

## **Title: Clear Rivers Campaign: Preserving the Lifelines of the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area**

### **Introduction**

The Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA) is proud to announce the launch of our annual Clear Rivers Campaign, which takes place during Mandela Month. As protectors of the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area, we aim to raise awareness and advocate for the protection and preservation of our precious rivers and water resources. Our campaign seeks to empower individuals and communities to take responsibility for their water environments, ensuring clean, healthy, and sustainable rivers for generations to come.

### **Background**

Rivers are the lifelines of our communities and ecosystems. They provide us with water for drinking, irrigation, sanitation, and industrial use. They support a rich biodiversity, playing a vital role in sustaining diverse aquatic species and providing habitats for countless organisms. Unfortunately, due to human activities and negligence, our rivers face numerous threats such as pollution, habitat degradation, and water scarcity. It is our collective responsibility to safeguard these invaluable resources.

### **Objectives**

The Clear Rivers Campaign aims to achieve the following objectives:

- a) **Raise Awareness:** Through various activities, we seek to educate and inform the public about the importance of clean rivers and the impact of pollution on water quality, human health, and ecosystems.
- b) **Foster Community Engagement:** We encourage individuals, communities, and organizations to actively participate in river clean-up drives, rehabilitation initiatives, and educational programs, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- c) **Advocacy for Sustainable Practices:** We advocate for the adoption of sustainable water management practices, including responsible waste disposal, reduced use of harmful chemicals, and efficient water consumption.
- d) **Strengthen Collaboration:** We aim to build partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, working together towards the common goal of preserving and restoring the health of our rivers.

### **Campaign Activities**

The Clear Rivers Campaign will be organized throughout Mandela Month, with specific activities tailored to each sub-catchment within the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment. Our key activity will be River Clean-Up Drives where volunteers will join hands to remove litter, debris, and pollutants from riverbanks, promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for both humans and wildlife.

## Conclusion

The Clear Rivers Campaign is a call to action for every individual and community to contribute to the preservation and restoration of our rivers within the Inkomati-Usuthu Water Management Area. By engaging in river clean-up drives, adopting sustainable practices, and spreading awareness, we can make a significant difference in safeguarding these vital resources. Let us honour Nelson Mandela's legacy by working together to ensure clean, clear rivers for all, now and in the future.

*Remember, the power to protect our rivers lies in our hands. Join us during Mandela Month and be the change our rivers need!*

Please refer to the table below for dates and locations of activities in each sub-catchment.

Sub-catchment	Contact Person	Name of stream	Date
Crocodile	Ms Sukanani Sinugo 064 757 9259	Nels Stream	18 07/2023
Upper Komati	Mr Tony Sibiya 078 803 5276	Elukwatini River	18 July 2023
Usuthu	Mr Thabiso Nkosi 083 798 7650 OR Mr Sibonangaye Mkhathswa 061 337 2715	Emaphepheni River	18/07/2023
Sabie	Ms Nomsa Maider 082 353 8646	Huttigton stream	18 July 2023
Lower Komati	Ms Charity Hoffman 067 413 0888	Nyatsi Dam	20 July 2023
Sand	Ms Assah Thibela 078 451 0166	Mhlukutse stream	20 July 2023