



WESTERN CAPE NATURE CONSERVATION BOARD

POLICY DOCUMENT CONTROL

SECTION: BIODIVERSITY SUPPORT SERVICES

SUBJECT: CONSUMPTIVE USE OF WILD FLORA FROM CAPENATURE-MANAGED PROTECTED AREAS

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PREPARED BY: EHW BAARD

**RECOMMENDED BY
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1. INTRODUCTION

The use of biological resources, wild flora in particular, has been an important part of peoples' lives all over the World from prehistoric days to present, and the majority of the World's human population rely and depend on the traditional, cultural and medicinal use of flora from the wild to support their livelihoods. This forms an integral part of the ecological goods and services provided by wild flora, and their communities, to humans.

Many challenges stand in the way of supporting sustainable consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource, including, but not limited to: unique ecological requirements of many species, little research into sustainable harvesting methods and quotas, uses and markets for these wild flora and means to verify sustainable wild collection.

In South Africa, many communities and individuals rely on and use indigenous wild flora for traditional medicine, craftwork, building, fuel and food supplements leading to a demand and consequently, an increase in harvesting from natural areas from both inside and around formal protected areas (Van Wilgen, 2013). As these resources are depleted from outside these areas, the demand to harvest inside protected areas will increase.

Recognising that the Cape Floral Kingdom is a botanical kingdom of unsurpassed diversity and endemism, and that many species of wild flora are of conservation concern, CapeNature acknowledges the traditional use of medicinal and other wild flora by indigenous peoples and communities of practice. CapeNature recognises that the primary purpose of protected areas is to protect and conserve biodiversity, ecosystems and ecological processes and serve as benchmarks for conservation and sustainability, and that the unsustainable use of resources can lead to loss of biodiversity, habitat resilience and resultant compromised delivery of ecosystem services for the benefit of people. CapeNature endeavours to recognise the rights of natural resource users.

Nationally, the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEM:PAA) Section 50 states that management authorities of protected areas, including World Heritage Sites may, subject to the management plan of the protected area or Site, allow or enter into a written agreement with or authorise a local community inside or adjacent to the protected area or Site, to allow members of the community to use in a sustainable manner biological resources in the protected area or Site. Section 50, however, also states that an activity allowed in terms of this section may not negatively affect the survival of any species in or significantly disrupt the integrity of the ecological systems of the protected area or Site.

While the wild collection of flora supplements many rural and urban households and livelihoods, this can also provide incentives for conservation and sustainable use of important plant areas. However, over-harvesting, land conversion and habitat loss threaten many plant and animal species, as well as the ecosystems that support them and can lead to significant losses. It therefore stands to reason that local and regional enterprises and communities, along with governments and conservation agencies, need to invest in sustainable options for the consumptive use of these resources to sustain livelihoods. CapeNature also acknowledges that access to protected areas for traditional, spiritual, cultural and historical purposes has major benefits for people and therefore,

accepts that protected areas have intrinsic and extrinsic use¹ value for the people of the region, therefore recognising the need to manage, conserve and promote natural assets for the benefit of all.

¹ For the purpose of this policy, the term "use" is defined as the utilisation of the value of wild flora. This value can be intrinsic (inherent) or extrinsic (utilitarian) but in the use thereof, this must not lead to long term decline, should not disrupt the ecological integrity of the ecosystem in which it occurs and must ensure its continued use to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations

2. DEFINITIONS

“**adaptive management**” means an effective process for wildlife managers to employ to

- (a) deal with uncertainty in the management system,
- (b) learn from their management actions, and
- (c) achieve desired results.

“**authorisation**” means any registration, certificate, licence, permit or other written permission issued or given by a competent authority in terms of the relevant legislation (e.g. the Ordinance, as it relates to this policy) that authorises the person to whom it is issued or given to do anything that would otherwise be prohibited;

“**biodiversity**” means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part and includes diversity within species, between species, within populations, between populations, and of ecosystems;

“**biodiversity economy**” means the businesses and economic activities that either directly depend on biodiversity for their business or that contribute to conservation of biodiversity through their activities;

“**CapeNature**” is a Schedule 3C public entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act responsible for biodiversity and nature conservation in the Western Cape Province;

“**conservation**”, in relation to an ecological community or a member of that community, means to restore, maintain and protect the integrity, health and functioning of that ecological community or member, and

“**conserve**” has a corresponding meaning;

“**consumptive use**” means the direct use of wild flora as biological resource for food, medicine, material, *etc.* by people by picking, plucking, uprooting, digging out or removing a plant(s) from the wild for traditional, cultural or medicinal use;

“**ecological processes**” means the physical, chemical and biological actions or events that link organisms (wild flora and animals) and their environment;

“**ecosystem**” means a dynamic complex of animal, plant and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit which may be terrestrial, coastal and aquatic;

“**ecosystem services**” means the benefits humans derive from ecosystems, including but not limited to—

- (d) provisioning services, such as the production of food and water;
- (e) regulating services, such as the control of climate, and air quality, disease and disaster risk reduction;
- (f) supporting service, such as nutrient cycles, soil formation and crop pollination; and
- (g) cultural services, such as spiritual and recreational benefits;

“**invasive alien species**” means any species whose establishment and spread outside of its natural distribution range—

- (a) threaten ecosystems, habitats, ecological infrastructure or other species or have demonstrable potential to threaten ecosystems, habitats, ecological infrastructure or other species; and
- (b) may result in economic or environmental harm or harm to human health

“livelihood” means the way someone earns the money people need to pay for food, a place to live, clothing, etc.

“livelihoods” has the same meaning;

“Ordinance” means the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance 19 of 1974);

“species” means a kind of animal, plant or other organism that does not normally interbreed with individuals of another kind, and includes any sub-species, cultivar, variety, geographic race, strain, hybrid or geographically separate population;

“statutory protected areas” means protected areas declared under the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance 19 of 1974) or under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 (“NEM:PAA”), as amended;

“sustainable” means, in relation to the use of or impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services in a way and at a rate that—

- (a) would not lead to its long-term decline and which can be sustained indefinitely without causing adverse effects on biodiversity, ecosystems or indigenous biological resources;
- (a) would not disrupt the ecological integrity of the ecosystem; and
- (b) would ensure its continued persistence to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations of people.

“threatened ecosystems” means ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection published, by notice in the Gazette, under section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act;

“threatened species” means an indigenous species with an IUCN or SANBI Red List status of vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered or a species listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered in terms of section 56 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act;

“wild flora as biological resource” means any plant or plants, whether gathered from the wild or accessed from any other source, of an indigenous species.

3. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to guide the consumptive harvesting and use of wild flora as biological resource from statutory protected areas under the management of CapeNature and to establish guiding principles for sustainable resource use, mechanisms that enable fair, equitable utilisation and participation and the establishment of a framework that enable resource management based on the principles of adaptive management.

This policy will be implemented under the auspices of the Nature Conservation Ordinance (No. 19 of 1974) Section 16(1)(e) and Regulations promulgated in terms of this Ordinance, or any new provincial legislation that may replace the Nature Conservation Ordinance.

4. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has established the following principles for the Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Wild flora (Medical Plant Specialist Group, 2007):

1. The wild collection of natural resources shall be conducted at a scale and a rate and in a manner that maintains populations and species over the long term.
2. Negative impacts caused by collection activities on other wild species, the collection area, and neighbouring areas shall be prevented.
3. Collection and management activities shall be carried out under legitimate tenure arrangements, and comply with relevant laws, regulations and agreements.
4. Local communities' and indigenous peoples' customary rights to use and manage collection areas and wild collected biological resources shall be recognised and respected.
5. Wild collection of species shall be based on adaptive, practical, participatory and transparent management practices.
6. Wild collection of resources shall be undertaken to support quality, financial and labour requirements of the market without sacrificing sustainability of the resource.

CapeNature is guided by these principles and establishes the following **key principles** of this policy.

1. Support and ultimately ensure the conservation and long-term survival of wild flora in their natural habitat.
2. Enable / facilitate consumptive, sustainable and equitable utilisation of biological resources in support of the objectives, activities and governance of provincial, national and international conservation obligations.
3. Apply the precautionary principle in instances of incomplete knowledge of ecological and socio-economic factors driving utilisation.
4. Ensure that the use of biological resources yields positive conservation benefits and outcomes.
5. Enable regulation of resource utilisation but also allow for the identification of other opportunities that can provide socio-economic benefits.
6. Facilitate collaboration and networking that link resource users to wider socio-economic developments.
7. Determine the sustainability of resources utilised through the development and implementation of knowledge management systems to enable adaptive management.
8. Encourage and facilitate close cooperation and stakeholder participation in resource use management (science, local knowledge, monitoring and evaluation systems).

9. Formalise utilisation where relevant through the development of resource use protocols and zonation schemes.
10. Ensure that resource utilisation is in keeping with the purpose of the protected area.
11. Implement monitoring and evaluation of this policy.
12. Ensure that any particular direct use (consumptive utilisation) of a biological resource in a CapeNature-managed protected area does not detrimentally affect any other direct use values, e.g. recreation, education, research; indirect use values e.g. ecosystem services, climate stabilisation, flood control, groundwater recharge, habitat, watershed protection, *etc.*, option values, e.g. future information and future uses; or existence values, e.g. biodiversity, spiritual values, cultural values, heritage values, community values, landscape, *etc.* of that protected area.
13. Ensure that the consumptive use of wild flora from CapeNature-managed protected areas does not create an exclusive reliance on the product by a person(s) or community(ies), in case that unplanned eventualities, such as disasters (e.g. fires, *etc.*), negatively affect this livelihood support.

The **key objectives** of this policy are to:

1. conserve the indigenous biological resources in CapeNature-managed protected areas of the Western Cape,
2. ensure the sustainable and equitable legitimate consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource in CapeNature-managed protected areas, and
3. provide for informed (by research and monitoring) best practice and sustainable consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from CapeNature-managed protected areas in the Western Cape.

5. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to all activities relating to and involving the consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from statutory protected areas under the management of CapeNature, excluding Marine Protected Areas.

- 5.1 In this regard, this policy applies to any person(s) who wishes to harvest and use wild flora from CapeNature-managed protected areas as biological resource for livelihood support.
- 5.2 This policy must be read concurrently with applicable national, provincial and local legislation, regulations and norms and standards, any associated CapeNature legislation and policies, as well as international, national or provincial biodiversity management plans or any species recovery plans. For a list of applicable legislation, see Section 7.
- 5.3 This policy requires compliance with all relevant international, national, provincial and local use, transport, import and export permit conditions required for administrative or any other purposes for the use of biological resources.
- 5.4 All relevant permit applications regarding the use of wild flora as biological resource will be considered as per official CapeNature permit application process.
- 5.5 Any deviation or exemption from the contents or stipulations of this policy may only occur if a written motivation for such an action had been considered and the action had been approved in writing by relevant officials.

6. POLICY STATEMENT

Consumptive use of wild flora in CapeNature-managed Protected Areas

Recognising that the principle of consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from statutory protected areas is recognised by international and national conventions and legislation, strategic and policy guidelines, as well as contained in national and local poverty alleviation and rural development targets and aims,

that a precautionary approach is called for when considering consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from protected areas,

that the Western Cape Province contains ecosystems with a unique biological complexity, supporting unique species, habitats and ecological processes which are highly susceptible to disturbance, with CapeNature-managed and other protected areas acting as benchmarks for conservation, and

whereas CapeNature endorses and promotes the mainstreaming of biodiversity and biological resources into the Western Cape economy with the view to building a biodiversity economy, and has a mandated responsibility to manage the use of the natural resources of the Western Cape Province wisely and ecologically sustainable in partnership with its stakeholders and for the benefit of current and future generations;

the consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource in CapeNature-managed protected areas will be subject to the following policy, except where this policy makes provision for specific exceptions.

- 6.1 Applications for the harvesting of wild flora as biological resource in CapeNature protected areas will be considered subject to the submission of a completed application form as prescribed, and as guided by the CapeNature Position Statement on the Consumptive Use of Wild Flora (See Appendix I).
- 6.2 No consumptive use of threatened plant species or threatened ecosystems will be permitted in CapeNature-managed protected areas.
- 6.3 No consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource may occur in CapeNature-managed protected areas unconditionally.
- 6.4 Consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource in CapeNature-managed protected areas may only take place in areas within the protected area that have been zoned for that specific purpose in the approved protected area management plan.
- 6.5 Should circumstances require, CapeNature may request specialist input, in the form of extra documentation or information, during the process of evaluating consumptive use permit applications.
- 6.6 In cases where proven environmental damage has occurred arising from the consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource in a CapeNature-managed protected area, or where CapeNature can prove that damage has occurred as a result of too frequent fires and precaution is called for, permits or agreements may be terminated or suspended without prior notice.
- 6.7 CapeNature will monitor harvesting activities by resource users, the impact of the activities on the protected area and its biodiversity, and monitor compliance with the authorisation and any general and or special conditions.
- 6.8 CapeNature will endeavour to facilitate and promote consumptive use best practice, and the accreditation and certification of harvesters in order to establish an acceptable level of competency with regards to consumptive use of biological resources.
- 6.9 CapeNature encourages and supports the consumptive utilisation of invasive alien plant species from its protected areas to augment protected area management efforts towards the rehabilitation of natural habitats and ecosystems, and enhancing livelihoods of stakeholders.
- 6.10 All consumptive use is subject to the general access rules of the protected area or as agreed with the relevant CapeNature officials.

- 6.11 All resources used and or harvested must be recorded and the information must be submitted to the management authority as stipulated by the authorisation permit or the relevant CapeNature officials.

7. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

This policy is informed by and supports the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act and the regulations governing threatened and protected, and invasive species, as well as the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act and the regulations governing protected areas. Dependent on the location of an applicant(s) contemplating an activity covered by this policy, various local authority bylaws may apply.

This list below contains the most relevant international, national, provincial and local conventions, legislation, policies and regulations which may be applicable to this policy. This list is, however, not exhaustive.

7.1 International Conventions and Policies

- Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Other relevant IUCN SSC Specialist Group recommendations, biodiversity management plans or any species recovery plans

7.2 National Legislation

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996
- National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (“NEMA”), as amended
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 (“NEM:BA”), as amended
- Any recommendations, biodiversity management plans or any species recovery plans issued under NEM:BA
- Threatened or Protected Species Regulations, R. No 152 of 23 February 2007, as amended (TOPS)
- Alien and Invasive Species Regulations, 2014 (“AIS”)
- Other relevant regulations as may be promulgated in terms of NEM:BA
- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003 (“NEM:PAA”), as amended, and any regulations promulgated in terms of NEM:PAA
- Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000 (“PAJA”)
- National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998

7.3 Provincial Legislation

- Nature Conservation Ordinance, Ordinance 19 of 1974 (“the Ordinance”)
- Proclamation 955 of 1975

8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy is applicable to all CapeNature staff delegated to make decisions with regard to the consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from CapeNature-managed protected areas.

Members of the Directorates: Conservation Operations Regions West and or East (Protected Area Management) will advise, monitor, regulate and enforce consumptive-use agreements and permits in protected areas.

The Directorate: Marketing and Ecotourism: Access will assist in liaison with and advising members of the public and natural resource user groups on the contents of this policy and assisting with advice on the permit application process.

The Directorate: Biodiversity Capabilities through its sub-directorate Biodiversity Conservation (Permit Section) will be responsible for the consideration of applications for activities related to this policy, and the issuing of permits. In addition, the sub-directorate Biodiversity Intelligence has a scientific decision support role towards in-field resource assessments, monitoring and recommendations on thresholds of potential concern of plant resources affected.

The applicant(s) will be responsible for submitting a full application(s) for processing and consideration, and subsequently, harvest data to CapeNature as prescribed (see 6.11). The applicant will also be subject to the general access rules of the protected area or as agreed with the conservation manager of the protected area.

9. TIME FRAMES

This policy will come into effect upon approval by the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board.

10. PROCEDURE

The consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from CapeNature-managed protected areas will be guided by this policy and will follow the standard CapeNature permit application and review process and procedure. In order to promote access to protected areas by Natural Resource User Groups (primarily for the harvesting of medicinal and other plants) and set a formal procedure, a framework for implementation and work flow process is presented in Appendix III.

11. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed when applicable. The review and any potential amendments will be informed by the measure to which consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource has been practiced sustainably and legally, that is, without any measurable negative impact on the resource itself, or challenges with non-compliance, respectively.

12. ENFORCEMENT

If the requirements under this policy are not met, it may result in non-compliance, and permits for activities relating to the consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from CapeNature-managed protected areas cannot be issued, should this be the case.

Failure to acquire the proper authorisation will thus not allow for the consumptive use of wild flora as biological resource from CapeNature-managed protected areas; as defined in this policy. The exercising of said activities without the proper authorisation could render that activity an offence, which could result in prosecution and/or a fine in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance; including other applicable legislation.

As such, non-compliance with these policy requirements will be dealt with by the full suite of legislative tools available, that is, the Ordinance and Regulations, as well as the list of offences and the fines.

13. POLICY SHORT TITLE

This policy will be known by its short title as “The CapeNature Consumptive Use of Wild Flora Policy”.

14. REFERENCES

Medicinal Plant Specialist Group. 2007. International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Wild flora (ISSC-MAP). Version 1.0. Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), MPSG/SSC/IUCN, WWF Germany, and TRAFFIC, Bonn, Gland, Frankfurt, and Cambridge (BfN-Skripten 195).

Van Wilgen, N.J., Dopolo, M., Symonds, A., Vermeulen, W., Bester, E., Smith, K. & McGeoch, M.A. 2013. An inventory of natural resources harvested from national parks in South Africa. *Koedoe* 55(1), Art. #1096, 5 pages. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/koedoe.v55i1.1096>.



Position statement on:

The Consumptive Use of Wild Flora

CapeNature **aims** to ensure that consumptive use of wild flora is sustainable and not detrimental to the conservation of indigenous biodiversity.

CapeNature **regards** the illicit and or unregulated consumptive use of wild flora a significant threat to indigenous biodiversity.

CapeNature **recognises** that socio-economic benefits are derived from the consumptive use of wild flora.

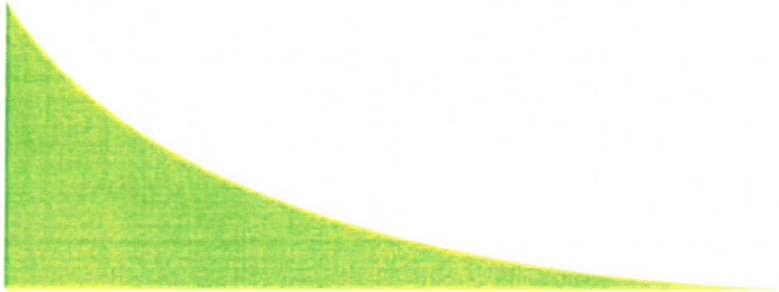
CapeNature **advocates** for the impacts and implications of the consumptive use of wild flora to be assessed and monitored to ensure sustainable utilisation.

CapeNature **recommends** that the consumptive use of wild flora is informed by recognised standards, best practice and research.

CapeNature **supports** effective communication, capacity building and stakeholder engagement as it relates to the consumptive use of wild flora.

This position statement is hereby ratified on the 28 day of July 2017.

Signed: 
Name: Dr Razeena Omar
Designation: Chief Executive Office



16. Appendix II

Public participation

Internal engagement

This policy is a complete revision of the 2007 policy on consumptive and non-consumptive use of biological resources in and around CapeNature protected areas and the first concept and first drafts have been workshopped internally at an internal workshop and at least three rounds of commenting on previous drafts have taken place.

External engagement

The Second Draft of this policy was presented and workshopped with, and benefited from comments from the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board's Conservation Committee on 5 November 2018.

It was further workshopped with members of provincial Natural Resource User Groups in

- a) Driftsands Nature Reserve on 2 November 2018;
- b) George on 2 February 2019; and
- c) Mamre on 15 February 2019.

The final draft was shared with NRUGs on 28 March 2019. Following a period of two weeks for final comments, no further comments were received and the final draft was submitted to the Executive on 15 April 2019.

17. Appendix III

FRAMEWORK AND WORK FLOW PROCESS TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO CAPENATURE-MANAGED PROTECTED AREAS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE USER GROUPS FOR THE COLLECTION AND USE WILD FLORA

Introduction

In order to move forward with the current situation regarding facilitating access to sites in CapeNature-managed protected areas in the Western Cape for the wild-harvesting of medicinal and other plants, this framework and work flow process are proposed to put into motion a formal process through which this access may be granted.

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to create a framework and process flow to allow Natural Resource User Groups (NRUGs) access to CapeNature-managed protected areas to collect and use wild medicinal and other plants, alternatively from land managed by other state agencies. This must be read together with the *Policy on consumptive use of wild flora in CapeNature-managed protected areas*.

Information required

In order to gain insight into the nature of wild-harvested medicinal plants in the Western Cape, CapeNature requires information from NRUGs to scope the need for this practice, and strategise on selecting potential pilot sites for harvesting.

The following information is required to assist CapeNature in this process:

1. A name list of plants and plant parts generally and regularly harvested and used in traditional medicine by the NRUG and/or community. This list will be screened for plant species which may be of conservation concern, and which may need special attention with regard to harvesting practice (see policy).
2. An indication of how much plant material (in approximate kilogrammes) is generally and regularly harvested on a quarterly or annual basis from the wild in order to ascertain the potential impact on natural, wild populations by removal of the harvest.
3. An indication of where general and regular harvesting takes place in order to identify potential sites for harvesting.
4. An indication of how many harvesters are generally and regularly harvesting in-field.
5. The NRUG needs to be a registered company, Not-for-Profit-Organisation or community-based organisation with formal credentials, including preferably a Code of Conduct.
6. A list of names of harvesters needs to be provided to CapeNature before embarking on harvesting on any identified and agreed sites.
7. Members (harvesters) of the relevant NRUG organisation need proof of formal membership via member cards for identification.

Work flow process

It is recommended that the following work flow process be implemented.

1. Ensure that the NRUG is a registered company, Not-for-Profit-Organisation or community-based organisation with formal validation of members and draft a Memorandum of Agreement for signature between the parties.

2. Identify and zone a number of sites for harvesting, and put written agreements in place.
3. NRUG to submit a formal application for a permit to harvest wild plants (harvest site, species list and a full list of validated harvesters must accompany the application).
4. Obtain comments and inputs from CapeNature's People & Conservation Programme, and the Biodiversity Capabilities and Conservation Operations Directorates.
5. CapeNature to delimit the sites and conduct a rapid resource assessment.
6. Develop and stipulate a set of standard and special permit conditions for the harvesting of medicinal plants from protected areas and if harvesting is recommended for approval, issue individual permits to validated harvesters.
7. CapeNature to monitor and record access of harvesters to protected areas.
8. All harvesters must report to the office of the reserve manager when access is required.
9. All harvesters must carry
 - a. individual permits issued to them as well as
 - b. a form of identification (green ID book, new ID card or valid driver's licence) and
 - c. membership card.
10. NRUG to administer members, the permits and permit conditions, and provide regular (quarterly) feedback and statistics on the amount of harvested material through monitoring members and their harvests.
11. Both parties to meet at least once a year to review progress and outcomes.
12. It is suggested that this process be implemented for 2-3 years and then be re-evaluated.
13. This being a pilot project with certain unknowns, both parties should consider joint focussed media coverage for projects of this nature.