

# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

## Primary Authors -

Tracey Cumming (SANBI / DEA), Amanda Driver (SANBI)

## Secondary Authors –

Pravin Pillay (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife), Greg Martindale (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife), Kerry Purnell (CapeNature), Kevin McCann (Wildlands Conservation Trust) and Kerry Maree (CapeNature)

Many other contributed valuable input



***This presentation represents:***

- ***A case for increasing sustained investment in the biodiversity stewardship programmes in South Africa***
- ***Increasing understanding of the biodiversity stewardship model, and the benefits that it brings.***

It is intended to be used primarily by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and conservation authorities.

It has been developed by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) for DEA, at the request of the Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group, which is convened by SANBI and has representation from all provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes, DEA and key NGOs. The work was supported by the Grasslands Programme with Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



# 1. OVERVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

- **Biodiversity stewardship** is an approach to securing land in biodiversity priority areas through entering into agreements with private and communal landowners, led by conservation authorities, with NGOs often playing a key supporting role.
- **Objective:** to conserve and manage biodiversity priority areas through voluntary agreements with landowners
- Biodiversity stewardship contributes to several broader **goals:**
  - Conserving a representative sample of biodiversity
  - Involving landowners as custodians of biodiversity
  - Contributing to the rural economy
  - Investing in ecological infrastructure
  - Contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation
  - Supporting sustainable development

AGREEMENT TYPE	LEGAL MECHANISM	
<b>Nature Reserve</b>	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favourable for sites with highest biodiversity importance</li> <li>• Binding on property: declaration of Nature Reserve, and a title deed restriction*</li> <li>• Binding on landowner: contract with landowner usually for 30 – 99 years/in perpetuity</li> <li>• Contributes to South Africa’s protected area estate</li> </ul>
<b>Protected Environment</b>	National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favourable for declaration over multiple properties</li> <li>• Less restrictive land use than Nature Reserve</li> <li>• Binding on property: declaration of Nature Reserve, and a title deed note*</li> <li>• Binding on landowner: contract with landowner usually for 30 – 99 years/in perpetuity</li> <li>• Contributes to South Africa’s protected area estate</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity Management Agreement</b>	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter term, less restrictive than protected area declaration</li> <li>• Must have a Biodiversity Management Plan (NEM:BA) on all/part of the property</li> <li>• Binding on landowner: contract with landowner ideally 5 – 10 years</li> <li>• Contributes to South Africa’s conservation area estate</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity Agreement</b>	Contract law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shorter term, less restrictive than protected area declaration</li> <li>• Binding on landowner: contract with landowner ideally 5 – 10 years</li> <li>• Contributes to South Africa’s conservation area estate</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity Partnership Area</b>	Informal agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-binding partnership, may include a Memorandum of Understanding</li> </ul>

Increasing biodiversity importance

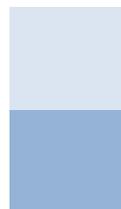
Increasing support from conservation authority

Increasing landowner commitment to conservation

## 2. HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

By 2012 all nine provinces had some form of biodiversity stewardship programme in development or operation.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Western Cape						Programme initiated	First protected area declared					
Northern Cape			Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated				
KwaZulu-Natal				Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated	First protected area declared					
Eastern Cape							Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated	First protected area declared	First protected area declared	First protected area declared
Mpumalanga							Programme initiated	First protected area declared				
Free State								Programme initiated				
Limpopo								Programme initiated				
North West									Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated
Gauteng										Programme initiated	Programme initiated	Programme initiated



Programme initiated

First protected area declared through biodiversity stewardship programme

### 3. SUMMARY OF BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Summary of protected areas declared and in negotiation through provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes (as at 1 October 2014) -

Province	Protected areas declared			
	Number	Hectares		
Eastern Cape	7	90 448		
Free State	0	0		
Gauteng	0	0		
KwaZulu-Natal	19	59 902		
Limpopo	0	0		
Mpumalanga	7	103 937		
North West	0	0		
Northern Cape	4	154 854		
Western Cape	35	43 665		
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>402 213</b>		

### 3. SUMMARY OF BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Summary of protected areas declared and in negotiation through provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes (as at 1 October 2014) -

Province	Protected areas declared		Protected areas in negotiation	
	Number	Hectares	Number	Hectares
Eastern Cape	7	90 448	6	143 626
Free State	0	0	1	17 456
Gauteng	0	0	11	6 933
KwaZulu-Natal	19	59 902	56	208 766
Limpopo	0	0	3	56 010
Mpumalanga	7	103 937	5	25 388
North West	0	0	2	2 736
Northern Cape	4	154 854	15	58 894
Western Cape	35	43 665	54	43 782
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>402 213</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>563 590</b>

## 4. BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution of BDS to NPAES 2008, 20-year (2028) targets, 2008 – 2014

	From NPAES 2008: Addition still required to meet 20-year (2028) targets (ha)	PAs declared and in negotiation through BDS (ha) (2008 - Oct 2014)	<b>% contribution to 20-year target (2028)</b>	Hectares acquired in the same period through other means
<b>EC</b>	1 570 000	234 074	<b>15</b>	0
<b>KZN</b>	842 000	268 668	<b>32</b>	1165*
<b>MP</b>	632 000	129 325	<b>20</b>	0
<b>WC</b>	1 004 000	87 447	<b>9</b>	100 026*

\*These hectares were all acquired through donations

## 5. BENEFITS OF BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

- Makes substantial contributions to meeting **national protected area targets**,
- **Leverages private sector investment** in achieving a government mandate of securing protected areas that would otherwise have to be fully covered by the fiscus,
- Particularly effective in **multiple-use landscapes** where biodiversity priority areas are embedded in a matrix of other land uses,
- Can be used to enable other **programmes and policies** within the biodiversity sector,
- **Provides security and additional value** to the state's investment in natural resource management,
- Can also play an important role in **enabling biodiversity offsets**,
- Has the ability support the **stimulation of the rural economy** by diversifying rural livelihood options, creating nodes of rural development and stimulating job creation and skills development,
- Biodiversity stewardship agreements have been implemented on **communal land**, supporting and integrating biodiversity conservation into the land reform agenda.

## 6. THE FINANCIAL CASE FOR BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

A financial analysis of the longest running provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes, in CapeNature and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, was carried out as a means of comparing this mechanisms of securing protected areas to the alternative of land acquisition and management by the state.

Two sets of costs were examined:

- The cost of establishing a protected area, which is a once-off cost (sometimes incurred over more than one financial year),
- The cost of management of a protected area, which is an ongoing annual cost.

Each of these sets of costs was looked at for contract protected areas declared through biodiversity stewardship on the one hand, and for state-owned protected areas on the other.

*Note –*

*In terms of Biodiversity Stewardship, this did not include management costs of the landowner, as the comparison was purely on the basis of fiscal spend*

## Cost comparison for the establishment of contract protected areas through biodiversity stewardship vs state-owned protected areas, in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal

Establishment costs	Biodiversity stewardship cost/site (ZAR)	Average site size	Biodiversity stewardship cost/ha (ZAR/ha)	Hypothetical cost/ha for state-owned protected area* (ZAR/ha)	Cost ratio for cost/ha
Western Cape (2012/13)	R 196 572	1 397 ha	R 141		
KwaZulu-Natal (2013/14)	R 168 523	3 605 ha	R 47		

\*Including the costs of negotiating the purchase of the property, declaring the property, and the price of the land. Cost is hypothetical as neither CapeNature nor Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has purchased land for protected area expansion for a considerable time.

The difference in the cost ratio between the two provinces can be explained by a number of factors, mainly:

- The difference in the average site size between the two provinces
- The difference in the average land price between the two provinces
- The difference in staffing resources between the two programmes

## Cost comparison for the establishment of contract protected areas through biodiversity stewardship vs state-owned protected areas, in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal

Establishment costs	Biodiversity stewardship cost/site (ZAR)	Average site size	Biodiversity stewardship cost/ha (ZAR/ha)	Hypothetical cost/ha for state-owned protected area* (ZAR/ha)	Cost ratio for cost/ha
Western Cape (2012/13)	R 196 572	1 397 ha	R 141	R 10 222 (of which price of land is R 10 020)	<b>1:73</b>
KwaZulu-Natal (2013/14)	R 168 523	3 605 ha	R 47	R 20 313 (of which price of land is R 20 100)	<b>1:435</b>

\*Including the costs of negotiating the purchase of the property, declaring the property, and the price of the land. Cost is hypothetical as neither CapeNature nor Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has purchased land for protected area expansion for a considerable time.

The difference in the cost ratio between the two provinces can be explained by a number of factors, mainly:

- The difference in the average site size between the two provinces
- The difference in the average land price between the two provinces
- The difference in staffing resources between the two programmes

**Cost comparison for the ongoing management of contract protected areas established through biodiversity stewardship vs state-owned protected areas, in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal**

Ongoing management costs	Biodiversity stewardship cost/site/year (ZAR)	Average site size	Biodiversity stewardship cost/ha/year (ZAR/ha)	State-owned protected areas cost/ha/year (ZAR/ha)	Cost ratio for cost/ha/year
<b>Western Cape (2012/13)</b>	R 44 924	1 397 ha	R 32		
<b>KwaZulu-Natal (2013/14)</b>	R 84 224	3 605 ha	R 23		

The difference in the cost ratio between the two provinces can be attributed to:

- Site size
- The high cost of managing protected areas in KZN compared to WC (game, fences, poaching)

## Cost comparison for the ongoing management of contract protected areas established through biodiversity stewardship vs state-owned protected areas, in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal

Ongoing management costs	Biodiversity stewardship cost/site/year (ZAR)	Average site size	Biodiversity stewardship cost/ha/year (ZAR/ha)	State-owned protected areas cost/ha/year (ZAR/ha)	Cost ratio for cost/ha/year
<b>Western Cape (2012/13)</b>	R 44 924	1 397 ha	R 32	R 132	<b>1:4</b>
<b>KwaZulu-Natal (2013/14)</b>	R 84 224	3 605 ha	R 23	R 385	<b>1:17</b>

The difference in the cost ratio between the two provinces can be attributed to:

- Site size
- The high cost of managing protected areas in KZN compared to WC (game, fences, poaching)

## 7. HEADLINE MESSAGES

The cost of establishing PA:

- Biodiversity stewardship is **70 – 400 times** less costly to the state than purchase

The cost of managing PA:

- Biodiversity Stewardship is **4 – 17 times** less costly to the state than state management

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provincial Biodiversity Stewardship programmes should be **sufficiently resourced** according to their specific needs (ave. 9 million per annum per province, approx. R80 million per annum).
1. Partnerships between provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes and **NGOs should continue to be strengthened.**
2. **Land reform biodiversity stewardship sites** should receive additional support, given the complexity of creating and support these agreements.
3. **Suitable incentives** to support the uptake, effective management of sites and long-term commitment of landowners to biodiversity stewardship should continue to be invested in.
4. Biodiversity stewardship programmes should have **suitable national support from DEA and SANBI**, especially in relation to policy and technical matters.
5. The **community of practice** for biodiversity stewardship should be strengthened and expanded.

THANK YOU

