



**2013 Biodiversity Planning Forum
Golden Gate Highlands National Park, 7 – 10 May 2013**

Programme overview: Tuesday 7 May 2013	
Time	Venue: Golden Gate Hotel
11:00 – 13:00	REGISTRATION
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH
Time	Venue: Free State Room
Welcome and opening: new opportunities in national policy and planning and a ten year biodiversity planning retrospective	
14:00 – 14:20	Welcome and opening address, Dr Tanya Abrahamse (CEO, SANBI)
14:20 – 14:30	Introduction and Forum objectives, Kristal Maze (SANBI)
14:30 – 15:00	Keynote address: Streamlining environmental planning in Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs), Dee Fischer (DEA)
15:00 – 15:30	Ecological infrastructure: an opportunity for influencing national planning and policy, Kristal Maze (SANBI)
15:30 – 16:00	TEA
16:00 – 16:20	Who's using our maps and products? Selwyn Willoughby (SANBI)
16:20 – 16:40	The evolution of biodiversity planning in South Africa, Fahiema Daniels (SANBI)
16:40 – 17:00	Ten years of the National Biodiversity Planning Forum, Tammy Smith (SANBI)
17:00 – 18:30	Networking opportunity
18:30 for 19:00	Welcome dinner hosted by the Free State Province Official welcome and address: Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Free State Province

Programme overview: Wednesday 8 May 2013

Time	Venue: Free State Room	
08:30 – 10:30	Plenary: Ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services: concepts and maps	
10:30 – 11:00	TEA	
11:00 – 12:30	Plenary: Ecological infrastructure and ecosystems services: mapping, prioritisation and decision support	
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH	
Time	Venue: Free State Room	
13:30 – 15:30	Plenary: Mining and biodiversity: panel discussion	
15:30 – 16:00	TEA	
Time	Venue: Free State Room	Venue: Eland/Blesbok Rooms
16:00 – 17:30	Mining and biodiversity guidelines 101: training session	Forestry and biodiversity: tools for conservation gains
Time	Venue: Brandwag Lounge	
17:30 – 19:00	Cocktail event and launch of the Classification System for Wetlands and Other Aquatic Ecosystems in South Africa Networking, interactive poster and exhibition display Please bring posters, brochures and other printed material you would like to display. As this is the 10 th National Biodiversity Planning Forum you are encouraged to bring maps and products developed over the last ten years to showcase the evolution of biodiversity planning in South Africa.	
19:00	DINNER	

Session descriptions and presentations: Wednesday 8 May 2013

Plenary session: Ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services: concepts and maps

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Carmel Mbizvo

Description

Last year's Forum saw a substantial focus and much lively discussion on ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services. Over the past year, our thinking as a sector has developed further in this important area of work. This session will provide an opportunity to present, discuss and clarify concepts, and to explore some of their applications.

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| 08:30 – 10:30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services concepts, Mandy Driver (SANBI) 2. Mapping ecological infrastructure for the greater uMngeni Catchment, Stephen Holness (NMMU), Andrew Skowno (Wilderness Foundation) and Brent Corcoran (WWF-SA) 3. Mapping water ecosystem services: from provisioning to regulating, Janis Smith, Ilse Kotzee, Jeanne Nel, Patrick O'Farrell and Belinda Reyers (CSIR) 4. The economic contribution of ecosystem services in KwaZulu-Natal, Joe Phadima (EKZMW), Steve McKean (EKZMW), Debbie Jewitt (EKZMW), Miles Mander (Eco-Futures) and Jean Harris (EKZMW) 5. Principles for investing in ecological infrastructure, Tracey Cumming (SANBI) |
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10:30 – 11:00	TEA
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Plenary session: Ecological infrastructure and ecosystem services: mapping, prioritization and decision support

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Anthea Stephens

Description

Following from the previous session, this session responds to the urgent need of DEA's Environmental Programmes (such as Working for Water) for a decision-support system to guide aspects of their work. The focus will be on the need to develop a map of ecosystem assets that can be used, along with a range of other criteria, to support decision-making about where best to invest effort and resources. This session will involve group work and some hard thinking!

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| 11:00 – 12:30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thoughts on prioritising natural resource management investments on private land, Mark Botha (Conservation Strategy, Tactics and Insight), John Dini (SANBI) and Andrew Wannenburg (NRM, DEA) 2. Setting restoration priorities for the Cape Floristic Region, using Cape Town as an example, Patricia Holmes (City of Cape Town) and Anthony Rebelo (SANBI) |
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12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
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Session descriptions and presentations: Wednesday 8 May 2013 continued

Plenary session: Mining and biodiversity: panel discussion

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Kristal Maze

Description

What is the best way for the biodiversity sector to influence mining? What works? And what doesn't? A panel discussion on different approaches to getting the biodiversity message heard, understood and used in this key production sector. Panelists will debate the pros and cons of proactive spatial and land use planning, reactive EIA and regulatory approaches, utilizing market mechanisms, offsets, training, mainstreaming into industry practice, and advocacy. What works? And what doesn't? The panel discussion is focussed on mining, but lessons and conclusions will be relevant for all production sectors.

13:30 – 15:30	<p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingrid Watson (Centre for Sustainability in Mining and Industry, University of the Witwatersrand) • Harriet Davies-Mostert (Head of Conservation Science, Endangered Wildlife Trust) • Mark Botha (Biodiversity Strategy, Grasslands Programme, SANBI) • Stephen Holness (Mining and Biodiversity Coordinator, Grasslands Programme, SANBI) • Mervyn Lötter (Acting Manager: Biodiversity Planning, Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency) • Patti Wickens (Chairperson of the South African Mining and Biodiversity Forum)
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15:30 – 16:00	TEA
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Afternoon parallel sessions (16:00 – 17:30)

Parallel session 1: Mining and biodiversity guidelines 101: training session

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Patti Wickens

Description

After extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, the Mining and Biodiversity Guidelines: Mainstreaming biodiversity into the mining sector is to be launched by the Ministers of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Mineral Resources on Biodiversity Day, 22 May 2013. What do the guidelines mean for you as a biodiversity planner, biodiversity specialist, environmental consultant, conservation agency or NGO staff member? This session presents a rapid introduction to the guidelines, the spatial data, how they should and shouldn't be used, and how to link to them in your planning and assessments.

16:00 – 17:30	Mining and biodiversity guidelines, Stephen Holness (Grasslands Programme, SANBI)
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Session descriptions and presentations: Wednesday 8 May 2013 continued

Afternoon parallel sessions (16:00 – 17:30)

Parallel session 2: Forestry and biodiversity: tools for conservation gains

Venue: Eland/Blesbok Rooms

Facilitator: Brent Corcoran

Description

Most of South Africa's plantation forestry and State Forests occur in the biodiversity rich but threatened areas of the grassland biome and the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot. Two presenters will showcase a broader strategy for biodiversity conservation in the forestry sector, with respect to both plantation forestry areas and indigenous forests. The session will lead into a discussion about the biodiversity planning tools developed and being used for conservation gains.

16:00 – 17:30

1. Planning for the protection of grasslands on State Forest land in Mpumalanga, **Izak van der Merwe** and Marius Brundyn (DAFF)
2. Integrated conservation planning in a timber plantation landscape in South Africa, **Steven Germishuizen** (Grasslands Programme, SANBI) and Richard Lechmere-Oertel (Biodiversity Planning and Management)

Cocktail event, launch of publication and poster and exhibition display

Venue: Brandwag Lounge

Facilitators: John Dini and Namhla Mbona

Description

Cocktail event and launch of the Classification System for Wetlands and Other Aquatic Ecosystems in South Africa
Following the launch of this publication there will be a networking, interactive poster and exhibition display showcasing the evolution of biodiversity planning in South Africa.

17:30 – 19:00

Launch of the Classification System for Wetlands and Other Aquatic Ecosystems in South Africa

19:00

DINNER

Programme overview: Thursday 9 May 2013

Time	Venue: Free State Room	
08:30 – 10:30	Plenary: National biodiversity planning initiatives and processes: foundations and applications	
10:30 – 11:00	TEA	
11:00 – 13:00	Plenary: Provincial biodiversity planning: latest developments	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
Time	Venue: Free State Room	Venue: Eland/Blesbok Rooms
14:00 – 15:30	Implementing biodiversity plans: case studies, lessons and challenges	Provincial biodiversity planning: technical work session
15:30 – 16:00	TEA	
16:00 – 17:30	Ecosystem classification and tools for implementation	Provincial biodiversity planning: technical work session continued
17:30 – 19:00	Networking opportunity	
19:00	DINNER	

Session descriptions and presentations: Thursday 9 May 2013

Plenary session: National biodiversity planning initiatives and processes: foundations and applications

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Kamva Qwede

Description

This session includes a series of presentations highlighting new and updated national initiatives and processes, many of which provide the foundations for further scientific work and biodiversity planning applications.

08:30 – 10:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introducing the National Ecosystem Classification System, Mandy Driver (SANBI) 2. National biodiversity monitoring: what progress have we made?, Heather Terrapon (SANBI) 3. Fruit salad for everyone: municipal summaries, Tsamaelo Malebu and Fahiema Daniels (SANBI) 4. Towards a map of South Africa's private protected areas, Alta De Vos and Graeme Cumming (University of Cape Town) 5. Planning for improved threatened species conservation, Lize Von Staden (SANBI) 6. Ecosystem-based spatial conservation planning: a novel approach to sandy beach conservation and management, Linda Harris (NMMU), Ronel Nel (NMMU) and David Schoeman (University of the Sunshine Coast and NMMU)
10:30 – 11:00	TEA

Plenary session: Provincial biodiversity planning: latest developments

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Mellisa Naiker

Description

This session starts with two guideline presentations, one on the bioregional planning technical guidelines being developed following a work session in November 2012, and a second on submitting spatial data to BGIS. The rest of the session provides an opportunity for provinces to present new and updated information related to their biodiversity planning processes. This will be an exciting session as a number of new, revised and upcoming biodiversity plans and products will be presented. This session will be followed by a biodiversity planning technical work session where more technical detail on biodiversity plans will be presented and discussed.

11:00 – 13:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bioregional planning technical guidelines: key outcomes, Mandy Driver (SANBI) 2. Guidelines for submitting spatial data to the BGIS website (http://bgis.sanbi.org), Sediqa Khatieb (SANBI) 3. Report back on progress of the Free State Provincial Biodiversity Assessment, Nacelle Collins (FS DETEA) 4. Feedback from the North West for the year 2012, Ray Schaller, Adriaan Van Straaten and Tharina Boshoff (NW DEDECT) 5. Update on the Limpopo Conservation Plan, Philip Desmet (ECOSOL GIS) 6. The Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan 2013, Mervyn Lötter (MTPA) 7. An initial attempt of edge-matching and integrating provincial biodiversity plans: first steps towards a national biodiversity plan, Boyd Escott (EKZNW), Mervyn Lötter (MTPA) and Nacelle Collins (FS DETEA)
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH

Session descriptions and presentations: Thursday 9 May 2013 continued

Afternoon parallel sessions (14:00 – 15:30)

Parallel session 1: Implementing biodiversity plans: case studies, lessons and challenges

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Joe Phadima

Description

This session focuses on the implementation of biodiversity plans and tools and will highlight some of the opportunities created and challenges experienced. The aim of the session is to discuss issues raised and generate user feedback for biodiversity planners and fellow implementers to consider as they develop strategies to further implement biodiversity plans.

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| 14:00 – 15:30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biodiversity and ecosystem service priority area mapping: assisting municipalities to identify and conserve important untransformed land areas, Leo Quayle, Catherine Pringle and David Cox (Institute of Natural Resources) 2. Challenges and opportunities to implementing Cape Town's biodiversity sector plan, Julia Wood, Patricia Holmes and Cliff Dorse (City of Cape Town) 3. An evaluation of the consequences of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) on KwaZulu-Natal's biodiversity targets, Dinesree Thambu (EKZNW) 4. Formal adoption of the CBA maps for the Western Cape: is it necessary?, Alana Duffell-Canham, Rhett Smart and Kerry Maree (CapeNature) 5. Landscape characterization: a means of incorporating 'sense-of-place' into traditional spatial planning tools, Boyd Escott (EKZNW) and Julian Kiepiel (KZN DCOGTA) |
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15:30 – 16:00	TEA
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Parallel session 2: Provincial biodiversity planning: technical work session

Venue: Eland/Blesbok Rooms

Session organisers: Philip Desmet and Mervyn Lötter

Description

Following on from the previous session providing feedback on the latest developments in provincial biodiversity planning initiatives, this session will provide an opportunity for a more detailed technical discussion on biodiversity planning including corridor development, edge-matching across provincial boundaries etc. Examples will be used from two provinces, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, who are currently developing and revising their plans.

14:00 – 15:30	Detailed presentations and discussion on technical biodiversity planning issues
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15:30 – 16:00	TEA
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Session descriptions and presentations: Thursday 9 May 2013 continued	
Afternoon parallel sessions (16:00 – 17:30)	
Parallel session 1: Ecosystem classification and tools for implementation	
Venue: Free State Room	
Facilitator: Mahlodi Tau	
Description Ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater or estuarine) are classified in different ways and for different reasons/intents. Their classification is more and more linked to how they should be managed and/or used. This session includes four presentations that will stimulate discussion around ecosystem classification to guide land use planning and decision making, and to mainstream biodiversity into other sectors, in particular water.	
16:00 – 17:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classifying and describing ecosystems: science-implementation issues encountered in the grasslands ecosystem guidelines, Jeffery Manuel (SANBI) 2. Ecosystem guidelines as a vehicle for biodiversity mainstreaming: from the fynbos to the grasslands, Charl de Villiers (Charl de Villiers Environmental Consulting) and Mandy Cadman 3. A method for determining appropriate buffer zones for wetlands, rivers, and estuaries, Ian Bredin (Institute of Natural Resources), Douglas Macfarlane (Eco-Pulse Consulting), Chris Dickens (Institute of Natural Resources), Janine Adams (NMMU) and Guy Bate (Diatom and Environmental Management) 4. Water resource classification as a mechanism for incorporating Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAs) into water resource management, John Dini (SANBI) and Jeanne Nel (CSIR)
17:30 – 19:00	Networking opportunity / Informal discussion session
19:00	DINNER
Parallel session 2: Provincial biodiversity planning: technical work session continued	
Venue: Free State Room	
Session organisers: Philip Desmet and Mervyn Lötter	
Description This is a continuation of the work session from before tea and provides an opportunity for a more detailed technical discussion on biodiversity planning including corridor development, edge-matching across provincial boundaries etc. Examples will be used from two provinces, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, who are currently developing and revising their plans.	
16:00 – 17:30	Detailed presentations and discussion on technical biodiversity planning issues
17:30 – 19:00	Networking opportunity / Informal discussion session
19:00	DINNER

Programme overview: Friday 10 May 2013

Time	Venue: Free State Room	Venue: Eland/Blesbok Rooms
08:30 – 10:30	Developing metrics for biodiversity offsets (or why biodiversity plans are fundamental to getting offsets right)	Open presentation session: submitted abstracts
10:30 – 11:00	TEA	
Time	Venue: Free State Room	
11:00 – 12:15	Plenary: Future of biodiversity planning and the next ten years	
12:15 – 12:30	Close of Forum followed by lunch	

Session descriptions and presentations: Friday 10 May 2013

Morning parallel sessions (08:30 – 10:30)

Parallel session 1: Developing metrics for biodiversity offsets (or why biodiversity plans are fundamental to getting offsets right)

Venue: Free State Room

Facilitator: Jeffrey Manuel

Description

SANBI, at the request of DEA, are in the process of developing a National Policy Framework for Biodiversity Offsets. The framework aims to regularise the interpretation and implementation of biodiversity offsets throughout the country. A key part of the framework will be to guide the metrics that are used to determine the required size and location of offset receiving areas. In this session, we will present an overview of offsets approaches used overseas, contrasted with the biodiversity planning-based approach that is being proposed for South Africa. This will be expanded through a few practical examples, leading into a discussion on the proposal. The outcome of this discussion will be taken forward in the development of the National Policy Framework.

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| 08:30 – 10:30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An overview of biodiversity metric calculators: No Nett Loss vs Formulaic Ratios, Jeffrey Manuel (SANBI) 2. Proposals for refining the South African approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A detailed, field-based assessment: the wetlands methodology, Stephen Holness (Grasslands Programme, SANBI) - A robust, desktop driven assessment: lessons from mining, Mark Botha (Conservation Strategy, Tactics and Insight) 3. Discussion |
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10:30 – 11:00	TEA
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Parallel session 2: Open presentation session: submitted abstracts

Venue: Eland/Blesbok Rooms

Facilitator: Zuziwe Jonas

Description

This session includes a range of presentations that were submitted covering topics such as climate change including Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and response measures to reduce the vulnerability of South African biomes, and technical presentations on remote sensing, land cover and the national vegetation database and map.

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| 08:30 – 10:30 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecosystems-based Adaptation to climate change, Ntando Mkhize (DEA) and Vhalinavho Khavhagali (DEA) 2. Response measures to reduce the vulnerability of South African biomes, Vhalinavho Khavhagali (DEA) and Guy Midgley (SANBI) 3. The use of remote sensing data in combination with ground- and expert truthed data to develop a provincial scale River Disturbance Index and associated Present Ecological State score alignment, Boyd Escott (EKZNW) 4. A context for environmental surveys, Les Powrie and Anthony Rebelo (SANBI) |
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10:30 – 11:00	TEA
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Session descriptions and presentations: Friday 10 May 2013 continued	
Plenary session: Future of biodiversity planning and the next ten years	
Venue: Free State Room	
Facilitators: Kristal Maze and Kamva Qwede	
Description 2013 sees the 10 th National Biodiversity Planning Forum being held. The Forum has grown extensively over the years and the topics presented and discussed have been many and varied. The developments in biodiversity planning approaches and methodologies have resulted in ground-breaking work in this field. This session will consider how the community of practice has grown and developed over the last ten years and discuss the future of biodiversity planning in South Africa and what we can expect in the next ten years.	
11:00 – 12:15	Discussion: future of biodiversity planning and the next ten years
Close of Forum	
12:15 – 12:30	Evaluation, thanks and close of Forum
12:30	LUNCH

The 2013 National Biodiversity Planning Forum is co-hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA), Free State Province

