

TOWARDS COMMUNITY BASED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT : RIVER SAND MINING IN THE RURAL VILLAGES OF EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

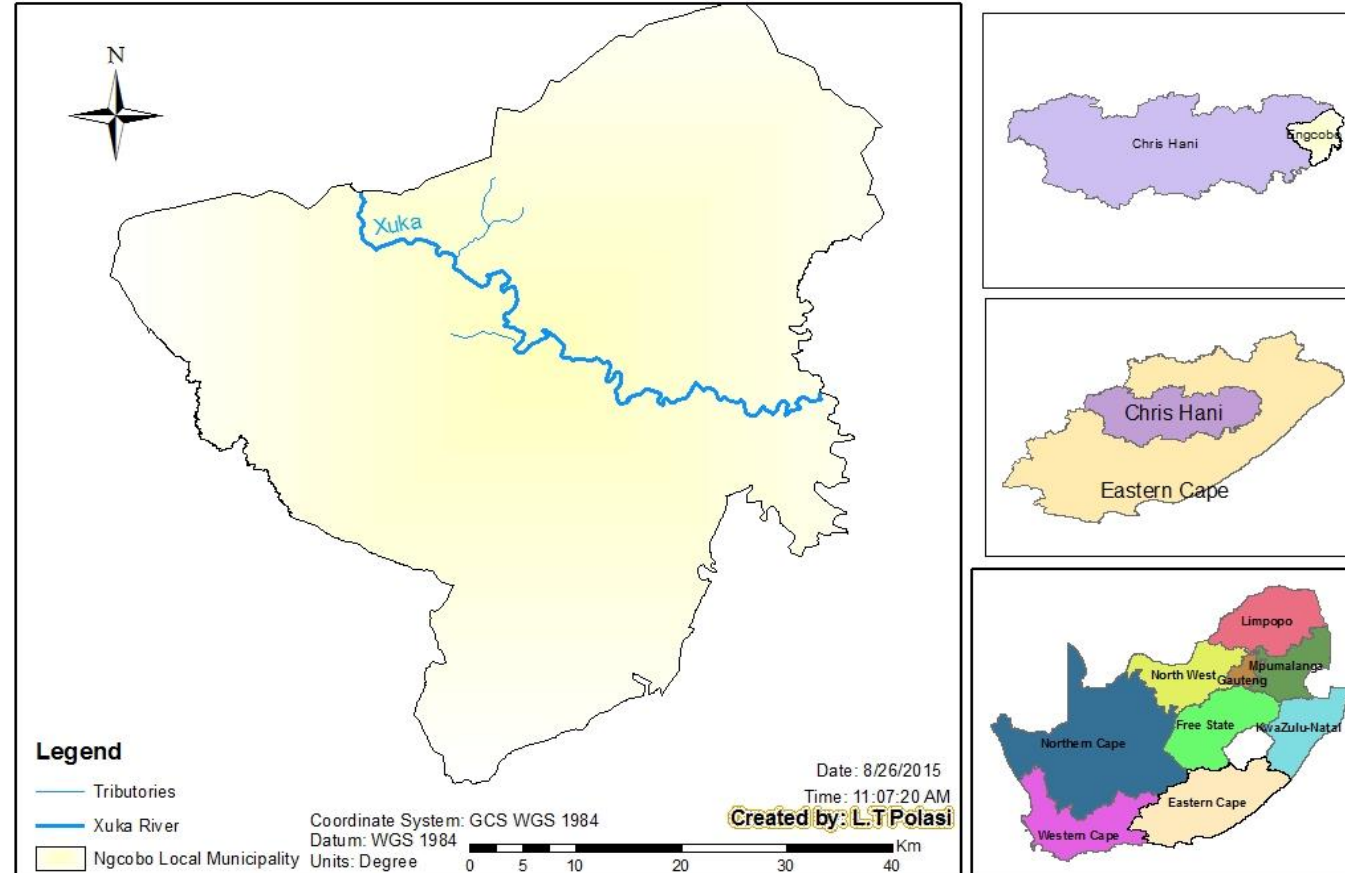
- Increase in construction in the built environment resulted in the increased demand for sand found in rivers and oceans (Somvanshi,2013).
- Sand mining activities are mostly deemed to be unsustainable because they destroy the environment and society and leave impacts that are difficult to reverse.
- In South Africa the protection of sand as a resource is a mandate of the department of Mineral Resources.
- It classifies sand as naturally occurring industrial material ,mined for the value of its non-metallic properties.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- South African Constitution , Section 24 - rights to the environment
- National Environmental Management Act, section 2 (4) (d) - equitable access to environmental resources
- Minerals and Petroleum Resources Act, Section 3 (1) - Protection of sand as a resource
- National Water Act, Section 21- regulates water use

STUDY AREA

- All Saints Village is a rural village found in the Engcobo Local Municipality in Chris Hani District Municipality.
- Engcobo is a small town located in the Province of the Eastern Cape in South Africa surrounded rural villages.
- The village has about 260 household (Statistics SA,2019)
- The study site is along the river banks on a gentle slope.
- Soil erosion is common as the river is found on a gentle slope and run-off occurs starting from the hill and it goes down the river, the river is widening because of the extraction of the sand and that causes change in the river flow.



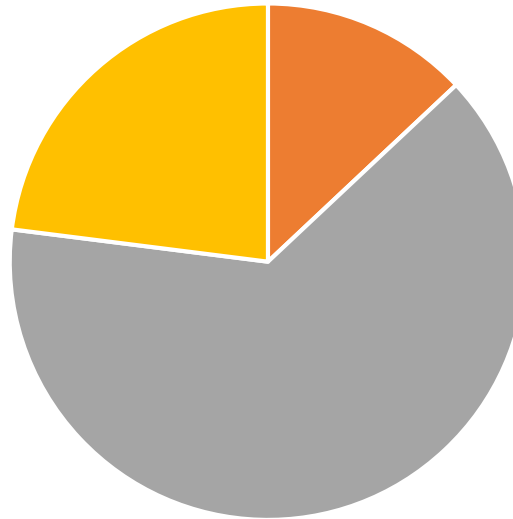
OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To establish community benefits to sand mining activity in the river.
- To establish whether active sand miners have mining rights, or permits to perform sand mining operations.
- Assess the level of community involvement monitoring of river sand mining practice.

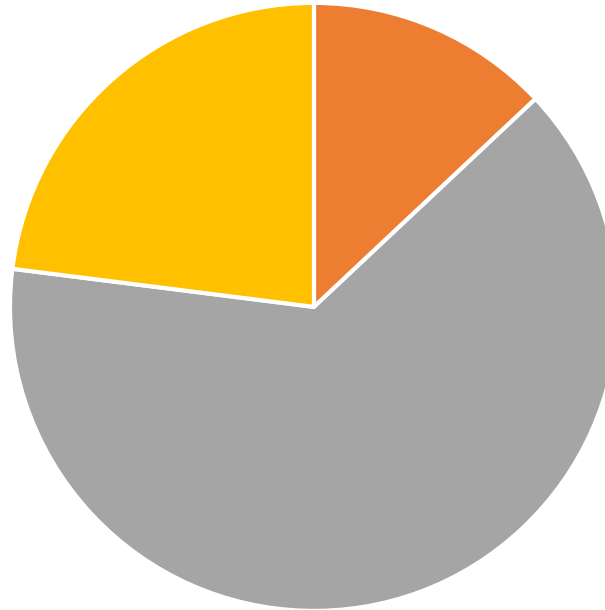
METHODOLOGY

- A qualitative research approach was employed in the study.
- A total of 60 questionnaires were distributed to randomly selected households in the village.
- Key informant interviews were conducted with community leaders and government officials.

Use of river sand by residents for commercial purposes



Use of river sand by residents



FINDINGS





FINDINGS

- Illegal sand mining is practiced in Ncanabana River found in All Saints Village.
- Sand miners are predominantly non residents.
- Illegal sand miners pay money to traditional leaders.
- Traditional leadership is not part of the legal compliance policing of the activity.
- Community members do not directly benefit from the resource.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The application of the Hardin's Theory Collective Approach can assist in the better management of sand and protect riverine biodiversity .
- Formal involvement of traditional authorities in the protection of natural resources.
- Training and involvement of community members in monitoring non compliance to prohibiting legislative provisions.

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THANK

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