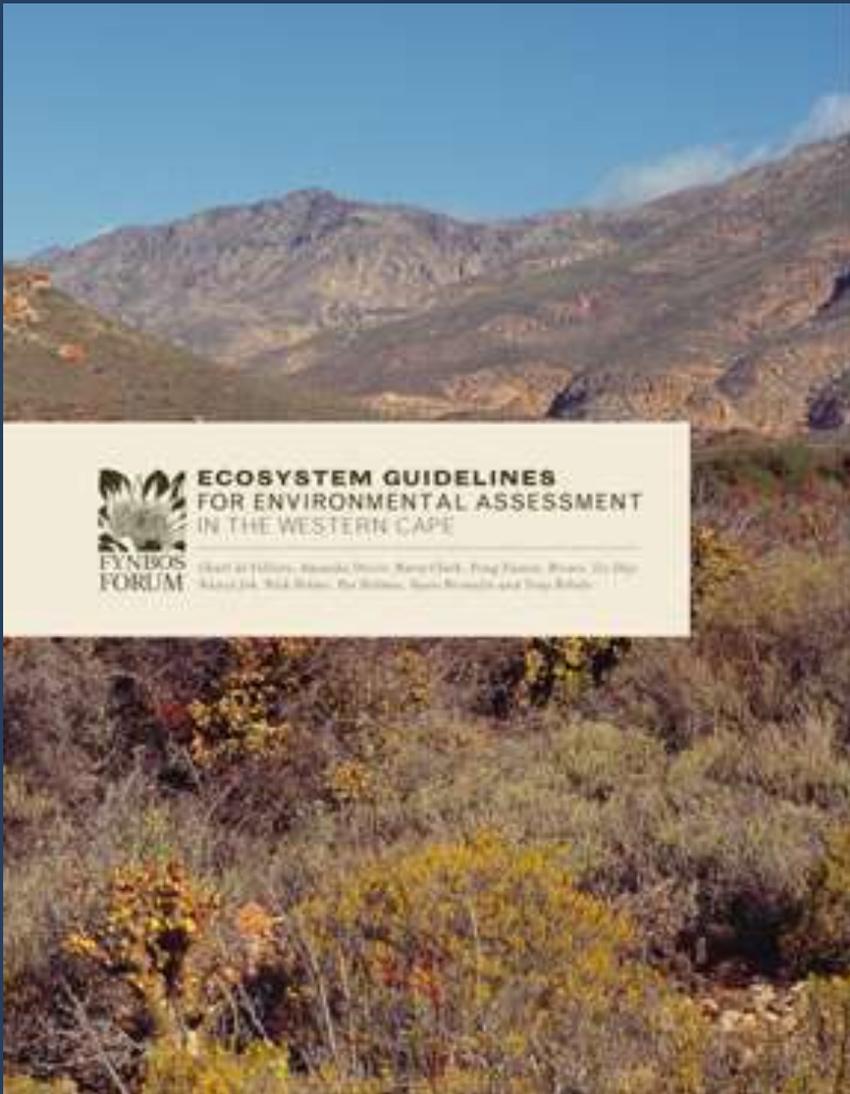


2013 BIODIVERSITY PLANNING FORUM
GOLDEN GATE HIGHLANDS NATIONAL PARK, 7 – 10 MAY 2013

Mainstreaming Ecosystem Guidelines: Fynbos Lessons for the Grasslands

Charl de Villiers
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The Fynbos Forum Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape (2005)



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The problem, the antidote

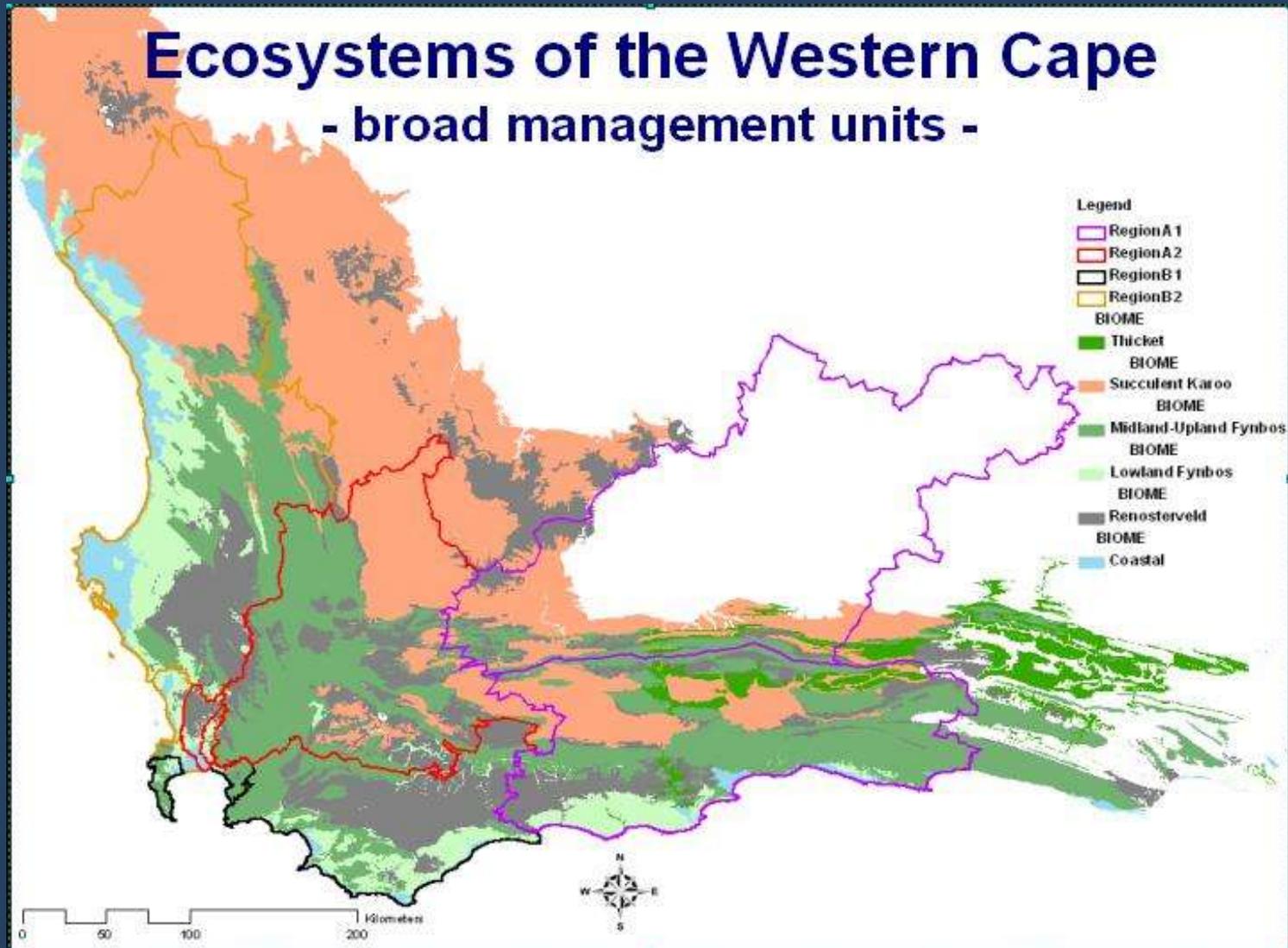
THE PROBLEM

- Biodiversity is not adequately considered in environmental assessment

THE ANTIDOTE

- Locate projects in an ecosystem context
- Promote positive planning
- Make biodiversity visible & intelligible in a familiar way to non-specialists
- Be mindful of implementation

'Ecosystems': Distinct geographical landscapes with similar ecological management requirements



Each ecosystem interpreted against the same set of questions plus basic ToR for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental assessment (amended 2013)

INTERPRETATION

1. Key ecosystem drivers.
2. Issues, threats, vulnerabilities
3. 'Bottom lines' to conserve biodiversity & ecological functioning
4. Most appropriate siting, layouts to minimise biodiversity loss
5. Best management practice
6. Indicators
7. Restoration potential
8. Off-sets

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Habitat condition & ecological viability of site
2. Strategic biodiversity significance
 - CBAs etc
 - FEPAs
3. Biodiversity pattern: Ecosystems > SSC
4. Biodiversity process
5. Contribution to targets & priority areas
6. Stewardship potential
7. Mapping
8. Impact avoidance & mitigation
9. Limitations & assumptions
10. Socio-economic aspects of biodiversity

Positive planning: Pre-application biodiversity screening

1. Preparing for the site visit
2. Doing the site visit & positive planning
3. If project will not have a significant effect on biodiversity
4. If significant impacts on biodiversity cannot be avoided
5. Identifying opportunities to conserve biodiversity
6. Writing biodiversity considerations into recommendations.

Situating ecosystem guidelines within professional & regulatory practice

Professional practice

- Reference to FFEG in provincial guideline on involving biodiversity specialists in EIA
- FFEG ToR prescribed by CapeNature
- Biodiversity roadshows
- Teaching



Regulatory practice

- Training presented for officials



BIODIVERSITY ROADSHOWS

DEA&DP/SANBI

IAIAsa

SAPI

BGIS & BIODIVERSITY ADVISER

Objectives of training

- **Integrated product**
 - Biodiversity plans
 - Ecosystem guidelines
 - Institutional/professional focus
- **Links conservation planning to the legal and policy framework**
 - EIAs
 - Spatial/strategic planning
 - Water, agriculture & mining-related regulation
- **Demonstrates practical techniques for achieving this integration in professional practice**
 - Municipal officials
 - Agricultural engineers & extension personnel
 - Eskom
 - Department of Water Affairs
 - Department of Mineral Resources

Typical programme

- Provincial biodiversity priorities
- Pre-application biodiversity screening
- Authority perspectives
 - Biodiversity conservation agency
 - Provincial environmental authority
- SANBI BGIS website
- Case study & roleplay



‘Over-Hex Eco- Panorama Wine and Wellness Estate’

***Biodiversity screening
exercise***

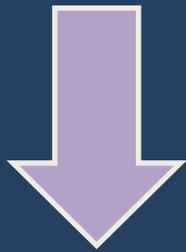
**2010 MASTERS IN CITY AND REGIONAL
PLANNING, URBAN DESIGN AND
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**

The brief

1. How important is the location for meeting biodiversity conservation objectives?
 - Refer to the CBA map for the Breede Valley Municipality <http://bgis.sanbi.org> > Projects > Western Cape > Fine Scale Plans 2009
2. Would the proposed development be consistent with these objectives?
 - Refer to the Draft Western Cape Rural Land-use Planning and Management Guidelines
3. (a) What vegetation types potentially occur in the vicinity and (b) what is their ecosystem status?
 - Refer to <http://bgis.sanbi.org> > Projects > National > Vegetation map 2006
 - Refer to <http://bgis.sanbi.org> > Projects > National > Draft list of Threatened Ecosystems 2009
4. What ecological factors could influence development at this location?
 - Refer to the Fynbos Forum ecosystem guidelines
5. If the development were to go ahead, which users could be most affected by potential impacts on the availability and quality of ecosystem goods and services?
6. (a) Would it be advisable to appoint one or more biodiversity specialists to assist with screening and (b), if so, representing which disciplines?
 - Refer to <http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eng/yourgovernment/gsc/406/services/11537/10199#guidelines>
7. Are there (a) any 'fatal flaws' that would disqualify this development from a biodiversity perspective or could you (b) propose one or more alternatives that would not have a significant impact on biodiversity?
8. How confident are you about your findings, on a scale of 0 ('not at all') to 5 ('absolutely')?

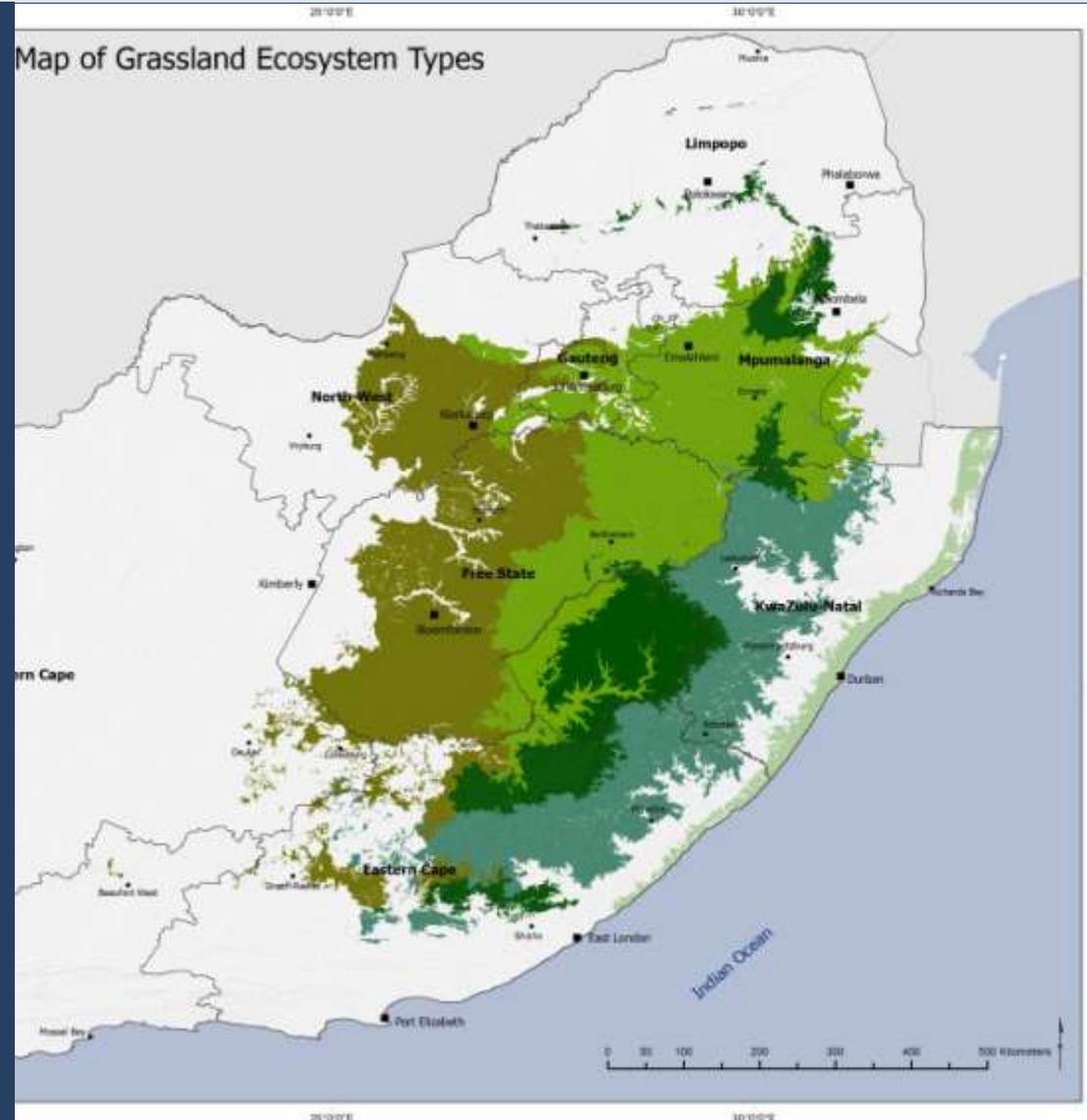
Towards mainstreaming the Grasslands Ecosystem Guidelines

Agricultural mainstreaming
strategy & implementation plan



Projects: LUP & LUM

- Ecosystem guidelines
- Biodiversity ToR
- Land-use Adviser (Mpumalanga)



Thank you



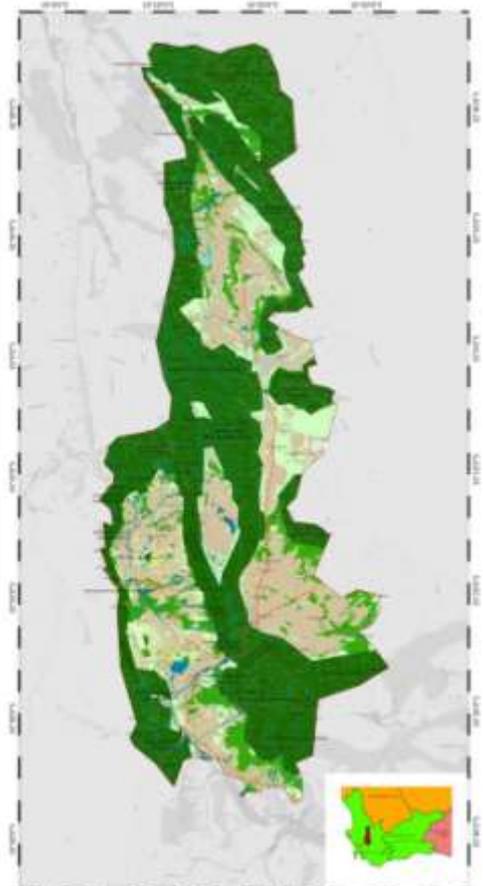
MUNISIPALITEIT
WITZENBERG
MUNICIPALITY

CRITICAL
BIODIVERSITY
AREAS MAP



This map was produced by the Free State Biodiversity Planning Project, as part of Component 3.2 of Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE).

For more information contact: Jennifer Gorman, Coordinator, Tel 053 888 8883.
The 118 Sites of High Conservation Biodiversity are listed in the South African National Biodiversity Institute, Tel 021 709 6738
or on the Internet at www.dnr.gov.za



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