

**SANBI**



Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute

# Three ways to strengthen the National Biodiversity Assessment

Biodiversity Planning  
Forum

07 – 10 June 2016

Andrew Skowno (Lead: National Biodiversity Assessment)

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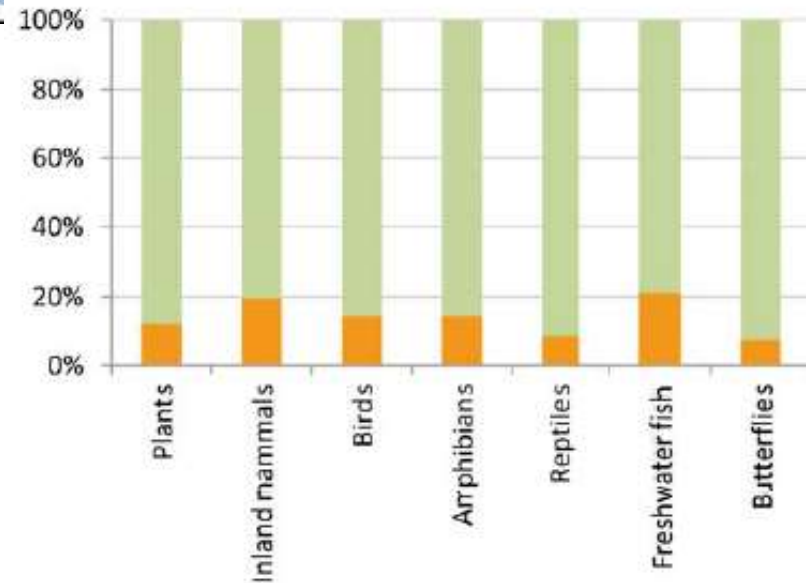
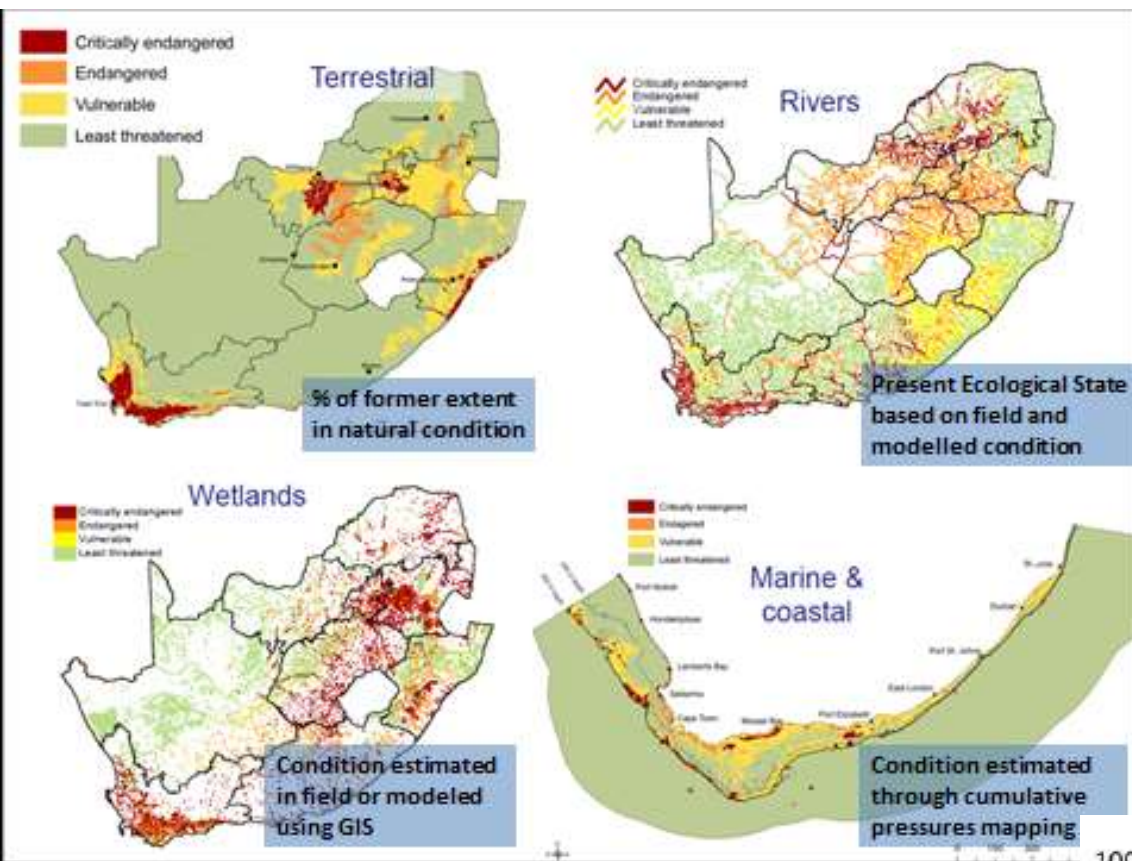
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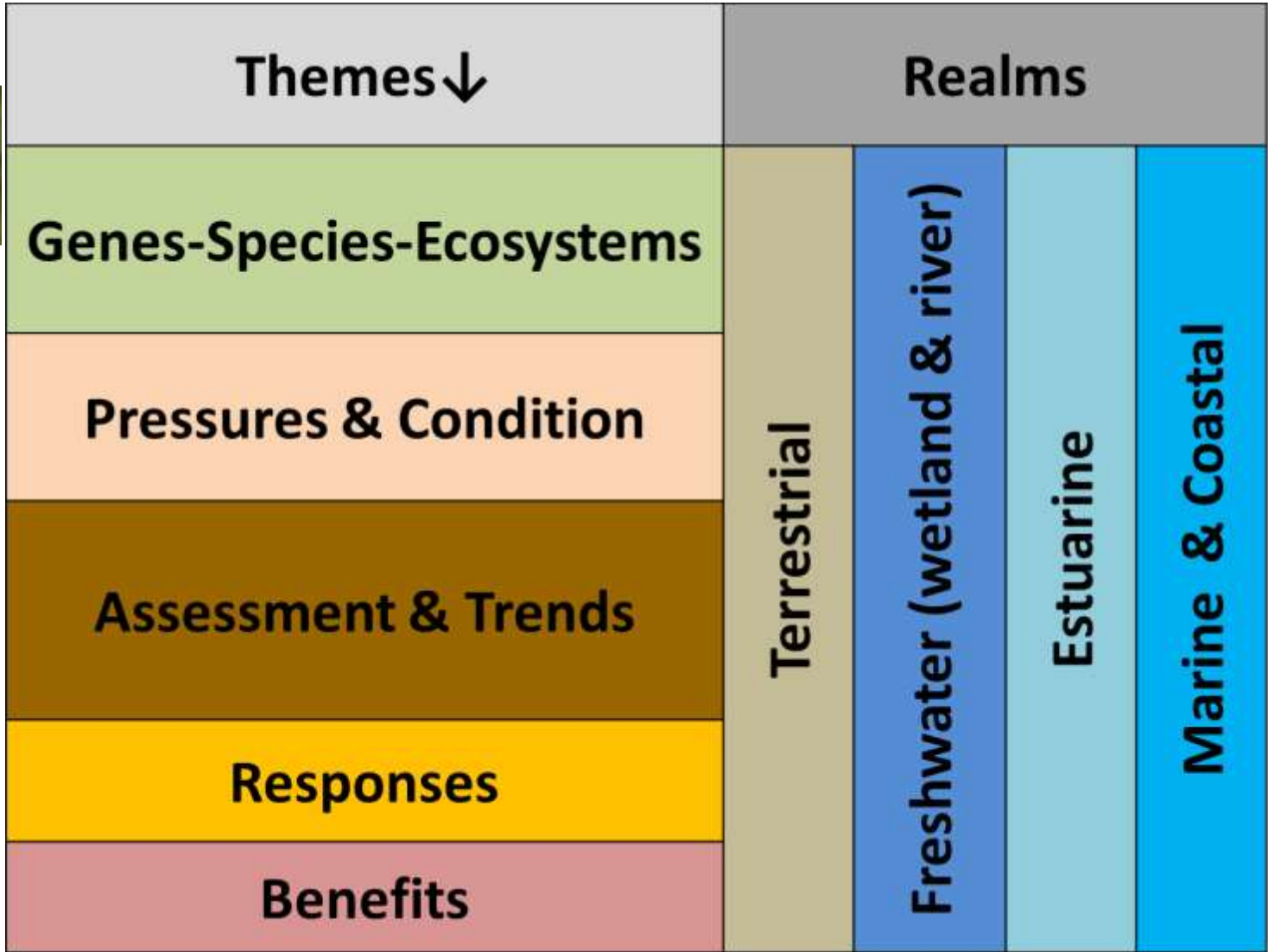


# Indicators

## Essential Biodiversity Variables

## Observations and Measures







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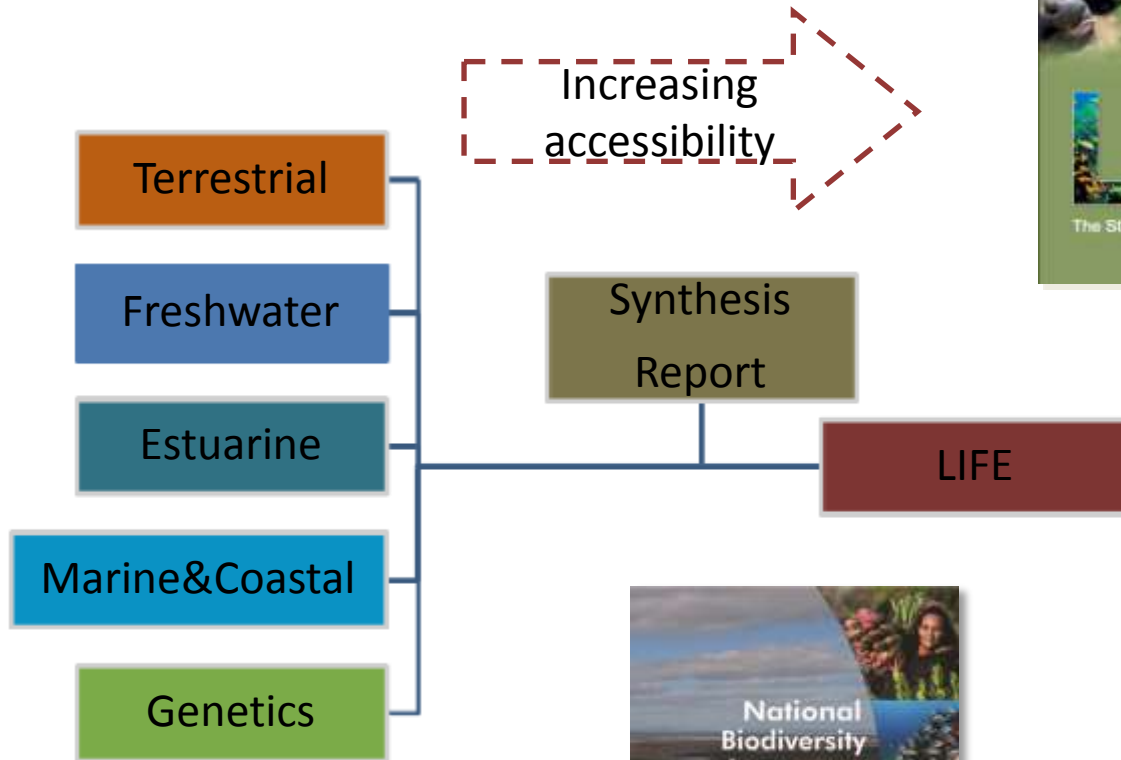
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# Hierarchy of Reports for the NBA



- Volume 1: Terrestrial
- Volume 2: Freshwater Component
- Volume 3: Estuarine Component
- Volume 4: Marine Component



PLUS data served by SANBI

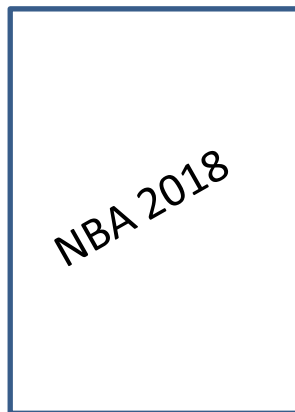
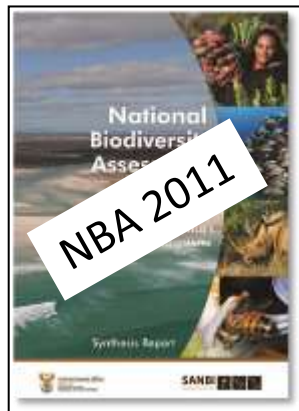
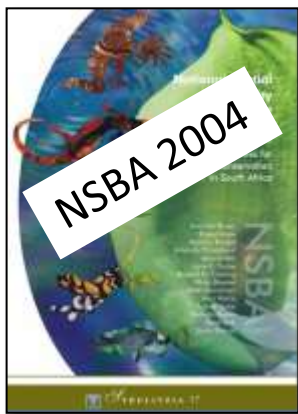
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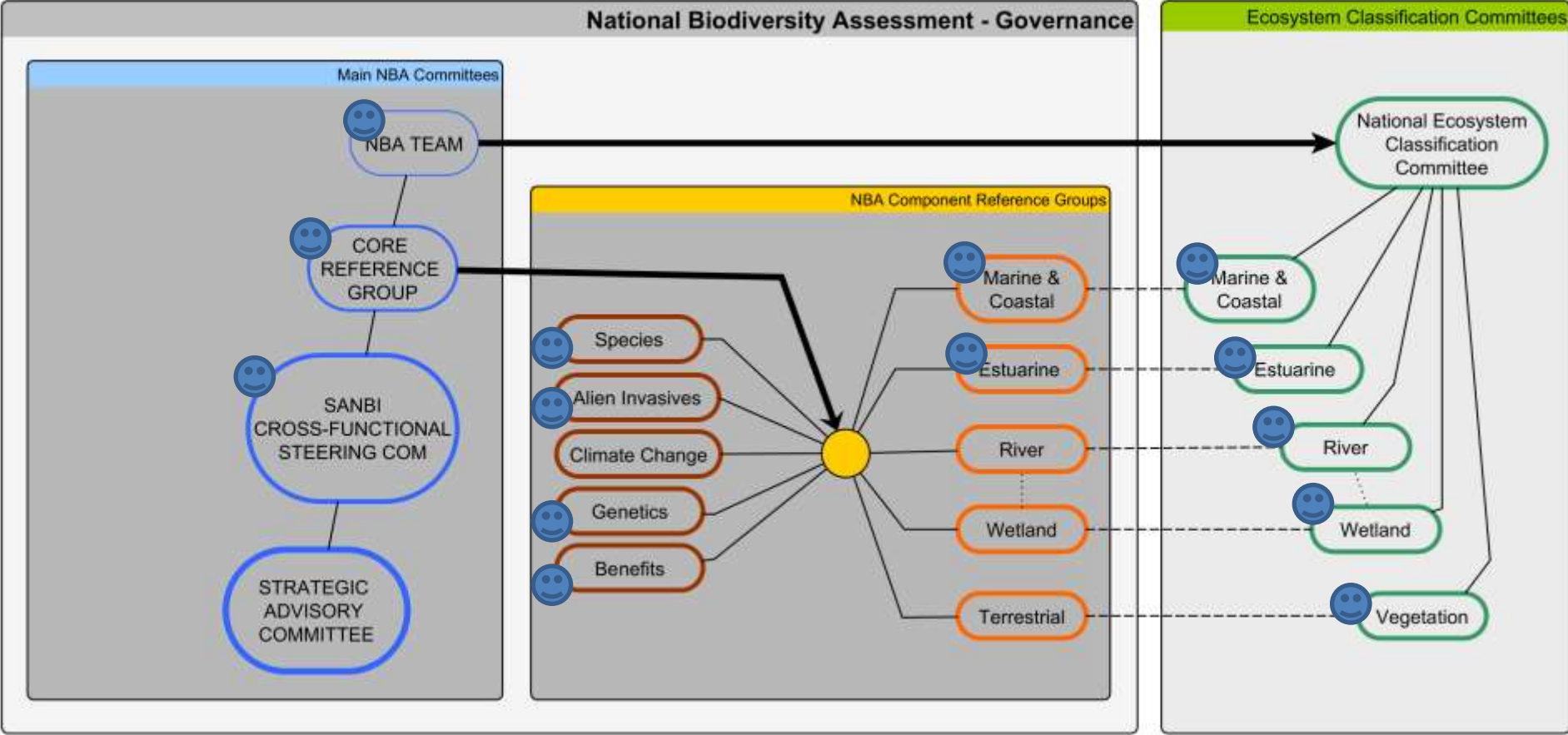
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# Governance structures and reference groups for NBA 2018



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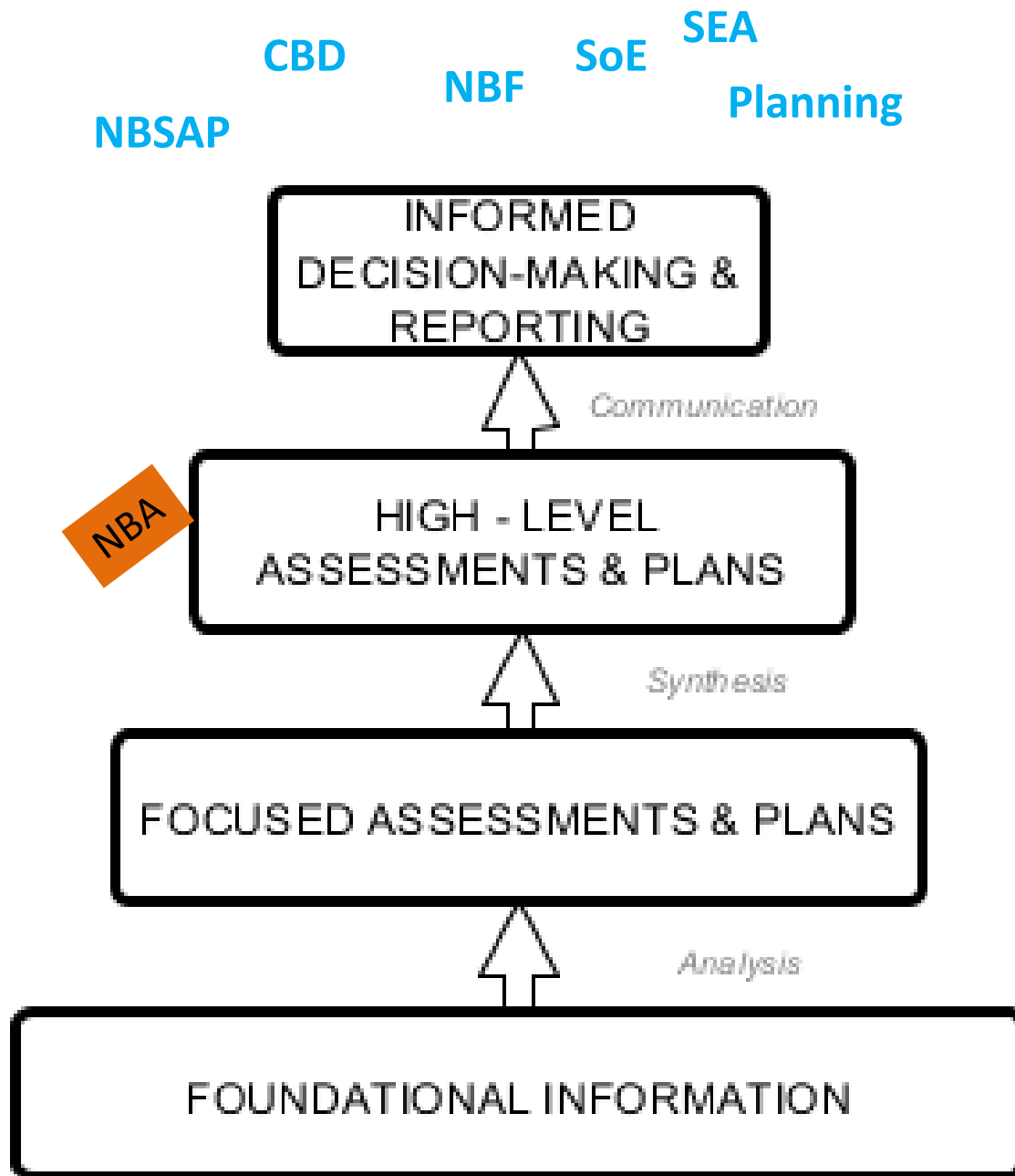
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# Action



# The NBA has developed into a key vehicle to:

- build capacity
- coordinate, plan and share work within SANBI
- promote alignment and collaboration between partner institutions





# Three ways to strengthen the National Biodiversity Assessment 2018

1. Promote and facilitate research to improve the data and the methods employed.  
(defensibility)
2. Focus on the relevance and communication of the key messages, especially regarding the benefits of biodiversity (saliency)
3. Align the variables and indicators used in the NBA with international processes and conventions (legitimacy)

# Improving foundations

- Marine ecosystem types: e.g. research into soft sediments
- Ecosystem condition: e.g. research focused on linking fragmentation metrics and ecological function in fynbos
- Wetland map: e.g. modeling of wetland using GIS
- Taxonomic revisions / museum record capture to facilitate comprehensive red listing:

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# Benefits

- Move beyond using only examples of benefits
- Develop a framework for describing the benefits of biodiversity in way that matches the national assessment of species, ecosystems and pressures etc.
- Using the “making the case” terminology:





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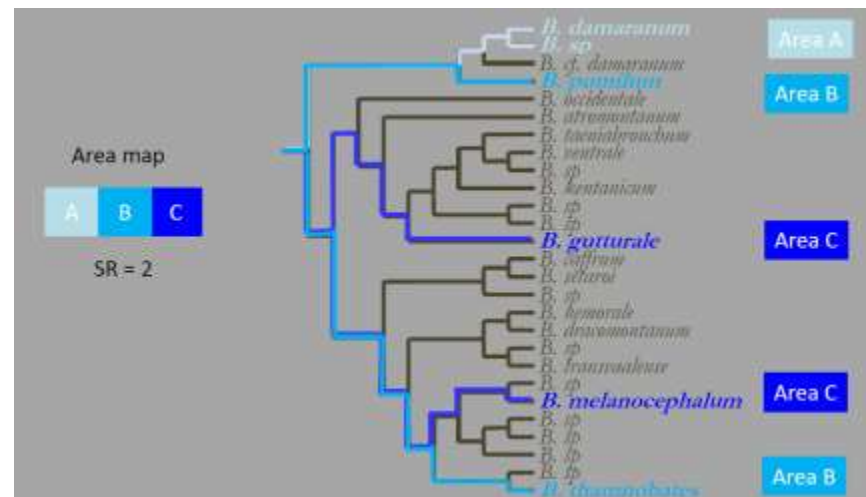
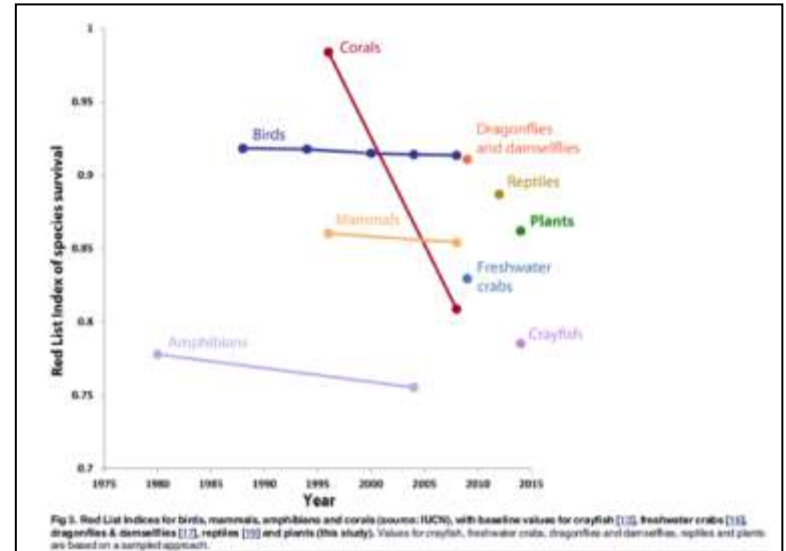
# Alignment

- GEOBON – positioned to develop standard ways of informing biodiversity indicators through development of Essential Biodiversity Variables.
- IPBES – rapidly developing; biodiversity assessment focused, global-regional-national
- IUCN – Red List of Ecosystems; Key Biodiversity Areas
- CBD – national reporting linked to the Aichi targets and using indicators and variables above.



# Other major goals for NBA 2018

- **Trend analysis** - ecosystem and species red-list indices
- Attempt to address aspects of **genetic diversity**



# Thank you

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