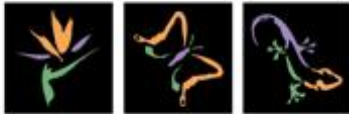


SANBI

Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute



The Conservation and Sustainable Use of biotraded species: principles and approaches

Neil Crouch, SANBI
African Biotrade Festival
18 September 2025



Four South African municipalities – local land use decision makers

Identified prevalent frames of interpretation:

“The frame analysis showed that the preservation of nature is regarded as fundamentally in opposition to socio-economic development.

Conservation is frequently interpreted as being a socially unjust endeavor, disrespectful toward people and lacking realism”.

LETTER

Framing biodiversity conservation for decision makers: insights from four South African municipalities

Angelika Wilhelm-Rechmann & Richard Mark Cowling

Department of Botany, P.O. Box 77000, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth 6031, South Africa



Different perceptions — People, cultures and religions perceive nature and landscapes differently.

Conservation and sustainable use:
why bother?

Is this all just about maximizing benefits
for humans from biodiversity—for as
long as we can?



It was great while it lasted!





OP-ED

South Africa pushes for trade in endangered wildlife

By Andreas Wilson-Spath • 19 August 2019 

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115k

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South Africa, DRC, Namibia and Zimbabwe believe they should be able to sell threatened wildlife species on global markets, just like mass-produced trinkets.



Andreas Wilson-Spath

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24. Environment.-Everyone has the right-

(b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that-

**(i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
(ii) promote conservation; and
(iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.**



The Constitution

of the Republic of South Africa, 1996



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



TARGET 15

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

- (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;
- (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;

in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

- ‘Sustainable’, in relation to the use of a biological resource, means the use of such resource in a way and at a rate that-

- (a) would not lead to its long-term decline;

- (b) would not disrupt the ecological integrity of the ecosystem in which it occurs; and

- (c) would ensure its continued use to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations of people.

Act 10 of 2004 (NEMBA)



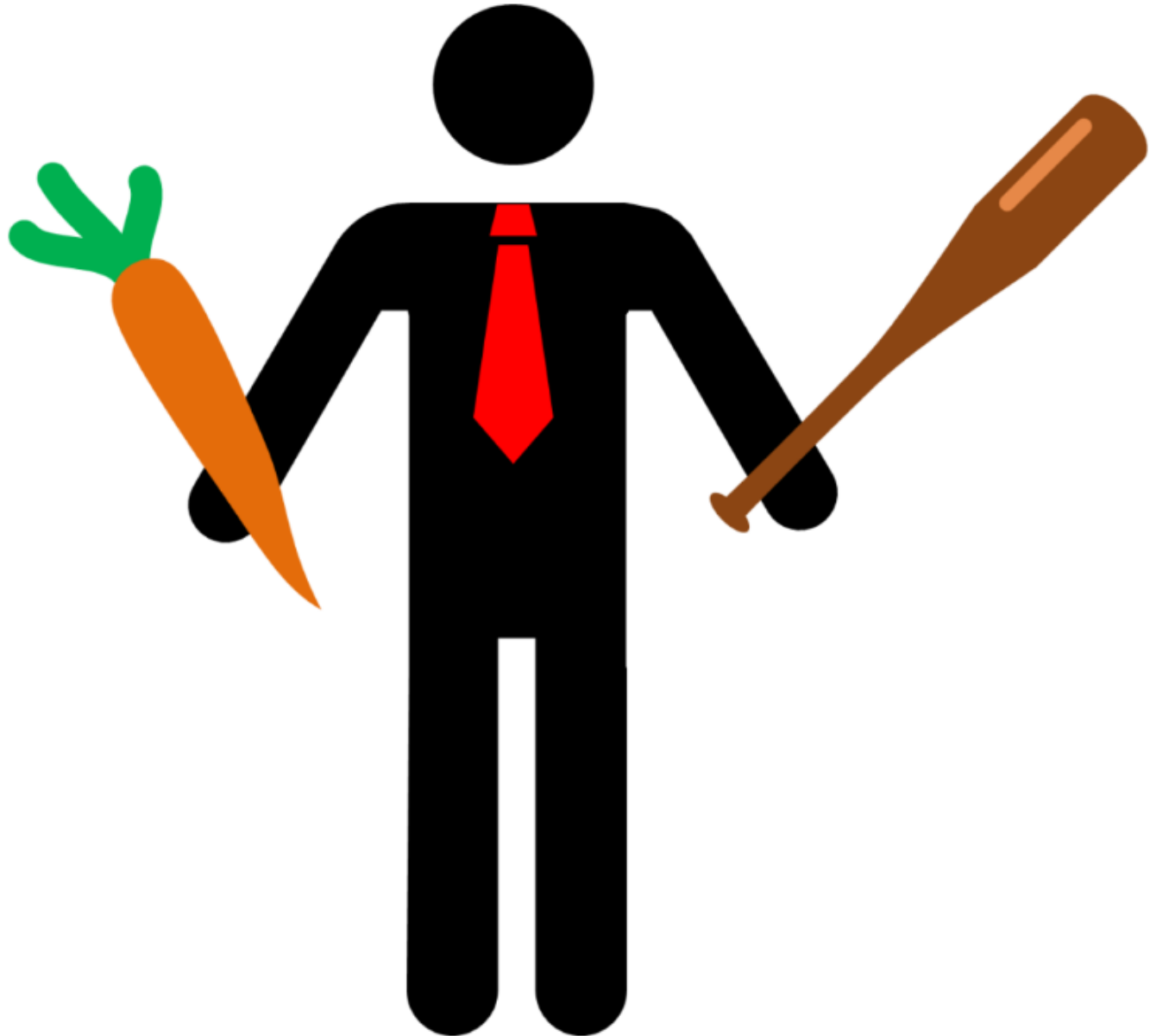
Principles of sustainable use in South Africa – balancing ecological integrity with human development

- Protection of ecosystem integrity
- Inclusive and equitable participation
- Knowledge-based decision making
- Precautionary principle
- Benefit sharing
- Conservation through use
- Integrated and landscape-level planning
- Integration with climate resilience
- Adaptive management

Principles of sustainable use in South Africa – balancing ecological integrity with human development

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- Integration with climate resilience
- Adaptive management

The Carrot and the Stick





Western Cape
Government
Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

BETTER TOGETHER.



THE WILD HONEYBUSH HARVESTING FIELD GUIDE

The KNOWLEDGE *and* SKILL of the WILD HARVESTER



Aloe ferox harvesting guidelines workshop June George 2025

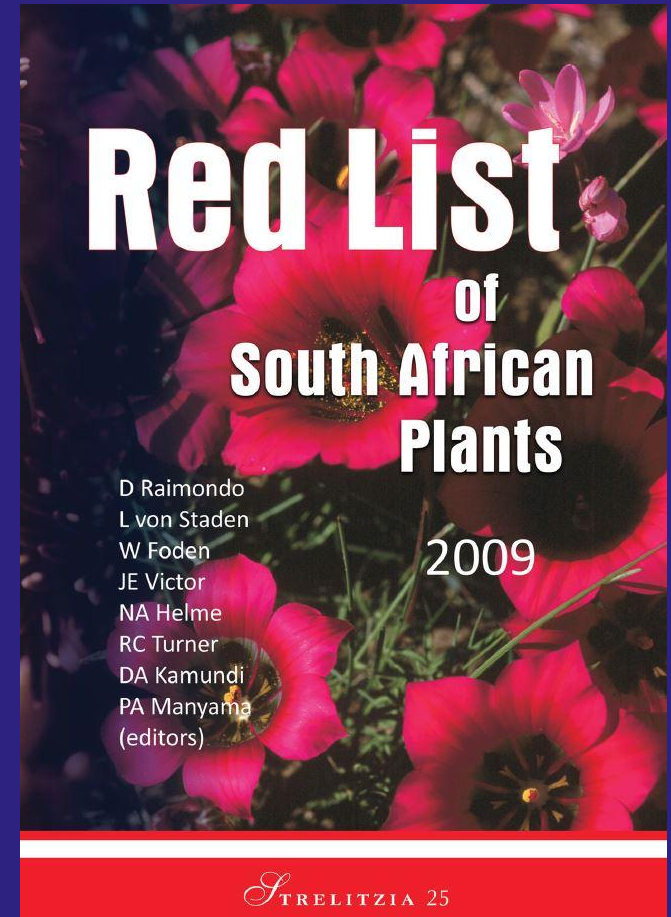






Rooibos cultivation impacts

- From 14,000 ha in 1991 to 60,000 ha in 2016
- In 12 years, 300% increase in Red Listed taxa
- 149 taxa threatened with extinction
- Increased industry awareness
- Expected expansion of industry



Wynberg (2016); SAJB



Home

- ▶ Non Detriment Findings (NDF)
- ▶ View existing reports database

Submit a report



Please log in to access

Other issues

- ▶ CITES 'Non-detriment findings'
- ▶ CITES and livelihoods
- ▶ International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
- ▶ Introduction from the sea
- ▶ Wildlife trade policy reviews

Non-detriment findings



The preamble to the Convention recognizes that international cooperation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade, and recognizes also the urgency of taking appropriate measures... [See more](#)

Current policies on NDFs

In Resolution Conf. 13.2 on *Sustainable use of biodiversity: Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines*, Parties were urged, when adopting NDF...

[See more](#)

Guidance on NDFs

In 1992, the CoP adopted Resolution Conf. 8.6 on the *Role of the Scientific Authority* which arose initially from a document by the United States of America discussed at the fifth... [See more](#)

Convention Requirements

In detail, the NDF requirements in the text of the Convention are:

a) Article III (Appendix-I species):

i) An export permit... [See more](#)

...Sustainability of bioresource extraction - NDF

- Regenerative and/or productive capacity
- Distribution
- Abundance
- Population structure
- Accessibility / Ownership
- Autecology
- Management
- Monitoring



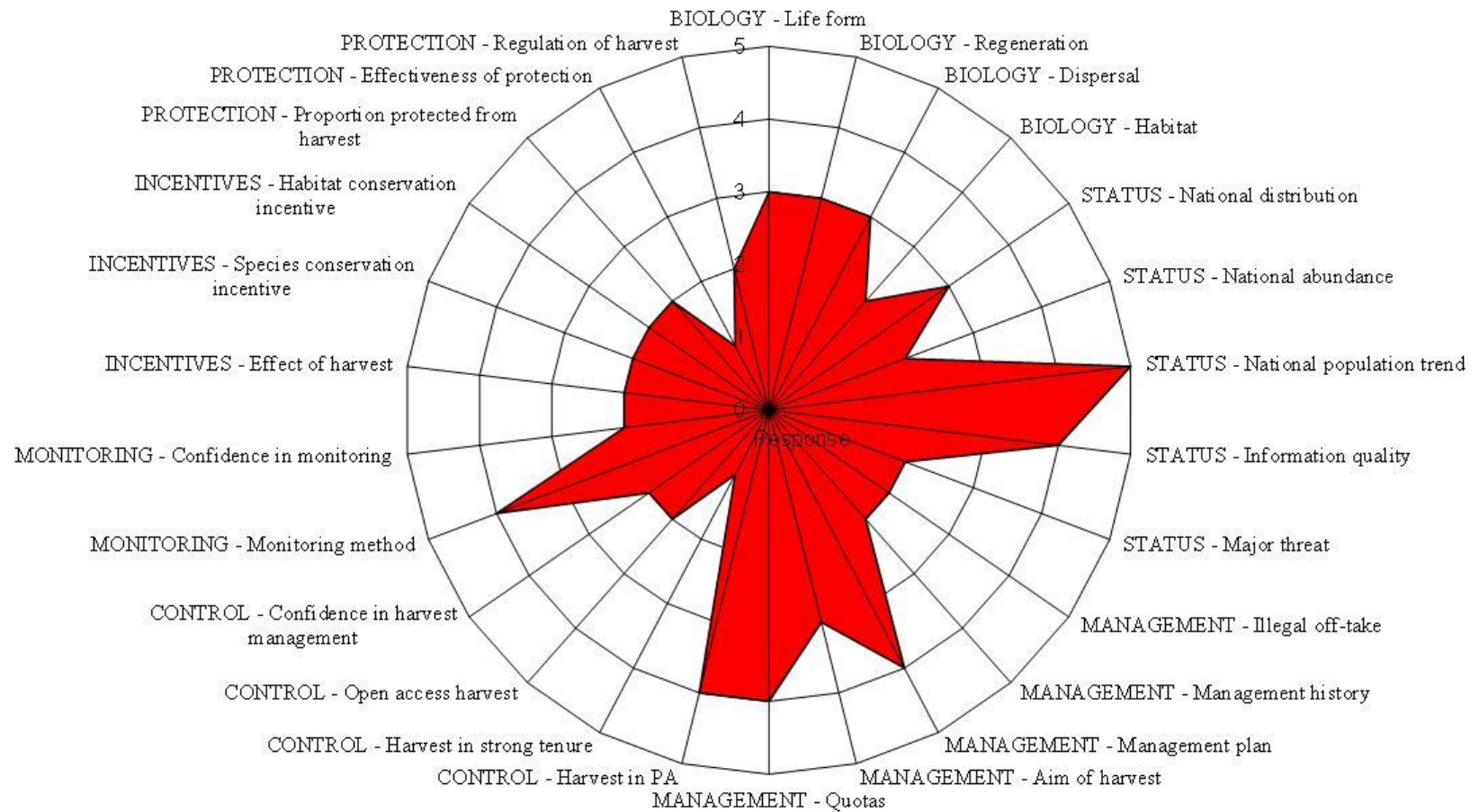


Figure 1: Radar chart summarizing the non-detriment finding assessment for *A. ferox* in accordance with the CITES NDF checklist. Explanations of scores given are detailed in Table 1. Higher scores are indicative of higher risks to the species. The area shaded in the radar chart indicates an overall low to moderate risk to the species.

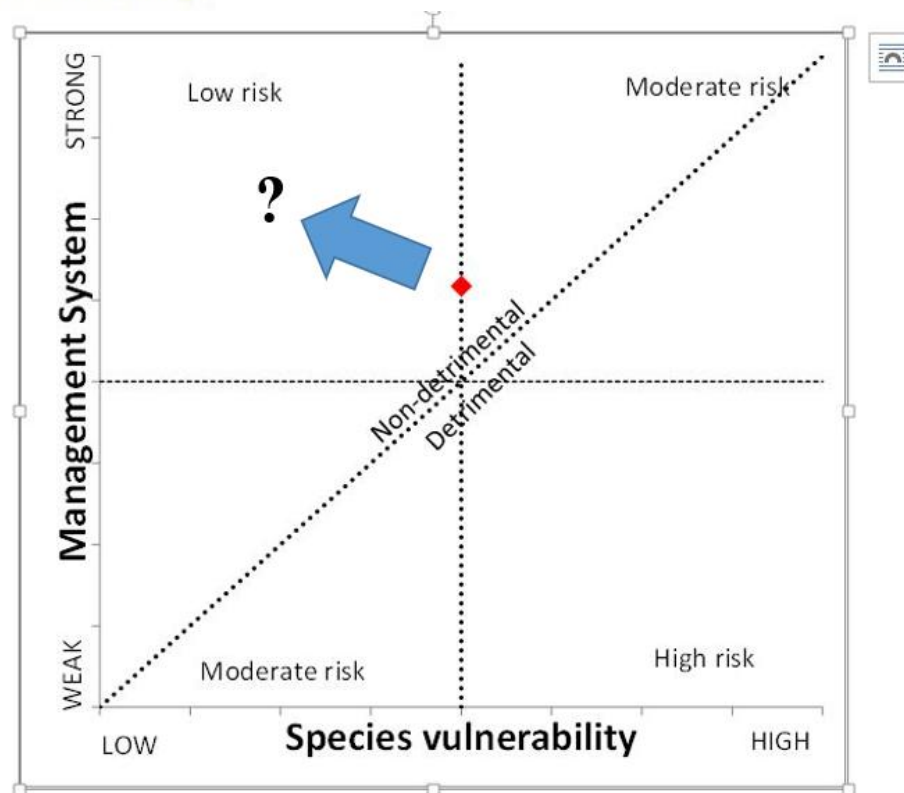


Figure 2: The risk of trading in *A. ferox*, as represented by the relationship between species vulnerability (biology and status) and the management system to which the species is subjected (management, control, monitoring, incentives and protection). The figure shows that the species is currently at a low to moderate risk and trade is non detrimental.

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TWO HONEYBUSH SPECIES (*CYCLOPIA*
SUBTERNATA AND *CYCLOPIA INTERMEDIA*)



- Objectives
- Criteria
- Actions
- Actors
- Indicators
- Delivery dates

Jointly developed by:

Lead agent: Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

Core Authors: Albert Ackhurst, AnneLise Vlok, Azwinaki Muingi, Clyde Lamberts, Frances Balayer, Gerrie Ferreira, Humbu Mafumo, Neil Crouch

Implementing Organisations: Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs, CapeNature, national Department of Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency, South African National Biodiversity Institute, South African Honeybush Tea Association, Agriculture Sector Education Training Authority, Honeybush Community of Practice, private and communal land owners, The Council for

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

No. R. 214

3 March 2009

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT 10 OF 2004)

NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR SPECIES

I, Marthinus Christoffel Johannes van Schalkwyk, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, hereby publish the Norms and Standards for Biodiversity Management Plans for Species in terms of section 9(1)(a)(i) and 43 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act no 10 of 2004), as contained in the Schedule.

Marthinus van Schalkwyk



PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Strategic partners	South African government departments
Collaborators	Development finance institutions and biotrade export or trade organisations
Implementers	Selected organisations, experts and consultants

ABIOSA PROJECT TIMING AND FOCUS

The ABioSA project started in 2018 and concludes in October 2021. It works with selected biotrade value chains and plant species, including some which straddle national borders. These species were identified based on criteria including traditional knowledge, ecological

sustainability, market demand, potential for value-adding and job creation, and the participation of SMEs and Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs).

The project welcomes inputs from communities and biotrade businesses.
Please email adrie.elmohamadi@giz.de

The ABS Initiative is funded by



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



MINISTERIUM OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra
Swiss Confederation
Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Innovation and Research: SECO
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

and implemented by



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Photos: Jonathon Rees/Proof Communication Africa
Design/Layout: Nicole Louw/Proof Communication Africa
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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH / February 2018

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ABS COMPLIANT BIOTRADE IN SOUTH(ERN) AFRICA

Building a high-growth innovative biotrade sector that creates jobs and contributes to sustainable use of biodiversity in South Africa and the region

PROJECT SUMMARY

Name: ABS Compliant Biotrade in South(ern) Africa

Funding Amount: Three million Swiss Francs

Country focus: South Africa (70%) and southern Africa (30%)

Funded by: Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Implemented by: GIZ

Management: Access and Benefit-Sharing Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative)

Governance: Project steering & investment committees

2018 to 2021



environment, forestry
& fisheries
Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE ABS
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun Svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

INTEGRATING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY IN ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING APPROACHES IN SOUTH AFRICA

GUIDELINES

FOR REGULATORS, USERS AND PROVIDERS

November, 2022



Box 12. Examples of Non-monetary Benefits to Support the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

Collaborate and contribute to scientific and environmental education and training with institutions undertaking biodiversity and conservation research, conservation authorities, traditional knowledge holders and resource custodians.

Develop capacity that can be applied to fundamental biodiversity research including taxonomy and phylogenetics through knowledge exchange and training.

Publish research findings in scientific journals, especially open access, and in more popular, accessible formats.

Develop capacity in specialised expertise, equipment and infrastructure that may not currently be available in-country but have application to biodiversity research and conservation, especially within biodiversity institutions and facilities such as SANBI and The South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), and universities.

Support the acquisition of specialised equipment and infrastructure that may not be readily available.

Share data and information in national and/or public databases, provide accurate metadata, and avoid duplication of research effort. Enable the application of data in multiple ways.

Give feedback about your research to conservation authorities. Partnerships between government agencies such as SANParks and research institutions offer an opportunity for conservation benefits to be enhanced.

Provide information openly to conservation authorities about the resources that are accessed and confirm this information is not restricted by confidentiality agreements to ensure it can inform resource management decision making.

Deposit samples in national and local repositories including biobanks, genebanks, seedbanks, museums and herbaria that contribute to the conservation of threatened and rare species and foundational biodiversity research.

Enable access to and transfer of technology related to the indigenous biological resource or applicable to biodiversity research and conservation. This may, for example, include omics technologies that can be used to generate genetic data for taxonomy or analytical technologies for molecular networking of species to investigate environmental factors.



Sutherlandia frutescens, Hantam.
Credit: Neil Crouch

Thank you for your attention