



Livelihood Strategies & Community Development Projects

- In Motseng and Moiketsi, Eastern Cape Province

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Abstract

Within the last two decades community development projects have been a popular tool aimed at reducing poverty in the rural settings of South Africa. Many such initiatives are implemented, based on the common understanding that community-based development helps poor rural communities in their striving towards integration in the national economy. The research objective of the present report is to identify the extent to which three specific community development projects affect the livelihood strategies of villagers in a community in the Eastern Cape Province. With the use of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework some of the main villagers' livelihood assets are determined, these being education level, financial security, infrastructure and food security. Comparing the assets of project-participants with non-participants show that the participants are the most vulnerable. However, the community development projects have a general impact on the participants' livelihoods creating options for the villagers to improve their livelihood strategies.

Key words: Community development project, sustainable development, rural livelihood strategy, Sustainable Livelihood Framework, South Africa, Eastern Cape Province, poverty reduction, vulnerability

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1. Introduction

1.1 Livelihood Strategies and Community Development

Poverty is widespread in the rural areas of South Africa; significantly the former homelands suffer from the historical development based on discrimination and neglect during the Apartheid system (Aliber 2003). The initiatives to improve livelihoods of the rural population in post Apartheid-South Africa have been many, but the effect varies. Because of this South Africa is today characterized by a prevalent inequality (Aliber 2003; Lester et al. 2000). The sustainable livelihood approach presented by DFID (1999) is a feasible theoretical instrument to understand the livelihoods of the rural population. The framework presents the main assets influencing the villagers' livelihoods. No single asset is sufficient for rural households to develop sustainable livelihood strategies; livelihood strategies will most likely depend on an interrelation between assets from the five capitals: natural, financial, physical, human and social. Altogether, access to these assets determines the vulnerability of the individual household to shocks, trends and seasonality (DFID 1999).

The extent and nature of poverty in the rural communities has led to the implementation of a range of development programmes and projects aimed at improving rural livelihoods; thus many of the projects have been implemented with the argument that future economic, social, and environmental development in the rural communities is best secured by improving rural economy, which is continuously marked by high levels of unemployment (May 1999). In spite of many efforts to reduce poverty made by national as well as international actors it is not all types of community development projects that create the desired contributions to rural economy.

The latest trends within development theory point to the fact that development should be achieved through a community-based approach, as the former centrally driven top-down approach has been proved insufficient (Birch-Thomsen & Hill 2005). Critics state that the large-scale, often government-initiated development programmes and projects are ineffective and even cause disempowerment and other negative social impacts on rural communities. Decisions and resources of community-based development projects ought to be managed at a local level and the local communities and institutions should play a central role in all aspects of community development (Mansuri & Rao 2004). Thus, development projects based on this approach emphasize local ownership and participation founded in local knowledge and competences (Ainslie 1999; Mansuri & Rao 2004).

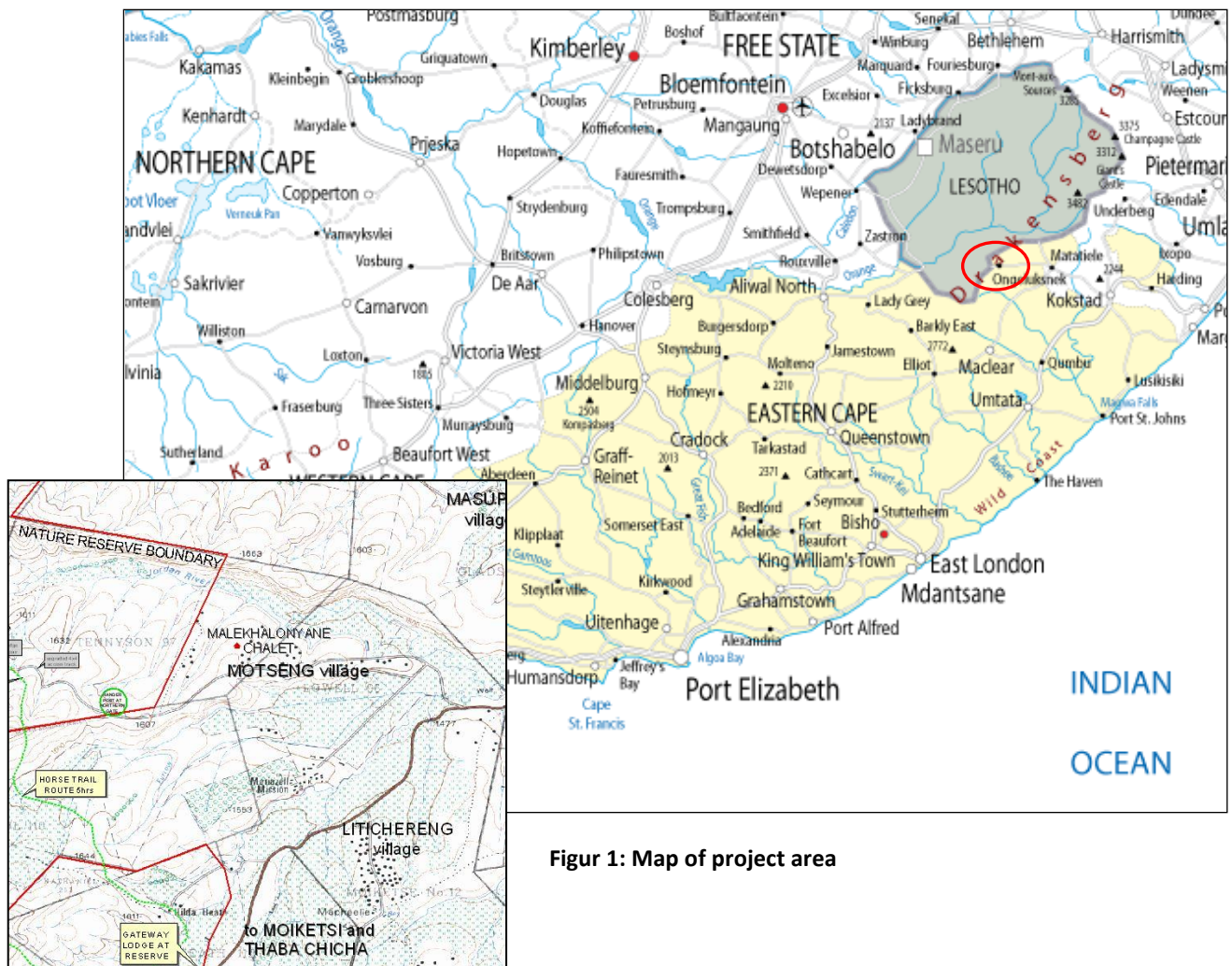


Figure 1: Map of project area

1.2 Local context

Our specific study area makes up three small villages: Moteseng, Litichereng and Thaba Chicha – the latter villages are commonly referred to as Moiketsi. The villages are located in Matatiele Municipality in the region of Eastern Cape - close to the border of Lesotho (figure 1). Matatiele is the nearest town to the community and can be reached through a 45 kilometres dirt road. As a consequence of the former Apartheid system the villages are situated in marginalized area with limited infrastructure, educational institutions and job opportunities.

The villages are located at the foothills of Natal Drakensberg Range. Grassland and scattered maize fields make up the characteristic use of land. The Mission – a Catholic school and church situated in Litichereng - works as a rallying point of the villages and the many activities based here are one of the elements connecting the separate villages to each other. The village chief is the manager of the three villages and a headman is in charge in the individual villages. Together the three villages form a community; however, the spatial division in three villages forms sub-communities within the community.

Present report focuses on the interrelation between community development projects and livelihood strategies on a local level. Furthermore the financial, social and environmental sustainability of the existing community development projects will be analyzed.

1.3 Identification of projects

The initial research in the field had the aim of identifying three projects for further study. The approach was characterized by explorative interviews and talks with villagers and key informants who were asked to identify all projects that exist in the community. This established the basis for our selection of projects.

Table 1: List of projects in the community. The last three projects are chosen for in depth studies			
Project	Objective	Initiation	Funding
Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve	Nature reserve established in 1976 in order to protect and preserve plant- and bird life in the area near the community.	Managed by Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency	External governmental funding
Working on Fire	To eradicate trees and bushes along the border of the Nature Reserve to protect the area in case of fire.	Primarily by Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve	External funding
Working for Water	A project where local people are hired to eradicate the invasive tree species wattle in the area.	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	External governmental funding
World Vision	An international Christian NGO providing support and funding for the community.	Varies between projects supported	External private funding
Sappi	Company that produces pulp and paper from tree plantations in the area.	Private company	External funding
Youth Project	Club established last year by young people from the community with the objective to create jobs and develop projects for the youngsters to participate in.	Community	No funding
Motseng Club - 'Stokvel'	Stokvel with the aim to ensure food security and establish micro finance facilities in the village.	The project is community-based by Motseng villagers.	Internal funding
Mehloding Adventure	Nature tourism: Trail	Cooperation between local	External

Trail (Mehlodong)	through the Drakensberg Mountains. Aims to reduce poverty and increase environmental awareness.	community and key stakeholders including the local NGO, 'Environment and Development Agency' and a private consultancy firm, 'Environmental and Rural Solutions'.	governmental funding
Lesedi Multi Project (Lesedi)	Breeds chicken and cultivates a vegetable garden. Purpose of selling the chicken and vegetables.	The project is community-based. Started with 18 women from Lichitereng.	External and internal funding

The choice of the following three projects, Motseng Club, Mehlodong Adventure Trail (Mehlodong) and Lesedi Multi Project (Lesedi), was made as the projects include a combination of various aspects. We had a pre-understanding of a community development project to actively incorporate the community in the design and management of the project, thus following the community-based development approach (Manuri & Rao 2003). Furthermore we had an approach in which we found that the projects optimally should benefit the involved households livelihoods as well as the community in general. We wanted three projects that vary in structure, scale and management. We were interested in a versatile basis for understanding the concept of a community development project in this specific local context.

From what we knew, Mehlodong was initiated by cooperation between the community and external agents. It was externally funded and dependent on other external factors such as the market for nature tourism. Contradicting, the two other projects seemed to be community initiatives, with local work force and mainly rely internal funding. Based on the initial research our problem statement and research questions were identified. These are outlined below.

2. Problem Statement:

To what extent do the community development projects, Mehlooding Adventure Trail, Lesedi Multi Project and Motseng Club, influence the villagers' livelihoods in Motseng and Moiketsi?

2.1 Research Questions

1. What are the main livelihood strategies present in the villages?
2. How are the community development projects structured?
3. What characterizes the livelihood strategies of villagers participating in community development projects compared to those not involved?
4. Which assets of the villagers' livelihoods are influenced by the community development projects?
5. In which ways can Mehlooding Adventure Trail, Lesedi Multi Project and Motseng Club be characterized as community development projects?
6. Are the existing community development projects sustainable?

3. Methods

The following section outlines the methods applied during the fieldwork. Motivated by the nature of the research topic our data collection, except from the questionnaire survey, consists of qualitative data. From the research we wished mainly to gain more knowledge about livelihood strategies and three specific projects present in the community. Furthermore we investigated the relationship between the villagers' livelihoods and their participation in a community project.

Our preliminary research design was based on literature reviews and assumptions about the conditions in the villages. For this reason many questions and approaches have been revised along the way.

Table 2: Overview of methods applied				
Method	Informants	Number of activities	Purpose	Sampling strategy
Initial semi-structured interviews with key informants	Interpreter (Lerato) Guide (Makhosini)	1 1	To identify existing development projects	
Venn diagrams	Mehloding Motseng Club	1 1 2	Understanding of organization and stakeholders	Project informants
Questionnaires	Mehloding Lesedi Motseng Club	5 5 5	General understanding of villagers from the respective three projects and non-participants' livelihood strategies. See appendix 1 for spatial distribution of the three groups.	Cluster sampling - chosen by key informant
	Non-participants	14		Random grid sampling – with a relative distribution of households from the three villages (appendix 2)
Semi-structured Interviews with project informants	Mehloding Lesedi Motseng Club	1 1 1	Understanding of the project; including structure and management.	Key informants
Detailed Semi-structured interviews	Mehloding Lesedi Motseng Club Non participants	2 3 2 2	Information on the project from participants on different hierarchical levels. Information about reasons not to participate.	People from the questionnaire survey
Ranking and scoring (Focus group)	Mehloding Lesedi Motseng Club	4 3 4	Information on different perceptions of positive and negative issues concerning the projects	Key informants and previous respondents
Timeline (Focus group)	Mehloding Lesedi Motseng Club	1 1 1	New perspectives on the project; Information about sustainability; Comparable events in time and	

			triangulate of data	
Transect Walk	Mehlodong	1	Assess the sustainability of the trail e.g. the trail affects the nature and the villagers. Holistic perception of the trail	
Informal talks		N/A	Triangulation and new data	Random people on the streets, host families, shop keeper etc.
Participant observation		N/A	Overcome taboos compared to when being in an 'interview situation'	Garden work, firewood collection, cooking etc.

3.1 Livelihood pentagons

The content of the questionnaires was based on the sustainable livelihood framework with the aim to generate livelihood pentagons based on data. The questions were shaped to get knowledge on four different livelihood assets defined as; human, natural, physical and financial capital.¹ The livelihood pentagon should not necessarily be fixed on five assets representing the capitals, but rather reflect the most relevant livelihood assets of the villagers (Ellis 2000). The five assets we chose (table 3) together illustrate the livelihood strategies within the community as well as enhance the similarities and differences between the groups of respondents.



Figur 2: Methods applied; questionnaire session, transect walk, focus group interview and participant observation.

4. Livelihood strategies

The following presentation of the community's livelihood strategies is based mainly on the questionnaire survey. Its aim is partly to identify and present the main livelihood strategies within

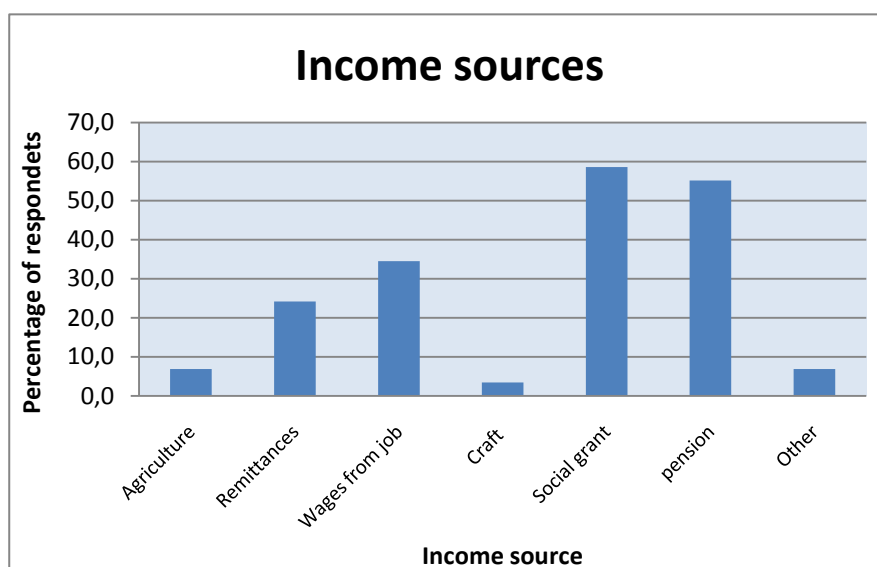
¹ We left out social capital as the last capital of five. In the DFID Livelihood Framework they recommend the implementaion of social capital if possible, but it requires in-depth knowledge about the villagers' livelihoods. We found the complexness of measuring social capital was to vast for us in comparison to the shortness of time.

the community and partly to compare existing differences between access to assets among non-participants and the participants involved in the different projects. It is important to keep in mind that the questionnaires provide a static vision of the respondents' livelihoods. For this reason it is not possible to say if the present livelihood strategies are a result of participation or the reason for the villagers to join community development projects.

4.1 General introduction to livelihood strategies

The livelihood strategies within the community vary from household to household, and the main reason for this is diverse access to assets. However, interesting similarities in the villagers' livelihood strategies have also been observed.

For instance there is demonstrable diversity between the houses; from small unpainted mud houses, almost empty of furniture to colourful concrete houses with multiple rooms, which indicates significant differences in income and livelihood among the villagers. In general almost all



Figur 3: Main income sources of households, based on 29 respondents (Source: sample survey carried out in three villages, February and March 2011).

the villagers, however, indicated that their main income source rely on social grants (R250 per child/month) and/or social pensions (R1080 per person >60 years/month), illustrated in figure 3. If perceptible changes were to be made politically by e.g. reducing the grants it would have a severe impact on all the households and cause significant changes in their livelihoods and their financial vulnerability will

show clear on the scale. This is due to the fact that only 35 pct of the responding households consider wages from jobs as a main income sources, and unemployment is high and jobs are often an unreliable income because of seasonality in jobs and short-term contracts. Another applied livelihood strategy by all the households is to find a job elsewhere - every responding household had at least one or more members living somewhere else, but in the house, typically the men migrated. But as our data prove, it is regarded as a reliable income, whereas only 25 pct. of the households consider remittances as a main income source.

Figure 3 furthermore indicates limited income from agriculture, which is in line with the overall tendency in rural South Africa - almost no households live only by agriculture, and many villagers have abandoned the practices of land cultivation completely (Ainslie 1999). Nevertheless 74 pct. of our respondents cultivate a subsistence vegetable garden used as a livelihood strategy, which contributes to their food security and hereby makes them less vulnerable; though we observed that the gardens varied significantly in terms of maintenance and yield (see page xx/Lesedi).

The dependency on natural resources and the eco-systems in the community is widespread among the villagers. Plants, firewood and water make up crucial components in the livelihood strategies of many households, as in the case in other rural areas in South Africa (Ainslie 1999). In this particular area access to clean water is relatively good, primarily determined by residing village. Villagers in Thaba Chicha and Lichitereng had access to communal tap water, but the borehole in Motseng is defect, so this village relies on water from the river. From superficial observations water access is relatively stable and equal within each village, but unequal *between* the villages.²

² See page 30, where the drinking water situation in Motseng village is examined further.

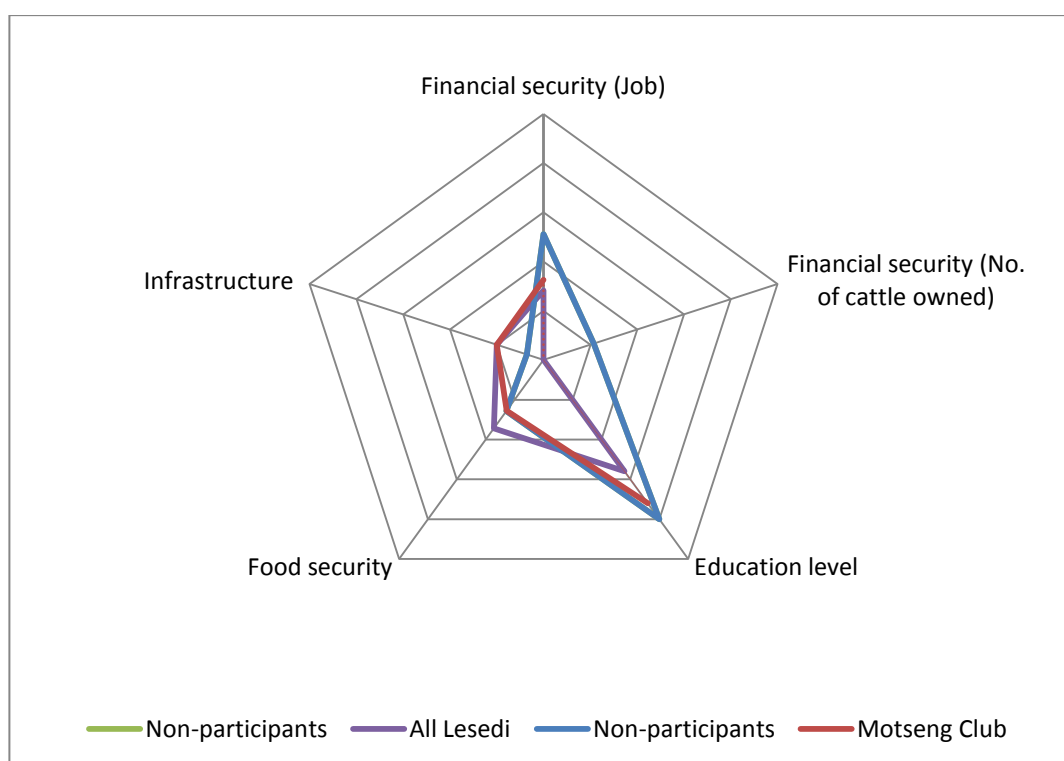
4.2 Livelihood Pentagons

Results from the questionnaires are used to measure access to five livelihood assets presented in table 3. The results are further illustrated in the livelihood pentagons below (figure 4, 5 and 6) where the livelihoods of three projects Motseng Club, Lesedi and Mehlooding as well as the group of non-participants are compared.

Table 3: List of assets applied	
Indicator	Argument of choice
Financial Security (job)	From our key informants we learned that financially the most important indicator of wealth is a job and hereby a regular income. For this reason the percentage of persons above eighteen within the household with a job was chosen to be one out of two financial indicators.
Financial Security (No. of cattle owned)	Each household's number of cattle furthermore indicates the financial capital. It represents both savings, security and liquidity, why it additionally to the job category reveal wealthy households who do not rely on wages from permanent jobs.
Education	Modern theories emphasize rise in human capital and hereby public education as an important part of sustainable economic growth (Ellis 2000). Various types of knowledge based on human capital exist, thus it is also important to be aware of existing local knowledge as well as formal education (DFID 1999). We have chosen the level of formal education to represent human capital because of an assumption that a high level of education increase the household labour availability (Ellis 2000) and thereby make them less vulnerable. Education level is measured as the highest education level of each household.
Food Security	Ellis (2000) argues that ownership of land is a common way to measure natural capital, however agriculture or ownership of land has little influence on the villagers' livelihood strategies in general and it seems to be a poor measure in this specific area. On the other hand many of the respondents expressed a clear dependency on their vegetables to make ends meet. The vegetable garden therefore appears to be a more representative measure of natural capital and also of food security than the ownership of fields. We valued both vegetable gardens and the number of crops cultivated, as we observed a correlation between number of crops, maintenance and surplus.
Access to Infrastructure	The physical capital is regarded as the capacity of the infrastructural service, and it's capability to make ends meet. It can be measured through a range of parameters. The close interrelation between rural and urban economy in the study area particularly increases the need for an infrastructural network to comply with the demand for various facilities; job, market and shopping opportunities (Ellis 2000). A household's number of visits in Matatiele per month is chosen to indicate the level of physical capital. This choice rest on the finding that most villagers find it expensive and troublesome, but also necessary to go to Matatiele.

Table 4: Asset indicators.						
Asset indicator	Units	Measure	Non-participants (n=14)	Participants Motseng Club (n=5)	Participants Lesedi (n=5)	Participants Mehlooding (n=5)
Financial security (Job)	Pct	Percentage of people within each household with a job	51,2	33	28	40
Financial security (No. of cattle owned)	No	Average number of cattle within each household	4,7	N/A	0	0,8
Education level	Points	Highest education level within the household based on 6 education categories*	4,0	3,6	2,8	3,2
Food security	Points	Points based on access to vegetable garden and number of crops.	6,4	6,4	8,6	8,6
Access to Infrastructure	Pct	Percentage of people within a household travelling to Matatiele once a week or more.	7,1	20	20	20

Source: sample survey carried out in three villages, February and March 2011



Figur 4: Livelihood pentagon for Motseng Club compared to non-participants

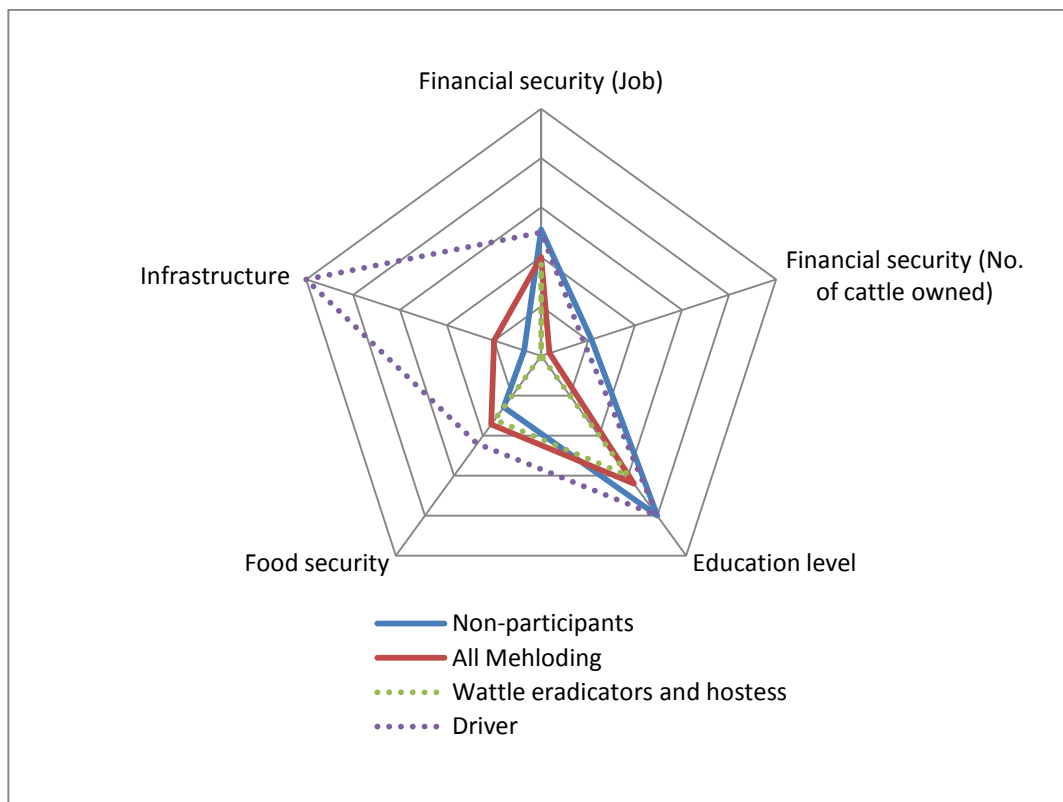


Figure 5: Livelihood pentagon for Mehlooding compared to non-participants, and with illustrations of the differences between the driver and the wattle eradicators and hostess.

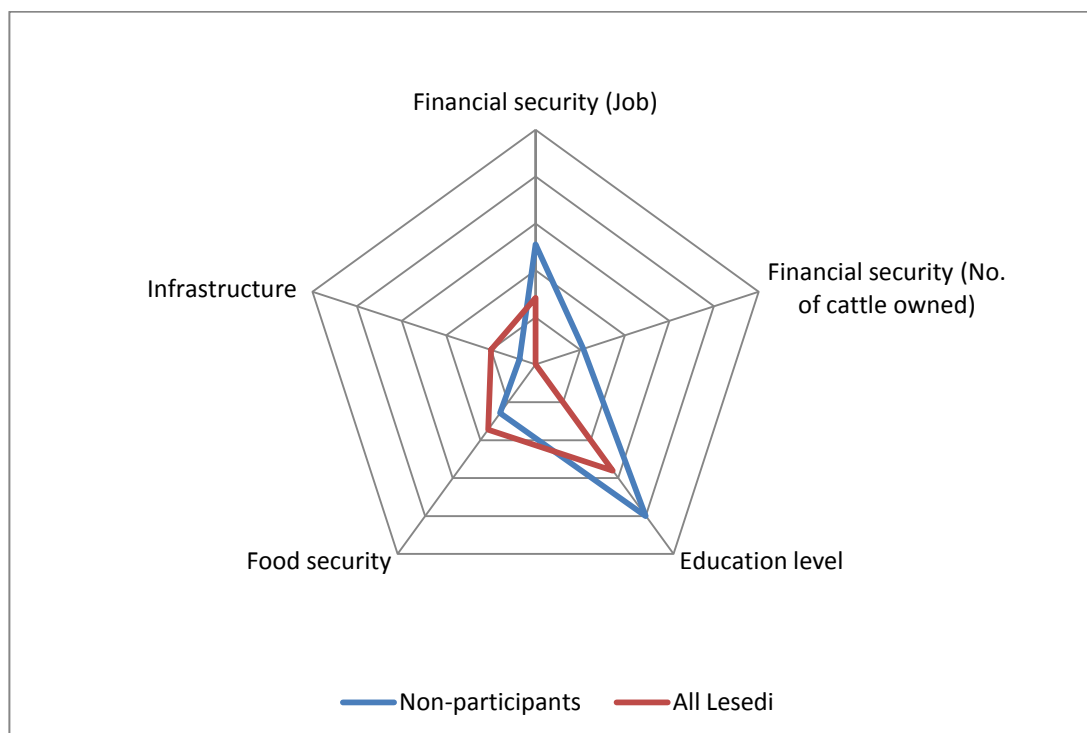


Figure 6: Livelihood pentagon for Lesedi compared to non-participants

The end points on the axes represent the highest score answered on each of the questions related to the assets and thus it indicates the average of the respondents compared to those most well off in terms of the different assets. The three pentagons have been generated with the use of data on members from the three community development projects and illustrate that participation in a project does not necessarily correlate with a strong livelihood.

In terms of financial assets respondents from the non-participant group seem to be wealthier than respondents engaged in development projects. When looking at the assets indicating financial security, the households participating in community development projects³ generally have fewer cattle and fewer employed household members than the non-participants. In this way there seems to be a correlation between involvement in projects and the financial capital available in the household; it is thus often the less well off who is involved in community projects.

Also when it comes to the level of education non-participants reach the highest score in comparison to the average of the participants in the three projects. This tendency is most apparent among the households with relations to Lesedi, as they have got the lowest level of education compared to the other respondents (figure 6). However, it has to be mentioned that the general level of education seems relatively equal within the community, possibly because of the school system in South Africa, where education since 1996 has been compulsory from grade one till grade nine (SA Info 2011).

Households participating in a project generally rely more on a vegetable garden than households not participating in a project. According to our definition of assets this implies that project-participants are less vulnerable in terms of food security. This is however an issue for discussion, as the numbers might as well imply that the non-participating households to a larger extent buy their vegetables and therefore do not bother producing them themselves. Often, vegetable gardens work as some form of security net for the poorest, as subsistence farming is still practiced among households that are not well off.

From the pentagon it becomes clear that all respondent groups are restricted by the lack of infrastructure in the community. This asset is indicated by the few visits to Matatiele. Especially the group of non-participants did rarely visit the market in Matatiele. For all responding households it is necessary to travel to Matatiele at least once a month to collect social grants and pensions as well as buy the groceries not available in the local community. In spite of the high dependency on the nearby town the road conditions are very poor and the cost is often mentioned to be the most important reason to the limited transportation. The poor road

³ The data from the Motseng Club was not applicable, due to changes in sampling strategy during the fieldwork, and data from this group of community project participants is not used in the pentagon (figure 4)

conditions increases isolation of the community and is for example regarded as a limit in terms of necessary groceries and market opportunities.

Our data show that people who do not participate in community development projects generally seem to have better access to the different livelihood assets. This therefore gives them a wider range of livelihood strategies making them less vulnerable to external shocks and trends (DFID 1999). We observed two possible reasons for this tendency; first of all because members of externally organized and funded projects like Mehlooding employs the poorest of the community. For example the eight people employed to clear wattle from the track are chosen on a community meeting because they are most in need. The other reason could be that the unemployed people are more motivated to find a way to make a living and a constructive way to spend time.

The pentagon paints a general picture of the households' access to different livelihood assets and that there are differences between the households with members participating in a project and those not participating – indicating that their livelihood strategies also vary. *One* pentagon does however indicate that the variations do not only exist between the participants and non-participants, but also among the participating households. In the pentagon of Mehlooding the driver seems to have a remarkably larger access to all livelihood assets than the other members of the same community development project. This finding adds noticeable nuances to the quantitative statement above; it, being the poorest participating in the community development projects. There are exceptions implying that also households with more resources involve themselves in community development activities.

The fact that participants in the projects generally appear to be poorer than the non-participants does not necessarily indicate that the projects do not improve the livelihoods of people involved; alternately it could reflect the projects capability to capture the poorer segments of the community.

5. Analysis of community development projects

There are quite a few scientific approaches to sustainable development and they all emphasize different aspects of what sustainable development is and what it should sustain, typically depending on a specific scientific approach (Redclift 1991:36). Even though the following statement is a broad definition, it captures, ambiguous as it is, the essence of the different ways of looking at sustainable development:

“Sustainable development, then, is about meeting human needs, or maintaining economic growth or conserving natural capital, or about all three,” (Redclift 1991:37).

For a community development project to be sustainable, it then has to meet one or more of the demands from the above definition. A sustainable community development project should preferably have a positive effect not only on the involved, but also bring about development in the community as a whole. Considering the villagers’ livelihoods, one of the most important aspects mentioned by agricultural economist Frank Ellis (2000) is that ‘sustainability’ means the ability for humans to recover from shocks and stress. These are the definitions we will use in our analysis and discussion of the three projects, Motseng Club, Lesedi and Mehlooding.

5.1 Motseng Club

Motseng Club is a so-called Stokvel – a group of people that agree to contribute money to be placed in a common pool on a regular basis making it possible to achieve goals that are difficult for one person to achieve alone (SAIE 2011). According to Vermaak (2001) stokvels are widespread and well known in the rural areas of South Africa but come in many forms. It usually works as saving or credit schemes and as some form of insurance. The objective of a Stokvel is to secure its members’ financial situation when things get tough (SAIE 2011).

Two women from Motseng village founded Motseng Club in 2008 and today, in 2011; the club consists of eighteen members each representing a household in the village. All the members live in Motseng village, as only residents from this village are allowed to become members. Each member pays R150 every month and the money is spent on buying large supplies of food and other necessities at the end of the year – such as flour, sugar, tomatoes and washing powder. In this way, the club works as a saving facility. The groceries are bought in Matatiele in the wholesale store *Metro*. Last year in December the amount spent was R43.000. The groceries typically last four to five months.

The inspiration for the foundation of Motseng Club came from Litichereng where a stokvel had already existed for quite a while. Motseng Club has some formal hierarchical structure with a committee in charge including an executive, a treasurer, a secretary and two additional members.

5.1.1 Positive outcomes

The members emphasised the possibility of getting a loan as the most positive outcome. It reduces the pressure on the individual household economy over a period of time giving the villagers liberty of action and it makes the families less vulnerable to shocks (table 5). General financial security is also an important aspect; one of the members of Motseng Club stated that she for instance borrows money when her job payments are sometimes two to five months delayed. The second most emphasized issue is food security:

“Individually, it is a struggle to get enough food ”

- Rosalia, founder and executive of Motseng Club

This is connected to the fact that the majority of the adults in the households being part of Motseng Club do not have permanent jobs (figure 4) and that salaries within the individual households are limited. By joining Motseng Club the members can reduce expenses on food and thus free up money for more groceries and other basic human needs.

5.1.2 Financial sustainability

Economically the Motseng Club is beneficial to the members of the community, as they save money on buying food in wholesale instead of individually. Moreover, the members are allowed to obtain a loan from the club with a 20 percent interest. Other villagers, non-members of the club, are also allowed to borrow money. The surplus from the interest rates goes into the pile of money spent on groceries and if any money remains, it goes into next year's stokvel. In this way the members, and the community benefit, in different ways.

Table 5: A prioritized list of the six most emphasized positive outcomes that the Motseng Club provides – stated by five members from the club. The positive outcomes have been ranked with numbers from one to six with one being the most positive outcome.

Positive outcome	Manini	Simon	Leisa	Head man	Mbat
Borrowing money e.g. for uniforms	4	5	2	5	5
Food security	1	4	5	3	3
Helping the community by allowing villagers to borrow money	6	3	1	2	2
No fights	3	2	4	6	6
Cohesion and “Togetherness”	2	1	3	1	4
Groceries	5	6	6	4	1

Limited financial resources from inadequate salaries seem to be a motivation for joining Motseng Club, as the members optimize their resources when joining in. As it is a requirement that households pay R150 a month to be part of Motseng Club, villagers who cannot afford this is, however, socially and financially excluded from the project. Even though the members are poor, several do, however, choose to prioritise their money in such a way that they are able to pay R150 per month to Motseng Club and thus save money in the long run improving financial security and maintaining economic growth.

Table 6 shows the overall budget of the Motseng Club. The numbers from the stokvel in

Table 6: Budgets for stokvels		
	Motseng Club	Litichereng Stokvel
Number of members:	18	21
Monthly contribution:	R150	R200
Interest on loan:	20%	30% (minimum amount to borrow is R1500 a year)
Number of loans:	Varies	Varies
Total annual amount of money put into the common pool - minus profit of interest rates on loans:	R32.400	R55.400
Amount of money spent on groceries in 2010:	R43.000	R85.000

Litichereng are also noted for comparability⁴. From the numbers it is not possible to say to which extent the loaning facility is used in Motseng Club as the interest rates vary depending on the specific repayment time of a loan.

Litichereng stokvel consists of 21 members each paying R200 a month and 30% interest on loans. This makes Motseng Club a cheaper alternative. In Litichereng stokvel the amount of money borrowed by each member must at least contribute to the common pool with interests equivalent to R1500/year.

The main obstacle and negative aspect mentioned is when people do not pay back money on a loan in time. Internal conflicts are not outspoken, but this does not necessarily mean that these do not exist. If a loan is not repaid as agreed it is possible to get a postponement if there is a valid reason. The consequences are unknown if the argument for not paying up in time is not valid. There is no doubt that the key requirement of a well functioning stokvel is honesty, reliability and discipline (Vermaak 2001).

⁴ Other – and smaller – Stokvels also exist around the community. But our focus of research has been Motseng Club, and data from other Stokvels is therefore not included in this analysis.

5.1.2 Social sustainability

This leads us to the social aspect of the project. The project is sustainable in the sense that it provides the members with some kind of social and financial security network. The members mention the social aspect of being part of Motseng Club as important. The feeling of working together for a common purpose also benefits the individual member because it generates a feeling of belonging. The time spent with other members is an important aspect of being part of the project. As stated by Vermaak it is not just the financial outcome but also these more qualitative and social aspects of being part of a Stokvel that is, when looked at from a community development perspective, an important criterion for success (Vermaak 2001).

Even though Motseng club is not yet fully developed the members want it to grow and to get more experience, as they are aware that their knowledge is still quite limited. The club seems to have potential to grow to be even more sustainable, by ensuring economic growth for its members, by e.g. using the loaning facility for small-scale businesses - In this way also meeting human needs.

5.2 Lesedi Multi Project

Lesedi is a project with the objective to cultivate vegetable and bring up chicken. It was initiated in 1999 by two women from Lichitereng who gathered sixteen other women to jointly cultivate vegetables for the purpose of selling to the community and the Mission. The members themselves finance the project by collecting R50 per month, which they buy seeds for. In

Important years

1999	Lesedi Multi Project was initiated
2002	Implemented chicken upbringing
2004	Funding by Department of Agriculture and Department of Welfare
2009	First funding by World Vision
2009	Only two out of the original 18 members are left

2002 the women implemented chicken upbringing to generate a profit in the programme and use the manure for the vegetable garden. In 2004 Department of Agriculture and Department of Welfare began supporting Lesedi by providing two buildings, materials and seed. Some of the women were additionally given training in good and productive cultivation of vegetables and chicken in Mount Fletcher at the Development Centre. Furthermore a private organization, World Vision, sponsored the project in 2009-2011 with materials and food for the chicken and books for self-training. The members believe that World Vision will return next year.

5.2.1 Member dropout

Our first impression was that Lesedi seemed quite successful as a community-run project. However, this perspective changed when notified by our informant on Lesedi, that the project has many constraints to deal with, the key problem being that sixteen members, because of an internal conflict, had left the project in 2009, leaving only the two leaders of the project committee behind, Caroline and Catherine, to see to the survival of the project.

The circumstances around the significant member dropout appear unclear. From our interviews with two former members, we discovered some dispute over the surplus of money, leadership and lack of transparency. The present members' explanation was that the ladies had expected to be paid for participating, eventually, but realized that they were not. To some extent, this explanation matched one of the former involved, who said, she had hopes for the project to turn out to be a local farmers market, and that it eventually would generate a monthly income. This would improve her financial security.

5.2.2 Financial sustainability

It is difficult to say what in reality has caused sixteen women to leave Lesedi, because of the many incongruities between their statements. But what really shines through is that the women's expectations for this project were and are still not met. Even though some had hoped for direct money income and others settled with only getting vegetables and chicken, they all want something in return for their work.



Figur 7: Caroline showing an overview of chicken mortality since they bought 110 chicks the 4th February.

Considering that the villagers’ livelihoods depend mostly on cultivating their own gardens, pensions and social grants, it is one of the most desirable things to have a job that provides an income each month in order to maintain a certain standard of living and decrease vulnerability towards shocks, trends and seasons. An example is how substantial the effect a bad season of rains have on the villagers’ lives, both on the villagers’ own gardens and for the project; crops were flooded and most of Lesedi’s chicken drowned because of leaks in the ceiling.

Concerning the question on maintaining economic growth, the issue here is that the vegetables and the chicken are difficult to sell. One of the present members explained that they used to sell to the Mission, this being the main market opportunity in the community, but now they wanted to buy at a lower price, which would generate a financial deficit for the project. With the Mission not wanting to buy their chicken, they need to find other market opportunities. The problem is that the only option of finding another buyer requires the women to be able to go to Matatiele. As mentioned before, and stressed by the involved, this is too expensive (table 7). Moreover, when only being two persons putting money in the pot, the project depends financially on the aid from World Vision, just to keep going. In a long-term aspect, the project will not develop; only just go on, if it does not get any more members to help. This was an aspect stressed by the present members, who want young people to join, because of the roughness of the job. But the members also expressed deep frustration on how to solicit young people, as the youngsters do not want to be farmers, but want a future in town with a permanent job.

Table 7: A prioritized list of the six most emphasized problems that Lesedi Multi Project has faced – stated by three members. The problems emphasized have been ranked with numbers from one to six with one being the most crucial problem.			
Problems	Catherine	Anna	Caroline
Transport	3	1	1
A lot to do	1	3	2
Lack of demand	2	4	3
Weather	5	2	4
Pesticides	4	5	5
Dependency	6	6	6

5.2.3 Social sustainability

An aspect that both the former members and the present involved agree on is that being in a project improves their lives, not only financially, but also socially:

“My days are better, now there’s something to do.”

Catherine, member of the Lesedi Multi Project

This was an issue that made them join back in 1999. When the project grew, three ladies were chosen to have training at the Development Centre. They were taught about the different kinds of seed, when to plant, how to plant, take care of them while growing and when and how to harvest. They also learned about chicken upbringing plus the more financial part on when to sell and what price to demand. When ranked the training and knowledge was a big part of what they saw as beneficial for their lives (Table 7). And when we visited Pinkie, a former member, it became clear to us how she had also benefitted greatly from the project. Her vegetable garden is one of the most successful of all we had seen during our fieldwork.



Figur 8: Pinkie in her garden showing off a big pumpkin.

For the present members it is evident that a project, like Lesedi, gives them something to wake up to, but their livelihoods do demand for a more materialistic outcome as well; something to meet their human needs, and for the members’ part, they get both chicken and vegetables. With this being said, it is difficult to get past a impression that these two women from the project cultivate and breed chicken for themselves, instead of for the community, as originally intended. Besides being only those two, there are five volunteer helpers, who also benefit from the garden.

In Lesedi the main obstacle is market failure and shortage of labour after sixteen members left the project. A positive effect is that the women in the project are happy to be doing something, instead of hanging around the house all day, so socializing meant a great deal to them, as well as the training in relation to the project. The interconnectedness of the two aspects of sustaining a livelihood for the members involved and the sustainability of the project is complex and that the success of one aspect depends on the other. However, even though many members left the project and the future seems unsure, the training improved the present members as well as previous members’ livelihoods in terms of applicable knowledge on garden cultivation. The project

thus sustains the *human capital* of the present members, but as for the financial sustainability the project is at the moment very insecure.



**Figur 9: a) The two remaining members of the Lesedi in front of the buildings funded by Department of Agriculture.
b) Participant observation – helping out in Lesedi's vegetable garden.**

5.3 Mehlooding Adventure Trail

Mehlooding is a tourist project, which was launched in 2001 with support from Alfred Nzo Municipality. The project consists of a trail going from Ongeluksnek to Qachas Nek, and covers a distance of 66 km. Along the trail four chalets offer accommodation; Malekhalonyane Chalet in the village of Motseng is the first on the route.

Important years:

2001	Mehlooding adventure trail was launched
2002	Mehlooding Community Tourism Trust (MCTT) was established
2004-2006	Construction of chalets
2006	Community meeting on environmental conservation
2007	First tourist booking

The trail was established because tourists already visited the area and hiked in the mountains. Accordingly, the villagers brought forward the idea to establish the trail and the chalets with the objective to reduce poverty and increase environmental awareness in the nearby communities by means of job creation and education. At present twelve villagers from the community are employed at Mehlooding: one hostess, one caretaker, one driver, one guide and eight workers to eradicate wattle. The number of visitors per month differs, but there are typically twenty-twenty five tourists each month.

Mehlooding is owned and operated by the local communities, but the initiation phase was carried out in cooperation with the local NGO, 'Environment and Development Agency' and a private consultancy firm, 'Environmental and Rural Solutions'. Mehlooding is heavily subsidised primarily by Alfred Nzo Municipality, but also by Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and EU Thina Sinako.

5.3.1 Financial Sustainability

In relation to the employees' financial capital, it is relevant to look at the changes in their livelihoods. Several respondents have expressed that before Mehlooding hired them they did not have a job and thus an income. As for the wattle eradicators, they only have contracts running for a limited period of time, dependent on funding. Thus, their situation remains unstable, because their job is not permanent:

"I just need the project to continue, so I do not get unemployed".

Thotsana, wattle eradicator, Mehlooding

If Thotsana had no job through Mehlooding her household would have to live on her two children's social grants and the vegetables she could sell from her garden. At present her vegetable production only provides a surplus of R150 per month in comparison her salary from Mehlooding is nearly R2000. Similarly, the three employees, hostess, driver and caretaker, are also fully dependent on the annual contract renewal with Alfred Nzo Municipality. Finally, the guide works freelance and his income is determined by the number of guided tours. The individual vulnerability, due to the insecurity of future contracts, is closely related to the long-term

sustainability of the operation of Mehlooding. It appears that Mehlooding is very dependent on external funding, but with the shortage of tourists the trail will not financially break even in the nearby future. Experience with previous tourism run projects emphasizes the difficulties of obtaining self-sustainability in projects that relied heavily on external funds in their start-up and not an actual demand from visitors. However, it is also important with patience as it takes time to develop sustainable poverty alleviation and proper skills (Hill et al. 2006; Binns & Nel 2002).

Thus maintaining economic growth depends largely on how the trust will respond on market failure and the potential loss of jobs, if the external funding comes to an end (Binns & Nel 2002). However it seems like the employees are not fully aware of this uncertainty about the future of the trail. They have a very positive approach to future funding and furthermore they hope Mehlooding will expand in the future so even more villagers can get jobs. In the meantime Thina Sinako, which inter alia has funded considerably parts of the wattle eradication, has just begun its final programme year and their grants will end by 2012 (Thinasinako, 26.3.2011).

5.3.2 Social Sustainability

Mehlooding not only creates job opportunities for the villagers, but also improved education of the involved villagers as well as the rest of the community (figure 8). The importance of the completed training and education is very clear; not only has it improved their skills, it furthermore increases their opportunities to get a job in the future if this project should fail to continue, because of their gained knowledge. Besides the output of formal training the presence of tourists has a positive effect on the employees' English skills; an improvement for several aspects of their livelihoods, for example it gives them a better understanding of governmental documents, which most likely is explicated in English. However, the objectives are not only to create better livelihoods for those involved, but also to improve opportunities for those not involved. This is accommodated for instance by the improvements of the road, which, however, is still found in a poor condition.

5.3.3 Environmental Sustainability

One of the main outcomes of the project is improvement of villagers' knowledge on environmental conservation. With educational community meetings Mehlooding teaches the villagers about environmental problems such as erosion caused by burning of grassland and a decline in the water level caused by wattle. Furthermore campaigns against litter on streets and in nature have been carried out. Mehlooding employees' awareness of the importance of environmental conservations is reflected in table 8. Knowledge about conservation was considered as an important benefit, as it obtained a high score from all of the participants.

During the transect walk it became clear how the wattle is spreading on and along the trail causing significant problems for the operation of Mehlooding (figure 10; 2&3). Additionally wattle consumes water from the river whereas the water level has decreased (figure 10: 4). Before the educational work on conservation the relation between spread of wattle and decreasing water level was unknown to the villagers, and they regarded wattle as a resource primarily used for firewood, whereas they are now aware of the deep impact wattle has on their water resources. Eradication of wattle also implies the use of herbicides to ensure that the trees die out. In this regard the villagers have registered a decrease in the fish stock in the river, which they believe is caused by the eradication techniques. It is not for us to judge the impact on water quality, but it could be an aspect for further research, as the river is the only access to drinking water in Motseng.

Table 8: A prioritized list of the ten most emphasized positive outcomes that Mehlooding Adventure Trail provides – stated by four members. The positive outcomes have been ranked with numbers from one to ten with one being the most positive outcome.

Positive outcomes	Ntlantla	Makhosini	Francina	Rosina
Conservation of environment and resources	3	2	3	3
Job	2	4	4	2
Training	1	1	2	8
Road improvement	4	5	1	5
Poverty decreased	5	3	7	1
Education in hosting	9	6	5	6
Learn English	6	9	10	4
Scholarship to 5 students at Mariazell	7	8	8	9
Learn about other cultures	10	7	6	10
More furniture	8	10	9	7



Figur 10: Environmental transect walk; 1) The chalet – start point. 2) Return of wattle trees only few years after last eradication. 3) Use of herbicides. 4) Dense wattle along the river. 5) Protection against erosion on the trail. 6) From this point to Herders Camp the trail pass through private farmland – no maintenance was carried out here. 7) Herders Camp - end point.

5.4 Cross-cutting aspects

The two projects, Lesedi and Mehlooding, have the problems of infrastructure in common, as it is absolutely crucial for people, both villagers and tourists to be able to get to and from Motseng village and Lichitereng. Mehlooding being a tourist dependent community project, rely financially on the number of visitors. Even though the project has provided several job opportunities it cannot become self-sufficient without strong enough market for nature-based tourism to overcome the isolated location of the project. Furthermore, infrastructure does not only mean options of transport, but also a flow of information and movement of people (Appadurai 1996). Infrastructure is vital for the community development projects in order to access the surrounding world and hereby be a part of the national economy (kilde xxxx). For the projects to be really successful they need improvements on the flow of information and on the mobility of people and resources. This would indeed also help the villagers in their own livelihood strategies.

Motseng Club is in its nature so much different from the two others, because it does not demand any external funding. As expressed by the participants the project has contributed positively to their livelihoods, both socially and financially. In that respect the project is successful, but in the community development perspectives it still lacks the capability to create food security for the people most in need, but do not have the finances to pay the fees.



Figur 11: Nature-based tourism experiences and ancient bushman paintings on Mehlooding Adventure Trail

6. Method Reflections

This chapter will consist of a reflection on our collected data and methods used; what worked and what did not. In this regard, reflections on the reliability and validity of our data will be central as well as the analysis and conclusions extracted from the data set. Each method applied will be reflected upon followed by more general reflections.

6.1 Questionnaire

We realize that there are some shortages within our pentagon showing the livelihood strategies of the villagers' livelihoods. Of course there is a whole spectrum of different important contributions to the villagers' livelihoods, which we have not had the time to research in further, but it seemed clear that the five assets we chose had an important role to play in their livelihood strategies.

What we realized when working up our data was that some assets are easier to quantify than others. We, for example, left out completely social capital, because it is almost impossible to measure a person's social network as an asset. To show a person's human capital we chose the education level. The different responses to this question seem to be very equal and therefore its relevance as an indicator can be discussed. We gathered data on the education level for the entire household independent on age. Accordingly our data appeared blurred because the children's education level camouflaged the education level for people of working age. Consequently the highest level of education in the household was chosen as the indicator to come around this. Another possibility would have been to ask for more details in the questionnaire, for example a specification of age and number of years in school.

The indicator of the asset on education level serves as an example on which difficulties you can run into making a livelihood pentagon, and also of the importance of having more time on your hands to know how to ask the questions correctly to make the answers easier to quantify.

6.2 Semi-structured interviews

For the most part we came out of an interview with the knowledge we wanted on the specific topics we had discussed in advance, but clearly there were some obstacles to be dealt with. One of the main issues was the role of the translator and how this affected our behaviour in an interview situation. We were unaccustomed speaking through another person, what sometimes made us direct our question in the third person and directed to Lerato. This seems impolite and made the interviews flow less natural. Moreover it gave our translator more liberty in translating the questions and sometimes even responding herself without having asked the interviewee. If we had been better at debriefing our translator before each interview, she would have had a better understanding of our wanted outcome and her part in obtaining this. It is difficult to know exactly what consequence the use of an interpreter has had for our data, but undoubtedly not everything

was translated and some aspects were left out. Whenever we noticed these omissions we asked her to elaborate on them, but as we did not understand what was said, we could not always follow up.

Being in the village for not more than one week, it is difficult to gain the villagers' trust. When doing questionnaires it was easier to get people to answer because the questions were about simple facts about their livelihoods, but within in-depth interviews, people tended to be more reluctant to answer. Had we gained our respondent's trust beforehand, we might have attained more thorough information and reliable data, as it is very unlikely that the villagers will tell everything to a stranger. It is difficult to tell these conflicting statements from the truth, but by triangulating our data we have sought reliability of our results.

6.3 Focus Group

We did a focus group session with each of the three project groups and they turned out quite differently although the three same methods were implemented; timeline, pointing out outcome of the project and outcome ranking.

The focus group with Motseng Club was the first session we did and here we faced many difficulties. The setting for instance played a great deal for our data results. The session was to be held straight after a community meeting. A lesson learned from this was the ability to be flexible; the community meeting began two hours later than scheduled and for that reason our setting changed, time changed and when the community meeting finished and we were about to begin, our respondent had been sitting in the sun for several hours. It was past lunchtime and they were all tired. The persons involved were difficult to get to talk and together with our own insecurities about the method, the amount of data collected was at a minimum. What we did gain was instead knowledge about what to be aware of and what to do differently in the next two sessions, e.g. to show the respondents enthusiasm and acting as having control over the session even though feeling insecure. And by supplementing each other when asking questions it could create room for new questions to be asked.

6.4 Transect Walk

The observations made on the transect walk and the information given to us by the guide who took us along the trail seemed useful as a way of triangulating data that we had already gained. Moreover we used this method as a means of identifying problematic areas on location to go further in depth within the following interviews, such as the rapid spread of wattle on the walking trail. Because of this method additional questions emerged. In this way the method made us aware of issues that we might not have noted in a regular semi-structured interview. Moreover, by seeing things with our own eyes, both the scenic views and the poisoned stumps from the

eradicated wattle, we got a broader understanding of the background for establishing the walking trail as well as possible concerns related to the financial and environmental sustainability of the trail.

6.5 General reflections

Having to deal with several very different projects in the field the results lack absorption and consequently our approach did not turn out critical enough. In retrospect, we did not evaluate our data sufficiently in the field and hereby we were not able to follow up on all issues, which could have been interesting to pursue. For instance making more detailed calculations on how much money one household actually saves in being part of the Motseng Club or calculations on how critical the financial situation of Mehlooding is. Ideally, more time should be spent on evaluating gathered data and followed up on the daily work in the field. In spite of all, we find that the methods applied were useful to obtain the wanted data, though we have met some obstacles and made some adjustments the data have mostly been both reliable and valid, when triangulated.

7. Sustainable Community development Projects

In the previous chapters we have identified the villagers' livelihood strategies. Furthermore we have analysed the structure of the existing community development projects as well as the projects' impact on the rural livelihoods. According to our pre-understanding of a community development project the projects have to live up to the following two factors; firstly they have to benefit the participating households as well as the community in general. Secondly the projects should be community-based. Based on our study of Mehlooding, Lesedi and Motseng Club we will in the following section discuss the local perception of community development projects compared to our theoretical understanding of the term with the aim explore if the projects can be characterized as community development projects. Finally, we will discuss sustainability of the projects.

7.1 Community Development Projects

People in the study area have varies geographical perceptions of the term 'community'. Motseng and Moiketsi make one community; in line with the definition from WHO (1998) they share a common culture, common values and a social structure that have been developed over a period of time. However, we found that the villages of Motseng, Lichitereng and Thaba Chicha form three sub-communities within separate geographical areas. We found, that the target group of the projects can be the whole community as well as the sub-communities. Beneficiaries of the different projects overlap and go beyond the division of sub-communities; for instance Mehlooding involves members from Moiketsi and Motseng, whereas Motseng Club only accepts people from Motseng village.

For Lesedi the present situation with only two remaining members create a special situation. It can be discussed if the community, after the significant member dropout, still benefits from the project. In this regard, the project benefitted the community in terms of training previous members, handing over their knowledge to the rest of the community and set an example for the community in general to copy. Furthermore the members of the project wish it to grow in the future; already five helpers have been actively let into the project. Although the present situation is critical, the project improves livelihood strategies of the involved and the project can thus be characterized as a community development project, even though it now, and possibly also in the future, mainly will affect the involved.

As stated in the analysis members from Mehlooding and Motseng Club benefit directly in the form of income and food security. The indirect benefits are more diffuse, but generally the sub-communities where the projects are located benefit the most. For instance road conditions have

been improved in Motseng, on the road that leads to the chalet of Mehlooding. Likewise the charity of Motseng Club and Lesedi are a benefit to people most in need in respectively Motseng and Lichitereng. Moreover, the financial spin-off from tourist visiting the Mehlooding Adventure Trail has the potential to give an economical benefit, and thus growth, to the community as a whole, when tourists buy products from local shops.

According to our theoretical perception of community development projects, the livelihood strategies in the community have to be improved in order to call the project a 'community development project'. From the qualitative analysis it appeared that the three projects to various degrees have improved the human, social, environmental, financial and physical capitals of the villagers' livelihood strategies. The projects thus create development in a range of ways; by job creation, through education and training opportunities, by environmental awareness and creating better access to infrastructure etc. However, the livelihoods are still vulnerable, for instance low access to financial security and food security are still a widespread problem in the community. Improvements of all the capitals are of course preferable, but with the several different community development projects, an opportunity emerges in the way that the projects can supplement each other.

It is apparent that these three projects, on different scale, benefit villagers of the community's livelihoods. Despite the diversity in objectives and structure they can all be characterized as community development projects, yet with different impact on the community.

7.2 Sustainability

According to Redclift (1991) the sustainability of the development projects depends on their capability to meet human needs, maintain economic growth and conserve natural capital.

Based on the above discussion Mehlooding, at present, to some degree have a positive effect on all three aspects of this definition. However, future sustainability of the project has to be considered. Mehlooding has gone through an initial phase of almost ten years, yet the project has not proved to be economically self-sufficient. Within the next year funding will end and furthermore, the project will become entirely community-based without supervision and support from the external partners; thus it will be vital in which way the project will respond to market failure (Manuri & Rao 2003). Additionally there is a limit to how many jobs and how much economic growth the project can sustain before the natural environment reach the point of saturation where visitors become a threat to the pristine nature of the area (Hill et al. 2006). With a limit to the number of employees, the broad community have to benefit indirectly through small-scale businesses in order for the project to meet human needs and continuously improve the villagers' livelihoods.

At present Lesedi face many challenges. Even though they at present sustain some people's livelihoods, it is not an optimal situation. Likewise Mehlooding, a financial sustainable future of Lesedi depends on their capability to deal with market failure, but just as important the participants have to manage the project in a way that encourages more people to join the project. The scope of Lesedi is not to maintain economic growth in the community, but rather to meet human needs in terms of food security, but also provide training and social security.

With the present scope and expectations for Motseng Club the existing activities are managed in a sustainable way with no external funding or dependency on selling their product on a market. If the project avoids internal conflicts similar to those of Lesedi, Motseng Club seems to be able to continue on a stable basis, providing food security and decrease financial vulnerability within the individual households. However this newly established stokvel has a great potential to increase sustainability. Vermaak (2001) recommend maintaining economic growth in the community by facilitation of micro finance for small-scale businesses and projects.

8. Conclusion

In the present report we have examined the extent of how the community development projects; Mehlooding Adventure Trail, Lesedi Multi Project and Motseng Club influence the villagers' livelihoods in Motseng and Moiketsi in Eastern Cape, South Africa. An overall statement generated from the research is that the three projects affect the livelihoods of the villagers of the community. The extent to which the projects affect the livelihoods of the villagers does however vary from project to project. But overall, the different community development projects do, on various scales, affect the livelihood strategies present in the community.

From our questionnaire survey we have identified that the most important livelihood assets in our specific local context are those of having a job, number of livestock, education level, access to infrastructure and food security. We have concluded that those involved in community development projects differ from the non-participants by having less access to these assets and as such they are considered as more vulnerable to changes and shocks. The assets of the participants are, however, to a certain extent influenced by the community development projects that exist in the community. Examples of the projects' impact on the villagers' livelihoods are: that Motseng Club improves the participants' financial capital by enabling the members to buy more groceries in wholesale than individually, that Lesedi improves the participants' knowledge on cultivation and chicken upbringing, and thereby improving their human capital, and finally when Mehlooding provides the participants with a job and thereby improves their financial capital.

We found that training and gaining knowledge, as in the case of Mehlooding and Lesedi, were some of the main aspects the participants gained from the projects to keep their livelihoods sustainable, meaning that they can rely on their benefits to be long-term and not dependent on shifting trends.

It is a challenge to define specific characteristics of a community development project, as the range of projects that we encountered through our research was very broad. Thus, there are multiple ways for a community development project to be conducted, but two main aspects characterise the term; firstly, the projects have to have a positive effect on one or more of the participants' livelihood assets and secondly, it should benefit not only the participants, but the community in a broad definition of the term – directly or indirectly. To different degrees, these aspects characterize all the three analysed projects.

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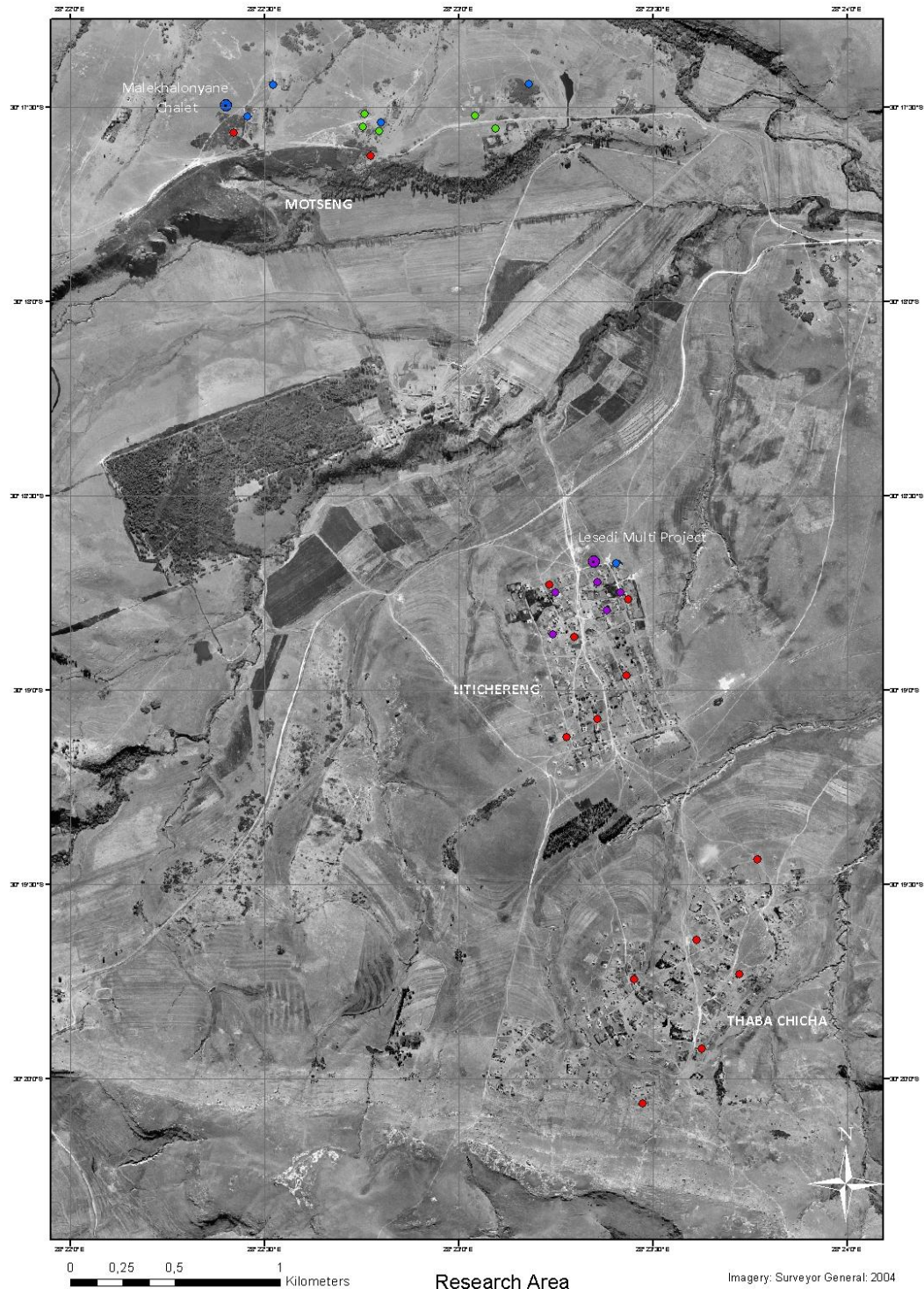
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Appendix 1:

Spatial distribution of the questionnaire samples.

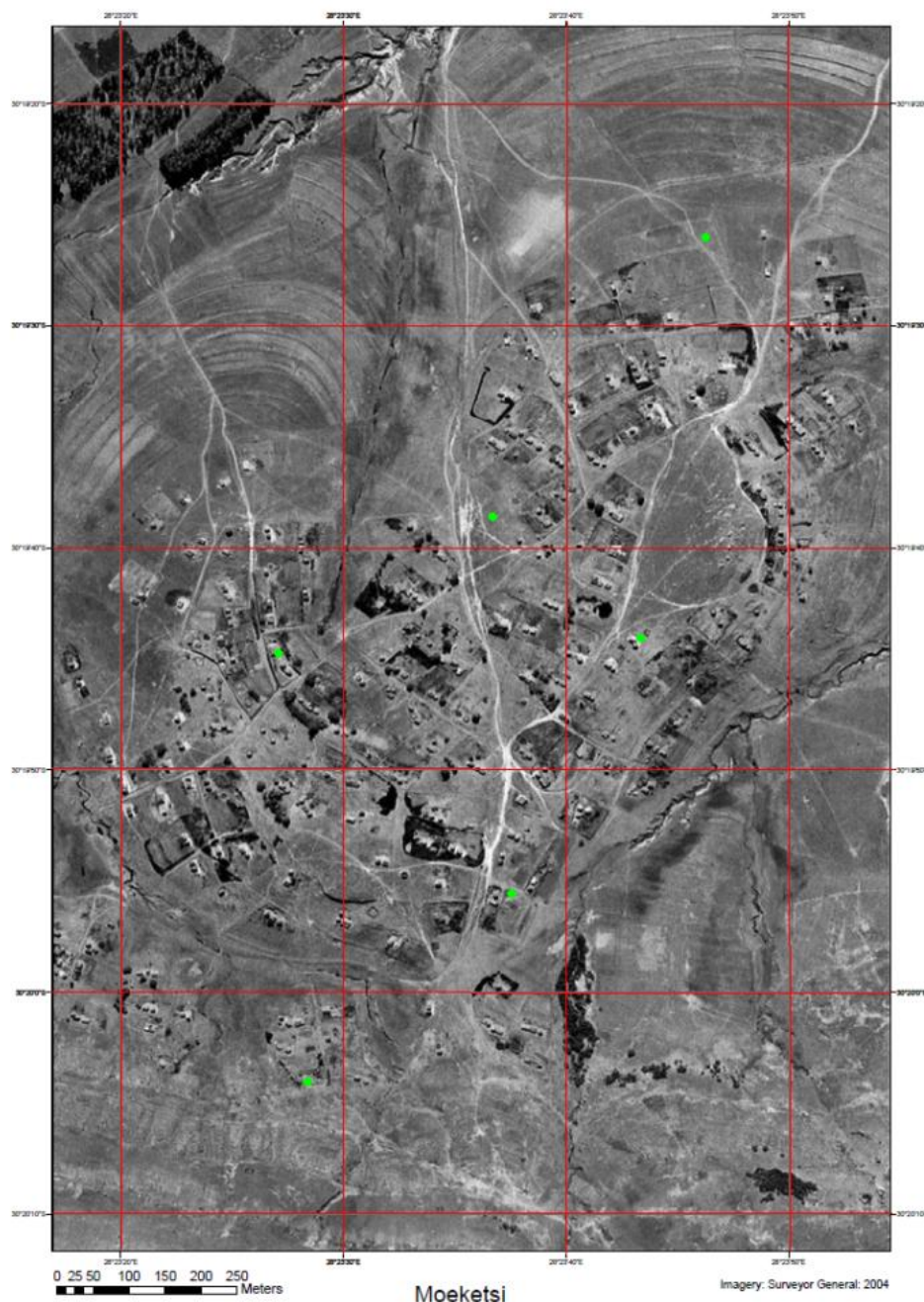
Red) non participants. **Green)** Motseng Club. **Blue)** Mehlooding **Purple)** Lesedi



Appendix 2

Questionnaire Sampling Strategies – Non participants.

Example from Thaba Chicha village



For the non-participant group we chose a random grid sampling strategy with a relative distribution of households from the three villages. For each village we drew a grid net and for each of the grids we aimed to find the house closest to the center where no member of the household participated in any community project.

Appendix 3

Field Activity Plan

Day	Activity	Purpose
Sunday, 27 th of February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorative interview with translator • Revision of questionnaire • Explorative interview with local guide • Pilot-questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about existing community development projects • What questions work, which does not • Try out the questionnaire
Monday, 28 th of February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires in Litichering and Motseng • Semi-structured interview with local guide (MAT) • Semi-structured interview member of Lesedi (LD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General information on Lesedi Multi Project and Mehlooding Adventure Trail
Tuesday, 1 st of March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires in Lichitering and Motseng • Semi-structured interview with executive in Motseng Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General information on Motseng Club
Wednesday, 2 nd of March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transect Walk • Semi-structured interview with member of Lesedi • Semi-structured interview with former member of Lesedi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information about Lesedi Multi Project • Assess sustainability of the trail
Thursday, 3 rd of March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRA Motseng Club • Semi-structured interview with non-participant and informal talks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triangulation of data and hierarchical structure within the project • Information on the role

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-structured interview with former member of Lesedi • Community meeting 	of Department of Agriculture within the community for discussion and perspective studying
Friday, 4 th of March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRA Lesedi • Semi structured with member of Motseng club • PRA Mehlosing • Semi-structured interview with non-participant • Community Meeting with visit from Department of Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triangulation of data and hierarchical structure within the projects
Saturday, 5 th of March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with driver from Mehlosing • Informal talk with guide at Mehlosing • Semi-structured interview with wattle-eradicator from Mehlosing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information about Mehlosing Adventure Trail • Triangulation of data and hierarchical structure within the project

Appendix 4

List of informants

Key informants:

- Lerato, translator
- Makhosini, appointed guide, also local guide in the Mehlooding Adventure Trail

Semi-structured interviews:

- Motseng Club:
 - Rosalia, executive in Motseng Club
 - Mbat, member of Motseng Club
 - Sibi, member of Motseng Club
- Lesedi Multi Project:
 - Caroline, member of Lesedi
 - Catherine, member of Lesedi
 - Pinkie, former member of Lesedi
 - Makhuso, former member of Lesedi
- Mehlooding Adventure Trail:
 - Makhosini, guide at Mehlooding
 - Mtlantla, hostess at Mehlooding
 - Andreas, driver at Mehlooding
 - Thotsana, wattle-eradicator at Mehlooding
- Non-participants:
 - Puseletso
 - Graham

Focus groups:

- Motseng Club:
 - 5 additional members:
 - Simon
 - Manini
 - Village headman
 - Mbat
 - Leisa
- Lesedi Multi Project:
 - Caroline, member of Lesedi
 - Catherine, member of Lesedi
 - Anna, helper at Lesedi
- Mehlooding Adventure trail:
 - Makhosini
 - Ntlantla
 - Francina
 - Rosina

Appendix 5

Synopsis



Community Development Projects' Influence on Villagers' Livelihood

Synopsis submitted 22nd of February 2011

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1. Introduction

Livelihood strategies of the rural population in the Eastern Cape of South Africa are various. A range of activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural, construct the livelihoods of people living in the province. As a consequence of the former apartheid regime the rural communities are situated in areas where resources such as infrastructure, arable land, education and job opportunities are limited. Poverty is widespread in the rural communities, and individual households thus need to maintain multiple livelihood strategies in order to make ends meet (May 1999). For some households livelihood strategies centre on agriculture, while other households have abandoned the practices of land cultivation (Ainslie 1999). Alternative income sources in rural communities consist of remittances, migrant-work and low-skilled job wages (Agergaard & Birch-Thomsen 2006). Great parts of the rural population also rely on social pensions as a regular income, this indicates that the rural areas are relative well integrated in the state economy. Significant parts of the poor population in the rural areas of South Africa are continuously dependent on the natural resources and the ecosystems surrounding them. Plants, fuel wood and water make up crucial components in the livelihood strategies of many households (Ainslie 1999).

The availability of the different livelihood assets – natural, financial, physical, human and social – is highly important in order for the households to develop sustainable livelihood strategies. Altogether, these assets determine the vulnerability of the individual household to shocks, trends and seasonality (DFID 1999). When studying livelihoods it is however not sufficient to emphasize only few assets; one need look at all assets and consider the complex of interrelation. Multiple issues such as HIV/Aids, gender, racial concerns along with cultural traditions and hierarchical structures within the communities are thus all relevant to include when researching the livelihoods of rural communities in South Africa.

The extent and nature of poverty in the former homelands' rural communities have lead to the implementation of a range of development programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty. It is argued that in order to secure future social, environmental and economic development in the rural communities it is crucial to improve the rural economy, which is marked by income inequality and high levels of unemployment (May 1999). Not all community development creates the desired contributions to the rural economy and the success of the projects varies from one project to another. The latest trends within development theory point out that development should be archived through a community-based approach, as the former centrally-driven top-down approach has been proved insufficient (Birch-Thomsen & Hill 2005).

Development projects based on this approach emphasize local ownership and participation founded in local knowledge and competences. The participatory approach has only been incorporated in the development theory and practises for a few decades (Ainslie 1999). Fabricius and Koch (2004) state the importance of community based organisations and various sources of local initiative in activities related to community development projects. Often the involved players

make up a combination of the community based organisations, national and local government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and the private sector. It is recommended that local communities and institutions should play a central role to all aspects of community development; for example in the case of natural resource management.

Community development projects play a vital role in the livelihood strategies of the households in the rural communities in our study area. The projects seek to improve availability of different livelihood assets relative to whether the projects are aimed at improving infrastructure, increasing level of education, implementing improved natural resource management practices or preventing HIV/Aids. The contribution from a project can be substantial to a rural household, but a successful outcome of a specific project is also determined by many others factors. The livelihood approach is a feasible theoretical instrument to indentify these factors on household level, as well as understand the general outcome of the projects.

Our specific study area makes up three small villages named Motseng, Litichereng and Moiketsi all located in Matatiele Municipality, Eastern Cape. Some projects related to local economic development have already been established in the area. One is the Ongeluksnek Nature Reserve, which make up one example of local project with a degree of community involvement in the activities related to the reserve. The Mehlosing Adventure trail is another local project focusing on the development potentials transmitted from the presence of tourists in the area (Ongeluksnek 2011; Mehlosing 2011). Furthermore a catholic mission is located nearby the villages, but information about its role in the community is limited. However it is most likely that multiple other projects of different dimensions exist in the villages.

Based on the issues stated above our research objective has been identified. The objective is outlined in the following problem statement and the six research questions.

2. Problem Statement

How do the community development projects in the targeted villages influence the villagers' livelihood?

2.1 Research Questions

1. Which community development projects exist in the targeted villages?
2. What are the main livelihood strategies present in the village?
3. Which role do natural resources play in the community development projects?
4. How are the development projects structured, and what is the villagers' perception of them?
5. Which assets of the villagers' livelihood are influenced by the community development projects?
6. Are the existing community development projects sustainable?

3. Definition of key terms:

In order to secure a common understanding of the research area, we find it necessary to define the more central terms used in the project.

3.1 Community:

"A specific group of people, often living in a defined geographical area, who share a common culture, values and norms, are arranged in a social structure according to relationships which the community has developed over a period of time. Members of a community gain their personal and social identity by sharing common beliefs, values and norms which have been developed by the community in the past and maybe modified in the future. They exhibit some awareness of their identity as a group, and share common needs and a commitment to meeting them" (WHO 1998:5)

3.2 Livelihood:

"A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (incl. both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living" (Chambers & Conway 1992:6).

3.3 Sustainable Livelihood:

"the ability to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, without undermining the natural resource base" (Chambers & Conway 1992:6)

3.4 Household:

"A small group of persons who share the same living accommodation, who pool some, or all, of their income and wealth and who consume certain types of goods and services collectively, mainly housing and food." (UNECE et al. 2007:182). To adjust the definition to our local circumstances (Messer & Townsley 2003), migrants who do not live in the household, but still contribute to the share of income will be added to members of the household.

4. Project description

4.1 Project Plan

The figure illustrates the methods we will use to answer our research questions. The project plan is divided in three different phases; Phase 1 – Mapping community development projects, Phase 2 – In depth empirical data generating and Phase 3 – Follow up.

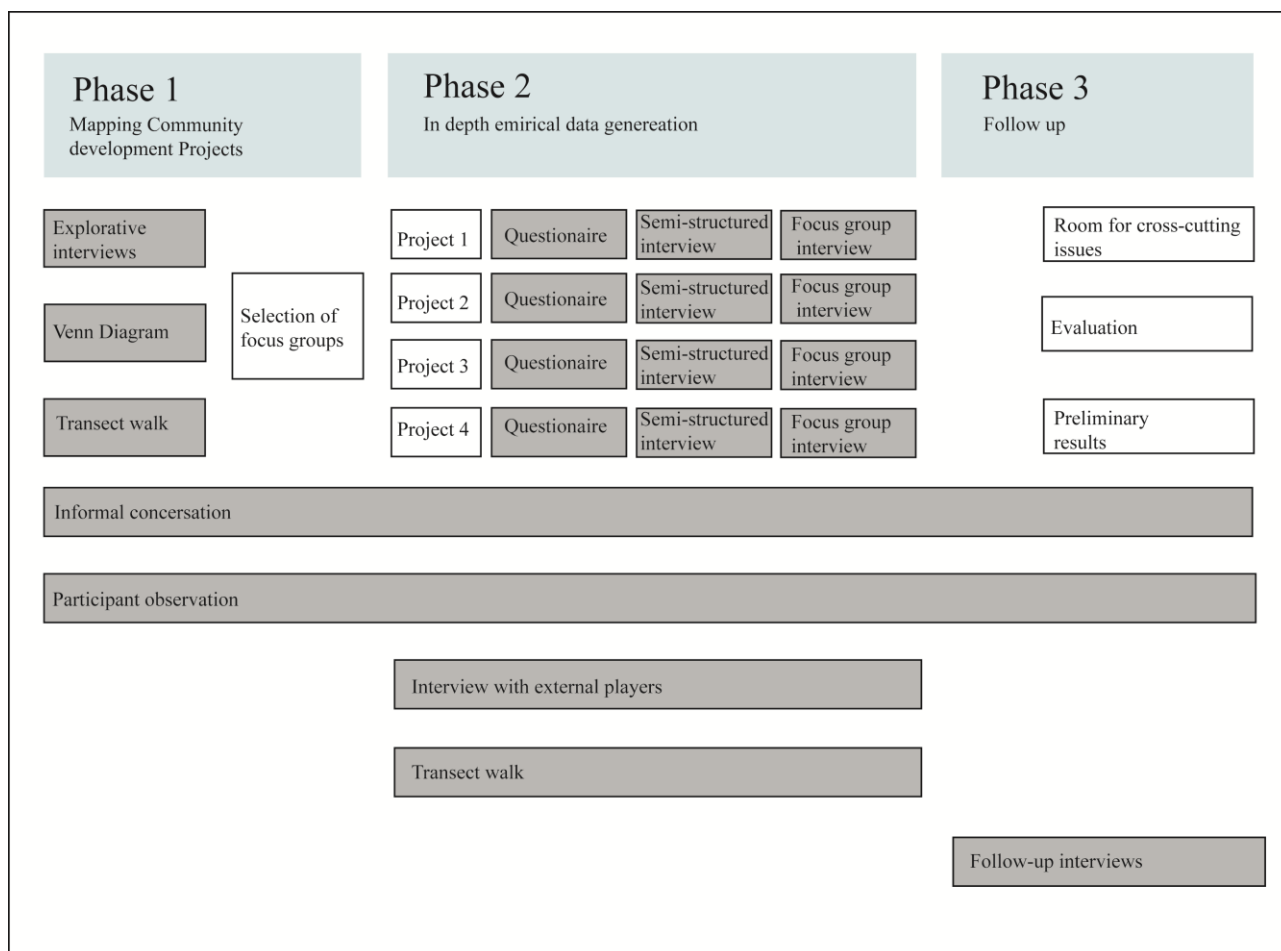


Figure 1: Project Plan; an overview of methods.

4.2 Phase one

The main purpose of phase one is firstly to get an overview of the existing community development projects in the village and secondly to select two or three projects for further study in phase two.

Information about the existing projects will be obtained through explorative semi-structured interviews with the local informants; preferable our local guide (Appendix 5) and the Liaison Forum (Appendix 6). The Forum pursues and advises on the combined interests of the conservation and development needs of the area (Ongeluksnek 2011). If it seems relevant we will make an interview with the village chief (Appendix 7).

We expect our local guide to be the main source of information about the existing projects and local customs (Appendix 5). For this reason, we will ask him to look through our questionnaire and interview guides to help us direct our questions. In order to obtain the best amount of data, we will need to know if our questions can be understood and to make sure we do not offend anyone.

4.2.1 Venn Diagram

In combination with the explorative interviews the guide will furthermore be asked to draw a Venn diagram. Traditionally the Venn-diagram is used to obtain knowledge about people's perception of relations between local groups and organisations (Mikkelsen 2005). In this case, we will simply use the diagram as a description of the interconnectedness of the projects and the stakeholders.

4.2.2 Transect Walk

The transect walk will also be carried out with our guide. He will get the opportunity to show us specific locations of relevance to the different projects and introduce us to local villagers. By using this method we will get a chance to ask questions about local development tendencies which will provide us with an overview of present and past projects related to the development of the local community. The route will be recorded on the GPS and relevant resources, changes or characteristics will be enhanced in the data records. After the walk, data and information will be discussed with the guide and subsequently we will draw an illustrative diagram/map. In this connection we will also draw the features of the project areas and the importance for both livelihood and community development.

We also intend to make a transect walk in phase. This time with one of the villager's connected to a specific project, during a semi-structured interview, to get this villager's perception of the surrounding environment, for example the accessibility and quality of natural resources, which will be used to indicate the environmental sustainability of the projects.

4.3 Phase two

The main part of the research and data collection will be conducted within phase two. With a specified focus on a limited number of projects, we will use a range of methods to study both livelihood and community development projects as well as the link between them.

4.3.1. Household Questionnaire and Livelihood Pentagons

Our main objective with the household sample survey is to identify the assets possessed by the rural villagers in order to understand the vulnerability and resilience of their livelihoods (Ellis 2000). Department for International Development has emphasized a focus on household assets in order to understand and improve livelihood of the rural poor (DFID1999). To investigate which assets of the villagers' livelihood are influenced by the community development projects we find it necessary to examine different household livelihood strategies. Due to the complex relationship between the five assets, it can be a difficult task to select relevant indicators to describe it (Ellis

2000). For this reason we have chosen to focus on the respondents' access to different livelihood strategies; this approach is reflected in questionnaires (Appendix 4).

Four groups of respondents will be chosen for the household survey. Each group will consist of approximately five households. Three of the groups will each represent a community development project and thus consist of villagers participating in some kind of activity related to a project. The fourth and last group of households will consist of villagers who are *not* participating in activities related to a community development project. We will furthermore try to apply a spatial distribution in the sampling if possible.

In order to measure four out of the five defined livelihood assets: human, natural, physical and financial (DFID1999) the questionnaire is built on a number of questions directly or indirectly indicating these. The indicators are chosen based on experiences from previous livelihood studies (Ellis 2000), our preliminary knowledge of the area (Birch-Thomsen et al. 2003; Manona 2005) and the indicators relevance for the overall topic. The nature of some capitals makes them difficult to quantify; especially the social capital seems almost impossible to measure quantitatively. The relevant questions might appear insensible to the respondents and data outcome unreliable due to the asset's qualitative characteristics. For this reason the questionnaire does not include questions about social capital.

The survey outcome should preferably give us a quantitative understanding of the respondents' livelihoods and their vulnerability towards shocks and trends. Obtained data will visually be presented as asset pentagons. We expect to revise the questionnaire together with the local counterparts before collection of data in order to comply with the local context.

4.3.2 Semi-structured Interviews with Villagers

After having conducted the questionnaire and selected the aspects of their livelihood strategies that seem to be of most relevance to the villagers, we will do semi-structured interviews with one or two villagers from each of the four groups. From these thorough interviews we expect to gain more knowledge about how the project impacts their livelihoods. We want the villagers to reflect on their lives before and after being involved in the project and how being active in the project has had an impact on their lives. This reflection will further be used to indicate the sustainability of the community development projects. As for the non-project group, we want to know if the local projects have impacted their lives and in what way, and what the reason is for not participation actively (Appendix 8).

The purpose of interviewing project members and non-project members is to gain thorough knowledge on how the community development projects affect their livelihoods, both directly and indirectly.

4.3.3 Focus group: Discussion of Community Development Projects

Four focus groups sessions will be carried out. Each focus group consists of a household representative from the above-mentioned four groups. What is gained from making these focus group interviews is the impact people have on each other, when discussing and debating their perspectives on the questions in hand. This way we will learn more about the social power structure, and topics that would not otherwise be discussed in a one-to-one interview, can become a subject of conversation. The purpose is to let the villagers discuss the projects they are involved in and to make them explain the projects' influence on their livelihoods. The villagers will be asked to make a timeline for the projects. A matrix ranking of obstacles and opportunities associated with the projects will follow up this exercise (Appendix 9).

4.3.4 Participant Observation

Participant observation is a method carried out throughout the entire fieldwork. The major advantage of participant observation is that you are let into other people's life worlds and get the opportunity to see the world through their eyes (Bryman 2004). Understanding the ontological and phenomenological notions of a community is an important approach in the implementation of a development project, as the people who have to live with the project and sustain its operation, are the members of the community themselves. Using this method, we expect to generate data in collaboration with the villagers, and experience a day in villager's life on our own bodies. This will hopefully lead to a better understanding of how their livelihood strategies are structured, and through the informal conversation during the day, there will potentially be some useful data that we would not get through an interview (De Walt & De Walt 2002).

During the fieldwork we intend to have as many informal conversations with the locals and our host family as possible. This way we will get acquaintance with local customs and habits through observing while talking. Data will be generated while having a small chit-chat with the local barman, following our informants on their way to work or spending a day in the field with the farmers. This source of information can turn out to be very useful since people tend to be more open when the setting is informal. Using this method taboos can suddenly become a subject of conversation.

4.3.5 Interviews with external players

Additionally with the focus on involved villagers we would like to interview external people engaged in the projects. Semi-structured interviews will be used to get information about the projects from facilitator/NGO perspectives.

4.4 Phase tree

The main frame of this phase is identified by the kind of data we have collected in the other two phases. This means that we will evaluate on our data and if we find some aspects not deeply investigated, but important for us to answer our problem statement, this will be the time to do so.

There will also be time to do further in-depth interviews if required and perhaps to follow up on other interviews already made.

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Appendix 1: Activity plan

Date	Activity
Wednesday 23/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival Pietermaritzburg at 15.20
Thursday 24/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with our counterparts from University of KwaZulu Natal. • Adaption of problem statement, research questions and methods with our counterpart
Friday 25/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot questionnaire • Further work with counterparts
Saturday 26/2 Arrival: 16.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodging at host families • Getting an overview of the village • Getting acquainted with our hosts
Sunday 27/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-structured Interviews and Venn Diagram with our guide • Transect walk with our guide to get an overview • Information about development projects in the village gathered through informal conversations • Interview with the village representative of the Reserve Liaison Forum identified by guide • Informal interview (family, villagers etc.) • Identify community development projects • Identify whom to contact in the identified community development projects • Arrange meetings with identified key informants
Monday 28/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students do questionnaires
Tuesday 1/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 students finish questionnaires • 2 students do semi-structured interview with reserve 2 students do transect walk to reserve/trail • Semi-structured interview with House holds • Follow up –finish pentagons and prepare the next day
Wednesday 2/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students follows two different villagers – see how project influences their day • Semi-structured interview with households • 2 students have meetings with Environmental and Rural Solutions (or other relevant external actors)
Thursday 3/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group interviews • Informal conversation • Day trip to reserve/trail
Friday 4/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group interviews • Interview with players • Buffer
Saturday 5/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Cross cutting focus group interview)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with external players • Follow up
Sunday 6/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving for Pietermaritzburg
Monday 7/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work out our data and prepare and present presentation
Tuesday 8/3	Finishing the work with our counterparts Saying our goodbyes

Every day: Informal conversation with villagers at the local pub, in the store, informal conversation with our host families every evening and group meeting at the end of the day

Appendix 2: Overall Questions about Community Development Projects

Objective: A work document with a list of questions regarding Community Development Projects - All of them should be answered for each project by the end of the fieldwork. The knowledge might come from multiple sources.

Relevant questions about the projects	Outcome
What is the purpose of this project?	Identification of the beneficial reasons for this project for people's livelihoods; what people think it does and what it actually does!
How long since this project started?	How are the prospects for this project? It's sustainability and it's ability to survive. (Is it a project of a certain context that no longer is topical, won't be in a short period of time?)
Where did the initiative to start the project come from?	Gives us an idea of the people's surplus in terms of their social capital – do they have time and energy enough for concerns about their community?
Who is financing this project?	Is the project sustainable within the community or is it dependent on financial aid from outside – financial capital
How many active persons/members are involved in this project?	To identify whether the project has backing from the community – social capital
Who is the stakeholder of this project?	Analysis of who carries the responsibility for sustaining and maintaining the project
Is it only members of this village that are part of this project?	Identification of the range of the project – infrastructural connections and physical capital, social capital, human
How many persons are employed in this project? – of village members; others?	Do people benefit financially of this project? – Financial capital, administrative expenses
Is there any need for the workers to have particular skills for the jobs?	Are there certain demands the villager's need to live up to in order to participate in the project? A demand to their human capital
Are there any education/learning connected to the job/being a member?	Do the villager's benefit from the project in other areas than the financial? Human??
Do this project restrict any particular use of the land, forest, lake etc?	What are the impacts for the villager's use of their land?
Does the project implement other use of the land, than before?	The human impact on the natural environment

Appendix 3: Datamatrix

Problem Statement	Research Questions	Data required	Data source/target	Methods
How do the community development projects in the targeted villages influence the villagers' livelihood?	Which community development projects exist in the targeted villages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify existing development projects - Identify relevance - Community involvement - Stakeholders - Origin of initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Village Guide - The reserve Liaison Forum - Villagers - (Village Chief) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview with key informants - Transect walk - Informal conversations - Venn diagram
	We will select a few projects for an in depth study focusing on the following research questions. With the knowledge gained in Denmark, we expect to focus on Ongeluksnek natural reserve and Mehlosing hiking trail, but we are open to other options.			
	How are the community development projects structured and what are the villagers' perception of them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures of the community development projects - Decision making process' - Financial - Villagers' perception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholders on projects - Villagers - Village Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi-structured interviews - Venn diagram - Informal conversations - Participatory observation
	Which are the main livelihood strategies present in the village?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify important assets - Identify villagers' livelihood strategies - Vulnerability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Household informants - Villagers involved/non-involved in the projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaires - Informal conversation - Semi-structured interview
	Which assets of the villagers' livelihood are influenced by the community development projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community involvement in projects - Social stratification in participation - Spatial stratification in participation - Identify a number of assets for comparison between impacts on different households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Head of household - Villagers involved/non-involved in the projects - NGO "Environmental and Rural Solutions" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaires - Semi-structured interview - Focus group interviews with matrix ranking and time line mapping - Observation - Participatory observation - Ranking of assets
	Are the existing community development projects sustainable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental perspectives - Social perspectives - Financial perspectives - Timeframe/futures prospects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Villagers involved/non-involved in the projects - The reserve Liaison Forum - NGO "Environmental and Rural Solutions" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observation - Informal conversations - Focus group interview with matrix ranking and time line mapping - Semi-structured interview - Transect walk
	Which role do natural resources play in the community development projects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of community access to natural resources - Property rights - Changes in access - Degradation of resources - Perception on environmental quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Villagers involved/non-involved in the projects - Village guide - Village chief - (The natural reserve) - (Mehlosing hiking trail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaire - Semi-structured interview - Transect walk - GPS/mapping - Informal conversations - Focus group interview with matrix ranking and time line mapping

7. Appendix 4: Questionnaire

The questionnaire will be conducted by a minimum of two students and the interpreter. One student asks questions from the questionnaire and note down the answers while the other student will note down additional information and observations made during the interview. The households' location will be plotted in on the GPS for further valuation of their spatial distribution.

Household Questionnaire			1	2	3	4	5
	GPS waypoint						
	Group of Household						
	Interviewer(RS, KN, SH, LA...)						
1	Respondent						
1.1	Age						
1.2	Gender	M					
		F					
1.3	Head of household	Yes					
		No					
2	Household						
2.1	Number of people in household						
2.2	Number of Children in household						
2.3	Number of women in the household						
2.4	Number of men in the household						
2.5	Number of elderly people						
2.6	What are the main income source (possible to chose multiple answers)	Agriculture					
		Remittances					
		Wages from job					
		Craft					
		No income					
		pension					
		Other					
2.7	Tribe(Household)	Xhosa					
		Sotho					
		Other					

3	Education Level						
3.1	Education level for Head of Household?	No formal education					
		1-4 years					
		5-8 years					
		>8 years					
3.2	Number of people in household with the following level of education	No formal education					
		1-4 years					
		5-8 years					
		>8 years					
4	Physical Capital						
4.1	Do you have electricity?	Yes					
		No					
4.2	How often does someone from the household go to Matatiele?	once a week					
		once a month					
		once a month					
		never					
4.3	How do you go to the market? (or the person in the household who most frequently visits the market)	Own car/motorbike					
		public transport					
		With friend					
		Bicycle					
		Other					
4.4	Does the household have a Radio?	Yes					
		No					
4.5	Where do you get your water?	Yes					
		No					
4.6	Are there any restrictions on your consumption of water?						
5	Human capital						
5.1	Number of people in the household who can read and write?	State number of HH members					
5.2	Does everybody in the household contribute to the household income?	State number of HH members					
5.3	How many in this family can't work? (reasons: sick, elderly, disabled, school etc.)	State number of HH members					

6	Financial Capital						
6.1	How many in your household work outside the village?	State number of HH members					
6.2	How many in the household have a job in this the village or the area nearby?	State number of HH members					
6.3	Do you make any savings?	Yes					
		No					
6.4	Do you have any loans?	No					
		Yes					
6.5	How many rooms do you have in your household	State number of rooms					
7	Natural Capital						
7.1	Do you have a home garden?	yes					
		no					
7.2	Do you own land beside your home garden?	Yes					
		No					
7.3	Does the household have livestock? (state number of livestock)	Cattle					
		sheep					
		Goat					
		Chicken					
		other					
7.4	Does the household collect resources outside the village? (firewood, berries, plants etc.)	No					
		Sometimes					
		Yes					
7.5	Are there places where you cannot collect resources (firewood, berries, plants etc.)	Can collect anywhere					
		Few places we can't collect					
		Most land is forbidden					
		Other					
7.6	Do you buy food or produce food yourself?	Buy					
		Produce					
		Mixed					
7.7	How many crops do you produce?	State numbers of different crops					

7.8	Which kind of crop do you produce?						

Wealth Ranking	
Observer's role: Take notes about the household's wealth.	
1	Are we led inside?
2	Roof condition?
3	Garden standards?
4	Cabinet for plates?
5	Chickens?
6	Couches/furniture?
7	What does the houses look like?/What is it built of?
9	Who is home?
10	What do they do?
11	Are there children?
12	Elderly? What o they do?
13	What do they wear?

Appendix 5: Interview guide for local guide

Main Interviewer	
Co-Interviewer	
Observer (possibility)	
Interviewee	
Location	
Date	

To be held on the first day

Objective: This interview will be held as informal as possible because we want to have an informal relation to the local guide throughout the remaining period and keep him as a source for information on local knowledge. For this reason the purpose of the present interview guide is inspiration for the informal interview, not a formula strictly to be followed. Furthermore the guide ensures that we get a fundamental understanding of the community development projects in the village as well as the local culture.

Introduction: We are interested in getting knowledge about the village's community development projects, which means that we are interested in any initiatives that is initiated in the village both through NGOs, the government and self-started by the villagers. The criterion is that the project creates some kind of development in the community.

Which community development projects exist in the village? (We will ask the guide to draw a Venn diagram (or other visualization) of the different community development projects.)

- Numbers of community development projects
- Objectives of community development projects
- Historical perspectives (old initiatives or new ones)

What are the main differences between the community development projects?

- Initiative
- Funding
- structures
- Size
- Peoples involvement

Describe who lives in this village

- Tribes
- Genders
- Wealth

Who are the people involved in the community development projects?

- Stakeholders
- Members
- Wealth level

Have there been other projects before?

- Reasons for closing
- Funding
- People involved

Do you know of any obstacles for the project's success?

- Financial
- Education
- Lack of resources

What indicates if a villager is rich or poor?

- Remittances
- Couch
- Roof
- Garden
- Other indicators

Are there any taboos, local conflicts or hierarchy that we have to be aware of?

- Xhosa/Sotho
- Gender
- Health (i.e. HIV/AIDS)
- Other

The guide will lead us to a key informant, which will be a member of the liaison reserve forum

Appendix 6: Interview guide for the Liaison Reserve Forum

Main Interviewer	
Co-Interviewer	
Observer (possibility)	
Interviewee	
Location	
Date	

To be held on one of the first days

Objective: To get knowledge about the forum's role in development of the community. Specifically we want to know about the projects they are involved in (Ongeluksnek etc.) and the people who are involved. We would like to interview a person from the Liaison Forum who is also a representative from the targeted village.

Introduction: Introduction of our project – a presentation of our research objectives.

About the village

What pops in mind when I say 'community'?

What about 'development projects'?

Questions that would indicate how the forum works:

What is the forums' function/role?

- Initiator
- Liaison between villagers and i.e. reserve

How did the projects started?

- By whom
- Why
- Finance

How was the forum initiated?

- Government
- Villagers
- Funding

How do you make decisions in the forum?

- Elections
- Consensus
- Different responsibility areas

How many projects is the forum involved in?

- Which projects
- Different roles in the projects

What is the purpose of the projects?

- Sustainable use of the natural resources
- Community involvement
- Poverty reduction

Who is responsible for the projects?

- The forum
- Eastern Cape tourism agency
- The government
- NGO
- The villagers

Who benefits from the projects?

- The poorest
- All involved
- All in the village
- Nature
- How do they benefit

How do the villagers get involved?

- Through family, friends, the forum etc.

Can you mention some of the problems related to the projects implementations?

What is your function/role?

- - In the forum
 - Employed
 - Volunteer
- - In the village

How did you get involved in the forum?

- Through chief, friends, election

Describe a typical day in your life

Name three things that can make your job hard to do

Later on, if we choose a project that the forum is involved in, we will make a VENN-diagram with a member from the Liaison Forum.

Appendix 7: Interview guide for Village Chief

Main Interviewer	
Co-Interviewer	
Observer (possibility)	

Interviewee	
Location	
Date	

Introduction of ourselves and our project: Why we are here?

Questions that would indicate how the community works:

- What is your function/role? describe
- Where your father also chief?
- Describe who lives in this village
- Describe a typical day in your life
- If you are out of town, who is in charge?
- Do you make all the decisions or are you the head of a board?
- Name three things you like about this village
- Name three things that would make your job hard to do
- Do you know everybody in this village?
- Do you have relatives in other villages?
- What pops in mind when I say 'community'?
- What about 'development projects'?

About development projects:

- Name the projects you know in this village
- Have you got anything to do with these projects?

For each specific project:

- Purpose of the project
- Project start
- By whom
- Where you involved from the start?
- Do you know any of the involved?
- Finance
- By whom
- Do you know who is responsible for the project?
- Are there any employees in this project?

Identification of key informants of each project

Appendix 7: Questionnaire for households

8. Appendix 8: Household interview guide for semi-structured interviews

Main Interviewer	
Co-Interviewer	
Observer (possibility)	
Location	
Date	

Objective: After the household sample survey we will do a semi-structured interview with one or two from each group to go more in depth with how the development projects have affected the household's livelihood. Data gained through the questionnaires help us to identify which aspects issues to emphasize, and this interview guide should be regarded as a draft with more specific questions to be added.

Intro: About ourselves and our project

Who is the interviewee?

Name:

Age:

Position:

QUESTIONS THEMES	
The specific project	
Get him/her to explain what areas he/she is responsible for in the project	What is your function in the project your involved with?
Main reason and motivation	Why did you join? How long have you been involved? What was your connection to the project before you joined? If he/she knew anybody→is this why he/she joined?
Initiative and responsibility	Do you feel you have a responsibility for the project?

The sociability of the project	Who is the stakeholder of the project? Are there any family members involved? ...and what is your connection to him/her?
How much spare time/surplus does the person have?	How much time do you spend on the project a week? Can you name three aspect of the project that you think is beneficial for your life? Three aspects that you think badly about?
LIVELIHOOD	
Educational background	
	Do you have any education? Did you like going to school? Did your parents go to school?
Financial background/heritage	
	What did your parents live off? Did they have as many livestock as you?
Rich or poor	
Subsistence or commercial	If you have crop, do you sell any of your crop? To whom? Do you own your own tools or do you borrow them?
Impact on nature	Do you use any pesticides for your crop?
Local financial sustainability	When you buy food, is it mostly in this village or in Matatiele?
Financial surplus	What do you do if the amount of remittances is very low a month? How do you then finance your living?
Social/human surplus	
	How often do you go to the local bar? If you get sick, who will then help you? If harvest fails, can you then seek help anywhere? Do you have time for other activities besides your work in the house?
Practical	Is this your house? Can you show us the house and your crop?
Marriage situation	How old were you when you got married? How old were you when you had your first child?
Status in the village	Is your husband/wife from this village? What was your bridal price?
Access to natural capital	

Reflections on the project's influence on their livelihoods	
	What did your life look like before the project? Do you think this project will do anything for your life in the future?

Maybe for starters; make the interviewee explain how a day in his/her life looks like... → this is a good way to begin and can potentially tell us something we weren't aware of.

Appendix 9: Interview guide for focus groups

Main Interviewer	
Co-Interviewer	
Observer (possibility)	
Group of villagers	
Location	
Date	

Participants: _____

1. The participants arrive at the interview location.

Informal conversation and registration until everyone has arrived:

- (If it has not been done previously) Information on the approximately five participants is registered (name, age, “occupation”, his/her relation to the specific project)

2. Introduction made by us:

- Introduce ourselves
- Introduce the participants to each other. Explain them that what they have in common is the participation in the specific projects.
- Presentation of our research objectives (short!). Make sure to emphasize the importance of the participants’ contribution to the research data and explain what kind of knowledge we would like from them.
- Brief the participants about programme of the focus group interview.

First assignment
<p>Draw a time line:</p> <p>The participants are given a large piece of paper and three markers (black: general information, green: “positive events”, red: “negative” events)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We ask them to draw a timeline – starting ten years before the specific project was initiated and ending ten years from now (they are asked to mark the time/date of the initiation of the project and the present day) 2. They are asked to mark events of importance on the timeline (The events should be of importance to themselves and/or the project) 3. While they draw we ask further questions and encourage them to explain to us, which events they mark and why they mark them. <p>Further questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why did you mark the event with the red/green marker? ○ Explain why you marked the event? – What happened and why was it an important incident? ○ Who were involved in the activities related to the marked event (Were you all or just some of you part of the activities?) ○ Who paid for the activities related to the marked event? ○ Etc.

Second assignment
<p>On a new paper: Point out the most important outcome related to your project (first the positive and afterwards the negative):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The participants should write down what they think has been the most positive outcome related to the project which has created successes or opportunities. 2. The participants should write down what they see as the key obstacles related to their community development projects (obstacles and barriers for making the project a success or other challenges)

Third assignment
<p>Make a ranking based on the obstacles and opportunities which was identified at the second assignment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The participants are individually equipped with papers with numbers from i.e. 1 to 10 (the specific number of papers is determined by the number of identified obstacles/opportunities) which they will use for the ranking of the opportunities/obstacles (where 10 are the most important). 2. We will put out big sheets of paper with one obstacle/opportunity on each. 3. The participants are then asked to put the numbered papers on the obstacle-/opportunity-sheet ranking after importance. 4. After they have placed the numbers we will question why they have placed them as they did. By asking questions we will make them discuss possible disagreements among each other. Come up with arguments, give details on and clarify the ranking.

