

SOUTH AFRICA

COLLABORATING TO FACILITATE INVESTMENTS AND SHIFTS TO A GREEN ECONOMY THAT CAN IMPROVE SOCIAL WELLBEING AND THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES IN THE PORT ELIZABETH WESTERN CATCHMENT AREAS.

BACKGROUND

The Port Elizabeth City and its western catchment areas are experiencing considerable environmental, economic and social challenges which are threatening its potential to continue growing. These include energy and water supply constraints that undermine the city's potential to grow. Considerable environmental degradation due to poor farming practices, transformation of wetlands and rivers and the spread of invasive alien plants has had a considerable negative effect on the hydrology of the river systems that is threatening the water security of the water users. The disadvantaged groups in this area need considerable support and business mentoring in order to succeed and find and make use of the new green economic opportunities that exist or are beginning to emerge.

LIVING LANDS

PARTNER:

Four Returns Development Company

LOCATION:

South Africa; Eastern Cape Province; Kouga, Kromme and Baviaanskloof catchments; KouKamma and Baviaans Local Municipalities, Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Kareedouw & Joubertina towns and the city of Port Elizabeth

Budget



\$250,000.00

Timeline



30 Months

OBJECTIVES

The project proposes to bring a wide variety of people in the Kouga and Krom catchments together to address the sustainable development challenges on the landscape and effect a shift to SCP and eco-entrepreneurship practices. Using the collaborative social learning approach, the action aims to achieve the following social outcomes:

a) Collective will and ability to collaborate is created, b) Collaborative landscape organization is established and ready to implement, c) Emergent farmers are involved and business partnerships, d) Detailed spatial landscape plans and marketable business plans for sustainable agriculture, restoration and value added chain/interventions developed and adopted and e) Investors are lined up and ready to invest.

ACTIONS

- » Engaging with stakeholders and facilitating understanding and constructive communication and collaborations between them.
- » Investigating socio-economic needs and constraints, business opportunities on the landscape.
- » Mobilising and securing partnerships with external business investors and government partners. Piloting green business ventures on the landscape by the creation of a landscape collaborative platform (legal entity) to focus on the implementation of projects that address collective/common needs and require multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve the economies of scale needed to make the green ventures sustainable.
- » Engaging with farmers and entrepreneurs from poor and historically disadvantaged backgrounds involved in small and medium sized agricultural and service businesses/ ventures on the landscape to mentor and capacitate them to shift to more sustainable green business options and make effective use of the new opportunities that become available.