South Africa's Approach To Spatial Biodiversity Planning: A Foundation For Implementation And Mainstreaming. Article By Dr. Amanda Driver, SANBI



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Description:
Over the past decade, South Africa has developed maps of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) for each of its nine provinces, representing spatial priorities for the terrestrial environment as well as freshwater ecosystems (rivers and wetlands). These maps have been mainstreamed into planning and decision-making in a range of sectors including land-use planning, environmental impact assessments, mining authorizations, water use licensing. These Maps are also firmly embedded into national policy and strategies such as the NBSAP, National Biodiversity Framework and National Protected Area Expansion Strategy. The maps and accompanying data and guidelines are freely available on SANBI's Biodiversity GIS website (http://bgis.sanbi.org (http://bgis.sanbi.org)). South Africa has arguably taken systematic biodiversity planning furthest in the sense of embedding it in policy, legislation and widely used tools that guide conservation action by government and civil society.

South Africa has a vibrant community of practice on biodiversity planning, which meets annually at the national Biodiversity Planning Forum. The 14th Biodiversity Planning Forum will take place from 20th to 23rd June 2017, at the Skukuza Camp in the Kruger National Park. This year's Forum includes a focus on global approaches to spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritisation, and SANBI welcomes participants from other countries.

This Article has been contributed by Dr. Amanda Driver, South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)

**SEE ATTACHMENTS TO READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE AND TO VIEW THE INVITATION TO THE 14th BIODIVERSITY PLANNING FORUM. **

Attachments

South Africa's approach to spatial biodiversity planning- a foundation for implementation and mainstreaming.pdf (http://nbsapforum.net/uploads/2817.pdf)

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