



conservation agreements private partnership platform

SOUTH AFRICA - Improving landscapes and livelihoods

CLOSED
November 2017

Boasting the world’s highest succulent plant diversity, the Succulent Karoo desert of South Africa provides natural fodder for livestock grazing. In the Namaqualand area, livestock production is the most widespread economic activity. However, decades of overstocking communal rangelands with small livestock and ploughing for fodder have led to extensive degradation, negatively affecting both agricultural productivity and ecosystem health.

Through “conservation agreements,” this project provided benefits—including improved stock quality, market access, training and capacity building—to farmers who committed to sustainable rangeland management to help conserve critical wetlands. Upon completion, the project demonstrated market access linkages to the private sector and a plan to embed conservation agreements into municipal land management processes.

What is a “conservation agreement”?

It is a deal between a community and a group or person funding a conservation project. In exchange for making specific conservation commitments, communities receive benefits from the funder.

THE COMMUNITIES AGREED TO:

- Follow a planned grazing system
- No ploughing of any virgin land
- Contribute to ecological monitoring
- Complete datasheets on livestock predation and provide data to implementers
- No ploughing in wetlands

IN RETURN FOR:

- Livestock improvement, including meatmaster breeding rams, medicine and livestock dosing tools and equipment
- Development of structured farmers’ organizations
- Training for improved farming practices
- Market access

INVESTMENT

CAPPP: \$250,000

Other private and public sector sources: \$441,000

World Wildlife Fund: \$45,000 (post-CAPPP funding)

IMPLEMENTER

Conservation South Africa aims to promote and support conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use in South Africa’s hotspots as an essential element of food security and land reform; human and economic development; and building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

PARTNERS

Nammeat

- Supported collective livestock sales with the community-based cooperative

Meat Naturally Pty

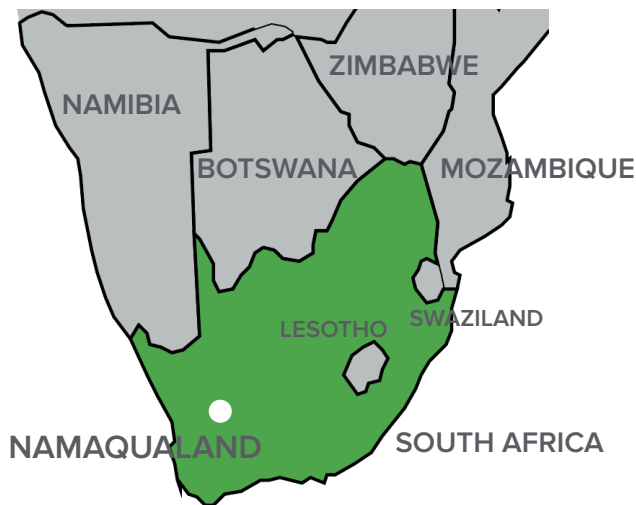
- Piloted the linkage to specialized markets for sustainably produced, traceable red meat through collective livestock sales with the community-based cooperative

Department of Environmental Affairs

- Provided funding to support large-scale rangeland restoration, one of the community incentives

Kamiesber and Nama Khoi local municipalities

- Signed letters in support of the projects and listed them in their integrated development plans



MONITORING

A team of Eco-rangers was recruited, trained and equipped to track compliance to the conservation agreements. Environmental monitoring focused on three key indicators: soil erosion, wetlands quality and veld quality. Socio-economic surveys were conducted annually. End-term evaluations are scheduled for late 2018.

RESULTS

227 farmers with improved livelihoods

2 co-operatives legally registered

236,000 hectares conserved

Percentage of household income from livestock



8%
2015



17%
2017

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Meat Naturally Pty is a social enterprise that has provided market access facilitation to the farmers. Their organized livestock sales, inviting both buyers and sellers to participate, has led to increased prices for the farmers by eliminating middlemen. Nammeat, a local abattoir, meat trader and major buyer of lamb in the region, has bought livestock from the farmers, ensuring direct access to the abattoir and thus better returns for the farmers.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the Steinkopf area, the cooperative is forging ahead with strong leadership and skills to function as a business: They are building internal capacity to manage money and market access, while also looking for sustainable funding mechanisms to enable them to conserve their valuable rangeland. In the Kamiesberg area, CSA is working with existing stewards and the local municipality to embed conservation agreements into the municipal by-laws, with the long-term goal to facilitate a joint municipal and community-led conservation agreement model.



CONSERVATION
SOUTH AFRICA



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