

# Assessing the integration of biodiversity priorities in local land-use planning using international and local case studies.

Khumbelo Makhuvha (UKZN & MTPA)

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# Overview

- Introduction
- Types of integration
- Benefits of integration
- Challenges faced by planners
- Lessons learned
- Conclusions

# Introduction

- Biodiversity loss is a pressing issue
- Due to activities of human-beings
- Raised increasing concern among researchers, government agencies and land-use planners
- 150 countries signed a global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in June 1992.
- Requirement governments to “Develop national biodiversity plans and strategies and integrate these plans into broader environmental and development plans”

# Introduction

- Complementary processes:
  - land-uses are not static and will evolve over time
  - both processes make use of spatial data to identify priority areas for various actions/land-uses
  - and project into the future to make decisions that affect the character of the landscape
- The local government and the local land use planners identified as being the potential and critical role players to conserving biodiversity
- The responsibility of planning and regulation of land use is with municipalities

# Introduction - Projects

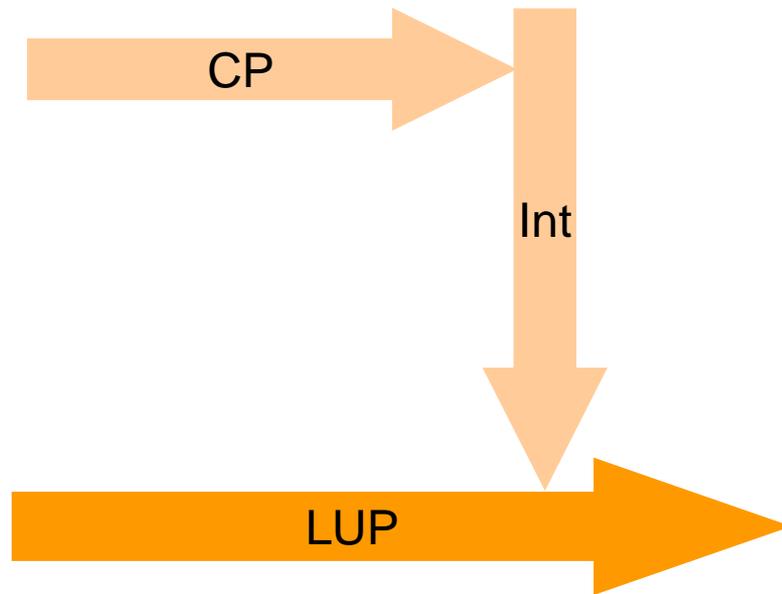
- **The Defenders of Wildlife** – In 2002 this NGO and others, land use planners and conservationists.
- **The Perth Biodiversity Project** – conducted in 2011 by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other Australian agencies.
- **Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Programme (STEP) project** - This project was located in the Western and Eastern Cape Provinces.
- **Goals:**
  - identify and prioritize biodiversity priority areas
  - investigated how well biodiversity conservation efforts, and their resulting action plans, could be connected and integrated into land use planning.

# Type of integration

- Substantive, methodological, procedural, institutional, & policy
- Procedural:
  - The integration of environmental, social, economic planning/assessment, spatial planning and EIA
  - The integration of sector approval/licensing processes, spatial planning and EIA
  - The adoption of co-ordination, co-operation and subsidiarity as guiding principles for (governmental) planning at different levels of decision making
  - The integration of affected stakeholders (public, private, NGO (non-governmental organisation)) in the decision-making process
  - The integration of professionals in a truly interdisciplinary team

# Approach

- Separate processes



- One process



# Benefits of integration

- Direct development away from biodiversity sensitive areas
- Avoid haphazard conservation and development that fragments habitats through the identification and preservation of natural areas with significant biodiversity values.
- Controlling the environmental impacts of land uses within sensitive areas by aligning them with permissible uses and development requirements in planning schemes.
- Creates an opportunity for interdisciplinary individuals to work together towards a common goal and to build strong lasting relationships
- Can complement existing environmental and natural hazard prevention programs that are vested within different local government departments or with NGOs.

# Challenges – local land-use planners

- Data (sufficiency, format, access, technical capacity)
- Lack of dedicated staff (liaison with conservation planning, SDF review)
- Lack of education and awareness on biodiversity conservation value (terminology, training on maps & products)
- Lack of regulation and government mandates that make it compulsory to consider conservation priorities in local spatial planning
- Illegal land-use changes

# Challenges – conservation planners

- Lack of political will both at national, regional and local levels (Support, Legality)
- Funding
- Time frames (from project initiation to implementation)
- **Politics, timing and budget in many government departments affect which projects get implemented.**

# Lessons

- **Greatest** potential for influence (long-term comprehensive planning tools)
- **Least** potential for influence – (daily planning processes)

# Lesson – STEP & others (Best practice conservation Assessment)

Principles	Oregon Biodiversity Project	Perth Biodiversity Project	STEP
1. A systematic assessment	√	√	√
2. Identification of stakeholders & goals of the process	√	√	√
3. Assessment conducted at different scales	√	√	√
4. Attention to assessment design	√	√	√
5. Assessment teams that include implementing organizations	√	√	√
6. Focused collaboration to address stakeholders' needs	√	√	√
7. Interpretation of assessment outputs & mainstreaming products	√	√	√

# Conclusions

- LUP implementation
- One process
- Useable data and products
- Training (process)
- Gazette

# References

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