



September 2014

A platform that celebrates and showcases



The CAPE Partners Conference is an event hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) with the CAPE partners; and provides a platform to celebrate and showcase biodiversity conservation work being done in the Cape Floristic Region. The Conference inputs are usually themed to encourage a diversity range of participants; and to enable cross-organisational and cross-sectoral sharing and learning.

With thought provoking ideas, discussions and projects being showcased, the CAPE Partners Conference provides a place for partners to gather and contribute to 'making the case' for biodiversity conservation. The 2014 CAPE Partners Conference brings our focus to the value of working with and learning from other sectors in order to reach our biodiversity conservation targets.

It also looks at the important relationship between research and implementation and how collaboration can help us to solve complex problems. We are therefore proud to announce that the 2014 CAPE Partners Conference will have Prof Ralph Hamman deliver the keynote address. Prof Ralph Hamman is the Research Chair in Climate and Development at UCT's Graduate School of Business and is closely associated with the African Climate and Development Initiative, based at UCT. A draft programme of the Conference is attached here.

Previous conferences have focused on a diversity of themes. The 2011 CAPE Partners' Conference was themed 'biodiversity conservation and agriculture: a common agenda', and provided an opportunity to reflect on the collaborative interventions and activities that have been undertaken between the Biodiversity Conservation and Agriculture sectors during the first phase of CAPE.

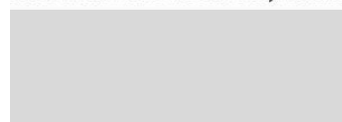
The 2009 Conference attracted a variety of 'fynmense' from across the region and provided a platform for sharing lessons focusing on 'Conservation Connections' - the links and networks we form in undertaking our biodiversity conservation work. This was followed by a 'Conservation Marketplace', a joint initiative that showcased the outstanding achievements of the CAPE and SKEP partnerships; aimed at linking project implementers to donors, and to expose donors to a suite of projects that seek to conserve the precious natural environments of the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape while ensuring benefits for people.

To participate in the 2014 CAPE Partners Conference, please contact Marilyn Martin (m.martin@sanbi.org.za).

SANBI's success with GEF 5



Early in July 2014, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) endorsed SANBI's full-sized project proposal for the 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Regulation and Management at the Municipal Scale' project. This \$ 8,17 million project is set to commence implementation within the next six months and will run until 2019.



GEF is a partnership for international cooperation where 183 countries work together with international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, to address global environmental issues. This is done to support activities related to biodiversity, climate

change, international waters, land degradation, chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programs.

South Africa continues to experience high rates of biodiversity loss due to development pressure and habitat degradation. According to the National Biodiversity Assessment (2012), 24% of coastal, 40% of terrestrial, 43% of estuarine, 57% of riverine and 65% of wetland ecosystems are threatened. As less than 7% of land in South Africa is formally protected, critical biodiversity is under threat from degradation and transformation. Furthermore, South Africa has persistently high levels of poverty and unemployment. The unemployment rate was reported at 25.2% in the first quarter of 2012^[1], while the number of people living in poverty is nearly 40%.

Municipalities play an important role as centres of economic growth and service delivery, as they regulate land use at local scale, and are also important users and managers of biodiversity and ecosystem services. There is thus a need to strike a balance between development and job creation, and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Capacity at the municipal scale to engage with biodiversity conservation and sustainable development is weak, and there is little coordination between institutions that regulate land use. With this in mind, SANBI submitted a project proposal to the GEF for the *Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Regulation and Management at the Municipal Scale* project.

The project is designed to address these challenges by (a) strengthening cooperation, coordination and capacity of municipal and other regulatory authorities that regulate land use decisions to incorporate criteria to avoid/ prevent, minimize and/or offset impacts on biodiversity, and improve compliance monitoring and enforcement, and (b) introducing mechanisms in collaboration with private and communal land owners to better protect critical biodiversity areas and manage land, while demonstrating the potential of biodiversity to create jobs and contribute to economic growth.

The project will work in four district municipalities in global biodiversity hotspots and national biodiversity priority areas, with high rates of habitat degradation and conversion, high levels of poverty, and other pressing needs for action: Amatole, uMgungundlovu and Ehlanzeni District Municipalities which are located in the *Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany* hotspot and the Cape Winelands District Municipality which is located between the *Succulent Karoo* and the *Cape Floristic Region* hotspots.

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NBSAPS 2:0 Projects Holds Final Workshop



The NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development is a three-year (2012-15) project aimed at building resilient and effective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that influence development decisions and improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty. There is project focus on four African countries: Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda.

The first NBSAPs 2.0 project workshop was held in Maun, Botswana during November 2012, and was structured to inform and capacitate participants on successful biodiversity and development mainstreaming examples and to provide an opportunity for sharing experiences. . This was followed by second workshop held in Entebbe, Uganda in July 2013 which primarily focused on peer reviewing participant countries' progress to date. The workshop looked at how the revised NBSAPs reflected the mainstreaming of biodiversity into development as well as by the attention given to biodiversity within national development plans.

The third and final regional workshop was held in Windhoek, Namibia in July 2014 and was attended by over 27 participants including representatives of the NBSAP 2.0 project countries, independent members of the African Leadership Group, the International Advisory Group and the project team from IIED and the UNEP-WCMC. Participants had varying expertise and ranged from the environment, finance, social and development sectors.

This workshop was aimed at reviewing progress and sharing experiences on integrating development issues into revised NBSAPs, identifying lessons learned and providing guidance that might be passed on to other countries and to explore indicators for successful mainstreaming.

Partner countries, including South Africa, shared their experiences with regard to mainstreaming and progress on their respective NBSAP reviews. Here, it is important to note that partner countries mainstreaming experiences seem to resonate well with South African ones apart from the fact that SA has made significant strides relative to these countries. On NBSAP reviews, all partner countries have already initiated the process with Namibia and Botswana having already completed theirs and awaiting approval and endorsement by their respective senior government officials before submitting to CBD secretariat.

The workshop revealed that partner countries are making an effort in placing a significant number of mainstreaming targets in their revised or draft NBSAPs as per the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat requirement. Subsequently the NBSAPs 2.0: will need to act as effective 'vehicles' for mainstreaming biodiversity.

According to a 2014 CBD report South Africa has made relatively good strides in biodiversity mainstreaming and implementation of the NBSAP. There are however significant lessons to be learnt from the NBSAP 2.0: project as we are embarking on a process of reviewing or developing the second generation NBSAP.

For more information contact Fuluphelo Mukhadi at f.mukhadi@sanbi.org.za

First Call for Proposals unlocks Exiting opportunities!



The Cape Flats Nature Partners' Fund offers small grants for projects that spark community nature conservation action on the Cape Flats. It was launched by the Table Mountain Fund (TMF) in partnership with the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in the last quarter of 2013.

The Cape Flats Nature Partners' Fund is grateful for the enthusiastic response from community organisations, to our first Call for Proposals. A number of project proposals were received of which five were short-listed. Short listed applicants invited SANBI and TMF

representatives on site visits to the proposed project areas, to meet the project teams and to see the "live" project proposal.

As the representatives visited the respective proposed project sites, the passion and vision was evident. "For a donor to go on a site visit to a potential project it wants to fund, is invaluable", said Marilyn Martin from SANBI. "One is able to reconcile what is written in the proposal with what is actually happening on the ground".

Cape Flats Tourism and Environmental Development Association - with the support of management at the Wolfgat Nature Reserve and Macassar Conservation Dunes Area - submitted an exciting project proposal with "an innovative strategy for the conservation and ecotourism of natural resources." The project involves, "recruiting and training youth in the community to do nature patrols in the Reserve", with the aim of creating a safer environment within which tourism related activities can flourish. This project is a key example of the type of projects that we would like to fund - it addresses the social issue of unemployment, especially amongst the youth, and aims to address this by capacitating and employing the successful participants.

A key focus of the Cape Flats Nature Partners' Fund is not just to award small grants for conservation projects but also to build the capacity of interested community members to engage with the Fund and other calls for project proposals. To this end, as part of the next Call for Proposals, the Cape Flats Nature Partners' Fund will be hosting four community workshops in four key community areas.

So if you have a project idea that aligns with the criteria of the Fund, let us help you 'make it happen'.

For more information on the next call for Proposals, criteria and submission please

BotSoc forms new partnership with CPUT



The Botanical Society of SA and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology recently marked a momentous commitment and the start of a unique partnership. A co-operation Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between BotSoc and CPUT has been developed alongside a strategic support framework.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research, Technology Innovation and Partnerships of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Dr Chris Nhlapo and Executive Director of the Botanical Society of SA, Zaitoon Rabaney, signed the MoA with members of the Biodiversity

and Conservation Management Department and Department of Applied Sciences of CPUT, and the BotSoc Executive assistant, Catherine Browne, bearing witness.

This partnership serves to facilitate conservation awareness and education. The MoA establishes cooperation between BotSoc and the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation at CPUT for the training of second and third year nature conservation students, particularly with BotSoc assisting in skills training and fieldwork experience opportunities for these senior students. The agreement will be effective for a 3 year period unless otherwise agreed in writing between the parties.

This partnership is the first of its kind between the 101 year old NGO and a tertiary educational institution: a formal partnership to work together to upskill nature conservation students, growing them for the future in the environmental sector. The partnership will focus on providing capacity building, networking opportunities, and the encouragement of nature-conscious thinking. “We are all very excited about the initiation of this partnership and look forward to sharing updates with all through the course of the partnership” says Rabaney.

The agreement includes resource support, wildflower guides, educational poster series, field trips, and involvement in BotSoc

Living Lands convene four returns workshop



During June 2014, Living Lands and the Ecosystem Return Foundation convened a ‘Four Returns’ initiation workshop held at Zandvlakte farm in the Baviaanskloof to engage with stakeholders and identify opportunities to create ecosystem restoration partnerships within the Port Elizabeth catchment area. The Four returns is focused on creating partnerships to restore degraded catchments, improve livelihoods and engage with the green economy.

The topic of the workshop was on sustainable agriculture and restoration, and how added value can be created from those programs. About 50 participants journeyed through the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve and the farm Zandvlakte deepening their understanding of the current system and gaining a greater sense of the complexities at play.

During the workshop groups created 3D models of the current situation in the system that they wanted to change; and then changed their models to represent the futures they wanted to create. Potential business cases were identified that could move the system from the current to the new.

Stakeholders joined the business case work groups they most resonated with and fleshed out details, including how each might provide a return on inspiration, social capital, natural capital, human capital and investment.

8 key opportunity areas were identified:

- The Baviaanskloof as a **unique area with the potential to become a global leader in restoration**. International film maker John Liu is in the process of making a documentary to tell this story.
- A **cooperative** which could, with land users and local beneficiaries as members, function as an umbrella for activities creating new forms of income in the Baviaanskloof.

- A **landscape-based tourism plan** focusing on improved marketing and access, in particular a shuttle service to transfer international tourists through the reserve.
- The **creation of a knowledge hive**; a learning village in the local communities for skills development around agriculture and restoration, linking to tourism.
- Using **wood from alien trees for the development of small enterprises**, in particular furniture and crafts.
- The establishment of a **local market** where local produce can be sold, including honey, olive oil, vegetables and meat.
- Establishing a **conservancy** for closer collaboration and to offer new perspectives for wildlife management and farming in the future.
- **Payments for water**; starting small by looking at improved monitoring of current water use and flows in the system, as well as the effect of restoration measures.

The next phase of the project will focus on learning and collecting further data to develop the different business cases. Although the workshop focused on the Baviaanskloof, the overall project also looks at two other adjacent catchments, Kouga and Kromme. This next phase will also focus on identifying opportunities in these catchments.

See update <https://www.youtube.com/user/4returns/feed>

Or contact Dieter van den Broeck at dieter@livinglands.co.za

Flower Valley turns 15



For the Flower Valley Conservation Trust, it has been 15 years of growth, progress and learning – from 1999, when with Fauna & Flora International's support, Flower Valley Farm was purchased; to 2014, where Flower Valley has entered a new phase in promoting fynbos care throughout the Cape Floral Kingdom. Here is a quick look at those defining moments that have led Flower Valley to where it is today.

In 1999, with the area to be converted to vineyards, a concerned individual, Carol Blumenthal approached Fauna & Flora International (FFI) for support to buy Flower Valley Farm, based just outside Gansbaai. FFI purchases the farm, an area of 540 hectares, and sets up Flower Valley Conservation Trust to manage the farm. The Flower Valley Early Learning Centre for children aged between two and six was born, to help look after the children of fynbos harvesters and farm workers while they're at work.

In 2003, Flower Valley Conservation Trust was mandated through the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (ABI) to investigate ABI's second objective: 'Ecologically, socially and economically sustainable harvesting of wild fynbos is demonstrated as a viable land-use on the Agulhas Plain'. This set Flower Valley on the path to develop the Sustainable Harvesting Programme, a programme based on research, science and wide participation. The outcome was awarded a 'highly satisfactory' rating by the end of the project, in 2010. Flower Valley Conservation Trust bought the neighbouring farm, Witvoetskloof, with funding secured from Fauna & Flora International. The farm is a home to many highly threatened fynbos species, many found only on Witvoetskloof and nowhere else in the world.

In 2006, Flower Valley Farm was hit by a devastating fire that destroyed more than 45,000 hectares in the Walker Bay area – most of this pristine fynbos. The fire affected many fynbos suppliers and

their picking teams. Moreover, Flower Valley Farm itself lost a large portion of its afro-montane forest, one of the reasons behind the Stinkhoutsbos Forest Restoration Project happening today.

In 2009 Flower Valley sold their neighbouring farm Witvoetskloof to Grootbos Nature Reserve. The sale took place on the condition that conservation restrictions are placed on the title deed to ensure that the land use of the farm will forever be for conservation of the natural fynbos. This was the first 'conservation easement' of its kind in the country.

In 2011, Flower Valley was confirmed as the coordinator of the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, in setting up and provisionally coordinating ABI in its second phase. Fynbos Retreat, the tourism joint venture between Flower Valley and Grootbos, was officially launched in November. Fynbos Retreat is situated on Witvoetskloof Farm, offering self-catering accommodation facilities for visitors and tourists. Fynbos Retreat was well-received at the launch, and still continues to enjoy strong support.

In 2012, Flower Valley Conservation Trust became a signatory to the Cape Action for People and the Environment (CAPE).

In 2013, Flower Valley, as coordinator of ABI, started coordinating the ABI Alien Clearing Project, following the launch of the Land User Incentive Scheme by the Department of Environmental Affairs. Funding was secured for the next three years to clear invasive alien plants on the Agulhas Plain. The pack shed that sells sustainably harvested fynbos, Fynsa, closed doors at that moment. The closure, while disappointing, sets Flower Valley on a new path to develop new partnerships and renewed support for the Sustainable Harvesting Programme across the supply chain.

Flower Valley also received new donor support to roll out the Sustainable Harvesting Programme beyond the Agulhas Plain which is the initial pilot area. The three new areas are the West Coast, the Riversdale area and the Boland.

It is with great excitement that the CAPE Partnership celebrates this auspicious achievement with the Flower Valley team, and we wish Lesley and her team well for the next 15 years", said Azisa Parker, Programme Developer of the CAPE Coordination Unit in SANBI.

Cycads Stolen From Kirstenbosch



Thirteen cycads were stolen on the night of 04 August from the grounds of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. The critically endangered *Encephalartos latifrons* were part of a valuable living cycad collection and are a flagship species for Kirstenbosch.

The stolen plants include 22 critically endangered Albany cycads (*Encephalartos latifrons*). In addition, two Grahamstown cycads (*Encephalartos caffer*) were also taken. Both these species are indigenous to South Africa and occur in the Eastern Cape Province.

Like all cycads, the slow-growing *Encephalartos latifrons* is extremely rare and virtually extinct in its natural habitat. The collection has provided many suckers and seedlings which have been sold to gardeners to take the pressure off the remaining wild plants, and some have been replanted in the wild to help the species survive.

Commonly known as Albany cycads the plants were propagated from seed taken from cycads planted by the Garden's first curator Professor Harold Pearson as early as 1913. The plants were aged between 11 to 23 years and were planted in the Garden three years ago.

Considered "living fossils", cycads are the oldest living seed plants and have survived three mass extinction events in the earth's history.

Members of the public who might have information regarding the theft of the plants are encouraged to get in touch with the Garden on 021 799 8899 / 021 799 8899 or the police.

In an effort to track down these plants, the Western Cape Cycad Society is offering a reward of R10 000 for any information leading to the arrest of anyone linked to theft of the cycads.

For more information contact: Phakamani Xaba at phakamani.x@sanbi.org.za / 021 799 8757 / 021 799 8757

Read more about *Encephalartos latifrons* on www.plantzafrica.com our plant information website.

Botanical Society supports Groen Sebenza Para-ecologist training



The second Botanical Society Groen Sebenza (GS) para-ecologist training workshop was recently held at Assegai Trails near Grahamstown. The first workshop was held in late 2013 in Grabouw. Groen Sebenza (GS) pioneers as well as other interns from across the country and different walks of life came together to learn and share experiences.

The BotSoc, together with CREW, GS mentors planned and hosted the week-long training workshop. This training is aimed at GS pioneers who are based in rural locations and who as part of their work need to conduct monitoring in nature. The course provided important skills for both personal and professional development, including aspects such as presenting with confidence, indigenous knowledge research, how to facilitate a meeting or workshop, how to use online tools like iSpot and Google Earth, basic botany, and managing data.

The participants were an amazing, inspiring and enthusiastic group, driven and eager to learn and grow, interested and passionate about our country's biodiversity and working in the environmental sector.

The BotSoc thanks everyone involved in this workshop: those behind the scenes, institutions who have supported their pioneers' participation, mentors and participants. The BotSoc wishes them the best of luck on their continuing journeys of learning, and growing as they contribute to knowledge gathering and monitoring of our country's treasured biodiversity.

To see photos from the workshop, please visit the Botanical Society of SA's Facebook page.

For more information contact Catherine Browne at +27 21 797 2090 / +27 21 797 2090 c.browne@botanicalsociety.org.za or visit the Website: www.botanicalsociety.org.za

New Hiking Trails for Tygerberg Nature Reserve



The City of Cape Town's Tygerberg Nature Reserve has opened its new Platteklouf entrance and boasts new hiking trails. The City invites members of the public to come and enjoy the additions to the reserve. As one of more than 16 nature reserves managed by the City, all residents can enjoy this inclusive public open space. Tygerberg Nature Reserve boasts a new picnic area and 13 exciting hiking routes, featuring over 18 km of spectacular scenery.

With the opening of its new Platteklouf entrance, families and outdoor enthusiasts are welcome to relax at any of the four picnic spots in the reserve. The main picnic area is situated close to the Welgemoed entrance; the second is available on top of the hill; and the third is at the start of the Striped Weasel trail. The fourth and newest picnic area is situated close to the Platteklouf entrance, at the corner of Meyboom Avenue and Vlamboom Crescent. Provision has been made for secure parking.

Some trails have been renamed, unofficial trails have been named, and two new trails – Peregrine and Grey Rhebok – have been created. Nature reserves are wonderful ecologically balanced public open spaces that create opportunities for families, friends and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. We do all that we can to ensure the future sustainability of our reserves but we need members of the public to support them too. As feet come through the reserve gates, visitors are partnering with the City to invest in the future of our nature reserves.

Together, we are paving the way for a more sustainable future and making progress possible,' said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Economic, Environmental and Spatial Planning, Councillor Johan van der Merwe. For a small fee, visitors can experience the spectacular views of the snow on the mountains during the cold winter days or the beautiful blooming of spring flowers in spring.

For all new hiking trail map information, please contact Tygerberg Nature Reserve's general enquiries office on 021 444 8971 / 021 444 8971.

For more information please visit www.capetown.gov.za/naturereserves

Or email Tygerberg.naturereserve@capetown.gov.za