



# Mahlathini Development Foundation

**mahlathini**  
development foundation



# 1. Where your expectations for this project met?

Yes!

- DUCT-AEN provided a lot of logistical, back up and training support
- Timely payment of payroll and invoices
- Coherent support for supervisors to fulfil their roles
- New learning in citizen science
- Integration of the team into CRA learning groups for village level resource conservation worked very well
- The youth worked hard and used their own initiative on a number of occasions
- Working on a broad range of activities; e.g. donga reclamation, brush packing, spring protection, road renovation, ensured focus on immediate concerns in the village and provided for building of respect of these youth in the village





## 2. What was your biggest challenge/skills and what would you have done differently to overcome it?

### Challenges:

- Provision of coherent protection and first aid training was not possible given the timelines and budgets
- Overseeing of the team by MDF staff took a lot more time and resources than hoped
- Contextualization of the monitoring: report backs to the youth so that they could understand what is interesting and important about this monitoring
- Perhaps river monitoring not the only or most applicable monitoring option, given work was mainly in erosion control and landscape restoration
- Distances and moving youth around to work areas was time consuming and logistically complicated
- App was somewhat problematic and difficulties arose with cell reception

### 3. What suggestions do you have for future Amanzi Ethu Nobuntu projects?

#### Suggestions

- Some way to provide continuity within areas and development of work packages to deal with immediate and long term restoration needs
- A way to keep the Survey platform going
- Inclusion of other activities in the work process, skill development for these
- Integration of work teams into development and management structures in the villages
- Linking of these projects to other research and implementation processes





# Conclusion

- Generally MDF was very happy with the process, trainings, support and ability to self direct activities
- The youth have been very grateful for an opportunity to earn an income and make a positive difference in their villages

