

Biodiversity for Development

South Africa's landscape approach to conserving biodiversity and promoting ecosystem resilience



Department of Environmental Affairs

The mission of the Department of Environmental Affairs of the Republic of South Africa is as follows – to create a prosperous and equitable society that lives in harmony with our environment.

www.environment.gov.za



South African National Biodiversity Institute

The South African National Biodiversity Institute was established in 2004 under South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, with special responsibility for biodiversity matters relating to the full diversity of South Africa's species and ecosystems. SANBI's mission is to champion the exploration, conservation, sustainable use, appreciation and enjoyment of South Africa's exceptionally rich biodiversity for all South Africans.

www.sanbi.org.za



Global Environment Facility

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) unites 181 countries in partnership with international institutions, NGOs, and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. Today the GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. An independent financial organisation, the GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

www.thegef.org



United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. The UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

www.undp.org/biodiversity



The World Bank

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank's mission is to fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results, and to help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships in the public and private sectors.

www.worldbank.org/biodiversity



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A Primer commissioned by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the South African National Biodiversity Institute, funded by the United Nations Development Programme, and written by Mandy Cadman, Caroline Petersen, Amanda Driver, Nik Sekhran, Kristal Maze and Shonisani Munzhedzi

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Background

South Africa and biodiversity

The government of South Africa has committed itself to creating a prosperous and equitable society living in harmony with natural resources, protecting the country's rich biodiversity heritage for the benefit of all its citizens. Government leads on protection of the environment, with Environmental Affairs working closely with other national departments such as Water Affairs; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Rural Development and Land Reform.

National statutory organisations such as South African National Parks (SANParks) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) are valuable partners in the country's biodiversity conservation efforts, as are the provincial conservation authorities. SANBI's biome programmes focus on South Africa's priority biomes under threat, involving a range of government and civil society partners in working at the landscape level to ensure that these biomes are protected in a sustainable way that benefits people.

This Primer highlights innovative work carried out to promote biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development through partnerships between the South African government, a range of stakeholders, and international partners such as the Global Environment Facility.

GEF and biodiversity

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) unites 182 member governments – in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector – to address global environmental

and resource uses, seeing this work as complementing its investments in strengthening the sustainability of protected area systems. The GEF's mainstreaming work promotes sustainability measures to help reduce the negative impacts that productive sectors exert on biodiversity, particularly outside protected areas, while highlighting the contribution of biodiversity to economic development and human well-being.

UNDP and biodiversity

The UNDP views the landscape approach as an effective way of mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in low-carbon development that maximises resilience to climate change. The objective of the UNDP's biodiversity work is to maintain and enhance the beneficial services provided by natural ecosystems in order to: secure livelihoods; strengthen food, water and health security; reduce vulnerability to climate change; sequester carbon; and avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

The UNDP's GEF-supported biodiversity portfolio consists of 240 full- and medium-sized projects with a total value of more than US\$ 3.5 billion in GEF and associated financing, taking place in more than 100 countries. The UNDP, working with GEF support, has registered significant achievements, including the creation of 154 new protected areas covering nearly 10 million hectares in the period 2004-2010 alone. A further 197 new protected areas covering over 4 million hectares are currently in the process of being established. UNDP-GEF biodiversity projects have also strengthened over 85 million hectares of protected areas around the world.

In addition to the work in protected areas, UNDP-GEF

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