



Adopt Moreletaspruit/ Neem Moreletaspruit Aan

Newsletter/Nuusbrief 7, May/Mei 2013

Who is Responsible for Water in South Africa?

The short answer is: **everybody** - but there are different levels of responsibility.

The **Department of Water Affairs** (DWA) is the custodian of our water at the highest level and is responsible for managing water according to the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998). Their planning and strategies must ensure a sustainable supply of clean water for the future, taking into account that South Africa is a freshwater-scarce country.

At local level, **municipalities** – in our case the **City of Tshwane (CoT)** – are responsible for the supply of clean water, the treatment of waste water and maintenance of infrastructure. They also protect the water ecosystems, monitor and test the water in urban rivers, clean up pollution incidents and prosecute the polluters.

The public must appreciate that **water is our most precious resource**. We can live without almost everything else but not without food and water and we must treat water with the respect it deserves. We have had so many years of good rains that we perhaps take water for granted but many of us can remember the terrible droughts of the late 1960s and the 1980s when water use was restricted, gardens died and the dams were empty. We must not waste or pollute our water, but must protect and conserve it.

Water leaks and **sewage leaks** on public property such as roads, pavements or green areas should be reported to the CoT by phoning 012 358 2111 and following the prompts for “water and sanitation” – persevere, you will get through eventually.

If there is a threat that a sewage leak will reach the river or if you should see that a company, shopping centre or person is **polluting the river** with chemicals, oil or detergents etc. then contact: **Water and Sanitation** on 012 358 9023 or email: SusanL@tshwane.gov.za and also contact **Nature Conservation** on 012 358 1510 or email: AdeleneL@tshwane.gov.za giving full details about exactly where the incident occurred and how to access the area and also send photos and any information about the suspected polluter. Be aware that these are busy people and you may not get an immediate answer but action will be taken. You can also notify Phillemon Resenga of the **DWA**, a member of the department responsible for the Moreletaspruit, at email: ShibamboR@dwa.gov.za .

New Certificate Required regarding Storm Water and the Sewage System

Our sewage system is not designed to take the extra load of storm water. At present, during storms, rainwater runs into domestic drains and causes the sewers to overflow along the river. Soon a Certificate of Compliance will be required for **every house and building** to state that rainwater cannot get into the drains. There should be a wall of

15 cm high around each drain. This certificate will have to be produced when selling a property and this is very good news for our rivers. Rain water is clean and should not be mixed with the waste water in the sewage system but should soak into the ground.

New System of Record-Keeping for the Removal of Alien Vegetation

Each section along the rivers has been divided into blocks. Workers or Friends removing aliens will tackle a block at a time and report on what was removed, what method etc. This way an accurate record will be kept and follow-ups can be scheduled.

Friends Groups/Vriendegroepe:



Vriende van Moreletakloof het na drie lang jare van beplanning, insameling van fondse en verkryging van goedkeurings, begin met hul projek om 'n roete, voëlskerm (foto links), 'n rusdek wat uitkyk oor die vleilande, en 'n toilet te bou wat toeganklik is vir blindes en gestremde persone. Dr Pieter Aucamp het die ekologiese studies gratis gedoen. Intussen het alles duurder geword en 'n spesiale parkeerterrein en geplaveide paadjie moet nog gebou word. Die ou teerpad benodig ook 'n laag teer. As iemand hulle

finansiëel of met werkers, gruis en sand kan help, kontak Jeannie du Plessis by info@moreletakloof.co.za. Hierdie is 'n droom wat deursettingsvermoë geverg het om bewaarheid te word!

Vriende van Faerie Glen Natuureservaat is onder nuwe leierskap. Om aan te sluit of om hulp te bied met die verwydering van uitheemse indringer plante, kontak Louise Kritzinger en Jaco Engelbrecht by admin@fgnr.co.za. Na die opgradering van die Moreleta rioolsisteme het die kontrakteurs begin met rehabilitasie in die natuureservaat. Bome en inheemse grassoorte word geplant waar gegrawe was vir die pyplyn.

Vriende van Glossapark wat die naaste groep is aan die oorsprong van die Moreletaspruit is ook onder nuwe leierskap. Kontak Elize Kruger by amlycottage@gmail.com.

Friends of Serene Valley completed a 12 month project to collect flying insects in a Malaise trap. The insects will be identified by Dr Janine Kelly of the ARC. This information will add to our understanding of the role played by the urban corridor along the rivers in conserving biodiversity. Contact Carol Martin at carolma@telkomsa.net

Know your Invasive Alien Vegetation



Xanthium strumarium – Category 1
Large cocklebur/kankerroos (probably C and S America)
Much branched annual up to 1.2m high, large three-lobed leaves on long petioles. Burs up to 20 mm long in axillary clusters, each covered with hooked spines. Burs similar to this inspired the invention of Velcro. Plant dies in winter but dry burs stick to animal hair or clothing and are dispersed. Invades river banks and cultivated lands, poisonous. Burs must be removed and disposed of where they cannot grow.

Uitnodiging: Inwoners van Pretoria wat in die opvanggebied woon of werk (sien kaart hieronder) word deur die Fasiliteringspan uitgenooi om aan die opwindende “Adopt Moreletaspruit” inisiatief deel te neem.

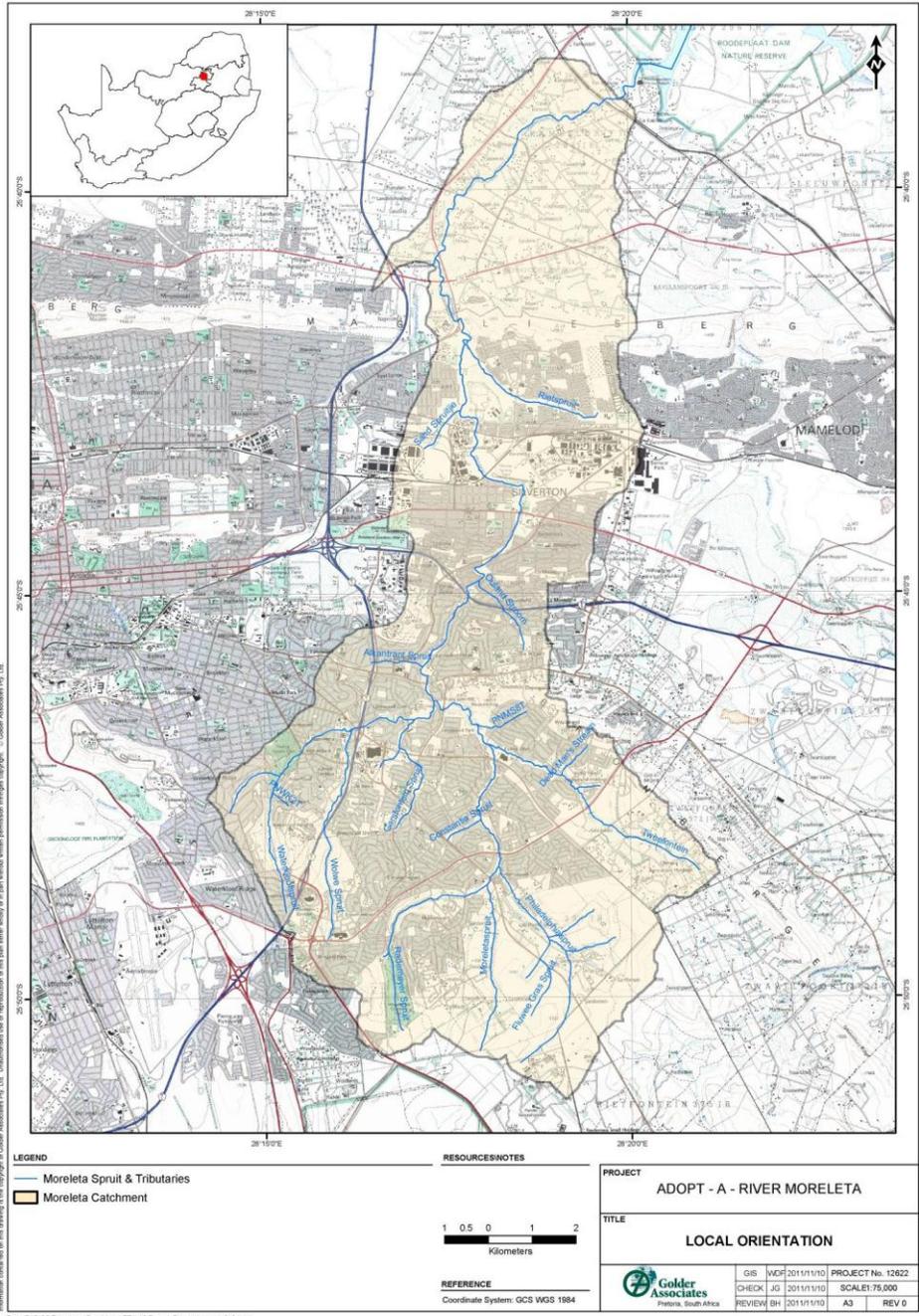
Contact Details/ Kontak-besonderhede

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 – Tel 012 472 0069, or 083 750 2873 Email: Anneli.kuhn@gmail.com.

Facebook Group – **Adopt-a-River Moreleta**



From the Facilitation Team/ Van die Fasiliteringspan