

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q:** If I sell my property, will the restrictions stipulated in the contract apply to the new owner?  
**A:** Yes, the same restrictions will apply.
- Q:** Will I have to remove existing infrastructure if my property becomes a nature reserve?  
**A:** No, all existing infrastructure may remain.
- Q:** Will Ezemvelo have unlimited access to my property if it becomes a nature reserve?  
**A:** No, but terms and conditions regarding access can be negotiated within the agreement.
- Q:** Will the general public have unlimited access to my property if it becomes a nature reserve?  
**A:** No, you as the landowner determine the specific rules and access by the general public that you require.
- Q:** Who will bear the legal costs for drawing up a stewardship agreement?  
**A:** This will be negotiated. All voluntary declarations of protected areas are between the registered landowner and MEC.
- Q:** What will the consequences be if I choose to terminate the co-operation agreement?  
**A:** You will be liable for the total cost of the facilitating agency's management interventions up to the date of termination.
- Q:** Is a conservation area applicable to an individual property, a collectively managed/multi-landowner area (e.g. conservancy), or both?  
**A:** Both. It can apply to a single property or a group of properties, like a conservancy.
- Q:** What do basic extension services include?  
**A:** The facilitating agency on behalf of the landowner will facilitate general advice, support and assistance, management advice, as well as input into the drafting of management plans.
- Q:** Will the declaration of my property prevent a land claim?  
**A:** No, in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994, should an area be under a claim it may not be proclaimed as a protected area until such claim has been resolved. The existence of a land claim needs, therefore, to be verified with the Land Claims Commissioner.
- Q:** Can I graze cattle in a protected area?  
**A:** Yes you may, as long as the stocking rate is determined for conservation purposes (as opposed to commercial stocking rates), using grazing as a grassland management tool.
- Q:** Can I declare a portion of my property as a protected area?  
**A:** Yes, the stewardship mechanism allows an entire cadastre or a portion of a cadastre to be declared a protected area.

## Contact us:

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## KZN BDS Partners:



## Resources:

- [www.kznwildlife.com](http://www.kznwildlife.com)
- [www.botanicalsociety.org.za](http://www.botanicalsociety.org.za)
- [www.ewt.org.za](http://www.ewt.org.za)
- [www.wwf.org.za](http://www.wwf.org.za)
- [www.birdlife.org.za](http://www.birdlife.org.za)
- [www.conservation-outcomes.org](http://www.conservation-outcomes.org)
- [Wildtrust.co.za](http://Wildtrust.co.za)



**KZN BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP**  
a programme championed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife



# Conservation in Landowners' Hands



## What is stewardship?

Stewardship is about you, as a custodian of your land, using it wisely so that the natural environment is protected. Because this land is outside of the existing protected area system (e.g. National Parks), it needs to be carefully managed so that natural ecosystems and the range of biodiversity within them are protected. This will ensure that the land remains a valuable resource for present and future generations.

## What are the principles of stewardship?

- Voluntary commitment from landowner.
- Focus on biodiversity priority areas.
- Improved site security
- Co-operative governance and partnerships
- Ensure landowner support

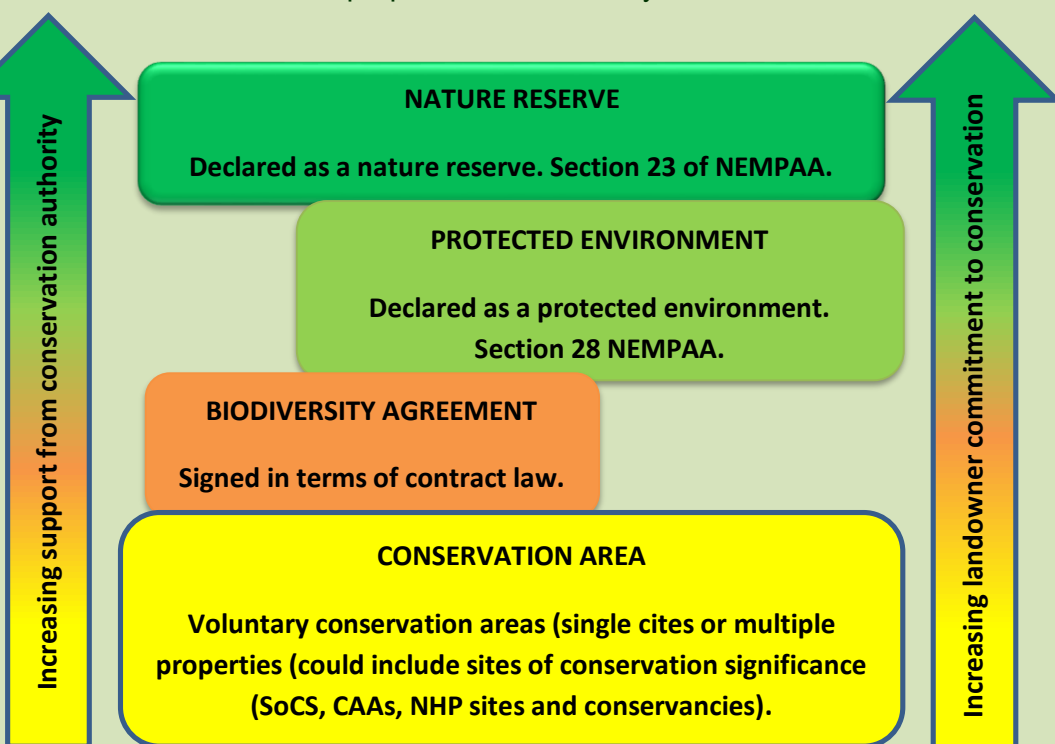
## How can you make a contribution to conservation?

You, as a private or communal landowner, can play an important role in the conservation of our natural heritage. At present the rich biological diversity of KwaZulu-Natal is not being sufficiently protected, and is therefore under threat. This is partly due to lack of resources, but also because 80% of the land that has important biodiversity on it does not lie within formally protected areas, but is privately or communally owned land. This is where you can play an important role.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and NGO partners host a dedicated Biodiversity Stewardship Programme to assist landowners in the protection of their biodiversity by offering a range of conservation options.

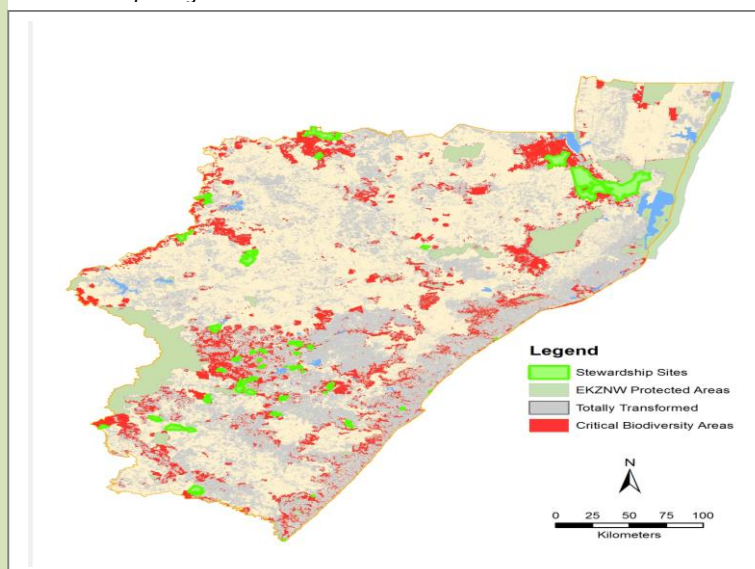
The stewardship concept is a new way of achieving this conservation protection. The Biodiversity Stewardship Programme aims to set up positive, proactive partnerships with you, the landowner, to support and encourage you as you take on the responsibility of managing and protecting the natural assets that are in your care. In order to support this management, appropriate benefits will be offered for land that has been set aside for conservation. Such benefits include (1) technical advice and support on biodiversity management (2) site recognition (3) marketing opportunities.

## What are the stewardship options available to you?



- All options are voluntary.
- Each one will be tailored to your needs as a landowner.
- The higher categories offer more incentives (benefits) and support by Ezemvelo, but have more restrictions and require greater commitment from landowners.
- It is important to note that you as the landowner retain title to the property at all times.
- All existing types of informal protected areas (e.g. conservancies, Community Conservation Areas, Sites of Conservation Significance) can be accommodated within the options.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife embarked on the development of a province-wide conservation plan that identified important areas for biodiversity. The main product of the planning process is a map showing those parts of the province where conservation action is required to prevent further loss and degradation of critical biodiversity. These areas are shown in red in the accompanying map, which will be the focus of the Biodiversity Stewardship Program.



## Why conservation in KZN?

- The province of KwaZulu-Natal has two World Heritage Sites and over 100 formal protected areas. The province is located in a region that has been identified as an important biodiversity hotspot by Conservation International, and contains more than 4000 species as well as diverse landscapes and vegetation types.
- However, less than 47% of these species are conserved in nature reserves. Most of these areas are being very rapidly degraded by intensive agriculture. More of the natural land needs to be protected so that we can maintain the diversity of life and the functioning of important ecosystems in our province.

## Why should I become involved?

- You can assist the province in achieving its conservation targets for threatened species and ecosystems.
- You can play a key role in ensuring that threatened species such as Blue Swallow, Wattled Crane and Oribi can still be seen by our children's children.
- Better management of natural resources will improve the future for society, through improved water quality and production in catchments, and reduced erosion and flooding.
- By becoming involved in conservation on your land, you will have access to support and advice from either Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff or NGO partners. Your income-base can be diversified through ecotourism and conservation-associated opportunities.

Option	Level 1 – Conservation Area	Level 2 – Biodiversity Agreement	Level 3 – Protected Environment	Level 4 – Nature Reserve
Which option applies to your land?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any natural land is suitable.</li> <li>▪ If rare or endangered habitats, rather progress to higher level of conservation security.</li> <li>▪ Can use this as a stepping stone to more security later on in the process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suitable for any conservation-worthy land.</li> <li>▪ Focuses on improving the management of specific biodiversity features or elements.</li> <li>▪ Not excluding small and isolated fragments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Useful to pursue where large landscapes require some form of conservation management, but where it is unnecessary or unsuitable to restrict other forms of extractive land use.</li> <li>▪ Multiple properties, buffers to statutory Protected Areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Priority areas adjacent to statutory reserves or sufficiently large to be self-contained ecosystems.</li> <li>▪ Containing critically important species, habitats and self-contained sites.</li> </ul>
Legal status/duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not formally protected by Protected Areas Act, managed at least partly for biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>▪ Flexible option with no defined period of commitment.</li> <li>▪ Registration document with the conservation agency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has legal status by virtue of a legal contract between the landowner and the provincial conservation authority, or NGO.</li> <li>▪ Minimum period of 5-10 years suggested (ideally 10 years or more), but may be in perpetuity (fixed or extended) if requested by the landowner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legal declaration under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003.</li> <li>▪ The duration for Protected Environment's declaration is a minimum of 30 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legal declaration under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003.</li> <li>▪ Duration of 30 - 99 years, but generally in perpetuity. SARS fiscal benefits are only applicable to declarations of 99 years in duration.</li> </ul>
Qualifying criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Any landowner(s) willing to conserve the natural systems on their land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Site must have been assessed to the standard of the provincial agency and found to contain biodiversity features identified as important or a priority for the province.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The landowner must be willing to submit to the declaration of the area as a Protected Environment, and to manage (or have managed) the site according to the norms and standards laid down for a Protected Area, but with fewer restrictions than a nature reserves.</li> <li>▪ Owner must also be willing to submit a title deed note and title deed endorsement is voluntary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The landowner must be willing to submit to the declaration of the area as a nature reserve, and to manage (or have managed) the site according to the norms and standards laid down for nature reserves.</li> </ul>
Possible land use limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very few but the area needs to maintain its natural character.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land must be managed in a way that will support natural processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is no limitation on activities other than those specifically listed in the gazetting notice of the establishment of the Protected Environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No further development or land use rights will be allowed.</li> <li>▪ Access and resident rights are unrestricted.</li> <li>▪ Owners retain title.</li> </ul>
Benefits to the landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advice and support through basic extension services.</li> <li>▪ Assistance with management plans and farm maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific agreements for fire, alien plant and animal management.</li> <li>▪ Advanced extension services (e.g. alien clearing planning).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable assistance with habitat management.</li> <li>▪ Advanced extension services (e.g. alien clearing planning).</li> <li>▪ Regulate the use of the landscape through co-operation between various landowners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable assistance with habitat management.</li> <li>▪ Increased recognition and marketing exposure.</li> <li>▪ Conservation authorities will be able to lobby on your behalf for incentives e.g. rates exemptions.</li> </ul>