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# CONCEPT DOCUMENT

## FIFTH BIENNIAL NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE 01 – 04 OCTOBER 2012 NORTH WEST

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# **CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE FIFTH BIENNIAL NATIONAL LANDCARE CONFERENCE 2012**

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of the LandCare Conference is to bring stakeholders within the Agricultural Natural Resources Management sector together, to showcase the programme impact in addressing degradation, poverty and food security, to reward communities taking bold leadership on custodianship of natural agricultural resources, to co-operate and seek ways to address challenges facing the sector. The conference will assist in improving the LandCare programme implementation in order to enhance better life for all South Africans through sustainable use of natural resources.

## **2. Background**

The LandCare Programme was born in 1997 and implemented in all the nine Provinces of the country. LandCare programme is currently one of the Government key programmes with quite a reasonable number of economic, social and environmental opportunities. Agriculturally speaking, the five aspects which the programme is highly concerned about are Water Care, Veld Care, Soil Care, Junior Care and Conservation Agriculture which are believed to be the basics to sustainable life and development.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) through the Directorate Land Use and Soil Management has hosted four Biennial National LandCare Conference (2002 – Gauteng, 2004 Western Cape, 2006 – Mpumalanga, 2009 – Limpopo Provinces) in South Africa since the inception of the LandCare programme in 1997.

During the development of the LandCare programme by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), several workshops have been conducted and it was in those workshops wherein it was recommended that

conferences, symposiums, farmers days and other important gatherings can be effective instruments that can be utilized for intensification of the programme through information sharing.

It has been noticed globally that enough good quality natural resources contribute a lot to sustainable development, poverty alleviation and maintenance of a better climatic conditions. Thus South Africa through DAFF took an initiative to engage its people to take a local action by making use of all the knowledge and resources available within the country and internationally to make sure that our natural resources are used correctly and sustainably.

### **3. Theme for the Fifth Biennial LandCare Conference**

The theme for the Fifth Biennial LandCare Conference to be hosted by the North West Province on the 01<sup>st</sup> – 04<sup>th</sup> October 2012 will be **"LandCare; sustaining natural resource management 15 years and beyond for better livelihoods"**

### **4. Programme themes include:**

- LandCare empowering communities.
- Caring for South Africa's scarcest natural resources.
- LandCare pioneering Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for the designated categories and
- Investing in land restoration.

### **5. Targeted Audiences**

- Farmers from the nine (9) Provinces (including Junior LandCare participants).
- District and Local Municipalities.
- MECs, Mayors, Traditional Healers/Leaders and Councilors (Politicians).
- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Provincial Departments of Agriculture and other relevant Departments.

- African LandCare Networks Members (ALN).
- Natural Resource Management Consultants and NGOs.
- South African and International Public.
- Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
- National Development Agency (NDA)
- Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)
- National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC)
- Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)
- National Research Foundation (NRF)
- Media fraternity.
- Food Security Ambassadors
- Commercial Banks
- Cultural groups

## **6. Plan of Action**

Two committees have been established, namely, the Steering and the Task Team Committees. Seven (07) sub-committees are formed under the Task Team Committee to organize the conference and will report progress on a monthly basis to the Steering Committee. Below are the six (6) sub-committees:-

- Programme and Content
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Protocol and Security Services
- Communication, Marketing and Sponsorship
- Junior LandCare
- Projects and Awards

## **7. Venue**

The venue for the Fifth Biennial LandCare Conference will be at Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mahikeng (North West)

## **8. Workshop sessions will be held on:**

- The role of research educational institutions in knowledge and technology transfer to ensure sustainable resource use and conservation
- Instruments to accelerate the programme/projects empowerment
- The role of youth community, government and private sector in accelerating the programme
- Land availability and accessibility

## **9. Proposed Program**

### **Day One (01 October 2012)**

There will be registration for all participants followed by a high-level roundtable discussion on African LandCare Network. The roundtable will focus on progress on getting Africa's state to adopt LandCare model and use it to address our international commitments to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The Minister will official opening of the Fifth Biennial LandCare Conference of DAFF. The Junior LandCarers and other invited cultural groups will entertain the participants. The Theme of the conference will be outline. Participants will be given an opportunity to visit the exhibition area and share information through the conference material aiming at promoting the programme.

### **Day Two (02 October 2012)**

The day will be characterized by presentations and discussions. Presenters will present their topics for discussions that are related to the maim Theme of the

conference. The topics to be discussed includes the importance of Agriculture in South Africa, the state of Environment of North West Province, Policy, Strategy and Impact of LandCare in South Africa, Economy of Agriculture in South Africa and the contribution of research towards achieving the LandCare objectives. After the presentations there will be four commissions (breakaway sessions) that will come up with the resolutions for the conference.

### **Day Three (03 October 2012)**

Participants will visit LandCare project within the North West Province and later attend the Award ceremony.

### **Day Four (04 October 2012)**

There will feedback from the project visits and report from the Junior LandCare Representative. There will be further presentations during commissions followed by report back by Commissions, summary and resolutions of the conference. This will be followed by the closing remarks.

## **10. Other Crucial Activities**

### **10.1 Communication Plan**

The Communication and Marketing and the Directorate: Agricultural Information Services will assist in developing the communication plan. However the plan will be embracing the National coverage through media by means of Television, Radio, Newspapers and other media platforms. Facilitation of the invitations, nationally and internationally will be done by the Logistics portfolio within the Task Team Committee. One of the key inclusions to the plan will be that any communication with reference to the conference must be disseminated through the Communication and Marketing Portfolio within the Task Team Committee.

## **10.2 Sponsorship for Awards**

The LandCare programme is graced with various kinds of trophies to encourage participation and to uplift the morale. The two departments through the Tasked Team Committee will lure for awards sponsorships locally and internationally as from May 2012. The trophies will be made available on the end July 2012. The criteria for the competition will be made ready by the Portfolio: Projects and Awards by end April 2012.

List of awards to be handed:

- Best Community LC Project
- Best Junior LC Project
- LandCare Champion
- Best Conservation Agriculture Project

Sponsors will be allowed to put their promotional material as per the set guidelines, and the guidelines will be forwarded to them.

## **11. Stakeholders List**

The following are a number of stakeholders involved in the programme, making contributions in various ways to ensure that the programme is sustained and valuable to the citizens:

- Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Provincial Departments of Agriculture
- Farmers Unions
- Research organizations: e.g. ARC, CSIR, Universities
- The Department of Science and Technology
- Environmental and development NGOs

- The Department of Water Affairs
- The Department of Environmental Affairs
- International funding donors
- Provincial Departments of Education
- Commercial and industry groups
- Local Government Municipalities
- The Land Bank
- Department of Provincial and Local Government
- Higher Educational Institutions
- Independent Development Trust
- Development Bank of Southern Africa
- Land and Water Users: both rural and urban
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- National Treasury and the Department of Finance

All role players will be furnished with all the logistics of staging the conference and they are at liberty to voluntarily pump in whatever contribution they wish to. They will be also given a chance to portray their promotional assets in the conference as per the given guidelines however a single burner displaying all sponsors and role players is to be printed.

## **12. Monthly progress report**

These reports will help in maintaining the focus, and making sure that tasks are achieved as per the given timeframes. The Portfolio Leaders within the Task Team Committee must report monthly to the Task Committee Secretariat. The Chairperson of the Task Team Committee will then report the progress to the Steering Committee.