



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BEST PRACTICES ON INTEGRATING BIODIVERSITY INTO POVERTY ERADICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The African Case Study
Chennai December 2013



The African Context

Africa has a wealth of Natural Resources, with South Africa being the 3rd mega diverse country in the world

Africa also has the greatest proportion and number of poor people respectively and an almost equal number of areas that are considered globally significant hotspots of threatened or endangered biodiversity.

Poverty remains generally higher in rural areas where ecosystems are becoming increasingly degraded

South Africa being considered most developed according to the Human Development Index provides insight to some of the barriers to development.



The Diagnostic Report

A recent Report revealed 9 frank challenges to South Africa's developmental Path

1. Too few people work
2. The standard of education for most black learners is of poor quality
3. Infrastructure is poorly located, under-maintained and insufficient to foster higher growth
4. Spatial patterns exclude the poor from the fruits of development
5. The economy is overly and unsustainably resource intensive
6. A widespread disease burden is compounded by a failing public health system
7. Public services are uneven and often of poor quality
8. Corruption is widespread
9. South Africa remains a divided society

South Africa's National Development Plan : Vision 2030

The 9 Diagnostic Challenges gave birth to The National Development Plan which is a plan for the country to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030 through uniting South Africans, unleashing the energies of its citizens, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capability of the state and leaders working together to solve complex problems through effective partnerships. It recognizes the need to link biodiversity and development strategies within the global policy frameworks that guide actions to effectively manage the fight against poverty eradication in Africa and on a global scale.



South Africa's flagship Working For Programs₁

Evolved as public works poverty alleviation projects & to mobilise the private sector to invest in watershed services- These are now National Environmental Programmes:

- Working for Water aims to improve the integrity of natural resources by preventing the introduction of new invasive species
- The Working for Land (WfL) programme aims to restore the composition, structure and function of degraded land, thereby enhancing ecosystem functioning, such as carbon sequestration, water regulation and purification.
- The Working on Fire (WoF) programme aims to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, livelihoods, ecosystem services and natural processes through integrated fire management.
- Working for Wetlands protects, rehabilitates and enhances the sustainable use of South Africa's wetlands through interventions through incentives, disincentives, advocacy and research, based on co-operative governance and partnerships.

South Africa's flagship Working For Programs ₂



- Working for Forests (WfF) promotes the conversion of invading alien plant stands into utilizable resources for meeting basic community needs as well as sustainable forestry land-use practices.
- The Working for Energy (WfE) (Biomass to Energy) seeks to make optimal use of the biomass cleared through the Working For Water Programme, in creating work opportunities to generate energy
- Eco- Furniture Programme (EFP) seeks to make optimal use of the biomass cleared through the Working For Water Programme, in creating work opportunities to make products that help Government to meet its needs, and notably the pro-poor opportunities within this.

“Biodiversity is key to how well people can adapt to adversity. The poor will need to be involved in any planning and decision-making and must ultimately be able to derive sustainable livelihoods from these resources”

Biodiversity Stewardship & Land Reform

Biodiversity stewardship has been implemented in South Africa over the past few years and is quickly gaining momentum as a method for both conserving our Biodiversity and creating job opportunities contributing significantly to both biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication and land Reform.

Stewardship is a powerful new tool to assist national and provincial government to secure priority biodiversity on land **outside** of state owned protected areas, on privately/communally owned land, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas (Act 57 of 2003) and Biodiversity (Act 10 of 2004) Acts

The Programme works with local communities, many of which are land reform beneficiaries, to assist them in implementing best land management practices in order for them to reap long-term benefits from their land.

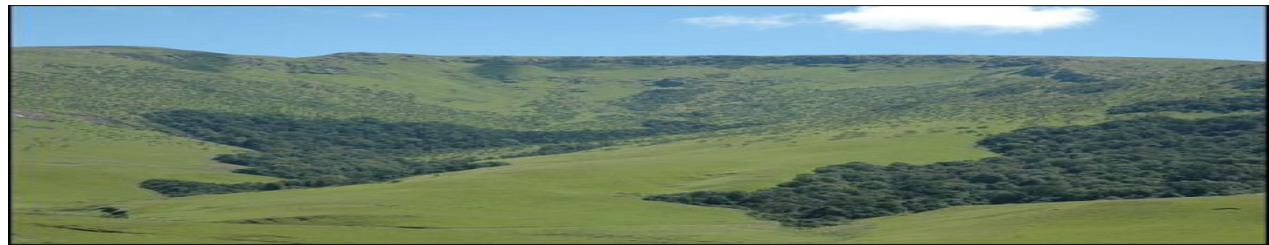


Umgano Project₁

- The Umgano Project is an initiative of the Mabandla Traditional Authority (MTA), originally under the leadership of Nkosi Sidoi, and now Nkosi Baleni.
- It is administered by the Mabandla Community Trust & its management company.
- The project area is c. 7000 ha in extent -is situated in the Ntsikeni- Coleford Corridor. Southern Drakensberg, KZN.
- It comprises State land leased to the MTA, with some communal land
- It encircles two State Forests, Umgano and Hoha,

The primary aim of the project is to establish & maintain a range of appropriate sustainable land-uses, to benefit the people of the MTA

- Benefit the people of Mabandla through the promotion of sustainable land uses and a flow of business and employment opportunities
- Generate a sustained flow of income for the trust
- Conservation of the natural environment, biodiversity, scenic beauty and cultural resources of the area, such as water production, natural products and other benefits.



Umgano Project ₂

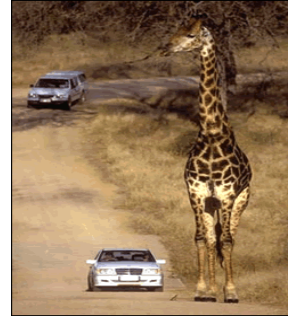


- Vegetation types, all of which are in relatively good condition, include wetlands of significance, high altitude grasslands, *Podocarpus*, forest, *Protea* and Cycad, savanna.
- Large numbers of endemic, rare and threatened bird species
- The fauna present includes Oribi and other antelope, and is a possible new habitat for Rhino .
- Training and capacity building for management staff (first four field rangers now trained & employed)
- Technical and other support for preparation of the management and business plans (now nearing completion)
- Establishment of the Biodiversity agreement area for the Livestock Management Zone (agreement signed 2008)
- Establishment of the eco-cultural tourism initiative
- The area contains problem plants (such as wattle and bramble), which are mainly along the rivers. A control plan is being developed

Bushbuckridge

Poverty Node identified as a flagship government priority

- Transition zone in the Kruger2Canyons Biosphere Reserve
- Integrate Structural Rural Development and other development interventions to encourage economic development in the municipality.
- Expansion of the wildlife and tourism economy in Bushbuckridge as the most viable means of ensuring sustainable rural development, job creation, catchment management and biodiversity management in the municipality
- The use of Fuelwood as a main energy source in BBR is an ideal example of the poor communities relying on biodiversity for their livelihoods.
- Many households rely on the earnings they obtain from collecting and selling fuelwood for their everyday living requirements.



Aloe Project

- Cape Aloes (*Aloe ferox*) in the Eastern Cape have provided the Xhosa people with medicinal and cosmetic necessities for hundreds of years.
- *Aloe ferox*, called Ikhala in Xhosa, grows wild throughout EC and in parts of the WC and their value has been recognized in helping to alleviate grinding poverty in the region
- *Aloe ferox* is now playing an important role in the empowerment of various communities in the region by incorporating and consolidating harvesters into this functioning and growing industry
- In 2004, the UN International Trade Centre based in Switzerland began funding workshops and training, this has resulted in several hundreds of jobs in the Aloe industry in EC.



- The conservation of *Aloe ferox* is vitally important to ensure the sustainable harvesting of these plants by rural harvesters
- Harvesters work under strict permit conditions issued by the Department of Environmental Affairs based in East London.
- Veld management techniques and the preservation of younger plants are also encouraged to ensure conservation and the industry's sustainability
- Since the start of this project there has been a significant increase in the income levels of this community to a point of adequate food and all-round living conditions

Birdlife Livelihoods Project₁

- The aim of the project has been to improve the livelihoods of local communities through sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources at six sites in the three countries
- It also focused on enhancing the resilience of community livelihoods and conservation activities that reduce climate change vulnerability while at the same time reducing pressure on natural resources
- The project focused on sites:
 - Yala Swamp and Dakatcha Woodlands in Kenya
 - Abijata Shalla and Berga Wetlands in Ethiopia
 - Wakkerstroom and Chrissiesmeer in South Africa.
- These sites are important for key species of birds including globally threatened like Clarke's Weaver (*Ploceus golandi*) or endangered e.g White-winged Flufftail (*Sarothrura ayresi*).



Birdlife Livelihoods Project ₂

- In Ethiopia monthly income improved by 140% from grain trade following the establishment of a microcredit scheme. \$5,000 was injected into a microcredit scheme.
- In South Africa Vegetable farmers income in Wakkerstroom improved by 50% from 100 Rand (\$12.20) to 150 Rand (\$18.20).
- The Indalo Wood Carving project increased by 67% from 300 Rand (\$36.50) to 500 Rand (\$60.80)
- In Kenya in Yala, five new papyrus products were developed (lampshades, stools, magazine racks, chairs, trays). The SSG earned Ksh 15,000 (\$178.10) in the initial year of the project.



Biodiversity Benefits of the BL Project₃

Ethiopia :

- In Abijata Shalla, 20 hectares of land was set aside and rehabilitated from serious degradation through enclosure.
- In Berga, 10 acres of land was fenced off for rehabilitation and 35,000 seedlings of *Acacia abyssinica* planted. In addition, a tree nursery with approximately 100,000 seedlings was established and seedlings distributed.
- Hillsides in Berga were rehabilitated by planting 3,500 assorted tree seedlings in a stretch of 20 kms.
- All of the above were accomplished by community efforts.

Kenya:

- In Yala, papyrus use declined by 50-60% after training of local groups on efficient use of papyrus.
- Local communities better appreciated Clarke's weaver (*Ploceus golandi*) as an endangered species in Dakatcha . The communities now see birds as a potential source of income through eco-tourism and this includes an award-winning community-based butterfly farming initiative



Biodiversity Benefits₄

Kenya cont..

- Formation of Charcoal Producers association in Dakatcha contributed to a significant reduction in illegal charcoal production from 10 lorry-loads per day to about two per day.
- Campaigns against a massive biofuel project in Dakatcha by Nature Kenya led to its withdrawal

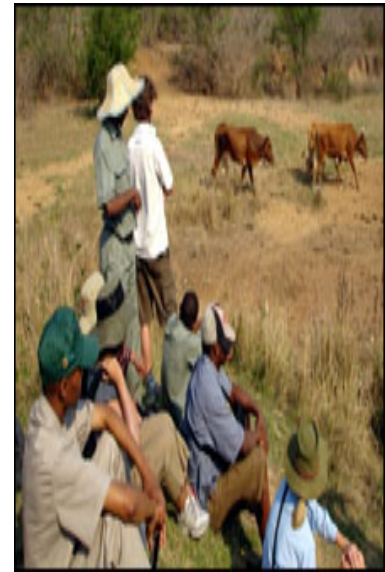
South Africa:

- The wood carving project used invasive tree species and old dumped furniture, this reduced the impact of invasive species and environmental pollution by dumped old furniture.
- Community work at the project sites involved creating awareness and advocating for biodiversity conservation through events such as the World Bird Migration day and World Environment Day
- Secretary birds, all cranes, both flamingos, Denham's Bustard and the African Fish Eagle benefited from a community biodiversity monitoring scheme.



Challenges, Gaps, Opportunities

- Infrastructure development is a priority: Greater investment is needed in ecological infrastructure
- Primary Ecological research is needed on the impact of land management practices on the quality and quantity of ecosystem goods and services
- Translating research outcomes into economic consequences- delivering on the value proposition
- Linkages to land Reform : access to resources, skills and capacity
- Poverty in Africa has got a lot to do with maintaining the integrity of the family unit: sustainable rural livelihoods
(Public safety, Primary Health, education, employment)



Africa Rising
African Renaissance
Africa.....The Future World



Thank You
Kiruben Naicker
Department of Environmental Affairs

Email: Knaicker@environment.gov.za