

Adopt-a-River Moreleta Spruit Programme/ Program

Newsletter/Nuusbrief No 1, February/Februarie 2012

Phase 1 of a project to initiate an Adopt-a-River programme in the Moreleta Spruit has been completed and Phase 2 is beginning. Many people are not completely sure what it involves and how it affects them, so this letter is in the form of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

Die goeie nuus is dat almal in die opvanggebied van die Moreletaspruit uitgenooi word om aan die program deel te neem, omdat ons almal geraak word deur wat in die opvanggebied gebeur. Tydens die 1ste fase van die projek is 'n situasie ontleding gedoen van o.a die geskiedenis van landgebruik in die opvanggebied; demografie; huidige landgebruik-aktiwiteite; ekologiese status; chemiese-kwaliteit van die spruit; ens.

Sodra die verslag gefinaliseer is, sal dit op die internet beskikbaar gestel word. As jy intussen enige vrae het of by een van die bestaande belangegroepes langs die Moreletaspruit wil aansluit om deel te word van hierdie opwindende inisiatief skakel gerus met die Fasiliteringspan per e-pos of telefonies by die kontaknommers wat onder aan die brief verstrekk word.

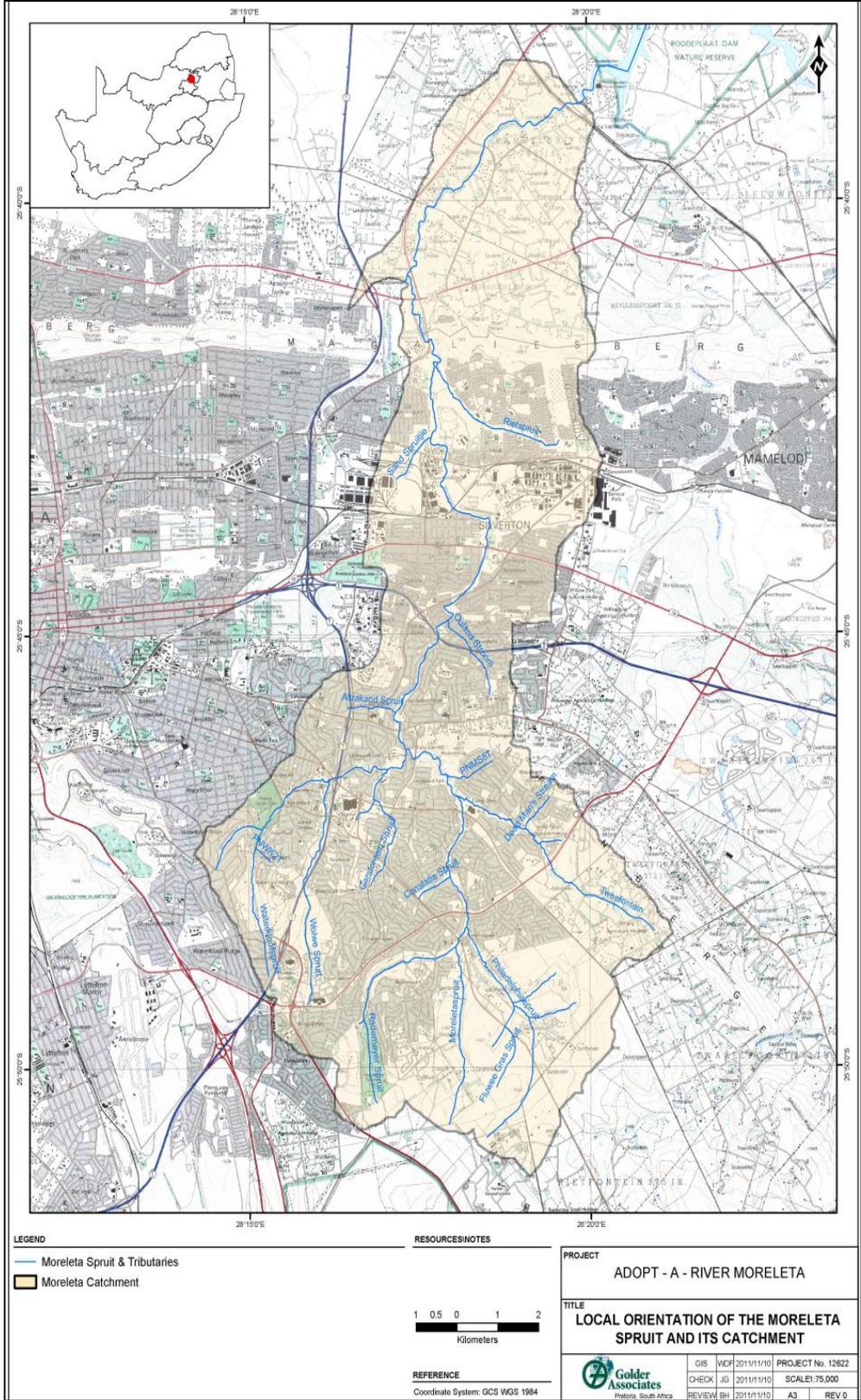
A map is attached for you to see the catchment area, the tributaries and how the Moreleta Spruit makes its way through to the east of the city towards the Roodeplaat Dam.

What is the Adopt-a-River Programme?

The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) Adopt-a-River Programme reads as follows: *The DWA has initiated a water resource programme named the "Adopt-a-River" as a means of creating awareness among communities and relevant stakeholders of the need to care for our scarce water resources and to actively participate in the protection and management of our water resources, with emphasis on our natural rivers and watercourses. The programme is primarily based on community participation, training, partnerships and focused action plans. The programme primarily seeks to promote commitment from various natural rivers stakeholders to protect the health of the related river watercourse in a sustainable manner. (DWA 2009)*

How did the Moreleta Spruit become part of the programme?

At the end of 2010 a group of concerned stakeholders consisting of concerned residents, representatives from Friends Groups, City of Tshwane (CoT) Nature Conservation and other departments, Aurecon and others had a meeting with DWA representatives, spurred on by the destruction of the river banks in the Lynnwood area caused during the installation of the Moreleta Outfall Sewer. They proposed that the Moreleta Spruit should be made part of the Adopt-a-River Programme. A draft proposal for the development of a Master Environmental Management Plan for the Moreleta Spruit was presented in early 2011 and was accepted by the DWA. Funding was made available for Phase 1 and Golder Associates was contracted by DWA to carry out a Situational Analysis and GAP Analysis, recommend an Action Plan and facilitate Stakeholder Engagement. The report was recently completed.



LEGEND
 — Moreleta Spruit & Tributaries
 ■ Moreleta Catchment

RESOURCES/NOTES
 1 0.5 0 1 2
 Kilometers

REFERENCE
 Coordinate System: GCS WGS 1984

PROJECT			
ADOPT - A - RIVER MORELETA			
TITLE			
LOCAL ORIENTATION OF THE MORELETA SPRUIT AND ITS CATCHMENT			
		PROJECT No. 12622	
CHECK	JG	2011/11/10	SCALE: 1:75,000
REVIEW	BH	2011/11/10	A3 REV 0

The Situational Analysis: Information and data from the DWA, CoT and other sources were pulled together to give an historical overview; current ecological status; institutional and legal status; demographics and land use; urban densification and infrastructure development with associated risks; financial aspects and conclusions. Useful maps were also drawn up.

The GAP Analysis: identified studies to be done and data needed to complete a Master Environmental Management Plan for the Moreleta Spruit. The lack of stakeholder representation in the northern areas and by schools was identified as an obstacle in implementing a functional programme.

Stakeholder Engagement: Two public participation meetings were held in October and November 2011. At the first meeting the public identified their main concerns as: lack of environmental law enforcement and negative impact of illegal activities; litter, illegal waste dumping and lack of recycling; lack of plans and/or a Master Environmental Management Plan; invasive plants; homeless nomads and/or squatters.

Facilitation Team: At the second meeting a volunteer Facilitation Team was formed. The current members of this team are: Anneli Kuhn (Chairman/Team Leader) - Friends of Moreletaspruit Lynnwood area; Adelene Marais - Functional Head: Nature Conservation CoT; Thabie Rakgotho – Gauteng Region, DWA; Danie van Eeden - Wild Route Environmental Consultants; Erica van Zyl - Friends of Weavers Nest; Bill Gunnell - Garsfontein Secura Park; and Carol Martin - Friends of Serene Valley.

What is planned for Phase 2?

- The Master Environmental Management Plan for the river and its catchment area will be drawn up and a comprehensive State of the Moreleta Spruit Report will be developed once the lacking information has been collected.
- Funding must be raised for further in-depth studies as identified in the GAP Analysis.
- The Facilitation Team will work at raising awareness, encouraging communities to become actively involved and also facilitate training.

The First Project will be training in the miniSASS method of Water Quality Testing.

The public as well as children can play a key part in protecting and preserving our precious Spruit. To increase awareness in the northern sections of the Spruit, a biomonitoring action using the miniSASS (South African Scoring System) index is planned during Water Week on 7 and 8 March 2012 for schools in the Eersterust area. This action will be followed up later in the year in other sections of the Spruit to train other groups along the Spruit also interested in biomonitoring.

Water quality monitoring is done by the CoT at 11 points in the river on a monthly basis and the DWA monitors at 4 points on a quarterly basis. The welcome news is that the water quality is on average in a fairly good condition. Stakeholders such as schools, tertiary institutions and interested persons are invited to participate in biomonitoring of the Spruit as well as other activities such as bird-watching, river cleanups, removal of alien vegetation, tree identification and planting that are planned for this year.

A Facebook Group has been started by the Facilitation Team under the name [Adopt-a-River Moreleta](#) to make communication simple. Please use this to ask questions, report

pollution incidents, report good news, share successes, volunteer your expertise, send photos for identification of trees or animals, give suggestions or discuss whatever interests or concerns you. There is great strength in networking!

How does the Adopt-a-River Programme affect existing Friends Groups?

The essential drive of the Adopt-a-River Programme is for people in the Moreleta Spruit catchment to take responsibility for their immediate area. This is exactly what the existing volunteer Friends Groups have been doing. They will continue their good work as before, as members of WESSA in close co-operation with the DWA and CoT Nature Conservation. The Adopt-a-River Forum will give support to interest groups to coordinate and harmonize actions in the catchment in accordance with the Master Environmental Management Plan,

What is the benefit of having the Adopt-a-River Moreleta Spruit Programme?

With the DWA, the CoT Nature Conservation, Friends Groups and other Interest Groups working together under the Adopt-a-River Moreletaspruit banner we have a stronger voice to encourage residents, developers, golf courses, shopping centres, businesses, industries and farmers in the Spruit's catchment area and along the river to adopt environmentally friendly and water-friendly practices. We will also be in a stronger position to attract funding for studies and projects. Training in all catchment management related issues will be provided by the Adopt-a-River Forum to promote an understanding of Integrated Catchment Management.

How can I become involved?

Join an existing Friends Group or start a new interest group in areas where there are no activities as yet. All enthusiastic help and participation from schools, groups and businesses will be welcomed. However, it must be emphasized that the DWA is the custodian of South Africa's water resources and that the management of the land along the river in Tshwane's CBD is the primary responsibility of the CoT. All proposed activities, whether litter collecting, guided walks, team-building clean-ups and so on, must be referred to the CoT: Nature Conservation for permission, guidance and support to make sure that the intended activity is aimed at maintaining the integrity of the green area and the river and is in line with the overall Management Plan and in line with DWA priorities. Also, all activities along the river will be recorded in the CoT data base.

Be aware that pesticides and artificial fertilisers used in homes and gardens can make their way into the river via storm water and ground water and please change to environmentally friendly methods.

Pick up all litter in the streets before it gets into the storm water drains and is washed into the river.

You are welcome to contact the Facilitation Team for ideas and support.

Contact Details/ Kontak-besonderhede

DWA: Gauteng Region – Tel 012 392 1362. Email: RakgothoT@dwa.gov.za

CoT: Nature Conservation – Tel: 012 358 1510. Email: AdeleneL@TSHWANE.GOV.ZA

Facilitation Team – Email: anneli@global.co.za, Tel 012 361 3190, or 083 750 2873

Facebook Group – [Adopt-a-River Moreleta](#)

We hope you will join us in working together to achieve a healthy, sustainable river and ecological systems. - **The Facilitation Team/ die Fasileringspan**