

# LetjHani

Mngane wamil (Greetings, my friend!)

It's me, Fenna, writing from the heart of southern Africa. Wytse and I have traveled far from the wetlands of Friesland, and now we find ourselves in Mozambique, standing beside the majestic Limpopo River. The river is vast and powerful, but we can sense that all is not well in its waters.

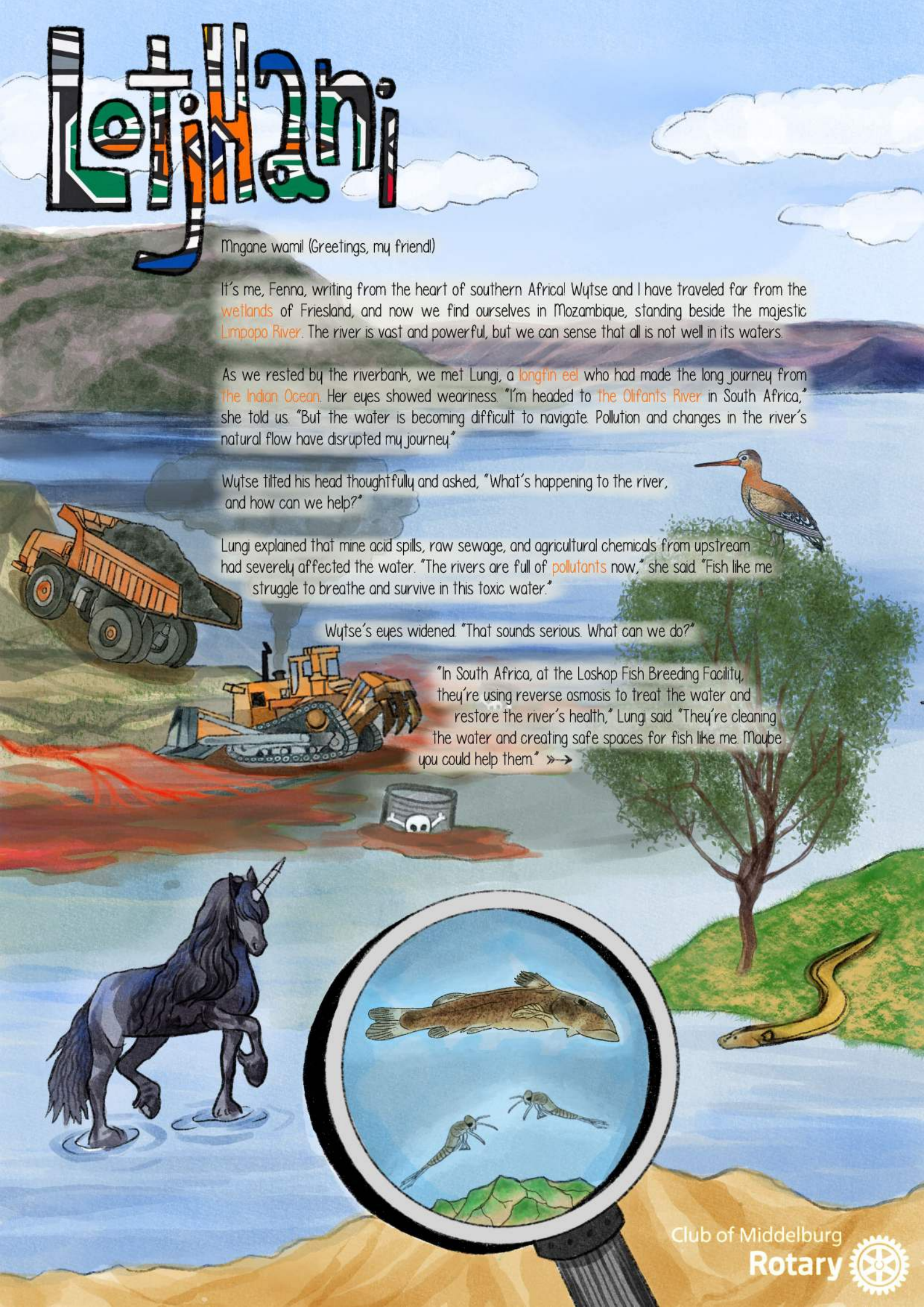
As we rested by the riverbank, we met Lungi, a longfin eel who had made the long journey from the Indian Ocean. Her eyes showed weariness. "I'm headed to the Olifants River in South Africa," she told us. "But the water is becoming difficult to navigate. Pollution and changes in the river's natural flow have disrupted my journey."

Wytse tilted his head thoughtfully and asked, "What's happening to the river, and how can we help?"

Lungi explained that mine acid spills, raw sewage, and agricultural chemicals from upstream had severely affected the water. "The rivers are full of pollutants now," she said. "Fish like me struggle to breathe and survive in this toxic water."

Wytse's eyes widened. "That sounds serious. What can we do?"

"In South Africa, at the Loskop Fish Breeding Facility, they're using reverse osmosis to treat the water and restore the river's health," Lungi said. "They're cleaning the water and creating safe spaces for fish like me. Maybe you could help them." >>>





With that, Wujise and I said goodbye to Lungi and set off toward Loshkop Dam. When we arrived, we were welcomed by a cheerful short spine suckermouth named Thabo. "Hello, friends!" Thabo greeted us as he swam near the river's edge. "We're doing important work here to protect our rivers, and every bit of help makes a difference!"

At the Loshkop Fish Breeding Facility, we saw people planting karee trees (Searsia lanceal) along the riverbanks. These trees help prevent erosion and stabilize the soil, ensuring the water stays clean and clear for fish like Thabo. The water, treated through reverse osmosis, is slowly being restored to a healthier state for aquatic life.

"The water has improved," Thabo explained as we watched young fish being released back into the river. "But we still have a long way to go."

Wujise stood tall and said softly, "What they're doing here is inspiring. Rivers are lifelines for so many creatures, just like our wetlands back home in Friesland."

As we leave Loshkop Dam, we feel hopeful and eager for our next destination: Guyana! We've heard about the incredible **Essequibo River** and the rich **biodiversity** of its **mangroves**. The journey across oceans will be long, but Wujise and I are ready, knowing each place we visit connects us to the next, like rivers in one shared story.

We bid farewell to the dedicated team at Loshkop, carrying their lessons with us as we soar toward new adventures in Guyana!

Sala kahle, mngane wami (Stay well, my friend).

*Favus and Wujise*

