



## Sustainable Community Development

27 01 2021

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### **Report back to the Oppenheimer Generations Fund and BRO Trust**

Support for SCD/Waaiport Farm Educational Programmes

Donation: R 500 000

Date Received: September 2020

Section 18A receipt sent 23rd September 2020

#### **Preamble**

Sustainable Community Development (SCD) has developed a model for regeneration and conservation of vulnerable and or damaged landscapes in the Eastern Free State at Waaiport Farm.

We've had a long association with Bjørn Heyerdahl and his global regenerative climate park programs (<https://integralclimatechangesolutions.com/climate-parks/>). He is now a full time resident at Waaiport Farm. We have thus extended Waaiport Farm's mandate to include all the elements of a climate park as part of our global outreach.

#### **Context**

The Free State Climate Park at Waaiport is 121 hectares in extent, with a tributary of the Meulspruit river system beginning its terrestrial journey from a spring in the valley at an elevation of 1810 a.s.l. The high altitude (duplex) soils and grasslands of this mountain catchment area and the daily as well as annual temperature gradients provide a challenging and diverse model for regeneration, important regionally and globally.

Of the 121 hectares mountain grassland, (mixed sweet and sour grassveld with small bushes) and water catchment area, ± 50% is dedicated conservation area, not intruded into by any agricultural enterprise.

Our resident herd of magnificent Nguni Cattle provide the large herbivore component of the grassland regeneration model along with migrant mountain antelope of various shapes and sizes. The herd is managed with the holistic, regenerative principles of Holistic Management International and provides a critical case study in cattle farming, erosion rehabilitation, soil regeneration, biodiversity and polyculture management, as well as making a substantial contribution to the economic viability of the agricultural model at Waaiport.

The cattle and horses are herded and managed in grazing patterns that stimulate grassland restoration, aeration of soils and fertility. Pigs, sheep, goats and poultry follow the movement of the cattle through the landscape, which is in the next planned phase of the development on Waaiport. The poultry are removing fly larvae from the cattle

P O Box 11 / Rosendal, 9720 / Free State / South Africa / T +27 (0)72 631 5409

E [admin@scdpermaculture.org.za](mailto:admin@scdpermaculture.org.za) / [www.scdpermaculture.org.za](http://www.scdpermaculture.org.za)

Sustainable Community Development is an Association incorporated under Section 21, with registration no: 2002/000195/08;

a non-profit organisation with registration no: 222-794 NPO; and a Public Benefit Organisation with registration no: PBO NO 930064107

Directors: L. Mdiya, A. Mulla, M. Schiess

manure as a rich food source, while managing fly populations and related diseases without chemical spraying. The pigs root deep into the soils as biological ploughs in preparation for vegetable crops and add to fertility. The goats and sheep complete the various forms of cropping and grazing, pruning and fertilising to regenerate the entire landscape. Rotational intercropping and companion planting as well as food forests are part of the strategy for bringing symbiotic life and biodiversity to the Climate Park. Twelve planned large scale tunnel systems (300 meters square each) as well as three geodesic domes will extend the planting and food production season way beyond what the climate and altitude might suggest.

This model is important in demonstrating the enhanced carrying capacity of the landscape, otherwise considered less than ideal for mixed agriculture.

The careful and frugal water management of the agricultural irrigation requirements add to the value of this model.

Regenerative enterprises in concert produce resilient and profitable yields in free range ethical animal husbandry, aquaculture, vegetable and staple crops.

### **Education, Training and Development Opportunities**

The Waaipoort model serves not only the Climate Park itself, but also the adjacent communities and virtual communities of interested persons that follow the educational workshops and webinars around the globe.

Virtual visitors and local community members visit the site to experience the beauty and practical efficiency of the regenerative processes, river and water management systems, which they can in turn replicate on their communal land, in their homes and business enterprises, municipalities, academic campuses and so on.

Our education programmes provide theoretical and practical learning experiences in the following competencies:

- Leadership in Regeneration
- Community Engagement
- Ethical foundations in the Earth Charter
- Understanding the pedosphere and the lithosphere
- Understanding the Hydrosphere
- Understanding the Biosphere
- Understanding the Ethnosphere
- Plants - the importance of annuals and perennials
- Animals - animal systems and animal husbandry
  - Cattle herds, wild herbivore herds
  - Poultry, Pigs and other role players in integral animal husbandry
- Regenerating Soils - biochemical sequence in achieving lasting soil fertility
- Effective Microorganisms
- Human settlements and community dynamics
  - appropriate shelter,
  - building methods,
  - water management,
  - biological waste treatments systems, mimicking nature, recycling various waste streams,
  - living and working systems of cooperation,
  - renewable energy systems
- Regenerative principles for personal growth
- Economics of regeneration

- Entrepreneurial skills
  - Starting your own regenerative enterprise
  - Inter-personal skills and
  - Sales cycles

Delegates are given the perspective and tools to really make a difference in the world with their vocational calling. They gain a systems perspective and a contextual view that enables a leadership role in their communities and personal lives.

Specifically for the the Oppenheimer Generations' funds the following deliveries and outcomes were achieved:

	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Impact / reach / outcomes</b>	<b>Balance</b>
					R 500 000
<b>1</b>	R 40 300	Leadership training for change makers	3-day program, including transport accommodation, catering and facilitation fees	7 young professionals: 2 participants from Mautse, rural Free State, adjacent to Waaipoort Climate Park as centres of influence for regeneration and conserving efforts for this region. Mafusi Molefi from Lesotho , part of the Earth Charter mentorship program, now resident @ Waaipoort, facilitating Community engagement in Mautse and integration of regeneration and conservation Junior into school curriculum (see education/ethics documentary). 4 participants as centres of influence as inner city and urban community engagement.	R 459 700
<b>2</b>	R 21 068	Whole systems design course with international teachers in East London	2-week hands-on onsite program	2 people: This has been postponed to happen in June due to Covid restriction. The beneficiaries are Meisha Mulla, a resident general agriculture practitioner and facilitator on Waaipoort as well as Mafusi Molefi.	R 438 632
<b>3</b>	R 32 626	Training and mentorship program in Education for Sustainability through the Earth Charter Institute	School environmental program and food gardens for Mautse Primary School	Mafusi Molefi - training 22 teaching staff of Mautse Primary and 1000 learners at the school (see documentary)	R 406 006

	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Impact / reach / outcomes</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>4</b>	R 70 620	Low-stress animal handling and food security training program at Waaipoort Farm.	Including animal handling infrastructure development and demonstration equipment	Mautse Cattle Owners Association and Mautse community	R 335 386
<b>5</b>	R 56 968	Northwest outreach program leadership training in Johannesburg	3-day program, including transport accommodation, catering and facilitation fees	Seven community leaders from Rietvaly, a forgotten community around a discontinued slate quarry. These community leaders are actively engaged in regenerating the local economy through sustainable practices and the education was supportive of these intention and linked to local creche with it's own food security program catering for 54 pre-primary school children (refer to below)	R 278 418
<b>6</b>	R 103 740	Northwest outreach program - whole systems design training & coaching. Two training workshops with 8 leaders over 10 days	Development of a holistic design for a crèche and community in Rietvaly (outside Groot Marico) including food gardens	The community of 350 households	R 174 678
<b>7</b>	R 37 000	Professional documentary capture of the above work in educational format as feedback, record, education and community education purposes.	Production costs associated two documentaries, see YouTube links of the documentaries below this table	Donor feed back; global and local community engagement, engagement of academia (University of Pretoria and Bloemfontein). Serving as an interactive teaching tool in explaining Regenerative Agriculture and Earth Charter ethics based education.	R 137 678
<b>8</b>	R 4 400	Equity ownership training program	Over 3 days	Modelling of community economic systems and processes for entrepreneurial development in socially and environmentally responsible practices.	R 133 278

	Expenditure	Allocation	Notes	Impact / reach / outcomes	Balance
<b>9</b>	R 112 923	Regenerative and no-till infrastructure development, including appropriate tools and equipment	Appropriate tools and equipment to obviate the generally held perception that tractors and other heavy land working equipment are necessary for economically viable enterprises. This also includes tree poppers for invasive tree removal;	the local, rural farming community and global outreach through our hands-on and online training programs	R 20 355
<b>10</b>	R 20 355	Staff and admin costs			R 0

Please view the two documentaries referred to in Point 7 in the table above to gain a clearer understanding of our teaching methodologies and beneficiary programs:

[Regenerative agriculture, one little calf at a time](#)

[Earth Charter education towards a regenerative future](#)

We would like to specifically feedback on three areas, you had questions about in September, and I quote the questions from Duncan MacFadyen's emails:

"Thomas, remind me how much of the property is currently natural (not disturbed)? How much will you keep natural ultimately?"

Waaipoort has a dedicated natural area of just above 60HA, so around 50%. This is indicated as Zone 5 and 4 on the attached Zonal Map. A lot of the rest is Zone 3, which is natural grazing land. Some of that is disturbed area, either through past bad agricultural practices or natural erosion. We are actively rehabilitating those areas. All natural water courses and their riparian area are conservation areas that are kept or rehabilitated where it has been disturbed.

We have not as yet made a plan for Aletta Farm, but a quick look at the map shows at least 145 HA as (Zone 5) conservation area, 55 HA as agroecology land and the rest natural grazing lands."

We have continued to fence off conservation areas from our grazing paddocks, currently with electric fencing, until funding permits more permanent fencing.

"How are you planning on incorporating the community? How and to whom will you sell produce?"

Our primary focus is the local community, with an estimated population of 13,000. This is both in our education program as well as the market for our produce. We are constantly in the process of building up a bioregional economy, reducing the drastic transport footprint that the acquiring of food currently has in our town.

With the assistance of your donation, we have made great strides in our community engagement effort, both in Rosendal/Mautse as well as near Groot Marico in the North-West:

- 1) We have recruited and trained a dedicated, Sesotho speaking professional to assist with all our local work, particularly in our schools and food security program.
- 2) We have brought a food security and low-stress animal handling workshop to residents and members of the cattle owners association.
- 3) We have had two training workshops and leadership program with members of the community of Rietvaly, North West. They have developed a whole systems design around their crèche as well as a design for their new crèche buildings as they are currently functioning in a tin shack building.
- 4) We have conducted a leadership immersion with young entrepreneurs from Rosendal and Johannesburg over 3 intensive days in and around Gauteng.

Further work is active involvement in the local Green Rosendal initiative, which specifically plants indigenous trees to line the streets of Rosendal and Mautse. Trees were donated by Grow Wild Indigenous Nursery in Kyalami. Green Rosendal has also initiated a household food security program in Mautse.

“Can you investigate local indigenous food plants? Has anyone looked into what grows naturally in the area, or further afield?”

Yes, we do that already. “Food from the Veld“ is one of our ‘bibles’. We have a lot of different ‘marogo’ plants that we and our neighbours harvest. As an immediate ‘cash’ crop we are investigating the commercial growing of pelargonium sidoides, which is endemic to our area, growing naturally in our mountain. This is certainly a field close to our hearts.

In the past we have engaged with herbalists in the area, who have come to harvest plant materials on the farm. Rosendal’s head of the cattle theft unit, Sgt Jacob Mallane is a herbalist himself and has expressed the wish to establish a show garden of medicinal plants for people to learn, impressing also the importance of harvesting limited amounts of plants to preserve sustainable supplies.

One of our early garden course participants and wife of a colleague, MaLeonkwe Mohlakoana is a doctor in the local herbalist tradition. In 2021 we plan to work together with these individuals to achieve sustainable harvesting and sharing of indigenous plant knowledge.

With other members of the community we have identified additional herbs that grow prolifically on the farm and have a potential commercial value (apart from the Pelargonium), which are Artemisia affra (wormwood) and Lessertia frutescens (cancer bush). Of course the invading rosehip has great medicinal value and is being harvested in the mountains around us.

## **Feed back presentation**

We would like to take you up on your invitation when we're next in Johannesburg to give you feedback at your offices with a pictorial report and be available for a more in-depth question and answer opportunity.

This will also let us receive your feedback and will help us refine any future programs that you might consider funding to allow us to fully support the mission and vision of the Oppenheimer Generations Foundation.

In terms of Oppenheimer Generations Foundation's vision and mission:

"The Oppenheimer Generations Foundation is focused on generating positive impact by unlocking catalytic grants in underfunded areas.

The Research & Conservation team support groundbreaking research and conservation efforts, through dedicated centres, strategic partnerships and the annual Oppenheimer conference."

We envisage a possible collaboration in the Eastern Free State with the acquisition of neighbouring lands and farms to expand the models' scale and influence and to conserve more of this critical mountain grassland biodiversity as wildlife corridors of this conservation across the mountain areas.

These farms and ecologically important areas would be placed in the land trust to ensure the balance between regeneration through holistic management and conservation of grasslands and their water sheds in perpetuity.

We are looking forward to an indication of a date suitable to you and remain with gratitude,

Thomas Linders

for Sustainable Community Development and the Waaipoort Farm Climate Park