

LANCA – Caring for the land

The National Landcare Programme (NLP) is to develop and implement integrated approaches to natural resource management in South Africa. These programmes aim to be efficient, sustainable, equitable, and consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The NLP objectives are to:

- Promote partnerships between communities, the private sector and government in the management of natural resources
- Establish institutional arrangements to develop and implement policies, programmes and practices that will encourage the sustainable use of natural resources
- Encourage skills development for sustainable livelihoods
- Encourage opportunities for the development of business enterprises with a sustainable resource management focus
- Enhance the long-term productivity of natural resources.

Themes of the NLP

Landcare investment is intended to provide resources and incentives

that facilitate the achievement of the NLP objectives by focusing on major themes: Watercare, soilcare, veldcare, juniorcare, and small community grants.

Small community grants

This theme improves the ability of resource-poor communities to manage land, water and vegetation in a sustainable and self-reliant manner, through an incentives programme. It includes elements from all the other themes already mentioned.

Within the specified theme, each proposal must include a component of the following:

- Improving the ability of land users to manage their natural resources in a sustainable and self-reliant manner
- Addressing the causes of environmental and resource degradation, rather than the symptoms
- Promoting long-term integrated approaches to local catchment and regional planning
- Demonstrating innovative approaches towards natural resource management
- Encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources

- Addressing the needs of former disadvantaged groups
- Fostering partnerships among different sectors of the rural community including government
- Developing relevant experience, knowledge and skills in the community
- Encouraging socio-economic or business enterprise development that must link to sustainable resource use and environmental repair
- Communicating results to other interested individuals and organisations.

Funding for programmes will be allocated on an annual basis, with ongoing programmes being subject to progress review and reports including financial information. Project funding will normally be available for a maximum of three years (36 months).

Landcare is spreading rapidly throughout rural areas of South Africa. There are Landcare groups working on projects, identifying and solving local degradation issues. Before you apply, please contact your local facilitator, provincial coordinator or agricultural extension officer for assistance. 