

Project

Esidumbini

Location

27km west of Stanger
KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

Client

Ilembe District Municipality
Aquamanzi (for Impilo extension and Esidumbini
bulk supply upgrades)

Project Manager

David Still with Gordon Garcia and Ben Fredlund

Project Value

R 10 million

Date Completed

2003

Brief Description

The Esidumbini Water Project supplies a community of over 20 000 people. The water is abstracted from a 12 metre high earth dam which was built in 1996 on the upper reach of the Mhlali River. The dam has a capacity of 268 000 m³ and a sustainable yield of 1300 kℓ/day. The unexpectedly high level of iron in the bottom layers of the dam meant that a floating intake had to be fitted after the dam had already filled, which posed some interesting engineering challenges.

The scheme is spread over a large area with over 120 km of pipelines and 83 reservoirs (most of which are 5 kℓ and 15 kℓ distributed storage / break pressure tanks).

For the first 6 years of its existence the scheme was owned and operated by the Esidumbini Water Committee, a wholly community based structure. It was taken over by the Ilembe District Municipality in July 2003.



PID Ref. No. 160

Impilo and Esidumbini