

ETHEKWINI ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT PLAN (EESMP)

From Planning to Implementation: Protecting Biodiversity in eThekweni Municipality

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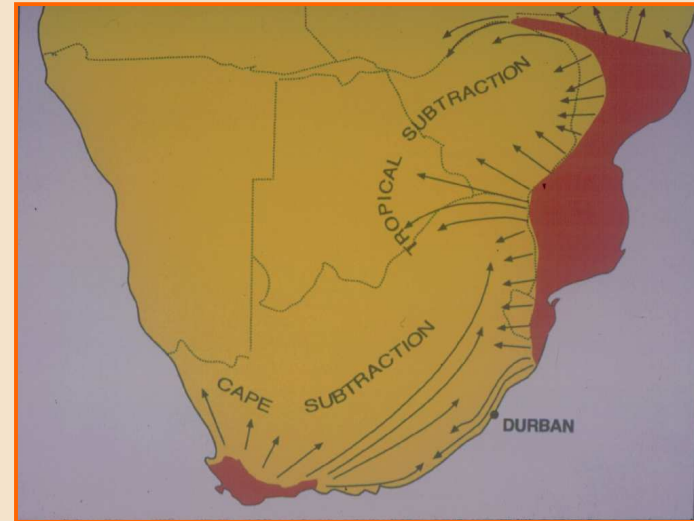
Durban Statistics

- Land area = 2 300 sq. km
- 100km coastline
- Sea level to 800m a.s.l.
- 18 major rivers
- 67% rural- traditional authorities
- Population of 3.5 million
- 2/3 of the province's GDP
- 30-40% unemployment
- HIV/Aids



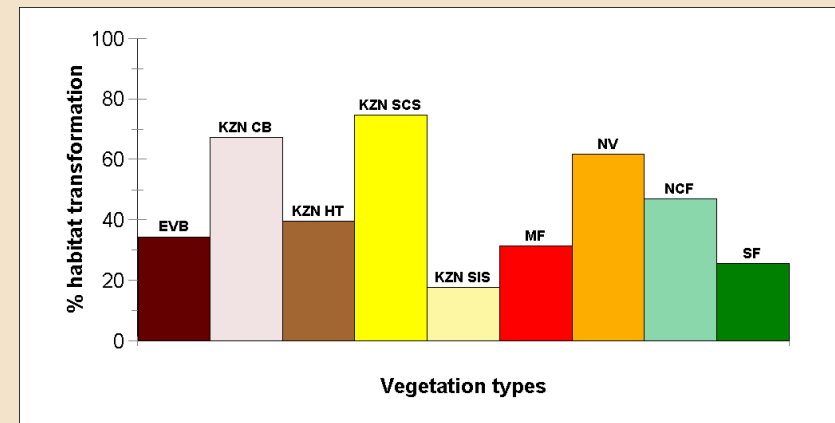
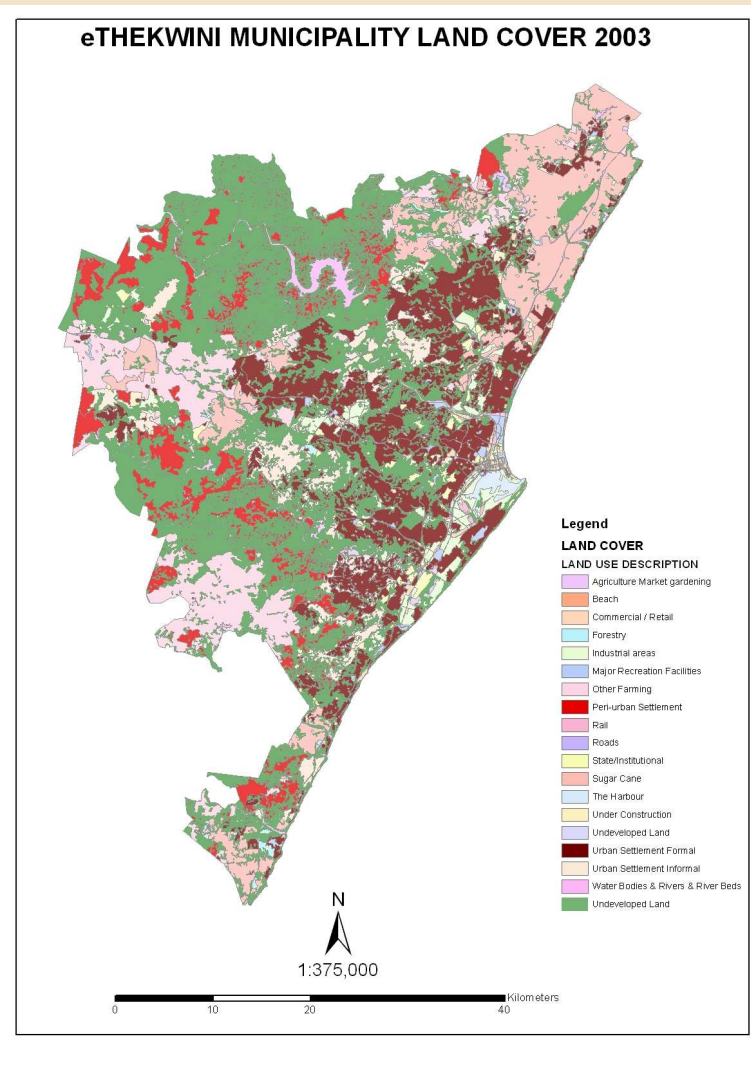
Durban's Biodiversity

- South Africa is the third most biologically diverse country in the world
- Biodiversity in Durban has international and continental significance as part of the Maputaland/ Pondoland Region
- Mixture of tropical and temperate elements and local endemics
- National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment identified Maputaland/Pondoland Region as one of 9 priority areas for conservation
- Ranked 2 out of 9 in terms of in terms of combined level of future pressures on biodiversity



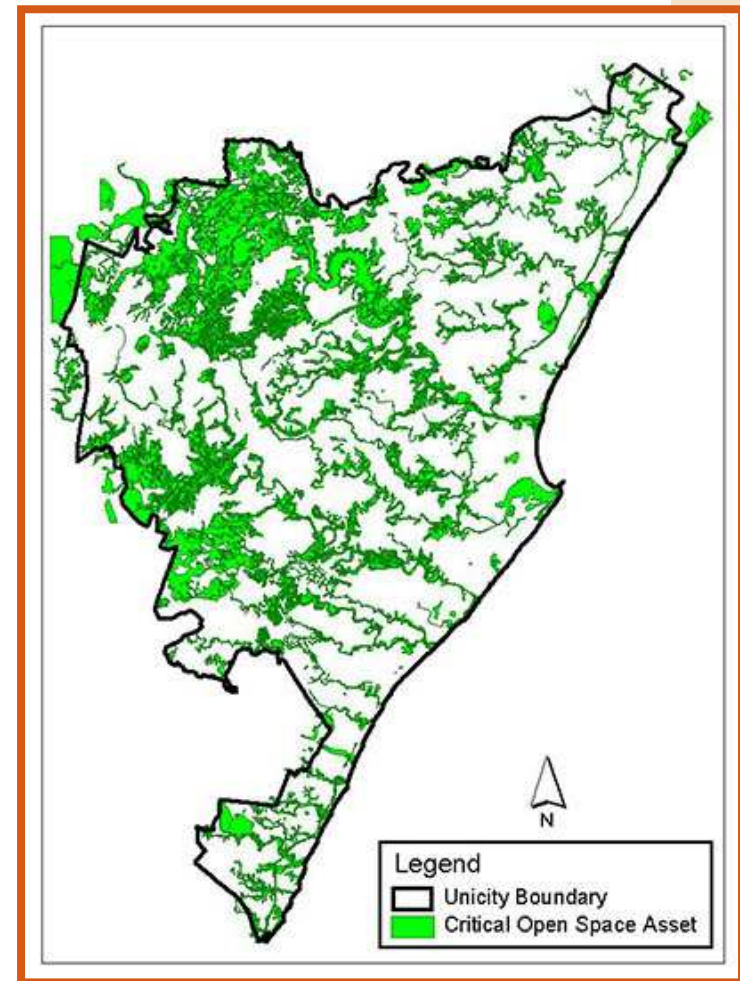
Black-headed dwarf chameleon – photo J. Wakelin

Extent of habitat transformation in the eThekwin Municipality Area



EThekweni Environmental Services Management Plan - EESMP

- 25+ years of conservation planning in the municipality
- Conservation ➡ ecological viability ➡ sustainability
- The EESMP includes a system of linked open spaces (64 000 ha or 28% of the municipal area)
- Aim: to protect biodiversity and thereby to ensure a sustainable supply of environmental goods and services

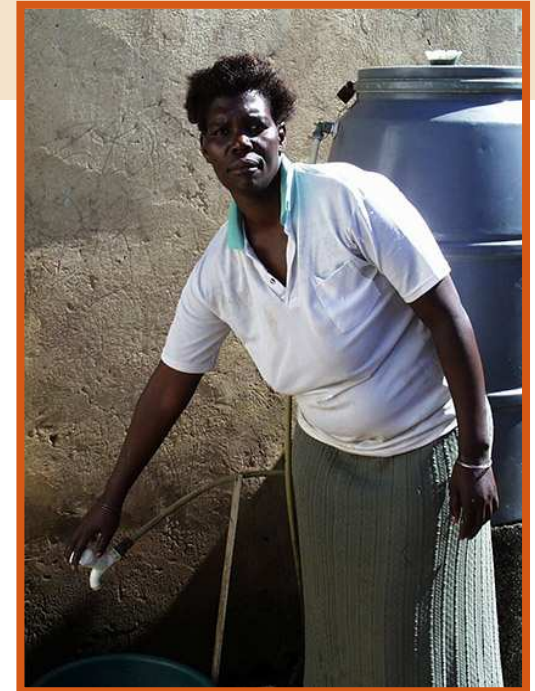


Environmental Goods and Services

- Gas regulation (e.g. absorbing carbon)
- Climate regulation (e.g. reducing urban temperatures)
- Erosion control (e.g. preventing soil loss)
- Nutrient cycling (e.g. nitrogen fixation)
- Soil formation (e.g. weathering of rocks)
- Water supply (e.g. water from rivers)
- Waste treatment (e.g. break down waste)
- Water regulation (e.g. capture and release of water)
- Disturbance regulation (e.g. flood control)
- Pollination (e.g. pollinators for plant reproduction)
- Biological control (e.g. predator control of rodents)
- Refugia (e.g. habitats for migratory birds)
- Genetic resources (e.g. genes for resistance to plant diseases)



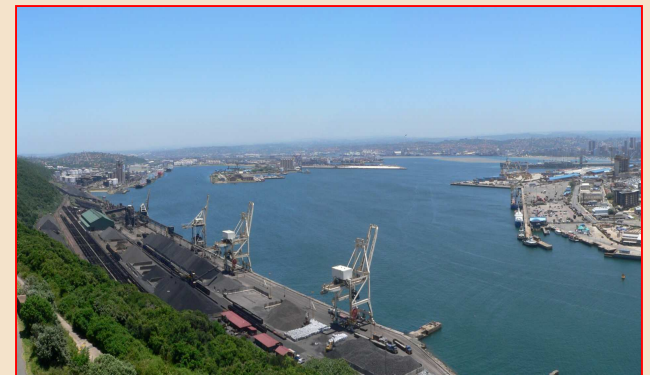
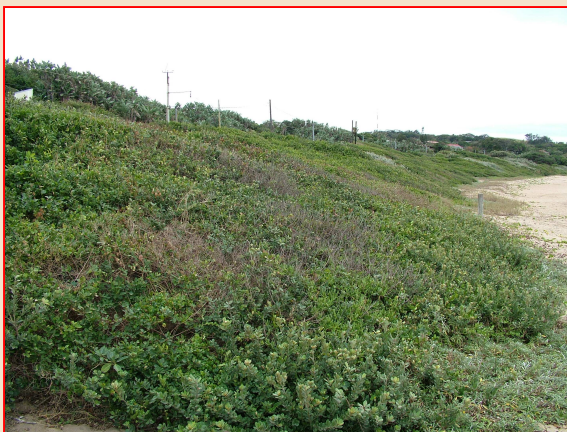
Environmental Goods and Services



**Valued in 2003 at R3.1 billion (1US\$=R8) per annum
(excl. contribution to the tourism sector R3.5 billion
per annum)**

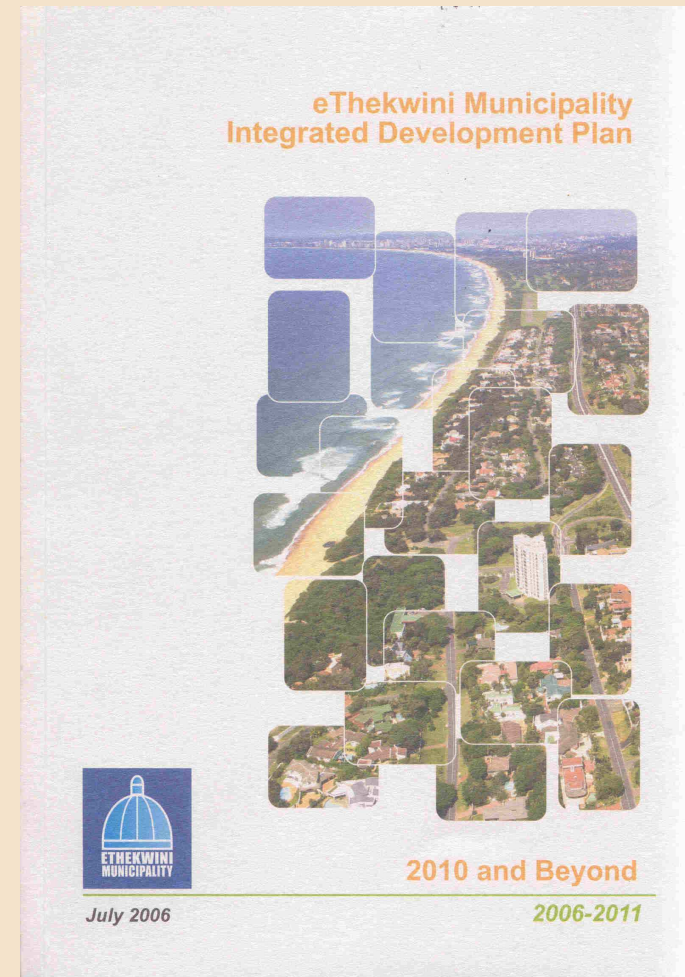
Some Implementation Challenges

- Most of the land is not in public ownership and is zoned for other uses
- 9% protected by proclamation, zoning or servitude
- Inadequate management - R608 million/annum (1999)
- Multiple management agencies & no common goals or strategies
- Limited understanding the carrying capacity of the natural resource base
- Interacting with traditional leadership in rural, upper catchments



1. Mainstreaming: Integration with City Plans

- Integrated Development Plan (IDP)
- Plan 1: Sustaining the Natural and Built Environment - EESMP is identified as a key tool in achieving this.
- EESMP is included in hierarchy of related development plans





2. Development Assessment

- Policy – all applications on or adjacent to EESMP referred to Environmental Management Department
- View development “rights” as merely indicative and subject to the environmental constraints of the site
- Look for ‘win-win’ opportunities
- Where approvals are issued these are often with conditions



3. Environmental Servitudes

- Registered in favour of the Municipality and written into title deeds
- Ownership unaltered
- Use for environmental purposes and passive recreation
- New conditions of establishment
- Management responsibility mostly owner's
- Property tax implications

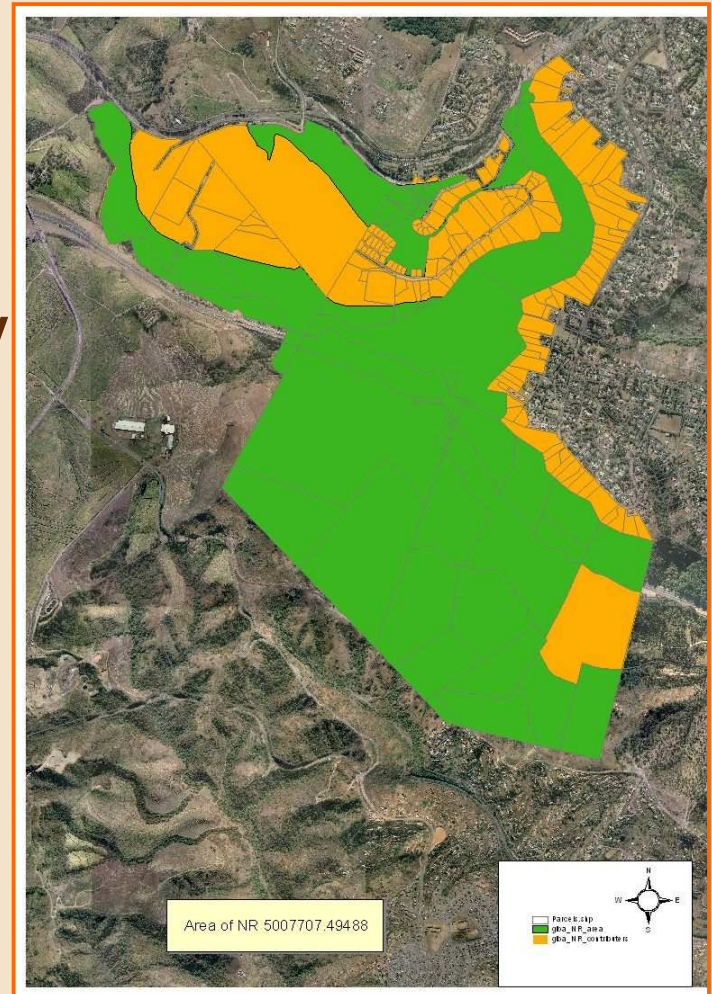


Brachystelma natalense – Endangered



4. Special Rating Area

- Property Rates Act
- Additional property tax in return for increased management
- Giba Gorge: 500ha site (municipality owns 50ha)
- Will include controlled burns, alien species control, trail maintenance, security, etc..
- Protected Areas Act proclamation
- In principle support from Council (allocated management funds) and key stakeholders.



5. 'Working for Ecosystems' - use of poverty alleviation funds

- 2/3 of the city in rural/traditional authority/Ngonyama Trust areas
- National government poverty alleviation funds: used for job creation and skills development through environmental management of priority open space areas
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (NGO) appointed as implementer. Projects planned for Giba Gorge/Tshelinyama and Nsthongweni





Other Implementation Activities



- Development of a *Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*
- Establishment of *Internal and External biodiversity forums*
- Developing a strategy and action plan for *Invasive Alien Organisms*
- *Ongoing land acquisition* – R2 million per annum, 250ha bought since 2002/2003
- Preparing '*Green*' by-laws
- Increased *compliance and enforcement* capacity
- *Initiated communication* with all landowners (and professionals) affected by the EESMP
- Redesigning the EESMP to respond to *Climate Change*
- *Developed* of a city-wide *River Health monitoring* programme

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