Lessons Learned from Bioregional Plans
Outline

• Process of developing a bioregional plan

• Update on bioregional plans

• Key lessons learned from bioregional plans
Systematic biodiversity planning process

Biodiversity Plan (showing CBAs)

... plus profile and land-use guidelines

Biodiversity sector plan

... plus process of publishing in terms of Biodiversity Act

Bioregional plan
Steps to be undertaken by the organisation leading the development and implementation of the bioregional plan, usually the **provincial conservation authority**

1. Undertake systematic biodiversity plan
2. **Alert MEC or Minister** of intention to develop a bioregional plan
3. **Prepare draft bioregional plan**
   - Undertake systematic biodiversity plan
4. Engage with key stakeholders
5. Submit the draft plan to Bioregional Plan Review Panel for review.
6. If necessary, make required changes
7. Submit the draft plan to the MEC or Minister
8. **Implement the plan**
9. Co-ordinate review and updating of the plan

Steps to be undertaken by the **MEC, Minister** or **SANBI**

- In addition to these steps, SANBI is available to provide technical support at all stages of the process

1. The Minister or MEC responds within 30 days.
2. **SANBI convenes Bioregional Plan Review Panel,** which provides a report on the technical merits of the plan to ensure credible bioregional plans
3. Bioregional Plan Review Panel confirm that the required changes have been made and makes recommendation to the Minister or MEC.
4. Minister or MEC undertakes public participation process
5. Minister or MEC declares bioregion and publishes bioregional plan
6. SANBI maintains register of published plans and makes them available to the public via BGIS

**Steps**

- **Develop**
  - At least 12-18 months, assuming no changes required
  - Maximum 5 years

- **Implement**
  - At least 18 months - 24 months

- **Review**
  - Maximum 5 years

* This could be a Biodiversity Sector Plan (if intention is not to publish the plan in terms of the Biodiversity Act)

** The lead organisation may be, for example, a municipality or an NGO. If so, these steps must be undertaken in close collaboration with the provincial conservation authority
Parts of a Bioregional Plan

• Part A: Introduction & Objectives
• Part B: Biodiversity Profile
• Part C: Map of Critical Biodiversity Areas
• Part D: Land Use Guidelines
• Part E: Additional Measures for Biodiversity Management
• Part F: Monitoring, Reviewing & Updating
• Part G: GIS Data
Submission documents

The following documents need to be submitted to the Review Panel:

– Draft Bioregional Plan
– Process & Consultation Report
– Technical Report from the systematic biodiversity plan
– GIS Shapefiles
Observations about bioregional plans

• Strength of a Bioregional Plan
  • Bioregional plans take municipal plans into consideration, e.g., SDF’s and EMF’s—may require realignment (conflict resolution) of CBA’s if its in development area of SDF
  • Extensive stakeholder consultation—e.g. in Waterberg, stakeholders wanted the entire biosphere reserve to be included as a CBA
  • These plans have specific land use guidelines and can therefore be used in site specific decision making
Observations about bioregional plans (cont.)

• You can’t simply cookie cut provincial biodiversity plan to the area
• Provincial plans generally do not take other sector plans into consideration
• No comprehensive stakeholder engagement
• They have very broad land use guidelines
Observations about bioregional plans (cont.)

• Land Use Guidelines
  – Different plans have different approaches:
  – We will be working with provincial planners to come up with a more standardised approach but its difficult, i.e., difference between Rural & Urban areas and the choice
  – Review Panel’s Guidance:
    • Only have land use guidelines for CBA’s and ESA’s
    • PA’s, ONA, and NNA do not need them
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category on the CBA Map</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Land Management Objective</th>
<th>Land Management Recommendations</th>
<th>Compatible Land-Use</th>
<th>Incompatible Land-Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protected Areas</td>
<td>Formal Protected Areas and Protected Areas pending declaration under Protected Areas Act.</td>
<td>Maintain in a natural or near-natural state. Rehabilitate degraded areas to a natural or near natural state, and manage for no further degradation.</td>
<td>Maintain or obtain formal protection.</td>
<td>Conservation and associated activities. See the management plan for the protected area concerned.</td>
<td>All other land-uses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Biodiversity Areas 1</td>
<td>Areas required to be maintained in a natural or near natural state to meet targets for biodiversity pattern (features) or ecological processes.</td>
<td>Maintain in a natural or near-natural state. Rehabilitate degraded areas to a natural or near natural state, and manage for no further degradation.</td>
<td>Obtain formal protection where possible. Implement appropriate zoning to avoid loss of intact natural habitat or intensification of land-use.</td>
<td>Conservation and associated activities. Extensive game farming and eco-tourism operations with strict control on environmental impacts and carrying capacities, where overall a biodiversity compatible land-use is secured across a property. Extensive Livestock Production on natural rangeland with strict control on environmental impacts and carrying capacities. Urban Open Space Systems</td>
<td>Urban land-uses including Residential (including golf estates, rural residential, resorts), Business, Mining &amp; Industrial; Infrastructure (roads, pipelines and power lines). Intensive Animal Production (all types including dairy farming associated with confinement, imported foodstuffs, and improved/irrigated pastures). Arable Agriculture (forestry, dry land &amp; irrigated cropping). Small holdings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Biodiversity Area 2</td>
<td>Cultivated landscapes which retain importance for supporting threatened species.</td>
<td>Maintain suitability for key threatened species.</td>
<td>Maintain as an agricultural landscape.</td>
<td>Maintain current agricultural activities. Ensure that land-use is not intensified and that activities are managed to minimize impact on threatened species.</td>
<td>Avoid conversion of agricultural land to more intensive land-uses which may have a negative impact on threatened species or ecological processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBA Map Category</td>
<td>Land Management Objective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protected areas</td>
<td>As per protected area management plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA1) | Maintain in a natural or near-natural state that maximizes the retention of biodiversity pattern and ecological process:  
• Ecosystems and species fully or largely intact and undisturbed  
• These are areas with high irreplaceability or low flexibility in terms of meeting biodiversity targets. If the biodiversity features targeted in these areas are lost then targets will not be met.  
• These are biodiversity features or parts of landscapes that are at or passed their limits of acceptable ecological change. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Land use Zone</th>
<th>Associated Land use Activities</th>
<th>CBA1</th>
<th>CBA2</th>
<th>ESA1</th>
<th>ESA2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Environmental Conservation</td>
<td>Conservation management, low-intensity eco-tourism activities and sustainable consumptive activities.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CBA Map Overlay Zone / Bioregional Planning Overlay Zone</td>
<td>These are areas that are designated as biodiversity priority areas, namely CBAs and ESAs;</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tourism and Accommodation</td>
<td>Low Impact Tourism / Recreational and Accommodation.</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High Impact Tourism / Recreational and Accommodation (e.g. golf estates).</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rural Residential</td>
<td>Low density rural housing or eco-estates.</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Traditional Areas (existing) and Rural Communal Settlement (New).</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Extensive Game Farming</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extensive Livestock Production</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Game Breeding / Intensive Game Farming</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arable Land - Dryland and Irrigated Crop Cultivation</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plantation Forestry: Timber Production.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Agricultural Infrastructure - Intensive Animal Farming (e.g. feedlot, dairy, piggery, chicken battery).</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Municipal Commons</td>
<td>Local agri-economic development.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Open-Space</td>
<td>Public or Private Open-Space, including recreational areas, parks etc.</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Low, low-medium, medium-high, and high density urban residential development. (= NW = Urban &amp; Business Development)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Urban Influence</td>
<td>An amalgamation of land use zones, including Institutional, Urban Influence, General Mixed Use, Low Impact Mixed Use, Suburban Mixed Use and General Business. (= NW = Urban &amp; Business Development)</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Observations about bioregional plans (cont.)

- Definitions and terminology
  - E.g., using the term “transformed” rather than “Irreversibly Modified”; etc. Please refer to Biodiversity Lexicon for a list of terms and definitions to use in biodiversity plans

- Naming of bioregional plans
  - If it’s a District Municipality, the name “municipality” does not need to appear in the name of the plan, i.e., Mopani District Bioregional Plan
Observations about bioregional plans (cont.)

• Colour issues
  – Some provinces use different colours than the standard ones and once all the provincial conservation plans, biodiversity sector plans, and bioregional plans are combined to form a national map, then the standard colours will be used.
  – However, when these plans are incorporated into SDFs, the colours may change
Questions?

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