

REPORT ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE OKAVANGO BOREHOLE BOOKLETS

Introduction

In 1993 Mutjinde Katjiua, Tim Healy and Tani Forbes-Irving gathered information on boreholes drilled in the villages Kaguni, Twatama east and west in the Okavango region. After completion of their study they had joined meetings with the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN). It was then decided to put together their ideas in a form of a booklet.

The booklet was meant to address the following issues:

- Water dynamics for ground water and surface water.
- Technical advice for water pumps and their accessories.
- Conservation of water quantities and qualities.
- Grazing management strategies to ensure minimal degradation and maximise efficiency.
- Checklist to aid record keeping and ultimately decision making.

The booklet is printed in Kukwangali. Kahepako Uariua-Kakujaha of the DRFN undertook a 6 day trip to 14 villages in the Okavango region to distribute the booklet.

Methods and Materials

Announcements were sent over the radio to the respective villages. After arriving in Rundu a meeting was held between the DWA and the DRFN to make a final confirmation on the list of the villages that was to be visited.

The list is as follows:

1. 13-04-94 Kaguni and Tjwatama West
2. 14-04-94 Mugunda and Ncumushe
3. 15-04-94 Shamabungu, Katimba and Ekuli
4. 16-04-94 Hema, Mutorwa, Erago and Cakaye
5. 17-04-94 Katjina Katji and Tjwatama East

Two time schedules were set out for each day i.e the first village was visited in the morning at 10h00 and the second village in the afternoon at 14h00. This schedule was followed every day except for the following villages Shamabungu, Katimba, Ekuli, Hema, Mutorwa, Erago and Cakaye.

The Findings

179 Kukwangali and 44 English booklets were handed out. A list

of the people who received the booklet is shown below:

RECEIVERS	KUKANGWALI	ENGLISH
1. Kaguni	35	5
2. Tjwatama West	7	
3. Mungunda	23	1
4. Ncumushe	2	
5. Shamabungu		
6. Muhopi	5	5
7. Ekuli	50	13
8. Hema	1	
9. Mutorwa	5	
10. Erago	6	
11. Cakaye	2	
12. Mpezo	10	
13. Katjina Katji	30	20
14. Tjwatama East	3	
Total	179	44

Kaguni: The village had 45 households. The engine of the borehole drilled for the drought relief programme was broken for four months. The villagers reported the problem to the DWA. They were told that the borehole was under a private company's (ELWIWA) responsibility which is based in Windhoek as this company promised them a one year guarantee. Although DWA tried to assist the villagers by sending a fax to ELWIWA but up to now no

response came through. Thus nothing could be done to repair the engine. 54 villagers attended the presentation.

Tjwatama West: The borehole had a handpump and was operating. There was 7 households at the village and 11 people were present at the presentation of the booklet.

Mungunda: The borehole was having an engine and was in a very old state. The village is having a Central Water Committee (CWC). The village had 24 households and 48 people attended the presentation.

Ncumushe: The village was fenced off and there were only two households. The borehole is also having an engine pump.

Shamambungu: It was impossible to trace this village as it was not known to the community. According to the community the borehole was owned by an individual called Willem Kambinda.

Katimba: Again a wrong name was given to us and the real name was Mazwa. Instead a nearby village known as Muhopi was visited.

Ekuli: The village is more a settlement than being a village because it had 53 households. The borehole in this village operates on solar power which is funded by CANAMCO. The villagers were complaining about the small water tank because of its size the villagers are only able to use the water for human consumption. Both their small and large stock has to walk 10 km to the river to drink water. The villagers were also fearing that they might run out of water during a cloudy period. Thirty people attended the presentation.

Hema: This village is individually owned by Mr A. Sirongo. The workers at this village are having their own grazing areas. They were receiving diesel from the government but since december last year they have never received any.

Mutorwa: The village had 5 households. They also have a CWC. Fifteen people were present.

Erago: They have no CWC but they have an individual responsible for the engine pump. Erago is having 6 households.

Nineteen villagers were present at the presentation.

Cakaye: This village is privately owned by Minister Hausiku. The borehole is operating with a handpump.

Mpezo: There were 10 households at this village. The people at this village does not have a CWC but they a chairman and an engine operator. The villagers were complaining about the small element and the V-belt that is broken. Twelve people were present.

Katjina Katji: The CWC is existing at this village. The borehole at this village is also funded by CANAMCO. The village is having 30 households. At the presentation the CWC members were also present.

Tjwatama East: The village is fenced off and is individually owned by Mr Daniel Kasera who is based in Rundu. There were three households. The borehole is also equipped with a handpump.

Conclusion

Generally the booklet was accepted very well. Most people thought that the booklet will be more valuable if their water problems were solved. There was mainly a confusion between the DWA and the communities about the responsibility over the boreholes. As most of the communities reported their boreholes to the DWA but the DWA was unable to do anything as these boreholes were still under quarentee of a private company i.e ELWIWA which is based in Windhoek. After several attempts of faxing the information through to ELWIWA by the DWA no response came through up to now. There was a problem of tracing some villages as some of the names of the villages given by the DWA were not known by the communities.

Recommendations

The reccommendations are bassically the same as for the previous report of the Otjozondjupa region.