APPENDIX 4

Cards from discussion session 1 grouped by the general reasons identified

QUESTION: *Why do we need a national monitoring and reporting framework?*

Reason	Cards
1. Because it is a legislative requirement	The Act
	NEMBA
	To meet national and international policy and commitments
	The Act says so
	To comply with international/national conservation standards
	Compliance with legal requirements
	For legislation
	Because the Act requires it
	Legislative requirement: NEMBA
2. To inform the public and decision-makers and raise awareness	To alarm the public and hope that they act reasonably
	To increase awareness of biodiversity, i.e. to mainstream biodiversity
	To allocate resources and inform the public about changes
	To enable decision-makers to make informed choices about environmental issues
	Educate the decision-makers at parliament
	Educate and inform planners and politicians
3. To inform the development of policy and legislation; to inform management action	Development of legislation and policy
	To have a sense of the direction of change in state of biodiversity that informs both management actions and policy to lead to desired state
	To advise planning, management and policy
	Set management guidelines
	To detect negative changes and implement mitigating strategies at a national level
	To assess threats at a national level and develop and implement legislation to counteract these
	To establish detrimental/non-detrimental assessments for species in trade (for determining quotas, trade policy directive etc)
	Decision support
	To use indicators as triggers for corrective action
	Distil info and translate to government for policy action
	For reporting purposes to our managers à political leaders in order to develop policies about what we are monitoring
	To have evidence rather than assumptions on which to base policy
	To inform policy development
4. Because there's a demand for this kind of information	There exists an international and national demand from decision-makers for this information
5. To have a reliable set of long-term data/information and ensure long-term continuity of monitoring	Long-term and safe storage of info
	To obtain benefit of long-term monitoring for assessing impacts (trade, harvest, degradation) on species/resources, i.e. incremental improvement in data quality and decision
	To ensure continuity of monitoring and management of our biodiversity
6. To track the state of our biodiversity over time	To keep track of what's happening in the environment
	Establish the status of biodiversity conservation in SA
	To quantify biodiversity (gains, losses, values)
	To monitor the status of biodiversity in South Africa
	To monitor large-scale patterns, processes and detect changes
	Detect trends in biodiversity loss
	To establish nation-wide trends
	Identify temporal and spatial trends
	Assess trends in biodiversity
	How are our ecosystems (and their services) changing? And why?
	To identify major changes in biodiversity status
	To detect change in state of biodiversity nationally
	To detect significant change in biodiversity patterns and processes
	Long-term trends analysis
	Interpret change over time/circumstance and follow by interventions
	Statistics
7. To monitor the pressures on biodiversity	To monitor the pressures on biodiversity
	To evaluate changes in threats
	To know and understand how we are impacting biodiversity
	Track pressures and impacts (threats) on biodiversity
	To evaluate human impact on biodiversity
	To detect changes in biodiversity following human impact
	To see the stress which our ecosystems are facing
	Quantify and manage change to work towards least impact
	In order to identify the trend of what we are monitoring e.g. growth rate, harvesting rate, illegal activities
	Benchmark so as to trace future trends
8. To prioritise allocation of scarce resources for biodiversity conservation	Set priorities
	Set priorities for conservation
	Enable prioritisation
	Prioritising conservation action
	To allow for the efficient and effective use of resources to protect/repair critical biodiversity
	Prioritise monitoring and reporting needed in order to put limited resources (time/people/money) to the most effective use
	To ensure that resources are directed to priorities
9. To provide an early-warning system to	To develop early warning systems to allow proactive planning

support proactive planning / appropriate management responses	Improved access to information on SA biodiversity for effective conservation planning and conservation action (management)
	Usable data for future planning
	To be responsive by having strategies [that respond] to changes in the environment
	Allows to formulate appropriate responses to threats/pressures/impacts on biodiversity
	To identify the correction measures for the conservation of biodiversity
	To react appropriately to degradation and unsustainable practices
10.To assess the effectiveness of conservation action	Measure outcomes versus targets: “How well are we doing?”
	Are we doing the right things right?
	To evaluate effectiveness of interventions
	To determine the impact of interventions
	To measure the effectiveness of biodiversity interventions
	To evaluate management effectiveness
	Are our conservation interventions effective?
	Detect effectiveness of biodiversity conservation management programmes and regulations
	Are we achieving our biodiversity goals and targets? If not, why not?
	To determine with our conservation interventions are having an impact on the actual biodiversity
	To measure the effect of legislation intended to conserve biodiversity
	To monitor the progress of biodiversity management
	To determine the level of biodiversity management on a national scale
	To act as a source of accurate data for law enforcement / regulatory authorities
	To measure programmes activities performance so as to be aligned to policies and guidelines
	To get more information and understanding the programme
	To allow for adaptive management
	To see if there is a need to change our management systems
	What are the GAPS in our interventions?
11. To ensure co-ordination of monitoring efforts and prevent duplication	Provide a co-ordinated overview of a range of monitoring activities
	Standardise the monitoring of biodiversity in SA (methods used)
	To put in place a standardised system to track changes in biodiversity over time
	To set a national standard for reporting through which provincial and local government can gain and contribute
	To co-ordinate M&R programmes between national, provincial and private. Avoid duplication.
	To co-ordinate local-scale monitoring efforts
	To guide provincial/regional level monitoring
	Platform for networking; metadata access à establish common indicators; workshop à access by different institutions; land use impacts to metadata to report/update and incorporate in strategies/policies at differen levels
	To ensure that provincial authorities carry out their mandate/responsibility
	To guide new monitoring programmes at lower levels
	Ensures interpretation of selected provincial data – “relevant”
	Incorporate all lower level species monitoring into a bigger picture
	Prevent duplication of biodiversity monitoring efforts, taking into account local, provincial, national scale, whilst not using “common” indicators
12. To identify research needs and help set research priorities	To identify research needs / information gaps
	Encourage research that will lead to understanding of observed trends
	Focus research and monitoring efforts
	Learn from good practices; identify gaps
13. To help us set and monitor big picture goals	To achieve national conservation goals
14. To ensure sustainable use of natural resources	Preservation of natural resources – vegetation
	Promotes sustainable natural resource management
	To maintain sustainable utilisation of natural resources – this needs to be monitored
	Change in vegetation through overuse can result in climate change – no water
	To help maintain ecosystem services
	To maintain genetic variation
	Long-term survival
	Conservation ethic
	Sustained economic growth
15. Other cards (no clear cluster)	Performance measurement and collaboration across sectors are mutually reinforcing
	Framework to relate/reflect biodiversity to issues such as ecosystem productivity/resilience; productivity; integrity à decision-making support system at different levels – “common” indicators
	To streamline and co-ordinate conservation effort