

Biodiversity & the Natural Environment

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to all the living things on Earth, including those on land, in air and in water.



A Sepedi interpretation of biodiversity is:

“Leruo la hlogo”

(different things of nature you have to take care of)

Biodiversity includes plants and animals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles, and more.

Each species, no matter how small, has an important role to play in making up a healthy natural environment.

It provides a number of natural services that everyone needs, such as:

- Fruits and foods
- Clean air and water
- Healthy and productive soils
- Raw material such as firewood and grass
- Natural services such as pollination of crops
- Recreational, spiritual and cultural opportunities



There are a large number of services that the environment provides us with for free. The cost of replacing these, if the environment did not provide them, would be extremely high. And some we would not be able to replace at all!

It is essential that during our use of the natural environment and its biodiversity, we manage it sustainably so that it is resilient and can continue to supply us with essential natural services that sustain our well-being.

RESILIM O

RESILIENCE IN THE LIMPOPO BASIN - OLIFANTS CATCHMENT

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RESILIENCE IN THE LIMPOPO BASIN PROGRAM (RESILIM)

The project is implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD), in collaboration with partners.

This product was compiled for RESILIM-O as part of the sub-grant **“Unlocking conservation-based entrepreneurship to enhance biodiversity conservation and the resilience of ecosystems and people in priority areas of the Olifants River Basin”**, implemented by the Institute of Natural Resources.

This is one of three brochures developed for the sub-grant project to provide insight on natural resource-based beneficiation and business planning. The other two brochures in this series are:

- Realizing the Benefits from Nature - An Introduction to Business Planning; and
- Guideline for Responsible Natural Resource-based Beneficiation - In the Lower Olifants River Catchment

Unlocking the potential for natural resource-based beneficiation requires partners, and collective action is the best way to achieve this vision.

If you would like more information about how you can become involved please contact:

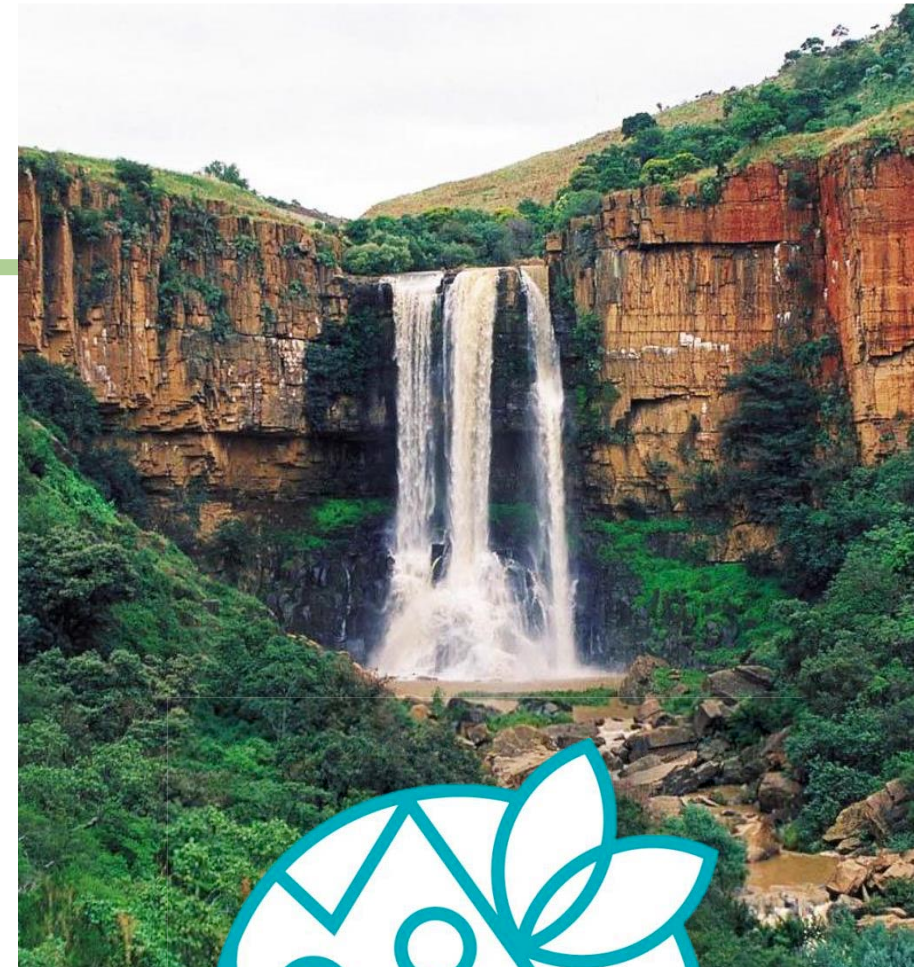
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Oli-Enterprises

HEALTHY LAND PROSPEROUS PEOPLE

Our Olifants

Exploring how things are linked in the Olifants System



award
The Association for Water and Rural Development



Institute of
Natural Resources

Enterprise Development & Entrepreneurship

Enterprise development is about creating new businesses. These help people earn a living, creating benefits for themselves, their families and their communities.

Entrepreneurs create their own businesses! Entrepreneurship is the capacity and willingness to develop and manage a business.

“We are entrepreneurs!
We started our own business from nothing, using what nature provides us with, to create jobs for ourselves and others in our community.”



Being an entrepreneur is a job and importantly, it contributes to improving employment and growth in the long term.

Strengthening the culture of entrepreneurship not only has local benefits, it also contributes to economic growth, poverty reduction and employment at a regional and national level, which helps to bring about economic transformation and an equitable society.



“I am an entrepreneur!
I harvest natural resources and add value to them to make products that I can sell. My thriving business has let me send my children to school and give them a bright future.”

Entrepreneurship is different from working for other businesses. It is about building new businesses and it requires passion and focus. It involves innovation and new ideas about products or services that can be provided. Entrepreneurship can generate social, economic and environmental benefits.



Oli-Enterprises

HEALTHY LAND PROSPEROUS PEOPLE

Oli-Enterprises help integrate entrepreneurship and biodiversity conservation

These enterprises have the dual aim of generating economic benefits and enhancing sustainable management of biodiversity and other important environmental services. They address environmental and social development objectives and needs. Examples include:

Tourism Hospitality

Includes accommodation, traditional and cultural events



Fruits, Foods & Natural Resources

Growing, harvesting, processing and selling food and natural products



Waste Management & Recycling

Collection, re-use and recycling of waste material into tourism and utility products



Adventure & Recreation

Nature-based experiences such as trails, photographic safaris and learning experiences



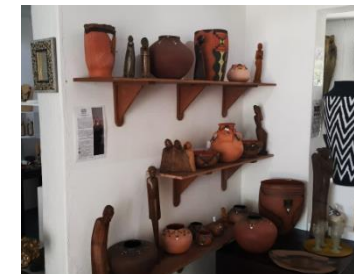
Support Services

Support to other tourism categories including guiding, transport, and catering



Arts & Crafts

Creation and sale of artistic and souvenir value products



Our vision is to stimulate enterprise development in the Olifants Catchment that generates sustainable economic benefits and has positive conservation impacts. The aim in the short term is to develop business plans that provide viable business models for enterprises that grow economic benefit to local people, and to contribute to resilience building and biodiversity conservation in the longer term.