

Record of the Landscape Initiatives Knowledge Exchange held

from the 23rd to the 25th of November 2009

at the Grail Centre, Kleinmond

1. Attendance - LIKE 2009 was attended by 24 participants listed below:

Susan Botha	Gouritz Initiative
Anita Wheeler	Gouritz Initiative
Steve du Toit	Garden Route Initiative
Pam Booth	Garden Route Initiative
Johan Burger	GCBC
Jenifer Gouza	GCBC
Rhett Smart	Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve
Thabiso Mosia	Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve
Lesley Richardson	Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative
Tertius Carinus	Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative
Tracey Steyn	Baviaanskloof Mega-Reserve
Kelcy le Keur	Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve
Quinton Balie	Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve
Martin Albertus	Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve
Chantal Minnaar	Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve
Alison Derhrmann	Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve
Ruida Stanvliet	Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve
Garth Mortimer	Upper Breede Collaborative Extension Group
Rudolph Roscher	Upper Breede Collaborative Extension Group
Azisa Parker	SANBI
Caroline Petersen	SANBI
Monique Damons	SANBI
Joan Berning	Garden Route Initiative
Michelle Baatjies	Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve

2. **Theme and aims of the event:** The theme of this year's LIKE was *Moving towards sustainability*. The event aimed to support landscape initiatives (LIs) to sustain and build on their achievements, promote knowledge sharing to support strategic decision-making and develop the capacity of participants to effectively take forward their work.
3. **Participant expectations:** Some of the expectations of the participants included:
- Developing a thorough understanding of what a landscape initiative (LI) is

- Learning how to effectively access funding
- Developing an understanding of the biosphere reserve application process by learning lessons from initiatives that have already been through it
- Understanding the limitations of LIs
- Learning how to fundraise for the appointment of a LI coordinator
- Learning about the best way to approach landowners
- Learning about what conservation agencies in the landscape can do for landowners
- Learning about how landowners can contribute towards the sustainability of LIs
- Understanding the scope of LIs? Does this include the economic, social and broader environmental aspects?
- Learning about how we achieve the highest impact for Protected Area Expansion
- Learning about how LIs can be sold to landowners and farmers
- Learning about how Landscape Initiatives can be made accessible to landowners and farmers
- Learning about how to sustain support provided to landowners
- Learning about how to access government scheme regulations and other government initiatives (national and provincial)
- Learning about effectively communicating the conservation message to stakeholders

4. **Overview of the Initiatives:** Each LI (see meeting agenda for list of LIs) provided an overview of their work and achievements and specifically provided insight into the following:

Scope: Indicated the scope of work of their LI

Coordination: Indicated what coordination structure (and sub-structures) they currently have; who is represented on these; what objectives these have; and what plans have been made for changes in coordination structures

Posts: Indicated which positions currently exist in the LI and with what funding; who is responsible for pulling coordination structure meetings together and overseeing work arising from meetings; and what future commitments have been made to funding posts.

Projects and programmes: Indicated what work they are currently undertaking in partnership through the coordination structures and sub-structures; what future work they will be undertaking that they have funding committed too; and what fundraising they have done around other identified priorities.

Outcome: The LIs are all at different stages of development and are utilizing different institutional structures and arrangements through which to undertake their work. Certain initiatives such as the Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve are still being established. Established LIs such as the Greater Cederberg Biodiversity Corridor (GCBC) and Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI) are at a transition between the end of core donor funding and embedding within the lead institutional agency and/or accessing further donor funding. They are also reviewing their institutional structures/arrangements to ensure effective implementation during the next phases. Other established LIs such as the Garden Route Initiative (GRI)

and Gouritz Initiative (GI) are at a transition between the end of core donor funding and/or changing their institutional structure/arrangements entirely, possible to become Biosphere Reserves. Others are not undergoing any dramatic transitions related to funding or institutional structures/arrangements e.g. Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve (CWCBR), Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve and Upper Breede Collaborative Extension Group (UBCEG).

5. Institutional arrangements: A presentation was heard and discussions were held on the different institutional arrangements/models/structures utilized within LIs.

Outcome: It was evident that mainly two institutional models (see meeting agenda for list of models) are utilized within LIs, namely biosphere reserves and steering committees run by a conservation agency.

The discussion touched on the following points:

- How much to engage with stakeholders before the establishment of a biosphere reserve – this is dependent on context within which an LI is working.
- What kind of protected areas can be included within biosphere reserves - besides statutory conservation areas, contract nature reserves, biodiversity agreements (long - term legal status) and protected environments can also be included under UNESCO guidelines/requirements. Ecologically sensitive areas many times do occur in the buffer zone.
- How broad should the scope of the LI be? – examples include climate/carbon or environmental-economic. LIs should address brown as well as green issues.
- Stakeholders need to find their niches and need to decide where their contributions will be best placed. LIs also need to tap into their stakeholders' processes e.g. municipal processes.
- What is the role of partners? How do you maximize the use of partners and their mandates - decision-makers and strategic people need to be targeted and need to be sure about what and where they would like to contribute. Specific stakeholders need to be targeted based on what the LI needs and the relevant authority also needs to be consulted regarding who they think their representative should be.

6. Aspects of financial sustainability: Inputs were made and discussion held on the different ways to access funding and sustain it.

Outcome: It was clear that there are a number of ways to access and sustain funding (see meeting agenda) and that there are advantages and disadvantages to the different funding mechanisms .The discussion touched on the following points:

- Coordination posts in LIs - there are benefits and liabilities of having a conservation agency post or a Section 21 company post. Every LI needs a coordinator/champion. Funding for coordinators for LIs is important as coordinators are critical in keeping LIs going. Coordinators do, however, need to be employed through formal and legal structures e.g. Section 21 company and on a full-time basis. These positions also need to be sustained as coordinators need to be in place in the long term to be effective. LIs need to look at joint approaches to accessing funding across all initiatives/biospheres. It was decided at the workshop that LIs will

jointly apply for funding to lotteries to establish and sustain coordination posts. This process will be coordinated by the CCU and/or WESSA.

- Membership fees – This model is being undertaken by CWCBR but is still under development.
- Corporate donors - There is a need to start thinking out of the box and look at core corporate social investment programmes – even if they are not funding environmental projects – and package projects in such a way that they fit in with CSI funding streams. There is a need to look at local funding not just international opportunities.
- There is a need to make a social and economic case for environmental projects in South Africa as at the moment biodiversity/environment is not high on government's agenda.
- When approaching donors, LIs can strengthen their position by going in with funding from other organizations (co-financing). Funders want sound projects but sustainability is a critical element. Funders are hesitant to fund entire project budgets.
- It is evident from the workshop that lesson sharing between LIs is important. LIs will thus identify opportunities to share lessons. LIs will communicate using a web-based format, hold knowledge exchanges as well as meetings at existing fora, for example, Fynbos Forum.

7. Way forward for LIs: LIs were requested to identify the next steps with regard to their initiatives. Feedback was as follows:

- GRI: Hold lesson and knowledge sharing visits with established biosphere reserves; get municipal drivers in Garden Route on board; identify, develop and implement key projects.
- GCBC – Focus on practical steps to ensure sustainability – get partners more involved and coordinate efforts on ground. Look at the coordination of corridors within CapeNature on an institutional level. Mobilise financial and human resources. Use partners' resources, not just core CapeNature budget.
- UBCEG – Assess position in Winelands Biosphere. Look at how to get communities involved using existing structures in biosphere portfolios e.g. getting Tulbagh Water Users Association involved in alien clearing in Tulbagh.
- Winelands Biosphere Reserve- Appoint a coordinator.
- ABI – Undertake interim phase lead by Flower Valley. Go ahead with planning of second phase. Focus on communications portfolio - key for stakeholder engagement in ABI 2.
- Baviaanskloof - Develop stronger relationships with NGOs in the area so that they can take on activities not suited to ECParks e.g. Need NGOs address illegal activities in area - not the role of ECParks who is looking to gain cooperation from Baviaanskloof stakeholders.
- GI- enhance present activities and continue process to establish a Biosphere Reserve.
- Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve Company and Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve – Look at different ways of obtaining funding. It is important to do donor research and maintain relationships with funders.

8. Marketing, Fundraising and the Donor World

A session was held by Gillian Mitchell from Inyathelo: the South African Institute for Advancement. It looked at the key principles that organizations need to consider when thinking about raising funds, attracting investment and writing proposals. Gillian's presentation is available on the LIKE web page.

9. Evaluation and way forward

Overall the LIKE was well received. It is being proposed that the next LIKE be held in the third or fourth quarter of 2010, with a possible venue being the Vrolikheid Nature Reserve near McGregor/Robertson. It was suggested that the workshop have an economic theme, potentially including agricultural economics, environmental resource economics and making the economic case for biodiversity conservation/natural resource management.

The two key actions arising from the LIKE 2009 are:

- **LIS will jointly apply for funding to lotteries to establish and sustain coordination posts. This process will be coordinated by the CCU and/or WESSA.**
- **LIs will identify opportunities to share lessons. They will communicate using a web-based format, hold knowledge exchanges as well as meetings at existing fora, for example, Fynbos Forum.**