LepSoc's contribution to Foundational Biodiversity Information

Dave Edge & Silvia Mecenero
SABCA
(Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment)
SALCA  
(Southern African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment)

• Focusing on 154 taxa of special concern.
• Verifying data; targeted field work.
• Conservation assessments updated (LepSoc members).
• SANBI – NBA 2018.
• Moths included for first time.
BioGaps

• Part of the SEA for the Karoo Basin.
• Lepidoptera one of 11 taxon groups being studied.
• Surveys will be only for butterflies.
• 30 mandatory sites and 20 optional sites.
• Data already available for some of these sites.
• Survey protocol has been prepared.
• Will allocate “clusters” of sites to surveyors to minimise travel needed.
• Camping (on farms) to reduce accommodation costs.
• Timing critical – end October to mid November best.
BED project
(Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity)

• Led by Jonathan Colville (SANBI) and Dave Edge (LepSoc).
• Map patterns of phylogenetic diversity and species richness.
• Aims to cover all South African butterflies.
• Short term goal to get at least one example of each genus.
• Whole specimens or legs preserved for DNA analysis.
• Possible to use cabinet specimens as well.
• 100 genes to be sequenced by South African scientist at University of California to develop phylogenetic trees.
• Samples to be collected during SALCA/ BioGaps surveys and other surveys by LepSoc members.