



Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Programme

SADC/GIZ Project

“Transboundary Use and Protection of Natural Resources in the SADC Region”

Application Form for Project Proposals on

Cross Border Climate Change Adaptation

Report

Date Submitted: 20th January 2015

Background

The MDTP is implementing an international – cross border GIZ funded wetlands project between South Africa and Lesotho. The project is aimed at implement rehabilitation of wetlands in order to enhance their function as carbon sinks and regulators and providers of water to the ecosystem and also implement rangeland management in rangelands surrounding wetlands in order to restore and improve ecosystem health and prevent further wetland and rangeland degradation as a result of livestock grazing in wetland areas. Below is a brief report on the progress to date.

COMPONENT 1: PROJECT INITIATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY WETLANDS AREAS TO BE TARGETED.

Activity 1.1.1: Meeting with stakeholders to formally introduce the project and agree on activities and timelines.

- The project was introduced to communities in both Lesotho and South Africa.
- Various sites visits with community representation have been held on the South African side.
- Surveys on wetlands and climate change have been undertaken in Qachas Nek

The above meetings/site visits we held prior to funding being released and changes made on the South African side with regards to the rehabilitation plans. Therefore the expectations from the communities in KwaZulu Natal have been that there will still be beneficiaries employed to participate in the rehabilitation process. The changes have been explained to the communities, a meeting is planned for the next coming week to discuss the changes and the new plan on grazing management as indicated in the section under future below.



Figure 1: Site visits with community representation on the South African side



Figure 2: Summary of results of survey conducted at in three communities in Qachas Nek, Lesotho

Activity 1.1.2

Phase1&2: Appoint an Environmental Assessment Practitioner to conduct a specialist assessment of wetlands. Agree on identified areas.

- An Environmental Assessment Practitioner - Eco-Pulse Environmental Services was appointed to undertake the specialist studies.
 - Step 1: This includes undertaking a scoping exercise to identify suitable wetlands which are priority wetlands with main focus around securing improved water quality to key dams in the area (Woodstock, Kilburn, Driel Barrage (& Spienkop)) and areas with peat lands where possible. Delivery date is mid-February 2015.
 - Step 2: Preliminary engagement with landowners – March 2015
 - Step 3: Preliminary site visit to screen wetlands for further planning – April 2015
 - Step 4: Compilation of recommendations for further planning – April 2015

Activity 1.1.3: Meeting to appoint the Project Steering Committee and Project Implementation Committee.

The KwaZulu Natal Synergy forum represented by a number of stakeholders implementing projects in the Upper uThukela has been used as a forum to present project activities. There has not been any formal request to the forum to undertake the Project Steering Committee responsibilities of the project. There has also been engagement of the MDTP Biodiversity and Protected Area Working Group in driving the project steering responsibilities. See attached minutes

On the Lesotho side the Community Conservation Forum which is constituted of members of the community, different associations in the Qachas Nek District such as Horse Race, Initiation Schools, and Grazing Associations, Chieftainship and other community members has been used as the Project Implementation Committee.

Activity 1.1.4: Interviews to appoint beneficiaries through the PIC.

- 16 Beneficiaries have been appointed on the Lesotho side through the local Community Conservation Forum Appointment. Letters of appointment are available.

- Authority to appoint beneficiaries has been undertaken through the Ezemvelo KZNWildlife human resources processes.

Component 4.

- Bank forms as required by the human resources process of Ezemvelo KZNWildlife have been signed by the Lesotho beneficiaries.
- Contracts have been signed by the Lesotho beneficiaries.

Activity 1.1.5: Procurement of Material, Consumables and Personal Protective Clothing.

- Camera to facilitate capturing of baseline data for project area has been purchased.
- Tripod for Tripod, Staff and Level – used for measuring the level at which excavations should be done – to be used for wetland excavations is in the process of being purchased.
- Protective clothing for beneficiaries is in a process of being purchased.

COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY ON WETLAND REHABILITATION BUILT AMONGST THE PROJECT BENEFICIARIES. THIS INCLUDES TRANS-BOUNDARY LEARNING EXCHANGES.

Activity 2.1.1

No training has been undertaken yet. This will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

Activity 2.2.1

Projects to be targeted for the learning exchange have been identified. A date for the learning exchange will be agreed upon.

COMPONENT 4: IMPLEMENTATION OF A RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PLANS COMPLIMENTS EFFORTS OF REHABILITATION AND PREVENT FURTHER DEGRADATION

Rangeland Management - Community based adaptation

A rangeland management component of the project has been introduced recently. A learning exchange to the GIZ Sponges project on 15th January 2015 (*see attached report*) has been crucial in planning activities to be implemented under this component. A plan for implementation is reflected below. The plan will be discussed with stakeholders to agree on dates.



Figure 3: Community based adaptation processes

Challenges

Procurement has been the greatest challenge. Amongst other aims, the project aim to strengthen collaboration between the two countries by also encouraging procurement to prioritise suppliers from each country. The reality that the budget is located in one country makes procurement a nightmare, especially where the duration of the project is considered. Procurement and Human Resources processes vary from one country to the other, and this requires adaptation which can consume ample time. It is not necessarily easy to procure catering for meetings, transportation of beneficiaries from one place to the other for various administrative matters such as going to banks, as such whilst we have set aside funding for this, the funding is not utilised. We are still finding a way to get around utilising these funds for these activities by finding an easy way than paying out of an individual's pocket and claiming at a later stage.

Future targets

- Write to the Principal Chief introducing the project – who will be responsible for writing to other structures that should get involved with regards to grazing management initiatives which have not started yet.
- Arrange for a meeting to meet with the Principal Chief – Transport and accommodation logistics
- Identify additional stakeholders that should be involved including departments and local community structures – List of stakeholders.
- Invite all stakeholders to a meeting to introduce the project and discuss roles and responsibilities.
- Form a Project Steering Committee (PSC) – arrange for a meeting to establish the PSC or use an existing one.
- If there is not existing one, then also develop Terms of Reference (ToR), if there is an existing, use that but ensure that the ToR are in line with what the project wants to achieve.
- Identify stakeholders that should constitute the Project Implementation Committee (PIC). Those would be local community structures like Grazing Associations, herders, farmers, the Chiefs, Local Conservation Forums – List of stakeholders.
- Draft the ToR for the PIC, and arrange for a meeting with the PIC to discuss and adopt the ToR – ToR, clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Veld condition assessments to get the baseline of vegetation in the rangelands spanning the wetlands that will be rehabilitated – department of soil, livestock and water conservation can do this for the project.
- Develop the grazing management plan – conduct site visits with farmers to develop the plan (the farmers already know the area, they know which areas are to be grazed when, therefore are crucial to the process).
- Ensure that the grazing management plan is fully integrated within the permits issued to farmers and the Grazing Associations constitution so that they can monitor it.
- Ensure that the grazing management plan is fully integrated within the Department of Range Resources Grazing Control Officers so that they also are responsible for monitoring it.
- Ensure that livestock health as required by the grazing permits is well monitored.
- Purchase of mobile kraals where possible that will be used to densify livestock, livestock herding using kraals.
- The rehabilitation team in Qachas' Nek will be on site bringing stones for rehabilitation on the 26th January 2015