Biodiversity stewardship is a cost effective way to meet protected area targets through contract agreements between landowners and conservation authorities.

80% of South Africa’s land is privately or communally owned.

Between 2008 and 2016:

564 000 ha of this was achieved through biodiversity stewardship declarations, that’s one third the size of Kruger National Park.

Biodiversity stewardship was the main mechanism for expanding protected areas to meet targets.

830 000 ha were added to the protected area estate, improving protection for threatened biomes.

For 5 provinces biodiversity stewardship was the only mechanism for protected area expansion.

Since 2016 there have been several large declarations:

- Mountain Zebra, 264 083 ha
- Sneeuwberg, 16 208 ha
- Greater Lakenvlei, 14 123 ha

Biodiversity stewardship sites are 70-400x cheaper to establish and 4-17x cheaper to manage than state-owned protected areas.

Sources:

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