

BLUE DEAL

IMPROVEMENT OF
WATER QUALITY OF THE

CROCODILE RIVER



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WATER IS LIFE - SANITATION IS DIGNITY

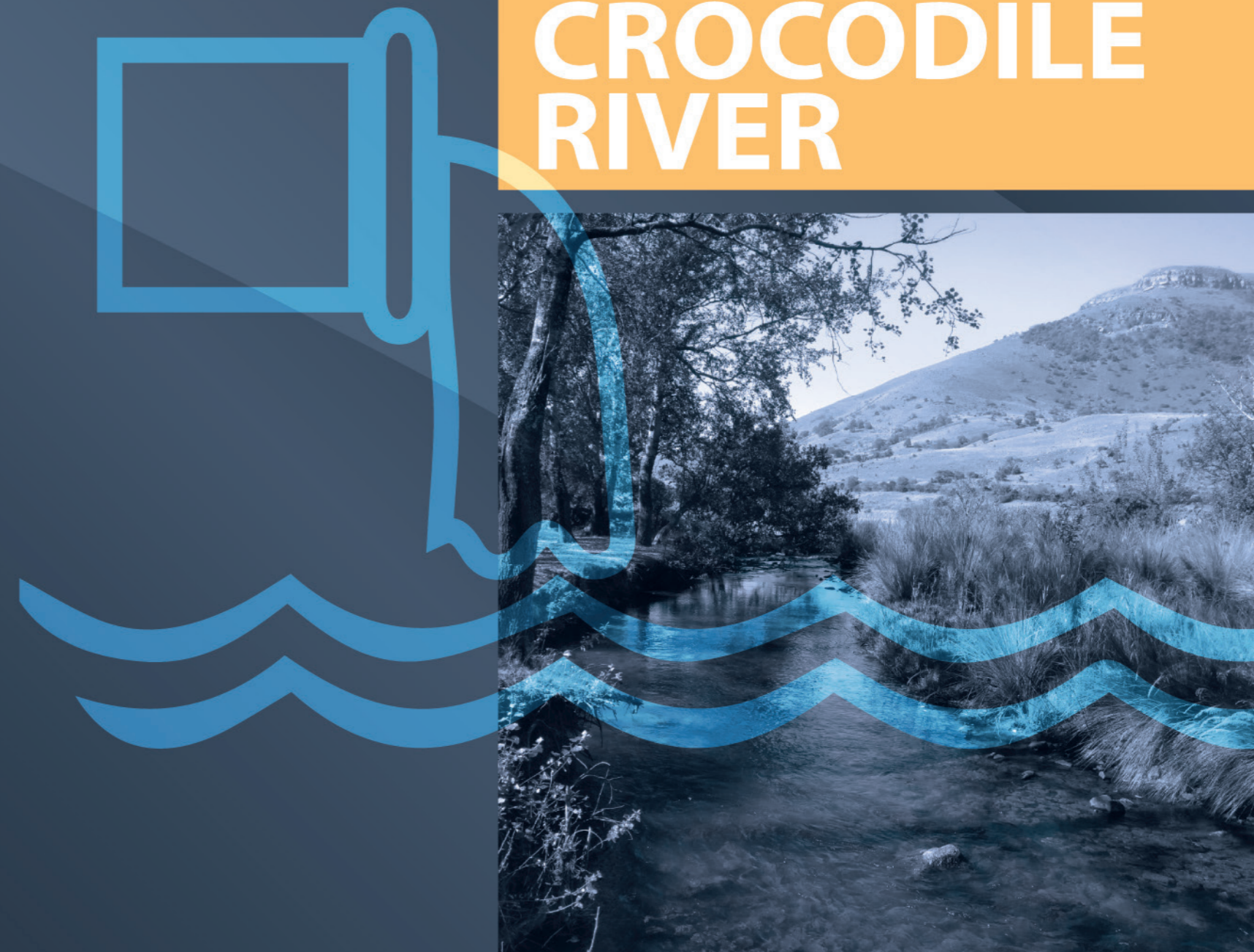


water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DUTCH WATER
AUTHORITIES



COMBATING POLLUTION IN THE CROCODILE RIVER

The Crocodile River faces threats of pollution by agriculture, industry and municipalities. The quality of the water that the wastewater treatment plants discharge into the river, is often insufficient. This poses human health impacts to communities dependent on the Crocodile River. And it has economic impacts where the raw water, provided for agriculture and recreational needs, is not fit for purpose. The objective of the Blue Deal project Crocodile River is to improve the operation of six municipal wastewater treatment plants: two in Mbombela, two in Nkomazi and two in Emakhazeni Municipalities. This will improve the water quality of the discharge and reduce the negative impact on the Crocodile River catchment from up- to downstream. Almost 1.45 million people living in and around the river catchment will benefit from this. It will further result in improvement of the eco-system.

The Crocodile River 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.

Four key activities for a better performance

Four key activities are essential to improve the performance of the waste water treatment plants:

• Assessment

An institutional and technical assessment is necessary, for the short and the long term. It will be carried out by the project partners. They will exchange information and knowledge. This activity will identify necessary actions to improve the performance of the waste water treatment plants. It will also identify strategic planning information for future requirements.



• Innovation

We explore possible innovations for optimisation of the performance of the waste water treatment plants. Data will be gathered from monitoring and can be used for planning and strategy. This will enable the municipalities to address the identified challenges and to implement solutions.

• Capacity Building

An improvement of technical and managerial competence of the employees of the waste water treatment plants will ensure sustainable operations of the plants for years to come. Furthermore, situations where wastewater treatment works are non-operational will be minimised and in some instances avoided altogether.

• Priority and funding

Support of and collaboration with national partners are essential for the proper functioning of the municipal wastewater systems. Blue Deal South Africa will lobby for the support of those partners to address the challenges and thus avoid obstacles for optimisation of the waste water treatment plants. This activity involves exchange of information and knowledge.

The experiences and results of the Crocodile River project will be shared. So other areas in South Africa can benefit from the lessons learned.

Working together

It is very important that national and local partners work together in the Crocodile River project.

On the national level the partners of 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 Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent
- > The South African Local Government Association
- > The Water Research Commission

The local partners involved in this project are:

- > Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency
- > Emakhazeni Local Municipality
- > City of Mbombela Local Municipality
- > Nkomazi Local Municipality
- > Provincial Department of Water and Sanitation
- > Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- > Provincial Treasury
- > Provincial Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency
- > Provincial South African Local Government Association
- > Nkangala District Municipality
- > Ehlanzeni District Municipality

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



Four Blue Deal projects in South Africa

The Crocodile River 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 Vredefort Dome project (Upper-Vaal)**
Goals: improvement of the water quality of the Vaal River in the UNESCO Vredefort Dome Heritage Site and optimisation of the Parys waste water treatment plant
- **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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