



# Soil Conservation

By Paul Botha



# Soil conservation history

- No legislation before 1941
- In 1941 – Forest and Veld conservation Act
- 1946 – Soil Conservation Act – land use planning first mentioned
- 1969 – Updating of Soil Conservation Act
- 1983 – Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act.



➔ **Regulation**

➔ **Application**

## **All cultivation of Agricultural land is regulated by:**

- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (No. 43/1983)(CARA)
- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 Of 1998)(NEMA)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014

## **Main objectives of these Acts:**

- Regulate the cultivation of land
- Maintenance of production potential of soil
- Combating and prevention of soil erosion
- Protection of water sources
- Protection of natural vegetation
- Combating of weeds and invader plants

# Cultivation of Land/Protection of Natural Vegetation

- No land may be cultivated without a Record of Decision(NEMA) and a CARA permit
- Any development bigger than 300m<sup>2</sup> need authority
- Any land on which no cultivation has taken place for 10 years.





# Some of the details contained in a LUP

- Non Arable areas
- Conservation terraces – correct spacing and construction

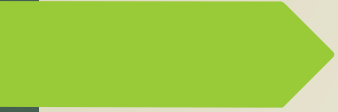


# Some of the details contained in a LUP

- Roads and Extraction system







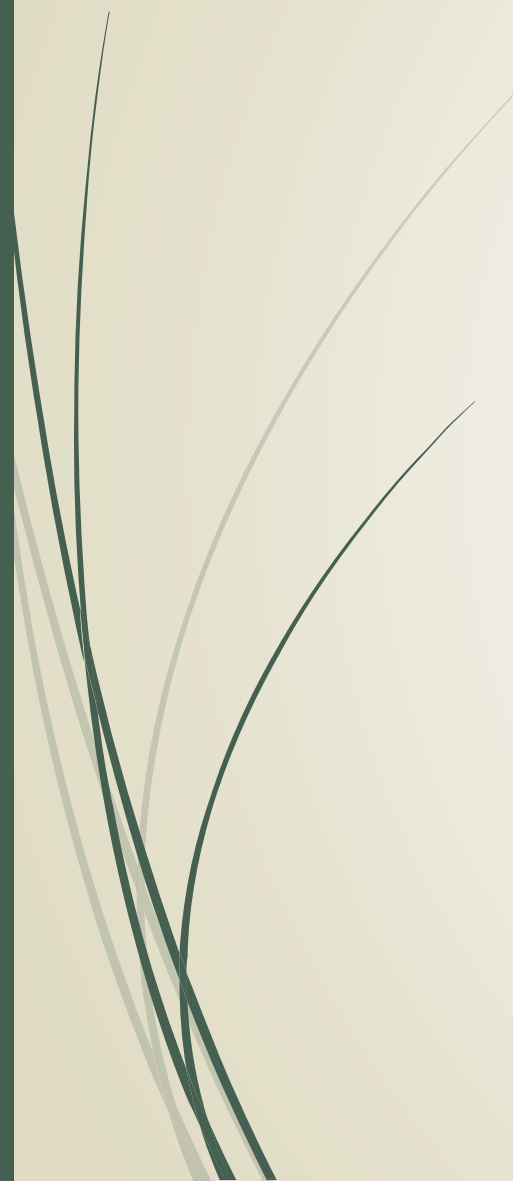
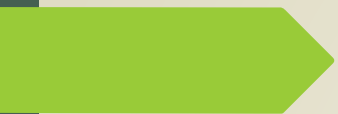


Google earth

# Some of the details contained in a LUP...

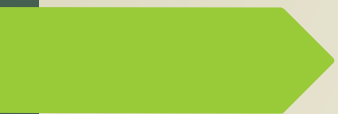
➤ Strip planting











# Wetlands/Waterways/Water courses...

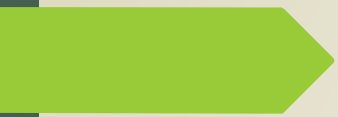
- ▶ Where it is not practical or cost effective to sustain crop production, the wet agricultural land should be allowed to revert back to wetland.
- ▶ The drains may not be widened or deepened. There should be no evidence of erosion.
- ▶ While keeping a good vegetative cover to prevent erosion, the vegetation within the drain must be managed. It is permissible to slash or spray vegetation and remove the debris.

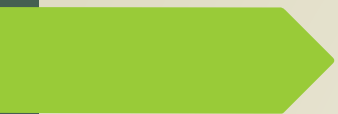


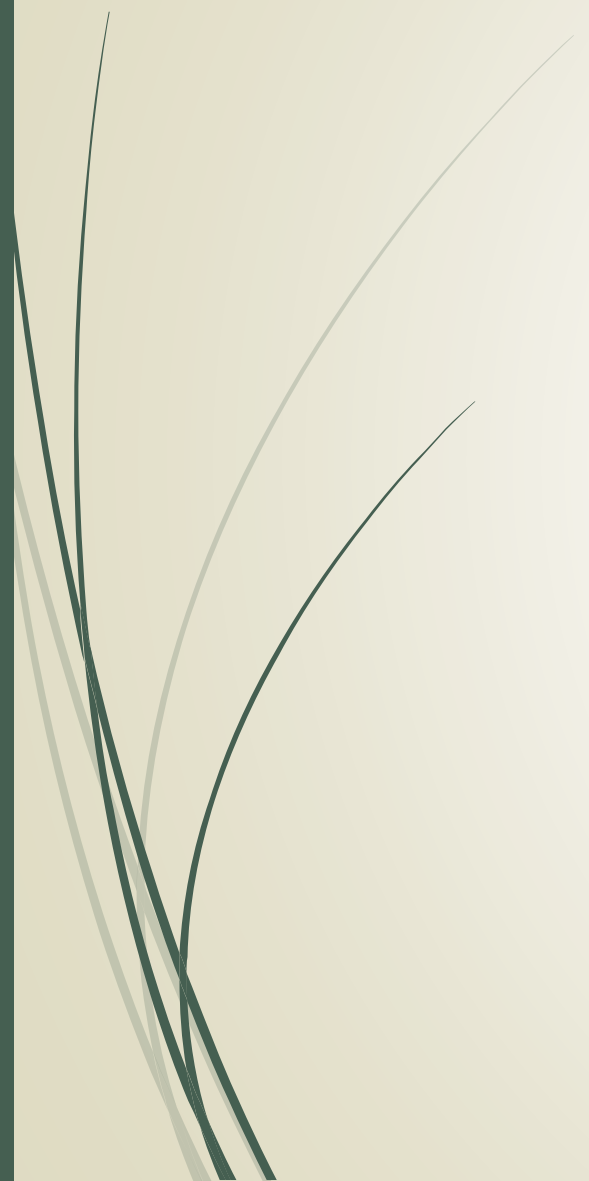
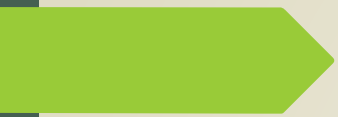
# Wetlands/Waterways/Water courses

- ▶ Where soil has been deposited in existing drains, no mechanical practices are allowed to be used to clean the drains. **The deposit may only be removed by hand tools.**













# Maintenance of production potential of soil. The cultivation of marginal soils









# Thank You



Dave Wilkinson

Neil Miles

Brendan Small

Jane Gurney