint proposal but we agreed to continue to liaise.
- Sharon Pollard has had ongoing discussions with the Resilient Waters Program and Jeanette (USAID) with the aim of looking at ways in which the RWP can build on our work given the significant investment made already.
- An application for the International Rivers Foundation RiverPrize, for inspiring river basin management.

Outcomes of the following proposals were received:

- The proposal submitted to USAID by K2C was selected for full proposal submission but was not successful due to the SAMS registration process not taking place timeously.
- A proposal submitted by Jai Clifford-Holmes via Rhodes University to USAID was not selected for the second round.

### 2.6.4 Knowledge Management

Project staff continued to upload reports, photographs, data and other documents to the Knowledge Management System (KMS). Uploading of sub-grant data is overseen by the Senior Grants and Contracts Administrator.

## 2.6.5 Grants and Contracts Management

Nine sub-grants are currently active within RESILIM-O (Table 2). The (G13) Aves Africa Shared Learning and (G14) Rhodes University MOROC sub-grants both entered the close-out phase having completed their final submissions. Both organisations have been awarded follow-on grants commencing in April to allow for the conclusion of work. These cover further shared learning events and work in the Middle Olifants which is now gaining traction. The extremely effective design of the Shared Learning grant has provided opportunities to network and share experiences with others that would not necessarily have happened had the work been simply project-based.

Fixed Amount Award modifications were signed for the Mangrove Restoration sub-grant and the Rhodes University IHL sub-grant, extending the period of performance for these two grants to October and June 2019 respectively. Excessive delays were experienced in the submission of the draft report from EMROSS on the EIA-related work.

*Table 2: Summary of RESILIM-O sub-grants as at end March 2019*

Sub-grantee	Sub-grant Title	Period	Progress
<b>Mahlatini Development Foundation</b>	G10: Support for Small-Scale Climate Smart Agriculture (Lower Olifants)	Feb'18 -Oct'19	Milestone 4 of 7 complete
<b>Ukuvuna Harvests</b>	G9: Support for Small-Scale Climate Smart Agriculture (Sekhukhune Middle Olifants)	Feb'18 -Jun'19	Milestone 4 of 6 complete
<b>Rhodes University</b>	G11: Capacity Development through Institutions of Higher Learning	Mar'18 - Jun'19	Milestone 4 of 5 complete
<b>Rhodes University</b>	G14: Networks for collaborative, systemic action in the Middle Olifants River Catchment	Jun'18 – Apr'19	Milestone 6 of 6 complete
<b>CSV</b>	G15: Media and Communications	Aug'18 – Jul'19	9 of 12 months complete (cost reimbursable)
<b>K2C</b>	G16: Blyde Restoration Custodianship project	Aug'18 – Jul'19	Milestone 4 of 5 complete
<b>CDS-ZC Mozambique</b>	G17: Mangroves rehabilitation in the Limpopo river estuary	Sep'18 – Oct'19	Milestone 3 of 7 complete
<b>EMROSS</b>	G18: Support for Strategic NRM & Environmental Regulation in Priority Areas of the ORC	Sep'18 – Sep'19	7 of 12 months complete (cost reimbursable)
<b>Aves Africa</b>	G19: Support for shared learning for collective action	Apr'18 – Mar'19	12 of 12 events complete (cost reimbursable)

## 2.6.6 Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

The contractual requirements governing our Cooperative Agreement with regard to the EMMP as submitted with our 2017 Work Plan continue to be upheld and monitored across all program activities. All consultancies and sub-contracts have equally been informed of this requirement.



## 2.6.7 Financial Report

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE BUDGET

Each KRA (Key Result Area) has specific and operations budget line items. Operational expenditure includes: travel and accommodation, salaries, fringe benefits, workshops and conferences, resource materials and software. The KRA-specific expenditures are as follows:

- **KRA1: Institutionalising Systemic, Collaborative Action through Capacity Development**  
The following project activity areas are covered: AWARD Internship program, consultancies and linked expenditures for Civil Society Organisation Support Initiative, Municipal Support Initiative, Climate Change Clinics and Collaborative Resilience Assessment & Prioritisation in both South Africa and Mozambique.
- **KRA 2: Water Systems**  
This portion of the budget includes expenditures for consultancies and linked expenditures for: Water Governance, Biomonitoring and *InWaRDS* (a water management system for water institutions).
- **KRA 3: Land Systems**  
The Land systems budget includes expenditure for consultancies and linked expenditures for Legalameetse and Blyde Co-management; small scale agriculture and Integrated Restoration Support.
- **KRA 4: Climate Change Systems**  
This KRA includes expenditure for Systems Dynamic Modelling, integrating climate change (CC) into disaster risk reduction (DRR), embedding CC into all aspects of the RESILIM-O projects, dialogues for climate change (DICLAD), support for climate adaptation to small-scale and household agriculture and climate change adaptations for commercial agriculture.
- **KRA5: Shared Learning**  
This includes general expenditure to hold workshops for shared learning activities.
- **Operations**  
This budget outlines expenditure that is foundational to all the KRAs. This includes the Reference Group activities; Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL); Steering Committee meetings; Media and Communications staffing and activities; Technical Database and internal expenses linked to the management of the Sub-grant Unit.
- **Internal Capacity Development**  
AWARD has budgeted for internal capacity development, which allows for internal governance systems improvement and staff training.
- **Core Management**  
This is a budget for the upkeep of vehicles, offices, core staff salaries, telephone and internet, rental expenses, and core daily functions.
- **Equipment**  
This is the budget for planned fixed asset purchases.
- **Sub-grants**  
As a pass-through entity, the sub-grant budget includes only the funds passed down to eligible entities that have qualified for a sub-grant during the reported financial period.

- **Indirect Costs**

Indirect costs are based on 10% of the MTDC as per USAID regulations. This is to cover costs that are not specific to RESILIM-O or any other award.

## PART 2: FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PROJECT LIFE TO DATE ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

Part 2 of the quarter's financial report represents a summary of budget and expenditures for project life to date. Relevant detail is reflected in Table 3.

**Please note that the 2018 financial year has not yet been audited. Values are therefore provisional pending the audit.**

*Table 3: Budget as per last modification versus actual project-life to date*

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL BUDGET \$	TOTAL EXPENDITURE \$	AVAILABLE \$
KRA1: Institutionalize systemic, collaborative action through Capacity development	1, 658, 423.45	1, 650, 738.84	7, 684.61
KRA 2: Water Systems	846, 181.04	784, 354.36	61, 826.68
KRA 3: Land Systems	884, 338.43	876, 463.09	7, 875.34
KRA 4: Climate Change Systems	852, 119.59	808, 111.15	44, 008.44
KRA 5: Shared learning	6, 077.30	6, 388.28	-310.98
KRA 6: Operations, MERL, Media and Communications & Internal Governance	969, 861.77	939, 504.63	30, 357.14
Internal Capacity development	121, 010.78	108, 248.85	12, 761.93
Core Project, Management and internal Governance	1, 969, 551.80	1, 656, 910.82	312, 640.98
Equipment	225, 716.72	196, 869.85	28, 846.87
Sub Grants	1, 812, 600.00	1, 289, 999.16	522, 600.84
Indirect costs	420, 974.13	396, 495.46	24, 478.67
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9, 766, 855.01</b>	<b>8, 714, 084.47</b>	<b>1, 052, 770.54</b>

### Notes to Table 1

#### 1. Exchange rate

USD to ZAR conversion values are based on:

- Financial Annual Statements (FAS) for expenditures for 2013 to 2017
- An unaudited average exchange for expenditures for 2018 and 2019
- An average exchange is then calculated for the project life to date. This translates to **1 USD: ZAR12.95** for the reporting period.

#### 2. Budget modification

A modification to budget (1 January 2018 to 31 March 2020) was approved by USAID In December 2018, which is reflected in the budgeted values above.

#### 3. Project expenditure

- Values reflected are project-life to date expenditures.

- b. A total of 93% of the total budget (excluding sub-grants) has been spent to date.
- c. A total of 71% of the total grants budget has been spent to date. The status of sub-grants awarded to date is dealt with under the section on grants in this quarterly report.

#### 4. Cost share: life of project to date

As per the co-operative agreement, AWARD is obligated to contribute 10% of the total approved budget as cost share, a total value of **USD 976,686**. By end December 2018 AWARD had exceeded this requirement and has contributed a total of ZAR 25, 572, 543 (audited) translated to USD 1,980,832.

#### 5. Revised budget submission

AWARD will be submitting a revised budget for the period 31 March 2019 to end of project (March 2020) to be in line with USAID close out requirements. AWARD has received an extension for this submission from Jeanette Normand USAID AO.

*Table 4: Summary of Financial Information - Project-life to date*

SUMMARY: FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Total budget (excluding sub grants)	\$ 7 954 255
Sub Grants	\$ 1 812 600
Obligated Funds	\$ 9 766 855
Expenditure to date	\$ 8 714 084
Pipeline funds	\$ 1 052 771

### PART 3: FINANCIAL NARRATIVE REPORT FOR THE QUARTER 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2019

Part 3 of the financial report represents a narrative of expenditures for the quarter, 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019. This section is reported in ZAR.

#### 1. Income and expenditures for the quarter:

- A total of **ZAR 4,183,720** was received from USAID during the quarter.
- The following refund was paid to USAID in the quarter **ZAR 654,048.18**, this is due to some sub-grants not submitting milestones timeously.
- AWARD has liquidated a total of **ZAR 4,066,262.91** in the quarter.

#### 2. Detailed notes for the quarter:

##### KRAs 1 - 5

- There were no unusual or extraordinary expenses for KRA 1, 2, 3 or 4.
- Due to scaling down of the projects, many staff contracts were not renewed, therefore the KRAs and Core incurred leave paid out to exiting staff.
- KRA 5 (shared learning events) is not budgeted under the AWARD budget as of 2018 and therefore no expenditures are reported for the quarter. Shared learning events are currently run as a sub-grant.

##### Core

- There were no unusual or extraordinary expenses for the core project line item.

##### Internal Capacity Development

- No expenditures were incurred in the period for Internal Capacity Development.

##### Indirect costs



- Indirect costs are based on MTDC as per modified agreement.

#### **Sub-grants**

- **Expenditures** in the quarter are for 7 sub-grants. Costs of approved milestones or cost reimbursable grant invoices, as per contracts, amounted to ZAR 1,550,291.

#### **3. General comments and plans for the coming quarter:**

The RESILIM-O project as at beginning of the next quarter will be going into close-out. AWARD management will commence implementing this process.

#### **4. General comments and progress for the quarter:**

AWARD had challenges with SARS throughout the 2018 financial year with respect to VAT reimbursements and donated incomes. This has been taken up with SARS and the VAT returns submitted for January and March have been successfully refunded. All VAT returns have now been successfully paid out by SARS.