



STOCK FARMERS & GROUNDWATER

Loeriesfontein

Project Objectives:

- Training in groundwater monitoring.
- Repair or replace leaking pipes, taps, drinking troughs and tanks.
- Monthly groundwater monitoring.

Project Timeframe:

12 months

Long Term Goals:

- Land claim settled and restitution achieved.
- Sustainable stock farming and jobs created.
- Better understanding of groundwater resources.

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Loeriesfontein is a small town in the remote Hantam region of the Northern Cape Province. “The area receives good rainfall and the veld is ideal for sheep farming,” says Albert Nel, chairman of the Loeriesfontein Emerging Farmers Association. The association, representing 12 families, was initiated in 1993, when the group acquired

government’s policies. One of our long term objectives is to restore what was once ours.”

“Collectively the farmers now have access to 12000 hectares of commonage belonging to the Hantam Municipality, and a flock of 2500 sheep. We achieve growth by keeping a portion of the lambs born each year,



access to about 2000 hectares of grazing land as a result of a land claims case. Nel explains: “Our forefathers lost their land and livelihoods as a result of the colonial and Apartheid

but since we need to prevent overgrazing, our land also has to increase,” Nel explains.

“Many people leave the area in the hope to find work in the





Water for Resource Limited Farmers and Reform



larger towns and cities,” Nel says. “Small rural towns such as ours are slowly fading away. We hope to help reverse this by creating a few permanent employment opportunities and sheep farming is just about the only sustainable industry here.”

“We depend on boreholes and wind-pumps to supply drinking-water for our flocks. We were successful in applying for funding from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry’s IWRM programme to upgrade our pipes, water troughs and tanks. The project will also create groundwater awareness amongst our members and enable us to monitor the groundwater levels and water quality.”

“We are very positive after the good rainfall of the past winter. Our sheep are looking good and so is the market. This can only mean good things for our community.” Nel says.

