



# GROOTBOS FOUNDATION

## PRESS RELEASE

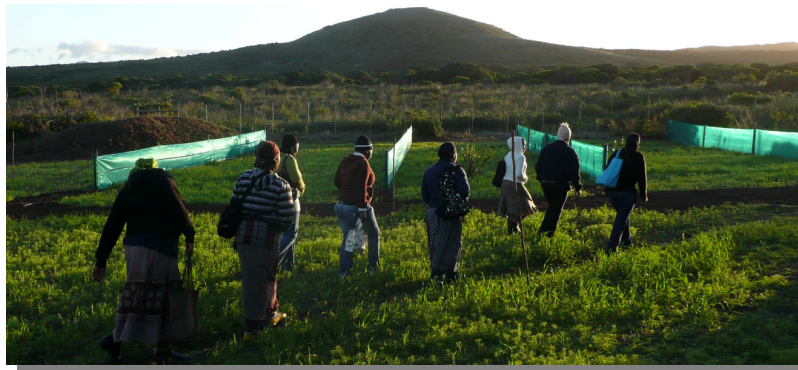
Gansbaai, South Africa, 11 August 2009

### **Grootbos Foundations New Growing the Future Project is Launched**

- A women's empowerment program focussing on food production through organic vegetables, chickens, pigs and bees.

Food security is becoming more and more of an issue in the world, and particularly in South Africa. Growing the Future aims to address this issue in a practical way.

Eight women will be trained per year through the project, which is primarily about growing vegetables and keeping animals. Far from just teaching subsistence farming though, the program will also empower these women with the additional life skills and training that will enable them to start small enterprises and generate income from organic agriculture, or even take the skills that they have learnt back into their communities by starting and running similar projects. The course is also ABET accredited which gives graduates a recognised step up in the world.



The project was officially opened on Women's Day the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2009, by the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology of South Africa, Derek Hanekom, and the first eight ladies are already hard at work.

The majority of the initial funding for Growing the Future was co-financed to the Grootbos Foundation by DEG using public funds of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Other major sponsorships were received from organisations such as AIRTOURS and the Bright Foundation. The project will generate some of its own funding through the sale of produce from the gardens.

