



National Council of SPCAs, South Africa

Welfare Registration Number: 003-189 NPO



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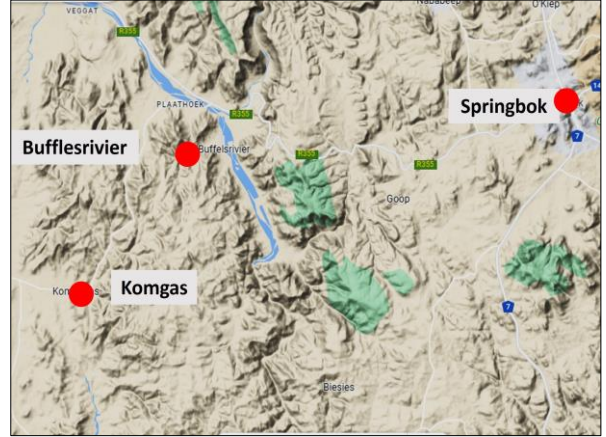
6,000 Northern Cape families affected ...



**NSPCA Flood Disaster Relief
Northern Cape Province
11 – 14 July 2023**

Introduction

Buffelsrivier and **Kommaggas** lie in the Namakwa District Municipality, 43km and 64km respectively, South-west of Springbok in the Northern Cape Province. These towns were the destination for our assistance as they had been most significantly affected by the flooding.



#Floods Buffelsrivier in the Namaqualand are cut off after floods swept the R355 away.
#SABCNews



Floods destroyed the road to Springbok leaving these communities cut off from assistance.



The flooding had a devastating effect on the area and caused loss of both human and animal lives. The communities were cut off from supplies and had no feed for themselves or their animals. Human aid organisations stepped in to take food supplies for the people and the NSPCA had to act to assist the animals. A team was dispatched to the area with bakkies and trailers loaded to capacity with emergency supplies of food, bowls, medication and blankets.



The main road to these communities was impassable and the team had to find an alternate route.

A local farmer allowed access through his farm lands but this detour still took the team over the Orange River through a low-lying bridge.

The roads were in poor condition and the heavily loaded vehicles and trailers had to travel carefully to navigate some of the roads in very poor condition.

Central Food Distribution Points

It was important to deliver the feed supplies as soon as possible and Inspectors met with community leaders and arranged for food to be distributed from the local community centres. Community members helped the team to off load the food and supplies and make up the care packs which were to help the pet owners for a short time until the roads were open and they were able to reach shops and supplies in Springbok.



The communities worked together and waited patiently while the care packages were prepared and together with community leaders and helpers we ensured that everyone had something to take home to their pets.

And no one objected when some impatient dogs couldn't wait for their owners and skipped the queue. It didn't take long for everyone to receive their supplies.

Food Distribution and Education



The communities leaders were a great help in distributing the parcels and also gave the Inspectors time to spend with individual owners who needed help with their pets.



Education on responsible animal ownership, pet care and health is a key component of our work and Inspectors seized every opportunity to share educational messages with community groups and individuals.

Home Visits and Food Distribution

Due to the remoteness of the area and wide distributed of homesteads, not all owners were able to come to the central food distribution points. So in these cases the Inspectors also undertook home visits to ensure as many animals and people as possible were assisted.



Home Visits are very important because as well as providing food and care they give the Inspectors an opportunity to inspect the living conditions of the animals and give advice and directions to owners to rectify any welfare concerns.

Home Visits and Health Assistance



The nearest veterinarian to these communities is in Springbok so owners do the best they can with basic care of their animals. During home visits some owners asked the Inspectors to help with some minor issues and asked for advice on primary health care. Ticks are problematic in this area but owners are aware and try to control them with dipping.

The importance of sterilisation was strongly promoted and owners were encouraged to at the least have their female animals sterilised to try and prevent overpopulation in the area.

Working Equine and Small Farmers

Working horses and donkeys are still used in this area for riding and pulling carts. For some people they are the only form of transport available to them.



Inspectors checked the welfare of donkeys and horses as they encountered them in the different areas. Fortunately these animals rely on grazing and were not directly affected by the floods.



Inspection of some of the working donkeys highlighted some welfare concerns which the Inspectors rectified with the owners.



There are a number of small scale farmers with goats and they were found to be in good health with water, food and shelter. These farmers also have dogs that help protect them and their stock and the Inspectors made sure that food supplies were left for these special guardians..

Operational Challenges

- a) Some disruptive political elements in the community
- b) Lack of attainable veterinary services and supplies
- c) Long distances between communities
- d) Poor road conditions
- e) Travel time and conditions to outlying homes
- f) No sterilisation projects in the area leading to large numbers of pets

Statistics

Break Down of Costs for Relief and Assistance provided (excluding staff salaries)

ITEM	COST
Accommodation	R 2 080.00
Meals	R 1 071.78
Additional Animal Supplies	R 7 559.37
Total Kilometres Travelled	5487 km
Total estimated Fuel Cost for 2 vehicles <i>(based on average consumption of 11,5 and fuel price of R23 per litre)</i>	R12 680.25
Damage repairs on vehicle and trailers	R 4 685.50
Hours Worked	63 hours
TOTAL COST	R28 076.90

Amount of pet food distributed : **over 3 000kg**

Number of animals assisted: **over 600**

Conclusion

It was heartening to see so many people across the country trying to help the people and animals in Buffelsrivier and Kommaggas. The flooding and destruction of the road which isolated the communities was not foreseen so they had no time to prepare themselves.

However with the community pulling together and the provision of emergency supplies this very serious situation was made manageable.

**With sincere appreciation to
all our donors who made
this critical intervention
possible.**

Thank you

