Community Background

Balepye
Geographic area: Balepye Village
Population: 3000 plus households approx.
Infrastructure: Land claim farms focused, different homestead under construction. Agricultural Projects (Livestock farming), Mining area.
Income: 71% unemployed, very low income community (Department of Rural Development Study)
Leadership: Chief M Maenetja

Locality: Mopani District Municipality-Ba Phalaborwa Municipality
Country: South Africa
• The Balepye community have ownership and utilisation rights over claimed land (+24 000 ha) and the related businesses thereon, and this forms an excellent platform for a co-owned and co-managed structure to effectively source and distribute communal benefits, as well as the creation of the economies of scale.
• This land is under the CPA Ownership
• CPA separated the Governance of the CPA and the Business of CPA
• All business ventures for all sectors be it Mining, Agricultural are held by Balepye Investment Holdings
• 8000 ha was allocated for Community’s Resettlement programme as we are the victims of Apartheid
Description of the Current business Venture.

• Allocated 17 000 ha of the 24 000 ha for Conservation Purposes
• Formed the Greater Balepye Nature Reserve Pty Ltd
• We have 3 Reserve that has different partnerships as we don’t risk all the 17 000 ha under one partnership.
• Hunting is our core business currently which forms 85% of our revenue streams
• Conservation forms 15% of the Business.
Model: 45/45/10

- Marketing Company on 50/50 basis (10%) which covers management, sales, auctions
- Risk are shared equally on other reserves and on the other we created a loan account which is serviced by investors.
- Rental yearly of R950,000 to the CPA
Initial investment costs

- Area = +17,000 Ha
- Distance = 85 kms
- 65 kms has already being erected with 16 km from Government grant from the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Project was finished 3 months in time.
- Strategic Partners has erected 49 km and work is advanced for maintenance.
- Implementation time framework = 1 year
- **TOTAL COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE** = R10 million plus 13 million (Private Sector) = R23 million
- Total Employment is 104 under the EPIP s Mlilo and his Team.
Investment Fundamentals that are in Place.

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Operational Setup

• 6 Directors - 3 From the Community and 3 From Investors across the board.

• 2 Farm Managers and 2 Assistant Farm Managers from the community who were funded by the CPA through bursary MOU with Eco Ranger Academy.

• Performance Clauses of the Investors are **Skills Development Programme**.

• **Employment Programme** against set targets.

• *DEA has allocated 15 environmental monitors as part of the after care of the farms who will paid by SANPARKSEmployment numbers for the Reserves stand at 25 plus 15 EM (Proposed) with a total of 40.*
Value Contribution: Game

- Government
- Different Species
- Estimated Value: +R400000 by Limpopo Parks through LEDET
- Investors
- Different Species
- Estimated Value: +R5 Million
Future Plans/Opportunities

• The sustainable creator of job and black owned entities, to realise this areas of growth have been identified:

• 1. An operational abattoir
  • The conservancy is actively looking for partners to create the vision of Balepye to be a Harvesting, abattoir and processing business units will generate income from:
    • Harvesting excess animals
    • Harvesting from neighbouring commercial farmers;
    • Harvesting from Game Parks; and
    • Slaughter and processing of other animals (i.e. cattle, goats
• 2. Ecotourism

Ecotourism involves non-consumptive use of wildlife, such as photographic tourism; bird-watching; hiking and horseback riding, and ideally develops awareness about the local environment and culture and results in minimal impact on the environment. In South Africa, ecotourists generally seek out natural environments and wildlife for a genuine “wilderness experience”, so the eco-tourism industry is reliant upon a comparatively intact environment. Balepye has this in abundance, and is a perfect stop over point when visiting the northern Kruger National Park.
Cont........

• **The Balepye Academy**

  • The planed academy seeks to give community members the motivation and skills they need to become partners in saving our natural heritage. All training will comprises theory as well as practical skills and has been developed in close collaboration with conservation agencies and, where relevant, community participation.

  • The Academy will be well equipped with facilities to undertake a comprehensive wildlife management programmes, this will greatly benefit the learners from the greater community keeping them up to date with conservation practices and wildlife economic models. The collaborative action between the development and training of the proposed academy is geared towards serving Limpopo based conservation institutions and parks through training their staff with current and relevant problem solving solutions.
• 4. Livestock and Wildlife

Studies have revealed that wildlife could be ranched like cattle, and could coexist with domestic livestock without negative consequences and held genuine potential for meat production. It was found that even though the game industry has shown tremendous growth over the past years, most of the commercial producers involved in livestock and game farming still have a huge percentage of their total income earned from livestock enterprises.

By maintaining mixed farming practices Balepye will also minimise the financial risk associated with relying purely on income generated from game farming. By introducing mixed farming, community farmers are able to get the best of both worlds.
• Other expansion opportunities:
  • Bush clearing.
  • Community development i.e. Co-operatives already being created for community.
  • Black hill college, a proposed skills college – this will include tracking and professional hunting.

• They are very excited about the opportunity to establish a successful model of land restitution through a partnership between private investors, the community as landowners and government. They believe that this model will serve as an example to everyone that it is possible to take hands in a mutual beneficial way and to ensure that their children live in a world that is free of prejudice and full of opportunity.

• They also see a unique opportunity to create a pristine wilderness area where Mother Nature can reign supreme in her beauty of abundance.
Cont

- **Additional Opportunities:**
  - Reserve Infrastructure: Expansion of reserve
  - Game: Taxidermy | Abattoir | Tannery | Meat Processing
  - Hunting: Taxidermy | Tannery | Meat Processing
  - Tourism: Arts and Crafts | Eco Tourism | Hiking | Birdin
End

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