



A woman carrying a head-load of palm leaves.

THE WOMEN OF WILLOWVALE

CRAFTING LIVELIHOODS FROM THE WILD DATE PALM

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The Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape is renowned for its cultural landscapes, stunning scenery and remarkable biodiversity. It is also one of the least developed regions of South Africa, which underpins the small productive base and limited economic opportunities for the hundreds of rural communities scattered along the hilltops. It is not surprising therefore, that many inhabitants make extensive use of natural resources, such as firewood, reed mats, medicinal plants and wild vegetables, in their daily lives, as well as for sources of income when the opportunity arises.