

# LANDCARE PROJECT

## Seville livestock improvement



*Bush clearing (as part of bush encroachment control)*

### Seville livestock improvement (landcare project)

#### Brief background of the project

The project was started by an inspired group of farmers from local villages (which includes Seville A, Seville B and some parts of neighbouring villages). The group gained support from other local community members who were not having livestock when they started with the idea of small collections for buying fencing materials for the designated portion of Seville, which was demarcated as a grazing land-use type. The project was nominated as one of the best community LandCare projects during last year's LandCare conference. The project obtained the third position.

#### Environmental, economic and social sustainability of the project

The project addresses the problem of land degradation through veld improvement. The livestock farmers are able to sell some of their cattle and make a profit to invest in the cattle scheme club account. The project has a potential for improving the local community's livelihood, and the project is gaining great support from the community and leaders.

#### Transferability of the project in such a way that others could be able to implement it

Other communities can learn and copy from this project because most of the project members are committed to help other neighbouring communities who are willing to learn. There is also a good record-keeping practice (with regard to the availability of documents from the day the project started to date, project profiles and progress report).

#### Structures within the community involved (traditional leaders, youth, municipality and people with disabilities)

When the project started all relevant stakeholders were involved through community stakeholder consultative meetings and awareness campaigns.



*A team of young adults dressed in protective clothing at Seville (Bush encroachment control)*

#### Project feasibility (budget, timing and milestones)

The idea of project feasibility started through Participatory Rural Approach workshops, which led to the identification of this type of project, election of the project committee (Chairperson and vice-chairperson, secretary, Vice-secretary and treasurer). The project has its own well-structured constitution and excellent recordkeeping, as well as fundraising ability by selling some of the dry wood for fuel to the locals and imposing fines on disobedient project members.

#### In what way does the project show leadership?

The project has become an area of exposure visits by other local projects, and is taking a lead when it comes to issues of looking after natural resources.

#### The impact of the project's success as to how it can influence public opinion on sustainability

The project has had a great impact on the local communities, by imparting skill for erecting fencing through live demonstrations; most local people are able to buy some other livestock at a much cheaper price for catering when they have funerals and other events.

#### Project innovativeness and potential for further development

The project has recently undergone veld assessment by a pasture scientist, together with some of the livestock owners. Now the division of remaining camps will be done according to the grouping of grass species, and there are plans for converting a certain portion of this project to planted pasture (growing Lucerne). Currently, the project has received bulls and goats and

the focus now is towards having a bull and heifer project inside this project.

#### Risks within the project (financially, human resources, environmentally, socially and economically) if any, and the abatement strategies

Environmental risks: sometimes when harsh weather conditions (drought) prevail, the grazing conditions become bad: the abatement for this is to minimise the risks by constantly selling some of the livestock so that the number that remains will have enough to survive when drought strikes. Another strategy is to report any adverse condition that might affect the stock to the local agricultural offices so that the project can be covered in the risk and disaster management programmes.

#### Funding or the financial status/structure of the project during 2010/11 and 2012

The project was funded by DAFF under LandCare Area Wide Planning Business Plan, of which the funds are for one big catchment area which has various projects within it. The allocation for the 2010/11 LandCare Business Plan was R1 304 000 and for 2011/2012: R1 398 000.

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