

For the IAIA15 conference
Florence, Italy



BSR

Bapuleng Social Resources (Pty) Ltd

Promoting rather than avoiding resettlement – a practical approach

Lessons from the Olifants River Water Resources
Development (Olifants) Project, South Africa

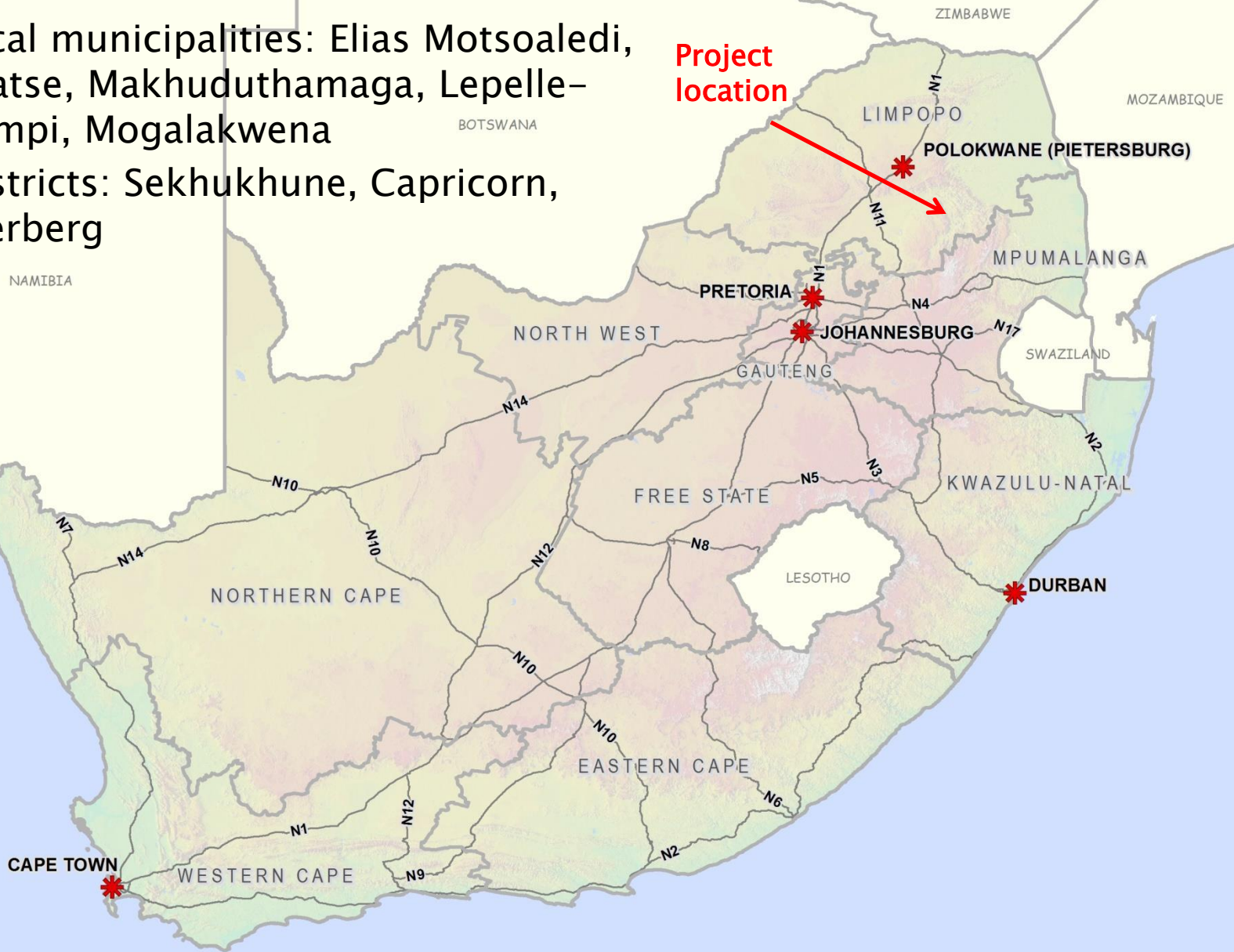
Presented by Jimmy Mnisi

Olifants project overview

- ▶ Raw bulk water infrastructure project sponsored by SA Government and implemented by Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA)
- ▶ The project infrastructure: the De Hoop Dam, the 192km pipeline, 352km fibre optic cable (operated 160km from the pipeline) and associated infrastructure
- ▶ The presentation focus is the pipeline and specifically phase 2C of the 40km long section
- ▶ Size of the pipe is 1.8 to 1.3 metres in diameter
- ▶ Phase 2C implementation date 2011 to 2016

- ▶ 5 local municipalities: Elias Motsoaledi, Tubatse, Makhuduthamaga, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Mogalakwena
- ▶ 3 districts: Sekhukhune, Capricorn, Waterberg

Project location



Olifants project overview – land ownership context

- ▶ The pipeline traverses through land that is:
 - State owned,
 - Privately (individual) owned,
 - Privately (company) owned,
 - Tribal council controlled,
 - Communal Property Association owned,
 - Trust owned,
 - Communally used,
 - Under land claim – by more than one party,
 - Informally settled
 - Multiple use rights

Olifants resettlement

- 40m wide servitude
- 15m permanent
- 25m temporary



Photographer: Shaun Davis

Poverty indicators

Social indicator	Sekhukhune District	South Africa
Access to regional/local water scheme	50%	79,7%
Access to a flush toilet	7,5%	60,1%
Main type dwelling: formal brick structure	88,7%	77,6%
Unemployment	43,5%	27,1%
No monthly income	45,2%	40,6%
Highest level of education: Grade 12	11,6%	28,9%

Definitions

Term	Definition
Directly impacted	inside servitude, suffered material loss, compensated for loss of assets and inconvenience
○ Partially impacted	not resettled, just a corner / fence / toilet was temporarily impacted
○ Wholly impacted	resettled (within existing plot or to a new plot)
Indirectly impacted (adjacent)	just outside servitude (within the 250m construction radius), suffered no material loss, impacted by vibrations, noise, dust, etc.
Indirectly impacted (far away)	outside the 250m radius, suffered no material loss, suffered restricted access (affects grazing), restricted access to main water resource (river)

Approach to Olifants resettlement

- ▶ Project design had little meaningful RAP team involvement
- ▶ Scope of resettlement is limited to the servitude, therefore:
 - Assets immediately outside the servitude do not qualify for compensation
 - Benefits are the same as for communities kilometers away
- ▶ When developing alignment options, project design team was guided by legal criteria. Simplistic understanding of avoiding resettlement.
- ▶ Unfair to those immediately outside the servitude where extent of inconvenience is greater than for those further away

Approach

Results

Approach to Olifants resettlement

- ▶ No buffer was delineated around servitude



Approach

- ▶ Yet areas outside buffer were unintentionally impacted, e.g. stockpiles spilling over

Result

Approach to Olifants resettlement

- ▶ Reduced temporary servitude in some areas
- ▶ Households felt victimised, disgruntled and envious



Approach

Result

Minimise taken too far?



Photographer: Shaun Davis

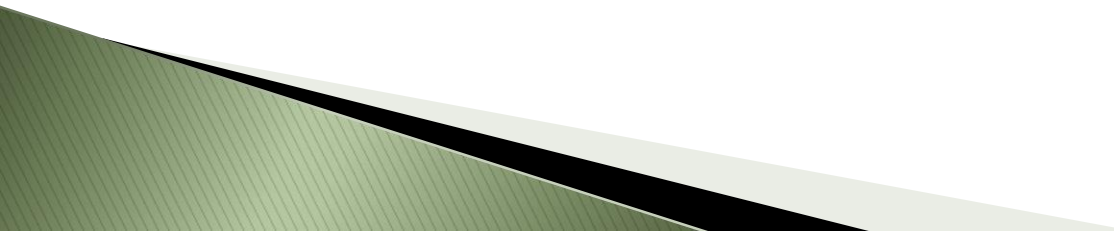
Approach to Olifants resettlement

- ▶ Employment priority was given to the directly impacted
- ▶ Monetary compensation was given to those directly impacted
- ▶ Those immediately outside the servitude felt neglected by the project because they did not receive any compensation; resulted in protests and put in doubtful claims

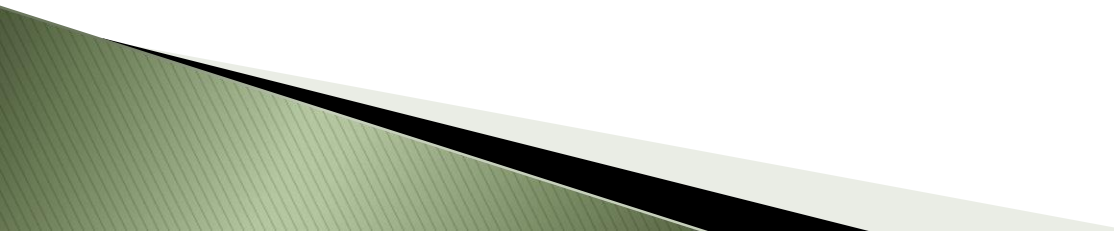
Approach

Results

Recommendations

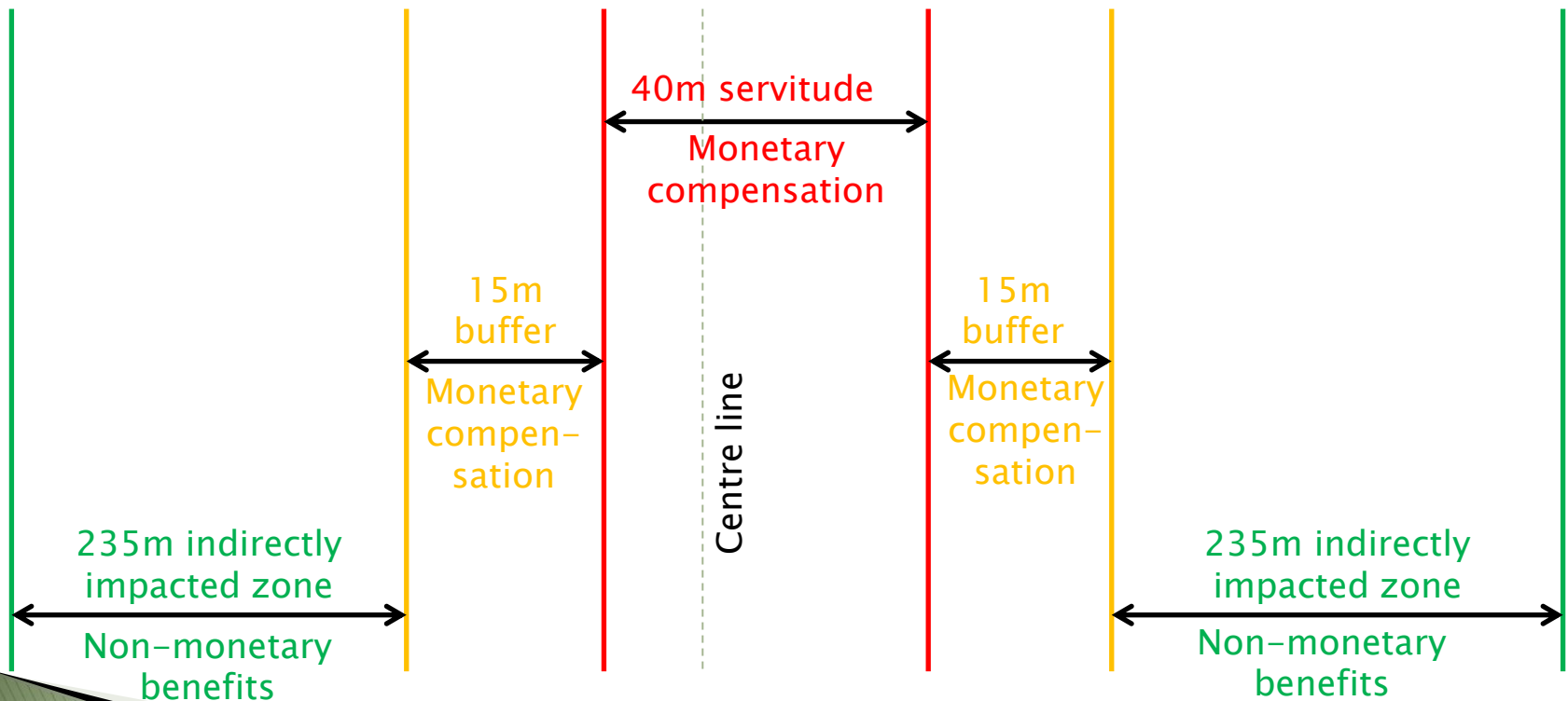
- ▶ Contracts and ToR's should be structured to accommodate early and meaningful participation of RAP team
 - ▶ Include resettlement buffer in linear projects
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Recommendations

- ▶ In the Olifants context, the impacted, especially the wholly impacted, “aren’t inconvenienced”, therefore there is no basis to add on benefits such as preferential employment
 - ▶ Benefits must be fair to whole community
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Recommendations

- ▶ Fading out of benefits - model is being developed for coming phases of project



Avoiding resettlement

- ▶ “Involuntary resettlement should be avoided”, IFC Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan
- ▶ Practitioners understanding of ‘avoid resettlement’ may vary:
 - Avoid resettlement in its entirety – land scarcity
 - Avoid as many as possible
 - Other factors, e.g. class, cost, political

Promoting resettlement

- ▶ Embrace the concept of each resettlement project being unique
- ▶ Maximising resettlement
 - as a way to mitigate conflicts
 - as a way to promote livelihoods
- ▶ Resettlement should not leave people worse off (IFC) – outright avoidance can leave people worse off

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