



WATER AWARENESS & CONSERVATION Ebenhaeser

Project objectives:

- To empower residents with the necessary capacity and skills to effectively manage their residential water usage
- To create employment opportunities.

Project Timeframe

Duration 12 months

Long-term goals:

- Increased Water Conservation Awareness
- Well-maintained water services infrastructure in Ebenhaeser
- Sustainable enterprise developed

Contact:

Ebenhaeser Water Awareness & Conservation

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Ebenhaeser is a rural settlement where most people depend on subsistence agriculture and fishing. While alternative economic development opportunities do exist, the economy of Ebenhaeser is stagnant and rarely receives the kind of investment that will result in sustainable job opportunities and steady financial growth.

William Fortuin and Andeline Afrika received training as Water Mentors during the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF) (IWRM) programme in 2003. As Water “Champions” they successfully launched a Ebenhaeser Water Awareness and Conservation micro-project in 2004.

The project had the following short-term objectives:

- To empower residents with the necessary capacity and skills to effectively manage their residential water usage.
- To create employment opportunities.

Peter Love, who now joined William Fortuin to extend the

project, explains that; “There are no funds with which to implement plans for development and growth in our community. Approximately 2500 people live in Ebenhaeser, and many have no access to work or any income. The Ebenhaeser Water Awareness & Conservation project will offer the community an opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills, and will also teach them about water conservation and how they can implement it in their own homes”.

“This project could provide some short term work opportunities”, says Love, “it will create awareness and educate our people about water use, how to use this scarce resource sparingly and how to ensure that it does not go to waste. By fixing leaks in homes and along municipal mains pipes, we will be able to save a lot of water. If we save water, it will be better for the environment and for us as water users.”

The Ebenhaeser Water Awareness & Conservation project’s immediate goal is to create temporary employment for 15





Water and Small-Scale Infrastructure



people, among whom five will be selected for further training as plumbers. Women are being encouraged to participate in the program, as their role in the household makes them key decision makers.

In the long term, the Project aims to achieve:

- Increased levels of water conservation awareness.
- Well-maintained water services infrastructure in Ebenhaeser.
- Sustainable enterprise developed.

In the coming months, the Ebenhaeser Water Awareness & Conservation project will:

- Develop a status report on the residential water use in Ebenhaeser
- Conduct a Water Conservation Awareness Campaign
- Design and implement a participatory capacity building programme at Ebenhaeser, providing information about water conservation and tap and leak repair skills.
- Select, train and develop the skills of five entrepreneurs in the repair, maintenance and upgrading of water infrastructure in homes.
- Assist selected entrepreneurs to start and run their own plumbing businesses
- Create short-term jobs to protect participants

The project is in line with Matzikama Municipality and West Coast District Municipality Integrated Development Planning, as well as the Ebenhaeser Spatial Development and Agricultural Development plans.

