Adaptation in Namaqualand

CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA

Restoring resilience through restoration and innovation
2010-2015 Strategy:

To promote and support conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use in SA’s Hotspots as an essential element of:

- food security and land reform,
- green economic development, and
- building resilience to the impacts of climate change.
Contributing to food security and land reform...

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 the SA Hotspots.

Greening economic development...

By 2020, the SA government is pursuing an environmentally-based low carbon approach to economic development and CSA-supported initiatives in the Hotspots are creating important demonstrations and learnings for greening economic development at a range of scales.

Building resilience to climate change...

By 2020, government and donors have integrated ecological approaches into their strategies for responding to climate change, and CSA has supported the maintenance and restoration of ecosystem services, particularly water catchments and habitat linkages for optimal flora and faunal persistence, through the empowerment of private and communal land stewards in three mega-corridors (>300,000 ha).
Our Strategies...

**Enabling Environment**

Influence and support local and national government to implement appropriate and proactive policies, laws, and programmes.

**Implementation**

Empower individuals, communities, and corporations to become active stewards of their land and water resources.
Namaqualand

Green Economy Demonstration

Located in the Succulent Karoo...

...world’s only arid hotspot
South Africa will be one of the countries worst impacted
Northern Cape will be the most affected Province
Namaqualand - predicted to change from a semi-desert to a desert
Large proportion of SA population has low resilience to extreme climate events (poverty; high disease burden; inadequate housing infrastructure and location)
Significant proportion of surface water resources already fully allocated
lower and less seasonal rainfall
higher temperatures
higher wind speeds
There have been early warning signs
Municipalities 13 of the 25 Northern Cape municipalities -3 Adopted
Agriculture will impacted -reduced water & increased temperatures
A fragile, semi-arid ecosystem
Few economic alternatives
Mining downscaling
Dramatic food and water insecurity
• Indiscriminate burning
• Ploughing/overgrazing of wetlands
• Overgrazing
• Alien trees
• Irresponsible Mining
• Extreme increase in temperature
• Indiscriminate predator control

What we know/Challenges
EFFECTS ON RAINFALL SEASONALITY, PATTERNS and INTENSITY

Shift to the East, possibly more intense and unseasonal
Affects any sector depending on water

Bioregional plan and policy frameworks...
Catchment mapping and wetland prioritisation for 3 of 5 major catchments

Understanding of cultural linkages...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic benefits</th>
<th>Cultural benefits</th>
<th>Empowerment benefits</th>
<th>Social exchange benefits</th>
<th>Utility benefits</th>
<th>Environmental benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A source of revenue for poor people</td>
<td>Maintenance of traditional skills and practices</td>
<td>Opportunity for people to use their existing skills to increase their level of empowerment</td>
<td>Opportunity for socializing during the production of crafts</td>
<td>Low-cost sitting, sleeping and eating surfaces and storage containers</td>
<td>Maintenance of native wetland vegetation and associated indirect benefits</td>
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Monitoring methodologies...

Restoration Analysis of Priorities...

**Restoration Approach:** Grazing control

**Wetland type:** Wetlands being grazed especially by livestock

** Benefits:** Plants can regrow, flower and seedlings can establish

**Costs:** Fencing is expensive and prevents land users from accessing resources
ADAPTATION IS MORE THAN JUST LOOKING AT THE PROBLEM!
What we are doing...

Biodiversity and Red Meat Initiative

- Guideline development
- Contract negotiation
- Provision of benefits (training, dogs, wind pumps)
- Compliance monitoring
- Governance model

- Jobs (monitoring officers)
- Wetlands restored – more water security
- Grazing lands better managed – food security
- Community more control over fire
- Stocks safeguarded against losses from damage causing animals
- Premium price for stock sold
- Water points and roads restored
- Skills & increased understanding of ecosystem
- Better land management = less degradation of biodiversity
- Flexibility to adapt and refine model
SKEPPIES

- Small grants fund in partnership with DBSA
- Technical and financial support to enterprise adaptation
- Three years, $500,000 disbursed (CEPF, DBSA)
- 58 projects funded, 72,000ha conserved, 307 new jobs

Foundation for adaptation...
Restoring Ecological Infrastructure for Water and Grazing...

• For $20,000
• 52 poplar trees removed
• 558 l of water per hour restored
• Supported community or 224 households for 2 months when municipal pipe broke
Lessons Learned so far....

- Requires knowledgeable, committed, accountable and influential political leaders.
- Communication strategy is key.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders
- Access to quality information that includes local knowledge.
- Adaptation plans must be mainstreamed with new and existing plans.
- Ensure a systematic and integrated adaptation process
- Draw in relevant institutions – Agriculture etc.-to determine actual value of things like grazing, water, etc.
- Very useful exercise- also shows farmers the real benefits they get from their own conservation actions in exchange for what they are giving up
- Use an ecosystem based approach to adaptation that links to improving livelihoods and building resilience.

Scaling up......
What it means for us:

- EbA in Disaster Risk Management Plans
- Provincial and Namakwa Adaptation Plans to feed into NAPA
- UNCCD Fund with GEF, DBSA, and DEA

But....
We need sustained DOERS, not only transient CONCEPTUALISERS and MANAGERS
Thank YOU!

CONSERVATION SOUTH AFRICA
Member of the CI Network