

Annual Report 2007



Women at Tenttown, Greytown informal settlement of evicted farm dwellers. Ten years after being evicted they are still waiting for land.

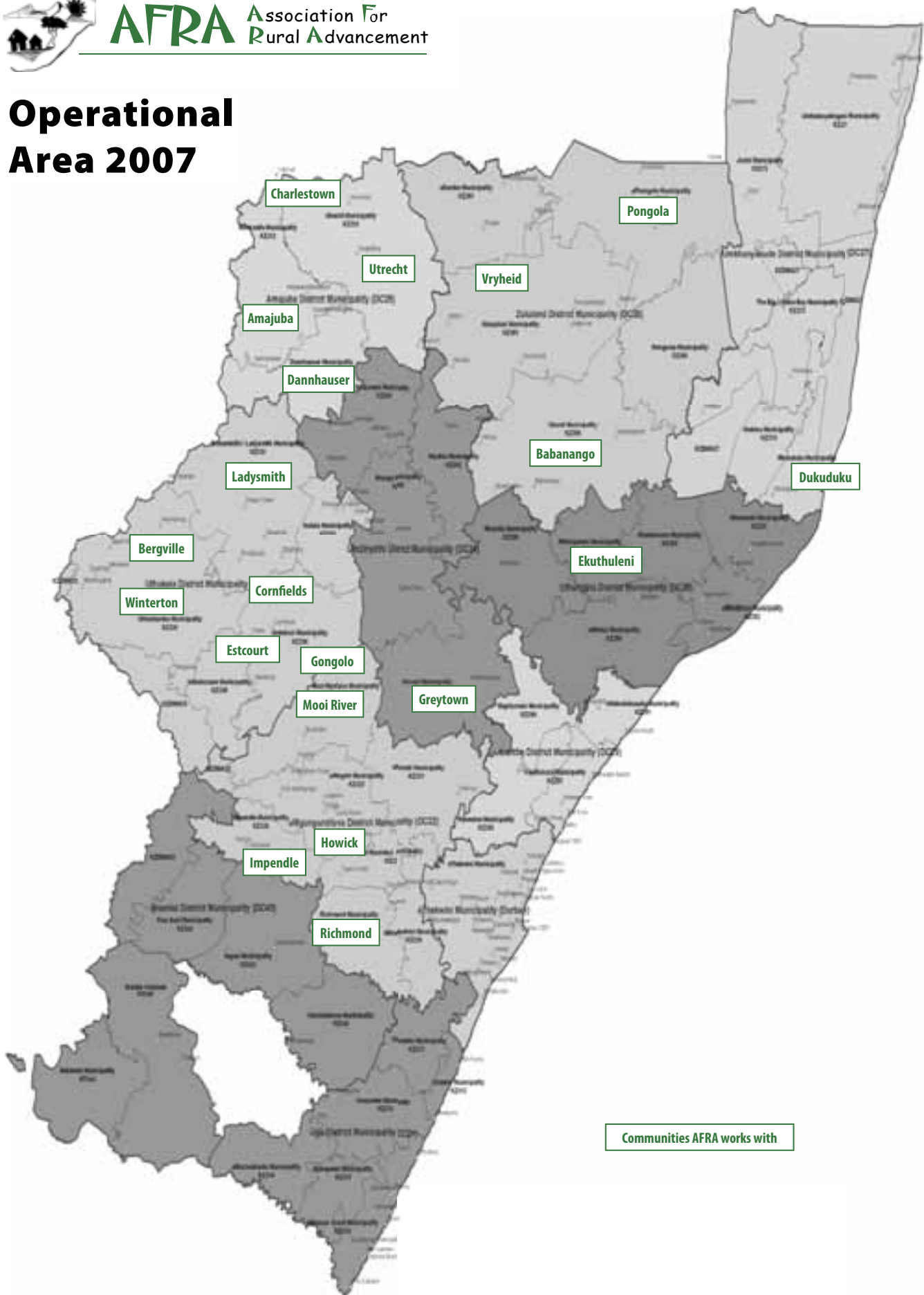
Taken in 2007 by Elizabeth Whelan



AFRA Association For
Rural Advancement



Operational Area 2007



Mission Statement

Vision

AFRA is an independent land rights NGO that aims to redress past injustices, to secure tenure for all, and to improve the quality of life and livelihoods of the rural poor.

AFRA works for a peaceful, secure, productive and prosperous society through the equitable redistribution of land, resources and opportunities.

AFRA is committed to a non-racial society in which there is gender equality and participatory democracy.

Target Group

AFRA works with black rural people in Kwa-Zulu-Natal whose land and development rights have been undermined, whose tenure is insecure and who do not have sufficient access to land and resources to fulfil their developmental aspirations or basic needs.

Method

AFRA will work towards this vision by:

- Empowering communities to engage with land reform processes to meet their needs;
- Promoting and protecting the interests of women and the poorest within the groups we work with; and
- Networking with other organisations to lobby for a just and effective land reform programme for the benefit of our target group within an integrated rural development framework.

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Chairperson's Report

"A *Country at War with Itself*" is how Antony Albeker describes South Africa in his book on violence in this country. We could all have been forgiven for thinking that we were in the middle of that battlefield recently, with the scenes of xenophobic battles which flashed on our screens these past few weeks, resulting in over 60 deaths and more than 30 000 people being displaced.

Farm Dwellers' Access to Justice

But there has been another civil war waging, one that has not grasped the attention of either public or media and definitely not government. The scale and extent of this hidden war has been documented in *"Some kind of civil war"*, a research report produced by AFRA, which paints an untenable situation in which more than 1600 alleged socioeconomic rights abuses of farm dwellers have been handled by the KZN Land Legal Cluster Project. Assuming that each of these 1600 complaints relate to a family it can be reasonably estimated that over 12 000 people have been affected. Children's schooling has been disrupted, families have become homeless, household and food security of these people has been affected, jobs have been lost and intimidation and harassment has been the order of the day. This is but the tip of the iceberg ...

Dano Agness Mbhense, aged 67, an illiterate woman living with her family in a farm in the Umgeni District, was one of the luckier people. Recently the Supreme Court of Appeal confirmed her right to be declared a labour tenant and thereby secure her right as enshrined in policy and legislation to lodge a land claim against the portion of a farm she has always lived on and called "home".

Thousands of other families across South Africa are continuing to lose the little rights they had on farms. This is mainly due to a highly complex system evolved by the state which makes it near impossible for farm dwellers to access their constitutionally guaranteed rights to secure tenure, unless they are able to participate actively in protracted and highly contested negotiation and litigation processes such as that Dano Agnes Mbhense embarked on to protect her rights.

¹ Title of AFRA Report 2007, on trend report on the ongoing conflict over land rights on farms in KZN.



Here in lies the major problem with following that route, there is 14 years after we embraced a democratic future for South Africa, ***no accessible or affordable legal service provided by the state to farm dwellers.*** What has been available in KZN since 2001 has been an initiative of AFRA and its partners namely the UKZN Campus Law Clinic and the Community Law and Rural Development Centre (CLRDC) to provide access to justice. This was a response to a growing crisis and while AFRA and its partners have continued to lobby and engage the state on the provision of legal services this has come to nought. This despite the fact that ***a Land Claims Court judgement in 2001, ordered the Minister of Land Affairs to provide such a service.***

Farm dwellers on a farm in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands point out a rock placed in front of their access gate by the land owner to restrict their use of the gate. Taken by an AFRA staff member in 2008

AFRA and the partnership took a decision in 2007 to close down the legal services project, ***in the main because it continued to allow the state to abdicate its duty*** and secondly because of the prohibitive costs of maintaining such a service by civil society through donor funding. This decision was taken carefully and in consultation and extensive planning with farm dweller communities themselves. AFRA's intentions may have been misunderstood and we wish to reaffirm our stated commitment to our organisational vision and objectives as outlined in our Constitution. AFRA is ***not*** abandoning Farm Dwellers.



That farm dwellers and their rights appear to be a thorn for the state is clear. I have been reminded of a Zulu proverb I was once told “*even a thorn can kill an elephant.*” It is time to remind politicians of just that; the citizens of the country can dislodge them, if they will not accept the will of the people.

Need for Change

The annual evaluation of AFRA’s work noted that its strength was located in its work at local level, the objective of which has been to build the capacity of local communities and community committees to have an effective voice around issues that impact them. The evaluation report also noted that AFRA’s impact at a national and provincial level had been almost negligible. In response to this challenge AFRA has defined for itself a broader vision for its work over the next five years, which is to:

- build a stronger rural voice
- develop more secure tenure for poor rural communities
- promote a shift in government policy to include an alternative framework that includes not only land reform but also agrarian reform and addresses farm dwellers
- advocate a shift in the existing framework that will put an end to evictions
- establish a legal unit in AFRA
- strengthen AFRA’s strategic plans for advocacy action
- create an enabling environment for a women’s caucus to emerge from the farm dweller districts

All of this calls for AFRA to develop an advocacy strategy which includes AFRA engaging more intensively at a policy level. The board will work alongside the staff to implement this broader vision and also, importantly, to enable AFRA to assess its IMPACT. Half way into 2008 there is already evidence of the work that AFRA is doing in making this shift. The Director’s Report will elaborate more fully.

Management Challenges

AFRA has been fortunate that it has a track record of having had strong and effective staff leadership. When the Deputy Director post became vacant in 2006 we took a decision not to appoint someone to that post. Partly due to the financial crunch (a need to reduce our deficit) and partly due to the need to assess what was the most useful organisational structure for managing the staff and programmes. During 2007 AFRA’s staff and board came to the realisation that there was a need to strengthen

internal management capacity. We initiated recruitment processes and are pleased to announce that after a fairly lengthy and rigorous process AFRA now has a deputy director, Musa Zakwe. Allow me to acknowledge the contribution of fellow board members and staff in this successful recruitment process.

Our previous external evaluation had also identified other areas for strengthening our staffing capacity including our research capabilities and our advocacy focus. The board is working with the director to address these skills gaps in our staff. Despite these staffing gaps our staff under the able and skilled leadership of Lisa Del Grande has achieved much.

I ask you to join me in commending AFRA's staff, particularly as their work, especially in these last few months, has taken them away from families and other comforts for many weekends in a row. Thank you for the confidence you placed in me last year to chair this organisation. I have learned much.

Shirin Motala

June 2008





Director's Report

Context

The discourse of “experts” and/ or those in the correct political “camp” of the ruling party captured the minds and activities of many South Africans in 2007. Particularly those who seemed to have gained enough to lose! Advocating for changes or shifts in influence towards a more pro poor agenda in this context sometimes seemed completely fruitless. Clearly very few with any influence were listening to this message or were hearing the content of the message when they did listen. It seemed that the shift from antipathy towards civil society in 2006 was now to gain the favour of civil society in a new race for political legitimacy in the eyes of the voting public.

Examples of this contradictory approach to civil society and pro poor issues abounded in 2007, where :

- Department of Land Affairs officials ignored key policy conference discussions on alternative agrarian reform options that were hosted by highly respected academic institutions.
- The Director General of Land Affairs (now replaced!) failed to attend the hearing with the Parliamentary portfolio committee on Land Affairs on their annual report.
- The DLA hastily proceeded with a legal services strategy for farm dwellers which makes use of the private sector rather than collaborate with those civil society structures who have been providing such a service and/ or the Legal Aid Board who expressed willingness to take this service on.
- Much publicity was given to the Minister of Land Affairs launching new programmes for farm dwellers through hosting local land summits even though no consultation with farm dwellers in the development of these programmes has taken place.
- A Provincial Land Reform Forums was launched by the KZN Minister of Agriculture on the back of much publicity and hand shaking with little reference to any other summit, forum or programme on land and agriculture in the province.
- The blaming of poor relations with civil society and the failure to take the 2005 land summit resolutions forward on the ex Director General by the Minister and the new acting management of Land Affairs in an attempt to woo civil society back to the table and into an advisory committee for the Minister.

Key Issues arising

Farm dwellers

The farm dweller sector and their issues has grabbed the attention of a number of key institutions. While this is a positive result of long and intense lobbying, advocacy and mobilization actions of farm dwellers and various NGO's working with them it still needs to be viewed with some caution. The institutions include the Department of Land Affairs, Parliament, the provincial governments, unions, and academic institutions. However while all recognise the need to address the plight of people on farms the debate is now around how each of these influential institutions understand the problems faced by farm dwellers and how they plan to address them. Already the department, under pressure from Parliament have hastily put together new programmes and strategies without consultation and based on some precarious assumptions e.g. that farm dwellers need to be moved to urban areas so they can benefit from development through better services! There is great potential that farm dwellers are finally moved away from agriculture by the state itself.



Funeral on a farm in Dannhauser, 2nd Feb 2008. Despite laws allowing this practice, farm dwellers and land owners remain in conflict over this.

Communal property rights

The issues affecting people being driven into communal forms of ownership through the land reform programme and those that have already become land owners under this tenure system remain hidden. They are hidden by discussions that focus on post settlement support, that focus on assumptions people don't have farming skills, that focus on assumptions people want to move to urban areas, that focus on farming needing business entities etc.

The reality is that people are herded largely unknowingly by officials into these forms of ownership. Groups like those in Gongolo and Greytown literally found themselves in ready made, signed and sealed institutions. Without knowledge of the consequences there is no choice for those seeking access to land. The coming together of a number of Communal Property Institutions to discuss their fate and issues in 2007 was incredibly motivating for AFRA. This new formation they have created for further collaboration around the problems they face raises immense potential for these communal issues to finally come to the fore of the land debates in their real essence rather than academic assumptions.



Agrarian reform

The role of agriculture in the well-being and economic growth and development of South African society is quickly becoming a key focus. This is driven by the systemic poverty and remaining extreme inequity in wealth in the country. Choices need to be made about the current structure of the agricultural sector if real change is to happen in rural areas. However the focus from government at the moment remains firmly on bolstering the existing setup amidst fears of affecting food security levels. Small scale farming is seen as a stepping stone to real commercial agriculture rather than a viable long term alternative to current large scale commercial systems. Alternatives have to be explored to seriously challenge this dominant thinking, but how to do this remains a challenge for an organisation like AFRA.



Farm dwellers who reoccupied the farm they were evicted from 10 years ago start to make a new life without services like water. Here they access water from a running stream while their right to be on this land is contested: 2008

Social mobilization and movements

It is clear that organized formations in rural areas can have impact on government institutions, decision making and programmes. Where people have challenged local government through their own IDP forums, or marched on offices with complaints of service they have seen some broader interest, support and reaction. Hence the activity around the provision of affordable legal services, the new programmes for farm dwellers, the launch of forums etc. We have also witnessed attempts by government officials and

members of Parliament to recognize and work with these formations. However, they remain a new phenomena that the state is unable to grasp as a separate identity from itself and its political parties. They seem to see them as something to capture. With rural formations still quite disconnected and local this creates a real danger of them turning on each other as they struggle for recognition by the state but still retain a legitimate separate identity. Cohesion across local areas in terms of objective and strategies still seems critical to pursue to avoid this danger.

Organisational overview

As the work of pushing for space to develop and debate alternatives got more difficult so the workload of NGO's like AFRA has increased. At the same time funding for this kind of work becomes increasingly scarce and staffing in AFRA has reached

a critical point for maintaining effective advocacy work. Clearly strategies and methods needed to be revisited and the context read much more carefully when evaluating the year and developing plans for 2008.

AFRA conducted a three-day evaluation process in December 2007. The purpose was to reflect on the meaning of advocacy for AFRA and to come to a clearer understanding of AFRA's advocacy strategies.

Organisational functioning

This period has seen a concerted effort by all staff to improve the way in which the advocacy focus groups work. This has resulted in more coherence in the groups and improved sharing and learning and strategising. Key areas of concern to still work on are management, performance and supervision clarity in a flatter structure; communication strategies, research, theoretical and strategic knowledge to aid strategies and activities, and gender strategy.

Board

AFRA's board remains strong and functioning. AFRA held its AGM on the 16 May 2007. A new board was elected:

- Shirin Motala – Chairperson
- Richard Clacey – Treasurer
- Thembi Ndlovu
- Msizeni Magwaza
- Mike Cowling
- Ilan Lax – Deputy Chairperson
- Thobekile Radebe
- Nimrod Hadebe
- John Aitchison
- Mangaliso Khubeka

Staffing

AFRA advertised the post of communications and fund-raiser, but failed to find the right candidate. The board recommended that this post be split into two posts – that of a deputy director and the other of a communication manager as the organisation needs to grow its management capacity urgently.

One staff member's contract ended in July 2007. It was changed and renewed on a month to month basis, but Sifiso Kunene resigned at the end of September 2007. As it was a contract post he has not been replaced.

The agreement with the International Land Coalition and the Congressional Hunger Centre Mickey Leland Fellowship commenced in August 2007 when Alexis Jones joined AFRA for a period of a year. This arrangement has been enormously beneficial to enhancing AFRA's capacity as she has concentrated on supporting AFRA to develop its research strategy and capacity.



Networks and meetings

AFRA remains in contact with many former National Land Committee organisations and others in the sector, and helps to drive collaboration nationally on farm dweller resolutions taken at the national farm dweller workshop in December 2006. These organisations include SCLC, ECARP, SPP, CRLS, PLAAS, TRAC MP, LAMOSAS, FSRDA, ANCRA, Nkuzi, CLRDC, UKZN Campus Law Clinic and RLT.

Further relations have been built with trade unions both provincially and nationally, particularly the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU), Probono.org, LRC, CALS, DDP, TCOE and LEAP.

AFRA was also invited by the Department of Labour to participate in the newly formed Provincial Labour and Agriculture Forum. This forum initiated some local meetings with farm dwellers and farmers associations within which AFRA collaborated. These were not that successful and a review at the end of the year recommended that the organisations within the forum need to co-operate more carefully with one another when embarking on such campaigns.

AFRA was also invited to launch the Provincial Land and Agrarian Reform Forum in KZN and was asked to be a signatory. This was done and judgement needs to be reserved on the wisdom of this. To date attempts by the departments in the forum to lead task teams on identified issues has been poorly conceptualized and appears to be done partly out of desperation for some solutions and partly very reluctantly as they are forced to collaborate with civil society organisations in examining how they operate.

AFRA also collaborated with PLAAS to host a workshop with farm dwellers in the Amajuba district on options for their future settlement and then made presentations to the District Council agriculture LED forum. This collaboration also allowed AFRA to present at the PLAAS policy conference which further helped raise the profile of farm dweller issues and voices as they attended the conference with us.

AFRA was invited to attend the International Land Coalition meeting of partners in Africa. This was held in Nairobi in October. AFRA also applied for membership to the ILC in October 2007.

CALS invited AFRA to be on a panel at their conference on socioeconomic rights. This gave opportunity to present issues raised in the paper written with Heinz Klug earlier in the year and was well received.

AFRA attended the LEAP steering committee meeting and broader learning session in November 2007 and shared a case study on work in Gongolo.

Finally AFRA remains in a relationship with the Landless Peoples Movement and other local formations of landless people in the province.

Finances and fund-raising

AFRA started the year with a budget that was not fully funded by current donors. This required the board to accept a budget that would require AFRA to use reserve funds should no further funding be raised in the year. Adjustments have been made during the year where it seems unlikely that funds will be spent which has reduced the amount needed from reserves.

Even though performance improved in the second half of the year the budget deficit was reduced substantially to under R300,000.00. Overall however, AFRA remains comfortable as it has accumulated a small reserve which has been invested over the years.

Fund-raising remains a concern and proposals are still being sent out when opportunities arise. AFRA remains grateful to the Belgium Embassy, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Action Aid South Africa, Broedelijk Delen, Entraide Fraternelle, Professor Heinz Klug, Midnet, the Rural Legal Trust, University of Oslo, Christian Aid and ICCO. For their support in 2007.

Fund-raising support is urgently required as AFRA will enter 2008 with an even larger deficit having failed to attract new funding sources and having lost Action Aid SA, JRCT and Entraide Fraternelle as donors for 2008.

In closing ...

A special thanks must go to both the board and staff. The AFRA board has developed a strong and committed supportive working relationship with its office which needs special appreciation in this difficult environment for civil society.

At the same time staff have had to adapt to this environment by supporting AFRA to change its focus and work methods. This has meant a loss of staff, increases in responsibilities and changes in job focus and skill areas and a reduced budget. While this has not been easy the commitment from remaining staff to make this change work and keep AFRA relevant and effective must be recognised and appreciated.

Finally to those international organisations that have stayed with AFRA and valued our work especially as many others withdraw from the land sector and South Africa, we are extremely grateful.

Lisa Del Grande



Implementing the plans in 2007...

A FRA continued to concentrate on the four focus areas around which it was agreed we should concentrate our advocacy work in the 2007-2009 period. The fifth area of work referred to here is gender but this is implemented primarily within the farm dweller focus area for now. The four areas of focus are:

1. Support to agrarian reform **Social Movements** to mount challenges, lobby and take charge of their own struggle
2. Recognising the **Citizenship Rights of Farm Dwellers**
3. Alternative **Agrarian Reform models** for economic development
4. **Communal property rights** and land administration options for economic development.

Recognising the Citizenship Rights of Farm Dwellers

Objectives (2007):

1. formulate an alternative agrarian reform framework with and for farm dwellers
2. lobby for access to the justice system to address affordable and accessible legal services for farm dwellers
3. lobby for farm dwellers' participation in forums such as the IDP processes so that they can articulate their development aspirations

Activities undertaken

- Provision of legal service through three land rights officers and through collaboration with the University Campus Law Clinic, the Legal Aid Board, The Rural Legal Trust and the Community Law and Rural Development Centre (CLRDC). In total 186 cases were opened in 2007 with AFRA staff handling 85 (45%) of these. The group managed to close 18 (21%) of the cases that they opened in 2007.

- Meetings with Legal Aid Board, Department of Land Affairs to plan the future of this legal service and how the state will take it over.
- Collaboration with Nkuzi, the Johannesburg Bar, Probono.org, and private law firms to take forward the national farm dweller campaign strategy of taking government to court for not implementing the labour tenant act properly
- Production of statistics from a database capturing work being undertaken.
- Production of a trend report calling for the state to provide affordable and accessible legal services to the indigent farm dwellers entitled “*Some kind of civil war*”.
- Gave media profile to conflicts and disputes on farms to ensure the plight of farm dwellers is raised and the need for legal services is emphasized.
- Presentation of papers at the Socioeconomic Rights Conference hosted by Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) and at the PLAAS conference on “Towards Another Countryside: Policy Options for Land and Agrarian Reform in South Africa”.
- Participation in collaborative research project with academics from University of KwaZulu-Natal and Vrije University in Netherlands on the impact of game farms on farm dwellers.
- Participation in research project with Professor Heinz Klug from the University of Wisconsin on the impact of having socioeconomic rights in our Constitution. Paper produced by AFRA highlighting four case studies entitled “*The rise and fall of socioeconomic rights in KwaZulu-Natal*”.
- Hosted a meeting with Department of Labour, organised agriculture, farm dwellers organisations, Wieta, Fair Trade and Tourism, HOM (Danish Human rights and business project) and other interested NGO’s to explore the option of developing a monitoring system for compliance of labour issues on farms.
- Supported the launch of a provincial labour forum focused on commercial farms co-ordinated by the Department of Labour and the CCMA.
- Supported the forum to launch its information campaign in the province through local visits with farm dwellers and landowners in the Utrecht district.
- Co-hosted workshop with PLAAS and farm dweller representatives from three sub districts, Utrecht, Dannhauser and Newcastle to begin to explore alternative options for their future land access.
- Lobbied the Amajuba district municipality and the Umngeni Sub-district Municipality to begin to explore alternative options for farm dwellers through collaboration with AFRA and farm dwellers.
- Developed training materials for local government and other stakeholders affecting farm dweller lives on the situation and land rights of farm dwellers.



- Provided training to Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) employees on farm dwellers land rights through collaboration with CLRS.

Communal property rights and land administration options for economic development

Objectives (2007):

1. supporting locally run land administration systems
2. strengthening internal learning processes on identified themes
3. establishing a network of like-minded organisations or formations to advocate on secure tenure.

Actual activities undertaken:

Cornfields

- Leadership conflicts became intractable and prevented any real work taking place.
- AFRA agreed to support the leadership to obtain all bank statements to try to help clarify the use of funds over the years. This had limited success and supporting documents were not made available.
- Uncertainty about the most useful way to engage stopped AFRA from further engagements in the year.
- Attempts were finally made to bring the leadership into the provincial workshop with other Communal Property Institutions. Unfortunately none attended.

Ekuthuleni

- Held a number of meetings with Communal Property Association to establish their plans post transfer of the land to them and to establish what support AFRA may give them.
- Supported the CPA to engage with neighbouring CPA's on issues of accessing development and problems arising in the management of communal land systems

- Supported CPA to hold community meeting to re-establish community rules and contain issues of unplanned new settlements.
- Supported CPA to attend and engage with provincial workshop of Communal Property Institutions.

Dukuduku

- Engaged with the committee on their tentative land use plan and how to share this proposal with the broader community
- Supported the committee to host a community meeting to discuss the land use plan. Further disputes amongst settled families arose which are linked to issues of authority and control over access between the claimants committee and the local councillor who is a resident.
- Supported the committee to address this conflict with the local municipality and resolve the issue.
- Supported the claimants to mount a legal case to pressurise the Restitution Land Claim Commission (RLCC) to process the claim to completion. Supported committee to put pressure on the Restitution Land Claim Commission (RLCC) to gazette the entire claimed area. This was finally successful in 2007 where a revised gazette notice was placed.
- Supported the claimant committee to meet with some of the landowners affected by the claim process to explore settlement options.
- Engaged with the Department of Water Affairs, who are the nominal owners of the forest land that people have settled on, on the way forward in terms of how this settlement affects the Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park (GSLWP – now renamed the Simangaliso Park).
- Supported the claimant committee to engage with DWAF with regards



Above: A housing project in the Dukuduku forest after land has been cleared. This project was meant to lure people out of the forest: 2006

Below: Self-built houses in the Dukuduku forest of land claimants who refuse to relocate to new housing schemes of government: 2006



DWAF's intentions with them and to set up a steering committee of stakeholders to oversee control and access until a new ownership form is agreed on.

- Held an internal review of AFRA's work in support of the Dukuduku claimants and to develop a clearer strategy on what AFRA's most effective impact could be. This resulted in a focus on strategies which would resolve conflicts over authority which will have long-term negative consequences for tenure in the area.
- Engaged with University of Oslo in Norway on their research project looking at "Property, Possession and Conflict in Re/Building Settlement". Agreed with claimants that Dukuduku could be one of the three case studies for the research over three years.

Gongolo

- Undertook participatory community driven land use planning process in Gongolo across two traditional authority areas, covering seven izigodi's (traditional wards). Included over 300 people.
- In collaboration with representatives of the Gongolo committee strategised, planned and reflected on workshop methodology and planning process – undertook participatory mapping processes using aerial photographs
- Held a first workshop in each of the seven traditional wards to propose planning process, identify participants and social groups with interests in land use, and identified current land use and livelihood practices of each area.
- Successfully collaborated with CEAD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal to engage six students in three weeks of fieldwork in Gongolo. The students worked with local committee members to do sample household interviews in the wards to supplement the workshop focus group discussions in each ward. The students did this as part of their field practical experience.

The landscape of Gongolo, where land owners, claimants, farm dwellers and government remained in an intractable stalemate. Now threatened with expropriation.



- Contracted consultant to undertake desktop research on soil potential, water sources, infrastructure, local market trends, government strategies and services and programmes for the area and stakeholder interests.
- Compiled a status quo report of current livelihood practices for each of the seven wards making up the Gongolo area.

- Engaged with the RLCC and Land Affairs on the process of acquiring or expropriating land and informed them of the communities intention to develop their own land use plan.
- Liaised with current landowners of the area and networked the Gongolo committee with the landowners company the Gongolo Wildlife Reserve.
- Supported and accompanied the chairperson of the Gongolo committee to attend the workshop hosted by GTZ.
- Engaged with other NGO's undertaking community driven planning and district level planning – LEAP and PLAAS.
- Held a follow-up workshop in two of the wards.

Alternative agrarian reform models for economic development

Objectives (2007):

1. exploring alternative policies through a process of gathering information
2. engage at a broad policy level on agrarian reform frameworks
3. networking with other organisations to assess what is happening in the land sector
4. lobbying around farm dweller alternatives
5. lobbying municipalities to adopt an agrarian reform desk

Implementation:

Decision was made mid year that this issue overlaps with all focus areas and sits inside many of those planned activities.

- Hosted workshop with PLAAS and farm dwellers on options.
- Three-weekly internal discussions with staff have been recommended as being necessary to build the internal capacity of the organisation to enable it to engage with stakeholders. A strategy and plan have been developed and the first session was held at the end of 2007 to be continued into 2008.
- A scan of the environment through research is being conducted. This includes identifying organisations working in the sector.
- There is strong overlap between agrarian reform issues and tenure issues so the work in Gongolo and Dukuduku feed into this focus area.





Farm dwellers from Amajuba discuss their future settlement and farming options at a workshop hosted by AFRA and PLAAS in Newcastle: 2007

- The workshops that are held in the social mobilization focus area should be drawing on agrarian reform issues that this team has developed and the agrarian reform team must be drawing on the discussion outputs from those workshops to work towards developing the alternate agrarian reform framework.
- There are also plans in the pipeline to take some of this information to the municipalities in an attempt to get them to understand farm dweller issues.

- Engaged with the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and the DLA to launch the Provincial Land and Agrarian Reform Forum.
- Attended a meeting hosted by the International Land Coalition in Nairobi with other interested partners of the ILC in Africa to discuss establishing a network on the continent.
- Attended the biannual general meeting of the ILC in Uganda.
- Attended the World Social Forum with some community members.
- Attended the La Vie Campesina “food Sovereignty” conference in Mali with LPM members.

Support to agrarian reform social movements to mount challenges, lobby and take charge of their own struggle

Objectives (2007):

1. raising the consciousness of landless people
2. provide support for the LPM so that it is functional at a provincial level
3. open a space for government to engage with the LPM on key issues
4. assist the LPM in developing relationships with other stakeholders

Actual activities undertaken:

- Three political education workshops held with farm dwellers on the farms in local farming areas in the province (Impendle, Utrecht and Dannhauser). These proved very successful, particularly when linked to local struggles and actions.
- One provincial political education workshop held with women from farms to support them to better engage with land issues and the social movement formations in their areas.
- Supported the LPM to do one presentation at a KZNCC meeting.
- Supported the LPM to hold two provincial committee meetings.
- Supported the LPM provincial committee by printing some recruiter packs at their request.
- Engaged the provincial LPM in discussions about their strategies and plans and tried to challenge them to be clearer in this so we could also better support them. When this failed and the provincial committee internal problems remained unresolved AFRA opted to work with local formations on their local issues in the second half of 2007.
- Engaged with the LPM to resolve their differences with the TSCC by supporting two meetings between these structures.
- Undertook visits to local formations in over 10 areas to ascertain their local issues and how AFRA could support them.
- Supported the LPM to hold a national meeting of its national committee to try to develop a national strategy plan.
- Supported the Dannhauser community to strategise, plan and implement a protest march on the eviction of a widow and children, a sit-in at the DLA offices and attend the court trial of those arrested. Ensured media profile was given to these actions.
- Supported the Mooi River community to strategise and implement a protest march to the police station protesting the conduct of police in resolving farm disputes.
- Supported the Utrecht community to undertake a protest march around farmer's dogs attacking local dwellers.
- Supported the Zululand District farm dweller formations to strategise around their engagement with the Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs Zululand Land Summit.



Farm dwellers marched through the town of Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal protesting the states lack of provision of legal services to them to defend their rights: 2008



- Supported land NGO's and farm dweller formations to attend two meetings nationally to take forward the agreed national farm dweller campaign arising from the 2006 farm dweller conference, held in Pietermaritzburg.
- Supported local formations to write articles about their issues and struggles for publication in the new format, *AFRA News*.
- Produced one *AFRA News* focusing on local social mobilization issues.

Gender and HIV

Objectives (2007):

1. develop staff capacity on gender issues to sensitize staff
2. develop procedures (ethics) of how AFRA deals with women in communities
3. mainstream gender into all other focus areas and work of AFRA

Implementation:

- Internally there have been discussions on gender issues. The organisation is working towards developing a policy to guide it internally on gender issues and also its work externally.
- Gender issues have been integrated into the workshops that have been held, for example, in the farm dweller workshop in Amajuba, the issues of women on farms were raised and a space was created for women to air their experiences. In Gongolo, a conscious effort was made to include a space for women in whatever interventions were made in that community.
- Hosting provincial women's workshop on tenure and land rights issues.
- Hosting a provincial workshop on political education around land issues and social movements.
- Collaborating with the Commission on Gender Equity to host a Women's Day focused on women on farms.
- Engaged with provincial women's and gender networks.
- Engaged with the Premier's office on the establishment of a provincial AIDS council.

Treasurer's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2007



Non Government organisations operate in an increasingly competitive funding environment where only the fit are surviving. There are simple but hard to implement steps to NGO financial longevity: clarity of purpose, continual performance and impact assessment, reduction and control of administrative and operating costs, prudent management of reserves for cash flow “bad times”, maintaining the trust and continued support of existing funders, and finding new funders and financial mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability for meeting long term social mandates.

The AFRA Board and Staff are addressing each of these steps with purpose. Annual strategic planning and evaluations are an established practice with an internally initiated independent external evaluation taking place within each 3 year funding cycle. There is a functioning performance management system linked to overall organisational goals and objectives.

In an inflationary environment of about 10%, AFRA management and staff have in the 2007 financial year reduced administrative costs by 22% with overall operating expenditure rising by only 3%, with the salary bill contracting by 2% as the organisation has sought to become leaner and meaner. This has not been without effort and sacrifices on the part of management and staff. And for this Lisa Del Grande and her staff team must be highly commended.

As the independent Audit Report indicates, “AFRA operated in a well established control environment which is well documented and regularly reviewed”. It is a long established distinctive competency that the organisation has developed over the past 30 years. For that reason it continues to sustain the support of a number of long term core funders.

During the past year, following detailed deliberations within the board and management, a decision has been made to establish a trading and investment entity to more optimally utilise AFRA's significant non current assets and investment funds to generate a higher level of returns to fund a portion of the organisation's ongoing operational costs. The details are to be addressed in the next financial year ahead, as there are important issues of accountability, fiduciary obligations and risks that the Board would take into account when establishing the entity.

2007 was also a milestone in AFRA's goals of achieving greater financial sustainability, as the Board made available a significant portion of the organisation's returns on



its investment portfolio to finance the administrative overheads, a critical area but one traditionally least favoured by external funders.

The financial goals for 2008 look achievable, with a funding commitment of 87% to budget to date. But the effort and stretch to achieve the remaining 13% should not be underestimated.

In conclusion I would want to thank our funders for their continued support, Shirin Motala for her committed leadership of the Board team, my fellow board members for their collegial support, and Lisa Del Grande and the staff for implementing the organisation's critically important mandate and vision.

Richard Clacey
AFRA Treasurer

AFRA's Funders 2007

Action Aid South Africa	Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Belgium Embassy	Midnet
Broedelijk Delen	National Development Agency
Christian Aid	Oslo School of Architecture & Design
Entraide et Fraternite	Rural Legal Trust
Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation (ICCO)	University of Wisconsin: Prof Heinz Klug

Audited Financial Statements



ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL ADVANCEMENT BALANCE SHEET – 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
	R	R
ASSETS		
<i>Non-current assets</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	697 644	722 003
Specific fund investments	833 454	690 601
Financial assets	3 205 368	2 471 678
	<u>4 736 466</u>	<u>3 884 282</u>
<i>Current assets</i>		
Due from specific funds	297 712	413 457
Receivables and prepayments	122 832	138 809
Funds on call	1 530 929	1 415 341
Cash and cash equivalents	131 968	42 074
	<u>2 083 441</u>	<u>2 009 681</u>
Total assets	<u><u>6 819 907</u></u>	<u><u>5 893 963</u></u>
 EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
<i>Funds</i>		
Accumulated funds	4 892 276	4 519 611
Specific funds	833 454	690 601
Total equity	<u>5 725 730</u>	<u>5 210 212</u>
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade and other payables	55 761	69 551
Leave pay accrual	174 295	173 980
Grants received in advance	864 121	440 220
Total liabilities	<u>1 094 177</u>	<u>683 751</u>
Total equity and liabilities	<u><u>6 819 907</u></u>	<u><u>5 893 963</u></u>



INCOME STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
	R	R
Revenue – Grant income	1 857 975	1 980 508
Other operating income	389 040	301 833
Specific fund income	1 762 181	3 388 580
NDA	339 000	508 500
Land Cluster	–	389 999
Belgium Embassy	589 937	380 732
International Land Coalition	–	233 303
Broederlijk Delen	625 244	564 562
Foundation for Human Rights	–	845 000
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		
- Farm Dweller	208 000	253 824
- Legal entities	–	97 157
Entraide ET Fraternite	–	59 838
Action Aid	–	55 665
Total income	4 009 196	5 670 921
Administrative expenses	187 437	241 699
Operating expenses	2 563 352	2 484 520
Specific fund expenditure	1 444 425	3 308 226
ICL – workshop income	–	4 398
NDA	158 647	395 382
Palestine	–	1 443
Land Cluster	–	205 627
Belgium Embassy	417 164	481 777
International Land Coalition	–	315 379
Broederlijk Delen	662 267	439 890
Ford Foundation	–	25 366
Foundation for Human Rights	–	692 212
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust		
- Farm Dweller	152 680	336 749
- Legal entities	–	74 511
Global Ministries – workshop	–	115 622
Embassy of Finland	–	158 033
Entraide ET Fraternite	–	59 838
Action Aid	53 667	1 999
Total expenses	4 195 214	6 034 445
Deficit before finance costs	(186 018)	(363 524)
Finance income	876 439	410 027
Finance cost	–	(167)
Surplus for the year	690 421	46 336

**STATEMENT FOR CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the year ended 31 December 2007**

	Accumulated funds R	Specific funds R	Total R
Balance at 1 January 2007	4 519 611	690 601	5 210 212
Surplus for the year	690 421	–	690 421
Transfers	(317 756)	317 756	–
Settlement of specific fund	–	(41 440)	(41 440)
Administration of specific fund	–	(39 268)	(39 268)
Funds receivable movement	–	(94 195)	(94 195)
Balance at 31 December 2007	<u>4 892 276</u>	<u>833 454</u>	<u>5 725 730</u>
Balance at 1 January 2006	4 553 629	421 416	4 975 045
Surplus for the year	46 336	–	46 336
Transfers	(80 354)	80 354	–
Administration of specific fund	–	(11 928)	(11 928)
Funds receivable movement	–	200 759	200 759
Balance at 31 December 2006	<u>4 519 611</u>	<u>690 601</u>	<u>5 210 212</u>



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AFRA

