

COWEP

Community Water Efficiency Project in Arid Parks



A SANParks and Department of Water Affairs and Forestry Partnership Project



- Background
- Location
- Objectives
- Project Activities
- Project Outcomes
- Benefits + Consequence

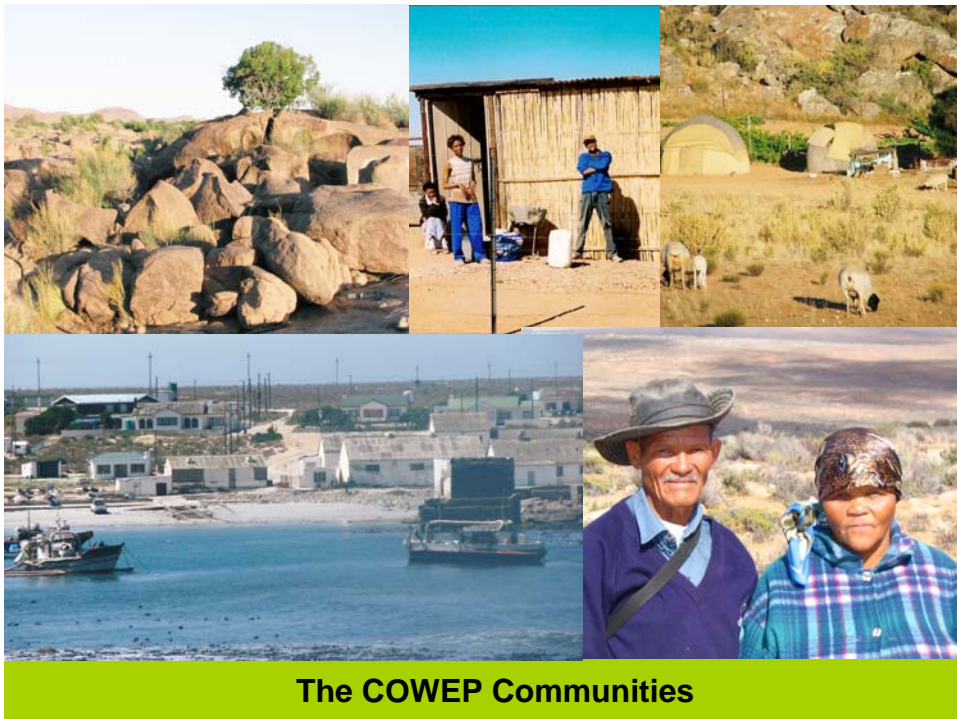
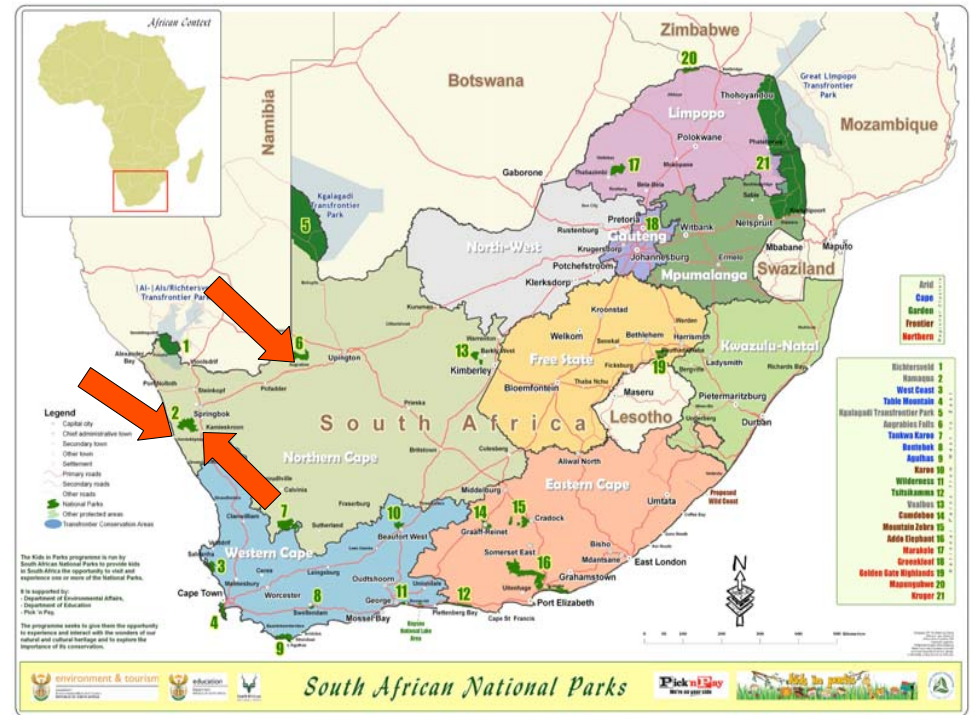


BACKGROUND

- South Africa is a dry country
- A substantial number of people remain without a water supply and services
- There is an urgent need to provide appropriate capacity-building and education initiatives to ensure that communities are involved in integrated water resource management
- As the national custodian of our water resources, the DWAF has initiated a pilot community-based education project focusing on water use efficiency, known as the Community Water Efficiency Project (COWEP)

- COWEP was piloted in 2002 in Buffalo City in the Eastern Cape, Mbombela Municipality in Mpumalanga and in a smaller site in Atteridgeville, a Local Municipality in Gauteng.

In 2005 SANParks entered into a partnership with DWAF to implement the COWEP in communities in the arid areas of South Africa, adjacent to National Parks



The COWEP Communities

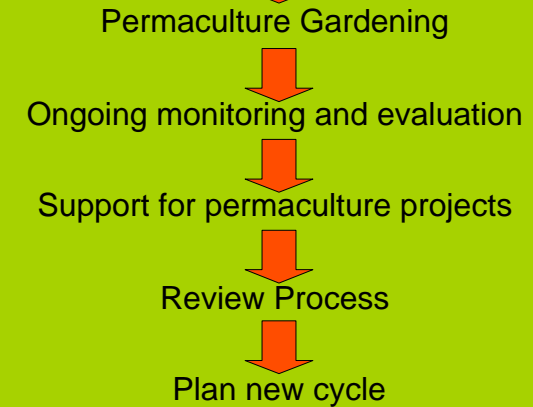
Objectives

- To identify and address water related issues relevant to rural communities in arid environments
- To build partnerships for co-operative management of water resources in rural communities adjacent to the arid National Parks
- To develop and test efficient methods, tools and activities that will promote water conservation and awareness
- To contribute to poverty alleviation and an improved quality of life

Project Activities



Report-back to communities and Local Authorities



Recruit Youth Volunteers Training of Youth Volunteers and SANParks Staff

- Length of project
- Criteria
- Life Skills training
- Content
- Practical activities and role play



Youth Volunteers
AUGRABIES

Education and Awareness Raising 2 weeks

Activities to reach all sectors
of the community

1. Household visits
2. Street Theatre
3. Schools
4. Evening film shows and discussions on water related issues





Awareness Raising



Implementation Phase 2 Weeks

- *Tap and leak repair
- * Water audits
- * Interpretation of data

Work with Municipality

Access to meters + meter reading

Supervision

Reinforcement of skills required for activities



Permaculture Gardening

The efficient use of water to grow organic vegetables, herbs, and medicinal plants for food and to earn an income

Issues associated with community projects



- Defining the group
- Bottom up approach
- Division of labour
- Dividing the spoils
- Setting up a committee
- Support and follow-up



Project Outcomes

- 18 youth volunteers volunteered their services
- <1000 people participated in awareness raising and education
- 385 households were visited individually and various water conservation messages relevant to their particular situations communicated
- 300 learners participated in water education activities and games
- 72 households participated in a tap & leak repair project
- 7 of these Youth Volunteers qualified for Conservation Learnerships in the Parks
- I has a permanent appointment as a junior ranger

- 44 community members attended the 5-day permaculture training course.
- 2 community gardens an 17 household gardens have resulted from the project
- Indigenous nurseries have been started
- Poverty alleviation – more households manage on allocation of free water

Benefits and Consequences

Involved all sectors of community

Access to communities made easier by youth involvement

Linked communities with environment

Relationship with local authority strengthened

Involvement of local councilors

Strengthened links between communities, local authorities and parks

Environmental literacy improved

Improved quality of life and nutrition

Advantage of local knowledge and input

Partnerships developed

Status of youth in community improved

