

## Matatiele and Breede Watersheds: Community forestry with social benefits

This project is composed of forests across three regions of South Africa, protecting two important watersheds for the country.

Two sections of forests in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa are community owned land. They have protected pockets of Indigenous Forests consisting of species such as Yellowwood varieties and White stinkwood. This is surrounded by grassland infested with alien invasive trees.

A third section is in the Western Cape Province of South Africa is privately owned. It is located adjacent to the Breede River. There are natural riparian forests with tree species such as the Breede River Yellow Wood, Wild Olive and Wild Almond on the FMU. The indigenous tree species are threatened by the presence and expansion of the invasive alien tree species.

### Verified Ecosystem Services



Restorations of the capacity of watersheds to purify and regulate water flow

### Highlights of this project

1. 120 per cent gained volume of water within one year of intervention
2. 30 hectares cleared of invasive species
3. Increased availability of water for communities and farmers

## Project details

### Controlling invasive species

Alien and invasive plants can transform ecosystems by changing species composition, ecosystem structure and ecosystem functioning, and by fragmenting natural areas, driving degradation and negatively impacting biodiversity.

Alien and invasive plant control is expensive, but control programmes are cost-effective compared with alternative water supply schemes.



### Watershed restoration

In 2020, 30 ha was cleared of alien invasive trees with 156 750m<sup>3</sup> of water verified as gained volume in the catchments.

In 2021, 66 ha was cleared of alien invasive trees with 344 850m<sup>3</sup> of water was verified as gained volume in the catchments.

If no remedial action was taken, losses are estimated to be between 2 600 million and 3 200 million cubic metres per year, about 50% higher than estimated current reductions.

**Would you like to integrate this project into your climate strategy?**

**Contact us at [valueforest@fsc.org](mailto:valueforest@fsc.org) to learn more.**

#### FSC Global Development GmbH · FSC® F000100

Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany

T +49 (0) 228 367 66 0 · F +49 (0) 228 367 66 65

Geschäftsführer | Director: Kim Bering Becker Carstensen

Handelsregister | Commercial Register: Bonn HRB15990

#### FSC International Center gGmbH · FSC® F000100

Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany

T +49 (0) 228 367 66 0 · F +49 (0) 228 367 66 65

Geschäftsführer | Director: Dr. Hans-Joachim Droste und/and Stefan Salvador

Handelsregister | Commercial Register: Bonn HRB12589

