

NDUMO INTERVENTION PROJECT

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT (JANUARY – APRIL 2012)

Submitted to:



Submitted by:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) entered into a formal agreement to initiate and implement the Ndumo Intervention Project. This project will initiate both short-term and long-term actions and coordinate the implementation of community based projects which will address both community and conservation development needs and will also promote community participation in beneficiation strategies linked to Ndumo Game Reserve.

Wildlands Conservation Trust (WCT) was appointed to manage the Small Grants component of the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) investment in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot. WCT approved funding for the Ndumo Intervention Project in the total amount of R135 648.00 payable in tranches. The full amount has been received and successful implementation of the objectives of the Ndumo Intervention Project as set out in the contract is taking place.

The objectives of the Ndumo Intervention Project are as follows:

- To develop a 5 year strategic action plan to restore the conservation integrity of Ndumo, build community relations and promote further conservation development in the area;
- Establish food security and agricultural livelihood projects in Mbangweni Corridor as the main focus of year 1;
- Revive community liaison structures;
- Facilitate community participation in on-going development initiatives;
- Coordinate inter-departmental initiatives.

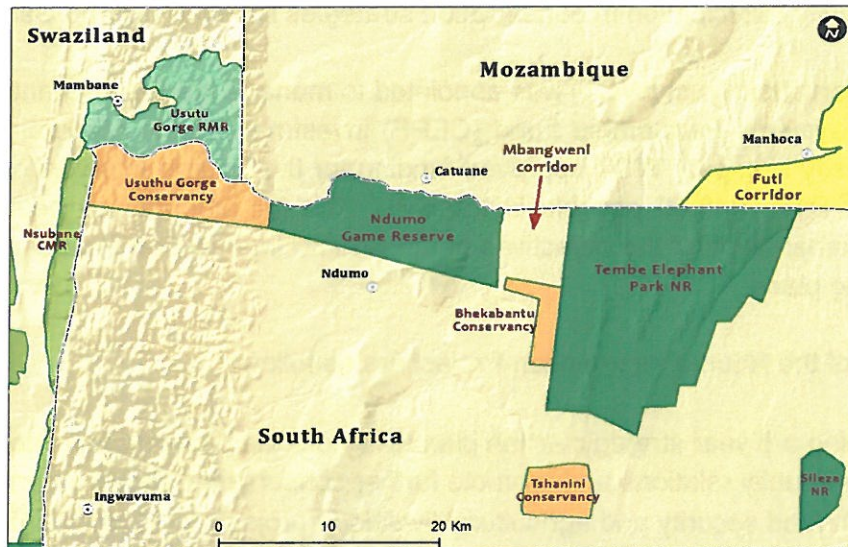
The following further progress has been made towards the implementation of the objectives as set out above:

- A project implementation planning meeting was held between the Project Coordination Team (PCT) and the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.
- A follow-up meeting was held with senior representatives of the Mbangweni Community to appraise them of project development.
- A meeting was held with the Senior General Manager: Crop Production in order to mobilise project activities.
- 30 small sized crop tunnels have been installed.
- A field assessment of additional areas identified for open crop fields was carried out.
- Several very successful meetings have been held between EKZNW and the Mbangweni Community to explore ways in which to establish a working relationship.

PPF, with the financial assistance received by WCT through CEPF, plays an active role in the management of the activities undertaken by the Project Executant in order to fulfil the objectives outlined in the Ndumo Intervention Project for the restoration of the conservation integrity of the park.

1. BACKGROUND

Ndumo Game Reserve (“Ndumo”) is situated in Maputaland, KwaZulu-Natal near the Tembe Elephant Park and borders onto Mozambique. The Usuthu river forms Ndumo’s northern boundary.



Ndumo is an area of conservation importance recognised for its significant attributes associated with its biodiversity and natural heritage value as well as its cultural heritage values. It is a world renowned RAMSAR site. The reserve has, however, been invaded by the local communities in their search for agricultural land in order to plant crops. The indigenous forest is being destroyed in the process which necessitated the implementation of the intervention programme.

The answer to the problem lies in improving the livelihoods of the affected people. In order to achieve this, PPF and EKZNW entered into a formal agreement to initiate and implement the Ndumo Intervention Programme. This programme will initiate both short-term and long-term actions and coordinate the implementation of community based projects which will address both community and conservation development needs and will also promote community participation in beneficiation strategies linked to Ndumo Game Reserve.



2. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

2.1 Project Coordination Team (PCT)

The PCT, under the leadership of the Project Executant, Mr Brad Poole, has been very busy co-ordinating and overseeing the Ndumo Intervention Project development during this period and has held a number of consultations with the affected communities, local and provincial government structures and other stakeholders relating to implementation.



2.2 Implementation of the objectives

2.2.1 Development of 5 year strategic action plan to restore the conservation integrity of Ndumo, to build community relations and promote further conservation development in the area

The Strategic Action Plan was developed, approved and is being implemented.

2.2.2 Food security and agricultural livelihood projects

Organisational changes within the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development (DAERD) resulted in a delay of the execution of key project activities which required an urgent meeting to be held with the Senior General Manager: Crop Product in order to mobilise project activities.

DAERD has now confirmed the installation of 30 small sized crop tunnels within the target community area. DAERD also provided seedlings in bags for growing in the tunnels.



2.2.3 Revival of community liaison structures

Relations have improved vastly between EKZNW and the Mbangweni Community since the initiation of the Ndumo Intervention Project. Staff of EKZNW have held several successful discussions with the community in order to explore ways to re-establish a good working relationship between them and also to encourage community interest in conservation management activities.



2.2.4 Facilitation of community participation in on-going development initiatives

The PCT conducted a project implementation planning meeting with technical experts from DAERD. The purpose of the implementation plan is to define the key project components, deliverables and also to assign responsibilities among the various participating departmental units.

A technical team from DAERD comprising a horticulturist and an agricultural engineer together with members of the community undertook a field assessment of additional areas identified for the establishment of open crop fields and also to determine the most viable means to access water for long-term irrigation purposes. It was determined that the drilling of boreholes and the building of a water reservoir would be required to address the long-term needs for viable crop production.

2.2.5 Coordination of inter-departmental initiatives

Currently, all provincial and local government departments as well as civil society organisations are working well together in order to get the project off the ground as well as to obtain community buy-in.

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The following activities are being planned for 2012:

- 3.1 DAERD intends to provide additional small crop tunnels for domestic crop production and provide these to additional households within the target community area.
- 3.2 The technical report on the findings of the field assessment for open crop field will be finalised and work will commence on the preparation of the crop fields.
- 3.3 Testing will also be done to site suitable areas for implementation of boreholes and the construction of a water reservoir.
- 3.4 The Department will also establish several water points for the provision of water to domestic livestock.
- 3.5 Investigations will commence into the possibility of establishing commercially viable crops and crop tunnels as a means of supplementing the communities' future economic earning potential.
- 3.6 The PCT plans to host members of the Mbangweni Community on an excursion intended to expose them to similar agricultural projects that co-exist alongside conservation land use practices and grant them exposure to additional opportunities/benefits that can be derived from conservation.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Please see **Annex A** for the financial report.

5. CONCLUSION

Peace Parks Foundation would like to thank the Wildlands Conservation Trust and Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund for their much appreciated contribution towards the implementation of this project.

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FINANCIAL REPORT



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**PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION
WILDLANDS CONSERVATION TRUST FUNDS
NDUMO INTERVENTION PROJECT
FINANCIAL REPORT: 1 JANUARY - 31 MARCH 2012**

DESCRIPTION		Budget	Expenses	Funds Available
		ZAR	ZAR	ZAR
1	Professional fees			
1.1	Salary	91,563	106,994	(15,431)
	Total Professional Fees	91,563	106,994	(15,431)
2	Road Travelling			
2.1	Hire of Vehicle, Fuel, Flights	27,130	25,828	1,302
	Total Travel	27,130	25,828	1,302
3	Communications			
3.1	Telecommunications	6,782	-	6,782
	Total Communications	6,782	-	6,782
4	Office Costs			
4.1	Stationery (paper, toner, letterheads, diskettes, etc)	3,391	236	3,155
	Total Office Costs	3,391	236	3,155
5	Other			
5.1	Indirect Costs (Max 13%)	6,782	2,590	4,192
	Total Office Costs	6,782	2,590	4,192
	Balance available 31 December 2011	135,648	135,648	(0)

