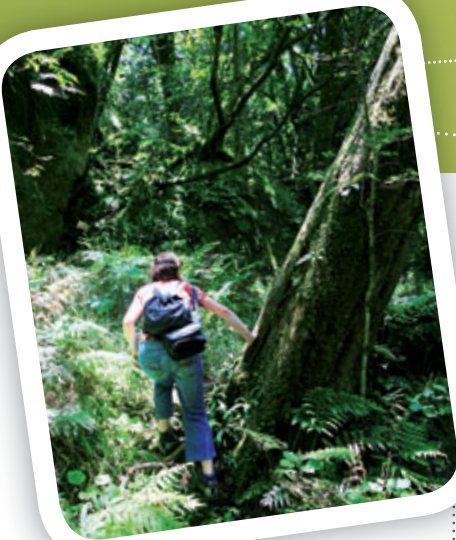


# A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL



Biodiversity Stewardship programme provides the communities with crucial resources to make this management possible, while realizing more water resources and therefore a better income stream.

## Collaboration

McCann says many organizations have been involved in the area in the past to work on ecosystem restoration based on job creation, but nobody has focused on securing the land itself for conservation. "Wildlands received funding two years ago to initiate the process of supporting the existing NGOs working in the area, to focus specifically on implementing the Biodiversity Stewardship process," he explains. "The UTSP constitutes a set of partnerships – different NGOs and local communities working to protect this area, which will be proclaimed a nature reserve early in 2012. A portion of the land will be zoned as wilderness, and will be integrated into the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park, further contributing to the wilderness value of the park."

## Win-win for community, conservation interests

McCann points out that the proclamation has the dual benefits of protection for species and habitats, and economically viable conservation-related development. Benefits for the owners of protected areas include financial benefits such as:

- Exemption from property rates for those areas not used for housing or commercial operations;

- Fiscal incentives – reducing management costs incurred to manage the protected area (burning, road maintenance, fencing etc);
- A tax deduction of 10 percent of the purchase value of the land, every year for ten years after the purchase.

## Non-financial benefits include:

- Access to reduced reserve management costs and business expertise, including experts from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development, WWF, SANBI – CREW (Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers), SANBI Grasslands Programme, the Wildlands Conservation Trust
- Potential game donations from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
- Field ranger, wildlife monitor and conservation manager training for members of the local community
- Financial support to help cover the salaries of field rangers, as appropriate

The decision by Nkosi Menzi Hlongwane of the amaNgwane community and Nkosi Mthetho Miya of the amaZizi community to secure this significant area of communal land as a new protected area, and integrating it into the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage site is an incredibly progressive step by these communities, and will be a landmark contribution to conservation in the Drakensberg region.

For more information contact  
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## About the Wildlands Conservation Trust

### Wildlands Conservation Trust's Vision is 'A Sustainable Future for All'

This is inspired by one of the greatest Statesman of our times, Nelson Mandela, whose vision - Freedom for All – was regarded by many as unobtainable, yet inspired the transformation of South Africa.

We seek to inspire and support the ongoing transformation of South Africa into a country that has harnessed the opportunities of the "Green Revolution", as it evolves and gathers momentum.

To achieve this, Wildlands is progressively developing and implementing a range of sustainable enterprise and conservation based community development programs.

For more information visit [www.wildlands.co.za](http://www.wildlands.co.za).

