

IZIKHWENENE PROJECT (BRC CATA DELIVERABLES) FINAL REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

BRC was awarded a proposal by the CEPF to implement a conservation project in the two communities of Upper Mnyameni and Cata. The project had set clear deliverables to be delivered by the end of June 2014. The project had a component of wattle clearing, planning of conservation of 4 red list species, water conservation and setting aside of 2000 ha land under conservation. The communities, based on this, negotiated a stewardship agreement with the government. As part of the project there was rehabilitation of the cleared zones through grassing and planting of indigenous trees. In order for the deliverables to be carried out BRC entered into an agreement with The Wild Bird trust. As BRC could not complete all facets of the original proposal WBT stepped in to assist. The following is a breakdown of work completed by WBT while assisting BRC and once a new agreement had been entered into with CEPF.

2. WBT ASSISTING BRC

Completed Activity	Outcome/Deliverable	Actual Costs
Alien vegetation removal and tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cata: total area cleared is approximately 25 hectares (includes wetland area around the mountain/hill) • Upper Mnyameni: total area cleared is approximately 20 hectares Cata: 482 trees planted (248 x <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i>; 212 x <i>Olea europea africana</i>; 22 x <i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>) • Upper Mnyameni: 950 trees planted (707 x <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i>; 212 x <i>Olea europea africana</i>; 31 x <i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>) 	R 35 530.00
Other Expenses		
Project management	Admin, contract, manager, vehicle contribution	R 27 500.00
Motor running expenses	Rate of R4.00 per km	R 13 148.00
TOTAL		R 76 178.00

3. WBT CEPF SMALL GRANT DELIVERABLES

Completed Activity	Outcome/Deliverable	Actual Costs
Alien vegetation removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cata: approx. 1ha of erosion control 	R 1 595.00
Tree purchases and planting (2014 in Cata)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 384 x <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> 535 x <i>Olea europea Africana</i> Total: 919 	R 26 405.00
Tree purchases and planting (2015 in Hogsback)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96 x <i>Podocarpus latifolius</i> 189 x <i>Podocarpus falcatus</i> 184 x <i>Olea europea africana</i> Total: 469 	R 16 316.20
Nursery establishment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of 10 micro-nurseries in Zingcuka community Establishment of 10 micro-nurseries in Sompondo community Building of nursery in Hogsback 	R 38 950.00
Natural forest reserve plan and map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See project notes below 	R 0.00
Workshop of new forest reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See project notes below 	R 0.00
Other expenses		
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admin contract manager, vehicle contribution 	R 24 000.00
Motor running expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3745km at R4.00 per km 	R 12 133.80
TOTAL		R 119 400.00

4. PROJECT NOTES

Project	Comments	Amount
WBT assisting BRC	Jan 2014 – May 2014	R 76 178.00
WBT CEPF Small Grant	June 2014 – June 2015	R 119 400.00
IziKhwenene Project		R 195 578.00

The Wild Bird Trust was not able to complete all project deliverables as agreed due to problems with working with the community, including the staff, of Cata. The following is an excerpt from an email sent to Wildlands Conservation Trust by our project manager at the time, Mr David Nkosi, expressing some of his issues with the community:

1. They had a supervisor who they have chased away, she was trying to get them to work and motivate them but clearly the other 8 are not working.
2. When I go to visit without announcing then I will often find those who did come to work sleeping on the clearing site, today there were 5 of them there sleeping and the other 4 nowhere to be seen. Time sheets signed for absent workers.
3. They are complaining that the tools we bought them last week are not sharp, the tools are brand new.
4. They complain that they are hurting their hands, the gloves they were issued are nowhere to be seen.

Due to the difficulty of working with the Cata Community the deliverables below were not achieved but the funding was used for the buying of trees for land rehabilitation in Hogsback as well as to secure the future of the Cape Parrot Project in Hogsback for future reforestation work by the establishment of a germination nursery.

a. Nursery Establishment

The expected outcomes here were:

- 1) to establish 20 micro-nurseries in Cata/Upper Mnyameni and stock each with 250 trees and;
- 2) refurbish the holding nursery in Cata.

While no micro-nurseries were established in Cata or Upper Mnyameni new micro-nurseries were established in Zingcuka (10 micro-nurseries each with 100 trees) and Sompondo (10 micro-nurseries each with 100 trees). We chose to establish the micro-nurseries in these communities as we have past relationships with both communities and see a willingness to participate from them. Due to supply from our germination nurseries we were only able to stock each micro-nursery with 100 trees but hope to increase this amount as the project moves forward.

No head-way was made with the refurbishment of the holding nursery in Cata. In early 2015 new project managers were employed and due to the issue with germination nurseries they suggested we look at building a germination nursery that is managed by the Cape Parrot Project. Purchases for this nursery were made with the budget set aside for the Cata holding nursery. Having a nursery in Hogsback ensure the projects ability to produce local trees for restoration work.

b. Forest Reserve

The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is the assessing and implementing agency for Forest Reserves in the Amathole region. We have been working closely with them on all our clearing and restoration projects and continue to have discussions with them regarding the establishment and gazetting of Forest Reserves. The process has been a long one and often one sided but in a recent meeting with DAFF we have found that it is a lack of funding to complete a comprehensive GIS mapping exercise that is prohibiting the Forest Reserves plan from moving

forward. We are currently waiting on their budget to have a GIS consultant conduct this exercise, and will subsequently seek funding in order that this mapping is completed. Furthermore, we will continue to work with DAFF to ensure the reserves get gazetted.