



Department of Water and Sanitation
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WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY

BLUE DEAL

IMPROVEMENT OF
WATER QUALITY OF THE

VAAL RIVER





IMPROVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY OF THE VAAL RIVER

The objective of the Blue Deal project Vredefort Dome/Parys is improving the water quality of the Vaal River in the UNESCO Vredefort Dome Heritage Site. It includes optimisation of the Parys waste water treatment plant. The outcome of this project will be an improved water quality of the Vaal River for the 50,000 inhabitants of the Parys area and for the visitors of the natural heritage site of the Vredefort Dome. The downstream population will also benefit from the improved quality of the Vaal as a reliable source for the water services.

The Vredefort Dome project is part of the Blue Deal South Africa Partnership: a cooperation between South African Water Institutions and the Dutch Water Authorities. The objectives are based on the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan.



- > alignment of the objectives of the Vredefort Dome project with those of the Mooi River Catchment Forum
- > promotion of environmental and water education during environmental days (World Water Week, World Environment Day, National Arbor Day, Mandela Day)

• Wastewater management

The operation and maintenance of the Parys waste water treatment plant will be reviewed through institutional and operational assessments. Furthermore, we will foster partnerships within the water sector to enhance the capacity of Ngwathe Local Municipality for enhanced operation and maintenance of the waste water treatment plant.

The experiences and results of the Vredefort Dome project will be shared within and outside Ngwathe Local Municipality for other areas in South Africa to benefit from the lessons learned.

Three key activities

Three key activities are essential to improve the water quality of the Vaal River:

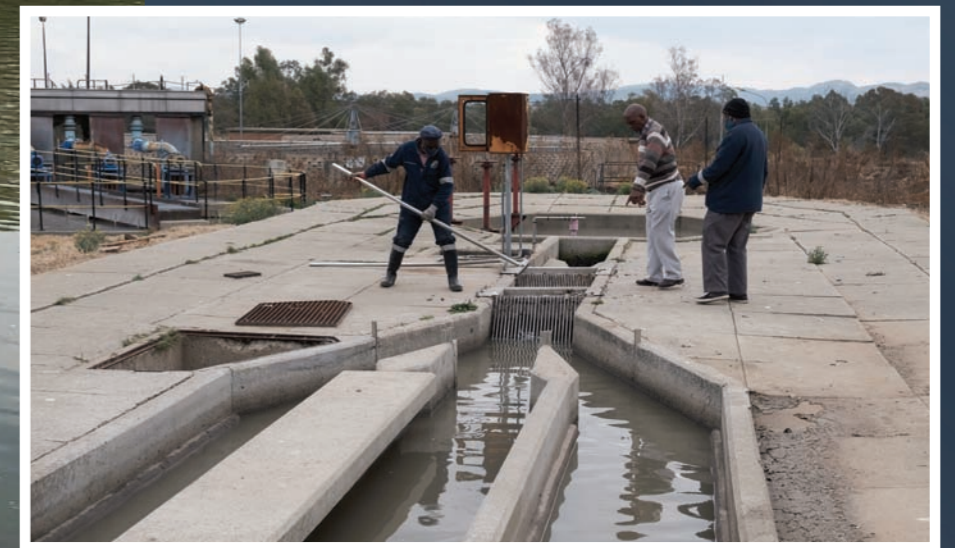
• Data management

To improve the water quality we will use River Ecosystem and Surface Water Monitoring programmes. These can be used to determine the impact of water use activities on the Vaal River and to monitor and enforce compliance.

• Stakeholder engagement

The quality of the Vaal River affects various users and associated partners. Stakeholder engagement focuses on:

- > reestablishment of the District Water Forum and transformation of the Rietpoort Irrigation Board



Four Blue Deal projects in South Africa

The Vredefort Dome project is one of the four Blue Deal South Africa projects for the period 2019-2022. These projects serve as demonstration projects of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan and are in line with the National Development Plan and the Economic Recovery and Stimulus Plan.

The other three projects are:

- **the Crocodile River project (Inkomati-Usuthu)**
Goal: combating pollution in the Crocodile River
- **the Blesbokspruit project (Upper-Vaal)**
Goal: rehabilitation of the wetland
- **the Msunduzi River project (Pongola-Umzimkulu)**
Goal: improvement of the water quality of the Msunduzi River

On 5 March 2020 Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, at that time Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, sealed the Blue Deal South Africa Partnership with the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Infrastructure and Water Management.

Blue Deal world wide

Blue Deal is a programme of Dutch Ministries and the Dutch Water Authorities. It supports national, regional and local organisations worldwide, to strengthen water management by exchanging knowledge and experiences. The goal of the Blue Deal is to assist 20 million people in 40 catchment areas around the world to gain access to clean, sufficient and safe water. The programme started in 2018 and ends in 2030.

Contact information

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Working together

It is very important that national and local partners work together in the Vredefort Dome project to achieve its objective.

National partners involved in the Blue Deal South Africa Partnership are:

- > Department of Water and Sanitation (previously the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation)
- > The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- > The Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries
- > The Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent
- > The South African Local Government Association
- > The Water Research Commission

Local partners involved in this project are:

- > The Gauteng Provincial Office of the Department of Water and Sanitation
- > The Free State Provincial Office of the Department of Water and Sanitation
- > Ngwathe Local Municipality
- > North West Provincial Government, Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism
- > Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Province
- > Department of Treasury, Free State Province

All national and local partners work together with the Dutch Water Authorities.