

Case 6: E S W A T I N I (Swaziland)

Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project – GEF (LUSIP-GEF)

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The LUSIP-GEF project was started to promote sustainable land management practices – restoring resilient, integrated agro-ecosystems in currently highly degraded Lowveld at Siphofaneni, which was suffering the adverse effects of climate change, loss of agroecosystem and biodiversity functions, invasion of alien plant species and dramatic decline in agricultural production. The project focused mainly on the area close to LUSIP, which was remain rainfed and potentially at risk of exacerbated degradation due to the consequences of the LUSIP. It targeted all the households that were not benefiting from the LUSIP water canal which caters for sugarcane growing households.

Implementing Organization	Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise Limited (SWADE) Add : P.O. Box 5836, Mbabane, Swaziland, Dlanubeka Building 4th Floor Email : swade@swade.co.sz WEB URL : http://209.88.21.83/web/forestry
Funding Source	Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Implementing Period	---
Project site	Siphofaneni area, Lubombo Region, eSwatini (Swaziland)

Key Words: Sustainable land management, participatory, livelihoods, biodiversity,



Eroded area identified:
Community identifies an eroded site within their grazing land and request for assistance from SWADE



Community meeting:
A community meeting to mobilize the community members to participate in the donga rehabilitation activities.

Background of the Project

The LUSIP-GEF project was initiated to ensure that all local people's livelihoods benefited from the improved stewardship of the natural resource base, recognizing that the future of both subsistence and commercial agriculture is intrinsically linked to improving the range of environmental services they support. Participatory community-based resource assessment, land use planning and SLM activities were implemented, building on traditional knowledge and introducing new techniques to enable land users to rebuild the local agroecosystem. The project activities will be replicated in selected land degradation "hotspots" across the country, delivering local benefits to poor, vulnerable land uses and also global environmental benefits.

Goal and Objectives of the Project

Goal: Reduce land degradation, biodiversity loss and mitigate climate change through the application of sustainable land management practices which will contribute to adaptation to climate change.

Objective 1: Promote development of a cross-sectoral approach to SLM at the national level;

Objective 2: Reduce land degradation, biodiversity loss and mitigate climate change in the Lower Usuthu River Basin area;

Objective 3: Improve the livelihood opportunities, resilience and food security of rural communities (men, women and children).

Challenges and limitations of good practice implementation

One of the challenges faced by the communities involved in the implementation of the project is loss of cattle due to drought. Another challenge that limits the conducting of this good practice is low adoption/ uptake by community members.

Major Activities

- ✓ Preparation of Chiefdom Development Plans
- ✓ Rehabilitating degraded areas
- ✓ Tree nursery construction
- ✓ Construction and promotion of wood saving stoves
- ✓ Promotion of Agroforestry
- ✓ Control of Invasive Alien Plant Species

Direct Outputs from the Project

- ✓ 5 community nurseries constructed and fully functioning
- ✓ 3 dongas rehabilitated at Sithobela
- ✓ 45 hectares of pasture cleared of Invasive Alien Plant Species
- ✓ Rocket stoves distributed to 50 households
- ✓ Wood saving stoves constructed at Ndzevane Primary school

Indirect Impact of the Project

- ✓ Improved yield of crops grown within the eroded area
- ✓ High forage harvested to make hay
- ✓ Reduced erosion
- ✓ Improved pastures
- ✓ Reduced reliance on indigenous forests for firewood.

Intervention of Central/Local Government

- ✓ Various Government Ministries came together to form a Steering Committee that guided the implementation of the project.
- ✓ Government Ministries seconded staff to provide technical expertise during the implementation of activities.

Way Forward

One of the measures to reduce the challenge of loss of livestock in winter is harvesting of fodder during summer to feed in winter. Another measure to counter the low uptake of the technology amongst community members is the continuous awareness creation and training offered by the technical team from the collaborating Ministries.

Reference Documents/Materials

- ✓ LUSIP-GEF APPRAISAL REPORT 20-11-08
- ✓ LUSIP-GEF PROJECT EVALUATION-FINAL SUBMIT_ January 29

Resource Persons

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Healing a donga:

Community members participating in the construction of gabions to reduce speed of runoff flowing down the donga at Sihlangwini under Siphofaneni

