Makuleke Communal Property Association
• If South African economy has grown by 8% in the past 15 years but failed to create enough jobs, the experience of the Makuleke people cannot be different.

• On the 15th December 2009, the Makuleke Communal Property Association hereinafter refers as “Makuleke CPA” will be marking its first decade after it was registered on the 15th December 1999.

• The Makuleke’s experience on its distribution of nature based tourism benefits can be viewed in two folds, the successes and challenges incurred during this period of the first decade.
This area lies in the northernmost corner of the KNP bordering upon Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Bounded by the Limpopo River in the north, Levuvhu River in the south and Mutale River in the West, it is known for its high biodiversity.
Our Journeys Change People’s Lives

Likangwa, Jachacha, Vhembe Bend, Nwankwimbi, Nhlangaluwe
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Nwambi
**Historical context**

- The origins of the Makuleke region, formerly known as the Pafuri Triangle can be traced to the land dispossession and forced removal in the 1960s so that the land could be incorporated into the Kruger National Park and small portion was incorporated into Madimbo Corridor, a *military cordon sanitaire*.

- The Makuleke community was then resettled at Ntlhaveni, a newly established reserve for Tsonga speaking people located about 70 kilometers away from their original land, the Pafuri Triangle.

- The community regained the title to this land in 1998 after a restitution of land rights process and the community decided to retain the conservation status of the to be managed through a Joint Management Board comprising of members from the Makuleke community and members from the Kruger National Park.

- On the basis of the above, a historic agreement was signed on 30 May 1998 between the Makuleke community and South African National Parks together with various government departments and the provincial conservation department.
Settlement agreement

The context of benefits that are accrued to the community should be understood within the context of its parameters. The key elements of the agreement are as follows:

- Ownership of the land was return to the Communal Property Association registered in terms of Communal Property Association to hold and manage the land on behalf of its members.

- The land remains part of the KNP for the period of 50 years subject to be reviewed after 25 years

- A joint management board was established for the day to day conservation management of the area

- All commercial benefits arising from the land would be accrued to the community while the SAN parks remains responsible for conservation matters subject to the directives of the JMB
Strategic partners

The agreement to settle the land claim recognized that the Makuleke CPA would require the involvement of strategic partners in the management of the land.

The agreement envisaged two main areas for involvement by strategic partners, namely: conservation management and commercial development.

- SAN parks was identified in the agreement as the strategic partners for conservation activities. It is however worth mentioning that the Makuleke CPA is autonomous in choosing strategic partners for its commercial activities

- The second partner, Matswani Safaris was awarded a tender in 2001 to construct a small luxury lodge called the Outpost.

- The third partner, Wilderness Safaris was awarded a concession in 2003 to construct a luxury lodges.

- The fourth partner, the Eco-Training camp: The signing of the concession contract with the Wilderness Safaris led to the conclusion of the concession contract with Eco-Training.
One of the fundamental objectives of the Makuleke CPA as stipulated in its constitution is to manage and administer the restored land for the benefit of the members in a participatory and non-discriminatory manner.

The Makuleke CPA has have +15 000 beneficiaries scattered within the three villages which constitute Makuleke community and some of these beneficiaries are not necessary staying in these three villages but are coming from other villages like Mhinga.
Distribution policy

The Makuleke and the Trust believes that indirect benefits such as increased employment, development of infrastructure and training would in the long term bring more benefits to the community than small, one-off cash payments.
Skills transfer

- In the normal course of events the strategic partners would liaise with the sub-committee when new job opportunities become available.

- A preferential policy exists towards members of the Makuleke and it is only when a particular skill is not available that external applications are sought.

- It is worth mentioning that the selection criteria for people working in the lodges established was and is done fairly through “pick a yes or a no paper” system.
Educational project

- The Makuleke CPA has made donations to local schools
- Some of these schools were able to buy computers, improve security and fencing while other schools use these donations to upgrade some of their classrooms
Electricity grid

• A major electrification project funded by the Makuleke CPA to the tune of more than R3.8 million saw each of the Makuleke villages being included in the electricity grid.

• Although the local government had the area prioritized for the expansion of the electricity within the next three to five years by the time the decision was taken to put R3.8m for electricity

• That compelled the then Department of Mineral and Energy and the local authority agreed to refund the Makuleke CPA for the money used to bring electricity to the two villages, namely Makuleke and Mabiligwe.
Community Bed and Breakfast facility

- Community erected an impressive bed and breakfast with huts, amphitheatre lapa, and breakaway areas.
- It suffices to mention that four people were appointed and they are currently working in this establishment.
- The main reason was to block the buying power which every now and then were flowing to Pund Maria or back to Khoroni Sun Hotel.
Lesson learned

• Lastly, we have in the past ten years or so realized that success is good but the very same success can undermine you

• We projected our expectation very high during the land claims process but the reality is that we are failing to keep

• Therefore, I would like to advice communities involved in this kind of transactions that let us manage the success correctly
Thank you