MKHONDVO – NGWAVUMA

WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT (MNWAP)

EWADE
Making A Difference

Beneficiaries:

100,000 People

The project aims to directly benefit a substantial population through agricultural development initiatives.

Introduction

The Mkhondvo – Ngwavuma Water Augmentation Project (MNWAP) is a strategic agricultural development project of the Kingdom of Eswatini aimed at the attainment of the country's economic development goals. The project aims to reduce the impacts of climate change, create employment particularly for women and the youth and improve the standard of living mainly for the rural poor population mainly in the Shiselweni Region of ESwatini. It is anticipated that when fully implemented, MNWAP will benefit over 100,000 people from agriculture development alone. More people are likely to benefit from other project spinoffs through agriculture value chains and related developments.

The Government has tasked EWADE with the implementation of the MNWAP Project. EWADE has a proven track record in implementing large agricultural development projects having successfully implemented the Komati Downstream Development Project (KDDP) utilising water from the Maguga Dam on the Komati River in the northern part of the country. EWADE is also implementing the Lower Usutu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP I & II) using water from Lubovane Dam on the Great Usuthu River in the eastern part of the country.

Rationale for MNWAP

- Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth (SSDIG) 2030
- Eswatini Strategic Road Map (2019 – 2022)
- National Water Resources Master Plan (2016 – 2025)
- National Emergency Response, Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (2018)
- Post COVID-19 Kingdom of Eswatini Economic Recovery Plan (2020)

Enhanced food security

Poverty reduction

MNWAP'S GOAL

The project is targeted at the Shiselweni Region of Eswatini with high poverty and impacted most by climate change

Job creation

Economic development

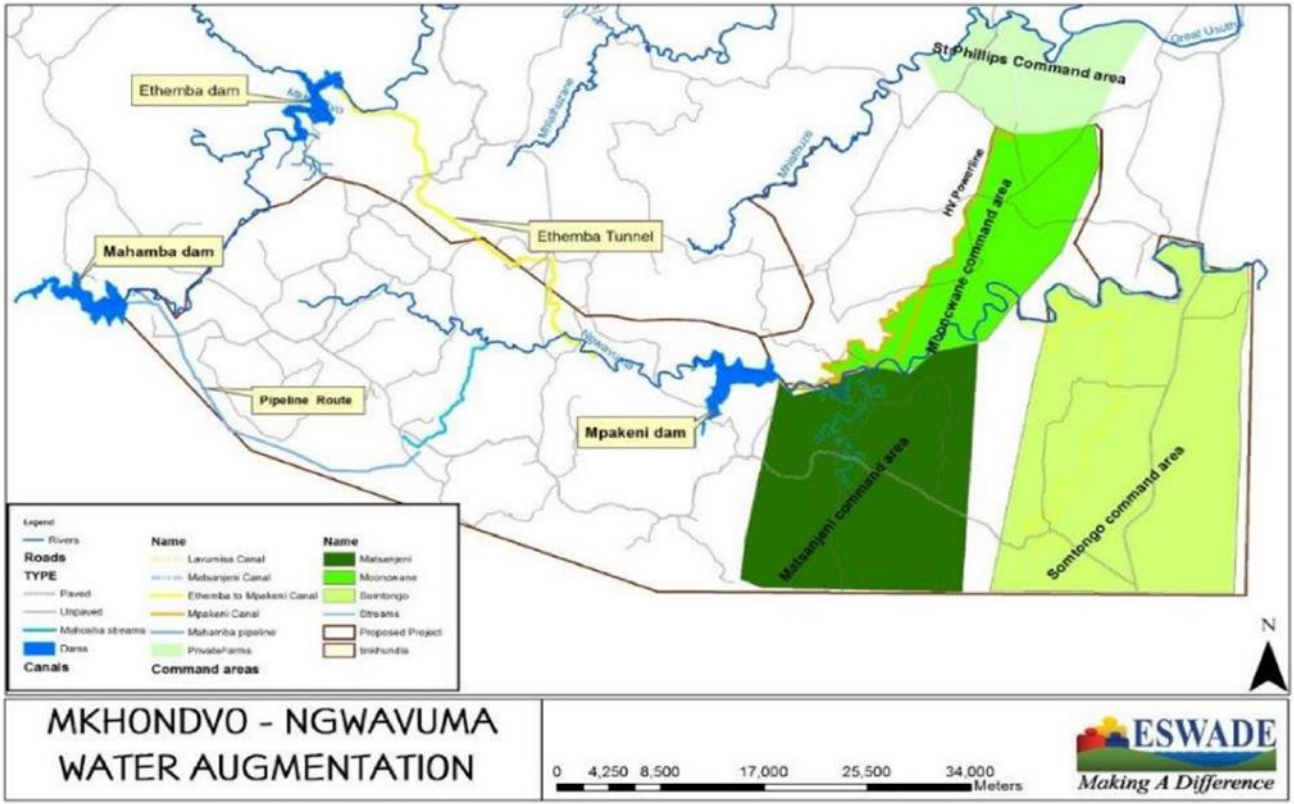
MNWAP'S Benefits

- Phase 1 development involves the construction Mpakeni Dam, main conveyance pipeline and irrigation development of 4, 600 ha.
- Phase 1 will benefit about **4,600** farmer households for a projected income of at least **SZL 158,750** starting from the second year of production 2030 (dam is earmarked to be completed April 2028.)
- At completion the project targets 100,000 direct jobs and much more indirectly

MNWAP'S Components

- **Phase 1a:** Mpakeni Dam on the Ngwavuma and access road and its associated works;
- **Phase 1b:** Main Conveyance, Secondary and In-Field Distribution System and On-Farm Development at St Philips, Mconcwane/ Mcathuvane, Maloma and Sigwe irrigation areas (4,600ha).
- **Phase 2 a:** Ethemba Dam and Tunnel to transfer Water from the Mkhondvo River
- **Phase 2 b:** Main Conveyance, Secondary and Infield Distribution System as well as On-Farm Development in Greater Lavumisa (Somntongo, Matsanjeni, etc.) irrigation areas (18,000 ha)

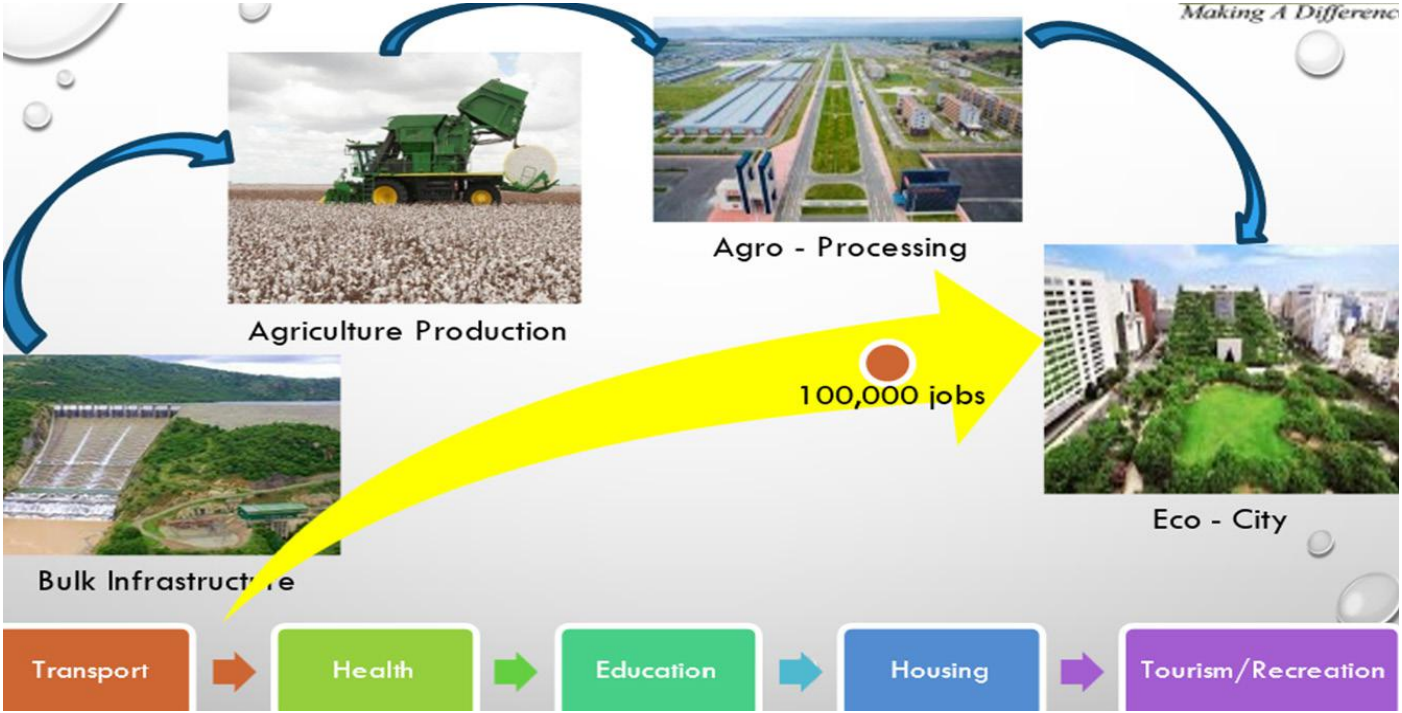
Location Map



Why Holistic Approach

- Agriculture projects were driven by the sugarcane sub-sector;
- The sugarcane sub-sector faces declining global demands for sugar, diminishing markets and low prices;
- Need for investments in diversifying the agriculture sector through value chain approaches including agro-processing;
- Current agriculture projects have not realized their full economic development potential;
- Development in and around the agriculture projects is unplanned and organic (e.g. Siphofaneni);
- Government plans for a holistic development approach in MNWAP involving all sectors of the economy (agro-processing, transportation, energy, housing, health, education, eco-tourism, etc.)

Schematic for Holistic Approach



TYPICAL AGRO PROCESSING ZONE

ECOCITY FEATURES

01 City – wide access to public transportation;

02 Pedestrian and bike-friendly sidewalks;

03 Electric car charging stations;

04 Renewable energy (solar, wind and bio-gas);

05 Sustainable architecture (green buildings);

06 Urban agriculture and food production (green houses)

07 Strong social planning efforts;

08 Green water management (recycling);

PROJECT PROGRESS

Project was launched in August 11, 2023 by His Majesty King Mswati III by sod cutting ceremony held at the dam site at Mpakeni.

Progress for Mpakeni Dam:

- Commencement - February 1, 2024
- Completion - April 28, 2028
- Duration – 1550 days
- Progress - over 8.5% Complete.
- Employment - 426 local workers have been employed, including 27 senior managers/ staffs, 178 skills and 231 general workers.
- 900-1000 workers are expected at the peak of the project

Resettlement

Impact of the project

1. 104 homesteads (146 households)
2. 2 dip tanks
3. 1 neighborhood Care Point
4. 2 grocery shops
5. 5 churches.
6. 485 graves
7. 244.13 Ha of arable land
8. 74.14 Ha of farms under Title Deed.

Resettlement Progress

- 41/104 homesteads have been relocated to date
- 17 homesteads new homesteads to be relocated by end of August
- 91/485 graves have been relocated

Resettlement Framework

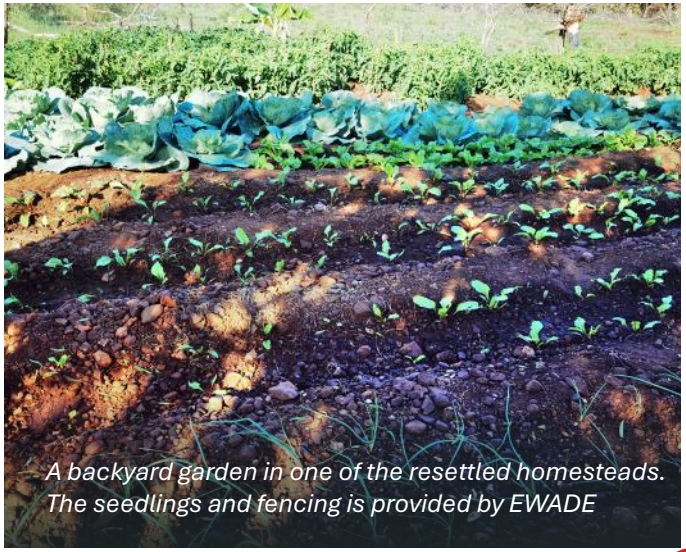
- The project is required to replicate the number of structures using modern building materials
- Further provide the following:
  - Perimeter fencing
  - VIP Toilets
  - Wood stove
  - Livelihood restoration
  - Water tank

Before

After

Livelihood restoration

- Provide homesteads with backyard gardens (0.1 ha)
- Provide fencing material inputs for first crop
- Train homestead owners on poultry and provide them with hay brooders and chicks
- Train homestead owners on goat production



A backyard garden in one of the resettled homesteads. The seedlings and fencing is provided by EWADE

The affected families are provided with indigenous chicken by EWADE

Private Sector Investment opportunities presented by the Project

The focus of MNWAP is private sector investment through public private sector investments (PPP), with the government providing the enabling bulk infrastructure through loans. The MNWAP Holistic Development Master Plan will outline the opportunity areas for private sector investment including opportunities in the Agro-Industrial Processing Park and Eco City.

Agro-Industrial Processing Zone and Eco City

There is a great interest from the private sector to invest in the Agro-Industrial Processing Park especially from the cotton manufacturing sector. The African Development Bank has provided funding for a site identification for the Agro-Industrial Zone and Eco City which has been undertaken already. What is key is the development of a MNWAP Holistic Development Master Plan that will include spatial development plan, sub-plans for bulk infrastructure such as roads, telecommunication, energy, water, etc. that are required. Once the MNWAP Holistic Development Master Plan is in place, detailed plans for the Agro-Industrial Park and Eco City will be developed showing transport, housing, recreation, energy, etc. networks which will be developed through the private sector.

The African Development Bank under the Urban and Municipal Development Fund has availed a grant for the planning of the Eco-City including its location, layout, management scenarios and environmental impact assessment. The UN Habitat will lead the process of developing the Eco-City Master Plan. The development of the various aspects of the Eco City will be through private sector investments, presenting business opportunities. These are expected to be in the provision of services such as retail shops, recreations, sustainable transportation systems, waste disposal, etc. The development of the hydropower with water from Ethemba Dam through the tunnel is another area for private sector investment.

Renewable Energy Generation

Renewable energy generation is another key focus in MNWAP, and the private sector is expected to play a significant role. There are numerous opportunities for renewable power generation through solar and bio-mas. Discussions with a private sector to generate renewable energy by using bana grass on ongoing. The private sector will work with the local farmers who will grow the bana grass and supply the private sector to feed the power plant.

Agriculture Production

The private sector is also expected to play a major role in agriculture production. The private sector is expected to partner with local farmers in a joint venture to produce the various crops in the project. The local farmers will be organized by the implementing agency, EWADE to form farmer companies. The farmer companies will use the bulk water infrastructure such as dams and pipe conveyances developed by Government through loans as equity. In addition, the land and water will form part of the farmer company's equity. The private sector will bring much needed technical skills, operating capital, equipment and machinery as their equity. The private sector has shown keen interest in the joint venture farming model.

EWADE

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