

A 'chiefly' visit!

Constant feedback and dissemination of findings are an integral part to the key philosophy of LiveDiverse. In an effort to not only make sure that this philosophy is upheld, but also to fulfil the moral obligation we as researchers have towards the people who have given their time to participate in this project, the South African case study team embarked on an interim feedback tour to the traditional leadership of the various villages who are participating in the project in South Africa. The South African team was joined by LiveDiverse co-ordinator Professor Geoffrey Gooch.

During this visit the LiveDiverse team visited with the Chiefs of Tshiavha and Mbahela, the Headman of Mushithe and the Mutele Traditional Authority with representatives from Thondoni and Beleni. The LiveDiverse team prepared an interim feedback document for each of these villages and took time during the individual meetings to explain and discuss the contents of each of these interim feedback documents. Each feedback document consisted of a village specific timeline that depicts the 'story so far', as well as some preliminary findings from the various interactions that have been had over the past few months. Professor Gooch also used this opportunity to test some ideas for future development options for the villages with the traditional leadership.

The visits were very well received, and the feedback documents in particular were much appreciated, in fact one representative from the Mutele Traditional Authority noted that "this is the first time anyone has brought the research back to us. This really means a lot!" The South African case study team is also planning a LiveDiverse feedback road show to all the participating villages at the end of August 2011.



From left to right: Prof Geoffrey Gooch, LiveDiverse Project Co-ordinator, Chief Netshiavha of Tshiavha Village, and Ms. Karen Nortje, LiveDiverse team member, South Africa. Here Chief Netshiavha is holding the Tshiavha interim feedback document presented to him by the LiveDiverse team.