



PROCEEDINGS

National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference

27 – 28 September 2017

Salt Rock Hotel, KwaZulu-Natal

“Unlocking Benefits Through Biodiversity Stewardship”



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI 
Biodiversity for Life
South African National Biodiversity Institute

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Executive summary

Background

Biodiversity stewardship is an approach to securing land in biodiversity priority areas through entering into agreements with private and communal landowners. It is led by conservation authorities, with conservation NGOs playing a key supporting role.

The National Development Plan specifically identifies biodiversity stewardship as a way to achieve environmental sustainability and states that *“The Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Biodiversity Institute should implement the Protected Areas Expansion Strategy and promote the biodiversity stewardship programmes to build conservation partnerships around privately-owned land.”*

Biodiversity stewardship directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 15: Life on Land. It also contributes to meeting the Convention on Biological Diversity objectives through Aichi Target 11, which calls for “at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water” to be conserved.

The cost to the state of biodiversity stewardship is a fraction of the cost of acquiring and managing state-owned protected areas. Biodiversity stewardship is particularly effective in multiple-use landscapes where biodiversity priority areas are embedded in a matrix of other land uses.

The first National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference

Biodiversity stewardship began more than 10 years ago. Since biodiversity stewardship programmes are now active in all provinces, and have made some significant achievements, a national dialogue on biodiversity stewardship was called for. The first ever National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference was jointly hosted by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). It aimed to provide a platform for engagement between decision-makers, provincial representatives and the broader community of practice to understand the benefits and challenges with implementing biodiversity stewardship.

Summary of the sessions

Session 1: An overview of biodiversity stewardship

This session gave the background and history of the biodiversity stewardship programme, and the significant achievements that have been made thus far.

- South Africa is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world and this biodiversity is part of our national heritage.
- Biodiversity stewardship began in 2003 and has already contributed 540 000 ha of land towards protected area targets. Two thirds (68%) of the protected area expansion that has been achieved in the last 8 years has been from biodiversity stewardship.
- Biodiversity stewardship is about managing land sustainably and about partnering with landowners as caretakers of the land.
- The Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative has already recognised the potential benefits of linking land reform beneficiaries with biodiversity stewardship to achieve mutual goals of conservation and social upliftment.

- Biodiversity stewardship is cost effective. Biodiversity stewardship sites are 70-400x cheaper to establish (once-off saving) and 4-17x cheaper to manage (ongoing saving) than state-owned protected areas.
- An effective provincial biodiversity stewardship programme requires a budget of R9 million a year, to support a staff of 16.
- Internationally, the pace of private land conservation is increasing rapidly. There are many emerging international initiatives and networks for conservation on private land.

Opportunities and constraints

The conference participants were asked for their input on the biggest opportunities and constraints of biodiversity stewardship. Many of these opportunities and constraints are linked, so by addressing the constraints it will be possible to access the opportunities. Their input was grouped into common themes:

Opportunities	Constraints
Willing partnerships	Lack of capacity and funding
Socio-economic benefits	Need for political commitment
Links to other sectors	Not involving communities
Conservation and land management	Ineffective relationships
Education and awareness	Lack of incentives
Leveraging investment	Poor understanding and awareness
Biodiversity offsets	Land ownership
	Need for post declaration support
	Competing land uses

Session 2: Biodiversity stewardship as a tool for sustainable development

This session highlighted the many ways in which biodiversity stewardship can link with other programmes to promote sustainable development. Biodiversity stewardship sites can be the focus point for many other initiatives.

- The Wildlife Economy is a government priority because it can achieve conservation targets while also providing socio-economic benefits. It has immense potential for economic growth and job creation. The areas that are the focus areas for biodiversity stewardship overlap with many of the potential biodiversity economy nodes, so there is a lot of potential for synergies.
- Some very successful case studies show how biodiversity stewardship can have significant benefits to community landowners.
- The People and Parks programme has developed very successful ways of involving neighbouring communities in park management forums and co-management agreements. Many of these principles are also relevant to biodiversity stewardship sites with communal landowners.
- Facilitated access to NRM resources is a benefit to landowners involved in biodiversity stewardship sites. As the same time, biodiversity stewardship can help to ensure that NRM investments are sustainable.

Session 3: Biodiversity stewardship in action

The purpose of this session was to provide some actual examples of biodiversity stewardship implementation from across the country. It was evident through the many success stories just how well biodiversity stewardship works.

- In both KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape (and other provinces), many of the priority areas for protected area expansion are found on private or communal land. As a result, biodiversity stewardship is an essential mechanism for meeting protected area expansion targets.
- The achievements of biodiversity stewardship have been the result of a huge amount of hard work from passionate champions and a collective effort between partners.
- Donor funding has been instrumental in supporting biodiversity stewardship capacity, but to provide ongoing post declaration support, more stable funding sources are required.
- Biodiversity stewardship can be centred around ecosystem goods and services. By helping communities to manage their land more sustainably, they are preventing land degradation which has positive benefits for food and water security.
- There are many case studies that show how creating linkages with other programmes, such as the wildlife economy, NRM programmes, biosphere programme, biodiversity offsets and corporate environmental management, can achieve multiple objectives simultaneously.

Session 4: Sustainable finance solutions for biodiversity stewardship

This session explored some of the innovative finance solutions that may be available to biodiversity stewardship. It is important to identify sustainable sources of funding for the programmes to protect the achievements already made and take the programmes forward successfully.

- There is a whole toolbox of incentives that can be offered to landowners who get involved in the biodiversity stewardship programme, from support services to financial incentives.
- After amendments were made to the tax laws, the first effective tax incentive for biodiversity stewardship in South Africa was instigated in 2016.
- Donor funders consider biodiversity stewardship a smart investment because it balances investment security with cost effectiveness.
- There are staff and resources spread across a number of programmes that have links to biodiversity stewardship. By repackaging overlapping government programmes, we can use these resources in a complementary way.
- Internationally, much private land conservation is the result of successful public-private partnerships which are able to leverage investment from private philanthropy and government grants.

Actions

Each conference participant was asked to share a resolution that their own organisation could take forward, as well as general resolutions that should be taken forward from the conference. These inputs were summarised into a number of actions that the partners could take that would:

- Strengthen linkages within and between government departments
- Address funding and capacity constraints
- Develop an active community of practice for biodiversity stewardship
- Improve education and awareness about biodiversity stewardship

- Ensure transformation and equity throughout the biodiversity stewardship programmes
- Encourage sustainable land management.

The inputs from the conference participants were directly used to inform the conference resolutions.

Next steps

The National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference adopted a formal set of conference resolutions aimed at strengthening biodiversity stewardship in support of sustainable development. The resolutions acknowledge the contribution that biodiversity stewardship can make to a number of national and international imperatives. They recognise the successes that have already been achieved by the biodiversity stewardship programmes towards multiple targets and objectives, and the linkages that can be strengthened between biodiversity stewardship and a number of other programmes. The 13 resolutions set out actions that all partners can take to address some of the constraints and further build on the opportunities of the biodiversity stewardship programme.

Acronyms

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COGTA	Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DMR	Department of Mineral Resources
DRDLR	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
ECPTA	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
EPIP	Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programme
EPWP	Extended Public Works Programme
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HOD	Head of Department
IBA	Important Bird Area
ILCN	International Land Conservation Network
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LUI	Land User Incentive
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MTPA	Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
SALGA	South African Local Governments Association
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WWF-SA	World Wide Fund for Nature – South Africa

Introduction and background

Introduction

Biodiversity stewardship is an approach to securing land in biodiversity priority areas through entering into agreements with private and communal landowners. It is led by conservation authorities, with conservation NGOs playing a key supporting role¹.

The cost to the state of biodiversity stewardship is a fraction of the cost of acquiring and managing state-owned protected areas. Biodiversity stewardship is particularly effective in multiple-use landscapes where biodiversity priority areas are embedded in a matrix of other land uses.

Links to national and international targets and goals



National Development Plan

Biodiversity stewardship is specifically identified in the National Development Plan (NDP) as a way to achieve environmental sustainability by increasing the amount of land under protection. As a step towards this vision, the NDP recommends that:

“The Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Biodiversity Institute should implement the Protected Areas Expansion Strategy and promote the biodiversity stewardship programmes to build conservation partnerships around privately-owned land”



Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, countries of the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Goal 15 of the SDGs, “Life on Land”, aims to halt biodiversity loss. Targets under Goal 15 call for conservation, restoration and

sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems.

Biodiversity stewardship can contribute to these targets.

The environmental goals of the SDG are foundational to many of the other goals. Societal and economic goals cannot be achieved without first protected the biosphere that is the basis for a functioning planet.



¹ For more information on biodiversity stewardship, visit SANBI’s Biodiversity Advisor webpage: <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/industry-and-conservation/biodiversity-stewardship/>



Aichi Biodiversity Targets

South Africa is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2010 the Convention adopted a “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity” which included the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Target 11 states that *“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.”* Biodiversity stewardship is an effective way to meet these protected area expansion targets, because stewardship can be used to protect biodiversity that is found on private land.

Current GEF-funded biodiversity stewardship projects

Biodiversity stewardship is central to the two biodiversity focussed Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects that are being implemented in South Africa currently, in partnership with provinces and non-governmental organisations (NGOs):

Biodiversity and Land Use Project (SANBI): The overarching objective of this project is to increase the capabilities of authorities and landowners to regulate land use and manage biodiversity in threatened ecosystems at the municipal scale. This project is facilitating biodiversity stewardship within its targeted municipalities and is helping to support provincial capacity for biodiversity stewardship. The project aims to add 62 464 ha of new protected areas, all through biodiversity stewardship.

Protected Area Project (SANParks): The goal of the protected areas project is to effectively conserve biodiversity through cost effective protected area expansion and improved management effectiveness and financial sustainability of the protected area system. It aims to add 197 000ha of new protected areas, of which at least half is through biodiversity stewardship sites.

The first National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference

In support of building capacity for successful implementation of biodiversity stewardship programmes in South Africa, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) host this, the first ever National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference.

The purpose of this conference is to provide a platform for engagement between decision-makers, provincial representatives and the broader community of practice to understand the benefits and challenges with implementing biodiversity stewardship. To identify ways in which to unblock some constraints to at least improve the resource needs to enable the provinces to implement their biodiversity stewardship programmes.

The conference is being enabled through the Biodiversity and Land-Use Project, which is funded by the GEF and UNDP.



Session 1: An overview of biodiversity stewardship

Opening and introduction – *Skumsa Mancotywa, DEA*

We welcome all to the inaugural biodiversity stewardship conference, here in the beautiful province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The conference is held in partnership between DEA and SANBI, with funding through the Biodiversity and Land Use project funded by the Global Environmental Facility.

Biodiversity stewardship has reached a stage where we are ready for a national dialogue. When the business case for biodiversity stewardship was presented at MinMEC, it was shown to be a way of effectively delivering on Outcome 7 and Outcome 10. Biodiversity stewardship also has a very solid argument from a financial perspective, as a way of leveraging private sector investment. This conference will help us to determine a robust way forward for biodiversity stewardship. We will put together a set of resolutions and next steps that will propel biodiversity stewardship forward.

We would like to thank several people for being here today, including the Deputy Director General of DEA, Mr. Shonisani Munzhedzi, Chief Directors from DEA and the HOD of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Nlhakanipho Nkontwana. We would also like to welcome CEOs from several of our prominent NGOs, Mr. Mark Anderson of Birdlife SA and Mr. Morne du Plessis of WWF-SA.



Introductions and sharing: Opportunities and constraints to biodiversity stewardship and protected area expansion –

Carmel Mbizvo, SANBI

We are absolutely delighted to welcome you. We have reached more than 90 participants from across South Africa, including all levels of government, NGOs and champions who have committed themselves to biodiversity stewardship. With all your passion, your energy and commitment we have high hopes of what we can achieve over the next two days. This is the first time we have had a national dialogue on biodiversity stewardship, where we can discuss the successes, challenges and lessons learnt. Biodiversity stewardship is a cost-effective way to meet protected area targets through contract agreements between landowners and conservation authorities. Biodiversity stewardship can contribute to the wildlife economy and land reform, and we will get into this further during the conference. To bring about change and innovation we need champions and there have been many champions that have driven this approach forward over the last decade. We will be hearing from some of these people over the next two days. We would like to grow our community of practice, and we note that no communities or landowners are present, this is maybe something to think about for future conferences.



The objectives of this conference are:

- To deepen our understanding of biodiversity stewardship and how it contributes to meeting our goals
- Address challenges and constraints so that we can optimise the way we work and maximise on the potential of biodiversity stewardship
- Strengthen linkages between biodiversity stewardship and the wildlife economy, land reform and Natural Resource Management (NRM) programmes.
- Investigate sustainable financing mechanisms and illustrate the benefits of biodiversity tax incentives

There are currently two Global Environmental Facility (GEF) projects that are contributing to biodiversity stewardship capacity. The Biodiversity and Land Use Project run by SANBI, has an overarching objective to increase the capabilities of authorities and landowners to regulate land use and manage biodiversity in threatened ecosystems at the municipal scale. This project is facilitating biodiversity stewardship within its targeted municipalities and is helping to support provincial capacity for biodiversity stewardship. The project aims to add 62 464 ha of new protected areas, all through biodiversity stewardship. The Protected Area Project run by SANParks has a goal to effectively conserve biodiversity through cost effective protected area expansion and improved management effectiveness and financial sustainability of the protected area system. It aims to add 197 000ha of new protected areas, of which at least half is through biodiversity stewardship sites.

We hope that this proves to be a productive two days.



Interactive exercise: Constraints and opportunities

Participants were asked to write on two cards the biggest opportunity and biggest constraint that they see as facing biodiversity stewardship. They discussed their answers in small groups. The cards were collected and the inputs have been grouped and ranked, as shown below, with several quotes from participants provided as examples.



Biggest constraint



1. Lack of capacity and funding: Biodiversity stewardship lacks the resources, in terms of funding and provincial staff capacity to meet current and future demands for biodiversity stewardship.

“Biodiversity stewardship programmes in conservation authorities are under-resourced – budgets, staff and expertise”

“State capability to absorb the responsibility and cost of biodiversity stewardship – from contracting through to monitoring and follow up”

2. Need for political commitment: In order to meet the resourcing challenges mentioned above, commitment to the biodiversity stewardship is needed from political decision-makers.

“The support of political leadership in the provinces to effectively enable security for new protected areas.”

“Lack of understanding of the value of biodiversity stewardship and lack of political buy-in to it.”

3. Not involving communities: The benefits of biodiversity stewardship must be made available to communities.

“How these opportunities are made available to rural communities and the lack of resources to educate and assist in biodiversity economy.”

“There is no rapid or serious intervention from government and conservation agencies to respond when the communities avail huge portions of land to nature conservation.”

4. Ineffective relationships: Building trust and maintaining relationship between various stakeholders can be difficult.

“The biggest challenge on biodiversity is when the communities and stakeholders have disagreements and don’t come to a conclusion.”

“Poor working relationships between stakeholders.”

5. Lack of incentives: The incentive structure available to landowners, both private and communal, is limited.

“Lack of land management resources by poor communities who may have interest in participating in the programme.”

“Not enough uptake of biodiversity stewardship programme tax incentives.”

6. Poor understanding and awareness: Lack of understanding about the importance of biodiversity and about the biodiversity stewardship programmes.

“Most of the appropriate land is in the hands of the people without the necessary knowledge and full appreciation of conservation.”

“Lack of, or poor knowledge of what biodiversity is and what the stewardship programme is about, and what regulations are.”

7. Land ownership: The difficulties of land ownership and title deeds hamper biodiversity stewardship.

“Land ownership”

“Releasing title deeds to communities”

“To [return] the land to their landowners and the biodiversity [sector] to commit their willingness to help and play part in that”

8. Need for post declaration support: Effective post declaration support needs to be provided to landowners already in the biodiversity stewardship programme.

“Post declaration support from provincial authorities.”

“Effectiveness of the newly declared areas.”

9. Competing land uses: Competing land use priorities from other sectors supersede biodiversity priorities.

“Politics of land, competition for resources – mining”

“Competing interests between farmers and conservationists in terms of land use.”

Biggest opportunity



1. Willing partnerships: The involvement of a huge range of stakeholders who are willing to be involved in biodiversity stewardship and to make it work.

“Willingness from NGOs, landowners to support the concept of biodiversity stewardship”

“Various partnerships in land management and ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for mankind, livelihoods and upliftment.”

“Opening opportunities and engaging rural communities to participate and have their own initiatives towards biodiversity”

2. Socio-economic benefits: Biodiversity stewardship can enable a host of socio-economic benefits related to job creation and small business development.

“Communities can derive tangible benefits when their areas are developed into protected areas this will help to alleviate poverty and unemployment.”

“There are economic and environmental benefits.”

“Job creation of green jobs for the environmental sector.”

3. Links to other sectors: Biodiversity stewardship sites can be a way to link with initiatives from other sectors and between government departments.

“Strengthening ties between national, provincial and local government, and NGOs, CBOs, FBOs towards a cohesive approach to protect, use, conserve biodiversity.”

“The use of the biodiversity stewardship mechanism to enable effective security of wildlife economy and NRM investments.”

4. Conservation and land management: Biodiversity stewardship is an effective way of meeting protected area targets and also encouraging sustainable land management practices.

“Effective and economic means to achieve provincial, national and international conservation targets.”

“Better environmentally friendly land use management through preserving biodiversity.”

5. Education and awareness: Biodiversity stewardship is a way of making ordinary people aware of the importance of conservation and getting them involved in protecting biodiversity.

“Local communities and NGOs will learn more about conservation and sustainability to start projects which will positively impact on the environment.”

“Eco-education incorporated into rural schools.”

6. Leveraging investment: Biodiversity stewardship is a cost-effective form of protected area expansion because it is able to leverage investment from the private sector.

“Biodiversity stewardship is cost effective in that the landowners become the management authorities of their properties.”

“Biodiversity stewardship to leverage investment by landowners in conservation. Especially important in our constrained fiscal environment.”

7. Biodiversity offsets: Biodiversity stewardship can be a mechanism to achieve biodiversity offsets that are required for residual impacts on biodiversity from development.

“Using offset requirements as a tool to enable more stewardship site proclamation.”

“Developing biodiversity projects as offsets for the voluntary market.”

Biodiversity stewardship in South Africa: The story so far – *Shonisani Munzhedzi, DEA*

The point of this presentation is to take you through the context and journey of biodiversity stewardship.

South Africa is the 3rd most biodiverse country in the world and we host large proportions of the world's plants, reptiles, birds, mammals and coastal marine species. We want to maintain this status, so we must put in place policies that protect it. Biodiversity is important, it is the basis of human health, food and water security. The biodiversity aspects of the sustainable development goals are foundational to all the other goals. You cannot have a thriving economy if your ecosystems are not working. The agriculture, health and many other sectors require biodiversity.



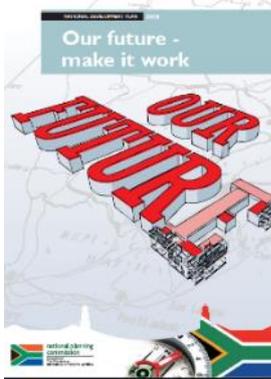
Biodiversity stewardship defined as “an approach to securing land in biodiversity priority areas through entering into agreements with private and communal landowners, led by conservation authorities.” Our discussion earlier showed that biodiversity stewardship is about much more than this. It is about partnerships, and a platform for collaboration around a geographic area. Its also about custodianship – looking after the land to promote sustainability.

The journey of biodiversity stewardship is ongoing, with many achievements along the way. Biodiversity stewardship began in 2003 as a way to work with private landowners. By March 2017, provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes had secured just over 540 000 ha through the creation of 94 protected areas with long-term security. A further 400 000 ha are currently in the process of being declared, although some of these negotiations take many years. Facilitating biodiversity stewardship requires a special commitment and the passion of the facilitators has been fundamental to the achievements made.

There is a hierarchy of biodiversity stewardship types. At the lower levels, anyone can be doing a form of stewardship on their small piece of land if they are managing it sustainably. Nature Reserves and Protected Environments are the highest levels of biodiversity stewardship, and these are formally proclaimed. Many of our important water source areas are part of Protected Environments. The higher levels require more commitments from landowners as some of these agreements can be for 30 years or even ‘in perpetuity’. Support from conservation authorities also increases for higher levels of biodiversity stewardship. 540 000 ha have been declared in the top two levels of biodiversity stewardship.

Biodiversity stewardship is primarily about conserving a representative sample of biodiversity. But there are broader goals of biodiversity stewardship that you should consider in your discussions. Biodiversity stewardship can involve landowners as custodians of biodiversity – instilling a sense of pride in them for the biodiversity that they are the caretakers of. Biodiversity stewardship can also contribute to the rural economy and land reform. In doing so, biodiversity stewardship is a means to achieve sustainable development. Biodiversity stewardship is also a way of investing in ecological infrastructure and contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It can be a mechanism for securing biodiversity offsets.

There are a number of tools and guidelines that can assist you in understanding and implementing biodiversity stewardship. The relevant legislation is the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003). The National Protected Area Expansion Strategy identifies biodiversity stewardship as a mechanism to achieving protected area expansion targets. Biodiversity stewardship is also part of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

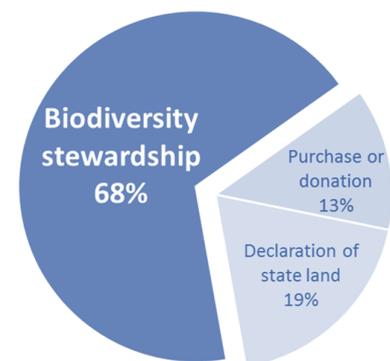


The National Development Plan is very specific on biodiversity stewardship. It states that *“The Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Biodiversity Institute should implement the protected areas expansion strategy and promote the biodiversity stewardship programme to build conservation partnerships around privately-owned land. National Treasury should introduce incentives to protect and rehabilitate ecosystems, such as rebates and tax reductions.”*

The word ‘should’ is very deliberate in these kinds of documents, it means that it must be done.

As much as 68% of the area added to the protected area portfolio between 2008 and 2016 comes from biodiversity stewardship. This is a significant achievement and we need to be proud of this, and enhance this for the future. It is also cost effective because you leverage partners into the process who take up certain responsibilities.

We also acknowledge that there are challenges to biodiversity stewardship, in terms of funding and human capacity. In provinces where there has been investment in improving capacity, we can see the results. In provinces which have received less support there have been fewer achievements. There are also expectations from landowners who are already involved in the programmes. These are fair expectations and they have to be met. We need to show politicians what has been achieved and prove to them why investing in such programmes makes sense.



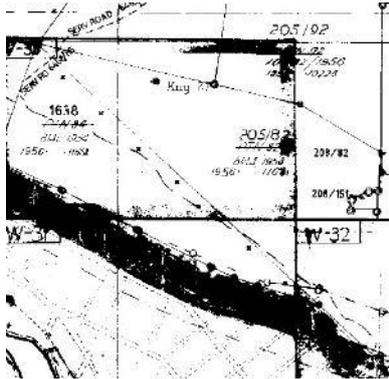
There are also linkages that must be made with other initiatives. The land reform programmes are returning land to their rightful owners. This land may not be conducive for stock farming or other types of agricultural production. In these cases, biodiversity stewardship can be an option to improve socio-economic development through tourism, the wildlife economy, enterprise development and job creation. These projects have the ability to return both conservation and socio-economic benefits. Positive case studies can be seen in Somkhanda and Nambithi. Somkhanda has seen achievements in terms of tourism. If you watch the video you will see it said so powerfully in the words of the communities themselves. At Nambithi, they have now achieved a monthly turnover of R4 million, by creating a whole new value chain of industry related to the wildlife economy.

By the end of this conference, let us take biodiversity stewardship to new heights. Let us address the challenges to biodiversity stewardship. Let us build on the partnerships which have already achieved so much.

Case study: Biodiversity stewardship supporting the rural development and land reform agenda – *Magezi Mhlanga, DRDLR*



This presentation will show how the mandate for land reform can contribute to biodiversity stewardship. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) is compelled by section 11 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and its



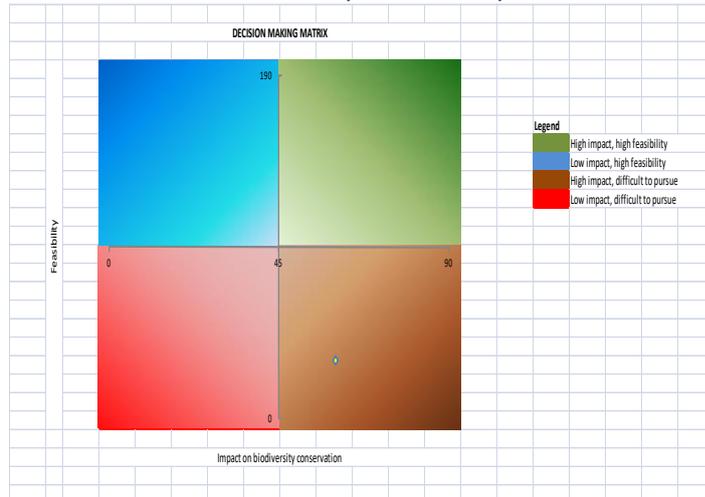
schedules 1 and 2 to look at issues that affect the environment in terms of development activities. Some of the functions of the Department may have adverse effects on the environment and we need to comply and promote sound environmental management. We also have many functions that are relevant to conservation, for example the deeds office handles many of the maps that conservationists require to do their work. Every declaration under the Protected Areas Act requires an endorsement from the Registrar of Deeds, so the Department has a lot to contribute to biodiversity stewardship.

The core legislation of DRDLR is the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013). It requires that Spatial Development Frameworks (SDF) are developed at all levels of government: municipalities, provinces and nationally. The national SDF is currently under development. SDFs are important tools to make sure biodiversity is taken care of, and they feed into land use management schemes and inform land development applications.

The environmental planning services unit has several projects that are relevant. It is developing guidelines for the determination and maintenance of open spaces and parks, which highlights how each new township must take into account the need for open spaces and parks. We are also simultaneously developing the Taung local municipalities Environmental Management Framework and SDF, to show how SDFs should be environmentally credible. Together with SANBI we are developing the minimum environmental requirements for SDFs, which will also possibly be included in the general SDF guidelines and other regulations.

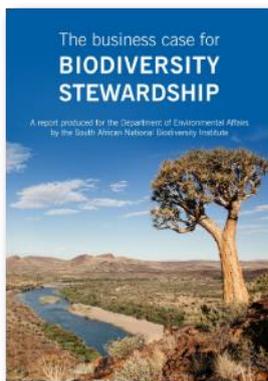
Our minister developed a wheel that describes how the department operates. Its purpose is to translate the essence of the National Development Plan: to balance conservation and the livelihoods of our people. It is centred around agrarian transformation, but this has to be done in a sustainable way. Communal land and tenure are important and landowners are the beneficiaries of land reform programmes. In those areas that are of biodiversity importance, we need to engage community-private-public co-operation to demonstrate win-win situations for the land reform beneficiaries and conservation.

The Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative established a reference group, held several



learning exchanges and developed strategies and guidelines for how to work together. The guidelines have a matrix that helps to determine whether a project is feasible or not. For those projects that fall within the area of high feasibility, everyone should come running with resources to make it a success. Our Department is committed progressive initiatives such as this and are in favour of continuing with this work.

Biodiversity stewardship: Cost effective protected area expansion – Mandy Driver, SANBI



This presentation will highlight some of the key findings and recommendations from the *Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship*². The Business Case was produced several years ago with funding from the GEF to the Grasslands Programme. It was approved by MinMEC in 2015.



Biodiversity stewardship, in plain terms, is conservation authorities entering into contractual agreements with willing landowners whose land is of high biodiversity importance. Because we have few resources, the focus must be on biodiversity priority areas. It is important to note that landowners can be either private or communal landowners, and the landowner retains the title to the land. The landowners are responsible for the management of the land according to an approved management plan. There are different types of biodiversity stewardship. The highest two categories contribute the protected area estate and these were the focus of the Business Case. There are lower tier options, but these have less long-term security.

The National Protected Area Expansion Strategy showed that 830 000 ha of new protected areas were declared between 2008 and 2016. Two thirds of this was from biodiversity stewardship.

The Business Case began with anecdotal evidence that biodiversity stewardship seemed to be more cost effective than traditional means of protected area expansion. The aim of the Business Case was

² A short factsheet on the Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship is available at <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/industry-and-conservation/biodiversity-stewardship/biodiversity-stewardship-resources/>

to get a more definite idea of the cost savings involved. There was lots of collaboration to do this work, led by the biodiversity stewardship technical working group. Based on evidence from actual costs of two of

Biodiversity stewardship contracts are



70-400x cheaper to establish (once-off saving)
4-17x cheaper to manage (annual saving)

than state-owned protected areas

the longest running biodiversity stewardship programmes, the business case showed that biodiversity stewardship contracts are 70-400x cheaper to establish than state owned protected areas. This is a once off cost saving, mostly as a result of not having to purchase land. Biodiversity stewardship also has a 4-17x ongoing saving for the management of a protected area. The reason for this cost saving is that investment is leveraged from landowners.

The Business Case also looked into the numbers of staff required to run an effective biodiversity stewardship programme. Many staff do not work full time on biodiversity stewardship, but in 2014 it was determined that approximately 31.6 full time equivalent staff were involved in the programmes. This includes programme managers, stewardship offices, ecologists, legal specialists and admin staff. This is an extremely small number of people who are working on this. Huge achievements have been made by a handful of people who have been working very hard. The critical point to understand is that the limiting factor for biodiversity stewardship is not the number of willing landowners, it is the capacity of provincial conservation authorities to provide support to landowners in the programmes.

The Business Case made a broad determination of what it would take to run an effective biodiversity stewardship programme in the provinces. The average provincial conservation authority would require a budget of approximately R9million per year, including staff and operational costs. This would support a staff consisting of a programme manager and deputy, an administration assistant, 10 stewardship officers, a legal specialist and two ecologists. The details requirements of each province need to be determined.

There were six main recommendations made by the Business Case:

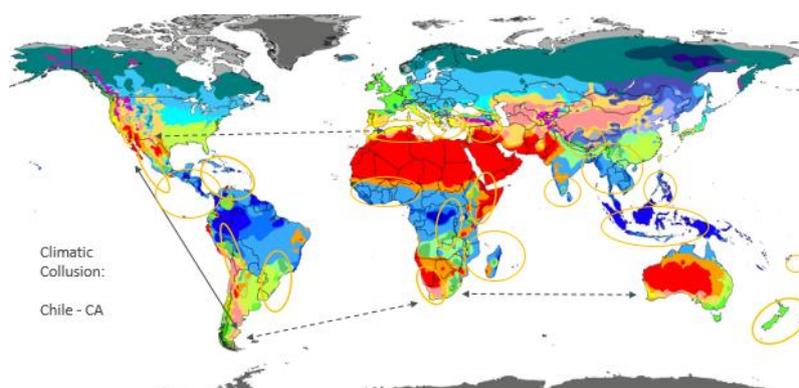
1. Biodiversity stewardship programmes in conservation authorities should be sufficiently and sustainably resourced
2. Partnerships between biodiversity stewardship programmes and NGOs should continue to be strengthened
3. Land reform biodiversity stewardship sites should receive specific support
4. Suitable incentives to support uptake and effective management of biodiversity stewardship sites should be further developed
5. Biodiversity stewardship programmes should have suitable enabling support from DEA and SANBI
6. The community of practice for biodiversity stewardship should be strengthened and expanded

Two GEF-funded programmes, the Biodiversity and Land Use Project (SANBI), and the Protected Areas Project (SANParks) are already addressing several of these recommendations. The Business Case also recommended that the biodiversity stewardship programmes should have enabling support from DEA and SANBI, and that the community of practice should be supported, which is what this conference is about.

An international perspective: how stewardship contributes to securing biodiversity across the world – *Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, International Land Conservation Network*

The International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) was founded in 2014 with the goal of accelerating private land conservation worldwide through knowledge sharing and capacity building. There are a number of reasons that an organisation like ours needs to exist. The main reason is that the only way we will reach the Aichi targets is if private landowners are involved. Government funding for conservation is often limited and ecosystems often span different types of landownership.

One of the key roles of the ILCN is to convene a community of practice. Our organisation facilitates knowledge sharing among private conservation initiatives all over the world. Some sharing happens between countries with similar environments, for example learning exchanges between



countries that have Mediterranean climates. We also connect countries with similar legal systems, as similar types of laws will result in similar conservation and finance mechanisms. The ILCN hosted a global congress in Berlin in 2015 and is currently planning another event in Chile.

There are many different types of private land conservation, from those that are less formal to those that are more durable and long-term. The types of private land conservation depend of the financial, institutional and legal context in which they operate. When we asked organisations why there were involved in stewardship, the main reason was to protect natural areas of wildlife habitat. However, there were a large of other very diverse reasons based on different perspectives, including water quality, cultural resources, recreation and more. There are also many different types of organisation involved, many different variations in landownership and lots of innovative finance mechanisms.

Our Local and Regional Partners



The ILCN works with many different organisations and networks throughout the world. We have identified more than 2000 organisations involved in stewardship, of which we are working directly with approximately 50. For example, we have strong links with the Land Trust Alliance in the United States, which has a long history of sharing

knowledge between land trusts. There are also emerging networks in Europe, Latin America and Australia. It is an exciting time for private land conservation, and the pace is increasing globally. We would be interested in opportunities for mutual exchange of knowledge with South Africa, or even establishing a regional network for Africa.

Session 2: Biodiversity stewardship as a tool for sustainable development

Biodiversity stewardship: unlocking opportunities in the Wildlife Economy – Xola Mkefe, DEA

South Africa is the 3rd most biodiverse country in the world. This biodiversity is our African heritage. In 2015, the Department of Tourism and DEA conducted a Biodiversity Economy Lab, with wide stakeholder involvement, to advance the economic potential of South Africa's natural resources. The outcome was the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy, which divided the opportunities into 3 streams: Marine and coastal tourism, Bioprospecting and the Wildlife Economy.

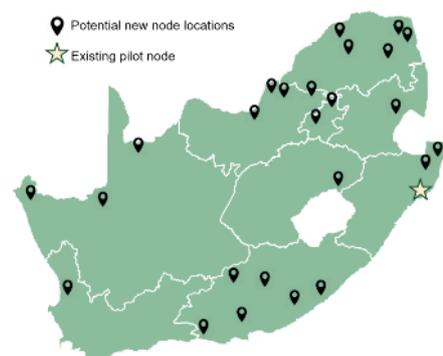


The Wildlife Economy has continued growing despite the poor economic times. It has much potential for growth, but also has to be inclusive. The wildlife sector has three sub-sectors: Wildlife ranching, which is involved with game sales and breeding; wildlife activities, which includes wildlife tourism and hunting; and wildlife products, which encompassing game meat and skins products. The vision and aspirations from the Wildlife Economy Lab were “an inclusive, sustainable and responsive wildlife economy that grows at 10% per annum until at least 2030.” The growth rate is currently 9.1%. The Lab also projected that 100 000 new jobs should be created, which would double employment in the sector. It also envisions that 30% of this economy should be in the hands of the previously disadvantaged sector.

The Wildlife Economy should also contribute to the Aichi targets. Currently, approximately 20 million hectares of the country is under game ranches, mostly in Limpopo, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape. This amounts to almost 17% of the total land area. This land has the potential to contribute to protected area targets, if it is managed sustainably.

The Wildlife Economy can help South Africa address some of its most pressing societal challenges. Game meat sales and donations can help to improve food security for poor households. Job opportunities can be created throughout the value chain to help address unemployment. The sector shows strong economic growth which can contribute to the country's GDP. However, the biggest challenge of the Wildlife Economy is that it remains untransformed and at present perpetuates social inequality.

The Wildlife Economy Lab made a number of recommendations to and initiatives to achieve its aspirations and vision. These included mapping the areas that would be suitable for the Wildlife Economy and identifying nodes at which the initiatives would be implemented. A pilot node was established at Hluhluwe. Other potential nodes have been proposed, and many of these sites overlap with focus areas of the biodiversity stewardship programmes. Other initiatives include the People and Parks vision, to ensure that communities benefit from national parks, and the biodiversity economy catalogue, a catalogue of projects to attract investment.





Some successful case studies for the Wildlife Economy include Mayibuye Game Reserve near Pietermaritzburg, where DEAs investment of R10 million has unlocked much more private investment. The Mndawe Trust land has been declared a Protected Environment and is receiving infrastructure support from DEA and game donations from Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. Somkhanda is a well know case study, with amazing stories of the return of wildlife to the site, including Big 5 game. The project has realised a number of opportunities, including NRM investment and 101 permanent new jobs created.

There are many other biodiversity stewardship sites that could link with the Wildlife Economy to provide concurrent biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development benefits.

Biodiversity stewardship: The benefits to landowners and communities – *Angus Burns, WWF-SA*

WWF is honoured to have had a very close working relationship with SANBI and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for over a decade worth of biodiversity stewardship. The WWFs work in South Africa is focussed on three particularly biodiverse biomes, the Fynbos, Succulent Karoo and Grassland. It also has a strong focus on Water Source Areas, which produce more than 50% of the country's runoff, but cover only 8% of the landscape. The WWFs land programme has been involved in 130 000 ha of biodiversity stewardship sites (excluding the work of partner organisations), which are in varying stages in the process. Here we will focus on some case studies that show the successes of the biodiversity stewardship and the benefits to landowners.



The Enkangala region spans three provinces, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State. The name means “high place without trees” which is a reflection of the high-altitude grasslands that make up the area. The Kwamandlangampisi Protected Environment was a milestone achievement, as it was the first Protected Environment proclaimed in terms of the Protected Areas Act. The declaration was the result of a really meaningful relationship between WWF, SANBI, UNDP and Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency (MTPA), the purpose of which was to test the new legislation. The community landowners were interested in creating a conservancy, but a Protected Environment was suggested as an alternative. It was chosen for biodiversity stewardship for a number of reasons: it was a high biodiversity site, a target for protected area expansion and the

headwaters for a major river system delivering water to 2 million users downstream. Within this single Protected Environment nearly 49% of the target for Mistbelt Forests was met. It created a bridge between two provincial nature reserves, one in Mpumalanga and one in KwaZulu-Natal. In addition to this, the Protective Environment would allow the community landowners to take collective action towards biodiversity compatible land-uses, and potentially access the avitourism market, a high-income generator. There were other direct benefits to the community, perhaps the biggest of which was the assistance in generating a management plan which allowed the community to farm better. They were also provided with support towards weed control, wetland rehabilitation, veld condition assessments, and the enhancement of the rural economy. This project was just an incredible success story that is worth investigating further.



Another case study is the Mgundeni Community biodiversity stewardship site in KwaZulu-Natal. The reasons this site was chosen were that it was a target for protected area expansion and also hosted a number of culturally important sites. This was the first signed biodiversity agreement between land reform beneficiaries and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. Again, the achievement was made through strong partnerships between WWF, SANBI, UNDP and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The initial studies for this site included a baseline socio-economic study, economic feasibility study, grassland condition assessments and the development of a grazing plan. As part of this a lot of training was also conducted with the community. The site qualified for a Nature Reserve declaration, but the community decided on a softer approach at first. Not all biodiversity stewardship sites will be able to host game animals and access the wildlife economy. In this case, cattle farming was the obvious choice in terms of feasibility. A sustainable cattle farming initiative has been implemented, with the formalisation of a community herd and a lot of support towards its management. The community has also been assisted with access to the commercial market.

Looking at the 130 000 ha that WWF is involved in, the cost effectiveness of biodiversity stewardship is obvious. The current going rate for this land is approximately R9000 per hectare, which means that 130 000 ha would cost R1 170 000 000. But these areas were secured for an investment of R20 million by WWF.

These are just two case studies and there are many, including those of other NGO partners. They show how biodiversity stewardship can benefit landowners while also achieving conservation goals. This will become increasingly important as the effects of climate change increase. By creating sustainably managed land and conserving ecosystems we are building climate change resilience, which is important for people.

“To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we have ever known” ~ Carl Sagan

Case study: People and Parks – *Caiphus Khumalo, DEA*

There is a large contingent of People and Parks staff here, because this programme is linked to biodiversity stewardship.

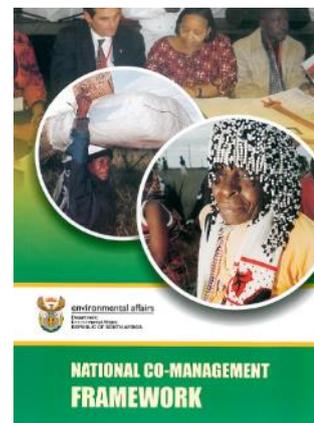
Before we talk about biodiversity stewardship, let's look at the history of how protected areas were established. It is important to learn from the past. Protected areas, internationally and in South Africa, were historically set up to benefit the elite. They often involved the eviction and removal of people who lived there, and the people no longer benefited from them. In South Africa, there was no strategic planning of protected areas. Fences were erected to protect the animals from people, rather than to protect the people from animals. The local people owned no land and did not benefit from parks except as a source of cheap labour. This has led to a lot of anger from communities towards parks. Solutions have been found to include people who were excluded in the past. The South African constitution and Bill of Rights enshrine equality. Through the land restitution process, the land is being returned to communities. South Africa has also established a vibrant People and Parks programme.



The story of this photo is monumental. It is the beginning of the People and Parks Programme at the World Parks Congress in 2003. A submission of memorandum was made calling for the involvement of communities in protected area management. The overall aim of the People and Parks Programme is to address issues at the interface between conservation and communities in particular the realization of tangible benefits by communities who were previously displaced to pave way for protected area establishment.

The People and Parks Programme co-ordination mechanism ensures through local park management forums that communities are actually involved in the management of parks. These forums feed upwards into provincial structures, national structures and all the way to the CEO forums and MinTech and MinMEC. This structure is a success story, because a politician will understand how the People and Parks Programme has been institutionalised. There is also a MoU signed with DRDLR that land in protected areas will not be returned to communities, but they must realise benefits from the parks.

One of the biggest ways to ensure communities benefit from parks is through co-management agreements. We have developed a book, the National Co-management Framework, that outlines 23 core principles of co-management. Co-management is like a marriage, it defines the shared roles and responsibilities of the partners, and ensures that both parties benefit. Co-management also includes two-way learning, and by embracing indigenous knowledge park management can learn from communities. There are three categories of co-management, ranging



from full co-management in which all the risks and benefits are shared, to lease agreements and a hybrid option of these two. The Co-Management Framework contains a table that outlines the package of benefits that is available to communities in each category.

The People and Parks Programme has many success stories. To highlight a few is our involvement in the World Parks Congress and the Conservation Forum. We are also active in the Man in the Biosphere programme. An important focus of the Programme is youth conservation, and biodiversity stewardship should not be doing anything without involving the youth.

NRM, Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) & Land User Incentive (LUI): Opportunities for biodiversity stewardship

A letter of support from Dr. Christo Marais, Chief Director DEA NRM

There are more ways that the Stewardship and Natural Resource Management Programmes (NRM) can support each other.

From a NRM perspective the 1st and arguably the most important point of interest is the security of investment by NRM. NRM invests in restoring degraded land in the form of especially invasive alien plant control, wetland or landscape rehabilitation. The best way of securing the investment is when there is a stewardship agreement in place. It effectively gives NRM peace of mind that the land user involved is committed to the conservation of the natural habitat on his or her land.

The stewardship programme also presents investment opportunities for the land user incentives programme. Private investors in the restoration of ecological infrastructure and the delivery of ecosystem services want to be ensured that if they invest in a restoration project that the land will be maintained in its restored state. The stewardship programme gives that security, even in the shorter-term biodiversity agreements.

NRM aims to act as catalyst for investments in ecological infrastructure in the future. It is estimated that South Africa needs around R12 billion per year in natural resource restoration and maintenance to secure the countries natural resources/landscapes. NRM contributes R2.1 billion of that in the 2017/18 financial year. A combination of the stewardship and land user incentives programmes can serve as a platform to unlock private corporate social responsibility and sustainability, local government, land user and international investments. The private sector in general is not always keen to partner with government in business ventures. This is not typical to South Africa but is the tendency worldwide. The environmental NGO sector can step into the role of implementing entities and therefor “non-owner stewards” of selected ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, environmental risk reduction and carbon. This will give private land users a tool to achieve their conservation goals, the corporate sector a safe entity to look after its interests and government to achieve its conservation goals. In the process, an economic sub-sector can develop that could increase the current +- 23 000 full time job opportunities to around 100 000 and even more. It is a win-win-win for the corporate sector, private land users (the owners of the land under stewardship) and government.

We are half way with that big step towards sustainable natural resource management. Stewardship can make a major contribution to ensure long term sustainability of land restoration and biodiversity, water conservation and adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Presentation by KwaZulu-Natal NRM Programme – Minessh Sookamdev and Sam Mkhwanza, DEA: NRM

The Natural Resource Management Programme is helping to fulfil South Africa’s commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. Completely eradicating poverty is impossible, but the programme is trying to make a different and



alleviate poverty. To achieve sustainable development, conservation is a key goal, to make sure that we can utilise these resources now and also that future generations can utilise them.

We work in areas that are water sources, to ensure that the water related ecosystem services are maintained. In this way, land management interventions have human wellbeing benefits. The previous government actually gave incentives to plough wetlands as they did not realise the importance of wetlands. Now, we are running programmes with communities that explain why wetlands are important for providing ecosystem services. We also encourage communities to become involved in catchment management forums, so that they can have a say in how water resources are managed. Without management of alien plants, there are a whole lot of human wellbeing threats. They can cause fires, or can take over productive land and reduce food security.

The NRM programmes also contribute to the National Development Plan. In particular, they are contributing to the job creation vision of 11 million new jobs by 2030. The programmes are also aligned with the environmental sustainability vision of the National Development Plan, and are helping communities to prevent degradation of the land through sustainable management practices. The Chief Directors vision for the NRM programmes is “to support sustainable livelihoods for local people through integrated landscape management that strives for resilient social-ecological systems and which fosters equity in access to ecosystem services.”

The NRM programmes include a number of different initiatives, including Working for Water, Working for Forests, Working for Ecosystems and Working for Wetlands. Each province has developed and mapped its own priorities for NRM.

There is a currently open bid window for NRM applications. The bidding process uses a scoring system where applications are evaluated against a wide range of criteria. What is relevant for biodiversity stewardship is that project sustainability criteria include biodiversity stewardship. So, biodiversity stewardship sites are acknowledged as providing security for investment in NRM, because the landowners are committed to a management plan. This is trying to make it clear that DEA is not simply looking for services providers, but for partners who will work together to achieve the aims of the programmes.

TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR SECTION A	
A: Technical Evaluation	Weight
Bidders understanding of Natural Resource Management	20%
Capability & experience of the bidders team in Natural Resource Management	20%
Track Record of the entity in Natural Resource Management	20%
Quality of Bid methodology and content (bid preparation & readability)	20%
Sustainability post project implementation (including security of investment e.g. Formal Protected Area - Stewardship (30yr) - Stewardship (3-5yr) - Conservancy & Community Trusts)	20%
Total	100%

Panel Discussion: HODs and CEOs perspective

The panellists were asked to reflect on:

- Your role in relation to biodiversity stewardship
- How biodiversity stewardship has positively impacted your agency / department / organisation
- Key achievements of your agency / department / organisation in relation to biodiversity stewardship
- What are the opportunities you see and the constraints you are dealing with?

Garth Mortimer, CapeNature – Biodiversity stewardship started in the Western Cape, and for many years biodiversity stewardship has been the main way in which protected areas were expanded. Protected areas in the Western Cape have historically been in the mountains, which are important for water. However, there is lots of development pressure in the lowlands and lots of biodiversity is threatened in the lowlands. As much as 80% of this land is under private ownership and biodiversity stewardship enabled us to engage with these landowners. Used together with biodiversity planning, biodiversity stewardship has allowed us to be more proactive about what we are protecting and to set targets to work towards. 180 000 ha have been declared and we are currently maintaining 124 sites. We are reaching our ceiling of what we are able to do. We generally consider 12 sites per stewardship negotiator. We have lost capacity due to budget cuts. For this reason, we are not taking on any new sites until we have finished with current negotiations and fixed the capacity constraints. The legal process is slow. We have a backlog of declarations and there are increasingly more hoops to jump through to reach declarations, such as the Joint Provincial Task Team. Most of our sites were signed up by contract staff, not permanent employees who often have other priorities. We have an upcoming learning workshop on how better to work with communities. Landowners are willing, and we now know how to do this, so if we unlock capacity constraints there is a lot more to be achieved.

Question: What benefits from biodiversity stewardship are going to communities in the Western Cape?

Answer: In the Western Cape, there is no habitat for big game and many of the biodiversity stewardship sites are very small. This limited opportunities to be involved in the wildlife economy. However, there are lots of incentives for landowners, including facilitated access to NRM funding and jobs, as well as skills and enterprise development. Specific benefits are also tailored to the situation, for example providing solar cookers to reduce firewood collection.

Daniel Marneweck, Birdlife South Africa – Birdlife South Africa has its established Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme, which focusses on site and habitat protection. IBAs were assessed 4 years ago and the biggest threats to IBAs were loss of habitat, destruction of habitat and loss of species. This was in 2011 when biodiversity stewardship was becoming significant in the country. Birdlife developed a strategy to assist with biodiversity stewardship in Mpumalanga and the Free State. This was 7 years ago and we have since supported the declaration of 90 000 ha of land in IBAs.



Biodiversity stewardship is a valuable tool for land protection and also allows bird specific management guidelines to be incorporated into protected area management plans. We have invested a lot in biodiversity stewardship because it meets our targets, and it is also able to meet governments targets. It has strengthened our partnerships with government and other partners. Biodiversity stewardship is a way to focus partnerships and improve working relationships. There are numerous opportunities for biodiversity stewardship because there is a big global push towards private sector investment in conservation. Our stewardship programmes can be considered a case study of how innovative finance mechanisms can be used to protect internationally important sites. There is the potential for South Africa to become global leaders in this. The GEF investments are fantastic vehicles to expand biodiversity stewardship and there is a strong technical working group to co-ordinate these efforts. The challenges faced by biodiversity stewardship are the lack and diminishing capacity within provincial departments and the need to maintain post declaration support.

Question: How are your bird guide programmes supporting young people?

Answer: Often as conservationists we do not have the skill set for community development. It is important to learn from those with experience. Birdlife has been training bird guides for 10 years and have more than 100 operating across the country. There are opportunities to link this even better with the wildlife economy, as the avitourism industry is worth as much as R1 billion a year.

Sinegugu Zukulu, Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme – Our partnership works on communal land in the Mzimvubu catchment, from the source to the sea. We have established a partnership to work on land restoration that includes 34 organisations, including NGOs, community organisations and government. The Mzimvubu is the last free flowing river in the country. It is situated in a biodiversity hotspot, the Maputaland Pondoland Albany Hotspot and is a water factory full of National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area wetlands. The area is badly degraded, especially with wattle, which threatens water security. We work with local communities and partner directly with the land users and land owners. This stewardship approach is not geared towards protected areas, but more towards managing land sustainably. This will indirectly support protected areas which were being invaded in search of grazing because grazing land have become degraded. One of the biggest funders is the DEA NRM programmes. We work with indigenous knowledge systems, rotational grazing known as Maboela. The work has observable achievements. There is improved groundcover, reduced erosion and increased water infiltration which keeps watercourses running more steadily. There are also benefits and incentives that the community receives in terms of cattle management. A major benefit is that we have facilitated access to the commercial meat market. A social enterprise company has been established that brings mobile cattle auctions to the communities. Although a challenge with this is the fluctuations in the red meat market.

Question: It was very interesting to hear that they are not going for legal conservation, rather compatible land use. But isn't there a risk that when the champion leaves, things will change?

Answer: We do have some areas, usually up in the mountains, that we are looking at declaring. Protecting this land will also have a benefit of addressing stock theft issues, as there will be rangers patrolling. But we cannot declare the whole landscape, and communities are unlikely to agree to declarations if it limits their grazing rights. Instead, we are working on better land management, with the incentives of getting involved in the red meat market. Livestock auctions currently make

approximately R2 million a year which goes directly to the communities. Communities are eager to become involved in rotational resting to access this market.

Nhlakanipho Nkontwana, Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development – Gauteng is the biggest economy in the country, and even in sub-Saharan Africa. But our involvement in the biodiversity economy is less than other provinces. Since we began the biodiversity stewardship programme we have had many people from the private sector showing interest in participating. We have set targets for 2019 and are focusing on practical steps we can take. We have set up partnerships with Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and WWF to grow our economy in the biodiversity sector and also to provide jobs for the more than 2



million youth who are unemployed in the province. We are working to revitalise our state protected areas such as Suikerbosrand, to make them centres for the biodiversity economy. In an urban province such as Gauteng, the biggest challenge is land competition between conservation and human settlements. It is necessary to strike a balance between these different interests. To do this we have done a land audit which helps municipalities decide where to approve developments. This is centred around corridors of development, for example the West-South corridor around Sedibeng that is focussed on food security. In the West Rand corridor, where mining is diminishing, we are looking at developing a green economy. We will soon sign the first biodiversity stewardship agreements and have identified two areas in the province. Another constraint is that previously disadvantaged individuals do not have title deeds. Our focus on the youth is deliberate, we have targets to train youth and there is potential to link this with biodiversity stewardship programmes and train them as rangers. There remains a need within broader society to improve awareness about biodiversity stewardship, and this awareness should start with us as government.

Question: How do we ensure that land ownership amounts to benefits to people?

Answer: 30% of the land is in trusts. There are processes currently underway to transfer land ownership directly to traditional leadership. They may not want critical biodiversity areas or protected areas on this land, and the government will have limited influence on what happens on this land. There are calls for a land summit to discuss these issues. We need to be involved in this or all the work we are doing here may be voided.

Morne du Plessis, WWF-SA – Whatever measure of biodiversity you use, South Africa is easily within the top 10 most biodiverse countries in the world. This is driving much of the job opportunities in the tourism sector, as tourists are coming here for the natural beauty, cultural beauty and the landscapes. Tourism contributes over 10% to GDP, slightly more than mining and more than 10% of all jobs are in tourism. These stats are some of the downstream benefits of looking after biodiversity. If you then look at the agriculture and fisheries sectors, which are also linked to biodiversity, then more than 30% of our GDP depends on biodiversity. WWF has made a historical contribution to conservation through land purchase, which is accompanied by numerous land issues, so we focus our attention on biodiversity priority areas. For us, biodiversity stewardship was a logical step. We live in a developing country and many of the most biodiverse countries are developing countries. In this context, the language to protect a certain tree is not a language that works. We also have to include the aspirations of people. WWF puts in R12-15 million a year into biodiversity stewardship.

Perhaps you should include the NGO sector in the business case to account for the NGO investment that is needed. To address some of the constraints we should use the sector bodies that work in other sectors, such as agriculture, and engage with them in ways that we have not before. This is a way to increase partnerships and bring in others who can take on some responsibilities of the programmes.

Question: We have the Mining and Biodiversity Guideline. How can we come up with ways to address the conflicts between mining and biodiversity?

Answer: We can make the biodiversity argument strongly, but experience has shown that despite powerful arguments this does not necessarily have an impact. What is needed is to show the economic argument and the arguments related to human health and wellbeing, as these are the facts that people will listen to.

Brian Morris, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency – Biodiversity stewardship is the only mechanism we use to expand protected areas in the province. Our last declaration that was done using traditional declaration mechanisms was 2001. Since then, we have been meeting our targets through biodiversity stewardship. We have two staff members who do all the preparatory work for submission to the



MEC. We focus on areas identified as biodiversity priority areas and are guided by the Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy. Most of our biodiversity stewardship sites are in Grassland, one of the most threatened and under-protected biomes in the country. We have declared 120 000 ha under biodiversity stewardship in the formally declared categories. Excluding the Kruger National Park, this is 20% of our entire protected area estate. We have a 20-year target to add another 800 000 ha. However, we are currently declaring sites at a rate of 15 000 ha per year, so to reach that target would take 60 years rather than 20. Other than capacity constraints, we also have challenges with mining. The Department of Mineral Resources opposes any declaration of Nature Reserves. We also report to the economic MEC, but the environment MEC must sign off on the agreements. Biodiversity stewardship has many opportunities for better land management. It is the catalyst that can focus diverse priorities together.

Question: We have the Mining and Biodiversity Guideline. How can we come up with ways to address the conflicts between mining and biodiversity?

Answer: Biodiversity stewardship in the province took a hit when there was a mining application inside a Protected Environment. The fallout has placed biodiversity stewardship in a negative light. What is needed is a frank discussion between the ministers and MECs. The biodiversity sector has developed proactive biodiversity conservation plans that aim to avoid conflict with other sectors and make our priorities clear. The same is needed from the mining sector so we can know where biodiversity priorities and mining priorities are. There are also opportunities to work with mining companies, for example around biodiversity offsets, but these cannot happen with in highly biodiverse areas.

Session 3: Biodiversity stewardship in action

Interactive exercise: Reflections and matters arising

In this interactive exercise, participants were asked to discuss in groups what had emerged for them from the discussions yesterday. They were also asked to contribute on cards what resolution they felt they could take forward with their own institution, and what general resolutions they thought should come from this conference.



These resolutions from the floor were synthesised into a list of 25 actions that could be implemented to address some of the constraints, capitalise on opportunities and take biodiversity stewardship forward:

Strengthen linkages within and between government departments

1. Facilitate dialogue aimed at conflict resolution between DEA and the Department of Mineral Resources (DMR).
2. Engage with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), particularly around aligning work in Protected Environments.
3. Re-ignite the Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative between DEA, SANBI and DRDLR.
4. Invite other potentially relevant government departments and sector organisations to get involved, for example the Department of Tourism, Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), South African Local Governments Association (SALGA), AgriSA
5. Create more formal links between biodiversity stewardship, the wildlife economy and NRM programmes.
6. Emphasise the role that biodiversity stewardship can play in achieving biodiversity offsets.

Address funding and capacity constraints

7. Present a case to MECs and HODs to increase budget and personnel for provincial conservation agencies.
8. Develop donor funding proposals to address funding constraints.
9. Identify innovative funding mechanisms for biodiversity stewardship.
10. Assist biodiversity stewardship landowners to apply for funding from government departments, e.g. EPIP programme.

Develop an active community of practice for biodiversity stewardship

11. Improve co-ordination between stakeholders by providing networking opportunities.
12. Keep stakeholders updated on projects, happenings and status of biodiversity stewardship.
13. Encourage practical lessons sharing about biodiversity stewardship between conservation agencies and NGOs across provinces.
14. Link to international initiatives and forums for protected areas on private land.

Improve education and awareness about biodiversity stewardship

15. Continue basic education about the value of biodiversity.
16. Spread awareness about the biodiversity stewardship programme, its achievements, structure and benefits.
17. Simplify communication messages about biodiversity stewardship.
18. Showcase South Africa's biodiversity stewardship programme internationally.

Ensures transformation and equity throughout the biodiversity stewardship programmes

19. Consider transformation and equity of the biodiversity sector when filling biodiversity stewardship posts.
20. Involve the youth in biodiversity stewardship.
21. Provide additional biodiversity stewardship support to landowners from previously disadvantaged groups, communities or land reform beneficiaries.

Encourage sustainable land management

22. Highlight the role of biodiversity stewardship (including lower level contractual options) for improving sustainable land management.
23. Undertake monitoring of management effectiveness of biodiversity stewardship sites.

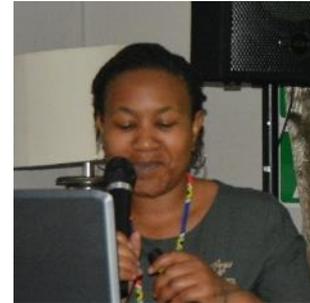
Other actions

24. Commit to providing post proclamation support to sites already in the programme.
25. Map potential biodiversity stewardship sites and consider including these local spatial plans. e.g. EMFs.

Stories from the ground: Showcases from stewardship programmes across South Africa

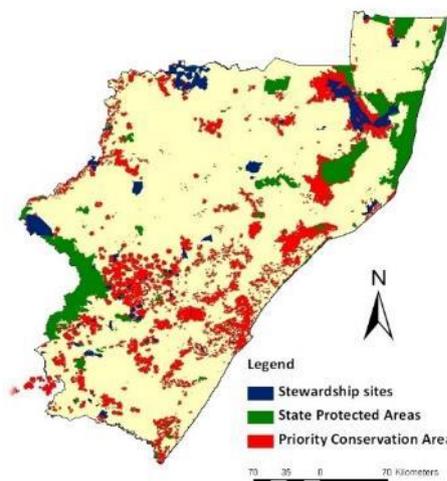
Biodiversity stewardship in KwaZulu-Natal – Nandipha Thobela, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife

We are happy to welcome you all to beautiful KwaZulu-Natal during heritage month. In KZN, the rate of transformation of the land is very high. We are losing natural areas at an exponential rate. This is due to many reasons, but primarily infrastructure development and agricultural expansion. As much as 53% of the Critical Biodiversity Areas in the province are on private or communal land, so biodiversity stewardship is essential to help us protect these areas and achieve our targets.



A total of 102 000 ha has been secured by biodiversity stewardship to date and a further 91 000 ha are in the final stage and 78 000 ha in negotiation. The programmes achievements have been a collective effort from a number of partners. A lot of extremely hard work went into this. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife 'championed' the effort, but it is not run by Ezemvelo and is a collective achievement of all the partners.

There is very varied ownership in KZN, land is owned by private individuals, corporates, municipalities, communities (in the Ingonyama Trust) and land reform beneficiaries. We have had biodiversity stewardship sites on all these types of land ownership. The type of landownership has an effect on how biodiversity stewardship is implemented. In the Midlands, there may be many different landowners with small pockets of land, whereas in Zululand there are larger areas of land with fewer owners.



Biodiversity stewardship sites are strongly focussed on our Critical Biodiversity Areas, because these areas help us meet our targets. Biodiversity stewardship sites are also helping us to meet species targets for threatened species, such as Black Rhino, Oribi, Wattled Crane and Blue Swallow.

We do have a number of challenges. The business case shows that in 2015 there were 14 staff working on biodiversity stewardship, but this has since reduced significantly. When there are budget cuts, biodiversity stewardship is one of the first things that is cut.

Landownership is also a challenge, as there is a lot of land that is owned by trusts or for which the ownership is simply unknown. Getting to the point where we can sign agreements takes a long time. We would also like to offer more incentives to communal landowners.

Some case studies of our successful biodiversity stewardship sites include Umgeni Vlei, Umgano and Nambithi. Umgeni Vlei protects a site that is very important for water production that provides water to Pietermaritzburg and Durban. It is also very biodiverse and hosts some important species. Umgano Nature Reserve is located on community land that is held in trust by the government. There has been lots of good work here with regards to training of the community in integrated land management. The community leadership of Nambithi displayed a lot of courage, as it's not easy when you are a land claimant to sign 70-year agreements. Their courage has paid off, and their land is now a Big 5 reserve that is delivering income, game meat and job opportunities that accrue directly to the community.



We also held a community workshop to share lessons learnt between communities. One of the things to emerge from that workshop was the need to communicate with both traditional leadership and local councillors. There is also a lack of understanding of the many ways you can utilise the land other than by farming.

The Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme stewardship approach – *Sinegugu Zukulu, Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme*

The Umzimvubu Catchment Partnership Programme is a collective of 34 organisations involved in. There is a Memorandum of Understanding signed between these partners who subscribe to a common vision. The area is one of the hotspots in the country in terms of degradation. This degradation is a threat to infrastructure. The Mount Fletcher Dam was completely silted up before the pipes could even be laid to distribute the water. Huge amounts of topsoil are delivered



into the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the work we do in the rangelands is critical for sustainability.



A lot of our work is based on scientific research. We have a lot of scientific studies that guide us where to work. For example, climate change resilience research showed us which areas were a priority in terms of climate change adaptation. The Critical Biodiversity Areas and Protected Area Expansion Strategy also guides our priorities. We have few resources, so it is important to focus our efforts on the most important areas.

These areas also tend to be the areas that are important to people for grazing their cattle. As a result, much of our work is to help communities manage their land in a sustainable way. A lot of the work we do is on clearing wattle, as the upper catchment is very severely infested. We work with the grazing associates to make sure the wattle does not come back after it is cleared. By mapping and designing management plans for rotational grazing and rotation resting, the veld is given a chance to recover from grazing. The communities implementing this sustainable grazing are then given incentives through access to the commercial red meat market. More than R10 million has gone directly to the communities from this initiative.



This whole approach is centred around improving ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity stewardship is the link between a range of initiatives.

Biodiversity stewardship in the Eastern Cape – *Malaika Koali-Labona, ECPTA*

The biodiversity stewardship programme in the Eastern Cape is guided by the provincial Protected Area Expansion Strategy. It began on the western side of the province around the Baviaanskloof World Heritage site, and with the first declaration of the Compassberg Protected Environment. To date 150 000 ha have been declared, all of which is on privately owned land and none on communal land. This achievement has been made possible by a lot of projects, and is currently being supported by the two GEF5-funded projects.



One of the biggest challenges in the province is maintaining the declared sites with only one stewardship manager. All recent appointments are only in contract positions. If we cannot provide post declaration support we risk losing the declared sites and ruining the established relationships that the NGO partners have worked so hard to build. This situation also affects potential new sites. It has become easier to declare sites than to maintain

them. But successful protected area expansion is about effectively managing the protected areas. Lack of long-term financial sustainability is seriously undermining our achievements. We also have had several conflicts with the mining sector, where declarations have stalled due to mining objections.

The opportunities for biodiversity stewardship are the numbers of willing landowners who want to participate. Another opportunity is the potential to link to the NRM programmes of work. Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) has approved an additional 5 posts, which although they are not permanent positions will provide additional capacity. We are working towards new declarations in the North-East Grasslands, the Katberg-Hogsback region, the East London Coast and the Amathole. A number of these sites are supported by donor funding, from the Green Trust, the GEF or through NGOs. A new unit has recently been established to work on communal biodiversity stewardship sites, particularly the N2 biodiversity offset which will be implemented on communal land.

Case studies of biodiversity stewardship implementation – *Kevin McCann, Conservation Outcomes*

There are a number of successful case studies that demonstrate some of the outcomes that emerged from yesterday. These case studies show how biodiversity stewardship can link to the wildlife economy, NRM investment, biodiversity offsets, corporate environmental management and the Man and the Biosphere programme.



Babanago community site shows how biodiversity stewardship can link to the wildlife economy. It is a site with immense potential in northern KZN. It is a land reform site with a very functional and established community trust, in which 7 trustees represent 200 people. The site is located within the pilot biodiversity economy node. We applied the same model that had been successful at Somkhanda – a tourism and game utilisation model that creates jobs. This site was primed for biodiversity stewardship through willing landowners,

high biodiversity, optimal habitat for the Big 5 and lots of potential partners in the area. There have also been benefits to the landowners in terms of NRM investment that developed a sawmill as a small secondary business from timber plantation thinning.

The upper uThukela site shows how biodiversity stewardship can link with NRM investment. It is an area adjacent to the Ukhahlamba World Heritage Site and shares much of the same biodiversity value that the heritage site does. It is owned by two communities under the Ingonyama Trust Board. There has been a huge amount of NRM investment in the area because it is in the upper catchment and is therefore important for water security.

Biodiversity stewardship provides investment security for the NRM investments. The area is used extensively for livestock grazing and there is potential to bring in the Meat Naturally Initiative to provide commercial opportunities.





The Ingula Nature Reserve shows how biodiversity stewardship can link with biodiversity offsets. There is a national imperative around electricity generation and Eskom is constructing the Ingula pumped storage scheme which is a way of generating electricity by pumping water between two reservoirs. Because the project was going to impact on important wetland ecosystems, a

biodiversity offset was required. Eskom purchased an additional 8 000 ha of land which is going to be declared as a protected area.

The Mount Gilboa site shows how biodiversity stewardship can link with corporate environmental management. It consists of the unplanted natural areas owned by forestry company Mondi Limited. The biodiversity stewardship programme has value to the company because it is certified under the Forestry Stewardship Council which requires sustainable forestry practices.



The Greater Umgeni Biosphere shows how biodiversity stewardship can link with the Man in the Biosphere programme. This area is not yet formally registered as a biosphere. The biosphere approach calls for core conservation areas that should have some sort of formal protection. Biodiversity stewardship can be a mechanism to protect these core areas. The core areas in the Umgeni Biosphere will form a corridor along the Umgeni River between Midmar Dam and Albert Falls Dam.



The biggest challenges for biodiversity stewardship is sustainability of funding and the political will to get the declarations signed. However, these case studies show how well biodiversity stewardship can work. If we are

committed to our targets we have to act at large scale and with speed.

Session 4: Sustainable finance solutions for biodiversity stewardship

Tax incentives and biodiversity stewardship: first in South Africa – *Candice Stevens, Birdlife South Africa*

There is a whole toolbox of incentives that we can offer to landowners who become involved in biodiversity stewardship. The incentives that can be offered from this toolbox are dependent on the context of the site. Incentives generally fall into two groups. The first is a range of support services, such as help with management plans or access to NRM programmes. The second type of incentives is related to sustainable finance. When we ask



landowners to become involved in biodiversity stewardship, it is a high-level of commitment on their part. They are agreeing to a management plan that will have associated management costs for them, or that may result in a loss of production income from some sections of their land. In a broad sense, sustainable financing options can be as innovative as your imagination extends, for example a trail run that generates income or a taxidermy business. But there are also structured financing incentives, and my focus is on fiscal benefits, which are tax incentives that are locked into national law.

There is a history of attempts at providing tax benefits to biodiversity stewardship sites. In 2008, conservation tax incentives were included in the Income Tax Act. This was a pioneering concept, but it did not provide any practical benefits as no one was accessing this incentive. Then in 2014, after working closely with treasury, the tax legislation was amended. Section 37D is the relevant piece of the amendment. The amendment will apply to a whole range of landowners, but not land redistribution sites who already receive a full 10-year exemption.

The Fiscal Benefits Project has been testing this new legislation and in 2016 it was included successfully in someone's income tax return. This was a huge celebration, because tax incentives could now provide tangible benefits for landowners. This was the first effective biodiversity tax incentive in the country. It is also globally unique, because no other country has created a positive incentive dedicated specifically to biodiversity protection.

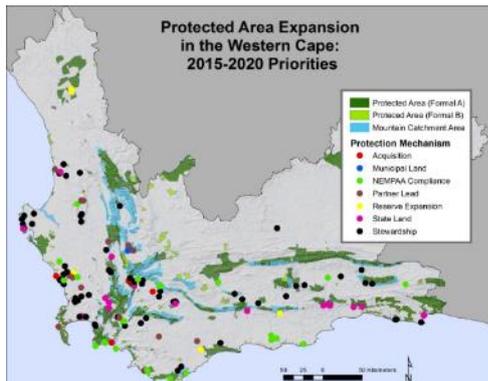
Section 37D works by providing an income tax deduction that reduces the amount of tax you pay. It is based on the tax value of the land that is declared as a Nature Reserve. This is an important benefit because less tax paid means more cash flow. Farms and start-up tourism businesses are often very capital intensive, so increasing cash flow in these businesses can lead to more sustainable business practices as well as supporting long term environmental effectiveness.

This is an example of where we have honed in on a specific challenge to biodiversity stewardship and systematically addressed it. We have taken a tax incentive that was essentially defunct and turned it into a tangible benefit.

Sound investment: Biodiversity stewardship as an applied conservation model – Kerry Maree, Table Mountain Fund



As an investor, the Table Mountain Fund can convince you that putting money into biodiversity stewardship is worth it. The Table Mountain Fund is a capital trust fund which was founded by WWF-SA in 1993. It was later bolstered by a grant from the GEF that required it to expand its planning domain to the whole of the Cape Floristic Region. It is an example of a capital conservation fund that is still going strong. It has funded almost 300 projects with R700 million worth of funds.



One of the objectives of the fund is to implement the Western Cape Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. To do this, the fund can take a number of approaches that have different levels of cost and different levels of investment risk. Traditional land acquisition has high costs, but low risks. Taking chances on new innovative alternatives carries high risk but low cost. Biodiversity stewardship is the middle ground between these two. It carries moderate cost and moderate risk. For this reason, we

have chosen to focus a lot of our funding on biodiversity stewardship. Biodiversity stewardship in the Western Cape has a very strong community of practice. The reference committee is very inclusive and NGO priority sites have fed directly into the province's priority sites.

The Table Mountain Fund has been funding a number of projects within the biodiversity stewardship programme. It has been funding a legal facilitator within CapeNature, because it is difficult for conservation agencies to find funds to offer this bridging support for declaration. It is also difficult for government to give funds directly to landowners for incentives, so we have established the Conservation@Work programme to channel funds for incentives. We are funding a project to support the Eden to Addo Protected Environment. The City of Cape Town through Wilderness Foundation are facilitating Protected Area Expansion through legal support, for which the Wilderness Foundation is working for no fees. Through NCC we are supporting the draft of the National Biodiversity Guideline.

The Table Mountain Fund is also supporting a few of the more innovative projects that support biodiversity stewardship. For example, the Overberg Conservation Trust is testing conservation servitudes, Conservation Outcomes are looking into the regularisation of state land and involvement of organised industry, and Birdlife SA is investigating the role of NGOs. These projects are new, but their outcomes could be ground-breaking.

Biodiversity stewardship is an established programme with a clear strategy and strong reference group. Table Mountain Fund has invested R13 million into land protection in the Cape Floristic Region, which is 13% of our total investments to date. The protected area network has expanded by 328 100 ha (37%). Extrapolating this broadly, 27 Table Mountain Fund rands are able to formally protect 1 ha of the Cape Floristic Region. Biodiversity stewardship has been a smart investment for us.

Making the wildlife sector sustainable – *Willeen Olivier, DEA*

Exponential population growth means that there are more and more people in the world. In South Africa, we have to share our natural resources with more people, but we also have a responsibility to share resources more equitably. To do this we have to make choices that improve sustainability. This is not a new concept in South Africa, the first protected area is really the Ngoya Forest, that was set aside by King Shaka.



There are lots of resources in terms of funds and staff spread across many programmes in the biodiversity sector. These programmes include SANParks, World Heritage Sites, Transfrontier Conservation Areas, People and Parks, Biosphere reserves, Conservancies, Community-based Natural Resource Management, National Adaptation Plan, Climate change corridors, Natural Resource Management, Landcare,

Biodiversity Offsets, Biodiversity Planning and the Wildlife Economy. Biodiversity stewardship is also one of these programmes. We need to consider how we can use all of these pieces and build them into a bigger picture that works together to make the most of the resources.

The Wildlife Economy is an important factor in this. It is a growing economic sector with a lot of opportunities in terms of income generating activities and job creation. But although some ranches can make big contributions to conservation, others are not necessarily located in areas that have priority biodiversity.

One of the outcomes of the Biodiversity Economy Lab was to look at certification of game ranches. A process towards developing such a certification scheme has been started. The benefits of certification are that it limits reputational risk, makes products more marketable and ensures that wildlife ranches are contributing positively to conservation. It is important for stakeholders to get involved in the development of certification.

Biodiversity stewardship can link to the bigger picture amongst all of these other initiatives. By repackaging overlapping government programmes, we can make sure that the resources are used in a complementary way. Biodiversity stewardship incentivise a sustainable, responsible Wildlife Economy, and become a significant role-player in the sector.

International finance mechanisms for stewardship – Jim Lovett, International Land Care Network

There is a growing network of private conservation initiatives across the globe. Private conservation can complement the work done by governments, and one of the most effective ways is through private-public partnerships. There are a number of sectors that can contribute to conservation finance tools. A couple of case studies will show the range of options available.

In the United States, there have been conservation easements for more than 40 years that put certain development restrictions on a piece of land. These initiatives are largely driven by private citizens, and there are some that go beyond. A family purchased 86 000 acres and have been protecting it as a private reserve while looking for ways to give it formal protection. They have worked out how to donate it to the federal government with a large stewardship offering. This is a very committed public-private partnership. There are also land trusts which are largely rooted in the NGO sector. Overall, land trusts have protected 56 million acres. This is quite a large success for small groups of people who have banded together.

In Chile, another family also purchased land with an area of 400 000 ha. This wealthy family was involved in the outdoor clothing industry. They went to the political leadership in Chile and developed an agreement for a reciprocal land donation. They eventually leveraged a 1 million acre area that would support national parks and create a biological corridor and tourism route that extends across the entire southern third of Chile. The scale of this project is significantly expanding the tourism sector and is effectively competing with international destinations to draw in tourists.

In China, there is no private land, it is all owned by the state. However, they are still developing a philanthropic economy and building up partnerships that will look after sanctuaries. These sanctuaries provide habitat for some of China's iconic threatened species like the Panda Bears. They are also contributing to livelihood development.

Question session: Going forward with sustainable financing initiatives for biodiversity stewardship

Question: How is the Table Mountain Fund ensuring that communities benefit?

Answer, Kerry Maree: We have another strategic objective that is entirely devoted to community conservation. This year, our entire budget has gone to this strategic objective because we feel it is so important. There are also community initiatives within many of our protected areas projects, such as vocational training, but for details you will have to ask the projects themselves.

Question: To Table Mountain Fund – how have the stakeholders in the Western Cape organised themselves?

Answer, Kerry Maree: The Cape Action for People and the Environment is a long-term programme that has been operating for many years. Every 4 months it brings together people working in the region who shared what they are currently working on and gives people an opportunity to connect.

Question: What are the differences in terms of landownership between the People and Parks programme and the biodiversity stewardship programme?

Answer, Willeen Olivier: In the People and Parks programme, communities are often the neighbours to parks, who are included in the management of the parks. In the biodiversity stewardship programmes, communities are the landowners who directly make decisions about the land. This gives the communities even more negotiating power about what is done on the land.

Question: Is the wildlife economy certification process voluntary, and who is the contact person to get involved?

Answer, Willeen Olivier: The certification process is still being developed. We will include those at this conference when the public participation happens.

Question: We heard about Section 37D for tax incentives, but are there still opportunities to make Sections 37C relevant for post proclamation support?

Question: How can we make sure more people benefit from the new tax incentive?

Answer, Candice Stephens: The presentation focussed on Section 37D because we have been testing it and it has been successful. Section 37C is the older tax incentive. We are continuing to work on this and it needs to be revitalised. Parts of section require biodiversity management agreements under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, but these are not being implemented because they require a lot of work for a short contractual time. There are limited tax practitioner skills in the biodiversity sector to work on this, although we are developing a potential partnership with a big international tax company to provide pro-bono tax support.

Question: What is the main source of funding for Land Trusts in the United States?

Question: How has the Land Trust movement fostered relationships between government and NGOs?

Answer, Jim Lovett: The Land Trust community was founded over 100 years ago. It had slow growth until the 1980s when tax incentives were introduced, after which the number of trusts expanded significantly. There are now 1300 Land Trusts, and they are very well co-ordinated within the Land Trust Alliance. The main source of funding is philanthropic, supplemented by occasional government grants. The relationships and trust were built slowly over time. There were a lot of meetings and visits to landowners to build up goodwill over time. Another important aspect in strengthening relationships was the high standards of the practitioners who are involved in negotiations.

Response, Kristal Maze: In South Africa, we do have successful examples of philanthropic funds, like the Table Mountain Fund and Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Fund. There are a lot of NGOs in the room, what is the potential for an integrated trust that would focus on biodiversity stewardship? The GEF has played a big role in supporting biodiversity stewardship, but we cannot rely on this in perpetuity.

Conference resolutions

Input from the conference participants was encouraged throughout the conference. Points of consensus, emerging themes and actions to be taken were noted during all of the sessions. This information was synthesised over the course of the conference into a short set of conference resolutions that was presented during the closing session of the conference. Participants were then given a chance to voice any changes that were required, before the resolutions were accepted by acclamation. The intention is for the resolutions to be tabled at Working Group 1 for uptake to MinTech.

1st National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference

Salt Rock, KwaZulu-Natal

27 – 28 September 2017

Resolution

Strengthening biodiversity stewardship in support of sustainable development

The partners in biodiversity stewardship,

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisages a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas - are sustainable. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected;

Also acknowledging that Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 states that “Everyone has the right –to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that –prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development”;

Recalling the National Development Plan 2030 Our Future – make it work that proposes that the Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Biodiversity Institute should implement the protected areas expansion strategy and promote the biodiversity stewardship programme to build conservation partnerships around privately-owned land; that National Treasury should introduce incentives to protect and rehabilitate ecosystems, such as rebates and tax reductions; and that the Department of Environmental Affairs, together with related Departments such as Agriculture and Rural Development, should investigate the socioeconomic implications and policy requirements of a system for requiring commensurate investment in community development and the protection of ecosystem services to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of new developments;

Recalling also the New Growth Path, 2011 that identifies among others the green economy and tourism as key sectors to support employment creation;

Recalling further that the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 and the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy 2016 recognise the significant potential synergies between biodiversity stewardship programmes, land reform and rural development and that biodiversity stewardship is a mechanism for the expansion of the protected area network and the conservation estate;

Recognising the role of biodiversity stewardship in achieving biodiversity conservation related targets, especially meeting protected area targets; involving landowners as custodians of biodiversity; contributing to the economy, including the wildlife economy and sustainable livestock farming; investing in ecological infrastructure; contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and supporting sustainable development;

Also recognising that biodiversity stewardship is substantially more cost effective as a means of securing protected areas than the alternative of land acquisition and management by the state;

Recalling the Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative aimed at promoting synergies between land reform/communal lands and biodiversity stewardship, establishing a learning network and community of practice between the land and conservation sectors, and demonstrating the successful delivery of both socio-economic and conservation benefits through land reform and biodiversity stewardship at the project or site level;

Acknowledging the potential of biodiversity stewardship to unlock opportunities and promote the biodiversity economy;

Also acknowledging the contribution of non-governmental organisations in supporting the implementation of biodiversity stewardship programmes;

Further acknowledging the cross-cutting nature of biodiversity stewardship and the need to involve all relevant organs of state, initiatives and partners in the process;

Noting the challenges relating to financial resources and human capacity to support biodiversity stewardship, including negotiating and concluding biodiversity stewardship agreements, providing post-declaration support for biodiversity stewardship site, and facilitating skills development for landowners;

Acknowledging the need to strengthen benefits to landowners associated with biodiversity stewardship;

Also acknowledging the need to ensure the participation of youth and women in initiatives relating to biodiversity stewardship;

Welcoming the 1st National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference that took place from 27 – 28 September 2017, in Salt Rock, KwaZulu-Natal;

1. *Strongly encourage* all partners in biodiversity stewardship to strengthen biodiversity stewardship programmes to enable them to realise their potential in terms of achieving biodiversity conservation related targets; involving landowners as custodians of biodiversity;

- contributing to the economy; investing in ecological infrastructure; contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation; and supporting sustainable development
2. *Urge* provincial conservation authorities to assess and determine the resource needs for their respective provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes and to secure resources to address these needs;
 3. *Request* the Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African National Biodiversity Institute in collaboration with provincial conservation authorities and other partners, as appropriate, to -
 - a. Bring the findings of the Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship to the attention of relevant decision-makers;
 - b. Support the provincial conservation authorities in assessing and determining the specific resource needs of their biodiversity stewardship programmes;
 - c. Develop funding proposals and other mechanisms to secure sufficient resources for provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes based on their specific needs;
 4. *Further request* the Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African National Biodiversity Institute to -
 - a. Finalise the Biodiversity Stewardship Guideline, which is currently being revised;
 - b. Explore the development of a national biodiversity stewardship action plan;
 - c. Convene the biodiversity stewardship community of practice, including through the Technical Working Group for Biodiversity Stewardship and an annual forum or conference;
 5. *Request* the biodiversity stewardship community of practice to -
 - a. Review the incentives associated with biodiversity stewardship with the aim of enhancing them;
 - b. Review the models and means of support to landowners pre- and post-declaration, and develop various different models of support based on landowners needs;
 - c. Identify the key messages relating to the role and benefits of biodiversity stewardship that should inform communication / advocacy initiatives;
 - d. Identify training needs and requirements to support the effective implementation of biodiversity stewardship;
 - e. Consider the report and recommendations emanating from the 1st National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference and identify future actions to be prioritised;
 - f. Further explore the potential for biodiversity stewardship to contribute to implementing biodiversity offsets;
 - g. Explore whether the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool used for state-owned protected areas has potential to support management effectiveness of protected areas declared through biodiversity stewardship;
 - h. Share and capture knowledge, lessons and best practice related to biodiversity stewardship in South Africa;
 - i. Create links with relevant international biodiversity stewardship-related communities of practice;
 6. *Urge* the Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and the South African National Biodiversity Institute to revive the Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative, including a focus on issues related to land title,

community structures and traditional leadership that have bearing on the success of land reform stewardship;

7. *Further request* the Department of Environmental Affairs, other relevant government departments and organs of state, including provincial conservation authorities and the South African National Biodiversity Institute, to identify and foster linkages between various organs of state and initiatives across all spheres of government to maximise support and incentives to landowners;
8. *Request* the Department of Environmental Affairs to continue to engage with the Department of Mineral Resources to address the alignment of their respective mandates and objectives as they relate to the declaration of biodiversity stewardship sites;
9. *Strengthen* and where appropriate, formalise, partnerships between all partners involved in biodiversity stewardship, including government, non-governmental and private sector partners;
10. *Request* the private sector and non-governmental organisations to expand their investment and partnerships in support of biodiversity stewardship outcomes;
11. *Commit* to ensure the involvement of youth and women in the implementation of initiatives relating to biodiversity stewardship;
12. *Further commit* to enhance linkages between biodiversity stewardship and other government initiatives, including the biodiversity economy and relevant agricultural and food security initiatives;
13. *Encourage* research institutions to undertake collaborative research related to biodiversity stewardship, with a focus on broadening the formal knowledge base on how biodiversity stewardship contributes to social, economic and ecological objectives, as well as other relevant topics.

Appendix 1: Conference evaluation

The evaluation process intended to assess the conference value to participants. The evaluation was designed to assess the facilitation methods, the biodiversity stewardship content and its relevance to the audience, and further identify significant partners to be invited in further gatherings of this nature. This evaluation enabled conference delegates to recommend mechanisms to unblock constraints for implementation of biodiversity stewardship programmes.

1. Facilitation methods in communicating the benefits and challenges with implementation of biodiversity stewardship programme

The facilitation methods were found to be successful in communicating the benefits and challenges with implementation of biodiversity stewardship programme, as well as accommodating even new biodiversity stewardship practitioners. It was also found that facilitation methods promoted an open, informative and honest conversation where partners engaged on issues in small groups and networked beyond the gathering. However, a large group discussion with extra added time had been suggested where open discussion would proceed to hear what other small groups had identified as challenges and opportunities. Collective discussions would have been appreciated to conclude small group discussion with an overview debate to the wider house.

2. Appropriateness and depth of the content of the programme for the audience

Generally, the content of the programme was warmly received, reflected as rich, informative and appropriate enough for the audience. The presentation of practical biodiversity stewardship projects that have been implemented was a highlight, regardless of insufficient time to engage on challenges identified. The depth of the content accommodated even non-biodiversity stewardship practitioners. Nonetheless, the content should have focused more on challenges, bottleneck and capacity constraints experienced in the provinces.

3. Relevant topics/themes of biodiversity stewardship covered

Largely, the topics and themes were well accepted, the response generally regarded the themes as systematic and satisfactorily inclusive. Establishment of resolutions was valued as a significant tool towards the development of the biodiversity stewardship programme. Fairly few topics were suggested to be considered for future engagements. Additional themes that were suggested included: an overview presentation on the different tax incentives to inform the audience what section 37D or 37 C(1) are about; landowners' responsibilities to be discussed in detail; how partnerships could be structured and facilitated; presence of landowners in the conference; communities to provide feedback/accounts of what biodiversity stewardship programme has contributed to their livelihoods and broader incentives; and links to biodiversity stewardship websites for in-depth learning.

Suggested relevant key partners for future invitation

A key emphasis was placed on institutions linked to land ownership, such as traditional authorities, as well as other governmental departments with common conservation mandate. Below is a list of key stakeholders for future engagement and collaboration:

- Municipalities (councillors), provincial houses of traditional leaders and traditional leaders who have access and rights to the land to be conserved.

- Game reserve management, landowners and local communities interested in biodiversity stewardship matters
- Academia
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA), management authorities in their authorities
- National departments:
 - Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF),
 - Mineral Resources (DMR),
 - Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR),
 - Water and Sanitation (DWS)
 - Tourism
 - Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA)
- Heads of Departments (HOD), Director Generals (DG), and Members of Executive Councils (MEC) as biodiversity stewardship champions.
- Private sector, such as mining companies and broader community organisations

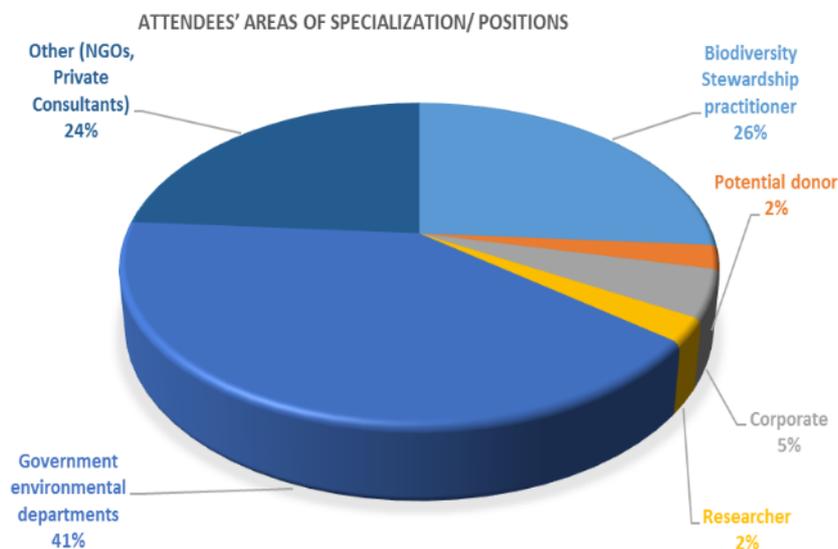
4. Suggested ways to unblock constraints to improve the funding efforts to implement biodiversity stewardship programmes

The conference participants suggested a wider variety of efforts and options to explore in attempt to unblock constraints for biodiversity stewardship programmes implementation.

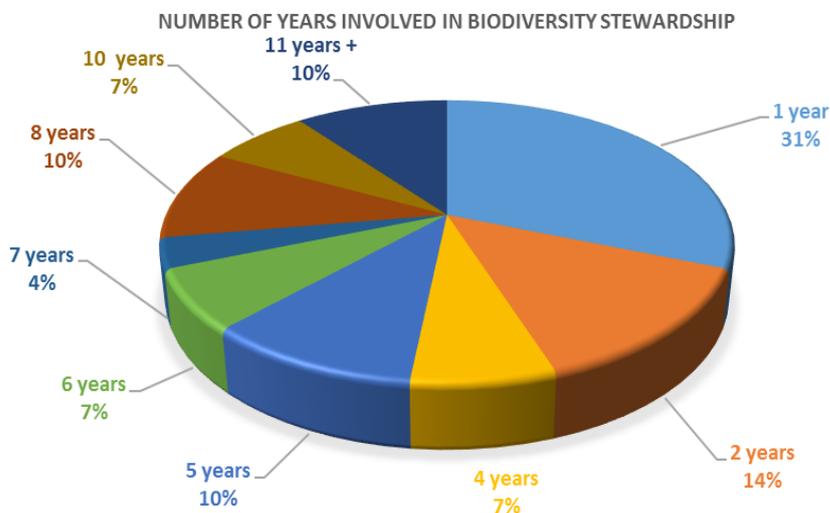
- Look at the voluntary carbon offsets market, the climate community and biodiversity standard (CCBS) under Verified Carbon Standards as a funding mechanism; develop or convert projects into carbon offsets
- Collaborate with tourism industry to access a portion of their funds
- Use education as key to attract funding at all scales (Local, National, International)
- Re-ignite the other stewardship structures such as Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative (LRBSI)
- Profile the biodiversity stewardship programme sufficiently to high level government officials to unlock funding
- Create a grant system solely for biodiversity stewardship programmes
- Better and simplify communication structures among senior managers and political structures
- Open participation to companies, instead of NPOs only, some companies have chosen eco economy and are likely to be partners.
- Have a follow up conference in the near future, considering resources availability – this enabled networking and engaging national leadership. Provide feedback on the outcome of the resolutions escalated to MinMEC and CEO forum meetings.
- Show that biodiversity stewardship programme has the ability to meet various strategic objectives of many organisations and departments
- Get more higher level (MEC, HODs), attending such events to promote understanding and buy-in
- Discussion about possibilities and seeing sustainable funding for NGOs involved in biodiversity stewardship programmes.
- Emphasise the ecosystem services, eco-tourism and resilience value of protected area expansion.
- Reduce the channels of budget acquisition from the national department. Budget earmarks for a certain project should be committed for a longer period, 36 months.

- Assistance to provincial agencies to speed up process and to outsource some of the administration requirements.
- Decentralization of funds (producers) to ensure localization (implementation)
- Better linkages with DMR programme and Biodiversity Economy
- Highlight how stewardship can benefit the youth and women.
- Organise a workshop for politicians, they seem not to be aware of all biodiversity stewardship Programme activities, particularly the MECs of the provinces.
- All government funding should be directed towards priority areas that would address a priority, such as Biodiversity, Climate Change, PAE, Livelihood, etc.
- Promote representation of senior executives, mostly political leaders from provincial and national departments.

5. Attendees’ areas of specialization/positions



6. Number of years involved in biodiversity stewardship



Appendix 2: Attendance and contact details

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