NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN NAMAQUA
OBJECTIVES

- Degraded arid rangeland of 20,000 ha restored to support & sustain communal farming through invasive alien plant species clearing, mitigation of erosion damages, repairing of key infrastructure e.g. water sources and fences and the implementation of sustainable land and freshwater management and livestock grazing systems on 274,676 ha (Leliefontein & Steinkopf).
MEET THE FOOT SOLDIERS

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• Employment generation for 42 people improving the livelihoods of disadvantage households and reducing poverty of vulnerable groups, targeting women, youth and disabled beneficial to communal farmers on two stewardship sites.

• Capacity building of youth/women

• Provide direct commonage management benefits to 67 communal farmers on two stewardship sites. (leliefontein/steinkopf)
• Successful rehabilitation, management, and monitoring of natural wetlands and rangelands will involve extensive cooperation with livestock owners, creation of employment opportunities and implementation of quantifiable restoration projects showing agricultural benefits (e.g. increase in water quality and quantity, improvement in soil stability).

• A sustainable, participatory, and scientific approach will enable farmers to comply with national environmental red meat standards and so access new markets, increase production levels and achieve long term financial security.
• Short term income generation opportunities provide income and are complimented by training of beneficiaries through skills development and improved rangeland, wetland, livestock, and personal financial management to address livelihood challenges faced by low income households
Employment of women in government funded public works programs & through CSA’s conservation initiatives challenges traditional gendered employment for women.

Women are now employed in non-traditional jobs such as livestock management, land restoration and occupy leadership roles on site.

Women are directly involve in governance of community base farmers associations increasing female decision making in resource management.
SUCCESSSES

• Training was well organized, attended and relevant

• Team leaders knowledgeable and experienced in restoration work enhances effectives and speed up delivery

• Mediation of conflict that arises due delays and changes in program

• Empowerment of Women
LESSONS LEARNT

• PLAN..PLAN ..PLAN  – allocate sufficient time to organise logistics and meet requirements before putting teams on the ground

• Time management and managing expectations are vital during recruitment processes

• Government also has lots of layers of capacity and expect delays

• Logistics required around transport was really challenging—Few people have roadworthy vehicles with insurance

• Stakeholder participation and roles clearly defined to prevent duplication
CLOSURE

• NRM primary focus are government poverty alleviation through employment generation with restoration as an added benefit to the farming communities.
• All poverty alleviation work is hard and not paid well… it is not meant to be a job you want to do forever, but it is an opportunity to invest in the future of youth and women – through training for future work and through improving the condition of your environment (more water available for your livestock, better health and income for you in the future)