

Capacity Building for Biodiversity Impact Assessment (CBBIA) in a “Mega-diverse” region

Briefing Presentations –
South Africa

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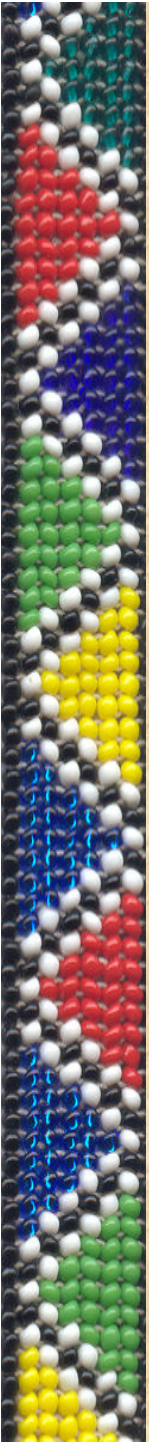
Isayvani Naicker





Biodiversity

- ❖ Contains an entire floral kingdom – Cape Floral Kingdom
- ❖ Two globally significant biodiversity hotspots – CAPE and succulent Karoo
- ❖ 6 centres of plant diversity
- ❖ 2 endemic bird areas
- ❖ Richest temperate flora in the world



Biodiversity moved squarely into a socio-political arena

Now:

- ❖ Human rights, poverty alleviation and access to natural resources, equity and environmental sustainability

Then:

- ❖ Protectionist approach where people were forcibly removed to make way for nature conservation

BIODIVERSITY VISION

White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity



- ❖ A prosperous and environmentally conscious nation
- ❖ Harmonious co-existence with the natural environment
- ❖ Deriving lasting benefits from the conservation and sustainable use of its rich biological diversity



Policy on Biodiversity

- ❖ Ratified CBD in 1995
- ❖ National Consultative process resulted in a White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biological Diversity – July 1997
- ❖ National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998
 - Regulations made under this act to date include:
 - ❖ National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Bill 2003
 - ❖ National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 2003



General Enabling Policies and Laws

- ❖ The Constitution – right to have environment protected through legislative and other means
- ❖ Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998 – preserve marine biodiversity
- ❖ The National Water Act 36 of 1998 – ensure water resources protected, taking into account “protecting aquatic and associated ecosystems and their biological diversity”
- ❖ National Forests Act 84 of 1998 – forests managed to conserve biodiversity and developed to sustain potential yield of economic, social and environmental benefits
- ❖ National Parks Act



Biodiversity Bill

To provide within the framework of the NEMA for the...

- management and conservation of biodiversity
- protection of species and ecosystems
- sustainable use of indigenous resources
- fair and equitable sharing of benefits
- establishment of South African National Biodiversity Institute



Establishment of the South African National Biodiversity Institute

Functions include:

- ❖ *Monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity*
- ❖ *Collecting and disseminating information*
- ❖ Undertaking **research**
- ❖ **Co-ordinating programmes** for rehabilitation, control of invasive alien plants, conservation and sustainable use
- ❖ **Advising** on this act, bioregional planning and national protected areas

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National Biodiversity Framework

- ❖ will provide for a coordinated approach to biodiversity management across both the public and private sector
- ❖ will be consistent with this act, NEMA and other relevant legislation
- ❖ will identify priority areas for conservation action and establishment of PAs
- ❖ will reflect regional cooperation (Peace Parks)
- ❖ will provide norms and standards for provincial and municipal environmental conservation plans



National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

- ❖ NBSAP – response to obligation of CBD and first step in developing National Biodiversity Framework (Ch. 3)
- ❖ NB Strategy - overarching aim
 - “ ***ensure the sustained flow of ecosystem goods and services and the equitable sharing of costs and benefits of doing so, by building of strengths and opportunities and minimising constraints, pressures and conflicts.***”



African Framework

- ❖ The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources - Organisation of African Unity (OAU)
- ❖ Adopted in Algiers in 1968
- ❖ Aims to “ensure conservation, utilisation and development of soil, water, flora and faunal resources in accordance with the scientific principles and with due regard to the best interests of the people.”



NEPAD Africa's SD Strategy

- ❖ Provides for co-ordination on a regional basis
- ❖ **Partnerships are in essence the pillar upon which NEPAD has been founded.**
- ❖ NEPAD and Africa's agenda - special attention during the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in South Africa in September 200
- ❖ NEPAD calls for development of action plan and strategies - to address the region's environmental challenges while at the same time combating poverty and promoting socio-economic development
- ❖ Biodiversity is seen as priority area

Biodiversity Assessments

- ❖ South African National Biodiversity Assessment
- ❖ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – Southern Africa a region of the assessment



Examples of effective integration

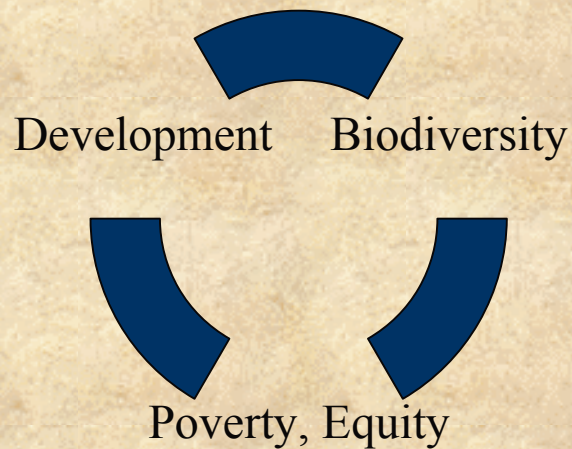
- ❖ **CAPE** – long term strategy and integrated and practical 20 year action plan – balance conservation of biodiversity in priority areas and sustainable use through cross sectoral partnerships
- ❖ **Working for Water** – controlling alien plants that threaten biodiversity, creating jobs and conserve water resources
- ❖ **Landcare Projects**
- ❖ **Transfrontier Conservation Areas**
- ❖ **CBNRM**



Examples of poor integration

- ❖ **EIAs – compile biodiversity species lists vs. *assessment of impacts of particular actions on ecosystem components and their interactions***
- ❖ **Municipal, Provincial and Regional Development Planning – short term budget cycle planning**
integrated spatial development planning incorporating biodiversity assessment and planning

Mainstreaming Biodiversity



- ❖ WSSD – reflection on conservation and biodiversity agendas across the world
- ❖ Ecosystem Approach philosophy underpinning CBD
- ❖ Workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity thru bioregional approach to conservation
- ❖ Capacity Building was a key focus area



Capacity Building and Bioregional Planning Africa

- ❖ Create an enabling political context for biodiversity and bioregional planning
- ❖ Integrate socio economic and cultural factors into bioregional planning
- ❖ Upgrade tertiary training
- ❖ Cross-sectoral and focus on African needs
- ❖ Mainstream poverty, development and equity into biodiversity



Key issues relating to biodiversity and impact assessment in South Africa

- ❖ Bioregional Planning – measures for effective management of biodiversity and the components of biodiversity in a region, monitoring of the plan and consistency with NEMA, biodiversity framework and international commitment
- ❖ Need for balance between development and conservation for poverty alleviation
- ❖ Assessing impacts of multiple projects in a regional setting
- ❖ Transboundary Assessments



Needs for capacity building, support, advice and guidance

- ❖ DEAT and other government depts. – clearing house mechanism, enforcement and implementation of legislation, monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness
- ❖ Municipalities – effective integration, human capacity, funding
- ❖ Practitioners – training, guidelines, information
- ❖ Community members – awareness raising, local level monitoring
- ❖ Cross-cutting - building effective partnerships



Capacity Building in NEMA

- ❖ Ch. 6 – incorporation of international environmental instruments
 - Minister may introduce legislation for giving effect to an international environmental instrument
 - May deal with – initiatives and steps regarding education, training, awareness raising and capacity building
- ❖ BIA as part of CBD could be proposed as such an instrument in the long term
- ❖ Biodiversity Impact Assessments allow for effective trade-off analysis needed currently
- ❖ Should include economic valuation of biodiversity as a development option e.g. eco-tourism



Biodiversity and Impact Assessment

Foundation Stones:

- ❖ The CBD and the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP VI) Decision VI-7A on the further development of guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation or processes, and in strategic environmental assessment
- ❖ The various policy, legislative and regulatory instruments, the formulation of the NBSAP and regional initiatives

Challenge:

- ❖ Translate the biodiversity-related policy goals and objectives and come up with a plan for integrated, co-ordinated and systemic action
- ❖ Need to develop capacity to incorporate biodiversity issues into environmental and land use planning and a strong base of biodiversity expertise among impact assessment professionals in developing countries



Sustainable Development and Impact Assessment

- ❖ Impact Assessment – interface of development and conservation
- ❖ Biodiversity impact assessment as part of ecological impact assessment
- ❖ BIA form part of SEA which aims at assessing impacts of multiple projects *a priori*



Developing Capacity for Managing Biodiversity

- ❖ Human capacity capable of integration all levels of biodiversity from molecular to biospheres
- ❖ Trans-disciplinary approach needed
- ❖ Institutions facilitate this interaction of knowledge and expertise – national level
- ❖ Needs:



Key Technologies ID to develop capacity for managing biodiversity

- ❖ Interdisciplinary research to quantify ecosystem structure and functioning
- ❖ Trans-disciplinary research linking natural and social sciences
- ❖ Dynamic ecological-economic modeling to estimate socio economic value of eco-system services
- ❖ Techniques to design and apply ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation



Key players and stakeholders

- ❖ DEAT and other national and provincial government departments
- ❖ National Botanic Institute and its planned successor - the South African National Botanical Institute
- ❖ SANParks, Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park Authority, Catchments Management Agencies
- ❖ International bodies e.g. IUCN,
- ❖ National and International research organisations e.g. CSIR
- ❖ **Municipalities**



THANK YOU