

SECTION A: GENERAL BACKGROUND

SECTION SYNOPSIS

This section provides a brief introduction and description of the following:

- a) Definition and purpose of the development and management framework
- b) Structure of, and readers manual for the development and management framework
- c) Interested and affected parties

1 INTRODUCTION

This project forms part of a thesis for a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture at the Department of Architecture, University of Pretoria. Not only is macro-scale or regional design a very important part of Landscape Architecture but a very interesting field that I wanted to explore through this project.

Extensive studies have been made by the Cape Action Plan for the Environment (CAPE) on the biodiversity conservation for the Cape Floral Kingdom. A Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Cape Floral Kingdom was developed.

It is my intention to understand the Gourits River Catchment Area (further referred to as GRCA) as an interacting process, to interpret this as a value system and to designate appropriate land uses.

1.1 DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Gouritz River Catchment Area Development Framework has the following two-fold purpose, namely:

- a) To describe the following:
 - (i) What will happen in the GRCA
 - (ii) Where the proposed projects will be located within the GRCA
- b) To provide the relevant authorities, interested and affected parties with comprehensive background information regarding the proposed developments for sustainable socio-economic development.

The development and management framework is, thus, firstly a process that describes and contextualises the GRCA and then to interpret this as a value system and to designate appropriate land uses.

1.2 DOCUMENT STRUCTURE AND MANUAL

In addition to this inductory section (Section A), this development and management framework currently, comprises 5 further sections listed in Table 1 below. It illustrates how this document aims to achieve its objectives and how it should be read.

Table 1: Structure of the development and management framework

SECTION	CONTENTS
Section A	General Background
Section B	Vision, goals and fundamental values.
Section C	Site description and purpose of the Development and Management Framework
Section D	Guidelines and principles for planning, design and management
Section E	Environment Composite
Section F	Sustainable Development Baseline
Section G	Design Guidelines
Section H	Design Philosophy
Section I	Plans
Section J	Addendums
Section K	Referred works

1.3 CLIENT PROFILE

Gourits River Catchment Area will be a co-operative venture between three major stakeholders, namely the private sector, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and the community.

Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) is concerned with the conservation of the natural environment within the western Cape, which includes the fynbos biome – one of the six plant kingdoms of the world. Western Cape Nature Conservation attempts to conserve these areas by careful management of nature reserves and wilderness areas in the Western Cape (<http://www.capenature.org.za> : 06 Feb 2003)

The community participates through project-specific “interact groups” that will be set up.

1.4 INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

1.4.1 The Community

The communities that falls into the GRCA and those on the edges of the Area

1.4.2 The Municipalities

- a) The Municipalities of Baviaans, Beaufort West, Kannaland, Lainsburg, Langeberg, Mosselbaai, Oudshoorn, Prince Albert, Swellendam, ECDMA 10, WCDMA 02, WCDMA 05.

1.4.3 Listed Organisations

a) CAPE ACTION PLAN

The objective of C.A.P.E. is to secure the conservation of the biodiversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom and through this to deliver sustainable economic benefits to the people of the region.

b) DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

The vision of the DEAT is to lead environmental management and tourism in the interests of sustainable development and to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all South Africans(www.environment.gov.za : 06 Feb 2003).

c) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture strives to lead agricultural development for economic growth in South Africa and play a constructive role in agricultural development in Africa (www.nda.agric.za :06 Feb 2003).

d) DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY

DWAF is the custodian of South Africa's water and forestry resources responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy governing these two sectors. While striving to ensure that all South Africans gain access to clean water and safe sanitation, the water sector also promotes effective and efficient water resources management to ensure sustainable economic and social development. The forestry programme promotes the sustainable management of the country's natural forestry resources and commercial forestry for the lasting benefit of the nation (http://www.dwaf.gov.za/06 Feb 2003).

e) THE WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

(http://www.westerncape.gov.za/:06 Feb 2003).

- f) THE WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (<http://www.westerncape.gov.za/> : 06 Feb 2003).
- g) THE EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM (<http://www.westerncape.gov.za/> : 06 Feb 2003).
- i) NATIONAL BOTANICAL INSTITUTE
The NBI is an autonomous, statutory specialising formed by the amalgamation of the National Botanic Gardens and the Botanical Research Institute in 1989. With its head office at Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, the Institute has gardens and research centres throughout South Africa. It runs environmental education programmes and maintains databases and libraries specialising in information on the plant life of southern Africa (www.nbi.ac.za/homepage.htm : 06 Feb 2003)
- i) BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA
The Botanical Society of South Africa is committed to supporting the National Botanical Gardens of South Africa and promoting the conservation of our rich floral heritage.

The Botanical Society presently has over 15 000 members resident in 45 countries around the world. There are thirteen branches in South Africa. Active conservation, education and publication

programmes are also run under the auspices of the Society (www.botanicalsociety.org.za/ 06 Feb 2003).

- k) SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL PARKS
South African National Parks (SANParks) manages a system of parks, which represents the indigenous fauna, flora, landscapes and associated cultural heritage of the country. It manages 20 national parks with an unrivalled variety of accommodation in arid, coastal, mountain and bushveld habitats (www.parks-sa.co.za/:06 Feb 2003).

- l) WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE – SOUTH AFRICA

Since it was founded in 1961, WWF has become one of the world's largest and most effective independent organisations dedicated to the conservation of nature. WWF now operates in around 100 countries, supported by nearly five million people worldwide. Today, the organisation tackles the many forms of pollution that are harming the soil, atmosphere, freshwater and oceans, which ultimately sustain life and looks for new and sustainable ways of using the planet's natural resources (www.panda.org.za/: 06 Feb 2003).

m) FAUNA AND FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

Founded in 1903, Fauna and Flora International is the world's longest established international conservation organisation. FFI is a non-profit organisation supporting over 200 projects in more than 60 countries. FFI acts to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, with sustainable solutions based on sound science and taking human needs into account (www.fauna-flora.org/ : 06 Feb 2003).

management of existing and potential wilderness areas under both private and public ownership; and advocating for enlightened policy and research that sustains wilderness and wildlands (www.wild.org/southern_africa/wf.html : 06 Feb 2003)

n) CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

CI applies innovations in science, economics, policy and community participation to protect the Earth's richest regions of plant and animal diversity in the hotspots, major tropical wilderness areas and key marine ecosystems. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., CI works in more than 30 countries on four continents (www.conservation.org :)

o) THE WILDERNESS FOUNDATION – SA (WF)

Founded by Dr Ian Player in 1972, WWF is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) working in Southern Africa to protect and sustain wilderness, wildlife and wildlands; to provide environmental education, experience and training to all contemporary and indigenous communities; and to further human understanding and cooperation for the conservation of wild habitats. The Wilderness Foundation accomplishes its mission through implementing public awareness programmes and campaigns; promoting wilderness as a resource for all South Africans; monitoring and assisting with the