



**AFRICAN
IVORY ROUTE**
ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY



MAKING THE BUSINESS GREEN

THE AFRICAN IVORY ROUTE ECOTOURISM PROJECT funded by the European Union and Cesvi, has transformed in a GREEN business the African Ivory Route.

The Project introduced green technologies to improve the quality of accommodation with hot water and electricity made available in guest units. This contributed also to reduce the carbon footprint while at the same time achieving a substantial reduction of operational costs.

The main components for "greening" the Ivory Route have been the installation of **8 waste management and recycling** stations in all of the eight AIR camps and the use of renewable energy across all of the camps. This includes **2 solar borehole pumps**, **24 solar geyser**, with a total of 2,640 liters of water heated with the sun, **8 water filtering systems**, **one water harvester**, installation of **8 water pressure meters** to control use of water and reduce water waste, **66 solar panels** with a total capacity of 5,850 Watts, **66 batteries** for energy storage for a total capacity of 5,185 Ah, **198 low consumption LED lights**, **10 solar telephone recharging stations** and **8 solar fridges**.



BEFORE

POOR SERVICES
FEW TOURISTS
MORE CARBON



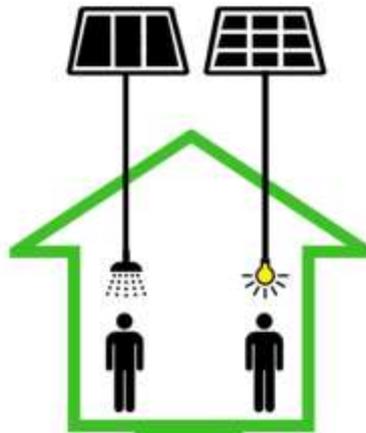
AFRICAN IVORY ROUTE
EUROPEAN UNION PROJECT



FROM THE SUN



SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS



BETTER SERVICES
MORE TOURISTS

LESS CARBON
LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Through the introduction of **RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS** the African Ivory Route was able to reduce the use of carbon energy sources while at the same time improving the comfort and the level of services of the accommodation offered to visiting guests and for camp's residing staff.

In the camps renovated by the project **higher services** are offered to **visitors** and to **camp staff**, with provision of hot water and electricity and this was achieved with a **reduction** of the associated costs, while at the same time **carbon** production was **minimized**.

The availability of electricity at the camps through solar panels also has a high impact in terms of carbon reduction. The production of 5,850 Kwh using traditional ways (grid, generators...) would have produced 2.9 tons of carbon and high bills for electricity.

Carbon produced by use of gas, paraffin and petrol **before project** was 11 Tons and **after project** it diminished to 10 Tons. A reduction of the carbon footprint while at the same time **increasing the number of guests** and by offering them **higher services** with hot water and electricity.



Tent equipped with solar lights, telephone recharging station and solar geyser in Mtomeni camp





WATER HARVESTING

Water harvesting and storage in Modjadji

WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM

Eight water filtration systems installed in all camps



WATER METERS TO CONTROL WATER USE AND SAVE WATER

Water meters installed in all camps to control use of water and reduce water waste





SOLAR GEYSER

24 solar geysers, with a total of 2 640 liters of water heated by the sun



SOLAR PANELS

65 solar panels with a total installed capacity of 5 850 Watts

BATTERIES FOR ENERGY STORAGE

66 batteries for a total storage capacity of 5,185 Ah





SOLAR FRIDGES

8 solar fridges

At Baleni and Mtomeni, we produce ice from the sun

LOW CONSUMPTION LED LIGHTS

198 LED lights for guest accommodation, staff accommodation, communal ablutions and kitchens across all AIR camps.

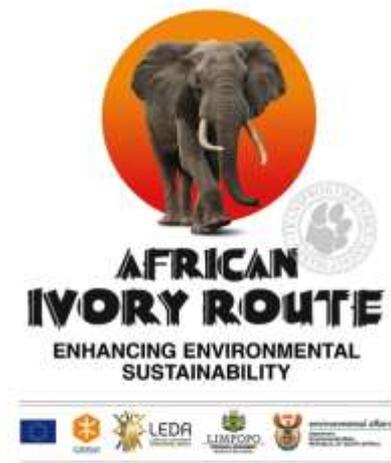


SOLAR TELEPHONE RECHARGING STATIONS

A FIRST in South Africa!

Capable to recharge phones and cameras via USB and 12 V plug

THE EUROPEAN UNION AFRICAN IVORY ROUTE PROJECT



The African Ivory Route ecotourism project is a three-year (2014-2017) project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by CESVI, an Italian Ngo and aimed at “enhancing environmental sustainability, resilience to climate change and improved livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Limpopo Province through sustainable ecotourism development”. Like many other rural communities in South Africa, the African Ivory Route communities in Limpopo – the country’s poorest province – have limited access to livelihood opportunities. Traditional activities such as dry-land crop and livestock production are directly dependent on, and extremely

vulnerable to, annual fluctuations in rainfall and longer-term climatic changes – and in many cases result in significant impacts to the environment, to the extent that they are not sustainable. The result is that communities are trapped in conditions of extreme poverty.

Ecotourism has the potential to offer complementary and more sustainable livelihood opportunities – to assist the transition by rural communities from livelihoods based on direct use of natural resources to those based on employment. Sustainable ecotourism in healthy ecosystems provides livelihood opportunities for rural communities while promoting sustainable development.

Ecotourism development in the framework of this ecotourism project has been pursued and achieved through a multi-stakeholder partnership enabling different actors to operate synergistically. This includes the public sector to provide an appropriate enabling environment (e.g. policies, strategic planning, framework infrastructure); communities to proactively participate in local environmental protection, thus providing suitable conditions for attracting and hosting visitors; and a private operator to ensure efficient delivery of management and marketing services.

The project is implemented through a set of interlinked actions: improvement of standards of accommodation for guests; improved services for staff; introduction of renewable energies to assure environmental sustainability of the services offered; increasing the environmental standards with introduction of waste management and recycling; introduction of environmental management and environmental certification (Green Line Certification); training of AIR staff; promotion and marketing of the tourism products that the AIR has to offer; social and environmental promotion by linking the AIR camps with the surrounding communities and institutions; and support for the improvement of the institutional partnership set up at the founding of the AIR, particularly looking at the community cooperatives – owners of the camps.





, Cesvi established in 1985, is a secular, independent association, working for global solidarity.

In the values guiding Cesvi, the moral principle of human solidarity and the ideal of social justice are transformed into humanitarian aid and development, reinforcing an affirmation of universal human rights.

Cesvi believes strongly that helping the underprivileged in developing countries, or those in difficulty due to war, natural calamities and environmental disasters, does not help only those who suffer, but contributes also to the well-being of all of us on the planet, our "common home" that needs to be looked after for the sake of future generations.

In the acronym Cesvi, the words *cooperazione e sviluppo* (Cooperation and Development) underline the fact that Cesvi bases its philosophy on the idea of giving the recipients of aid a leading role, working together for their own natural benefit. It is for this reason that Cesvi is strongly committed to making sure that international aid does not become mere charity, and nor is it influenced by the donors' self-interest.



The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, expanding over 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and

individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

EU ongoing support in renewable energies

The EU is committed to universal access to modern affordable and sustainable energy services by focusing on renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency measures. Together, the EU and its member states provide about a third of the world's energy related official development assistance (ODA) amounting to 22 billion € for the period 2010 –2014. 42% of this allocation has been used to fund renewable energy and 37% to projects in Africa, where the EU is a key partner. The Africa-EU Energy Partnership was established in 2007 and the EU is one of the main funders of the African Renewable Energy Initiative. In South Africa, the EU has supported and is currently supporting energy access and energy efficiency through a range of different projects in conjunction with the South African Government and civil society actors.

