

Progress Report Quarter 1 2015/16

Resilience in the Limpopo - Olifants

Association for Water and Rural Development



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Views expressed in this Annual Report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AWARD	: Association for Water and Rural Development
CMA	: Community Management Agency
CMF	: Community Management Forum
CoGTA	: Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
CSIR	: Council for Scientific Research
DAFF	: Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery
DEA	: Department of Environment Affairs
DRR	: Disaster Risk Reduction
ESP	: Ecosystem Services Partnership
GDC	: Green Drop Certificate
GLTFCA	: Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area
IUCMA	: INkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency
ITN	: International Training Network
IWRM	: Integrated Water Resource Management
K2C	: Kruger to Canyons
LEDET	: Local Economic Development Environment and Tourism
M&E	: Monitoring and Evaluation
MERL	: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
MOSA	: Middle Olifants South Africa
NCWSTI	: National Community Water and Sanitation Training Institute
NGO	: Non-government Organisation
NRMP	: Natural Resource Management Program
OLCMA	: Olifants-Letaba Catchment Management Agency
PMC	: Phalaborwa Mining Complex
RESILIM	: Resiliency of the Limpopo River Basin
SES	: Socio-ecological system
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
VSTEOP	: Values, Social, Technical, Ecological, Economical, Political
WatRes	: Water Related Ecosystem Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Programme performance during the period under review signifies the beginning of RESILIM-O Phase II based on its 5 Year Work Plan (2012 -2017). The project began building upon the foundations laid in Phase I (2012 - 2015). In essence, there is emerging evidence of the benefits of having started off with assessments to better understand the context i.e. the Olifants Catchment as a basis for the implementation of Phase 2.

In terms of numbers the following results were achieved:

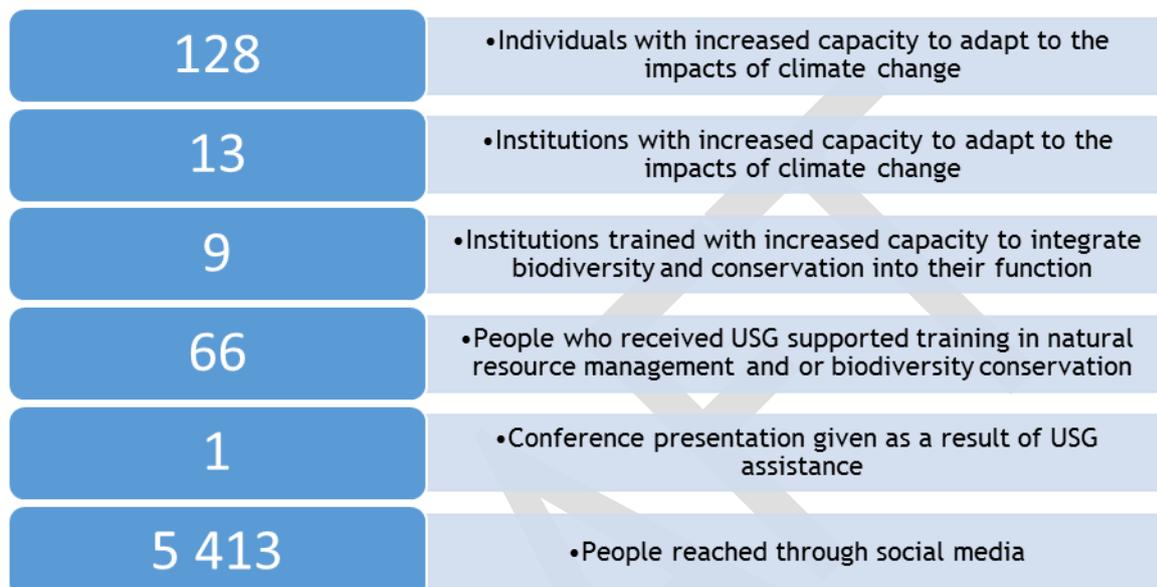


Figure 1: Summary of Quantitative results for Quarter 1

We continued with stakeholder engagements using feedback received from these to strengthen our implementation process and to convince stakeholders of the need for commitment and dedication for change. This also included on-going strategic planning sessions informed by developments from the field. Phase 1 culminated in a strategic partners meeting and Resilience Indaba to reflect on Phase I and invite key partner inputs in defining Phase II. Further to this was a revisiting of our strategic objectives so as to address an action or practice oriented approach.

We continued to ensure that our organisational and operational capacity reflects the new phase of implementation through bolstering the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning (MERL) and the Grants and Contracts Units. Furthermore, key appointments are scheduled in the next reporting period to ensure that all identified activities for this year plan are efficiently and effectively achieved. From a financial management perspective, we were able to report a constant increase in our cost share obligations. It is expected that our cost share will significantly improve in Q2 as we initiate the sub granting component of the programme.

We believe we are on course in achieving our targets set out for the next quarter. Overall, it has been a good period of performance and believe that this report reflects our attempts at building strategic partnerships in building resilience in the Olifants catchment.

1. BACKGROUND

The Olifants River ceased flowing for a number of days in 2005 prompting widespread concern and calls for an integrated focus on all of the easterly-flowing rivers of the Lowveld of South Africa. The Olifants catchment is a particular concern given that its heavy rainfalls make it the largest contributor to the transboundary Limpopo Basin. Despite the enabling legislative framework for water reform in South Africa since 1998, the integrity of most rivers in this catchment continues to degrade both in terms of quality and quantity. Given that all these rivers form part of international systems the implications are of wider significance than for South Africa alone. This ongoing degradation is caused by a complex interaction of factors that vary for different parts of the catchment and along the length of the river. Key drivers include rapid growth in mining, irrigated agriculture and various industries, coupled with weak governance, regulation and enforcement which, when combined with the threat of climate change, rural poverty and food insecurity particularly in Mozambique, threatens to cause widespread livelihood vulnerability, environmental degradation and intensifying conflict over resources.

Our Olifants River Basin

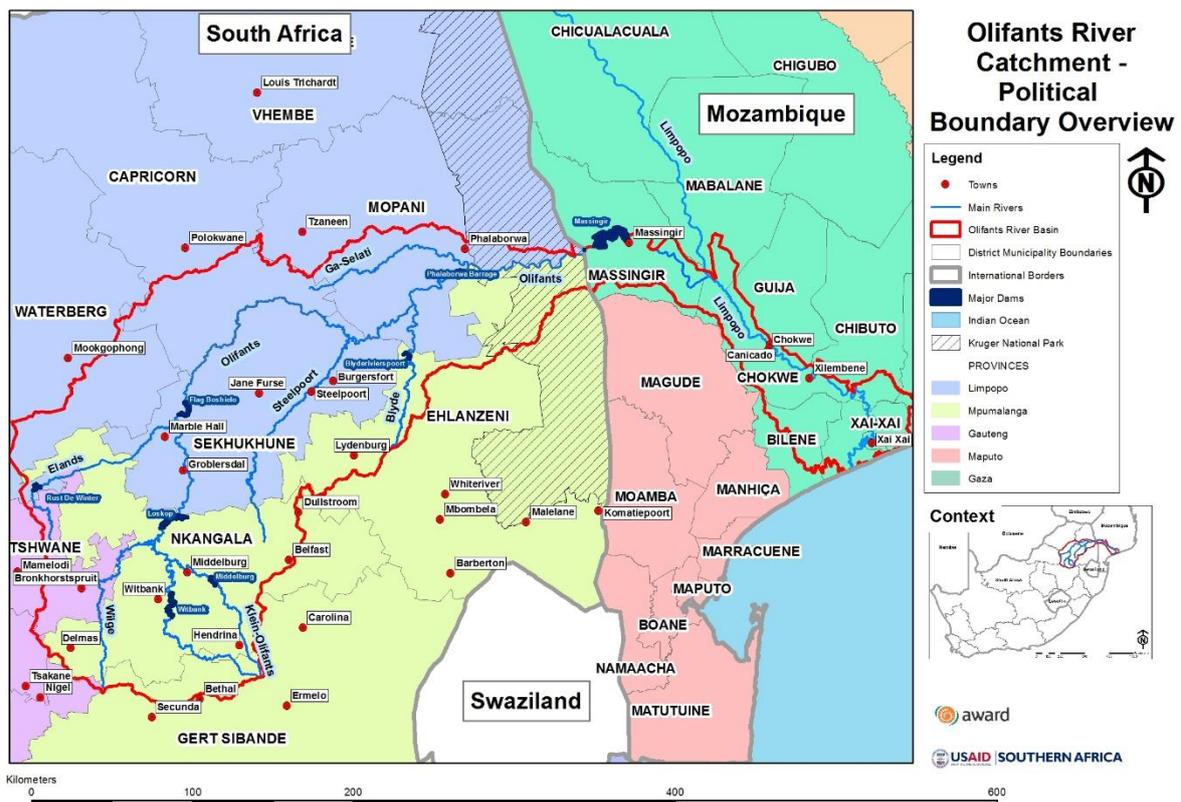


Figure 2: Map of the Olifants River Basin showing major sub-catchments

2. INTRODUCTION

The period under review marks the beginning of Phase II of the Resilience in the Limpopo - Olifants Programme (RESILIM-O). Our activities focus on finalising studies and assessments conducted in Phase 1 and the move towards establishing strategic partnerships for the implementation of resilience building endeavours associated with Phase II. In this regard key activities have included holding a consultative Strategic Partner's Meeting in October as well as concluding to our annual Work Plan and long term planning for Phase II.

This report further narrates progress made based on each of our revised objectives that are practice or action-oriented. It also provides an overview and highlights progress made through strategic engagement with some of our strategic partners. The findings from Phase I have begun to inform our action-oriented activities and conceptual framing for a collaborative response and systemic action in response to the key vulnerabilities identified in the Olifants catchment.

Quantitative reporting has been bolstered with clearly elaborated indicators that are linked to our Work Plan. Given the short period of performance as a result of December holidays, the numbers are relatively low. However, the quantitative data are adequate evidence that further traction will be achieved in the next period of performance.

DRAFT

3. KEY PROGRESS RELATIVE TO RESULTS & OUTCOMES

3.1 Key Area I: 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.

Building upon the strategic networks and partnerships created from Phase II, we began negotiating Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with key stakeholders including local government departments. It is hoped that the MOUs will support commitment to change and aid the process of institutionalisation of resilience building.



Figure 3: Director of Community Services Mr Steve Makholaki & AWARD's Assistant Director Derick du Toit at the Phalaborwa Local Municipality

3.1.1 Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality assisted through WWTW Systems Dynamics Modelling

On the 11th of November, the RESILIM-O project held its first wastewater-focused workshop with representatives from the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality (see [Figure 4](#)).

From left to right: Fabio Diaz, Manuel Mangombeyi, Kgomotso Thomas (Intern 2013-15), Philip Ramaila, Alfred Baloyi, Alex Thole, General Mongwe, Jai Clifford Holmes (Absent from photo: Hugo Retief and Sharon Pollard)



Figure 4: Attendees at the first SDM workshop in Phalaborwa.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss ways of representing municipal perspectives on the challenges facing Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), drawing on previous research engagements between the project and the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. In order to do so, the workshop drew from systems models to help reflect, learn from, and plan for future risks and challenges that the Municipality may face with wastewater management. [Figure 5](#) presents a causal diagram of the systems model discussed at the first workshop.

In addition to the mapping and monitoring activities, the first phase of the project assessed the challenges faced by WWTWs in effectively treating sewage so that the discharged effluent complies with the relevant environmental standards. [Figure 5](#) provides a summary of the challenges faced by WWTWs in the Olifants River Basin (ORB), drawn from an analysis of nine plants that was undertaken between 2014 and 2015.

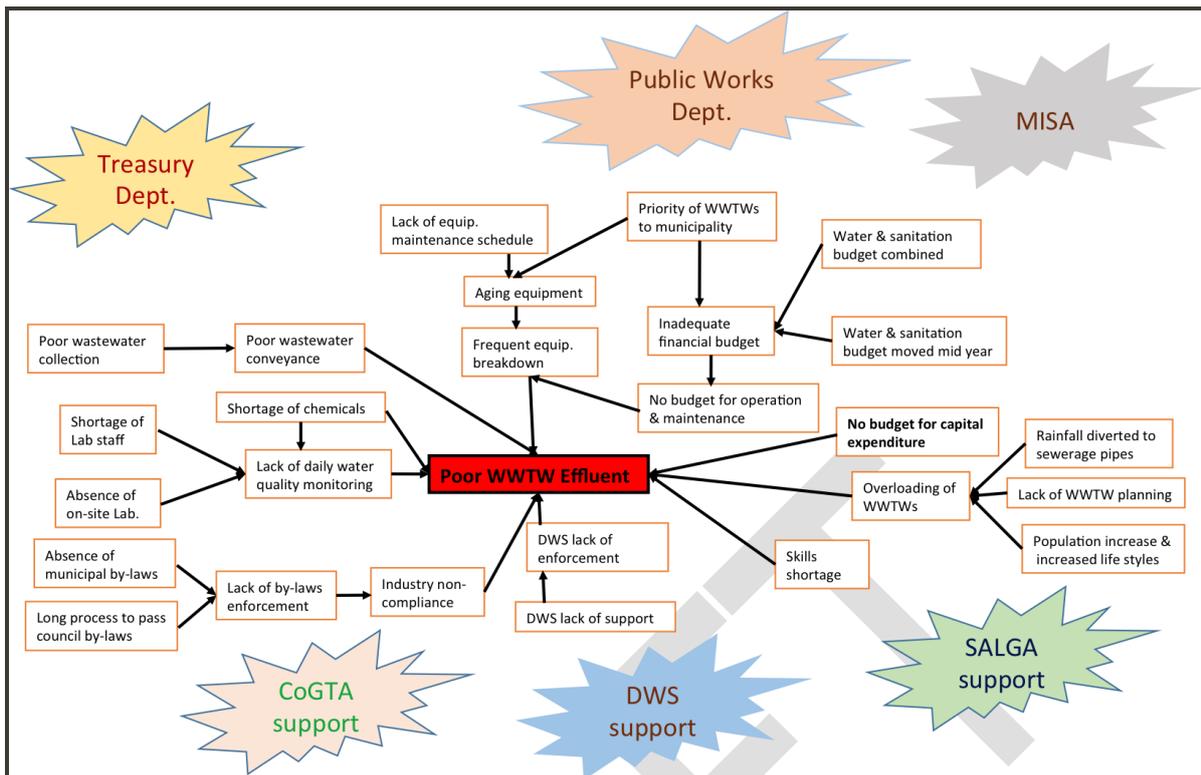


Figure 5: Overview of challenges faced by WWTW in the ORB assessed between 2014 and 2015, as impacting WWTW effluent. Source: (Mangombeyi, Pollard & Hansen, 2015)

Figure 5 Shows that poor WWTW effluent is influenced by a combination of operational, maintenance, planning, and regulatory issues, which involves a range of actors from the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), to the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA), to the DWS and the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA). As a result, we will be supporting more effective wastewater management within the Olifants through:

- Developing the human capacity to undertake bio-monitoring of water resources;
- Developing decision-support tools based on real-time analysis of flows and water quality; and
- Developing a collaborative understanding of risk and vulnerability

As a way forward, RESILIM-O has begun incorporating the perspectives of participants in the November 2015 workshop into an expanded systems model that:

- Disaggregates wastewater management in the BPLM into the three WWTWs in the area;
- Incorporates the latest available technical reports (e.g. DWS), 2015); and
- Incorporates data showing the forecasted impacts of climate change on water resources (drawing from the latest climate change models that have been specifically downscaled for the Phalaborwa region by specialist researchers).

The next step is to collaboratively review the expanded systems understanding in a second workshop, which is scheduled to take place early in Quarter 2. This workshop will explore the following:

- What are the long-term effects of under-investing in the operations and maintenance of WWTWs?

- How does wastewater effluent affect biodiversity and human health and what are the socio-economic implications of these effects?
- Why is climate change relevant to all this?
- What can the BPLM practically do about these challenges to reduce vulnerability and enhance preparedness?

3.1.2 Municipal Support Initiative

During October, meetings were held with the Phalaborwa Local Municipality officials to share the objectives of the Municipal Support Initiative (MSI). On the 8 October a special meeting with Directors of Land Use Planning, Technical Services, Community Services and was held to determine the level of commitment and the nature of support from RESILIM-O in order to address climate change and improve biodiversity management.

A contribution from the participants was that we needed to facilitate the inclusion of Traditional Authorities into the development of the Spatial Development Forum and the need to link land use plans to compliance and enforcement (done by other departments -LEDET and Department of Minerals and Resources). Other needs identified included the facilitation of the linkage between zoning and title deeds data base, the development of land use assessments / verification in relation to the land use scheme and operational issues in how to ease bureaucratic procedures that are currently a frustration for people in the Olifants.

While we acknowledge that RESILIM-O as a programme cannot address all issues or needs highlighted, all efforts will be made to provide and/or facilitate the improvement of systemic challenges that compromise resilience in the catchment.

3.1.3 Risk Assessment Workshop

A collaborative risk assessment was conducted in Penge on the 27th of October 2015. The purpose was to link the outcomes of a systemic stakeholder centred resilience assessment process and produce a report and analysis on collaborative risk and vulnerability assessments. A significant emerging practice during the process was observing some of the participants (community members) taking over the facilitation process based on their previous participation in previous RAP activities. This indicated learning from previous workshops and also affirmed the collaborative approach. The level of commitment demonstrated by stakeholders indicated that they valued the process despite its complexity at times.

A major challenge identified was the lack of participation by local government officials in addressing concerns associated with water quality and waste management. Stakeholders expressed the need for support from RESILIM-O when holding to account those in power on issues around mining and water pollution. It was suggested that the support could take the form of letters of support and scientific evidence that backs the claims that water quality has been severely compromised in the catchment. We will be following up to further engage stakeholders and facilitate the taking of action around the concerns expressed.

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

A meeting was then held with the Phalaborwa Mining Complex (PMC) stakeholders on the 12th of November 2015 to discuss a model that represents their perspectives about the challenges and the impacts of the mines using lessons from previous engagements.

Participants registered concern that WWTW senior management were less committed in participating in finding a common way forward in addressing waste water treatment plants' challenges. Participants highlighted a concerning gap between operators and managers. Operators tended to have solutions for challenges they are facing in the WWTW but this often was not complemented by senior management who in most cases are key decision makers. Another challenge identified was the tension that exists between tribal authorities and municipalities over land allocation and ownership. Notably, WWTW unit is engaged in proactive and integrated planning which could enhance resilience. There was a strong willingness to engage from an operational level and the acknowledgement that they needed assistance in order to constructively engage their senior management level. In the next reporting period, we will collaboratively devise ways and means to address some of the challenges.

3.2.1 Water Related Ecosystem Services in the Upper Selati

A Water Related Ecosystem Services (WatRes) workshop was conducted in Calais on the 15th of October 2015. The workshop was attended by 51 participants drawn from different stakeholders. The focus of the workshop was to foster understanding among stakeholders of the ecosystem services, benefits and dis-benefits of the Olifants catchment and its contributing tributaries. The workshop adopted a social learning approach, and the process achieved a collaboratively identified holistic picture of the human and natural activities' impact on water quality and quantity in these rivers and thus on the livelihoods of the people in the area who rely upon them.



Figure 6: WatRES group discussion in the Upper Selati

3.2.2 Middle Olifants South Africa

We participated at workshop (2 -3 November) organised by the Middle Olifants South Africa (MOSA) project in Pretoria. The purpose of the workshop was to share outputs from the MOSA project with different stakeholders in South Africa and to find potential users of its outputs for improved integrated catchment management. These outputs included a water game that is now being used by school children in the Olifants catchment including the Kruger National Park area. The game gives players development options in the catchment as they try to resolve challenges associated with food shortages, drinking water, energy, droughts and ecosystem protection alternatives. The game can be accessed at: <http://mosa.aquarepublica.com>

A risk assessment tool was another output showcased that can be used for catchment planning. This is aimed at ensuring that appropriate management solutions are taken to improve the wastewater treatment plants. We will explore the use of these tools in the implementation of its activities going forward.

3.2.3 Revitalisation of Catchment Management Forums

As an on-going interest in working with Catchment Management Forums (CMFs), AWARD will continue to participate in ongoing Upper, Middle and Lower Olifants Catchment Management Forum meetings. RESILIM O has played an important role in all three Fora in in most cases chairing meetings and giving presentations on RESILIM O. During this reporting period, we also contributed to the drafting of the national guidelines on for CMF Charter and Constitution development. An additional set of documents was developed in collaboration with the WRC CMF revitalisation project. These are available through the project.

A significant issue identified at the meetings was the poor attention to drought and climate change management by stakeholders including a lack of understanding the technical aspects of (Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), climate change adaption mechanisms for small scale farmers and a lack of strategic direction on what the CMFs can reasonably achieve. We view this challenge as an opportunity to revitalise the functioning of the CMFs through our Resilience Support Initiative. This will be initiated during the next implementation period.

3.2.4 RESILIM-O takes part in the In-country consultation workshop on the development of the Limpopo River Basin Disaster Risk

This workshop was held on the 20th of November 2015, and its purpose was to follow the discourse on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Limpopo River Basin level and to contribute inputs into the draft DRR framework for the Limpopo Basin. A draft framework for DRR for the Limpopo River Basin is expected as an output from the consultation process. Greater interest was shown to equally draft action plans that can be implementable.

Participants also had an opportunity to be briefed on the results of a vulnerability assessment of the Limpopo catchment that showed that Zimbabwe and Mozambique currently have a high exposure to vulnerability. It was also noted that the Limpopo River Basin did not have synthesized (across different boundaries), long-term data that can be referenced, insufficient recognition and management for environmental impacts across different scales and an insufficient awareness and understanding by the communities on the impacts of climate change and disasters.

Be that as it was noted i.e. the challenges, we (AWARD) see our work in Phase II as contributing to addressing some of these challenges. Our efforts will particularly focus on the South African and Mozambican portions of the Limpopo River Basin.

3.2.5 Workshop on Water Quality Management & Risk Assessment

The purpose of the 2-day workshop held on the 29th of October 2015 was to outline the technical and practical aspects of water and wastewater treatment, the regulatory requirements needed for Blue Drop and Green Drop status and best practices to meet the Blue Drop/Green Drop criteria and the management of water quality performance.

The workshop highlighted that the provision of safe, affordable and reliable water should be the cornerstone of municipal services. More so, water management staff should understand the rationale for and be practically competent in the monitoring and management of water and wastewater quality. The need for water management staff re-affirmed our intent to develop the capacity of staff within municipalities as a form of institutionalising a systemic approach.

3.3 Key Area III: To conserve biodiversity and sustainably manage high-priority ecosystem by supporting collective action informed adaptation strategies and practices and tenable institutional arrangements

3.3.1 Blyde & Upper Klaserie NRMP - Restoration Meeting

This was a follow-up small group meeting of the collective Blyde Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) meeting which took place on the 30th of October 2015, to develop a better understanding of the history of Invasive Alien Plants (IAP) clearing and restoration in the Blyde and to start the discussions on developing a common vision for the different NRMPs in the Blyde.

There is some level of coordination between Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and Working for Water (WfW) (there are 6 WfW IAP clearing teams in Mariepskop, and there is a possibility of adding more teams if the budget allows). DAFF's main focus is the restoration and rehabilitation of Mariepskop to its natural state, but lack the department lacks funding.

There are also concerns around land reform processes (slow processes in moving forward), and a lack of clarity on the settlement processes (whether there will be co-management or compensation). There are ongoing negotiations between DAFF and Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency (MTPA) on the transfer of land in Mariepskop and possibly incorporate it into the Blyde Nature Reserve.

It was noted that the biggest challenge to DAFF's Mariepskop rehabilitation plans is IAP invasion (mainly pines) including operational issues around the contradiction of functions within DAFF i.e. both commercial forestry and conservation are under same department and operating in the same space.

3.3.2 Working with the Blyde Community Property Associations

In an effort to strengthen and further define our approach in working with Community Property Associations (CPAs), a consultative meeting was held with CPAs in the area. They expressed a need for a paradigm shift at government level in how it worked with communities. They expressed a

strong desire for skills development in co-management and related activities. Stakeholders present at the meeting highlighted that they started working towards co-management from 2002, and that they understood the need for co-management. However, they also demonstrated awareness of the fact that co-management does not have many success stories in South Africa.

Among many other challenges identified, which are opportunities for RESILIM-O, is the high staff turn-over of senior management within MTPA and a lack of skills in protected area management and hence they liked the idea of skills development support.

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

3.4.1 Department of Water and Sanitation and South African Wildlife College collaboration on NWRS2 Meeting

This meeting was aimed at finding ways in which the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the South African Wildlife College (SAWC) can work more closely with civil society structures. The 'Changing Practice' case studies guided the discussions. The discussions revealed that DWS has good policies but uninformed in how these were being implemented at a local level. This was based on CMFs which were excluded other groups critical to the implementation of the policy.

It was agreed that CMFs were critical in how they assist previously disadvantaged community groups and further be their voice to DWS. The dialogue process was respected by both parties and a reasonable set of actions were reached by the end of the meeting as well as an agreement to meet with the SAWC every six months. Actions arising from DWS-SAWC meeting on NWRS2 implementation were:

- A small team from DWS & SAWC will put names and time-frames to the actions, and elaborate where necessary.
- Build capacity of stakeholders to engage in CMFs and make decisions
- The SAWC to forward a list of NGO's to DWS that have studied plantations and can make a valid contribution.

RESILIM-O will also engage and actively participate in the process to ensure the smooth functioning of CMFs.

3.4.2 Emerging Partnership with the Hoedspruit Military Airforce Base in Disaster Risk Reduction



Figure 7: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting with the Hoedspruit Military Airforce Base Officials

Given the Hoedspruit Military Airforce Base's involvement in Disaster Management from 2012. The Hoedspruit Airforce Base became the coordinating capital. As RESILIM-O we have identified such as a useful resource harnessing this experience and acting as a facilitator in transferring it to Local Municipality so as to strengthen their capacity to respond to Disaster Risk Reduction cases. We are currently finalising a Memorandum of Understanding that best serves out mutual interests.

The aim of the partners meeting was to engage with potential partners from various sectors, government departments and instructions from South Africa and from Mozambique. The expected outcomes were as follows;

- 1) Improved understanding of the need for resilience building in the Olifants catchment,
- 2) Understanding of the need for shared outcomes to guide managing the Olifants catchment,

3.4.3 RESILIM-O holds a Resilience Partners Indaba

The Indaba was held on the 29 - 30 October 2015 in White River, Mpumalanga Province. It brought together a total of 42 participants representing 20 stakeholder groups or organisations including USAID South Africa (Mozambique and South Africa and Verde-Azul, a partner organisation in Mozambique).



Figure 8: Some of the participants at the Resilience Indaba held in White River, Mpumalanga

- 3) Familiarisation with tools and techniques for adopting systems approaches for resilience building,
- 4) Commitment to resilience building from partners and a collaborative plan for the way forward.

The meeting was well received and proved to a great success in terms networking envisioning working partnerships for RESILIM-O's Phase II of programme implementation. The work completed in Phase I was

Shared with all participants who expressed interest in partnering with AWARD, more so, sharing ideas in building a more resilient catchment.

3.5 Key Area V: To facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons within the Olifants River Basin and with other basins

AWARD presented an abstract during Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) conference (<http://www.esconference.org/esconference2015#.VsGs9fJ96hd>) held in Stellenbosch from 9th to the 13th of November 2015. The ultimate goal of the participants and researches who attended the conference was to increase biodiversity, resilience, livelihood and well-being of the communities, through better land use practices and management.

The conference emphasised the role of ecosystem services (ES) to climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as biodiversity stewardship as the backbone of ecosystem services. There was a large focus on the role of ES, agroforestry, sustainable development, soil, biodiversity stewardship in climate change adaptation and mitigation. There were many sessions and talks with an emphasis on the indigenous and rural communities, working locally with the communities, creating the stewardship and empowerment and help with local management, through collaborative participatory learning approaches and methods.

The conference was able to draw some learning for RESILIM-O that can be considered as we continue to implement. Some of the key learnings that we are already doing were engaging with the private sectors and marketing for more sustainable goods is necessary in the future, natural capital and sustainable goals should be incorporate management projects (one success story is mentioned in the ESP note) and that there is a need in more trans disciplinary research and not only communicating the science with the policy makers and individuals in management, but also doing a “science” that is meaningful for them and help with the decisions making.

3.5.1 Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS)

AWARD Participated in the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society Conference on social-ecological dynamics in the Anthropocene. The purpose was to gain and exchange methodology through shared networks.

This conference focused on the scientific and policy-relevant knowledge of social-ecological dynamics needed to enable a shift towards the sustainable stewardship of social-ecological systems in the Anthropocene. It integrate research on the stewardship of social-ecological systems, the services they generate, and the relationships among natural capital, human wellbeing, livelihoods, inequality, power asymmetries and poverty.



Figure 9: Dr Sharon Pollard facilitating one of the sessions at the PECS Conference

AWARD also facilitated a session on how governance and institutions affect social-ecological systems, including capacity for learning and transformations. More so, a conference abstract on *Collaborative Systemic Inquiry as a Critical Component of Socio-Ecological Governance and Resilience Building* - <http://www.pecs2015.org/book-of-abstracts.html>

3.6 Key Area VI: To strengthen organisational learning, integration and coherency through continuous reflective and collaborative processes

During this reporting period, rolling strategic planning sessions and dedicated RESILIM-O meetings were held internally as part of strengthening organisational learning, integration and coherency. These meetings provided an opportunity to reflect on Phase I (2012 - 2016) programme implementation. More so, drawing key priority areas for Phase II. We believe that this continuous discipline of continuously reflecting enhances the foundations of our programme that is enhanced through collaborative processes.

3.7 Key Area VII: To ensure good programmatic governance through developing and maintaining organisational capacity and effectiveness through tenable management systems and sub-contract management

3.7.1 Programme integration

As we begin Phase II, we are cognisant of the fact that our programme management needs to adapt to reflect the balance between continuous reflection and action through activities and or interventions identified during Phase I. As a result, we have moved to embrace a less themed approach to how we view our programme activities. While appreciating the fact that all our work towards the ultimate programmatic goal, we have equally improved programmatic differences between biodiversity and climate change for ease in reporting and accountability.

Part of our efforts towards this objective is investing more resources into our work in the Mozambique portion of the Olifants. This will be done through Verde-Azul, a strategic partner based in Mozambique that has committed to furthering the objectives RESILIM-O.

In terms of staff recruitment, we successfully filled in the vacant positions of a MERL Manager, MERL Officer, Office Manager and the Grants and Contracts Manager. The Community Development Facilitator (Biodiversity) position has been filled but is yet to begin in earnest due work permit applications that has taken time than was expected.

3.7.1 Supporting young professionals to think and work systemically

We are pleased to report that five (5) interns that were part of the RESILIM-O programme successfully transitioned into full-time positions. While two (2) of them were retained within the programme three (3) got employed by other organisations. We view this as our contribution to the broader environmental sector in South Africa. Given the success of the internship programme, we will be scaling up intake in the next quarter particularly given the fact that Phase II requires a greater focus on implementation. .

One of the interns (Vhutshilo Mudau), was recently appointed as the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning Officer. In an effort to further support internal capacity through skills development, we facilitated her participation in a 5 days Monitoring and Evaluation Course at Rhodes University.

4. MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING & LEARNING

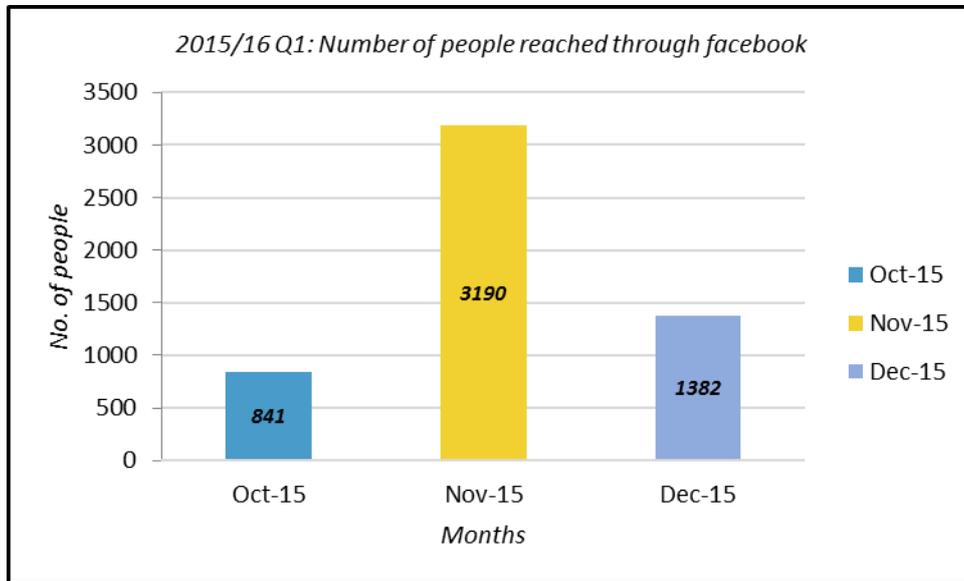
During this reporting period, the following is quantitative results that reflect AWARDS efforts of the quarter. In this reporting period, the following is quantitative results that reflect AWARDS efforts to date.

Table 1: Individuals and Institutions provided with capacity building and training in climate change and biodiversity conservation.

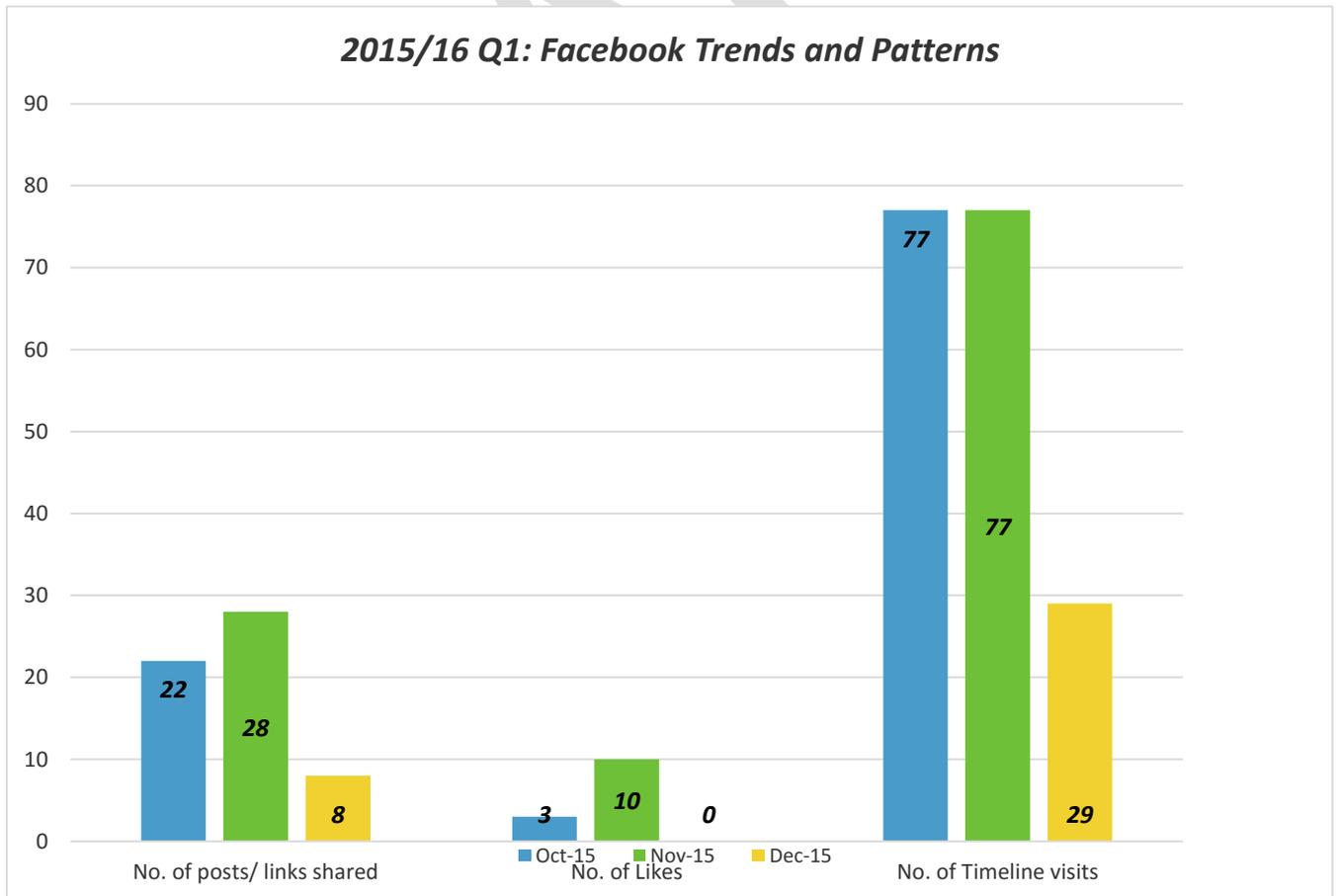
PROGRAM AREA	INDICATOR	2015/16FY PROGRESS					Annual Target	
		Q1: Oct-Dec 2015			Q2: Jan-Mar 2016	Q3: Apr-Jun 2016		Q4: Jul-Sept 2016
Climate Change	Number of individuals with increased capacity to adapt to impacts of climate change demonstrated as a result of USG assistance	128	F	M				700
			52	76				
	Number of institutions with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change as a result of USG assistance	13						25
Biodiversity	Number of institutions trained with increased capacity to integrate biodiversity and conservation into their function	9						25
	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/ or Biodiversity conservation	66	F	M				700
			32	34				
	Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance	Ongoing process						6.3Mil Ha
Publications & Conference Presentation	Number of scientific studies published or conference presentations given as a result of USG assistance for research programs	1						4
Communication	Number of people reached through the social media	5413						20 000
Notes	<p><i>*Under Biodiversity, the 6.3 million Hectares projected are inclusive of the Mozambican portion of the Olifants Catchment. As per discussion with USAID during the field AWARD is in the process of working on the disaggregation of the hectares within the context of the ORB catchment.</i></p> <p><i>*All indicator targets and Q1:Oct-Dec 2015/ 16FY progress excludes Mozambique</i></p>							

4.1 Social Media

During this reporting period we managed to reach 5 413 people through our Facebook page. The graph below presents the breakdown of the visits spread over the three months.



Of the 58 post by AWARD during this reporting quarter, there were 13 likes and 183 timeline visits.



4.2 A framework for building evidence of project progress

The process of evidence-building in RESILIM-O is associated with objectives outcome. The objectives outcomes are supported by key areas as laid out in the Work Plan and with specific activities outputs and outcomes as laid out in the Logical Model adopted by the programme.

The attainment of the outputs and outcomes continue to be guided conceptually by a “staircase” that shows how activities and associated outputs build up to a key outcome. There are three categories of outputs and activities for Phase I. These are:

- foundational - aimed at understanding context and systems functioning
- intermediate - aimed at preparing the understanding gained in the foundational activities in one or other institutional setting and the initiation of partnerships as a way of collaborating towards resilience
- consolidating - applying outcome of Phase I through institutionalisation of policies, practices and protocols

The “outcomes staircase” as depicted in the figure below is essentially a mechanism for sequencing activities and outputs so as to support transformation as defined by the overarching outcomes. The “staircase” approach supports the “design-down-and-implement-up” principle by allowing the project team to design activities down from the intended outcome and then to implement these in an appropriate sequence towards achieving the intended outcome. Due to the sequential nature of transformations the process of collecting evidence of progress follows the sequence of A to B and then C (see Error! Reference source not found. below Error! Reference source not found.).

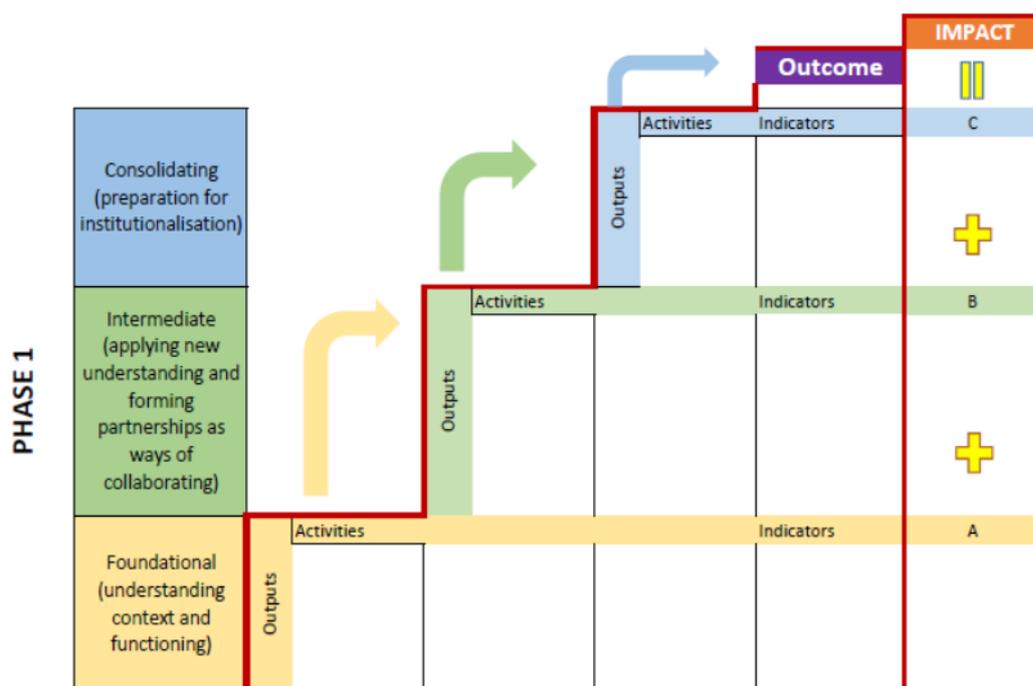


Figure 10: Staircase of outputs and activities leading to an expected outcome. The sequence of reporting against impact follows the formula $A+B+C= \text{Impact}$

5. CHALLENGES & RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. **Engagement of local government authorities:** While it is to be expected, we are finding that our work around working District and Local Municipalities is in many cases consuming time through negotiations around MOUs. At times this has also been caused by the unavailability of decision makers within these structures. We have learned to continuously engage all departments and using our stakeholder database to trace key decision makers and share the RESILIM-O vision. There are some indicators of success and we hope that in the next Quarter we would sign key MOUs with specific municipalities.
- ii. **Staffing:** The ongoing challenge of finding skilled personnel to fill in the biodiversity related vacant positions within the programme has been a hindrance to some extent. While these positions will almost be filled-in in the next, Quarter, we have used human resources within the programme to keep the biodiversity activities of the programme active.

5.2 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR QUARTER II (January - March 2016)

- i. **Lower Olifants Eco-Park Feasibility Study:** Based on approval, this feasibility study is scheduled to be undertaken in the next Quarter. The results of the study will be shared most probably during Quarter 3.
- ii. **Sub Granting:** Sub granting will commence in earnest in Quarter 2. This will be based on the approval of the Work Plan given the key activities planned.
- iii. **Mini MERL Symposium:** AWARD to host a two day symposium on Implementing Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning for Development Programmes in Complex Systems. The purpose is to share experiences and insights with other development initiatives implementing MERL in Complex Systems, and to learn from their implementation experiences.
- iv. **Orientation of staff into MERL basic principles:** M&E principles and practices applicable to the RESILIM-O project.
- v. **Mozambique Verde-Azul Assessments:** Through a planned short-term consultancy, we will begin profiling the Olifants portion in Mozambique.

The End