



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION AWARD – GROUP

Gauteng Conservancy Association

The winners of the category of community contribution by a group, has, in the last 5 years provided communities in Gauteng with knowledge and support required to protect and restore their respective environments.

The Gauteng Conservancy Association represents 60 community-driven conservancies of varying sizes. These conservancies encompass rural and urban areas, informal settlements, industrial areas and schools and hospitals too. The GCA provides support in the form of information required for an educated approach to conservation, practical involvement in projects like plant rescue, and interaction with community members from school children to traditional healers and even the South African Police.

Their most notable projects are the Bullfrog Pan Conservancy – their smallest, which is established in an urban area and seeks to conserve the rapidly declining Highveld Bullfrog population, a plant rescue-initiative which sees members remove indigenous plants from areas where they are at risk and replant them in the veld where they will flourish, and they have been speaking with local traditional healers about the danger of over-harvesting muthi plants without replanting and have been encouraging them to start their own muthi gardens.

This kind of initiative on the part of the organisation contributes tremendously to the general awareness and action in conservation of our natural heritage – even in urban areas.



MERIT AWARD

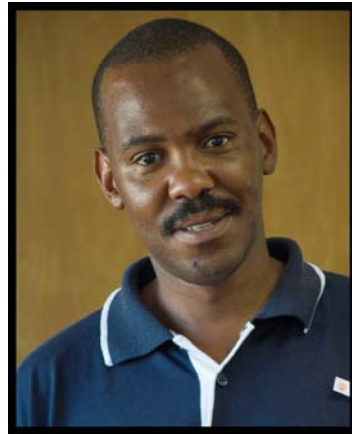
Conservation Leadership Group – Rural Eco-Warriors

A special merit award in this category is awarded to a group who has done tremendous work in rural communities to preserve the natural environments they live in.

The Conservation Leadership Group's Rural Eco-Warriors programme was implemented in recognition of the fact that while rural communities literally live off the earth and are in danger of impacting negatively on the environment, they also have the potential to become custodians of their natural areas.

The Eco-Warriors come from within these communities and are therefore able to understand the local situations and engage the people more effectively in order to find solutions to the environmental issues they face.

These individuals have made significant contributions to the sustainable development of their respective communities across the country. Their projects range from developing vegetable gardens which create income along with protecting the natural environment, educating people about the dangers of river pollution and engaging local authorities about waste management among other things. This is a dedicated group who deserve this special recognition for their contribution to conservation.



Members of the Rural Eco-Warriors