



Umthathi Africulture Project, Grahamstown, RSA

2nd Annual Report 2006/7

Project: 14-050



A Project implemented

in collaboration with



Sustainable Use of Plants Group

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	14-050
Project Title	Umthathi Africulture Centre
Country(ies)	South Africa
UK Contract Holder Institution	GardenAfrica
UK Partner Institution(s)	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Umthathi Training Project, SANBI
Darwin Grant Value	£251,000
Start/End dates of Project	April 2005 –March 2009
Reporting period	1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007 (Annual Report 2)
Project Leader Name	Georgina McAllister
Project website	Under construction (do we have a web address yet?)
Author(s), date	Georgina McAllister (GA), Anouk Verheijen (UTP), Monique Simmonds (RBG Kew)

1. Project Background

The Project was initiated to address the loss of biodiversity within the Eastern Cape Province (Eastern Half of the Albany Centre of Floristic Endemism), focussing on conserving indigenous medicinal plant species. Many species are currently harvested illegally from the wild and are threatened by over-exploitation. Land use patterns have changed over the last decade in the Eastern Cape, with increasing areas devoted to game farming or private nature reserves stocking dangerous animals. This trend reduces access to many wild plant populations, increasing pressure on those populations, which remain accessible. Indigenous medicinal plants are vital to traditional health care, with more than 80% of South Africans relying primarily on the informal sector for health provision. Innovative methods of supplying the market with medicinal plants are essential in conserving these species, and the traditional knowledge associated with them for future generations. Other species are also under threat due horticultural demand, or their value to the international market. By promoting alternative rural livelihoods based on the sustainable cultivation and utilisation of indigenous plant species, biodiversity conservation will be positively effected. A core assumption therein, hinges on the Project' s successful facilitation of a shift from wild harvested to cultivated materials, and therefore forms part of planned outputs and related activities.

2. Project Partnerships

Relationship GardenAfrica (GA) & Umthathi Training Project (UTP)

,GA has been working closely with UTP to develop the common vision for the project that delivers the outputs identified in this Darwin Project. In order to ensure that the processes involved in achieving this vision are clear for those involved a collaboration agreement ([appended here](#)) has been developed that provides more detail on decision making procedures than was in the original GA/UTP Memorandum of Understanding. The collaboration between GA and UTP and with Kew is also subject to an agreement. Reports to funders have all been jointly compiled, ensuring that there is no inconsistency between on-the-ground developments and reporting documentation. Partners recognise that they should allow adequate time to review and agree on all documentation prior to submission to funders. The timing of the 1st end of year review left very little time for the drafting of the report prior to the deadline. The PIT therefore adjusted the timing of the most recent review by 1 month.

Capacity Development: Where UTP has been unable to fill skills gaps in-country, it has been possible for both organisations to benefit from UK experts and specialists around sound project business planning to enhance project sustainability. GA has benefited hugely from its association with Kew, and particularly from Prof. Simmonds advice and support throughout. GA has also engaged a team of dedicated fundraisers to streamline materials (business plan and publicity material) and to develop a comprehensive donor list and strategy, and can now re-commence fundraising for the Project. These documents are appended here. Most significantly, the GA project leader and the rest of the PIT considered the second review meeting in which the DI appointed reviewer returned to facilitate the workshop when the entire PIT was present (GA, Kew and UTP) to be of enormous benefit, not only to the Africulture Project, but also to the design and development of other GA and UTP projects –affecting how these are quantified and measured.

Project Partners / Collaborators

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Now that the first phase of species selection has been established, it will be possible for Kew to begin advising the Project on the following areas of agreed support:

Sharing best practice policy & procedural docs to advance & protect local IP.

Sharing information on plants useful in the context of HIV/Aids, which can be cultivated on the Project.

Known Plant Interactions - Kew will provide a list of plants with known negative interactions –producing resistance or side effects of ARVs & combination therapies –which may cause susceptibility to infection by reducing metabolisation & increasing toxicity. This information will be disseminated via THP networks. During this last review, Prof Simmonds met with South African specialist, Prof. Sunita Srinivas (Pharmacy Department of Rhodes), who has been approached by UTP to disseminate information to THPs.

Authentication of plant use - Confirmation of plant ID, info on existing uses, active properties, interactions, toxicity & dosage. Kew has expertise in collating this type of information. UTP would then work with local technicians who could then provide support for the Project. This knowledge transfer fulfils the objectives of the project, and could significantly increase local capacity –extending not only to THPs and clinics, but also to govt. research institutes, Rhodes and/or SANBI.

Links to other Pharmacopoeia –sharing existing information – establishment of local SA pharmacopoeia (already begun at the University of Cape Town. Kew plans to provide all the information it obtains on the selected plants to those developing the local monographs).

Specimens to be vouchered and recognised Kew will ensure that voucher specimens of all the species are made and deposited in the National Selmar Schonland Herbarium at Rhodes. Establish links with Red Data list and other

international mechanism to update conservation list – contribution of Project to international monitoring – linking Project to WHO list as well as hopefully to seeds for the Millennium Seed Bank Project, and the DI funded seed bank project in KwaZulu Natal with which the project will share seed & information .

Propagation methods provided where necessary.

Database on traditional use. Kew has discussed with SANBI the influence of national and international directives on traditional medicine - which places restrictions on the commercial sale of medicinal plant-based medicines unless you can show traditional use in-country for over 25 years. This project also aims to protect the IP associated with the traditional uses of plants. SANBI is working with other institutes in SA to develop a database on traditional use. SANBI has made a request to Kew that information on the SA gained for this project can be shared with the SANBI database. The main aim will be to share information with the Project' s growing THP network, however, having the data available on the national database will make it available to a wider group of people.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

SANBI is the local implementer of the CBD. They have established a Bioregional Programmes Co-ordination Unit in the Eastern Cape, based in Port Elizabeth. The Bioregional Programmes Co-ordinator, Dr Mandy Cadman, whose role is to build horizontal linkages between N/GOs to enhance connectivity between the community development and environmental sectors. She is also responsible for co-ordinating the implementation phase of the Sub-tropical Thicket Ecosystem Plan (STEP); the Fish River Biodiversity Initiative is a key implementation intervention of the STEP programme. The Africulture Project is one of 8 community-based projects receiving support from this Initiative and is an integral component of STEP.

SANBI is providing advisory and technical support and is a funding partner of the Africulture Project, and will also be providing linkages with other relevant projects. Through SANBI, the Africulture Project has been endorsed by the Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism (DEAET), and the Eastern Cape Implementation Committee for bioregional programmes. Dr Cadman, the Bioregional Programmes Co-ordinator is also on the Project Steering Committee.

Dr Cadman recently informed the Project Steering Committee that she and Tracy Cumming (Project Developer Bioregional Programmes Co-ordinator Unit) have both resigned from SANBI. However, Dr Cadman is to continue working on a consultancy basis for SANBI, and remains steadfastly committed to the Project, believing that it can serve as a much needed model for similar projects in the province. Dr Cadman will remain on the Project Steering Committee. To date, replacements for their positions are unknown, but once the institutional changes affecting SANBI are resolved, the Project will invest in building a relationship with the new Bioregional team members. Dr Cadman' s ongoing support will ensure that the Project continues to be guided by the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) with particular links to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

1.1 Secure site and necessary authorisations for establishing a nursery and training facility

The 10 ha Africulture site was purchased in December 2005, but UTP only received the Title deed in December 2006. All compliance procedures for site development have been finalised; in May 2006, the Provincial office of DEAET granted UTP permission to develop the site as planned, as well as an exemption from the costly and time-consuming Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). In July 2006, Local Government (Makana Municipality) approved the Consent Uses application under the primary zoning of Agriculture 1. Some conditions were made by DEAET with regard to the change in land use and EIA exemption; the most important being that an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to be drawn up for the site and approved by DEAET (Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism) prior to the physical development. These are now being obtained through the Coastal and Environmental Services (CES).

This activity is therefore now 98% complete.

1.2 Identify target species through research & engagement with THPs for input into the selection of target species

Staff at UTP have been working with local THPs to identify plants that they would want to see cultivated to enable them to have enough material to treat their patients. Setting the criteria to select the plants has been a challenge as it became clear that many THPs wanted wild harvested material rather than cultivated plants, even though it was difficult to obtain the species they wanted. They would rather use an alternative wild harvested species than cultivated material. However, some of the THP realise that the use of wild harvested plants is not sustainable but this project needs to show that the cultivated plants have the same medicinal properties as the wild-harvested material. UTP has now a list of plants from the THPs and UTP has identified those species that are indigenous, emphasis will be placed on cultivating the key species the THPs use and those that are indigenous that UTP has existing in-house propagation and cultivation expertise, and that propagation material for each species is available. [The agreed list of selected species is appended.](#)

This activity is considered to be 50% complete. Kew will also be making suggestions for other species known to occur locally that have medicinal properties to be included. It is expected that THPs taking part in the pilot training programmes will add further species, so it is expected that the list will expand in years 3 and 4 as confidence by the THPs in the Project increases.

1.3 Establish 1ha nursery site (to secure a sustainable supply of medicinal plants for training)

Despite the plan to divide the 10 ha Agriculture Centre site into 3 distinct phases, after the MTR it was agreed to further reduce the initial phase to 1 ha – and to prioritise the cultivation (shade) areas for the production of indigenous plant materials, in order to service immediate training needs, as well as the Project Goal. After the review visit in late February 2007, funding for this section was sanctioned by the DI Secretariat with a turn-key agreement relating to civil engineers being on-site within March – to be finalised within April. An appropriate architect has now been appointed and the site design is being amended so as to develop a socially, ecologically and financially sustainable site, thereby reducing ongoing costs to UTP in the long-term. The buildings at UTP' s township nursery are presently being used for pilot training, but they will not provide adequate space for expanding operations. By the end of April the following have been completed:

- 1) Installation/construction of site access
- 2) Fencing the entire 1ha site with security fence & gate as per specification
- 3) Connection to Municipal sewer line with standard sewer manhole provided on site
- 4) Connection to Municipal purified water line with standpipe provided on site
- 5) Connection to Municipal raw water line with take-off point provided on site
- 6) Clearing and setting of level platform (400m/sq) to accommodate the proposed shade house structure
- 7) Shade houses with treated timber poles and shade netting.
- 8) Plants from various satellite sites moved to the new AC site

As the phased site development involves increased capital costs, the PIT is to impose a deadline for the raising additional funds. If the required funding is not secured for the development of the full 10ha by a given date the Project should adopt its plan B. This phasing plan was requested of the previous architects by failed to materialise, but is now under discussion with the newly appointed architects, who are to integrate it into the new approach. One such alternative could be to revert to the original plan of developing a 3ha site that can deliver on both capital and operational outputs described in the DI log frame, thereby partially achieving the purpose and overall project goal.

With site development underway (civil engineering and erection of shade structures due to be completed in April 2007) this activity will be 85% completed.

1.4 Supply cultivated stock for training

Philip Crous joined the Project as the Africulture Centre Manager from April 2006, and immediately began training the nursery staff, and supervising the indigenous plants propagation programme described in more detailed below. Philip has also been closely involved with the detailed site development plans, designing some of the working areas himself.

To date the Project has established approximately 30% of its collection for training courses, but this collection is considerable, and requires more space. As mentioned in previous reports, the Project has built a good relationship with the municipality, and benefits from the use of their nursery, where stock is stored and bagged, with experiments continuing in the mist propagation unit. Another secured, and sheltered site is now under consideration, close to the Africulture site, and will provide supplementary storage, which will be necessary even when the 1st hectare is fenced and serviced. The current propagation programme not only addresses the needs of the Cultivation Training Course, but also for the ex-situ conservation of rare & endemic species on-site, as well as building stock for horticultural sales for future revenue streams.

Seed collection for the Project could not commence until the correct permits had been obtained. The collection permit from DEAET was granted on 10 July 2006. This permits allows the collection of seeds and cuttings within the boundaries of the Makana municipal commonage. Seeds of 65 species have now been collected. All harvested seeds were cleaned, packed, labelled and placed in cold storage in preparation for sowing in spring 2007. In preparation for the pilot training (as well as ex-situ conservation), the seeds of 40 species were sown and germinated satisfactorily, of which 16 are medicinal species. As the general cultivation training will include the cultivation of vegetables, these have been propagated in large trays, and will also be fed into other UTP training courses (schools gardens, and home cultivation training).

A total of 1000 seedlings comprising 30 target species are needed to fully supply the cultivation training up to year 4; With 300 seedlings comprising 10 selected target species successfully propagated - this activity is 30%. [Please find the Project plant/seed collection included in Verifier Pack \(3&4\)](#)

1.5 Develop appropriate technologies for cultivation and propagation of target species

The Project has identified species on the list that can be readily propagated, and has so far encountered no problems. Other species are being tested in the mist propagation units at the municipal nursery. The Project has made contact with Kew's propagation specialist, who is on hand to offer advice. Disease of particular species when cultivated in significant numbers, can present a serious challenge. Kew's expertise in plant pathogens will also be brought to the Project, as will lessons learned from other NGOs running comparable initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa. Geoff Nichols, medicinal plants specialist and founder of the commercial Silverglen Nursery in Durban is also on hand, and is assisting with the capital design and development of the site to mitigate potential problems, such as considerations around drainage, airflow, and spatial separation.

This activity is 33% completed, with 10 of the 30 target medicinal species successfully cultivated: *Boopane disticha*, *Bulbine latifolia*, *Rapanea melanophloeos*, *Clivia miniata*, *Rhoicissus tridentate*, *Haemanthus albiflos*, *Silene undulate*, *Melianthus comosus*, *Tulbaghia violacea*, *Mentha longifolia*. Non-Target medicinal species cultivated: *Acacia karoo*, *Bowieae volubilis*, *Agapanthus praecox*, *Artemesia affra*, *Bulbine frutescens*, *Talinum cafferum*. Kew is currently checking that the accepted scientific binomial names are used for all the species within the Project.

2.1 Develop Cultivation Training Course with input from THPs and other key experts

Ludwe Fani, who has been working at Kirstenbosch for SANBI, and joined the Project from October 2006 as Africulture Facilitator. Mr. Fani has been assisting in the detailed content development of the pilot training, started in February 2007.

A course and materials development consultant, Project People were appointed to assist with the detailed compilation of the Cultivation Course and the unit standard alignment for the course accreditation. To date, they have developed the course content for phase 1 and 2 of the cultivation training. Umthathi is accredited as a training organisation by the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and as a training provider for Level 1 Plant Production and Vegetable Production, and the

pilot course has been developed on the basis of applicable NQF unit standards through AgriSeta, the Education and Training Authority in the Agriculture Sector. After the pilot training a further assessment will gauge to what extent the unit level and structure are appropriate for the Africulture Cultivation course, and course work revised accordingly.

The optimum training group would comprise around 8 – 12 participants. Training material will be largely pictorial, due to a great many of the participants being illiterate or semi-literate. During the training year and the following monitoring year, the Project will supply all plant material and basic equipment necessary to establish the indigenous gardens, and will assist each participant with obtaining a grower's permit.

During this second implementation year, the Africulture Model has been further refined. The Project will work with each targeted community for a period of three years – from the point of introduction (THP workshops), general cultivation training, and Agri-Business, through to the support phase. The pilot is being conducted in Grahamstown and its immediate environs, with additional areas and communities included as the Project extends across UTPs existing 200km target area. In each area, the Africulture Model will commit up to one year working with THPs in a targeted community, in order to assess their needs and design support workshops to address these, as well as for the THPs provide information on which indigenous plants are culturally acceptable to cultivate, scarce and needed. Input on growing requirements will be obtained as well to ensure the training encompasses cultural acceptable ways of cultivating material.

Given the participatory nature of the pilot training, and its impact on the final course material, this activity is considered 40% complete.

2.2 Develop Micro-nursery Course with input from THPs and other experts

During the third year (model pilot year 2008/9), the participants from the previous year's cultivation training will be selected for intensive micro-nursery training. The small indigenous plant nurseries established through this training will eventually take over the supply of indigenous seedlings to the rest of the growers from the area to ensure sustainability and independence from the Project. The content of this course is more complicated and the skills required more difficult to learn than those of the cultivation course. For this reason only participants who have demonstrated a skill and interest in more complex indigenous plants cultivation systems during the previous year will be selected to participate in this course. The Project will assist each micro-nursery participant to obtain a collector's permit, which will allow them to legally and sustainably collect the propagation material they need from the wild and will provide most of the basic equipment to get the micro-nurseries started. It will also allow the relevant Government departments an easier means of controlling illegal wild harvesting.

Some of this coursework will include information from the cultivation course, and is therefore considered 2% complete. The course structure, outline and material will be developed between July-December 2007, with pilot training conducted between March-May 2008.

2.3 Develop Agri-business Course by amending and consolidating existing course material with input from key experts

Over the coming year, the Project will make regular visit to the growers and THPs for ongoing mentoring and support. Entrepreneurial Skills training that is specific to small-scale agro-producers will be offered to assist both the growers and the micro-nursery owner/growers to enhance their income generation skills based on the growing and selling of their plants. This course will be open to the participants of both the above courses and, pending available space, to other agro-producers in that community.

This will be supplemented with a Products Development course, in basic techniques of making various value-added products, based on locally available resources, with the formation of small co-operatives that monitor product quality and co-ordinate packaging and distribution to niche markets. The intention is that these products are primarily plants-based, however, this has to be sensitively handled, so as not to increase pressure on wild populations should particular plant-based products become highly lucrative. Instead, the main focus will be on products that can be made from easily cultivated,

common plants and to resuscitate traditional arts and crafts. Dutch Africulture Volunteer Marieke Kijne is currently conducting a review of similar initiatives taking place within the Eastern Cape that can contribute to training. Kew will also be providing simple examples of how plants can be used to make products such as anti-bacterial soaps. It will also assist develop quality control procedures that can be disseminated during training. Such activities could enable the development of Africulture branded products to be sold in the Africulture shop.

Training materials have now been assessed to align with the Project training model. This is therefore considered 20% complete. The course structure, outline and resource materials will be developed October-May 2008, with pilot training conducted between August and November 2008

2.4 Conduct pilot Cultivation Course

It is expected that by engaging THPs during the initial pilot training (providing an opportunity to comment and amend course content) they will be more likely to endorse the coursework and Africulture model, in order to recommend it to their network of harvesters. Without this shift in practice from wild-harvesting to using cultivated plants the conservation aims of this project will not take place.

The first two groups have now undertaken both Phases 1 and 2 and, at the time of writing, the third group have just begun phase 1. Group A consists of 16 representatives of the Makana Traditional Healers Association, and Group B includes 11 members of the Vukuzenzele Amagqirha Association. The most recent group of 14 THPs are not associated with either organisation, but are now considering membership.

With this course ongoing, at the time of writing this pilot is 12% complete.

2.5 Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of training programmes to inform updated training materials

This activity will be ongoing with the materials development consultants and Umthathi' s Education Officer who observed and supported the initial training. The Phase 1 Training material has been revised and will be presented to the new group during the last week of March. Phase 2 material will be revised after Easter. Early indications show a great interest in the course, with those attending committed to growing and utilising cultivated plants. A clear acceptance of cultivated alternatives is being demonstrated by all THPs involved, who are increasingly aware the impact of present wild harvesting practices, heralding a shift in cultural belief systems.

3.1 Research key issues needing advocacy interventions with input from THPs and other experts

From the Project' s inception, it was agreed to begin working with emerging localTHP structures, instead of establishing a Medicinal Herb Association (in which had been envisage the incorporation of THPs and medicinal plant traders and gathers on a regional level). However, interaction with the Makana Committee of THPs has revealed that healers are more willing to incorporate medicinal plant traders and growers within their existing structure than previously envisaged, to ensure that potential suppliers are cultivating and harvesting medicinal plants in a culturally appropriate manner. The Project is encouraging future training participants to join the local traditional healers' organisations during the recruitment phase, ensuring that each has access to a secure market.

Workshops with THPs have revealed that community members often struggle to access and understand the complicated bureaucratic procedural requirements for obtaining land. In some cases, the Project will therefore assist with land tenure applications to traditional or local government authorities. UTP is in the process of establishing a Development Department whose role it will be to attend to these and other support related matters, both for the AC and other its' other initiatives to ensure a more qualitative approach to programming. During the second training year, the Project will continue to work with the THPs from each area, conducting support workshops with them and assisting THPs with ongoing challenges wherever possible.

Dutch volunteer (via Dutch NGO Masizakhe), and anthropology student Marieke Kijne joined the Project from September 2006. She has primarily been involved in updating the Africulture Resource Database and will be instrumental in continuing the relationship with THPs, until August 2007.

Soul Shava is conducting his PhD research through the Environmental Education and Sustainability Unit of Rhodes University. His research focuses on the power relationships between institutions and communities in the field of indigenous knowledge promotion. The Africulture Project and the interaction between Umthathi and the Makana Committee of Traditional Health Practitioners is one of the case studies in his PhD.

Michelle Cocks has a background in natural resource use and has recently submitted a PhD in Anthropology (University of Wageningen, The Netherlands) on the socio-cultural value of indigenous plants within the Eastern Cape Province. Her experience in dealing with medicinal plant traders will be extremely useful in including this group in the project, especially as they are currently under represented. Michelle's experience of this field will be invaluable to the Project, as she joins, primarily in an advisory capacity.

3.2 Engage in advocacy issues including the Traditional Health Practitioners Act, legal harvesting on private land, and indigenous knowledge protection

Anouk Verheijen, who volunteered on the Project for a year through the Dutch organisation, Masizakhe, was later hired as an IK researcher and THP Support Programme developer for the period September 2006 to end March 2007. Ms. Verheijen started developing an IK protection model in October 2006. This has included research on international and national legislative developments regarding IK and IP protection, as well identifying various IK protection initiatives. The latest regulations on bio-prospecting, and access & benefit sharing have recently been gazetted for public comment. This information will be disseminated to THPs in a support workshop, planned in August 2007, when regulations are due to be finalised. There has been a need to carefully articulate the process of commercial use of indigenous knowledge to THPs, while acknowledging internal knowledge violations by other community members.

A Workshop was organised for the members of the Makana Committee of THPs, which took place on 22nd of November 2006 at the UTPs Extension 7 nursery. Its purpose was to gauge concerns about inappropriate use of IK and to discuss ideas around IK protection. The Project shared information on South African legislation currently being developed to address this. To date, the importance of information dissemination on South Africa's legislative developments re IK protection has been outlined.

On 15 March 2007, a general stakeholders workshop was held, inviting various experts on IK protection from government, university departments, research institutes and THPs organisations (amongst which several members of the Africulture Advisory panel) to brainstorm on practical possibilities of protecting IK within the local context. Participants identified the need for ethical research, including (when applicable) Prior Informed Consent and Benefit-Sharing with indigenous knowledge holders to protect IK and promote traditional health care. All participants agreed on the necessity of healers speaking with one voice and being represented by an umbrella body. This project is ensuring that the IK involved in the project is retained by the THPs. In this Project those involved in disseminating information about the uses of the plants to third parties will only cite information that is already in the public domain.

3.3 Generate and disseminate information around practice and safe use of medicinal plants

Consultant Anouk Verheijen is currently planning and preparing the THPs support workshops for the coming year, which will begin in May with a THPs workshop with Sunitha Srinivas of the Rhodes Pharmacy Department, to gauge THP understanding of the HIV/Aids in the context of their work. Despite some uncertainty as to how THPs would recognise symptoms, all acknowledged the need to refer patients for pharmaceutically-based treatment. A discussion was facilitated about potential negative interactions between anti-retroviral drugs and traditional medicine, with a clear indication that they

would be interested in gaining access to further information. Sunitha has offered to facilitate further workshops in a personal capacity.

Now that the first species selection list has been compiled with THPs, Kew is collating data from the literature that shows known or potential interactions between the species and the anti-retrovirals presently used in South Africa. This data will be discussed with Rhodes Pharmacy Department so that appropriate action can be taken should any species be associated with causing adverse reactions.

This information will be disseminated early in year 3, and will contribute to the development of best practice information pamphlets with a view to being disseminated by THP participants to community members who self-medicate.

3.4 Information sharing and awareness raising associated with the sustainable use of biodiversity

To date one article has been published in a peer reviewed journals in South Africa, & one local press article. Two press articles were published in UK national print media, and four items featured on inter/national UK based TV. Defra utilised the Project launch at the Chelsea Flower Show for Barry Gardiner to announce the 2007 Darwin funding round to the press. The Project has also been featured in 4 newsletters: Kew Scientist (circ 2000), the GA e-newsletter (circ: 962), and the UTP AC bilingual newsletter (circ: 150)

Presentations: 25 presentations have been made with specific reference to the Africulture Project, at Kew, a meeting of science bodies from the G8 on Benefit Sharing and the Convention of Biodiversity in Berlin, and at a Ministerial briefing at the House of Commons on 'Plants of Africa' prior to G8 (attending by the PM).

According to the target – this constitutes 80% completion of this activity. [An apparancy list can be found in the appendix](#)

3.5 Chemical fingerprinting

Once the agreements covering the transfer of plants from SA to Kew have been signed then Kew will work with the Centre to develop some simple analytical tests that can be used to compare the chemistry of wild and cultivated plants. Kew will also share information it has about the cultivation of the species to improve equivalence. This is due to take place during years 3 and 4.

4.1 Measure the implementation of cultivation practices by trainees

Due to the difficulty of measuring the overall goal of the project, i.e. the reduction in pressure on wild plant populations due to external factors beyond the control of the Project, it was agreed that biodiversity monitoring could be achieved through surrogate indicators. This has now been further defined, and will take place through monitoring with course participants, and will begin at the end of the first pilot, and be ongoing throughout the project period.

The development of monitoring mechanisms are underway. This activity is therefore considered 5% complete.

4.2 Measure uptake and use of cultivated materials by THPs

Uptake will be measured through monitoring the behaviour of THPs trained by the Project. This will also be ongoing. This will be built into workshops with THPs from the 1st introductory year, when base-line information on wild harvested species will be collected. As training progresses, it will be possible to monitor behavioural shifts to use of cultivated alternatives.

4.3 Survey to what extent cultivated materials have replaced wild harvested materials by trained THPs

Having established a firm relationship with those THPs involved in the project, it is hope that they will be willing to share information on the scale of wild materials they are still using. It is not expected that THPs will make a 100% shift to use

cultivated plants as there are many cultural reasons why they use wild harvested material. This will assist in making an assessment of what may lie behind a failure to shift from some wild to cultivated species.

Just as with 4.1, and 4.2 – these activities will be ongoing when course participants are actively engaged in cultivation – beginning from year 3.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Related assumptions and risks have been refined during the MTR – and have now also been included in the revised risk analysis ([appended](#))

1) Production of indigenous plants to secure a sustainable supply for training for growers and supply of stock to micro-nurseries

The Project has progressed well, despite early delays in permit acquisitions. On the basis of the activities completed the Project is now nearly 60% complete. The Project will continue to grow the site in accordance with available funding, which will allow greater capacity for the cultivated of target species, both to service the DI goal, and the wider Project goal of ensuring sustainability through specialist plant cultivation and sale. Against indicators, the PIT is on target to achieve this output by the end of the DI project term.

2) Beneficiaries trained in indigenous plant cultivation pilot. Micro-nursery and agri- entrepreneurship courses developed.

With the activities relating to this output due to commence from the end of year 2 and year 3, it is too soon to comment on the success of achieving this output. However, with the pilot linked to the ongoing courses now underway and training materials being revised and peer reviewed, good progress is being made. Given the funding constraints of the coming year, the Project will focus primarily on activities 2.1, 2.4 and 2.5 – with 2.2 and 2.3 not due to come on line until the end of the third year. The Project is making good progress against these output indicators, with strong feedback from course participants to date, illustrating an increase in participant interest for future courses. Against indicators this output is nearly 30% complete.

3) Advocating sustainable traditional uses and appropriate recognition of plant based rights and practices

This output is 48% complete, with sturdy progress against related indicators. Recognising that the needs of THPs will inevitably change as new legislation comes into being, advocacy issues (including THP concerns) have been primarily identified in consultation with THP groups and associations – with a significant amount of background research undertaken in the midst of an extremely fluid policy environment. The Project has received a significant amount of media attention, and has only now begun to publish its findings – with information due to go online in April via the dedicated Project website. This delay has been due to extreme sensitivities relating to this field. The PIT recognises the urgent need to respond to concerns around negative interactions vis a vis ARVs, and has begun to develop safe use information for dissemination early in the coming year.

4) Information on changes in behaviour and plant use patterns arising from cultivation, training and advocacy activities

Being the most important output in measuring the Projects success, it really is too early to make an assessment of achievements towards this output. However, as already indicated, THPs now engaged in training have illustrated a clear understanding of the negative impact of present practices on biodiversity, and the resulting impact this will have on their work. All are committed to replacing wild harvested with cultivated species (where culturally acceptable and possible), and those who are presently not part of a formal association are, for the first time, considering joining. With initial concerns that these groups would be the most difficult to monitor in terms of usage, this will enable the establishment of far more accurate

measurements in the future, and validates the more gradual approach adopted by the Project, to ensure broad acceptance of the Africulture model.

3.3 Standard Output Measures

Table 1 Please note that the output measures have not undergone revision during the MTR. Please therefore note that those items underlined indicate changes to original. As the last two years (*actual* - 1 year and 8 months) have been focused on planning, budgeting and preparation, the Project has produced few quantitatively measurable outputs to date.

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total
	<u>Training outputs</u>			
1A	Estimated 2 South Africans - via other funding	0	1 – thesis to be submitted in y3	1
1B	Estimate 2 South Africans - via other funding	0	1 –PHD qualification to be attained in y3	1
2	Estimate 2 South Africans - via other funding	0	0	0
6A	Estimate total of 1365 South Africans Trained	0	0	0
	Cultivation Training Course: est 60 in yr 3 / est. 60 in yr 4.	0	4	4
	Weeks actual contact training with each group (weeks 1&4 at Centre and weeks 2,3&5 on site).	0	5	5
	36 weeks non-contact training activities by <u>participants</u>	0	0	0
	3 days interim field support during the non-contact training phase	0	0	0
	Kew training of 6 in authentication techniques –on site 4 (<u>yr 3</u>)	0	0	0
	Training of all nursery staff and Umthathi Projects Manager in details of CBD and Biodiversity Act by SANBI and DEAET (15) <u>yr 3</u>	0	0	0
	In-house ongoing supplementary training of nursery manager, course facilitators and nursery workers	0	4	4
	Silverglan courses in indigenous medicinal plant propagation y3	0	0	0
	Training of course facilitators and Project field volunteer in basic bio-diversity monitoring of select species y3	0	0	0

	<u>14 stakeholder workshops, involving 15 stakeholders per workshop</u>	30	27	57
7	3 x training manuals for facilitators	0	1	1
	3 x course material for participants	0	1	1
	3 x support workshop content lay-out for facilitators	0	3	3
	<u>Research Outputs</u>			
8	8 weeks p/a	5	4	9
9	Dependent on species selection. Estimate input to <u>30 target species</u> management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country –y3	0	0	0
10	2 individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	0	0	0
11A	Kew authentication methods – 15 (yrs 3/4).	0	0	0
11B	Estimate 4 papers published in peer reviewed journals – SA. At least 3 – UK	0	1 SA	1
	Estimate 11 papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals / At least 5 - UK	0	2 SA	2
	<u>Dissemination Outputs</u>			
14A	4 x conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	0	0	0
14B	8 x conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	6	4	10
15A	3 x of national press releases in SA	0	0	0
15B	10 x local press releases in SA	0	2	2
15C	4 x national press releases in UK	1	1	2
15D	4x local press releases in UK	0	2	2
16A	4 x electronic newsletters to be produced (annually)	1	3	4
16B	Est circulation = 500 through IPUF/SANBI	0		

16C	Est circulation of newsletter in the UK 5-7,000	0	150	150
	Est 2 SA dissemination networks to be est .	0	2,962	2,962
17A	Est. 10 SA dissemination networks to be enhanced/ extended	0	1	1
17B	Est 5 dissemination networks to be enhanced – UK/Int	0	2	2
18A	Est 3 SA national TV programmes/features (2 news items, one video documentary in year 4)	0	1	1
18B	Est 3 national TV programmes/features (2 news items, one video documentary in UK	0	4	4
18C	Est 5 x local TV programmes/features in SA	0	0	0
18D	Est 2 x local TV programmes/features in UK	0	0	0
19A	Est. 2 national radio interviews/features SA, potentially much more if this medium is used to disseminate project outcomes	0	0	0
19B	4 national radio interviews/features p/a in UK	0	0	0
19C	Est 8 local radio interviews/features in SA	0	0	0
19D	4 local radio interviews/features p/a in UK	0	0	0
	Physical infrastructure			
20	Physical assets to be handed over to host = £71,635 (funds for building to be sourced separately)	0	45,701	45,701
21	1 productive nursery producing indigenous target species for training	0	1	1
	1 permanent educational / training / research facility / organisations to be established and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	0	0	0
22	Estimate <u>80</u> permanent field plots to be established during the project, and continued after Darwin funding has ceased (<u>yr 3/4</u>)	0	0	0
	Financial Inputs	21,533	8,896	30,429
	Remaining funds to be secured			

Table 2: Publications

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(eg journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(eg contact address, website)	
Journal	Murray, S. Verheijen, A. ' Twinning Traditional Healers and Western Health: Is it possible?,' (December 2006) 58-59.	South African Labour Bulletin 30 (5)	SABL , Oasis 117 Eleventh street, Parkmore, 2196, South Africa Tel: +27 (0)11-4033075 Fax: +27 (0)11-4039873 salb@theoasis.co.za	2.50

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

As already discussed in sections 3.1 & 3.2, the Project has made sturdy progress in building relationships with both formally associated and other THPs groups. The process of consultation contributing to this has been a key area under constant evaluation. The primary assumption driving the Goal and Purpose of this Project has always been the acceptance, by THPs of cultivated materials (and inherently, for harvesters, to motivate a change to cultivation practices) and that the Project would be in a position to affect such an important behavioural shift so as to affect biodiversity in a significant way. Without endorsement by THPs it would not be possible to service the project purpose –to support and enhance plant-based livelihoods that are underpinned by biodiversity within the Eastern Cape. The growing interest around training has validated the more gradual approach adopted by the Project, and is the result of constant monitoring and delicate revision. The purpose level assumptions found in this document have only recently been revised, and therefore still hold true in relation to measuring outcomes.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

It is too early to measure progress towards biodiversity impact. It is difficult to measure impact on local biodiversity due to many external factors (i.e. climate, urban development etc). The PIT is agreed that the most effective way to assess the projects impact on biodiversity is by measuring the level of success in shifting behavioural practices from the use of wild harvested species to cultivated alternatives. This will primarily be measured in consultation with the Projects' stakeholders, and will include harvesters and others trained. Monitoring will be conducted by the following activities:

- Measurement of the implementation of cultivation practices by trainees
- Measurement of uptake of use cultivated materials by THPs
- Survey to which extent cultivated material has replaced wild harvested material by trained THPs

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Revised log frame

The revised logframe provides improved detail to enhance the measurement of progress. This has been supplemented by a simplified Gantt chart ([appended](#)) detailing activities to be completed against the outputs, allowing all members of the PIT to monitor progress at a glance. Revision has also reinforced the application of the stated outputs to meeting the Project goal.

The revision process during the MTR has greatly enhanced the Project, providing all with an opportunity to question and amend many of the original assumptions which had been developed in abstract, before many of the team were on board, and prior to any THP consultation. We would recommend that any project first make an application for R&D funding to ensure that stated outputs and outcomes of the project contribute to the project purpose, and that the activities are more closely related to the outputs, thereby ensuring that the logframe becomes a useful working document and measuring tool.

This review and revision activity will assist in ensuring the correct resourcing and sequencing of these activities for the remaining two years of this four-year initiative. While some of the activities may need to be revised and outputs adjusted, these will strengthen the Project's achievement of the overall goals and purpose (which will remain unchanged). The logframe has been revised during, and subsequent to the MTR, with outputs reduced to 4, and activities more closely related to these outputs. Furthermore the Project Goal has been redefined, from the previous generic DI goal.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews

Fundraising – indicators established, during the previous mid-year M&E, to enable this were the development of a business plan which would in turn indicate how the Project would be sustained, and over what period it would be possible for the Centre to reach the break even point. This objective exercise has been important in establishing how the broader project will achieve its objectives. In order to achieve this, it has been necessary to develop a robust model with cautious projections. This was not previously planned, and has taken longer to produce than anticipated, but has enabled the development of an operational and capital budget from 2007-2012, as well as the UK 'prospectus' with which to open dialogue with potential funders. These have been extremely important working documents, and would not have been possible to produce without the DI funding to this point.

UTP has now made an approach to GEF to a medium sized grant, and an application is now in progress, and has submitted a number of additional applications to existing funders which are now being reviewed.

Communication - The PIT is addressing the challenges occurring due to the physical distance between GardenAfrica and Umthathi, such as efficient communication and decision-making. While efforts are made to meet as frequently as possible, the real challenges lie in extensive, regular email communication for detailed discussions and decision-making. Suggestions of Skype and video conferencing are being put in place. An additional (quarterly) field trip is being arranged for June 2007 in recognition of the scale of planned activities in the following 6 months, which will enable the PIT to formally assess progress, discuss changes, and forward plan. Umthathi and GA are also now in more regular contact with Kew.

Site Development – Covered in Section 2 (activity 1.3)

Staffing

Within the Project there are 3 posts which currently lie empty: Project Manager, Community Liaison Officer and another Nursery Assistant. While these posts are already factored into the Project's ongoing budget, it remains difficult to find suitable candidates either locally or nationally. The post of Project Manager has been advertised in national press, but no suitable candidates have come forward. UTP have also recognised a need to take on a full-time fundraiser for ongoing sustainability of the Project and other programmes. A candidate has been identified, and will soon meet the interview panel.

The Project has recently lost Project Manager Sue Murray to a new work opportunity. While Sue initiated the Africulture concept, working tirelessly on it to date, her departure does however provide an opportunity for other members of the team to take up the reins. Until this post can be filled, Sue's role/s will be taken on by UTP Director Sbusisu Msomi, and Centre Manager, Philip Crous. The PIT is aware that as the Project moves into its next phase, the community liaison role will need particular attention to ensure continuity with THPs, and is to be advertised in mid 2007. In the meantime, logistical arrangements and facilitation of the THP support workshops in the pilot will be taken up by the facilitators and anthropologist volunteer Marieke Kijne, with support from Michelle Cocks, and will be continued by Marike's replacement, who is currently being recruited in Holland.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

All has been covered sufficiently elsewhere in this document. For the revised risk and mitigation strategy, please see the appendix.

7. Sustainability

Close attention has been paid to the design and construction of the site to ensure the highest levels of sustainability possible – thereby reducing running costs to Umthathi in the long-term. Excellent progress has also been made in linking the Project with provincial, national and international network to ensure sustainability.

As already outlined in the partnership section (2) the Project is an integral part of the implementation phase of the Sub-tropical Thicket Ecosystem Plan (STEP); the Fish River Biodiversity Initiative is a key implementation intervention of the STEP programme – and is endorsed by the Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism (DEAET). SANBI's Mandy Cadman is confident that this project is an important stage in the modelling of successful initiatives in the future of Eastern Cape biodiversity, without which many have, and will continue to, flounder.

The PIT has little doubt that, as long as funding is available to complete the wider project outputs towards achieving sustainability (ie: development of wholesale & retail business, a model eco-tourism site with visitor and other facilities to service wider dissemination via schools environmental education) that this Project will continue to go from strength to strength, after a somewhat staggered beginning. GA and Kew remain committed to the Project throughout its 4 year term, as identified under the DI funding. As the Project will be integrated as core to UTPs ongoing programming, an exit strategy per se is therefore not relevant. Instead more information on how this Project is integral to UTPs programming can be found in the accompanying business plan. The PIT is aware of the need to provide continued support to enable UTP to continue to build a strong team to service their vision – which lies at the heart of the organisations growth and expansion.

8. Dissemination

The project's target audience are primarily to be THPs to ensure endorsement of the Project model. Advertisements are being placed in newspapers local the areas where training is to take place. In each area, it is expected that THPs will want to first attend training, before recommending to their network of harvester and traders. Applicants can then approach UTP directly for more information and inclusion on the courses. As with other UPT courses, it is then expected that interest will build via word of mouth. Information on the first 3 groups are detailed in Section 3. Funding for ongoing activities is included in the operational budget until 20012 – and can be found in the business plan.

9. Project Expenditure

10. Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period

[I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section](#)

Despite the initial hesitance of traditional healthcare practitioners (THPs) to become involved with any external bodies, the project has gone to great lengths to provide reassurances that the Projects' activities are being undertaken for cultural and conservation reasons, and has since worked towards the successful cultivation of target medicinal plants, developed in consultation with THP associations. Over the past year a gradual shift has been noted towards the acceptance of cultivated alternatives, resulting in THPs participating enthusiastically in the pilot cultivation course, and the local THP Committee being supported by the Project to make a formal application for land on which to cultivate medicinal plants. This represents a significant shift in behaviour since the Project's inception, as well a major contribution towards the Project goal. Another significant achievement of the past year has been the formulation of a clear long-term vision for the future development of the Project, in the form of a business plan, and will ensure that initial momentum can be carried forward in a measured and sustained fashion. The development of the productive nursery and training facility is the first tangible step towards realising this vision, and will greatly contribute to building confidence in the Project.

Biodiversity conservation projects, which are committed to working with local communities to ensure that natural resources remain available for the development of more sustainable livelihoods are often bound up with burdensome bureaucratic processes. Furthermore, the bottom-up processes-based approach that must inevitably be pursued in order to produce strong development outcomes can present significant challenges to pilot projects of this nature, and can slow delivery against stated outputs. For this reason the Project Implementation Team are grateful for the understanding of the DI and strong support provided by ECTF to assist the PIT keep on track.



Makana Traditional Healers Association
Certification Ceremony
(30 March 2007)

The first pilot training group receiving their certificates for completion of phase 1& 2 of the Africulture General Cultivation Course. (AC facilitator Ludwe Fani kneeling in the centre)