

Project Update: July 2008

In the six months since our last report in December 2007 we have made further progress in developing a seed orchard, marketing indigenous seeds, developing an indigenous nursery, involving students and training local people to collect seed and cultivate indigenous plants.

The highlights were:

- 1) Construction of a pumphouse, waterless toilet and storeroom on site;
- 2) Installation of drip piping (44 rows 300 m long) to supply water from the borehole to the orchard.
- 3) Sowing of all 44 rows of seed orchard with indigenous forage plant species.
- 4) Employment of 2 women and one man on a full-time basis to tend to seed orchard, collect seed from the wild and cultivate indigenous plants in the nursery.
- 5) Sale of 70 kg of indigenous seed to ranchers to restore overgrazed or damaged natural rangeland.
- 6) Collaboration with students to evaluate the outcome of some of this reseeded.

Our website has been upgraded to advertise our seeds, plants and services and to add logos and links to our sponsors and clients.

Pro bono activities have included:

- 1) Donation of 500 indigenous Acacia karroo tree saplings grown in our nursery for a firewood resource for local people.
- 2) Ongoing collaboration with the local municipality to maintain the new community woodlot on a former garbage disposal site; the woodlot is irrigated with recycled water from sewerage evaporation ponds.

