

## **CapeNature – Stakeholder Engagement Protected Area Management Plan, Limietberg Nature Reserve Complex.**

The Limietberg Nature Reserve Complex (LNRC), proclaimed in 1970, is situated in the Western Cape and falls within the Cape Winelands District Municipality. The LNRC is bordered by two major towns, namely Paarl and Wellington and the immediate surrounding economy is mainly based on the wine industry. Extensive areas surrounding the Reserve are under vineyard and deciduous fruit orchards, grown for export and domestic use.

As a result of its mountainous terrain and high rainfall, the Boland Mountains are an important water catchment area, providing water for the Cape Metropolitan Area as well as Boland towns. The Breede and the Berg Rivers are fed by tributaries with their sources in the Limietberg Mountains and feed the Cape Metropole water demand.

To comply with the National Environment Management : Protected Areas Act No. 57 of 2003 (NEM:PA), CapeNature is required to develop management plans for each of their nature reserves and or reserve clusters. The aim of the management plan is to ensure that the Limietberg Nature Reserve Complex has clearly defined objectives and activities to direct the protection and sustainable use of its natural, scenic and heritage resources over a five year time period. The Management Plan thus provides the medium-term operational framework for the prioritized allocation of resources and capacity in the management, use and development of the reserve. The Management Plan intends to add value and continuity by clearly stating management objectives, scheduling action and providing guidelines on the management approach.

However Section 39(3) of the NEM:PA states that when preparing a management plan for a protected area, the management authority concerned must consult municipalities, other organs of state, local communities and other affected parties which have an interest in the area. CapeNature has used an adaptation of the South African National Parks (SANParks), Stakeholder Participation in Developing Park Management Plans process for stakeholder participation. This requires the registration of any interested or affected party as a stakeholder and requires that attendance registers for workshops and meetings are kept. Additional individuals, wishing to participate in the process, must register as stakeholders and must be accommodated to ensure that the process is inclusive Cedarberg Conservation Services (t/a FOOTPRINT Environmental Services) (FES) was appointed by CapeNature in December 2011 to manage the stakeholder participation process (SPP) for the KBNRC.

Due to the December festive season public participation is not recommended at all by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) : Guidelines on Public Participation (August 2010) and the process was therefore only initiated on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and concluded on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012. This was done to ensure that good practice for public participation was adhered to.