

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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# ABOUT US



*The African Conservation Trust (ACT) is an established not-for-profit and public benefit organisation that has been operating in southern Africa since 2000. We strive to contribute to a world where urban and rural communities take responsible care of their environment, work consciously to conserve and protect natural resources in sustainable ways, and preserve historical assets and heritage for the benefit of future generations. Our core focus areas are environmental conservation and the socio-economic upliftment of vulnerable communities. Wherever possible, ACT initiatives work in partnership with local communities and other stakeholders to promote long term success. Job creation, poverty alleviation, community sustainability and education are key principles in all our projects.*

### **3 Part Mission**

**Conservation:** Create significant and sustainable environmental change, specifically focusing on climate change, water conservation, food security, waste recycling, sustainable energy, preservation of endangered indigenous fauna and flora and greening projects that incorporate poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods

**Education:** Increase the capacity and expertise of the southern African environment/conservation community, by transferring skills, providing mentorship and building supportive networks that support the development and sustainability of the entire environment/conservation sector.

**Innovation:** Use modern technology, specifically GIS capacity to enhance conservation efforts and to pioneer socio-ecological approaches to sustainable protected area management.

### **Vision**

#### **A LIVING WORLD**

##### ***People on a Profitable Planet***

A world that is able to sustain human life, profitable as a result of investment into our most precious asset: Planet Earth, with its abundant natural resources; profitable enough for people to draw from its environmental goods and services, and from a social and economic sense. Living, in that our Planet and its inhabitants are not simply surviving, but are flourishing, and have capacity to give, share and grow.

## **ACT's Registrations**

- Not-for-Profit Trust No: IT 2174/00
- South African Registered Non-Profit Organisation No: NPO 030-243
- SARS Public Benefit Organisation No: 930014758 (*plus Section 18A tax exemption status*)

## **Memberships & Accreditations**

- Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) Level 2 accreditation
- Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Founding member and secretariat of Project Rhino KZN
- Founding member of the SAFE Alliance (now Frack Free SA)
- Founding member of the Imfolozi Community Alliance
- Co-founder of the Open Food Network, South Africa

## **Trustees**

Carl Hector Grossmann (Chairperson)

Oscar Mpiyani Emmanuel Mthimkhulu

Stacey Ruth Francis

Leonard Outram van Schalkwyk

## **Chief Executive Officer**

Francois du Toit

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**Facebook & Twitter** African Conservation Trust and @ACTsafrica

## The year in review

Food security was a key focus for 2015, as ACT implemented a mammoth R12,6 million food garden and rainwater harvesting initiative funded by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund. The project extended across the Hlabisa and uMgeni Municipalities, providing improved food and nutrition to around 10,000 learners from 20 schools and 12 crèches as well as more than 4,000 families from impoverished communities. We have also started work on two exciting new projects: the Foundation for Human Rights funded Dukuduku seed saving project, which will be providing 120 beneficiaries with the skills to store and save their own organic seeds; and the eThekweni Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative, focusing on food production and income generating opportunities at three project sites. As the country continues to grapple with one of the worst droughts in decades, resulting in reduced produce and escalating food prices, we hope to make a definitive impact to persons living in these regions.

In a year when Africa's rhino and elephant faced unprecedented poaching levels, ACT continued to serve the vital role as secretariat of Project Rhino KZN as well as host the fundraising bank account for the association. During the financial year, the ACT Rhino Fund secured more than R3,5 million in donations, 100% of which will be put to effective use in Project Rhino's key priority areas and projects. The Applied Ecology Unit also continued its work in the Ithala region, working toward sustainable communities and valuable elephant range expansion.

ACT's Digital Mapping Unit was again involved in a number of heritage and digital documentation projects. The team piloted innovative photographic enhancement and modelling techniques for San rock art in the Drakensberg and oversaw the laser scanning of uMgungundlovu, the site of Zulu King Dingane's royal capital. The resulting scan point cloud consisted of over 1 billion points and, because it is accurate within millimetres, the resulting data will be invaluable to archaeologists and historians wanting to recreate the heritage site.

We are most grateful to our funders and donors who continue to make our work possible, as well as passionate and committed staff and management team. We look forward to a great year ahead.





**FOOD SECURITY**  
THROUGH  
**ECOLOGICAL AGRICULTURE**



## **eThekwini Municipality Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative**

As part of its Municipal Climate Protection programme, the eThekwini Municipality has been implementing a Community Reforestation Programme at three project sites. The programme involves a collaborative effort between the eThekwini Municipality, NGO's and local communities in the restoration of indigenous forests at Buffelsdraai Landfill Site, Inanda Mountain and Paradise Valley. Through these projects, opportunities are created for community upliftment, jobs and local livelihood improvement, whilst establishing natural "carbon sinks" and restoring biodiversity. The Community Reforestation Programme continues to contribute towards mitigating climate change and increasing local resilience.

The African Conservation Trust is implementing the Sustainable Livelihoods, food production and value adding phase of this intervention. The project is 18 months in duration and seeks to train community members in food production and establish homestead food gardens in accordance with ecological agriculture principles. Value-adding and entrepreneurial activities are also being explored through ACT's Gigabite Guardian, the Open Food Network, and synergies with other NGO's operating in the area.





## **Umgeni and Hlabisa Food Security and Rainwater Harvesting Project**

This 12 month large-scale food security initiative was funded by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund (NLDTF). The project falls over two regions: Hlabisa (near the Hlulhluwe-Imfolozi Park) and the uMgeni Municipality (including Howick, Mpophomeni and Nottingham Road regions). Food gardens were established at 20 schools and 12 Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs), together with training and mentorship for teachers and learners. Rainwater harvesting systems were also installed at a number of centres and school or community nurseries were established to promote long term sustainability.

In addition to this, approximately 4,000 homestead permaculture gardens were created and supported in the Hlabisa and Mpophomeni communities. To assist with garden mentorship, ACT enlisted the support of local CSO, the [Mpophomeni Conservation Group](#) (MCG), and employed graduates from the [Future Farmers Foundation Trust](#). AgriSeta provided the initial incentive payment for the employment of these mentors, as part of their programme to place unemployed graduates in work learning environments. 70 young black aspirant farmers received accredited training in ACT's NQF Level 2 Agro Ecological Farming Practices course in the beginning of 2015. We are currently the largest employer of Future Farmers in South Africa.



## **Sinani Permaculture and Homestead Gardening Training**

ACT continued their collaboration with Sinani (Programme for Survivors of Violence) and over 18 months (2014/2015), 63 beneficiaries from 6 different communities in KZN attended a 5-day homestead gardening course. The training covered all aspects of developing their gardens in a sustainable manner, as well as modules on important aspects such as value-adding, extending the season and healthy eating. ACT also provided the beneficiaries with onsite mentorship in their communities, to assist them develop their gardens as they put their new skills into practice.

A number of the beneficiaries have exceeded all expectations; their gardens are flourishing and they have been eager to share their knowledge with their fellow community members. A few gardeners are marketing their surplus for profit, and one outstanding gardener from the Mfume region has been employed full-time by ACT as a community mentor.

This project was funded by Weltfriedensdienst e.V. (wfd.) via [Sinani](#).

## **Dukuduku Forest Open Pollinated Seedling Nursery and Seed Distribution Centre**

ACT horticulture teams are currently establishing a community nursery on the outskirts of the protected Dukuduku Forest and Isimangaliso Wetland Park. Based at Manukelana Centre, a popular community meeting point, the Dukuduku nursery will provide local community gardeners with heirloom seeds and seedlings, and will serve as a venue for the exchange of seeds and ideas. Heirloom and organic seeds are seeds which breed true to type. Unlike many commercial varieties, these seeds can be saved and healthy crops can be grown year after year. They are also more resistant to the effects of drought and climate change.

120 micro-farmers in the region will attend a one-day seed saving workshop, where they will learn the essentials of harvesting and storing their own seed. They will also be provided with a selection of different seed varieties, seed saving toolkits and be provided with on-going mentorship for the duration of the project.

Funding for this project is facilitated by the [Foundation for Human Rights](#), which is funded by the [Government of Flanders](#).



### **Hlabisa Community Food Garden**

In September 2014, ACT received funding from Koosje De Koeijer and Adelheid Ponsioen, initially targeted for the renovation of a local crèche. When this was not supported by local political groups the funds were channelled into a large community food garden instead. The garden included rainwater storage tanks and an on-site nursery for sustainability.

Despite the prevailing drought conditions, the initial harvests have been positive. The variety of crops grown means that community members are diversifying their nutrition and boosting their health. This is particularly significant as HIV/AIDS is prevalent in the area and a healthy and balanced nutrition is essential for strong immune systems. ACT mentors continue to visit the garden to offer advice and planting assistance.

### **eThekwini GMC Project**

In 2013, the eThekwini Municipality was awarded first-runner up in the Department of Environmental Affairs *Greenest Municipality Competition*. As part of their reward, they received assistance with a Working on Waste project, and ACT was appointed as the project implementer. The project focused on two communities in the Umlazi region and incorporated many elements, including alien weed control, waste management and the cleaning of a large stretch of river. Community teams also rehabilitated an illegal sand mining area with a large permaculture vegetable garden. ACT erected an onsite nursery and the garden will become a community market garden, cared for by 27 local community residents. These farmers all received mentorship and 10 days non-accredited training in agro-ecological techniques.

Project funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs, via the eThekwini Municipality (Durban Solid Waste).

## **GigaBite Guardian Database & Open Food Network SA**

ACT continued to develop and refine the GigaBite Guardian platform, joining forces with the experienced Kandu development team and associated organisations such as Partner Farmer and the Edamame Group. The long term aim is to develop a platform which will facilitate both the cooperation of small scale growers, and the collaboration of NGOs working toward food security. The database has become more stable and user-friendly and data collection has continued at ACT project sites. The Gigabite Guardian will be used in the upcoming eThekwini Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative to link small scale growers to markets, and the Open Food Network website.

The South African Open Food Network (OFN) is aimed at *“connecting people who eat food directly with people who produce food,”* by using an open source software platform. The local South African platform is a three way partnership between the African Conservation Trust, Kandu software developers and the Open Food Foundation (<http://ofn.kandu.co.za/>). It allows producers and food hubs to offer their wares for sale directly to buyers. Food entrepreneurs are able to market their produce for free on the platform and connect with other partners in the area. The benefit of this is that it affords better prices and higher earnings all round by eliminating the need for middle men. It also eliminates food waste and lowers emissions associated with food distribution.

## **iThemba Projects**

iThemba Projects enlisted ACT’s permaculture team to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the food gardens which they established at 15 schools and ECDs in the Sweetwaters region. The ACT team visited the schools three times over the 2014/2015 period and the assessment included interviews with teachers, and a thorough evaluation of the gardens based on various criteria. The ACT team offered advice on aspects such as garden design and layout and monitored progress over the evaluation period. iThemba’s gardens benefit 3,300+ learners and they have incorporated this knowledge into their monthly mentorship and Monitoring and Evaluation practices.



## **Promoting Food Security in Richmond and Mtubatuba**

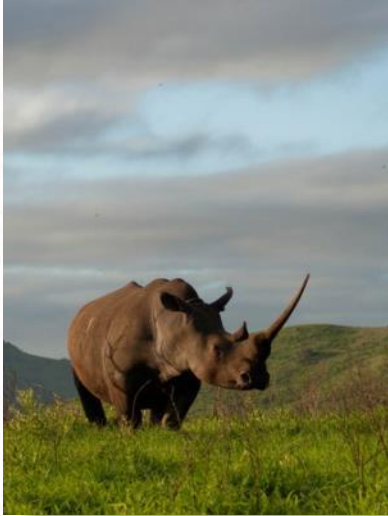
In the 2010 – 2014 period, ACT implemented a number of large scale food security initiatives in the Richmond and greater Mtubatuba regions. Although project funding has ended, we still have mentors based within these project communities to provide assistance and advice on gardening in harmony with nature. Two demonstration gardens have been established and guided tours are offered periodically to community members or visiting groups. In Richmond, where ACT assisted in the development of over 300 homestead and 20 school gardens, gardeners have established their own self-managed collective and sell produce to a local supermarket store as well as at local markets. In Mtubatuba, where ACT recently implemented the *Khula Evolution* project for over 600 beneficiaries, information days are held one Saturday per month. These sessions have become increasingly popular with community members as the mentorship team is available to assist with any questions or problems the gardeners may have, or provide demonstrations in various gardening techniques.







# BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



## **The ACT Rhino Fund**

In May 2011 as the rhino poaching crisis escalated, ACT established the *ACT Rhino Fund*, a funding and programme implementation initiative dedicated to assisting the conservation sector's efforts to protect South Africa's white and black rhino populations. Funds donated through the ACT Rhino Fund go to bona-fide rhino conservation and anti-poaching efforts of reputable NGOs, game reserves and state conservation agencies.

### **FUNDS RAISED**

The ACT Rhino Fund generated support of R3,5 million during the 2015 financial year. 100% of this funding will be put to effective use in key priority areas and projects, which include:

- **Support for the Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAP-Wing)**, a fixed-wing aircraft flying over 26 game reserves; as well as funding emergency helicopter reactions and a critically-needed Ops Base at the Hluhluwe Airfield for law enforcement & rhino security operations in northern KZN.
- Providing **Skills training for rangers and anti-poaching units** throughout KwaZulu-Natal, and providing direct support to game reserves through the provision of equipment and other support.
- Supporting the ***Rhino Art – Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard*** campaign, reaching approximately 80,000 children with an important conservation education message, and improving rural community/game reserve relations in high poaching risk areas at the same time.
- **Lobbying for better prosecutions & convictions**
- Helping to build a growing **global youth movement**, calling for an end to rhino poaching and all forms of wildlife crime as 5 Youth Rhino Ambassadors presented the #WorldYouthWildlifeDeclaration to Vietnamese officials in Hanoi.



## **Project Rhino KZN**

Formed in 2011, Project Rhino KZN unites 18 renowned organisations, including the provincial government body (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife), well-known conservation NGOs and private rhino owners. It has pioneered an ethos of collaboration and has become the conservation conscience of the province in the fight against rhino poaching.

24 private game reserves and 8 Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife provincial game reserves benefit directly. Project Rhino KZN also tackles macro-level issues that affect all rhino stakeholders in the province and initiates anti-poaching strategies that benefit all rhino, regardless of whether they are to be found in provincial or private game reserves.

### **ACT continues to provide the Secretariat & Co-ordination duties for Project Rhino KZN which includes:**

1. Managing communications and maintaining relationships between EKZNW, private game reserves and conservation NGOs ;
2. Providing strategic direction for the association and representing the KZN conservation community at provincial, national and international levels;
3. Mobilizing resources against rhino poaching;
4. Managing fundraising efforts and maintaining relationships with celebrity supporters, major donors and the general public;
5. Act as the public face of Project Rhino KZN – particularly with schools, rural communities, general public, government, businesses, international stakeholders and the media;
6. Co-ordinating public campaigns, including the inaugural 2014 World Youth Rhino Summit;
7. Providing overall financial management of the ACT Rhino Fund: transparent and accountable distribution of funding and reporting;
8. Providing financial management for three major projects: ZAP-Wing, the Rhino Art campaign and the Youth Summit initiative;
9. Strategic relationship building to raise awareness of the plight of rhinos, and of the conservation personnel who are putting their lives on the line in the name of duty.



### **Jozini Cycad Conservation**

ACT received funding from the UNDP through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in May 2013 to protect vulnerable Jozini Cycads in KwaZulu-Natal. The project has been implementing various conservation measures, including conducting a comprehensive survey of existing cycad populations and the micro chipping of cycads that are at heightened risk. This year, a cycad nursery was also established in Mkhuze, this will be linked to a propagation programme to re-populate cycads in the wild.

### **The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Youth Environmental Education Programme**

This project is lending logistical and operational support to the iSimangaliso Authority's Education Programme, offering groups of school children from underprivileged backgrounds the opportunity of visiting the park to learn more about the park's biodiversity, particularly marine life.

Small groups of learners, together with their teachers, spend a day visiting different areas of the park with an experienced guide. Here they receive a hands-on learning experience as they interact with a variety of plant and fish species, as well as witnessing the park's wildlife in their natural habitat.

The Authority aims to bring 150 schools, totalling 2400 learners and 300 educators, into the Park over the next two years. The current programme is funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the National Lotteries Commission.



## **The Butterfly Routes Project**

This unique project resulted in the establishment of network of 4 community-owned butterfly domes in KwaZulu-Natal housing indigenous butterfly species. The domes contribute to biodiversity conservation and the upliftment of local communities. They are also used as a base to conduct environmental education and awareness programmes.

## **The Applied Ecology Unit**

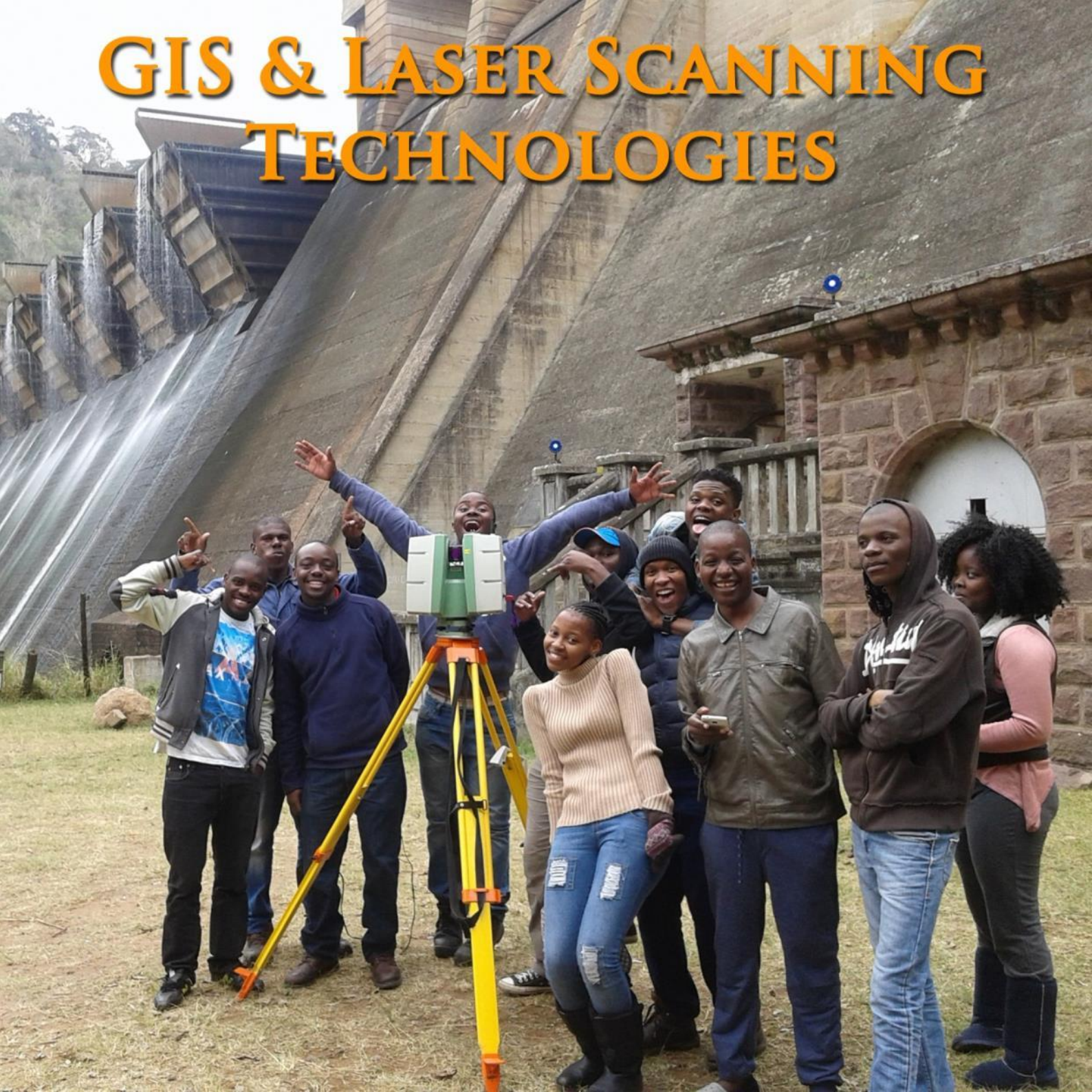
The Applied Ecology Unit (AEU) aims to identify and implement biodiversity goals through an holistic approach that takes cognisance of social, economic and agricultural activities within ecological systems. The team's primary focus, at this stage, is to examine possibilities to enlarge and connect existing protected areas in a manner that not only has local support but also enhances the well-being of local communities. As such, it forms a bridge between those working on protected area expansion strategies, stewardship processes and social-ecological issues.

A critical focus for the AEU this year was the Greater Ithala Complex (including Ithala Game Reserve), host to a number of priority animal species including the Jozini cycad, elephant and rhino. A major concern is Ithala's growing elephant population which will soon add significant stress on the reserve. The northern boundary is also unfenced, and elephants cross into community lands outside the reserve. Like many reserves in the province, Ithala is facing increasing threats of human wildlife conflict, wildlife crime and trafficking of illegal wildlife products.

ACT has been working with partners, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Humane Society International and the Kancha Foundation to find viable and long term solutions for the Complex. A key aim of the AEU is the establishment of sustainable communities around the protected area through integrated land-use planning and the building of strategic partnerships. In this regard, the AEU gained two valuable team members - Steven Matema and Sihle Mthethwa – both experienced social ecologists whose knowledge and expertise will no doubt prove an asset to the mission of the team. The Unit was once again assisted by two graduates, sponsored by the SANBI *Groen Sebenza* programme, who gained valuable experience in environmental and socio-ecological aspects.



# GIS & LASER SCANNING TECHNOLOGIES







## **Soil Erosion Modelling Project**

Soil erosion is one of the main problems affecting land resources throughout South Africa. This is especially evident in community lands in the lower foothills of the Drakensberg mountains where poor agricultural practices and overgrazing have resulted in massive losses of topsoil, the creation of huge dongas, and a loss of income earning potential to the local people. The University of KZN Foundation Trust received funding from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund to create a soil erosion and soil carbon map for the entire Drakensberg and surrounding area. ACT is developing a predictive model of soil erosion that will identify areas likely to be affected by erosion so that pre-emptive action can be taken.

## **Gulley Erosion Scanning**

The Mnweni and AmaZizi valleys are situated between two sections of the Maloti Drakensberg Park and are a critical water source for the country. The area is severely degraded and as a result huge quantities of soil are being washed downstream into the Woodstock Dam. In 2010, ACT received funding for an erosion rehabilitation project that employed local teams to rehabilitate dongas using manual techniques such as stone packing and planting vetiver grass. ACT decided to laser scan one of these dongas to be able to quantify the rehabilitation process. Using the scan data it is possible to measure stone packs and silt retention. This is useful not only in monitoring progress but also in reporting to project funders with quantifiable data.

## Technology Training

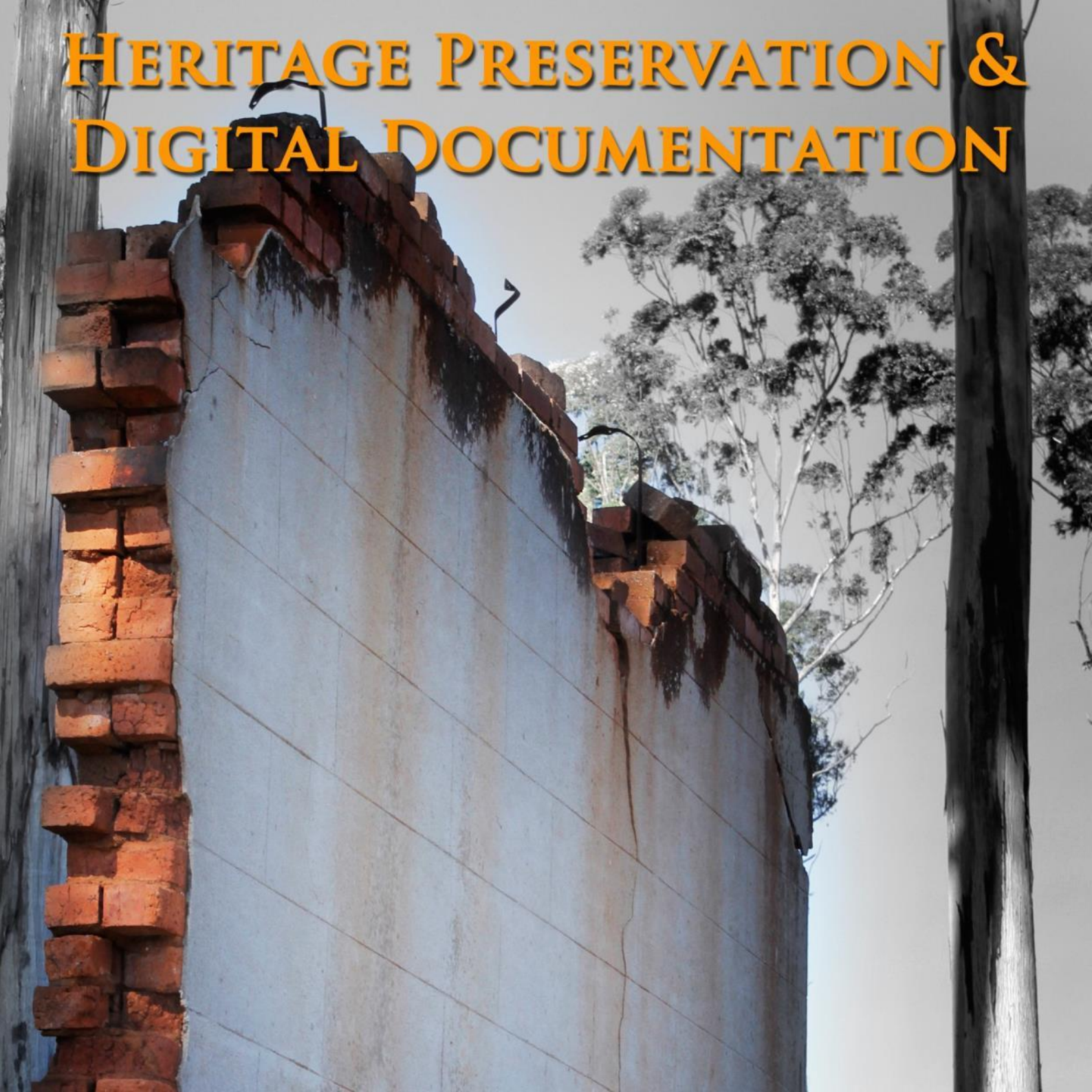
ACT works in close partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) on its heritage documentation projects and has been involved in teaching and demonstrations at the University since 2012. ACT took part in the annual UKZN survey camp where the students scanned the Shongweni Dam Wall as part of the scan practical. This exposure to cutting edge technology provides young land survey students with valuable hand-on experience. ACT also assists final year land survey students with their research projects. This year the old Gillitts train station was scanned to compare various scanners and photogrammetric methods. The old station is derelict and currently not in use, however, it is a beautiful example of 1900-era architecture. Dating back to the Boer War in the first decade of the 20th century, the train station was a stop for British soldiers transiting from Durban through to the Midland battlefields as well as returning wounded soldiers. The scan data can be used to create accurate floor plans and to assess the condition and stability of the building structure.

A YouTube video of the Shongweni scan can be found at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAxaKY3s0HE&feature=youtu.be>





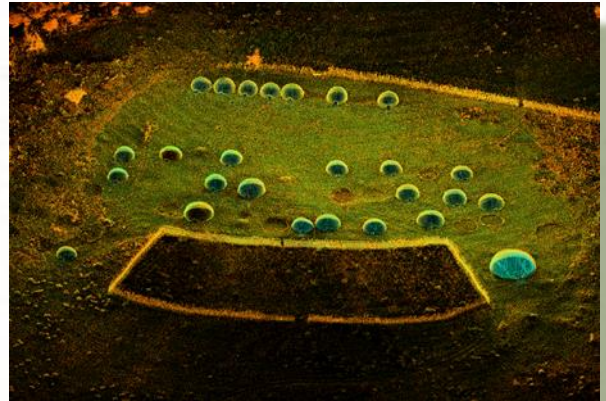
# HERITAGE PRESERVATION & DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION





## **Digital Preservation of uMgungundlovu**

ACT's Digital Mapping Unit laser scanned uMgungundlovu, the Zulu King Dingane's royal capital which was established in 1829 near Ulundi. Dingane rose to power after murdering his half-brother, King Shaka. He decided to build his grand royal kraal in the Emakhosini Valley. uMgungundlovu was oval in shape, and consisted of about 1,500 traditional grass huts (umuzi). Though the original capital was burnt to the ground, archaeologists have reconstructed huts on their original foundations, to show what it was like in its prime. A total of 301 scans were taken for a comprehensive spatial coverage of the whole of uMgungundlovu. This scan data is measurable and accurate from 2-5mm. Not only does this act as a permanent digital record of the site as it stands, but the scan data can be manipulated to remove the reconstructed huts and show the original excavations.



The historical survey also included scanning an ancient paleosol site. Paleosols are fossilised soil and provide evidence of past environmental conditions. All the photographic and scan data have been handed over to Amafa, who provided the funding for the project.

## **Documentation of Rock Art in the Cape**

The Cape Fold Mountains of the Western Cape are rich in natural and cultural heritage. They create the great divide that separates the temperate region of the Garden Route from its drier inland counterpart, the Little Karoo. ACT's archaeologist systematically surveyed rock art sites distributed throughout the region (Western Cape and Eastern Cape), focussing particularly on previously undocumented sites, or sites at risk. Detailed rock art site condition assessments were done, as well as GIS mapping and high resolution photographs. In some sites, advanced image enhancement techniques were used to reveal images that were faded or no longer visible to the naked eye.

Project Funded by the National Heritage Council of South Africa (NHC).

## **Cultural Tourism & Community Upliftment**

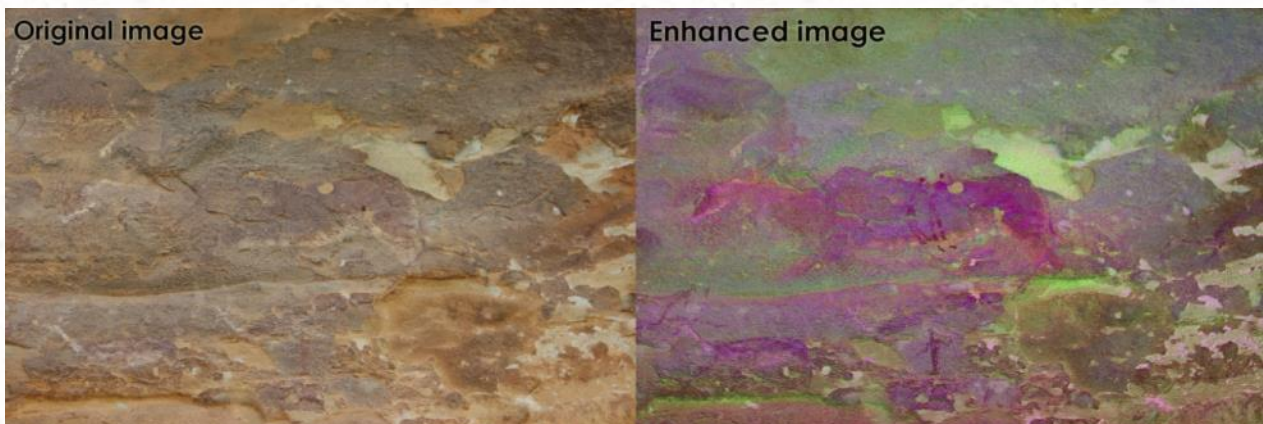
ACT is assisting the Wilderness Action Group in the *Amagug'esizwe* Pilot Project. This project aims to promote cultural tourism and economic development in the Amazizi-Amangwane Community Conservation Area, a region falling between two sections of the Drakensberg mountain world heritage site.

Tourism activities being explored include community-guided hikes, a trail for disabled persons and cultural experiences. The project also aims to support and mentor wilderness and cultural groups and to facilitate the process of signing stewardship agreements between the two Amakhosi and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (through the Global Environment Facility)

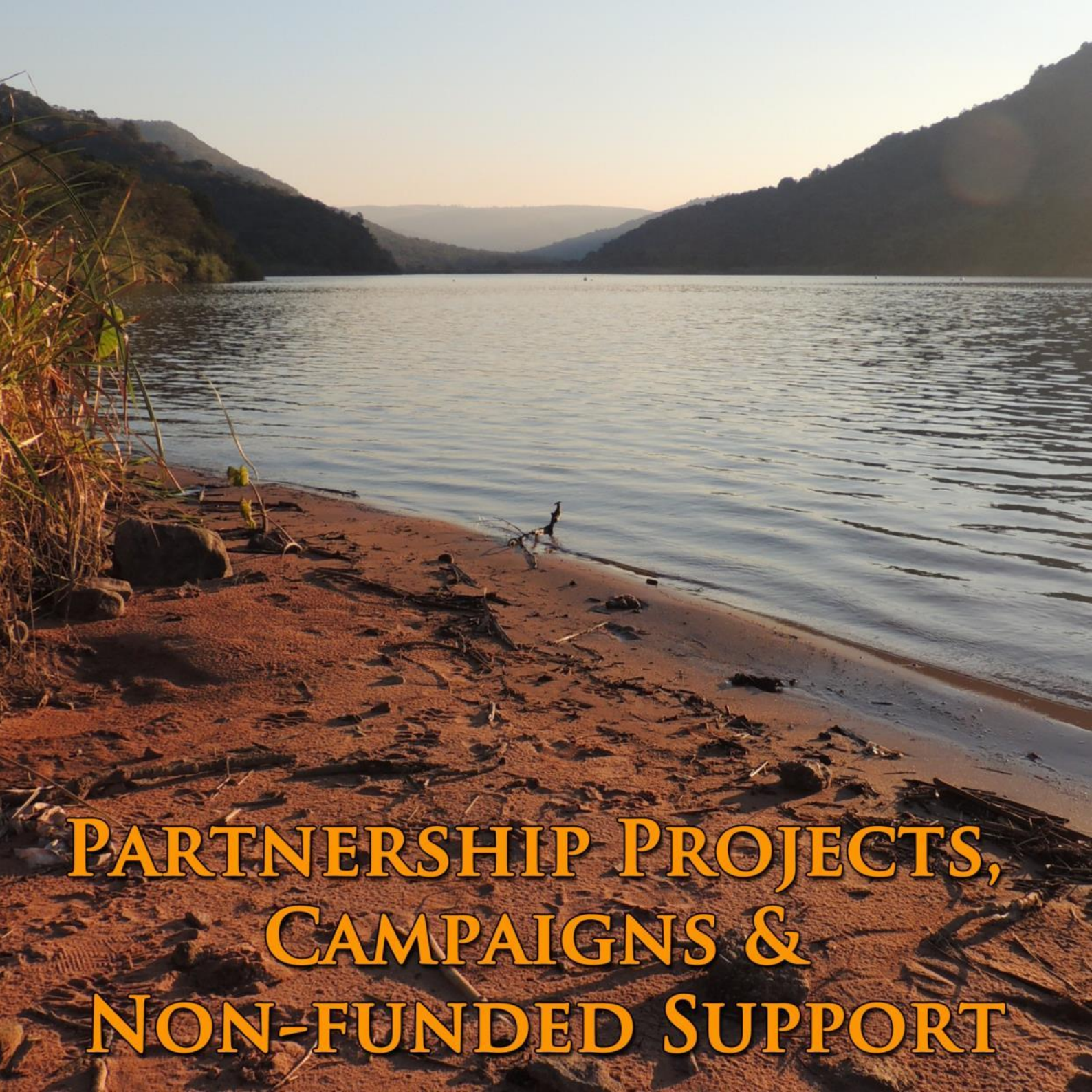
## **Image enhancement at Bushman's Pools**

Natural weathering processes have resulted in many Drakensberg rock art paintings becoming faded, and sometimes invisible to the naked eye. Using the DStretch image enhancement programme, we are able to go back in time and reveal these lost stories. This method was used at the Bushman's Pools rock art site in Cathedral Peak which contains faded images and sometimes layers of paintings on top of each other. Superimposition is fairly common in the Drakensberg and image enhancement can reveal the 'hidden' paintings, adding to the growing database of San art in the Drakensberg. These images can also be significant in the interpretation of the panels and the site as a whole. The whole of the Bushman's Pools site was photographed at various resolutions and then enhanced to reveal the intricate details that the San were so well-known for.



*The original and enhanced image of a large eland with two figures only visible in the enhanced image*





**PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS,  
CAMPAIGNS &  
NON-FUNDED SUPPORT**



## **Partnership Projects**

### **School Leavers Opportunity Trust**

The School Leavers Opportunity Trust (SLOT) was a partnership project implementing an Expanded Public Works programme in Mpopomeni community, just outside Howick. It included a training component, and paid a stipend for community members to attend training and do some basic community work.

### **National Lotteries Commission Partnership Projects**

ACT continued to provide support to five organisations over the 2015 financial year period, implementing projects in a variety of environmental fields. The partnership process aims to build capacity of small or new organisations and ACT provides assistance in aspects such as administration, policy development and financial management where required. Since 2013, ACT has provided support to seven organisations, managing total budgets in excess of R25, 7million.

### **African Raptor Trust**

The Raptor Conservation Project is currently renovating the [African Bird of Prey Sanctuary](#). Situated near Pietermaritzburg, the facility is dedicated to the conservation of indigenous raptors through education, research, breeding and rehabilitation projects.

### **African Spirit**

Based in Estcourt, African Spirit is providing craft skills training for rural communities. They are also offering training in business planning, proposal writing and other business skills.

### **PMMB Trust**

The [Preservation of Mkondeni Mpushini Biodiversity Trust](#) is engaged in a number of research, public education and legal representation activities to preserve the ecological and environmental integrity of the biodiversity area for the communities living in the vicinity of Pietermaritzburg.

### **Wilderness Action Group**

This project is currently underway in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park and aims to promote wilderness conservation regionally and internationally through advocacy, technical planning, management advice, education and training.

### **Zakhe Foundation Trust**

This project saw the rejuvenation of Zakhe Agricultural College, an NGO and boarding school which is equipping young black students from under-privileged backgrounds with the necessary agricultural skills to either manage existing farms, or to successfully farm their own land.

### **Frack Free SA**

In 2012, ACT, together with Treasure the Karoo Action Group, the Wilderness Alliance and the Endangered Wildlife Trust, founded the Sustainable Alternatives to Fracking & Exploration (SAFE) Alliance, a group serving as a platform to oppose hydraulic fracturing, “fracking,” and seek alternative, more sustainable development options for targeted fracking areas.

This has now evolved to embrace [Frack Free SA](#) – a volunteer alliance which opposes, on ecological, health, social, and economic grounds, the use of Fracking or other techniques to recover unconventional gas. It is specifically concerned about the risk of contamination of groundwater in an already water-stressed environment. As a cause so pertinent to all of us, Frack Free SA has gained extraordinary support from a broad range of organisations, community groups, farmers, traditional leaders and concerned citizens from all walks of life.

The alliance continues to educate and inform the public about their environmental rights and the dangers of fracking, including maintaining an open presence at public information meetings. ACT CEO, Francois du Toit, is often requested to present information at environmental events and public forums.

The logo for Frack Free South Africa features the words "FRACKFREE" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. "FRACK" is in purple and "FREE" is in green. A thick green horizontal line is positioned below "FRACKFREE". Below this line, the words "SOUTH AFRICA" are written in a smaller, bold, purple sans-serif font.

**FRACKFREE**

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**SOUTH AFRICA**

## **iMfolozi Community Wilderness Alliance (ICWA)**

African Conservation Trust is a founder member of the iMfolozi Community Wilderness Alliance (ICWA) and an active campaigner for environmental rights and the rights of communities affected by mines and other environmentally hazardous activities. The iMfolozi Alliance was formed in August 2015 to unify opposition to the Fuleni Coal Mine on the border of the iMfolozi Wilderness area and emphasize community involvement in the Save our iMfolozi Wilderness campaign conducted by the [Global Environmental Trust](#).

The iMfolozi Wilderness lies within the oldest proclaimed nature reserve in Africa, home to a vast array of wildlife, including the Big Five. It also has a strong cultural heritage, dating back to the Stone Age with a strong connection to Zulu people, including King Shaka.

The region currently supports the greatest concentration of rhinoceros in the world, but experts fear that this mine will clear the way for poachers. iButho Coal also seeks to relocate 16,000 people from area, a footprint of over 12,000 hectares.

This campaign is seen to be one of the most bitterly contested battles in KwaZulu-Natal's environmental history. It is also one of the most successful alliances between conservation and environmental and social justice.

## **Non-Funded Support**

ACT believes in capacity building and in sharing knowledge and resources with other NPOs and charitable organisations. Staff are encouraged to share their skills and experience and ACT grants employees 4 days paid leave for charity work per year. Supportive activities for 2015 not yet mentioned in this report included:

- Providing GIS and mapping support to various partners, including the Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing
- Website development and hosting for a number of NPOs and CBOs
- Donations of seed packets to the King Edward VIII Hospital Dietetics Department, reaching over 2,500 outpatients and their families
- The establishment of a food garden at Khulakahle crèche and pre-school in the Inanda region
- The creation of a virtual tour for the Highbury Museum, "The Highburian"



**AWARDS,  
ACADEMIC CONFERENCES &  
MEDIA**



# Awards, Academic Conferences & Media

## Press

- ACT projects and initiatives appeared in a number of electronic and printed media, these included:
- “Documenting ancient San rock art using cutting edge technology” – article on ACT’s digital documentation work on online heritage platform, the [Heritage Portal](#) (May 2015)
- “An Act to follow at ‘the Witness’ Garden Show”- insert on ACT’s food security projects and GigaBite Guardian in the Weekend Witness (September 2015)
- “Saving Rock Art” - article by Andrea Abbott in SA Country Life Magazine (February 2016)
- ACT’s CEO, Francois du Toit, was interviewed by the Carte Blanche team in their insert on Fracking in the Natal Midlands (February 2016)

## Conference Presentations

Michelle Dye: “*Digital documentation of cultural heritage sites – providing new tools for online management and dissemination,*” Department of Arts and Culture Library, Language, Archives and Museum Services Conference, Durban, November 2015

Michelle Dye: “Beyond wildlife and environmental conservation, HDS opens the door to preserving Africa’s rich cultural heritage,” HxGN Live Leica user conference, Las Vegas, June 2015.

Sheelagh Antrobus – Presentations on the threat of wildlife crime and the work of Project Rhino KZN:

- Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN) Conference in San Francisco, October 2015
- 2015 World Youth Rhino Summit, Zululand, July 2015
- United States and United Kingdom Embassies in Pretoria in September and October 2015
- She was also a key note speaker at the Bird Life SA AGM (October, 2015) and the Umhlanga Business Women’s annual dinner (November, 2015)



## Awards

- ACT's poster presentation, "Laser scanning as a tool to assess the threatened Corbelled houses of South Africa," was placed third in the Heritage category at the HxGN Live Leica User Conference in Las Vegas (June 2015)
- We received a CyArk 500 Award for its work in documenting the Corbelled houses of the Karoo (September 2015)
- ACT's stand in the Happy Earth Hall at the Witness Garden Show in Pietermaritzburg (24 – 27 September) received a Gold Award, recognising its efforts toward food security and environmental protection







**PROJECT FUNDERS &  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**



Our grateful thanks and deepest gratitude to all our funders and donors who supported our efforts this past financial year.

### **Project Funders**

- Amafa / Heritage KwaZulu-Natal
- The Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
- The Department of Environmental Affairs
- eThekweni Municipality
- The Foundation for Human Rights
- Koosje De Koeijer and Adelheid Ponsioen
- The National Heritage Council of South Africa
- The National Lotteries Commission
- The United Nations Development Programme (through the Global Environment Facility)
- Weltfriedensdienst e.V. via Sinani
- Wesbank (non-specific project donation)

*This list excludes donations made to the ACT Rhino Fund and Project Rhino KZN toward anti-poaching efforts. For more information please consult the PRKZN website: [www.projectrhinokzn.org](http://www.projectrhinokzn.org)*

### **Strategic Partners**

- Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority
- Business World Skills Developers
- Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife
- iSimangaliso Wetland Park
- School Leavers Opportunity Trust
- The University of KwaZulu-Natal

## Financial Statements

Mar 2015 - Feb 2016

Mar 2014 - Feb 2015

Balance CF

<b>Income</b>	<b>R 21 672 097.00</b>	<b>R 15 041 845.00</b>
<b>NLDTF - African Spirit</b>	R 828 375.00	
<b>NLDTF - PMMBT/WAG/Zakhe</b>	R 3 391 887.00	
<b>NLDTF 43204</b>	R 400 000.00	
<b>NLDTF 54710</b>	R 5 050 705.00	R 7 576 058.00
<b>Agriseta Project</b>		R 258 500.00
<b>Amafa</b>		R 106 750.00
<b>CEPF Ithala</b>	R 297 061.00	R 397 130.00
<b>CyArk</b>		R 69 957.00
<b>DEA</b>	R 2 859 000.00	
<b>Didumlungu Creche</b>		R 61 920.00
<b>Donations</b>		R 200 076.00
<b>DUCT</b>		R 218 700.00
<b>FHR</b>	R 108 000.00	
<b>Fuleni Project</b>		R 139 246.00
<b>Future Farmer 15 Training</b>	R 118 500.00	
<b>National Heritage Council</b>	R 98 987.00	R 150 000.00
<b>Project Rhino &amp; GivenGain</b>	R 3 530 167.00	R 2 644 217.00
<b>Hangarage Income</b>	R 9 000.00	R 34 561.00
<b>MacButterflies</b>	R 120 000.00	R 119 073.00
<b>SAFE</b>	R 1 410 000.00	
<b>Sinani</b>	R 200 900.00	R 430 000.00
<b>SLOT</b>	R 518 904.00	
<b>UNDP Cycad</b>	R 264 800.00	
<b>UNDP WAG</b>	R 22 550.00	R 247 600.00
<b>VAT</b>	R 292 603.00	R 235 681.00
<b>UKZN</b>		R 91 975.00



Interest		R 186 293.00
Isimangaliso Partnership	R 294 939.00	R 231 364.00
iThemba Trust	R 16 068.00	
Wesbank	R 1 000 000.00	R 1 010 000.00
Wildlands SANBI	R 49 520.00	R 120 800.00
US Youth Summit Grant		R 347 976.00
Other	R 790 131.00	R 284 768.00
Operating expenses	R 18 098 697.00	R 11 655 921.00
Surplus/Deficit	<b>R 3 573 400.00</b>	<b>R3 385 924</b>

Non-Current Assets	R 8 373 139.00	R 9 715 222.00
Current Assets	R 10 988 846.00	R 4 000 630.00
Total Assets	<b>R 19 361 985</b>	<b>R 13 715 852</b>

Non-Current Liabilities	R -	R -
Current Liabilities	R 2 646 128.00	R 2 605 276.00
Total Liabilities	<b>R 2 646 128.00</b>	<b>R 2 605 276.00</b>

Equity	<b>R 16 715 857.00</b>	<b>R 11 110 576.00</b>
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Total Equity & Liabilities	<b>R 19 361 985.00</b>	<b>R 13 715 852.00</b>
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# Did you know?

the African Conservation trust has

*Section 18a*

tax Exemption Status



For our banking and contact  
details, please visit our  
website:

[www.projectafrica.com](http://www.projectafrica.com)



This means that donations  
made towards ACT are  
tax deductible

You can claim up to 10% of  
your taxable income back  
from South African  
Revenue Services when you  
donate to ACT

