



DEFINITION OF ALL TYPES OF CONSERVANCIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA:

A conservancy is a registered (with the local Conservation Authority), voluntary association between land users/landowners who co-operatively wish to manage their natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner without necessarily changing the land-use of their properties.

Successful conservancies:

- Need the active participation of as many landowners, land users and residents as possible
- Have approved action plans in place to address the ecological management of the area.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CONSERVANCIES

- Urban Conservancies
- Rural (Agriculture) Conservancies
- Industrial Conservancies
- Urban conservancies in Informal settlements
- Educational (Schools) Conservancies

WHY CONSERVANCIES?

The establishment of conservancies gives the ordinary member of a community the opportunity to get involved in the conservation and the management of the local environment. The people that get involved are usually concerned people that are serious about the environment. It is also the people that are involved in other community actions. These are the people that must be approached by the community. There is no way that local, provincial or the national authorities can manage the total environment on the taxes of the countries people. People in the different communities do have the responsibility towards their own environment and they must act accordingly.

There are people that will argue that a conservancy does not belong in industrial or township areas. Why restrict conservation actions to beautiful, ecological undisturbed areas, when it can be implemented in an area of development?

When it comes to industrial areas it must be taken into consideration that this industry must manufacture or produce an item to the best economical value it can and mostly the environment comes last. The formation of a conservancy can change the thinking of the industries and the people that work there. Sometimes when a community is not satisfied with the services provided to them they would take actions such as the throwing out of rubbish bins in the streets or, break the local authority property. This can be seen as suicide.

HISTORY OF CONSERVANCIES

1. Started in Kwazulu-Natal 1975 in the Balgown area where poaching was a major problem.
2. Nick Steele a nature conservator came with the idea of co-operative management of the game in this area and the parks board gave training to the game guards of this area.
3. The training was aimed at providing the gameguard with the skills to patrol the area and to apprehend poachers
4. Today there are more than 200 conservancies in Kwaulu-Natal that consist of 1 200 000ha.
5. The Free State followed and established the first conservancy at Zastron and is called the Aasvoëlberg Conservancy. In February 1985.
6. The number of conservancies grew to 18 in the eastern Free State. From January 1993 the conservancies grew to the present 106 and covers about 500 000ha.
7. The conservancy idea swept through Southern Africa and a national co-ordinating body was established in 1993. It was broadened after the 1994 elections so that all the provinces were represented on this committee
8. There are 32 registered conservancies in the Gauteng province.
9. In February 2003 the Gauteng Conservancy Association was formed and in August the same year a National Conservancy Conference was held ,at this conference a National Conservancy Association was established The GCA and NCA are actively promoting the formation of Conservancy Associations in the other provinces

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Urban and industrial conservancies take time to function effectively.
- The way that the conservancy concept is promoted will determine the success of the conservancy, and if it will be established.
- Your credibility is very important.
- Conservancies are a bridge builder between ethnic groups, urban and industrial communities and farmers.
- In townships everybody wants to be on the committee, make sure that the right people are elected.
- In other conservancies very few people want to serve on the committee, motivate people to make themselves available to serve on the committee.



GAUTENG DACEL'S ROLE:

- Promotion of the idea of conservancies in general
- Assistance with the information meeting and the lending of support with the establishment of the conservancy
- Registration of the conservancy and the issuing of a certificate
- Provision of GIS maps for each conservancy
- Provision of the information need to write conservancy management plans with goals and objectives
- Assistance with the solving of ecological management problems and with networking amongst conservancies
- The various DACEL directorates — Agriculture, Conservation, Environment, Land Affairs and Veterinary Services — will provide technical support to conservancies on a wide variety of subjects.

THE NATIONAL LOGO FOR CONSERVANCIES

