Towards building a Conservation Economy in the Western Cape Province, South Africa

Ernst Baard

CapeNature
Structure of presentation

• Introduction to region

• Overview of mainstreaming activities
  – Cape Action for People and the Environment
  – CBNRM & LED
  – EPWP
  – Youth Development

• Summary
The Six Floral Kingdoms of the World
Cape Floristic Region (CFR)

• One of 6 plant Kingdoms of the World
• Smallest (90,000 km²), yet most diverse, and only one within one country
• 9,600 plant species; 70% endemic; 1,400+ plants threatened
• Threatened by indiscriminate agricultural and urban development, fragmentation, invasive alien plants, unsustainable use of resources, pollution, climate change
Succulent Karoo Ecoregion

- World’s most diverse arid environment
- More than 6,000 plant species, 250 species of birds, 78 mammals, 132 reptiles and amphibians; 40% endemism
- Only 27% remains in relatively pristine state; only 3.5% formally protected
- Threatened by indiscriminate agricultural development (ostrich farming), mining, unsustainable use of resources, esp. succulent plants, invasive alien plants and climate change

Photograph by V Loehr
Two of the world’s 34 biodiversity hotspots!
The Western Cape conservation estate …

- Statutory conservation areas conserve 14.2% of Western Cape land surface (1,840 M ha)*
  - Serial World Heritage Site, wilderness areas, national parks, provincial and local authority nature reserves, state forest nature reserves, mountain catchments, island reserves and marine protected areas
- Conservation areas under voluntary arrangements in the Western Cape enlarge the statutory estate by a further 1,910 M ha*
  - Includes 2 biosphere reserves, 1,28 M ha conservancies and 88 stewardship sites (contract reserves, biodiversity sites)

Formally protected areas in Western Cape and Cape Floristic Region

- Van Rhynsdorp
- Clanwilliam
- Vredenburg
- CAPE TOWN
- Hermanus
- Swellendam
- Oudtshoorn
- Beaufort West
- Cape Floristic Region

- Provincial Boundaries
- Cape Floristic Region

- SA National Parks Board
- Biosphere Reserves
- Provincial Nature Reserves
- Mountain Catchment Areas
- Wilderness Areas
- Private Nature Reserves
- Marine Reserves
- Conservancies
- Local Authority Nature Reserves
- Proposed World Heritage Sites
- Private Nature Reserves
- Proposed Mega Reserves

- Western Cape
- Northern Cape
- Eastern Cape

October 2001
Groot Winterhoek
Overview of mainstreaming activities
By the year 2020, the natural environment and biodiversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom

• will be effectively conserved
• will be restored wherever appropriate, and
• will deliver significant benefits to the people of the region

in a way that is embraced by local communities, endorsed by government and recognised internationally

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Spatial Planning

Guidelines for environmental assessment practitioners

Fine scale conservation planning: Identifying the priorities

Putting biodiversity plans to work: Influencing decision making

Integration into local authority plans & frameworks

Biodiversity GIS: Serving biodiversity information

Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)
Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Agriculture

Supporting stewardship of natural resources through access to information and incentives

Stewardship programme: working with landowners

Slanghoek Valley: Farmers mapping critical biodiversity

Cooperative management:
- A cultivation MOU for the Sandveld
- An integrated service centre on the Agulhas Plain

Area wide planning: Mainstreaming biodiversity priorities into agriculture’s farm plans

Biodiversity and Wine Initiative
Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Local Economic Development

“Building the Biodiversity Economy...”

Setting standards...
- SAPPEX and Flower Valley: Sustainable Flower Harvesting Methods
- Guidelines for off road recreational vehicles
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity into IPW standards

Creating jobs...
- ECPB: Baviaanskloof tourism route
- Pakhuis Conservancy: Donkey Trail Ecotourism
- Natures Valley Trust: Salt River Ecoguides
- Duineveld Coastal Assn: Small business development for alien clearing
- SANParks: Table Mountain Hoerikwaggo guides

Developing markets...
- Flower Valley: Developing markets for certified flowers
- “Variety is in our nature”: SA Wine marketing strategy
- Small scale Cederberg farmers: Wild Rooibos marketing strategy

In the pipeline:
- Rooibos, Citrus, Potatoes, Ostriches, Predator Friendly meat....
Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Community Development and Capacity Building

Conservation Education: Mainstreaming biodiversity into secondary and tertiary curricula

Custodians of rare and endangered wildflowers

Cape Flats Nature: Networking people and nature

CEPF – TMF Capacity Building Programme
Community-based Natural Resource Management projects

- CBNRM strategy developed
- People & Parks Framework developed
- Participation in national People & Parks programme
- Logframes for 10 livelihoods projects developed
- Close collaboration with W-Cape Dept Env Aff & Dev Plan
- Developed draft policy on consumptive utilization of natural resources in and around protected areas
- Protocol on access to protected areas for cultural, spiritual and traditional purposes drafted
Local Economic Development projects

- Development of accredited field guides
- Employment through Whale Trail Project I and II
- Buchu anti-poaching project
- Witfontein medicinal plant nursery
- Baboon monitors
- Fire-break clearing and hiking trail maintenance projects
- etc.
Expanded Public Works Programme

- **Working for Water** – training and using economically inactive people for the clearing of invasive alien plants to improve biodiversity and run-off and promote social upliftment.

- **Working on Fire** – training and using economically inactive people to establish strategically-placed rapid response teams to manage fire.

- **Working for Wetlands** - training and using economically inactive people to rehabilitate invaded and transformed wetlands to function properly.

- Training and using economically inactive people to become contractors for infrastructure maintenance, e.g. roads, buildings, etc.
Youth Development Programme

• Nature-based experiences for school-going youth using protected areas

• Exposing youth-at-risk to life-skills training and targeting secondary school graduates from previously-disadvantaged communities to enter into environmental workforce
Summary

• Western Cape a special place
• Unique floral and faunal assemblage
• Environmental pressure on natural resources and ecosystem services severe
• Mainstreaming biodiversity into people’s lives and livelihoods, and into economic activities only way to ensure sustainability

“If biodiversity conservation fails in the Western Cape, the socio-economic consequences will be catastrophic for all citizens…” Mr SF Bekker Acting CEO, CapeNature
thank you...