



Innovations Programme – Eastern Cape, South Africa

Interim Report – 20.12.2007

What a great day to be beginning this first report – I have just returned to Johannesburg from Pretoria where I signed for the UNDP/Small Grants Programme 'matching' funding of \$50 000 (actually \$100 000 but more about that later)! On the way back I spoke to Sinegugu (an educator born in the area but working in Johannesburg and a Director of SWC) who is currently on the Wild Coast and has just finished in a community meeting at the Great Place (the Chief's headquarters) to introduce the Programme to the Tribal Structure and the greater community. It was received with great excitement – "This is exactly what we have been waiting for, someone to come to us and ask us what we want and not to tell us what is good for us." (an Elder at the meeting)!

Thanks to the faith shown in the programme by Christian Aid we now have a fully funded pilot project that will be run in two areas of the Northern Wild Coast (one coastal and one inland), communities who are elated that their right to self-determination is at last being recognised and worked towards and NGOs partnering to find a way that is equitable for all, including the Earth.

From receiving the funds – December 20th

Adaptions to the Programme since the application document

Since the initial funding for this project came from the Christian Aid 'Innovations Fund' it was a natural progression to name the whole programme the 'Innovations Programme'. This seems even more right as words such as 'empowerment', 'awareness' and even 'education' (which were other options for names) carry with them suggestions of paternalism with one who 'knows' teaching those who 'don't know'. This Programme is really about allowing the knowledge and understanding that is inherent in all communities (Indigenous Knowing) but repressed by the processes of colonialism and apartheid to be

acknowledged and celebrated and then be merged with other knowledge and understanding relevant to the local space that will encourage authentic, grassroots sustainable development. This is an 'innovative' approach to a common South African (and world wide) challenge and should be recognised as such.

Just after the submission of our request to Christian Aid I paid another visit to the area. Even though I have been a regular visitor over the last 4 years each time I go I understand the culture, dynamics and needs of the area at a deeper level. I have also spent time researching the failed projects in this complicated and diverse area so that we can learn from the mistakes and not fall into the same traps. This means that the design and initiation of any process has to be reflective and flexible; a point I have made to Rob Cunningham from inception and which he has enthusiastically (thankfully) supported merely asking to be consulted on any major deviations.

The application document to Christian Aid outlined a 2-phase programme with Christian Aid funds supporting Phase 1 (community workshops) and UNDP/SGP funds being utilised for Phase 2 (livelihoods projects). But the Innovations Programme has now evolved into a 3-phase programme! Through extensive consultations I realised an essential middle element – inter-community visits – was missing. Peer learning is a well-recognised element of education and applies equally in all the social sciences. It applies especially in a cross-cultural environment where traditional and western approaches meet. Because of the historical paternalistic approach of 'development agents' they are often seen as being able to 'bring' things to communities and non-essential requests are made and then continuous support is expected. Political games are easily introduced as professional advice can be labelled as 'outside interests' or 'slowing development'. Whereas if communities with similar interests and projects are introduced to each other communication is more meaningful and expressed needs are more rooted in livelihoods experiences.

With more than expected funding coming in from UNDP/SGP (see under 'Finances' below) the structure of the whole Innovations Programme Pilot is now:

Phase 1 (Pilot 1 - coastal – funded by CA)) – 3 community workshops

Phase 2 (Pilot 1 - coastal – funded by SGP) – inter-community visits

Phase 3 (Pilot 1 - coastal – funded by SGP) – establishment of livelihoods micro-projects

Phase 1 (Pilot 2 - inland – funded by SGP) – 5 community workshops

Phase 2 (Pilot 2 - inland - funded by SGP) – inter-community visits

Phase 3 (Pilot 2 - inland – funding to be found*) – establishment of livelihoods projects

In consultation with UNDP/SGP it was decided that since the social/political dynamics vary greatly between all areas especially coastal and inland, 2 pilot

* It is not possible to seek funding for this element as yet as the workshops have not been held and community needs inland are not fully understood. It was possible to apply for funding for Phase 3 of the coastal area as although all workshops have not yet been completed we have been working with these communities for a number of years and the basis of their needs is understood.

programmes should be run in order to be able to correctly evaluate for future expansion.

It must be noted that with all the above changes to the Programme as a whole, the core use to which the Christian Aid funding is being put has not altered from the application document.

Phase 1 (coastal) progress – using CA funding

Before applying for Christian Aid funding Bishop Davies of SAFCEI invited me (see 'Programme staff' below) to lead the programme should we be successful as I have education and public participation qualifications and have been instrumental in the design of and attempted fundraising (on behalf of SWC) for the programme. I am based in Johannesburg but did not envisage this to be a problem as the intention is to have as many local people as possible doing the hands on work. I gladly accepted and factored myself into the proposed budget. On one of my subsequent trips to the area I met Travis Bailey, a local resident of Port Edward (the town closest to the rural area) and someone whose knowledge of the local communities, relationship with local government and traditional structures and experience with previous projects was invaluable to our Programme. I invited him to co-lead the Programme with me and we have split the allocated salary between us.....an indication of the passion of all involved to make this Programme a success.

A meeting was held in Port Edward on the 7th November (hosted in Travis' home to save costs) with representatives from the various villages that might be involved in the Programme to introduce the concept. It was very well received and the three positions of facilitators and coordinator were discussed. Once again I reflected on the original proposal as I realised that these kinds of meetings had been held many times over the years but with participants seeing no gratuity of any sort for their attendance and valuable input (more valuable than that of outside 'consultants' who charge commercial rates!) and often the projects not even starting so everyone's time had been wasted. One very keen attendee had borrowed money for transport to attend as he was not prepared to be left out of the process! I have thus redesigned the approach so that as many people as possible benefit financially even if only in a small way and all transport costs are refunded, but have not interfered with the original budget lines as agreed (see below under 'Finance'). Everyone took the project proposal away to study and consult on.

A delegation from the UNDP/SGP was hosted in the area the following day and I was able to introduce the delegates to most of the 'team' as we spent the day driving around the area visiting people and projects and hearing stories. An exhausted but exhilarated SGP contingent left late that evening.

The next meeting was held on the 12th December, this time with those who will be employed. Representatives of our new partner NGO, the Alliance of Rural Communities (A.R.C.) who will be taking responsibility for Phase 2 of the Programme (see "Finance" below) also attended as well as Sinegugu Zukulu in an advisory capacity. The Programme was discussed in detail and contracts agreed. These remain to be signed which Travis will be organising shortly. A

coordinator was identified who will be approached with a 3 month offer. A Memorandum of Understanding will also be signed between SWC, A.R.C. and SAFCEI.

Sinegugu works for the Endangered Wildlife Trust (one of South Africa's leading environmental NGOs) and is currently initiating another project in the area that will tie in with the Innovations Programme so giving both projects greater coverage and impact. He holds great respect in the area and was asked to present the Innovations Programme to the Traditional Structure.

He returned the following week to do so with a meeting in his home village on the 19th (they immediately bought in) and the larger one at the Great Place on the 20th. Here the representatives from the various villages had to report back to their communities and make individual village decisions as to whether they wish to participate or not. We will hear early in January but I suspect that the workshop design will have to be revised as we are going to have to deal with far more people than I have bargained for. Already I have been advised that with the dynamics of exclusion that have occurred so often, dealing directly with 30 (committed) people is acceptable but no one should be turned away, so there should be space for silent observers. Other changes remain to be seen.

Finance

- The Christian Aid funding was received in the SAFCEI account on the 1st October and remained intact until the first claim was submitted at the beginning of December, even though work on the Programme began in November. The delay in getting the funds flowing is in order to establish a sound governance system between the two collaborating NGO's. SAFCEI is the lead organisation but overall delivery of the Programme is the responsibility of SWC. Bishop Davies will convene a meeting of his finance committee in early January to finalise the protocol in collaboration with SWC.
- The UNDP/SGP site-visit proved to be a very worthwhile effort as the enthusiastic delegates returned to Pretoria to convince their Steering Committee to award the Programme \$150 000! Since the limit of the Small Grants Programme is \$50 000 we were advised to split the application between 3 different NGOs. SWC and A.R.C. have each been awarded \$50 000 and SAFCEI has been asked to re-apply in June 2008 when the last \$50 000 will be required to finalise the pilot. Each NGO will be responsible for their own funds but SWC will carry overall responsibility for the Programme as a whole. The funding and responsibility breakdown is:
Phase 1 (Pilot 1 - coastal – funded by CA)) – 3 community workshops – R203 436 – financial responsibility SAFCEI, day-to-day responsibility SWC
Phase 2 (Pilot 1 - coastal – funded by SGP) – inter-community visits – R175 000 – financial responsibility A.R.C., day-to-day responsibility A.R.C., oversight SWC
Phase 3 (Pilot 1 - coastal – funded by SGP) – livelihoods micro-projects – R105 000 – financial responsibility SWC, day-to-day responsibility SWC

(The SGP funding to be applied for by SAFCEI in June will be utilised here to establish further livelihoods projects and in Phase 3 of the 2nd Pilot inland)

Phase 1 (Pilot 2 - inland – funded by SGP) – 5 community workshops – R245 000 - financial responsibility SWC, day-to-day responsibility SWC

Phase 2 (Pilot 2 - inland - funded by SGP) – inter-community visits – R175 000 – financial responsibility A.R.C., day-to-day responsibility A.R.C., oversight SWC

Phase 3 (Pilot 2 - inland – funding to be found) – establishment of livelihoods projects

- Realising the importance of recognising community representatives' advice and input financially and now understanding the different transport costs better I have changed the budget line 'Commissioned work' considerably. This was originally intended for professional consultants but the real need is just to hear the people more and feedback progress better. A professional design team will still be used but the amount allocated to them has been reduced by 60% and the balance allocated to community advisory and feedback meetings.

Programme staff

Mthembeni (Spring) Gxolonxa – Spring comes from the Mtentu area and is a part-time tour-guide for the Amadiba Horse Trails, which is a community eco-tourism project. He received his training from Triple Trust in Port St Johns and the KwaZulu Natal ESDLE. He has a level 4 Tour-guiding qualification. He is Chairperson of the Mtentu Development Committee and an elected member of the Amadiba Crisis Committee, which was formed to counter mining proposals for the area in support of eco-tourism development.

Mzamo Dlamini – Mzamo was a founder of Amadiba Adventures – the umbrella community eco-tourism body and part of their Business Management Unit. He hails from Sigidi and has undergone the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) tourism and conservation, tour guiding and workshop facilitation training where he spent 6 months in the field. He attended the Triple Trust training and also the Southern African Wildlife College where he obtained his Marine-guiding certificate. He has also completed a 2-week SAWC Train the Trainer workshop. Mzamo is Chairperson of the Sigidi Development Committee and an elected member of the Amadiba Crisis Committee. Mzamo and Spring will be co-facilitating the workshops.

Travis Bailey – Travis has lived in Port Edward since 2000. He was instrumental in the establishment of the NGO PondoCrop in 1997 which assisted communities in the setting up of trusts and eco-tourism ventures. He left in 2004 to work on the European Union development programme in the area and became an independent consultant on its closure.

Sandy Heather – I am the only person not from the area and consider myself the link between local and global. In retail the middle man often adds little value to the chain and conscious of this not only do I attempt to make the local/global links but also to broker a conversion between Western and Indigenous

approaches so that imposition does not occur and sustainability becomes more likely. Born of African soil into a western culture I choose to question conventional western thinking, understand better African thought and seek the space between African and Western where the 2 can meet with each recognising the worth of the other and understanding an alternative development paradigm that meets the needs of the financially poor. Qualified as an Educationist and recently a Public Participation Practitioner and with a belief that man is fully dependent on the Earth's ecosystem services for survival, I specialise in the design of learning events that have the greatest potential to create behaviour change. For the last 4 years my work on the Wild Coast has been self-funded. I have yet to receive the profile of our coordinator.

From December 20th

1 st week Jan	2 nd week	3 rd week	4 th week
Sign contracts	Design team meet	Finalise MoU	Sign MoU
Propose MoU	Staff meeting PE	Run 1 st workshop	Design 2 nd wkshp
Confirm villages	Compile participants list	Staff reflection	Meet with whole community
Introduce coordinator	Finalise financial processes		
	Meet with community reps		
	Re-establish bakery connection		
	Set up 1 st workshop		

The whole team is very excited about the coming 3 months.

Sandy