

A sunset over a field with silhouettes of hills and trees. The sky is a mix of orange, red, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The foreground is a dark field with a fence line visible.

ELIM COMMUNITY FOUNDING MEMBER OF:
Nuwejaars Wetland Special Management Area

Working together for our future
communities, Agriculture and conservation

C.A.P.E. Partners' Conference
Wednesday 23 June 2011
ELSENBURG

Presented by PAUL SWART

Chairperson – Elim
Opsieners Council

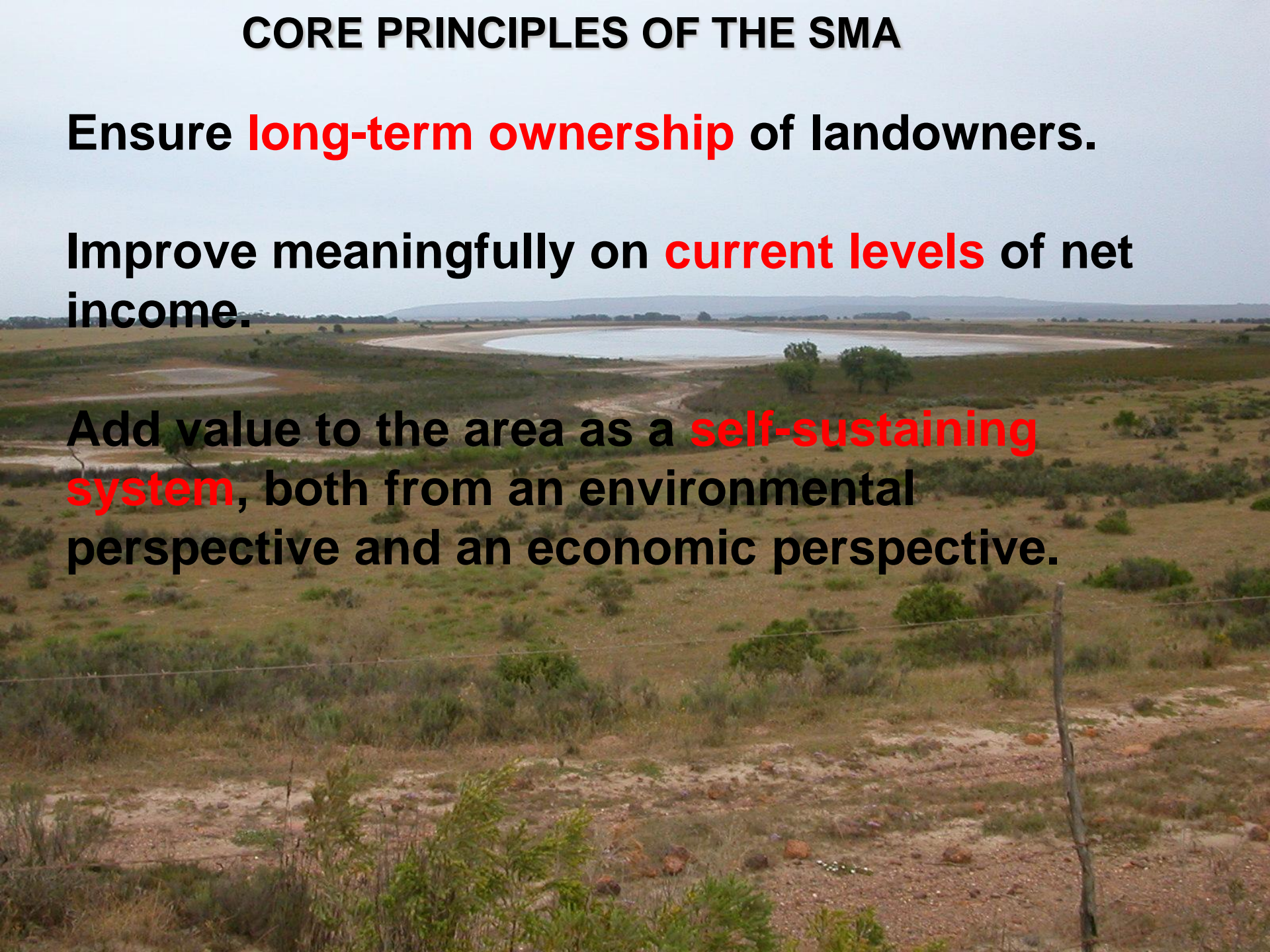
- Land owner: Moravian Church of South Africa
- Property description: 6 farms – Approximately 7000ha
- Community Information:
- community members: 2500 – 3000
- Primary school kids: 250 & approximately 30 high school students
- strong German missionary influence – Moravian Church; strong traditional Christian principals and values; rich cultural history
- Elim Opsieners Raad provide basic municipal services to community
- Consevation Input on behalve of emerging farmers in Elim

CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE SMA

Ensure **long-term ownership** of landowners.

Improve meaningfully on **current levels** of net income.

Add value to the area as a **self-sustaining system**, both from an environmental perspective and an economic perspective.



ELIM and our own challenges
in conservation as a community within the SMA from
emerging farmers perspective





Protea pudens (Endangered)

RED DATA Proteaceae



Leucospermum heterophyllum
(Endangered)



Leucadendron elimense
(Endangered)

Paranomus abrotanifolius (Vulnerable)



Dry Lands



Managing of Flower Industry = a area where we had our latest fynbos burning – a area that was in the past used by our emerging farmers as grazing field after the burning season. We don't allow any form of cattle grazing in that area anymore and we are in a position know of better planning over our fynbos area for future income.



Alliens as a nightmare in Elim taking over our fynbos land – the future income of our station for survival – we are financially not capable to do anything about this thread.





Elim as an important asset for our tourist bussiness in the whole of the Overberg – It is a real and big challenge in a community like Elim to develop but also to conserve – Lack of education



Sustainable harvesting



LEADERS RESPONSIBILITY

- OUR humble plea to all delegates today who are active involve in conservation throughout our country and the world is the following:
- 1.Keep the message of conservation as simple as possible so that it can be understood and owned by the most vulnerable person in our communities
- 2.We must admit and acknowledge that the word and deed of CONSERVATION is NOT high up as a priority under our previous disadvantage communities – most of our communities struggle to survive economically
- 3.Our national and provincial coverments, our experts, our conservation volunteers – The question put to you today. Are we doing enough to reach those communities through any form of education or programs – it is crucial to win

- One outstanding example of people rolling up their sleeves to do something is that: weeks ago volunteers with their surfboards went out surfing on the polluted rivers in cape town to make a statement but also to bring a possitive message of CONSERVATION to those poor communities and we've heard what youngsters had to say at the end of that day.= Ideas without action are useless = We need to develop a action plan that will take the IDEA off the drawing board and into those communities lives and homes
- 5.If we want to save our country, our communities and let south Africans over the spectrum get involve in reaching your dreams of conservation we have to deliver the simple message through EDUCATION to the communities who don't live conservation as first PRIORITY.
- 6.Start by the beginning = invest in education – we as a nation will have to PLAN together for our future because we all have to live there.Discipline means to teach and mould and not to punish and scold.

Our DREAMS as SMA member

- Eco-tourism
- Small business development
- Job creation: charcoal business from alien clearing; wetland rehab; game fence erect
- Nursery providing seedlings for rehabilitation
- Part of group of land owners conserving their land for their descendants

Thank you

