MALEALEA DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Promoting education and development in Malealea

DRAFT REPORT 2002/2006

MALEALEA DEVELOPMENT TRUST (MDT)

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Recognition of support

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- Intercompany Fundraising and Cordaid
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- The University of the Witwatersrand
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- Ally Clarke

There are many more generous supporters not mentioned by name above. The MDT extends warm thanks to all who have made contributions, both great and small.

Message from the Chair

This is a very special report in that it is the first overview report since the registration of the Malealea Development Trust in April 2002. A number of smaller reports have been written over this period, but no single document which summarises the activities of the Malealea Development Trust. The aim of this report is to provide an overview of activities in which the Malealea Development Trust is currently involved, as well activities completed.

The Malealea Development Trust is committed to promoting development and education for the improvement of people's well-being in the Malealea Valley. Funding for such activities is raised in several ways. Firstly, recognising the Malealea Lodge as the hub of tourism activities in the south eastern region of Lesotho, the Malealea Development Trust was established to enable those visiting the area to contribute to the upliftment of the community. The MDT functions as a vehicle to constructively channel donations from visitors to the community. The MDT monitors the expenditure of these contributions and ensures that funds are directed to legitimate and viable projects. Funds for projects are also raised from external donors who support specific activities.

The Malealea Development Trust is committed to participatory methodologies and approaches to development, education and economic empowerment. Communities in the Malealea Valley are encouraged to be proactive in both initiating and implementing development related initiatives. A noticeable area of strategic focus has been the establishment of community learning and action groups in fifteen villages throughout the valley. These groups have spearheaded development initiatives, and promote a commitment to development more widely within communities. In addition to these groups, other organisations, societies, institutions (such as schools and churches) and individuals apply to the Malealea Development Trust for support of development related initiatives. A description of all projects supported is provided in this report.

There have of course been challenges, and numerous lessons learned over the course of the years that the Malealea Development Trust has been in operation. We have learned the importance of ensuring that projects undertaken are community driven and needs based. We have also learned the importance of *not* making promises to communities which cannot be fulfilled. We have also learned that the balance between promoting empowerment and the creating dependency is a delicate one that has to be constantly monitored.

My sincerest thanks go the trustees of the Malealea Development Trust who have shown unstinting commitment to the supporting development in Malealea. I would also like to thank all of our donors, and those visitors who have contributed so generously to ensure that the MDT is able to make a meaningful contribution to a life of dignity for people in the Malealea valley.

Gillian Attwood

Structure of the report

This report is organised as follows:

Firstly, a diagrammatical overview of the five key focus areas of development supported by the Malealea Development Trust is presented. These five key areas are as follows:

- **Education**
- **Infrastructure development**
- **Health and well-being**
- **Environment**
- **Promotion of income generation and self-sufficiency**

A number of projects and key activities have been undertaken under each of these five focus areas. The core activities undertaken are represented on the diagram. These are then discussed in further detail in the next section of the report.

KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE MALEALEA DEVELOPMENT TRUST

KEY FOCUS AREA: EDUCATION

Education is a key aspect of development. Education supports an individual's ability to participate effectively in social and economic activities which contribute to human development and poverty reduction. For this reason, the Malealea Development Trust places a strong emphasis on promoting education initiatives within the valley.

Education is promoted at all ages and levels, starting from pre-school education, through to primary and secondary school education, and adult education.

Pre-school education
To date, the Malealea Development Trust has supported the building of three preschools and the renovation of one. Libraries and toys have been provided to these preschools.

However, the Trust believes strongly that buildings are not enough – it is what happens in these buildings that is most important. For this reason, the Trust has supported the training of all preschool teachers in the valley. This training will be continued in 2007.

Primary school education
The Malealea Development Trust has funded the construction and furnishing of three classrooms at Makhetheng Primary School and is in the process of supporting the construction of more classrooms at Botsoela Primary School. Primary schools in the valley also receive pens, pencils, books and other stationery that is donated by visitors to the valley. Balls and other sports equipment donated are also distributed amongst schools in the valley as well as some schools in more remote mountain areas. Thanks to the generous contribution of one Trust supporter, the Trust was able to buy every primary school child in the valley a pair of schools shoes.

Secondary school education
The Malealea Development Trust has partnered with two high schools in Yorkshire – The City School and Royston School. This partnership has become known as 'The Yorkshire Link' (see www.barnsley-malealea.org.uk). Students and staff from these two schools in Yorkshire have established an ongoing relationship with Malealea Secondary School and do much to support the school. They have raised funds for the purchase and erection of a wind and solar unit which generates electricity for the school, providing lighting and power for computers, a TV and other electronic equipment. The Yorkshire Link has also provided funds for the sorely needed maintenance of classrooms, as well as the renovation of a disused classroom into a library at the school.

These initiatives have attracted the attention and support of others, and provided a base on which to grow the initiatives yet further. A number of dedicated volunteers have worked at the school on different aspects of school development for extended periods (a year to two years). For example, a

Peace Corps volunteer helped to build up the school **library** which currently houses a collection of more than 3000 books. One of the staff was trained to take over the running of the library. She is assisted by a number of trained students. Several more computers have been donated to the school, and thanks to the efforts of a committed volunteer, children have been able to take afternoon computer classes.

The Yorkshire Link also initiated the establishment of the **Malealea Scholarship Fund**. Because secondary and high school education are not free in Lesotho, the establishment of this fund enables children without the means to further their education beyond primary school. Children are selected primarily on the basis of need, although merit is also taken into account. Visitors to the valley have also contributed to supporting children to attend secondary school by donating money to the scholarship fund.

Adult education

Adult education is being promoted in Malealea in a number of ways.

(i) The major adult education initiative has been the establishment of learning and action communities in 15 villages scattered throughout the valley. These communities are known as "**learning circles**". They use a participatory approach called REFLECT which fuses participatory education and development approaches, bringing learning and action together in a practical way. A core of 25 trained facilitators in the valley lead the groups through a process of identifying their problems and their learning needs in relation to those problems. They then take informed action to address the identified problems.

Over the six years in which the circles have been in existence, they have undertaken a range of learning and development projects, including the establishment of food gardens in villages, the reclamation of eroded gulleys (or 'dongas'), reforestation projects, building of roads and pit toilets, sanitation of water sources, and the establishment of a range of income generation projects.

(ii) Other adult education initiatives include **informal training and skills development workshops** conducted for various interest groups in the valley. There have been education workshops organised around the following topics:

- primary health care for horses
- bee keeping
- agriculture (including composting and soil nutrition, terracing and tree planting)
- water harvesting
- learning English
- using drama for development (Collaborative relationships with four well known international universities, as well as an organisation known as 'Clowns Without Borders')
- HIV/AIDS
- business skills

- craft production (including grass weaving and basketry, beading, sewing, embroidery, carpentry, drawing and painting, fabric painting, making traditional pottery, making cosmetic products from local plants, amongst others)
- paper making

candle making

- making homemade health and cosmetic products using local materials (such as aloe)
- using recycled materials make a range of products (e.g. furniture, energy-saving fire rings, and candle holders made from recycled cans, amongst others)

Libraries and literacy

Establishing a "culture of literacy" is critically important for the sustainability of literacy and education more broadly. Unless people are able to use the skills they acquire within the contexts in which they live, those skills quickly become redundant. The Malealea Development Trust has established a library at the local secondary school in order to promote literacy as a practice, rather than just a skill. This library provides the secondary school children with a source of relevant reading material.

However, the library also offers a satellite service to the primary schools by means of a 'donkey library'. Using a donkey, books are taken out to the four primary schools in the Valley on a weekly basis. In this way, all primary school children are able to access books and become acquainted with a 'culture of reading'.

Smaller libraries have also been set up in three preschools, with books set aside for other preschools that were at the time of writing this report still being built.

KEY FOCUS AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Malealea Development Trust is committed to building infrastructure that will support planned development initiatives. Over the years, a number of different kinds of infrastructure have been developed. These are briefly described below:

- **Construction of primary school classrooms**
  Primary schools are often overcrowded, which threatens the quality of learning and teaching that can be offered at a school. For this reason, two primary schools in the valley have received assistance to build new classrooms. A staffroom for teachers has also been constructed at one of the local primary schools.

- **Construction of preschools**
  Research has shown that it is important for children to be prepared for primary education. However, little children are often unable to walk the distance to where preschools are. For this reason, the Trust has supported the building of three preschools, and the renovation of one, within villages. In this way, small children are able to access preschool education and maximise the benefit they will attain from further education at primary and secondary levels.

- **Electrification of the Secondary School**
  With the generous support of two schools in Yorkshire, UK (Royston and City Schools), a wind and solar unit has been erected at Malealea Secondary School. This unit provides a renewable source of electrical energy for the school.

- **Renovation of the Secondary School**
  The Malealea Development Trust has helped to renovate classrooms, concerting one disused classroom into a library for the Malealea Secondary School as well as the broader community.

- **Construction of a Community Centre**
  The Malealea Development Trust has supported the building of a Community Centre as a facility that serves the community in a number of ways.
  (i) Firstly, the building is used for educational workshops. This reinforces the Trust's wider commitment to these issues.
  (ii) Secondly, the building offers a leisure facility to community members. There is a generator that powers a TV and video machine in the Centre, which gives local people the opportunity to engage in leisure activities such as watching soccer matches or television. Educational groups are also able to use this facility.
  (iii) Thirdly, the space is used as a place where tourists and community members can interact. Local community groups perform cultural dances and activities for tourists who are invited to join them and learn more about Basotho culture. Visitors in turn teach tourists about their respective cultures through song and dance.

- **Construction of a Community Sports Field**
  With assistance from a Dutch organisation 'The Big Five', a community sports field has been constructed. This includes a soccer pitch, a netball field and a volleyball field. This facility offers the local community a space for constructive leisure activities.

- **Construction of the Handicraft Sales Room**
  As a means of supporting local income generation initiatives, the Malealea Development Trust has supported the construction of a dedicated sales room for the local craft production co-operative. This enables them to display and sell their craft products in an attractive and secure environment.

- **Construction of dams and other water harvesting facilities**
  Harvesting water poses a major challenge for farmers and those engaging in agricultural activities in the area. Three small dams have been constructed to serve people's need for water.

  A water system has been installed into one village that previously had no safe water source and a similar project is currently underway in another village that currently has no water. In addition, a polluted water source in another village has been sanitated, providing the community with a safe source of drinking water.

- **Construction of latrines**
  The Malealea Development Trust has supported the construction of pit latrines in villages throughout the valley. This has helped to improve the health of people and the environment.

- **Construction of roads and bridal paths**
  The Malealea Development Trust has purchased tools to support communities in the construction of access roads into villages. In addition, with the assistance of a German organisation, 'Sign of Hope', work has been done in Malealea and beyond to repair eroded bridal trails and paths. Roads, trails and paths provide vital routes for accessing resources needed by people living in rural areas.

KEY FOCUS AREA: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

There are five primary means by which the Malealea Development Trust is promoting health and well-being in the valley:

- **Support of the local clinic**
  The Malealea Development Trust helps to channel donations of medicines and equipment to the local clinic. A generator has been purchased to provide electricity and lights to nursing staff working on emergency cases and delivery of babies at night.

- **HIV/AIDS treatment, education and awareness projects**
  HIV/AIDS is one of the most major challenges facing Southern Africa. The Malealea Development Trust provides support to infected and affected people in a number of ways:
  (i) Education and awareness programmes are run throughout the year to help people deal with the many aspects of living with HIV/AIDS as a major contextual factor shaping life in this country. Such programmes include prevention education, treatment literacy, and capacity building.
  (ii) A strong emphasis is placed on promoting testing for HIV so that people know their status. Two local counsellors work full-time to provide Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) at the local clinic, and testing clinics (run by New Start) are also held in the community on a regular basis.
  (iii) In conjunction with Medicines Sans Frontier (MSF), the Malealea Development Trust supports people with transport stipends to access anti-retroviral treatment as well as other associated care (CD4 counts, TB treatment, counselling, and so on).
  (iv) The Malealea Development Trust provides a nutritional supplement (Epap) to all people who test positive and acknowledge their HIV+ status. This supplement helps to boost people's immune systems and maintain their health, and also helps people to openly acknowledge their status.

- **Care of orphans and vulnerable children**
  Nineteen orphans are currently being supported by the Malealea Development Trust. This supports includes a monthly food stipend, payment of school fees and provision of school uniforms and books.

- **Food production**
  The Malealea Development Trust supports the establishment of food gardens that provide communities with a source of fresh vegetables and fruit. Currently there are food gardens in nine villages.

- **Sanitation**
  The Trust has helped to improve sanitation in a number of ways: improving and sanitating water sources, constructing pit toilets, provision of dustbins and an incineration facility in the village.

- **Animal well-being**
  People's livelihoods in Malealea are intimately linked to the well-being of their animals. The Malealea Development Trust is working with the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH) to promote better management and care of horses. A well cared for animal is a better work animal, which ultimately also translates into the improved well-being of people in Malealea.

KEY FOCUS AREA: ENVIRONMENT

The environment is a critical area of consideration for the Malealea Development Trust since the environment is the context that sustains people and their livelihoods. There are five different kinds of environment related projects that the Trust supports:

- **Prevention and reclamation of soil erosion**
  Lesotho is characterised by wind and water erosion, which is further exacerbated by the pressure of both human and animal populations on the land. The Malealea Development Trust supports the reclamation of eroded areas through replanting vegetation and building of stone gabions (or walls) which help to retain soil and retard erosion.

- **Reforestation**
  Because wood is the major source of fuel used by people in Malealea, there has over the years been massive deforestation. The Malealea Development Trust promotes the replanting of trees and indigenous vegetation.

- **Water harvesting and protection of wetlands**
  It is ironic that Lesotho's largest export is water, but people living in Lesotho struggle to harvest water for their own consumption and use. The Malealea Development Trust supports people and groups with projects to harvest water. These include construction of dams, harvesting of rain water from roofs using tanks, manual water pumps, as well as sanitation and protection of natural water sources. A dry wetland is currently being reclaimed so as to preserve a major source of water for the future.

- **Waste management and recycling**
  The management of waste produced by both the Malealea Lodge and the community is a critical aspect of environmental protection. Within the Lodge, cans and bottles and plastics are sorted and where possible recycled. (A project to use tin cans to make furniture and other items was established in 2003.) Within the community, dustbins have been set up and are emptied on a regular basis. Rubbish is burned in an incinerator which has been built as part of an erosion prevention strategy in an eroded gulley in the village.

- **Sanitation**
  Improving sanitation in Malealea helps to keep the environment and people healthy. Sanitation initiatives include improving human sanitation through construction of pit latrines and refuse facilities, as well as through the construction of safe water sources.

KEY FOCUS AREA: INCOME GENERATION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The Malealea Development Trust believes strongly in the empowerment of local people, and the view that people are best helped through helping themselves. For this reason, people are encouraged to initiate entrepreneurial projects and seek assistance from the Trust where needed.

The Handicraft Centre is one such project that has received assistance from the Malealea Development Trust. Local people initiated a craft production project which provides 30 people with a monthly income. They produce a range of crafts which are sold to tourists visiting the area. The Trust has assisted the craft project with funds to build a sales room and harvest rain water at their worksite.

Other projects supported include agricultural projects as well as small business development. Agricultural projects are considered to be important because they provide a fresh and accessible source of nutritious food to the local community. The Trust recognises that profits through such endeavours are lean, and therefore supports agricultural projects with seeds, harvesting of water and tools. Grants are favoured over loans for agricultural projects.

Small business projects are also supported, particularly where they provide a service to the community. Support is usually in the form of a 50% grant and 50% loan. One example of a project that the trust has supported is the construction of four mill by a local entrepreneur. This generates employment for several people and provides the community with a place where there maize can be milled. Another project entailed providing assistance to a local person to purchase a generator and welding machine which, in addition to providing him with an income, also provides a service to members of the community who wish to have a plough or piece of equipment repaired. This saves people in Malealea the expense of travelling to town to make simple repairs.

The following chart summarises the projects that have been supported by the Trust over the last three years. Monies spent on these projects are outlined and their comments on their outcome are provided:

Date of project	PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	MONIES	PROGRESS MADE
January 2004	Sealing of dam (Koena Makhetha)	R2,500	Dam was sealed with clay. However, the dam still does not hold water successfully. Further support is needed (cementing?)
January 2004	Leather making project (leather to support a local entrepreneur, Moliko Ralejalla, with his shoe making business)	R1,000	Materials (leather and soles) were bought and given to Moliko. He is still operating his shoe business and his business seems to have benefited from the injection of materials.
January 2004	Lisoekeleng Pimary School Garden project (tools for gardening)	R3,000	Tools were bought for the school's gardening project
October 2004	Welding project (purchase of welding machine and associated equipment for Lucky Rakojoana)	R12,343 (loan)	The project was initiated, but Lucky has decided to further his studies before progressing with the project. The Trust is therefore holding the equipment in safekeeping until he returns at the end of the year.
December 2004	Forestry project (harvesting tree seedlings to sell to the Ministry of Forestry.)	R4,300 (loan)	Project has been successful in that trees were harvested and sold to the Ministry of Forestry. Koena has paid back R3,700, still owes R600.
December 2004	Ha Ramotsekhoane Learning Circle (C/O Pinki Lebitsa) Roofing for shop and circle meeting place they constructed		Structure was successfully roofed and is being used y the learning circle
January 2005	Masehlomeng Ramakoae (Botsoela) Sewing project	R1,000 (loan)	Buying materials to launch her business sewing school uniforms (4 rolls of material). She has a machine. Loan is repayable @ R100pm
February 2005	Moreneng learning circle Candle making project (applied for wax, already had mould)	R2,000	They have made candles and were selling them individually because they didn't have packets.
February 2005	Thabang Mei Vegetable production (water pump – 'moneymaker'; sprinkler)	R2,000	For irrigating his vegetable fields which are planted and show clear evidence of hard work and commitment

Date of project	PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	MONIES	PROGRESS MADE
February – June 05	Maintenance of Primary Schools and Malealea High School (painting, basic repairs)	R7000	Phil worked with Sekoboto and Royston and City Schools to repair Malealea and Makhetheng Primary Schools as well as the High School. These repairs were timeous and much needed.
March 05	Malealea Clinic (plastic mats for protection against mud)	R500	Plastic runners were purchased to help protect the clinic floors from mud and dirt. This has been successful, although more such runners are needed for other areas in the clinic.
March 05	Agric project – sealing of dam and purchase of budding knife (Isaac Lichaba)	R300	The dam has been successfully sealed and is holding water well. The knife was purchased and is being used by Nt. Isaac.
May 2005	Ntate Mafa Ranyamonyane Purchase of mill	R10,000 (50% loan)	Mill is running successfully and Nt. Mafa has repaid R5,000, the required 50% repayment which was the condition of the semi-loan.
April 2005	Thabiso Molefe Fruit and vegetable project (Piping, tank, cement)	R3,500	Project collapsed because water source was not strong enough. Piping and tank was reclaimed by MDT. The tank was used at the hall, while the piping was used to harvest water at the Community Centre.
April 2005	Tseliso Ralejalla Vegetable project (purchase of seeds)	R1,500 (loan)	Seeds planted but project not successful due to drought. (Tseliso is no longer living in Malealea.)
August 05	Community Renovation of Post Office	R3000	The building has been renovated (including painting, and a new floor)
August 05	Thabo Phetoka Pig farming (Construction of pig stables)	R3,700	Two stables have been successfully erected, and pigs were purchased in August 2005.
Sept 05	Tsepang Lichaba	R3,500	Piping for irrigation of his forestry trees. His nursery is progressing well, but he has not fulfilled the repayment of his loan. He is meant to repay 50% of the money spent by MDT on this project.
Sept 05 – Sept 2006	Lilala Football Club (boots and soccer outfits)	R4,000	Soccer boots were bought for team members to the value of R4,000. In addition, three sets of uniforms were donated during 2006. These are currently being used by players.
Sept 05	Tseanku Primary School Seeds for food production	R250	Seeds (spinach, rape, carrots and green beans) were bought but not all seeds have been planted yet.

Date of project	PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	MONIES	PROGRESS MADE
Sept 05	Disabled people	-	Disabled people received second hand clothing (donated)
November 05	Tsinyane Learning Circle Toilet for the garden, handle and lock for the door	R1000	Toilet was delivered and installed, as was door handle and lock. Both buildings are being used
December 05	Chief of Makhaleng Office furniture (table and 4 chairs)		Furniture was purchased and delivered to the chief's office
7 March 06	Moipopi (Tsotang Monyane) Agricultural project (piping and a 2500/ water tank)	**R2,391.65**	Funds granted have helped Tsotang to irrigate the majority of the area under cultivation
10 Sept 06	Jobo Primary School Sports Equipment (netball and soccer balls)	donated	Balls were distributed to Jobo Primary as well as other primary schools in the area.
12 Sept 06	Sound of Joy Singers (Principal Chief) Support for Matelile Cultural Day 13-15 October	Contribution (Not specific)	This activity was supported with a nominal donation of R100.
February 2006	Botsoela Primary school Assistance to complete a school classroom (10 pockets of cement, 4 windows, load of sand)	**R3500**	Approved. Parents are providing the labour and the MDT will assist with supporting some of the material costs.