

Inge Erasmus

From: Dr Du Preez <drdupreezpraktyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 21 January 2018 9:11 PM
To: inge@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Water extraction from Eksteenskloof

Dear Inge

This letter is drafted as an opinion from the chairman of Dasberg Bewarea, the owners of the Dasberg mountain water catchment areas. Our purpose is to protect the fauna and flora of this beautiful and pristine Cape fynbos land. The quest is to achieve a balance of retaining enough water in the kloof for the ecological infrastructure while water is also extracted for agricultural purposes.

In Eksteenskloof is a dam from which Schalk Viljoen (Dasberg boerdery) has 240 000m³ existing water rights per year (to avoid confusion it is repeated that Dasberg Bewarea owns the land and a completely different entity namely Dasberg Boerdery extracts water from here) .Schalk Viljoen has applied for a further 120 000m³ per year from here and the Jonkers(Sangasdrift Trust) has applied for 120 000m³ of water from the same kloof to be extracted 2km lower down.

In this mountain stream are two indigenous species of fish (Cape galaxias and Cape kurper) . There are also many other aquatic species in the river - some possibly unknown to mankind. Dasberg Bewarea, the owners of this land, is concerned that in dry times there may not be enough water in Eksteenskloof to sustain the delicate balance of the ecosystem, because of too much water extraction.

Possible solutions:

- 1) Below the top dam in Eksteenskloof is an existing waterpipe with a T-connection. This connection has a small diameter and could be left open to ensure a constant flow of water below the damwall.
- 2) At the weir 2km lower down in the kloof an open waterpipe underneath the weir lower than the extraction point could ensure a continuous flow of water.
- 3) Extraction of high volumes of water should only take place during times of good rainfall when there is a surplus of water in the kloof.

Below(vertically) the extraction points there should still be minimum sustainable waterlevels in the dam/ weir

- 4) Alien vegetation in Eksteenskloof must be cleared and should be repeated annually. The present clearing cost R7500 and is paid by Dasberg Bewarea - the obvious suggestion is that the benefactors of the water should also contribute in the clearing.

These are only some ideas and the ideal situation would be to have sustainable waterflow in the kloof at all times and extraction of high volumes of water only during periods of high flows

Yours faithfully

Philippe du Preez