Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative

Lessons learned in the Eastern Cape
The Land Reform Landscape

- High biodiversity value areas
- Vastly differing capacity levels
- Conflicting priorities between various departments
- Poverty (& all the socials ills that manifest as a result)
- Poor service delivery
- CPA and traditional leadership not always aligned
- Numerous initiatives (health, safety & security, education, food security, infrastructure development, land reform, agricultural projects, biodiversity stewardship, NRM programmes, etc.)
Activity time ...

**Broken Telephone**
- Ayanda (& translating)
- Santhuri
- Chrystal
- Tracey C
- Nomcebo
- Nicky

**Story Telling**
- Tracey
- Rufus
- Cobus
- Kevin
- Tsetsele
- Ngcali
- ?
Broken Telephone Message

“The small brown dog ate the large grey cat and choked on a fur ball …”
Simplify ...

“Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.”

Albert Einstein
Simplify ...

- Develop 3 broad groups of stakeholders:
  - Beneficiaries
  - Government Departments
  - NGO’s

- Search for commonalities:
  - High level, long term outcomes (e.g. healthy ecosystems = food security)
  - Medium to short term interventions
  - Resources
Increase efficiency within those “commonalities”

- How would we do this?
  - SWOT Analysis comparison between the 2 “implementing groups” to identify opportunities to compliment each others strengths
  - SWOT = Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats
  - Align efforts and develop dovetailed reporting
  - Align efforts with beneficiaries needs (not the other way)
  - Manage expectations, maintain integrity and transparency
High-level SWOT Analysis between a provincial agency and an NGO operating in the same area

**Strengths**

**NGO**
- Often limited to the site or focal area
- Field workers focused solely on the stewardship outcome

**Prov. Agency**
- Mobilise political will
- High-level interventions
- Mandate
High-level SWOT Analysis between a provincial agency and an NGO operating in the same area

Weaknesses

NGO

- Short-term funding cycles
- Project staff leave when the project ends

Prov. Agency

- Agency staff often have additional KPA demands
- Agency staff have multiple sites
- Departmental silo’s
High-level SWOT Analysis between a provincial agency and an NGO operating in the same area

**Threats**

**NGO**
- Can’t commit to the full term of a PAMA
- Assume that the Agency will step in

**Prov. Agency**
- High staff turn-over
- Changes in organisational priorities
High-level SWOT Analysis between a provincial agency and an NGO operating in the same area

Opportunities

Partnership

NGO

Focused capacity

Prov. Agency

Formalise the intervention
Summary

- Be sensitive to how all the interventions are experienced by the community
- Ensure you have a sound exit strategy before you begin
- Align and simplify
- Partnerships
Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children.

Theodore Roosevelt

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