

# Learning from the 12 Years of Conservation Planning in South Africa

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A lush tropical forest scene with a waterfall and moss-covered rocks. The background is a dense green forest with various plants and trees. In the foreground, there are large, moss-covered rocks and a small waterfall cascading over them. The overall atmosphere is misty and serene.

# Note:

\*Conservation planning = biodiversity planning

(\*Adapted from BPF Programme Book 2016 which cites Lexicon of Biodiversity Planning in South Africa, 2015)

# Structure:

- Introduction
- Methods
- Framework
- Results
- Conclusion

# Introduction:

- Quality and quantity of conservation planning tools and techniques in South Africa has improved since 2004
- \*Researchers refer to a science-action gap in two ways:
  1. **Mainstreaming Gap** - collaborations, implementation strategies and stakeholder engagements
  2. **Documentation Gap** - publication, accessibility of information

## Documentation Gap

- Does literature show evidence of practice?

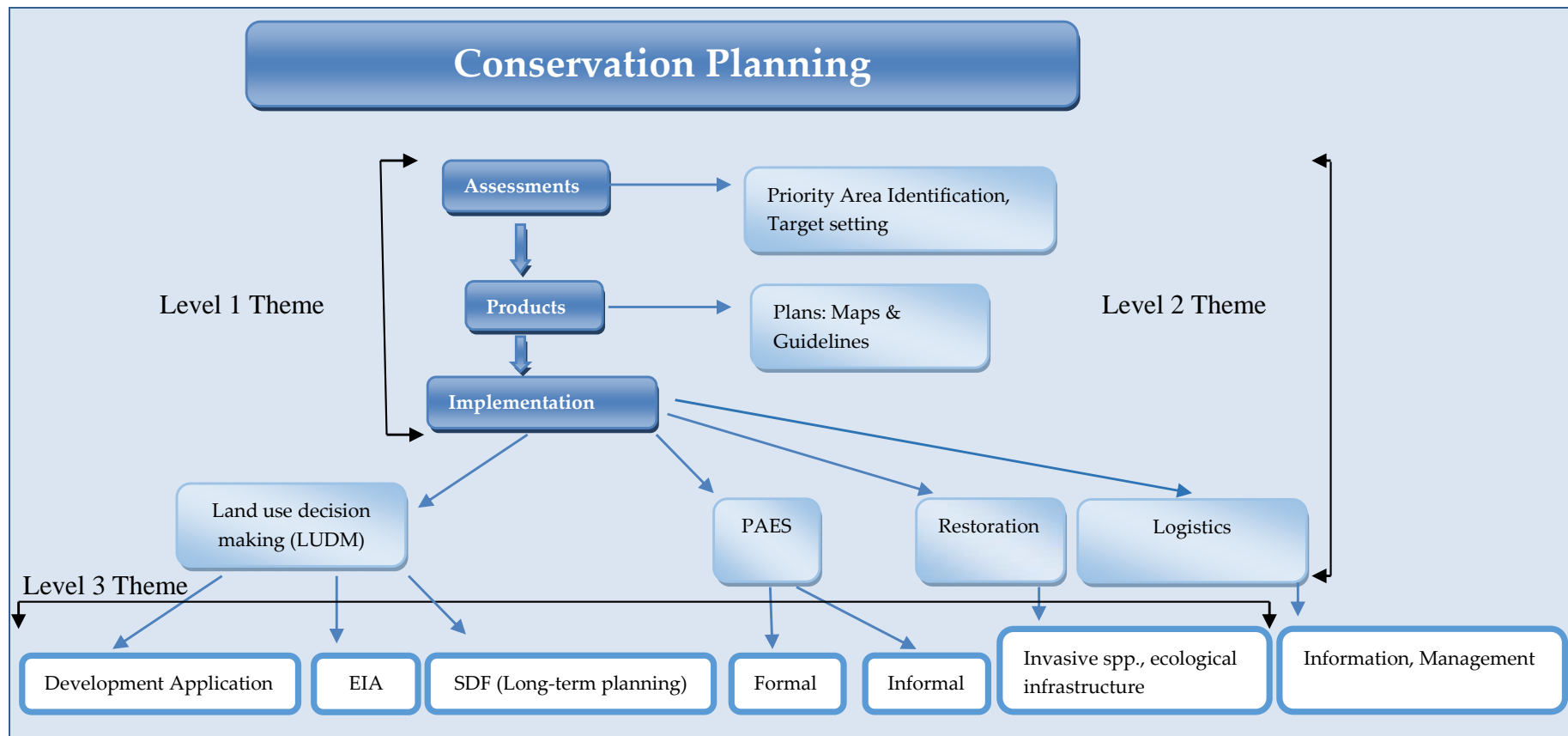
\*(Balmford, 2003; Knight et al., 2006; Sarkar et al., 2006; Knight et al., 2008; Cadman et al., 2010; Reyers et al., 2010; Moser & Dilling, 2012; Pickett et al., 1997; Reyers et al., 2010; Knight et al., 2006; Knight et al. 2011).

# Methods:

## Systematic literature review study

- **Population & Sample:**
  - Literature - peer reviewed journal articles
  - Practice - Biodiversity Planning Forum Abstracts
  - 124 (International literature + South African literature + Practice)
- **Data analysis:**
  - Thematic analysis using SPSS
  - Results presented descriptively as frequencies and percentages

# Operating Framework:



# Results: Literature

## International

- Assessments 71%
  - PAI, Target setting
- Products 3.2%
  - Biodiversity Plans
- Implementation 24.2%
  - PAES, LUDM, Restoration

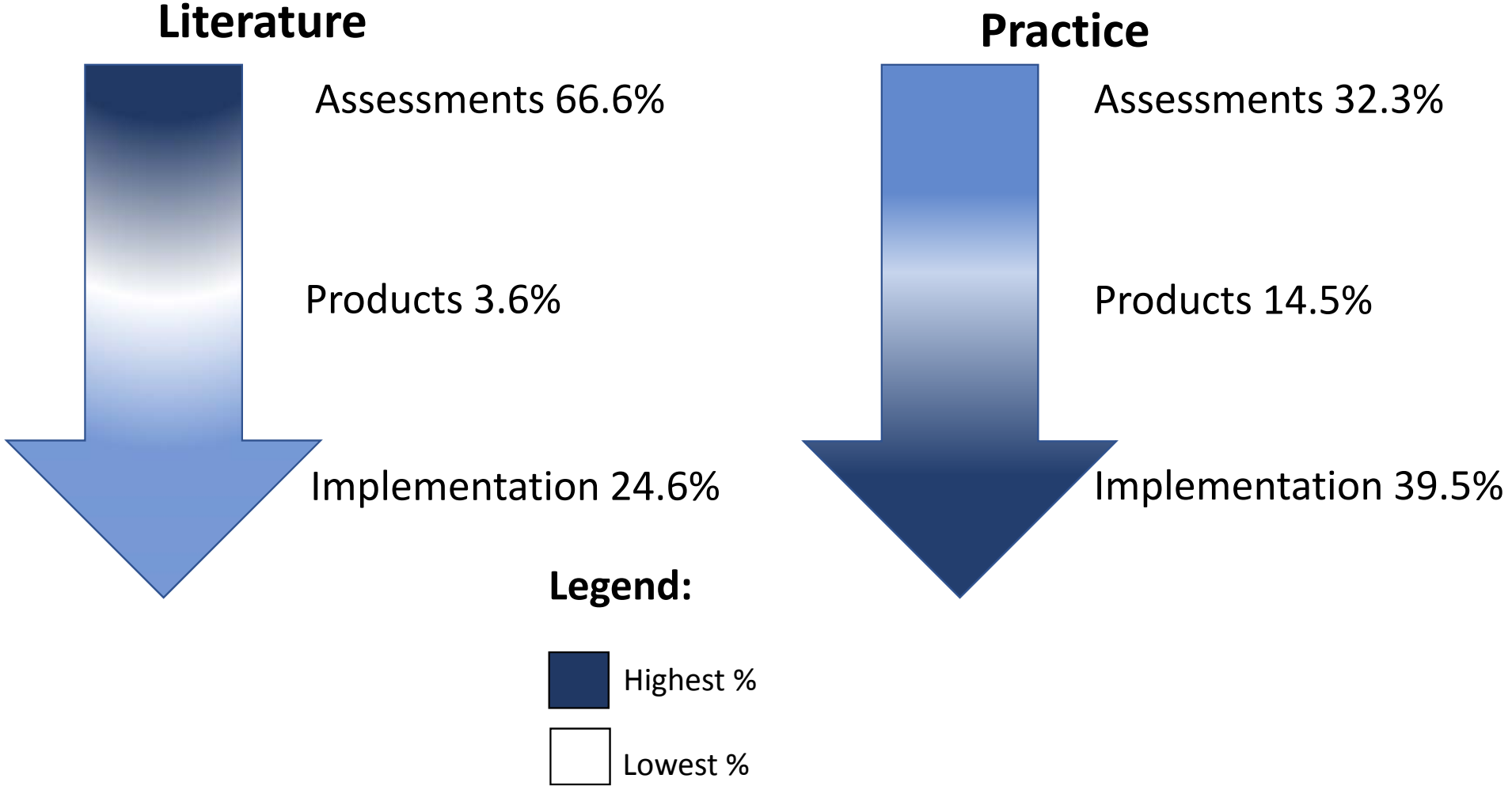
## South African

- Assessments 62.1%
  - PAI, Target setting
- Products 4%
  - Biodiversity Plans
- Implementation 25%
  - PAES, LUDM, Restoration

## Observation

- Similar trend
  - South African and international literature will here-on be referred to as 'literature'

# How does Literature compare to Practice – Thematically?





# How does Literature compare to Practice – Ecosystematically?

## Literature

1. Terrestrial
2. All ecosystems
3. Marine
4. Fresh water

## Practice

1. All ecosystems
2. Terrestrial
3. Fresh Water
4. Marine

# Similarities & Differences: Literature & Practice

## Similarities

- Both address the three components of conservation planning

## Differences

Variations exist within the three components of conservation planning:

- Practice – the gaps between themes are not big
- Literature - Implementation focus on PAES

# What is unique?

## Practice (Implementation)

- Logistics (5.6%)
  - Capacity building
  - Mainstreaming
  - Information management (BGIS)

## Literature (Implementation)

- Restoration\* (2.4%) absent from international literature
- Monitoring\*\*

\*Only unique in terms of literature. Restoration was also present in Practice

\*\*Absent from Practice but present in Literature

# Conclusion: Trends

## Literature

**More  
assessments**

**Very few  
products**

**Not as much  
implementation**

## Practice

**Not so many  
assessments**

**More  
products**

**Even More  
implementation**

# Does literature show evidence of practice?

- Trends - **No**:
  - Literature and Practice show different trends Thematically (inverse relationship)
  - Literature and Practice prioritize different ecosystems
- Content - to a large extent **Yes**:
  - There is evidence of most of the themes appearing in practice
  - However:
    - Disparities in numbers exist
    - Some themes are missing

**This study confirms the documentation science-action gap: publication of successful projects in South African Conservation Planning is still a challenge**

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# Questions & Contributions

