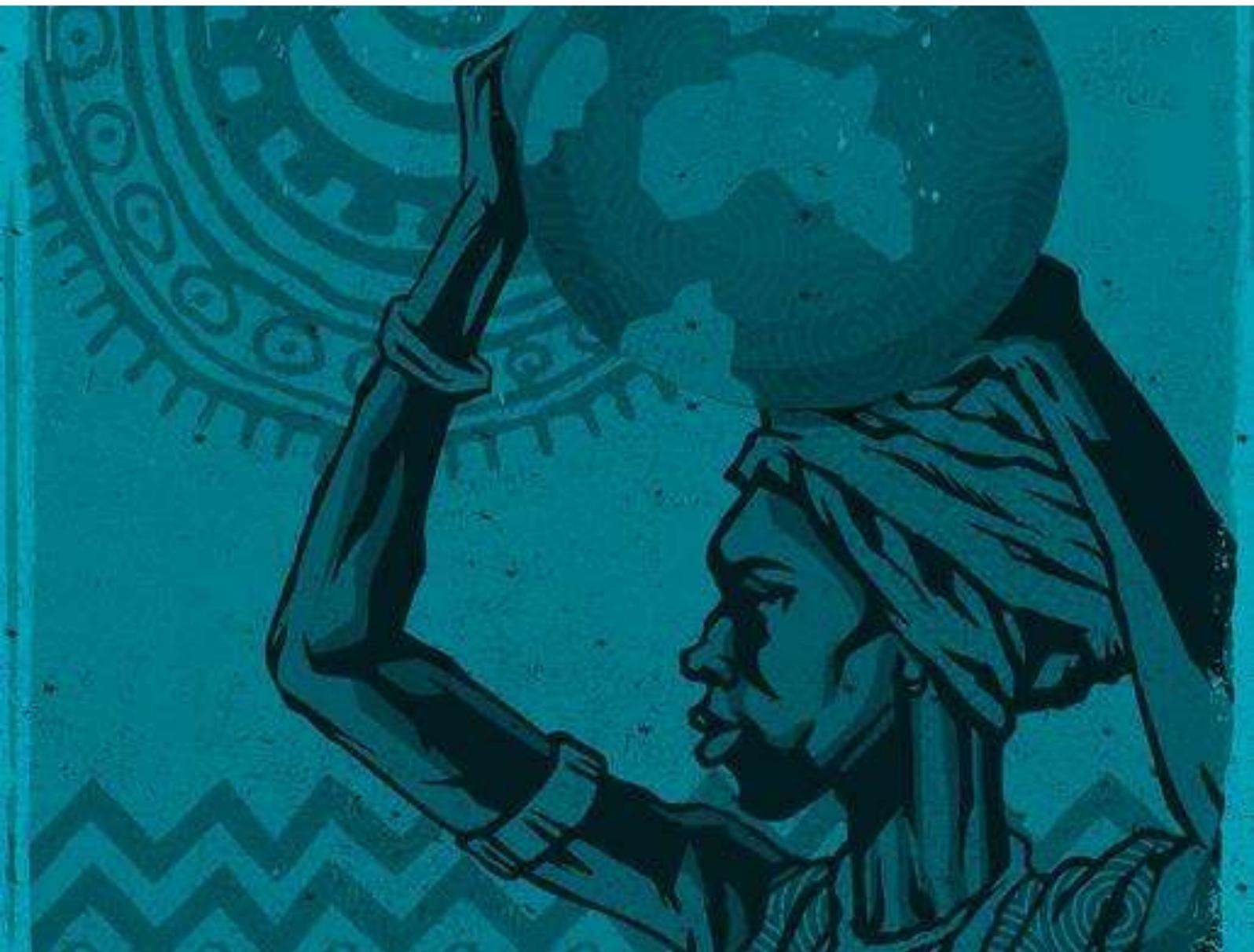


Progress Report

Quarter 1 2019-2020 FY

Resilience in the Limpopo - Olifants

Association for Water and Rural Development



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Agri-SI	Agriculture Support Initiative
AWARD	Association for Water and Rural Development
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDS-ZC	Rural Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentável para as Zonas Costeiras (Sustainable Development Centre for Coastal Zones)
CMA	Catchment Management Agency
CMF	Catchment Management Forum
CPA	Communal Property Association
CSV	Creating Sustainable Value
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
DICLAD	Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy and Adaptation
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
HAT	High Altitude Team
HH	Hoedspruit Hub
IHL	Institution of Higher Learning
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
InWaRDS	Integrated Water Resources Decision Support
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JRS	JRS Biodiversity Foundation
K2C	Kruger to Canyons non-profit company
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
LORHeF	Lower Olifants River Health Forum
LORIN	Lower Olifants River Network
LRC	Legal Resources Centre
LUI	Land User Incentive
MDF	Mahlathini Development Foundation
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
MORIN	Middle Olifants River Network
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSI	Municipal Support Initiative
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
NEMPAA	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act
ORC	Olifants River Catchment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
ORWRDP	Olifants River Water Resources Development Project
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Scheme
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
RWP	Resilient Waters Program
SAEON	South African Environmental Observation Network
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANDF	South African National Defence Force
SANParks	South African National Parks
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
WRC	Water Research Council
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

Executive Summary

Overview of the Quarter

This is the last quarterly report for the RESILIM-O program and it covers the period October to December 2019. This final period of activity and future planning before close-out was a busy one, as can be seen in this report.

Besides all the activities reported here, project staff also spent significant time reflecting on and evaluating their projects as they planned, wrote and reviewed their final reports and worked on media and communications products. A session with members of the Reference Group on 13 November provided an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of each project over its full lifespan. These reflections will be captured in the final reports. The final Reference Group meeting took place from 14-17 November. Members reflected on the outcomes of the program as a whole, both intended and unintended. Time was also spent planning and writing key program-level papers and communications pieces.

For the Media and Communications team this has been a very busy period involving the continued circulation of monthly newsletters, website updates and uploading of resources. Numerous brochures and technical reports are in the final stages of preparation as are the project final reports. We worked with our media consultant on five thematic releases and stories. AWARD staff also shared lessons and experiences from RESILIM-O both nationally and internationally at several conferences and meetings.

In terms of sustainability planning both for AWARD and for projects, the director commissioned a consultant to work with staff on future plans and ideas for future work. A draft strategic direction has been developed with a decision to develop a 'narrower thematic focus' and to conceptualise a training and capacity development direction and courses. It was acknowledged that realistically, this period is too busy to undertake detailed strategic planning and this will be continued after 31 March 2020.

AWARD started the formal close-out process in October 2019. This required establishing policies and procedures as per USAID requirements. Staff were also appraised of contractual issues where appropriate. Some staff had already made alternative plans including further studies or employment. Sadly, we bid farewell to Mulweli Nethengwe, Ancois de Villiers and Admire Mohlala.

In terms of **projects**, the following is noted.

In order to continue the **mangrove restoration** work in the Limpopo estuary, we extended the grant to CDS. This covers the rainy season and start of the school year and hence provides bridging until their new grant with RWP. To address challenges and needs that emerged out of the co-management workshop, two small grants were successfully developed by the INR and LRC for two months in early 2020. These focus on capacity development for establishing a business entity, proper policies and procedures for committees, how to develop a constitution and support for resolution of the settlement agreements.

With regard to water, a proposal to JRS was signed in October 2019.

1. Enhanced bioinformatics capacity for data sharing and decision-support for freshwater biodiversity conservation of the transboundary rivers of the Kruger National Park (South Africa) (3 years)

With regard to the Blyde Restoration work, a proposal to DEFF to continue the work was signed in November.

2. The Blyde Restoration project (3 years)

A number of proposals were submitted to RWP which cover water governance, co-management, biodiversity and our work with universities (IHLs). We are still awaiting replies.

3. Supporting practice-based IWRM in the Limpopo Basin to guide institutional function through enhanced capacity of key institutions (LIMCOM, Ara-Sul, SANParks, Olifants proto-CMA) and

stakeholders for maintaining and improving water security and resilience in the lower Limpopo Basin

4. Technical innovation for managing biodiversity through spatial planning: “The Biodiversity Guru”.
5. Capacity development for governance and co-management of the Legalameetse Nature Reserve as a high priority Protected Area in the Limpopo: A potential model for stewardship work
6. Capacity development for resilience in the Limpopo Basin: Design and implementation of short-course modules for professional learning and support as part of the LBCIN (Limpopo Basin Curriculum Innovation Network)

We have also met with UNESCO to discuss a proposal for the Olifants Catchment to be one of the case studies for their CRIDA (Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis) methodology.

Under the Agriculture Support Initiative, MDF’s proposal to RWP was successful and hence work is now continuing with small-scale farmers in the lower Olifants.

The following is a summary of highlights for the quarter.

In our support for co-management of the high priority Legalameetse Nature Reserve, **governance** issues continue to be a key focus. The Cyprus, Balloon, Paris and Madeira communities with claims on Legalameetse Nature Reserve are still battling to get resolution on their land claims. This remains a major constraint to signing of the co-management agreement. Sharon has now taken over management of the project and held a closed, shared-learning workshop between the Legalameetse Management Committee and LEDET in November 2019. The focus was on governance, visioning and strategic objectives for co-management so as to resolve roles and responsibilities - a major obstacle to signing the COMA. We secured support from the Legal Resources Centre (who attended) to try to resolve the land claims settlement agreement. The workshop also developed key activities that need to be taken forward between January and March 2020.

As an important strategy for building sustainability, we continued to focus on participating in and building **networks** in the region. The Middle-Lower Olifants shared learning event was instrumental in bringing stakeholders together from the different parts of the catchment. By adopting a systems lens and focusing on some key water resource developments of major concern in the middle Olifants (moving water out of the catchment to Polokwane and beyond for mining), stakeholders were able to consider the potential downstream and even upstream.

The continued drought put enormous pressure on the Olifants River and again, through the Lower Olifants network, we raised considerable concerns about unlawful water use, the failure to implement water restrictions and the lack of integrated operating rules. Again AWARD ran the drought sub-model of InWaRDS to advise National DWS on releases from de Hoop Dam to secure river flows into Mozambique. This was reported at the lower Olifants CMF meeting held in December at Letaba Camp.

AWARD continues to support the collective network that is questioning and reviewing increased mining in the upper Blyde Catchment. We were approached by MTPA to assist them at a meeting held with DWS in November in Pretoria to look at issues of legality and licencing. In addition, AWARD co-hosted (with K2C) and attended a stakeholder meeting in December in Hoedspruit. Amongst other things, this laid out a process for responding to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

The Blyde Working Group (formed under RESILIM-O) continues to grow as a learning network, bringing new dimensions to the existing restoration focus. Members of the group recognise its value for coordinating work and planning in the area, keeping abreast with new projects coming into the space, and understanding the potential linkages and coordination needed, and there were discussions at the meeting in November about formalising the group further.

AWARD attended a meeting of the Mopani Disaster Management Forum in Tzaneen in December to learn more about the current status of the drought in the district, and also to report on our activities and way forward regarding the RESILIM-O program as part of the handover process.

Related to networks is the need to build **collective action and agency** - an important outcome of RESILIM-O since it contributes to building long-term resilience in the Olifants Catchment. The community Cultural Day held at Legalameetse Nature Reserve was almost entirely designed by the community through the LMC following initial support by RESILIM-O through AWARD and EMROSS. Again, the co-management shared learning event went some way to addressing the impasse between LEDET and the landowners as they started to share and reach a joint understanding of various issues. We hope that this will form a solid basis for the much overdue LNR Co-management Committee.

The final report on the Agri-SI project in the Lower Olifants provided evidence that participating small-scale farmers have improved and diversified their livelihoods through implementation of climate change adaptation (CCA) practices, collaborative activities and building social agency. In this sense they have improved their resilience to climate change. Livelihood diversification includes increased diversity of cropping, marketing of organic herbs and vegetables, diversification into small livestock, and processing of agricultural produce. A significant step in improved social agency has been the initiation of water committees within three of the seven learning groups to explore and implement water provision systems for agricultural activities. Improved resilience is also indicated by measured increases in knowledge, collaborative activities, experimentation, water use efficiency, availability of food, and income.

In terms of **capacity development and training** many events this quarter were focused on youth. The third module of the Moletete Youth Program (for youth from the Moletete CPA) focused on understanding, measuring and mapping biodiversity on their land. Guest lectures were given to Advance Diploma in Resource Conservation students at the University of Mpumalanga on both climate change and using a systems approach to NRM. In December we did capacity development on climate change and facilitated the collaborative development of a climate change and mangrove restoration curriculum for the beneficiary schools in Mozambique. Following a successful event at another school, AWARD also supported senior grade learners at the Lowveld Academy to learn about water resources in the Olifants River Catchment. An exciting opportunity facilitated through the Agri-SI was the participation of a young farmer in the International Moringa Symposium in Pretoria, focused on “Unlocking Moringa Market Access”.

The Municipal Support Initiative continued to support municipalities by making project data available to the relevant officials (particularly important when there are staffing changes within municipalities) and by supporting capacity development and agency in the DWS Water & Sanitation committees. The co-management shared learning event was also designed as a capacity development process where both parties learnt about Strategic Adaptive Management for co-management and governance issues.

Technical tool development (another aspect of capacity development) included completion of Phase 1 of the Biodiversity Guru mobile app for spatial and land-use planning, and development of a user manual and technical report to support users in the application of our Integrated Water Resources Decision Support System (InWaRDS).

Our work on **policy development** continued with inputs into the Local Government Climate Change Support Programme (LGCCSP4) to assist local government to prepare proposals and access climate funding, and the draft Environmental Education and Training Strategy (Mpumalanga stakeholder consultation), where we introduced social learning and systems thinking.

Five **sub-grants** are currently active within RESILIM-O:

- Mahlathini Development Foundation entered the close-out phase having completed their final submissions.
- The Mangrove Restoration (CDS) and Networks in the Middle Olifants (Rhodes University IWR) sub-grants have been extended to March 2020 and January 2020 respectively to allow for completion of work.
- Work under the EMROSS sub-grant has been completed but milestone reports are still outstanding.
- The Shared Learning (Aves Africa) and Media & Communications (CSV) sub-grants will remain active until 31 March 2020 to assist with activities related to program close-out.
- Two new small sub-grants to INR and LRC (see above) are planned, regarding support work at LNR.

A total of 88% of the grants budget has been spent to date, and final disbursements will be complete on the submission of final reports by grantees before March 2020. A total of 99% of the total budget (excluding sub-grants) has been spent to date.

Overview of the Quarter in Numbers

This quarter, a relatively small number of training events were held. Thirteen people were trained in climate change adaptation (climate dialogues and training of CDS staff in Mozambique to enable them to train teachers from local schools) and 122 people were trained in sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation through the Moletele Youth Project, training of students at the University of Mpumalanga, co-management governance workshops and a water governance shared learning event. Overall 42% of the people trained were women (see Table 1Error! Reference source not found.).

Although project activities are largely complete, some further hectares under improved biophysical condition are still expected before March 2020, through the ongoing work of the Mangrove Restoration Project in Mozambique (ending March 2020) and the ongoing work of the alien vegetation clearing teams in the Blyde catchment. These numbers will be included in the final program and project reports.

Institutional and individual capacity development indicators are normally reported annually. This quarter we have largely worked with the same people and organisations as in the previous financial year and have therefore not reported any further capacity development. Work done in this quarter and until March 2020 mainly serves to deepen and strengthen the capacity of our stakeholders, as described in the narrative section of this report.

No further input was made to any laws, policies, guidelines, regulations or standards. A few additions may still be possible before March 2020.

The Our Olifants media and communications campaign reached 1,234,725 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 featured stories on RESILIM-O. Several print and online news articles were published about the drought and low flow situation in October.

The media and communications team continued to improve and update the AWARD website, with input from AWARD staff (<http://award.org.za>). The website was used by 2,902 people this quarter. Popular items were the RESILIM-O YouTube video (56 unique downloads), the Drought page (726 unique views) and the Blyde Water Resources page (317 unique views). The website is starting to become an important place for stakeholders to access project materials, as seen by the increased number of downloads during this period (a total of more than 250 copies).

Newsflashes distributed via MailChimp in October and December were opened by 251 people.

Conference presentations:

- Retief, H. & Pollard, S. (2019). *The emergence of systemic adaptive governance practices for climate change adaptation: From theory to practice in a transboundary catchment in South Africa*. African Climate Risks Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7-9 October 2019.
- Kotschy, K., de Villiers, A., Pollard, S., Rosenberg, E. & Human, H. (2019). *Climate change as a complex issue needing complexity-sensitive M&E*. 7th Biennial South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association (SAMEA) Conference, Johannesburg, 21-25 October 2019.

No peer-reviewed papers were published during the reporting period.

Table 1: Targets and results for the 2019/20 financial year to date.

Indicator	Target to Mar 2020	Q1 Results
EG.10.2-1 Hectares under improved biophysical condition	2,010	*
EG.10.2-2 Hectares under improved natural resource management	0	*
AWARD Institutions with improved capacity to address NRM and biodiversity conservation issues	0	*
EG.10.2-4 Number of people trained in sustainable NRM and/or biodiversity conservation	200	122 (75 men, 47 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	5	0
AWARD Number of stakeholders (individuals) with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change	93	13
EG.11-2 Number of institutions with improved capacity to assess or address climate change risks	0	*
EG.11-3 Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing climate change adaptation formally proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance	0	0
EG.11-1 Number of people trained in climate change adaptation	93	13 (3 men, 10 women)
AWARD Number of people reached by Our Olifants campaign including social media	2,500,000	1,234,725
STIR-12 Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from USG support to research and implementation programs	0	0

1 Project 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) focused on improving preparedness and responsiveness of local government to deal with natural resource degradation and climate change vulnerability. It supported practitioners in a professional learning process through workplace support, tool development and application.

Land Use Planning

Phase 1 of the Biodiversity Guru Spatial Planning mobile app has been completed. This app was endorsed by LEDET, which has also offered to provide CBA data for the entire province. This will allow us to develop a province-wide app that can be tweaked and used by planners in any district. Waterberg District Municipality, being the first to implement their Bioregional Plan, offers a great collaboration point for sharing lessons from our experience in Mopani. A funding proposal has been submitted to the Resilient Waters Program for further development and implementation of this app.

We had two app development meetings with the Maruleng spatial planners to get a better sense of their day-to-day functioning to explore which functions or modes would be most useful to them. This was a great opportunity for the planners to contribute to the development of the app.

Water projects

As part of the extended handover process, the MSI team continued to hand over project outputs, discuss their significance and embed them in planning processes through their work with the DWS Water & Sanitation Committees in Maruleng and Ba-Phalaborwa.



Figure 2: Derick du Toit discussing the Biodiversity Guru App functionality and data integration with spatial planners from Maruleng Municipality

- In November we held strategic planning meetings with the Executive Committees of the two forums to devise an action plan for 2020. In Ba-Phalaborwa, a plan is being developed to approach the mines to assist in dealing with illegal (unlawful) water connections taking place all over the municipality. The Development Bank of South Africa has also shown interest in funding some of the larger water projects in the municipality provided they fit within a specified budget. The forums are progressing well, with councillors supporting it and driving the process of involving the decision-makers and other partners.
- The team met with the new Water Services Manager for Ba-Phalaborwa municipality to hand over (once again) all outputs from the Wastewater Treatment Works project. These included the Turnaround Plan, Risk Abatement Plans and technical reports on all the plants in the municipality, as well as all the training material. The new manager has shown interest in the work and has indicated the need for an urgent solution to the worsening situation in the municipality. The Wastewater Treatment Works project was also presented to the Water & Sanitation Forum's Executive Committee.
- In December we presented the Water Conservation and Demand Management work done under RESILIM-O at a well-attended DWS capacity development workshop for water and sanitation forum members. This was followed by a meeting with the South African Police Service to request help in dealing with illegal connections.
- AWARD has worked with the Integrated Water Governance Support System (iWaGSS) project in the last year and one of the outcomes was an MOU which made provision for availing a SAEON water testing lab for Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. We held a meeting this quarter to determine the kind of support SAEON can provide and to negotiate a process of assisting the local municipality in testing samples from its wastewater treatment works.



Figure 3: Municipal water projects handover meeting



Figure 4: Thabo Mohlala (SAEON) explaining to the Water Services Manager of Ba-Phalaborwa the use of some of the lab equipment

2.1.2 Moletele Youth Project

This project aims to equip young people from the Moletele CPA to understand and manage the biodiversity on their land. The project continued this quarter with Module 3, which introduced key concepts and skills relating to biodiversity, how it is assessed, land use and spatial planning, and opportunities for biodiversity-related business development.

A few meetings will be held in 2020 to consolidate the work and to specifically work on the business plan and zoning plan. A key challenge with this project has been the lack of access to computers and internet between sessions and the very low level of basic computer skills.



Figure 5: Moletete youth learning about biodiversity

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

Flows in the Olifants River during October were totally non-compliant with the Environmental Water Requirements, being only *one third of the absolute minimum flow needed* to sustain the aquatic ecosystem (see hydrograph in Figure 6). Members of the Lower Olifants River Network (LORiN) communicated continuously throughout October regarding the situation. There have been ongoing conversations and information exchange on the WhatsApp group (see Figure 7: Example of Lower Olifants River Network WhatsApp group conversations during October).

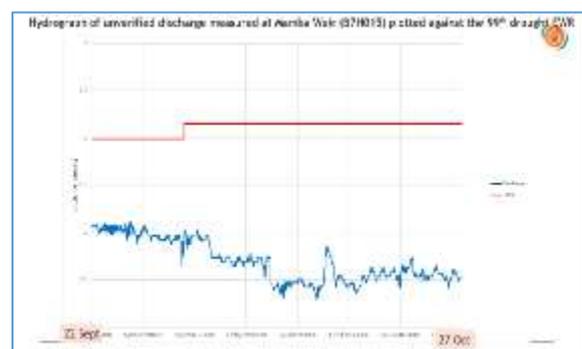


Figure 6: Hydrograph showing flows at Mamba Weir (blue line) well below the absolute minimum flow required (red line)

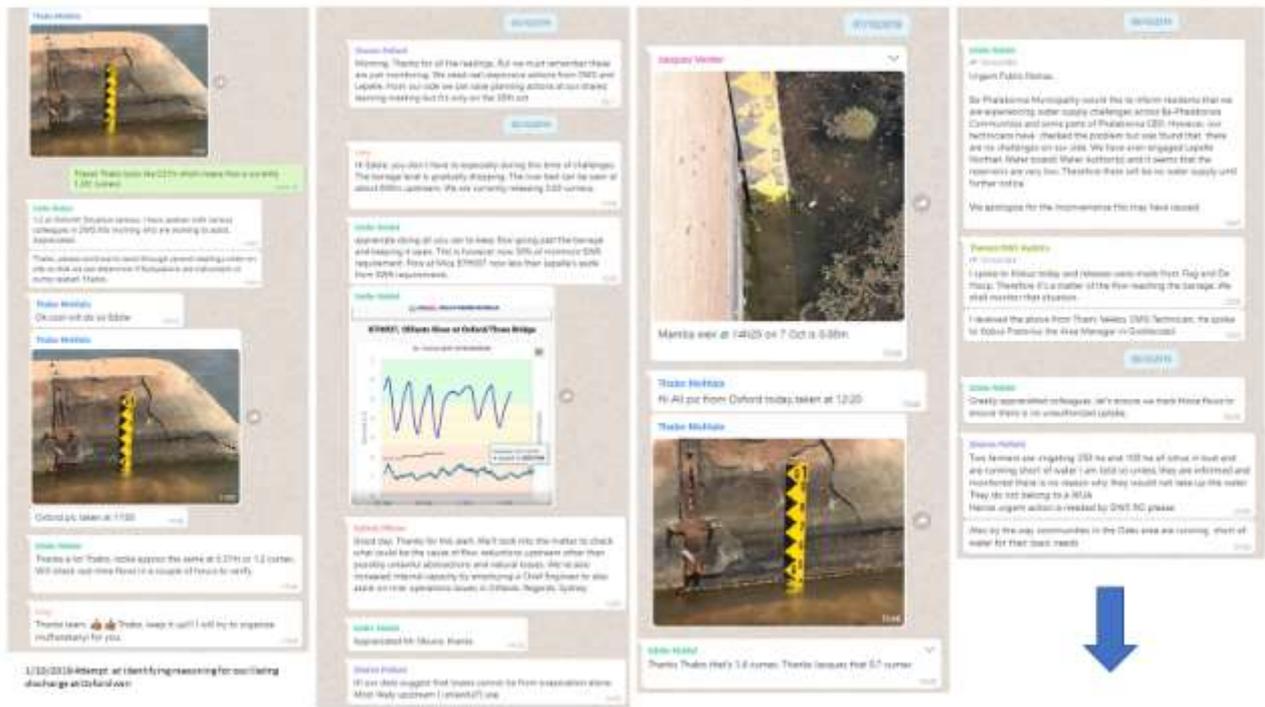


Figure 7: Example of Lower Olifants River Network WhatsApp group conversations during October

AWARD sent an email to all stakeholders on 9 October laying out urgent actions and responsibilities to mitigate the situation and ensure continued flow. These included:

- AWARD to run the De Hoop release model (as done several times over the past three years)
- DWS to implement emergency restrictions and communicate these to stakeholders (some users had already applied voluntary restrictions)
- DWS to take action on unlawful use
- DWS to oversee immediate inclusion of the Olifants mainstem farmers into the Blyde Water User Association (since they currently do not fall under a WUA)
- DWS and SANParks to work with Lepelle Northern Water on restrictions and releases from the Phalaborwa Barrage
- AWARD and SANParks to continue to monitor status

Many of these actions and responsibilities were agreed on at the LORiN meeting in 2018, but have not yet been implemented.

In response to a request from the Kruger National Park, we updated the mass balance losses script to account for registered use; this allowed us to more accurately determine the potential volumes of water we should expect in the river. AWARD staff accompanied Kruger National Park staff on a field trip to monitor water quality. We also prepared press releases and published an article on the current drought and its implications (see examples in Figure 8).

The near real-time monitoring of flow and water quality, the Early Warning System and the platforms for information sharing in the Lower Olifants have undoubtedly improved the responsiveness of water resource management over the last several years. However, we have not yet been able to move beyond reacting to a recurring annual crisis, towards a point where we are able to prevent the crisis through improved compliance and enforcement.



Figure 8: Drought articles and media releases related to the low flows in October 2019

On 28 November, we attended the Lower Olifants Catchment Management Forum (CMF) meeting and reported back on five issues: non-compliance during drought and releases, the shared learning event that brought together stakeholders from the middle and lower Olifants (see below), the Blyde project, handover of the water conservation and demand management and wastewater treatment project data to municipalities, and the new Biodiversity Informatics project. We learned that there has been a significant CME investigation of 21 cases around Strijdom Tunnel. Directives have been issued, and criminal charges in one case.

In December, AWARD took part in a meeting in Pretoria with national and provincial government departments and other institutions to form a strategy to stop mining in the Blyde catchment. This focused on specific collaborations needed between DEFF, DWS, DEFF Forestry (ex DAFF) and provincial conservation bodies. It was agreed that MTPA will lead the compilation of a technical report to support the strategy, covering the current state of the catchment and the mines, the history of mine compliance, possible effects of mining on water security, tourism and forestry, and the stakeholder engagement processes and concerns.

Capacity development activities undertaken this quarter included a presentation on water at the Lowveld Academy and a four-hour lecture to Advanced Diploma in Resource Management students at the University of Mpumalanga on systemic social learning approaches to water and natural resources management (see Figure 10).

What does this tell us about the system

- There is not enough water in times of stress
 - Stress periods are increasing under climate change
 - CC is projected to reduce stream flows by up to 60% (Schulze & Davis)
- Why is there non-compliance despite using a drought RQO
 - Unlawful use
 - Need to re-do reconciliation
 - Institutional arrangements
- **We are not building a resilient future-**
 - is this climate smart?
 - Is it just?

Figure 9: Slide on water security in the Olifants presented at the CMF meeting in November



Figure 10: (left and centre) University of Mpumalanga lecture on water and natural resource management; (right) Water presentation at Lowveld Academy

2.2.2 Networks for Collective Action in the Middle Olifants

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. Work in the Middle Olifants is undertaken through a sub-grant led by the Institute for Water Research (IWR) at Rhodes University, in collaboration with the KRA2 AWARD team.

The Middle Olifants Catchment Management Forum (CMF) was successfully formalised at the September CMF meeting. We co-facilitated, with DWS, a final review of the CMF Charter (in order to reach the point where members agreed to officially endorse it), and the election of a chairperson. Our rationale for working with DWS on the Catchment Management Forum (CMF) was that this vehicle for participation is one that DWS is currently supporting. With an operational CMF in the upper Olifants (supported by the mining sector) and an operational CMF in the lower Olifants (supported by SANParks), the lack of CMF in the middle Olifants has been an inhibitor towards collective planning and stakeholder engagement across the catchment.



Figure 8: Sharon Pollard presenting at the Middle Olifants CMF

A workshop was held with the Lebalelo Water User Association (Leb-WUA) management as part of a broader technical analysis of the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project (ORWRDP). After having been on hold for several years, this scheme is back on the agenda partly because of the current water resource



Figure 9: Participants at the shared learning event in Burgersfort

challenges in the Olifants and because of specific lobbying by the mining sector (including the Lebalelo WUA and the Joint Water Forum), who have significant vested interests in the ORWRDP. The sub-grant team produced a technical report entitled *A Systemic Analysis of the Olifants River Water Resources Development Project and its implications for the sustainability of the ORC*. This will be an important document for future work in the Olifants catchment, and various options for communications products are being considered.

A key event this quarter was the multi-sector shared learning workshop with participants from the middle and lower Olifants, held on 30 October 2019. This collaborative planning workshop focused on risks and challenges for the water resources and sustainability of the Olifants catchment. The above-mentioned systemic analysis of the ORWRDP was presented and discussed, together with the Olifants Reconciliation Study (completed in 2015) which balances water demand with supply and identifies interventions to achieve this balance. Participants agreed that the long-term plans, such as the Recon and large-scale infrastructure developments, need to be revised in light of changing social priorities and a changing climate. The current situation poses a significant risk to all users in the system (see Figure 10).

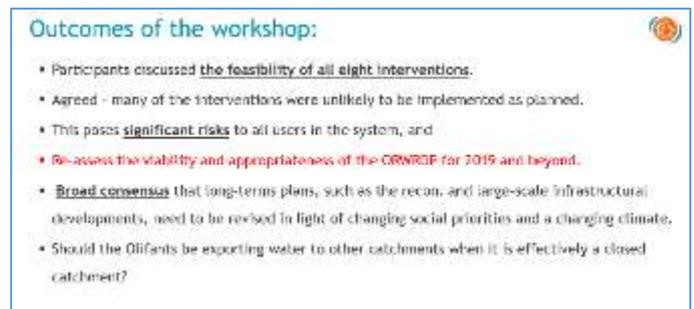


Figure 10: Summary slide with outcomes from the shared learning workshop, 30 October 2019

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

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 and enabled us (once again) to alert stakeholders to the declining flow and water quality in the Olifants River.

We are still experiencing technical problems with the flow probes at Oxford and Mamba weirs due to the low flows and sediment accumulation, and a storm temporarily affected the transmission of data from Balule. Work continued on the comprehensive InWaRDS development report.

Work has now started on the JRS Biodiversity Informatics project, which will allow for further development and upscaling of the InWaRDS decision support system developed under RESILIM-O to the whole Lowveld region.

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 strategic 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 47-day alien plant clearing exercise on Hebron Mountain was completed on 8 October. This fell under the Inaccessible Areas Clearing Plan, a collaboration between HAT, SANDF, K2C and AWARD, developed through RESILIM-O. After three rotations of two teams camping on the mountain (accessible only by helicopter), 95 ha of dense pine invasions were cleared. Follow-up clearing will be needed to secure the investment.



Figure 11: Blyde Restoration Working Group meeting, Graskop Municipality Chambers, 20 November 2019

The Blyde Working Group (formed under RESILIM-O) continues to grow as a learning network, bringing new dimensions to the existing restoration focus. Members of the group recognise its value for coordinating work and planning in the area, keeping abreast with new projects coming into the space, and understanding the potential linkages and coordination needed, and there have been discussions about formalising it further. In November the group met to provide feedback on work done in 2019 and align their annual operational plans for 2020. Several new projects starting in the area were presented to the group, including:

- Intermediate clearing teams under the Land User Incentive project (Blyde CPAs, AWARD, K2C)
- Upper Sand Restoration Partnership (Blyde CPAs and Sabi-Sand Wildtuin)
- Mpumalanga Wetland Restoration Prioritisation (Working for Wetlands)
- Sabie Water Stewardship Project (WWF, SANParks, K2C)
- Living Catchments (SANBI)
- REDD+ (DEFF Forestry)



Figure 12: Field visit with DEFF national and regional colleagues to examine clearing progress, 21 November 2019



Figure 13: Reuben Thifhulufhelwi sharing successes, challenges and learning from RESILIM-O during the learning lounge session at the Tsitsa Project Science Management meeting, 27-28 November 2019

The Restoration Champions team leader also attended this meeting and had an opportunity to use the skills acquired during the monthly Restoration Custodianship Project (RCP) training when he presented his team’s progress to the group. Ahmed Khan (NRM National), Brendon Mashabane and other DEFF colleagues joined for a field visit after the meeting to view the consolidated work that has taken place around Hebron Mountain by HAT and RCP.

We engaged in three opportunities for shared learning this quarter: A SANBI Ecological Infrastructure Indaba in Matatiele in the Eastern Cape, the Tsitsa Project Science-Management meeting in East London, and a field visit to the Blyde by the SANBI Biodiversity and Land Use Project team.

AWARD continues to support the collective network that is questioning and reviewing increased mining in the upper Blyde Catchment. We were approached by MTPA to assist them at a meeting held with DWS in November in Pretoria to look at issues of legality and licencing. In addition, AWARD co-hosted (with K2C) and attended a stakeholder meeting in December in Hoedspruit. Among other things this laid out a process for responding to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

2.3.2 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.

A highlight this quarter was the LNR Cultural Day, organised by the Legalameetse Management Committee (LMC) with support from the LEDET LNR Staff and the LNR Environmental Monitors. This was the first “beneficiation” event of the LMC, with the aim of celebrating cultural diversity, building identity and

community spirit, and promoting and safeguarding cultural heritage within the reserve. The event was a success and the LMC hopes to hold it annually. It was good to see a working collaboration between the LMC, EMs and LEDET LNR staff in organising the event. A range of people and organisations from different sectors attended, including His Majesty Kgosi Sekororo SSS (Sekororo Tribal Authority), community members, local schools, NGOs and the Tourism and Business Institute of South Africa. The event was covered by Maruleng FM, a local radio station.

However, it was disappointing that some key stakeholders did not attend, including the Reserve Manager and directorates within LEDET which are directly involved in LNR co-management (Protected Areas, Biodiversity and State Nature Reserves). A possible improvement for future events might be for the LMC to use the opportunity for the communities to raise a bit of money by selling food, crafts, drinks, art etc. rather than sponsoring free food.



Figure 14: LNR Cultural Day, Legalametse Nature Reserve, 19 October 2019

Another key event this quarter was a three-day co-management shared learning event held in Hoedspruit for LEDET and the LMC. The meeting started on 4 November with a recap of the LNR Development Framework work done by EMROSS. The following day was spent developing a common vision for co-management of the reserve. The vision was guided by the development of strategic objectives through a participatory process. It addressed values as well as social, technical, environmental, economic and political (governance) factors and was closely linked to all the work done at LNR to date, including:

- Biophysical integrity and sustainability (Reserve Management Plan - existing and being revised)
- Social beneficiation (Beneficiation Framework)
- Wise, tenable, equitable development (Development Framework / Plan)
- Effective and compliant land use.

On day 2, participants collaboratively allocated roles and responsibilities for co-management between the two parties (LEDET and LMC), guided by their vision and the existing LNR/CPA related documentation e.g. RMP, NEMPAA, the CPA Act and the National Co-management Framework.

Day 3 focused on tackling internal CPA governance issues at individual CPA and LMC level, the restitution process as well as challenges and strengths of current institutional arrangements. LRC Attorney David Mtshali provided legal advice regarding their challenges.

The event was successful in consolidating work done so far and collaboratively deciding on a way forward. Although the discussions were heated at times, the following commitments were made:

- With regard to the impasse around the co-management agreement: LRC to meet with the DRDLR Director (National) and see if they can come to an agreement. If not, then the matter may have to be escalated to court.
- LEDET, LMC and LRC to meet and negotiate or try to reach a consensus for the agreement to be signed.

- With regard to restitution/settlement of the four communities (Balloon, Paris, Madeira and Cyprus): the four will urgently draft resolutions stating their issues, and these will be submitted by David Mtshali to DRDLR.

In December LRC attorneys facilitated another workshop with the LMC to give advice on resolution of the land claim and co-management agreement issues and also to raise awareness of the new Traditional and KhoiSan Leadership Act (signed 29 November). The LRC is in the process of declaring this new Act unconstitutional. Going forward, work at Legalameetse will be supported by two new short-term sub-grants to the Institute of Natural Resources and the LRC.



Figure 15: Group photo, co-management shared learning event, 4-7 Nov 2019.

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

This quarter, an additional 60,000 mangrove seedlings were propagated from material brought in from the Incomati estuary near Maputo. This was necessary because of the low success rate with the previous batch of seedlings (due to the high winds during Cyclone Idai which shook seeds from the trees too early). Seedlings were planted by community members (80% women) and local schools also participated.

Ten local women were also recruited to undertake maintenance of the hydrological channels created to restore the hydrological conditions needed for successful mangrove rehabilitation, as described in previous reports.



Figure 16: Community mangrove planting campaign, December 2019



Figure 17: Mangrove seedling propagation in the community nursery (left), and planting in the hydrologically-rehabilitated area (right)

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, and is supported by continual updating and collation of climate information relevant to the Olifants catchment.

2.4.1 Dialogues for Climate Change Literacy and Adaptation (DICLAD)

On 18 October we facilitated a climate change dialogue with Advanced Diploma in Resource Management students at the University of Mpumalanga. This covered Modules 1 and 2 and had a more technical focus than most of our previous dialogues, including proactive examples of adaptation from our agroecology work.

We reflected with concern on how the students seemed to struggle with a few foundational concepts and conceptual links regarding natural resources and climate change, and also their lack of awareness of how past political practices have affected land use in the area. This is aligned with our broad impression of the low level of environmental and climate literacy amongst the South African public. It emphasises the importance of the engaging the youth to support their capacity to understand how their environment functions and put their enthusiasm for making a positive difference to good use.

Sharon Pollard visited the grantee CDS/ AQUA in Xai-Xai on 5-6 December for training on climate change and to co-develop a curriculum for the inclusion of climate change in schools.

The content comprised the following modules, combining approaches from DICLAD and Y-Adapt:

1. Basic concepts
2. Climate change in your area - what we know
3. Thinking about systemic impacts of climate change
4. Adaptations - taking action

Hugo Retief attended the African Climate Risks Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, an open platform for sharing the latest African climate research among researchers, policy makers, practitioners and development partners.

The DICLAD team contributed content to a presentation by the MERL team on “Climate change as a complex issue needing complexity sensitive M&E” at the 7th Biennial South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association Conference (see KRA 6).



Figure 18: Environmental students at the University of Mpumalanga participating in a climate dialogue on the impacts of increased temperature on food security, 18 October 2019



Figure 19: DICLAD and climate change capacity development for CDS staff in preparation for their support to teachers

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

In November some of our Agri-SI stakeholders took part in a soil health and fertility workshop facilitated by Alan Rosenberg, a well-known agroecology expert. The workshop was organised by the NGO Zingela Ulwazi in conjunction with Hoedspruit Hub and K2C.

The second Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS) assessment took place on 19 November. The members, including AWARD, assessed Hoedspruit Hub for compliance with the international organic certification standards.



Figure 21: PGS assessment at Hoedspruit Hub

An exciting opportunity facilitated through the Agri-SI was the participation of Reginald Mashabela in the International Moringa Symposium in Pretoria, focused on “Unlocking Moringa Market Access”. He is one of the few youth farmers in the area and has shown interest, talent and innovation in farming.

An extract from his letter of thanks to AWARD expresses how he benefitted from the experience:

“I had conversations with many qualified people then I placed my work and knowledge to scale and it came to my attention that AWARD had actually afforded me a great privilege and for that and many others I am beyond words to express my gratitude. I realised that I am not far from reaching where I have to be, this had given me more reason to thrive and push above what I already had. The pictures I send to you will show more than I can report about and soon will send you the change I am about to initiate. I am very grateful that you saw our potential and opened this fruitful door for us. Kind regards, Reginald and Jafta Mashabela.”



Figure 22: Reginald Mashabela, youth farmer from the Olifants at the international Moringa Symposium

Lower Olifants (Mahlathini Development Foundation sub-grant)

The final report for this project was submitted in October 2019. Around 150 participants have been involved over the project period across nine village-based learning groups. These small-scale farmers have managed to improve and diversify their livelihoods through implementation of climate change adaptation (CCA) practices, collaborative activities and building social agency. In this sense they have improved their resilience to climate change.

Baselines indicated a high level of vulnerability of these households with a high dependency on social grants, low incomes (averaging around R2300/ household of five members), low production and productivity, with little to no livelihood diversification.

Livelihoods diversification has been noted as the following activities, directly related to this intervention:

- **Increased diversity of cropping** for food production and local sales (66% of participants): Participants have included a wider range of vegetable types for both summer and winter cropping, have expanded their field cropping options and have been growing a range of culinary herbs.
- **Organic marketing of herbs and vegetables** (21% of participants): With the assistance of Hoedspruit Hub (HH) participants have engaged in an “organic box scheme”, managed through a Facebook page at HH. They have also been selling independently to a few lodges, restaurants and farmers markets.



Figure 23: Livelihood diversification activities. Clockwise from top left: Dried coriander (Matshego Shaai, Turkey); Facebook page for organic veggie marketing scheme; selling at the Hoedspruit Farmers’ Market; grain and legume milling (Isaac Malatji, Turkey); mango juice (Christina Thobejane, Sedawa); layer production in Turkey (Phedisang project)

- **Processing: drying, milling, juice and bottling** (9% of participants): This activity, although considered a good idea, has been quite limited in implementation. Only a few of the inherently more innovative participants have undertaken these activities.
- **Diversification into small livestock** (16% of participants): Two groups of participants linked to learning groups have undertaken poultry initiatives; one for layers and one for broilers - assisted through increased incomes through their vegetable production as well as increased confidence in farming activities derived from their participation in the Agri-SI.

A significant step in improved social agency has been the initiation of water committees within three of the seven learning groups (including 98 participants) to explore and implement water provision systems for agricultural activities.



Figure 24: Water committee and learning group mapping out water supply options and doing a scouting exploration for water sources in the mountains

One group has collected enough money to pay for a borehole. Learning has been substantial and ongoing and was further supported through cross visits, networking and stakeholder engagement at local and regional levels.

Improved resilience has been achieved as described by the following indicators:

- 86% (n=120) of participants implemented more than 3 CCA responses
- 44% show increased knowledge (using farmer experimentation as a proxy)
- 41% have engaged in collaborative activities
- 77% have indicated an increased availability of food
- 56% have indicated an increase in income
- 30% have indicated an increase in livelihood diversification

Food production through gardening has increased by 120%, field cropping by 15% and livestock production by 9%. Water use efficiency (access, availability, water holding, water saving) has increased by 45% and participants have indicated a strong sense of improved decision-making capacity and a positive mindset towards their future.

Local CCA measures were grouped around the simple heuristic of ‘Five fingers’ developed by AWARD - five categories of water management, soil fertility, crop and seed choices, erosion control and indigenous plant incorporation.

Practices were implemented by individuals and small groups through local level experimentation and self-monitoring of best practices at household level. Awareness was raised around local and new best practice options through numerous training workshops, review sessions and open days. Of the new interventions, the highest uptake of practices was for trench beds (86%) and mixed cropping (82%), followed by stone bunds (61%), planting from seed (50%) and liquid manure (43%). Mulching levels were low (32%), due to lack of mulching material in the environment due to the extended drought, heat and lack of agricultural water supply. A few practices did not “stick” despite our efforts to introduce and re-introduce these ideas.



Figure 25: Farmers learning and experimenting together, building identity, agency, capacity, productivity and livelihoods

Some new innovations, namely shade cloth tunnels (35%), bucket drip kits (35%), rain water harvesting (RWH) storage (underground RWH tanks, surface reservoirs and small dams) (24%) and small dams lined with bentonite, were limited to participants who received some financial assistance and those who could afford to try out these practices themselves. It was however considered important to introduce these ideas, due to their potential for impact on resilience.

Local good practice options show that all the participants have tried some version of RWH, around 76% do seed saving and around 64% engage in propagation of multi-purpose plants, with fewer engaging in greywater management (46%), planting of legumes (38%), construction of furrows and ridges for planting (31%), and construction of basins filled with organic matter to plant bananas (18%).

This project has been an extremely valuable learning exercise and the lessons learnt are considered widely adaptable to other rural situations and for scaling up interventions in community based CCA. We now have a successful working model for how implementation can go forward. We believe this process is applicable for national implementation.

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)

The MERL team supported reflection and learning this quarter through assisting staff with their final reports. This support included making indicator data available across the life of each project, assisting with content (for example from historical evaluation reports, quarterly reports, reflection sessions and reviews), and also providing guidance on how to include program themes, evaluative thinking and evidence. A session with members of the Reference Group on 13 November provided an

opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of each project over its full lifespan. These reflections will be captured in the final reports (see below).

The 2018-19 Annual Report was submitted to USAID on 1 November. Once approved, the public version of the report was uploaded onto the website. TraiNet submissions for the year were completed by 31 October.

The MERL team presented a talk at the 7th Biennial South African Monitoring and

Evaluation Association (SAMEA) Conference entitled “Climate change as a complex issue needing complexity-sensitive M&E”. The inclusion of climate change and resilience building as a strand at this conference was interesting and encouraging.



Figure 26: Reflections on project outcomes with members of the Reference Group



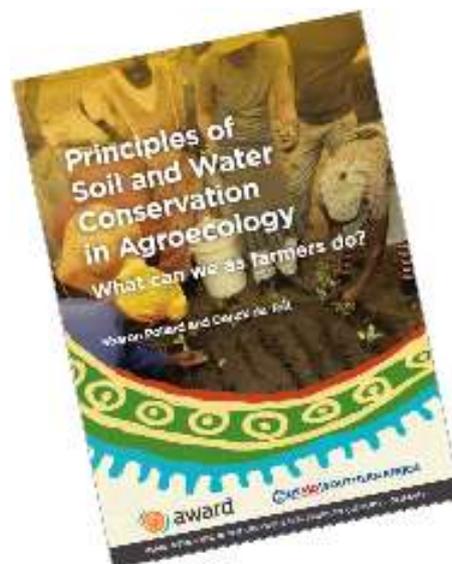
Figure 27: Karen Kotschy sharing MERL lessons at the SAMEA conference in Johannesburg, 24 October 2019

2.5.2 Media and Communications

Under a no-cost extension to the CSV sub-grant until March 2020, work on media and communications has continued, based on a new scope of work and priorities. The CSV team expanded to include Karen Kotschy who will help with writing and summarising final reports and Lizl King who will help with desktop publishing of reports and other resources. Dudu Coelho and Mark McTaggart continue in their current roles with design and website work respectively. Also included in the plans are a media strategy and a writing workshop for the development of certain key reports and resources.

A collection of publication covers was designed, based on an agreed approach to distinguish between key result areas as well as types of materials (final reports, technical reports, guidelines, brochures, etc.), while keeping to the established AWARD/USAID RESILIM-O branding and look and feel.

Several **resources** were completed this quarter, including the “Principles of Soil and Water Conservation in Agroecology” (Five Fingers) brochure, 600 copies of which were printed for distribution to small-scale farmers participating in the Agri-SI. This is one resource that will be most useful in printed form as few participants have access to printing facilities. The climate change series of resources is nearing completion, including the “Guide to using a Dialogical Systemic Approach for Climate Change Literacy” and “How is the Climate Changing in the Olifants River Catchment?” brochures. These required the development of several graphs and maps.



Desktop publishing was completed for several sub-grant brochures (Benefits from Biodiversity and Herbs and their Uses) and technical reports (several reports on AWARD’s work with municipalities and alien invasive species). The Critical Biodiversity Areas brochure was updated. These resources all contribute to the ‘legacy’ of RESILIM-O that will be available for others in the region and sector to draw on.

Another important program output will be the **final reports** from all the RESILIM-O projects. The media and communications team provided advice and editorial and layout support for these reports in collaboration with the MERL team. Full drafts of around half of the final reports have been completed. The final reports will be made more accessible and useful to a broader audience by developing short attractive summaries.

We have continued to update and improve the **website** (<http://award.org.za>), which was used by 2,902 people this quarter, and to upload resources as they are finalised. This means that resources are immediately and widely available, in addition to the more expensive and therefore limited number of printed resources. Quick link buttons were added at the top of the resources page, making it easier to navigate through the resources, which are growing in number. The increased number of downloads during the quarter (a total of more than 250 copies) suggests that the website is starting to become an important place for stakeholders to access project materials. The RESILIM-O YouTube video was the most popular item, with 56 unique downloads.



A new, topical, drought focused page was created (which received 726 unique views) as well as a new Blyde Water Resources page under the water focus area (317 unique views).

AWARD **newsflashes** were compiled and sent out via MailChimp in October and November/December to share stories from the month with our stakeholders. November and December were combined due to the holiday period. The newsflashes can be found on the website in the “News” section. They were opened by 108 and 143 people respectively.

The **media** strategy developed together with AWARD guided the development of stories and some media liaison, in order to get some of our work more into the public eye. Dianne Tipping-Woods worked on a drought media release for radio and planned three articles which will cover the Middle and Lower Olifants shared learning event, co-management of Legalameetse Nature Reserve, and the Blyde restoration work (mining, new Soleil farms and the partnership between Sabi-Sand Wildtuin and the Blyde CPAs). Articles will be created for particular audiences and disseminated wisely, both locally and more widely.

Our **Social media** platforms continue to function as another means of sharing information. The AWARD Facebook page ended the quarter with 687 followers and the Our Olifants Facebook page with 1,357 followers. The corresponding Twitter accounts had 396 and 227 followers respectively.



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 Project Management

AWARD started the formal close-out process in October 2020. This required establishing policies and procedures as per USAID requirements. With this, staff were also appraised of contractual issues where appropriate. Some staff had already made alternative plans including further studies or employment. Sadly we bid farewell to Mulweli Nethengwe, Ancois de Villiers and Admire Mohlala.

The final Reference Group meeting took place from 14-17 November. Members reflected on the outcomes of the program as a whole, both intended and unintended. Time was also spent planning and writing key program-level papers and communications pieces.



Figure 28: Final Reference Group meeting, November 2019. Members Prof. Ray Ison, Prof. Eureka Rosenberg, Derick du Toit, Dr Sharon Pollard and Dr Harry Biggs were joined by MERL Manager Dr Karen Kotschy for reflections on program outcomes

2.6.2 Knowledge Management

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

2.6.3 Grants and Contracts Management

Five sub-grants are currently active within RESILIM-O (Table 2). The (G10) Mahlathini Development Foundation sub-grant submitted its final report in October and has now closed out.

- The Mangrove Rehabilitation (G17) and Networks in the Middle Olifants (G20) sub-grants have been extended to March 2020 and January 2020 respectively to allow for completion of work.
- The no-cost extension period for EMROSS Consulting (G18) has now come to an end, however close-out has been delayed by late submission of deliverables. A joint decision was taken to extend the end of the sub-grant to 17 January 2020 by which time all outstanding reports and invoices must be received.
- The Shared Learning (Aves Africa) and Media & Communications (CSV) sub-grants will remain active until 31 March 2020 to assist with activities related to program close-out.

During December discussions took place between AWARD and the Institute of Natural Resources as well as AWARD and the Legal Resources Centre regarding two new sub-grant opportunities for 2020, for capacity development work in the Legalameetse Nature Reserve. These will be short-term grants focusing on governance capacity development and legal support.

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

Sub-grantee	Sub-grant Title	Period	Progress
CSV	G15: Media and Communications	Aug'18 - Mar'20	17 of 20 months complete (cost reimbursable)
CDS-ZC Mozambique	G17: Mangrove rehabilitation in the Limpopo river estuary	Sep'18 - Mar'20	Milestone 4 of 5 complete
EMROSS	G18: Support for Strategic NRM & Environmental Regulation in Priority Areas of the ORC	Sep'18 - Jan'20	13 of 15 months complete (cost reimbursable); 2 milestones overdue
Aves Africa	G19: Support for shared learning for collective action	Apr'19 - Mar'20	8 of 12 events complete (cost reimbursable)
Rhodes University	G20: Networks for collaborative, systemic action in the Middle Olifants River Catchment	Apr'19 - Jan'20	Milestone 3 of 4 submitted

2.6.4 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.

2.6.5 Sustainability

Since the beginning of the program, our approach to ensuring sustainability of the work done under RESILIM-O has been to build and strengthen networks and social learning spaces that are (where possible) co-owned and co-funded by the members and can therefore continue to function after the end of the program. Strengthening institutional and inter-institutional networking is key to longer-term sustainability of the RESILIM-O initiative and its outcomes and methodologies and to longer-term climate resilience building in the catchment. Capacity development at individual and institutional levels is also important. Some specific aspects of sustainability are discussed below.

KRA 1

- The Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and biodiversity guidelines developed for Mopani District Municipality and Maruleng and Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipalities (which now take biodiversity and climate change into account) will continue to guide land use planning and land use

decisions. We have also had input into the Greater Kruger SDF and its integration with municipal planning.

- A proposal has been submitted to the RWP to support further development of the Biodiversity Guru mobile app (Technical innovation for managing biodiversity through spatial planning: “The Biodiversity Guru”). The letter of endorsement received from LEDET supporting the Biodiversity Guru app and their offer to provide CBA data for the entire province will allow us to develop a province-wide app that can be used by planners in any district with only a few modifications.
- The training and turnaround plans for the wastewater treatment works provide a solid basis for future action and all documents have been handed over to the Ba-Phalaborwa and Mopani District municipalities. Likewise for the findings and recommendations from the water conservation and demand management project.
- Support for civil society organisations will continue through the very active WhatsApp groups and AWARD’s membership of the South African Water Caucus.
- A good foundation exists for future collaboration between the six institutions in the Limpopo Basin Curriculum Innovation Network through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering a five-year period. The institutional make-up of the network is set to expand to include three IHLs from Botswana and Zimbabwe in the Limpopo Basin. There are plans to build stronger linkages with other like-minded IHLs and NGOs, while remaining closely connected with AWARD, RESILIM-O and its system of stakeholders. The sub-grantee has submitted several fundraising proposals to build on the achievements of this project, including one to the Resilient Waters Program (RWP) for “Capacity development for resilience in the Limpopo Basin: Design and implementation of short-course modules for professional learning and support as part of the LBCIN (Limpopo Basin Curriculum Innovation Network)”.

KRA 2

- Our proposal to JRS International was accepted (Enhanced bioinformatics capacity for data sharing and decision-support for freshwater biodiversity conservation of the transboundary rivers of the Kruger National Park, South Africa). This will provide funding for three years to expand the InWaRDS decision-support system to the whole Lowveld region and strengthen both InWaRDS and FBIS (Freshwater Biodiversity Information System) as tools for integrated water management.
- Collective action around water resources management in the Middle and Lower Olifants will continue through the LORiN, MORiN and LORHeF networks established through RESILIM-O, as well as through the improved capacity of the CMFs and proto-CMA.
- A proposal has been submitted to the RWP for “Supporting practice-based IWRM in the Limpopo Basin to guide institutional function through enhanced capacity of key institutions (LIMCOM, Ara-Sul, SANParks, Olifants proto-CMA) and stakeholders for maintaining and improving water security and resilience in the lower Limpopo Basin”.
- In order to continue the mangrove restoration work in the Limpopo estuary, we extended the grant to CDS. This covers the rainy season and start of the school year and hence provides bridging until their new grant with RWP begins in March-April 2020.

KRA 3

- The DEFF Land User Incentive (LUI) implementation proposal jointly submitted by the K2C, AWARD and Blyde CPAs was also accepted (funding until March 2022).
- The Blyde Restoration Group, made up of several partners, has been working together effectively for several years now such that collaborative planning has become institutionalised. The group is looking to formalise itself further.
- K2C and SAEON are strong partners in the region.
- The biophysical monitoring network will be maintained by SAEON, with data collected by the Environmental Monitors.

- Capacity development work with the Blyde CPAs will continue through Reuben Thifhulufhelwi's PhD.
- Funding has been secured from DEFF to keep the Blyde Restoration Custodianship team employed for another year.
- A WRC project proposal "Understanding critical hydrological resources and their socio-economics in a key Strategic Water Source Area" was accepted. This will provide an opportunity to continue restoration work in the Blyde, Sand and Klaserie Catchments.
- A proposal has been submitted to the RWP on "Capacity development for governance and co-management of the Legalameetse Nature Reserve as a high priority Protected Area in the Limpopo: A potential model for stewardship work".
- Two new short-term sub-grants are planned for early 2020 to provide further governance capacity and support to the Legalameetse Management Committee.

KRA 4

- Support for agroecology networks will continue under DKA funding for the next two years.
- The models of farmer learning groups developed by Ukuvuna and MDF have great potential for sustainability because of the effective development of local institutions and local leadership. These models can be up-scaled and the sub-grantees have been encouraged to apply for funding elsewhere. MDF's proposal to RWP was successful and hence work is now continuing with small-scale farmers in the lower Olifants.
- The DICLAD approach can be extended to future projects by AWARD staff, who have all been trained in how to run climate dialogues. Training has also been provided to CDS-ZC staff in Mozambique, allowing them to run climate dialogues with their stakeholders.
- The introduction of a climate change curriculum into local schools in Mozambique will further expand this work.
- The learning network for Disaster Managers set up through RESILIM-O will continue to operate, as will networks that AWARD helped to strengthen, such as the Mpumalanga Climate Change Forum.

AWARD continued to investigate various other collaborations and options for funding future work:

- In December Hugo Retief met with UNESCO to discuss a proposal for the Olifants catchment to be one of the case studies for their CRIDA (Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis) methodology. This is a methodology for water resources planning and management under significant uncertainty about future conditions. The case study would be focused on transboundary flow, using LIMCOM as the platform for discussions, and would include the possibility of adding flow, drought and flooding forecasts into the FlowTracker app.
- Ancois de Villiers attended two workshops on accessing climate change funding:
 - *Exploring Creative Small Granting Options to Support Local Adaptation Action in South Africa*, facilitated by the Adaptation Network in Pretoria.
 - *A Local Government Climate Change Support Programme 4 (LGCCSP4) workshop* to support local government on preparing climate change project proposals and accessing climate funding.