

EZINAMBENI LANDCARE PROJECT

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project is under the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM) and consists of 21 villages under Chieftainess Pato. It is between the Tsholomnqa and Keiskamma Rivers. The Chalumna area is named after the Chalumna River (isiXhosa: Tsholomnqa River). The initial plan of the project was to consider the whole area (21 villages) and implement seven villages in a 3-year cycle employing 70 beneficiaries (10 people per village). However, it was later realised that there will be no positive impact to do small portions of the area. The better suggestion was to concentrate on the areas that were already on the ground, i.e., Tsaba, Nqinise, Zikhova, Dou, New Rest, Kiwana and Kampini. The total Chalumna area (Tsholomnqa area) under implementation is 1 729 ha, excluding arable and other areas.

The farmers called for intervention for Macchia and Blue-bush (*Pteronia incana* or asbossies), which are encroaching on their grazing lands. Macchia is a Mediterranean shrubland biome. *Dicerotumnus rhinocerotis* is Renosterbos' scientific name. Unwele is Cancer bush (*Sutherlandia frutescens*).

PROJECT FUNDING

For the 2014/15 financial year, an amount of R671 520.00 was budgeted for clearing 420 ha of macchia. This will assist in the improvement of the grazing potential of the area. A 5 km fence was constructed to minimise livestock paths and degradation in order to improve veld and livestock management practices; one awareness day, a project launch, was conducted; continuous meetings were held and branding of the project was done with signage displays as a marketing strategy to other stakeholders. Thirty-eight (38) livestock farmers were trained on soil conservation and veld management.

JOB CREATION

This project has managed to create 70 job opportunities since its inception.

AWARENESS AND TRAINING

More than 40 members received accredited capacity building and were certificated in project management and fencing from the project and communities.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE :

The community has organised themselves and formed the Chalumna Farmers Association to look at agricultural development issues. In order to address LandCare issues, the community organised a LandCare Committee. These committees are working together with the Extension Officers to deal with agricultural development.



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Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
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