“Conserving our Future”

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPLEMENTING CAPE TOWN’S BIODIVERSITY SECTOR PLAN

Biodiversity Planning Forum (9 May 2013)
Julia Wood, Pat Holmes, Cliff Dorse, Biodiversity Management Branch, ERMD, City of Cape Town
Doom & Gloom
Challenges

- EIA’s
- Ill-equipped specialists
- Rapid population growth
- Emergency housing
- Politics
- Inappropriate uses in Bionet
- Reactive Development
- Mapping – urban edge/set back lines
EIA’s

Diep River Fynbos Corridor

**Symphony Way-Delft Main Road Extension**: The 2005 Record of Decision (ROD) sets 20 ha aside and stipulates that this conservation area must be adequately managed as a nature reserve.
BUSASA: Temporary Re-location Site
A total of **8 threatened** and many other geophytic species found: *Babiana stricta* (**NT**), *Lachenalia contaminata* (**NT**), *Lachenalia corymbosa* (**VU**), *Lampranthus debilis* (**EN**), *Eriospermum spirale* (**VU**), *Spiloxene alba* (**VU**) and *Spiloxene minuta* (**EN**), as well as *Trachyandra* sp nov.
Consultant (August 2012):
“Vegetation within the subject property has been transformed to such an extent that it no longer offers a significant contribution to the conservation importance of the critically endangered ecosystem.”
“No RDL species identified …… doubtful that suitable habitat exists on property.”

CREW volunteers (May 2012):
Ericoid & restioid component still present under aliens; recorded Thamnochortus punctatus (declining), Calopsis impolita (VU), Serruria fasciflora (NT), Aspalathus retroflexa bicolor (CR), Rafnia angulata cf humilis (CR).
Challenges

- Lack of understanding of ecosystem services (ecological infrastructure)
- Sustainable Development
- MOSS
- Budget
- Economically sustainable
- Security
* Biodiversity Sector Plan
* Aligned to National Vegetation Targets
* Continually updated
* SDF’s / SDP’s
* Bioregional Plan
* Council approved target: 60% of Bionet by June 2014.
Owing to the recent severe pressure for development land in the Metro South-east (SE), the Metro SE Strandveld study was initiated to assess in more detail the natural vegetation remnants in this area in terms of biodiversity priority, management practicalities and development needs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category:</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>% of Bionet</th>
<th>% of Cape Town (2487km²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Bionet 2009</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>34.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014 IMEP Target</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conserved in 2009</td>
<td>30,277</td>
<td>35.62</td>
<td>12.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently conserved: Total (2013)</td>
<td>44,305</td>
<td>52.12</td>
<td>17.81</td>
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<td>Increase from 2009</td>
<td>14,028</td>
<td>27.51</td>
<td>5.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remaining required to meet 2014 target</td>
<td>6,695</td>
<td>22.11</td>
<td>2.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>In negotiations/process</td>
<td>13,112</td>
<td>29.59</td>
<td>5.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57,417</td>
<td>67.55</td>
<td>23.09</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
City of Cape Town Nature Reserves:

1. Blouberg Nature Reserve
2. Bothasig Nature Reserve
3. Botterblom Nature Reserve
4. Bracken Nature Reserve (incl. Perdekop)
5. Durbanville Nature Reserve
6. Edith Stephens Nature Reserve
7. False Bay Nature Reserve
8. Helderberg Nature Reserve
9. Harmony Flats
10. Steenbras Nature Reserve
11. Table Bay Nature Reserve (Rietvlei, Diep River, Milnerton Race Course, Zoarvlei)
12. Tygerberg Nature Reserve
13. Uitkamp Wetland Nature Reserve
14. Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve
15. Wolfgat Nature Reserve
16. Zandvlei Nature Reserve

Proclaim and consolidate existing reserves: -
3,000 ha to 15,000 ha

2nd External METTS completed
Growing the conservation estate:

• Acquiring the land in to public ownership
  - Securing City land (Contract / Biodiversity Agreements)
  - Purchase
  - Land Swap
  - Offsets / mitigation
  - Securing priority State owned land

• Conservation Stewardship
  - Private Land
Primary objectives of the DCCP:

- Conservation of critical ecological infrastructure
- Unlocking socio-economic opportunities
- Ensure the protection of a climate change adaptation and mitigation corridor
- Protect and promote the incredible natural and cultural heritage

Key Project (EFR):
The EESP Directorate is investigating the proactive acquisition of biodiversity land in the DCCP in order to facilitate development in the Atlantis industrial area.
So what else have we done to conserve biodiversity in Cape Town?
Communicating the message
Alignment to City’s political targets

Opportunity City (job creation; tourism)

Safe City (management of reserves, water ways, invasive species, and Baboon Programme)

Caring City (providing access to nature for education and recreation)

Inclusive City (involving residents in nature and building sustainable communities)

Well-run City (management of reserves, water ways general environment)
Creating Places for hope and healing (Dr Alice Ashwell)
Improving livelihoods & alleviating poverty through job creation

People from designated groups empowered through skills development

FBNR Skills Development Project; Groen Sebenza; DEA EPWP; Tourism EPWP; Mayor’s Project; SANBI; Working for Water; City Tender.
Creating jobs and changing the face of the City

Green Jobs – 49,305 person days (FTE’s= 214) were created from July to December 2012
So what can the Biodiversity Planning Forum do for me?
Continue to assist and support us in the Bioregional Plan
Can we not do something about EIA’s?
Biodiversity offsets - Please Please Please
Green Energy and Biodiversity
*Can you explain to me who is responsible for implementation?*
Mainstreaming Cape Town’s Biodiversity
Conserving our future

Thank you