WHO IS TSHIVHULA CPA?

Tshivhula communal property association is comprised of the beneficiaries of the land restitution process done by the department of rural development and land reform in Limpopo province in the vhembe district. This is a community of Vhatwamamba who call themselves the big elephants of the great TSHIVHULA tsha Matshokotike tsha gumbo lofhelaho nga mipfa.
THE LAND OF VHATWAMAMBA

We settled on the area which stretches from north of the Soutpansberg mountains to Limpopo river and from the banks of the great Sand River in the east to Mokgalakwena River in the west. We tilled the land and kept herds of live stock here. We got our medicines from the shrubs, roots, reptiles and wild animals in the area. Indeed we are the direct descendants of the great Mapungubwe kingdom. We hunted, picked the mopani worms (mashonzha) and wild berries. When it is hot we would sit in the shadows of giant trees', our ancestors recounted with resentment. We were dispossessed of our land by the evil forces of apartheid and many of us moved to other areas.

In 1998 we claimed the whole land which is more than 100 farms and only got four of them to date. This is indeed just a drop in the ocean for a community which has more than 500 house holds.
THE MEANING OF BIODIVERSITY TO US

To us biodiversity is nature. (Mupo). Meaning living plants and animals in their virgin natural habitat. Certain plants and animals were protected by our customary and cultural laws depending on the value of the species to the community. To many of us the loss of the land also took away the instrument which could teach us the importance of nature. One cannot perceive the value of something which one does not have or has never seen. If we do not benefit from the land we cannot see its value and we cannot protect it as a result. THE MEANING OF BIODIVERSITY TO US
TSHIVHULA CPA FARMS

• We got four farms which are seven kilometers south west of Mapungubwe world heritage site.
• This farms are mainly suitable for game farming and eco tourism.
• We have 3 lodges and a bush camp.
• We have currently employed 14 permanent staff and 10 temporary workers to take care of the biodiversity which is our wealth.
• We have elephants, lions, leopards, elands kudu, gemsbok, water bucks, wildebees, impala, etc.
THE LEASE PERIOD

• Government only bought the land and did not buy animals and all the loose assets.
• Government did not give us money to even pay for electricity or pay the workers.
• We had to lease the land to the previous owners waiting for government to give us grant money to run the farms.
• The previous owners had to take away the animals as they were told that government does not pay for game.
• We had to use the collected lease rental money to pay electricity and the workers after the white men had left the farms.
• We also approached a lot of people and departments looking for advice before we could even hunt one animal.
• The period of consultation took almost a year.
STRATEGIC PARTNERS

• After a long period of waiting for a grant we were told that we need to get a strategic partner so we could get RECAP.

• We got a strategic partner but we were told to do game count and then develop a business plan.

• It caused us R40 000 to hire a helicopter for game count and then develop a business plan.

• Despite all the efforts we made since 2012 we have not been given a RECAP and we are told that government does not pay for game farms.

• Together with the strategic partner BONO HOLDINGS we have decided to go ahead and grow the business even though we are hampered by lack of capital.

• LEDET has encouraged us to go on and protect biodiversity as it is our wealth.

• CAN SOMEONE COME TO OUR RESCUE?
THE BENEFITS TO DATE

• We have 12 permanent staff and 16 temporary workers.
• We have purchased four used vehicles and bikes to work on the farm.
• We have also got some basic assets and equipments to prevent the farms from decay.
• We are renovating and maintaining the lodges.
• We have a local client base which we cannot even afford to service as we have little game stock.
• Our bush camp has a very high demand.
• We have completed plans for a 5 star lodge which should be completed as soon as possible as we have about 30 clients from the US and Europe who want to visit us this year.
• We have market, all we need is help to make sure that we meet the requirements for our clients to come.
• Harvesting mopani worms.
CHALLENGES

• No support from relevant stake holders
• No funding
• Constant damage of property by free roaming elephants.
• Theft.
• Difficulty to get DCA and sites permits.
• High electricity costs.
BIODIVERSITY PICTURES
ELAND
BRAAM FARM LAPA
NEW 5 STAR LODGE PLAN
COPTER FOR GAME COUNT
FENCING
WETLAND
MOPANI AND STONES
DEGRADATION
LARGE EARTH DAM
OTHER TREES
WATER POINTS
ELECTRICAL FENCE
STOLEN PUMP
VANDALISED ROOF