

Case 19: S O U T H A F R I C A

Cata Community Enterprise

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This section should give brief description of

✓ **Problem being tackled by the project:**

Reduces landlessness and Poverty on the other hand encouraging participatory management and sustainable forest management

✓ **Approach taken to solve the problems?**

Community participation in forest management and partnership with other stakeholders to

✓ **Expected results of the intervention or good practice and Highlight of the good practice**

Female empowerment, job creation, income generation, better life (poverty reduction), and knowledge sharing

✓ **Involvement of the local people (community/stakeholders/ partners)**

The project is managed and owned by the local community in partnership with National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, DAFF and local government structures

✓ **Benefits both to local people**

Livelihood improvement through capability building and proceeds from the projects, hence contributing to better life and poverty eradication. The state of environment is also improved improving environmental services benefits for the rural communities.

✓ **Key lessons**

The project has made a significant contribution to the livelihoods of the people of Cata through the payment of wages and the new skills that the members of the different forestry teams have learnt. Selection of workers for the teams was thoughtfully done to ensure that as many families in Cata as possible, had an opportunity to earn wages through the Forestry Project. Enterprise development and business administration skills have also been focused upon by BRC and Fractal Forest and it is envisaged that the people of Cata will be operating their own forestry enterprise entirely independently of outside support, within about two to three years.

✓ **Sustainability of the good practice**

Continues support

Implementing Organization	Cata Communal Property Association Add : Amahlathi Local Municipality, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa Email : zanel@brc21.co.za
Funding Source	Land Re-distribution
Implementing Period	2007 – to date
Project site	Cata, Eastern Province, South Africa

Key Words: Social: Poverty reduction; Income generation; Public-Private-Partnership; Traditional knowledge; Minority people; Gender; Enlightenment; Education; Cooperative

Background of the Project

Communal Property Associations (CPAs) are landholding institutions that were established under the Communal Property Associations Act No. 28 of 1996. CPAs were created for groups who needed to organize themselves as legal bodies in order to be able to receive title deeds to land under the restitution and redistribution programmes. Under colonialism and apartheid, millions of black people had been dispossessed of their land and their land rights. It was urgent that the new democratic government restore land to black South Africans and to secure their land rights. Since the land reform programme would involve the transfer of land from the state and private landowners to black South Africans, a legal entity needed to be created through which land reform beneficiaries could acquire, hold and manage property.

This group claimed land through the Land Restitution process and after investigation it was recommended that the land is suitable for commercial forestry, at the moment 350 ha have been planted and it is adjacent to an indigenous forest. The transfer has consequence beyond Cata, and the Keiskammahoek District... it is a victory for democracy and for the right of ordinary citizens to hold title to communal land

They are registered with the Department of Rural Development and Land Restitution and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries..

Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

The objective of the Cata project is to allow beneficiaries to benefit in increased productivity, motivation, job satisfaction and quality enhancement through community participation in the whole value chain. For them to achieve their objective they need to:

Objective 1: participate in the promotion of forest and planting of commercial species

Objective 2: Promote Agro-Forestry

Objective 3: Promote Organic farming and use of organic fertilizer

Objective 4: Support small farmers to diverse products from the forest and agriculture

Objective 5: Promote training for graduates and farmers

Objective 6: Sensitization Program for young generation

Major Activities

Enterprise is practicing Community Forestry with +/- 100 members mainly from the community. The main activities includes the following:

- ✓ Tree Bank i.e planting of trees
- ✓ Demonstration sites for trainees including graduates (fort Cox College), students, local farmers as well as community members
- ✓ Agro forestry: planting diverse crops with forest tree species including nursery for seedling
- ✓ Food/vegetable plots
- ✓ Eco-tourism

Direct Outputs from the Project

- ✓ Income revenue
- ✓ Conservation of natural resources
- ✓ Stakeholder Participation
- ✓ Poverty Alleviation
- ✓ Capacity Building

- ✓ Restoration of habitat
- ✓ Creation of Jobs
- ✓ Value addition to products

Indirect Impact of the Project

Overtime the local community felt empowered because of the proceeds obtained from the project either from the vegetable garden or recreational activities. The project provided an enabling environment wherein students, government and community members can interact, share experiences and knowledge. Environmentally the project succeeded in protection of Endangered Species, Ecosystem Service and Sustainability in use of natural resources

Challenge and Limitations of the Project

Challenges facing this project are mainly in terms:

- ✓ Funding – at the moment they are not getting any funding from government except the original money given to them through land distribution
- ✓ Capacity – they need to be capacitated on how to develop a viable business plan so that they can approach financial institution or even government with developmental project that they participate in while waiting for the commercial forest part to be matured
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation – this is one important aspect of the project that is lacking behind to assess growth and to see where improvements can be made

Intervention of Central/Local Government and other stakeholders

The South African government provides an enabling environment in terms of policies and legislation that governs CPA's. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries provides technical support to the association in collaboration with Local and District municipalities. The association is registered and administered by the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

Way Forward

Sustainability of the project is clear but also subjected to disaster factors such as fire, drought, pest and diseases. There is a need for the association to collaborate with the local Fire Protection Association (FPA) for assistance in fire issues. Food & Agriculture Biodiversity Institute (FABI) can assist with issues dealing with pest and diseases. It is a commercial project. There is a need to adhere to criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management along the profitability principles.

Reference Documents/Materials

- ✓ <https://www.daff.gov.za>
- ✓ <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za>
- ✓ (www.daff.gov.za/doaDev/sideMenu/ForestryWeb/dwaf/cmsdocs/Tom/SUMMIT_PAMPHLET_6a-PFM.pdf)

Resource Persons

Name	Affiliation	contact details
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