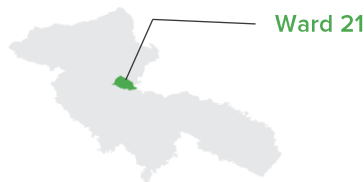
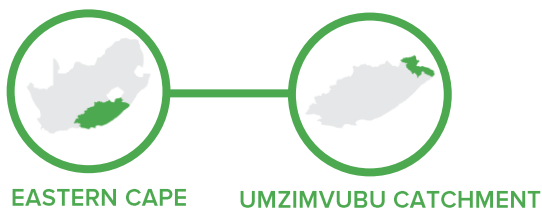


THE WAR ON WATTLE

What is wattle?

Wattle is a native Australian tree that has dark bark, feathery leaves and in spring, fluffy flowers that turn into pea-like pods. In South Africa, it is an alien invasive plant that causes great harm to the environment.



Why must it be removed?



3x more water is used by wattle compared with natural grasslands



Wattle grows very fast, up to **4.5** metres per year, producing to **50,000** seeds per year, with their roots reaching **4.8** metres long



Wattle reduces grasslands by taking over land, limiting grassland growth by outcompeting other plants



Local community members are forced to relocate to areas with better grazing, leaving wattle to dominate the remaining landscape



60% more fodder is available after clearing invasive plants

Local names for wattle

Jwabasile (Sesotho)
Dywabasile (IsiXhosa)

KEY PROJECT IMPACT



2,310 ha cleared including **1,821 ha** of initial clearing and **489 ha** of follow-up clearing



770 people employed
(**37%** women and **53%** youth)



770 households generated an income from wattle clearing



1 Fire Management Initiative established to manage fire risks of dry wattle wood



735 people trained on restoring nature



926 people trained on the basic control of alien invasive plants



500 people opened first-time bank accounts



770 community members met with local health teams to undergo medicals and explore key health issues affecting the community

How we did it

Through CSA's strategic partnerships with government and organisations, residents from local communities were employed and empowered to clear wattle trees.

[Link to the case study](#)

