



CONSERVATION IN LANDOWNERS' HANDS

How can you make a contribution to conservation?

Frequently asked questions

- CONSERVATION AREA
- BIODIVERSITY AGREEMENT
- PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT
- NATURE RESERVE

- **Q: Is a conservation area applicable to an individual property, a collectively managed/multi-landowner area (e.g. conservancy), or both?**
A: Both. It can apply to a single property or a group of properties, like a conservancy
- **Q: What do basic extension services include?**
A: General advice, support and assistance, as well as input into the drafting of management plans.
- **Q: Who will bear the legal costs for drawing up a biodiversity agreement?**
A: CapeNature will carry all costs.
- **Q: What will the consequences be if I choose to terminate the biodiversity agreement?**
A: You will be liable for the total cost of CapeNature's management interventions up to the date of termination.
- **Q: Will I have to remove existing infrastructure from the area that becomes the contract nature reserve?**
A: No, all existing infrastructure may remain.
- **Q: Will CapeNature have unlimited access to my property if it becomes a contract nature reserve?**
A: No, but terms and conditions regarding access can be negotiated within the agreement.

- **Q: Are there Tax benefits applicable when you become a nature reserve?**
A: Yes, you are eligible for tax allowances.
- **Q: If I sell my nature reserve, will the restrictions stipulated in the contract apply to the owner?**
A: Yes, the same restrictions will apply.
- **Q: Can I be assured that CapeNature can support the terms of the contract agreement in the future?**
A: Yes, CapeNature as party to the contract is legally obliged to honour the agreement.
- **Q: Will the general public have unlimited access to my property?**
A: No, you as the landowner determine the specific rules and access by the general public that you require.
- **Q: Can I graze domestic stock in a protected area?**
A: Yes you may, as long as the stocking rate is determined for conservation purposes (as opposed to commercial stocking rates), using grazing as a management tool.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CAPENATURE OFFICE:

LANDOWNERS CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NATURAL HERITAGE.

At present the rich biological diversity of the Western Cape is not being sufficiently protected and is therefore under threat. This is partly due to lack of resources, but also because 80% of the land that has important biodiversity on it does not lie within formally protected areas, but is privately or communally owned land. This is where YOU can play an important role.

The STEWARDSHIP CONCEPT is a new way of achieving conservation protection. CapeNature has a dedicated Biodiversity Stewardship Programme which offers a range of conservation options and which aims to set up positive, proactive partnerships with you, the landowner, to support and encourage you as you take on the responsibility of managing and protecting the natural assets that are in your care. In order to support this management, appropriate benefits will be offered for land that has been set aside for conservation.



What are the stewardship options available to you?

The four options available to landowners are Conservation Areas, Biodiversity Agreements, Protected Environments and Nature Reserves.

- All options are voluntary.
- Each one will be tailored to your needs as a landowner.
- The higher categories offer more incentives (benefits) and support by CapeNature, but have more restrictions and require greater commitment from landowners. It is important to note that you as the landowner retain title to the property at all times.

Why should YOU become involved?

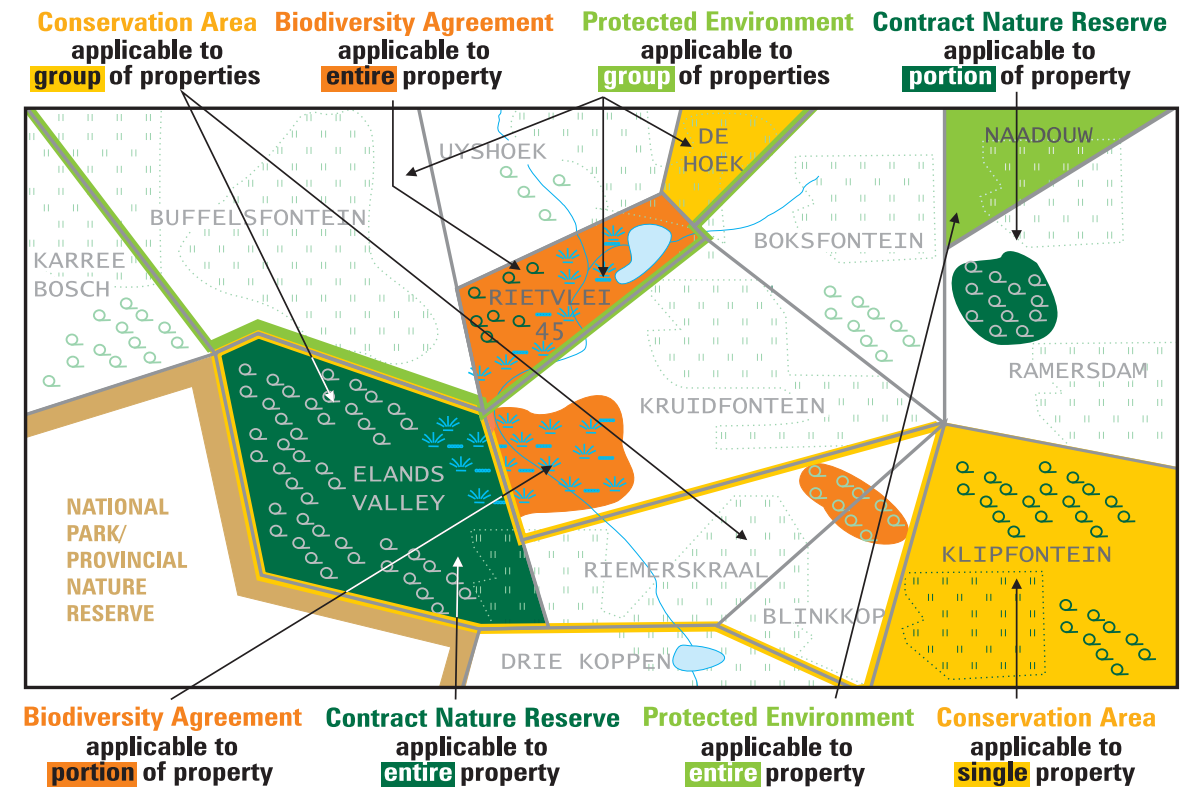
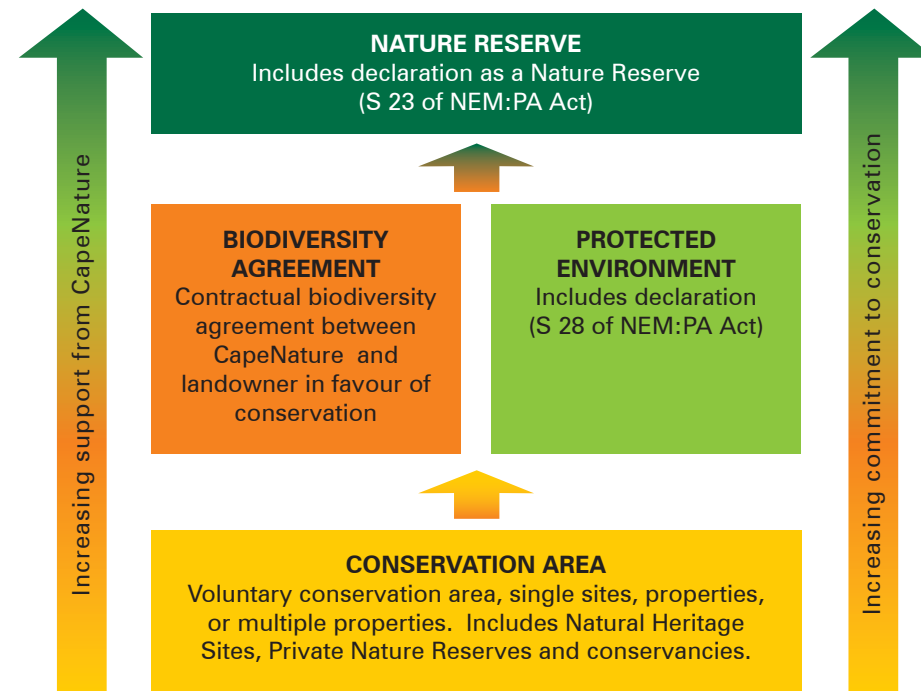


• You can assist in achieving the provincial and national conservation targets for threatened species and ecosystems;

• Better management of natural resources will contribute towards securing the future for society, through improved water quality and production in catchments, and reduced erosion and flooding;

• By becoming involved in conservation on your land, you will have access to support and advice from dedicated CapeNature staff;

• Your income-base can be diversified through ecotourism and conservation associated opportunities.



OPTIONS

OPTION	LEVEL 1 CONSERVATION AREA	LEVEL 2 BIODIVERSITY AGREEMENTS	LEVEL 2 PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT	LEVEL 3 NATURE RESERVES
Which option applies to your land?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any natural land is suitable. • If rare or endangered habitats, rather progress to higher level of conservation security. • Can use this as a stepping stone to more security later on in process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for any conservation-worthy land. • Focuses on improving the management of specific biodiversity features or elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful to pursue where large landscapes require some form of conservation management, but where it is unnecessary or unsuitable to restrict other forms of extractive land use. • Multiple properties, buffers to statutory Protected Areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas adjacent to statutory reserves or sufficiently large to be self-contained ecosystems. • Containing critically important species, habitats and self-contained sites.
Legal status/duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible option with no defined period of commitment. • Registration document with the conservation agency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has legal status by virtue of a legal contract between the landowner and the conservation agency. • Minimum period of 10 years suggested but may be longer or in perpetuity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal declaration under the Protected Area Act. • The duration for Protected Environments declared for other purposes is not prescribed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 30 years, but preferably in perpetuity.
Qualifying criteria?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any landowner (s) willing to conserve the natural systems on their land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site must have been assessed to the standard of the provincial agency and found to contain biodiversity features identified as important or a priority for the province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landowner must be willing to submit to the declaration of the area as a Protected Environment, and to manage (or have managed) the site according to the norms and standards laid down for a Protected Area, but with fewer restrictions than a nature reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site must contain significant biodiversity and/or process value to receive this status. • The landowner must consent to the declaration of the area as a nature reserve, and to manage (or have managed) the site according to the norms and standards laid down for nature reserves.
Possible land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few, but the area needs to maintain its natural character & there has to be an Alien Invasive Plant clearing plan in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land must be managed in a way that will support natural processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no limitation on activities other than those specifically listed in the gazetting notice of the establishment of the Protected Environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land use rights must be consistent with the provisions of the Protected Areas Legislation. • Access and resident rights are unrestricted. • Owners retain title.
Benefits to the land-owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and support through basic extension services. • Guidance with management plans and farm maps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific agreements for fire, alien species, plant and animal management. • Advanced extension services (e.g. alien clearing planning). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced extension services (e.g. alien clearing planning). • Regulate the use of the landscape through co-operation between various landowners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial assistance with habitat management • Increased recognition and marketing exposure. • Conservation authorities will be able to lobby on your behalf for incentives.