

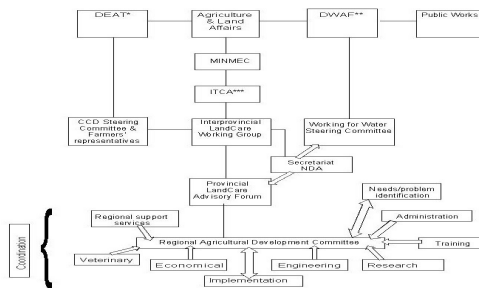
Guide

for

National LandCare Programme

Focused Investment Component

2001/2002



Enquiries
 Director
 Agricultural Land Resource Management
 Private Bag X120

PRETORIA
0001

Tel: (012) 319 7685
Fax (012) 329 5938

Introduction

This Guide describes the activities and types of projects that can be funded by the Focused Investment Component of the National LandCare Programme. It also provides details on the criteria that must be met.

Please read the entire Guide carefully before developing your proposal.

Government Policy

Agriculture plays a key role in the development of South Africa as a nation. The Government believes that a profitable and internationally competitive agricultural sector will continue to play a key part in the country's economic and social wellbeing.

The vision of the National Department of Agriculture is to increase the long-term productivity and ecological sustainability of our land resources, thereby ensuring a future for our land resources within the agricultural sector. To achieve sustainable land use the Government will work towards:

- All land users being able to make well-informed decisions based on an understanding of the full economic, ecological and social costs and benefits of their land-use practices;
- Institutional arrangements which clearly put the responsibility for addressing land degradation with those who cause it;
- **A research, development and demonstration effort that promotes a sustainable, internationally competitive and efficient agricultural sector in the long term;**
- All levels of government, the community and land users understanding the nature and value of our land resources and working in partnership towards their sustainable use; and
- Reconciling economic, social and ecological concerns in the management of South Africa's land to best sustain a full range of uses for the benefit of the nation into the future.

The National LandCare Programme

The vision for the National LandCare Programme (NLP) is to have communities and individuals adopt an ecologically sustainable approach to the management of South Africa's environment and natural resources, while improving their livelihoods. This means people use the soil, water and vegetation resources in such a manner that their own quality of life is improved and that future generations will also be able to use them to meet their needs. This implies that cultivation, livestock grazing and harvesting of natural resources should be managed in such a manner that degradation (such as soil erosion, nutrient loss, loss of components of the vegetation, increased runoff of water etc) is curtailed.

To assist in achieving these objectives, the National Department of Agriculture gives support to natural resource management through the National LandCare Programme. Through this programme community groups, provincial and local governments are encouraged to manage and conserve the land, vegetation, water and biological diversity in their local area in a responsible manner.

Furthermore, the National Department of Agriculture aims to promote its National Policy on Agricultural Land and Resource Management among all levels of government and other stakeholders by implementing this Programme.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the National LandCare Programme (NLP) is to develop and implement integrated approaches to natural resource management in South Africa, which are efficient, sustainable, equitable, and consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The NLP's objectives are to:

- Promote partnerships among the communities, private sector and the 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 the natural resources;
- Encourage skill development for sustainable livelihoods;
- Encourage opportunities for the development of business enterprises which focus on sustainable resource management;
- Enhance the long-term productivity of natural resources.

The Focused Investment Component of the National LandCare Programme

This investment is intended to provide resources that facilitate the achievement of the NLP objectives by focusing on three major themes: Water care, Soil care and Veld management.

The investment concentrating on these three themes will initially be targeted at five Provinces: KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Northern Province, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape.

A Provincial Programme Proposal (PPP) will be encouraged from each of these five provinces, focusing on the specific theme identified for the Province.

Themes

Soil care

The Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga will work within the theme of soil care. “This theme will include addressing issues on soil acidity and the reduction in soil fertility caused by the selective removal of fine particles, nutrients and organic matter. This could also include addressing problems relating to the deterioration of the fragile soil mantle caused by incorrect management and utilisation practices, which result in excessive run-off and the loss of millions of tons of valuable topsoil each year”.

Water care

The Northern Province will work within the theme of Water Care. This theme will include the major problem of soil loss which has damaged the catchments and hydrological systems by accelerating the siltation of dams used for irrigation, reducing infiltration and lowering the watertables.

Veld management

The North West Province will work within the theme of Veld Management. This will include the reduction in ground cover of grazing lands, exposing soil to erosion, and deterioration the species composition relative to the nutritional requirements of the grazing animals. Widespread bush encroachment has reduced the livestock productivity of the veld and this theme should concentrate on addressing these broader degradation issues.

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 to natural resource management;
- Encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Addressing the needs of former disadvantaged groups
- Fostering partnerships among the different sectors of the rural community, including the 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 rehabilitation of the environment;
- Communicating results to other interested individuals and organisations.

The Provincial Programme Proposal must contribute to the national objectives of sustainable resource management (please refer to the National Policy on Agricultural Land and Resource Management, chapter 4 of the national agricultural policy for further information);

These investments are not intended to substitute for the resource management responsibilities, including research activities, of other levels of government or individuals, but they are intended to **catalyse** action and on-going commitment to natural resource management.

Funding is normally provided for a maximum of three years (36 months). This allows funds to be directed to new priorities as these arise.

Funding will not be recommended where proposals unnecessarily duplicate work which is being undertaken elsewhere, or which would be more appropriately funded through other programmes.

The participation of communities (Non-government Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Local Governments, farmer groups), public agencies and interest groups is essential in developing, assessing and implementing this proposal.

Links with other initiatives

The Provincial Programme Proposal should be consistent with the objectives of national strategies. These include the National Agricultural Policy, the Water and Forestry Management Strategy (Catchment Management Agencies, Water Users' Association), Land Reform Programme, and National Environmental Strategy.

Application process

The National Department of Agriculture will notify the five provinces in August of each year requesting the submission of a programme proposal for funding. These proposals may be both new and ongoing.

The Programme Proposal should:

- **provide details on a communication strategy for providing information from the project to other users;**
- **provide details on how the success of the project against the stated objectives and aims will be assessed;**
- **demonstrate the cost effectiveness of the proposed activities;**
- **include provision for the employment of a full-time programme manager;**
- **specify links between the proposed activities;**
- **demonstrate how they will improve agricultural natural resource management;**
- **include a component for increasing awareness, skills development and training that will address the issues of natural resource management;**
- **identify opportunities for the development of business enterprises focusing on sustainable resource management.**

Send a hard copy plus an electronic copy on disk (in Microsoft Word 6 or 97) to:

The LandCare Secretariat
PRIVATE BAG X120
PRETORIA, 0001
TEL (012) 319 7553
FAX (012) 3295938

Deadline

The closing date is 30 September 1999.

No faxed copies will be accepted.

Please keep a copy of your proposal.

Assistance with applications

Before you apply, please contact your local Facilitator, Provincial Co-ordinator or Agricultural Extension Officer for assistance.

Assessment process

A Provincial Endorsement Panel comprising the Provincial Forum members, will assess the programme proposal and provide endorsement to a National Assessment Panel (NAP). The NAP, convened by the National Department of Agriculture, will assess the programme proposals from the Provinces, considering the potential environmental and socio-economic impact of the proposals from a technical and business perspective.

If your Programme Proposal is successful you can expect to receive written advice early in the first month of the financial year (April). The Minister of Agriculture will also publicly announce the successful proposals.

Ineligible activities

Funds will not be provided for the following:

- programmes not appropriately co-ordinated or integrated with other stakeholders;
- programmes which replace an organisation's existing responsibility and activity for the sustainable management of resources under its control, or which are of a purely private nature;
- programmes focusing on production not linked to a more sustainable management of the agricultural, natural resource base;
- insurance, legal costs, travel in foreign countries and general Provincial and local government administration costs;
- activities more appropriately funded by other government agencies or the community;
- research programmes—funding for such activities may be available through Government Departments. Some programmes may, however include an investigative component, which contributes direct to achieving the project outputs. This latter will be funded.
- individual farm activities of private benefit;

- Activities in national parks or equivalent reserves.

Administrative, financial and reporting arrangements

Administrative arrangements

If you are successful, you will be asked to sign a programme management agreement. This agreement sets out the conditions for funding, including your responsibility to keep proper accounting records for the spending of funds from grants, and reporting requirements on the progress and results of your programme.

Acknowledgment of funding

Funding is conditional upon appropriate acknowledgment of support by the National Department of Agriculture. This could include reference to support from grants in reports and publications, in material used or displayed at field days and workshops, and on signs at sites. The National Department of Agriculture expects to be involved in the launch of the programme where appropriate.

Financial arrangements

Funding

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

Ownership of assets

Unless agreed otherwise, the National Department of Agriculture will retain ownership of assets acquired by the proponent with assistance from grants. The National Department of Agriculture may agree to release these assets to the Province if they will be used to advance the objectives of the NLP. This will be determined on an individual basis.

A register of assets will be maintained for the National Department of Agriculture for monitoring purposes.

Reporting, audit and evaluation requirements

Programme performance information is required as part of the annual review of the programme and to meet audit requirements. Your original proposal should have identified milestones against which the progress of the programme can be assessed. Funding for ongoing programmes will not be available until this information is provided. In addition the National Department of Agriculture requires quarterly progress and financial reports.

To ensure programme objectives and accountability requirements are being met satisfactorily, inspection of a programme could be carried out by the National Department of Agriculture at any time.

Information from continuing and final-programme evaluations and assessments are important for reviewing the progress of each programme and for the continuing development of the grants programme.

Continuing programmes

Programme managers will be asked to provide progress reports when applying for continuing funding. Proponents should therefore consider in advance how to measure the impact of the programme against its stated aims and outcomes, benefits to the environment and possible social, economic and educational benefits to the community. It is suggested that between 2 to 4 % of the total budget for the programme be allocated to monitoring and evaluation activities. These could include the writing of reports, physical monitoring such as photographs taken before and after the programme has been implemented, and cost control.

Provincial and/or National Assessment Panels will systematically review programme performance, taking into consideration the progress of the programme compared to planned activities.

Final reports

Programme managers will have to provide a final report when the programme is completed, clearly evaluating the success or otherwise of the programme in meeting its objectives.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME

NAMES		TEL. NO.	FAX NO.	E-MAIL
NATIONAL				
Ms N Nduli		(012) 319 7685	(012) 329 5938	njabulon@nda.agric.za
Mr KP Taylor		(012) 319 7687	(012) 329 5938	keitht@nda.agric.za
Mr DV Dlamini		(012) 319 7684	(012) 329 5938	dand@nda.agric.za
Mr GS Mogoane		(012) 319 7565	(012) 329 5938	godfrymog@nda.agric.za
PROVINCIAL				
Mr ND Nthakheni	Northern Province	(015) 291 3980	(015) 295 7028	
Mr BH Koch	Mpumalanga	(017) 819 2076	(017) 819 2072	
Mr HPJ Scholtz	North West	(053) 917 1809	(053) 917 2436	
Mr SK Amour	KwaZulu-Natal	(033) 355 9339	(033) 355 9330	armours@cedara.kzntl.gov.za
Dr John Allwood	Eastern Cape	(040) 609 3475	(040) 635 0605	
Mr PV de Bruyn	Northern Cape	(04984) 2 1113	(04984) 635 0604	
Mr Brander Strauss	Free State	(051) 448 1224	(051) 448 8799	
Mr JC Venter	Western Cape	(021) 808 5010	(021) 808 5000	
Ms VB Titi	Gauteng	(011) 355 1900	(011) 333 0677	