



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR: WESTERN DISTRICT

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SARAH BAARTMAN DROUGHT SITUATION REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

Sarah Baartman District Municipality is composed of 6 local Municipalities, with the exception Nelson Mandela Metro though is also affected by draught, those local Municipalities are Dr Beyer's Naude Municipality (formerly known as Baviaans, Camdeboo and Ikhwezi Local Municipalities), Blue Crane Route, Kouga, Koukamma, Makana, Ndlambe, and Sundays River Valley Local Municipalities. In comparison to other municipalities in the Province Sarah Baartman region is the most severely affected by draught,

The Potential risks for the sector includes the continuous poor veld and livestock conditions in some areas, shifting of planting dates, expansion of drought related conditions into areas not previously affected by drought, these have both direct and indirect impact on socio-economic conditions of farmers and communities. The direct impact includes the loss of areas under crop and pasture production, resulting in the reduced crop yield and poor livestock condition. This translates to the loss of income and other associated social needs. The indirect impact may include the loss of jobs, food insecurity and poverty.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF DROUGHT IN THE REGION

BEYERS NAUDE (BAVIAANS): There is a problem with sinking water table especially in the Rietbron area but also in other places within the Baviaans municipality, causing a major threat to stock water supply for farmers. Rietbron emerging farmers are complaining about drought conditions; animals have no water to drink Baviaans portion is very dry with sub-normal rainfall for the last year. Dams are dry and the borehole have been a problem for the last year. Irrigation potential from boreholes will be negatively affected. Animals are not able to keep their young ones alive and to re-conceive for the new season.

BEYERS NAUDE (CAMDEBOO): Graaff-Reinet area is very dry. Farmers are feeding on fodder reserves, but most emerging farmers don't have fodder reserves. They sold off unproductive stock and reduced stock numbers. Still they do have deaths as the veld reserves are almost finished. Farmers are opening gate for livestock to look for grazing. Levels of boreholes dropped remarkable and earth

dams are empty. The cost of feeding is very expensive and not everybody can afford it.

Cattle are starting to calve and the cows are struggling to give enough milk to the calves – their condition are deteriorating daily. Small stock with young lambs and kids are also struggling and lose weight and abandon their lambs and kids.

BEYERS NAUDE (IKHWEZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY): Jansenville, Klipplaat, Waterfod and surrounding farmers are reducing their stock number by selling it in auctions at low price as compared to market price because of drought. Water dams and boreholes most of them are dry. Ewes are not producing enough milk for the kids and each farmer is losing goat kids during lambing season with 2% and weaning percentage also losing kids with 2-3 %. Grazing condition are very poor.

Under food security program from DRDAR the government supported farmers with lucern seeds, but not all the farmers benefited because the Lucerne seed is very expensive. Also our farmers are dependent on underground water and if there is no rainfall within coming two months the situation will become worse and it will need a serious attention from the Province to support our farmers under the program Drought Relief Scheme.

BLUE CRANE ROUTE: The districts of Pearston and Somerset East are extremely dry and farmers are buying in fodder and feed for the past 4 -5 months. They sold off unproductive stock and reduced stock numbers. Still they do have deaths as the veld reserves are almost finished. Farmers are opening gate for livestock to look for grazing. Levels of boreholes dropped remarkable and earth dams are empty. The cost of feeding is very expensive and not everybody can afford it.

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Cropping program: Farmers are reduced to 85% of water quota and it can be further reduced if the level of the Gariep dam falls further. The Gariep dam can withdraw water for the Orange Fish River system up to 31% - point of outflow. Farmers are hesitated to plant before good rainfalls occurred.

MAKANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: Due to substantially low rainfall for the last 3 years the farmers are suffering from almost no water in their stock water dams and no food for their animals and has now reached a critical stage where they are now in dire need of assistance whether it be financial or fodder as animals are dying daily and reproduction is extremely poor. They cannot emphasize enough how badly this situation is and effecting their existing production and in turn the existence their laborers and that if they don't get financial aid they will have to resort to retrenching to cut costs.

Due to the expense of feeding they have depleted their financial reserves. If they do not receive urgently some sort of financial aid or fodder they could possibly lose the

balance of their animals which will be a huge setback. they have already reduced their stock numbers which is more than economically viable.

KOUKAMMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: 19 water storage dams are empty, some dams have walls that are broken and needs repairs in order to hold water that would enable them to be used for irrigation as well. No livestock mortalities reported. 19 water storage dams are empty; 8 water storage dam walls are broken need repairs. Not enough water for livestock and irrigation, need 2 boreholes and 2 stock water system. 3 earth dams are needed. 10 Jojo tanks are urgently needed with their drinking troughs to cater for livestock.

At Drie Krone farm in Koukamma they lack feed because their camps are covered shrubs and bosses which are not eaten by animals. Their cattle get impounded because they brake fences to other people's farms.

NDLAMBE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: Natural pastures are very dry in Alexandria areas and cultivated pastures are in a reasonable condition. Emerging farmers don't have money to purchase feed for their livestock. Most of the farms are struggling with water, water systems are broken. Dairy farmers produce less milk and other farms lost more than 20 cows due to drought. Farmers tried to reduce their numbers of livestock. Weaners sold to the Auctions.

Chicory Plant: chicory struggling to germinate to other areas due to drought and the other chicory that is germinated in not growing very well.

SUNDAY'S RIVER VALLEY. The drought at SRVM is very serious, there were reports from Moses Mabida, Paterson and Addo about the cattle that are dying because of the drought. Starting from Addo to Kirkwood towards the Ikwezi Local Municipality is the valley bushveld area and is also the beginning of the Karoo. The valley bushveld is having short trees and in other areas is having spaces between the trees, lot of rocks in other areas and more land is up in the hills. The natural veld is very dry, the emerging farmers don't have money to buy feed for their animals, other farms are not having enough water storages and their water system have been dilapidated. The citrus farmers are also struggling with the heat and they cannot spray when it is hot outside because the chemical is going to burn the leaves of their trees. The tons for export are going to drop because of the heat.

The following areas have been affected:

1. Glenconnor to Kleinpoort.
2. Moses Mabida, Aqua Park, Bergsig, Dunbrody and Enon Bersheba
3. Addo area is Nomathamsanqa and Valencia.
4. The whole Paterson area including farms that are under Paterson.

The river at Enon- Bersheba is very dry. There is no river at Glenconnor, Kleinpoort, Paterson area and Addo area. Although the entire district has received some showers of rain in the past few weeks there is no significant change in the vegetation especially in areas that are in the little Karoo and great Karoo. There are areas

where the situation is so bad that the cattle are depending on water that are coming out of damaged sewage pipes because of lack of water i.e. Stock water dams or boreholes. Such area is Moses Mabida in Sundays River Local Municipality. Some cattle because of absence of fodder in the camps they fend for themselves on the dumping sites. Sundays River is predominantly dry and lack infrastructure.

Even though we are no longer experiencing heat wave and extremely high temperatures water and fodder are a big challenge because the rains that were received are still not enough. There are some farmers who lost their livestock because of heat wave and thirst which was due to drought. Below are photos that show the severity of drought at SRVM. The first photo depicts the condition of available grazing veld which is dominated by green bushes that have no nutritional benefit to livestock and no grass cover on the soil which forces animals to cattle to fed themselves on the dumping sites refer to the second photo below here. this is the picture that you can find in the whole district.



Photo.1: because of lack of grazing in the veld cattle are feeding themselves on the dumping sites (Moses Mabida, SRVM)

3. EXTENT OF DROUGHT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN SBDM

1. The agricultural output and employment is likely to drop and consequently more people are likely to be food insecure.
2. Food prices are increasing and this threatens food security
3. Communities first to be affected are those residing in rural areas farm laborers and spend the higher proportions of their income on food.

Farmers have lost number of livestock due to drought, the animals like cattle, sheep and goats are more vulnerable ones. The scarcity of fodder in some areas resulted in loss of many livestock meanwhile other local municipalities are feeding their animals using fodder from their storages although those storage facilities are now empty. The following table indicates only the reported animals that died due to drought, there are quite a number of animals that were not reported in some areas that were also killed by drought.

The following table show number of animal species died due to drought from different local municipalities of Sarah Baartman District.

DISTRICT	LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	CATTLE	GOATS	SHEEP
SBDM	IKHWEZI	30	520	83
	MAKANA	141	232	55
	NDLAMBE	62	2	
	SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY	29	14	
	CAMDEBOO	19	89	101
	BCRM	24	34	55
	BAVIAANS	5	20	20
	NMBM	119	11	23
TOTAL		429	922	337

Table 1: Shows the number of livestock died due drought at Sara Baartman District Municipality

DROUGHT RELIEF INTERVENTIONS REQUIRED

Sarah Baartman district Municipality is facing a terrible drought situation where its local Municipalities are also not able to provide their livestock with fodder because their fodder reserves are empty, and those who normally sell have nothing to offer due to this drought. Not only fodder which is unavailable in some local Municipalities also water restriction are imposed to the communities where certain limits are drawn.

Because of the above an intervention is required from all the stake holders who can offer assistance in the form of fodder and water requirement. The following table indicates the fodder requirements for the period of (2) two months if the rain is still not available.

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	CARRYING CAPACITY L.S.U	INTAKE 12.5KG/DAY /LSU	FODDER REQUIREMENT FOR 60 DAYS	COST OF LUCERN AT R3200/TON
Blue Crane Route	3 219	40 238	2 414	R7 725 696
Baviaans	101	1263	75780	R242 496
Camdeboo	1773	22 163	1 329 780	R 4 256.000
Ikhwezi	580	7250	435 000	R139 200
Kouga	1 277	15 963	957 750	R 3 064 800
Koukama	1624	20 300	1 218	R 3 897 600
Makana	2491	31138	1 868 280	R5 978 496
Ndlambe	2544	31 800	1 908 000	R6 105 600
Nelson Mandela Bay	6911	86 388	5183	R16 585 600
Sundays River Valley	3689	46 113	2767 t	R 8 854 400
TOTAL	24 209	302 613	18 157	R58 102 400

Table 2: indicates the fodder requirements for the period of (2) two months

WATER RELATED REQUIREMENTS PER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Water is the scarce resource especially to our local emerging farmers. During this time of drought, all stock water or earth dams are dry. It is rather a good opportunity for those dry earth dams to be scooped or cleaned so that when rain comes the can have enough capacity to hold water for a prolonged period. Other areas do have boreholes but they need repairs, which needs a specialized knowledge of engineers to determine the faults and cost of repairs. The resource poor communities, emerging farmers, and their livestock are struggling.

The Local Municipalities on the other hand have imposed water restrictions on the utilization of water by communities that also put more pressure on livestock to get drinking water. The following table illustrate the requirements of water related needs per local Municipality

Table 2: The following table illustrate water related requirements needed per local Municipality:

District	Local Municipalities	Projects	Boreholes	Jojo Tanks	Water Pipes, pumps & fittings	Dinking troughs	Stock water Dams
Sarah Baartman	Baviaans		43 X boreholes for repairs 2 X Re-drill boreholes	13 x 5000L's & fittings & cartage of water	7 solar pumps and panels	13	
	Blue Crane Route		17 X Borehole repairs	5 X 5000L's	fittings and pipes		40 x Dam scooping
	Camdeboo	Aberdeen		25 x 5 000L	fittings and pipes	25	
		Graaff-reinet Nieubethesda			25 X 5000L	fittings and pipes	25
iKhwezi				10 X 5000L	Water pipes, pumps and fittings	102	
			39 X Boholes	10 X 10000L, fittings & water cartage	Water pipes, pumps and fittings	10	18
Kouga			1 X borehole	5 x 5000L's	Water pipes, pumps and fittings		

Koukamm a		6 x boreholes	10 x 5000 L's	Water pipes, pumps and fittings	13 dam wall repairs
Makana	Alicedale		2X 5000L	fittings and pipes	2
	Riebeck east		2 X 5000L	fittings and pipes	2
	Fort brown		4 X 5000L	fittings and pipes	2
	Nonzaliseko		2X 5000L	1000 m x 15 mm connection pipe	
	Radisvlei Farm	Boreholes,	4 X 5000L	Pipes and fittings	4
	Koodoovale				
	Yendela		4X5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes	2
	Armstice		4X5000IL	Fittings and connection pipes	4
	Broughton		4X5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes	4
	CASTLE	Borehole finishing and pump and connections	4X5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes.	4
	Avondale		4X5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes	4
	Ripley		4X5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes	4
	Yarrow		4X5000 L	Fittings and connection	4

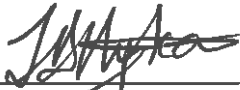
	Salemvale				4X5000 L			pipes, pump and pipes	4				
	Threatham park				12X 5000l			Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes	12				
	Sunnyside				4X5000 L			Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes	4				
	Rockwoodvale				4X5000 L			Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes	4		2 x dam scooping		
	Howard				4X5000 L			Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes	4				
	Grant												
Ndlambe	Glennifer/la money					Drilling of the new borehole							
	Rockville					Borehole							
	Jambase					Drilling of new borehole							
	Tshezi											3 x dam scooping	
	Old clumber school							Fittings and solar system repairs	2				
	Inkululeko cpa							Windturbine repairs					
	Forest hill							Windturbine repairs					
	Nangkos							Solar system repairs					
	Meyers trust							Solar system repairs					

NMBM	Magxaki		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	KwaZakhele		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Extension		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Booyesen Park		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Booyesen Park		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Vuku		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Zwide		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Kleinskool		2 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
	Greenbushe s and St.Albuns		40 X 5000L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		5 x dam scoopngs
			21 X 5000 L	Fittings and connection pipes, pump and pipes		
			8 X 10 000 L	Fittings and connection pipes,	8	
			6 X 10 000 L	Fittings and connections pipes	6	
			6 X10 000 L	Fittings and connections pipes	2	
						3 new stock water dams
Sundays River Valley	Enkeldedeh oek	3 new boreholes,				
	De Bruinskraal					
	Oak hill	2 new boreholes				
	Farm Sallie boom					

Woodford	2 new boreholes	10 X 10 000 L	Fittings, pipes and connections,	10						
Moses mabida Community	3 new boreholes	10 X 10 000 L	Fittings and connections	10						
Valencia		2 X 10 000 L	Water troughs and connections	2						
Enon-Bersheba	3 new boreholes	12 X 10 000 L	Fittings And Connections	12						
Landsdown	2 new bore holes	5 X 10 000 L	Fittings and connections	5						
Aqua park and bergsig	3 new bore holes	12 X 10 000 L	Fittings and connections	12						

RECOMMENDATIONS

The situation in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality had gradually worsened over the past few months and all local municipalities are affected by the drought. It is recommended that the local state of disaster for drought be declared throughout Sarah Baartman District Municipality followed by provision of fodder and Jojo tanks to keep water for livestock. Repairs of boreholes and damaged stock water dam walls must also be considered to enable farmers to continue with farming in this region.



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DRDAR
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