

# The discourse of conservation through a landowner's experience: The Flower Valley alien clearing project case study



<http://www.flowervalley.org.za>



# Introduction

- The Flower Valley Conservation Trust
- Objectives:
- Learning perspectives and experiences of the landowners involved in the alien clearing program.
- Understanding landowners views of conservation
- Understand successes and challenges in the program
- Aim: To understand landowners roles, experiences and conceptualisations of conservation

- My main objective for this project: to understand in depth how landowner's value their landscapes and the different dynamics involved in conservation processes.
- FVCT's objectives for this project included learning perspectives and experiences of the landowners that are involved in their alien clearing program.

# Map of the Overberg area



# Methods

- Relatively unstructured interviews
- Recorded and transcribed
- 2 months field work
- 34 interviews done
- Ethical considerations

# Literature Review

- **Human/nature dichotomy-** Lorimer, Alaimo, Descola&Palsson, Brunckhorst
- **New debates in geography-** Crutzen, Grace, Bender&Winer, Mortimer-Sandilands et al
- **Conversationalists and conservation-** Grabbatin&Rossi, Grabbatin&Rossi, Wesselink et al
- **Governments and conservation-** Lunstrum, Wolmer, Harvey, Byrant&Bailey
- **Landowners and conservation-** Grabbatin&Rossi

# Findings

- The values of conservation:
- Personal and intrinsic values
- Historical values
- Natural values and responsibility
- Business and green promotion
- Living off the land/knowledge
- Politics and conservation

# Challenges of Landowners being involved in conservation

- Time constraints
- Financial limitations
- Preferred not working with governments directly- felt excluded and sense of distrust.
- Differing values between landowners and government in conservation



# Experiences in FV program

- Open and continuous communication
- Trusting relationship
- Inclusion- landowners prefer to be directly involved in conservation occurring on their land
- Financial sustainability issues
- Time constraints

# Conclusions

- Landowners key role players in conservation
- Conservancies play an important role
- Their experiences, perceptions and knowledge can not be over looked
- Different reasons for participating in conservation
- Different actors playing out in conservation

- FVCT has good partnerships with donors, these relationships should also continue to be a priority.
- FVCT has potential to make conservation affordable over time for landowners to continue with maintenance of aliens.
- Most respondents agreed the project should be extended and they would continue to play roles in conservation.
- Most landowners preferred to work with FV rather than the government directly.
- There is a strong case for FV to continue.

Thank you to all those who helped  
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