

**WOW**  
**WINGS OVER WETLANDS**  
**The UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project**

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**WOW - DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
***SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT***

**REPORT #: 1**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 March 2007-30 November 2007**  
**Report Prepared by: Daniel Marnewick**

<b>Country</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Multifaceted Ecotourism Development: Wakkerstroom Wetland, South Africa</b>
<b>Project ref. number</b>	<b>G 9</b>
<b>Name of Local Implementing Agency/NGO</b>	<b>BirdLife South Africa</b>
<b>Total amount of funds under this agreement</b>	<b>USD 248 000</b>
<b>Expected project duration</b>	<b>38 months</b>
<b>Date of signature of the agreement</b>	<b>1 March 2007</b>
<b>Contact in Local Implementing Agency/NGO</b>	<b>Daniel Marnewick</b>

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## Acronyms

MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority
BLSA	BirdLife South Africa
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
WTA	Wakkerstroom Tourism Authority
WNHA	Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WOW	Wings Over Wetlands
CBCD	Community Based Conservation Division of BLSA
WWMC	Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee
UTDA	Uthaga Tourism Development Association
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
SACWG	South African Crane Working Group

## 1. Executive Summary

The Wakkerstroom project site has had a very successful first year. We were fortunate to employ an enthusiastic, ambitious and hard working site coordinator who understands the issues on the ground and who has over come social issues many thought was impossible.

The start of the WOW project was timely as it coincided with the start of BLSA's 'Darwin Initiative' project, the SANBI 'Grasslands Project' and local government's RAMSAR application. Many other local organizations were in a state of flux, which allowed BLSA to influence change within these organizations towards a common goal, using the momentum of the afore mentioned projects.

The BLSA center was also in a state of flux and this WOW project has given the centre a new focus and consequently a new management strategy which is far more holistic and user friendly. The center has now become the head quarters for the wetland's management and for the local community to market their goods and engage in environmental education and birding. The BLSA center is once again the gateway to Wakkerstroom and is soon becoming the southern gateway to the Mpumalanga Birding Route.

Two of the greatest achievements for 2007 were the formation of the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee with representation of all stakeholders and user groups in Wakkerstroom. The other was the formation of two of the largest user groups, namely the Grass & Reeds Cutters Association and Cattle Grazers Associations respectively. The former Ass also earned US\$2 860 in six months making and selling a new product marketed through BLSA, namely reed fences.

An ongoing challenge for the site will be small town politics. This situation is worsened by racial tensions. Even though we have seen a reduction in this the past year by success abating the skeptics, this characteristic will never disappear and our role in this level of politics needs to be carefully managed. A situation that delayed our WOW outputs in the first six months was the uncertainty around the future of the BLSA Wakkerstroom center. The project coordinator spent some of his time managing this center until a center manager was employed.

### 1.1 Key project achievements during the reporting period

#	Key Project Achievements
1	Mr. Hansco Banda was employed, 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2007, as the Wakkerstroom project site coordinator for the Community Based Conservation Division (CBCD) of BirdLife SA (BLSA). The WOW project is managed under this division and forms a part of Mr. Banda's job description.
2	The WOW project and Darwin Initiative provides an ideal opportunity to unite the

- largely fragmented Wakkerstroom community. Mr. Banda has been recognized as an important mediator bringing key and often duplicated community groups together to work towards a united objective.
- 3 The WOW project has given the Wakkerstroom region increased status and profile, along with the current RAMSAR application and Grasslands Stewardship programme. This has led to other initiatives, stakeholders and local government taking the area more seriously.
  - 4 BLSA played the catalyst role in initiating the establishment of the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee (WWMC), consisting of multiple government and civil stakeholder groups. This committee has met twice in 2007 and plans to meet every two months.
  - 5 Mr. Banda was a catalyst in forming the ‘Cattle Owners Association’ and ‘Reed Cutters Association’, both wetland resource users. These two associations are now organized and represented on the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee. The Reed Cutters Association have begun selling reeds and reed fences and earned US\$ 2,860 in the past 6 months. Although no direct link has been established yet, the wetland was also burnt much later in winter than in previous years. The side where the reed cutters source their reeds was not burnt at all this year.

## 1.2 Key issues & proposed solutions

#	Issue	Proposed Solution	Deadline	Party Responsible
1	Require a water bird monitoring system	<p>Could draw on the RSPB resources to assist in developing such a system. Otherwise it would be helpful if WOW developed a generic monitoring methodology.</p> <p>The IBA monitoring framework would be the best place to start. See the following link:  <a href="http://www.birdlife.org/ibas/index.html">http://www.birdlife.org/ibas/index.html</a></p>		WOW, RSPB, WWMC
2	Racial divide	Previously there was no integration of the white and black populace in representative bodies. BLSA is currently working to remedy this stumbling block.		BLSA, Wakkerstroom residents

## 2. Project Management

CATEGORY	ISSUES Description of issues affecting project performance during the reporting period	PROPOSED SOLUTIONS Description of decisions / actions to be taken	DEADLINE	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
Recruitment & management of staff and consultants	The Community Based Conservation Division of BLSA was established in August 2006, for which Daniel Marnewick was appointed as the Division Manager. In 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2007, Mr Hansco Banda was employed as the Wakkerstroom project site coordinator, reporting to Daniel Marnewick.	No issues have been experienced thus far.	NA	NA
Finance & administration	Finance and administration are managed through BLSA structures. No issues related to this.	NA	NA	NA
Logistics & operations	The project site coordinator operates from the BLSA premises in Wakkerstroom. No related issues.	NA	NA	NA
Reporting & communication	The project coordinator reports to the Division Manager. Monthly objectives are set and used to evaluate outcomes against the annual objectives. Day to day issues are dealt with through weekly telephonic	NA	NA	NA

	communications. No issues currently.			
Coordination with project partners	BLSA successfully catalysed the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee in September 2007. The biggest challenge for this committee is integrating the concerns of all stakeholders into wetland management plans, especially those concerns of the previously marginalised black community.	BLSA is mediating a merge between the black and white representative bodies. BLSA is also assisting resource users to become organised and represented on the management committees.	September 2007	Hansco Banda
External issues (e.g. difficult access to the project site for political/social/environmental reasons, etc.)	None			
Other	None			

## 2.2 Project Steering Committee (SC)

Date of last SC Meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2007
Proposed Date for next SC Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2008

QUESTION	ANSWER
This Report was reviewed and approved by the Project SC	No. This report was not complete before the last committee meeting on the 6 <sup>th</sup> November. The report has however been emailed to committee members but thus far has had no comments.
The work plan & budget for next six months was reviewed & approved by the Project SC	No. This is planned for the next committee meeting in January 2008 when all stakeholders will present their budget contributions towards the wetland's management.
The SC is meeting periodically and providing effective direction/inputs?	Yes

Please provide updated list of SC Members (list the SC Chairperson first):

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Mpumalanga Parks & Tourism Authority (Jannie Coetzee)	Chairperson	<a href="mailto:jannie@MTPA.co.za">jannie@MTPA.co.za</a>	+27 13 282 8671
Pixley KaSeme Local Municipality (Oupa Mavusa)	Vice-Chairperson	<a href="mailto:oupa@highveldmail.co.za">oupa@highveldmail.co.za</a> or <a href="mailto:records@pixleykaseme.co.za">records@pixleykaseme.co.za</a>	+27 17 734 6100 or +27 82 499 1936
Isaak Inkosi	Cattle Owners Ass	N/A	+2779 601 9206
Anton Linstrom	Mpumalanga Parks & Tourism Authority	<a href="mailto:anton@MTPA.co.za">anton@MTPA.co.za</a>	+2783 300 6978
Angus Burns	South African National Biodiversity Institute's Grasslands Programme	<a href="mailto:egtproject@mweb.co.za">egtproject@mweb.co.za</a>	+2784 4001 232
John	Wakkerstroom	<a href="mailto:burchmore@telkomsa.net">burchmore@telkomsa.net</a>	+2782 224 3326



Burchmore	Natural Heritage Association		
Norman Dennett	Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association	denett@vlr.dorea.co.za	+2717 730 0523
Chris Smit	Local Councilor	N/A	+2784 508 4595
Lungile Nkosi	Local Councilor	N/A	+2779 492 2263
Brian Morris	South African National Biodiversity Institute's Grasslands Programme	<a href="mailto:enviroteq@gmail.com">enviroteq@gmail.com</a>	+2784 579 7979
Pat Mooney	Wakkerstroom Tourism Association	<a href="mailto:pmooney@mweb.co.za">pmooney@mweb.co.za</a>	+2776 112 4549

### 3. Progress / Issues / Proposed Solutions

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; ACTIVITIES</b> Output/Service (as listed in Annex A of Memorandum of Agreement)	<b>EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>STATUS</b> NA: Not scheduled for current reporting period IP: In progress (state % completed) C: Completed	<b>PROGRESS</b> Description of progress & achievements during the reporting period	<b>ISSUES &amp; PROPOSED SOLUTIONS</b> Description of problems encountered; issues that need to be addressed; decisions / actions to be taken	<b>PARTY RESPONSIBLE</b>
<b>Outcome 1 More income from ecotourism to local communities.</b>			Tourism in Wakkerstroom has increased substantially since 2003 (beds for tourists have increased from 167 to over 300=79% in 4 years). The town has organized its tourism industry through the establishment of a Wakkerstroom Tourism Association (WTA), which currently is not functioning efficiently. Wakkerstroom is an Important Bird Area (IBA ZA016) and is recognized as one of South Africa's top birding destinations. BirdLife South Africa's Avi-Tourism Division is developing the Mpumalanga Birding Route.	Currently the black populace is not a member of the WTA. Hansco Banda is currently assisting WTA to reconstitute itself and ensure membership of all stakeholders.	BLSA Avi-Tourism Division, BLSA Community Based Conservation Division, Wakkerstroom Tourism Association.
<i>Activity 1.1 Development of infrastructure to provide an improved and more extensive visitor experience</i>	July 2008	IP 30%	Bird hides have been assessed by a panel of experts. Renovation on the bird hides began in August 2007. The first phase of these renovations is complete.	A serious fire in August caused unexpected damage to the walkways into the hides. This repair is being done in conjunction with the	Hansco Banda

			BLSA is approaching the Wakkerstroom Bird Club and Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association (WNHA) to assist with developing informative walking trails between the hides.	overall renovation of the four hides. BLSA is currently submitting an insurance claim to pay for the fire damage, but the amount to be paid out is uncertain. (NOTE; this may have an impact on the cost of hide renovation)	
<i>Activity 1.2 Marketing of the Wakkerstroom site to potential visitors</i>	Ongoing	IP 40%	The site is currently being marketed through the Wakkerstroom Tourism Association's website ( <a href="http://www.wakkerstroomtourism.co.za">www.wakkerstroomtourism.co.za</a> ), and BirdLife SA's Travel Division. BirdLife's Avi-Tourism Division is currently developing a marketing plan for the Mpumalanga Province which will include Wakkerstroom as its gateway to the province.	The WTA currently caters for the white populace, while the Uthaga Tourism and Development Association (UTDA) cater for the black community. BLSA is currently negotiating with both associations to merge into one association.	WTA, Hansco Banda, BLSA Avitourism
<i>Activity 1.3 Training of local people as guides.</i>	September 2008	IP 50%	Thus far five bird guides from the local black community have been trained and are working in the Wakkerstroom area. Two of these guides were trained and funded during this reporting period by the WOW funds.	BLSA will shortly identify what the need is for further guides in the area and train local community members to meet this need.	Hansco Banda, BirdLife Avi-Tourism Division
<i>Activity 1.4 Creation of jobs and businesses for local people.</i>	2009	IP 30%	The local municipality has established a cooperative of small, black owned businesses. BLSA is negotiating a partnership with the municipality to assist with the development of these businesses. This will essentially form the beginning of the craft and arts	The negotiations with the local municipality have taken longer than expected due to political shuffling. BLSA will assist these businesses with necessary skills and proper marketing aimed at tourism.	Hansco Banda, Fair Trade and Tourism, Arts and Crafts Council,

			<p>industry.</p> <p>The crafts and arts businesses will be displaying goods at the BLSA tourist shop and the town market. This is also currently being negotiated with the local municipality.</p> <p><b>BLSA has established the Reed &amp; Grass Cutters Ass., which is making and selling reed fences from the wetland, they have generated US\$ 2,860 in the past 6 months.</b></p> <p>The crane feeding site will be re-established in June 2008. the crane carvers will begin producing model cranes in April 2008.</p> <p>The vegetable growers have been organised into an association. The Department of Agriculture have been approached to provide training and support to this group.</p>		Pixley KaSeme Local Municipality.
<b>Outcome 2 Significant increases in education and awareness of the local community and tourists.</b>			BirdLife's main thrust here is awareness work with farm labourers, environmental education with local school learners, and awareness material available at key locations for tourists.		Hansco Banda, Indwe environmental club
<i>Activity 2.1 Improve availability of education material in bird hides, interpretive centre and</i>	April 2008	IP 30%, NA	Once the bird hides have been renovated, the interior of the hides will be fitted with information and		Hansco Banda, WNHA,

<i>information centre.</i>			interpretative materials.		WBC
<i>Activity 2.2 Implement a Crane Outreach Programme for local school children and farm-workers.</i>	Ongoing	IP 30%	The local farmer outreach programme has been successfully implemented in Wakkerstroom by the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) South African Crane Working Group (SACWG). This group targets farm owners. BirdLife SA (BLSA) and EWT have now partnered to take an outreach programme in the Zulu language to farm workers and farm schools.  This programme began in July 2007.		Hansco Banda and Glen Ramke (EWT)
<i>Activity 2.3 Run local schools wetland and education programmes.</i>	Ongoing	IP20%	Hansco Banda and BLSA's Environmental Education manager Joe Peu are planning a training workshop in February 2008 with local teachers to train them in the Wildlife and Environmental Society of SA's Eco-Schools programme, to be implemented EE in local schools.  In the mean time Hansco has established BirdLife Members and eco-clubs in the local schools.	This was delayed by a national teacher strike and has been rescheduled for February 2008.	Hansco Banda & Joe Peu
<b>Outcome 3 The numbers and diversity of waterbirds, including AEWA listed species, and other grassland</b>			The newly established Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee will be responsible for implementing this monitoring. The procedure will be		Wakkerstroom Wetland Managem

<p><b>birds, including blue and crowned cranes, occurring on and breeding at Wakkerstroom is stable or increases.</b></p>			<p>decided at the upcoming WOW team meeting and the management of this decided at the next WWMC meeting.</p>		<p>ent Committee. Hansco Banda</p>
<p><i>Activity 3.1 Establish a waterbird monitoring system to enable evaluation of the success of habitat improvement measures.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>IP 0%</p>	<p>Not initiated yet. To start in March 2008.</p>	<p>The monitoring system is to be incorporated into Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency's (MTPA) Wakkerstroom wetland management plan, waiting to be passed by MTPA. Need to establish a monitoring programme and standardise it with WOW requirements.</p>	<p>Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee.</p>
<p><i>Activity 3.2 Management of habitats to maximize biodiversity.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>IP 20%</p>	<p>The Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency's (MTPA) Wakkerstroom wetland management plan is waiting to be passed by MTPA.</p> <p>BLSA successfully catalysed the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee in September 2007. This committee consists of 11 stakeholder groups representing local government, local government conservation agency, conservation NGOs, local tourism and conservation associations and resource user groups.</p>	<p>The newly established management committee has only met twice and will in the next meeting outline its mandate, after which intensive management will be take place.</p>	<p>MTPA, Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee.</p>

Activity 3.3 Creation of island and floating platforms as waterbird breeding site.		NA			
Activity 3.4 Develop a secure wintering feeding site for Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes.	July 2008	IP 10%	In 2006 a winter feeding site for cranes was developed in front of the 'Crane Bird Hide'. Reportedly not many cranes frequented the site, however many other seed eating birds did use the site. The site will be re-established and include crane decoys and be carefully monitored.	Historically cranes did not frequent this feeding site, however no decoys were used. In the winter of 2008 this site will be re-established, using crane decoys, and carefully monitored. This potential of this site will be reassessed in the November 2008 WOW report.	Hansco Banda
Activity 3.5 Maintenance of site character and value for ecotourism	Ongoing	IP 60%	Currently the Working for Wetlands programme, run by the South African National Biodiversity Institute, is removing alien invasive plants from the wetland and reclaiming and controlling erosion. The Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee is responsible for the overall management decisions. Implementation is a joint effort by the multiple stakeholders.		Working for Wetlands, Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee.
<b>Outcome 4</b> Effective dissemination of project findings and lessons learnt.					

<p><i>Activity 4.1 Document and make available information on projects</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>IP 30%</p>	<p>The WOW technical team visited the site in April 2007, during which time they presented the project to the Wakkerstroom community. The project coordinator is also constantly meeting with community members and is an active member of all the local associations. The project site generated its first newsletter in English and Zulu in October 2007. This newsletter will be distributed every two months. The project will begin producing brochures in February 2008. Project information is regularly updated on BirdLife SA's website <a href="http://www.birdlife.org.za">www.birdlife.org.za</a></p>		
<p><b>Outcome 5</b> Smooth project execution and evaluation of success.</p>					
<p><i>Activity 5.1 Creation of project team and steering committee.</i></p>		<p>100%</p>	<p>The project steering committee is essentially the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee, est. in October 2007.</p>		
<p><i>Activity 5.2 Supervision and financial administration of implementation.</i></p>			<p>The project is implemented and administered by BirdLife SA, a BirdLife International Partner. BLSA is a registered Not for Profit organisation, audited by independent auditors.</p>		
<p><i>Activity 5.3 Reporting.</i></p>			<p>The project management tiers are</p>		



as follows:

Gerhard Verdoorn: BLSA Director

Daniel Marnewick: Community  
Based Conservation Division  
Manager

Hansco Banda: Project site  
coordinator: Wakkerstroom.

The Wakkerstroom site manager reports to the Division manager who in turn reports to the Director, who in turn reports to the BLSA Council. Project and Division reports are written every two months for the council meeting. These reports along with the newsletters are sent to the WOW technical team.

## 4. Funds Disbursement

### 4.1 Disbursement of GEF Funds

Report on the status of GEF Funds managed under this Agreement with UNOPS.

Total Budget approved: 248,000\$

Funds advanced by UNOPS to date: 31,708\$

Total expenditure this reporting period: 20,588\$

Funds requested (as per disbursement schedule): Camillo please insert amount of next payment as per MOA US\$ 60,791

Balance (if applicable): 11,120\$

Certified by (Project Manager:Daniel Marnewik)

General Category of Expenditure	Total budget	Total expenditure to date	Total budget balance	Last payment received	Expenditure in reporting period	Balance at end of reporting period
Personnel	90000	9596	80404	11536	9596	1940
Equipment	49000	3337	45663	6265	3337	2928
Subcontracts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Workshops and training	39000	5214	33786	4988	5214	-226
Travel	30000	863	29137	3840	863	2977
Executing agency support overhead	12000	1194	10806	1535	1194	341
Monitoring and Evaluation	2000	0	2000	255	0	255
Miscellaneous	26000	383	25617	3289	383	2906
<b>Total</b>	<b>248000</b>	<b>20588</b>	<b>227412</b>	<b>31708</b>	<b>20588</b>	<b>11120</b>

## 4.2 Status of co-financing

Please report on the status of funds received by other donors and partners as co-financing for this project using the following table.

Sources of co-financing	Total funds committed (cash)	Total in-kind contribution	Total co-financing (cash + in-kind)	Total received to date	Balance
Darwin Initiative, UK DEFRA	2007: £20,000 2008: £18,000 2009: £4000		2007: £20,000 2008: £18,000 2009: £4000	2007: £20,000 2008: £0 2009: £0	£22,000
<b>totals</b>			£42,000		
<b>List any additional sources of co-financing mobilized during project implementation</b>					
<b>totals</b>			0		

## 5. Performance Evaluation

### 5.1 Logical framework

When preparing the first progress report, please review the logical framework table below, and fill in the description of “Baseline situation”. In subsequent reports you may just update the column: “status as of..”. The Baseline situation should be described making reference to the indicators selected during project design.

Intervention logic.	Indicators of performance and targets	Means of verification.	Baseline	Status as of November 2007	Risks and assumptions.
<b>Development objective:</b> Conservation and sustainable use of the Wakkerstroom Wetland critical site for migratory waterbirds					
<b>Immediate Objective.</b>  1 - improved and community-managed tourism facilities  2 – improved and community-managed educational facilities  3 – improved habitats for AEWA and other	A 10% improvement in the biodiversity (numbers of waterbirds, species diversity) of the Wakkerstroom Wetland by project end.  Evidence of direct economic benefits flowing to all sections of the local community with an increasing trend during project implementation.	Revised wetland management guidelines and management reports.  Wakkerstroom wetland waterbird survey reports (current existing ongoing monitoring project).  Financial and other statements of community members benefiting. Jobs created.	Currently only the Bee-Hive and Grass & Reeds projects run by the local municipality.  Originally no community-managed educational facilities.  Habitat was managed by WNHA and BLSA on behalf of MTPA.	BLSA brokering a partnership with local municipality to co-manage the Bee-Hive and Grass & Reeds projects.  Two local schools became members of BLSA. Indwe environmental club established by community youth.  Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee	Economic and political sustainability in South Africa.  BirdLife South Africa’s Wakkerstroom Programme remains viable.

<p>waterbirds/improved habitat and protection status for Blue and Crowned cranes.</p> <p>4 – lessons learnt are disseminated</p>		<p>Progress Reports</p>	<p>Lessons previously not disseminated.</p>	<p>established consisting of multiple stakeholders.</p> <p>Lessons and experience disseminated through local and CBCD newsletters, local newspaper and articles in African Birds &amp; Birding.</p>	
<p><b>Outcomes.</b></p>					
<p>1. More income from eco-tourism to local communities.</p>	<p>Evidence of an increasing trend in the number of tourists to the wetland, over the project period.</p> <p>Development of four new locally run ecotourism enterprises as a result of this project.</p> <p>An increase of 25% in the local income derived from tourism flowing to local communities compared to pre-project situation.</p>	<p>Records of Wakkerstroom centre. Tourism authority reports.</p> <p>Wakkerstroom financial and written reports.</p> <p>Local business registry (chamber of commerce?).</p> <p>Financial reports of local community enterprises. WOW demo project progress reports. Project reports of other projects in the area, i.e.: Working for Wetlands, SACWAG, and Guide-training.</p>	<p>Start of 2007: 270 beds for tourists.</p> <p>3 bird guides trained</p> <p>None.</p> <p>No income flow to communities.</p>	<p>End of 2007: 300 beds for tourists =79% increase in 4 years.</p> <p>2 bird guides trained total=5.</p> <p>Currently Grass &amp; Reed Cutters earned US\$2860 in 6 months. Bee-Hive and Grass &amp; Reeds projects of municipality employ 35 community members.</p>	<p>South Africa is not affected by an overall decline in tourism trends</p> <p>External environmental (i.e. fire, floods, etc.) factors do not negatively affect the wetlands and its visitor infrastructure.</p> <p>Black racial concerns are not integrated into greater Wakkerstroom development plan due to racial tensions.</p>
<p>2. Significant increases in education and awareness of the local community and</p>	<p>Numbers of tourists and educational groups visiting the hides and interpretive center increases by 50%</p>	<p>Records of Wakkerstroom centre, hides and interpretative center</p>	<p>No visitor records kept.</p> <p>No education of</p>	<p>Records are being designed for the bird hides, interpretive center and Birdlife</p>	

tourists.	compared to visits by the same in the year prior to completion, with a subsequent increasing trend.	visitor reports. Tourism authority reports.  WOW Demo project progress reports.	tourists or schools children. Only SACWG conducting crane awareness with local farmers.	wetland center.  Environmental education in schools began. Indwe youth environmental group established.	
3. The numbers and diversity of waterbirds, including AEWA listed species, and other grassland birds, including blue and crowned cranes, occurring on and breeding at Wakkerstroom is stable or increases.	Stable (or increasing) numbers of waterbirds.  At least 80 cranes regularly use the feeding site by the end of the project (currently 4 cranes).	Annual waterbird counts in Wakkerstroom.  Breeding records.  Reports on biodiversity.  Crane counts from BLSA centre.  SACWAG crane programme reports.	An old wetland management plan from 1997 was being used. This plan was implemented by Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association and BLSA.  No wetland water bird monitoring programme in place.  Crane numbers at wetland not recorded.	A new wetland management plan has been developed and approved. This plan is now being implemented by the Wakkerstroom Wetland Management Committee consisting of a multiple stakeholders. The Crane Working Group has been managing a project aimed at increasing crane numbers in the area, through education, farmer outreach, and monitoring,	Behavioral or ecological factors do not prevent cranes from using the site.  Ongoing good relations with South African Crane Working Group.
4. Effective dissemination of project findings and lessons learnt	Number of requests for relevant information / publication(s) increases by 20% compared to the year before project implementation.  Visitors to the demo project website.	Records of Wakkerstroom centre. Tourism Authority reports. Web-site statistics, copies of publication distributed/sold.  Surveys of opinions before and after.	Information not properly sourced, organized or disseminated.	Tourism information to be gathered and disseminated through Wakkerstroom Tourism Authority.  Project information and lessons being published through the projects newsletters	Wakkerstroom Tourism Authority is not able to resolve racial differences and represent all races in community.

		Web-site statistics and/or printed materials.		and articles in the local newspaper and African Birds & Birding.	
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## 5.2 Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

QUESTION	ANSWER
Was the PAMETT performed for the Wakkerstroom Wetland?	Yes
Date of first PAMETT:	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
PAMETT performed by:	Daniel Marnewick and Anton Lindstrom and Jannie Coetzee (MTPA)

## 5.3 Project Impact

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>	
# of NGO staff involved in this project	6 (BLSA)
# of Government Staff involved in this project	2 (MTPA) 2 (Local Councilors) 2 (Municipality)
# of Volunteers involved in this project	2 (WNHA) 1 (WTA) 1 (Cattle owners)
# of Government staff involved in Flyways issues (AEWA in particular)	1 (MTPA)
<b>TARGET BENEFICIARIES</b>	
# of beneficiaries involved in this project	195
# of people involved in project workshops	29
# of people trained under this project	5
<b>COMMUNICATION ISSUES</b>	
# of press articles featuring the project and/or related issues	2
# of TV/radio programmes featuring the project and/or related issues	1
# of publications produced under this project	2
Estimated # of people reached by project communication efforts	

## 6. Key Lessons Learned

1. Perhaps more attention could be given to water/migratory bird monitoring techniques. Not all projects may have the skills to plan and implement this. Also, it may be more useful to WOW if all project sites used the same monitoring format/technique.



2. In a community with racial and cultural tensions, it was important for BLSA (as the project implementer) to remain and be perceived as a neutral entity interested in serving all interests.

## 7. Workplan for the Next Semi-annual Period

### 7.1 Updated overall project workplan

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1		YEAR 2		YEAR 3		YEAR 4	
	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	
Activity 1.1.1. Develop an interpretive trail between the hides								
Activity 1.1.2. Development artificial wetland & photographic hide								
Activity 1.1.3. Enhance existing hide with displays and features								
Activity 1.1.4. Build, fit and run interpretative centre.								
Activity 1.2.1. Develop and implement marketing plan.								
Activity 1.2.2. Develop regional birding map.								
Activity 1.3. Train 10 local guides in birding and wetlands.								
Activity 1.4.1. Build and run shop for local arts and crafts.								
Activity 1.4.2. Develop arts and crafts industry to supply shop.								
Activity 1.4.3. Develop crane-carving industry.								
Activity 1.4.4. Develop vegetable garden.								
Activity 2.1. Improve availability of education material in bird hides, interpretive centre and information centre.								
Activity 2.2. Implement crane outreach programme for local farm workers.								
Activity 2.3. Run local schools wetland and education programmes.								
Activity 3.1. Develop waterbird monitoring system.								
Activity 3.2. Management of habitats to maximize biodiversity								
Activity 3.3. Creation of island and floating platforms as waterbird breeding site.								
Activity 3.4.1. Develop crane feeding site to attract wintering cranes.								

Activity 3.4.2. Produce wooden decoy cranes to attract cranes								
Activity 3.5. Rehabilitate erosion damage.								
Activity 4.1. Document and make available information on projects								
Activity 5.1. Creation of project team and steering committee.								
Activity 5.2. Supervision and financial administration of implementation.								
Activity 5.3. Reporting								

## 7.2 Workplan for next six months

PLANNED ACTIVITY	Period December 07-May 07					
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
Activity 1.1.1: Develop an interpretive trail between the hides						
Activity 1.1.3: Complete renovation of bird hides						
Activity 1.1.4: Develop the interpretative centre						
Activity 1.2.1: Develop and implement marketing plan.						
Activity 1.2.1: Facilitate the formation of the new Wakkerstroom Tourism Association						
Activity 1.2.2: Develop regional birding map.						
Activity 1.4.1: Provide marketing space for local arts & crafts businesses						
Activity 1.4.2: Training site manager in Participatory Rural Appraisals, project management, Environmental education						
Activity 1.4.2: Train local people in arts & crafts, and marketing						
Activity 1.4.2: Conduct a resource use assessment on wetland						
Activity 2.2: Implement crane outreach programme for local farm workers.						
Activity 2.3: Run local schools wetland and education programmes: Train local school teachers in Environmental Education curriculum						
Activity 2.3: Formalize local school environmental clubs						
Activity 3.1 Develop waterbird monitoring system.						
Activity 3.2: Facilitate Cattle Owners Association's implementation of grazing management plan						
Activity 3.4.2 Produce wooden decoy cranes to attract cranes						

## ANNEXES

In each report, please include the following information in the annexes:

- ✓ List of workshops (title, date, location, # of participants) held in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of technical reports produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of media communication (TV/radio/press) released in the period covered by this report
- ✓ List of publications produced in the period covered by this report
- ✓ Updated inventory of equipment purchased with project funds (please use the table provided – double-click on the file icon below, insert items, and then “save” the file)



inventory

Please send by email to the PCU:

- ✓ 1 photograph of the project team as a group, and passport size photo of project manager (if not already submitted)
- ✓ Photographs representing main aspects of project work, and illustrating project impact (i.e. of workshops, field research, education and awareness, ecotourism, volunteer groups. Please take pictures illustrating the impact of the project, i.e. of the situation “before”, “during” and “after” the project)
- ✓ general photographs illustrating the environment of the site
- ✓ Soft copy of technical reports produced by project
- ✓ Soft copy of workshop reports

Please keep records of (for later review/consultation by the PCU)

- ✓ Financial records (invoices, receipts) of all expenditure incurred with project funds
- ✓ Hard copy of press articles and publications produced by the project
- ✓ Copy of TV/radio programs

## Annex 1: Inventory of Outputs/Services

### a) Meetings

No	Meeting Type <sup>4</sup>	Title	Venue	Dates	Convened by	Organized by	# of Participants	Report issued as doc no	Language	Dated
1.	Training Workshop	Socio-Economic Audit	Randburg – BLSA Head Offices	April 2007	R.S.P.B. (Paul Morling and Andrea Lockwood)	Community Based Conservation Division	10	–	English	–
2.	Expert Group Meeting	RAMSAR Application	Wakkerstroom	September 2007	M.P.T.A. Anton Linstrom	Community Based Conservation Division	07	–	English	–
3.	Other – National Wetlands Indaba	Wetlands for tomorrow: conservation within a developing environment	Kempton Park Civic Centre	October 2007	South African National Biodiversity Institute	Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment	170	–	English	–
4.	Expert	Wakkers	Wakker	Sept	MTPA	BLSA	8	Meeting	English	

<sup>4</sup> Meeting types (Inter-governmental Meeting, Expert Group Meeting, Training Workshop/Seminar, Other)

	Group Meeting	Wetland Management Committee	Wetland Management Committee	November 2007				minutes		
5.	Expert Group Meeting	Wakker Wetland Management Committee	Wakker Wetland Management Committee	November 2007	MTPA	BLSA	12	Meeting minutes	English	
6.	Inter-governmental meeting	Pixley KaSeme Municipality Local Economic Development (LED) Forum	Volksrust	February 2007	PKSM	PKSM	15		English	
7.	Other	Pixley KaSeme Local Municipality LED manager	Volksrust	November 2006	BLSA	BLSA	3		English	

**b) Printed Materials**

No	Type <sup>5</sup>	Title	Author(s)/Editor(s)	Publisher	Symbol	Publication Date	Distribution List Attached Yes/No
1.	Training Workshop	Project Management	R.S.P.B.	R.S.P.B.	N/A	N/A	No
2.	Expert Group Meeting	Wakkerstroom RAMSAR Application Status	M.P.T.A Anton Linstrom (Power Point Presentation)	M.P.T.A.	N/A	N/A	No
3.	Socio-Economic Assessment by RSPB	Protecting key South African biodiversity sites through community based conservation: <i>A review of economic opportunities</i>	Paul Morling, RSPB Development Economist	RSPB	N/A	July 2007, grey paper	RSPB, BLSA
4.	Other	R.S.A Status of Wetlands	Power Point Presentations from different individuals	_____	N/A	N/A	No

**c) Media coverage**

<sup>5</sup> Material types (Report to Inter-governmental Meeting, Technical Publication, Technical Report, Other)



No	Description	Date
1.	Newsletter for Wakkerstroom Community Based Conservation Division	October 2007
2.	Local Newspaper known as Volksrust Recorder covered articles on Bird Guide Training, Wetland Reserve Management Committee and Anti-Litter Campaign.	October 2007
3.	Africa Afrique "BirdLife South Africa's new Division aimed at Developing the intricate link between People's Livelihoods and IBA Conservation"	January-June 2007 vol. 9.2
4.	African Birds & Birding	April/May 2007 issue
5.	African Birds & Birding	October/November 2007 issue

**d) Technical Cooperation with relevant parallel initiatives**

No	Type <sup>6</sup>	Purpose	Venue	Duration	Additional information for Grants and Fellowships ONLY		
					Beneficiaries	Countries/Nationalities	Cost (in US\$)
1.	Other	Grassland Stewardship Programme: Conservation of larger catchment area	Wakkerstroom BirdLife Centre	2hours	-----	-----	-----
2.	Others	South African Crane Working Group, Endangered Wildlife Trust	Wakkerstroom	10hours			
3.	Others	Pixley KaSeme Local Municipality	Wakkerstroom	5hours			

<sup>6</sup> Technical Cooperation Type (Grants and Fellowships, Advisory Services, Staff Mission, Others)

**e) Other Outputs/Services (e.g. Networking, Query-response, Participation in meetings etc.)**

No	Description	Date
1.	Formation of various associations in Wakkerstroom	July 2007
2.	Networking with different government departments about skills audit around Income Generating Activities	August 2007
3.	Participating in the formation of the Wakkerstroom Wetland Reserve Management Committee	September 2007