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# Assessing the University of the Witwatersrand Rural Facilty (WRF) as a sustainability center

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# Appendix 1

Figure 2 Results of Study

**Figure 2 – Some of the examples given in support of decisions in Figure 1**

| **WRF**<br><br>**RELEVANT** | **WRF**<br><br>**LEGITIMATE** | **WRF**<br><br>**RELIABLE** | **WRF**<br><br>**ENABLING IN**<br><br>**SUSTAINABILITY**<br><br>**AND**<br><br>**RESILIENCE** |
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| RADAR – brought international recognition and grants to the area, but also shed light on hardships of community, which in turn led to solutions of more problems | District health pilot study led to nationwide implementation of nursing assistance to AIDS victims | Discussion sessions over time make people relaxed, share easily and get feedback | WRF Mobile campaigns to reach people eligible for grants money |
| Research "spawn" more research and solutions, i.e. Acornhoek Advice Center, led to community paralegal services | Interacts with local and provincial government, some people have more than 15 years relationship with community and formal structures, causing mutual trust and smoothing of interaction | Stimulate interaction with international universities, causing local programmes to be enhanced through the participation of highly skilled international visitors. | Family planning: 1st of 40 research sites where birthrate dropped from 6.4 to 2.4 |
| Traditional healers nursery started in collaboration with (then) WRF staff member in private capacity | Community structures are actively involved. First phase researchers communicate freely with researchers. | Partnering between the WRF, Non-Governmental organizations and Government, led | |

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| | Together set research agenda, finally results of research are explained to leaders from the community and Development Forum, the Headman and the Chief. In many instances the WRF work with Government and they enhance one another's programmes. | to improved service delivery to the community. It further investigated the role between AIDS and poverty and led to micro-financing the poor in 6 villages. Again it was especially women who became empowered through the venture. When such women receive a loan it is gender empowerment which on the face of it reduces the risk of AIDS. This is at this stage and assumption as research is had not been concluded. Interviewees expressed how much more research is necessary to find solutions to poverty and it's socio-economic problems. | |
| The WRF approached local government to | Robust international research at the | Some WRF programmes resulted in | Led to awareness of problems in schools and in turn led to |

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| run a workshop on deforestation raising awareness of the impact of people on the environment. This resulted in a great interaction between the WRF and the community. The academic relationship resulted in partnerships. Particularly local women were very enthusiastic and in this way they became partners towards sustainability with local government and the WRF. The end result is a more holistic approach which benefited all, including the environment. | WRF assisted the local community in enhanced ways being found to cultivate indigenous food, boosting food security. | service learning. Medical students would screen children and the community would coordinate this. In the same way the third year Animal Plant and Environmental Studies students participate with locals to establish resource needs. The reports thereon have been built on practically into the community. More important, because of the sustained presence of the WRF in the area there is continuity and follow up and practical solutions implemented can be assessed as to efficacy. If one apparent solution does not work the parties communicate and another is sought. | linking up of education and community leaders to practically assist the community to overcome the problems. Implementation of new technologies in sanitation, availability of water, eco-gardens, environmental education and the formation of eco-clubs was the result |
| | | | On the level of food security |

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| | | | better communication and partnerships led to researching the role the natural environment play on survival of the poor. The result was partnering with the Department of Forestry. In this way poverty mitigation and biodiversity protection through sustainable resource use, went hand in hand to achieve better outcomes and enhanced partnerships towards sustainability. |
| Lack of sanitation caused human waste to mix with drinking water. The WRF was instrumental to helping communities build Ventilated Improved Pit-latrines. | Development projects are successful because they are based on a long term sustained effort. | A shortage of doctors in the area led to group discussions hosted through the WRF. As a solution nurses were trained to deal with less challenging cases and serve a community which would otherwise not have had health care. | Some programmes could simply not exist if not for the input from the WRF which constantly seek solutions when faced with difficulties, even across disciplines. The result is that the WRF has become a meeting ground for disciplines. |

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| The WRF hosted a workshop teaching the community how to re-cycle water. | The WRF has engaged the community by running perma-culture workshops and how to irrigate economically. The community is taught which nutrients are best for them. The WRF has helped people plant fruit trees which resulted in healthier children and some fruit available for selling. The WRF hosted a workshop teaching the community how to re-cycle water. | The WRF was instrumental in interconnecting the community with the White Lions of the Timbivati project | NGO's working in conjunction with the WRF develops plans in conjunction with WRF staff and assist local communities to make gardens, and start small business projects. |
| A community leader made the commented : "the WRF has had one goal: to develop the community – now the community will be the way we plan, no longer just alcohol and violence. Even parents are now involved in the | The schools in the area work in conjunction with the WRF on projects assisting learners, educators and parents to deal with a number of topics, water-scarcity, sanitation, growing plants and vegetables, | The WRF organized a fund-raiser for money to buy fencing to keep the cattle and goats out of the water points. | The WRF arranged engineers to work with community groups to resolve water situation, which resulted in machines to draw water from dams and rivers. |

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| gardens. They irrigate and remove the weeds. Our people are starting to understand unity and the power for good we have when we work together." | growing trees, expanding library, through donors bringing computers to the schools, bringing supplementary educational material to the schools, teaching skills of how to sell, package and create products. All in all the WRF has shared a great deal of information which has spread widely into the community. | | |
| The WRF is assisting people to learn about their rights. | | | The WRF assisted with a great number of boreholes. Before that people used to have wells which became contaminated. Since the boreholes there is a lot less typhoid in the area. |
| School projects to preserve indigenous trees have resulted in children teaching parents | Community groups expressed the wide input into the community. As a result of | Many learners come to school hungry and the gardens the WRF started enables the teachers to cook food, which | The WRF assisted people to combat erosion by early detection of donga's (ditches |

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| to not cut down trees. | the WRF's presence they have had access to medical, engineering, legal, agricultural, sociological aid they would otherwise not have had. | is any many cases the only meal such children get in a day | developing). WRF personell would go out with community groups and plant grass in the eroded areas or fill it with stones to stop the erosion. |
| Individuals at the WRF provided orphan learners with school uniforms. Often the head of the household of such orphans is 10 or 14 years old. | Partnerships included the Department of Health which supplied seed and equipment. | An educator made the comment : "The WRF is small, but their impact has been that learners grow up knowing how to sanitize water, create vegetable gardens, plant fruit trees, protect species : this knowledge make these children more resilient, empower them to deal with droughts, how to feed their families. In conjunction with the WRF we dramatize these situations to the parents." | The WRF has engaged the community by running perma-culture workshops and how to irrigate economically. The community is taught which nutrients are best for them. The WRF has helped people plant fruit trees which resulted in healthier children and some fruit available for selling. |