



REPORT BACK FROM THE WILDLIFE COMMISSION 27 March 2024

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



CHALLENGES

Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to land • Unsecure property rights in terms of land ownership and resource use rights • Some Communities with sufficient land are unable to participate in the Wildlife Sector of the Economy
Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited availability of finance for wildlife sector • Inadequate investment into wildlife sector • Lack of understanding about the wildlife value chain and operations from investors perspective • Insufficient business support to Private sector / SMME Support – to attract investment
Regulatory and policy review and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not maximising the diversity of Wildlife • Changing circumstances of species not aligned to regulations (e.g CITES decision, climate change) • Policies not aligned with African culture unpinned by principles of Sustainable development. • Unintended consequences in policy making and implementation not considered specifically from a community perspective • Communities not effectively consulted during policy development • Lack of enabling and mainstreamed legislative environment
Market access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of tools to demonstrate sustainability of wildlife products • Campaigns against sustainable use pose a threat to biodiversity economy
Scientific support and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient application of evidence –base research into decision and policy-making
Communication and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of education about Wildlife • Disempowered, demotivated ,disenfranchised and interdependent communities • Lack of Community Champions- No institutional arrangements and governance • Assumption about what Community wants and ambiguity in defining who is a community (rural/urban)
Training and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of training.

SOLUTIONS

Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to address key question of access to land and finance • Proposal to optimise/consolidate all Biodiversity Economy Fora • Guaranteed Property rights in terms of ownership and utilisation of wildlife
Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation required for sustainable financing solution for different landscapes (Green Fund, e.g Sustainable Finance Coalition) • Policy certainty and stability key to attract and secure investments e.g, NEDBANK funding in the pipeline, blended-finance model • Special fund for Wildlife Sector to support rural-based enterprises
Regulatory and policy review and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducive and enabling regulatory environment • Improve multilateral intergovernmental relations • Biodiversity policies should provide incentives - Incentive based systems for communities must be considered • Policy and regulation should be adaptive to changing circumstances • Traditional knowledge should be considered during the development and revision of policies • Self-administration • Meaningful Community participation. • Co-creation
Market access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry should develop standards and certification of game meat and all other products- this will attract investment in the sector and move the sector forward.
Scientific support and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures sustainability through science-based decision making e.g. Non-Detrimental Findings
Communication and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise the various institutional arrangements- propose merging of existing forums- NBES proposal. • Cooperatives resulted in some success, but also has some failures- need to review our strategies. • Ensure benefits of sustainable use of wildlife are greater than the cost of wildlife management. • Target schools and Universities
Training and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills development at community level • Focussed Capacity building. • Include in the Curriculum of schools and Universities.

WAY FORWARD

<p>Land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government must provide an enabling conditions for transformation • Discussion on transformation should be inclusive of all role players • Clear partnerships between protected areas and communities • Resource ownership and management rights • Diversify wildlife enterprises at landscape level utilising a community approach eg game ranches, bioprospecting , skins and hides etc all happening in one community
<p>Financing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop revenue sharing models that incentivize conservation outcomes, such as increasing wildlife populations • Provide flexible financing options, including grants, soft loans, blended finance and equity investment to communities, black entrepreneurs in the wildlife sector with the focus on removing financial barriers and promoting inclusive growth • Financing green sectors, Sustainable Finance Solution to attract more funding to the sector. • The White paper , NBES are going to the impetus of investing in the sector .if well implemented
<p>Regulatory and policy review and implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful participation of Community in the development and review of policies – strategic approach required (Inclusive consultation, language barriers etc.) • Ensure that traditional leaders, women and youth are included in consultation during development • Consideration of impacts of policies to communities - intended and unintended consequences • Transformation policies to be inclusive, acceptable and appropriate to African cultural believes • Strengthening cooperation with other international role-players , i.e as a collective, addressing issues relating to trophy hunting • Introduce performance-based incentives that reward communities for achieving conservation targets, such as maintaining or increasing numbers and habitat quality. • Self-administration- partner with recognized organization to ensure effective regulatory framework and make the biodiversity economy flow • Need for enabling regulatory environment driven by governments and good industry standards and certification schemes to assure investors and customers that the product is sustainable, properly sourced – e.g.fairwild

WAY FORWARD

Market access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve collaboration within the value chain • Establishment of private biodiversity economy clusters projects • Learn from existing business model • Clear partnerships between protected areas and communities • Establish market linkages and distribution networks for community-produced wildlife products, including online platforms • Support the development of branding and marketing strategies to promote the uniqueness and authenticity of locally sourced wildlife products; and create a niche market for new entrants.
Scientific support and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track the effectiveness and impact of the program to ecology, social and economic impact. • Understanding community and their traditional or indigenous knowledge
Communication and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support that foster knowledge exchange networks, facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt amongst emerging farmers, including establishing wildlife extension services to provide ongoing technical assistance and advice to communities on wildlife management practices. • Need to ensure that as a collective, we maximise the benefits and minimize costs for living with wildlife eg Human Wildlife Conflict-compensation for the loss
Training and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training in community governance, leadership and decision-making process to empower communities to manage their resources effectively and democratically including specialised training programs tailored to the needs of different community groups including women and youth.

PROGRAMME OF ACTION BY CD:BESU

Collective action for
thriving nature and people



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Action Description	Expected Outcome	Link to NBES Goals/Actions	Time frame	Responsibility
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

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