KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme

“Conservation in landowners’ hands”

Greg Martindale
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

• Background to the programme
  - Drivers of biodiversity loss.
  - Programme achievements.
  - Land ownership within the programme.

• Focus on communal land:
  - The importance of collaboration.
  - An example of a communally-owned site.
  - Synergies between stewardship and rural development.
Landscape Transformation in KZN 1994 - 2008
• 53% of important biodiversity in private/communal ownership, outside of state protected areas.

• PA expansion:
  - 20-year target – 842,000ha
Sites secured:

- 14 nature reserves proclaimed – totalling 40,401ha.
- Five protected environment proclaimed – 20,373ha.
- Four biodiversity agreements – 4,704ha.
- Total of 65,478ha secured through biodiversity stewardship to date.

In final stages of proclamation:

- 15 nature reserves – totalling 41,698ha.
- One protected environment – totalling 40ha.
- Total of a further 41,738ha will be secured in short-term.

In negotiation:

- 29 nature reserves – totalling approximately 111,435ha.
- 11 protected environments – 55,593ha.
- Six biodiversity agreements – totalling 6,177ha.
- Total of a further 173,205ha will be secured in the short to medium term.
## CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIES TARGETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Habitat in KZN (ha)</th>
<th>Habitat secured through stewardship (ha)</th>
<th>Area protected through stewardship (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oribi Antelope (<em>Ourebia ourebi</em>)</td>
<td>584,126</td>
<td>29,853</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rhino (<em>Diceros bicornis</em>)</td>
<td>402,785</td>
<td>59,497</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wattled Crane (<em>Bugeranus carunculatus</em>)</td>
<td>582,763</td>
<td>26,611</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Swallow (<em>Hirundo atrocaerulea</em>)</td>
<td>57,227</td>
<td>3,402</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LAND OWNERSHIP WITHIN THE KZN BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME

Private/commercial land:
- Number of stewardship sites – 46 sites.
- Area of sites – 117,487ha.

Municipal/state-owned land:
- Number of stewardship sites – 16 sites.
- Area of sites – 5,868ha.

Communally-owned land (Ingonyama Trust Land):
- Number of stewardship sites – 5 sites.
- Area of sites – 72,640ha.

Land reform land:
- Number of stewardship sites – 12 sites.
- Area of sites – 72,718ha.
FOCUS ON COMMUNAL LAND

• Objectives of conservation initiatives on communal land:
  ❑ Conservation of critical remnant biodiversity.
  ❑ Conservation as a viable land use.
  ❑ Poverty alleviation in poor rural areas.
  ❑ Addressing the imbalances of the past – rural development and land reform processes.
The KZN Biodiversity Stewardship Programme is not solely an Ezemvelo initiative.

The success of the programme is highly reliant on its collaborative nature.

Key partners include the KZN Department of Agriculture, the SANBI CREW programme and all major NGOs operating in KwaZulu-Natal.
EXAMPLE: BABANANGO

• Emcakwini community trust:
  - Successful land claim of a large area of land in the Babanango region.
  - Includes an uninhabited area of 13,000ha that runs from Mistbelt Grassland to the southern bank of the Imfolozi River.
  - Landowners on the northern bank have committed a further 6,000ha, which will lead to the creation of a new 19,000ha nature reserve.

• Business plan:
  - Focuses on tourism and hunting.
  - Requires fencing, the development of roads, lodges, and the training of management staff.
  - Envisages the creation of 160 jobs.
EXAMPLE: BABANANGO

• Role of stewardship:
  - Partner to the community.
  - Assist in seeking funding, capacity development and training.
  - Provision of support and technical expertise.

• Technical expertise:
  - Detailed rangeland assessments – team of 15 people undertaking detailed assessments over a period of three weeks.
  - Determine both grazing and browse carrying capacity.
  - Assist in understanding what game can be introduced and in what numbers.
SYNERGIES BETWEEN STEWARDSHIP AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

• Focus of stewardship programme:
  - Protection of habitat and species.
  - Maintenance of critical ecological processes.
  - Ensuring landowners can continue to derive benefits from their land.
  - Often an overlap between areas of high poverty and high biodiversity value.

• Focus of rural development:
  - Land re-distribution – redressing the imbalances of the past.
  - Economic development and job creation in poor rural areas.

• Stewardship is an obvious partner to the rural development process:
  - Partnering with communities.
  - Providing advice and expertise.
  - Assisting in sourcing funds and resources to support communities.
Thank you

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