

CONSERVANCIES IN THE WESTERN CAPE

CONSERVANCY



WHAT IS A CONSERVANCY?

A conservancy is established through a voluntary agreement between two or more landowners to cooperate towards the conservation of the environment on their combined properties. Through partnerships between civil society and conservation authorities this concept has grown into a national conservation movement. Conservancies are not necessarily restricted to agricultural areas and can also be established in urban and industrial areas.



What are the advantages of a conservancy?

The community shares in the management of the environment. Wildlife populations benefit and natural resources are sustainably utilised. There is an improvement in the environment's conservation status, its economic and aesthetic value as well as in the provision of ecosystem services, such as pollination and water purification. Environmental awareness is promoted. Quality of life is improved due to a closer sense of community. With irresponsible development, large-scale pollution and growing demands on natural resources, it is vital that we all help to conserve our natural assets if we and our natural environment are to survive well into the future.

How is a conservancy established?

Two or more landowners call a meeting and invite all interested parties to attend. The conservancy is established by means of a vote where most of the attendees are in favour of the establishment of a conservancy. At this meeting a steering committee and chairperson is elected for the formation of the conservancy. The drafting of a constitution, establishing future meeting dates, possible projects and a name for the new conservancy are discussed. The steering committee has the following tasks: determining the maximum conservancy size, promoting the conservancy concept to potential members, collecting relevant information from each member, establishing a constitution which includes clear objectives and determining a suitable annual subscription fee. The chairperson then notifies CapeNature about the establishment of the conservancy, its extent and objectives, and provides a copy of the constitution

PARTNERSHIPS are an important part of a successful conservancy. Our partnerships with conservancy members are key, but we also have strategic partnerships which help provide better support and training to conservancies. These are some of our key partners:



The role of CapeNature

In the Western Cape, CapeNature is responsible for the registration of conservancies and issuing of registration certificates. We assist the conservancies to create awareness and plan for consolidation. CapeNature staff visit conservancies and assist in identifying potential challenges to bring to the attention of the conservancy. We further facilitate, motivate, support and advise conservancies in terms of Natural Resource Management (e.g. wildlife management, game fencing specifications, human wildlife conflict, hunting legislation, alien vegetation management, fire management, etc.). We can also facilitate the training of members as well as information exchanges between conservancies, specialist scientists and other partners. CapeNature will only serve on the committee as a member of the conservancy where CapeNature land is included in the conservancy.

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONSERVANCY

- All members should be positive
- The Conservancy must be driven by the landowners
- The goals of the landowners must be similar
- The Chairperson and Committee should keep members up to date of all issues
 - Members should give their full co-operation
- The conservancy must be affordable for all members