Consultancy team
Andrew Charman, assisted by Leif Petersen, Rory Liedeman, Julie Herring, Jenny Kruger, Sindile Mvambi, James Mabela, Koen Modiba, Pinkie Sobhile and Monde Ntshudu.

Assignment
Sustainable Livelihood Consultants was appointed to undertake an extensive impact assessment of Fairtrade in South Africa. The assessment was to investigate:

- The aims and objectives of individual farmer / producers in terms of sustainable development and empowerment and to assess the role that Fairtrade has played in helping them to progress towards these goals.
- The impact, both positive and negative, that being part of Fairtrade has had on local communities and farm workers.
- How best the Fairtrade labelling system can work in the relevant product sectors and along the supply chain to improve the impact of Fairtrade certification.

The consultant was required to make recommendations to the client and the Fairtrade Labelling Organisation (FLO) on how it can more effectively support producers and workers to achieve their goals. The research was intended to enable these stakeholders to understand how the Fairtrade tools can maximise the positive outcomes for small-scale producers and workers in hired labour situations.

Methodology
The impact assessment was undertaken through a case study approach. Five sites were selected, namely: Zebediela citrus in Limpopo Province (oranges and lemons), Sun Orange Farms in the Eastern Cape Province (oranges and lemons), Vuki Farming (apples and pears) and Stellar Group (table grapes and wine), in the Western Cape and Eksteenkuil Agricultural Cooperative (raisins and sultanas) in the Northern Cape. The methodology included field work, which involved both quantitative and qualitative methods, and a desk top analysis of reports and data. The informants included hired labour workers, small farmers, farm management, consultants / advisors, traders, civil society stakeholders and professionals working for Fairtrade. Sustainable Livelihood Consultants mobilised a team of high calibre researchers to conduct the field research, thus enabling the consultant to communicate with workers in their home language and identify with their ethno-cultural backgrounds.

Findings
SLC produced five detailed case study reports and a synthesis report. A briefing paper which summaries some of the main findings from the synthesis report can be downloaded from the Fairtrade Foundation web-site.