



Biodiversity and Conservation

BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP IN SOUTH AFRICA - THE STORY SO FAR

Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi

Deputy Director-General: Biodiversity and Conservation

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environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BIODIVERSITY

- 3rd most biologically diverse country in the world, after Brazil & Indonesia.
- 2% of the world's land area, but is home to:
 - 10% of the world's plants
 - 7% of the reptiles, birds and mammals
 - 15% of known coastal marine species
- Key Facts:
 - Biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning & provision of ecosystem services for human well-being.
 - Biodiversity provides for food, security, human health, clean air & water, contributes to local livelihoods & economic development, & is essential for achievement of SDGs, including poverty reduction



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: Johan Rockstrom & Pavan Sukhdev, "EAT", Stockholm 2016

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BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP (BDS)

Biodiversity stewardship is an approach to securing land in biodiversity priority areas through entering into agreements with private and communal landowners, led by conservation authorities.

Conservation NGOs often play a key supporting role.

THE STORY SO FAR.....

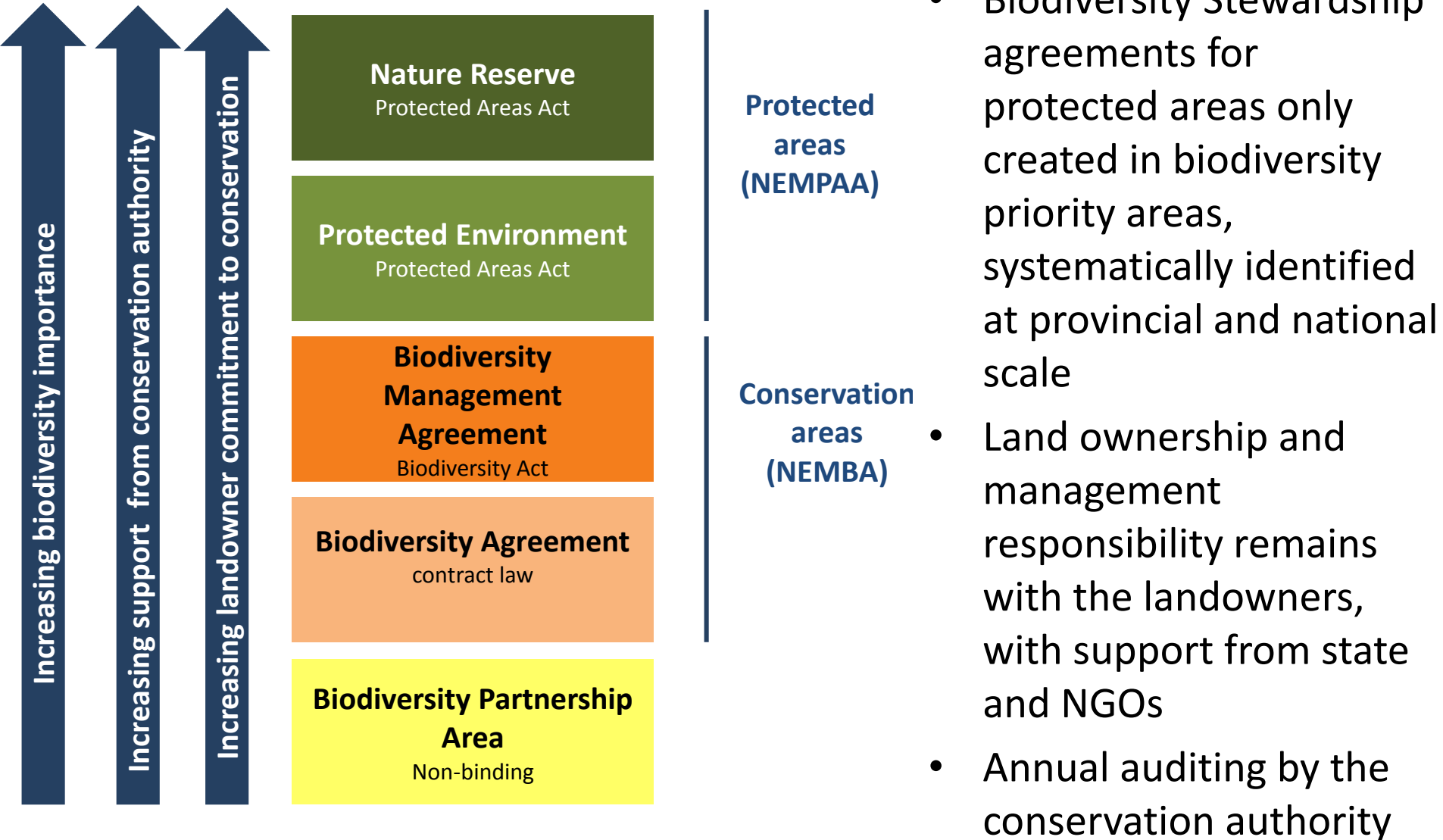
- Biodiversity stewardship began as a pilot in 2003 in a single province.
- By March 2017, provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes had secured just over 540 000 ha through the creation of 94 protected areas with long-term security
- A further 400 000 ha are currently in the process of being declared according to DEA's Protected and Conservation Areas (PACA) Database

THE STORY SO FAR.....

540 000 + hectares of
Biodiversity stewardship sites
were declared, that's **one**
third the size of Kruger
National Park



HIERARCHY OF AGREEMENTS



BROADER GOALS OF BDS

1. Conserving a representative sample of biodiversity
2. Involving landowners as custodians of biodiversity
3. Contributing to the rural economy
4. Investing in ecological infrastructure
5. Contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation
6. Mechanism identified for securing Offsets
7. Supporting sustainable development

NATIONAL PLANS & STRATEGIES

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2030

Our future - make it work

REALISE OUR FUTURE

national planning commission
Department: The Presidency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NEW GROWTH PATH: FRAMEWORK

economic development
Economic Development Department
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's 2nd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
2015 - 2025

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National Protected Area Expansion Strategy for South Africa 2008

Priorities for expanding the protected area network for ecological sustainability and climate change adaptation

Government of South Africa

National Protected Area Expansion Strategy for South Africa

2016

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NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

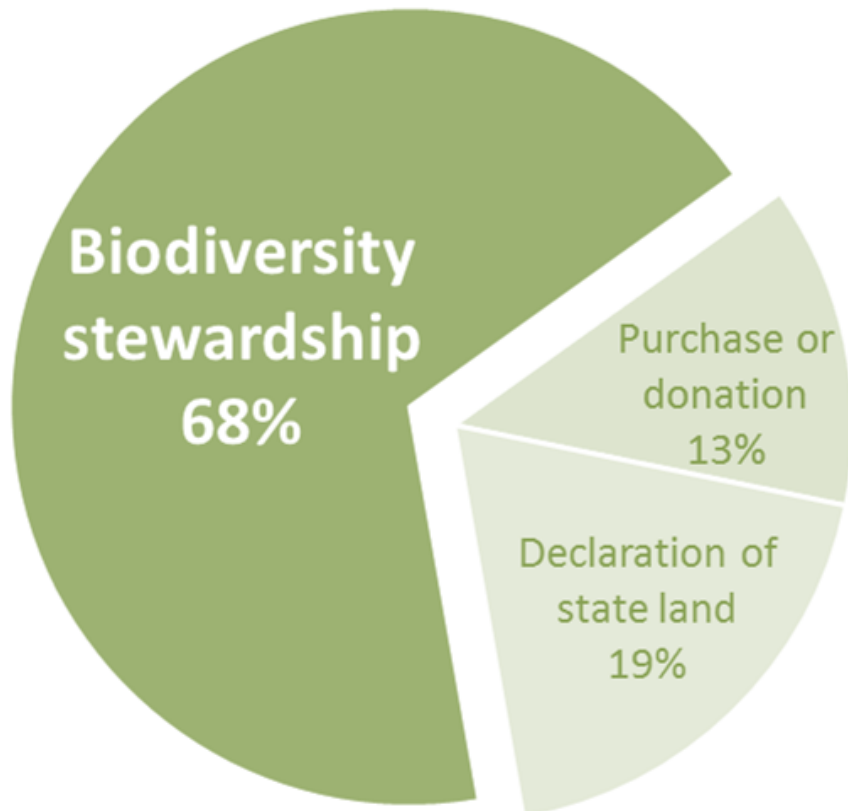
“The Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Biodiversity Institute should implement the protected areas expansion strategy and promote the biodiversity stewardship programme to build conservation partnerships around privately-owned land. National Treasury should introduce incentives to protect and rehabilitate ecosystems, such as rebates and tax reductions.

The Department of Environmental Affairs, together with related departments such as Agriculture and Rural Development, should investigate the socio-economic implications and policy requirements of a system for requiring commensurate investment in community development and the protection of ecosystem services to mitigate environmental and social impacts of development.”

(NDP 2030)

BDS: ROLE IN PROTECTED AREA EXPANSION

BDS – key mechanism for protected area expansion



BDS – Cost effective

- **Less costly to establish**
(Between 70 to 400 times less costly)
- **Less costly to manage**
(Between 4 – 17 times lower)

KEY CHALLENGES

- Ensuring sufficient funding and human capacity for the provincial Biodiversity Stewardship programmes
 - ✓ To secure more land through Biodiversity Stewardship
 - ✓ To continue to provide technical support to participating landowners into the future
 - ✓ Development and alternative land use pressure
- Increased support to landowners
 - ✓ Post declaration support in – eg. Fire breaks, fences and M&E
- Political will and high-level interventions
 - ✓ High level support and understanding of the importance of BDS in not just biodiversity conservation , but for over-all human well-being and livelihoods.
 - ✓ Need to accelerate the signing of declaration notices by MEC's

Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative (LRBSI) (i)

- BDS is further enhanced with its collaborative initiative in the form of biodiversity stewardship and land reform
- LRBSI – Is a conservation and developmental initiative run in a tri-partnership by DEA, DRDLR & SANBI
- This programme demonstrates how social, economic and environmental sectors can successfully co-exist as it seeks to remedy the historical injustices underpinned by discriminatory land legislation that fractured communities, destroyed relationships of communities with their land, and created between conservationists and local communities.

Land Reform Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative (LRBSI) (ii)

Primary focus:

- To establish a network of learning & community of practice regarding land reform/communal lands and biodiversity stewardship between the land and conservation sectors across the country, and
- To demonstrate the successful delivery of both socio-economic and conservation benefits affecting the land reform beneficiaries in order to create an opportunity for better land management and sustainable economic development

LRBSI OUTCOMES & ALIGNMENT WITH THE NEW GROWTH PATH

LRBSI

Outcomes

- Conservation of biodiversity on commercial land
- Enhancing rural economy (Green jobs through EPWP, wildlife economy)
- Community upliftment and sustainable livelihoods

NGP

Priority areas include:

- Green economy
- Agriculture
- Tourism

SOMKHANDA



- On 1 July 2009 Nkosi Zeblon Gumbi signed the declaration agreement and Protected Area Management Agreement for the declaration of 11 600 ha as nature reserve
- The Nature Reserve was declared on 17 February 2011
- Rhino's have been established on the nature reserve with the assistance of WWF

NAMBITI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE



NAMBITI
Big 5 Private Game Reserve

- Contributes to biodiversity and protected area expansion targets.
- Monthly turnover of R3.5 to R4 million has significant implications for the local and regional economy.
- Employment in excess of 220 people – at far higher salaries than agricultural minimum wages.
- Revenue generation through live game sales and limited hunting.
- Sustainable production of game meat for commercial sale and provision of an affordable source of meat within local communities.
- Model for a community/private sector partnership.
- **Achievement of rural development and land reform objectives:**
 - ❑ **Land ownership.**
 - ❑ **Economic development and business creation.**
 - ❑ **Employment.**
 - ❑ **Food security.**



ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Provincial Biodiversity Stewardship programmes should be sufficiently resourced according to their specific needs
- Partnerships between provincial biodiversity stewardship programmes and NGOs should continue to be strengthened.
- Land reform biodiversity stewardship sites should receive additional support, given the complexity of creating and supporting these agreements.
- Suitable incentives to support the uptake, effective management of sites and long-term commitment of landowners to biodiversity stewardship should continue to be invested in.
- Biodiversity stewardship programmes should have suitable national support from DEA and SANBI, especially in relation to policy and technical matters
- The community of practice for biodiversity stewardship should be strengthened and expanded.
- **Biodiversity Economy: (Wildlife and Bioprospecting) – stewardship unlocking opportunities**

Thank You



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