

RESTORING OUR LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

2016 | 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CONSERVATION
SOUTH AFRICA

Member of the CI Network



OUR APPROACH IS SIMPLE, YET TRANSFORMATIVE.

Conservation South Africa supports economic development that values nature because people need nature to thrive.

OUR Vision

Conservation South Africa imagines a healthy prosperous country, where critical landscapes in South Africa's biodiversity hotspots are restored and maintained to provide water, food and climate change resilience for sustainable economic development and the long-term benefit of people and nature.

OUR Mission

To promote and support conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use in three landscapes within South Africa's biodiversity hotspots as an essential element of sustainable food production, building resilience to the impacts of climate change, and promoting regional economic development that values nature.

OUR Structure

Conservation South Africa is an independent affiliate of Conservation International, legally registered as a Section 18A Public benefit organisation in South Africa. As an affiliate, Conservation South Africa subscribes to the aspirational vision and mission, strategic framework, and operational requirements of Conservation International, but is enabled to adapt language and specific policies and goals to the unique context of South Africa.





CONTENT

4	South Africa at a Glance
5	2016 / 2017 Impact at a Glance
6	Message from the Chairman
7	Message from the CEO
8	Biodiversity, Ecological Infrastructure, Rangelands
9	Our Land
11	Our Opportunity
12	How We Work
13	Where We Work
14	Science & Research
15	Climate Change
17	Sustainable Agriculture
19	Green Economic Development
21	Innovation & Amplification
22	Green Community Colleges
23	Meat Naturally PTY
24	Rangeland Restoration for Water & Sanitation Service Delivery
26	Namakwaland Landscape Demonstration Projects
28	Mzimvubu Landscape Demonstration
29	Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Demonstration Landscape
31	Financial Review
32	Donors

SOUTH AFRICA AT A GLANCE



TOTAL POPULATION
Nearly 57 Million



20 DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS



CURRENCY
RAND



EXCHANGE RATE
R1 = APPROXIMATELY
£0.055 / \$0.073



ECONOMY
3rd LARGEST IN AFRICA
Industrial & Financial Sector
Underdeveloped informal sector



37.2% OF THE POPULATION IS RURAL



11 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



POPULATION DENSITY

47 People per Km²
(121 People per mi²)

TOTAL LAND AREA
1,213,090 Km²
(468,376 mi²)



TOTAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

2015 - R4,073 BILLION

REAL GDP GROWTH

2015 - 1.3%

GDP PER CAPITA

2015 - R74,112

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

3RD IN THE WORLD

HOTSPOTS THE SIZE OF CALIFORNIA



UNEMPLOYMENT

24.5% OF SOUTH AFRICANS LIVE ON LESS THAN \$1.25 PER DAY
65% UNEMPLOYED FOR OVER 1 YEAR
44% UNEMPLOYED NEVER WORKED
51% NEVER FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL

YOUTH

71% SOUTH AFRICANS AGE 15 - 34
OVERALL YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 54% / GLOBAL AVE. 13%



EDUCATION

INDIVIDUALS WHO SECURE A TERTIARY EDUCATION EARN TWICE AS MUCH AS THEIR PEERS WHO ONLY FINISHED MATRIC



SMMEs

91% OF ALL BUSINESS GENERATE 45% GDP / 55% EMPLOYMENT



MEDIAN AGE IN SA
26.3 YEARS

ECO SYSTEM SERVICES

R73 BILLION pa (7% of GDP)



OPERATIONAL STAFF
42



424 COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED



TRAINED
MUNICIPAL OFFICERS FROM
THREE DISTRICTS &
THREE TRIBAL AUTHORITIES



TRAINED
73 NURSES



1599
SUPPORTED FARMERS



350 024 Ha
TOTAL GRAZING AREA
UNDER MANAGEMENT



272 NEW JOBS CREATED
THROUGH ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT IN VILLAGES



9 RESEARCH PAPERS PUBLISHED
1 NATIONAL POLICY DRAFTED



900 HECTARES OF ALIEN VEGETATION
CLEARED IN
MZIMVUBU RIVER CATCHMENT



96 SMMEs
SUPPORTED ACROSS
THE LANDSCAPES



461 TRAINED AND EMPLOYED
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
WORKERS



3800 CHILDREN / YOUTH
REACHED THROUGH
COMPUTER CENTRES



200 CHILDREN / YOUTH
REACHED THROUGH VALUES
BASED ENVIRON. EDUCATION
(SCOUTS)



3 DEMONSTRATION LANDSCAPES
>1,500 000 HECTARES IN TOTAL



5228 HECTARES OF RESTORED LAND
FROM EXTENSIVE EROSION IMPACTS

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

2016 / 2017



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Conservation South Africa works to ensure that the value of the incredible nature found within our borders benefits South Africa's most marginalized people and rural economies. Since 2015, our work has increasingly focused on South Africa's rangelands. This has increased and strengthened our work with farmers, local government, and most recently participants in livestock and ecotourism value chains.

Through a partnership with the Buffelshoek Trust, our capacity to support training and education initiatives for these stakeholders grew considerably over the last two years and new projects focused on herders, entrepreneurs, and youth were catalyzed. In 2016, Conservation South Africa created a new social enterprise, Meat Naturally Pty, to work with these stakeholders and create a new market access incentive for environmentally responsible livestock production. This flagship social enterprise is not only having a significant impact on rangeland stewardship but it also has the potential to be taken to scale as a vehicle for sustainably growing rangeland restoration and conservation throughout Southern Africa.

Our country's distinct natural environment requires a unique approach that demonstrates the inherent link between nature and people. Only a healthy and restored rangeland will yield the social, economic and environmental opportunities we are seeking to achieve through our work. Conservation South Africa's efforts and strategy are leading in this regard.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank our donors and partners as well as the Conservation South Africa team for their commitment and contribution towards reaching our enhanced sustainable development goal.

Simon Susman

List of Board Members

Chairman of the Board: Simon Susman
Chief Executive Officer: Sarah Frazee
M Sanjayan: Conservation International
Loyiso Pityana-Ndlovu: Land Bank Africa
Carmel Mbizvo: South African National Biodiversity Institute
Owen Henderson: BPG Consulting
Niels Crone: Customer First Renewables
Michael O'Brien-Onyeka: Conservation International
Buffelshoek Trust Board Representatives
Chairman of Buffelshoek Trust: Dr Reuel Khoza, AKA Capital
Executive Trustee: Professor Peliwe Lolwana, Wits University
Alternative Executive Trustee: Campbell Scott, Skyway Trails



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



THEORY:
EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES + HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS
= ENHANCED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015 Conservation South Africa made a strategic decision to integrate the work and staff of the Buffelshoek Trust as a third demonstration site (Savannah grasslands) within the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere. The combined vision is to build a model for enhanced sustainable development in South Africa's high biodiversity rangelands by restoring ecosystems and empowering communities.

The model is based on restoring our land of opportunity through four streams of activities that reflect the core strengths of both organisations:

1. Understand and manage the natural resource base of targeted communities in the context of extreme weather events through engagement and local government service-delivery planning support.
2. Support and enhance existing livelihood and food security activities by renewing and sustaining the natural resource base for food and income production based on healthy rangelands.
3. Develop and promote innovative economic activities that harness the competitive advantage of targeted communities' unique natural environment and promote environmental good practice throughout the value-chain.
4. Promote and sustain eco-innovation into the next generation through incentive based investments in basic education, community well-being and community learning.

The achievements you will read about in the coming pages are the product of our pursuit of restoring our land of opportunity. Working with communities, government, partners and donors, we are creating innovative models that focus on restoration and reversing natural resource degradation that contribute to resilience and development. We measure our impact of this restoration and sustainable land management in alignment with National Development and Climate Change Strategies, and the Global Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope you enjoy this report and look forward to continuing to build on these initiatives in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Frazee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sarah Frazee

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity hotspots refer to areas that contain 1% of all of the world's plant species as endemics, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world and that are at high risk of being lost or are more than >70% transformed.

ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Natural systems like mountains, rivers, wetlands, forests and grasslands provide many goods and services to society. These systems are known as 'ecological infrastructure'. For example: many mountain ranges collect rain water and distribute it to millions of people through rivers. Plants and animals help keep soil healthy to grow food. Grasslands feed livestock and forests clean the air. Wetlands purify water and reduce the impact of droughts and floods. Nature is central to tourism and wellbeing, offering a number of opportunities for physical, spiritual and educational outdoor activities.

RANGELANDS

Rangelands are natural systems made up of rangelands, shrublands, woodlands, wetlands, and deserts that are grazed by domestic livestock and wild animals and that deliver valuable services to people. Rangelands play a vital role in nature and for people in terms of providing grazing and plants for food and medicine. Healthy rangelands also maintain soil stability, which limits soil loss through erosion and improves the ability of the land to absorb and store water.

FACT: IT TAKES 500 YEARS TO RESTORE 1 INCH OF TOP SOIL.

Our Land

South Africa is a country extraordinarily rich in floral diversity with over 24,000 plant species found within our borders. This represents about 10% of the known flowering plants on earth and makes South Africa the third most biodiverse country in the world.

Importantly, over half of these species are found nowhere else in the world. One of the most fascinating aspects of South Africa's biological diversity is that, while there are enormous numbers of flowering plants, there are few forests that so often are equated with mega biodiversity. South Africa's particular climate and soil combinations renders only 12% of the country arable or suitable for the production of rain-fed crops and more than 70% of the country's land is rangeland.

Grasses, shrubs and acacia trees dominate in the eastern highlands transitioning to beautiful water-storing succulents in the hot, dry western regions. In the northeast of the country, a vast savannah supports an amazing array of animals including lions, elephants, wildebeest, and impala among many others.

Historically home to huge herds of grazing wildlife, these high biodiversity rangelands are now home to most of South Africa's communal farmers and their livestock as well as 75% of the country's rural poor. These rangelands also provide critical water catchment, carbon storage, and food security for the country's rural and urban populations.

Rangelands provide critical ecological infrastructure and are vital to the health and wellbeing not only of the animals that graze upon them but some of the country's poorest communities who depend entirely on the land to make a living.





love
SOUTH AFRICA

OUR OPPORTUNITY

The disruption of traditional grazing regimes and increasing rural poverty in South Africa have taken their toll on South Africa's rangelands.

Once the land of plenty, communal rural rangelands have become so overgrazed, eroded and infested by alien plants, that the International Community declared three biodiversity hotspots within SA borders to help conserve the rangelands.

Small scale farmers on degraded rangelands face a number of challenges including limited access to markets to sell their cattle, sheep and goats or produce. The problem of degraded rangelands is so significant is that despite dependence on red meat SA still imports 20% of red meat every year.

In June 2016, the United Nations acknowledged the importance of rangelands by adopting a resolution that recognizes the contributions grasslands and rangelands make to economic growth, resilient livelihoods, freshwater availability, soil stability, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration. There is growing momentum for the UN to declare 2020 the "International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Conservation South Africa has been working on restoring high biodiversity rangelands in communal areas in four provinces in South Africa for almost two decades and is preparing to showcase a range of sustainable, innovative and replicable initiatives in 2020.

Most of our work is centered around the role of rangelands in supporting South Africa's poorest rural communities to grow climate resilient economies through the restoration and sustainable use of their ecological infrastructure. Drawing on extensive scientific experiments and international best practice, we are at the forefront of Conservation International's rangeland work.

At the core of our current programme of work is a focus on landscapes and livestock. Livestock are dependent on healthy rangelands to meet the high demand for quality red meat products. Well managed livestock support the restoration and function of rangelands and poorly managed livestock drive degradation – affecting biodiversity and livelihoods.

Fifty percent of South Africa's total livestock populations are found on communal rangelands, but they access only 5% of the market. CSA capitalizes on the significant opportunity from this gap in the market to develop market driven incentives to restore our high biodiversity rangelands through the sustainable red meat industry and other climate smart agricultural, educational and green economic initiatives.

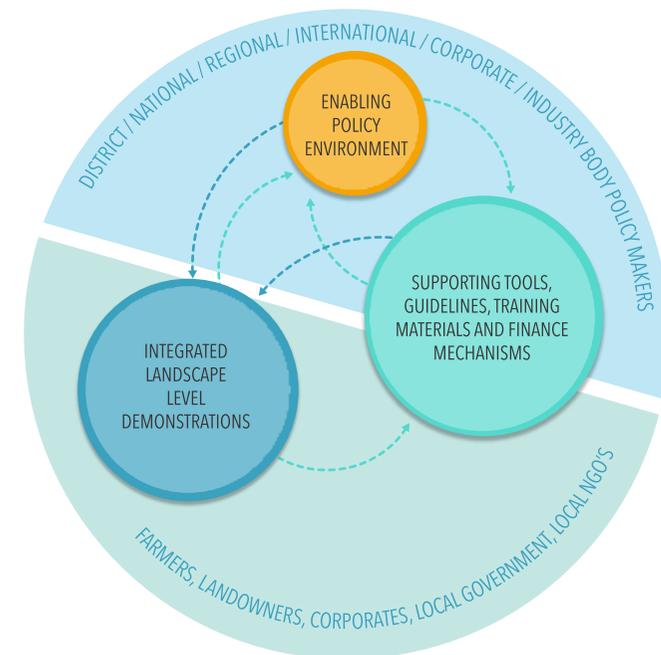
HOW WE WORK

Conservation South Africa works to implement innovative programmes that address land degradation and climate change in South Africa's poorest and most biodiverse rangelands. If restored and properly managed, South Africa's rangelands offer many opportunities to build resilience to climate change and improve the livelihoods of local communities – protecting nature and promoting prosperity.

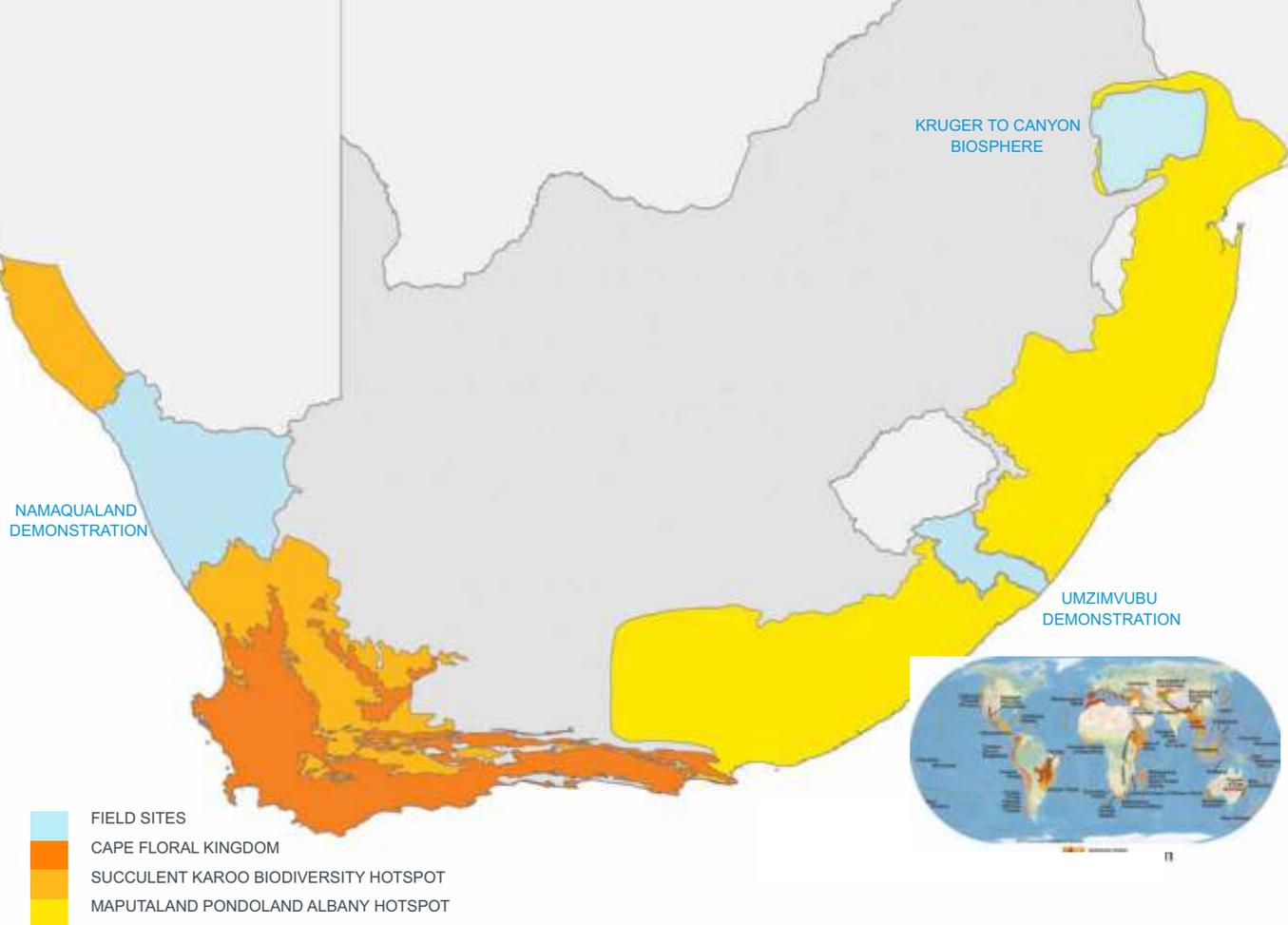
Conservation South Africa has adopted a multi-pronged, community driven approach that includes investment in scientific research; landscape level demonstration projects; policy reform; and the development of toolkits and best practice documents.

CSA's overall strategy is best described as being driven by a reciprocal interaction between the creation of an enabling national policy environment; the development of sector specific tools; and the implementation of integrated landscape level demonstration projects within South Africa's hotspots. Work at the national scale with policy makers in government and industry bodies interacts directly with lessons from work with the land users at the landscape scale and vice versa.

In this way, CSA uses experiences from demonstration projects to amplify its impact by acting as a liaison between grassroots projects, science, global best practice, and national government programmes.



WHERE WE WORK



Conservation South Africa's demonstration projects are located in three landscapes across four provinces in two biodiversity hotspots the Succulent Karoo, and the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (see <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org> for more information on hotspots).

Eighty percent of South Africa's three Biodiversity Hotspots are considered rangelands. These rangelands cover an area the size of California, harbor nearly ten percent of the world's plant and animal species, and are home to some of the country's poorest and most vulnerable communities.

The Namaqualand Landscape is situated in the Succulent Karoo Hotspot in the Northern Cape Province; the Umzimvubu Landscape is situated in the southern section of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot in the Eastern Cape Province, and the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Landscape is located in the northern section of the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces.

For the first decade of its work Conservation South Africa worked in the Cape Floristic Region, where we mobilized over R200 million towards supporting hundreds of civil society organisations to restore and conserve 3 million hectares through land stewardship in the Succulent Karoo and Cape Floristic Region. This work is now embedded across a number of other government and non-governmental organisations.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Our work is underpinned by extensive research that serves to inform our restoration and climate resilience work in rangelands while also monitoring the impact of our demonstration projects.

In the last two years we have:

- R6 million acquired for research on ecology and management of rangelands, predators and climate resilience
- 8 peer-reviewed publications and 5 lay publications feeding into improved ecosystem services and livelihoods
- 4 Staff members studied or studying towards postgraduate degrees in our landscapes
- 9 Graduates from a new MSc. curriculum in Sustainable Agriculture

Publications 2015-2017

Comparing ecological restoration in South Africa and Western Australia: the benefits of a 'travelling workshop' By Peter J. Carrick, Todd E. Erickson, Carina H. Becker, C. Ellery Mayence and Amanda R. Bourne. Ecological management & restoration vol 16 no 2 may 2015.

Strengthening the role of local authorities to support community - based adaptation: The case of South Africa. Amanda Bourne, Lorena Pasquini: Camila I. Donatti, Petra Holden and Sarshen Scorgie. Enhancing Adaptation to Climate Change in Developing Countries. 2015

A Socio-Ecological Approach for Identifying and Contextualising Spatial Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Priorities at the Sub-National Level. PLOS ONE Journal. May 2016 Amanda Bourne, Stephen Holness, Petra Holden, Sarshen Scorgie, Camila I. Donatti, Guy Midgley.

The impact of crop rotation on soil microbial diversity: a meta-analysis. Zander Samuel Venter, Karen Jacobs, Heidi-Jayne Hawkins. Pedobiologia. Journal of Soil Ecology. April 2016.

Does Holistic Planned Grazing™ work on native rangelands? Heidi-Jayne Hawkins, Alan Short & Kevin P Kirkman. African Journal of Range & Forage Science. 30 August 2017.

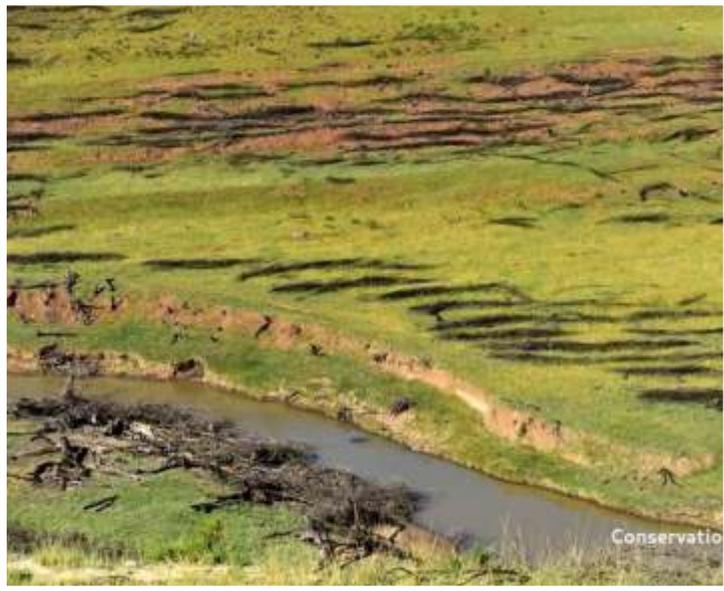
Implications of historical interactions between herbivory and fire for rangeland management in African savannas Zander S. Venter, Heidi-Jayne Hawkins and Michael D. Cramer. ESA Ecosphere. August 2017.

Assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of rangeland restoration in Namaqualand, South Africa. Amanda Bourne, Halcyone Muller, Ancois de Villiers, Mahbubul Alam, David Hole. Plant Ecol (2017) 218:7–22

Competition and coexistence in a small carnivore guild Jacques de Satgé, Kristine Teichman Bogdan Cristescu. Oecologia. July 2017.

A global assessment of Holistic Planned Grazing™ compared with season-long, continuous grazing: meta-analysis findings. Heidi-Jayne Hawkins. African Journal of Range & Forage Science. August 2017.





CLIMATE CHANGE



Conservation South Africa promotes understanding and action that builds resilience to climate change through the conservation of healthy ecosystems and ecosystem based adaptation in high biodiversity rangelands.

Ecosystem Based Adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Our climate change work demonstrates how the protection, restoration, maintenance and sustainable management of rangelands and catchments can support the resilience of the communities who depend on these resources while also creating jobs and alleviating poverty.

We work with a range of partners to influence policy at all levels including national, provincial and local including the National Department of Environmental Affairs (with all relevant sectors including Water, Agriculture, Mining, Biodiversity and Ecosystems) the South African National Biodiversity Institute, consultancies as well as Local Government and local community stakeholders.

The removal of alien plants and the restoration of natural springs in the upper reaches of the Mzimvubu catchment restores grazing land for livestock, promotes biodiversity in grasslands and increases the water absorption capacity of the catchment. The catchment supplies water to remote communities, particularly women and households without access to piped water.

Climate Change Goal:

By 2020, government and donors have integrated ecological approaches into their strategies for responding to climate change, and Conservation South Africa has supported the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services, particularly water catchments, through the empowerment of private and communal land stewards in three landscape demonstration projects (>300,000 ha each).

Highlights 2016/2017

- South African National Adaptation Strategy and Ecosystem-based Adaptation guidelines drafted with CSA technical inputs;
- A national workshop on national and international Ecosystem-based Adaptation policy tools and integration of these tools within SA governance levels conducted with over 40 key officials at national, provincial and district level;
- Local government infrastructure development and economic development strategies of two District governments were informed by CSA Climate Vulnerability Assessments that identify ecosystem impacts and priority areas for conservation to maintain ecosystem health.
- Acting as a Facilitating Agent for South Africa's pilot of "Enhanced Direct Access" from the Global Adaptation Fund. Through our engagement, six small NGOs and CBOs received up to R1 million each to undertake projects that reduce vulnerability to people and landscapes in Namakwa District.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Extensive habitat loss and degradation throughout South Africa's high biodiversity rangelands, coupled with a shifting climate and alien invasive plants, means that livestock producers have a significant challenge to maintain their livelihoods. Farmers are reliant on healthy ecosystems, in turn, healthy ecosystems are essential to food security. By working with farmers, communities, government agencies and the private sector, Conservation South Africa is demonstrating and promoting practices that improve the sustainability of livestock production across South Africa's communal rangelands.

The Meat Naturally Initiative is an innovative example of how people can simultaneously protect and profit from nature. Meat Naturally creates a market for rural community livestock farmers who manage their cows, sheep and goats in an eco-friendly way to sell their animals directly to red meat suppliers.

The project which is being implemented in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Mpumalanga provinces, supports local subsistence farmers to manage livestock in an environmentally responsible manner. The model draws on traditional livestock herding, indigenous knowledge on planned grazing, and the latest ecosystem restoration science to create a uniquely African model for using livestock to restore communal grazing lands.

Using a negotiated conservation agreement with livestock farmers in a commonage, CSA hires and provides communities with ecorangers and restoration workers --herders with specialist training in livestock and environmental management. Ecorangers and restoration workers implement herding techniques, planned grazing, and restoration activities funded by the National Department of Environmental Affairs Natural Resource Management Programme. This minimizes riparian zone impact, prevents regrowth of alien plants, and helps maintain biodiverse vegetation that is better for the ecosystem and livestock health. Livestock are restricted to grazing in specific areas allowing land in adjacent areas to restore and grass to grow.

Sustainable Agriculture Goal:

By 2020, sustainable farming practices that contribute to food security and support successful land reform are adopted by government and agricultural industry bodies and farmers are implementing good practice on 20% of the land within South Africa's high biodiversity rangelands.

Highlights 2016/2017

- Conservation of Agricultural Land Act and Red Meat Producers Organisation policies reflect technical inputs from CSA.
- Curriculum for Green Community College course on professionalizing herding with environmental and livestock management completed
- Meat Naturally projects hosted by CSA and its partners currently employ >400 people, support >1500 farmers on 350,000 hectares of rangeland and have generated more than R6.5 million in livestock sales via its social enterprise, Meat Naturally Pty, in the last four years.



© Jessica Lee



© Jessica Lee



© Jacques van Rooyen





Green Economic Development

Conservation South Africa seeks to harness the power of SMMEs to drive green economic development in some of the poorest rural communities in the country, harnessing nature to empower communities, and build economic resilience.

UmAfrica Recycling is a green enterprise operating in Matatiele in the Eastern Cape that focuses on recycling paper, cardboard, plastic and bottles. The company has been in operation in for more than six years, collecting waste paper and plastic. The enterprise was supported by Conservation South Africa and CITI Foundation to buy essential materials and scale-up business operations. Additional support is provided to this small enterprise through business workshops, financial management training, referrals, profiling and pairing with other enterprises for information and lesson sharing.

The company contributes to green job opportunities and promotes recycling waste that would otherwise be burnt (air pollution) or disposed of in a landfill site (increasing the lifespan of local landfills). The business currently employs six permanent staff and operates in landfill sites in larger settlement areas of the upper Umzimvubu Catchment, (e.g. Matatiele, Kokstad, and Mount Fletcher). The business's buy-back centers provide a much needed alternative income to the local community members who collect and sell waste materials to the business for recycling. "Our business is helping to tackle poverty in the community by creating local jobs and providing cash per kilogram directly to the people who collect the waste" Zimasa Ndlela- Partner and Operations Manager.



Green Economic Development Goal:

By 2020, the SA government and private sector are pursuing economic development that values and maintains natural capital and that CSA-supported initiatives are creating important demonstrations and learnings for greening economic development at a range of scales.

Highlights 2016/2017

- Secured more than R2 million of direct investment in two rural based SMME's through a private financing institution
- Developed an SMME toolkit for use as a reference guide by rural based enterprise owners
- Launched a new social enterprise, Meat Naturally Pty, as a service provider to communal farmers implementing conservation agreements.
- Trained and mentored 142 beneficiaries from 71 rural, village based small businesses in business management skills and end user computer skills.
- Created 182 new permanent jobs and 266 new temporary jobs, 116 short term work placements and 63 trade contracts

INNOVATION & AMPLIFICATION



Conservation South Africa has been piloting a number of innovative approaches to achieving our goals. Once we can demonstrate success, key learnings from these pilots will be shared and taken to scale by engaging Government and Corporate partners across all three landscapes.

GREEN COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Conservation South Africa has been piloting a number of innovative approaches to achieving our goals. Once we can demonstrate success, key learnings from these pilots will be shared and taken to scale by engaging Government and Corporate partners across all three landscapes.

Green Community Colleges

Green Community Colleges are our new vehicle through which green learning interventions are delivered to rural beneficiaries. Central to the model is the notion of using already available technology, learning resources and curriculums in new and innovative ways to deliver learning and teaching in a cost-effective fashion.

The “green” part of our learning initiatives is our focus on sharing knowledge with local communities about the environment, conserving natural resources and learning practical vocational skills applicable in rural economies. Green skills not only help people to better care for their natural surroundings but assist them to earn a living or get a job from sustainable activities to protect the planet and promote prosperity.

Conservation South Africa implements contextually relevant education and skills development initiatives that build capacity for climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in our demonstration landscapes.

Conservation South Africa works with many partners, stakeholders and service providers to achieve Green Learning objectives from corporate investors to government departments, schools and small businesses, as well as community structures.



© Kate Miller

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Equipped 11 school-based computer labs as training facilities for school and community learning reaching nearly 3 800 school children
- Trained 92 community members in adult computer literacy, community asset mapping and skills audit, and project management
- Trained 668 community members on entrepreneurship, basic business skills
- Trained 127 out of school youth in basic computer literacy and work readiness
- Trained 1106 farmers
- Trained 1321 community professionals in job / rural economy related skills



MEAT NATURALLY_{PTY}

The Meat Naturally Model is the approach that CSA is seeking to amplify to deliver sustainable rangeland stewardship and climate-smart livestock production across Africa.

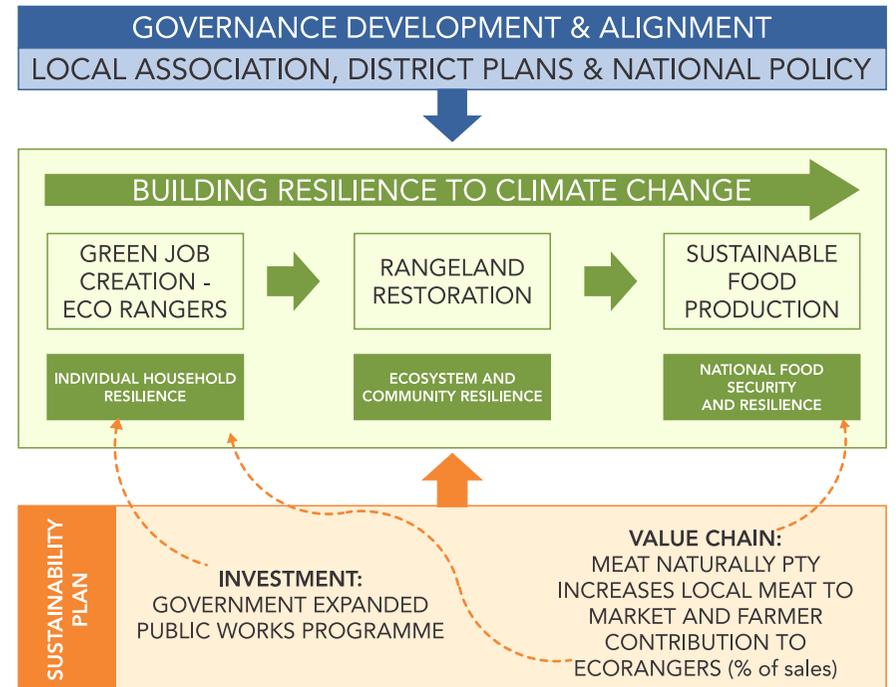
It consists of a flow of effort and activities related to engagement with communal livestock farmers in high biodiversity rangelands or rangelands within protected area buffer zones (figure 2).

Figure 2: Meat Naturally model and approach indicating role players involved in rangeland stewardship and climate-smart livestock production. Meat Naturally Pty plays a critical role in sustaining government investment in ecorangers and their work which restores healthy rangelands by capitalizing on national red meat markets and the growth in demand for red meat in the country.

MNP was established in 2016. The social enterprise emerged from a decade of work by Conservation South Africa (CSA) with livestock farmers to manage high-biodiversity rangelands to mimic the historical grazing patterns of natural herbivores (where the presence of predators and climatic factors resulted in areas being grazed intensely for short periods rather than continuously over long periods) and reduce loss of livestock to predation.

Through CSA's networks MNP operates adjacent to Namakwa National Park, the Maluti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Park, and most recently, the Kruger National Park, and has been able to provide market access as an incentive to conservation actions specific to each of these areas. MNP has the potential to develop integrated wildlife-livestock production systems that can drive ecological restoration, sustainable meat consumption, food and water security, and poverty alleviation across the continent.

SUSTAINABILITY MODEL & ADAPTIVE CAPACITY APPROACH



RANGELAND RESTORATION FOR WATER & SANITATION SERVICE DELIVERY

Clean freshwater systems are essential to human health and to environmental health, so improving the health of fresh water ecosystems in turn improves the health and well-being of the communities that use them. Conservation South Africa in partnership with the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group is piloting tools for integrating fresh water conservation into water, sanitation and hygiene projects in the Mzimvubu Catchment in the Eastern Cape. The project explores the link between human health, the health of domestic animals, the health of wildlife and ecosystem health in Sub-Saharan Africa. The focus is on restoring natural springs and minimizing the negative impacts on these water sources and government funded water infrastructure to provide access to clean water.

This holistic programme is conducted in partnership with the Alfred Nzo District Municipality who are committed to utilizing infrastructure budgets to capitalize on the watershed restoration and livestock management efforts of CSA to ensure the benefit to people, providing protection infrastructure.

The programme started with a series of workshops to understand water access, sanitation and hygiene needs from the perspective of different gender and age groups. Twelve villages participated in stream and river health baseline assessments. Twenty-three ecorangers and water monitor volunteers were trained on water quality monitoring and water collection (using smartphone technology for data collection and analysis) and their reports are shared with community committee's and the municipality for decision-making. At one spring, which had dried up due to the impact of water-thirsty invasive alien plants, the flow returned to provide the community with water throughout the dry season. Finally, the programme is conducting training on sanitation and hygiene to optimize the community benefits of water quality improvements. Continued water monitoring, showed the following improvements: PH from below 5 and above 8, to between 6.5 and 7.2; water quantity measurements increased from 4 to 7 liters/minute; water clarity improvements from 16 to 0 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

The innovation of linking restoration and maintenance of healthy rangeland catchments to municipal budgeting for water service delivery creates an entire new area of opportunity for long-term impact.



Namakwaland Landscape Demonstration

The Namakwaland Demonstration Landscape fall within the Succulent Karoo Hotspot along the west coast of South Africa. It is an arid region with the highest succulent plant diversity in the world, and with an average annual rainfall of less than 300 mm. Forty percent of the plant species in Namaqualand occur nowhere else on Earth, and communal or commercial livestock farming is practiced throughout the region. We work politically at the District level (1 million sq km), but our work on the ground fall into two major high-biodiversity commonages totaling an area of 680,000 ha

Challenges

Namakwaland landscape includes over a million hectares of semi-arid rangeland that is under pressure from a variety of human activities, in particular mining, unsustainable agricultural practices, overgrazing, and climate change. Anecdotal evidence suggests

Achievements

- From 2012-2017, CSA has brokered conservation agreements on 320,887 ha for improved land, wetland and predator management practices.
- Worked with Namaqualand- Kamiesberg and Namakhoi Municipalities to achieve a new understanding of sustainable grazing.
- Successful sale and slaughter for goat and sheep was completed in partnership with a local abattoir, NAMMEAT.
- Built a good relationship between Kamiesberg stewards and NAMMEAT
- For the period June 2016 and July 2017, we have built 617 cubic meters of stone gabions and approximately XXX micro catchments in selected erosion areas which has improved the ecosystem functioning over approximately 13 900 hectares in Steinkopf and Leliefontein.
- 6 eco-enterprises and 4 farmers associations supported in market access and climate change resilience.
- Engage and advise local government on responding to climate change and sustainable development strategies.

that farmers in the area lose approximately 5-10 percent of their livestock to predation, dramatically impacting their livelihood and forcing them to overstock and seek out lethal predator management options. Already a land of climatic extremes, this is an area where CSA researches impacts of restoration on resilience, cost-benefits of EbA in arid areas, and general thresholds to climate adaptation.

Partners

This landscape is recognised with 5 sub-priority areas within the multi-stakeholder partnership Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Partnership (SKEP), which was catalysed by CEPF and is now coordinated by the South African National Biodiversity Institute. The northern part of this landscape is also part of the Ai-Ais/Richtersveld Transfronteir Conservation Area supported by the Peace Parks Foundation.

Limited land and water, a harsh climate and communal grazing have led to degraded rangelands in the Northern Cape creating a major challenge for farming. The Meat Naturally Initiative piloted innovative ways to assist farmers with obstacles like predator conflict, soil erosion, and livestock improvement for climate resilience. The programme has created job opportunities for local community members to restore degraded rangeland areas and monitor recovery. In the past, Namaqualand ecorangers used GPS technology to take stock of species and veld conditions, with the goal of preventing overgrazing and trampling sensitive wetlands as well as livestock losses to predation. Predominantly sheep country, the area is known for its high quality lamb products. Thanks to the model local farmers have more resilient livestock breeds and landscapes that are improving livelihoods and stimulating a local green economy.



Mzimvubu Landscape Demonstration

The Mzimvubu catchment and river system lies along the northern boundary of the Eastern Cape. It extends from the rugged Lesotho escarpment to the northern Wild Coast adjacent to the Indian Ocean and receives an average rainfall of 1000-1700 mm a year. The watershed landscape covers more than 2 million hectares and is almost 70 percent communal land. The Mzimvubu River is one of South Africa's last free-flowing, undammed rivers. Biologically rich, and capturing nearly 15 percent of the country's annual run-off, the upper catchment of this river is important in its own right. But, as the headwaters of a river system that provides water to a region where only 6 percent of the one million inhabitants have piped water, the health of this catchment is crucial to South Africa's development goals.

Challenges

As part of the former homeland area of South Africa, extensive degradation and loss of habitat from communal and commercial farming in this entire upper catchment has

resulted in a severely degraded grassland landscape, with high water runoff causing extensive soil erosion and poor quality grazing.

Partnerships

This landscape was delineated and prioritised during the CEPF investment strategy development for the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot and includes 2 sub-priority regions and the freshwater river priority that links them. There is an active conservation and development partnership catalysed by CSA with a local partner Environmental Rural Solutions, the Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme (UCPP). The UCPP has now grown to 65 organisations that actively partner on issues from environmental education, anti-fracking advocacy, and river clean ups. The Upper Catchment of this landscape is also part of the Maluti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation Area supported by the Peace Parks Foundation with its own network of transboundary stakeholders.

Achievements

- The ecoranger approach includes community-based alien clearing and maintenance to restore and sustain intact healthy rangelands and community development on 900 hectares
- CSA also supports 6 eco-businesses in this region and village-level farmer groups.
- Provided the Alfred Nzo District government with advice and technical support on EbA and climate change response. (Flagship - WASH project is in the District Climate Change Response Strategy:
- Restored 8 springs and government has supported with storage infrastructure for community use.
- Since the beginning of 2014, the Meat Naturally programme in the region has proven to be a highly effective method of promoting sustainable rangeland management (through planned grazing and rest) while at the same time building capacity in these ecorangers and local villagers to further understand and interact with their environment.
- 895 cattle sold for period November 2016 to October 2017 total value R5 510 000.
- 65 ecorangers trained in animal health and/or feed making from alien invasive wattle.

In this landscape the Meat Naturally Initiative focuses on improving the quality of grasslands in communal rangelands through clearing alien plants and the introduction of planned grazing to minimize livestock impacts on veld and natural springs. There is strong community support with planned grazing being practiced in 19 villages with 48 ecorangers.

The programme has successfully created jobs and the planned grazing has restored the grass improving the health of the cattle making them market ready. The sale of cattle through the mobile auction is making a huge difference to the financial situation of local farmers who make their living from livestock farming reducing poverty and improving access to education in the participating communities.





© Conservation International



© Karen Allan

KRUGER TO CANYONS BIOSPHERE DEMONSTRATION

The Kruger to Canyon Biosphere located on the western border of Kruger National Park consists of 1 million hectares of both protected areas and agricultural lands across three major biomes: savannah woodlands, and Afromontane forests and grasslands. The region is arguably one of the most bio-diverse areas for large mammal species within southern Africa, with high nutritional grasslands supporting large populations of ungulates and associated predators. The area is a high priority for black rhino conservation and has the last remaining viable population of African Wild Dog in South Africa. In fact, impressively, the Biosphere boasts 55 percent of the total terrestrial biodiversity of the country in only 1.5 percent of the country's land area.

Challenges

Adjacent to the most lucrative conservation area in South Africa, live 1.5 million people in some of Southern Africa's poorest communities. A Foot and Mouth Protection zone dramatically impacts the livestock management practices of the people living in this area. Their markets are restricted to the Geographic Disease Control Standard and disease control management from various tick-borne diseases requires dipping on a weekly basis requiring intensive management by farmers that makes return on livestock marginal.

Partnerships

The Kruger to Canyon Landscape is a delineated Biosphere Reserve with an active partnership of stakeholders that collaborate on activities related to conservation and development in the region. The K2C landscape is also part of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area supported by the Peace Parks Foundation with its own transboundary network of stakeholders. We share the vision of the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere stakeholders to build a wildlife economy that supports natural resource conservation, embodied by the Kruger National Park, and aligned with rural and agricultural development needs. With the formal integration of the Buffelshoek Trust into CSA in 2017, the programme has grown to include rural empowerment through science and herding education, scouts programme, and small business development.

Achievements

- 1015 adult community members participated in 21 different training courses
- 200 children and youth have been reached through Scouts and 41 schools through Dreamfields Love Soccer Love Rhino programme.
- A new sports complex was constructed for the regional Maths, Science and Technology Academy (Acorns to Oaks Comprehensive High School) to serve as a venue for future activities related to inspiring youth to pursue education for the benefit of their environment.
- 30 SMMEs participated in a workshop on being part of the region's "Wildlife Economy"
- Conservation agreement training was conducted with 40 NGO and CBO representatives interested in wildlife conservation and rangeland stewardship in the area.
- Discovery Health sponsored a highly successful accredited health training pilot for 87 nurses, 10 teachers and 24 Eco Rangers.
- In partnership with University of Pretoria, Peace Parks Foundation, and SA National Parks, CSA and Meat Naturally Pty piloted a technologically innovative mechanism, a mobile abattoir to provide market access to local farmers in this landscape.
- A climate vulnerability assessment was contracted that will inform future District level engagement to align and sustain government focus on green development in the region.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Annual Financial Statements of Khusel'Indalo South Africa t/a Conservation South Africa (CSA) has been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities

Revenue

Grants and Contributions for FY16 was R24,505,536 compared to R23,815,768 for the previous financial year.

Total interest accrued for FY 16 was R183,321 compared to R145,454 for the previous financial year.

Expenses

Conservation South Africa is committed to ensuring the most effective and efficient use of all of funds received from donors. Total expenses for FY 16 reached R24,412,012 compared to the

Summary

Conservation SA's net assets of R1,753,691 represents the cumulative revenue that the organisation raised in excess of expenditure since its incorporation.

Khusel'Indalo South Africa FY16 Statement of Activities for the Year End 30 June 2016

	2016	2015
REVENUE		
Grants and Contributions	R 23 969 817	R 23 618 637
Local	R 12 894 122	R 12 499 232
US	R 11 075 695	R 11 119 405
Other Income	R 535 719	R 197 131
Miscellaneous Income	R 352 398	R 51 677
Investment Income	R 183 321	R 145 454
TOTAL REVENUE	R 24 505 536	R 23 815 768
EXPENSES		
Employee Costs	R 13 887 157	R 11 714 146
Professional Services	R 4 160 066	R 5 665 402
Travel, Meetings and Events	R 2 955 331	R 2 936 678
Other Direct Costs	R 935 277	R 1 008 743
Occupancy	R 888 776	R 621 115
Grants Paid	R 778 359	R 771 565
Field Supplies	R 432 368	R 725 023
Depreciation	R 354 563	R 356 614
Project Furniture, Equipment and Vehicles	R 7 818	R 46 295
Loss on Sale of Assets	R 12 297	R 11 982
TOTAL EXPENSES	R 24 412 012	R 23 857 563
Change in Net Assets before Non - Operating Activity	R 93 524	R -41 795
Finance Costs	R -1 941	R -92
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	R 91 583	R -41 887
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	R 1 662 108	R 1 703 995
Changes in Net Assets	R 91 583	R -41 887
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	R 1 753 691	R 1 662 108

DONORS

Africa Biodiversity Conservation Group
Alfred Nzo District Municipality
Buffelshoek Trust
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Consumer Goods Council of SA (CGCSA)
Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)- Resource Management Programmes
Discovery Fund
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany - Pretoria
Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
German Ministry for Environment (BMU)
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
John and Katie Hansen Family Foundation
John Swift
Marin Community Foundation
Massmart South Africa
McCormack, John
Michael Hainebach
Millennium Innovation Lab
Minneapolis Foundation, The
NM Envirotech solutions
Pegasys Institute
Red Meat Research and Development SA
Sarah Johnson
Simon Susman
South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
South African National Parks (SANPARKS)
South South North (SSN)
Starwood Foundation
Sunset Fund of the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund, The
The Walton Family Foundation (Sarara Initiative)
Toyota Motor Corporation
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
United Way Worldwide - Citigroup Foundation
WalMart Stores, Inc.
Wildlife Conservation Society
Woolworths

