

SECTION B: VISION, GOALS AND VALUES

SECTION SYNOPSIS

This section provides a description of the following aspects of GRCA:

- a) Vision.
- b) Goals.
- c) Fundamental values.
- d) Promoting the goals of Agenda 21.
- e) Promoting the ideals of NEPAD.
- f) Criteria for monitoring compliance.

2 VISION AND GOAL STATEMENTS AND FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

2.1 VISION

The vision for Gaurits River Catchment Area is as follows:

TO CREATE IN THE CAPE FLORAL KINGDOM A FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT....

based upon tourism, economic empowerment, community co-operation, integration, social equity and conservation of the natural and cultural environment.

2.2 OVER-ARCHING GOALS

The above vision is supported by a "triple bottom line" approach, which refers to the interrelated goals of economic development, social equity and environmental integrity. This approach is internationally recognized as the standard against which planning and development actions of government, business and society at large are to be measured in order to achieve sustainable development (Swarbrooke 2002:160). In accordance with the "triple bottom line" approach, the over-arching goals for GRCA are the following:

a) Economic development

This goal refers to the efficient utilisation of the available community assets, the enhancement of the existing economic sectors, and the establishment of new enterprises that will ensure sustainable socio-economic development.

b) Social equity

This goal refers to the implementation of a number of strategies to achieve real social equity and promote the well-being of all the people in the area. These strategies include, sustainable community empowerment, land reform, integration, provision of housing, and providing the previously disadvantaged with access to, and participation in the mainstream economy.

c) Environmental integrity

This goal refers to the implementation of the integrated strategies aimed at restoring and conserving both the natural and cultural environment and within and beyond the boundaries of the area.

The proposed developments will reflect a strong sense of appreciation for the cultural heritage of the area, whilst the conservation of biodiversity would be reflected in, amongst others:

- the management and use of natural resources
- custodianship of the land as it is developed
- the re-use of waste that demonstrates practical ways of reconciling human needs with the requirements of other organisms and the carrying capacity of the environment.

2.3 FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

a) Custodianship

This generation is here only for a short time in the life of the Gouritz River Catchment Area and therefore it is our duty to foster a sense of history and to act as custodians of the present natural, cultivated and built environment for the benefit of this and future generations.

b) Fostering hope

Due to the profound sense that there are limits to our natural, cultural and economic resource base, we try to practice sustainable ways of living and doing business.

c) Community-building, trust and respect

By facilitating connections across historic divides in the community, the aim is to promote sustainable community co-operation, integration, social equity and a sense of place that embodies lifestyles appropriate for sustainable South African future.

2.4 INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Gourits River Catchment Area Management and Development Framework are in compliance with and strongly promote the following international agreements on sustainable development.

2.4.1 AGENDA 21

GRCA must give practical effect to Agenda 21¹ (the United Nations Action Plan on sustainable development for the 21st century), and specifically, the Local Agenda 21².

Agenda 21 carries a strong moral obligation to ensure the full implementation of various international agreements pertaining to environmental sustainability, economic efficiency and human development and well-being.

These are the following themes of the Local Agenda 21:

- a) Resources are used efficiently and waste minimised.
- b) Pollution is limited
- c) The diversity of nature is valued and protected
- d) Local needs are met locally
- e) People are given the opportunity to undertake satisfying work in a diverse economy
- f) People's general well-being is promoted by creating safe, clean, pleasant living and working environments.

- g) People are given access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable them to play a meaningful part in society.
- h) Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.
- i) Places, spaces and objectives combine meaning and beauty with utility.
- j) Human settlements have appropriate scale and form
- k) Links are developed with other parts of the world.

¹ Agenda 21 is a action plan and blueprint for sustainable development adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. South Africa is one of the global partners to Agenda 21, which calls on governments to adopt national strategies for sustainable development.

² Local Agenda 21 is essentially about "quality of life" and is defined as a local-government-lead, community wide and participatory effort to establish a comprehensive action strategy for environmental protection, economic prosperity and community well-being in the local jurisdiction or area. This requires the integration of planning and action across economic, social and environmental spheres. Key elements are community participation, assessment of current conditions, target setting for achieving goals, monitoring and reporting (Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, ISBN 0-621-27991-9, 1998)

2.4.2 NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

GRCA must promote and give practical effect to NEPAD³, which centers around African re-birth through self-generated new endeavors that are culturally, socially and environmentally sensitive and responsible. In order to achieve the objectives of NEPAD, African leaders will take joint responsibility for the following:

- a) Strengthening mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution at the regional and continental levels and to ensure that these mechanisms are used to store and maintain peace.
- b) Promoting and protecting democracy and human rights in their respective countries and regions, by developing clear standards of accountability, transparency and participatory governance at the national and sub-national levels
- c) Restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability, especially by developing appropriate standards and targets for fiscal and monetary policies, and introduce appropriate institutional frameworks to achieve these standards
- d) Instituting transparent legal and regulatory frameworks for financial markets and auditing of private companies and the public sector
- e) Revitalising and extend the provision of education, technical training and health services, with high priority

- f) given to tackling HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases
- f) Promoting the role of women in social and economic development.
- g) Building the capacity of the states in Africa to set and enforce the legal framework as well as maintaining law and order
- h) Promoting the development of infrastructure, agriculture and its diversification into agro-industries and manufacturing to serve both domestic and export markets.

³ NEPAD is a pledge by African leaders, based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the time to participate actively in the worlds economy and body politic. Through this program, African leaders are setting an agenda for the renewal of the continent. The agenda is based on national and regional priorities and development plans that must be prepared through participatory processes involving the people, it is their role to articulate these plans as well as lead the processes of implementation on behalf of their people. The program is a new framework of interaction with the rest of the world, including the industrialised countries and multilateral organisations. It is based on the agenda set by African peoples through their own initiatives and of their own volition, to shape their own destiny