

# NATURE IS HELPING COMMUNITIES ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

## ACROSS ALL 3 LANDSCAPES BETWEEN 2019-20, THE APPROACH HAS ACHIEVED



R 10 824 052

Earned between 633 stewards through livestock auctions where CSA stewards sold livestock.



986

Farmers had access to fodder, markets and vet services/medicine over drought period.



40

NGOs and government departments trained in the use of CAs.



262

People employed with Green Jobs.



834

Youth trained in rangeland restoration, gender awareness and financial literacy.



363

People trained in climate change adaptation including civil society organisations, community-based organisations and government officials.

## THE NEED

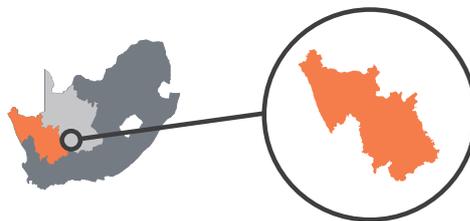
In South Africa, healthy rangelands and wetlands are important for people who rely on livestock farming for their livelihoods, however, they are threatened by inappropriate land management practices as well as climate shocks such as extended dry periods and floods.

## THE APPROACH

Conservation South Africa (CSA) recognises the potential of the restoration of rangelands and wetlands to provide social and ecological resilience through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), which uses nature to help people adapt to climate change. CSA engages in Conservation Agreements (CAs) with communal farmers to support them in protecting nature in return for incentives. Conservation actions and incentives are identified with participating farmers (called stewards) based on what they can do to improve their farming, particularly their grazing practices, and what is needed to support them. For example, in Namakwa, planned grazing is needed to rest rangelands and restore wetlands, and farmers need livestock medicines, more climate-resilient breeds of sheep and goat, better access to markets, and training, in order to also help farmers be more resilient to climate change. As part of the approach, youth empowerment programmes are under way as well as SMME /enterprise development, mentorship and funding.

## WHERE IT WORKED

### NAMAKWA



NORTHERN CAPE

NAMAKWA

79

NUMBER OF STEWARDS

64 965

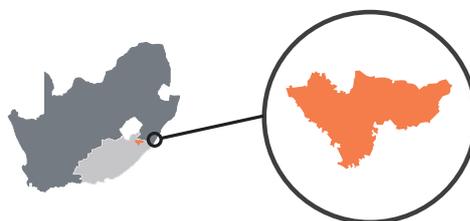
AREA UNDER CAs (Ha)

4

(Farmer's Organisations)

NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS CA SIGNED WITH

### UMZIMVUBU



EASTERN CAPE

UMZIMVUBU

483

NUMBER OF STEWARDS

5057

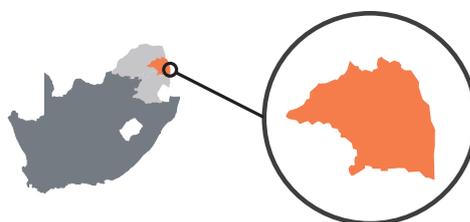
AREA UNDER CAs (Ha)

14

(Grazing Associations)

NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS CA SIGNED WITH

### KRUGER TO CANYONS



LIMPOPO & MPUMALANGA

KRUGER TO CANYONS

354

NUMBER OF STEWARDS

7863.93

AREA UNDER CAs (Ha)

4

(Co-operatives)

NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS CA SIGNED WITH

## EXAMPLES OF HOW THIS WAS ACHIEVED



### IMPROVED GOVERNANCE NAMAKWA

The **Steinkopf Bulletrap Cooperative** was formed to help farmers set up their own local governance and organisation structures, which contributed to sustaining stewardship even after the Conservation Agreements (CAs) ended.



### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT UMZIMVUBU NAMAKWA KRUGER TO CANYONS

Through the Yes4Youth (Y4Y) 12-month readiness programme, CSA (in partnership with Ford and SAS Institute) employed and provided valuable work experience to **168** youth in all three landscapes. Out of these youth, **4** in Namakwa, **9** in Kruger Canyons (K2C) and **8** in Umzimvubu were taken up in CSA's 2021 Y4Y programme and will act as supervisors to the new cohort. In addition, one youth was offered a contract position with a partner organisation and one youth went to pursue further studies at a college in Cape Town.



### IMPROVED WATER SECURITY UMZIMVUBU

**4** natural springs were restored in the Umzimvubu Catchment through the removal of wattle and construction of water points; **140** people had improved access to water.



### INCLUSIVITY NAMAKWA

A newly integrated gender advisory forum in the Namakwa District will promote a greater focus on gender empowerment within the District and future projects.



### RESTORATION WORKERS AND ECORANGERS UMZIMVUBU NAMAKWA KRUGER TO CANYONS

Involved in alien clearing and overseeing planned grazing systems for erosion control. In 2019, **22** ecorangers, including **8** women, graduated from the Herding Academy and were deployed in Umzimvubu and K2C. In Namakwa, **26** restoration workers were employed and trained in gully and sheet erosion restoration methods. By the end of 2019, **159** restoration workers were trained and deployed in the Umzimvubu Catchment.



### INCREASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NAMAKWA

During active CAs, **82%** of stewards indicated that they were more actively involved in the community since signing a CA. In Steinkopf at the end of 2020, 2 years post CA implementation, **92%** of farmers were still active in their community.



### COLLABORATION UMZIMVUBU NAMAKWA KRUGER TO CANYONS

Engaged with other climate networks including Adaptation Network and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) community of practice to share and learn from one another.



### Healthier Livestock UMZIMVUBU

In the Umzimvubu Catchment, 3665 livestock were vaccinated in 13 villages. Vaccinated and healthier livestock are more resilient to climate shocks.



### Market Access UMZIMVUBU KRUGER TO CANYONS

In the Umzimvubu Catchment, 5 livestock auctions were arranged where 795 livestock were supplied, and 722 livestock sold. Livestock auctions provided income for farmers during the drought and COVID-19. In addition, by removing animals through livestock sales, rangelands were relieved of grazing pressures. In the K2C, 133 stock were sold at the end of 2020, with a turnover of R789 783.

## CALL TO ACTION

Actions for policy makers and practitioners to use stewardship and Conservation Agreements as a tool to help people adapt to climate change by using nature include the following:

1. Stewardship can be replicated in other communities who rely on commonages for natural resource use;
2. Stewardship programmes should be implemented for at least 3 to 5 years to be able to demonstrate efficacy;
3. Stewardship should include women, youth and vulnerable members of communities;
4. Vulnerability assessments and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) priority mapping are able to provide important information to guide the implementation of EbA approaches;
5. Co-ordination is needed at the landscape level to ensure different programmes that work with farmers and conservation objectives are aligned to deliver integrated EbA responses; and
6. Policy makers can prioritise funding of stewardship programmes as an EbA, especially where people depend directly on natural resources.

