



REHABILITATION PLAN FOR THE WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME, FREE STATE

PROJECT: SEEKOEIVLEI

C13C



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

APRIL 2014



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**REHABILITATION PLAN FOR THE SEEKOEIVLEI WETLAND PROJECT, FREE STATE:
PLANNING YEAR 2014**

**AS PART OF
THE WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME
FOR THE
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

MAIN REPORT

April 2014

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PROJECT DETAILS

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WORKING FOR WETLANDS: CONTEXT DOCUMENT

1. Introduction

Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) is a government programme managed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and is a joint initiative of the Departments of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Water Affairs (DWA) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). In this way the programme is an expression of the overlapping wetland-related mandates of the three parent departments, and besides giving effect to a range of policy objectives, also honours South Africa's commitments under several international agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The programme is mandated to rehabilitate damaged wetlands and to protect pristine wetlands throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and using only local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). The EPWP seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increasing their capacity to earn an income.

2. Wetlands and their importance

Once considered valueless wastelands that needed to be drained or converted to more useful land use purposes, wetlands are now seen in an entirely different light. Today wetlands are more commonly perceived as natural assets and natural infrastructure able to provide a range of products, functions and services free of charge.

That which actually constitutes a wetland is often not fully understood. Common misconceptions have been that wetlands must be wet, must have a river running through them, or must always be situated in low-lying areas. The definition of a wetland is much broader and more textured: they are characterised more by soil properties and flora than by an abundance of water. The National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 defines a wetland as:

“land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is periodically covered with water, and which land in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil”.

The Ramsar Convention defines wetlands as:

“areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6m” (Article 1, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 1971).

Wetlands can therefore be seasonal and may experience regular dry spells (sometimes even staying dry for up to several years), or they can be frequently or permanently wet. Wetlands can occur in a variety of locations across the landscape (**Figure 1**), and may even occur at the top of a hill, nowhere near a river. A pan, for example, is a wetland which forms in a depression. Wetlands also come in many sizes; they can be as small as a few square metres (e.g. at a low point along the side of a road) or cover a significant portion of a country (e.g. the Okavango Delta).



Plate A: A large, seasonal wetland identifiable by the characteristic flora. This wetland contained no surface water at the time of the photograph.

Wetland ecosystems provide a range of ecological and social services which benefit people, society and the economy at large:

- Wetland services such as water provision, regulation, purification and groundwater replenishment are crucial in addressing objectives of water security and water for food security.
- Wetlands play a critical role in improving the ecological health of an ecosystem by performing many functions that include flood control, water purification, sediment and nutrient retention and export, recharge of groundwater, as well as acting as vital habitats for diverse plant and animal species.
- Ecological infrastructure replaces the need for municipal infrastructure by providing the same or better benefit at a fraction of the costs.
- Wetlands retard the movement of water in the landscape, which offers the dual benefit of flood control and a purifying effect as the slow movement of water allows heavier impurities to settle and phreatic vegetation and micro-bacteria opportunity to remove nutrients. For these reasons, artificially created wetlands are often used in newer urban drainage systems to aid both mitigation of flooding and improvement of water quality.
- Wetlands function as valuable open spaces and create recreational opportunities for people that include hiking, fishing, boating, and bird-watching.
- Many wetlands also have cultural and spiritual significance for the communities living nearby. Commercially, products such as reeds and peat, are also harvested from wetlands.

Wetlands are thus considered to be critically important ecosystems as they provide both direct and indirect benefits to the environment and society.



Plate B: Commercial products made by locals from reeds harvested from wetlands

3. Wetland Degradation

It has been estimated that originally over 10% of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was covered by wetlands; however, this figure decreases significantly every year owing to unsustainable land-use practices. It is estimated that more than 50% of South Africa's wetlands have been destroyed through drainage of wetlands for crops and pastures, poorly managed burning regimes, overgrazing, disturbances to wetland soils, vegetation clearing as well as industrial and urban development (including mining activities).

Although wetlands are high-value ecosystems that make up only a small fraction of the country, they rank among the most threatened ecosystems in South Africa. According to a recent CSIR study¹ South Africa's remaining wetlands were identified as the most threatened of all South Africa's ecosystems, with 48% of wetland ecosystem types being critically endangered, 12% endangered and 5% vulnerable. Only 11% of wetland ecosystem types are well protected, with 71% not protected at all.

The remaining wetland systems suffer severe erosion and sedimentation, undesirable plant species and aquatic fauna infestations, unsustainable exploitation, artificial drainage and damming, and pollution. The continued degradation of wetlands will impact on biodiversity, ecological function, and the provision ecosystems services with subsequent impacts on livelihoods and economic activity, as well as health and wellbeing of communities. In the absence of functional wetlands, the carbon cycle, the nutrient cycle and the water cycle would be significantly altered, mostly detrimentally.

Wetland rehabilitation and conservation should be at the heart of water management. It is necessary to prioritise South Africa's remaining wetlands such that those that offer valuable ecosystem services and are least impacted by current pressures or threats are offered immediate attention to avoid further loss, conversion or degradation.

4. The Working for Wetlands Programme

South Africa is a dry country, but is endowed with exceptionally rich biodiversity. The nation has a pressing reason to value the water-related services that wetlands provide: by 2025, South Africa will be one of fourteen African countries classified as "*subject to water scarcity*". The conservation of wetlands is fundamental to the

¹ Nel J.L. and Driver A. 2012. South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2011: Technical Report. Volume 2: Freshwater Component. CSIR Report Number CSIR/NRE/ECO/IR/2012/0022/A, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Stellenbosch.

sustainable management of water quality and quantity, and wetland rehabilitation is therefore essential to conserving water resources in South Africa.

The guiding principles of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998, recognise the need to protect water resources. In responding to the challenge of stemming the loss of wetlands and maintaining and enhancing the benefits they provide, government has recognised that, in order to be truly effective, strategies for wetland conservation need to include a combination of proactive measures for maintaining healthy wetlands, together with interventions for rehabilitating those that have been degraded. These objectives are currently being expressed in a coordinated and innovative way through the WfWetlands Programme.

The two main objectives of the WfWetlands Programme are **wetland conservation** in South Africa and **poverty reduction** through **job creation** and **skills development** amongst **vulnerable** and **marginalised** groups.

Wetland conservation: The strategic framework of the WfWetlands Programme underlines the need for a more refined planning process at catchment scale. Catchment scale planning seeks to promote ecosystem-scale outcomes, long-term custodianship, and the entrenchment of rehabilitation in broader local institutions and frameworks. The recent move to a systematic wetland rehabilitation planning process has provided a fertile and conducive platform for partnerships to be formed and/or strengthened as the process draws in a much wider stakeholder base.

Wetlands are not easy ecosystems to map at a broad scale as they are numerous, often small and difficult to recognise and delineate on remotely sensed imagery such as satellite photos. The WfWetlands Programme houses the National Wetlands Inventory Project (NWI) which aims to provide clarity on the extent, distribution and condition of South Africa's wetlands. The project clarifies how many and which rivers and wetlands have to be maintained in a natural condition to sustain economic and social development, while still conserving South Africa's freshwater biodiversity.

The National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) has used the NWI data to produce the most comprehensive national wetland map to date, called the NFEPA Atlas. This atlas enables the planning of wetland rehabilitation on a catchment scale.

Skills development: In the 12 years since its inception, the WfWetlands Programme has invested R530 million in wetland rehabilitation and has been involved in over 900 wetlands, thereby improving or securing the health of over 70 000 hectares of wetland environment. The WfWetlands Programme currently has a budget of approximately R94 million per year, of which R32 million is allocated directly to paying wages. Being part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), the WfWetland Programme has created more than 12 800 jobs and 2.2 million person-days of paid work. The local teams are made up of a minimum of 60% women, 20% youth and 1% disabled persons.

Training and Capacity Building during the Working for Wetlands Programme

The WfWetlands Programme has established a working relationship with the Department of Public Works through the Working for Water programme. This partnership provides accredited training in accordance with the special public works Code of Good Practice agreements. Capacity building in the WfWetlands Programme operates primarily at two levels:

- The first concerns the need to ensure the development of adequate capacity to rehabilitate, manage and conserve wetlands in South Africa.
- The second relates to the commitment of the WfWetlands Programme as an EPWP to provide appropriate training to its workers in order for them to exit the programme with marketable skills and enhanced personal development.

Workers receive two days of training, either vocational or social development-related, for every 22 days worked. Vocational training includes technical matters related to project activities, occupational health and safety, first aid, fire awareness, and business skills (contractor development). Social development includes literacy, primary health, personal finance, HIV/Aids and diversity awareness.

Wage information sourced from the best practice guidelines suggests that workers and contractors would be paid daily rates of R 82 and R 2512 respectively and would be employed on limited term contracts, i.e. 24 months in a five-year cycle. Employment of workers complies with the Ministerial Determination on Special Public Works Programmes (Government Notice No. R 63, 25 January 2002) and the Code of Good Practice for Employment and Conditions of Work for Special Public Works Programmes (Government Notice No. R 64, 25 January 2002).

Targets for employment specify that the programme's workforce should comprise at least 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disabled people.

The WfWetlands Programme engages with provinces, especially government departments and agencies responsible for biodiversity and environment, and municipalities through individual projects. A stronger working relationship with these spheres of government is being promoted through the programme's emphasis on partnerships. In particular, compatibility with Integrated Development Plans and rehabilitation project objectives will be a key area of future focus. The WfWetlands Programme encourages municipalities to participate in provincial wetland forums as these forums are the platform for the roll out of all the programmes' processes, including planning for future work. Provincial forums also offer support from the government departments and private sectors that are represented. Partnerships with non-governmental organizations and the private sector are also critical, requiring collaboration and cooperation with a wider range of stakeholders and role players in the wetland management field.

Other activities that form part of the WfWetlands Programme include:

- Raising awareness of wetlands among workers, landowners and the general public; and
- Providing adult basic education and training, and technical skills transfer (in line with the emphasis of the EPWP on training, the WfWetlands Programme has provided 168 400 days of training in vocation and life skills).

²Without a Supervisor

5. Rehabilitation interventions

The successful rehabilitation of a wetland requires that the cause of damage or degradation is addressed, and that the natural flow patterns of the wetland system are re-established (and flow is encouraged to disperse rather than to concentrate). Approximately 500 interventions are implemented every year in the WfWetlands Programme. The key purposes of implementing interventions include:

- 1 Restoration of hydrological integrity (e.g. raising the general water table or redistributing the water across the wetland area);
- 2 Recreation of wetland habitat towards the conservation of biodiversity; and
- 3 Job creation and social upliftment.

Typical activities undertaken within the projects include:

- Plugging artificial drainage channels created by development or historical agricultural practices to drain wetland areas for other land use purposes;
- Constructing structures (gabions, berms, weirs) to divert or redistribute water to more natural flow paths, or to prevent erosion by unnatural flow rates that have resulted from unsustainable land use practices or development; and
- Removing invasive alien or undesirable plant species from wetlands and their immediate catchments (in conjunction with the Working for Water initiative).

Increased labour requirement for the Working for Wetlands Programme

In response to the government request to increase the labour component of all government funded projects, the WfWetlands Programme project team has had to consider, and where practically feasible incorporate, more labour intensive ways of rehabilitating wetlands in order to obtain the increased labour component. Accordingly the project team members have factored this requirement into their planning when designing structures for wetland rehabilitation.

Methods of wetland rehabilitation may include hard engineering interventions such as:

- Earth berms or gabion systems to block artificial channels that drain water from or divert polluted water to the wetland;
- Concrete and gabion weirs to act as settling ponds, to reduce flow velocity or to re-disperse water across former wetland areas thereby re-establishing natural flow paths;
- Earth or gabion structures plugs to raise channel floors and reduce water velocity;
- Concrete or gabion structures to stabilise head-cut or other erosion and prevent gullies; and
- Gabion structures (mattresses, blankets or baskets) to provide a platform for the growth of desired wetland vegetation.

Soft engineering interventions also offer successful rehabilitation methods, and the following are often used together with the hard engineering interventions:

- The re-vegetation of stabilised areas with appropriate wetland and riparian species;
- The fencing off of sensitive areas within the wetland to keep grazers out and to allow for vegetation to become re-established;
- The use of biodegradable or natural soil retention systems such as eco-logs, plant plugs, grass or hay bales, and brush-packing techniques;

- In some instances, the use of appropriate fire management and burning regimes. The removal of undesirable plant and animal species; and
- Alien invasive plant clearing is an important part of wetland rehabilitation (and this is supported by the Working for Water Programme).

6. Programme, projects and phases

In order to manage the **WfWetlands Programme**, wetlands have been grouped into “projects”, and each **Wetland Project** encompasses several smaller wetland systems which are each divided into smaller, more manageable and homogenous wetland units. A Wetland Project may be located within one or more quaternary catchments within a Province. SANBI is currently managing 35 Wetland Projects countrywide, and rehabilitation activities range from stabilising degradation to the more ambitious restoration of wetlands to their original conditions.

Each Wetland Project is managed in three phases over a two-year cycle as shown in the flow diagram in Figure 3 below. The first two phases straddle the first year of the cycle and involve planning, identification, design and authorisation of interventions. The third phase is implementation, which takes place during the second year.

The first phase is the identification of suitable wetlands which require intervention. The purpose of Phase 1 and the associated reporting is to identify:

- Priority catchments and associated wetlands/ sites within which rehabilitation work needs to be undertaken; and
- Key stakeholders who will provide meaningful input into the planning phases and wetland selection processes, and who will review and comment on the rehabilitation proposals.

The **Project Team** currently comprises the SANBI Programme Manager who oversees the WfWetlands Programme and Provincial Coordinators (PCs) who oversee the identification and implementation of projects in their regions. They are supported by a small team based at the Pretoria Botanical Gardens who fulfil various roles such as planning, monitoring and evaluation, implementation, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and training. Independent design engineers and environmental assessment practitioners (EAPs) are appointed to undertake the planning, design and authorisation components of the project. The project team is assisted by a number of wetland ecologists who provide scientific insight into the operation of wetlands and bring expert and often local knowledge to the project teams.

The programme makes use of external support to implement its work. External implementing agents are currently employed and some are Section 21 companies. Implementers are responsible for employing contractors and their teams (workers), and ensuring that rehabilitation plans are adequately implemented. Funds are transferred from SANBI to the implementing agents, who in turn pay contractors and their teams.

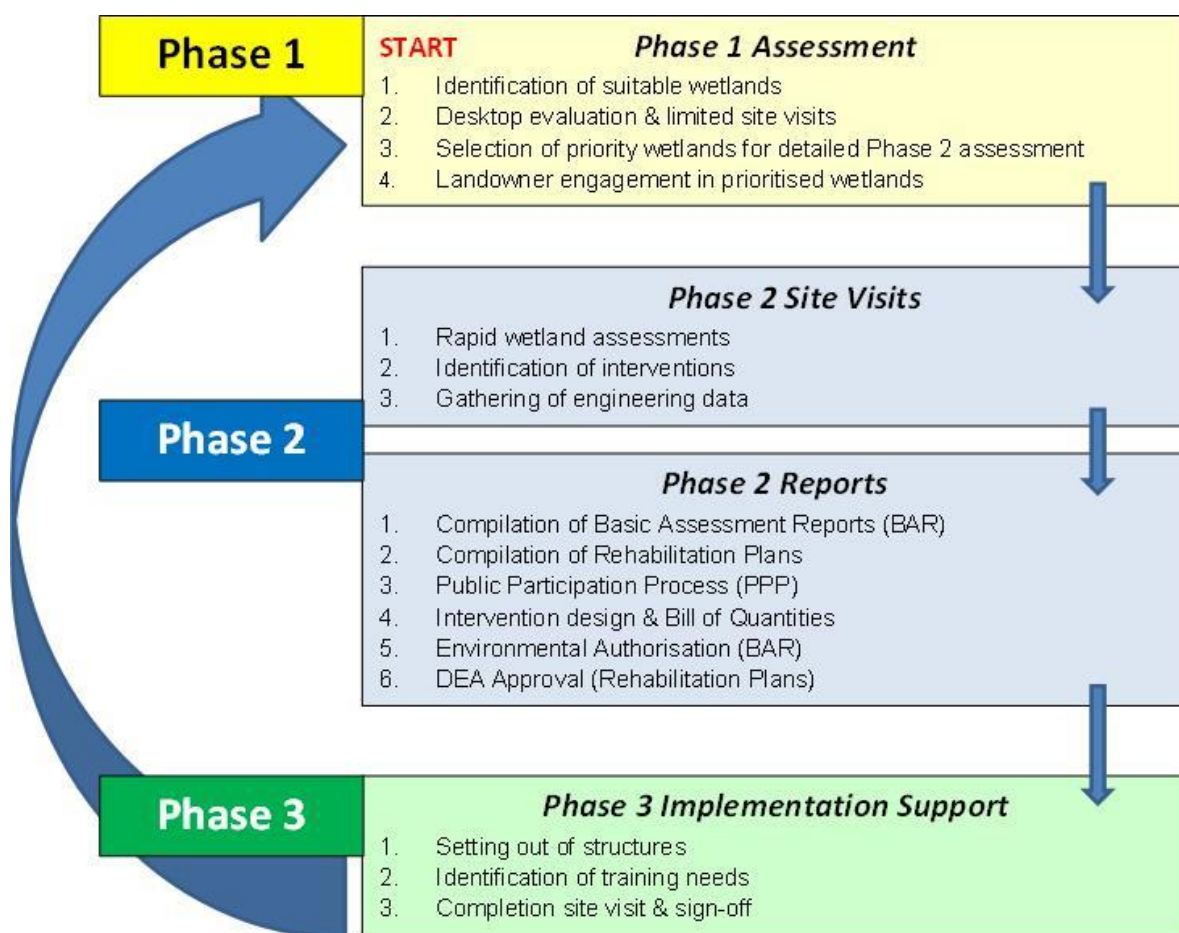


Plate C: The Working for Wetlands planning process (Phase 1 to Phase 3)

Phase 1 commences with a catchment and wetland prioritisation process for every province. The wetland ecologist responsible for a particular province undertakes a desktop study to determine the most suitable wetlands for the WfWetlands rehabilitation efforts. The involvement of Provincial Wetland Forums and other key stakeholders is a critical component of the wetland identification processes since these stakeholders are representative of diverse groups with shared interests (e.g. from government institutions to amateur ecological enthusiasts). This phase also involves initial communication with local land-owners and other Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to gauge the social benefits of the work. Aerial surveys of the areas in question may be undertaken, as well as limited fieldwork investigations or site visits to confirm the inclusion of certain wetland projects or units. Once wetlands have been prioritised and agreed on by the various parties, specific rehabilitation objectives are determined for each wetland following a rapid wetland status quo assessment undertaken by the wetland ecologist.

Phase 2 requires site visits attended by the fieldwork team comprising a wetland ecologist, a design engineer, an environmental assessment practitioner, and a SANBI provincial coordinator. Other interested stakeholders or authorities, landowners and in some instances the implementing agents may also attend the site visits on some occasions. This allows a highly collaborative approach to be used, as options are discussed by experts from different scientific disciplines, as well as local inhabitants with deep anecdotal knowledge. While on site, rehabilitation opportunities are investigated. Details of the proposed interventions are discussed, some survey work is undertaken by the engineers, and GPS coordinates and digital photographs are taken for record purposes. Appropriate dimensions of the locations are recorded in order to design and calculate quantities for the

interventions. At the end of the site visit the rehabilitation objectives together with the location layout of the proposed interventions are agreed upon by the project team.

During Phase 2, monitoring systems are put in place to support the continuous evaluation of interventions. The systems monitor both the environmental and social benefits of the interventions. As part of Phase 2 site visit, a maintenance inventory of any existing interventions that are damaged and / or failing and thus requiring maintenance is compiled by the PC, in consultation with the Design Engineer.

Based on certain criteria and data measurements (water volumes, flow rates, and soil types); the availability of materials such as rock; labour intensive targets; maintenance requirements etc., the interventions are then designed. Bills of quantity are calculated for the designs and cost estimates made. Maintenance requirements for existing interventions in the assessed wetlands are similarly detailed and costs calculated. The design engineer also reviews and, if necessary, adjusts any previously planned interventions that are included into the historical rehabilitation plans.

Phase 2 also comprises a reporting component where Rehabilitation Plans are prepared for each Wetland Project. The rehabilitation plans include details of each intervention to be implemented, preliminary construction drawings and all necessary documentation required by applicable legislation. The rehabilitation plans are reviewed by various government departments, stakeholders and the general public before a specific subset of interventions are selected for implementation.

Phase 3 requires that certain environmental authorisations are obtained before work can commence in the wetlands (please see subsequent sections of this document for detail on Environmental Authorisations). Upon approval of the wetland rehabilitation plans by DEA, DWA, and the directly affected landowners is obtained, the work detailed for the project will be implemented within a year with on-going monitoring being undertaken thereafter. The Rehabilitation Plans are considered to be the primary working document for the implementation of the project via the construction/ undertaking of interventions³ listed in the Plan.

It is typically at this point in the process when the final construction drawings are issued to the implementing agents. Seventeen implementing agents are currently employed in the WfWetlands Programme and are responsible for employing contractors and their teams (workers) to construct the interventions detailed in each of the Rehabilitation Plans. For all interventions that are based on engineering designs (typically hard engineered interventions), the design engineer is required to visit the site before construction commences to ensure that the original design is still appropriate in the dynamic and ever-changing wetland system. The design engineer will assist the IAs in pegging and setting-out interventions. The setting-out activities often coincide with the Phase 1 activities for the next planning cycle. Phase 3 concludes with the construction of the interventions, but there is an on-going monitoring and auditing process that ensures the quality of interventions, the rectification of any problems, and the feedback to the design team regarding lessons learnt.

³ This could include soft options such as alien clearing, eco-logs, gabion structures as well as hard structures for example weirs

Rehabilitation work within floodplain systems

Based on lessons learnt and project team discussions held during the National Prioritisation workshop in November 2010 SANBI took an in-principle decision regarding work within floodplain systems.

Recognising the ecosystem services provided by floodplain wetlands and the extent to which they have been transformed, SANBI do not intend to stop undertaking rehabilitation work in floodplains entirely. Instead, SANBI propose to adopt an approach to the rehabilitation of floodplain areas that takes into account the following guiding principles:

1. As a general rule, avoid constructing hard interventions within an active floodplain channel; and rather
2. Explore rehabilitation opportunities on the floodplain surface using smaller (possibly more) softer engineering options outside of the main channel.

When rehabilitation within a floodplain setting is being contemplated, it will be necessary to allocate additional planning resources, including the necessary specialist expertise towards ensuring an adequate understanding of the system and appropriate design of interventions.

7. Legislative Context

One of the core purposes of the WfWetlands Programme is the preservation of South Africa's valuable wetland systems through rehabilitation and restoration. The WfWetlands Programme operates within the context of the Constitution of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996, whereby everyone has the right to have the environment protected and conserved for the benefit of present and future generations. The following legislation (listed in Table A) informs and guides the WfWetlands Programme in terms of its vision and objectives, whilst simultaneously regulating the wetland rehabilitation activities which WfWetlands carries out.

South Africa has rigorous and comprehensive environmental legislation aimed at preventing degradation of the environment, including damage to wetland systems. Development proposals within or near any wetland system are subject to thorough bio-physical and socio-economic assessment as mandatory processes of related legislation. These processes are required to prevent degradation of the environment and to ensure sustainable and environmentally conscientious development.

The WfWetlands Programme requires that both hard and soft interventions are implemented in the wetland system, and it is the activities associated with the construction of these interventions that triggers requirements for various authorisations, licenses or permits. However, it is important to note that the very objective of the WfWetlands Programme is to improve both environmental and social circumstances. The WfWetlands Programme gives effect to a range of policy objectives of environmental legislation, and also honours South Africa's commitments under several international agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Memorandum of Understanding for Working for Wetlands Programme

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been entered into between the DAFF, DEA, DWA and SANBI for the WfWetlands Programme. Through co-operative governance and partnerships, this MOU aims to streamline the authorisation processes required by the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998, the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998, and the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 to facilitate efficient processing of applications for authorisation of wetland rehabilitation activities.

Table 1: List of applicable legislation

Title of legislation, policy or guideline:	Administering authority:	Date:
The Constitution of South Africa, Act No.108 of 1996	National Government	1996
National Environmental Management Act, No.107 of 1998	Department of Environmental Affairs	1998
National Environmental Management Act (as amended)	Department of Environmental Affairs	2008
The National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998	Department of Water Affairs	1998
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No. 43 of 1983	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	1983
National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999	National Heritage Resources Agency	1999
World Heritage Conventions Act, No. 49 of 1999	Department of Environmental Affairs	1999
The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004	Department of Environmental Affairs	2004
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003	Department of Environmental Affairs	2003
The Mountain Catchments Areas Act, No. 63 of 1970	Department of Water Affairs	1970
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA Guideline Series, in particular: • Guideline 3 – General Guide to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006 (DEAT 2006) • Guideline 4 – Public Participation in support of the EIA regulations, 2006 (DEAT 2006) • Guideline 5 – Assessment of Alternatives and Impacts, 2006 (DEAT 2006) • Implementation Guidelines: Sector Guidelines for the EIA Regulations (draft) (DEA, 2010). • DEA&DP. 2013. Guideline on Public Participation (DEA&DP, March 2013). • DEA&DP. 2013. Guideline on Alternatives (DEA&DP, March 2013). 	Department of Environmental Affairs	2006 - 2013
International Conventions, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramsar Convention • Convention on Biological Diversity • United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification • New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) • The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) 	International Conventions	N/A

Of particular relevance in Table A is the following legislation and the WfWetlands Programme has put systems in place to achieve compliance:

- The National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA)
 - In terms of Regulations pursuant to the NEMA, certain activities that may have a detrimental impact on the environment (termed Listed Activities) require an Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The implementation of interventions will trigger NEMA Listing Notices 1 and 3 (G.N. R544 and G.N R546 respectively). In order to meet the requirements of these Regulations, it is necessary to undertake a Basic Assessment Process and apply for an EA. This was previously undertaken on an annual basis per Province as the Wetland Projects became

known. However as from 2014, an application is now made per Province for Wetland Projects required in the next few planning cycles (anywhere from one to three planning cycles depending on the information gained through the Catchment Prioritisation Process).

- **Basic Assessment Reports (BARs)** will be prepared for each Province where work is proposed by the WfWetlands Programme. These BARs will present all Wetland Projects that are proposed in a particular province, together with information regarding the quaternary catchments and the wetlands that have been prioritised for the next few planning cycles (anywhere from one to three planning cycles depending on the information gained through the Catchment Prioritisation Process). The EA's will be inclusive of all Listed Activities that may be triggered and will essentially authorise any typical wetland rehabilitation activities required during the WfWetlands Programme implementation phase.
- A condition of the EA's is that **Rehabilitation Plans** will be prepared every year after sufficient field work has been undertaken in the wetlands that have an EA. These Rehabilitation Plans will be made available to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) before being submitted to DEA for approval. The Rehabilitation Plans will describe the combination and number of interventions selected to meet the rehabilitation objectives for each Wetland Project, as well as an indication of the approximate location and approximate dimensions (including footprint) of each intervention.
- The National Water Act, No.36 of 1998 (NWA)
 - In terms of Section 39 of the NWA, a General authorisation⁴ (GA) has been granted for certain activities that are listed under the NWA that usually require a Water Use License; as long as these activities are undertaken for wetland rehabilitation. These activities include '*impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse*⁵' and '*altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse*⁶' where they are specifically undertaken for the purposes of rehabilitating⁷ a wetland for conservation purposes. SANBI are required to register the 'water use' in terms of the GA.
- The National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

In terms of Section 38 of the NHRA; any person who intends to undertake a development as categorised in the NHRA must at the very earliest stages of initiating the development notify the responsible heritage resources authority, namely the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the relevant provincial heritage agency. These agencies would in turn indicate whether or not a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) would need to be undertaken. Should a permit be required for the damaging or removal of specific heritage resources, a separate application will be submitted to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency for the approval of such an activity. SANBI has engaged with SAHRA regarding the wetland planning process and has committed to achieving full compliance with the heritage act over the next few years.

⁴Government Notice No. 1198, 18 December 2009

⁵Section 21(c) of the NWA, No. 36 of 1998

⁶Section 21(i) of the NWA, No. 36 of 1998

⁷Defined in the NWA as "*the process of reinstating natural ecological driving forces within part of the whole of a degraded watercourse to recover former or desired ecosystem structure, function, biotic composition and associated ecosystem services*"

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I. CONTEXT OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REHABILITATION PLAN

Approach to the NEMA Environmental Process

The legislation protecting the environment in South Africa was not written with the intention of preventing wetland rehabilitation efforts, but rather at curtailing development in sensitive environments. It is important to remember that the WfWetlands Programme is not a development proposal, and although this programme technically requires authorisations, licenses and permits, such rehabilitation projects were never meant to be sent through legislative processes aimed at preventing negative environmental impact.

In terms of the environmental management principles of the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), certain activities that may have a detrimental impact on the environment (termed Listed Activities) require Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The WfWetlands Programme will require that interventions be implemented and/or constructed in the wetland systems to ultimately restore some of the more natural wetland functions that have been lost to unsustainable land use practices or development. The implementation of certain interventions triggers Listing Notices 1 and 3 (G.N. R544 and G.N. R546 respectively).

In order to meet the requirements of the Regulations pursuant to NEMA, it was necessary to undertake a Basic Assessment Process. Basic Assessment Report (BARs) were prepared and these reports presented all Wetland Projects for each Province, together with information regarding the quaternary catchments and the wetlands that were prioritised for the next few planning cycles (anywhere from one to three planning cycles depending on the information gained through the Catchment Prioritisation Process).

The EA that has been obtained for the Wetland Projects in this Province is inclusive of all Listed Activities that may be triggered whilst implementing the wetland rehabilitation interventions. Essentially this EA authorises any typical wetland rehabilitation activities required during the WfWetlands Programme implementation phase on condition that the specific intervention proposals are submitted in a Rehabilitation Plan to DEA for approval.

The Rehabilitation Plans for each Wetland Project will be prepared annually after sufficient field work and stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in the wetlands that have an EA. These Rehabilitation Plans will be submitted to DEA for approval as a condition of the EA for the respective Provincial BAR.

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III. ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BGIS	Biodiversity Geographical Information System
BMP	Best Management Practise
CARA	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Programme
CPP	Catchment Prioritisation Process
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DWA	Department of Water Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorisation in terms of the NEMA
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
EMP	Environmental Management Programme
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
GA	General authorisation in terms of the NWA
GIS	Geographical Information System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
IA	Implementing Agent
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties
IDP	Integrated Development Plans
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAP	Mean Annual Precipitation
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NFEPA	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
NWA	National Water Act
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OHSA	Occupational Health and Safety Act
PC	Provincial Coordinator
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
PPP	Public Participation Process
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANParks	South African National Parks
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
SPWP	Special Public Works Programme
WfWetlands	Working for Wetlands

IV. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Auger: An instrument used for boring or perforating soils or rocks, in order to determine the quality of soil, or the nature of the rocks or strata upon which they lie, and for obtaining water (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

Avulsion: An abrupt change in the course of a stream from one flow path to another.

Bedload: Sediment that is transported by being rolled or bounced along the bed of the stream (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

Bedrock: The solid rock that underlies unconsolidated material, such as soil, sand, clay, or gravel (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

BAR: A report as described in regulation 23 of the EIA regulation, 2006 that describes the proposed activities and their potential impacts.

BID: A short document describing, and inviting I&APs to comment on, the proposed activities for which authorization is sought.

BMP: Procedures and guidelines to ensure the effective and appropriate implementation of wetland rehabilitation by WfWet implementers.

Biophysical: The biological and physical components of the environment (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

Catchment: All the land area from mountaintop to seashore which is drained by a single river and its tributaries. Each catchment in South Africa has been subdivided into secondary catchments, which in turn have been divided into tertiary catchments. Finally, all tertiary catchments have been divided into interconnected quaternary catchments. A total of 1946 quaternary catchments have been identified for South Africa. These subdivided catchments provide the main basis on which catchments are subdivided for integrated catchment planning and management (consult DWAF [1994]) (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

Collation Report: A report describing the Basic Assessment process followed for a provinces and collating the Basic Assessment reports for the various WfWet Projects within a province.

EAP: The individual responsible for the planning, management and coordination of the environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments, environmental management plans and/or other appropriate environmental instruments introduced through regulations of NEMA.

Eco-log: A cylindrical wire mesh sleeve filled with organic material and/or soil used to prevent and/ or repair minor erosion.

Ecosystem Services or 'eco services': The services such as sediment trapping or water supply, supplied by an ecosystem (in this case a wetland ecosystem).

EIA: A study of the environmental consequences of a proposed course of action via the process of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant to the consideration of that application.

Gabion: A structure made of wire mesh baskets filled with regularly sized stones, and used to prevent and/ or repair erosion. They are flexible and permeable structures which allow

water to filter through them. Vegetation and other biota can also establish in/around the habitat they create.

I&APs: People and organizations that have interest(s) in the proposed activities.

Environmental Impact: An environmental change caused by some human act.

Implementer: The person or organization responsible for the construction of WfWet rehabilitation interventions.

Intervention: An engineered structure such as a concrete or gabion weir, earthworks or re-vegetation that achieves identified objectives within a wetland e.g. raising of the water table within a drainage canal.

Mitigation: Actions to reduce the impact of a particular activity.

Maintenance: The replacement, repair or the reconstruction of an existing structure within the same footprint, in the same location, having the same capacity and performing the same function as the previous structure ('like for like').

Perched wetland: A wetland where the wetland water table is higher than the local and regional water-table (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

PPP: A process of involving the public in order to identify issues and concerns, and obtain feedback on options and impacts associated with a proposed project, programme or development. Public Participation Process in terms of NEMA refers to: a process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to specific project matters.

Project: An area of WfWet intervention generally defined by a quaternary catchment or similar management unit such as a national park in which a single implementer operates.

Q value: The peak flow (m³/s) for which a structure is designed, based on a given likely return period rainfall within the catchment

Quaternary Catchment : All land area drained by a fourth order tributary river and its tributaries.

Rehabilitation: Refers to re-instating the driving ecological forces (including hydrological, geomorphological and biological processes) that underlie a wetland, so as to improve the wetland's health and the ecological services that it delivers.

Rehabilitation: Restoring processes and characteristics that are sympathetic to and not conflicting with the natural dynamic of an ecological or physical system (Wetland Management Series: WET-Origins, WRC Report TT 334/08, March 2008).

Significant impact: An impact that by its magnitude, duration, intensity or probability of occurrence may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment.

Weir: A dam-type structure placed across a watercourse to raise the water table of the surrounding ground and trap sediment on the upstream face without preventing water flow. Weirs are generally used to prevent erosion from progressing up exposed gullies.

Wetland: "Land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is periodically covered with shallow

water and which in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soils.” (SA Water Act of 1998).

V. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

In compiling this report, the following has been assumed:

- The information provided in this report is based on site visits that have been undertaken by the project team (EAP, Engineer, Wetland Ecologist, and SANBI PC) and their subsequent input into the Reporting, which includes intervention design drawings, the wetland status quo, in addition to input from SANBI's PC. It is understood that this information is sufficient for the authorisation processes and associated Phase 3 (Implementation phase). This data and relevant information has informed the findings and conclusions of this report.
- The level of planning carried out for each project area was dependant on the information contained in the Phase 1 reports undertaken by the wetland specialist (2013), the Basic Assessment Rapport (BAR) approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) on xxx and in some cases, previously prepared Rehabilitation Plans (2012); along with the Phase 2 site visits that were undertaken during 2013. This document should therefore be read in conjunction with any existing, project-related reports (i.e. Phase 1 assessments, BAR or previous rehabilitation plans).
- Information contained in this Report will be used during Phase 3 to guide and inform the Implementing Agents on design and construction specifications as part of Phase 3. Implementing Agents will thus use this Rehabilitation Plan and the information contained therein when constructing all interventions, the designs of which have been included in this Report.
- SANBI's PCs will be undertaking the landowner engagement and have obtained the requisite landowner consent forms required as part of Phase 1 and 2 of this project. These include:
 - WW(0): Standard operating procedure,
 - WW(1): Wetland survey and Inspection consent,
 - WW(2): Terms and Conditions for carrying out wetland rehabilitation,
 - WW(3): Wetland Rehabilitation Activities Consent, and
 - WW(4): Property Inspection Prior to Wetland Rehabilitation.
- SANBI have provided all relevant information and documentation required to compile this Rehabilitation Plan.
- Rehabilitation activities should not be carried out until the final Wetland Rehabilitation Plan has been approved by DEA and formally signed off by SANBI.
- The implementation of this rehabilitation plan must take into account all relevant provisions of Working for Wetlands Best Management Practices and Construction Environmental Management Plan, the recommendations of the Basic Assessments and the requirements of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the project.
- DEA's prerequisite to increase the requirement of percentage of funding to be spent on labour within the Working for Wetlands (WfWet) programme, has been taken into consideration by the project team during the planning process for wetland rehabilitation.

- Due to the dynamic nature of site conditions and associated biophysical changes within wetlands, this wetland rehabilitation plan is only valid for the 2013/14 financial year. Where appropriate interventions that have not been previously implemented or included in the 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/2013 and 2013/14 Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) were reviewed and where necessary re-designed for inclusion into the 2013/14 wetland rehabilitation plan. This wetland rehabilitation plan therefore supersedes all previous plans for this project and only interventions from this plan should be included in the 2014/15 PIP.
- Should it be necessary to exclude interventions from the rehabilitation plan, the prioritisation of interventions across the project should strictly be followed.

VI. GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

- The information in this Report is based on existing available information and input from SANBI's PC, the specialist wetland ecologists, the Engineer, EAP as well as comments from Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). Until this Final Report has been finalised and signed off by SANBI, the content of the Report should be considered as preliminary.
- Designs for the rehabilitation interventions have been developed for site conditions as at the time of the planning site visits. Should site conditions change before the designs are implemented, changes to the design may be necessary. In this case, project implementers may require the assistance of a professional engineer.
- The cost of construction at each project location will vary due to factors such as the local cost and availability of material, transport distances etc. The unit costs have been agreed with SANBI's PCs based on their knowledge of past projects and include an allowance for escalation.
- The labour intensive targets identified in this project are based on assumed productivity rates for various components of the construction process. This will vary in practise and will require regular monitoring to ensure that labour targets are attained.

Aurecon acknowledges the authorship of any information contained in this document from previous planning years, to the previous provider: Land Resources International (LRI).

This Report must be read in conjunction with the following reports for this project:

1. Other Phase 2 Planning Reports which include the:
 - a. Basic Assessment Report (2014),
 - b. Wetland Status Quo Report (**Appendix A** of this report).

VII. DISCLAIMER

- This Rehabilitation Plan is for the Seekoeivlei Wetland Project in the Free State Province. The plan is to be used to implement the interventions identified as necessary to rehabilitate the Seekoeivlei wetlands, and is to be approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as part of the conditions of Environmental Authorisation (EA).
- The intervention points and wetland boundary polygons provided in this report are

based on the shapefiles that have been provided by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). The datasets included in the Phase 1 Reports have been updated by the Wetland ecologists and verified by the SANBI Provincial Coordinators (PCs). All reasonable efforts have therefore been made to ensure that the data is accurate. However Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) does not accept responsibility for any remaining inaccuracies in the spatial data provided to us, which may be reflected in this report.

- Aurecon accepts responsibility for the engineering design to the extent that this is based on available information. The available information is limited to what could be interpreted during a single site visit of no longer than a few hours. No geotechnical, topographical, geomorphologic and other engineering related surveys have been undertaken to inform the design. This is non-standard engineering practice and therefore Aurecon is indemnified by the Client and does not accept responsibility for the associated risk of failure from the above limitations or any damages that may occur.
- This Rehabilitation Plan must not be amended without prior consultation and approval from DEA, the responsible Aurecon Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), Engineer, SANBI PC and the SANBI Planning, Evaluation and Monitoring Manager.
- All changes must be motivated using the standard change request form supplemented with additional information as necessary.
- Aurecon is indemnified against any associated damages and accepts no liability associated with the construction and implementation of engineering interventions due to Aurecon being instructed to have limited contact with the implementer during the construction phase resulting in our inability to diligently supervise and assess any progress.
- The Client confirms that by accepting these drawings or reports, he acknowledges and accepts the abovementioned limitation of Aurecon's liability.

VIII. DISTRIBUTION LIST

NAME	TITLE	FOR ACTION	FOR INFORMATION	RECEIVED PRIOR TO RELEASE
PROPONENT				
Umesh Bahadur	Programme Manager: Working for Wetlands		✓	
Eric Munzhedzi	Implementation Manager		✓	
Thilivhali Nyambeni	SANBI Provincial coordinator	✓		✓
NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS				
Refer to Appendix G			✓(email notification)	
PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS & I&APs				
Refer to Appendix H			✓(email notification)	
LANDOWNERS				
Refer to Appendix E			✓(E-copy of Rehab Plan)	

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Working for Wetlands programme overview

The Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) Programme is a government programme (similar to Working for Water, Working on Fire and LandCare) managed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on behalf of the national government departments of Environmental Affairs (DEA), Water Affairs (DWA), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), and forms part of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The vision of the WfWetlands Programme is to facilitate the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of wetlands in South Africa, in accordance with national policies and commitment to international conventions and regional relationships. The two main objectives of the programme are **wetland conservation** in South Africa and **poverty reduction** through job creation and skills development amongst vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The WfWetlands Programme forms part of the EPWP which seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed into the productive sector of the economy. These individuals gain skills while they work thus increasing their capacity to earn an income. Rehabilitation efforts are thus focused on wetland conservation and the appropriate use of wetlands in a way that attempts to maximize employment creation, support for small business and the transfer of skills to the unemployed and poor.

In the 12 years since its inception, the WfWetlands Programme has invested R530 million in wetland rehabilitation and has been involved in over 900 wetlands thereby improving or securing the health of over 70 000 hectares of wetland environment. The WfWetlands Programme has created more than 12 800 jobs and 2.2 million person-days of paid work. Local people are recruited to work and targets for employment specify that the programme's workforce should comprise at least 60% women, 20% youth and 2% disabled people.

1.1.1 Programme, projects and phases

In order to manage the WfWetlands Programme, prioritised wetlands that have been identified for rehabilitation have been grouped into "Wetland Projects" within each Province, and each Wetland Project encompasses several wetland systems which are each divided into smaller, more manageable and homogenous wetland units. A Wetland Project may be located within one or more quaternary catchments within a Province.

Each Project is managed in three phases over a two-year cycle. The first two phases (Phase 1 and Phase 2) straddle the first year of the cycle and involve planning, identification, design and authorisation of interventions. The third phase (Phase 3) is implementation of specific interventions to achieve rehabilitation, and this takes place during the second year. SANBI is currently managing 35 Wetland Projects countrywide, and approximately 500 interventions within these Wetland Projects will be implemented to meet the objectives of the Programme.

1.1.2 Methods of rehabilitation

The successful rehabilitation of a wetland requires that the cause of damage or degradation is addressed, and that the natural flow patterns of the wetland system are re-established (and flow is encouraged to disperse rather than to concentrate). The main aims of the WfWetlands Programme are:

- Restoration of hydrological integrity (e.g. raising the general water table or redistributing the water across the wetland area);
- Recreation of wetland habitat towards the conservation of biodiversity;
- Job creation and social upliftment.

Rehabilitation activities range from stabilising degradation to the more ambitious restoration of wetlands to their original conditions. Typical activities within the Wetland Projects include:

- Plugging artificial drainage channels created by development or historical agricultural practices to drain wetland areas for other land use purposes;
- Constructing structures (gabions, berms, weirs) to divert or redistribute water to more natural flow paths, or to prevent erosion by unnatural flow rates that have resulted from unsustainable land use practices or development.
- Removing invasive alien or undesirable plant species from wetlands and their immediate catchments as part of the Working for Water Programme.

1.1.3 Intervention options

Methods of wetland rehabilitation may include hard engineering interventions such as:

- Earth berms or gabion systems to block artificial channels that drain water from or divert polluted water to the wetland;
- Concrete weirs to act as settling ponds, to reduce flow velocity or to re-disperse water across former wetland areas thereby re-establishing natural flow paths;
- Concrete, earth or gabion structures plugs to raise channel floors and reduce water velocity;
- Concrete or gabion structures to stabilise head-cut or other erosion and prevent gullies; and
- Gabion structures (mattresses, blankets or baskets) to provide a platform for the growth of desired wetland vegetation.

Soft engineering interventions also offer successful rehabilitation methods, and the following are often used together with the hard engineering interventions:

- The re-vegetation of stabilised areas with appropriate wetland and riparian species;
- The fencing off of sensitive areas within the wetland to keep grazers out and to allow for vegetation to become re-established;
- The use of biodegradable or natural soil retention systems such as eco-logs, plant plugs, grass or hay bales, and brush-packing techniques.
- The removal of undesirable plant and animal species as part of the Working for Water initiative. Alien invasive plant clearing is an important part of wetland rehabilitation;

- In some instances, the use of appropriate fire management and burning regimes.

For more information on the WfWetlands Programme, please refer to the WfWetlands Context Document included in the front of this report.

1.2 Project team

The project team currently comprises the SANBI Programme Manager who oversees the WfWetlands Programme and provincial coordinators (PCs) who oversee the identification and implementation of projects in their regions. They are supported by a small team based at the Pretoria Botanical Gardens who fulfil various roles such as finance, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and training.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed to undertake the project activities and associated reporting required by the WfWetlands Programme. The Aurecon team comprises design engineers and environmental assessment practitioners (EAPs) who undertake the planning, design and authorisation components of the project. The Aurecon Team is assisted by an external team of Wetland Ecologists who provide scientific insight into the operation of wetlands and bring expert and often local knowledge of the wetlands. The project team is also complimented by the SANBI Provincial Coordinators (PCs) who are each responsible for provincial planning and implementation.

1.3 Free State Wetland Projects

Wetland Projects for the 2014/2015 planning cycle were identified during the Phase 1 activities associated with the WfWetlands Programme. Catchment and wetland prioritisation assessments were undertaken by the wetland ecologist/s to identify priority catchments and associated wetlands within which rehabilitation work needed to be undertaken. A review was undertaken to determine local knowledge and identify existing studies of the quaternary catchments in the province. SANBI's current five year strategic plans were further used as a guide to identify wetlands, as well as data from the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) project. Decisions on priority areas were informed by input from wetland forums, biodiversity/ conservation plans, municipalities, state departments and various other stakeholders.

Based on this process, the following quaternary catchments (and associated wetland systems) were identified for the 2014/2015 planning cycle in the Free State Province (**Table 1**):

Table 1: Free State Wetland Projects

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Wetland Number</i>	<i>Wetland System</i>
Seekoeivlei	C13C-01	Seekoeivlei
	C13C-04	Bergplaats
Maluti	C81D-01	Escol 1 (Sterkfontein NR)
	C81D-02	Escol 2 (Sterkfontein NR)
	C81D-03	Sterkfontein 1 (Sterkfontein NR)
	C81F-02	Monontsha (Qwa Qwa)
	C81H-11	Diatalawa (Maanhaar)

A basic environmental assessment application has been lodged with the National DEA on the 14 February 2014 for the undertaking of listed activities in terms of NEMA. The DEA will issue an EA that will permit the WfWetlands Programme to undertake wetland rehabilitation in the abovementioned wetland systems within the Free State Province. This Rehabilitation Plan focuses on the wetlands in the table above and is to be submitted to DEA for their approval as a condition of the EA.

1.3.1 The Seekoeivlei Wetland Project

This document comprises the Rehabilitation Plan for the Seekoeivlei Wetland Project and includes the following wetland systems: Seekoeivlei and Bergplaats. The Rehabilitation Plan will be the primary working document for the project via the implementation (construction/undertaking of) of interventions⁸ required to meet the wetland rehabilitation objectives. The document details the general methodology that has been adopted for the planning of rehabilitation interventions for identified wetlands. Details of the rehabilitation planning for each wetland and the selected intervention options (including designs, dimensions and locations) within each wetland are presented, along with baseline Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) data.

Detailed wetland status quo reports and design drawings are included as **Appendix A** of this report. Upon approval of this Rehabilitation Plan by both DEA and the directly affected landowners, the work detail for the project will be implemented within a year with on-going monitoring being undertaken from thereon.

⁸ This could include soft options such as alien clearing, eco-logs, gabion structures as well as hard structures, for example weirs.

1.4 Project scope

The scope of this Wetland Project is detailed in the **Table 2** below:

Table 2: Project Scope

Quaternary Catchments	C13C
Quaternary Catchment area (Ha)	83 668.3 Ha
Number of wetlands identified during the assessment	2
Extension of existing work (previous financial year)	Yes
Work to commence at new wetlands in 2013/ 2014	No
Available budget for new interventions	R2, 345, 015
Available budget for maintenance to existing interventions	R150, 000
Estimated cost of new interventions	R 1 621 752.62
Estimated cost of maintenance to existing interventions	R 1 490 957.98

2 GENERAL METHODOLOGY

Each Wetland Project is managed in three phases over a two-year cycle as shown in the flow diagram in **Figure 1** below. The first two phases straddle the first year of the cycle and involve planning, identification, design and authorisation of interventions. The third phase is implementation, which takes place during the second year.

2.1 Landowner consent

The flow diagram Figure 1 also clearly demonstrates the point at which various consent forms must be approved via signature from the directly affected landowner. SANBI's PCs are responsible for undertaking the necessary landowner engagement and for ensuring that the requisite landowner consent forms required as part of Phase 1 and 2 of this project are signed. These include:

- WW(0): Standard operating procedure
- WW(1): Wetland survey and Inspection consent,
- WW(2): Terms and Conditions for carrying out wetland rehabilitation,
- WW(3): Wetland Rehabilitation Activities Consent,
- WW(4): Property Inspection Prior to Wetland Rehabilitation, and
- WW(5): Notification of Completion of Rehabilitation.

Refer to **Appendix E** for a copy of the landowner agreements.

2.2 Phase 1

The wetland ecologist responsible for the Free State Province undertook a desktop study to determine the most suitable wetlands for the WfWetlands rehabilitation efforts. The involvement of Provincial Wetland Forums and other key stakeholders was a critical component of the wetland identification processes since these stakeholders are representative of diverse groups with shared interests (e.g. from government institutions to amateur ecological enthusiasts). This phase also involved initial communication with local land-owners and other interested and affected parties to gauge the social benefits of the work. The following wetlands were prioritised and agreed to by the various parties for the Seekoeivlei Wetland Project:

1. Seekoeivlei Wetland (located within Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve)
2. Bergplaats Farm

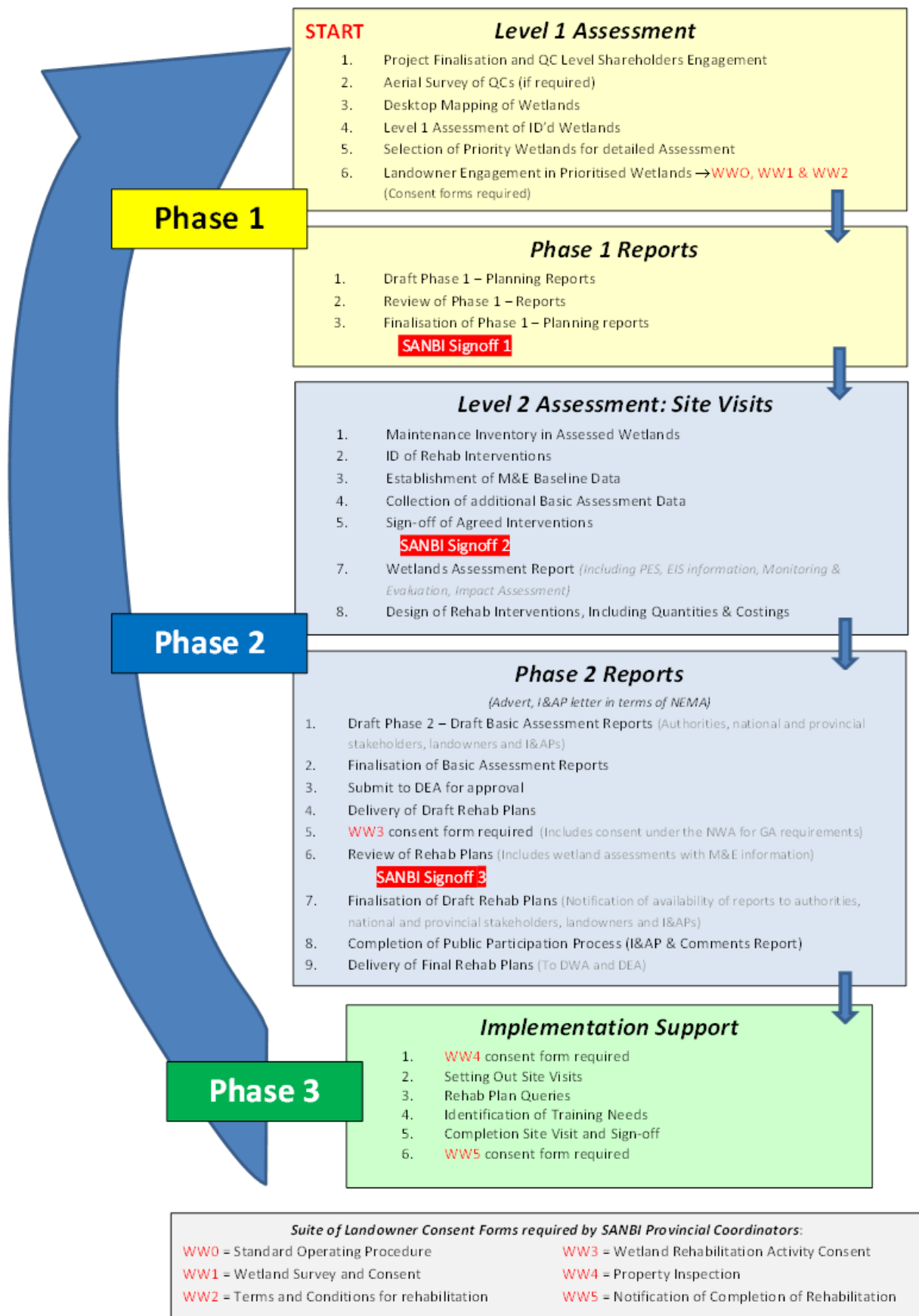


Figure 1: The three phases that must be undertaken for the successful rehabilitation of wetlands

2.3 Phase 2

2.3.1 Site visits

Phase 2 required site visits attended by the fieldwork team comprising a wetland ecologist, a design engineer, an EAP, and a SANBI provincial coordinator. Other interested stakeholders or authorities, landowners and the implementing agents also attended the site visits on this occasion. This allowed for a highly collaborative approach to be used, as options were discussed by experts from different scientific disciplines, as well as local inhabitants with deep anecdotal knowledge. The following site visits were undertaken for the Seekoeivlei Wetland Project:

1. Seekoeivlei wetland: (August/September 2013)
2. Bergplaats wetland: (September 2013)

The following team members attended the site visits:

- Thilivhali Nyambeni (SANBI PC),
- Nacelle Collins (Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs)
- Johan van der Schyff (Project implementer)
- Adam Teixeira-Leite (wetland ecologist),
- Danie Louw (engineer),

At the end of the site visit the rehabilitation objectives together with the location layout of the proposed interventions were agreed upon by the project team.

During Phase 2, monitoring systems were put in place to support the continuous evaluation of interventions. The systems monitor both the environmental and social benefits of the interventions. As part of Phase 2 site visit, a maintenance inventory of any existing interventions that were damaged and / or failing and thus requiring maintenance was compiled by the PC, in consultation with the Design Engineer.

2.3.2 Wetland Status Quo Analysis

The time and resources required for detailed assessments of the wetlands was generally limited, and thus a rapid procedure was adopted to assist the project team in systematically carrying out the assessments under constraints. The procedure was based on the following steps:

a. Assess impacts and threats

A detailed wetland status quo analysis was previously conducted for the Seekoeivlei wetland in 2009, and included both a WET-Health assessment as well as a WET-Ecoservices assessment (LRI, 2009). These previous assessments together with a geomorphic study undertaken to inform rehabilitation planning (McCarthy *et al.*, 2010) provide a sound baseline description of the overall health and functioning of the Seekoeivlei wetland (C13C-01). Given that extensive work on this system had already been undertaken in the past, the focus of the 2013 wetland status quo

analysis was on ensuring that new interventions contributed to improved wetland functioning and on obtaining an estimate of potential gains in specific areas targeted for rehabilitation activities.

A desktop review of previous studies was therefore initially undertaken with consultation with Mr. Nacelle Collins (FS DETEA) to identify focal areas still requiring further planning. These areas were then investigated and further verified in the field by the wetland ecologist, Provincial Coordinator for SANBI, Project Implementer and Mr. Nacelle Collins (FS DETEA). A rapid WET-Health assessment was then undertaken on areas targeted for wetland rehabilitation so as to provide an estimate the potential gains associated with specific planned rehabilitation interventions.

b. Set rehabilitation objectives and choose appropriate measures for achieving the objectives

Broad objectives for wetland rehabilitation have already been established during previous wetland rehabilitation planning exercises. These objectives were re-evaluated with the Provincial Coordinator for SANBI, Project Implementer and Mr. Nacelle Collins (FS DETEA). This was used to inform the rehabilitation strategy for the remaining wetland rehabilitation measures still required. This includes the identification and prioritization of appropriate interventions to achieve objectives identified.

c. Assess the likely contribution of rehabilitation interventions to wetland health and ecosystem delivery

Given the limited scope of this assessment, a simple approach was adopted in order to assess the anticipated contribution of rehabilitation on the wetland system and associated functioning:

- Assessment of the anticipated future state of the wetland if the proposed rehabilitation strategy is effectively implemented (informed by Wet-Health).
- Undertaking a rapid assessment of the benefits that are likely to result from achievement of the rehabilitation objective/s in terms of the integrity of the affected area of the wetland.
 - Impact scores with and without rehabilitation were estimated for the hydrology, geomorphology and vegetation components of health.
 - Hectare equivalents were then calculated by comparing Impact scores with and without rehabilitation for the wetland area under investigation (Cowden & Kotze, 2009).
- Potential benefits that are likely to result from achievement of the rehabilitation objective/s in terms of the ecosystem services were briefly considered and key services that are likely to be maintained / enhanced were identified.

Refer to **Appendix A** which contains the Wetland Status Quo Reports.

2.3.3 Identification and location of intervention designs

The project teams evaluated the various rehabilitation intervention options available and selected the most appropriate intervention options to achieve the rehabilitation objectives for the wetland. Choices of intervention options were also informed by the increased labour

component as required by DEA. Any previously planned interventions that had not been implemented or included into the previous planning cycle reports were assessed and included into the current year's selection, if appropriate to the re-assessed rehabilitation objectives for the wetland. Agreed cost/benefit ratios in terms of 'Rands per hectare of rehabilitated wetland' were taken into account, along with operational considerations and larger scale project objectives.

After the appropriate intervention options were selected by the planning team, the engineer, in consultation with the wetland ecologist determined the most appropriate designs and locations for the identified interventions in order to achieve the rehabilitation objectives for the wetland in question. GPS coordinates and digital photographs – sufficiently detailed to clearly identify the selected locations were then taken for record purposes. Appropriate dimensions of the locations were measured in order to be able to design and calculate quantities for the interventions.

- **Intervention naming convention**

A new naming convention was introduced in the 2011/2012 planning phase and this has been continued in this years' Rehabilitation Plans.

The **historical naming convention** for interventions is explained below:
A00A-00-000, where

Number	Explanation
A00A	quaternary number
00	wetland number
000	intervention number

The accepted **naming convention** which has been applied to all interventions (old and new) is explained below with examples being provided as well.

A00A-00-000-00 (new),

A00A-00-000-01 (maintenance), where

Number	Explanation		
A00A	quaternary number		
00	wetland number		
200	intervention number with the '200' included for differentiation from previous interventions		
00	New intervention	01	Maintenance to intervention

An additional two digits will therefore be added to the end of each of the intervention numbers to indicate maintenance on this specific intervention and/ or whether the structure is

new (00) for tracking purposes. All new interventions will have a default of 00. Should built structures require maintenance, they would be numbered numerically beginning with '01' e.g. 01, 02, 03, etc. for each year that maintenance is undertaken on the intervention. In addition, the new naming convention also added a '200' digit in the front of the intervention number to avoid confusion from previously named interventions.

2.3.4 Collection of Monitoring & Evaluation Baseline and Basic Assessments Data

In accordance with WET-Rehab-Evaluate (Cowden & Kotze, 2007) the collection of baseline monitoring information is important to allow for the evaluation of the performance of wetland rehabilitation activities. Monitoring and evaluation facilitate the dissemination of lessons learnt and provide a means of reporting on the success of specific wetland rehabilitation initiatives. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of an identified wetland rehabilitation project's performance is therefore considered vital to inform the evaluation of wetland rehabilitation success. Baseline monitoring needs to be carried out prior to the implementation of rehabilitation activities to provide comparable data for monitoring at a later stage, following the wetland rehabilitation.

While the engineer was working on measurement of the intervention locations, the wetland ecologist gathered the additional data required for M&E baselines which included the following:

- Photographs and GPS co-ordinates of the identified problems;
- Fixed-point photography (in accordance with the guidelines outlined in WET-Rehab-Evaluate: Cowden & Kotze, 2007);
- WET-Health information (allowing the comparison of wetland ecological integrity before and after rehabilitation activities); and
- Details relating to the estimated hectare equivalents.

Any additional data/information required for the assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed interventions and construction activities was also collected by the wetland ecologist and the EAP to inform the Basic Assessments.

At the end of the site visit a location layout of the agreed interventions and rehabilitation objectives was signed off by the SANBI PC and landowner, as indicated by SANBI Signoff 2 in **Figure 1**.

2.3.5 Engineering design

The detailed procedure followed by the engineers is described in the Engineering Design Brief, which documents the procedure agreed upon by Aurecon and SANBI. The document also addresses important issues such as risk and liability. A summary of the process followed for the engineering design is described below:

- A hydrological assessment was undertaken to quantify the volume of water expected to be dealt with by the intervention for various recurrence intervals. The results of this

assessment allowed the engineer to select a design flow to be applied to the intervention.

- Soil types and their anticipated characteristics were assessed including DCP results or geotechnical investigations where these had been undertaken.
- Construction materials were selected based on a range of site specific criteria including expected velocities, availability of materials such as rock, labour intensive targets, maintenance requirements etc.
- Interventions were designed based on the above to meet the objectives for wetland rehabilitation.
- The intervention designs were drafted to show, at a minimum, a plan view, a longitudinal section and front elevation at appropriate scales, and appropriate dimensions. A legend indicating basket sizes was included for gabion structures to improve design clarity for the implementers.
- Bills of quantities were calculated for the designs and cost estimates were made based on unit costs and norms for each project area, as agreed with the SANBI PC.
- The estimated budget allocation towards labour was indicated.
- Maintenance requirements for existing interventions in the assessed wetlands were similarly detailed and the anticipated costs calculated.

The engineer also reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted any previously planned interventions that are included into the current rehabilitation plan.

2.3.6 Development of the Rehabilitation Plan

The standardised Rehabilitation Plan format has been approved by SANBI Programme Manager: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Summaries of the wetland prioritisation, problems and rehabilitation objectives were documented in the Seekoeivlei Rehabilitation Plan. Detailed wetland status quo reports, based on, *inter alia*, the information collected during the implementation of WET-Tools, were prepared by the wetland ecologist and/ or the EAP, and included as **Appendix A** to this report.

The Final Seekoeivlei Rehabilitation Plan was submitted to the SANBI PC and wetland ecologist for review before it was made available to stakeholders for comment. Any comments received during the comments period were taken into account in the finalisation of the Rehabilitation Plans.

a. Reporting Format

All relevant information acquired during the assessments and field visits has been included in this document and its appendices in a hierarchy as shown in **Figure 2** below.

- a. All intervention locations are given in geographical coordinates, (degrees, minutes and seconds), based on the WGS84 datum.
- b. Mapping was done in Albers Equal Area Conic projection, WGS84 datum. The grids displayed on all maps are geographic and measured in Degrees Minutes and

Seconds. The scale bar on each map is based on Albers Equal Area Conic projection and measured in metres.

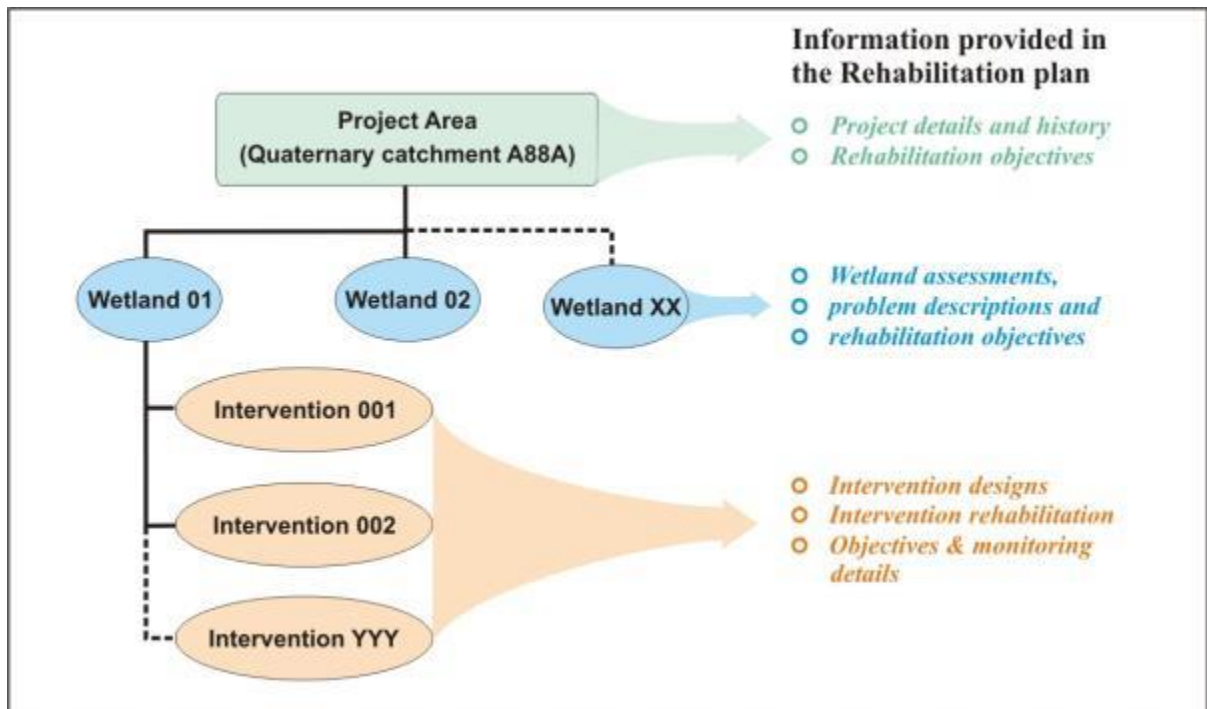


Figure 2: Hierarchy used in the Wetland Rehabilitation Plan

3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Project details

The Klip-Seekoeivlei wetland rehabilitation project is located within DWA quaternary catchment C13C, in the north-eastern Free State, just outside of the Memel town. The project is located within the upper reaches of the Klip River, a large perennial river systems and an important tributary of the Vaal River in the north. Wetland rehabilitation has been undertaken for the Seekoeivlei project area for a number of years, with the majority of the work being carried out within the Reserve portion of the Seekoeivlei wetland system. Additional work has also been undertaken in some of the smaller wetlands located along the tributaries of the Klip River further upstream of Seekoeivlei. Rehabilitation planning during 2013 focused on the Seekoeivlei/Houthoekspruit (C13C-01) and Bergplaats (C13C-04)

wetlands.

Refer

to

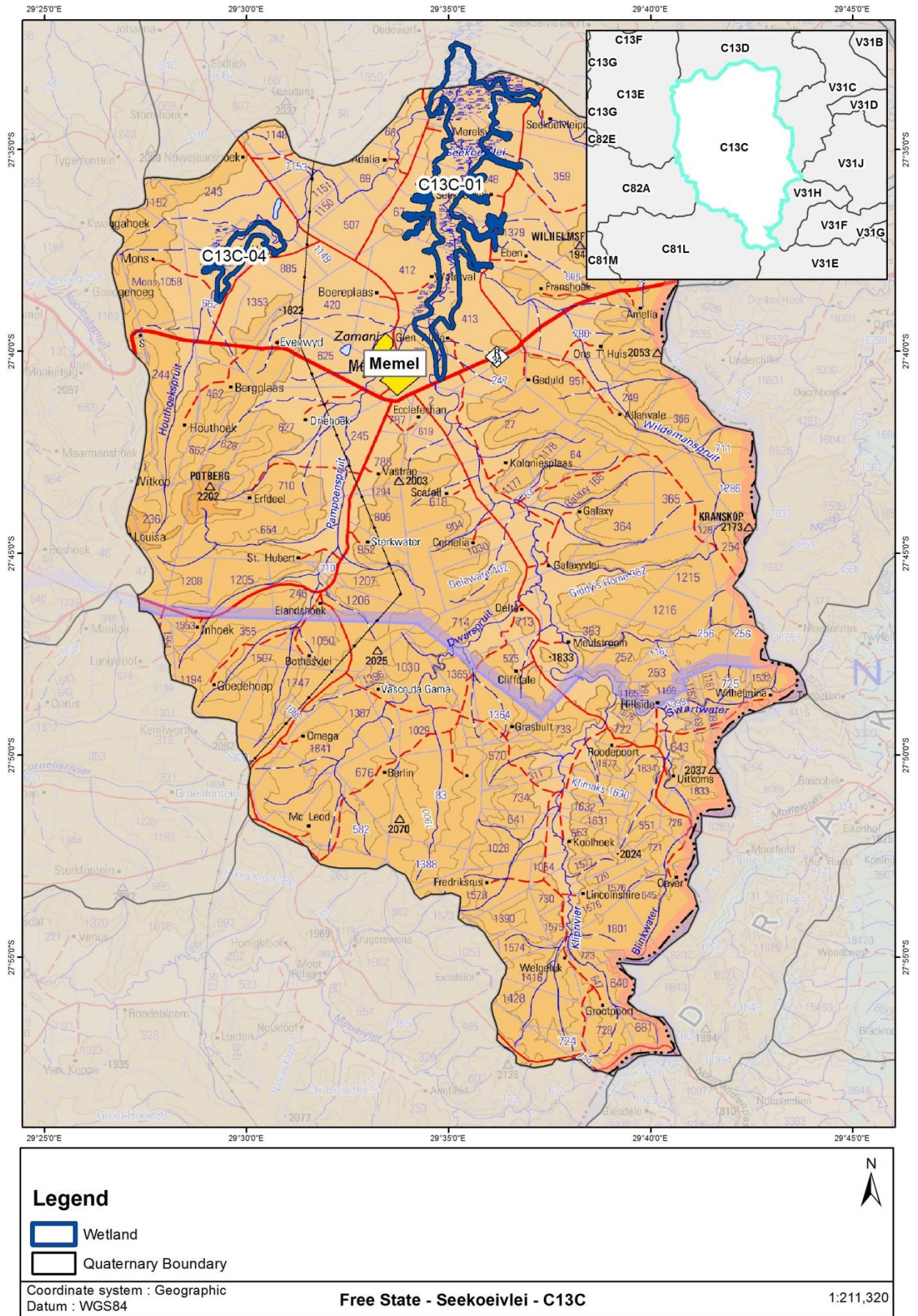


Figure 3 and Table 3 below.

Table 3: Project details

Project Name	Seekoeivlei
Region (Province)	Free State
Project Budget	R2, 495, 015
Planning Category	Category 1
Nearest Town/s	Memel
Partnership	-

Wetlands selected: The two wetlands within the Seekoeivlei Wetland Project that have been identified for rehabilitation efforts for this planning cycle are the Seekoeivlei Wetland (C13C-01) and the Bergplaats Wetland (C13C-04) (Error! Reference source not found.).

Table 4: Identified wetlands within the Seekoeivlei Wetland Project

Wetland Number	Wetland Name	Longitude	Latitude
C13C-01	Seekoeivlei	29° 35' 17.73" E	-27° 35' 13.95" S
C13C-04	Bergplaats	29° 29' 40.19" E	-27° 37' 37.03" S

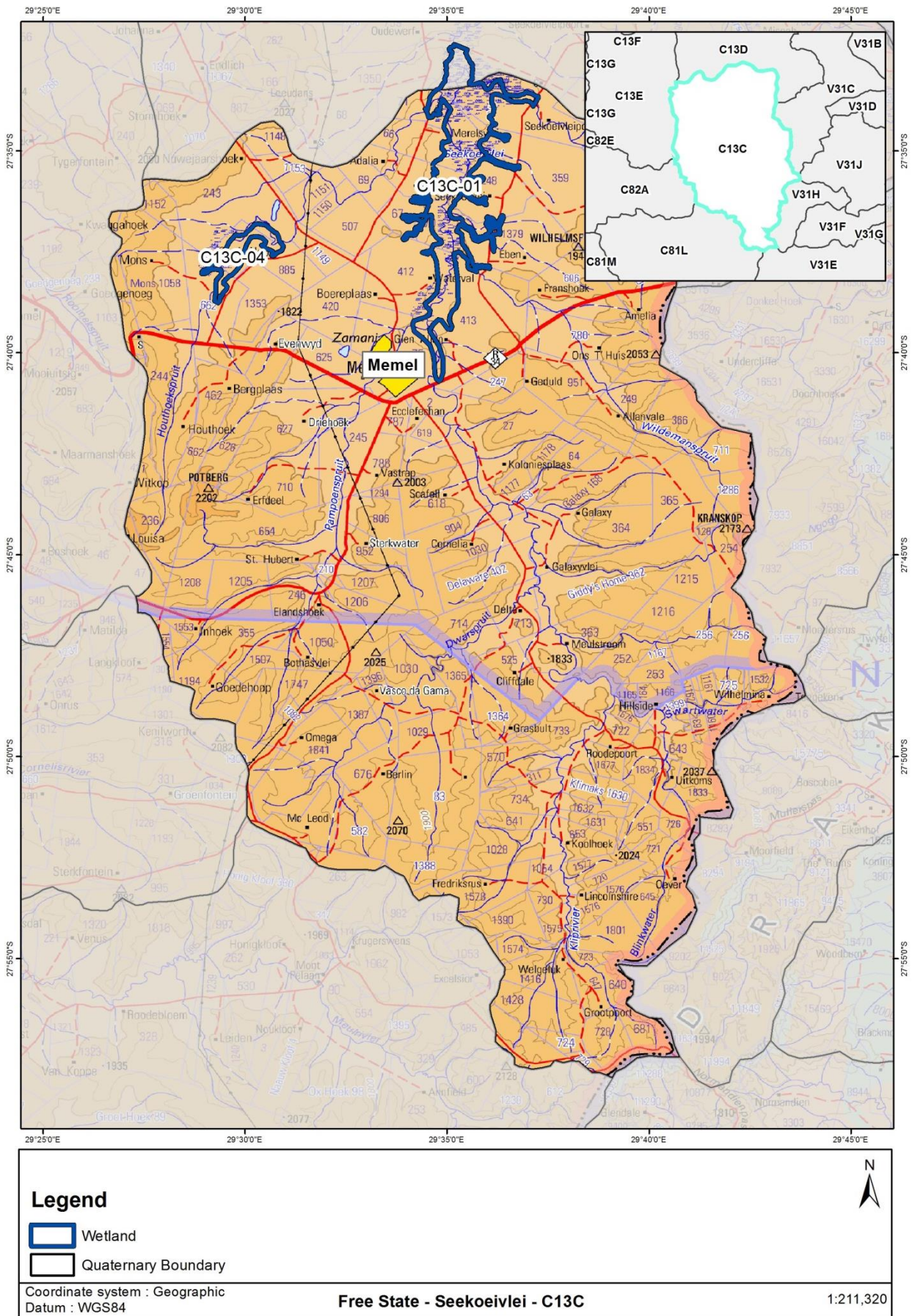


Figure 3: Topographic map showing C13C quaternary catchment's locality, cadastral boundaries and access routes

3.2 Landowner details

The landowners were identified for this Wetland Project (**Table 5**) and consent for any proposed wetland rehabilitation (subject to the approval of the Final Rehabilitation Plans) has been sought. Copies of the consent obtained are provided in **Appendix E**.

Table 5: List of Landowners and SG Key

Wetland Number	Property SG Key	Owner	Consent Obtained
C13C-01	F03700000000131600001 F03700000000007100000 F03700000000006600000 F03700000000024800000 F03700000000007000000 F03700000000006700001	DETEA (Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve)	Yes

3.3 Projected rehabilitation indicators

As the proposed interventions for the eroding channel section of the Seekoeivlei wetland are aimed at stabilising erosion rather than enhancing the wetland, rehabilitation actions are largely preventative. A rapid specialist assessment was undertaken of the focal area that will be affected by rehabilitation activities in order to estimate potential hectare equivalents that could be secured by stabilising erosion within this portion of the wetland.

Based on a comparison of the anticipated future state of the affected area with and without rehabilitation, it is estimated that rehabilitation activities would deliver some 2.4 hectare equivalents. This is largely due to averted loss (increased erosion and incision) with some improvement in wetland condition as a result of planned interventions which will raise the water level in the eroded channel. **Table 6** summarises the predicted scenario for this portion of the wetland with and without rehabilitation.

Table 6. Summary of anticipated outcomes from implementation of planned interventions on a section of wetland where the headward eroding channel is present within Seekoeivlei wetland (C13C-01).

		Status Quo	Without Rehabilitation	With Rehabilitation
Size of wetland (section secured)		~9ha		
Impact Scores	Hydrology	3.5	6.0	2.0
	Geomorphology	2.0	3.0	2.0
	Vegetation	1.5	3.0	1.0
	Overall	2.5	4.3	1.7
Ecological Category		C	D	C
Hectare equivalents		6.8	5.1	7.5

Note: Further rehabilitation planning may still be required for this section of the wetland. This assessment will therefore need to be reviewed and updated once further planning has been undertaken.

From a functional perspective, planned rehabilitation of the eroding channel will help to secure existing biodiversity values at the site by limiting further loss of important backswamp areas. Rehabilitation will also control erosion and incision, thus helping to maintain existing streamflow regulation and sediment trapping functions. Other planned infrastructure will improve access for tourism which should have a positive impact on park revenue and educational opportunities.

3.4 Prioritisation of wetlands

Based on the wetland status quo analysis conducted, the current progress of implementation within the project and the prioritisation of the rehabilitation interventions detailed in the following sections, the wetlands will be prioritised for rehabilitation in the following order (**Table 7**):

Table 7: Prioritisation of wetlands

Priority	Wetland number	Wetland name
1	C13C-01	Seekoeivlei
2	C13C-04	Bergplaats

3.5 Interventions required

The following table (**Table 8**) provides a list of interventions requiring redesign, maintenance and or new structures for this project and their associated new intervention number.

Table 8: Summary of the interventions including a cross reference of intervention numbers

Descriptive name	Old intervention number (if applicable)	New Intervention number	Proposed action	Reference document
NEW				
Seekoeivlei (C13C-01)				
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-211-00	Concrete strips, 15m concrete strip south of old road crossing	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-212-00	Concrete strips, 15m concrete strip linking to bridge crossing on west side	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-214-00	Concrete strips, 95m concrete strip west & 95m east of existing crossing	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-215-00	Concrete strips, 220m concrete strips on west side of Klip river	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-216-00	Concrete strips, 240m concrete strip west of weir on Klip River	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-217-00	Concrete strips, 250m strips east side proceeding north of existing geocell berm	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-218-00	Concrete strips, extend strips 92m from oxbow inlet to culvert	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014

Descriptive name	Old intervention number (if applicable)	New Intervention number	Proposed action	Reference document
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-220-00	Concrete strips, 50m concrete strip south of old road strip	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Earth structure Reveg	n/a	C13C-01-221-00	Deactivate small side gulley	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete drop inlet	n/a	C13C-01-222-00	To raise the water level in the channel and stabilise channel	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Earth structure Reveg	n/a	C13C-01-223-00	Deactivate small side gulley	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete weir	n/a	C13C-01-224-00	To raise the water level in the channel	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
MAC-MAT-R Earthworks Reveg	n/a	C13C-01-225-00	Earthworks and shaping and chute to deactivate headcut	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete road strips	n/a	C13C-01-226-00	Concrete strips, 10m strip south and 10m strip on north side of weir	Seekoeivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014

Descriptive name	Old intervention number (if applicable)	New Intervention number	Proposed action	Reference document
MAINTENANCE				
Bergplaats (C13C-04)				
Maintenance & redesign	n/a	C13C-04-201-00	Increase the spillway with concrete capping, repacking	Seekoivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Gabion	n/a	C13C-04-202-00	Concrete capping, geotextille and check stability	Seekoivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Concrete & earth structure	n/a	C13C-04-203-00	Repair the wingwall, in signoff report	Seekoivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014
Maintenance	n/a	C13C-04-204-00	Plug the holes in the spillway to raise U/S water level	Seekoivlei Final Rehab Plan: 2014

The intervention designs/ drawings included in this Rehabilitation Plan have been labelled according to the **new naming convention** only. For historical labelling of interventions, please use the table above (**Table 8**) as a cross reference.

4 SEEKOEIVLEI WETLAND –C13C-01

4.1 Wetland details

The Seekoeivlei wetland rehabilitation project is situated near Memel in the Free State Province. The wetland falls within the C13C quaternary catchment in the upper reaches of the Klip River catchment. The Klip River is a tributary of the Vaal River. Wetland rehabilitation has been carried out in the project area for a number of years with the majority of the work being carried out in the Seekoeivlei wetland (which has been declared a RAMSAR site).

Table 9: Summary of the wetland details

Wetland Name	Seekoeivlei
Wetland Number	C13C-01
River System Name	Klip & Houtkoekspruit
Land Use in Catchment	Nature conservation, agriculture
Land Use in Wetland	Nature conservation (Provincial Nature Reserve and RAMSAR site)
No. of Properties Intersecting Wetland Area	1
Date of Planning Site Visit	13 September 2013
Wetland Assessor(s)	Adam Teixeira-Leite
Wetland size	~4054 ha

4.1.1 Motivation for selection

Seekoeivlei is considered important from a biodiversity conservation perspective and has been declared a RAMSAR wetland of international importance due to the diversity of waterfowl that can be observed within the wetland and Reserve. The wetland is also considered important in providing ecosystem services such as water purification, which is significant in light of the location of the system along the Klip River, an important tributary to the Vaal River and Vaal dam further downstream. It is particularly well suited to attenuate floods and provides important habitat for a range of important species that are currently well protected within the Seekoeivlei reserve. Gentle slope, diffuse water flow and good vegetation cover also make the wetland well suited to trap sediments, phosphates, nitrates and other toxicants. The wetland also fulfils an important role in providing food for livestock and game, particularly during winter months when food availability declines.

Prior to Seekoeivlei being declared as a nature reserve, the wetland was used for commercial farming purposes and the result is that the system has been impacted by artificial drainage channels that have been excavated within the wetland as far back as the 1890's. These human interventions have had a considerable impact on wetland geo-hydrological processes which has affected the functioning and integrity of the wetland. Rehabilitation is aimed at addressing these concerns

4.1.2 Description

The Seekoeivlei/Houthoekspruit wetland (C13C-01) is a floodplain system located within the Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve, within Quaternary catchment C13C. The section of wetland assessed falls within the Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve and forms part of a greater floodplain wetland system. Seekoeivlei is considered important from a biodiversity conservation perspective and has been declared a RAMSAR wetland of international importance due to the diversity of waterfowl that can be observed within the wetland and Reserve. The wetland is also considered important in providing ecosystem services such as water purification, which is significant in light of the location of the system along the Klip River, an important tributary to the Vaal River and Vaal dam further downstream.

Seekoeivlei is approximately 16km long and the width of the system is highly variable, ranging from a few hundred metres up to 2km in places. The Klip River is the primary source of water feeding the floodplain system, with the main hydrological mechanism operating within the system being overbank flooding and active channel switching via channel avulsions (numerous palaeochannels provide evidence of past avulsions – McCarthy et al., 2010). The wetland is characterized by a variety of fluvial landforms including riverine floodplain with active and abandoned channels, oxbow lakes and low alluvial ridges, as well as river flats, backswamps and seasonally flooded grassland. Within the floodplain, the Klip River bed actively meanders between 3-4 m high alluvial banks within a channel that is approximately 15-30 m wide (McCarthy et al., 2010).

4.1.3 Rehabilitation

Broad objectives for wetland rehabilitation have already been established during previous wetland rehabilitation planning exercises. These objectives were re-evaluated with the Provincial Coordinator for SANBI, Project Implementer and Mr. Nacelle Collins (FS DETEA). This was used to inform the rehabilitation strategy for the remaining wetland rehabilitation measures still required. This includes the identification and prioritization of appropriate interventions to achieve objectives identified.

4.2 Site photos



View generally south down a main branch



Looking in a westerly direction



View generally east



View East-north-east. Note oxbow



Existing structure that created a pool that the hippos frequent



Photo showing inundation of the Seekoeivlei wetland by flood waters in 2004 (photo: G. Wandrag)

Figure 4: Site Photos of the Seekoeivlei Wetland

4.3 Wetland problems

Wetland problems and rehabilitation opportunities that were identified during the 2013 planning assessment included:

- Headcutting channels that are actively eroding within the south-western section of the wetland;
- A number of dirt roads through wetland/seepage zones that can become boggy and difficult to traverse during the wet season, and which also pose a risk of erosion/sedimentation potentially caused by vehicles using these roads;
- Existing dirt roads crossing tributary river systems that require formal structures to facilitate the crossing of these channels by Reserve management and tourist vehicles.

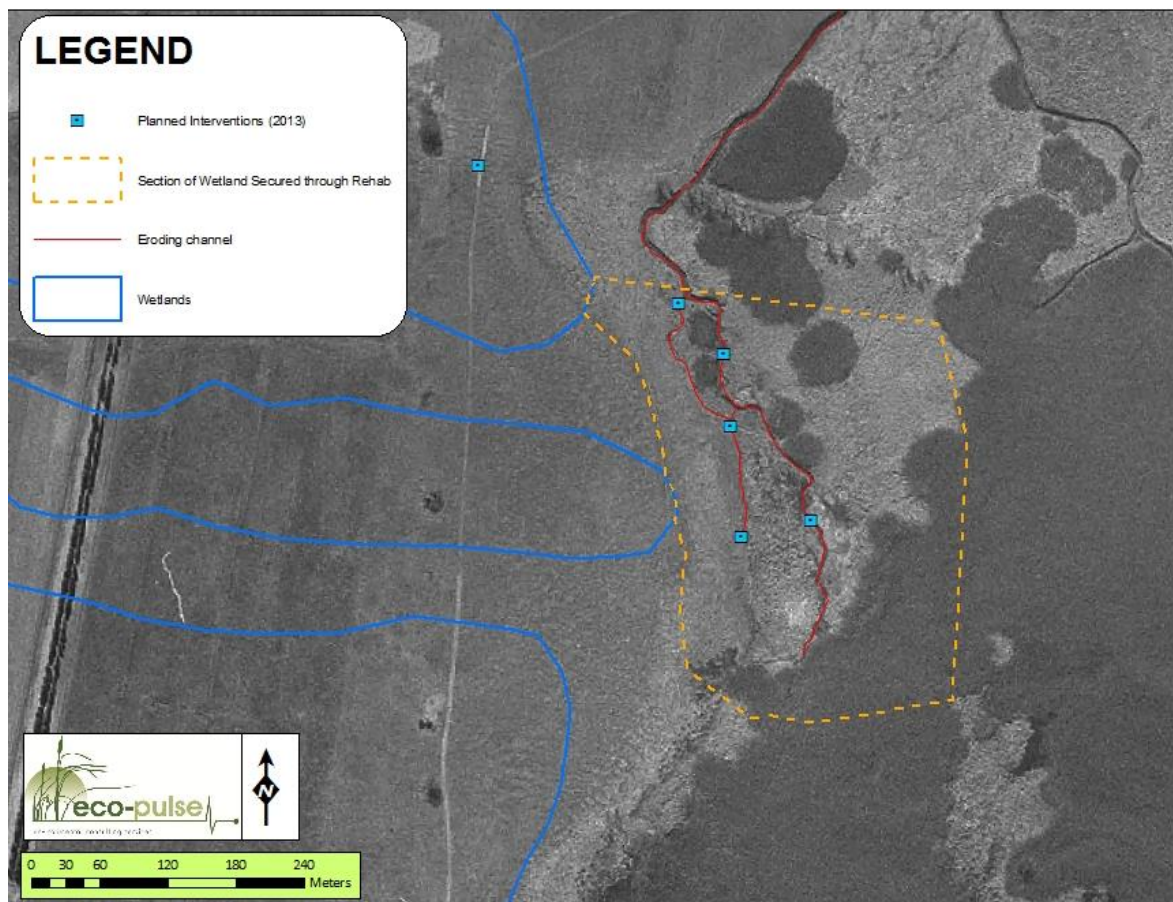


Figure 5. Map showing the location of the headward eroding channel and section of wetland to be secured through rehabilitation interventions planned in 2013.

4.4 Rehabilitation objectives

Details of the current rehabilitation objectives, together with the planned strategy for achieving these objectives are summarized in **Table 10** below:

Table 10. Summary of rehabilitation objectives and proposed rehabilitation strategies for Seekoeivlei wetland (C13C-01)

Rehabilitation objective	Rehabilitation strategy
To maintain the habitat diversity and biodiversity value of the wetland in terms of provincial, national, and international (RAMSAR) biodiversity conservation priorities and obligations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stabilising wetland crossings to promote tourism and reduce erosion risk. Stabilising existing erosion features and preventing further damage to intact wetland areas as a result of eroding channels.
To sustain a supply of good quality water to downstream areas (i.e. the Vaal River system).	
To improve infrastructure and accessibility to tourists to ensure that the contribution of the wetland to the local economy of Memel town is improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve accessibility by upgrading key sections of access roads that traverse the wetland.

4.5 Summary of proposed interventions

In order to achieve the rehabilitation objectives defined, a number of wetland interventions have been proposed.

Table 11 provides a summary of the interventions currently being implemented while the proposed new interventions are given in **Table 12**.

Table 11: Summary of current interventions, C13C-01

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Longitude	Latitude
C13C-01-040/1	Concrete structures	-	-
C13C-01-042/1	Concrete structures	-	-

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Longitude	Latitude
C13C-01-210/2	Concrete structures	-	-
C13C-01-01/1	Concrete structures	-	-
C13C-01-204/2	Concrete structures	-	-
C13C-01-041/1	Concrete structures	-	-
C13C-01-212	Concrete structures	-	-
C13C-01-3002	Earth Structures	-	-
C13C-01-3000	Clearing of invasive alien species	-	-
C13C-01-3001	Clearing of invasive alien species	-	-
C13C-01-211A	Other Interventions (boardwalk)	-	-
C13C-01-211	Other Interventions (bird hide)	-	-
C13C-01-202/2	Other Interventions (bird hide)	-	-
C13C-01-3003	Other Interventions	-	-

The table below (**Table 12**) provides a summary of the new interventions. The “implementation order” as depicted in the table indicates the timing order in which interventions should be implemented within the wetland (number 1 first). The “priority” as depicted in the table indicates the relative importance of each intervention across the project as a whole – if interventions have to be omitted for any reason, those with the lowest priority (highest number) across the whole project should be omitted first.

Table 12: Summary of proposed new interventions, C13C-01

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Implementation Order	Priority	Structure Cost (Excl. Vat)
C13C-01-211-00	Concrete road strips	5	5	R12,600.00

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Implementation Order	Priority	Structure Cost (Excl. Vat)
C13C-01-212-00	Concrete road strips	5	5	R12,600.00
C13C-01-214-00	Concrete road strips	5	5	R159,600.00
C13C-01-215-00	Concrete road strips	5	5	R184,800.00
C13C-01-216-00	Concrete road strips	5	5	R201,600.00
C13C-01-217-00	Concrete road strips	4	4	R210,000.00
C13C-01-218-00	Concrete road strips	4	4	R77,280.00
C13C-01-220-00	Concrete road strips	4	4	R42,000.00
C13C-01-221-00	Earth structure	1	1	R11,287.50
	Revegetation			R1,462.50
C13C-01-222-00	Concrete drop inlet	2	2	R355,094.62
C13C-01-223-00	Earth structure	1	1	R54,180.00
	Revegetation			R7,020.00
C13C-01-224-00	Concrete weir	2	2	R266,165.50
C13C-01-225-00	MAC-MAT-R	1	1	R13,500.00
	Earthworks			R1,732.50
	Revegetation			R2,430.00
C13C-01-226-00	Concrete road strips	5	5	R8,400.00
Total				R 1 621 752.62

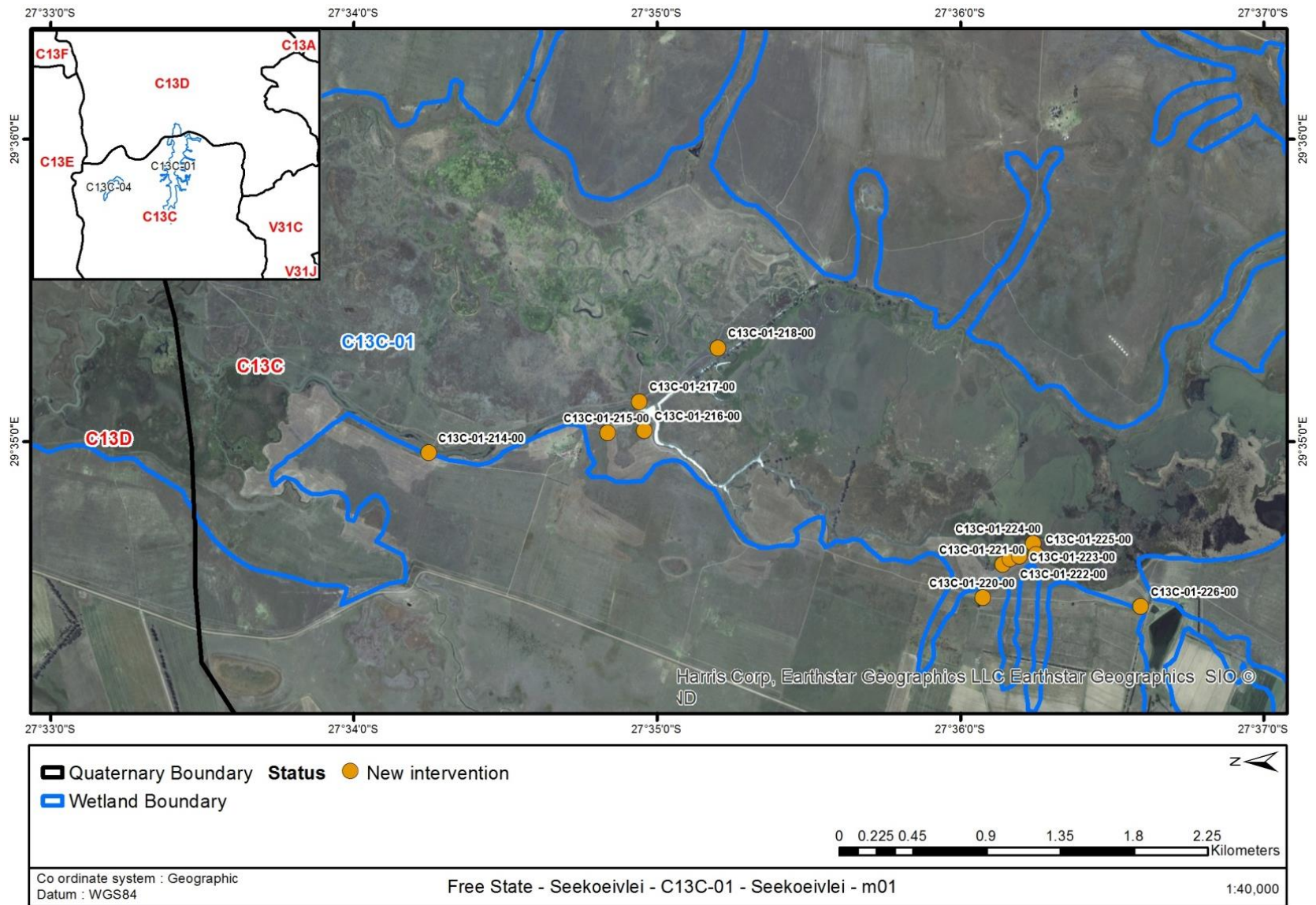


Figure 6: Wetland map, C13C-01 with proposed new wetland interventions indicated

4.6 Design selection and sizing

The objectives of the interventions are to prevent further headcut erosion, ensure diffuse flow into wetland areas to increase the water table level, rehydrate wet soils and promote an increase in hydrophytic vegetation. The most appropriate and cost effective method of doing this was considered to involve:

- The construction of a hard structure (concrete or gabion weir) in the main drain with the spillway set at a level that would allow for the back flooding.
- Constructing a combination of concrete, gabion and earthen diversion structures that would divert flows out of the main drain and into the wetland. Earthen diversions were specified in areas of low energy and will be vegetated to increase their stability. Concrete and gabion diversion structures were specified where higher energy is expected.
- Labour-day component and the availability of material were the most influencing factors taken into consideration.
- The aesthetic/ visual impacts of the proposed interventions should be kept to an absolute minimum. This could be obtained by introducing colouring pigment in the concrete and “filleting” of visible sharp edges during concrete costing with shutters.
- All the disturbed ground and new earth structures need to be re-vegetated.

4.6.1 Working in Peat Soils – construction notes

The following generic construction notes applying to working in peat soils apply to all of the interventions below (construction notes on each drawing will also apply):

The following is guidance for working within an area with soils with high organic matter content.

General:

- a. Work only in low rainfall periods,
- b. Prevent compaction of the soil,
- c. Prevent draining, drying and desiccation of soil,
- d. Use the general BMP of the WfWet manual for working within wetlands, and
- e. Do not bring in any foreign vegetable matter (e.g. mulch) into the wetland area (especially from alien species).

Entering the wetland:

- a. Prevent compaction (and thus potential channelling and erosion) of by not driving into the wetland.
- b. However if required to drive into the wetland, then spread the weight of traffic (using walkways, boardwalks, geotextiles etc.). Construction workers and wheelbarrows should use these enforced paths as well.

Excavations (pre-construction):

- a. Remove soil in the form of sods (20- 40 x20x20cm)

- b. 1st sod layer must include the Rhizome layer (20cm intervals might be a bit too thin for *Phragmites*, but then it might be too difficult to work on thicker sods so keep it at 20cm increments).
- c. Cut vegetation short if it will make handling easier. Use cut vegetation as mulch (see next point)
- d. Store soil of different layers in different spots (stockpile soils according to the different soil layers as per the soil profile), in order not to mix layers of profile.
- e. Cover with mulch or cloth (geotextile) and keep at least 40% moisture. If possible, stockpile soils in piles as high as possible (to retain moisture).

Construction – maintain moisture (if work continues into wet season make sure stockpiled soil will not be flooded – removes top rhizome layer at least).

Post-construction

- a. Replace sods back into the system in the same order/ layers as to what is naturally occurring (according to the profile).
- b. i.e. replace deeper layers 1st with rhizospheres layer on top.
- c. Based on type of species make sure the sod is orientated in the original direction in terms of aspect.
- d. If sods are not at 90%+ moisture then peg them with wooden stakes.
- e. Mulch the site (or use cloth/geotextile).
- f. Fence livestock out for at least 2 seasons (or brush pack).
- g. If compaction took place then:
 - on flat surfaces, loosen the soil with a fork, and
 - on paths with slopes, put/ create small contour berms.

Draining/pumping

- a. If any draining was done during construction, ensure that no preferential flow takes place in the drain after infilling.
- b. All decanting points should have energy dissipaters

4.7 Intervention designs

4.7.1 Intervention: C13C-01-211-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 15m concrete strip south of old road crossing
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°33'28.85"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°35'35.28"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-211-00



Figure 7: Intervention point C13D-01-211-00

4.7.1.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-211-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-211-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	3.60	R 3 500.00	R 12 600.00
Total					R 12 600.00

4.7.1.2 Construction Notes

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.2 Intervention: C13C-01-212-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 15m concrete strip linking to bridge crossing on west side
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°33'28.85"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°35'35.28"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-212-00

4.7.2.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-212-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-212-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	3.60	R 3 500.00	R 12 600.00
Total					R 12 600.00

4.7.2.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils

4.7.3 Intervention: C13C-01-214-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 95m concrete strip west & 95m east of existing crossing
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°34'14.73"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'57.88"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-214-00

4.7.3.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-214-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-214-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	45.60	R 3 500.00	R 159 600.00
Total					R 159 600.00

4.7.3.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.4 Intervention: C13C-01-215-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 220m concrete strips on west side of Klip river
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°34'50.16"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°35'01.82"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-215-00

4.7.4.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-215-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-215-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	52.80	R 3 500.00	R 184 800.00
Total					R 184 800.00

4.7.4.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils

4.7.5 Intervention: C13C-01-216-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete road strips, 240m concrete strip west of weir on Klip River
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland with less damage, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°34'57.43"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°35'02.27"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-216-00

4.7.5.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-216-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-216-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	57.60	R 3 500.00	R 201 600.00
Total					R 201 600.00

4.7.5.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.6 Intervention: C13C-01-217-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 250m strips east side proceeding north of existing geocell berm
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland with minimal damage, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°34'56.43"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°35'08.03"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-217-00

4.7.6.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-217-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-217-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	60.00	R 3 500.00	R 210 000.00
Total					R 210 000.00

4.7.6.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.7 Intervention: C13C-01-218-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, extend strips 92m from oxbow inlet to culvert
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°35'12.06"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°35'18.63"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-218-00

4.7.7.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-218-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-218-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	22.08	R 3 500.00	R 77 280.00
Total					R 77 280.00

4.7.7.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.8 Intervention: C13C-01-220-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 50m concrete strip south of old road strip
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'04.41"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'29.12"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-220-00

4.7.8.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-220-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-220-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	12.00	R 3 500.00	R 42 000.00
Total					R 42 000.00

4.7.8.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.9 Intervention: C13C-01-221-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Earth structure (berms/plugs) + revegetation
Rehabilitation Objective	Prevent further incision and headward erosion of gully
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'08.40"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'35.70"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-221-00



Figure 8: intervention point C13C-01-221-00

4.7.9.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-221-00

Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
Earth structure	m ³	12.50	R 903.00	R 11 287.50
Revegetation	m ²	32.50	R 45.00	R 1 462.50
			Total	R 12 750.00

4.7.9.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.10 Intervention: C13C-01-222-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	December 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete drop inlet
Rehabilitation Objective	Stabilise channel, provide additional support for planned interventions in channel upstream
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'09.82"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'36.82"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-222-00



Figure 9: Intervention point C13C-01-222-00

4.7.10.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-222-00

Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
Concrete drop inlet	m ³	57.10	R 6 218.82	R 355 094.62

4.7.10.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.11 Intervention: C13C-01-223-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Earth structure (berms/plugs) + revegetation
Rehabilitation Objective	Prevent further incision and headward erosion of gully
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'11.73"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'37.41"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-223-00
Alternatives considered	Concrete weirs or rock packs. While more resilient, they are likely to be over-design for this particular intervention. This would reduce EPWP job creation targets and add unnecessarily to cost.



Figure 10: View SSE, looking upstream towards proposed intervention point (drop inlet) on the main eroded channel

4.7.11.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-223-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-223-00	Earth structure	m ³	60.00	R 903.00	R 54 180.00
	Revegetation	m ²	156.00	R 45.00	R 7 020.00
				Total	R 61 200.00

4.7.11.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.12 Intervention: C13C-01-224-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	December 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete weir
Rehabilitation Objective	Stabilise channel, limit/prevent erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'14.42"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'39.89"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-224-00
Alternatives considered	Earth plugs were not considered feasible as a resilient structure is required where seasonal floods could wash away earth structures placed within side channels.



Figure 11: Intervention point C13C-01-224-00

4.7.12.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-224-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-224-00	Concrete weir	m ³	42.80	R 6 218.82	R 266 165.50
				Total	R 266 165.50

4.7.12.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.13 Intervention: C13C-01-225-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Earthworks (shaping & chute), Mac-Mat R
Rehabilitation Objective	Deactivate headcut
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'14.95"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'37.74"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-225-00
Alternatives considered	Concrete weirs or rock packs. While more resilient, they are likely to be over-design for this particular intervention. This would reduce EPWP job creation targets and add unnecessarily to cost.



Figure 12: View N, looking downstream at the head of the eroded side channel (headcut shown)

4.7.13.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-225-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-225-00	MAC-MAT-R	m ²	54.00	R 250.00	R 13 500.00
	Earth Works	m ³	3.30	R 525.00	R 1 732.50
	Revegetation	m ²	54.00	R 45.00	R 2 430.00
				Total	R 17 662.50

4.7.13.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.7.14 Intervention: C13C-01-226-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Concrete strips, 10m strip south and 10m strip on north side of weir
Rehabilitation Objective	Facilitate vehicles crossing wetland, control erosion
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°36'35.74"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°34'27.38"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-01-226-00

4.7.14.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-01-226-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-01-226-00	Concrete road strips	m ³	2.40	R 3 500.00	R 8 400.00
				Total	R 8 400.00

4.7.14.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

4.8 Construction Environmental Management Plan issues

The proposed rehabilitation is to be undertaken in a provincial nature reserve. The project team should access and manage the site in accordance with the relevant reserve management guidelines as well the WfWet best management practices. The implementation of these interventions must also take into account all relevant provisions of Working for Wetlands Best Management Practices and Construction Environmental Management Plan, the recommendations of the Basic Assessments submitted for Environmental Authorisation and the requirements of the Environmental Authorisation Record of Decision for the project.

The general construction notes and the Construction phase EMP (CEMP) are included as **Appendices B and F** respectively

4.9 Wetland management recommendations

The overall goal for the management (including rehabilitation) of the Seekoeivlei wetland is to maintain the habitat diversity and biodiversity of the wetland, in terms of provincial and national biodiversity conservation priorities. In addition to the value of biodiversity to society in general, another key motivation for conserving the biodiversity associated with Seekoeivlei is the important potential contribution that it potentially makes through tourism to the local economy of the town of Memel. It is also recognized that the Seekoeivlei falls within a catchment, the Vaal River systems, which supplies water of a sufficient quality to Gauteng, making it one of the most important catchments in South Africa from a water supply point of view. Thus, a further goal for management of the wetland is the sustained supply of good quality water. There is a high likelihood that the wetland contributes to enhancing water quality, as low flows are spread shallowly across an extensive area of wetland, which creates conditions favourable for water quality enhancement (e.g. through denitrification and *E coli* degradation). Furthermore, poor sanitation conditions in the low-cost housing of the town upstream of the wetland (release of untreated sewage into upstream tributary streams) highlights the functional importance of the wetland in terms of providing a water purification function.

Recognizing that the geomorphology and hydrology of the floodplain are important determinants of the biodiversity of the floodplain, one of the key objectives necessary for achieving the overall management goal for the floodplain is to sustain the geomorphologic and hydrological processes that are characteristic of the system, within the constraints imposed by current and past land-uses in the wetland and its catchment.

Management of the wetland needs to be as self-sustaining (i.e., low maintenance) as possible. For example, one can use vast amounts of resources trying to push the system in a direction completely contrary to that to where it is heading. Instead, it is better to “work with” the system. To be able to do this requires an understanding of the dynamics of the

system, which would allow one to see where the system is heading. This would not aim to necessarily stop the headward advancement of any eroding channels, but rather to support and stabilise these channels as they continues to erode and create a new path through the wetland upstream, whilst limiting the potential impact to existing adjacent wetland habitat.

It is evident that whilst a few additional opportunities for wetland rehabilitation still present themselves within the existing Seekoeivlei project, these are quickly running out. It is therefore recommended that a Phase 1 assessment be undertaken to investigate any additional wetlands within catchment C13C where opportunities for rehabilitation may exist. Possible opportunities that have been identified but not explored further during the 2013 planning year have been summarised below for wetland C13C-01 (Seekoeivlei). It is recommended that these opportunities be investigated further to determine their feasibility during the next rehabilitation planning phase in 2014.

- 1 Opportunities may exist to raise the water level within the channel and facilitate the re-wetting of the broader floodplain (specifically the eastern side). Investigating the desirability for further concrete weirs within the main Klip River channel towards the toe of the wetland is therefore recommended.
- 2 Investigating opportunities to enhance the tourism use and value of the Reserve through the development of additional bird hides and tourism information centre/viewing platforms. This requires further consideration by the conservation agency in collaboration with the Provincial Coordinator.
- 3 Investigating the need for maintenance of existing structures (including those previously built by the Department of Agriculture). The Provincial Coordinator will need to inspect these structures prior to further planning being undertaken.
- 4 It is recommended that planned interventions be monitored in the future post-implantation, in order to identify the need for further interventions to support or enhance planned structures and ensure that planned interventions are achieving their objectives in line with the overall management/rehabilitation objectives for the Reserve. This should focus on mmonitoring of the proposed interventions within the headward eroding channel in the south-western section of the floodplain and looking at the need for additional further intervention(s) where required to support and/or enhance the interventions proposed for 2013. This should potentially include an additional drop inlet/weir roughly at the coordinates 27° 36' 12" S / 29° 34' 38" E.

4.10 Baseline M&E data

The collection of baseline information was carried out to show changes in the system associated with the wetland rehabilitation activities. Note that baseline vegetation monitoring plots were not sampled for this wetland as interventions proposed are aimed mainly at preventing further wetland degradation rather than reinstating wetland habitat.

4.10.1 Erosion problems

The large incised channels within the wetland are considered relatively stable, and will therefore not be monitored specifically. If these features were to become unstable at any point, monitoring should be undertaken. Structures planned to stabilise eroding headcuts are designed to limit further erosion, however, these erosion features should be monitored for a period after implementation of the proposed interventions in order to identify any further risk of headward erosion and to inform additional management measures required at these sites.

4.10.2 Fixed point photography

In order to provide the ability to visually determine the degree of change within the wetland system photography of the wetland system has been taken prior to the implementation of wetland rehabilitation activities. For full details and photographs please refer to Annexure A of the wetland status quo report (**Appendix A**)

4.10.3 Baseline WET-Health data

The assessment of the current level of ecological integrity of the wetland system provides a baseline assessment for comparative assessments that would be carried out for monitoring purposes 3 years after completion of the wetland rehabilitation activities. This is summarised in **Table 13** below for a section of the wetland where intensive rehabilitation interventions have been proposed for combating channel incision and headward erosion of existing channels. Refer also to **Appendix A**.

Table 13 Summary of anticipated outcomes from implementation of planned interventions on a section of wetland where the headward eroding channel is present.

		Status Quo	Without Rehabilitation	With Rehabilitation
Size of wetland (section secured)		~9ha		
Impact Scores	Hydrology	3.5	6.0	2.0
	Geomorphology	2.0	3.0	2.0
	Vegetation	1.5	3.0	1.0
	Overall	2.5	4.3	1.7
Ecological Category		C	D	C
Hectare equivalents		6.8	5.1	7.5

5 BERGPLAATS WETLAND –C13C-04

5.1 Wetland details

A summary of the details of the Bergplaats wetland is provided below (Table 14). Please also refer to **Appendix A** (Wetland Status Quo Report).

Table 14: Summary of the wetland details for Bergplaats

Wetland Name	Bergplaats
Wetland Number	C13C-04
River System Name	Houthoekspruit
Land Use in Catchment	Agriculture
Land Use in Wetland	Agriculture
No. of Properties Intersecting Wetland Area	2
Date of Planning Site Visit	13 September 2013
Wetland Assessor(s)	Adam Teixeira-Leite
Wetland size	~300ha

5.1.1 Motivation for selection

Upon inspection of this system, a number of existing interventions were identified as requiring maintenance or upgrading/re-design to ensure their continued optimal functioning.

5.1.2 Description

The Bergplaats wetland is a tributary system to the Seekoeivlei wetland (C13C-01), originating in the valley to the south-west of Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve. The wetland is classified as a channelled valley bottom system with the main feature being the Houthoekspruit, a relatively narrow perennial river system that flows through the centre of wetland

5.1.3 Rehabilitation

The main objective of wetland rehabilitation within this system has been to raise the water level within the main channel of the Houthoekspruit, prevent further incision/erosion and facilitate the re-wetting of adjacent wetland areas.

5.1.4 Site photos



Figure 13: Site Photo of the Bergplaats Wetland

(View of the western part of the wetland looking upstream towards an incised channel section)

5.2 Wetland problems

Problems within this wetland are mainly in the form of channel incision and the consequent drying-out of adjacent wetland habitat as a result of reduced frequency and magnitude of overbank flooding. In order to address these problems, the wetland has been subject to assessment and the design and implementation of rehabilitation interventions in the past including both concrete and gabion weirs located within the main channel. A range of maintenance concerns were identified during site inspections, including:

- The existing concrete weir within the Houthoekspruit main channel requires maintenance to plug the holes in the spillway that are currently allowing water to pass through the structure rather than actively blocking flows through the channel. By blocking these holes, the weir will function to flood the channel upstream to a greater extent.
- The gabion drop inlet structure on the Houthoekspruit main channel in its current form has been designed to be too narrow to cope with flows within the channel and will require redesign to ensure that this structure is suitably designed for the dimensions of the current channel.

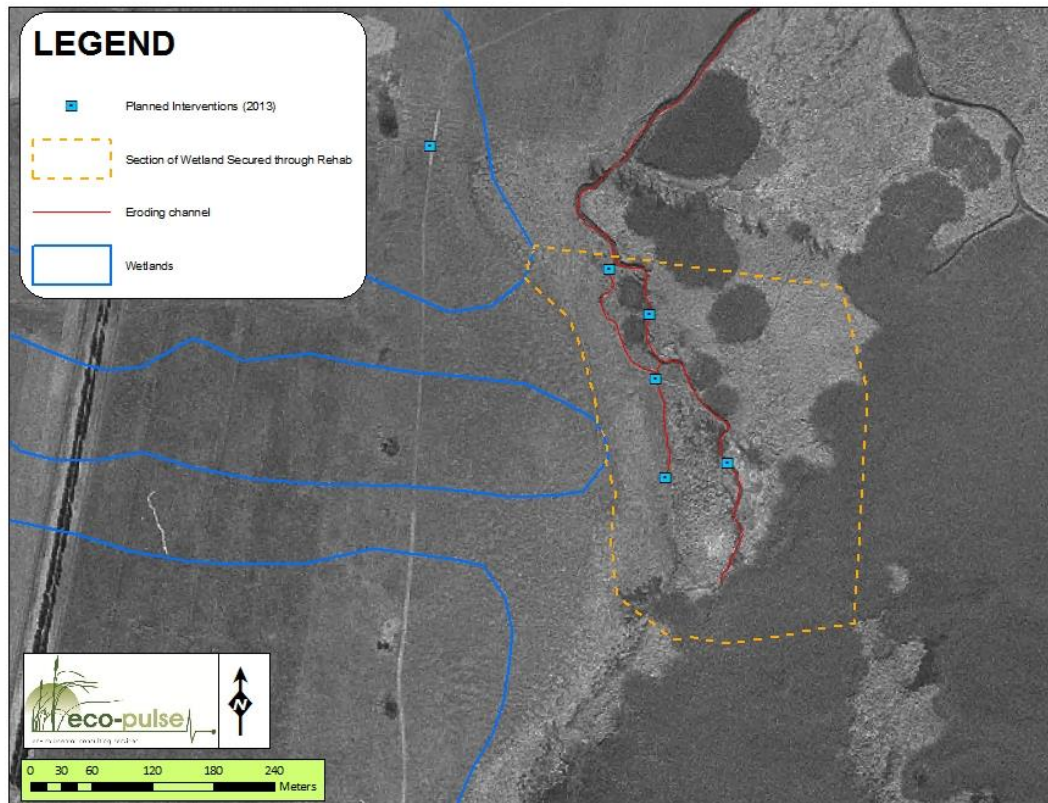


Figure 14 Map showing the location of the headward eroding channel and section of wetland to be secured through rehabilitation interventions planned in 2013.

5.3 Rehabilitation objectives

The main objective of wetland rehabilitation within this system has been to raise the water level within the main channel of the Houthoekspruit, prevent further incision/erosion and facilitate the re-wetting of adjacent wetland areas. The current objective is to maintain/enhance the existing structures to ensure their continued functioning.

5.4 Summary of proposed interventions

The interventions requiring maintenance are discussed in detail in the subsequent sections of this report but a summary is provided in the table below. The “implementation order” as depicted in the table indicates the timing order in which interventions should be implemented within the wetland (number 1 first). The “priority” as depicted in the table indicates the relative importance of each intervention across the project as a whole – if interventions have to be omitted for any reason, those with the lowest priority (highest number) across the whole project should be omitted first.

Table 15 Summary of planned interventions

Intervention Number	Intervention Structure Type	Implementation Order	Priority	Structure Cost (Excl. Vat)
C13C-04-201-00	Maintenance, redesign	1	1	R 1,207,671.98
C13C-04-202-00	Gabion Structure	3	3	R128,475.00
C13C-04-203-00	Concrete	2	2	R67,163.26
	Earth structure			R7,224.00
C13C-04-204-00	Maintenance	3	3	R80,423.00
Total				R1,490,958

5.5 Design selection and sizing

The objectives of the interventions are to maintain and/or resign existing interventions.

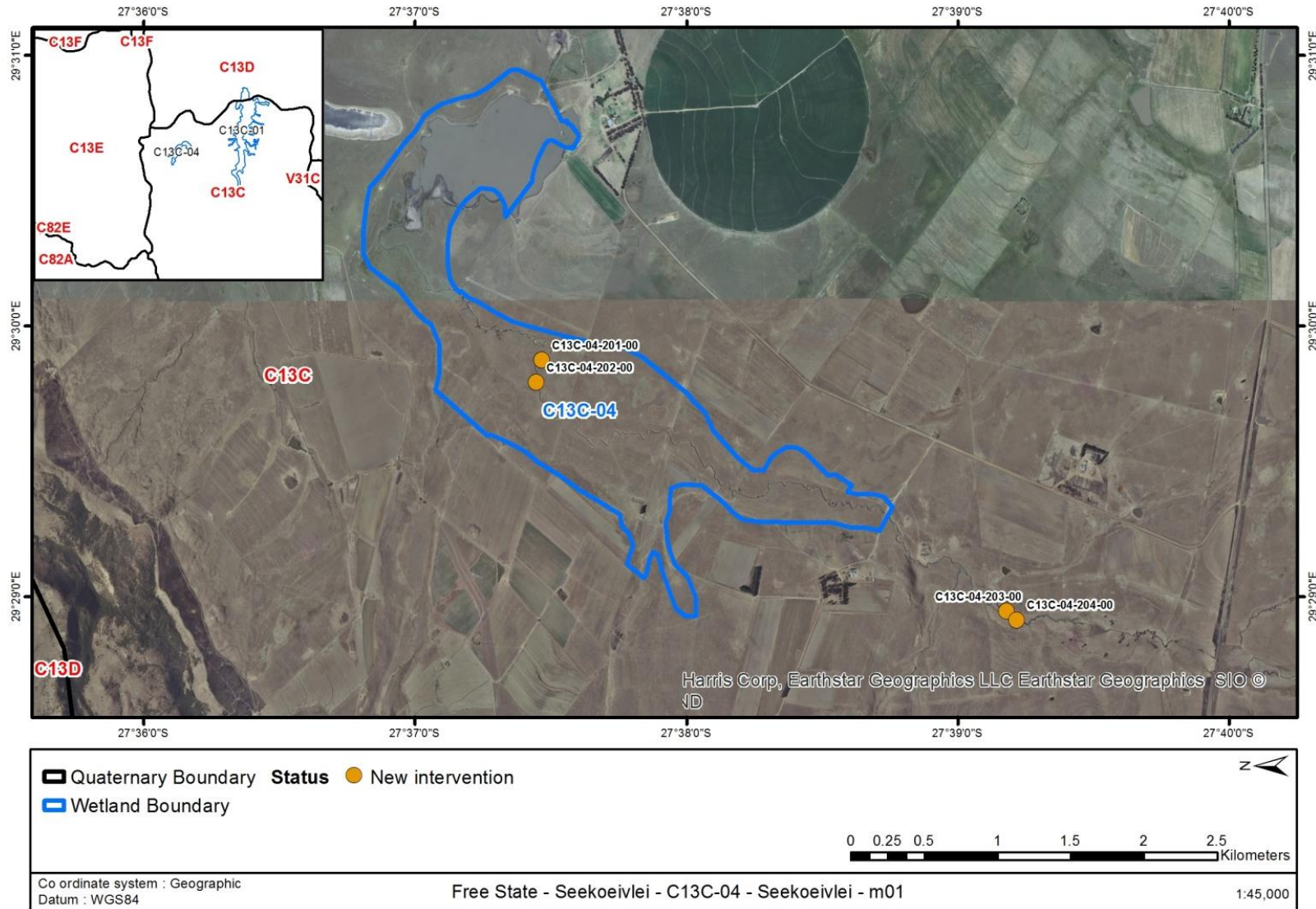


Figure 15: Wetland map, C13C-04 with proposed new wetland interventions indicated.

5.6 Intervention designs

5.6.1 Intervention: C13C-04-201-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Increase the spillway with concrete capping, repacking
Rehabilitation Objective	Redesign to ensure that this structure is suitably designed for the dimensions of the current channel.
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°37'28.02"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°29'52.58"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-04-201-00



Figure 16: Intervention point C13C-04-201-00

5.6.1.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-04-201-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-04-202-00	Gabion Structure	m ³	30.00	R 4 282.52	R 128 475.74
Total					R 128 475.74

5.6.1.2 *Construction Notes*

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

5.6.2 Intervention: C13C-04-202-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Gabion structure. Concrete capping, geotextille and check stability
Rehabilitation Objective	Maintenance to ensure continued functioning of the structure
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°37'26.75"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°29'47.62"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-04-202-00



Figure 17: Intervention point C13C-04-202-00

5.6.2.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-04-202-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-04-202-00	Gabion Structure	m ³	30.00	R 4 282.52	R 128 475.74
				Total	R 128 475.74

5.6.2.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

5.6.3 Intervention: C13C-04-203-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Repair wingwall, earth structure
Rehabilitation Objective	Maintenance to ensure continued functioning of the structure
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°39'10.72"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°28'56.88"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-04-203-00



Figure 18: Earthen diversion berm, W42C-01-204-00 looking in a south-westerly direction

5.6.3.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-04-203-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-04-203-00	Concrete	m ³	10.80	R 6 218.82	R 67 163.26
	Earth structure	m ³	8.00	R 903.00	R 7 224.00
				Total	R 74 387.26

5.6.3.2 Construction Notes:

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

5.6.4 Intervention: C13C-04-204-00

Designer	Danie Louw
Design Date	November 2013
Intervention Description	Plug the holes in the spillway to raise U/S water level
Rehabilitation Objective	Repair existing structure to ensure continued functioning. Plug spillway holes to allow weir to continue to flood the channel upstream
Latitude (D°M'S")	27°39'13.00"
Longitude (D°M'S")	29°28'55.00"
Engineering Drawings	C13C-04-204-00



Figure 19: Intervention point C13C-04-204-00

5.6.4.1 Bill of quantities: C13C-04-204-00

Intervention Number	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Cost	Item Cost
C13C-04-204-00	Maintenance	m3	1	R 4 021.15	R 80 423.00
				Total	R 80 423.00

5.6.4.2 *Construction Notes:*

General construction notes as set out in **Appendix B** apply, along with all construction notes shown on design drawings apply. See also section 4.9.1 for notes on working in peat soils.

5.7 Construction Environmental Management Plan issues

The proposed rehabilitation is to be undertaken on privately owned land and the project team should access the site and manage the site in accordance with the WfWetlands Best Management Practices and specific requirements of the landowner. The implementation of these interventions must also take into account all relevant provisions of the Construction Environmental Management Plan and the recommendations of the approved Basic Assessments and EA for the project.

The general construction notes, the Construction phase EMP (CEMP) are included as **Appendix B and F**.

5.8 Wetland management recommendations

It is evident that whilst a few additional opportunities for wetland rehabilitation still present themselves within the existing Seekoeivlei project, these are quickly running out. It is therefore recommended that a Phase 1 assessment be undertaken to investigate any additional wetlands within catchment C13C where opportunities for rehabilitation may exist. Possible opportunities that have been identified but not explored further during the 2013 planning year have been summarised below for wetland C13C-04 (Bergplaats). It is recommended that these opportunities be investigated further to determine their feasibility during the next rehabilitation planning phase in 2014.

- Investigating the need for maintenance of existing structures that were not considered in the 2013 planning phase. The Provincial Coordinator will need to inspect these structures prior to further planning being undertaken.
- Investigating the need and desirability for additional structures within this wetland to support existing interventions. The Provincial Coordinator will need to undertake a preliminary assessment to determine need & desirability.

5.9 Baseline M&E data

Work in this wetland for the 2013/14 planning phase focused on identifying problems with existing structures requiring maintenance/re-design. As such, no monitoring and evaluation data was collected during the wetland status quo analysis.

5.9.1 Baseline WET-Health data

The assessment of the current level of ecological integrity of the wetland system provides a baseline assessment for comparative assessments that would be carried out for monitoring purposes 3 years after completion of the wetland rehabilitation activities. The following WET-Health information was collected for the wetland (Refer to **Appendix A**).