

# Guideline for Responsible Natural Resource-based Beneficiation

Natural resources are the foundation of our livelihoods and development. Yet, across the world natural resources are under threat - so is the case in the Lower Olifants Catchment.

Nature gives us food, medicine and fuel. It provides the clean water and air that we need to survive. It offers us opportunities for cultural and spiritual experiences, for recreation and relaxing, and for generating income. It connects us with other people, our past and ourselves.

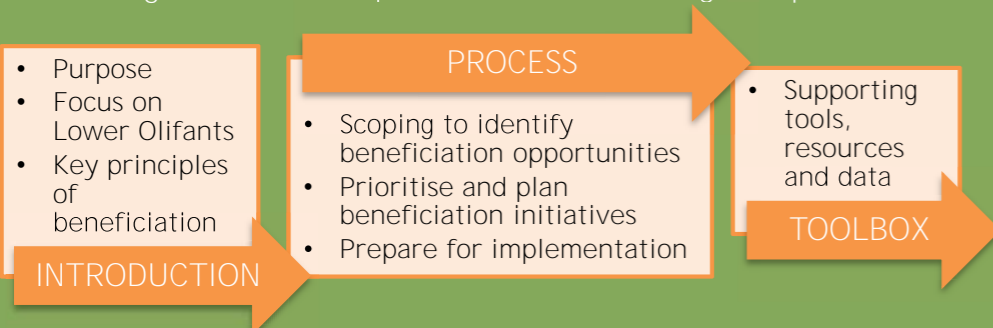
To ensure that the benefits from nature are sustained into the future, we must make responsible decisions now about how we use, conserve and manage our land and natural resources.

The fundamental view is that, through appreciating the range of benefits of nature, human behaviour and decisions on the management of land and biodiversity will become increasingly supportive of the principles of sustainability and encourage pro-conservation behaviour - promoting nature and biodiversity conservation. This guideline aims to provide support for implementing this approach.

Realising the range of benefits of nature provides opportunities for livelihood diversification, enhancing the capacity of people (particularly vulnerable groups) to adapt to climate change.

The guideline is intended as a resource for anyone considering natural resource-based beneficiation and sustainable development options, including government departments, communities, NGOs, developers etc. It provides guidance on identifying and planning natural resource-based beneficiation initiatives for realising non-monetary benefits and income generating opportunities.

The guideline incorporates the following components:



The guideline is presented as a linear sequence of steps but in practice the steps are iterative as new knowledge and insights are gained. The guideline is intended to provide detail to help practitioners to identify, select and plan responsible beneficiation initiatives, but is by no means a comprehensive, step-by-step guide for each component.

# 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 brochure provides an overview of the detailed guideline titled:

***Guideline for Responsible Natural Resource-based Beneficiation in the Lower Olifants River Catchment***

Copies of the detailed Guideline can be requested from AWARD.

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:

- Oli-Enterprises - Healthy Land, Prosperous People; and
- Realizing the Benefits from Nature - An Introduction to Business Planning

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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## Guideline for Responsible Natural Resource-based Beneficiation IN THE LOWER OLIFANTS RIVER CATCHMENT

### Our Olifants

Exploring how things are linked in the Olifants System



# Key Principles

## OF NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED BENEFICIATION

Responsible natural resource-based beneficiation is underpinned by four key principles

### RECOGNISE THE SPREAD OF BENEFITS FROM NATURE

The benefits of nature are spread across a continuum from non-monetary benefits to monetary benefits. Recognising this range of benefits opens up opportunities for a wider range of natural resource-based beneficiation initiatives - beyond exclusive private tourism enterprises

### PRACTICE SUSTAINABILITY

Natural resource-based beneficiation initiatives must be underpinned by the three dimensions of sustainability: social, environmental and financial. A natural resource-based beneficiation initiative is an initiative that provides benefits to people now and into the future while simultaneously contributing to the management and conservation of natural resources. Success is measured in the ecological and social returns of the initiative, and where the aim is to secure monetary benefits, then also by the profitability of the initiative.

### STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS

The connections between people and nature are fundamental to creating an appreciation for its benefits and value. The creation of a sense of community and interconnectedness with other people helps to create a culture of sharing and responsibility to each other and the environment.

### APPLY A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Land owners and affected stakeholders must be involved in the process of developing beneficiation initiatives from conceptualizing the options to planning, implementing and running the initiative(s). Land owner communities may need technical support and advice and capacity building in identifying, planning and managing beneficiation initiatives, particularly in the beginning as new land owners.

While this guideline is intended for the Lower Olifants Catchment, many of the principles and guidelines can apply beyond the catchment. It should be used in conjunction with the Maruleng Local Municipality Biodiversity Sector Plan Handbook (a tool for supporting land-use planning and decision-making in Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas within the Municipality for sustainable development).



# Guideline Process

for identifying and planning natural resource-based beneficiation initiatives

Several characteristics of the Lower Olifants Catchment are particularly pertinent to informing this guideline in considering natural resource-based beneficiation:

- Current lack of diversification and focus on Big 5 eco-tourism opportunities
- Extreme economic disparities
- Land restitution is a priority
- Rich and diverse natural resource base
- Low levels of ecological literacy
- A harsh and variable climate

The following phases should be considered in the process of identifying and planning natural resource-based beneficiation initiatives. Importantly, this process is iterative; as new information and insights are gained it will be necessary to return to, or reconsider, some of the elements.



## SCOPING TO IDENTIFY BENEFICIATION OPPORTUNITIES

Establish a contextual understanding of the land and surrounding region in order to identify appropriate opportunities for natural resource-based beneficiation. The following are key contextual parameters for consideration:

- Ownership, tenure, governance structures and institution arrangements
- Land use zonation
- Social, environmental, economic and socio-political context of the target area
- The challenges for people and threats to the natural resource base in the target area and how they are connected
- The existing and potential benefits and values associated with the target area



## PRIORITIZE AND PLAN BENEFICIATION INITIATIVES

Prioritisation and selection of those beneficiation initiatives identified during scoping to inform which should be taken forward into preparing for implementation:

- Select and prioritise beneficiation initiatives for planning and implementation
  - Screen for sustainability
  - Assess consequences and trade-offs
- Plan the beneficiation initiatives
  - Business plan
  - Sustainability plan



## PREPARE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Create an enabling environment for implementation of the natural resource-based beneficiation initiative. This includes:

- Prepare role players to implement the beneficiation initiative
- Create an enabling environment for implementation
- Develop an action plan