



capeflatsnature

This partnership builds good practice in sustainable management of nature sites in the City of Cape Town's Biodiversity Network in a people-centred way that develops local leadership for conservation action and benefits the surrounding communities, particularly townships where incomes are low and living conditions are poor.

Networking people and nature in the City

CONSERVATION -- EDUCATION -- RECREATION -- JOB CREATION





did you know?

- 76 plants on the Cape Flats are not found anywhere else in the world, not even on Table Mountain
- 131 of the over 1400 indigenous plant species on the Cape Flats are rare or endangered
- Ten of the 55 birds that are only found in South Africa have populations on the Cape Flats, including four range-restricted species
- Ten threatened bird species occur on the Cape Flats, most associated with wetland or coastal sites
- Two of the most threatened amphibians in South Africa breed on the Cape Flats
- At least three insect species are only found on the Cape Flats
- Cape Town has more than three million residents living in 2 500 km², with at least 270 000 families in need of formal housing
- More than half of Cape Town's residents are younger than 26 years of age
- Unemployment in the City is 20%, but in some areas on the Cape Flats it exceeds 50%
- Some areas on the Cape Flats have an HIV/AIDS infection rate of higher than 35%, while the City average is 10%

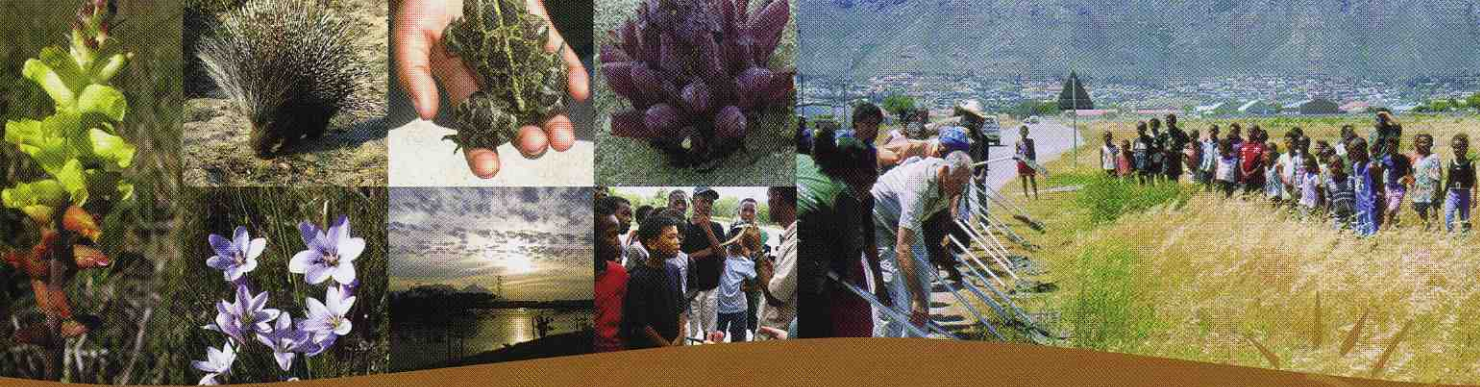
the challenge

Cape Flats Nature approaches the challenge to conserve precious biodiversity in fragmented natural habitats in an urban setting where poverty is widespread by:



- building bridges between people and nature;
- demonstrating benefits from conservation for the surrounding communities, particularly areas where incomes are low and living conditions are poor; and
- encouraging local leadership for conservation action.

Nature areas in urban centres help ordinary people by contributing to healthy ecosystems, which help to moderate floods, temperatures and winds.



conservation

Cape Flats Nature catalyses on-the-ground conservation management that involves the surrounding communities in preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

A new generation of urban nature conservators is skilled to work in a people-centred way that links conservation and community development, enabling community conservation action.



education

Cape Flats Nature catalyses access to outdoor classrooms for curriculum-based environmental education and awareness-raising activities on the doorstep of learners from poor communities.



Children learn that they can discover, care for and enjoy nature in their township.



recreation & health

Cape Flats Nature encourages the use of City nature areas for outdoor recreation and the promotion of wellbeing.

*Youth learn about nature and develop teamwork skills while hiking;
Traditional healers share their knowledge with the next generation.*



job creation

Cape Flats Nature contributes to job creation through alien clearing activity and links to tourism and other local economic development initiatives.



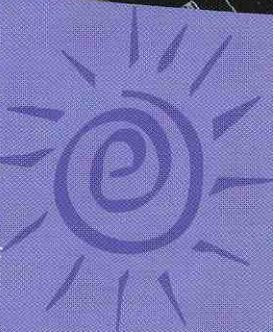
Workers on a national government poverty relief programme develop skills to work with nature and become site champions.



community partnerships in action

Cape Flats Nature builds local leadership for conservation by working with community partners interested in taking action.

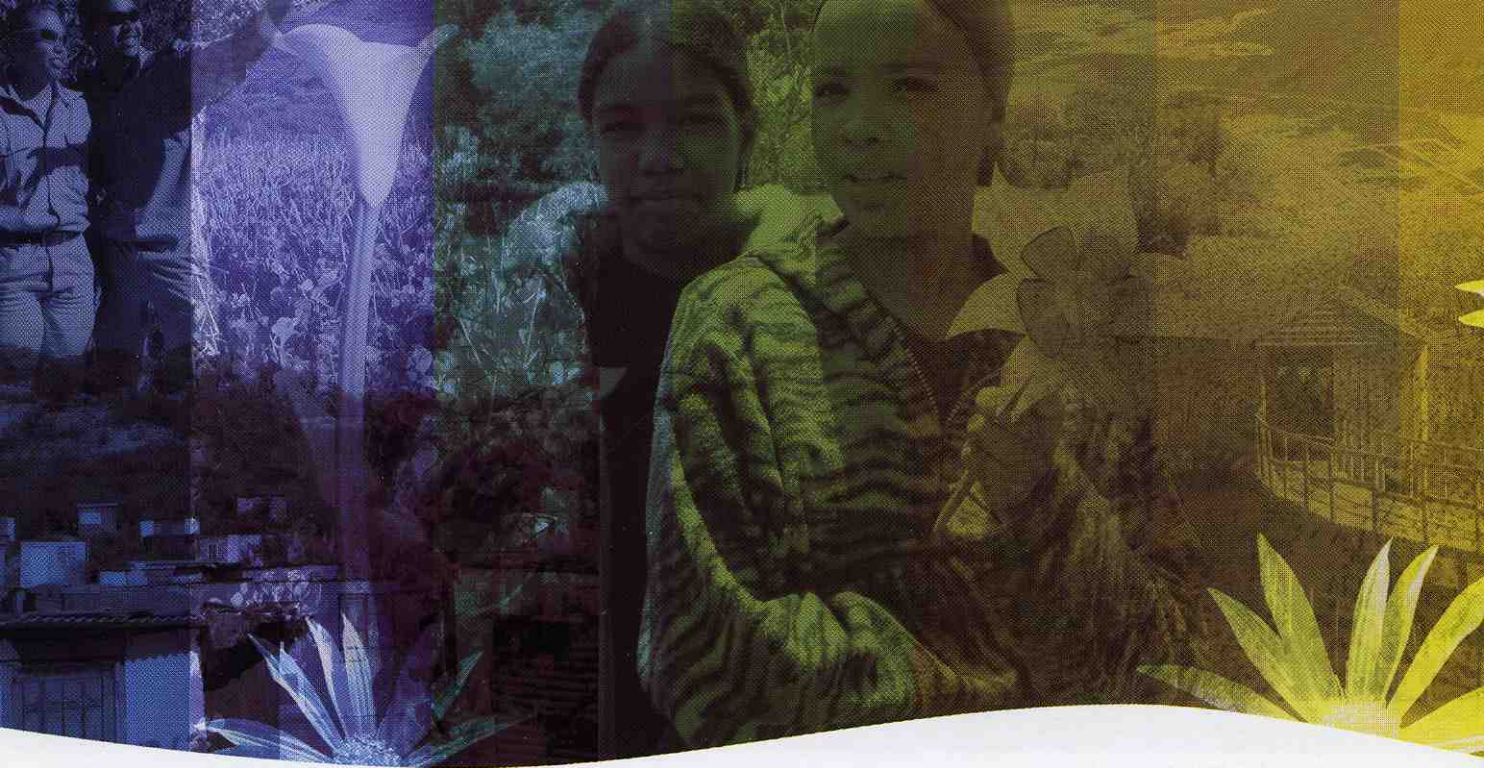
From the beginning, the project was designed with the participation of communities around each of the sites through a series of stakeholder workshops.



Biodiversity Network

Cape Flats Nature works with sites chosen from the City of Cape Town's biodiversity network. The network is made up of the minimum nature sites and linkages between these sites needed to conserve the unique biodiversity of the City. This network was identified as part of the Biodiversity Strategy for the implementation of the City's Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy.

The project draws lessons from its pilot demonstration phase. These are being used to roll-out Cape Flats Nature's practice across the City's Biodiversity Network. Cape Flats Nature also shares lessons with other urban centres in the Cape Floristic Region and beyond.



what can i do?

- Community organisations and individuals can contact Cape Flats Nature to find out how best to get involved in conservation action at a site near you.
- Individuals and companies can donate funds towards Cape Flats Nature through dedicated accounts held by project partners.
- Individuals and companies in a specific area can donate funds for use at a specific site and provide financial and in-kind support for activities of community based organisations at the site.



contact us

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