

Stakeholder Engagement Report

Framework Plan for Future Investment in Support of Water Security in the Huis River Catchment

**Department of Environmental Affairs and Development
Planning**

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Contents

- 1 Introduction..... 1**
 - 1.1 Background 1
 - 1.2 Context 1
 - 1.3 Study Objectives..... 2
 - 1.4 Report Objectives 2
 - 1.5 Report Structure 2

- 2 Stakeholder Mapping..... 3**
- 3 Individual Stakeholder Engagements 5**
- 4 Stakeholder Workshop 1 6**
 - 4.1 Workshop Details..... 6
 - 4.2 Activities 7
 - 4.2.1 Exercise 1: Values and Opportunities..... 7
 - 4.2.2 Exercise 2: Mapping the Change 9
 - 4.2.3 Closing Activity 13

- 5 Stakeholder Workshop 2 15**
 - 5.1 Workshop Details..... 15
 - 5.2 Activities 16
 - 5.2.1 Exercise 1: Prioritising Interventions 16
 - 5.2.2 Closing Activity 17

- 6 Conclusion..... 20**

Appendices

Appendix A

- Stakeholder Workshop 1 Minutes
- Stakeholder Workshop 1 Attendance Register

Appendix B

- Stakeholder Workshop 2 Minutes
- Stakeholder Workshop 2 Attendance Register

Figures

- Figure 1-1: Locality map of Barrydale and the Huis River Catchment
- Figure 2-1: Identified stakeholder groups
- Figure 2-2: Water issues in Barrydale by Stakeholder Group
- Figure 4-1: Attendees of the workshop interacting with the material of the workshop
- Figure 4-2: Conducting Exercise 1 with the stakeholders
- Figure 4-3: Values of the river captured in Stakeholder Workshop 1
- Figure 4-4: The opportunities and challenges captured in Stakeholder Workshop 1
- Figure 4-5: Stakeholder group participating in Exercise 2

Figure 4-6: Capturing the feedback from Exercise 2

Figure 4-7: Exercise 2 write up of mapping the change

Figure 4-8: Actions that stakeholders were currently doing or that they volunteered to take forward themselves

Figure 5-1: Attendees ready to start the paper snowball fight

Figure 5-2: Explanation of the water system

Figure 5-3: Stakeholders presenting their feedback on prioritised interventions

Tables

Table 4-1: Details of Stakeholder Workshop 1

Table 5-1: Details of Stakeholder Workshop 2

Table 5-2: Actions and interventions that attendees promised to carry out

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) appointed Zutari (Pty) Ltd to facilitate stewardship and develop a Framework Plan for future investment in the Huis River catchment in support of improved water security for the town of Barrydale and other water users in the catchment. The Framework Plan promotes Water Sensitive Design (WSD) principles, restoration, and collaboration with the objectives of improving the health of the community and catchment, environmental sustainability and improved water security and resilience for the residents of Barrydale. While it was a project deliverable to facilitate stewardship of the Huis River, it was also necessary to conduct meaningful engagements to develop a Framework Plan that addressed the specific needs and issues facing the stakeholders. This ensured that the Framework Plan is relevant, supported, and implementable.

1.2 Context

The town of Barrydale is in the Western Cape Province (see Figure 1-1). The town as well as several commercial and small-scale farmers obtain their water from the Huis River. The river is already considered to be under water stress, a state when the water resources are insufficient to meet the area's water needs. The effects of the stress are felt primarily in the summer months and are exacerbated by drought. This also has an impact, not only on the livelihoods, health, and wellbeing of the residents of Barrydale, but also on the sustainability of the critically endangered Redfin fish species that is endemic to the Huis and Tradouw Rivers.

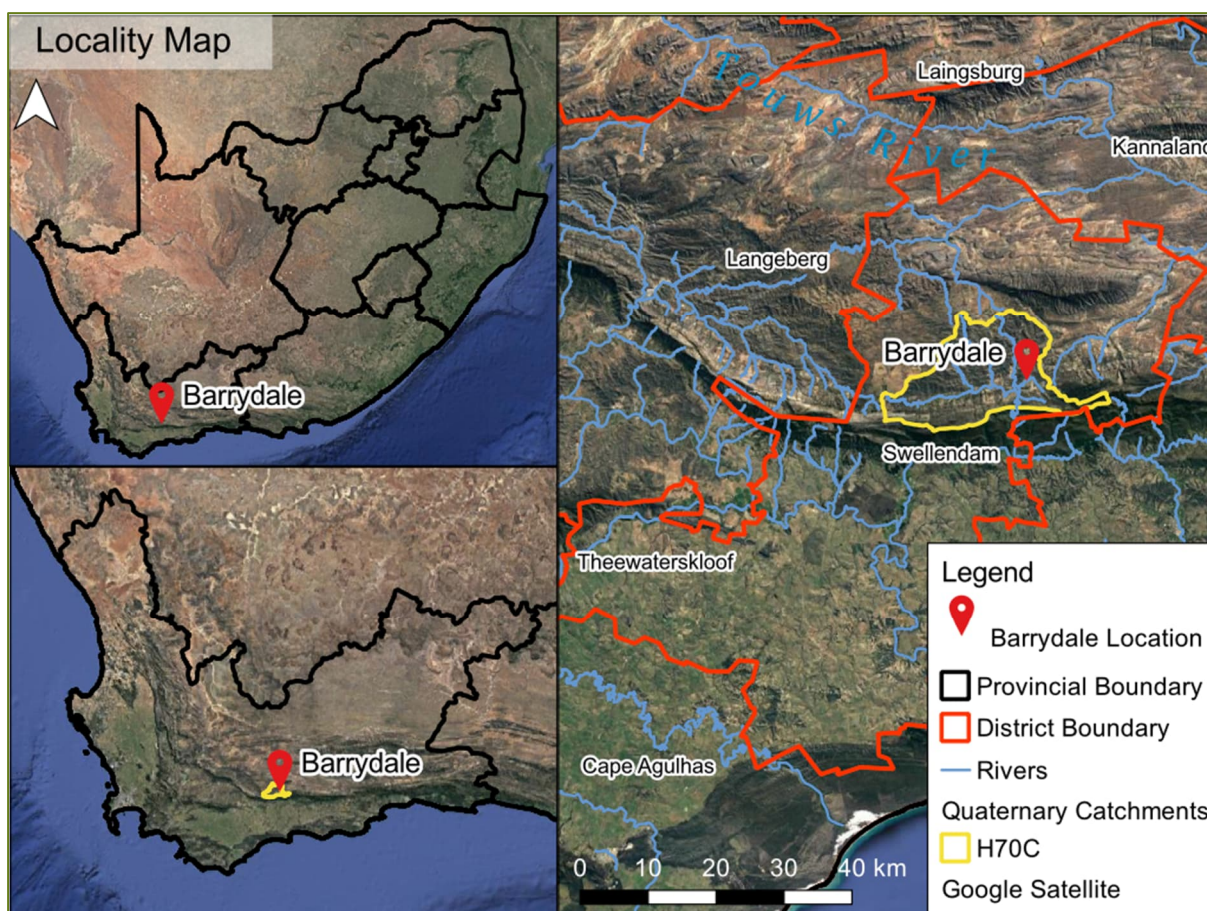


Figure 1-1: Locality map of Barrydale and the Huis River Catchment

The Swellendam Municipality has recognised that the water stress in Barrydale is among the biggest obstacles and challenges for implementing the 2020 Swellendam Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF). Pollution and water quality is also a concern. The presence of invasive alien plants (IAPs) both in the catchment areas and in the riparian areas are thought to have a negative impact on water availability, as well as on the habitat for the Redfin and could also contribute to increasing flood risk. In future, the combination of the expected population growth and climate change will likely further contribute to increasing water security challenges and flooding.

As DEA&DP have recognised with the initiation of this study, it is important for the town to consider alternative practices to move to a more water sensitive settlement and a water wise town. A holistic approach to sourcing, managing, and using water is required to achieve water security.

1.3 Study Objectives

The study objectives were as follows:

- (a) Understand the water system in Barrydale and its connections with the Huis River.
- (b) Confirm existing stakeholders and identify additional stakeholders required to facilitate a water stewardship forum, including roles and responsibilities.
- (c) Follow a collaborative consultation process, including one on one interviews and workshops with relevant stakeholders to assist with determining types of interventions, technologies, and approaches which would be appropriate for Barrydale and this catchment.
- (d) Recommend appropriate interventions for Barrydale and the Huis River for improved water resource and water quality management and ecological restoration based on a review of relevant nature based and water sensitive design technologies, approaches, and case studies.
- (e) Compile a Framework Plan with recommendations for future implementation of activities, including how these can be taken into future planning and funding opportunities.
- (f) Enhance capacity building of all stakeholders in terms of NBS and WSD principles, resilience, sustainability, and the future implementation of these principles.

1.4 Report Objectives

This report documents the process followed for the stakeholder engagements conducted throughout the study and addresses points (b) and (c) in the study objectives. This includes the informal conversations, meetings and guides held with individuals or stakeholder groups while on site as well as the formal workshops with all stakeholders invited.

The report aims to:

- ▶ Identify and map the stakeholders,
- ▶ Document the process and outcomes of the informal engagements,
- ▶ Document the process and outcomes of the formal engagements, and,
- ▶ Highlight key points to incorporate into the Framework Plan.

1.5 Report Structure

After the introduction in Section 1 of the report, Section 2 includes the stakeholder mapping. Section 3 describes the process and outcomes of the informal engagements that were held as one-on-one type discussions. While Sections 4 and 5 detail the stakeholder workshops conducted in the study. Section 6 concludes the report with the key information for which to account in the Framework Plan.

2 Stakeholder Mapping

The stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted in the Catchment Characterisation phase of this study. A description of the concerns, barriers, and management strategies for each group was presented in Section 4 of the Catchment Characterisation Report, see Figure 2-2 for a summary of water issues.

A study team member is based in the area and has insight into the town issues and their historical context. Identification of the stakeholders involved a “snowball process”, where individuals were initially approached for their input and asked to recommend others who could provide additional insights. The identified stakeholder groups are shown in Figure 2-1.



Figure 2-1: Identified stakeholder groups

Barrydale is a representative example of South African towns in that there is a juxtaposition of agriculture and urban land uses, legacy Apartheid planning, dependence on an ecological infrastructure (the Huis River), and a mix of public and private interests in the success of the town and catchment. The stakeholder groups identified capture the complexities of the town dynamics.

3 Individual Stakeholder Engagements

Conversations with individuals and stakeholder groups were held throughout the study in-person or telephonically. The study team conversed with the following:

- ▶ A commercial farmer
- ▶ The Municipal Water Bailiff
- ▶ Several residents of Barrydale involved with activities that utilise the River
- ▶ A resident of Barrydale who is initiating the privatisation of the management of the leiwater system
- ▶ The Swellendam Municipality Director of Infrastructure Services
- ▶ Net vir Pret (NGO in Smitsville)
- ▶ Small-scale farmers (as a group)
- ▶ Two or three residents of Smitsville
- ▶ A representative of BOCMA
- ▶ Commercial farmers (as a group)
- ▶ An NGO involved with setting up a food garden in the Gwarry

These conversations helped to identify the concerns, perceptions, barriers, and management strategies captured in the Catchment Characterisation Report.

In addition to the conversations, during the team's site visits, the Water Bailiff took the study team on a tour of the water supply infrastructure and explained the system operation, challenges, and requirements for improvement. A resident of Barrydale also showed us around the town centre to see how the Leiwater works and to identify properties where the water use may not adhere to the Schedule 1 water use as set out in the Water Act. Additionally, a few of the small-scale farmers and residents of Smitsville showed a study team member the sewerage issues in the suburb and the resulting pollution of their irrigation dam. Further site visits were held with residents involved in activities on the river and their activities to restore the riparian vegetation. This included a visit to one resident's property who has established an organic garden and restored the riparian vegetation on river edge. Another resident is attempting to raise funding to restore a section of municipal land on the river edge in town and to encourage Smitsville residents to grow vegetables on site.

All the stakeholders that were contacted during the individual engagements were invited to the stakeholder workshops held on the 18 August and 18 September 2023.

4 Stakeholder Workshop 1

The first workshop was held with the residents and community groups of Barrydale. It was attended predominantly by residents within the town centre, but there was representation from Smitsville residents, commercial farmers, and small-scale farmers.

4.1 Workshop Details

The workshop details are captured in Table 4-1. A neutral venue was chosen to avoid concerns around the study team showing bias towards one stakeholder group or another. The goal of this workshop was to:

- ▶ Formally introduce the project to the stakeholders,
- ▶ Gather information about the usage, value and perceptions of the water system and Huis River, and,
- ▶ Align stakeholders at a common starting point to begin to facilitate the stewardship of the Huis River.

Table 4-1: Details of Stakeholder Workshop 1

Item	Detail
Workshop	Stakeholder Workshop 1
Date	18 August 2023
Time	10:00 to 14:00
Location	Karoo Art Hotel, Barrydale
Agenda	Welcome and Introduction Presentation on Water Sensitive Cities Introduction of the Project Exercise 1A: Values of the River Exercise 1B: Challenges and Opportunities of the River Lunch Exercise 2: Mapping the Change Workshop Close

The workshop room was set up to be a gallery of Barrydale and the Huis River Catchment. Pictures and descriptions of the site visit were put up on the walls, as well as a map of the water system and the town itself. No digital presentation was given. Attendees were encouraged to walk up and discuss the system, ask questions, and highlight threats and opportunities using stickers on the map (see Figure 4-1). During breaks between activities, attendees would take the opportunity to talk to the study team about their experiences and concerns regarding water, the Huis River and Barrydale.

Through private discussion with residents, the study team was aware of tensions between various stakeholder groups, thus the workshop and activities were purposefully designed to steer the discussions in a positive future focused direction. As an example, the ice breaker activity to start the workshop was to get attendees, including the technical team, to arrange themselves in a line in order of shortest relationship to longest relationship with the area. Then, for each person, in order, to say what they love about Barrydale, and no one was allowed to repeat what another person had said before. After each person had spoken the group acknowledged their contribution by shouting out "That's Lekker!". This was both a mindset framing exercise – to think positively about the town and its surroundings, as well as a listening exercise as attendees had to listen to others so as not to repeat anything.



Figure 4-1: Attendees of the workshop interacting with the material of the workshop

4.2 Activities

There were three activities during this workshop, two of which were linked together (Exercises 1A and 1B) and held in the same format. While the third (Exercise 2) activity required a different perspective and format.

4.2.1 Exercise 1: Values and Opportunities

Exercise 1 was a total group exercise, where all attendees contributed to the task. One person of the technical team facilitated the exercise (see Figure 4-2), and another wrote down what was said.

4.2.1.1 1A: Value of the River

Exercise 1A asked stakeholders to list what they see as the value of the Huis River. The attendees then raised their hands and added to the mind map. This exercise was designed to build on the icebreaker exercise and create a feeling of commonality and ensure that attendees reflect on why the river is important to them as well as listen to why it is important to others. This helped highlight the common ground among attendees and expatiate their perceptions of each other and the river.

A sentiment that came forward strongly from the stakeholders was that the river provided a sense of well-being, spiritual connection, and a feeling of peace. Additionally, it was clear that the river is valued from an ecological perspective where it contributed to biodiversity, the local climate and soil health. The values listed in this exercise are captured in Figure 4-3.



Figure 4-2: Conducting Exercise 1 with the stakeholders

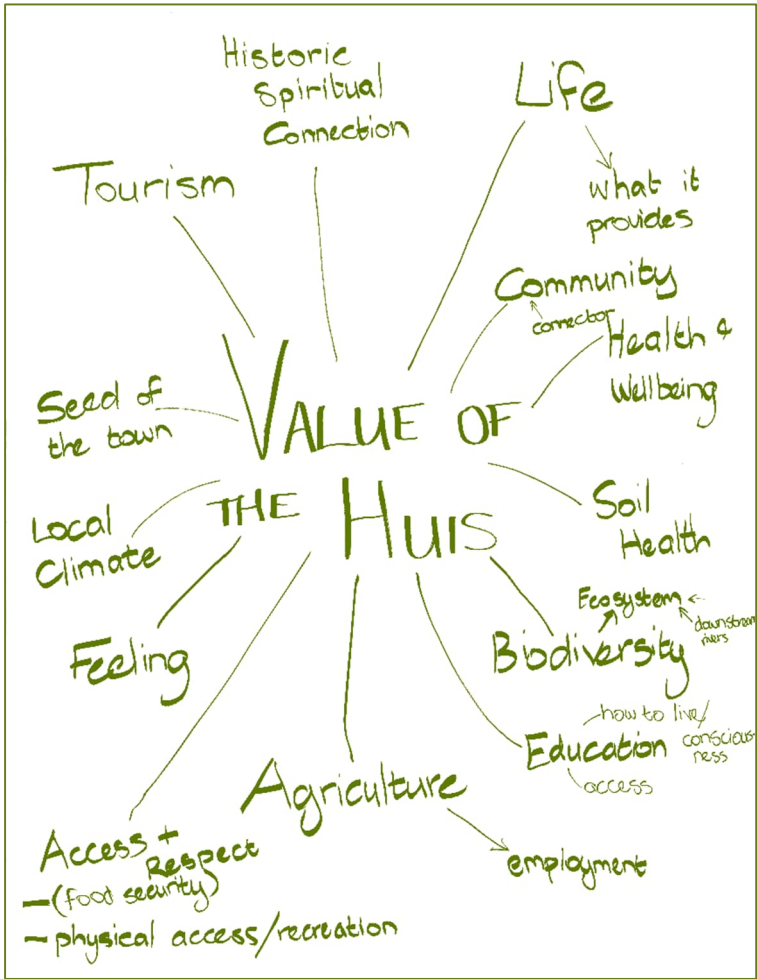


Figure 4-3: Values of the river captured in Stakeholder Workshop 1

4.2.1.2 1B: Opportunities & Challenges

The next exercise asked attendees to list the opportunities and challenges they see in the current and future state of the Huis River. These are captured in Figure 4-4. Though the exercise first asked attendees to think of the opportunities associated to the river, feedback was a mix of both opportunities and challenges.

The opportunities listed highlighted the support for nature-based solutions to improve the water quality (biofiltration zones were mentioned specifically), water friendly gardens using locally indigenous plants, and controlling alien and invasive vegetation. The attendees also mentioned ongoing programmes to raise awareness (eco-school in Smitsville) and cleanup initiatives by landowners. Additionally, the importance of quantification and monitoring of the river flow was raised as a mechanism to protect the ecological flow of the river.

This exercise helped the study team clarify what the biggest perceived threats were to the river system for the Barrydale community. The most prominent issues raised included the water quality of the river being degraded by agricultural runoff, sewerage system leaks and livestock waste. Other aspects raised included growing unemployment and security concerns. Another concern raised was the difficulty in accessing the river as most of the river flows through private property. This means that many residents, especially those in Smitsville are disconnected from the river. The Smitsville community was mostly concerned about access to water for small-scale farming and the community garden as well as failures of the sewer network and the wastewater treatment works (WWTW).

4.2.2 Exercise 2: Mapping the Change

After lunch, the second exercise was conducted. The facilitator broke up the attendees into four stakeholder groups who were each given a specific stakeholder cap that was different to their own. The groups then had to answer two questions and present their discussion to the whole group. The questions were:

1. As the stakeholder group, what would you like to see happen to the Huis River?
2. What would you do, as the stakeholder group, to contribute to this vision?

The four stakeholder caps involved in the exercise were:

- ▶ The Swellendam Municipality
- ▶ Homeowner's group
- ▶ Commercial farmers
- ▶ Small-scale farmers

This exercise was designed to get people thinking outside of themselves and to consider what is within each groups control to do and what is not. A picture of a stakeholder group participating in the exercise is shown in Figure 4-5 and the feedback of the exercise is captured in Figure 4-6. The scanned page of the feedback is shown in Figure 4-7.

The group representing the Municipality wanted to see a river that is healthy and available to all to benefit from as well as a secure water supply source. The group, as the Municipality, believed they were able to invest in invasive alien plant (IAP) clearing, support community initiatives to look after the river and investigate and enforce the regulations around pumping from the river.

The homeowner's group wanted to see their property values go up and tourism increase in the town. They would like to be free from sewerage problems and were concerned about the IAPs in the catchment. They were also firm on the fact that they would not support public access to the river from private land as this has created challenges in the past with trespassing, litter, and security concerns. The homeowner's group was firm on the fact that they must look after their own land and use locally indigenous plants and clear their land from IAPs. Additionally, they were ready to commit to installing rainwater harvesting systems. They would also assist by encouraging other residents and homeowners to do the same. Overall, they also voiced their support for creating employment opportunities and

establishing a small community group (or multiple groups) that would be focused on water and the river. This supports the concept of a supported "Friends of the Huis River" that could take the recommendations from this study forward. However, there was acknowledgement that a local champion would be required and that support from an external entity or secretariat was more likely to sustain the initiative in the long term as volunteers often burn out or get despondent without support.

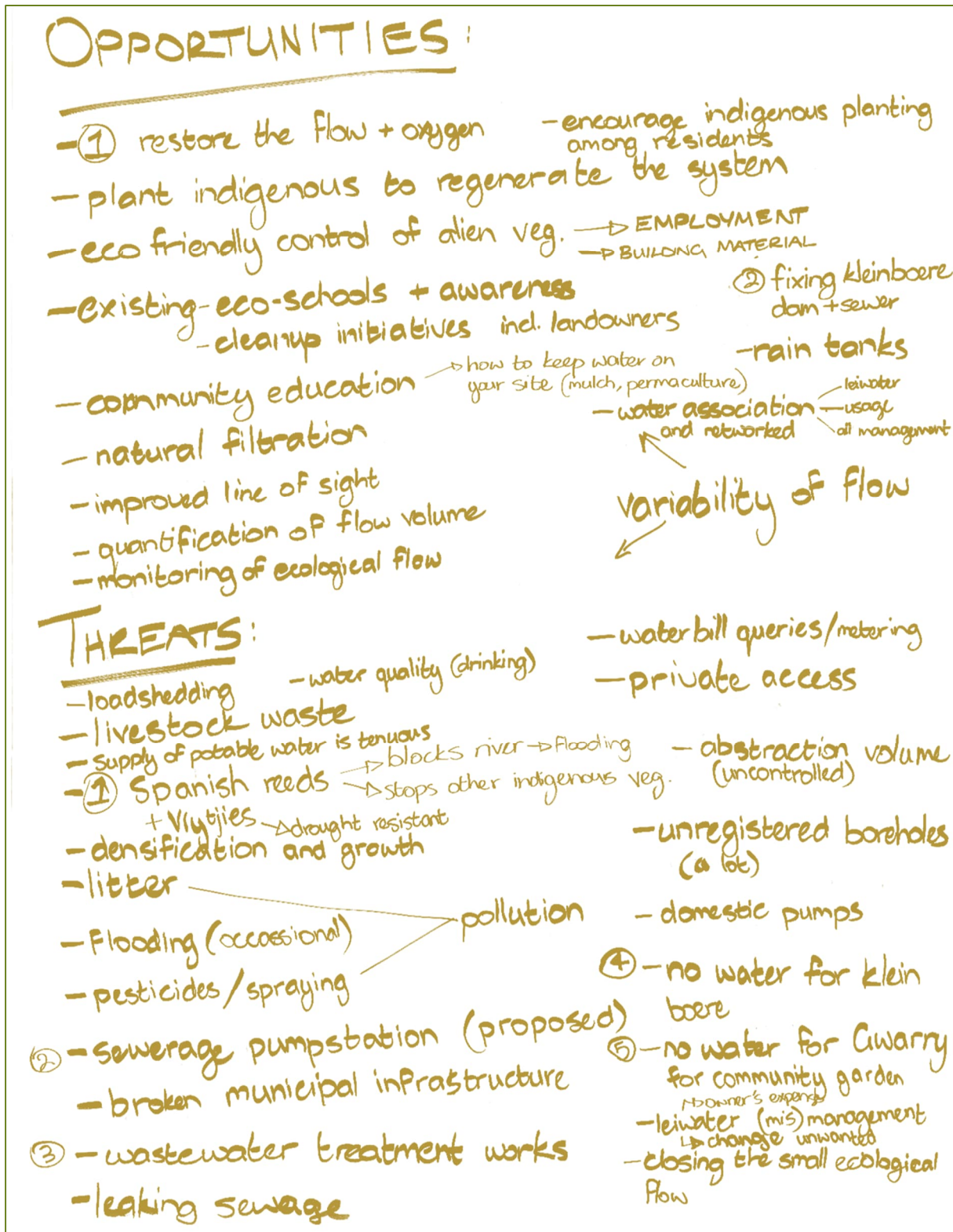


Figure 4-4: The opportunities and challenges captured in Stakeholder Workshop 1



Figure 4-5: Stakeholder group participating in Exercise 2



Figure 4-6: Capturing the feedback from Exercise 2

The group representing the commercial farmers would like to see more transparency regarding the water distribution and water operation and would also like to see that the water reaches all the users on the dams that are connected to the system. They would like to see improvement in the distribution infrastructure and rainwater harvesting throughout the town to secure their water allocation. They were

able to commit to improving their infrastructure and investigate water saving agricultural practises if these are affordable. This could include switching to water friendly crops and the use of companion planting to reduce the impacts of pesticides and fertilisers.

The group representing the small-scale farmers wanted to have access to water so that they can contribute to the community. They recognised that they would need training and access to agricultural services (e.g., livestock vaccinations). Additionally, they would like to participate in the commercial farmers' meetings. The group committed to maintaining and cleaning their own infrastructure, for example, the overgrown grassed channel. They also committed to ensuring that their land is kept clean and free from litter and waste. Finally, they were ready to learn and keep abreast of good agricultural practices.

<h2><u>EXERCISE 2</u></h2> <h3><u>Commercial Farmers:</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - transparency of information about distribution system - ensure water reaches people + dams - improve infrastructure } secure their allocation - rain water collection promotion - water friendly crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ water saving practises ↳ mulch, companion planting 	<h3><u>Municipality:</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - alien tree clearing investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ annually - access may be a problem ↳ land owner requirements/regulation - monitoring - encourage land owner and community initiative - regulate river pumping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ investigation required
<h3><u>Small scale Farmers:</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - access to water = success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ want to contribute to community - training needed - included to farmers meetings - access to agricultural services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ vaccinations - maintain systems → cleaning - keep farms clean + house-keeping - educate ourselves on good agricultural practises 	<h3><u>Home Owners:</u></h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meet + greet / community forum - tourism + property values <u>NB</u> - no sewerage problems - remove alien plants in catchments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ municipal responsibility ↳ home owner education about ^{leaflets} planting for their own land ^{plants activities} ↳ support may be needed financially - ^{public} no access to river from private land - home owners must look after their own land - rain water harvesting - neighbour conversations where possible - want to create employment opportunities - start small community groups ^{water} = ^{social} spiritual

Figure 4-7: Exercise 2 write up of mapping the change

4.2.3 Closing Activity

At the conclusion of the workshop, the attendees were asked to reflect on the activities and were specifically asked what they could do themselves to drive the vision they have for the river. There was agreement that a lot is happening in the town but that there needs to be coordination of actions and communication. Figure 4-8 lists the follow up actions that were outlined by attendees. These can be summarised as follows:

- ▶ A community member offered to make water tests available through Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) which is a community action group. The results could be shared with the community as a means of raising awareness and could be linked to the 6 monthly water testing that is done by the Grootvadersbosch Conservancy Trust in several sites on the Huis and Tradouw Rivers. It was agreed that any results should be linked to results that give a more comprehensive and long-term picture of the system.
- ▶ There was a suggestion to establish a group where information can be shared amongst members regarding activities in the river. The group would be set up as an administrative group to avoid too much unnecessary communication. The group would also assist in holding people accountable for certain actions.
- ▶ A local NGO stated that they were currently seeking additional funding to protect the critically endangered redfin in the Huis River and the information from this workshop would be used to guide the priorities for this proposal. The proposal, if successful, would start in 2024. A local resident stated that they would continue to raise awareness through the environmental club in the area and that they would appreciate input and engagement with the group. For example, to invite the school group to attend environmental monitoring events.
- ▶ Another resident committed to continue to write articles for the local press on the plight of the Redfin in the Huis River and what is being done to protect it.
- ▶ Another resident communicated how she has a group that links the river with spiritual awareness and that there is great value in telling these stories and our connection to Nature.

A further insight gained by the study team was that the residents did not appear to fully understand the water supply system and how it works and could be improved. There was agreement to include a more detailed presentation and explanation at the next workshop so that residents can be more informed on the system and how it is managed.

OTHER ACTIONS:

- water quality testing → where to test river
WATER COM. ACTION NETWORK → Louise
- high school eco group → Hannelte
- whatsapp group
- software system → Konrad
↳ targeted groups
- one small town initiative
- share river + spiritual group → Yvette
- website: history (people + natural) sharing
- forum to hold others accountable
- Redfin proposal → Aileen

Figure 4-8: Actions that stakeholders were currently doing or that they volunteered to take forward themselves

5 Stakeholder Workshop 2

The second workshop was attended by the residents, farmers, and community groups of Barrydale as well as officials from various authorities including DEA&DP, Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency (BOCMA), Department of Agriculture (Landcare, DOA), South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and CapeNature. The Swellendam Municipality was also invited to the workshop, however the day before they had riots in Swellendam, and their offices were damaged by fire thus the officials were unable to attend.

5.1 Workshop Details

The workshop details are captured in Table 5-1. The same neutral venue was chosen to ensure continuity and avoid confusion for those returning for the second workshop. The goal of this workshop was to:

- ▶ Inform the stakeholders about the water system operation and infrastructure,
- ▶ Present a water sensitive cities transition,
- ▶ Present the potential interventions identified by the study team, and,
- ▶ Gather feedback about additional interventions and prioritisation of the potential interventions.

Table 5-1: Details of Stakeholder Workshop 2

Item	Detail
Workshop	Stakeholder Workshop 2
Date	18 September 2023
Time	12:30 to 16:00
Location	Karoo Art Hotel, Barrydale
Agenda	Welcome and Introduction Reflection on Previous Workshop Presentation on the Barrydale Water System Presentation of Potential Framework Interventions Break for Snacks and Drinks Exercise: Group & Prioritise the Interventions Group Discussion Workshop Close

Again, the workshop room was set up to be a gallery of pictures and descriptions of Barrydale and the Huis River Catchment. The papers from the first workshop were also available for attendees to look at. No digital presentation was given at this workshop either. As at the previous workshop, attendees were encouraged to walk up and interact with the gallery and study team.

The workshop was less activity based as there was a lot of information to disseminate to attendees. But the aim was to build on the positive forward-thinking mindset established in Workshop 1. The ice breaker activity was designed to assist attendees to identify personal frustrations in their daily life and within the community and to not bring those into the positive mindset of the workshop. Each person was tasked to write down 3-5 things on paper that were presenting challenges to them in their daily life, and which might result in them having a negative mindset. They were then asked to scrunch them up and have a fun snowball fight with everyone in the room while music was played (see Figure 5-1). This allowed attendees to put their worries out of their mind and have some childish fun before settling down again to focus only on the important issues of the meeting with a positive mindset, devoid of their personal complaints or issues outside of the workshop context.



Figure 5-1: Attendees ready to start the paper snowball fight



Figure 5-2: Explanation of the water system

5.2 Activities

Only one activity was conducted in the second workshop. This was to ask for feedback on the presentations that were given before. At the first workshop, it was apparent that most attendees were not aware of the water infrastructure in place and the operation thereof – hence the inclusion of a presentation about the water system (see Figure 5-2). This also served as an opportunity to introduce some of the options for improving the system and why certain interventions might be prioritised and how and why some of the interventions were grouped together.

In the explanation of the system and the interventions, particular emphasis was given to explain specific terms used in the interventions that might not be commonly understood by those not involved in the water sector.

5.2.1 Exercise 1: Prioritising Interventions

The stakeholders were given a pack of the potential interventions identified by the study team which included a description, intended outcome and potential funders. The stakeholders, in groups of 5-7 people, were then tasked to identify their top five interventions and present them to the group at large in order of priority. The groups were allowed to add interventions as well as remove interventions that they were opposed to implementing. The prioritisation exercise asked people to consider their own point of view, rather than attempting to represent another stakeholder group as in Exercise 2 of the first workshop.



Figure 5-3: Stakeholders presenting their feedback on prioritised interventions

The presented results of each group were captured for input into the final prioritisation of the interventions of the Framework Plan. The scoring methodology is described in Appendix C of the Framework Plan for Future Investment in Support of Water Security in the Huis River Catchment.

5.2.2 Closing Activity

Like the first workshop, attendees were then asked to put forward activities and initiatives that they were willing to carry out or activities that they could champion. There was emphasis placed on the need for translating the meeting into actions on the ground and that additional funding should be used to implement actions rather than do further planning. There was an understanding of the financial constraints are currently facing many government entities, but each was asked to communicate any activity that they might be able to assist with. Residents of Barrydale were also tasked to identify ways that they could assist to drive these actions within their own community, recognising that government agencies have limited capacity. There was a discussion related to the importance of development a River Maintenance and Management Plan (RMMP) for the system which has great value in authorising maintenance activities in the river, for example, the movement of sediment for erosion control purposes. However, many actions do not require lengthy and expensive planning process and could be implemented fairly quickly, for example, alien clearing in the Huis River does not require a RMMP. Stakeholders expressed a collective need for actions that would results in tangible improvements in the system. The pledged actions were captured in the pink writing and black stars, and the official from BOCMA captured her promises in light blue.

There was encouraging feedback from the group that it was one of the most inspirational workshops that they had attended and there was hope that this would lead to tangible action. There was a request that stakeholders receive a summary or copy of the outcomes from the workshop and the final report so that they could assist in taking this forward and to build on the outcomes achieved. The DEA&DP officials agreed that this would be important and that they would look at the deliverables and see how they could make a summary version available to stakeholders.

Table 5-2: Actions and interventions that attendees promised to carry out

<p>2 'Friends of'</p> <p>OST - food security + water saving</p> <p>FORMULATE / FOUNDATION OF A "FRIENDS OF" GROUP TO CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS</p>	<p>Stewardship Agreements 1</p> <p>*Annual Redfin Monitoring ON Emergency activities</p>	<p>Education Campaign</p> <p>3b ?</p> <p>+ Focus on children</p> <p>Awareness material placed in newspaper</p> <p>Harette + Louise -> Kitchen Table Conversations -> School talks -> Biocontrol -> Green Defend Ls connect with Elkeri</p>
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The volunteers of the One Small Town (OST) initiative promised to continue their work on improving food security and promoting water savings.

The DEA&DP officials promised to continue to drive the process forward to sustain activities within their limited funding. They stated that the initiative has been a priority for their unit for many years but they cant commit to additional funding at this stage but would continue to look for funding and offer whatever support they can.

The CapeNature official promised to continue to work with the GVB Conservancy to implement their annual Redfin monitoring and contributing to emergency activities to protect the fish populations. She also committed to an invertebrate study to look at relocation of Redfin above Donkergat as a last resort for habitat extension. And will communicate findings of the parasite study that is planned to better understand the impacts on the Redfin and cause of the infestation.

Two volunteers representing OUTA and the commercial farmers/ward council had connected after the first workshop and promised to continue their Kitchen Table conversations, and school talks. Hannette Cooke agreed to continue her work with the Green Defenders initiative (environmental youth group) and would connect with the BOCMA representative on distributing the awareness material for sewer system and septic tank usage behaviours. Net for Pret (Peter) committed education programmes to motivate and involve students who are not in school and to apply skills that are not commonly taught in school.

INFRASTRUCTURE

1
5

Improve monitoring and real-time operation

flow quality + citizen science
DEADP

BOUTA water testing

DEA&DP promised to support the establishment of citizen science initiatives, starting with the water quality testing that the OUTA representative had embarked upon since the first workshop.

MANAGEMENT

5
1a
1b

***River Management Plan**

DOA

The DOA officials committed to following up on the progress of the River Maintenance and Management Plan for the Huis River and see if they could accelerate the programme to get it underway sooner.

STEWARDSHIP

7a
5b Supporting people

Raise awareness for water friendly gardens

* drafting pamphlets of IAPs

(nurseries) showcase open gardens + agri ecology - multi layered crops

Tour

Yvette Anderson from Barrydale was willing to produce a phamplet to educate property owners on IAPs and water friendly gardening. She was also keen to contribute to and showcase her community garden and teach agri-ecology. The BOCMA representative promised to arrange a tour of the WWTW to explain the system and how individual behaviours contribute to its proper functioning. Gillian committed to engage with CapeNature and SANParks to gain access to trees that could be planted.

INFRASTRUCTURE

4a

Upgrade Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW)

KFW/SANBI -> Conrad

Konrad from Barrydale who was also part of the OST initiative and works in wastewater and water treatment technology promised to work with his contacts to see if the WWTW would benefit from additional treatment technology.

Focus should be on maximisation and optimisation of current infrastructure rather than new builds.

A representative from SANBI promised to share links to funding proposals for the WWTW upgrade.

STEWARDSHIP

7b

Rainwater Harvesting

Handwritten notes: Household gardens (COAT), Community gardens

The BOCMA representative also promised to support the rainwater harvesting interventions by working with DOA and providing with household and community garden education material.

STEWARDSHIP

Handwritten notes: Christian, WUPA

Registering boreholes and monitoring use

The BOCMW representative committed to following up on the water use allocations and enforcement.

CATCHMENT

2

5a Construct and plant biofiltration zones along the Huis River

town + farms

restoration CN

Yvette (resident) offered to make her garden open to the public to showcase what can be done in the riparian zone.

CATCHMENT

3

5b Clear upper Huis River Catchment IAPs and include biocontrol agent on Hakea

6a, 3a



Gillian (resident) asked for assistance on how to undertake IAP clearing and to work with other landowners to implement it but needed assistance with this. The GVB conservancy offered to provide training and input on this.

Flora (resident) offered to continue to do community hack events with the residents and to support community action days to release biocontrol on Hakea.

STEWARDSHIP

Create public open green space in old caravan park with water conservation demonstration garden



BOCMA can raise awareness on rainwater harvesting; can provide water tank for community gardens. And work with and through DOA to identify people who do household and community gardens, to assist with the supply of seedlings and tools.

6 Conclusion

In conclusion, the stakeholder mapping and engagement process in Barrydale has been a vital component of the comprehensive study regarding the town's water system and the Huis River Catchment. Through the various interactions with residents, community groups, farmers, and officials, a deeper understanding of the concerns, perceptions, barriers, and potential management strategies related to water resources was achieved.

The two stakeholder workshops served as key milestones in this process. The first workshop, attended by a diverse range of stakeholders, aimed at introducing the project, gathering information on the usage and value of the water system and Huis River, and aligning stakeholders toward the stewardship of the river. It provided an opportunity for attendees to express their concerns and expectations.

The second workshop, attended by an even broader array of stakeholders including local authorities, delved into more detailed aspects of the water system's operation, infrastructure, and the presentation of potential interventions as well as follow up actions that could lead to further action on the ground. Stakeholders actively participated in prioritising these interventions, emphasising their specific viewpoints and preferences.

Throughout this engagement process, attendees demonstrated a strong commitment to making positive changes and improvements in the water management and ecological health of the Huis River. They pledged various actions and initiatives, ranging from supporting nature-based solutions to addressing water quality issues, to organising citizen science initiatives and promoting water conservation.

This collaborative effort has shed light on the complexities of Barrydale's water dynamics, which involve a delicate balance of agricultural and urban land uses, ecological concerns, and various public and private interests. The positive and forward-thinking mindset established in these workshops has laid a solid foundation for future investments in support of water security in the Huis River Catchment.

Moving forward, continued coordination, communication, and collective action among stakeholders will be essential to address the challenges and opportunities in Barrydale's water system effectively. The insights gained from these workshops and individual engagements will be instrumental in implementing the Framework Plan for future water security investments, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and water-sensitive future for the town and its surrounding environment.

Appendix A

Stakeholder Workshop 1 Minutes

Project number	1002900	Meeting date	2023-08-18
Project name	Barrydale & Huis River Framework Plan	Meeting/subject	Stakeholder Workshop 1

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
1	Welcome and Introduction	Aileen
2	<p>Presentation on Water Sensitive Cities</p> <p>▶ James Cullis provided an overview of the water sensitive city's concept and how relevant it is to towns globally. The concept is to create a holistic and sustainable approach to managing water resources within urban areas, while promoting the well-being of residents and the environment. Many cities around the world are adopting these principles to enhance their water resilience and sustainability. Barrydale presents a unique rural combination of challenges for water management issues in small towns and how this projects could unlock opportunities to implement the sensitives cities concepts within small rural towns.</p>	James Cullis
3	<p>Introduction of the Project</p> <p>▶ Frankie provided an overview of the project, its goals and objectives and its importance for the community of Barrydale. She emphasised the limitations of what could be done within the current scope but presented its importance for future funding and ongoing work in the catchment area.</p>	Frankie
4	<p>Exercise 1A: Values of the River</p> <p>▶ The group was then asked to complete a visioning exercise where they communicated the value of the river. This exercise assisted in understanding how important the river is to the community and why it needs to be protected. The following values were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical spiritual Connection. • Sustains life for people and nature. • Connects the community. • Supports health and well being. • Supports soil health. • Supports biodiversity and ecosystems. • Can be used to educate people and communities and create consciousness on our connection to nature. • Water is integral to agriculture which creates employment. • Is a source of recreation. • It is linked to feelings and these are negative if the river is in bad condition. • The river is the seed/centre of the town. • The river can be a tourism attraction. • The river has a historical and spiritual connection. 	Aileen
5	<p>Exercise 1B: Challenges and Opportunities of the River</p> <p>▶ What the opportunities for the river are (how to maximise the social and economic value)? The following opportunities were outlined by the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore the flow of the river and allow for more oxygen to the system which reduces algal growth. • Encourage the planting of indigenous plants along the river. • Support the regeneration of the river and the riparian edge. 	

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement eco-friendly control of invasive vegetation which could be linked to employment or building material (from reeds) • Build on eco-school projects and environmental awareness raising such as litter clean ups which includes landowners and local school groups. • Implement community education days that outline opportunities and ways to keep water on the site (permaculture workshops and mulching techniques) • Educate riparian owners on how to support natural filtration on the riparian edge. • Improve line of site in the river which will have security benefits. • There should be better quantification of the flow of water in the river so that it can be monitored. • Monitoring of the ecological flow in the river to support natural ecosystems. • Restore dams that support water for emerging farmers so that they have improved assurance of supply. • Encourage the use of rainwater tanks. • Establish water user associations that support better management of the lei water system. <p>▶ The following the challenges or threats were outlined by the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loadshedding limits access to water for drinking water (restricted pumping by the municipality). • Livestock entering the water threatens water quality. • Supply of potable water is tenuous at times (future threat). • Spanish reed is dominant in the river and blocks the flow of water and limits diversity of vegetation in the system. Vleitjies reed would be a better alternative as its indigenous but can also become dominant so need to create a diversity of species in the river. • Litter in the river is a constant problem which also blocks the lei water system. • Pesticide spraying from the agricultural in the system create challenges for the river. • Flooding of the leiwater system and limited storm water system. • Broken municipal infrastructure is challenge as they have limited funds to restore. • The waste water treatment works needs better management and improvements because when it is not managed correctly, it can leak into the river. • There is limited water for small-scale farmers. • There are many unregistered boreholes and there is not enough understanding of their impact or what they are using the water for and how much is used. • There is often uncontrolled use of water and pumping from the river. • There are often questions on the water bill and what the municipality is charging which requires clarity. • There is limited public access to the river which creates tension, especially with the Smitsville community. • There is no water for the Gwarry community that requires water for community vegetable gardens. • There needs to be better management of the leiwater system in town. • There is a risk to the Redfin if the required ecological flow in the system is not achieved. 	
6	Exercise 2: Mapping the Change	

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The group was then divided into four groups and each group was given a stakeholder role (e.g., homeowner, commercial farmer, small scale farmer). They were then asked to communicate their soecific vision for the river and how they would contribute to achieving it ▶ Each of the four was then given a chance to feedback to the group: ▶ Group 1: The Municipality: They wanted to see a river that is healthy and available to all to benefit from as well as a secure water supply source for the town. To achieve this, the group would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in invasive alien plant (IAP) clearing both on public and private land, • Support community initiatives to look after the river and investigate and • Enforce the regulations around pumping from the river. ▶ Group 2: The homeowner's group They wanted to see property values go up and tourism increase in the town and reduce sewerage problems and were concerned about the IAPs in the catchment. To do this they would <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to rainwater harvesting systems and encouraging other residents and homeowners to do the same. • Remove invasive aliens on private and but need support and assistance especially for large trees that are difficult to remove. • Support initiatives that creating employment opportunities. • Establish a small community group (or multiple groups) that would be focused on water and the river. • Educate landowners on what to plant in gardens and on riparian edge. • Do not support public access to private land. • Understand that each landowner is responsible for their land. ▶ Group 3 Commercial Farmers: They would like to see more transparency regarding the water distribution and water operation. They would like all users to receive their fair allocation but would like all users to contribute to the solution. To do this they would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support more rainwater harvesting throughout the town. • Improve their infrastructure and investigate water saving agricultural practises (if affordable). • They would consider companion planting to reduce the impacts of pesticides and fertilisers. ▶ Group 4: Small-scale farmers They wanted to have access to water so that they can contribute to the community. They recognised that they need training and access to agricultural services (e.g., livestock vaccinations). To achieve this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They would attend farmers meetings if included • Maintain and clean their own infrastructure, for example, the overgrown grassed channel. • Keep their land clean and free from litter and waste. • Actively learn and keep abreast of good agricultural practices. 	
7	Workshop Closure	Aileen
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ At the conclusion of the workshop, the attendees were asked to reflect on the activities how they could achieve the vision. The following aspects were outlined: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise offered water quality testing to support the on-going monitoring happening in the Huis River. • Hannelte committed to continue to work with the environmental groups in the area to build environmental education. • It was suggested that a WhatsApp group be set up for communication and Konrad offered to share an alternative 	

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<p>software platform for this which is linked to the one's small town initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette agreed to continue to communicate the links between spirituality and protecting rivers this would include sharing stories on history and people and their links to the river. • Aileen agreed to submit funding proposals that could bring in funds to protect the Tradouw/Barrydale redefin. • There was agreement that a lot is happening in the town but that there needs to be coordination of actions and communication. <p>▶ The meeting was closed with commitment to attend the next workshop and to invite those that are not present to attend.</p>	

Stakeholder Workshop 1 Attendance Register

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste water (form of discharge of water that may contain waste) discharged directly into river • Commercial farming use ▶ Pre 1998 ; riparian water users could make use of as much water as they wanted ▶ A formal irrigation board would be created and gazetted so that each property would get a schedule ▶ In Barrydale it was INFORMAL and not Gazetted ▶ To apply for a license a user must prove that the water is available, minus ecological reserve and the use of others from the system and the existing lawful use - remainder would be considered & along with the impact on anyone else as there may be others using water that is not a registered water user. ▶ Municipality has tried to apply to upgrade the WWTW ▶ Majority of the water comes from Smitsville and it is not affluent people that live there but people in that area need to finance that project over the long run (pay for the services). ▶ Additionally the affluent areas can install a fat trap to stop fat flowing into the first pond and consider where they can save water; the less water is sent to the system allowing it to work more efficiently ▶ The WWTW in Barrydale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low maintenance • Doesn't require high costs • Can't treat high volumes of industrial as there is not enough aeration • Ponds cannot breakdown phosphates from heavy soap users • Small business owners need to look at products that impact the WWT ▶ Smitsville <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to look at community members that vandalise • What is being added into system and make people aware • Newspaper does not breakdown in sewer system • Ensure blockages are reported ▶ Eskom has an effect on the waste system functioning ▶ Supply chain and availability of resources e.g., replacing a pump if it breaks ▶ Q: Are there green and economically friendly alternatives that can be considered for the treatment system? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dumping of the waste water trucks is at the entrance: there is no way for them to remove the solid waste before it enters the system • No amount of green energy that can be used to treat this. The rest is dependent on aeration. Barrydale only has one system. • Need to have the right organisms within each pond to break down the ammonia nitrates, depends on what is being put in to determine how its managed. ▶ Q: On a rainy day; the water from Smitsville disappears. Kleinboere dam has its own catchment, portion of it has sewage water in it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to department of Agriculture to look at this particular problem • Need to find a way to divert flow into dam and divert waste flow away from the dam • In terms of irrigation, you can only use it if it is up to a specific standard, not vegetables and leafy greens. • There must be a 7-14 day sunshine period as UV light kills the worm eggs ▶ Outings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the wastewater system • Get the kids to go and look at the dam, the sewer system • Green Climate Fund 	<p>Gillian Elkarine</p> <p>Peter Elkarine</p> <p>Action to set up these outings.</p>

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed at enabling water use; building climate change resilience and benefiting local people at scale. It was suggested to invite them to the field trip to see the need. 	
7	<p>Framework for Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 11 groups identified and clustered according to intervention types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Management • Stewardship • Catchment ▶ Fanie heard from the Municipality that continued lining of the canal will continue. ▶ Gillian has a proposal for the municipality to implement restoration activities ▶ Two interventions specifically on interventions for the Red Fin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the threats is the invasive bass that is in most of the dams and the Tradouw Pass water system • Bass not caught in huis river; if they get into the system there will be implications for the Barrydale Redfin population. ▶ Aileen introduced the Exercise to prioritise the top five interventions. ▶ James noted that people can add interventions that are not raised yet, even if its not a priority or something that has already been started. 	Frankie
8	<p>Feedback Framework Interventions Prioritisation</p> <p>Group 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase of dam capacity by municipality. Pipe across the river will benefit the fish. Clearing invasive plants - especially in coming years. Water system operating rules - time to formally implement water use regulations/registration - including all water users. River Maintenance and Management Plan - to ensure continuation of actions over a period. <p>Group 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water monitoring and real time. To construct and plant bi-filtration zones across. Operating rules. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Education campaign around water system operating rules and on what people can put into system. Upgrade WWTW and fencing treatment works. Address the Smitsville sewers and systems. Clear invasive plants and upper catchment areas of invasive plant species. Increase Donkergat and Swart Dam storage capacity and flow into canal. <p>Group 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> River Maintenance and Management Plan - for entire town. Investigate the Redfin relocation to upstream of Donkergat – recognising that it is a tricky and long-term process, ecological restrictions, investigate viability. Investigation should consider if it would be better to re-locate it or to stabilise the habitat in-situ. Sign land upstream of Donkergat into stewardship agreement. Formulation of ‘friends of’ group. 	<p>Fanie Commercial farmers</p> <p>Konrad</p> <p>DEA&DP and CapeNature Officials</p>

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<p>3. a. Improve wastewater treatment works operation. b. Address Smitsville sewars. c. Fence wastewater treatment works.</p> <p>4. a. Pipe across river to commercial farmers. b. Line earth canal supply to the kleinboere.</p> <p>5. a. Improve monitoring and real time operation. b. Include citizen science aspects.</p> <p>6. Clear upper Huis River Catchment and clearing riparian zone within river system.</p> <p>7. Raise awareness for water friendly gardens and rainwater harvesting.</p> <p>Absolute No-Go's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Remove bass from dam - would be nice but not viable. ▶ Increase donkergat weir. ▶ Research and look into alternative resources. <p>Group 4</p> <p>1. Operation and system rules first implemented with a long-term implementation of River Maintenance and Management Plan and lei water plan.</p> <p>2. Address Smitsville sewars and improve operation and effluent quality.</p> <p>3. Clear invasive alien plants in riparian zone and lining the earth dam, and supply water to Gwarry.</p> <p>4. Fencing of wastewater system with community approval and involvement to make it viable.</p> <p>5. Biofiltration zones around the river: this can be done on private land as part of the education of riparian zones, with support for people to implement riparian zone rehab and water wise gardening. To extend the biofiltration zones to agricultural zones so that more direct run-off from farms can be included.</p> <p>Absolute No-Go's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ New water supply sources and rather to IMPROVE current systems. 	Yvette
9	<p>General discussion</p> <p>Elkarine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ecological infrastructure ; the river is seen as ecological infrastructure EIAP. ▶ There are Ecological Infrastructure plans takes into consideration all aspects of the river. <p>Aileen:</p> <p>What do people expect form the plan: development of complicated plans however sometimes there is lots that can be done in a simplistic way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Gillian agrees; community needs to come up with the plan based on the uses and needs of the community. ▶ Management plan process has definite benefits. <p>Martine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Plan is only as good as your implementation which is why a 'friends group' could be helpful. <p>Louise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Are there existing water management plans that can be used? ▶ We need a Plan for the Huis River, there are spatial and integrated development plans for Swellendam, which addresses corridor on linking Barrydale and Smitsville. 	

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<p>Hannette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Community IDP meetings are not well attended. The IDP is available to give the community an opportunity to have their say. ▶ Municipality does not have finances. ▶ Focus should be on maximise and optimisation of current infrastructure rather than focusing on what needs to be improved. <p>Peter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ All residents of Barrydale need to take ownership of the river and of the invasive plants. ▶ Start with the children. <p>Elkarine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If you want external funding you need a proper plan with specific outcomes and guidelines , an EIAP will give the long term security to an external funder. ▶ Don't need a consultant to give you that framework but you do need a specialist to help fill in gaps within the management plan eg. Use a local resident who has the skills. ▶ This EIAP will enable government officials to help find funding. ▶ Use a bottoms up approach with executable actions that can happen immediately, e.g. education, citizen science like a fixed point photograph programme to determine siltation over period of one year. ▶ Understand that long term actions will take time. <p>Aileen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Need to distinguish what type of plan is needed; don't want the outcome of this plan to be another plan. ▶ Take what has come out of these meetings and give them structure to take forward and action. 	
10	<p>Items that can be actioned</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aileen: IUCN Funding Proposal to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.a. implement biofiltration, 1.b. remove invasive plants along riparian, 1.c. create education and water friendly garden, 1.d. implement habitat restoration. 2. Elkarine (BOCMA) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.a. Can help with awareness for the water friendly gardening - water week and wetlands. 2.b. Need to work with community groups: eco-warriors. 2.c. Can possibly negotiate with other departments to get a bus to the wastewater treatment works tour. 2.d. Can do awareness on rainwater harvesting; can provide water tank for community gardens. 2.e. Work with and through DOA to identify people who do household and community gardens, they assist with the supply of seedlings and tools. 2.f. BOCMA - introduce water user association where you can register your borehole and water monitoring. 2.g. Western Cape Government has awareness pamphlets and resources: wetland management, Redfin, and water quality management - they should make that information available in the newspaper. 3. Phil (DEA&DP) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.a. Alien clearing and rehab project connected to the Huis River. 	Aileen

Item	Topic	Facilitation/Speaker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.b. Currently working with community groups and citizen science; flow and clarity of the river; can assist with expanding, making it more formal and pulling schools in. 3.c. Expressed ongoing commitment to the system. 4. Martine (CapeNature but acting as an individual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.a. Commit to the annual Barrydale Redfin monitoring. 4.b. Commit to an invertebrate study to look at relocation of Redfin. 4.c. Commit to further SASS monitoring. 5. Grant (DOA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.a. Add the Huis River and the Tradouw River to EIAP if allows noting that budget cuts are an issue. But R1.6 mil has been allocated for 9 rivers. 5.b. Already doing management plan for another river, look at where Huis River is on priority list. 6. Gillian (Resident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.a. CapeNature and people and parks programme with possible access to trees. 6.b. Restoration and biofiltration. 6.c. Request around alien clearing: training day on alien clearing techniques (Aileen will be able to facilitate this). 7. Konrad (Resident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.a. Potential funding looking at KFW: International funding options already aware of projects in Barrydale. If gov assistance is involved this will improve likelihood. 8. Yvette (Resident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.a. Opening of gardens to public. 8.b. Creating ecological agriculture; to make farming and buffer zones that have increased sustainability. 9. Graham (Resident and One Small Town member): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.a. Create a little group in Barrydale so that this discussion can continue past the meeting. 9.b. Creating more awareness on eco-clubs, grey water harvesting 10. Linette (Resident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.a. Started an Education Group with Grade 10 students: with water testing activities. 10.b. Will help with education. 11. Louis (Resident and OUTA member): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.a. Arranged basic water tests for citizen scientists. 11.b. Will collaborate with education activities with children. 11.c. Will collaborate with Grootvadersbosch Conservancy. 12. Flora (Resident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12.a. Cut hakea with children. 12.b. Will assist with biocontrol. 13. Peter (Resident): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13.a. Education programmes to motivate and involve students who are not in school; to apply skills that are not commonly taught in school. 13.b. Will work to instil ownership in all the people of Barrydale. 	
11	<p>Close</p> <p>Phil confirmed the report will be made available to the public though details may have to be left out of the public version.</p>	Aileen

Stakeholder Workshop 2 Attendance Register

We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all.

WANGARI MAATHAI

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