Water for Food and Ecosystems in the Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve

Narrative report 2010

Water for Food and Ecosystems
in the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve
financed by the Government of The Netherlands

Part of PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof: an integrative catchment restoration program

Presence

livinglands

This report

This narrative report reports on the activities carried out in 2010 as part of the Water for Food and Ecosystems project financed by LNV/OS. The financial report has been submitted separately.

This report is based on the activities and deliverables of the work plan 2010.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Pretoria is the client for the project. The project is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Security and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (LNV/OS). The project started in 2009. The activities of 2009 are described in the narrative report of 2009. On a number of occasions, the Dutch funding in 2009 and 2010 worked successfully as a catalyst for further activities executed by South African partners with their own funding. We will continue this effective approach in 2011.

Introduction and background

The water for Food and Ecosystems project is supporting "PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof". This transdisciplinary initiative is being piloted across the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve with the support of multiple partners. "PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof" has been applying and refining an integrated ecosystem (services) approach. The process has been focussed on the western sector and has involved area identification (e.g. hydro/ecological processes, stakeholder willingness, institutional capacity) and understanding perceptions and values of ecosystem/landscape services. PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof is now in an implementation phase which includes analysis of opportunities/constraints and strategy development.

Restoration activities for 2010 include: reforestation with native vegetation (CO_2 capture); recreating wetlands (increase base flow); erosion mitigation; and creating effective communication and education strategies for implementing an incentives scheme (e.g. PES) for ecosystem management. Collectively, such actions should continue to build social-ecological resilience to anticipated climatic changes and protect biodiversity.

In the last year Eastern Cape Park and Tourism Agency (ECPTA – formally known as Eastern Cape Park Board) has successfully launched their Biodiversity Stewardship Programme and has already achieved a great amount of success and interest among land owners in the Eastern Cape. ECPTA selected the BMR as focus area to further implement this program.

Both initiatives have developed a strong partnership to enhance each other's impact in the landscape, optimizing efforts. While PRESENCE aims at restoring degraded lands and supporting sustainable land use, the stewardship programme will protect the biodiversity, the functionality and provision of ecosystem services on privately owned land. This partnership is currently investigating the possibilities of taking the BMR towards a biosphere reserve.

These three components (restoration, sustainable land use and conservation) will contribute to a variety of healthy natural ecosystems and land-uses, which are home to diverse ecological, agricultural and social systems, the so called *Living Landscapes*.

The efforts of both initiatives over the last years had a positive impact on the land-owners perception around restoration, biodiversity conservation and stewardship in the western sector of the BMR. The positive change of land owner's awareness created a great opportunity to develop an area for biodiversity conservation and restoration. Communication with land owners has raised their interest in sustainable land use and restoration.

The project was in 2010 also selected as an innovative project and was showcased during the conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in The Hague.

Project area

The project area is the Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve (BMR) in the Eastern Cape in South Africa. The BMR is a unique World Heritage Site because of its outstanding natural beauty and globally important biodiversity. The envisaged Mega-Reserve is about 500 000 ha, and will comprise a cluster of state owned protected land (the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve managed by the Eastern Cape Park and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)) within a network of private and communal land. The Baviaanskloof River and the Kouga River merge into the Kouga Dam. The Gamtoos River downstream of the dam flows into the Indian Ocean. The rivers and its tributaries are vital for biodiversity, functioning ecosystems, tourism and for the growing downstream agricultural, commercial/domestic water demands in the Gamtoos Valley and Port Elizabeth respectively.

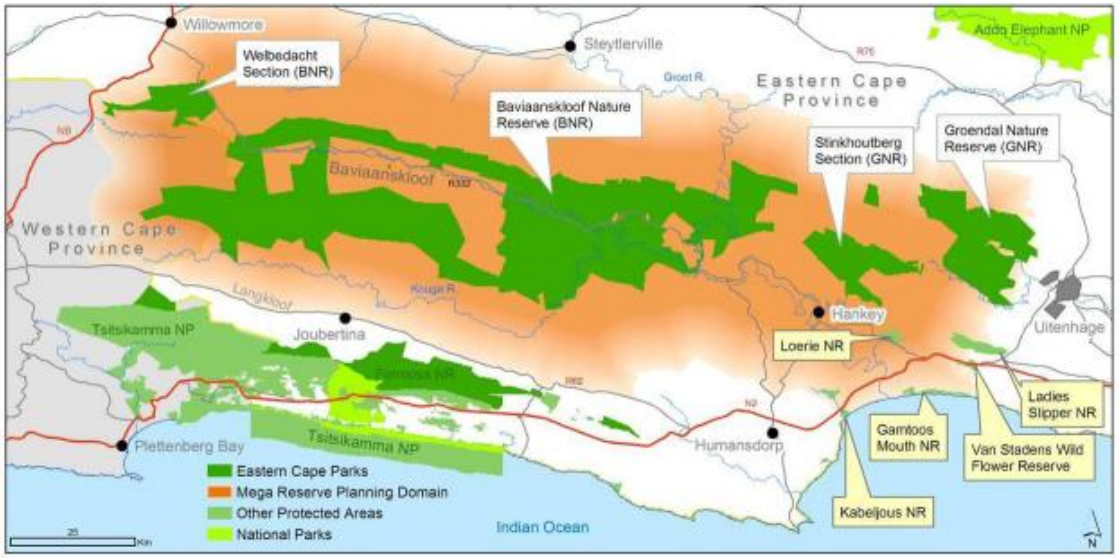

Figure 1: Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve

Project rationale
South Africa is classified as a water-stressed country. In the catchment area, the total water demand already meets the total water resources. Water management interventions in the 80's such as flow diversion and drainage, have resulted in lowering of the groundwater table and increased stream bank erosion, with detrimental effects for both biodiversity conservation and agriculture. Moreover, misguided land-use management has resulted in deterioration of the original vegetation cover with reduced spekboom and thicket vegetation covering on the slopes. Due to this, water retention has been reduced and the area has become extremely vulnerable to drought periods.

Project aims
As described in the proposal of the Water for Food and Ecosystems project in 2009, the main goal is to: *"implement water retention measures in the Baviaanskloof in order to enhance biodiversity and reduce erosion, and to possibly increase water availability for (downstream) water use for agriculture and drinking water supply. Furthermore, assist the process of conversion to ecotourism and ecosystem services for farmers and landowners and support the management of the Nature Reserve by Eastern Cape Parks "*

Living Lands
The Water for Food and Ecosystems in the Baviaanskloof project is being coordinated by Living Lands. Living Lands is a South African Not-for-Profit -Organisation with the vision of reversing degradation and guiding the restoration of 'living landscapes'.'Living landscapes' exhibit a variety of healthy ecosystems and land-uses and are home to ecological, agricultural and social systems which are managed in such a way that they function sustainably. This ensures that natural and cultural resources are available for future generations. To be able to create living landscapes, Living Lands believes it is crucial to develop and create locally driven learning networks which facilitate knowledge and experience exchange, trust building, mutual understanding, collaboration and compassion. At the moment, Living Lands main focus area is the Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve. One of the primary activities of Living Lands was/is to setup and facilitate the PRESENCE learning network.

Figure 2: PRESENCE

PRESENCE
PRESENCE (Participatory Restoration of Ecosystem SErvices & Natural Capital in the Eastern Cape) is a collaborative learning network aimed at guiding regional ecosystem management and the restoration of 'living landscapes'. Collaborating organisations are forming mutually beneficial partnerships and building synergies to enable social-ecological restoration in key areas of the Eastern Cape. The network currently consists of: national and international governmental departments and ministries; universities & research institutes; implementation agencies; and non-governmental, private and community-based organisations. The Water for Food and Ecosystems project plays a central role in *PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof*.

Reporting of the activities and Deliverables of 2010

The activities of the project in 2010 have been effective. The project can be broken down into following items as presented in the workplan 2010:

1. Restoration plan;
2. Implementation of measures;
3. Monitoring;
4. Research;
5. Stakeholder engagement;
6. Project coordination;

1. Restoration plan

2010 Deliverables - Restoration plan:

- **Spatial plan restoration alluvial fans and floodplain, Western Baviaanskloof**
- **Spatial plan restoration hill slopes, Western Baviaanskloof**
- **Overall spatial plan restoration plan for the BMR**
- **Background document on thicket restoration**

The integrated catchment restoration programme of PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof for 2010 was divided into several items. During the year the project focused more on the restoration planning of the alluvial fans and the restoration of the hill slopes. The result of the spatial planning activities is described below. Working with these spatial plans, and in particular the maps, are a good tools for landowners, municipalities and other stakeholders in the process of land use change. It is also crucial to integrated different restoration and conservation efforts for optimal effect. Therefore it is crucial to develop spatial plans to facilitate the process of partners integrating their efforts.

1.1 Spatial plan restoration alluvial fans and floodplain, Western Baviaanskloof

Living Lands has signed a contact with Rhodes University to develop an spatial restoration plan for the alluvial fans for the western Baviaanskloof section. All alluvial fans in the section between the Western ECPTA border until Nuwe Kloof are mapped out (84 alluvial fans) with the sizes of the catchment. The maps and GIS data are already very valuable for the restoration planning. In the next few months (deadline June 2011) Rhodes University is going to write recommendations for restoration of the alluvial fans.

1.2 Spatial plan restoration hill slopes, Western Baviaanskloof

The general idea is to rehabilitate the hill slopes with indigenous species by planting spekboom on these slopes. This should create a better 'atmosphere' for other indigenous plants to grow on the hill slopes. Planting spekboom on the hill slopes does not only restore these slopes but it enables to sequester carbon as well. Carbon sequestration could become a source of income for the farmers in the Baviaanskloof. In order to plan planting projects, a spatial plan for restoration in the Western Baviaanskloof of the hill slopes is created by Rhodes Research Restoration Group.

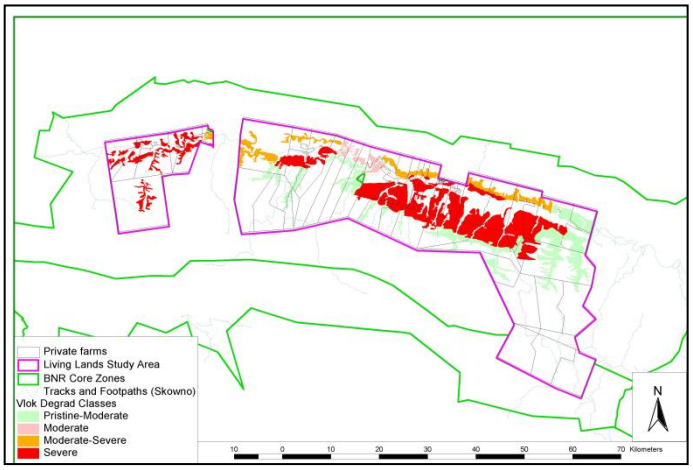

Figure 3: Spatial plan restoration: "vlok degradation map"

The spatial plan for the hill slopes restoration in the western Baviaanskloof includes quantification per farm of hectares suitable for spekboom replanting and the sum of carbon sequestration. The landowners are keen to take this plan a step forward. Besides the landowners, various investors indicated to be interested in the results of the plan what could mean this plan is another big step towards large scale restoration in the Baviaanskloof.

1.3 Overall spatial plan restoration plan BMR

In 2009 different PRESENCE partners indicated the urgency and need for better planning and integration of the restoration effort done by all partners. In 2010 several meetings were held with key partners doing restoration in BMR. The main achievement of this year is that there is a GIS-data base developed with all the different data. This data will help the integration and better planning of all restoration activities. This data base will be used as basis to facilitate a workshop to integrate the different restoration effort.

A workshop is organise together with ECPTA in the beginning of 2011 with key role players in the area like GIB, Working for Water/ woodlands/wetlands, SANBI, Wilderness Foundation, Rhodes Research Restoration Group and R3G.

1.4 Background document on thicket restoration

A background document on Thicket restoration has been developed by our PRESENCE Partners of STRP/ R3G. Therefore an additional document is not necessary anymore. The budget off this sub project is spent on the "Spatial plan restoration Hill slopes".

2. Implementation of measures

2010 Deliverables - Implementation of measures:

- **Six pilot projects**
- **Contracts with GIB and Landowner**
- **Civil engineering rapport per pilot project**
- **Leaflet of implemented sites**
- **Feasibility study for element equity**
- **Website element equity**

The reason for the declining productivity of agriculture in the Baviaanskloof lies in the severe degradation of the soil, vegetation and water resources in the valley. In recent history, the fertile floodplain running through the valley has been planted with irrigated pasture and sown crops whilst both the floodplains and the surrounding slopes have been heavily grazed by livestock such as goats, sheep and ostrich.

Water shortages, security and related issues are regarded as some of the most critical challenges facing the Baviaanskloof's residents and ecosystems. In recent history in response to this erratic rainfall, farmers of the Baviaanskloof have taken measures to canalize water from the main tributaries and streams in order to control the flooding in agricultural lands. This has typically involved the construction of weirs in and across river channels and tributaries, in order to canalize the water and prevent overflow to surrounding areas and subsequent crop damage (De Paoli 2008).

While these measures have been successful in protecting crops and valuable pasture land, these barriers and channels have further exacerbated the ecological degradation (such as wetlands degradation and erosion) and lowered the water table. Restoration of the nature capitol is the vital to develop sustainable livelihood and land use in the Baviaanskloof.

Figure 4: Implementation of measures

In 2010 restoration effort of Water for Wood and Ecosystems consists of the:

1. restoration of alluvial fans ;
2. restoration of the main river bed/wetlands;
3. restoration of the slopes by planting Spekboom;

The restoration of the alluvial fans, i.e. the rehabilitation of tributaries streams, involves the closure of the channels (which currently deviate the water directly into the main river) and the removal of keerwalle (berms), thus re-opening the natural water ways: this will allow water to flow again over the floodplain, feeding the present dried-out state of the land and returning the deposition of silt to the floodplains. According to various experts and implementing agents, this kind of intervention is likely to yield excellent results and to release significant pressure from the system, since it would slow down the water flow to a great extent (De Paoli, 2009).
In 2010 diverse six pilot projects for the restoration of alluvial fans and floodplains and replanting of Spekboom are being indentified.

2.1 *Six pilot projects*

Five restoration pilots are in process, see attached document "five pilot restoration projects 2010" for more background information. Besides this five restoration plots the project together with Working For Water program of the South African government is restoring 300 hectares on the slopes by planting Spekboom . This sustainable amount is equal to 600 soccer fields. A big success for the project in 2010

2.2 *Contracts with Landowner*

To secure the five restoration pilots and the spekboom reforestation investment over the long-term, a formal contract has been drawn and signed between the various stakeholders.

2.3 Civil engineering rapport per pilot project
The Gamtoos Irrigation Board, as responsible for actually executing the restoration measures, has set up a civil engineering report for each five pilot project.

2.4 Leaflet of implemented sites
See attachment I "five pilot restoration projects 2010".

2.5 Feasibility study for element equity
In the framework of the project, a concept for Elemental Equity has been developed. The main aim of Elemental Equity is to get donations as 'natural capital' to help secure cultural and environmental heritage by investing in nature. The concept adopts an 'elements' approach as the investment themes 'Air', 'Water', 'Earth' & 'Fire' to provide a unified way to support improvements in climate (CO_2 capture), water, biodiversity (flora & fauna) and renewable energy alternatives.

The feasibility of the concept has been briefly explored as a first step to decide further directions. The carbon market (air) seems to be most obvious and most viable since it is already a well-known market. For the Baviaanskloof the carbon market is realized by spekboom planting. Costs for spekboom planting are estimated at about 1000 to 1500 Euro per hectare. One team of 12 planters can plant 7 ha per month on a full time basis. This implies that for a full time planting team about 7 000 to 10 500 Euro per month would be needed, so approximately 100.000 Euro on a yearly basis for about 85 ha in a year, which equals more or less 200 tons carbon capture.

If a donation would be 20 Euro on average (this is the amount one pays for the carbon footprint compensation for Amsterdam – Cape Town), this would mean 5.000 donations per year, i.e. about 15 donations per day. If a donation would be 50 Euro on average this would still mean 2 000 donations per year, and more than 5 donations per day. The current concept is not equipped for such a number of donations per day. Moreover, experience to date shows that donors want more information before they donate money. This puts an undesirable pressure on the Living Land organisation and increases the overhead unacceptably.

Besides, the concept needs serious marketing in order to get the concept known by donators, which will also increase the costs per hectare. As a result it was concluded that this 'charity market' is not the way forward. It was decided that it is more feasible to either join more large-scale initiatives. Another might be to get a permanent team of supporters for instance liaised to the partners of PRESENCE.

2.6 Website element equity
Living Lands developed the website http://elementalequity.org/, including a pay-pall system for the donations in the various nature restoration activities.

Elemental Equity is a 'natural capital' fund that encourages individuals and businesses to help secure cultural and environmental heritage by investing in nature. Elemental Equity gives the opportunity to make a tangible contribution to conserving South Africa's 'living landscapes'.
This means restoring a healthy balance between earth's elements and human-uses. And it is about restoring opportunities for community.

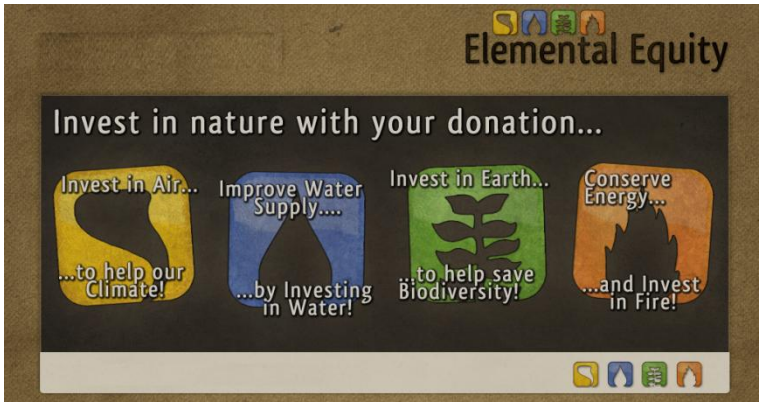

Figure 5: The four elements of Elemental Equity

3. Operational monitoring system

2010 Deliverables - Operational monitoring system:

- **Equipment**
- **Training & salary for local field assistant**
- **Operational monitoring plan**

The main objective of the monitoring is to analyse the effects of the restoration on ecosystem services. The data will be used – finally - to quantify the benefits of ecosystem services. Main ecosystem services are water retention, carbon sequestration, rising water table, increased base flow and soil retention. The monitoring comprises of the entire collaborative restoration interventions by all PRESENCE partners, consisting of hill slope restoration (spekboom planting), alluvial fans and main river bed restoration.
The monitoring data will ultimately generate information for financial schemes, for example PES.

3.1 Equipment

The monitoring plot has been installed and finalised in 2010. The different equipment (Gerlaugh troughs, pillars for the erosion bridge, Tipping Buckets, weather station and moisture probes) are measuring bio-physical processes in the area. Over a transect of approximately 50 km several measure gauges have been installed to measure surface water. This gives an idea about the hydrological relations the surrounding and the groundwater levels.

Figure 5: WUR Students using a raft to install measure gauges

The first data has been collected and stored in a well managed database. This data is being used to publish two science articles in 2011 supporting the investment in restoration. Long term collaboration has been established between WUR and Rhodes University to use the monitoring site for research and capacity building. Continued data collection and analyses will be done by NL and SA Msc and Bsc students. The analyses of the data will be done in the labs made available by RU.

3.2 Training & salary local field assistant

In 2011 the local field assistant was further trained. There was a focus on increasing his computer skills and insight on the data storage. As well the field assist support several researcher and student in data collection and field work.

3.3 Operational monitoring plan

Alterra provide the project with a "living" document to defined *how* to monitor (such as frequency, how to take samples, etc), a database has to been designed and set up. This is all be described in an operational monitoring plan as a "living document".

4. Research

2010 Deliverables- Research:

- **Two SA PhD research**
- **Expert involvement research capacity building**
- **Research capacity building**
- **Supervision of WUR students**
- **Local supervision of WUR students**
- **Support of SA students**
- **Research integration workshop**
- **PRESENCE portal**
- **Policy letter PES in the Baviaanskloof**
- **Compilation booklet**

During recent years, Living Lands has been facilitating South-North collaboration to further develop (local & Dutch) academic capacity to strengthen links between implementation and research. This is one of the focuses of the collaborative and transdisciplinary effort, *PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof*. As part of this effort, Water for Food and Ecosystems is contributing a great deal to reach this objective.
WUR students were academically supervised and guided by WUR/Alterra. Living Lands has taken the responsibility of guiding and supervising the WUR students in South Africa, including integrating their work with the overall vision, linking them with South African students for knowledge and experience exchange and providing local support. The South African students were supported by Living Lands.
At the moment, the various partners of the PRESENCE network are looking at opportunities to attract more research funding to the area.

4.1 Two South African PhD students

In 2010, the Water for Food and Ecosystems project has funded two SA PhD students. The students are answering key research gaps to be able to reach the overall objective of restoring living landscapes. Through this investment capacity is build to better integrated and supervised different SA and NL students doing research in the area. This capacity has catalysed more PhD and MSC students from different universities joining the program.

Maura (PhD Stellenbosch) has finalised her proposal on Institutions for Payment for Ecosystem Services. A field visit to the farmers unions has been done and plans for further stakeholder engagement are being finalized. The second contract is been signed to support her in 2011.

Rebecca (PhD Rhodes) has her proposal on human impacts on floodplain form and dynamics in the Baviaanskloofriver for the implications of wetland restoration. Two field trips to the Baviaanskloof were undertaken, currently mapping geomorphologic characteristics and features. The second contract is been signed to support her in 2011.

4.2 Expert involvement research capacity building

Alterra was evolved by the different South African student working in the field.

4.3 Research capacity building

In 2011, Living Lands is supporting two students from Rhodes University (RU) and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU). Their work will contribute to alluvial fans restoration as well as understanding the carbon market in the South African context. Carina Becker (NMMU), will do research comparing vegetation of degraded and 'pristine' (intact) alluvial fans and plants to be used in restoring

these fans in the Baviaanskloof. This work squarely supports the ongoing alluvial fan restoration programme. Patrick Curran (RU) is looking at the development of a South African carbon standard and the criteria for certification. This will be particularly important to facilitate the local carbon market, as 'carbon farming' has been recognized as a sustainable opportunity for the Baviaanskloof farmers. Outcomes of these researches will be used to inform further activities towards the implementation of these two programmes.

4.4 Supervision of WUR students

Alterra in worked with different students doing work in the Baviaanskloof, especially students working on the monitoring plot.

4.5 Local supervision of WUR students

Various students from Wageningen University have done their internship for the PRESENCE network at Living Lands. Academic supervision was gained from their supervisors in the Netherlands. The last months we have been able to connect several students to an academic supervisor from South Africa as well. In 2011 we aim to increase the amount of students, since it contributes to the North-South collaboration that we tend to set up. (see Attachment I)

4.6 Support of SA students

Various South African students have been supported in 2010. Support can be defined as financial, educative or facilitative support. (See Attachment II)

4.7 Research integration workshop

The Research integration workshop was held in September. During this workshop students doing research in the area were invited. This included Dutch, South African and other international students. The workshop gave the students the opportunity to interact with each other, learning from each other's research and integrated different parts of their research. See:
http://www.earthcollective.net/knowledge-tastes-best-when-shared/
An overview off all the students which are integrated by PRESENCE is found in attachment III.

4.8 PRESENCE portal

The portal is an important hub for knowledge and learning. In the middle of the year we updated the portal and installed new software. External expertise is won and made a start with the further development of the library and forum. The basis of the site is finalized. The interactive part of the portal is under construction and will be ready by the end of February.
See: http://www.livinglandscapes.co.za/#

4.9 Policy letter PES in the Baviaanskloof

One of the overall objectives of the PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof is to look at reward and incentives of the sustainable land use and restoration. One of the options is the implementation of a Payment for

Watershed/Ecosystem Services scheme. To be able to implement this scheme, more awareness needs to be raised in political and decision-making circles. Therefore, a draft policy letter on Ecosystem services has been set up. The intention is to distribute this letter to strategic levels at ECPTA and other partners of PRESENCE.

4.10 Compilation booklet
A compilation of the achievement and lessons learned was written in June. This was included in an IUCN book "Building Resilience to Climate Change" which was realised on October 2010 in COP 10 Nagoya. Their introduction and the chapter about PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof can be found in the attachment IV.

5. Capacity building and awareness

2010 Deliverables - Capacity building and awareness:

- **Stakeholder engagement in the Baviaanskloof**
- **Stakeholder engagement by up-scaling to the Kouga catchment (BMR)**
- **Stakeholder engagement with emerging farmers**
- **Sustainable Farm Management**
- **Explore and build capacity within ECP regard to landowners agreements**
- **Assist ECP with stewardships agreements**
- **Learning Village**
- **PRESENCE workshop**

Stakeholder engagement
Stakeholder engagement and empowerment is an intensive and ongoing process in order to create an environment conducive with learning, mutual understanding, trust and compassion between all the partners. This process of 'mainstreaming' restoration in the Baviaanskloof is going very well.

The involvement from the Dutch Government in PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof through the Water for Food and Ecosystem project has allowed Living Lands to further extend and deepen collaboration within the PRESENCE network. Stakeholder engagement is one of the key factors for the success of the programme. In 2010, the successful approach was extended to the Kouga catchment within the broader BMR and to emerging farmers.

The stakeholder engagement of the emerging farmers included options for tourism development, facilitating seven Spekboom planting teams and set up collaboration with partners and other funds to for emerging farmers.

5.1 Stakeholder engagement in the Baviaanskloof
Living Lands attended several meeting in the area, from farmers meetings in the Baviaanskloof, the regional meetings of Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, and the Subtropical thicket restoration meeting of DWA. The stakeholder engagements gives all the different stakeholders in the area a better understanding of the kind of research that is taking place in the Baviaanskloof. Thanks to the intensive engagement with all the stakeholders, new ideas about future development and possibilities are slowly became a common idea in the area. There is a commitment and support to the project. The farmers in the Baviaanskloof signed a letter of support for PRESENCE to continue working together with them in the Baviaanskloof. Next to the regular farmers meeting Living Lands organised several meeting/ workshops with the farmers to discuss options for lands use change. Owing to these meetings a more mutual contact amongst farmers about the future of the Baviaanskloof is established. Positive concrete actions are the planting of 300 hectare on farmland together with Working for Water.

5.2 Stakeholder engagement by up-scaling to the Kouga catchment (BMR)

In 2010 different key stakeholder in the Kouga catchment were contacted and involved in the PRESENCE network. Good contact and collaboration was established with extension officer- Sam van der Merwe, who has contact will all the farmers in the area. During 2010 different farmers were interviewed and farmers days were visited. The first contacts were made with chairpersons of irrigation boards and farm union. A great effort was made to develop collaboration with different PRESENCE partners to start a similar process in the Kouga catchments. The first step was made with creating a better understanding of the perception and needs of the area.

5.3 Stakeholder engagement with emerging farmers

The engagement with emerging farmers is an ongoing process. Regular meetings with farm manager of Sewefontien and the social worker of Zaaimanshoek have been organised. Also Living Lands is a member and established the Baviaanskloof Advisory Committee for the team who plants Spekboom. During those meetings we indentified the broader needs of the community and the emerging farmers. At the moment LL together with ECPTA are developing a proposal for the development of a biodiversity based economy for the communities.

One of the first opportunities created was the Baviaanskloof Nature awareness group, where young community members learn and teach the communities about nature and wilderness. They will also be trained to guide tourist in the area.

5.4 Sustainable Farm Management

Together with EcoFuture, a proposal has been developed to undertake a feasibility study looking at the conversion of land-use from domestic stock farming to sustainable biodiversity-based ventures (e.g. Tourism, game farming, sustainable farming, carbon market and others). The study will provide the landowners with cost and benefits analyses of the opportunities. The main objective of this study is to provide objective information regarding economical, social and environmental feasibility of the biodiversity-based economy opportunities (like carbon, tourism, sustainable agriculture, stewardships and water) in the western sector of the Baviaanskloof.

5.5 Explore and build capacity within ECPTA with regard to landowners agreements

While restoring living landscapes in the Baviaanskloof sustainable land use must be secured, at least in the restored areas. Several options of landownership agreements are available, such as conservancies or stewardship programmes by conservation organisations like the ECPTA. In stewardship programmes different options are available from simple contracts with a short duration up to 99 years contracts where areas are fully protected. In 2009, low profile contracts with the landowners for the restored areas have been signed. For the stewardship programmes however, ECPTA has the lead. Since there is a lack of capacity at ECPTA on the ground to raise awareness with the landowners, ECPTA asked Living Lands to act as a mediator in this process. Moreover, it needs to be adapted to possible types of land use to ensure sustainable food production on the one hand (e.g. on the floodplains) and nature conservation on the other hand (e.g. on the slopes).

5.6 Assist ECPTA with stewardships agreements

The project helped Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency with the stewardship programme in the Western Baviaanskloof. Activities like a summary of the 4 types of stewardships, a new site assessment form focused on the farmers in the Kloof. For a few farmers site assessments are done to see what level of stewardship is needed for the farm.

5.7 Learning Village

The year of 2010 has enabled the improvement of the functioning of Living Lands and the Learning Village considerably. The funding allocated for the year 2010 has been used for supporting essential structural pillars of the organization and therefore the network itself.

Chairs and tables are being acquired for enabling the development of courses, meetings and workshops. Various events have been and will be benefiting by the current setup. The Learning village has facilitated various events in 2010, as students and PRESENCE-partners gatherings. Parallel to it, Living Lands has been able to cover the expenses with basis office supplies, as stationary, which is essential for the daily requirements by the organization.

5.8 PRESENCE workshop

During 2010 Living Lands undertook a journey to better understand the perceptions, need and review the common goals of the PRESENCE network. This was done by visit different partners within the network. During 2010 information was gathered to start developing a research strategy for the coming years. To provide more time to develop this research strategy and be able to discuss this at the workshop the decided was made to postpone the workshop to next year May.

6. Project coordination and project management

2010 Deliverables - Project coordination and project management:

- **Coordination of programme**
- **Visits and media attention**

The coordination of activities of the project will be executed by Living Lands. This coordination is to be adapted according to the prevailing concept of a 'Learning Organization', i.e. high participation of the network members. An important coordination activity comprises the relevance of research and activities within the PRESENCE network. The main roles and responsibilities although key implementation decisions will be based on shared vision developed by the network.

Living Lands managed the project and – as the contract holder – and had the overall responsibility of the project. Living Lands was also responsible for administration and other managerial issues. Josefien Oude Munnink has continued the role of project supervisor. Living Lands frequently discussed the progress of the programme with Josefien.

Mnr. Pieter Kruger, 'n boer in die Baviaanskloof, glo dit is die unieke aard van die Baviaanskloof wat die grondgebruikers tot die besef laat kom het dat die natuur hier hul grootste bate is en daarom reg bestuur moet word om dit te beskerm. Foto: LIVING LANDS

HIDRO-PLAN

Baviaans gered ná misbruik

Rits kenners, boere werk om 'vloei' in kloof te herstel

MARISKA SPOORMAKER
Port Elizabeth

Verkeerde landbou-praktyke oor min-stens die afgelope 30 jaar het die waterbronne in die Baviaanskloof só uitge-put dat 'n grootskaalse hidro-logiese reddingsplan aange-pak moet word.

"Die grondwatervlakke is rampsalig," som mnr. Marijn Zwinkels, 'n omgewingskun-dige van die organisasie Li-ving Lands, die situasie op.

Living Lands is een van tal-le instansies wat twee jaar ge-lede met intensiewe navor-sing oor hoe die gebied her-stel kan word, begin het. Die Nederlandse regering het

Waterbronne in die boerdarygedeelte van die Baviaanskloofgebied is só uitgeput dat 'n grootskaalse hidrologiese reddingsplan nou aangepak moet word. Foto: JAPIE BUCKLE

"Ons het 'n kollektiewe besluit geneem om hierdie unieke gebied te restoureer en die bestuur van natuurlike hulpbronne te verander

The project had good media exposure this year:

1. Student integration workshop on 16/09/2010 (http://www.earthcollective.net/knowledge-tastes-best-when-shared/)
2. Selected as innovate and integrative project conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (05/11/2011) http://www.earthcollective.net/presence-in-the-baviaanskloof-chosen-as-one-of-the-most-innovative-projects-in-the-world/.
3. Dutch national soccer team and LNV invest in restoration: (http://www.earthcollective.net/dutch-win-with-a-football-field-filled-with-spekboom/ & http://www.earthcollective.net/new-year-new-trees-new-jobs/)
4. present at the BOCI/LNV-OS Projects Conference (24-26 October 2010) http://www.earthcollective.net/living-lands-represented-at-the-lnv-conference/
5. several Field trips and study trips: (http://www.earthcollective.net/field-collaboration-for-recreating-a-wetland-presence/ & http://www.earthcollective.net/wetland-loss-erosion-cracking-the-code/)
6. Two articles in the SA news paper "Die Burger" (http://www.earthcollective.net/presence-in-%E2%80%98die-burger%E2%80%99/).
7. Feedback news in the seasonal supplement from Earthcollective (http://www.earthcollective.net/seasonal-supplement-issue-11/