A cloud database as a management tool for land under conservation

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Presented by Chanel Rampartab
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Input</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garth Mortimer</td>
<td>Protected areas and stewardship functionality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanel Rampartab</td>
<td>Database design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Turner</td>
<td>Database design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therese Forsyth</td>
<td>Link to geodatabase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Pence</td>
<td>Regional conservation functionality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andre Mitchell</td>
<td>Legal requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mohamed Parker</td>
<td>IT requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problem: no consolidated PACA register

- No consolidated database for protected areas and conservation areas (PACA), including sites in the pipeline, dormant and expired sites
- Stewardship program has outgrown the data management system
- Data often recorded on paper, then captured in spreadsheets or databases
- Data is not easily accessible
  - Long waiting periods
  - Software can be tricky to use

## Risk management (APP 2017-2018)

| Lack of knowledge management | Knowledge is managed through the safeguarding and maintenance of critical organisational knowledge (research, databases, data) and the growth, development and sustainability of the staff through succession planning, career pathing and the identification of a talent pool. These factors combined could impact the safeguarding and transfer of knowledge and skills, resulting in a skills vacuum and potential operational instability. | • Implementation of the human capital development initiatives and priorities.  
• Improve research capability, data collection and sharing and monitoring.  
• Storage and safeguarding of biological records, registers and spatial data.  
• Update and maintenance of ICT infrastructure, hardware and systems.  
• Structured systems and processes to ensure effective ICT governance.  
• Implementation of an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). |
Impact on conservation efforts

• In the Western Cape, 80% of land with important biodiversity is privately or communally owned land

• Institutional knowledge is not easily accessible and digestible

• Complexity of land to be managed
  • many types of sites
  • each with its own life stage
  • data accessed and analysed by different audiences
Consequences of status quo

- Lack of traceability
- Time consuming data gathering
- Inaccurate and untimely reporting
- Potential legal risk
Solution: “Land management” database

Features

• Access-controlled
• Cloud-based solution
• User-friendly interface
• Dynamic data entry form
• Automated queries for reporting
• User-generated queries for analyses
Database structure
Benefits

• Update registers automatically
• Serve as a project management tool
• Track progress (or dormancy) of each site
• Allow for strategic and meaningful interrogation of data
• Validated and verifiable data, with edit history for each record
• Strengthen partnerships
  • Plan complementary projects
  • Avoid duplication of work
  • Identify gaps in landscape
The bigger picture

• Database accessible to partners (CapeNature to pilot)

• Build better strategic partnerships
  • enhance the utility of the database
  • increase capacity to manage the database

• CapeNature exploring partnership with WWF
Review panel categories.
Thank you.