

Annexure I: Discussion document how the design of the project relates to other project with similar objectives

1. Grootvadersbos conservancy

The conservancy concept:

A conservancy is a registered (with the local conservation authority) voluntary association between land users/landowners who cooperatively wish to manage their natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner without necessarily changing the land-use of their properties. This means that a group of individuals, landowners or businesses who are concerned with the state of their environment or who wish to monitor and enhance it, may do so by volunteering to be a part of a committee that is registered with their local nature conservation agency. “Co-operative environmental management” means that a conservancy manages an area in accordance with sound environmental principles as prescribed by the various laws and policies of the nature conservation authorities in your area.

Common focus areas of conservancies:

- Productive land, development, changing urban landscapes
- Threats to biological biodiversity
- Water security
- Fires, floods, erosion, pollution
- Implementation of legal controls
- Neighbourhood watches
- Cohesion between planning authorities, developers, and property owners
- Waste recycling drives

About the Grootvadersbos Conservancy:

The conservancy is registered as a non-profit trust, promoting conservation on private land in Grootvadersbos. It has 19 members (landowners), covering an area of 35 000 ha in the Grootvadersbos valley (in the Overberg and Eden District Municipalities). The conservancy includes the CapeNature-managed Grootvadersbos Nature Reserve and Boosmansbos Wilderness Area. There are three registered stewardship sites in the conservancy.

Members of the conservancy are long-standing commercial farmers who care about the lands' agricultural and conservation value.

Members receive considerable benefits from being part of the conservancy including financial assistance for alien clearing, tourism promotion, assistance with fire planning and collaboration in firefighting, and collective benefits from centralised security cameras.

The Grootvadersbos WfW project:

The Grootvadersbos Conservancy employs eight contractors, thereby creating jobs for more than 130 people from the Suurbraak and Heidelberg area. Unemployment and poverty levels are high in the area placing stress on women who are mostly responsible for managing households. The programme is one of the biggest employers in the area.

The Grootvadersbos Conservancy alien vegetation clearing and restoration programme is supported by the DEA NRM, Gondwana Alive, LandCare (Department of Agriculture: Western Cape) and, most importantly, its members. The conservancy only clears on land where landowners make a financial contribution to the clearing. This means that landowners are invested in the activities, thereby contributing to long-term sustainability.

In terms of the WfW project, it is run on the same principles as the ABI Alien Clearing Project with the same operational processes and implementation. The conservancy is paid for person days delivered at a negotiated rate and works with contractors that quote per task based on NBALs. Working For Water has now shifted to a goods and services contract which means the conservancy must do the work and then claim the money afterwards which will have problematic cashflow implications for everyone.

In the case of the Grootvadersbos Conservancy vs the ABI Alien Clearing Project: the difference is that the Grootvadersbos Conservancy charges the landowner wherever they work. It is R50 a person day which ensures commitment from the landowner and assists the conservancy financially. The ABI Alien Clearing Project currently charges R 25 per person day.

In the Grootvadersbos Conservancy, the contribution is a sign of commitment and an understanding that they are only paying 15-20% of the full cost, while FVCT landowners pay 10% of the cost of DFFE funding, which is 7% of total project costs.

Objectives of the Grootvadersbos Conservancy Trust:

The sole or principal objective of the Trust is to engage in or promote nature conservation or animal

protection activities in the interest of the conservancy by:

- Conserving natural resources on private and state land
- By providing protection to farm game and other natural resources from poaching
- By providing a more extended conservation management and thus creating a wider diversity of natural habitats
- By promoting ecotourism
- By promoting conservation action through convincing politicians and the general public of the importance of natural areas for generating income
- By stimulating investments in effective management of natural areas and heritage sites
- To create general awareness and interest in nature conservation.

2. Australian National LandCare Programme

About LandCare Australia

The vision of the Australian LandCare programme is that all Australians are actively caring for the land and water that sustains us.

Purpose

- Empowering individuals and communities
- Sustainable management of natural and productive landscapes
- Building resilient ecosystems and communities

LandCare Australia is a CBNRM model and a national not-for-profit organisation established more than 30 years ago that supports the LandCare community with funding, capacity building, on-ground projects, information, networking, and promotion of LandCare's achievements.

Together with the LandCare community, Australian efforts improve biodiversity, build resilience in Australia's food and farming systems and create stronger communities. As a leader in the environmental sector, LandCare Australia has strong expertise in designing, managing and completing challenging and complex major ecological restoration projects involving large-scale revegetation and carbon abatement.

LandCare Australia supports over 5 000 groups and 100 000+ volunteers with LandCare projects that are focused on sustainable land management practices and environmental conservation.

LandCare Australia has worked collaboratively with federal, state and local governments and their agencies, LandCare peak bodies, corporate and philanthropic partners, sponsors, community groups and individuals to support the LandCare community. This long-standing engagement with local community-led environmental initiatives has led to the organisation's renowned reputation and trust by Australians.

LandCare Australia develops campaigns in partnership with stakeholders to:

- Support the sharing of knowledge and promote the development of community leadership and resilience.
- Recognise and celebrate the achievements of the LandCare community.
- Encourage participation in LandCare activities and the recruitment and retention of volunteers.
- Attract government, corporate and philanthropic funding and in-kind support for good quality, hands-on projects and programmes that will improve environmental outcomes.
- Support the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices that will deliver a more productive and profitable agriculture industry.

(<https://landcareaustralia.org.au/>)

According to the Commonwealth of Australia Report on the Review of the National LandCare programme, the funding and in-kind contributions raised from partnerships and sponsors supports LandCare Australia to develop programmes that are practical, deliverable and community focused. Through this support LandCare Australia achieves a diverse range of positive environmental and community outcomes. These include:

- A sustainable approach to integrated land management
- Environmental protection, enhancement and conservation of land, water, waterways, and coasts
- Natural habitat restoration to enhance biodiversity
- Building resilience in Australia's food and farming systems
- Creating social cohesion and wellbeing in communities

Table 12: Australian LandCare Strategic Objectives

| Strategic Objectives | Strategic Outcomes | Contribution to national and international obligations |
|---|--|--|
| Strategic Objective 1: Communities are managing landscapes to sustain long-term economic and social benefits from their environment. | Maintain and improve ecosystem services through sustainable management of local and regional landscapes. | Protection and restoration of ecosystem function, resilience, and biodiversity; appropriate management of invasive species which threaten ecosystems, habitats, or native species. |
| Strategic Objective 2: Farmers and fishers are increasing their long term returns through better management of the natural resource base. | Increase in the number of farmers and fishers adopting practices that improve the quality of the natural resource base, and the area of land over which those practices are applied. | Sustainable management of agriculture and aquaculture to conserve and protect biological diversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon stored in soil. |
| Strategic Objective 3: Communities are involved in caring for their environment. | Increase engagement and participation of the community, including Landcare, farmers, and Indigenous people, in sustainable natural resource management. including Landcare, farmers, and Indigenous people, in sustainable NRM. | Build community awareness of biodiversity values, skills, participation, and knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge and participation, to promote conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. |

3. Kruger To Canyons Biosphere Region

About the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region

The Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C) is situated in the north-east of South Africa, straddling the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. The boundaries of the biosphere extend from the Letaba catchment in the north to the Sabie catchment in the south, and from the Drakensberg Escarpment in the west to the Kruger National Park and the border with Mozambique in the east. This includes an area of nearly 2 500 000 hectares and is home to 1 500 000 residents. This extensive geographical

area, together with the large number of residents within the region, adds up to a very active and diverse landscape.

The K2C BR embraces the three functions of the Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO: The encouragement of biodiversity conservation, also beyond the borders of formal protected areas, sustainable eco-responsible development and logistic support in terms of environmental education and research.

The K2C incorporates state-conserved land, communally managed nature reserves, communally grazed areas, former homeland type dense settlement areas, commercial agriculture, private-conserved areas, commercial forestry and provincial conservation.

In sourcing of local products from various regional sources, the K2C brands these products with an easily identifiable regional logo and ensures distribution within the locally based shops, restaurants lodges etc. This project will also be linked to an agricultural project in which local communities will be educated and trained in innovative methods of low impact, minimal water, small-scale organic production that will also be sold and marketed through the central market facility.

K2C acknowledges that it may not always be able to initiate and/or implement projects but it will openly support any project that is initiated or implemented by an alternative body or organisation that is in compliance with biosphere-related principles and objectives.

There are several different research projects within the region that request support and assistance through the supplying of endorsement and/or support letters.

Within the framework of the MaB (Man and the Biosphere) Strategy, each biosphere is intended to fulfil three basic functions, which are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

These functions are the following:

- Conservation: Conserving genetic resources and ecosystems and maintaining biodiversity
- Sustainable Development: Fostering economic and human development which is sociocultural and ecologically sustainable
- Logistics: Establishing an international network of areas related to MAB field research and monitoring, accompanied by education and training with a strong emphasis on partnerships.

The K2C Non-Profit Company (K2C NPC) was established in 2011 to implement conservation and sustainable development projects within the Biosphere Region to meet the three biosphere functions. Since then, more than 30 projects have been implemented. Over the last five years, the K2C has been implementing two GEF & UNDP-funded projects with partners which have resulted in 74 010 ha of land being declared as Protected Areas (under the Protected Areas Act) and another 97 621 ha in process, in both the buffer zone adjacent to the Kruger National Park and in the Mpumalanga Escarpment areas. K2C has extensive experience working with the national Biodiversity Stewardship initiative and has good working relationships with the provincial conservation agencies as well as national state entities. In addition, the team has also been implementing community-based projects. The community-based Environmental Monitors Programme has been implemented by the K2C for the past nine years, employing over 160 youth in rural communities and creating awareness around environmental issues communities face. Through this programme the K2C has a good working relationship with community leaders. Additional projects focus on other effective area-based conservation measures, capacity building and training; water sanitation and hygiene training, alien invasive plant clearing, SMME development and market access, financial training, and savings mechanisms, agro-ecology and sustainable land management. K2C's vision: Partnering to achieve a sustainable future for all life in the K2C biosphere.

Discussion:

The projects are discussed in terms of the key elements of CBNRM in section 1.1 of this document - Amede et al. (2004).

Legitimacy, transparency, accountability and responsibility

The K2C model will have powerful international legitimacy through the declaration of the area as a Biosphere Region. The model provides for community involvement and espouses the virtues of the Man and the Biosphere (MaB) model. However, as it is a non-profit company that was established to implement conservation and sustainability projects the governing members are not necessarily representative of people in the landscape. The K2C model being an NPO is not as accountable to its landowners in the area as the other two models but plays a major role in providing structure and direction. Although legally accountable it is not necessarily representative of the communities.

Both the Grootvadersbos Conservancy and the Australian LandCare models have strong legitimacy in the landscape. The conservancy model has a trust document and a constitution developed by the participants and is formally declared under the provincial conservation department and represents

the landowners.

Despite the Australian LandCare model following the principle of high-level funding, its strategic objectives include that, “Communities are managing the landscapes on a sustainable long-term manner”, the Australian LandCare programme strategic objectives support communities managing the landscape from the bottom up, and through legislation and policy, provide structures that communities can interact with the programme in an open democratic manner. The same applies to conservancies whereby the conservancy constitutions and trust documents ensure that the landowners themselves are represented and can participate. The Conservancy and Australian LandCare models ensure accountability at grass-roots level.

Involvement and participation

Both the Australian LandCare model and conservancy models are designed to ensure landowner involvement and participation on management of the broader environment as a community. The K2C model facilitates and supports the establishment and management of grass-roots structures such as community forums, conservancies, and aims to achieve its goals through community involvement. However, the functioning in the case of the Australian LandCare model is primarily facilitation, and they support involvement and participation but are not the structures that implement projects that and will have to be supplemented by initiatives such as conservancies.

Fairness and Equity

The Australian LandCare model and the conservancy go a long way to ensure equity of benefits and have strong legal frameworks to work within. The democratically elected LandCare committees and conservancy structures allow for fair and equitable structures and recourse in the structures to deal with conflicts. It is established at grass-roots level within the context of policy and legislative frameworks. These models allow for benefit and costs to be shared at grass-roots level. However, the K2C model does not necessarily have these structures in place to protect the interest of local livelihoods.

The shortcoming in the conservancy and LandCare models is the fact that both strongly represent the landowners particularly in the South African situation, with high rates of rural poverty are exacerbated by low levels of beneficiary education. It does not necessarily represent the communities and

contractor/ local service providers in the landscape. All the models structurally allow for opportunities to improve wellbeing.

Integration and coherency

Each of the three models are structured to ensure integration and coherency and are structured to consider the complexity of the environmental issues at the level they were established for and are powerful links between the various elements. Each addresses the cogency and integration at its own level. And a multi-teared approach is recommended incorporating each of the elements of integration and coherency.

Adaptability and responsiveness

Once again, the Australian LandCare model and conservancy models being community driven allow for a bottom-up approach. The grass-roots level decision making processes allow for sound input by the organisations that represent relevant communities. Structures should be in place such as planning, and meeting work groups that address issues and changes in the landscape. This allows for community participation for decision making and promoting actions to be taken at the lowest level for rapid adaptability of projects facilitating more flexibility as is often required by operations on the ground as factors change in the landscape that influence planning in any NRM project e.g., fire scars. Adaptability will allow for constant improvement and delivery.

The K2C is a higher strategic level model and focused on the planning and activation domain. Adaptiveness of projects implemented on the ground will therefore be limited at the level of their main activities.

Ethical considerations

All three models have sufficient structures to represent the communities in the landscape and the policies and structures that govern them are based on powerful accountability structures and ethics. The conservancy Australian LandCare model with their bottom-up approaches ensure that the ethical considerations of the landscape's citizens are considered at the same time operating within a structure.

The K2C follows principles of being advisory, compared to the Man and the Biosphere which considers communities and citizenry in the area it represents. However, the K2C model is a higher-level advisory structure and is not involved directly in operations so does not necessarily allow for consideration of the local community's role players and stakeholders.

Natural resources governance must be based on the ethical principles of the society in which it functions, for example by respecting traditional water/land rights and preventing corruption.

Predictability

The Biosphere model being governed by the UNDP has the structure and legitimacy to maintain long-term predictability and is considered the best model globally to conserve and restore the environment at a landscape level. This allows for predictability and consistency over a long period irrespective of local and national nuance and political and economic landscape.

The Australian model is a national, well-funded project with strong policy and structural elements which provides for a good balance of local community interaction within a long-term governance structure. The conservancy model is limited in size and strength compared to the other two models and is therefore more susceptible to local changes and constraints and thus is not expected to be predictable in the long term.

Direction

The K2C model has the most powerful sense of direction as it is accountable to the requirements of the biosphere that is based on international law and an overarching view of the landscape it is overseeing.

The Australian LandCare model has national policy, legislative and very specific outcomes according to their legislative and organisational structure. In both cases the strategic vision is guided by international and national best practice and supporting policies lead to long-term stability.

The conservancies are perceived as the weakest in this aspect as the direction is set locally by the landowners under the guidance of conservation officials. Although a positive in terms of

involvement, participation, fairness, and equity, there is the possible susceptibilities to the proclivities of the landowners it represents.

Performance

The conservancy model is closest to the ground and involves participants and is therefore well positioned to make the best of local resources. However, the scale of conservancies limits the capacities to engage with governance. Additionally, the scale of conservancies compared to the other models reviewed limits financial stability, particularly in the current state of the economy. A positive aspect of conservancies is the involvement, participation, fairness and equity in their approach.

The power of decision lies at the lowest level enabling the flexibility and adaptability at the lowest levels. The Australian model allows for bottom-up community-based decisions and allows for more flexibility within the policies and strategic objectives of the project.

The Australian LandCare and K2C Biosphere Region have better capacities to engage in governance, both locally and internationally, however the decisions are less flexible and do not lie at the lowest level. A positive aspect of conservancies is the involvement, participation, fairness and equity in their approach.