

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

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**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004
(ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)**

**DRAFT REVISED NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT IN
TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF
2004)**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment under section 38(1)(c) and (d), and section 38(2), read with sections 99 and 100 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), hereby publish the draft revised National Biodiversity Framework 2019-2024 for public consultation, as contained in the attached Schedule.

An electronic copy of the draft reviewed National Biodiversity Framework can be downloaded from the Departments website following link: https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within 60 days of the publication of this notice in the *Gazette* or the notice in the newspaper, whichever notice is the later publication, written representations or objections to the following addresses:

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All inquiries in connection with the notice can be directed to Ms Pamela Kershaw at 012 399 9585.

Comments received after the closing date may be disregarded.



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

South Africa's National Biodiversity Framework

2019 - 2024

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Section 1: Introduction to the National Biodiversity Framework

The National Biodiversity Framework (NBF) is a requirement under Section 38 of the **National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act** (Act 10 of 2004, hereafter referred to as the 'Biodiversity Act').

1.1 Purpose of the NBF

The overall purpose of the NBF is to **coordinate and align** the efforts of the many organizations and individuals involved in conserving and managing South Africa's biodiversity in support of sustainable development.

The Biodiversity Act specifies that the NBF must:

- provide for an **integrated, co-ordinated and consistent approach** to biodiversity management
- identify **priority areas** for conservation action, and for the establishment of protected areas
- reflect **regional cooperation** issues concerning biodiversity management in Southern Africa.

The NBF is a short to medium-term coordination tool that shows the **alignment** between the strategic objectives and outcomes identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP v.2, 2015) and other key national strategies, frameworks and systems that currently guide the work of the biodiversity sector, and identifies mechanisms through which this work is **coordinated**. It also identifies a set of interventions or "acceleration measures" that can unlock or fast-track implementation of the NBSAP, and indicates the **relative roles** of the many agencies involved in implementing these activities.

The purpose of the NBF is not to provide a comprehensive review of all work currently being undertaken in the biodiversity sector, nor to list all of the actions required to conserve and manage South Africa's biodiversity in support of sustainable development.

1.2 Informants of the National Biodiversity Framework

The primary informants of the NBF are the latest versions of the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** (or NBSAP), which is South Africa's long-term strategy for ensuring sustainable management, use and conservation of biodiversity; the **National Biodiversity Assessment** (or NBA), which provides headline indicators and a spatial assessment of ecosystems and species; and, the **National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy** (or NPAES), which is a long-term strategy for guiding cost-effective expansion of the country's protected area estate. The NBF is also informed by numerous other national strategies, frameworks and systems (and their provincial counterparts, where these exist) that guide the work being carried out in the biodiversity sector – an overview of these is presented in [Section 3](#) of this Framework.

1.2.1. Overview of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (version 2, 2015)

An NBSAP is a requirement that all contracting parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992) are obliged to fulfil. South Africa’s NBSAP 2015 sets out an integrated and coherent national strategy for the conservation, management and sustainable use of the country’s biodiversity to ensure equitable benefits to the people of the country. It outlines how South Africa will fulfil the objectives of the CBD and contribute to the global sustainable development agenda. It also provides a framework for the integration of biodiversity considerations into national development plans and a wide range of other sectoral strategies, placing wise management and protection of biodiversity at the heart of the sustainable development agenda.

The NBSAP 2015 – 2025 (GoS, 2015a) identifies **6 strategic objectives**, under each of which key **outcomes, activities** (designated as high, medium and low priority), and medium to long-term **targets** are described in detail – see **Figure 1** for a summary of the strategic objectives, and **Table 1** for a more detailed listing of the outcomes.

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the NBSAP, with the support of the environmental Minister and Members of the Executive Council (MinMEC) Committee, the Ministerial Technical Committee (MinTECHs) and their various Working Groups (WGs), in particular WG 1 (Biodiversity and Conservation) – these are described in more detail in Section 4 of this document.

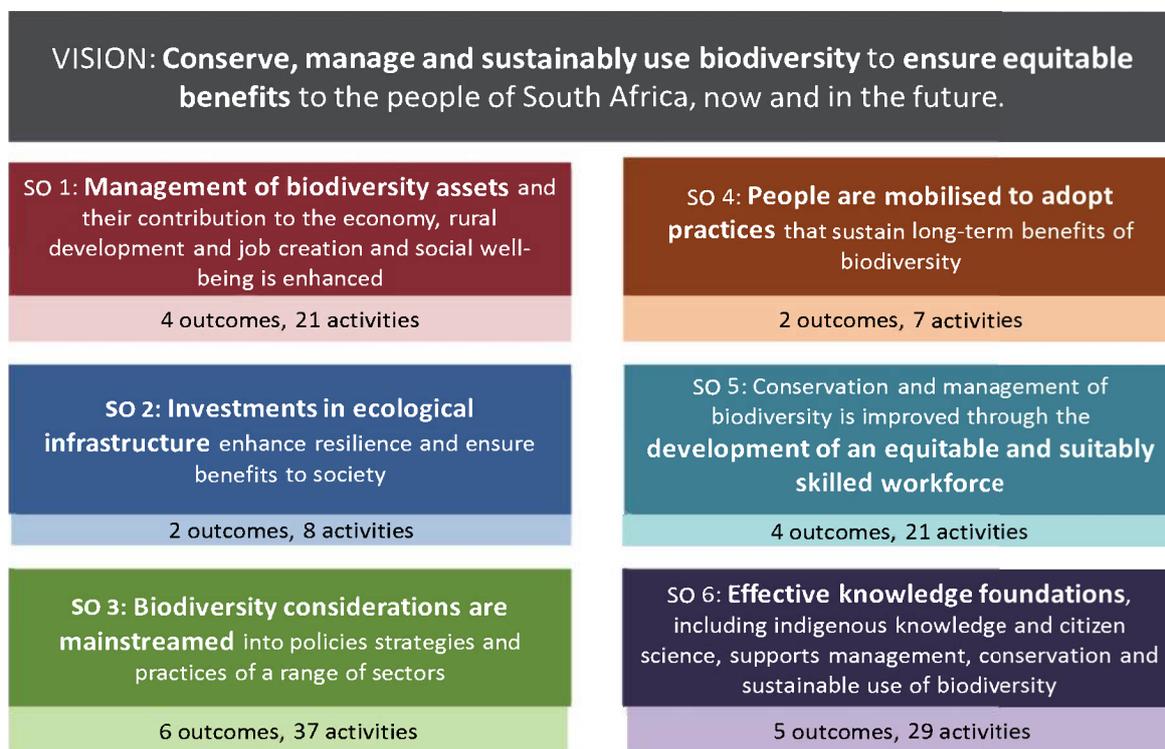


Figure 1: Summary of the six strategic objectives described in the NBSAP 2015 - 2025

Table 1: Core strategy of the NBSAP 2015 to 2025

| Strategic objectives | Outcomes |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Management of biodiversity assets and their contribution to the economy, rural development, job creation and social well-being is enhanced</p> | <p>1.1. The network of protected areas and conservation areas includes a representative sample of ecosystems and species, and is coherent and effectively managed.</p> <p>1.2. Species of special concern are sustainably managed.</p> <p>1.3. The biodiversity economy is expanded, strengthened and transformed to be more inclusive of the rural poor.</p> <p>1.4. Biodiversity conservation supports the land reform agenda and socio-economic opportunities for communal landowners.</p> |
| <p>2. Investment in ecological infrastructure enhances resilience and ensures benefits to society</p> | <p>2.1. Restore, maintain and secure important ecological infrastructure in a way that contributes to rural development, long-term job creation and livelihoods.</p> <p>2.2. Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) is shown to achieve multiple benefits in the context of sustainable development.</p> |
| <p>3. Biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed into policies, strategies and practices of a range of sectors</p> | <p>3.1. Effective science-based tools inform planning and decision-making.</p> <p>3.2. Embed biodiversity considerations into national, provincial and municipal development-planning and monitoring.</p> <p>3.3. Strengthen and streamline development authorisations and decision-making.</p> <p>3.4. Compliance with authorisations and permits is monitored and enforced.</p> <p>3.5. Appropriate allocation of resources in key sectors and spheres of government facilitates effective management of biodiversity, especially in biodiversity priority areas.</p> <p>3.6. Biodiversity considerations are integrated into the development and implementation of policy, legislative and other tools.</p> |
| <p>4. People are mobilised to adopt practices that sustain the long-term benefits of biodiversity</p> | <p>4.1 People's awareness of the value of biodiversity is enhanced through more effective coordination and messaging.</p> <p>4.2 People are mobilised to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.</p> |
| <p>5: Conservation and management of biodiversity is improved through the development of an equitable and suitably skilled workforce</p> | <p>5.1. Macro-level conditions enabled for skills planning, development and evaluation of the sector as a whole.</p> <p>5.2. An improved skills development system incorporates the needs of the biodiversity sector.</p> <p>5.3. Partnerships are developed and institutions are capacitated to deliver on their mandates towards improved service delivery.</p> |
| <p>6: Effective knowledge foundations, including indigenous knowledge and citizen science, support the management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity</p> | <p>6.1. Relevant foundational data sets on species and ecosystems are in place and well-monitored and available to the public in a useful format.</p> <p>6.2. The status of species and ecosystems is regularly monitored and assessed and communicated.</p> <p>6.3. Geographic priority areas for the management, conservation and restoration of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure are identified based on best available science.</p> <p>6.4. Management-relevant and policy-relevant research and analysis is undertaken through collaboration between scientists and practitioners.</p> <p>6.5. Knowledge base is accessible and presented in a way that informs decision-making.</p> |

1.2.2. Overview of the National Biodiversity Assessment

The purpose of the National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) is to assess the state of South Africa's biodiversity based on best available science, with a view to understanding trends over time, and informing policy and decision-making across a range of sectors. The NBA is a product of high scientific importance, developed through a five-year process of research and consultation that is led by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), working in collaboration with DEFF and several other partner organizations. The NBA deals with all three components of biodiversity (genes, species and ecosystems), and assesses biodiversity and ecosystems across terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine realms. The NBA is a primary informant of the NBSAP, the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES, and its provincial counterparts), provincial and metropolitan systematic biodiversity plans, bioregional plans, and other biodiversity and spatial planning tools. It also links closely with the developing National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework (see **Table 4, Section 3.1**), which establishes a consistent set of headline biodiversity indicators for the country, including ecosystem threat status and ecosystem protection level. The NBA provides spatial focus and impetus for taking forward a programme of work to measure these indicators, and synthesises them periodically at the national scale.

The NBA 2018 (published in 2019) follows from the National Biodiversity Assessment 2011 (which informed the NBSAP 2015). Both of these were preceded by the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment (NSBA, 2004), which informed the NBSAP 2005. The NBA process culminates in the publication of a Synthesis Report, a popular report (which makes the results available to non-specialists), a number of technical reports, peer-reviewed papers in journals, data and metadata – all of which are made publicly available.

The findings of the NBA 2018 confirm a wide range of interventions that are priorities for managing and conserving biodiversity as highlighted in the NBSAP and NBF. The key priorities for improving the effectiveness of interventions emerging from this NBA include the need to improve compliance with existing laws, strengthen cross-sectoral planning, strengthen adaptive management, improve implementation of conservation projects, and build and maintain capacity.

The NBA 2018 technical reports per realm elaborate some of these interventions in more detail and articulate additional priority actions resulting from the NBA findings. The following are, however, several general priority actions identified in the NBA2018 that support the successful implementation of many of these interventions, and ultimately affect South Africa's ability to meet the NBSAP and NBF goals.

The following priority actions were identified by the NBA2018 for managing and conserving South Africa's biodiversity:

- Spatial biodiversity priorities
- Priority interventions, clustered into the following themes:
 - Strengthening compliance and enforcement;
 - Strengthening cross-sectoral and cross-realm planning;
 - Strengthening evaluation for adaptive management;
 - Conservation project implementation; and
 - Maintaining and further strengthening capacity

- Knowledge gaps:
 - Research priorities;
 - Monitoring needs; and
 - Data management and sharing imperatives.

The NBA furthermore, directly supports the implementation of Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the NBSAP and NBF and also has direct links with Strategic Objective 6, while most of the other objectives are also informed or supported by the NBA¹. Strategic Objective 1 focuses on managing biodiversity assets, and includes outcomes related to expanding the protected area network and management of species of special concern. Strategic Objective 2 focuses on maintaining and restoring ecological infrastructure, including key ecological infrastructure features highlighted in the NBA. Strategic Objective 3 includes the science-based planning and decision making tools that the NBA is major contributor to, including maps of threatened ecosystems which are a key input into land-use planning and environmental authorisations. The NBA headline indicators of threat status and protection level are key indicators as to whether interventions are making progress towards achieving the outcomes for these strategic objectives. Several of the outcomes and activities in Strategic Objective 6 directly strengthen the NBA, ie. If relevant foundational datasets are continually being updated through research and monitoring programmes and such data are available, then the indicators in the NBA can be calculated more regularly and with a higher confidence of accuracy.

The above mentioned NBA2018 priorities will be addressed through a set of **key interventions**, called '**accelerators**' is contained in **Table 5** of the NBF. These '**accelerators**', can make a significant contribution to fast-tracking implementation of the NBSAP, NBF and related strategies and are presented as *recommendations* to guide priority-setting by institutions and organise collective action within the biodiversity sector.

1.2.3 Overview of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy

The goal of South Africa's National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) is to achieve cost-effective expansion of the protected area estate for improved ecosystem representation, ecological sustainability, and resilience to climate change. It sets national protected area targets, maps priority areas for protected area expansion, and makes recommendations on mechanisms for achieving the targets, under both the **National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act** (Act 57 of 2003, hereafter referred to as the 'Protected Areas Act.') and the Biodiversity Act. The common set of targets and spatial priorities provided in the NPAES enable co-ordination between the many role-players involved in protected area expansion. Detailed spatial planning and roll-out to achieve the protected area targets is carried out at provincial level, guided by provincial systematic biodiversity plans and protected area expansion strategies, where these exist (DEA 2018²).

Provision is made for the NPAES to be updated every five years. The first NPAES, which was published in 2008, has recently been revised to: include new biodiversity data and newly-declared protected areas, and information from provincial biodiversity plans and protected area strategies; improve

¹ Refer to Table 16 of the National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report (NBA2018)

² Gazette Notice 4210 (Notice Number 667 of 2018)

target-setting; and, inform the identification of priority areas for expansion. The revised NPAES (DEA, 2018) also includes a review of the performance of protected area management authorities with regard to protected area expansion in the period 2008 to 2014, and describes priority activities, with explicit performance targets, for the period 2016 to 2020 (DEA, 2018).

1.3 Overview of the National Biodiversity Framework

South Africa's first National Biodiversity Framework (**Government Gazette Vol. 530, GN No.32474, 3 August 2009**) was based on the first NBSAP (DEA, 2005), and the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment (NSBA 2004). It identified a set of 33 high priority activities to guide the work of the biodiversity sector over the period 2008 to 2013. The NBF, along with the updated National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA 2018), in turn, became an important informant in the process to update the first NBSAP, and has played an important role in guiding conservation action in the biodiversity sector.

Differences in the policy context prevailing now, compared to when the original NBF was developed, have made it necessary to take a different approach in the revised NBF. In particular, a range of national policies, strategies, frameworks and other systems is now in place – and others are being developed – to guide work in certain areas of the biodiversity sector, such as management of invasive species, protected area expansion, biodiversity stewardship, ecosystem-based adaptation, the biodiversity economy, and water resource management. Some of these strategies include detailed action plans (in which specific activities with targets, roles and responsibilities are identified), whilst others are more conceptual (outlining a broad approach or set of principles which should guide the development of more detailed implementation plans). The NBSAP makes reference to some of these strategies (those that were developed before 2015), and has identified priority actions that are well-aligned with them, but other strategies have been developed since, and there is a need to align these with priorities of the NBSAP, which is the 'umbrella strategy' for the sector.

For these reasons, and to achieve its primary purpose (which is to provide an integrated framework for coordinating the work of the biodiversity sector), the revised **National Biodiversity Framework** for the period 2019 to 2024 takes a two-pronged approach, which includes:

- **providing an overview of key national strategies, frameworks and systems** that guide the work of the biodiversity sector, and indicating their relevance to the strategic objectives, outcomes and priority activities of the NBSAP. This is complemented by an overview of key, national-level co-ordination mechanisms and communities of practice through which sector role-players can coordinate their work and exchange information and experiences.
- **identifying a set of interventions** (called 'accelerators') that can be used to **accelerate implementation** of high-level priorities of the NBSAP over the next five years.

In taking this approach, the NBF brings together key elements of the NBSAP and other relevant strategies. The NBF is underpinned by a strong scientific foundation (provided by the NBA, the NPAES and the research that underpins several of the other strategies included in the overview), and builds on the consultative processes through which all of these other products were developed.

The NBSAP and NBF highlight a wide range of interventions that are priorities for managing and conserving biodiversity. These are confirmed and reinforced by the findings of the NBA 2018.

Development of the revised NBF has been carried out through a thorough **analysis of the NBSAP and 30 other strategies, frameworks and systems**, and a **targeted consultation process** involving key stakeholders in government and civil society (with emphasis on those institutions that carry a government mandate to manage and protect biodiversity and other natural resources, and ensure their sustainable use). The relationship between the NBF, NBSAP, NPAES and other key strategies is illustrated in **Figure 2**.

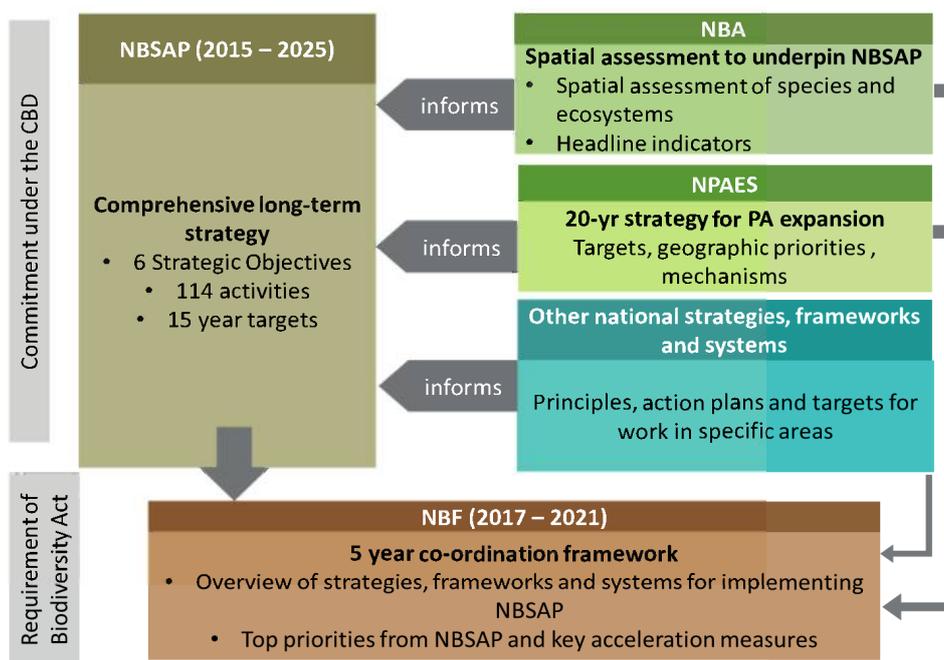


Figure 2: Informants of the revised National Biodiversity Framework

1.4. Users of the NBF

The primary users of the NBF are institutions whose **core business is biodiversity conservation and environmental management**. Broadly, the users may include: organs of state in national, provincial and local spheres; government-led programmes, such as those to restore and rehabilitate ecosystems; NGOs and CBOs; and, multi-stakeholder conservation and development programmes and projects, such as multi-partner landscape-level initiatives and other flagship projects (see **Table 2**, for a summary of the key role-players).

The NBF may also have some relevance for stakeholders whose core work is not biodiversity conservation, but whose business either impacts on the status of biodiversity and ecosystems, or depends on biodiversity assets, ecosystem services and ecological infrastructure – for example, sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, water and sanitation, mining, energy, rural development and land reform, urban development, local economic development, and education.

It also has relevance for government departments which are not responsible for direct or indirect management of natural resources, but play an important role in establishing policies and practices

that impact on biodiversity management and conservation, and the implementation of the NBSAP (such as, the Presidency; National Treasury; Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA); Department of Higher Education Science and Technology (DHES); Department of Trade and Industry (dti); the Departments of Basic Education (DBE); and, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC).

Table 2: Key institutions directly involved in biodiversity management and conservation

| Government Entities | |
|---|--|
| National departments and public entities | Provincial conservation agencies, parks boards or other conservation authorities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) • South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) • South African National Parks (SANParks) • World Heritage Site Authorities • Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS) <p><i>Research entities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) • The Water Research Commission (WRC) • The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) • The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Cape: CapeNature • Kwazulu-Natal: Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW) • North West: North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPB) • Eastern Cape: Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority (ECPTA) • Limpopo: Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board (LTPB) • Mpumalanga: Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) • Isimangaliso Wetland Park Authority <p><i>Note: CapeNature and EKZNW are mandated to work throughout their respective provinces, whereas the other parks authorities are mandated to work only within the boundaries of protected areas</i></p> |
| Provincial environment and/or conservation departments | Key government-led national environmental programmes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Cape: Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) • Northern Cape: The Department of Environment Affairs and Nature Conservation (DENC) • Free State: Department of Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs • Eastern Cape: The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) • KwaZulu-Natal: Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA) • Gauteng: Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) • Mpumalanga: Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) • North West: Department of Rural, Environmental and Agricultural Development (NW READ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working for Water (WfW) • Working on Fire (WoF) • Working for Wetlands (WfWet) • Working on Ecosystems (WonEco) • LandCare • Working for the Coast (WftC) • Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) • People and Parks Programme • Man and Biosphere Reserve Programme (MAB) |
| | Local governments |
| | <p>All local governments in South Africa (including Metropolitan, District and Local Municipalities) play an increasingly important role in spatial planning and land-use management (including biodiversity management and integrated environmental management). They also provide a strategic opportunity to mainstream biodiversity into sustainable development through the integration of nature-based opportunities (aligned with the NBSAP) into integrated development plans</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limpopo: Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) | |
| NGOs, the private sector, civil society | |
| <p>African Conservation Trust (ACT); BirdLife South Africa, The Botanical Society of Southern Africa (BotSoc); Conservation-South Africa; Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT); IUCN in SA; Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA); World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA); Wildlands Conservation Trust; Wilderness Foundation; ICLEI; Biosphere Reserve management agencies; community-based organizations; businesses and other private sector role-players; landowners</p> <p><i>Note: These lists are not comprehensive and there may be many other organizations and programmes that play an important role in biodiversity conservation and to whom the NBF will be relevant.</i></p> | |

1.5. Structure of the NBF

The NBF is presented in five Sections, as follows:

Section 1 provides an introduction to the NBF, including its purpose, its relationship to the NBSAP, NBA and other national strategies, its intended users, and its overall structure.

Section 2 describes the context for implementation of the NBF, including a brief description of key pressures on South Africa’s biodiversity and opportunities for addressing these; the institutional context; alignment with national policies and international commitments under multilateral agreements; and, guiding principles.

Section 3, which is the core of the NBF, has two components: (i) an **overview of key national strategies, frameworks and systems** that guide the work of the biodiversity sector, and provide effective vehicles for implementing the provisions of the NBSAP; and, (ii) a brief description of **key acceleration measures** that can be used to remove bottlenecks or barriers or provide opportunities for fast-tracking implementation of high priority activities identified in the NBSAP. These measures include a combination of enabling and other types of activities, some of which are specific to particular strategic objectives of the NBSAP, key priorities of the NBA2018, and others of which are cross-cutting, and hold the potential to achieve multiple NBSAP objectives simultaneously.

The information in this section is presented in a combination of summary tables (organised under the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes of the NBSAP), accompanied by brief narrative description.

Section 4 deals with mechanisms for co-ordination and co-operation (including national and regional priorities), communities of practice for promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing, and implementation arrangements.

Section 5 is a set of annexures providing additional or supplementary information including references, a list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), and a list of acronyms and abbreviations used in the document.

Section 2: Context for implementation of the NBF

2.1. Status of South Africa’s biodiversity

South Africa is one of the world's most diverse countries in terms of ecosystems and species, with nine different terrestrial biomes (Fynbos, Grassland, Savanna, Nama Karoo, Succulent Karoo, Forest, Subtropical Thicket, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, and Desert), a wealth of freshwater ecosystems, diverse marine ecosystems and a rich store of marine resources, and over 95 000 known species of living organisms. In addition to their own intrinsic value, these ecosystems and species are critical natural assets that provide a range of goods and services to people, such as producing food and clean water, regulating climate and disease, supporting crop pollination and nutrient cycles, and delivering cultural benefits and recreational opportunities. Maintaining the biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure that provide these benefits in good ecological condition is fundamental to achieving South Africa's social and economic development objectives. A brief overview of the status of South Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems is provided in **Table 3**. All of the information in the table has been extracted from the NBA 2018, unless otherwise stated.

Table 3: Status of South Africa's ecosystems and species, at a glance

| Ecosystem/element | Status, at a glance |
|---|--|
| Terrestrial Ecosystems: | |
| <i>Ecosystem threat status (NBA 2018):</i> | 22% of ecosystem types are threatened, with highest proportion of threatened ecosystems in the Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Grassland and Fynbos Biomes |
| <i>Ecosystem protection level (NBA 2018):</i> | 26% of ecosystem types are well-protected, 25% not protected at all |
| <i>Key ecosystem services:</i> | Rangelands; fertile soil; pollination; ecotourism; medicinal plants; wild food sources; resources for the wildlife and natural products industries; cultural, recreational and spiritual resources |
| <i>Main pressures:</i> | Clearing natural vegetation for croplands, human settlements, mining and plantations; with overutilisation of rangelands, altered fire regimes, biological invasions and climate change as additional pressures. |
| River ecosystems | |
| <i>Ecosystem threat status (NBA 2018):</i> | 64% of all river ecosystem types are threatened, two-thirds of these being Critically Endangered |
| <i>Ecosystem protection level (NBA 2018):</i> | 13% of river ecosystem types are well-protected, 42% not protected at all; only 12% of Strategic Water Source (high water-yield) Areas are protected |
| <i>Key ecosystem services:</i> | Fresh water, South Africa's most scarce natural resource; food and other materials that support livelihoods |
| <i>Main pressures:</i> | Changes to the hydrological regime, water pollution, loss and fragmentation of natural habitat, and invasive species. Climate change exacerbates existing pressures - increasing temperatures affect the hydrological cycle. |
| Wetland ecosystems | |
| <i>Ecosystem threat status (NBA 2018):</i> | 79% of wetland ecosystem types are threatened, three-quarters of these being Critically Endangered |
| <i>Ecosystem protection level (NBA 2018):</i> | 6% of wetland ecosystem types are well-protected, 61% not protected at all |
| <i>Key ecosystem services:</i> | Water purification; flood regulation; natural resources for food and livelihoods |
| <i>Main pressures:</i> | Changes to the hydrological regime, water pollution, loss and fragmentation of natural habitat, and invasive species. Climate change exacerbates existing pressures - increasing temperatures affect the hydrological cycle. |
| Estuarine ecosystems | |
| <i>Ecosystem threat status (NBA 2018):</i> | 86% of estuary ecosystem types are threatened |
| <i>Ecosystem protection level (NBA 2018):</i> | 18% of estuary ecosystem types are well-protected, 14% are not protected at all |
| <i>Key ecosystem services:</i> | Nurseries for fish, various raw materials for food and livelihoods, recreation |

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Main pressures:</i> | Freshwater flow modification; pollution; overfishing and bait collection; inappropriate land use and development in the EFZ and catchment; overfishing and bait collection; and invasive species. |
| Marine and coastal ecosystems | |
| <i>Ecosystem threat status (NBA 2018):</i> | 63% of inshore marine ecosystem types and 28% of offshore marine ecosystem types are threatened |
| <i>Ecosystem protection level (NBA 2018):</i> | Inshore ecosystem types: 34% well-protected, 5% not protected; offshore: 29% well-protected, 19% not protected |
| <i>Key ecosystem services:</i> | Fish and other marine resources, recreation, trade and transport, ecotourism, coastal protection |
| <i>Main pressures:</i> | Fishing, ports and harbours, coastal development, mining, mariculture, pollution and reduced fresh water flow. Climate change and invasive species exacerbate other pressures. |
| Species of Special Concern | |
| Current statistics have the number of South African animal species estimated at 67 000, while 20 401 plant species have been described. Red List assessments were conducted for 23 314 indigenous taxa from 11 taxonomic groups using the IUCN Red List of Species categories and criteria. Of the assessed taxa, 0.2% are extinct (48 taxa) and a further 3 156 taxa are threatened with extinction (14%). 11% of birds, 17% of mammals 6% of reptiles, 13% of amphibians, 10% of butterflies, 13% of dragonflies, 36% of freshwater fishes, 21% of seabreams (Sparids), 9% of corals and 14% of plants are threatened. Loss of natural habitat, invasive alien species, over-harvesting, over-abstraction of water, and climate change are the main pressures placing the survival of species at risk. | |
| Protected areas (information extracted from NPAES 2016) | |
| 7.9% of South Africa's terrestrial surface currently falls within protected areas. Of the 969 recognised terrestrial ecosystem types representing all realms, for example freshwater and marine, 21% are well protected, 13% are moderately protected, 30% are poorly protected and 37% are not protected. 23% of the coastline and 0.4% of offshore marine habitat is protected. | |

Key pressures on South Africa's biodiversity

The most recent national assessment of South Africa's biodiversity and ecosystems (NBA 2018) has shown that, despite an impressive baseline of innovative policies, numerous conservation programmes, extensive efforts, and significant advances made in the biodiversity sector over the last decade in particular, South Africa's biodiversity remains under high pressure from a variety of human-induced factors and disturbances.

The major pressures on South Africa's biodiversity include:

- Loss and degradation of natural habitat in terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems due to unsustainable land-use and ocean-use practices, inappropriate or poorly-located land uses and ocean uses.
- Disruptions to hydrological regimes of rivers wetlands and estuaries, including over-abstraction of water and pollution of aquatic ecosystems
- invasive alien species (both plant and animal)
- destructive and over-harvesting of species, especially in the marine environment
- illegal wildlife trafficking and other illegal resource use
- disruption of natural drivers of ecosystem functioning (such as fire cycles)
- impact induced by climate change.

The social and economic costs of not managing ecosystems in a sustainable manner are high, as evidenced by accelerated land degradation and biodiversity loss, lowered land productivity, weakened ecosystem (and social) resilience, declining availability and quality of freshwater, increased infestation by invasive alien species, collapsing fish stocks, and increased air and water pollution. These impacts are all worsened by an increasingly unpredictable climate and an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, which cause severe social and economic disruption, increased food insecurity due to crop and stock losses and lower yields, damage to infrastructure, and even loss of life.

These impacts compromise the nation's ability to fulfil its social and economic growth goals, and impacts on the quality of life of all South Africans especially the rural poor who rely daily on biodiversity resources to meet their subsistence needs. Responding to this requires a development path which minimises pressures on ecosystems and species, and strengthens resilience to climate change, whilst providing opportunities for addressing poverty, securing essential ecosystem services and addressing other social improvement needs (Cadman *et al.*, 2010).

Coordinated implementation of the strategies identified in this NBF will contribute meaningfully to achieving these goals.

2.2. Institutional context for biodiversity management and protection

South Africa has adopted a landscape approach to conserving biodiversity, which involves good alignment and co-operation between diverse role-players and effective mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into planning, decision-making and daily practice in multiple sectors. The NBF sets out a framework for achieving this co-ordination at national level. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) as the custodian for environmental management is mandated by Section 24 of the Constitution, and Chapter 2 [(b)[i, ii and iii]] of the Bill of Rights, to have the environmental protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that: prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and, secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources, while promoting justifiable economic and social development. However, responsibility for managing, conserving and ensuring sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity assets is shared by a large number of entities in government, and, increasingly, civil society and the private sector. These organisations include those whose core business is biodiversity management and protection, and a growing number of entities whose core business is some kind of productive activity that either relies or impacts on natural resources and biodiversity. (See **Table 1** for a summary). Many decisions affecting biodiversity are taken outside of the biodiversity or environmental sector (for example, agriculture, mining, energy and urban development), which makes it all the more important to adopt a framework for integrated, policy-aligned decision-making.

A full description of the institutional context for biodiversity management, protection and sustainable use in South Africa is provided in the NBSAP 2015, pages 10 – 15.

2.3. Alignment with national policy and legislation

The NBF forms part of the robust policy and legislative framework that guides and governs the conservation, management and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity assets. For this reason, the NBSAP, the implementation of which the NBF sets out to support, has been designed to align with key national legislation and policy in the broader environmental sector.

The overall framework for environmental governance is provided by the South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) and its associated Bill of Rights. Although the Constitution does not specifically refer to 'biodiversity', it enshrines certain environmental rights and specifies the powers and functions of national and provincial governments in terms of 'the environment,' 'nature conservation,' and 'natural resources,' such as soil, water, forests and marine resources.

Three pieces of environmental legislation collectively set out the **principles and procedures governing the protection and management of biodiversity**, and provide the **legislative framework for implementation of the NBSAP**:

- The **National Environmental Management Act** (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) – which is the key legislation for environmental management in South Africa, and provides an overall framework for general law reform in the environmental management field, and is of particular relevance to SO 3 of the NBSAP.
- The **Protected Areas Act** – which governs the establishment and management of protected areas, and is of particular relevance to NBSAP SO 1.
- The **Biodiversity Act** – which provides tools and mechanisms for conserving and managing biodiversity outside of protected areas, and is of cross-cutting relevance to all strategic objectives and outcomes of the NBSAP.

In addition, there are several other Acts relating to water, forests, marine resources and coastal management that are of relevance, especially to Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the NBSAP. These are summarised here in Box 1, below.

Box 1: Key legislation of relevance to biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use

Over-arching legislation and principles:

The Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996)

White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity (1997)

White Paper on Environmental Management Policy for South Africa (1998)

Core environmental legislation:

National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended

National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004)

National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (act 57 of 2003)

Related natural resource management legislation:

Marine Living Resources Act (Act 18 of 1998)

The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act 43 of 1983)

National Forest Act (Act 84 of 1998)

Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act 24 of 2008), as amended

Relevant spatial planning legislation:

Sub-division of Agricultural Land Act (Act 70 of 1970)

The Draft Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Framework Bill and Policy

The Spatial Planning and Land-Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013)

To fulfil its vision of conserving, managing and using biodiversity sustainably to ensure equitable benefits to all the people of South Africa, the NBSAP has also been designed to ensure alignment with national policies and frameworks that guide the broader sustainable development agenda in the country. Key among these are:

- the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 (in particular Chapter 5)
- the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) outcomes of the Presidential Delivery Agreement (particularly Outcome 10), which is updated at regular intervals
- the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD), 2002.

The vision of the NDP is that South Africa's transition to an environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-carbon economy and just society will be well-progressed by 2030 (MTSF, 2014 – 2019). The NDP proposes a multi-dimensional framework, including ten critical actions, to address the principal challenges of poverty and inequality. As part of this process, it specifically identifies the need to use water and other natural resources more sustainably, emit less carbon, and protect oceans, soils and wildlife, in ways that buoy up the economy and create employment opportunities. This aligns closely with the vision and strategic objectives of the NBSAP.

The Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2014 – 2019) developed by the Presidency translates the NDP vision and priorities into a set of sector-specific outcomes, outputs and targets. Those relevant to the environmental sector are reflected under Outputs 1 to 4 of Outcome 10, which is to protect and enhance environmental assets. The MTSF places emphasis on:

- **increasing the coverage of protected areas** and bringing more species and ecosystems under protection (MTSF Outcome 10, Output 4, which aligns with NBSAP SO 1)
- **enhancing the quality and quantity of water resources** by, among other things, protecting groundwater reserves and wetlands, preventing loss of wetlands, and increasing the number of wetland and river ecosystems that are restored to health (MTSF Outcome 10, Output 1, which aligns with NBSAP SO 2)
- **addressing the degradation and depletion of natural resources and ecological infrastructure** through strengthened environmental management, improved environmental governance and decision-making, and the incorporation of biodiversity priorities into national, provincial and local plans (MTSF Outcome 10, Output 3, which aligns with NBSAP SOs 2 and 3)
- **reducing climate change impacts** through reducing CO₂ emissions and developing climate change adaptation plans (MTSF Outcome 10, Output 2, which aligns with NBSAP Outcome 2)
- **harnessing research and information management capacity** and developing and maintaining datasets to generate policy-relevant data, indicators and indices (which aligns with NBSAP SO6).

This close alignment means that the framework and acceleration measures outlined in this document contribute directly to achieving the targets under Outcome 10 of the MTSF, and the objectives of the National Development Plan.

2.4. Alignment with international commitments

The priorities identified in the NBF are aligned with international conventions, treaties, protocols and other agreements relating to biodiversity management and protection to which South Africa is a signatory.

Key among these is:

- The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, ratified by South Africa in 1995), and its key protocols:
 - The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (governing the movement of living modified organisms, resulting from biotechnological intervention, from one country to another)
 - The Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use
- The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, ratified by South Africa in 1997)
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, ratified by South Africa in 1997)
- Other biodiversity-related conventions (date of ratification in brackets), including:
 - The International Plant Protection Convention (1952)
 - The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971)
 - The World Heritage Convention (1972)
 - CITES - The UN Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (1975)
 - The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2004)
- Other international agreements and programmes:
 - The UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – See [Annexure 6.3](#)
 - The CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020, and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) – see [Annexure 6.4](#)
 - The UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme
 - The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Alignment of the NBF with these international commitments is indicated in **Table 4** in [Section 3](#) of this document.

2.5. Principles of the NBF

This National Biodiversity Framework is firmly seated on a number of core principles that are aligned with those articulated in the NBSAP, and that should guide the work of all role-players in the biodiversity sector. These include, though are not limited to:

- *‘Duty of Care’ and the ‘precautionary principle’*, and other principles laid out in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998), in particular the provisions under Principle 4, which provides guidance on Sustainable Development, Environmental Management, Environmental Justice and Access and Benefit-sharing.
- *A landscape approach to biodiversity conservation and management*, which involves working both within and beyond the boundaries of protected areas to manage a mosaic of land uses including protection, restoration, production and subsistence use, in order to deliver ecological, economic and social benefits that are equitably shared by all citizens of South Africa.
- *A consistent and strategic approach guided by the principles of representation and persistence*, in which a representative sample of ecosystems and species is conserved along with the ecological processes that allow these biodiversity patterns to persist over time. This is achieved through identification of strategic spatial priorities, based on best available

science, in national, provincial and municipal systematic biodiversity plans that guide the spatial focus of the sector's work. These spatial priorities take the form of, amongst others, Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs), Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), Strategic Water Source Areas, Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAs), and priorities for protected area expansion.

- *Biodiversity has intrinsic value and but also constitutes critical natural capital which is essential for sustainable and resilient economic and social development.* Management of biodiversity and ecological infrastructure should be directed to meet conservation objectives, and should also be people-centred and strive to meet multiple transformational benefits, by placing strategic protection, wise management, and sustainable use of natural capital at the core of the country's sustainable development agenda.
- *Partnerships that enable cooperation and collaboration across institutional and administrative boundaries* are essential for managing ecosystems effectively at the landscape scale.

Section 3: Integrated framework for coordinating work in the biodiversity sector

South Africa's NBSAP is the overarching or 'umbrella' strategy guiding the work of the biodiversity sector. It is complemented by a wide range of other **national strategies, frameworks and systems** that have been developed to guide work in particular parts of the sector (for example, management of biological invasions, biodiversity information management, or ecosystem-based adaptation) and that provide effective vehicles for implementing the NBSAP. Some of these strategies and frameworks are more conceptual in nature (providing principles, high-level strategic objectives or general approaches), whilst others also provide detailed sets of activities, with indicators, timelines and institutional responsibilities clearly spelt out. Because there is such a proliferation of strategies in the sector, this Framework provides an overview of those that align most closely with the NBSAP, indicating what the purpose of each strategy is, how it is aligned with the strategic objectives, outcomes and priority activities of the NBSAP, how they cross-link with each other, and how they align with international commitments under multilateral agreements to which South Africa is a signatory, and programmes in which South Africa participates. This information is presented in **Table 4**.

Table 5 presents a set of **key interventions**, called '**accelerators**', which can make a significant contribution to accelerating implementation of the NBSAP and its related strategies, either by addressing bottlenecks or barriers, or by providing opportunities to fast-track implementation. These are presented as *recommendations* and should be used to guide priority-setting by institutions and organise collective action within the biodiversity sector.

3.1. National strategies, frameworks and systems in the biodiversity sector

Table 4 presents an overview of 30 strategies, frameworks and systems that exist in the biodiversity sector (see [Annexure 2](#) for a full document references). Only those strategies that are of relevance at the national scale to the biodiversity sector at large, and that are readily available in the public space, have been included. Provincial, local or institution-specific strategies, whilst important, have generally

been excluded from the overview, though cross-linkage to them is indicated where this is known and relevant.

TABLE 4: Overview of strategies, frameworks and systems guiding work in the biodiversity sector

SO = Strategic Objective; ABTs = Aichi Biodiversity Targets; SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals; all other acronyms described in [Section 6](#)

| 1. The National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) | Date | Lead developer | Partners (bold = lead) | Timeframe | Likely revision |
|--|------|----------------|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>Description: The NPAES (first edition 2008, revised 2016) is a 20-year strategy (updated every 5 years) to guide cost-effective expansion of protected areas in South Africa to increase ecosystem representivity, promote ecological sustainability, strengthen resilience to climate change, and support diversification of rural livelihoods and local economic development.</p> <p>It sets national-level protected area expansion targets (for ecosystems), provides maps of priority areas for expansion, identifies gaps, and recommends mechanisms for achieving the targets. Detailed spatial planning and roll-out to achieve the targets is carried out at provincial level, through provincial protected area expansion strategies and biodiversity plans.</p> <p>The NPAES enables coordination between the many role-players involved in protected area expansion by providing a common set of targets and spatial priorities.</p> | 2016 | DEFF | <p>DEFF, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, land owners, CPAs, NGOs</p> | 2016 - 2025 | Targets to be updated every 5 years |
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| 2. The Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship | 2015 | SANBI/DEFF | DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities, NGOs and landowners | 2015 - 2020 | Not specified |
| <p>Description: The Business Case is a Report that presents the economic rationale for increasing investment in biodiversity stewardship in South Africa. It outlines the role of biodiversity stewardship as a key tool for contributing to cost-effective expansion of protected areas, and placing priority biodiversity areas under improved, long-term management with benefits for landowners, diversification of rural livelihoods, and enhanced local economic development.</p> <p>The Business Case makes six key recommendations relating to: resourcing of provincial biodiversity programmes; incentives; partnerships for implementation (with a focus on NGOS), promoting the land reform agenda, technical support and strengthening the community of practice for implementation of biodiversity stewardship.</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1</p> <p>Outcome 1.1 (activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3.)</p> <p>Outcomes 1.3 and 1.4 (cross-cutting)</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • National Buffer Zone Strategy for National Parks • National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (incorporating the Wildlife Economy Strategy) • National MAB Strategy • People and Parks Co-management Framework • BIOFIN Plan | <p>International alignment</p> <p>ABT: 11</p> <p>SDGs: 1, 8, 14, 15</p> |
| 3. National Buffer Zone Strategy for National Parks (Government Notice 106 of 2012) | date 2012 | Lead Developer DEFF | Partners DEFF, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities, biosphere reserves, landowners, communities | Time period Open-ended | Likely revision Not specified |
| <p>Description: This document sets out the South African government's national strategy on the establishment and management of buffer zones around national parks. The purpose of the strategy is to: inform the public of the government's objectives in respect of buffer zones, and how it intends to meet these; and, to guide government agencies and organs of state in developing plans to achieve these</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1</p> <p>Outcome 1.1 (activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3)</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • National MAB Strategy | <p>International alignment</p> <p>ABTs: 11, 14, 16</p> <p>SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 15</p> |

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| <p>objectives. The vision for buffer zones is to provide for integration of national parks into local landscapes for the benefit of those living adjacent to the protected areas. In support of this vision, the strategy describes 8 goals, with recommendations for how they should be achieved. The goals relate to: the kinds of areas that should be included in buffer zones, and mechanisms for their inclusion; suitable and unsuitable land uses in buffer zones, and ways of incentivizing and optimizing sustainable land-use practices; the development of community-based management initiatives and other partnerships that increase the flow of benefits to communities.</p> | | <p>Outcome 1.3 (activities 1.3.2 and 1.3.5)</p> <p>Outcome 1.4 (activities 1.4.2 and 1.4.3)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Biodiversity Economy Strategy People and Parks Framework for Co-Management | | |
| <p>4. People and Parks Co-Management Framework</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2010</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>DEFF/SANParks</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>DEFF, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities and other protected area management authorities</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>Not specified</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> |
| | <p>Description:</p> <p>The purpose of this framework is to ensure effective redress of land rights in a fair and equitable manner to persons or communities who own restituted land (in terms of the Land Restitution Act) within protected areas or other biodiversity priority areas. The Framework sets out principles, models and a beneficiation framework to guide the relationship between protected area management authorities and land claimants, drawing on the draft co-management strategy developed under the People and Parks Programme, and the Isimangaliso Co-Management Agreement.</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1, Outcome 1.4 (activity 1.4.2)</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPAES (and provincial counterparts) National MAB Strategy Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship | <p>International alignment</p> <p>ABTs: 11 SDGs: 8, 15</p> |
| <p>5. The Operation Phakisa Marine Protection Services and Ocean Governance Focus Area (MPSG)</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2014</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>DHEST, DMRE, DoDMV, DEFF, DoT, Dti, SANBI, SANParks, CSIR, Council for Geoscience, DIRCO, iSimangaliso, Provincial Departments and Conservation Agencies</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2014 - 2033</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> |
| | <p>Description:</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |

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| <p>The MPSG informs the implementation an overarching, integrated governance framework for sustainable growth of the ocean economy that will maximise socio-economic benefits, whilst ensuring adequate ocean protection over the next five years.</p> <p>It identifies 10 key initiatives to achieve this objective. Key amongst these are the establishment of 22 offshore marine protected areas, the development of marine spatial planning tools to enable a sustainable ocean economy; implementation plans and enforcement measures for regional and sub-regional marine spatial plans; a fine-scale marine management plan to enable a sustainable economy; and, a review of ocean-related legislation (Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Act and the Oceans Act).</p> | | <p>NBSAP SO 1, Outcome 1.1 (activity 1.1.1)</p> <p>Outcome 1.3 (activity 1.3.3)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPAES (and counterparts in coastal provinces) Operation Phakisa and Presidential 9-point Plan | <p>ABTs: 6, 11</p> <p>SDG: 14</p> | |
| <p>6. South Africa's Strategy for Plant Conservation</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2015</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>SANBI and BotSoc of Southern Africa</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>SANBI, BotSoc, other NGOs, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, academic institutions, citizen scientists</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2015 - 2020</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>tbc</p> |
| | <p>Description:</p> <p>South Africa's Strategy for Plant Conservation is structured around 16 outcome-oriented targets, clustered under 5 objectives relating to: understanding and documenting South Africa's plant diversity (targets 1 to 3); conservation (targets 4 to 10); sustainable and equitable use (targets 11 to 13); education and awareness (target 14); and, capacity development and public engagement (targets 15 and 16).</p> <p>The Strategy specifies key outputs under each target, and provides a detailed analysis of the cross-linkages between these and the NBSAP Outcomes and Activities.</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>SO 1 Outcome 1.1 (activity 1.1.1) Outcome 1.2 (activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.4)</p> <p>Also has relevance under SO 3; SO 4; SO 5 and SO 6 (see table 1 in the Strategy for details)</p> | <p>Cross linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPAES (and provincial counterparts) | <p>International alignment</p> <p>Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>ABT: 12, 13 SDGs: 15</p> |
| <p>7. The National Man and Biosphere Reserve Strategy and Implementation Plan (MAB Strategy)</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2016</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>DEFF, NGOs appointed as management authorities of the biosphere reserves,</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2016 - 2020</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>To be determined</p> |

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| | | | SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities, NGOs, private sector partners, communities | | |
| Description: | | | Relevance to NBSAP | Cross-linkages | International alignment |
| <p>This is South Africa's first national strategy for the Biosphere Reserve Programme. It builds on lessons learnt over 20 years, complemented by a comprehensive situation analysis and extensive consultation process. Its main purpose is to enable biosphere reserves to reach their full potential as model landscapes for implementing integrated approaches to environmental protection and sustainable socio-economic development. The Strategy defines the overall strategic direction for the Biosphere Reserve Programme, under three strategic objectives relating to conservation of biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural heritage; building sustainable communities; and, promoting awareness and adaptive capacity. It identifies cross-cutting issues and interventions through which the objectives can be achieved, and describes their expected outputs. It also describes enabling conditions for successful implementation of the Strategy, including financing, communication and capacity-building needs, and includes a framework for nomination of new Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>The Strategy is supported by a comprehensive <i>Implementation Plan, and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework</i>, which sets priorities, specifies practical activities and institutional responsibilities for implementation, indicators and timelines for implementation.</p> | | | <p>SO 1 Outcome 1.1 (all activities, but especially 1.1.2 and 1.1.3) Outcome 1.3 (activity 1.3.5) Outcome 1.4 (activity 1.4.3)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • National Buffer Zone Strategy • Business case for Biodiversity Stewardship • People and Parks Co-Management Framework • National Biodiversity Economy Strategy • BIOFIN Plan | <p>UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Biosphere Reserve Strategy</p> <p>The AU Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (2012)</p> <p>ABTs: 8, 19, 20</p> <p>SDGs: 1, 3, 8, 14 and 15</p> |
| 8. The National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (NBES) | Date | Lead developer | Partners | Timeframe | Likely revision |
| | 2017 | DEFF | DEFF, Multiple partners in government, the private sector and civil society | 2015 - 2030 | Not specified |
| Description: | | | Relevance to NBSAP | Cross linkages | International alignment |

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| <p>The NBES is a 14-year framework the purpose of which is to provide structural coordination and direction to guide the sustainable growth and transformation of the wildlife and bioprospecting industries. It provides for the creation of inclusive biodiversity-based economic activities that can accelerate development of the rural economy, improve social well-being and ensure equitable access to and sharing of benefits from biological resources, while maintaining the ecological resource base.</p> <p>The NBES has set an overall industry growth goal of 10% per annum to be achieved through implementation of 20 enabling activities (10 each for the wildlife and bioprospecting industries), that will: facilitate the formation of cooperative partnerships between government, the private sector and communities to open up opportunities in various market segments; address development and growth constraints; enable skills transfer; and, manage the wildlife and bioprospecting sectors sustainably. Working through a nodal approach, the NBES identifies priority activities, outlines stakeholder roles, and sets out a detailed, results-based monitoring framework.</p> | <p>NBSAP SO1</p> <p>Outcome 1.3 (activities 1.3.1, 1.3.2, and 1.3.5)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for investing in Ecological Infrastructure • Framework for investment in Environment and Natural Resource Management for a Green Economy • The BIOFIN Plan • The National Plant Conservation Strategy • National MAB Strategy • People and Parks Co-Management Framework | <p>Nagoya Protocol of the CBD</p> <p>AU Guidelines for Co-ordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol</p> <p>ABTs: 4, 6, 13,16</p> <p>SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12</p> | | |
| <p>9. The National Botanical Gardens Expansion Strategy</p> | <p>Date 2019</p> | <p>Lead developer DEFF & SANBI</p> | <p>Partners DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, Isimangaliso Wetland park Authority, Provincial conservation authorities and parastatal institutions</p> | <p>Timeframe 2019- 2030</p> | <p>Likely revision Not specified</p> |
| <p>Description: A Strategy for the establishment, expansion and maintenance of a representative network of botanical gardens across South Africa, with the purpose of raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and its status, strengthening ex situ conservation (especially of threatened species and habitats, and medicinally/economically useful species), enhancing environmental education and recreational opportunities for the public, and creating 'green lungs' in urban areas to strengthen resilience to CC.</p> | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1</p> <p>Outcome 1.2 (activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.3)</p> <p>Also has broad relevance to SO4 (raising awareness)</p> | <p>Cross linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Plant Conservation Strategy | <p>Alignment international</p> <p>Global Pant Conservation Strategy</p> <p>ABTs: 12 and 13</p> <p>SDGs: 8 and 15</p> | | |

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| <p>The strategy identifies gaps in the current coverage of the NBG network, a broad set of priorities for addressing these, and the mechanisms through which the Strategy will be implemented.</p> <p>The overall aims of the Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish at least one NBG in each of the nine provinces of South Africa (with priority given to Limpopo and North West) • Establish botanical or demonstration gardens representative of each biome (with priority given to Desert and Indian Ocean Coastal Belt) • Expand existing gardens to incorporate additional species/habitats, conserve adjacent natural habitats and create natural corridors that serve as refugia for plants and animals in urban areas | | | | | |
| <p>10. Strategic Framework and Overarching Implementation Plan for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in South Africa</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2016</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> <p>DEFF & SANBI</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>DEFF, SANBI, DHEST, the 'Working For' programmes, CSIR, WRC, ARC, DAFF, CoGTA, SALGA, NIE, Provincial governments, local governments, NGOs and experts</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2016 - 2021</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> |
| | <p>The overall aim of this Strategy is to place Ecosystem-based Adaptation at the core of South Africa's overall approach to climate change adaptation, to enable a long-term, socially-inclusive transition to a climate-resilient society and economy.</p> <p>As context for the Implementation Plan, the Strategy provides an overview of relevant literature and issues; alignment with policies (international, national, provincial and local) and programmes; and, the institutional context for implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation.</p> <p>It sets out a vision and four key outcome areas, related to: co-ordination, communications and learning; research, monitoring and evaluation;</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBAP SO 2 Outcome 2.1 (activities 2.1.2 to 2.1.5) Outcome 2.2 (activities 2.2.1 and 2.2.2)</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Adaptation Plans for Biomes in South Africa • The Biodiversity Sector Climate Change Response Strategy • Strategy for investment in | <p>International alignment</p> <p>ABT: 15 SDGs: 8, 13, 15 UNFCC (Decision 1/CP.16) Paris Agreement 2015</p> |

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| <p>mainstreaming into policy and practice; and demonstration projects. Under each of these outcome areas, the Framework sketches low, medium and high-road financing options for a set of priority activities, for which institutional roles, timeframes and resource requirements are clearly described. The Strategy also identifies a number of key areas that should be strengthened to promote more effective implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation, in particular: monitoring the effectiveness of Ecosystem-based Adaptation; vulnerability assessments; improved communications to encourage peer learning and capacity development; and, better co-ordination of ground-level projects.</p> | | <p>Also broadly relevant to NBSAP SO 3, Outcomes 3.5 and 3.6</p> | | <p>Ecological Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy | <p>UNCCD (arts. 8 and 10)</p> <p>10-YFP (Objectives 1,2 &3)</p> <p>UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>Nairobi Work Programme 2015</p> |
| <p>11. Framework for investing in Ecological Infrastructure (EI)</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2014</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> <p>SANBI</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>SANBI, DEFF, CoGTA, DHSWS, Municipalities, irrigation boards, disaster management centres (national, provincial and municipal), National Treasury, the Presidency and the National Planning Commission, research institutions, provincial environmental affairs departments and conservation authorities, NGOs, and businesses</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>Not specified</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>The purpose of this framework is to guide action and support collaboration for investing in ecological infrastructure (EI).</p> <p>Seven principles make up the core of the Framework. These include that investment in EI should take place in ways that: build on existing programmes and experiences; optimise job creation and rural development; promote socially-sensitive participation; achieve clearly-defined outcomes and benefits;</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 2, Outcome 2.1 (all activities)</p> <p>Outcome 2.2 (activity 2.2.1)</p> | <p>Other cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy • Biodiversity Sector Climate Change response Strategy | <p>International commitments</p> <p>UNCCD</p> <p>UNFCCC</p> <p>ABTs: 5, 9, 14, 15</p> |

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| <p>focus on systematically identified, strategic spatial priority areas; and, involve transdisciplinary collaboration.</p> <p>In addition, the framework provides a brief background to what is meant by ecological infrastructure and investment in ecological infrastructure and how this contributes to national development goals; it identifies key role players and describes some key programmes and practices into which investment in EI can be integrated; it outlines the scope for resource mobilisation for investing in ecological infrastructure, identifies research needs going forward, and briefly outlines next steps for advancing progress in this field.</p> <p>This Framework is not static, and will be added to and expanded as experience in this field is gained.</p> | | <p>NBSAP SO 3 Outcome 3.2 (activities 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.4, 3.2.6, 3.2.7) Outcome 3.5 (activities 3.5.2, 3.5.3, 3.5.5)</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1 Outcome 1.1 (activity 1.1.3) Outcome 1.3 (activity 1.3.5) Outcome 1.4 (activity 1.4.3)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship • NBES • BIOFIN Plan • The national REDD+ programme led by DEFF/DAFF | <p>SDGs: 1, 8, 13, 15</p> | |
| <p>12. A Framework for investment in Environmental and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) for a Green Economy</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead developer(s)</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2016</p> | <p>DHEST, DEFF, DBSA (developed by CSIR)</p> | <p>DHEST, DEFF, DBSA, Relevant role-players in the private sector, DAFF, DHSWS, the “Working For” programmes, donors, NGOs</p> | <p>Not limited</p> | <p>Not Specified</p> |
| <p>This Framework has been designed to guide catalytic investment in Environmental and Natural Resource Management (ENRM), particularly as it relates to the green economy. The specific aim is to support ENRM initiatives that protect and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of the country’s ecosystems, in ways that promote – and capitalise on - the job creation potential of the natural resource management sector.</p> <p>The Framework is based on research and a consultation process. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the current context for enabling investment in ENRM, lists examples of key initiatives, and identifies key challenges and opportunities. The Framework identifies four key themes, under which short, medium and long-term investment options are specified.</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 2 Outcome 2.1 (activities 2.1.3, 2.1.5)</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1 Outcome 1.3 (activity 1.3.1, 1.3.5) Outcome 1.2 (activity 1.2.3)</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for investing in Ecological Infrastructure • Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy • NBES • BIOFIN Plan | <p>International alignment</p> <p>ABTs: 5, 9, 14, 15</p> <p>SDGs: 8, 13, 15</p> | |

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| <p>The four themes are to: enhance government coordination of South Africa's transition to a green economy; enable greater private sector investment in ENRM; support catchment-based studies to integrate principles of a green economy into restoration and conservation of ecological infrastructure; and, enhance technical and financial support for small business development in the biodiversity economy</p> | | | | | |
| <p>13. National Strategy for dealing with biological invasions in South Africa</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2014</p> | <p>DEFF</p> | <p>DEFF, SANBI, DHSWS, DoH, DALRRD, CoGTA, Trade & Industry, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities and departments, Customs, 'Working For' programmes, CMAs</p> | <p>10 years</p> | <p>Not specified</p> |
| <p>This Strategy identifies 11 objectives and 19 high-level interventions (supported by priority actions) to achieve integrated and cost-effective management of biological invasions at the national scale in South Africa, over the medium to longer term (10 years). It provides a comprehensive overview of biological invasions and their management, the legislative and regulatory environment, and broad principles for effective management. It elaborates on the need for strengthened management capacity and collaborative governance amongst the different spheres of government responsible for management of invasive species, the need to increase understanding through research and monitoring, raise awareness of the problem, and equitably distribute the costs of management. It addresses all aspects, including the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and describes approaches that can be targeted at species, areas of invasion and pathways of movement. Its overall goal is to protect the natural capital of the country, in the interests of achieving and sustaining the goals of the National Development Plan.</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> | |
| | | <p>NBSAP SO 2 Outcome 2.1 (activity 2.1.3)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy for Plant Conservation Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy Framework for Investing in Ecological Infrastructure Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy | <p>ABT: 9, 14, 15 SDGs: 8, 14, 15</p> | |
| | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |

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| 14. The Biodiversity Sector Climate Change Response Strategy | 2014 | DEFF | DEFF and stakeholders sector-wide | Open-ended | Not specified |
| <p>Description: This Strategy, which is aligned with the National Climate Change response Policy/Framework (2011), outlines principles and key elements of the biodiversity sector's strategic response to the risks posed by climate change. It serves as an over-arching national strategy to guide policy development and to inform the development of more specific implementation plans by sector departments.</p> <p>The Strategy identifies three strategic directions, under each of which clusters of relevant activities are listed (without specification of indicators, timeframes or institutional roles). The directions and key kinds of activities are as follows: Monitoring and Evaluation (with emphasis placed on strengthening relevant research, including impact-monitoring) Ecosystem-based Adaptation (with emphasis placed on maintaining key ecological infrastructure in good ecological condition, restoring degraded EI, improved land-use planning (incorporating CC criteria), improved vulnerability assessment and climate-proofing communities) Protection of natural capital (with emphasis on measures to keep CBAs, ESAs and FEPAs intact – or to restore degraded ones, and increasing the extent of the protected area estate). The strategy identifies intersectoral coordination through the development of regional and local partnerships as a key mechanism for ensuring delivery of the recommended actions.</p> | | | Relevance to NBSAP | Cross-linkages | International alignment |
| | | | <p>Cross-cutting relevance to NBSAP SOs 1, 2, 3 and 6</p> <p>SO 1, Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2</p> <p>SO 2, Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2</p> <p>SO 3, Outcome 3.1, 3.2 and 3.6</p> <p>SO 6, Outcome 6.1 and 6.4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy • The strategy for investing in ecological infrastructure • Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy • The NPAES • The Climate Change Adaptation Plans for Biomes in South Africa • BIOFIN Plan | <p>UNFCCC</p> <p>UNCCD</p> <p>Paris Agreement</p> <p>UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p>Nairobi Work Programme</p> |
| 15. Climate Change Adaptation Plans for South African Biomes | Date 2015 | Lead developer DEFF | Implementing partners DEFF and stakeholders sector-wide | Timeframe Not limited | Likely revision No specified |
| | | | Relevance to NBSAP | Cross-linkages | International alignment |

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| <p>This document summarizes the current state of knowledge about climate change threats, drivers and vulnerabilities, relevant to each of the nine biomes in South Africa and identifies appropriate, biome-specific adaptive actions.</p> <p>The adaptive actions are grouped into four categories: (i) spatial planning approaches, which indicate where different land-uses should best be located; (ii) management approaches, which influence how the land uses are executed; (iii) ecosystem-based approaches, which reduce the stressors that compromise the capacity of ecosystems to buffer social and biological systems from the effects of climate change; and, (iv) biodiversity stewardship approaches, through which adaptive capacity outside of protected areas can be enhanced by more sustainable land management.</p> | | <p>NBSAP SO 2, Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 (cross-cutting)</p> <p>NBSAP SO 1 Outcomes 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4 (cross-cutting)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy • Framework for investing in ecological infrastructure • Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • NBES | <p>UNCCD</p> <p>UNFCCC</p> <p>ABTs: 14, 15</p> <p>SDGs: 13, 15</p> | |
| <p>16. The National Water Resource Strategy v 2 (NWRS)</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2013</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> <p>DHSWS</p> | <p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>DHSWS, DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, Working for Wetlands, Working for Water, WRC, provincial environmental departments, local governments, Catchment Management Agencies</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>Five to ten years</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> |
| | <p>The NWRS2 builds on the first NWRS which was published in 2004. The purpose of the NWRS2 is to ensure that national water resources are protected, conserved, used, developed, managed and controlled in an efficient, equitable and sustainable manner, to meet South Africa's development goals over the next five to 10 years. It identifies three objectives, six key principles and seven strategic themes, one of which focuses on environmental protection and conservation of water resources (which is covered in Chapter 5). Of particular relevance to the biodiversity sector are strategic actions identified in Chapter 5 on Water Resource Protection, including those to: invest in Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs); maintain and rehabilitate water ecosystems; maintain Fresh Water Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPAS) in a good ecological state; protect riparian and wetland buffers and groundwater</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 2 Outcome 2.1 (activity 2.1.1)</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • Framework for Investing in Ecological Infrastructure • Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy | <p>International alignment</p> <p>Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p> <p>ABTs: 9, 11, 14, 15</p> <p>SDGs: 1, 6, 8,9, 13, 15</p> |

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| <p>recharge areas; rehabilitate strategic water ecosystems to maintain water quality and quantity; and monitor ecological health to inform management.</p> | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Sector Climate Change Response Strategy Water RDI RoadMap | |
| <p>17. Water Research, Development and Investment (RDI) Roadmap</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead Developer(s)</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely Revision</p> |
| | <p>2015</p> | <p>WRC, DHSWS, DHEST</p> | <p>DHSWS, DHEST, WRC, DEFF, SANBI</p> | <p>2015 - 2025</p> | <p>Not specified</p> |
| <p>This Roadmap provides strategic direction (through a set of research, development and deployment focal areas), a set of action plans and an implementation framework to guide, plan, manage and co-ordinate South Africa's portfolio investment for the next ten years. It is a high-level planning tool that facilitates and guides re-focussing of research and funding, and helps synergize existing initiatives and the resources of new ones that optimize the water innovation system. Through its focus on RDD activities that can improve water supply, it interfaces strongly with and provides an effective vehicle for increasing investments in water-related ecological infrastructure.</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |
| | | | <p>NBSAP SO 2, Outcome 2.1 (all activities, and especially 2.1.6)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWRS v2 Framework for investing in ecological infrastructure Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy | <p>ABTs: 9, 11, 14, 19, 20 SDGs: 6, 15, 17</p> |
| <p>18. The Biodiversity Finance Plan (BIOFIN)</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2017</p> | <p>DEFF</p> | <p>DEFF, SANBI, National Treasury, national and provincial conservation authorities and other protected area management agencies, government, private sector and civil society groups sector-wide</p> | <p>Not specified</p> | <p>Not specified</p> |
| <p>Description: The overall aim of the Biodiversity Finance Plan is to ensure adequate funding of conservation and management interventions to protect and maintain South Africa's unique and valuable biodiversity. Based on a rigorous selection process and a systematic approach, the Plan proposes a set of 15 possible finance solutions which are vehicles for attaining sustainable development and creating</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |
| | | | <p>Relevant to all NBSAP objectives, outcomes and activities, and especially SO 3, Outcome 3.5</p> | <p>Cross-cutting, but especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework for Investing in </p> | <p>BIOFIN global programme ABTs: 3, 20</p> |

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| <p>jobs through strengthened biodiversity conservation and management. The 15 solutions are clustered around three biodiversity outcomes, as follows:</p> <p>Protected areas: PA revenues; property rates reforms; revolving land trusts; biodiversity tax incentives; biodiversity offsets; and, making the case for public funding of Pas</p> <p>Ecosystem Restoration: government grants for ecological infrastructure; water tariffs; NRM value-added industries; global climate funding; carbon tax offsets; NRM land-user incentives</p> <p>Sustainable Use: Tourism Conservation Funds; biodiversity-related fines and penalties; wildlife-ranching.</p> <p>The BIOFIN plan also provides concise technical proposals on how to operationalize the financial solutions and consolidated estimates of expected results.</p> | | | <p>Ecological Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy • NPAES (and provincial counterparts) • The Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship • Water RDI Roadmap | SDGs: 8, 10, 15, 17 | |
| <p>19. National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking (NISCWT)</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2017</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Implementing partners</p> <p>DEFF, SAPS, DIRCO, SARS, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities (PCAs), Dept of Justice, SSA, private security companies, NGOs, NICC, SANDF</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2017 - 2021</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> |
| | <p>This Strategy has been developed to direct law enforcement structures across multiple departments/agencies and empower them to reduce and prevent wildlife trafficking. The Strategy promotes an integrated, multidisciplinary and consolidated law enforcement approach to strengthen enforcement capacity across government and within society more broadly, to address the serious threat posed by wildlife trafficking to biodiversity and national security. The Strategy includes an Implementation Plan that identifies objectives, key performance areas (with short, medium and long-term options for activities), outcomes, institutional roles and responsibilities, indicators, and timeframes.</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>NBSAP SO 3 Outcome 3.4 (activity 3.4.4)</p> | <p>Cross linkages</p> <p>Monitoring and Enforcement Strategy for the EMI</p> | <p>International alignment</p> <p>CITES</p> <p>ABT: 5, 12</p> <p>SDG: 14 ,15, 16</p> |
| <p>20. Environmental Sector Local Government Support Strategy (LGS)</p> | <p>Date</p> <p>2014</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>DEFF, SANBI, CoGTA, SALGA, Treasury, Local Governments, provincial environment</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2014 - 2019</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> |

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| | | | departments, SA Cities Network, ICLEI, NGOs | | |
| Description: This strategy provides for a coordinated and structured approach to strengthening environmental governance, environmental sustainability and climate-resilience at local government level. It clarifies legal mandates and policy imperatives, identifies challenges, and then details a vision, goals and five year implementation and monitoring plan. The strategy includes common set of environmental sector priorities and identifies opportunities to enable maximum impact and collective action in which environmental sector support is integrated into the local government development agenda. The vision of the strategy is to environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient municipalities, through intervention in five broad areas: strengthened environmental governance; improved integration of environmental sustainability into policy, planning and decision making; sustainable and efficient management of natural resources by local governments; development of a green economy; and strengthened climate-change responses. | | | Relevance to NBSAP | Cross-linkages | International alignment |
| | | | NBSAP SO 3 Outcome 3.1 (activity 3.1.3) Outcome 3.2 (activities 3.2.5 and 3.2.6) Outcome 3.3. (Activity 3.3.1) Outcome 3.4 (activity 3.4.2 and 3.4.3) Outcome 3.5 (activity 3.5.3) NBSAP SO 2, Outcome 2.1 (activity 2.1.3) Outcome 2.2 (activity 2.2.1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy Framework for investing in ecological infrastructure Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy BIOFIN | Local Agenda 21 of the CBD ABT: 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 14, 15 SDGs: 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 |
| 21. Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy (BHCDS) | Date | Lead Developer | Partners | Timeframe | Likely revision |
| | 2010 | DEFF/SANBI/Lewis Foundation | DEFF, SANBI, NESPF, DHST, CATHSSETA, EWSETA, all universities, NGOs, training providers, NRF, GreenMatter, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities | 2010 - 2030 | Reviewed every five years |
| Description: This strategy contributes to the growth of an equitable and skilled workforce of biodiversity professionals and technicians who can optimally implement the sector's expanding and complex mandate. It was informed by a comprehensive sector analysis, research and stakeholder consultation process and is intended | | | Relevance to NBSAP | Cross linkages | International alignment |
| | | | Cross-cutting, but with particular relevance to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sector Skills Development Plan | ABT: cross-cutting |

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| <p>as a 'living strategy' that should be reviewed every five years. It provides for a systemic approach to capacity development that promotes co-ordination and synergy, builds on existing strengths and addresses gaps through sector-wide initiatives. It identifies 9 core principles, 4 goals and 7 strategic objectives, under which particular activities are recommended. The implementation architecture for the Strategy includes mechanisms for broad sectoral engagement and dedicated co-ordination.</p> | | <p>NBSAP SO5, Outcome 5.2 (activities 5.2.1 and 5.2.2)</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sector Gender Mainstreaming Strategy Biodiversity Sector Research and Evidence Strategy | | <p>SDGs: cross-cutting, but especially SDGs 4 and 17</p> | |
| <p>22. The Environmental Sector Skills Development Plan for South Africa (Summary Document)</p> | | <p>Date</p> <p>2010</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>All sector institutions in government, the private sector and civil society</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>Not time-bound</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Needs-driven</p> | |
| <p>Description: This summary document brings together key information and recommendations drawn from numerous, underlying working documents, all of which are accessible via DEFF's Environmental Learning Forum webpage (www.envirolearningforum.co.za). It includes a description of skills needs and their drivers, factors influencing the supply of skills, and objectives and recommendations for environmental skills development-planning. This Plan provides the overarching context for human capital development strategies for sub-sectors within the environmental field, including the Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy.</p> | | <p>Relevance to the NBSAP</p> <p>SO 5, cross-cutting</p> | | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy | | <p>Alignment</p> <p>SDG 16 and 17</p> | |
| <p>23. Strategy for gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector</p> | | <p>Date</p> <p>2016</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Partners</p> <p>All sector institutions in government, the private sector and civil society</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> <p>2016 - 20201</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> <p>Not specified</p> | |
| <p>Description: This strategy has been developed to promote a gender-sensitive management approach in the environmental sector, and to ensure that gender analysis and gender equity underpins the development of policies and the design of environmental programmes and projects. Though not developed specifically for the biodiversity sector, it has important implications for it (outlined in Section 6.5) and should guide biodiversity-specific capacity building, policy-development and project cycle management.</p> | | <p>Relevance to the NBSAP</p> <p>Cross-cutting, but with specific linkage to: NBSAP SO5 Outcomes 5.1 (activity 5.1.1)</p> | | <p>Cross linkages</p> <p>Cross cutting, but with specific linkage to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy | | <p>International alignment</p> <p>The Gender Plan of Action of the CBD (2008)</p> | |

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| <p>The Strategy identifies 12 key strategies for promoting gender empowerment, and includes a framework of interventions (a gender mainstreaming 'toolkit') that can be used to put these into practice across all stages of the project cycle. It also includes an enumeration of funding opportunities, and a set of indicators to be used for monitoring and evaluation.</p> | | | <p>Outcome 5.2 (all activities)</p> <p>Outcome 5.3 (activity 5.3.4)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sector Skills Development Plan SA's national Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality | <p>The UN Women's Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017</p> <p>The SADC Protocol on Gender Development</p> <p>SDGs: 5 and 10</p> |
| <p>24. Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Programme (IPBES)</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead Agency</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>Established 2012</p> | <p>DEFF, CSIR</p> | <p>All sector role-players</p> | <p>Not time bound</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Description:</p> <p>The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is a global initiative of which South Africa is a founding and participating member. IPBES aims to strengthen capacity for the effective use of science in decision-making at all levels, and to address the needs of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that are related to biodiversity. Working through a system of expert groups, forums, task teams and technical support units, IPBES works to produce, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge on the contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services to sustainability generated by government, academia, scientific organizations, NGOs and indigenous communities. The IPBES Work Programme includes 18 deliverables, organized under 4 objectives.</p> <p>DEFF serves as the national focal point for IPBES in South Africa, and the CSIR, with support from DEFF, hosts the IPBES Technical Support Unit for Africa.</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> <p>Relevant under various NBSAP SOs, but particularly: SO 6, Outcomes 6.1, 6.2, 6.4 and 6.5</p> <p>SO 5, Outcomes 5.2 and 5.3</p> <p>SO 3, Outcome 3.6</p> <p>SO 2, Outcome 2.1</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Sector Research, Development and Evidence Strategy Biodiversity Research Development and Evidence Strategy BHCDS National Biodiversity Information System National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework | <p>International alignment</p> <p>IPBES (global)</p> <p>ABT: 19</p> <p>SDGs: 16, 17</p> |
| <p>25. National Biodiversity Research and Evidence Strategy</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2015</p> | <p>DEFF</p> | <p>DEFF, SANBI, CSIR, Research Institutions, NRF, SAEON, DHEST, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, NGOs, experts</p> | <p>2015 - 2025</p> | <p>Updated every 5 years</p> |

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| <p>Description: The central goal of this strategy (which flows from the Environmental Sector Research, Development and Evidence Strategy – see Item 26) is to ensure that research and evidence provides appropriate and sufficient support to decision-making and policy-development in the biodiversity sector. The Strategy outlines key principles to guide the research agenda, including the need to link research priorities to policy priorities, adoption of an evidence-informed approach to planning, reporting and budgeting, the importance of following participatory approaches and long-term investment in institutional strengthening, capacity development and innovation. The strategy identifies two clusters of strategic evidence objectives, linked to short, medium and longer-term outcomes, and a set of priorities, which are to: address taxonomic gaps, develop the green economy, identify and address trade-offs between conservation and development, respond to global change, strengthen risk mitigation, and identify drivers of behaviour change. The Strategy is accompanied by an annual implementation plan which details evidence requirements for the short and medium term.</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |
| | <p>Of cross-cutting relevance, but with specific relevance to: NBSAP SO6 Outcome 6.1. (activity 6.1.8) Outcome 6.2. (all) Outcome 6.4 (activity 6.4.1)</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Sector Skills Development Plan • IPBES • The National Biodiversity Information System • National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework • SANParks research data repository | | <p>ABT: 19 SDG: 14, 15, 17</p> |
| <p>26. The Environmental Sector Research, Development and Evidence Strategy</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2012</p> | <p>DEFF</p> | <p>DEFF, SANBI, DHEST, CSIR, SANParks, ARC, WRC, SAEON, research institutions</p> | <p>Not determined</p> | <p>Not specified</p> |
| <p>Description: This framework addresses the need for a common approach to the collection of solid evidence that can be used in support of environment sector policy decisions and for the achievement of sector priorities. The framework seeks to develop a more rigorous approach that gathers, critically appraises and uses high quality research evidence to inform policy-making and professional practice. The context for this framework is to implement the national R&D goals through responding to the Environmental Sector Plan and Outcome 10 evidence needs, while ensuring a coordinated common approach for developing thematic strategies.</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |
| | <p>NBSAP SO 6 Cross-cutting</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPBES • Biodiversity Sector Research and Evidence Strategy | | <p>ABT: 19 SDGs: 14, 15, 17</p> |

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| <p>The Framework sketches the strategic context for research development and evidence in the environmental sector, outlines a preferred approach, sets 6 objectives, identifies priorities informing evidence needs, knowledge sharing and human capacity development, and includes an implementation and monitoring plan. It sets the broader context for the Biodiversity Sector Research and Evidence Strategy.</p> <p>The Framework will be implemented in phases.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>27. National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS)</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead Agency</p> | <p>Implementing partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>Since 2004</p> | <p>SANBI</p> | <p>SANBI, DEFF, DHEST and other sector departments in government, civil society, the private sector, research institutions, conservation authorities</p> | <p>Open-ended</p> | <p>Updated continuously</p> |
| <p>Description: The National Biodiversity Information System is intended to harness, organize, refine, synthesise and manage biodiversity information and knowledge, to ensure that it is widely accessible and supports research, policy-development and decision-making in the biodiversity sector.</p> <p>As part of its core mandate determined by the Biodiversity Act, SANBI is leading the development of the System, working in partnership with a wide range of data providers and stakeholder institutions in government, the private sector and civil society. As part of this process, SANBI is building on existing tools that allow quick and easy access to biodiversity knowledge resources, such as: The Biodiversity Advisor: a web-based platform that provides access to a wide range of reports, checklists, training materials, databases, virtual forums, webpages and other sources of non-spatial information, such as : the Plants of Southern Africa (POSA)database; Red Lists; the iSpot citizen-science portal, and many others</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> | |
| | | <p>Cross-cutting, but of particular relevance to SO6, Outcomes 6.1 (activity 6.1.1) and 6.5 (activity 6.5.1)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Scientific Collections Facility • IPBES • The Biodiversity Sector Research and Evidence Strategy • The National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework • The National Ecosystem Classification System | <p>ABTs: 18 and 19</p> <p>SDGs: cross-cutting support, and especially 16 and 17</p> <p>Encyclopaedia of Life</p> <p>Biodiversity Heritage Library</p> <p>Global Biodiversity Information Facility</p> | |

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| <p>BGIS (Biodiversity-GIS): a webpage through which users can access spatial biodiversity data and supporting contextual information. The online interactive map component of BGIS allows users to query data, print and add maps.</p> <p>SABIF (the South African Biodiversity Information Facility): which hosts primary biodiversity data, and is a node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>28. DHEST/SANBI National Scientific Collections Facility</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead developer/agency</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2017</p> | <p>DHEST, SANBI</p> | <p>DHEST, SANBI, Museums, herbaria, universities</p> | <p>Not determined</p> | <p>Not determined</p> |
| <p>Description: This is a virtual facility for natural science collections. Its purpose is to build a network of South Africa's institutions holding natural history collections, with a central coordinating base in SANBI. Launched in 2017, it is one of 13 infrastructure facilities identified in South Africa's Research Infrastructure Roadmap.</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |
| | | | <p>NBSAP SO 6, Outcome 6.1 (activity 6.1.1)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Biodiversity Information System Biodiversity Sector Research and Evidence Strategy | <p>ABT 19</p> <p>SDGs: 17</p> <p>Biodiversity Heritage Library</p> |
| <p>29. National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework (developing)</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>2018</p> | <p>SANBI</p> | <p>SANBI, DEFF, SANParks, provincial environmental departments and conservation authorities, local governments, experts, NGOs</p> | <p>Not time-bound</p> | <p>Regular updating of indicators according to need</p> |
| <p>Description: The purpose of the National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework is to provide a consistent and coherent set of trackable, headline and operational indicators that can be used to reflect the status of biodiversity under all key biodiversity management and conservation outcomes. These indicators should be applied consistently in all monitoring and reporting processes, both nationally (for</p> | | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>International alignment</p> |
| | | | <p>Cross-cutting, but with particular relevance under NBSAP SO6 (Outcome 6.2).</p> | <p>Cross-cutting, but with particular links to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Biodiversity Assessment | <p>Supports all ABTs</p> <p>SDGs: 14, 15, 17</p> |

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| <p>example, in State of the Environment Reporting), and internationally, in terms of South Africa's commitments under the CBD and other multilateral environmental agreements. The Framework will link the high-level headline indicators used in the National Biodiversity Assessment with operational indicators used at project level. The Framework is intended to be a dynamic, 'living' tool that will be regularly updated, in response to reporting requirements. It will outline institutional roles and will include a 5-year implementation plan. Application of the Monitoring Framework will give a clear picture of the impact that biodiversity conservation and management measures are having on the ground. [under development at the time of writing, to be finalized during 2018]</p> | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Biodiversity Information System National Ecosystem Classification System | | |
| <p>30. National Ecosystem Classification System (developing)</p> | <p>Date</p> | <p>Lead Developer</p> | <p>Partners</p> | <p>Timeframe</p> | <p>Likely revision</p> |
| | <p>Initiated 2013</p> | <p>SANBI</p> | <p>SANBI, DEFF, DHSWS, CSIR, SAEON, WRC, SAIAB, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities</p> | <p>To be developed over five years</p> | <p>Not specified</p> |
| <p>Description: National ecosystem types are important units underpinning the work of the South African biodiversity sector. They form the basis of systematic biodiversity plans that inform policy, management, monitoring and decision-making, including the national biodiversity assessment, development of protected area expansion strategies, listing of threatened ecosystems and environmental impact assessment; they provide the basis for ecosystem accounting, and the development of biodiversity offsets; and, are strategic informants of a wide-range of surveys and research activities. Currently, a standardised set of terrestrial ecosystems based on vegetation types is well-developed in the country, but further development of the classification system is necessary to incorporate freshwater, estuarine, coastal and marine systems.</p> <p>The National Ecosystem Classification System (NECS), will provide a consistent set of ecosystem types for terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems that is stable over time, and endorsed by national scientific community. The system will provide spatial data and maps, a unique code and</p> | | <p>Relevance to NBSAP</p> | <p>Cross-linkages</p> | <p>Alignment with international commitments</p> | |
| | | <p>Of cross-cutting relevance under SOs 1, 2, 3 and 6, and specific relevance to SO 6, Outcome 6.1 and activity 6.1.5</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Biodiversity Assessment NPAES and provincial counterparts National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework National Biodiversity Information System | <p>ABTs: 8, 18, 19</p> <p>SDGs: 14, 15</p> | |

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| name for each ecosystem type, a description and list of associated species. Development of the classification system is being overseen by the National Ecosystem Classification Committee (NECC), which is convened by SANBI, and various subcommittees, which are working according to a five year plan, feeding into the current National Biodiversity Assessment (to be published in 2019) and the listing of threatened ecosystems in terms of the Biodiversity Act. | | | |
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3.2. Accelerators for implementing the NBSAP priorities

Given the ambitious nature and breadth of the objectives and priorities identified in the NBSAP and related strategies, and in light of the implementation constraints (financial, technical and human resources) facing government and other partners in the sector, setting priorities for action is essential. While progress across the full spectrum of strategic objectives and outcomes is necessary, not all can be pursued with the same emphasis, in parallel. Priority should be given to a set of measures which have the greatest potential to speed up progress across goals and targets, taking into account their integrated nature, the specific national context, and the imperative of achieving economic, social and environmental harmony.

'Accelerators' are those measures that can most effectively remove bottlenecks and/or systemic or underlying barriers to implementation, or that provide the best opportunities for fast-tracking implementation, or achieving multiple goals simultaneously.

The set of acceleration measures recommended in **Table 5** was identified through a process which included: (i) detailed analysis of the NBSAP to extract the high priority activities; (ii) cross-referencing these with priorities identified in other strategies; and, (iii) a stakeholder consultation process involving 19 key institutions in the biodiversity sector, and other selected stakeholders identified on a targeted basis. During the consultation process, stakeholders were asked what they are already doing to implement priorities identified in the NBSAP (or other strategies), and what they envisage should or could be done to accelerate implementation in the next five years. These inputs were used to identify the measures that are included in Table 5, but, it is important to recognize that there may also be other suitable measures that were not identified during the consultation process, but that might serve as effective accelerators.

It is also important to note the acceleration measures identified here do not represent new activities that institutions must implement in addition to their already-heavy workloads; rather, they represent a collation of priorities that have already been identified, but in numerous, separate documents and plans, or through consultation with stakeholders. **Table 5** brings these together in one place, in a way that enables alignment between the NBSAP and NBA and other strategic priorities to maximise impact.

Table 5: Recommended acceleration measures, organized by NBSAP Strategic Objectives, Outcomes and high priority activities

| NBSAP SO 1: Management and conservation of biodiversity assets and their contribution to the economy, rural development, job creation and social well-being is enhanced | |
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| <p>Relevant national strategies/frameworks/systems: The National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy, 2016; The Operation Phakisa Marine Protection and Governance Strategy, 2014; The Man and the Biosphere Reserve Strategy and Implementation Plan, 2016; The National Buffer Zone Strategy for National Parks, 2012; The People and Parks Co-Management Framework , 2010; The National Botanical Gardens Expansion Strategy, 2018; The National Plant Conservation Strategy, 2015; The Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship, 2015; The National Biodiversity Economy Strategy, 2017 (incorporating the Wildlife Economy Strategy)</p> | |
| <p>NBSAP Outcome 1.1: The network of protected areas and conservation areas includes a representative sample ecosystems and species, and is coherent and effectively managed</p> | |
| <p>High priority NBSAP activities: 1.1.1. Expand the protected area estate across all ecosystems 1.1.2. Expand the network of conservation areas through mechanisms under the Biodiversity Act 1.1.3. Strengthen capacity for Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes</p> | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| <p>1.1.1. Expand the protected area estate across all ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the NPAES is gazetted • Achieve 5-year national targets in the NPAES for % representation of ecosystems included in protected areas; through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Declaration of priority offshore marine protected areas in line with the Phakisa MSPG and NPAES, and coastal MPAs that have an offshore component (e.g. Addo and Namaqua MPAs) (ii) Expansion of national parks as per the SANParks expansion strategy and 3-year Land Inclusion Plan (focus on under-represented ecosystems: Nama Karoo, Grasslands and Succulent Karoo) (iii) Implementation of protected area expansion plans as per provincial conservation authority operational plans, including through identifying and declaring priority biodiversity stewardship sites (iv) Declaration(in terms of the National Forestry Act) of prioritized forests as forest nature reserves | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF (i) DEFF (MCM), Oceans Secretariat (ii) SANParks (iii) Provincial conservation authorities , CPAs, NGOs (iv) DAFF, provincial conservation agencies, private sector partners |

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| <p>1.1.2. <i>Expand the network of conservation areas through mechanisms under the Biodiversity Act</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize, resource and implement the buffer zone function within SANParks • Develop and apply biodiversity management plans for priority ecosystems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANParks • National and provincial conservation authorities, SANBI, scientists, landowners, CPAs |
| <p>1.1.3. <i>Strengthen capacity for Biodiversity Stewardship Programmes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations of the Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship, beginning with an assessment of the specific resource requirements of each provincial biodiversity stewardship programme • Implement the recommendations of the first National Biodiversity Stewardship Conference held in September 2017, as endorsed by MinTech and the Protected Area CEO's Forum • Convene a national biodiversity stewardship conference or forum annually • Update and implement the Biodiversity Stewardship Guidelines (2009) and develop and mainstream a Biodiversity Stewardship Implementation Framework and Policy • Explore innovative models for expanding areas brought under protection, such as Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) | <p>DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, BDS TWG, DALRRD, NGOs, landowners and community representatives</p> |
| <p>NBSAP Outcome 1.2: Species of Special Concern are sustainably managed</p> | |
| <p>Relevant NBSAP high priority activities:</p> | |
| <p>1.2.2. <i>Sufficient <u>ex situ</u> conservation of threatened and useful species</i></p> | |
| <p>1.2.4. <i>Maintain an effective Scientific Authority</i></p> | |
| <p>Recommended acceleration measures</p> | <p>Implementation</p> |
| <p>1.2.2 <i>Sufficient <u>ex situ</u> conservation of threatened and useful species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure budget, formalize and maintain relevant institutional partnerships to support expansion of South Africa's botanical garden network, specifically to operationalize the Kwelera and Limpopo National Botanical Gardens • Expand <i>ex situ</i> collections to increase representation of threatened and other species of special concern | <p>SANBI, EPWP, ECPTA, DEDEAT, LEDET, Treasury, NBGs, RBG Kew, botanical researchers and experts</p> |
| <p>1.2.4. <i>Maintain an effective scientific authority</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish non-detriment findings for priority species • Develop listing proposals for species threatened by international trade but not-yet CITES-listed and , early warning systems to flag new species potentially threatened by trade implemented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific Authority • Scientific Authority |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, implement and sustainably fund Biodiversity Management Plans for CR and EN species that are being unsustainably harvested | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANBI, SANParks, provincial authorities, local governments |
| <p>Outcome 1.3: The biodiversity economy is expanded, strengthened and transformed to be more inclusive of the rural poor</p> | |
| <p>Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: <i>1.3.1. Strengthen the contribution of the natural products sector to the national economy and the NBES</i> <i>1.3.2. Strengthen the contribution of the wildlife sector to the national economy and the NBES</i> <i>1.3.5. Pilot Biodiversity Economy transformation nodes to demonstrate multiple benefits</i></p> | |
| <p>Recommended acceleration measures</p> | <p>Implementation</p> |
| <p><i>1.3.1.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch and operationalize BioPANZA, and develop a Bioprospecting Charter for the sector , including principles for environmental sustainability • Co-ordinate research and surveys of species used in bioprospecting and biotrade and develop management tools to ensure sustainable use • Explore options (for example through feasibility studies) for cultivation of trees and plants of medicinal use to secure resource supply and reduce pressure on wild populations, with community participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, Dti, DHEST, DALRRD, DAFF, provincial conservation departments, sector stakeholders – private sector and communities) • DEFF, DHEST, ARC, CSIR, Private Sector, Provincial Conservation authorities; research institutions, NGOs, communities • BioPANZA, SANBI, the Scientific Authority, research institutions, national and provincial conservation agencies |
| <p><i>1.3.2. Strengthen the contribution of the wildlife sector to the national economy and the NBES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand membership of the Wildlife Forum, re-position it to serve as an effective interdepartmental/industry coordination platform, with the NBES as its implementation mandate • Streamline the regulatory environment and permitting system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, WildLife Forum, sector stakeholders • DEFF, provincial conservation authorities |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map priority areas for transformation of the wildlife sector within the BENs and use these to guide implementation of the Biodiversity Economy Strategy • Strengthen links between the wildlife economy and biodiversity stewardship • Develop and implement guidelines or minimum requirements for ecologically friendly wildlife ranching, possibly linked to certification • Work with local communities to develop and implement business plans for wildlife economy projects in priority BENs (as determined in the NBES) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, CPAs, DALRRD, District and Local municipalities • Wildlife Forum, provincial conservation authorities, CPAs, NGOs, private sector role-players, local chambers of commerce. |
| <p><i>1.3.5. Pilot Biodiversity Economy transformation nodes to demonstrate multiple benefits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake detailed mapping, determine strategic priorities, uptake areas and community priorities to operationalize at least 2 BENS (guided by the priorities identified in the NBES and WES), in conjunction with the Biosphere Reserve Programme and biodiversity stewardship programmes (including the Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, biosphere reserves, CPAs, NGOs, private sector |
| <p>Outcome 1.4: Biodiversity conservation supports the land reform agenda and socio-economic opportunities for communal landholders</p> | |
| <p>Relevant high priority NBSAP activities:</p> <p><i>1.4.1. Strengthen the Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative including approval of guidelines, strategies and implementation plans developed through the DEFF-DALRRD-SANBI alliance</i></p> <p><i>1.4.2. Facilitate settlement of land claims in protected areas and the conservation estate</i></p> | |
| <p>Recommended acceleration measures</p> | <p>Implementation</p> |
| <p><i>1.4.1. Strengthen the Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative including approval of guidelines, strategies and implementation plans developed through the DEFF-DALRRD-SANBI alliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise, formalise and implement the national strategy for the land reform and biodiversity stewardship initiative (LRBSI) • Resource and implement the Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative • Facilitate learning opportunities related to land reform and biodiversity stewardship with a focus on knowledge exchange and skills development for building a biodiversity economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF-SANBI-DALRRD • DEFF-SANBI-DALRRD • DEFF-SANBI-DALRRD |
| <p><i>1.4.2. Facilitate settlement of land claims in protected areas and the conservation estate</i></p> | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize settlements and biodiversity stewardship agreements on land of high biodiversity value and set co-management agreements in place, according to provincial priorities identified in protected area expansion plans • Support land claimants on restituted land with the identification and development of sustainable wildlife economy or nature-based enterprises | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and provincial conservation authorities • Provincial conservation authorities, SANParks, biosphere reserve management agencies |
| <p>NBSAP Strategic Objective 2: Investments in ecological Infrastructure enhance resilience and ensure benefits to society</p> | |
| <p>Relevant national strategies/frameworks/systems: The Framework for Investing in Ecological Infrastructure, 2014; The Overarching Strategy and Implementation Plan for Ecosystem-based Adaptation, 2016; The National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation and Mitigate the Effects of Drought (version 2, 2016, in draft); The National Water Resource Strategy v.2, 2013; Strategy for dealing with biological invasions in South Africa, 2014; Framework for investment in environmental and natural resources (ENRM) for a green economy, 2016; Climate Change Adaptation Plans for Biomes in South Africa, 2015; The Biodiversity Sector Climate Change Response Strategy, 2014; the Water RDI Roadmap, 2015</p> | |
| <p>Outcome 2.1: Investments in ecological infrastructure enhance resilience and ensure benefits to society</p> | |
| <p>Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: 2.1.1. <i>Support the implementation of Chapter 5 (water resource protection) of the National Water resource strategy</i> 2.1.2. <i>Develop a systematic approach including methods, techniques and expertise for mapping and prioritising ecological infrastructure</i> 2.1.3. <i>Scale-up and improve integration efforts to restore degraded ecological infrastructure and maintain ecological infrastructure in good condition</i></p> | |
| <p>Recommended acceleration measures</p> | <p>Implementation</p> |
| <p>2.1.1. <i>Support the implementation of Chapter 5 (water resource protection) of the National Water resource strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) through a range of mechanisms, including formal protection, land-use planning and environmental authorisations • Accelerate implementation of intensive wetland rehabilitation programmes, to protect priority wetlands and stimulate job creation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALRRD, EPWP, Working For programmes, DEFF, DHSWS, CMAs, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, municipalities • DEFF, DHSWS, EPWP, SANBI, SANParks, |

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| | <p>Provincial conservation authorities, CMAs</p> |
| <p><i>2.1.2. Develop a systematic approach including methods, techniques and expertise for mapping and prioritising ecological infrastructure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to invest in improving the National Wetland Inventory as part of the National Ecosystem Classification System • Develop and apply ecological infrastructure maps (including a focus on inland aquatic and coastal EI), as part of provincial spatial biodiversity planning and the National Biodiversity Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANBI, WfWet, CSIR, WRC, DHEST, SAEON, Research institutions, national and provincial conservation authorities, NGOs • SANBI, CSIR, WRC, SAEON, NGOs, researchers, scientists in national and provincial conservation authorities |
| <p><i>2.1.3. Scale-up and improve integration efforts to restore degraded ecological infrastructure and maintain ecological infrastructure in good condition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement strategic plans for maintenance and restoration of ecological infrastructure at a range of appropriate scales, including national, provincial and local • Integrate investment in ecological infrastructure into Catchment Management Strategies • Establish a National Alien and Invasive Species Co-ordination Forum • Strengthen the EI community of practice through knowledge sharing and information exchange, building on existing forums | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF (including DEFF's Environmental Programmes); SANBI; SANParks; provincial authorities; municipalities • DHSWS, CMAs, DEFF, provincial authorities, municipalities • DEFF, SANBI, DHSWS, Provinces, municipalities, CMAs, stakeholders • DEFF, SANBI, DHSWS, Provinces, national and provincial conservation |

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| | authorities, municipalities, CMA's, stakeholders |
| Outcome 2.2: Ecosystem-based adaptation is shown to achieve multiple benefits in the context of sustainable development | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: 2.2.1: Develop, fund and implement an implementation plan for ecosystem-based adaptation in the context of climate change adaptation and sustainable development | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| 2.2.1 Develop, fund and implement an implementation plan for ecosystem-based adaptation in the context of climate change adaptation and sustainable development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain co-ordination mechanisms for implementation of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy, including the cross-sectoral Coordination Steering Committee (CCS) • Build an active community of practice for Ecosystem-based Adaptation • Implement priority activities of the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Strategy in line with resource availability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANBI, stakeholders • SANBI, DEFF, Adaptation Network, NGOs • DEFF, SANBI, stakeholders |
| NBSAP SO 3: Biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed into policies, strategies and practices of a range of sectors | |
| Relevant national strategies/frameworks/systems: The National Biodiversity Economy Strategy, 2017; Framework for investment in ENRM for a Green Economy, 2016, The Biodiversity and Climate Change Response Strategy, 2014; The National Strategy for dealing with Biological Invasions, 2014; The National Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking, 2017; Phakisa MPSG, 2014; The Compliance and Enforcement Strategy for the Environmental Monitoring Inspectorate, 2015; BIOFIN Plan, 2017; Water RDI Roadmap, 2015. | |
| Outcome 3.1: Effective science-based biodiversity tools inform planning and decision-making | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: 3.1.1. Develop new science-based tools to inform planning and decision making 3.1.2. Maintain new and existing science-based policy tools | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |

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| <p><i>3.1.1. Develop new science-based tools to inform planning and decision making</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and apply biodiversity planning tools, including biodiversity sector plans, bioregional plans and biodiversity management plans (according to provincially determined priorities) • Develop biome-specific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (building on the recommendations in DEFFs 2015 Report on CCA Plans for South African Biomes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANBI, DEFF, CSIR, researchers, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, municipalities, NGOs, • DEFF, SANBI, CSIR, SAEON, researchers, provinces |
| <p><i>3.1.2. Maintain new and existing science-based policy tools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update provincial biodiversity sector plans and published bioregional plans in line with provincially-determined plans and priorities, and mainstream into land-use planning and decision-making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANBI, DEFF, provincial conservation authorities, municipalities |
| <p>Outcome 3.2: Embed biodiversity considerations into national, provincial and municipal development-planning and monitoring</p> | |
| <p>NBSAP Priority activities:</p> | |
| <p><i>3.2.1: Integrate biodiversity into tools being implemented to support environmental decision-making for SIPs</i></p> | |
| <p><i>3.2.3. Integrate biodiversity priority areas into integrated coastal management plans and offshore plans</i></p> | |
| <p><i>3.2.4 Develop and publish guidelines for invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plans</i></p> | |
| <p><i>3.2.6. Integrate biodiversity priority areas into spatial development frameworks, integrated development plans and land-use schemes</i></p> | |
| <p>Recommended acceleration measures</p> | <p>Implementation</p> |
| <p><i>3.2.1 Integrate biodiversity into tools being implemented to support environmental decision-making for SIPs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that appropriate biodiversity information is included in Strategic Environmental Assessments for SIPs • Ensure application of the new EIA screening tool³ by EAPS • | <p>DEFF, The Presidency, SANBI, provincial environment departments and conservation authorities, other relevant government departments and public entities, EA consultants</p> |

³ The 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Sect. 16 [1][b][v]) require that all applications for an environmental authorisation be accompanied by , *inter alia*, a report generated by the national, web-based environmental screening tool. The screening tool uses spatial environmental data (with different categories of data applicable to different kinds of applications), to determine if the application for authorisation (Basic Assessment, Scoping or Environmental Impact Assessment) has considered the major environmental issues at the proposed land-use site.

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| <p><i>3.2.3 Integrate biodiversity priority areas into integrated coastal management plans and offshore plans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that appropriate biodiversity information is included in marine spatial plans developed in terms of the marine spatial planning framework • Develop and apply implementation plans and enforcement measures for the marine spatial planning framework (as per Phakisa MSPG) | <p>Oceans Secretariat, DEFF (MCM), SANBI, DALRRD, sector bodies, provincial environmental departments and municipalities)coastal</p> |
| <p><i>3.2.4 Develop and publish guidelines for invasive species monitoring, control and eradication plans</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement National Control Plans for listed species, as per priorities determined by DHSWS • Develop invasive species control plans for all national parks and buffer zones and prioritised provincial nature reserves | <p>DEFF, SANBI, provincial environment departments, municipalities</p> |
| <p><i>3.2.6 Integrate biodiversity priority areas into spatial development frameworks, integrated development plans and land-use schemes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support inclusion of biodiversity priority areas into planning instruments developed in terms of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA , Act 16 of 2013) • Finalise and support implementation of the standard requirements for biodiversity information as part of the environmental layer in SDFs • Integrate biodiversity priorities into land capability and agricultural zoning through mainstreaming of systematic biodiversity plans • Develop ecosystem guidelines⁴ for environmental assessment and land-use planners and decision makers, and mainstream their use in integrated environmental management and land-use planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANBI, DALRRD, provincial conservation authorities • DEFF, SANBI, DALRRD, provincial conservation authorities • DEFF, SANBI, DAFF, provincial departments and conservation authorities, municipalities • SANBI, researchers, provincial environment departments and conservation authorities, municipalities, |

⁴ Ecosystem Guidelines provide practical guidance and a consistent framework for addressing the biodiversity-related aspects of land-use planning, landscape management and environmental regulation. They enable users to contextualize and interpret spatial biodiversity priorities, understand the key drivers of ecosystem functioning, understand what the acceptable limits of change are in particular ecosystems or landscapes, and interpret how those need to be managed and monitored to ensure that biodiversity and ecosystem processes are adequately safeguarded. Ecosystem Guidelines have been developed for the Western Cape and for the Grassland Biome, and new guidelines are planned for the Savanna and Thicket Biomes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement relevant training programmes to strengthen capacity in all relevant institutions for use of existing and new tools to integrate biodiversity into planning and decision making in multiple sectors | environmental assessment practitioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANBI, training institutions, NGOs, government departments in all spheres, private sector |
| Outcome 3.3: Strengthen and streamline development authorisations and decision-making | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP Activities: | |
| <i>3.3.3. Identify areas of high sensitivity where certain types of development are prohibited</i> | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| <i>3.3.3. Identify areas of high sensitivity where certain types of development are prohibited</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the process for listing one or more of Strategic Water Source Areas in terms of Section 24 (2)(a) of NEMA • Use CMA Maps and accompanying land-use guidelines to identify and inform decision-making about areas where development that results in loss of natural habitat should be avoided • Capture ecological infrastructure features in provincial biodiversity plans/biodiversity sector plans/bioregional plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, DHSWS, DMR, relevant provincial conservation authorities, CSIR, NGOs • Competent environmental authorities in terms of NEMA, provincial conservation authorities, SANBI • SANBI, Provincial conservation authorities municipalities |
| Outcome 3.4: Compliance with authorisations monitored and enforced | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities | |
| <i>3.4.1. Strengthen environmental regulatory and compliance frameworks</i> | |
| <i>3.4.2. Implement the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Strategy</i> | |
| <i>3.4.4. Improve the enforcement of trade regulations</i> | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| <i>3.4.1. Strengthen environmental regulatory and compliance frameworks</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and apply the national legal framework for monitoring and enforcement | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen links between EMI institutions and make them more accessible to the public (for example through use of the E-Legislation (NEMA/SEMA) tab on the DEFF website) | DEFF, SANParks, provincial conservation agencies, provincial environment departments |
| 3.4.2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure approval for, implement, and monitor the Compliance and Enforcement Strategy for the Environmental Management Inspectorate⁵ | DEFF, DALRR, DHSWS, SAPS, SSA, provincial conservation agencies and environmental departments, customs, municipalities |
| 3.4.4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve and implement the National Integrated Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking Implement CITES decisions and amended resolutions relating to rhino, elephants, pangolin and cycads Maintain CITES inspection and permit issuing offices in provinces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFF DEFF, Scientific Authority, SANParks, provincial conservation agencies Scientific Authority, provincial conservation authorities and environmental departments |
| Outcome 3.5: Appropriate allocation of resources in key sectors and spheres of government facilitates effective management of biodiversity, especially in biodiversity priority areas | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: | |
| 3.5.2. <i>Develop a resource mobilisation strategy for biodiversity</i> | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| 3.5.2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise, approve and implement the BIOFIN Finance Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFF, National Treasury, SANBI |
| Outcome 3.6: Biodiversity considerations are integrated into the development and implementation of policy, legislative and other tools | |

⁵ A *National Compliance and Enforcement Strategy for the Environmental Management Inspectorate* was developed by DEA in 2014. It is based on 7 core principles to guide the work of the Inspectorate, and enhance its effectiveness between 2015 and 2020.

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| Relevant NBSAP high priority activities: | |
| 3.6.1. Develop, implement, review and update legislative and other tools that ensure the protection of species and ecosystems | |
| 3.6.2. Integrate the value of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems | |
| 3.6.3. Integrate biodiversity into sector policies and legislation | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| 3.6.1 Develop, implement, review and update legislative and other tools that ensure the protection of species and ecosystems | DEFF |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete, approve and publish the National Biodiversity Offsets Policy • Finalize, approve and publish the amendments to NEMA that are currently under development | |
| 3.6.2. Integrate the value of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, CSIR, SANBI, relevant experts |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and undertake a strategic set of studies to assess the economic contribution to biodiversity conservation and management to the economy, building on existing work • Develop a National Strategy for Ecosystem Accounting as part of South Africa's participation in the EU-funded project Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics South Africa, SANBI, DEFF, DHSWS |
| 3.6.3. Integrate biodiversity into sector policies and legislation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, DAFF, SANBI, • DEFF, DMR, SANBI |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support inclusion of biodiversity priority areas in agricultural policy, legislation and spatial tools • Support implementation of the Mining and Biodiversity Guideline | |
| NBSAP SO4: Mobilise people | |
| Relevant national strategies/frameworks/information systems: | |
| National Plant Conservation Strategy, 2015; National MAB Reserve Strategy, 2016 | |
| Outcome 4.1: People's awareness of the value of biodiversity is enhanced through more effective co-ordination and messaging | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: | |
| 4.1.1. & 4.1.2. Develop, fund a co-ordinated national biodiversity communications, education and awareness strategy, implementation plan and monitoring framework | |
| 4.1.3. Strengthen environmental literacy through citizen science programmes | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |

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| <p>4.1.1. & 4.1.2. Develop, fund a co-ordinated national biodiversity communications, education and awareness strategy, implementation plan and monitoring framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, resource and implement a co-ordinated national biodiversity communications, education and awareness strategy, implementation plan and monitoring framework to co-ordinate communication work in the sector, building on the work done in the “Making the Case” project previously undertaken by DEFF and SANBI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, SANBI, NGOs, tertiary and research institutes |
| <p>4.1.3 Strengthen environmental literacy through citizen science programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the work of citizen science programmes by establishing a national citizen science forum for information exchange, learning, strategic prioritization • Strengthen support to Biosphere Reserves, Marine Hope Spots, and other landscape-initiatives as vehicles for promoting awareness and behaviour-change and supporting citizen science programmes, especially through engagement of youth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANBI, DHEST, NGOs, national collections institutions (museums, herbaria) • DEFF, SANParks, Conservation authorities, NGOs |
| <p>NBSAP SO5: Conservation and Management of Biodiversity is improved through the development of an equitable and suitably skilled workforce</p> | |
| <p>Relevant strategies/frameworks/systems: The Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy, 2010; Environmental Sector Skills Development Plan, 2010; Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in the Environmental Sector, 2010; IPBES</p> | |
| <p>Outcome 5.1: Macro-level conditions enabled for skills planning, development and evaluation</p> | |
| <p>Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: 5.1.3. Develop and integrate existing mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity human capital development initiatives 5.1.4. Ensure that national strategies receive adequate funding and support</p> | |
| <p>Recommended acceleration measures</p> | <p>Implementation</p> |
| <p>5.1.3. and 5.1.4.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFF, NESPF, SANBI, DHEST, DHSWS, DBSA, DPME, NRF, Greenmatter |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the further development and implementation of an effective and sustainably-funded national-level co-ordination mechanism for biodiversity human capital development and monitoring⁶ Ensure that capacity building needs for implementation of IPBES recommendations are matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFF, NESPF, DHEST |
| Outcome 5.2: An improved skills development system incorporates the needs of the biodiversity sector | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: | |
| <i>5.2.1. Develop and implement an updated BHCD Plan in support of the BHCDs</i> | |
| Recommended acceleration measure | Implementation |
| 5.2.1 | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an updated Biodiversity Human Capital Development Implementation Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEFF, SANBI, NESPF, GreenMatter |
| NBSAP SO6: Knowledge foundations | |
| Relevant national strategies/ frameworks/systems: | |
| IPBES; The National Biodiversity Research and Evidence Strategy, 2015; Environmental Sector Research, Development and Evidence Strategy, 2015; The National Plant Conservation Strategy, 2015; The National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework (under development); The National Biodiversity Ecosystem Classification System (under development); The National Biodiversity Information System | |
| Outcome 6.1: Relevant foundational datasets on species are in place and well-co-ordinated | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: | |
| <i>6.1.5. Maintain and formalise the National Ecosystem Classification System (also with relevance to Outcome 6.5)</i> | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| 6.1.5. | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalize, implement and maintain the National Ecosystem Classification System | SANBI, DEFF, SANParks, DHEST, NRF, CSIR, museums and herbaria, provincial |

⁶ South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). 2019. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report suggests potential indicators that should be monitored on a regular basis to inform the human capital development strategy and financial resource allocations for the environmental sector (Box 14).

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| | authorities, universities, NGOs |
| Outcome 6.2: The status of species and ecosystems is regularly monitored and assessed | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities | |
| 6.2.3. Develop and implement methods and approaches for assessing the status of ecological infrastructure | |
| 6.2.5. Regularly map key pressures on biodiversity, including landcover change, pressures in the marine environment (fisheries, trawling, mining) and distribution of invasive species | |
| 6.2.6. Monitor and report on the state of ecosystems and species, including the status and trends for priority harvested marine resources, impact of trade in wildlife and wild plants on biodiversity including change in TOPS- and CITES-listed species, invasive alien species and their impacts and the effectiveness of control measures, change in status of Red Listed species, impacts of GMOs on biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure, and the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems. | |
| 6.2.7. Revise and update the National Biodiversity Assessment at least every seven years | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | |
| <i>Cross-cutting:</i> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete, adopt and apply the National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework (under development, due for release in 2018) • Complete and publish the NBA 2018⁷, and mainstream into policy and planning at provincial and local levels • Identify, develop and build further on large-scale, long-term monitoring datasets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SANBI, DEFF, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities, Scientific Authority • SANBI, DEFF, SANParks, Provincial conservation authorities and environment departments • SAEON, SANBI, DEFF, CSIR, research institutions and centres of excellence, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities and |

⁷ South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). 2019. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report, published October 2019 and available online: <http://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/planning-and-assessment/national-biodiversity-assessment-nba-2018/>

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| | environment departments |
| Outcome 6.5: Knowledge base is accessible and is presented in a way that informs decision-making | |
| Relevant high priority NBSAP activities: <i>6.5.1. Develop infrastructure that facilitates serving various forms of information and tools in an appropriate format for decision-making to as broad a group of users as possible.</i> | |
| Recommended acceleration measures | Implementation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate resourcing to facilitate ongoing development and expansion of the National Biodiversity Information System | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SANBI, DEFF, DHEST, data-providers in partner institutions |
| | |

Section 4: Mechanisms for Co-ordination, Cooperation and Implementation

The importance of working through strong, collaborative partnerships is a key principle underlying this NBF. Cross-institutional partnerships create a sense of common purpose, facilitate alignment and more strategic allocation of limited resources, and build cohesion at a larger scale. They also make it possible to leverage greater implementation capacity than is possible when institutions act in isolation.

4.1. National mechanisms for coordination in the sector

National mechanisms for co-ordinating the work of the biodiversity sector include government-led committees, working groups and task teams that facilitate strategy and policy coherence, and co-operation between key institutions responsible for biodiversity management and conservation. The work of these structures is complemented by numerous other structures and task teams that operate provincially, locally, or internally within specific institutions or multi-stakeholder programmes, to co-ordinate implementation and operational workplans. Some of the key **national-level structures** relevant to co-ordination of the work of the biodiversity sector are included in **Table 6**, below.

Key amongst these, in the context of the NBF, is **MinTECH Working Group 1 (Biodiversity and Conservation)**, whose remit includes expansion of the conservation estate, mitigation of threats to biodiversity and ecosystems, ecosystem services, biodiversity legislation and regulation, and sustainable use of ecosystems. However, given the broad scope of the NBSAP, and the other strategies and frameworks that are in effect in the biodiversity sector, the deliberations of other working groups also have relevance, in particular WG 3 (Planning and Coordination), WG 4 (Compliance and Enforcement), WG 5 (Environmental Impact Management and Water Affairs), WG 6 (Environmental Jobs), WG 7 (Education, Development and Information Management), WG 8 (Oceans and Coasts), and WG 10 (Climate Change).

Table 6: Key national coordination mechanisms operating in the biodiversity sector

| Committee/Task Team | Role, participants, frequency of meetings |
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| Minister and Members of Executive Councils (MinMEC) Committee | Committees to promote co-operative governance between national ministers and their counterparts (MECs) at provincial level. The Environmental MinMEC comprises the Minister of Environmental Affairs, the Director-General of DEFF, and the provincial MECs for Environmental Affairs. MinMEC committees meet quarterly. |
| Ministerial Technical Committee (MinTECH) | Forums to facilitate coordination, policy and strategy coherence between national and provincial departments. The environmental MinTECH comprises the DG of DEFF, representatives of public entities including SANBI and SANParks, and heads of provincial departments responsible for environmental management and biodiversity conservation. MinTECH committees meet quarterly. |
| MinTech Working Groups | These working groups bring together senior officials in national and provincial government at quarterly meetings to discuss and advise on technical issues relating to Biodiversity and Conservation (WG1), Air Quality (WG2), Planning and Coordination (WG3), Compliance and Enforcement (WG4), Environmental Impact Management and Water (WG5), Environmental Sector Jobs (WG6), Education, Development and Information Management (WG7), Oceans and Coasts (WG 8), Waste and |

| Committee/Task Team | Role, participants, frequency of meetings |
|--|---|
| | <p>Chemical Management (WG 9), Climate Change (10), Environmental Policy and Law Reform (WG11), Communications (WG12). Meetings are held quarterly.</p> <p>Ad hoc task teams are convened under these working groups to deal with specific issues, according to need.</p> |
| <p>Protected Area CEO's Forum</p> | <p>Convened by DEFF, with the DDG: Biodiversity and Conservation as chairperson, this Forum promotes co-operative governance between national and provincial government departments and agencies in relation to protected area management. It serves as an advisory body to Environment MINTECH and MINMECH. The broad remit of the Forum is to co-ordinate the development of protected areas in ways that promote synergies on operational and strategic issues, support effective protected area management, build capacity and promote transformation in the sector. The Forum is responsible for coordinating the implementation of protected area expansion strategies, implementing strategic decisions of relevant international and regional bodies and programmes, setting up monitoring programmes, and for sharing information, ideas and experiences on issues of common interest to protected area management authorities. Membership of the Forum includes the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and nominated representatives from Protected Area Management Authorities, and nominated delegates from DEFF, SANBI and provincial departments. The Forum may appoint sub-committees and task teams to address specific issues, and may engage technical experts as needed. The Forum convenes twice yearly.</p> |
| <p>Protected Areas Technical Task Team (PATT)</p> | <p>This Task Team serves to ensure cooperation and implementation of MinMEC recommendations relating to legal and spatial issues affecting protected areas in the country (for example determination of protected area boundaries), and to ensure effective alignment of activities of all protected area management authorities in terms of the Protected Areas Act. Some of its specific functions are to: provide technical inputs to the development of relevant norms and standards and regulations, review the NPAES and the development and implementation of provincial counterparts, coordinate annual reporting to MinTECH WG1 under Outcome 10, and share databases and information. The Task Team is convened at least twice a year by DEFF and participants include SANParks, Isimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and representatives of provincial conservation authorities.</p> |
| <p>Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group (BDS TWG)</p> | <p>This working group, which is convened twice a year by SANBI, addresses technical, legal, policy and operational challenges faced by biodiversity stewardship programmes that are operating in the provinces. The working group refers relevant issues to the Protected Areas Task Team for further consideration and action. Membership of the working group includes SANBI, DEFF, SANParks, provincial conservation authorities, relevant NGOs.</p> |
| <p>People and Parks Steering Committee</p> | <p>The People and Parks Steering Committee, which is convened by DEFF at least once a year, oversees the operations of the People and Parks Programme. It deals with issues relating to: the settlement of land claims in protected areas; strengthening governance, participation, access and benefit sharing; and, the development and implementation of an awareness-raising and capacity building strategy. Membership includes government and community representatives. A number of Regional Committees and Park Forums (convened by SANParks) meet quarterly, or at intervals specific to particular Parks, to engage communities and address</p> |

| Committee/Task Team | Role, participants, frequency of meetings |
|---|---|
| | issues that have bearing on the collective good of the Park and its adjacent communities |
| The South African Biosphere Reserve Committee | <p>Chaired by the DDG: Biodiversity and Conservation within DEFF, this Committee operates in accordance with an approved terms of reference to oversee implementation of the Man and Biosphere Programme in South Africa. It oversees the implementation of the MAB Strategy and Implementation Plan, reviews effectiveness, and deals with strategic issues. It also promotes cooperation, coordination and communication between biosphere reserves. Meetings take place twice a year. Membership includes representatives from DEFF, biosphere management agencies and provincial forums, provincial conservation authorities, SALGA, CoGTA and a representative from the SA national commission to UNESCO.</p> <p>Operating in association with the Committee is a small Management Committee (to implement resolutions) and provincial MAB Forums, which are platforms for cooperation, networking, information exchange and lesson-sharing relevant to specific Biosphere Reserves.</p> |
| Interdepartmental Committee on Inland Water Ecosystems | This committee was formed in 2011 to share and effectively influence joint water resource management issues and decisions regarding inland water ecosystems, in a proactive manner. It is convened by DHSWS, with membership drawn from: DHSWS, DEFF, SANBI, SANParks, WRC and CMAs. It meets twice a year. |
| The Scientific Authority | <p>The Scientific Authority, has been established under Section 60 of the Biodiversity Act, to assist with regulating and restricting trade in TOPS- and CITES-listed species. It is administered by SANBI. Membership includes representatives from DEFF, SANBI, provincial conservation authorities, SANParks and national zoological gardens. Regular meetings are held twice a year, with special meetings convened according to need.</p> <p>The Authority is active in all provinces, and participates in relevant international meetings (e.g. CITES). Its main functions are to: monitor the legal and illegal trade in listed species; make recommendations to issuing authorities on applications for permits to undertake restricted activities with TOPS species; make and publish non-detriment findings on the impact of trade on the survival of species in the wild; assist with identifying species in trade and issue certificates in which the identification of a specimen is verified as being taxonomically accurate.</p> |
| National Ecosystem Classification Committee | The National Ecosystems Classification Committee, which is chaired by SANBI, is a technical working committee that oversees the ongoing development of the National Ecosystem Classification System. It has subcommittees that deal with specific realms, including freshwater, estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems. The work of these committees is to identify, map and describe a standardised set of ecosystems types that will serve as consistent units of reference in a wide range of assessment, planning, policy, decision-making and management processes in the biodiversity sector. Participants include relevant experts from SANBI, DEFF, DHSWS, DALRRD, SANParks, PCAs, CSIR, SAEON, WRC, SAIAB and universities. |

4.2 National communities of practice for knowledge sharing

Communities of practice are vital mechanism for co-ordinating, enriching and advancing the work of the sector and ensuring a consistent approach in the operating environment. As such, they are directly relevant to supporting the purpose of the NBF. There are numerous communities of practice operating at different scales in the country; those included in **Table 7**, below, are the key *national forums* of relevance under the six strategic objectives of the NBSAP.

Table 7: Communities of Practice that operate nationally to facilitate cooperation, lesson-sharing and knowledge exchange in the biodiversity sector

| Name of CoP | Convenor(s) | Participants | Frequency of meetings |
|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| People and Parks Forum | SANParks/DEFF | SANParks, local communities, private sector role-players, provincial conservation authorities, local businesses and other stakeholders living adjacent to national parks | Every two years |
| <p>Core business: The People and Parks Forum brings together all relevant role-players at a conference every two years to share experiences and best practices, exchange information, identify issues of common concern and propose solutions with regard to implementation of the People and Parks Programme. Issues of key concern include: co-management arrangements and other aspects of landscape management, settlement of land claims, access and benefit-sharing, developing opportunities for strengthening the rural economy, youth conservation and the Kids in parks project, and other issues of mutual interest and concern.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO 1, Outcome 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4</p> | | | |
| Marine Protected Areas Forum | DEFF; Oceans and Coasts | Government, MPA Management Agencies (SANParks, provincial conservation agencies, metros), Research Organizations (SAIAB, SAEON, ORI) and Academia, NGO's (WWF), Coastal Communities | Annual Forum, and training events |
| <p>Core business: To foster collaboration and information sharing between MPA stakeholders in Southern Africa to enable implementation of an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach to MPA Governance in Southern Africa, and improve MPA management effectiveness and capacity development.</p> <p>The mission of the South African MPA Forum is to work with all the role players in the SA MPA sector to maintain and improve communication, management and training of staff in all our MPAs. The Forum, which is managed by a Secretariat which identifies priority projects that require implementation by the full-time MPA Coordinator.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO 1, Outcome 1.1</p> | | | |
| The Wildlife Forum | DEFF | DEFF, DAFF, provincial conservation and environmental authorities, SAPS, representatives of the organized and wildlife hunting industry | Quarterly |
| <p>Core business: The Wildlife Forum's purpose is to promote conservation through sustainable use of renewable wildlife resources; contribute to building a responsible, self-regulatory wildlife and hunting sector; promote sustainable growth in wildlife-related tourism, with equitable benefit sharing; and, create enabling conditions for transformation of the sector. The Forum makes inputs to relevant law-making processes, alerts government to issues on which collaboration or improvement is needed, and facilitates collaboration and cooperation</p> | | | |

| Name of CoP | Convenor(s) | Participants | Frequency of meetings |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|
| <p>within the industry. The Forum appoints standing or <i>ad hoc</i> sub-committees or technical teams to deal with specific issues according to need.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO 1, Outcome 1.3 and 1.4</p> | | | |
| <p>BioPANZA (Bioproducts Advancement Network)</p> | <p>DEFF, and co-chaired by DHEST and Dti</p> | <p>Government and industry roleplayers</p> | <p>Twice per year</p> |
| <p>BioPanza has been established as a mechanism to promote applied research, local processing, innovation and product development in the bioprospecting/biotrade sector. The network brings together relevant government and industry roleplayers in partnerships to harness existing initiatives, address the innovation chasm and ensure access to bioproducts resources and equitable benefit-sharing. BioPANZA will work closely with the Bioprospecting Forum. [to be launched in 2018, though some functions have been operationalised).</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO1, Outcomes 1.3 and 1.4</p> | | | |
| <p>Bioprospecting Forum</p> | <p>DEFF</p> | <p>Industry, traditional knowledge holders, academia, NGOs and relevant government institutions</p> | <p>Twice per year</p> |
| <p>Core business: The Bioprospecting Forum (the formation of which was identified as a priority in the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy), is a platform that promotes coordination and facilitates formal communication and information exchange between sector role-players on matters and challenges facing the bioprospecting/ biotrade industry. Forum membership is by invitation from the Secretariat (DEFF), but other individuals/institutions may be invited to make presentations at Forum meetings, upon request from the members. The Forum has two objectives: (i) implementation of the bioprospecting/biotrade aspects of the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy; and, (ii) the implementation of the Biodiversity Economy Indaba Action Plan (this is an Action Plan arising from the Biodiversity Economy Indaba, which is convened annually).</p> <p>A number of Working Groups also operate under the aegis of the Forum, to tackle specific issues and propose possible solutions, in relation to: Discovery, Bioprospecting Best Practices in the Natural Products Sector; Permitting; and, Traditional Knowledge and Benefit-Sharing. Working Groups are convened on a needs-driven basis, and participation is open to all relevant, interested parties.</p> <p>Aligned with NSAP SO 1, Outcomes 1.3 and 1.4</p> | | | |
| <p>The Adaptation Network</p> | <p>Environmental Monitoring Group</p> | <p>Government, public and private entities, civil society groups, academics, businesses</p> | <p>variable</p> |
| <p>Core business: Founded in 2009, the Adaptation Network is a creative platform for sharing experiences, learning opportunities and practical approaches and frameworks relating to climate change adaptation. Its operation is governed by a Steering Committee which is elected at annual general meetings.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO 2, Outcome 2.2</p> | | | |
| <p>Freshwater Ecosystem Network</p> | <p>SANBI</p> | <p>Representatives from government, national and provincial agencies, NGOs and the private sector.</p> | <p>Annual</p> |
| <p>Core business: The Freshwater Ecosystem Network (FEN) was established in 2013 and is a community of practice related to freshwater ecosystems. The idea for the network emerged from a consultation process involving key role-players in the freshwater ecosystem sector. The forum serves to stimulate and support</p> | | | |

| Name of CoP | Convenor(s) | Participants | Frequency of meetings |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p>collaborative efforts and networks and is a platform for joint learning, coordination and networking around freshwater ecosystems.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SOs 2 and 3</p> | | | |
| <p>The National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN)</p> | <p>EWT (in partnership with DEFF)</p> | <p>Founding partners, supporting partners and members draw from the business community and NGO networks</p> | <p>Annual Biodiversity and Business Indaba, and other meetings as relevant</p> |
| <p>Core business: The aim of the Network is to assist businesses from various sectors to integrate and mainstream biodiversity issues into their strategies and operations. It is designed to be an open and inclusive association of likeminded organisations that have recognised the need to raise awareness of, and stimulate conversation about, biodiversity issues amongst the business community. The primary role of the Network is to bring national stakeholders in business and biodiversity together to share ideas and engage in dialogue, with the following objectives: provide a national platform to facilitate strategic discussions about biodiversity and business; create national momentum about mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into businesses; facilitate the development of a national agenda in terms of biodiversity and business; facilitate cohesion and integration in the discussion and agenda about biodiversity and business; and, facilitate focused, pragmatic and useful interventions to support businesses in the mainstreaming process.</p> <p>The EWT is spearheading the activities of the NBBN in alignment with the model of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in collaboration with the founding and supporting partners, as well as the other members of the Network.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SOs 1 (especially Outcome 1.3), 2 and 3</p> | | | |
| <p>Biodiversity Planning Forum</p> | <p>SANBI</p> | <p>Biodiversity planners in government, NGOs and private sector; scientists; land-use managers and conservationists; students</p> | <p>Annual conference</p> |
| <p>Core business: The Biodiversity Planning Forum was established in 2004. It provides an opportunity for individuals, agencies and departments involved in spatial biodiversity planning to share and synthesise valuable lessons from biodiversity planning projects across South Africa. The Forum is intended primarily for those involved in producing or using biodiversity planning products. Although the core focus of the Forum is on systematic biodiversity planning a key theme is planning for implementation. The Forum attracts practitioners, scientists and managers from a range of institutions and organisations including national, provincial and local government, conservation NGOs, universities and research institutes and independent biodiversity planning consultants. The Forum encourages students and interns to attend and offers funding, when possible, to support student involvement.</p> <p>Each year the Forum identifies key issues that are presented, discussed and debated in plenary and parallel sessions.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SOs 1,2,3 and 6</p> | | | |
| <p>Provincial and Metro Biodiversity Planning Working Group</p> | <p>SANBI</p> | <p>Biodiversity planners from government departments, provincial environment departments and conservation authorities, local governments, private consultancies and NGOs, individual experts</p> | <p>Workshop approximately annually, more frequently if required.</p> |
| <p>Core business: The Working Group convenes approximately annually to discuss and resolve technical and process issues related to biodiversity planning and to ensure sufficient consistency across provinces and metros</p> | | | |

| Name of CoP | Convenor(s) | Participants | Frequency of meetings |
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| <p>to maintain the usefulness and integrity of biodiversity plans. Its work draws from and feeds into the Biodiversity Planning Forum.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SOs 3 and 6</p> | | | |
| SA Mining and Biodiversity Forum | Minerals Council South Africa | Mining industry role-players, conservationists, government departments | ¾ times per year |
| <p>Core business: The Mining and Biodiversity Forum was established in 2005 to enhance biodiversity management in the mining industry. The Forum brings together all key role-players with the aim of facilitating cross-sectoral interaction and cooperation to improve biodiversity management and conservation, management and performance of the mining sector. The Forum was a key partner in the development of the Mining and Biodiversity Guidelines published in 2015.</p> <p>Aligned to NBSAP SO 3, especially Outcome 3.5</p> | | | |
| National Environmental Skills Planning Forum (NESPF) | DEFF | Relevant government departments and other public entities, NGOs, institutes and universities | Quarterly |
| <p>Core business: The Forum brings together role-players that are actively engaged in catalysing and supporting nationally relevant skills development planning interventions. The Forum has 3 goals, which are to: raise and deliberate on matters that need to be addressed at national level; initiate action to ensure that resources are allocated to address these issues; and, respond to the absence of a dedicated SETA and skills-focussed professional body in the environmental sector, and advise on implementation of the Environmental Sector Skills Plan.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO 5 (cross-cutting)</p> | | | |
| National Biodiversity Evidence and Research Indaba | DEFF | Government departments (national, provincial, local), SANBI, CSIR, NRF, universities and research institutions, NGOs, business partners | Annual |
| <p>The Indaba provides an annual opportunity to report on progress and share knowledge and experiences related to research and evidence needs and priorities identified in the National Biodiversity Research and Evidence Strategy.</p> <p>Aligned with NBSAP SO 6</p> | | | |
| Biodiversity Information Management Forum | Convenor: SANBI | Biodiversity information managers from local, provincial and national government departments, universities, research institutions, museums, conservation bodies and NGOs | Annual |
| <p>Core business: The Biodiversity Information Management Forum (BIMF) is the only national platform dedicated to discussing biodiversity information management issues. The BIMF brings together key role-players in biodiversity information management to ensure initiatives are aligned, co-ordinated and relevant in a rapidly changing world. The BIMF offers opportunities for strategic thinking, innovation, knowledge sharing, training and networking. It is primarily aimed at people who are involved in mobilising, managing, serving and using biodiversity information. While the primary focus is on South African issues, the forum has been enriched by</p> | | | |

| Name of CoP | Convenor(s) | Participants | Frequency of meetings |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| delegations from African and other countries that have shared their knowledge and expertise and brought an international perspective. Aligned with NBSAP SO 6 | | | |
| Management, Research and Planning Forum (MAREP) | Convenor: SANBI | Researchers, planners, managers and practitioners involved in natural resource management | Several times a year |
| Core business: The MAREP brings together researchers, managers and other practitioners involved in natural resource management, including in DEFF's Environmental Programmes. MAREP meetings are held at both national and regional levels, and deal with a range of strategic thematic areas relevant to natural resource management, providing a platform for strengthening the links between research and practice. Aligned with NBSAP SO 2 | | | |

Strengthening and expanding communities of practice

Strengthening opportunities for lesson-sharing and knowledge exchange is identified as a priority activity in most of the strategies reviewed in the NBF. Some areas of work currently do not have established communities of practice at national scale and these should be prioritised. Amongst these is biodiversity stewardship (see below). It is further recommended that priority be given to identifying and addressing other gaps in the community-of-practice network, with special attention to ensuring greater social inclusiveness.

Building a national community of practice for Biodiversity Stewardship

Biodiversity stewardship has become firmly established as a cost-effective and socially-inclusive way of bringing land of high biodiversity value under protection or improved biodiversity management, with benefits for stimulating rural economies (SANBI, 2017b). The NPAES 2016 reveals that biodiversity stewardship agreements account for 67 percent of the land that has been added to the protected area estate over the last 10 years, and that biodiversity stewardship is likely to be the dominant mechanism for achieving further expansion and consolidation of protected areas into the future.

It is a direct recommendation of the Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship (SANBI, 2017b) that the community of practice for biodiversity stewardship should be strengthened and expanded. Currently, the Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group plays a role in creating a community of practice to support sharing of experience and lessons, and biodiversity stewardship working groups operate in some provinces, such as the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. However, there is no formalised, national-level community of practice for biodiversity stewardship, though a successful, inaugural national biodiversity stewardship conference was convened by SANBI and other partners in September 2017.

Following the recommendations made in the Business Case, it is **recommended** that priority should be given to supporting the development of a fully-fledged national community of practice for biodiversity stewardship that meets annually (in a manner similar to the Biodiversity Planning Forum).

4.3 Mechanisms for co-ordination at sub-national level

There are many forums, communities of practice and other partnerships and networks operating at sub-national level in the biodiversity sector. The NBF identifies two main areas of opportunity for enhancing co-ordination at regional and sub-regional scale, to achieve greater site-level impact. These are: linking the NBSAP to action plans at provincial and local level; and, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships.

4.3.1 Linking the NBSAP to action plans at provincial and local level

Provinces and municipalities may choose to develop Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (PBSAPs and LBSAPs). The NBSAP and its sub-national counterparts should be well-aligned and mutually strengthening. Provincial and local biodiversity strategies and action plans (PBSAPs and LBSAPs) provide an opportunity to select from and adapt national-level objectives, outcomes and priorities to the provincial or local context, to achieve impact on the ground. In the South African context, it is also important that PBSAPs and LBSAPs be informed by and well-aligned with the other national strategies and frameworks that guide work in the sector.

The information presented in the NBF contributes to achieving this alignment. Furthermore, the NBF recommends a nominal list of acceleration measures that can be used as a starting point to inform the identification of priorities and targets at provincial and local level. Indicators identified in the National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework may also be useful informants of PBSAPs and LBSAPs.

4.3.2. Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships

Over the past decade, the biodiversity sector has demonstrated the effectiveness of working through multi-stakeholder (and often cross-sectoral) partnerships that operate at different scales to address biodiversity conservation and social development challenges in an integrated way. These partnerships are a powerful mechanism for co-ordination of the work of the biodiversity sector at sub-national level, across government, private sector and NGO lines and provide excellent opportunities for addressing multiple NBSAP priorities simultaneously. Multi-stakeholder partnership programmes can be determined spatially (landscape-scale initiatives) or thematically (large-scale projects dealing with particular aspects of biodiversity conservation or management), or a combination of these criteria.

Landscape initiatives

Multi-partner, landscape-level initiatives operate in biodiversity priority areas that include a mosaic of land uses and include interventions that operate at a variety of spatial scales. They provide opportunities for broadening stakeholder participation to be more socially inclusive, and to cross sectoral boundaries. They also enable local partnerships and communities of practice to emerge and flourish, and many examples of these exist. Landscape initiatives include corridor programmes (such as the Barberton Tourism and Biodiversity Corridor, BATOBIC), Biosphere Reserves, Marine Hope

Spots, and others such as the uMngeni Ecological Infrastructure Partnership and a large number of other projects, many led from within the NGO sector.

Biosphere Reserves are model landscapes for testing the landscape approach to biodiversity conservation and management, and achieving multiple outcomes of the NBSAP and related strategies (such as the People and Parks Strategy of SANParks). They provide practical mechanisms for integrating protected areas into broader landscapes, reconciling the potentially conflicting interests of diverse stakeholders, and testing and demonstrating diverse approaches such as strengthening biodiversity stewardship, supporting development of Biodiversity Economy Nodes, raising community awareness, and involving people in improved landscape management, with equitable sharing of benefits. Biosphere Reserves hold great potential for leveraging additional capacity for implementation as they operate through collaborative partnerships, often involving a large cohort of volunteers drawn from business, citizen science groups, and the public at large. They hold the additional benefit of being linked to a well-established international programme with clear governance and reporting mechanisms, and have access to a large pool of expertise and best practices that can be adapted for the local context. Although funding is a challenge for local biosphere reserves, being part of the UNESCO MAB programme does facilitate access to a diversity of potential funding avenues, which otherwise would not be available.

It is recommended that support to Biosphere Reserves can be enhanced by:

- (i) Conducting a thematic learning review of the benefits of biosphere reserves and capturing these in appropriate knowledge products to raise the profile of biosphere reserves within government, and the public.
- (ii) Providing support to facilitate more opportunities for lesson-sharing and information exchange between biosphere reserves (involving stakeholders on the ground, as opposed to high-level interactions), including, but not limited to, the possibility of establishing a local chapter of the MAB Youth Forum.

UNDP-supported, GEF-financed multi-partner projects

The implementation of a number of GEF-financed, UNDP supported projects is currently underway in South Africa. These include projects dealing with Biodiversity and Land Use (aligned with NBSAP SO 3), Protected Area Management Effectiveness (NBSAP SO 1), Nagoya Protocol Access & Benefit Sharing (NBSAP SO1) , Sustainable Land Management (NBSAP SO2), the Orange River Senqu Basin (regional, with a South African Secretariat; NBSAP SO2), and Operation Phakisa marine governance and protection projects (NBSAP SO 1). These are large, five-year interventions with dedicated resources and governance and implementation capacity, involving multiple stakeholders with a high level of institutional commitment. Support for these initiatives should continue to be prioritised as an effective means of addressing multiple objectives and high priority activities identified in the NBSAP and NBF, through coordinated activity of multiple role-players operating across the broader landscape/seascape.

4.4 Strengthening biodiversity monitoring and reporting

The biodiversity sector in South Africa is well-established, institutionally complex and extremely active. Currently, the conservation outcomes of this activity are not monitored in a consistent way

across institutions, or areas of work. Although many institutions have systems for monitoring in place, different sets of indicators are used to monitor the implementation of different strategies in different parts of the sector (though some of the objectives are common), and in different reporting systems (for example, internal reporting such as State of the Environment reporting, and accounting to international bodies such as the Convention on Biological Diversity). This makes it difficult to obtain a clear picture of the impact that the work of the sector is having in terms of conservation outcomes on the ground (i.e. the state of biodiversity), which, in turn influences work-planning, prioritisation and allocation of resources.

The National Biodiversity Assessment provides a five to seven-yearly assessment of the status of ecosystems and species using high-level headline indicators, but these cannot be used for all monitoring and reporting requirements. The **National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework** has been developed to address this. It identifies an operational set of trackable indicators that can be applied consistently across institutions and reporting processes, to reflect status and trends with respect to biodiversity conservation and management outcomes, on a regular basis. The indicator framework will be updated frequently in response to reporting requirements.

It is recommended that the National Biodiversity Monitoring Framework be adopted and implemented within DEFF, national and provincial conservation bodies, and local governments, as a matter of priority, as it will contribute in significant measure to strengthening coordination with respect to biodiversity monitoring, thus improving the effectiveness with which the sector operates.

4.5 Regional priorities and mechanisms for co-ordination

A number of the issues affecting biodiversity conservation and management in South Africa transcend the national boundaries. This means that it is important to identify regional priorities and mechanisms to promote coordinated action on issues of common interest or concern, and build synergy and facilitate lesson-sharing within the Southern African region. South Africa is an active member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), is a strong supporter of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development), and an active participant in numerous regional, biodiversity-related initiatives led by international organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These provide multiple opportunities for addressing regional issues that influence South Africa's ability to address transboundary threats and risks to biodiversity, maintain the integrity of ecosystems at landscape scale, fulfil the vision of its NBSAP, and contribute meaningfully to ensuring that natural resources continue to provide the basis for socio-economic development in the broader southern African region.

Priorities for regional cooperation are to:

- Strengthen transboundary management of water resources
- Collaborate in combatting illegal wildlife trafficking
- Strengthen development of integrated management and tourism plans for transfrontier conservation areas and transboundary World Heritage Sites, with benefits for developing rural economies
- Improve collaboration and monitoring at border points to reduce biological invasions

- Develop, implement and strengthen programmes to promote international collaboration, sharing of information, technology transfer, and biodiversity training
- Collaborate on the adoption of ecosystem-based approaches to strengthen ecological and social resilience to climate change.

Relevant strategies/mechanisms for promoting regional cooperation and coordination include:

- The SADC Regional Biodiversity Strategy (developed in 2002, and still in effect)
- The AU Guidelines for Co-ordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol
- The AU Convention on Natural Resource Conservation
- NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency investment programmes, and the NEPAD Strategic Framework (2016 – 2020)
- The Nairobi Workplan on Ecosystem-based Adaption (2015)
- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- The Peace Parks Foundation Advisory Committee
- The Leadership for Conservation in Africa Initiative (co-led by IUCN, DEFF and SANParks)
- The UNP-supported, GEF-financed Senqu Basin project

4.6 Mobilising finance for the biodiversity sector

Limited financial resources (for example, for funding biodiversity stewardship programmes or protected area management) is one of the ongoing challenges compromising the ability of institutions in the biodiversity sector to fulfil their mandates (NBSAP, 2015). Additional resources can be mobilised by: (i) increasing allocations from existing sources (the national fiscus and non-state resources); (ii) improving the effectiveness with which existing funds are used (through more strategic allocations, and reducing costs); and (iii) mobilising resources from new sources (DEA, 2017b: the BIOFIN Plan).

The BIOFIN Biodiversity Finance Plan for South Africa (DEA, 2017b, hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’), has been developed to identify and support the implementation of innovative **biodiversity finance solutions** that augment existing sources of funding from government, the private sector and other sources. The Plan has been developed under the auspices of the UNDP-led Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), being implemented in South Africa through DEFF with collaboration of National Treasury. A systematic process and detailed analyses were used to identify and prioritise **15 finance solutions**, each of which has significant impact on aligning incentives, increasing financing, and improving cost effectiveness and service delivery. Collectively – and in combination with strong commitment and financing by the public sector, and technical and financial support of the private sector, foundations, donors, and NGOs – these finance solutions will serve as effective accelerators for strengthening biodiversity management, creating jobs and supporting the achievement of South Africa’s development agenda as set out in the National Development Plan, and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Implementation of the Plan will require a coordinated effort and technical capacity from key institutions including the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), national and provincial conservation authorities, National Treasury, the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), a broad range of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), other government

agencies and civil society groups. Monitoring of the Plan will be coordinated by DEFF using existing collaborative or new frameworks (DEA, 2017).

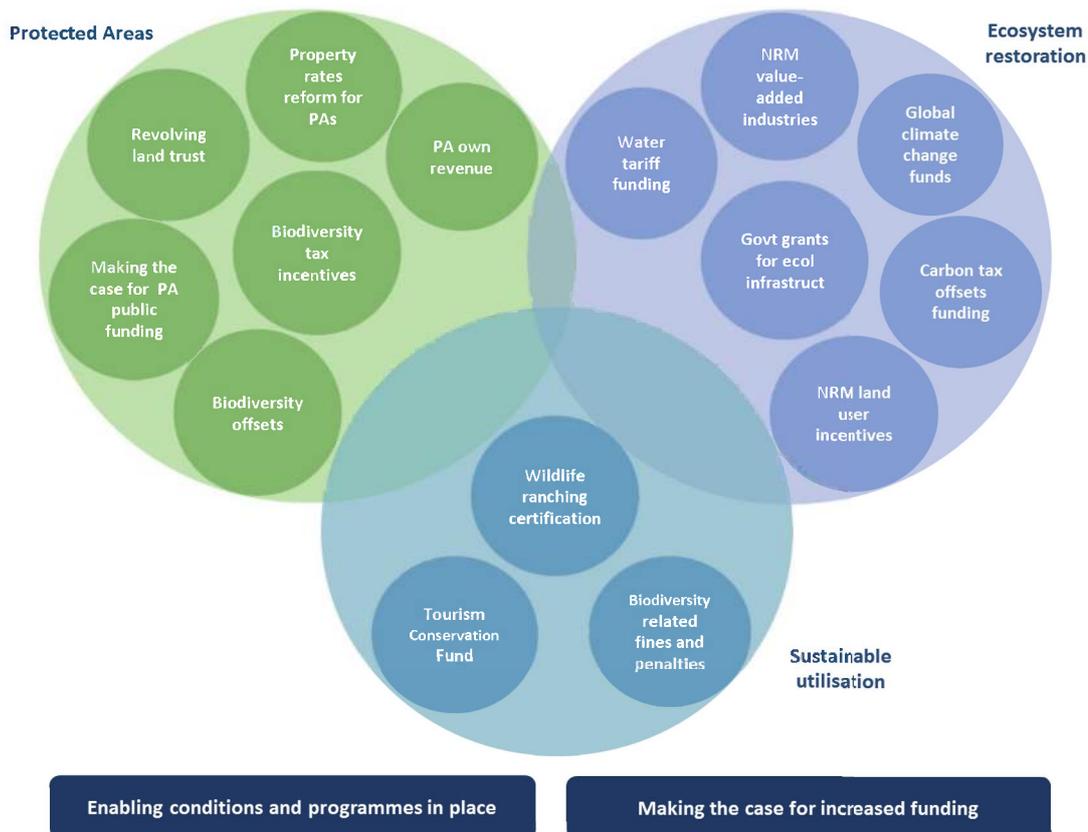


Figure 3: The 15 biodiversity finance solutions proposed in the BIOFIN Finance Plan for South Africa (from DEA, 2017b)

4.7 Implementation and monitoring of the NBF

The Department of Environmental Affairs carries overall responsibility for overseeing implementation and monitoring of the NBF, but catalysing the actions listed in the NBF is the joint responsibility all role-players in the sector. As the NBF is a framework for co-ordination, and not an action plan in itself, its implementation does not have to be monitored in the same way as the NBSAP. However, progress should be reported regularly at MinTech WG1 meetings.

Section 5: Annexures

- 5.1. List of strategies and frameworks reviewed in the NBF
- 5.2. References
- 5.3. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 5.4. The 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs)
- 5.5. Acronyms and abbreviations

Annexure 5.1: List of strategies, frameworks and systems included in the overview presented in the National Biodiversity Framework

The strategies are listed in the sequence in which they appear in Table 4. Where they are commonly referred to in abbreviated form, the abbreviation appears at the start of the reference, followed by full citation details, where these apply. Active weblinks are provided to enable easy access by users.

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Annexure 5.2: General References

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Annexure 5.3: The Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals)

| SDG | Description |
|-----|--|
| 1 | End poverty in all its forms everywhere |
| 2 | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture |
| 3 | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages |
| 4 | Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all |
| 5 | Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls |
| 6 | Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all |
| 7 | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |
| 8 | Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all |
| 9 | Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation |
| 10 | Reduce inequality in and among countries |
| 11 | Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |
| 12 | Ensure sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns |
| 13 | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts |
| 14 | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development |
| 15 | Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss |
| 16 | Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels |
| 17 | Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development |



For a full description of the goals, their targets and indicators, visit:

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Annexure 5. 4: The Aichi Biodiversity Targets

| CBD Strategic Goal | Target | Description |
|--|-----------|---|
| A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society | 1 | Awareness of biodiversity increased |
| | 2 | Biodiversity values integrated |
| | 3 | Incentives reformed |
| | 4 | Sustainable consumption and production |
| B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use | 5 | Habitat loss halved or reduced |
| | 6 | Sustainable management of aquatic resources |
| | 7 | Sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry |
| | 8 | Pollution reduced |
| | 9 | Invasive alien species prevented and controlled |
| | 10 | Ecosystems vulnerable to climate change |
| C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity | 11 | Protected areas |
| | 12 | Reducing the risk of extinction |
| | 13 | Safeguarding genetic diversity |
| D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services | 14 | Ecosystem services |
| | 15 | Ecosystem restoration and resilience |
| | 16 | Access to sharing benefits from genetic resources |
| E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building | 17 | Biodiversity strategies and action plans |
| | 18 | Traditional knowledge |
| | 19 | Sharing information and knowledge |

The Aichi Targets



For full descriptions of the goals, their targets and indicators, visit: www.cbd.int

Annexure 5.5: Acronyms and Abbreviations

| ABT | Aichi Biodiversity Target |
|-------------------|---|
| ACT | African Conservation Trust |
| ARC | Agricultural Research Council |
| AU | African Union |
| BDS TWG | Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group |
| BHCDS | Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy |
| BioPANZA | Bioproducts Advancement Network of South Africa |
| BotSoc | The Botanical Society of South Africa |
| CATHSSETA | Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education Training Authority |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CBNRM | Community-based Natural Resource Management |
| CBO | Community-based Organisation |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species |
| CMA | Catchment Management Agency |
| CoGTA | Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs |
| CPA | Community Property Association |
| CSIR | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research |
| DSAC | Department of Sports, Arts and Culture |
| DALRRD | Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development |
| DARDLEA | Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environmental Affairs |
| DBSA | The Development Bank of Southern Africa |
| DEFF | The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries |
| DEA&DP | Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (Western Cape) |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| DEDEAT | Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (Eastern Cape) |
| DEDTEA | Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environment Affairs (KwaZulu-Natal) |
| DENC | Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (Northern Cape) |
| DHEST | The Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology |
| DIRCO | The Department of International Relations and Cooperation |
| DMRE | The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy |
| DPME | The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| DoDMV | The Department of Defence and Military Veterans |
| DoH | The Department of Health |
| DOJ&CD | The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development |
| DoT | The Department of Transport |
| DALRRD | Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development |
| dti | Department of Trade and Industry |
| DHSWS | Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation |
| EA(P) | Environmental Assessment (Practitioner) |
| EbA | Ecosystem-based Adaptation |
| ECPTA | Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Authority |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| EKZNW | Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife |
| EMI | Environmental Monitoring Inspectorate/Inspector |
| ENRM | Environmental and Natural Resource Management |
| EPWP | Expanded Public Works Programme |
| EWT | Endangered Wildlife Trust |
| FEPA | Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area |
| GDARD | Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GSPC | Global Species Conservation Programme |
| ICLEI | Local Governments for Sustainability |
| IDP | Integrated Development Plan |
| IPBES | Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity And Ecosystem Services |
| IUCN | International Union for the Conservation of Nature |
| LBSAP | Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| LEDET | Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism |
| LRBSI | Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative |
| LTPB | Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board |
| MAB | Man and Biosphere (Programme) |
| MEC | Member of the Executive Council |
| MinMEC | Minister and Members of the Executive Councils Committee |
| MinTECH | Ministerial Technical Committee |
| MTSF | Medium Term Strategic Framework |
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| NBA | National Biodiversity Assessment |
| NBBN | National Business and Biodiversity Network |
| NBES | National Biodiversity Economy Strategy |
| NBF | National Biodiversity Framework |
| NBG | National Botanical Garden |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| NBIS | National Biodiversity Information System |
| NBSAP | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| NDP | National Development Plan |
| NECS | National Ecosystems Classification System |
| NEMA | National Environmental Management Act |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NESPF | National Environmental Skills Planning Forum |
| NICC | National Implementation Coordinating Committee |
| NISCWT | National Integrated Strategy for Combatting Wildlife Trafficking |
| NIE | National Implementing Entity (of the Adaptation Fund) |
| NPAES | National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy |
| NPCS | National Plant Conservation Strategy |
| NPO | Non-profit Organization |
| NRF | National Research Foundation |
| NSBA | National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment |
| NSSD | National Strategy for Sustainable Development |
| NW READ | NorthWest Department of Rural, Environmental and Agricultural Development |
| NWPB | NorthWest Parks Board |
| NWRS | National Water Resource Strategy |
| PATTT | Protected Areas Technical Task Team |
| PBSAP | Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| PCA | Provincial conservation authority |
| PPF | Peace Parks Foundation |
| RDI | Research, Development and Innovation |
| RBG | Royal Botanical Garden |
| SADC | South African Development Community |
| SAEON | South African Environmental Observation Network |
| SAHRC | South African Human Rights Commission |
| SAIAB | South African Institute for Aquatic Biology |
| SALGA | South African Local Government Association |
| SANBI | South African National Biodiversity Institute |
| SANDF | South African National Defence Force |
| SANParks | South African National Parks |
| SAPS | South African Police Service |
| SARS | South African Revenue Service |
| SDF | Spatial Development Framework |
| SEA | Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SEEA | System of Environmental-Economic Accounting |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal (or Global Goal) |
| SIPS | Strategic Infrastructure Projects |
| SO | Strategic objective |
| SPLUMA | Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act |
| SSA | State Security Agency |
| TOPS | Threatened or Protected Species |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| UNSD | United Nations Statistics Department |
| WESSA | Wildlife and Environment Society of Southern Africa |
| WfW | Working for Water |
| WftC | Working for the Coast |
| WfWet | Working for Wetlands |
| WHS | World Heritage Site |
| WonEco | Working on Ecosystems |
| WRC | Water Research Commission |
| WWF-SA | World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa |