

# City of Cape Town

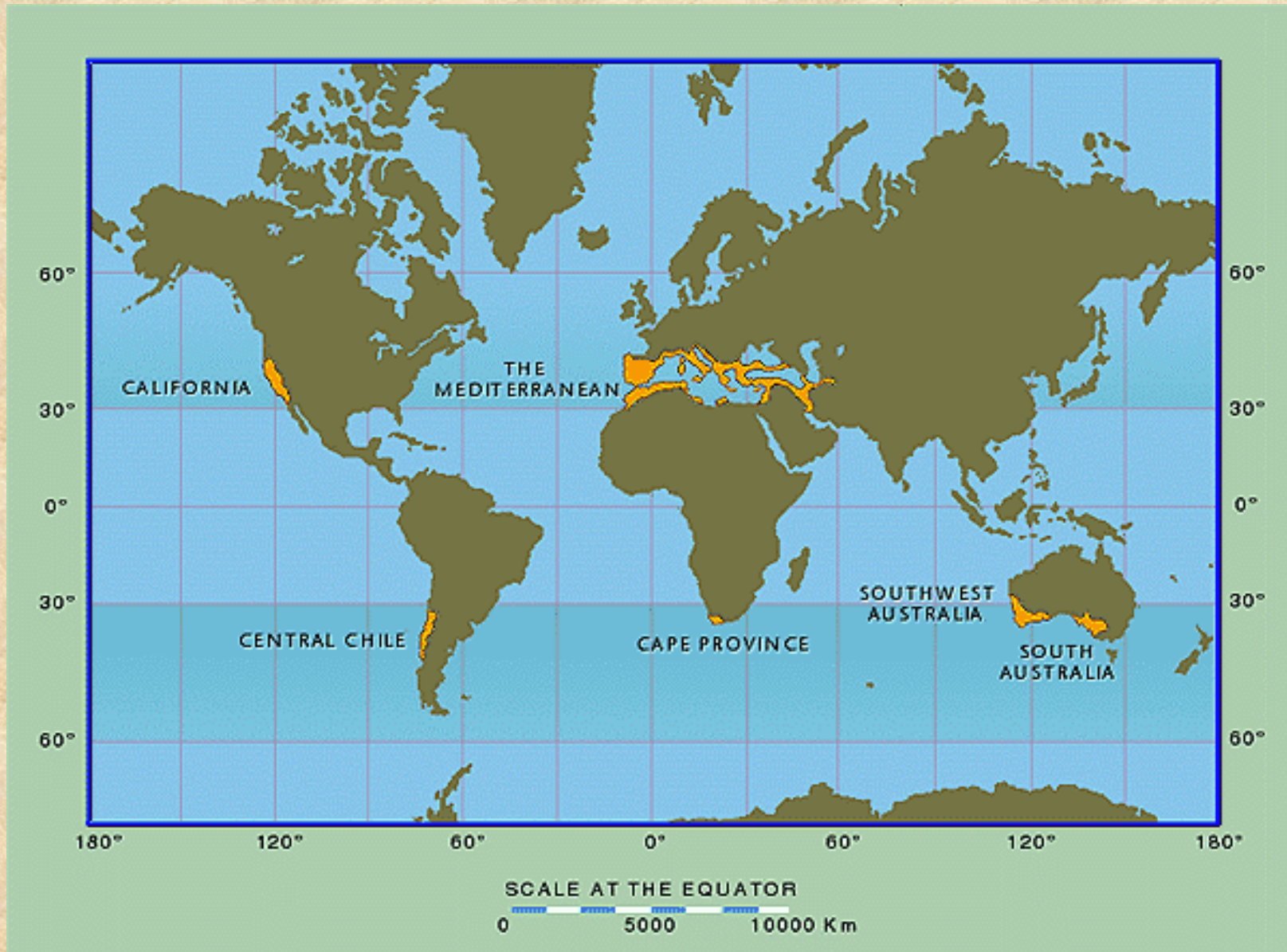


CITY OF CAPE TOWN | ISIXEKO SASEKAPA | STAD KAAPSTAD

***Cape Town occupies a unique  
place amongst the World's  
biodiversity ...***



# How unique?



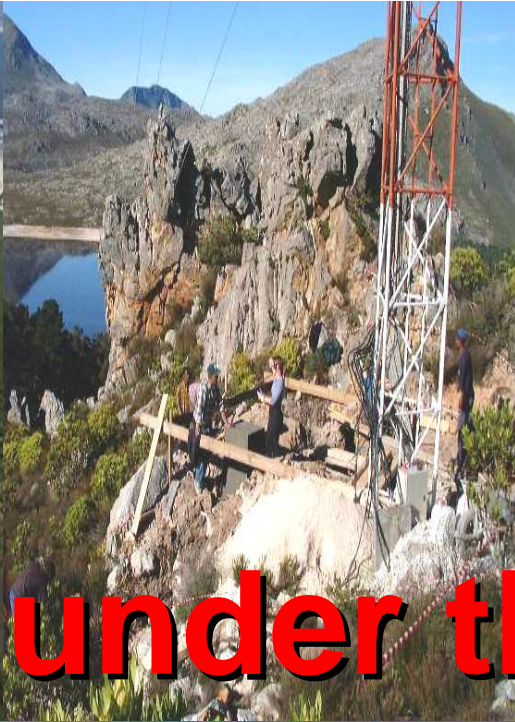
- Cape Town is part of the Cape Floral Kingdom; the smallest and richest of the World's six floristic regions.

- The Cape Floral Kingdom covers an area of less than 90 000 square kms - comparable with Malawi or Portugal - and hosts 8600 plant species, 5800 of which are endemic.



**For its size, its floral diversity  
is unrivalled anywhere on earth ...**

- Over 2300 plant species are to be found in Cape Town, an area smaller than London.



**But it's under threat ...**



- South Africa has over 400 recognized vegetation types.
- 21 of these vegetation types are threatened endangered with immediate extinction

- 9 of these endangered vegetation types, almost half the national total, are to be found within the City of Cape Town's boundaries

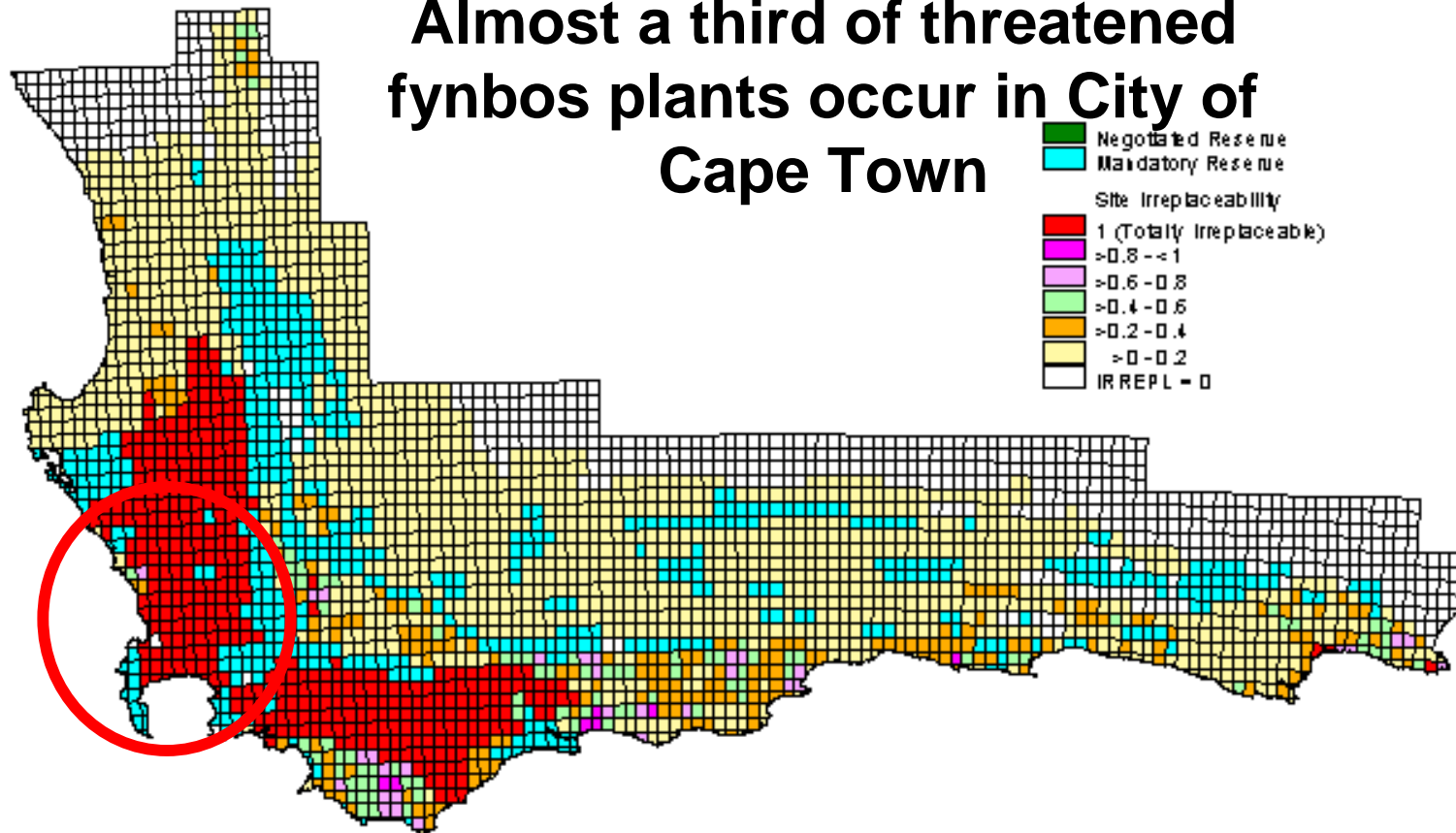


- South Africa has the second highest number of plant extinction's in the world
- The Cape Lowlands of the City of Cape Town has the highest concentration of threatened plants per area of remaining vegetation in the world



# Irreplaceability Map

Almost a third of threatened fynbos plants occur in City of Cape Town



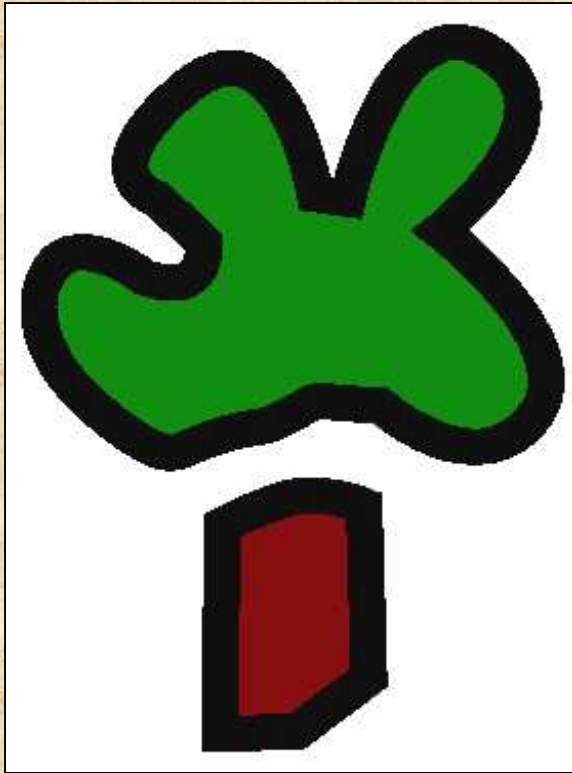
We are experiencing a biodiversity crises ...

# The City's Response

- The City's response stems out of a larger environmental strategy.
- IMEP – Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy



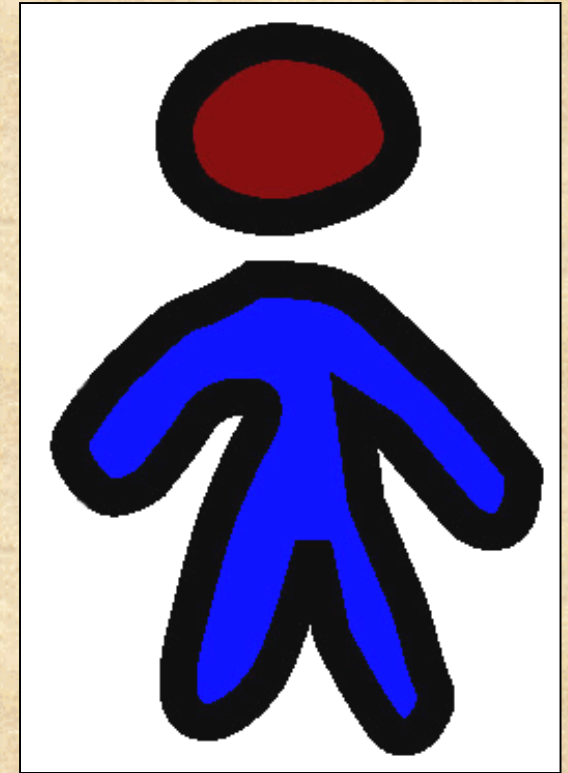
# What is “environment” in the CCT?



**Natural environment**



**Built environment**



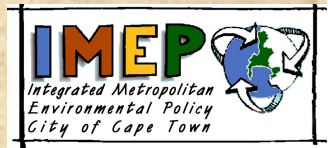
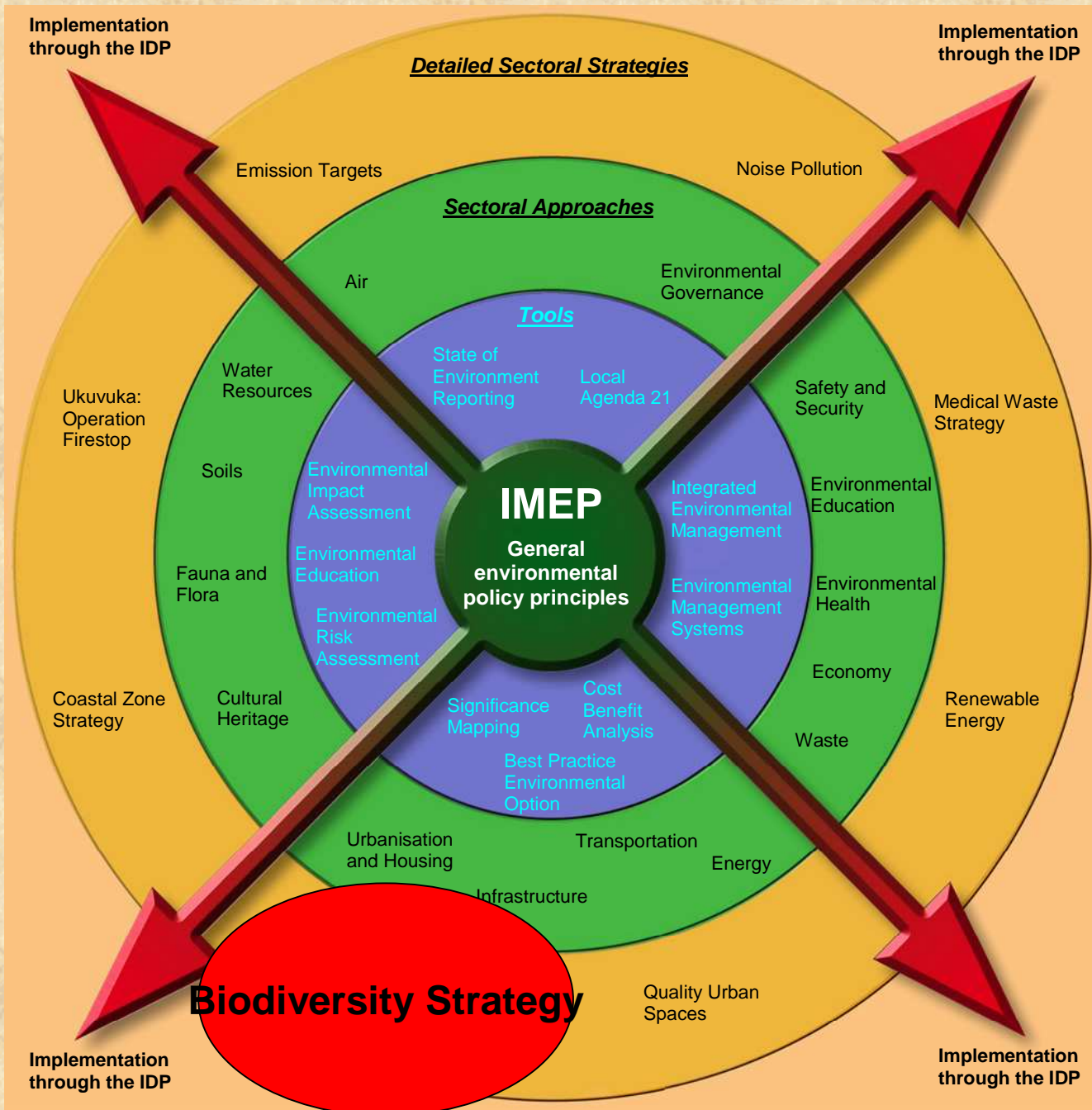
**Socio-cultural environment**


The way these three elements fit and work together creates the environment we live in.

- The environment supports Cape Town's major economic activities
  - Environmental tourism
    - Agriculture
    - Fishing



# Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Policy



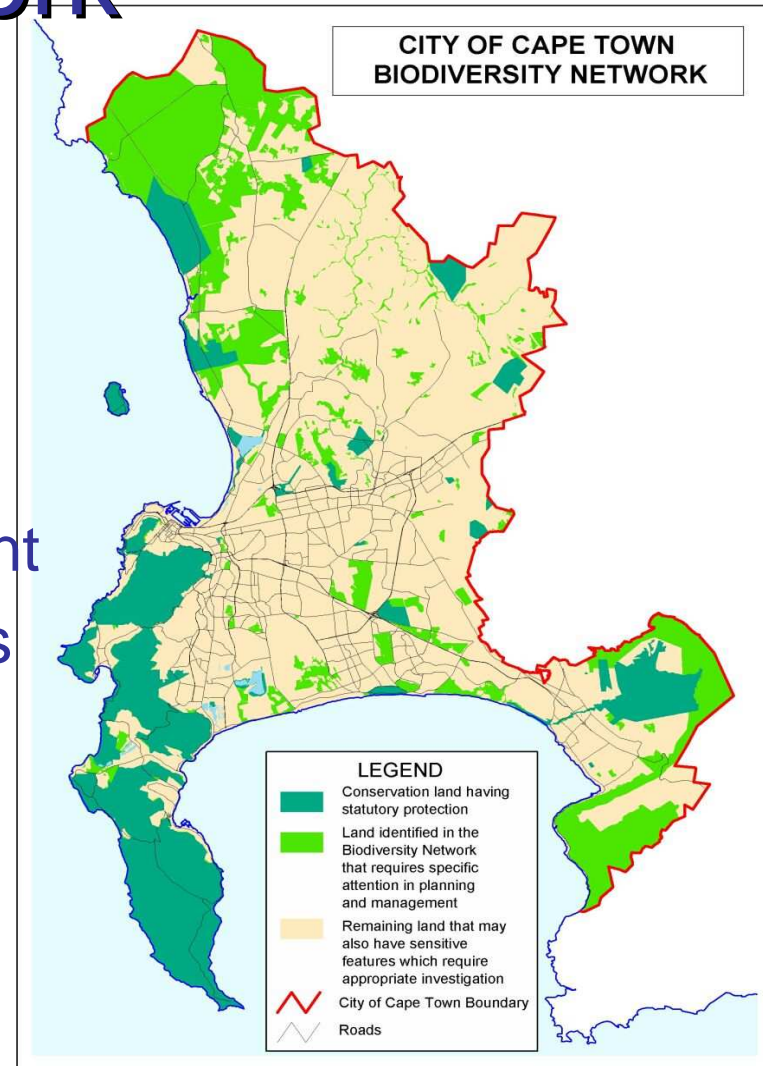


# Strategic Objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy

1. Primary Biodiversity Conservation
2. Secondary Biodiversity Conservation
3. Conservation of Rivers and Wetlands
4. Invasive Alien Organisms Management
5. Biodiversity Legislation
6. Biodiversity Database & Monitoring
7. Biodiversity Education & Awareness

# 1 Primary Biodiversity Conservation Network

- Selection criteria:
- vegetation types
- size of fragment
- connectivity of fragment
- environmental integrity of fragment
- 84 endemic lowland plant species (11 extinct)

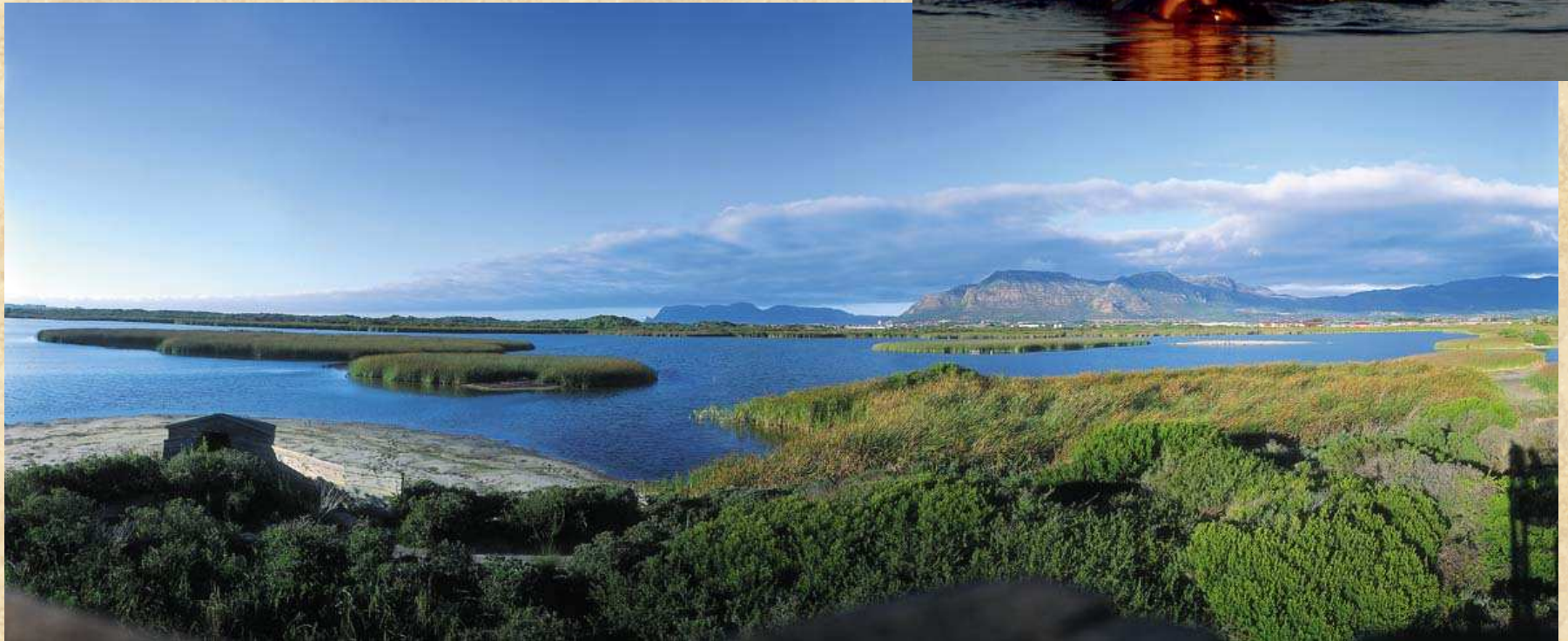


# 2 Secondary Biodiversity Network

- Green open spaces with multiple use functions
- parks
- storm water canals
- power line servitudes
- road verges



# 3 Conservation of Rivers & Wetlands



# 4 Invasive Alien Organism Management



# 5 Biodiversity Legislation



# 6 Biodiversity Database & Monitoring



# 7 Biodiversity Education & Awareness



# 7 Biodiversity Education & Awareness Community participation



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Cape Town, South Africa, showing a dense urban area with a prominent harbor and surrounding mountains. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

## Major milestones

- IMEP adopted October 2001
- Biodiversity strategy adopted October 2003
- Cape Town works with ICLEI to establish Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) - 2006
- Biodiversity network determined 2007

# Where Are We At?

*Implementation – the art of doing...*

- **The Challenges:**
  - Rapid urbanisation and immigration into the City
  - 24
  - A need for urban densification
  - Poverty and unemployment
  - HIV & AIDS
  - Water shortages
  - Too frequent human induced fires
  - Alien invasive organisms
- 
- An aerial night photograph of a city, likely Cape Town, South Africa, showing the illuminated city lights at the base of a large, dark mountain range. The city lights are concentrated in the lower left and middle sections, with a winding road or path visible through the dark landscape. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is a mix of urban glow and natural darkness.

# The Challenges

A vibrant bird with a blue head, red breast, and dark body is perched on a dark, textured branch. The bird is facing left. Below the branch, its reflection is clearly visible in a body of water, creating a symmetrical image. The background is a soft, out-of-focus greyish-blue.

Perhaps the greatest biodiversity challenge:

- Cape Town presently has 23 conservation areas

**A further 261 sites are needed to ensure the future survival of Cape Town's biodiversity !**

# Where Are We At?

*Implementation – the art of doing...*

- The City recognises it cannot secure our natural heritage alone, and works with a number of local Non Government Organisations and Community Based Organisations.
- We have initiated numerous local community projects linking poverty alleviation and biodiversity.
- It has established an Environmental Education Trust to work along side educational institutions.



# Where Are We At?

*Implementation – the art of doing...*

- Cape Town has established strong partnerships at an international level.
- One of these is the exciting Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) which was initiated by the city.



# Where Are We At?

*Implementation – the art of doing...*

## **Biodiversity Network Study Completed**


- We have identified the areas that need to be secured to guarantee our unique biodiversity into the future – 84 plant unique species depend on it.
- To put this plan into place will require the resources and collaboration of an international effort.

From the challenges it is clear that the City needs the assistance of the international community in order to secure our threatened biodiversity.

The next 5 years will be crucial in determining whether Cape Town will secure its unique biodiversity as a legacy for future generations.



**Biodiversity efforts beyond this for many species will be too little too late.**



In these next crucial 5 years we will urgently look to the international community to partner with Cape Town to secure this unique biodiversity ...

we have a unique natural heritage of international importance.

A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and orange. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a glow over the water and sand. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of mountains. The text "We have big challenges, but have even bigger future rewards." is overlaid in blue.

We have big challenges, but have even bigger  
future rewards.

Thank you