Funding Community Conservation Areas (CCA)
An Idea from the Makuleke CCA

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Building Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin
Funding Community Conservation Areas - Overview

- CCAs need to find ways to sustainably fund conservation efforts.
- CBOs spend income earned from ecotourism on community development **not reinvesting in conservation management**.
- Private and State PAs have resources to reinvest income in conservation and don’t have social development demands.
- The Makuleke community is trying a new way for them to fund conservation, without reducing community development spending.
- They have set up a dedicated “Conservation Trust” managed by all the key stakeholders.
Community Conservation Expenses

Community Based Organizations (CBO) have the following expenses in this order of priority

1. **Running costs of the CBO and Executive**
   - Salaries
   - Office and legal costs
   - Sitting fees / time compensation

2. **Social project spending / Spreading the benefits**
   - Education
   - Health
   - Culture
   - Cash distribution, etc

3. **Conservation Management costs of their conserved area**
   - Animal and plant management
   - Roads and other infrastructure

The Makuleke Communal Property Association’s Executive Committee with their advisor, Steve Collins of the African Safari Foundation.
Sources of funding for CBOs

Community Based Organisation’s with conservation land have the following sources of income

- **Lease fees and levies** for the use of their land

- **Conservation related donations**

- **Government and NGO grants** linked to conservation.

The only “consistent” form of income are the ecotourism leases and levies, which are variable and initially low when linked to tourism numbers and turnover.
The Makuleke CPA, their private sector concessionaires and SANParks have set up the Makuleke Region Conservation and Development Trust. The Trust will be managed by:

- The community (CPA representative)
- The ecotourism operators
- SANParks

The Role of the MRC&D Trust is to:

- To facilitate and support “Environmental Benefit Activities”
- To receive and spend funds on conservation
- To develop and maintain ecotourism related infrastructure

NB: Trust supported activities must be in the Conservation and Development Framework.
Key aspects of the Conservation Trust

- The Conservation Trust is co-managed by the community, private ecotourism operators and conservation agency.
- The Trust is legally setup with clear objectives and accountability systems.
- The Trust needs financial management skills.
- The Trust comes out of the Conservation and Development Framework which will guide conservation investments.
- All conservation related income must be ring-fenced and paid to the Trust, including all Park Entrance Fees paid by Makuleke tourists.
THANK YOU

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An inspiring solution?

Innovative and effective
• The Makuleke Region Conservation and Development Trust will help the community ensure their land is conserved and therefore good for eco-tourism.
• The Communal Property Association can focus all its earnings from the lease fees on its own running costs and community development.
• Funders can be sure that the money they donate for conservation will be well spent on conservation.

Evidence of implementation and impact
• The Trust has just been created so its impact has yet to be seen.

Applied elsewhere or more broadly
• Any Community Conserved Area that has ecotourism operators and/or the State conservation agency as partners could set up such an inclusive “Conservation Trust”.
Components that lead to success

• Having all the stakeholders commit to a Conservation and Development Framework gives the Conservation Trust direction.
• Willingness of the stakeholders to be part of the Trust and to contribute to the funds, knowing that they will have a say in how it is spent.

Enabling factors

• The Community Based Organization is a well run and organized institution that is accountable to the community and able to be a real partner.
• An existing tourism base will ensure a steady flow of funds to the Trust through park fees and/or conservation levies.
• The Private Sector investors are committed to the region and willing to put money through the Trust.