Blomfontein
Suid-Bokkeveld
Biodiversity & Land Reform Initiative
Blomfontein

2 750 hectare farm on Bokkeveld Plateau – 45km south of Nieuwoudtville

Transitional zone between succulent Karoo and Fynbos

Area largely in the hands of White commercial farmers with historical anomaly of Apartheid “brown spots”

Organic rooibos tea production as well as wild rooibos harvesting
Nature Reserve

Declared a private nature reserve in May 2014

Falls within with the scope & vision of the Great Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor

Scenic & pristine with large diversity of fauna and flora

Also heritage value of San Rock art

Reserve accommodates existing rooibos tea lands – apprx 150 hectares
Heiveld
Rooibos Co-Op

Blomfontein closely connected to Heiveld Co-op

Formed in 2001 - Small scale emerging farmers

NGO assistance & support - EMG

Currently approximately 60 members drawn from surrounding farms and communities

Organic Fair Trade Rooibos
Heiveld

Production & storage facilities located on Blomfontein
Heiveld

Tea Court
Heiveld Contd.

Heiveld has had an immense impact on uplifting the community

Key challenge: access to additional tea lands

Most members between 1 to 5 hectares – not sufficient

Land ownership in the area dominated by white commercial farms – highly priced

Access to land biggest impediment to improved livelihoods
VISION

Blomfontein Reserve to be owned by Trust set up for the benefit of Heiveld members and their extended community

Trust to manage the reserve

Sustainable utilisation of land, water and biodiversity resources

Allocation of rooibos land units to most disadvantaged members

Also eco-tourism & other income generating activities

Youth Education and scientific research programmes
Sustainability

A percentage of all income generated - to the Trust for management and maintenance

Established market & growing demand for organic rooibos

Solid eco-tourism potential - flower season & rooibos heritage route

The rich biodiversity conducive to research and educational projects. To date a number of scientists and PhD students have conducted research
Sustainability Contd.

Notable Points

Low Impact:
Beneficiaries have their own established homesteads

Harvesting Jan- April
Planting June-July
Eco Tourism August-October

Activities at point of production

Fair Trade & Organic Certification

A wealth of indigenous knowledge
Sustainability cont.

A declared nature reserve

Scale is very manageable

Maximum benefit from marginal lands
The Missing Component