

Working together towards a 'living landscape' in the Kromme Catchment - #2 -

Hello!

This second newsletter is to give an update on the PRESENCE project in the Upper Kromme River Catchment, with results of the research done by **Thomas** de Jong and **Elodie** Hesters about water scarcity and collective action, an update on the catchment forum, and an introduction to a new student!

First of all we would like to **thank you** as farmers for the cooperation, hospitality, sharing of your knowledge and farm tours to give an insight in the practical issues dealt with as farmers, when we visited you in last June and July. On the back of this newsletter you can find our research outcomes.

Catchment Forum Meeting

The 29th of August a catchment forum was held for all the farmers in the Upper Kromme River Catchment in the Churchhall of Kareedouw. Issues discussed were the **recent floods**, which caused damage on a lot of farmlands, bridges and roads crossing the river. Also the future of the catchment forum was discussed. And it was decided that a vision and mission statement needs to be developed for the catchment forum. The farmers present also plead that more **involvement** is necessary of all the land owners in the Kromme in order to hear everyone's opinion and to come up with a shared vision.

There were also discussions on how a catchment forum can help farmers in the Kromme to cope with future water scarcity problems, and start managing the waters of the Kromme cooperatively. The results presented on the back of this newsletter show some of the potential benefits in this.

New Student

Hello I am **Jorie** Vos from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. I am studying spatial planning and I am hoping my research helps the project in the Kromme. I am planning to do interviews in November. I am looking forward to meet you and hope we can have a fruitful cooperation.

Who are we?



The PRESENCE Learning Network
Participatory Restoration of Ecosystem **SE**rvices and **Natural Capital**, Eastern Cape

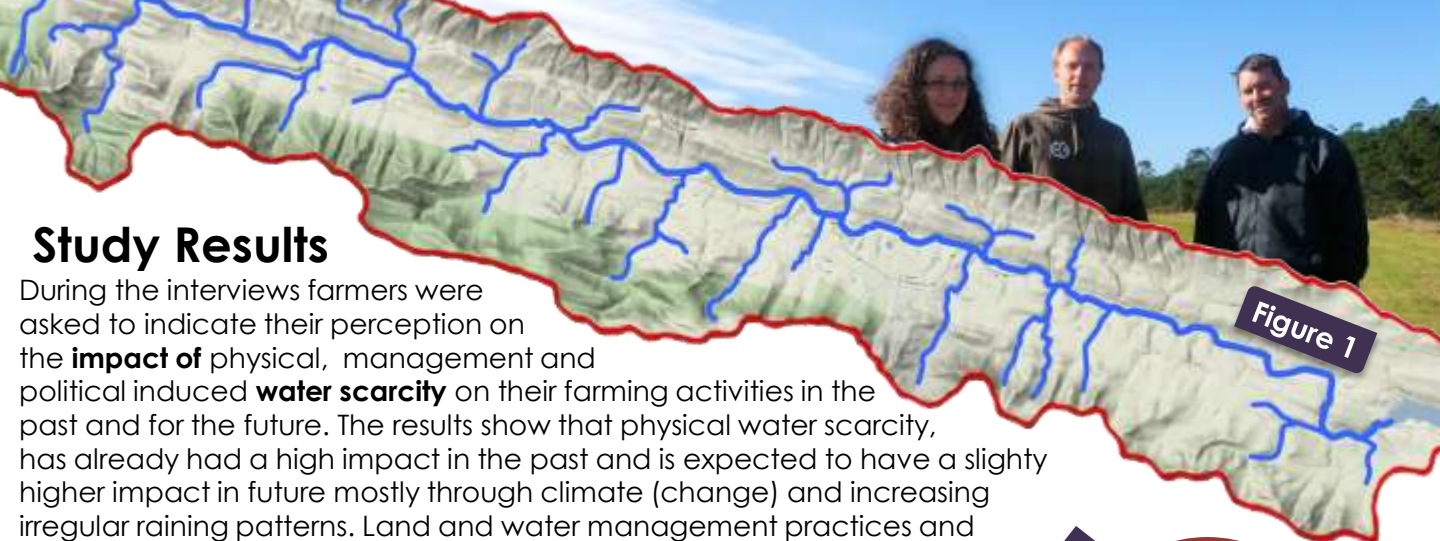
PRESENCE is a multi-stakeholder learning network active in helping to get people working together to restore landscapes for the benefit of everyone.

Your involvement, input and interaction is essential in working towards a living landscape in the Kromme

PRESENCE in the Kromme is a project of

lovinglands





Study Results

During the interviews farmers were asked to indicate their perception on the **impact of** physical, management and political induced **water scarcity** on their farming activities in the past and for the future. The results show that physical water scarcity, has already had a high impact in the past and is expected to have a slightly higher impact in future mostly through climate (change) and increasing irregular raining patterns. Land and water management practices and competition over water are perceived as having little impact on water scarcity. No impact was indicated for the past, in relation to both government management and political induced water scarcity, through for example regulation by DWA and the water demands of Port Elizabeth. But most farmers expect a moderate to very high impact in the future.

Physical water scarcity in the past triggered farmers to change their management practices in order to cope with it (Figure 2). This was mainly done at **single farm level** without cooperation between farmers, since almost each farmer has his **own mountain stream** as main water source, as shown in Figure 1 and 3.

Collective Action

Yet farmers do indicate that collective action is the **only viable manner** to have a **positive impact** on the expected government management and political induced water scarcity. Government intervention is to be expected in the near future in the Kromme River Catchment. The effects of a physical drought can be magnified through effective government management, which can lead to a serious water crisis (Figure 4), putting the farming activities in the Kromme at risk.

It is highly advised to farmers to **start cooperating before** a next water "crisis" will occur. In this farmers should seek cooperation throughout the **whole farmer community** including emerging farmers. Furthermore The current rate of erosion in the main river and side streams poses a great risk on water scarcity, mainly through lowering of groundwater tables in the catchment. Better communication and understanding between farmers and the Working for Water and Wetland programs is a necessity to achieve effective results of **combined efforts**. A Catchment Forum can facilitate in this communication and explore opportunities for Payment for Ecosystem Services. The efforts made by Living Lands to set up such a forum in the Upper Kromme River catchment is an **opportunity** to support farmers in this.

Figure 1

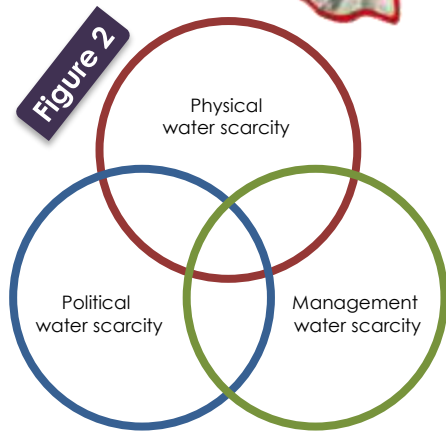


Figure 2

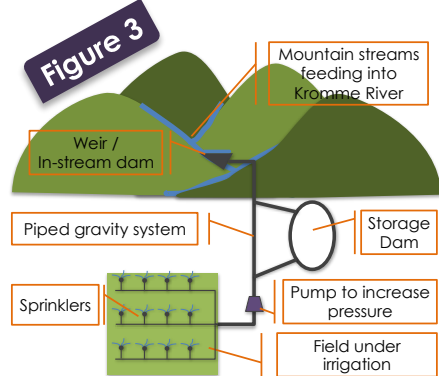


Figure 3

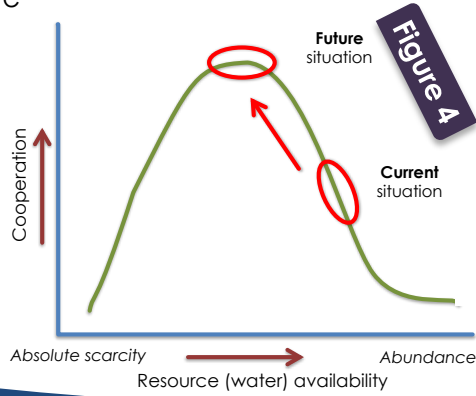


Figure 4



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