Riemvasmaak – Northern Cape

Comprehensive Rural Development Program

Wednesday, June 17, 2009
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION 1
   1.1 Objectives of Study 1
   1.2 A brief overview of the CRDP 2
   1.3 Problem Statement 2
   1.4 Methodology 3
   1.5 Locality 4

2. BACKGROUND 7
   2.1 Overview on Riemvasmaak land claim 7

3. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS 12
   3.1 Natural Systems 12
   3.2 Built Systems 25
   3.3 Demographics 38
   3.4 Education 38
   3.5 Health 38
   3.6 Employment, Crime, Income and Poverty 39
   3.7 Tourism Initiatives 39

4. ANALYSIS 43
   4.1 Needs Analysis of DMA 43
   4.2 Riemvasmaak SWOT Analysis 43

5. PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE AREA 44

6. CRITICAL CHALLENGES 46

7. RIEMVASMAAK FINDINGS & INTERVENTIONS 51
1. INTRODUCTION

This following report highlights the situational analysis, analysis of findings and recommendations related to the Riemvasmaak restitution project. The content of this report consists of the following:

(i) **Background phase** which covers the objectives of the study; problem statement; methodology, background and locality.

(ii) **The situational Analysis** of the study area covers natural characteristics of the area; socio-economic conditions of the study area; current state of infrastructure; Land Use Management and Land Reform and other government initiatives.

(iii) **Analysis Phase** consists of SWOT analysis based on the status quo report. The analysis phase deals with core issues raised by the status quo report. This phase analyzes information collected by means of interviews and data collection. The analysis provides a picture of areas that need intervention and the impact thereof.

(iv) **Interventions** this phase seeks to provide solutions proposes and creative approaches to problems raised in the status quo and analysis phase. This phase provides analysis of critical issues that need to be addressed for the development of the area.

(v) **Recommendations** summarizes the content of the report with priorities that require urgent attention from the state and way forward.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to undertake a status quo analysis for the Riemvasmaak land claim and make recommendations to facilitate post settlement support through the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) approach. The study will further highlight the kind of resources required to make the programme a success.
1.2 A brief overview of the CRDP.

The new Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has been given the mandate by the President of South Africa to develop a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) throughout the country. To achieve this mandate the Department embarked on developing a fresh approach to rural development. The programme is focused on enabling rural people to take control of their destiny, with the support from government, and thereby dealing effectively with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources. This will be achieved through a co-ordinated and integrated broad-based agrarian transformation as well as the strategic investment in economic and social infrastructure that will benefit the entire rural communities. The programme will be successful when it becomes apparent that “sustainable and vibrant rural communities” are succeeding throughout South Africa.

A three pronged strategy to ensure that the Department achieves its objective are:

(i) **Agrarian Transformation** includes increasing all types of agricultural production; optimal and sustainable use of natural resources; the use of appropriate technologies; food security; and improving the quality of life for each rural household.

(ii) **Rural Development** includes improving economic and social infrastructure.

(iii) **Land Reform** including restitution, redistribution, land tenure reform.

1.3 Problem Statement

The process of restoring the Riemvasmaak community commenced way back in 1994. Since then post settlement support initiatives have not yet achieved all the envisaged impacts. There is still evidence of poor infrastructure, lack of access to economic activities and long traveling distance to secondary educational facilities for the learners. Deforestation and soil erosion continues to characterize the area.

Commitment and coordinated government effort in addressing the issues identified for Riemvasmaak is not evident. Many existing opportunities in the area have not been fully explored. Some of the Public investment takes place on parcels of land inappropriate for development.
1.4 Methodology

The methodological approach employed primarily consists of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Qualitative research refers to collecting and interpreting information about some phenomenon without concern for quantities.

The research also involves studies used and the collection of a variety of empirical materials, case studies, personal experience, life stories, interviews, observations, histories and interactions that describe routine and problematic moments and meanings in people’s lives. (Denzin & Linden 1994: p. 2).

An analysis of the built, Socio-Economic and Bio-Physical environment was undertaken to determine the status and analysis of the area.
1.5. Locality

1.5.1. Provincial Context (See Map No 1)

The Northern Cape Province occupies 363,389km² or 29% of South Africa’s land mass and is the largest of the nine Provinces. It is situated in the north-western portion of the country and is bordered by Namibia and Botswana to the north, the North-West and Free State Provinces to the east, the Eastern Cape and Western Cape Provinces to the south and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The international boundaries are formed by the Orange River (Namibia) and Molopo (Botswana) River bed.

The major urban settlements in the Province include Kimberley, Upington, Springbok, Colesberg, De Aar and Calvinia. Smaller settlements of interest to tourists include Alexander Bay, Port Nolloth, Sutherland and Barkly West. The bulk of the towns have populations between 1 000 and 5 000 people and only six centres have populations over 10 000 (Scott Wilson, 1998). Kimberley has 36% of the population which is six times larger than the next town on the hierarchy, Upington.

The Province has five District Municipalities namely; Kgalagadi, Siyanda, Frances Baard, Pixley ka Seme and Namakwa. Although the District Municipalities are made up of a number of local municipalities, these are not ‘wall-to-wall’ municipalities, as large areas of the Province have been designated District Management Areas (DMA’s) due to their extremely low populations.

1.5.2. District or Regional Context (See Map No 2)

The Siyanda District Municipality forms the mid-northern section of the province on the frontier with Botswana. It covers an area of more than 100,000 square kilometers (almost 30% of the entire Province) out of which 65,000 square kilometers compromise the vast Kalahari Desert, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Siyanda District comprises of six Local Municipalities. Upington is the district municipal capital where most of the municipal government services are located. The District Management Area (DMA) of Siyanda District Municipality consists mainly of areas in the Kalahari, private farmlands in the Kenhardt and surrounding areas as well as the community of Riemvasmaak.
1.5.3. Local context: Riemvasmaak (See Map No 3)

The Riemvasmaak community mentioned above is situated 60 km west of the town of Kakamas. The area of about 74 000 hectares, is boarded by the Orange River in the south, the Kalahari in the north and by Namibia in the west. Riemvasmaak is approximately 136 km from Upington by road. The whole area is managed by the Siyanda District Municipality, which is classified as a category C Municipality.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview of Riemvasmaak land claim

The earliest written and oral histories clearly show that the Khoi San people lived a hunter-gatherer existence in and around the area of which Riemvasmaak forms part.

The land of Riemvasmaak was, during the 1870s occupied by a core group of original inhabitants together with a number of people of Damara and Herero origin. During this time they were further joined by Xhosa-speaking residents who were displaced from their land by the Koranna and Griqualand West Wars of the 1860’s and 1870’s. Ever since, the ancestors of these communities lived on and used the surrounding adjacent farms to Riemvasmaak. The land was accessed and used communally according to shared rules established through custom and practices. This land was and is still regarded as the treasure of the Riemvasmakers since agricultural and livestock farming was the main source of livelihood and income.

This place had a high level of social organization within the community itself as the evidence can easily be drawn from the way your great grand parents used to control their livestock by having regional committees known as the “Voormanne” (headmen). Despite the different ethnic origins, there was a close sense of community as almost 95% of the members of this community were Christians. People witnessed intermarriages with high degree of integration and the common
language was and still is Afrikaans. Those nostalgic days were ruined by brutal and forced removals by the apartheid regime that caused untold suffering to all the people of Riemvasmaak.

From 1948, the apartheid regime engaged on a programme of mass removal as it sought to consolidate the Bantustans and remove black spots. But this ethnically mixed community of Riemvasmaak could not fit to the plan. So the state had to offer alternative land as the pressure to move increased in 1960's.

Therefore the people of Riemvasmaak were forcefully and ruthlessly removed from their land of about 122 000 hectares by the apartheid regime as the land was declared a “Black Spot” in 1973 making way for a Military training camp and an area for the testing of weapons.

Those who were classified under apartheid laws as Xhosa were moved to Welcomewood in the (Ciskei) Eastern Cape. Those who were classified as Nama or Damara Heritage were forcibly relocated 1300 kilometres away to Welwitchia and Khorixas in the northern Namibia. Finally, those who were classified as Coloureds remained in the areas surrounding Riemvasmaak, such as Marchand, Augrabies and Keimoes without any compensation whilst others received unjust compensation.

In terms of Proclamation 44 of 1982, and under section 2 (2) (b) of the National Parks Act 57 of 1976, the state President declared a small subdivided portion of Riemvasmaak farm (in extent 4270 ha informally known as Melkbosrand or Bokvasmaak) as part of the Augrabies Falls National Park.

In trying to get their land back in 1990, people of Riemvasmaak at first decided not to take their case to ACLA but to approach President F W De Klerk who later referred the matter back to ACLA. The community of Riemvasmaak formally lodged a claim on the 15th of November 1993 with the then Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) which later changed to Commission on Land Allocation (CLA) assisted the Legal Resource Centre, Land Development Unit and Surplus People Project.

This initiative was combined with mass action as the people of Riemvasmaak protested at the World Trade Centre where all political parties were negotiating the transition to the democratic rule in South Africa. The mass action drew support from the ANC that deplored F W De Klerk's failure to listen to the people and
demanded that he take immediate steps towards the process acceleration of the
return of the Riemvasmakers to their land. The claim was then partially settled on
the 11th of February 1994 and the Land Claims Court concluded that the land of
about 74 562.8124 hectares be returned to the 166 households of Riemvasmaak
with the settlement amount of R701 063.77.

The Riemvasmaak Community Development Trust was established on 28 March
1995. One of the main objects of the Trust is to secure and enforce the legitimate
restitution and reparation claims of the Riemvasmaak community who suffered as
a result of the arbitrary, unfair and discriminatory actions of the State.

The National Parks Board entered into an agreement with the Trust that it should
manage 4137 hectares of the claimed land which falls within the park known as
Melkbosrand for a specified amount of money as compensation yearly and this
arrangement has being in place until to date.

In 2005 the then Regional land claims commissioner for Free State and Northern
Cape Mr. S.T. Ramakarane approved and gazetted the outstanding land which
was claimed but not settled under ACLA. The 19 farm portions totaling
61383.1658 hectares, which are adjacent to Riemvasmaak farm, were gazetted.

Due to the challenges that were posed by the current land owners, settlement of
the 19 farm portions totaling 61383.1658 hectares is handled in phases.
In 2008, the Regional Land Claims Commission settled the first phase of this
claim where 3 portions of the farm known as Omdraai measuring
1654.3521hectares was bought on behalf of the 172 verified households from
Marchand, Vredesvallei and Augrabies and Riemvasmaak sending. The total
settlement value of phase 1 was R36 140 935.00 which consist of the land price,
Restitution Settlement Grant R1 140 935.00 and the Development Assistant
Grant of R 7 000 000.00.

The approval for the settlement of phase 2 for a land measuring 46 595.8483
hectares was approved by the Minister for Rural Development and land Reform
on the 09th June 2009. The total settlement value of phase 2 is R70 298 901.25
which consist of the land price of R56 239 121.00 and the Development Assistant
Grant of R14059780.00. The official handover of this land to the Riemvasmaak
community is scheduled to take place on the 19th June 2009.

The Office of the RLCC is busy processing the phase 3 settlement of the
Riemvasmaak claim, which is aimed at compensating people who are still at
Welcomewood and Namibia who will not be returning back to Riemvasmaak
farm. This will be in lieu of the remaining properties not restored.
3. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
3.1. Natural Systems

3.1.1. Geology & Soils (See map 5 and 6)

The Riemvasmaak settlement is situated on an alluvium with supporting Gneiss with an inserted layered amphibolite. The deepest level where the alluvium was found was 4m at the offices of the mission. The Gneiss at Riemvasmaak under the alluvium is however eroded to a depth of 70 m.

The dominant soil type in the area is alluvial sand and sand dunes. Metasediments of the Korannaland formation can be traced form the east and south into the area but further north and east appears other metasediments of which some are known in the Korannaland formation. These rocks are grouped in the Koelmskopp metamorphic suite. No stratigraphic sequence can be recognised in them because the metasediments are usually found in the granites as big enclosures. Granites that are in contact with each other ages are not known.

3.1.2 Climate and Rainfall (See map 7)

The Northern Cape is known for its extreme climate conditions and the Siyanda District Municipal area is by no means an exception. The Orange River flows from east to west through the municipal area, with a large amount of non perennial rivers also intersecting the area.

The area is semi-desert, with low summer rainfall levels. The average summer temperatures differ between 18ºC and 36ºC, with extremes of up to 43ºC. Winter temperatures are moderate and differ between 30ºC and 20ºC and minimum temperatures dropping as low as 0ºC.

The area falls within a rain shadow. Rain generally occurs early in spring and then again between February and April. Average rainfall of the area ranges between 75 and 125mm per annum. In comparison, other provinces like Gauteng experience these levels of rainfall within a month. The area has a typical continental climate with extreme high temperatures and rainfall in the form of thunderstorms which occur mainly during the summer months. The Riemvasmaak area also experiences similar climatic conditions.
3.1.3 Topography (See map 8)

The topography of the area around Riemvasmaak is characterized by the Kalahari desert, wavy hills, sand plains and red sand dunes.

The topography of the area where the settlements are located is generally flat with an estimated slope gradient of 1:10. However, both settlements are surrounded by mountains which pose a threat to the settlement due to small tributaries flowing from these hills/mountains down to the settlements. As a result of these tributaries and streams, a huge water catchment area is formed where they meet (in particular the Mission area). This is the area of concern due to the flooding history associated with it.

3.1.4 Vegetation (See map 9)

As a result of the low rainfall, the area has a unique vegetation cover since two field types are found in the area, i.e. the Orange River scattered field and the Kalahari-Dune field, with a large bio-diversity of plants and animal species, which are endemic to the respective field types.

Furthermore, an interesting blend of hydrous and drought resistant plant species is evident due to the proximity of the Orange River which flows through a semi-arid area. In this way contrasts in plant life occur, e.g. Wild Olive and River Willow, versus Aloe, Quiver and Camel Thorn Tree.

3.1.5 Floodplains and flood lines. (See map 10)

A floodplain is an area which falls outside a river bank which is normally covered by water after heavy rains. A flood line is a boundary line which is delineated by an engineer. Buildings and structures shall not be constructed or erected in the area declared as flood plain, with exception of those buildings and structures that are necessary for flood or erosion control.

In some situations flood control measures such as stream or channel diversions, dams, and levees can greatly reduce the risk of flooding. This is more often done in floodplain areas with histories of very damaging floods. In addition, land use
regulations, encroachment statutes and building codes are often intended to protect the public from the risk of flooding.

The **Mission area** - the most worrying factor is the Mission area where ninety eight percent (98%) of human settlement are located on the basin of the flood plain. The last flood affecting the area occurred in 2000.

The **Vredesvallei** area - the community of Vredesvallei lives along the Orange River within a formal township with tarred road, electricity, school, and other community facilities. In terms of the planning principles for sustainable development, the location of Vredesvallei is not ideal since it is along the Orange River. There are no official flood lines available for Vredesvallei at the moment, however, during site inspection it was evident that both Vredesvallei and the Mission are located very near the floodline.

In Vredesvallei, flood debris are physically visible through out and not far off from the developed area. The soil type of the area is sandy soil which shows that the soil is not stable with characteristics of a semi-desert area.

Apart from the flooding from the mountain, the Orange River poses a huge threat during heavy rains.

The following goals shall assist the Riemvaasmaak management in order to deal with flood plain and for the implementation of the project in general:

(i) To develop a flood plain management programme which will ensure proper land use and to prevent or minimise the risk of property damage and loss of life.

(ii) To assist in identifying those areas that are subject to flooding and which have been the subject of more detailed flood line information.

(iii) To ensure prevention, and enhance the natural environment associated with identified “flood plain” areas.
3.1.6. Water Resources – Hydrology (See Map 11)

Underground Water

Underground water is not a very common source of water in the province and this also applies to Riemvasmaak. The underground water usually lies very deep beneath the surface and is often too brackish for use, even by animals. The water table becomes deeper the further you move away from rivers. The water levels of the underground water in many places often subside rapidly because of over-pumping, and low rainfall not adequate enough to refill the underground sources.

Surface Water (river)

The most important river in the region is the Orange River. The Orange River is a perennial river with a flow which varies between 50 and 1800 cubic meter per second (cum/s) depending on the season. The flow of the river is largely controlled by the release in dams upstream, like the Bloemhof, Gariep and Van der Kloof dams.

The Hartebees River runs past Kenhardt and flows into the Orange River. This is a river which only flows after heavy rainfall. The Molopo River and its tributary, the Kuruman, which previously used to flow into the Orange River is situated in the north of the area.

The quality of the water from the Orange River has systematically been degrading. Reasons for this are the increasing agricultural and industrial activities which are upstream from Upington, as well as the lessening of the inflow of high quality water from Lesotho. The quality of the water varies with the seasons, as well as depending on which river feeds the main inflow. If it is the Orange River, the turbidity, sand and salt content is usually high. If the inflow comes mainly from the Vaal River one finds a light nutrient content which leads to algae growth. The blue-green algae (nucro-systis) are typically found. The removal of large concentrations of both silt/sand and algae is problematic at times. The Orange River flows adjacent to portions of Riemvasmaak and most of the other rivers and tributaries are dry for most of the year.
3.1.7. Agricultural Activities (See map 12)

Below is a summary of the Agricultural activities that occur in the area.

*Livestock Farming*

Livestock farming occurs mainly on large farms where farming is extensive. The larger majority of these farms are privately owned.

Livestock farming in the Riemvasmaak area is presently, as a result of the low carrying capacity of the ground and dry conditions, mainly limited to subsistence levels.

The large areas, terrain and distances make the enclosing of growing areas not economically viable. The carrying capacity of Riemvasmaak was recently estimated at 60h large stock unit (LSU).

Lastly, it should be mentioned that a large variety of game can be found on both private and conservation areas in the Region, forming an important base for the well-established game industry in the region. More than 1000 game farmers have been registered with the Department of Nature Conservation which is also an indication of the extent of the industry in the region.

*Irrigation Farming*

Although the largest part of the Siyanda District Municipal Area is taken up by livestock farming, there is also limited intensive irrigation farming in the surroundings of Byna-Bo and Schuitdrift (Southern Farms).

The area referred to above is known worldwide for its table grapes, which are usually the first to reach the markets in Europe and other international countries. This is a very intensive industry and it contributes greatly to the economy of the region. There are currently a limited number of irrigation schemes within the Riemvasmaak area. The Blouputs farm is located adjacent to Riemvasmaak and is a typical example of the effective use of irrigation.

*Communal Farming*

The only form of communal farming found in the DMA is at Riemvasmaak as this formed part of a land reform project and most of these projects are run as a communal type of farming. Various forms of communal farming management
exist, of which the Trust and the Community Owners Association are best known. There is currently an area of 10ha within Riemvasmaak where grapes are being grown by the community and trust.

3.2 Built Systems (Land Use and Infrastructure)

3.2.1 Settlements and Housing (Vredesvallei and the Mission Area) (See map 13b and 13a)

Both villages are formalized and registered townships although a mix of informal and formal housing stock. The formal housing in this instance refers to popularly known as RDP houses.

_Vredesvallei_

The pre-dominant land use in the Vredesvallei is agricultural for both commercial farming, subsistence, and grazing in general

(i) Sport field

There is an existing sport field although there is no “surface” for playing.

(ii) Public Open Space

There is no formal public open space.

(iii) School (educational facilities)

There is only one primary school, computer training. There are 53 learners in the entire school with two teachers.

(iv) Institution (government)

There is an existing Municipal Office in the area.

(v) Cemetery

There is an existing cemetery which is allegedly lying within the flood line on the outskirts of the settlement.
(vi) Library

During the site visit in Vredesvallei, the community indicated that there is an existing library, however, this has not been confirmed by the team as the team could not located it spatially and physically on the ground.

(vii) Adjacent Land uses

The predominant land use adjacent to Vredesvallei is a commercial agricultural farm popularly known as Blouputs. Table grapes production in the Blouputs is being exported, with 80% going to Europe and the balance to the USA and Far East.

The predominant land uses along the Orange River is agricultural activities such as grapes, pecan nuts and lucerne. These agricultural products are commercially based.

Mission village Area

(i) Residential (formal and informal)

The village consists of a number of community facilities and existing formal and informal residential areas. The description of a formal house or residence in this instance is referred to a government subsidized housing scheme popularly known as Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP house). The informal part of housing exists within formalized houses and known as back yard shacks. Most the formal houses are fully serviced including water, electricity and VIP toilets.

(ii) Education (school) (See map no 14)

There is an existing primary school, and pre-school.

(iii) Agricultural Live Stock

There is a small scale goat’s farming in the area however according to a report from the Department of Agriculture, the goat farming on Riemvasmaak is not sustainable due to low carrying capacity. It is reported by the Agricultural professionals that, a maximum of 50 (fifty goats) is permissible based on the low
grazing capacity. Beyond this number the farm would be subjected to over grazing which may lead to soil erosion.

(iv) Mining Activities (See map 15)

There are two mines in the area however they are reported to be closed and currently non of them are operational. There is however evidence of small scale informal mining activities (Rose quarts gemstones and Tungsten).

(v) Public biblical library

There is an existing biblical library. This is an NGO project initiative which targets Afrikaans speaking communities for Afrikaans language literacy.

(vi) Community facilities

There is an existing community centre and a mobile clinic that comes once in a month.

3.2.2 Transport and Roads (See map 16)

Accessibility is one of the challenges for both the Mission and Vredesvallei. Vredesvallei has some private transport which is used to carry maize meal and there is no other alternative means of Public Transport. The access to the Mission is also a big challenge since the road from the provincial road to the Mission id gravel and is in a very bad condition for almost 60 km. It is said that during rainy season, the road is not accessible. It is not clear how the community in the Mission access surrounding towns such as Upington.

In Vredesvallei, the access road is in good state with tar road and a bridge crossing over the Orange River. However, transport is also a major problem for the community. There is no transport for school children from grade 7-12 which is in Kakamas about 53.6 kilometres away. There is one taxi once a week from Vresdesvallei to Kakamas.

3.2.3 Water Infrastructure

Below is a summary of access to water infrastructure in the Siyanda District Municipality.
### Access to water and population group of head of household

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Coloured</th>
<th>Indian</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Piped water inside the dwelling</td>
<td>6494</td>
<td>16327</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>8197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water inside the yard</td>
<td>7412</td>
<td>11926</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water from access point outside the yard</td>
<td>1752</td>
<td>2912</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water from access point outside the yard</td>
<td>1752</td>
<td>2912</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borehole</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dam/Pool</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River/Stream</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Vendor</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainwater Tank</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both settlements have access to a basic level of water provision in the form of household standpipes. However, there are indications that the mission experience water supply problems.

With regards to water access, there are 17 boreholes in the area. Two of these boreholes in the Mission are for human consumption and are reported to have pumps. The remaining eight boreholes are for livestock consumption and are without pumps.
3.2.4. Sanitation (See map 17a and 17b)

Both villages (Mission and Vredesvallei) use VIP toilets due to water shortage. It is reported that Department of Water Affairs has set aside a budget of R13.5m for a water pipe line to service both villages hence the feasibility study has been completed for the project. The project will only be effected in the 2010/2011 financial year.

3.2.5 Electricity (See map 18)

Electricity installation has just been completed in the Mission area and electrical poles are still fairly new and Eskom officials were visible in the area during the visit by Spatial Planning team.

Vredesvalley village has access to electricity and is a fairly well formalized township compared to the Mission.

3.2.6 Housing

About 80 houses are to be built for 2009/2010 financial year for an amount of R4.9m in the Mission area. In addition to these, about 20 houses will be built in Vredesvallei for an amount of R440,000.00 with a layout plan being finalized for the development.

Graph 1

Community Survey 2007:
by tenure status and population group of household head.
NC082: Kal Garib Local Municipality. (Numbers)
3.3 Demographics

The district is populated by roughly 200,000 people with a density of about 17 people per square kilometer. The DMA population is + 8600 of whom 52.2% are female, and 47.8% male, which the DMA covers, it is scarcely populated. The provision of infrastructure and effective service delivery to the community must be seen as a challenge.

Table indicating population shifts 2001 - 2007 (CS2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riemvasmaak population Census 2001 : 702</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table indicating population and total households (CS2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Percentage as of % of District Municipality</th>
<th>Number of Household with District Municipality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56501</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>17389</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 Education (Vresdesvallei and the Mission)

There are schools at Vredesvallei and Mission. The school at Vredesvallei provides education to the children of the surrounding area from Grade 0 to Grade 4, while the school at the old Mission station (Sending) teaches Grade 0 to Grade 7. There are also schools in the following places in the district: Rouxvlei, Swartkopdam, Bo Plaas and Gemsbokkloof.

3.5 Health (See map 19)

In this region the greatest social problems are illiteracy and poverty. According to the last socio-economic survey in 2007, approximately 60% of the inhabitants have a monthly household income of between R0-R800. As a result of the above-mentioned factors there is a close correlation between poverty and health.
Generally speaking the poorer people are the worse, this includes malnutrition of children. There are no major health issues in the settlements. In discussions with the community, there was no major health related issues besides the absence of a permanent clinic.

3.6 Employment, Crime, Income and Poverty

Due to low levels of employment on the farm, it is reported statistically that three (3) out of four people receive state grant. Therefore, many people depend largely support from the state for survival.

As a result of the high level of unemployment rate in the area, the community is involved in activities of crime such as stealing livestock, establishment of taverns which has led to many people being stabbed.

3.7. Tourism Initiatives

3.7.1. Tourism in the District

There can be little doubt that tourism is one of the most important economic sectors in the Northern Cape as well as within the Siyanda District Municipal boundaries. Tourism is the fastest growing enterprise of the economy.

Tourism as such is one of the industries, which provides the most employment globally. The Siyanda District Municipality has priceless natural resources, which should make tourism in the area flourish. The development of the tourism industry in this area will give momentum to increased job creation. The local tourism industry, apart from the agricultural sector, should become the most important economic activity in the area in the next ten years, taken into consideration the current growth rate in both development and employment.

What must be emphasized is the fact that this is an accessible desert area with incredibly contrasting landscapes.

The Siyanda District Municipality realized the importance of tourism in the area at a very early stage. Because of this, the Council set up a broadly inclusive development plan for the region. For a complete plan on tourism in the district, contact the Tourism Office in the Siyanda District Municipality. There is an existing hot spring in the mission area. The potential of which must be further explored.
3.7.2. National Parks and Reserves. (See map 20)

The world famous Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is found in this region. This tourist destination attracts thousands of tourists to the region on an annual basis and has thus a very positive influence on the smaller local tourist enterprises in the area.

About 13km outside of Upington is the Spitskop Nature Reserve, which is managed by the //Khara Hais Municipality. Although this reserve does not fall specifically under the SDM management, it plays a role in the tourism industry of the region.

Yet another important tourist attraction is the Augrabies National Park which, like Spitskop, is not managed by Siyanda District Municipality, but which has an important influence on tourism in the region.

3.7.3. Eco-adventures and Safaris:

Experienced local guides offer adventures in this region, with a limited risk to the tourist and his equipment. There are various opportunities for 4x4 enthusiasts. At Riemvasmaak, which is also part of the region, eco-tourism already forms an important source of income. The potential of the region is far greater than its present utilisation. With innovative ideas and a good marketing strategy the potential income can be increased. There are excellent development possibilities in the central part of the area where there are hot water springs in breath-taking natural surroundings. An overnight facility with chalets and camping sites with ablution blocks have already been established at these hot water springs.

Possible future products are, to mention a few, the following:

- The development of the San culture as a tourist attraction in areas adjacent to the Kgalagadi National Park
- The development of the Nama culture as tourist attraction in Riemvasmaak
- The development of a mountain bike trail at Riemvasmaak
- The establishment of a little buggy business at Hakskeenpan.

There are opportunities for farm holidays in the area, and the Kalahari raptor route is also part of this region. The area also has quite a few historic sites, backpack trails and hunting to offer the tourist.
4. ANALYSIS

4.1. A Needs Analysis in the District Municipal Area (DMA) highlights the following:

- Insufficient provision of housing.
- Insufficient communication/partnership with the agricultural communities.
- Insufficient capacity of small-scale farmers within DMA boundaries.
- Insufficient health facilities and services in DMA.
- Insufficient capacity of SMME’s within DMA.
- Insufficient promotion and efficient utilization and integration of the tourism industry.
- Siyanda District Municipality’s role as co-ordinator in land reform issues is not fully utilized.
- Insufficient and ineffective community services to needy rural communities.
- Insufficient and ineffective infrastructure development with regard to roads and transport, water and sanitation, electricity and communications.

4.2. Riemvasmaak SWOT Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRENGTHS</th>
<th>WEAKNESSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is land available that can</td>
<td>Poor soils for crop and livestock farming and housing construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be used for development purposes.</td>
<td>No secondary school in both villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO’s are presently working</td>
<td>Gravel roads mostly in the Mission village.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with the communities.</td>
<td>Poor access between the two settlements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land ownership by the</td>
<td>Inadequate transport infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beneficiaries.</td>
<td>Mobile clinic once a month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Orange River.</td>
<td>Area Carrying capacity (Livestock farming).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluctuations of water table when pumped to the boreholes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Orange River: water source, fishing, recreational potential and agriculture potential (grape farming).
- New bridge as gateway to Vredesvalei.
- 4 X 4 Route.
- Hiking trail along the Mountain range at Vredevalley.

**THREATS**

- Flood plain.
- Drug abuse
- Conflict between the two communities.
- Level of rainfall.

---

### 5. PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE AREA

The Siyanda District Municipality has identified the following projects for Riemvasmaak in their 2009/2010 IDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority issues</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient provision of housing</td>
<td>Provide houses</td>
<td>• Riemvasmaak Mission : 80 at 4.9 million allocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Riemvasmaak Vredesvalei : 20 at 442.00 rands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Needs based allocation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• 20 more houses are still needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• New stands are also being envisaged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient and effective infrastructure development with regard to electricity</td>
<td>Electricity provision within the DMA</td>
<td>• Riemvasmaak streetlights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient and effective infrastructure development with regard to water</td>
<td>Water provision within the DMA</td>
<td>• Riemvasmaak reservoir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient and ineffective community services to the needy in rural communities</td>
<td>Upgrading of sport field facilities in the two economies</td>
<td>• Riemvasmaak sports field at 3.2 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Insufficient and effective infrastructure development with regard to roads | Upgrading of the gravel road  
In the interim they will purchase a tractor/grader to maintain the road. | |
| Insufficient and effective infrastructure development with regard to water | Gutters and collection of rain from households | • Houses do not have gutters to catch rainwater  
2010/2011 Water Affairs will lay a water pipe to the area. | • 30.5 Million allocated for that project |
| Insufficient and ineffective community services to the needy to rural communities | Community hall | • Budgeted for in the area. |
| Insufficient and ineffective community services to the needy to rural communities with regard to health services | Clinic services are also limited. | • Need for a clinic  
The nearest clinic in Kakamas.  
The municipality provides temporal shelter for the clinic.  
The clinic comes |
Insufficient and ineffective community services to the needy to rural communities in terms of ablution facilities | Need for VIP toilets | • Needs analysis on water toilets through a pipeline from the Orange River

6. CRITICAL CHALLENGES FOR THE STUDY AREA

- Remoteness of the Riemvasmaak (Mission) from surrounding areas including Kakamas and Keimoes. Access routes in Riemvasmaak (Mission) are a hindrance to development.

- There is alleged conflict between communities that reside in Vredesvallei those that reside in Riemvasmaak (Mission).

- There and are issues around the Riemvasmaak Trust mismanagement of funds and lack of capacity from the trust to unlock potential.

- There is no coordinated effort from some sector departments to provide services to the Riemvasmaak community, in particular areas on the periphery (Mission).

- The terrain and remoteness of the settlement makes it impossible to have integrated settlements between the Riemvasmaak (Mission) and Vredesvallei.

- The dependency on seasonal employment of surrounding farms, poses a challenge in terms of maintaining livelihood.

- Water supply is a serious challenge for communal gardens and any form of crop farming for household use.

- Stock farming dependency, particularly on goat farming compromises the carrying capacity of the veld. Invasive species are prevalent in the area as indigenous vegetation give ways for invasive species.

- It has been indicated that the area has an abundant donkey population (2500 animals) which also affects the grazing capacity of the area.
The surrounding terrain has a lot of rock, outcrops which presents a challenge for agricultural purposes.

The two Settlements are situated within a flood line which poses a challenge in terms of retaining fertile soil and causes damage by seasonal rains.

Travel distance and inaccessibility of some of the areas poses a challenge in terms of medical facilities accessing the area in time for medical assistance.

The lack of a clinic within reach of the inhabitants creates a problem around access to emergency medical care. There are community health workers in the areas and they monitor patients, however there needs to qualified personnel to deal with more complicated medical matters.

Access to basic commodities is a also challenge as communities have to travel great distances to access services.

Access to education facilities, children because of the lack of high school have to attend boarding schools or travel to Kakamas or Keimoes for schooling.

No recreational facilities like parks

Dependence on social assistance, apparently 3 individuals in four receive social grants.

7. SECTOR DEPARTMENTS PROPOSED PROJECT FOR RIEMVASMAAK.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsible Department/agency</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NC Provincial Department of Agriculture and Land Reform</td>
<td>Development of food security project.</td>
<td>The Department has approved budget for the development of 2 hectares for food security.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grape production</td>
<td>About 2 ha of grapes production has already been developed and plans are in place to add a further 8 hectares to make it 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Veld management, Animal Production Practices, Irrigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANPARKS</td>
<td>Management of the land within the park.</td>
<td>SANPARKS manages about 4137ha known as Melkbosrand, in return the community receives compensation yearly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cape Development Agency, Development Bank of South Africa</td>
<td>Citrus, pomegranate and fig plantation</td>
<td>NCEDA and DBSA are currently finalizing the partnership agreement between the community and CITRO gold that will result in 250ha of land in Riemvasmaak being developed for Citrus production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African Fruit Exporters (SAFE)</td>
<td>Grape and Mango Production</td>
<td>About 177 ha is currently leased to SAFE and is used as follows: 84ha are used for table grapes, 79ha are used for wine grapes and raisings, 14ha are used for mangoes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Land Claims Commission</td>
<td>Capacity Building,</td>
<td>An amount of R21m has being set aside for post settlement support which includes capacity building, social facilitation, business planning and purchasing of implements and other inputs relevant to the farming enterprise (e.g. livestock, tractors etc).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legend
- Proposed Waterline along Road
- Upgrade of Access Road

Developments
- Hot Springs
- Upgrade of Sportsfield
- Riemvasmaak Mission

Proposed Projects - Mission

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Kimberley - Northern Cape
Tel (053) 832594 Fax (053) 8321442

Map Number: Map 21a
Date: 8 June 2009
8. RIEMVASMAAK FINDINGS & INTERVENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Needs</th>
<th>* Findings and Proposed Interventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Road Access</td>
<td>The access road the mission needs to be upgraded to an all-weather gravel road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal roads</td>
<td>Internal road networks needs to be upgraded to at least a basic level (gravel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Many of the community have RDP houses alongside their traditional houses. There are some people who do not have a RDP house and their informal houses are in a poor condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Vredesvallei has water reticulation and the infrastructure is in place. The water infrastructure is also in place in the Mission however problems are experienced in water supply during the summer season (dependant on rain).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Sanitation infrastructure is at a basic level. Residents have however stated they prefer waterborne sanitation due to the health conditions experienced especially in summer with the VIP systems. Waterborne sewerage to both villages will be difficult to implement however different technologies can be investigated. Electricity supply is available to all households in both villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security and Agricultural challenges</td>
<td>Agricultural activities are very limited in both villages. The only major agricultural activities in the area include grape farming. There is potential in expanding the current project of 10ha being run by the community. Further investigations into other agricultural activities and types of crops will need to be investigated. A limited no of people also practice live stock farming (goats). This potential needs to be further investigated. The major challenge would be the carrying capacity of the area. The possibility of Grazing camps could be investigated and the planting of Lucerne can also be pursued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fencing</strong></td>
<td>Areas with agricultural potential can be fenced. Grazing camps can also be developed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>Both villages have crèches and primary schools. There is no High School in the area and pupils have to travel to Kakamas however transportation is a problem and costly. The potential of provision of scholar transport must be investigated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td>There are limited mining activities in the area which some people practice at a very small and informal scale. Most people are employed on a seasonal basis in surrounding farms. There is also a small tourism site within the area in the vicinity of the hot springs. This presents potential for expansion and formalisation. Implementation by relevant sector departments of the Community based Expanded Public Work programme towards the improvement of existing infrastructure will also lead to the creation of jobs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td>There is no clinic and a mobile clinic visits the area once a month. However there is no formal structure where people can be examined within. It currently takes place in the open. The provision of a centre or the expansion of existing structures where the mobile clinic could operate from in both villages is recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Facilities</strong></td>
<td>The existing community halls can also be used multi functionally including for the mobile clinic. Both villages have existing sport fields, however these can be further developed to include sport centers etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. The RIS directorate is currently embarking on a process of aligning its land reform redistribution products/programmes to the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

What the directorate seeks out to do is to group potential beneficiaries in terms of the categories below:

- **Category 1:** Landless households – those who have no space even for subsistence production and seek land for small-scale subsistence purposes, with or without settlement; including rights-based applicants such as farm dwellers
- **Category 2:** Commercial-ready subsistence producers – those who wish and are capable of having a more commercial focus but need land and support, mostly on part-time basis; including rights-based applicants such as farm dwellers
- **Category 3:** Expanding commercial smallholders – those who have already been farming commercially at a small scale and with aptitude to expand, but are constrained by land and other resources
- **Category 4:** Well-established black commercial farmers – those who have been farming at a reasonable scale, but are disadvantaged by location and other circumstances, and with real potential to become large-scale commercial farmers
- **Category 5:** Financially capable, aspirant black commercial farmers – established businesspeople who which to expand into agriculture and who by and large will be part-time farmers

This will in turn assist in aligning the grants and services the directorate disburses to the public with emphasis to the rural poor.

The pilot projects for the CRDP can assist in sassing out valuable information such as:

- The type of farm land (arable land) available within the specific area.
- The infrastructure within the specific area.
- The livelihood of the community concerned.
- Their needs in terms of land, etc.

2. In addition, the directorate is exploring, as an interim proposal, the use of SPLAG grants as a rural development grant. These grants might only be applicable on the pilot projects identified under the CRDP. Further guidance will be provided once the concept has been approved by the DG and Minister. Various financial and operational/procedural implications must also be resolved with the relevant branches in the Department and National Treasury and are looked into.
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