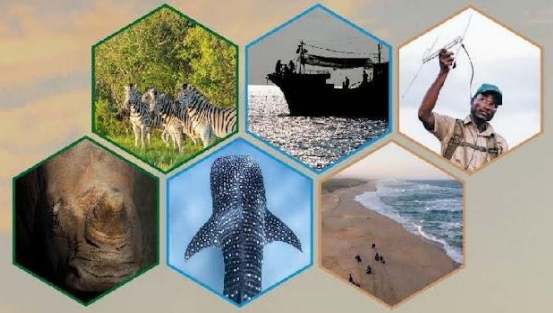


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# SYNTHESIS WORKSHOP OUTPUTS

30x30 Implementation Workshop

6 - 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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## 1. Context and background

This document synthesises the outputs of the 30x30 Implementation Workshop (6-8 June 2023) to plan South Africa's response to Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Target 3 states: *“Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.”*

This Target resonates clearly with Goal 1 of the White Paper on Biodiversity and Sustainable Use, and the Implementation Plan derived for the GBF will function effectively for the White Paper. This synthesis builds on workshop discussion papers exploring issues, challenges and opportunities which provides more detailed background and baseline information from various data sets. A separate Workshop Report (Annexure 1) explains how the discussions were conducted, the four breakaway groups upon which much of the work is built, and who contributed to the proceedings.

For the purposes of the workshop discussions, four main breakaway groupings were used:

- A. **NEMPAA Protected Areas (Category 1)**<sup>1</sup> on state, communal or private land. Common issues include verification and validation of declarations under different laws, onerous or unclear declaration processes, management authority identification and capacity, sustainable funding, income development, and outreach opportunities.
- B. **Marine PAs & Estuaries, including OECMs.** Common issues includes new and expanded MPAs priorities, application of OECMs in marine environment, estuarine priorities and applicable/potential mechanisms to achieve spatial protection, issues of zonation, user group management, stakeholder engagement, compliance and enforcement challenges, resolving conflicts with competing economic sectors, alignment with Marine Spatial Planning.
- C. **Mountain Catchments, SWSAs, Forest Reserves (Category 1 & 2)** and related lands: this cluster includes a multitude of non-NEMPA designations. Common issues include needing resolution of long-standing mandate and budget issues, improved land use control, scaled up restoration & management, ecologically mediated risks from catchments (fire, flood & drought) impose significant economic and direct financial costs on downstream societies and industries. Active industry (Forestry) which imposes costs/threats and opportunities to expand conservation areas.

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<sup>1</sup> The main categories as per NEMPAA – Nature Reserves, National Parks and Protected Environments.

D. **OECMs, and non-PA stewardship mechanisms<sup>2</sup> (Category 2)**. This cluster incorporates the suite of tools to conserve large landscapes, improve outcomes for critically endangered ecosystems, and explicitly cater for targeted threat reduction and biodiversity-compatible industries' contribution to Target 3. Common issues include criteria definitions, applying OECM criteria in practice, and monitoring and reporting platforms.

## 2. Summary of Baselines, Target Ambition and Percentage Contribution

The current baseline for terrestrial protection levels are shown below:

### 2.1 Current terrestrial protection levels and protected area expansion ambition

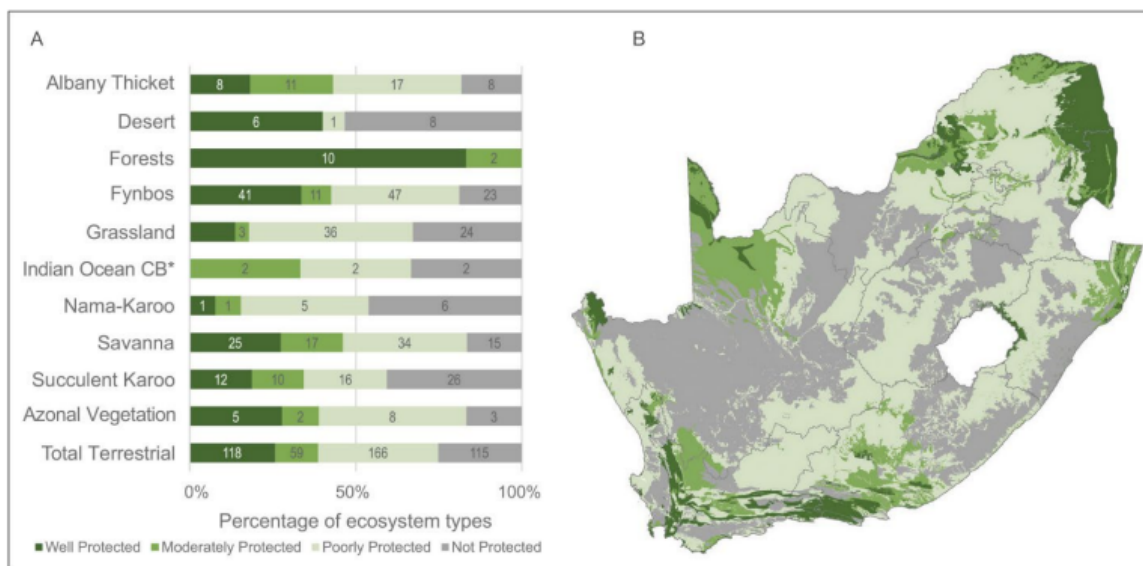


Figure. 2018 protection levels for all terrestrial ecosystem types.

<sup>2</sup> The Biodiversity Stewardship approach was deliberately structured as a toolbox of effective mechanisms that span formal declared protected areas down to voluntary agreements with safeguards and management requirements.

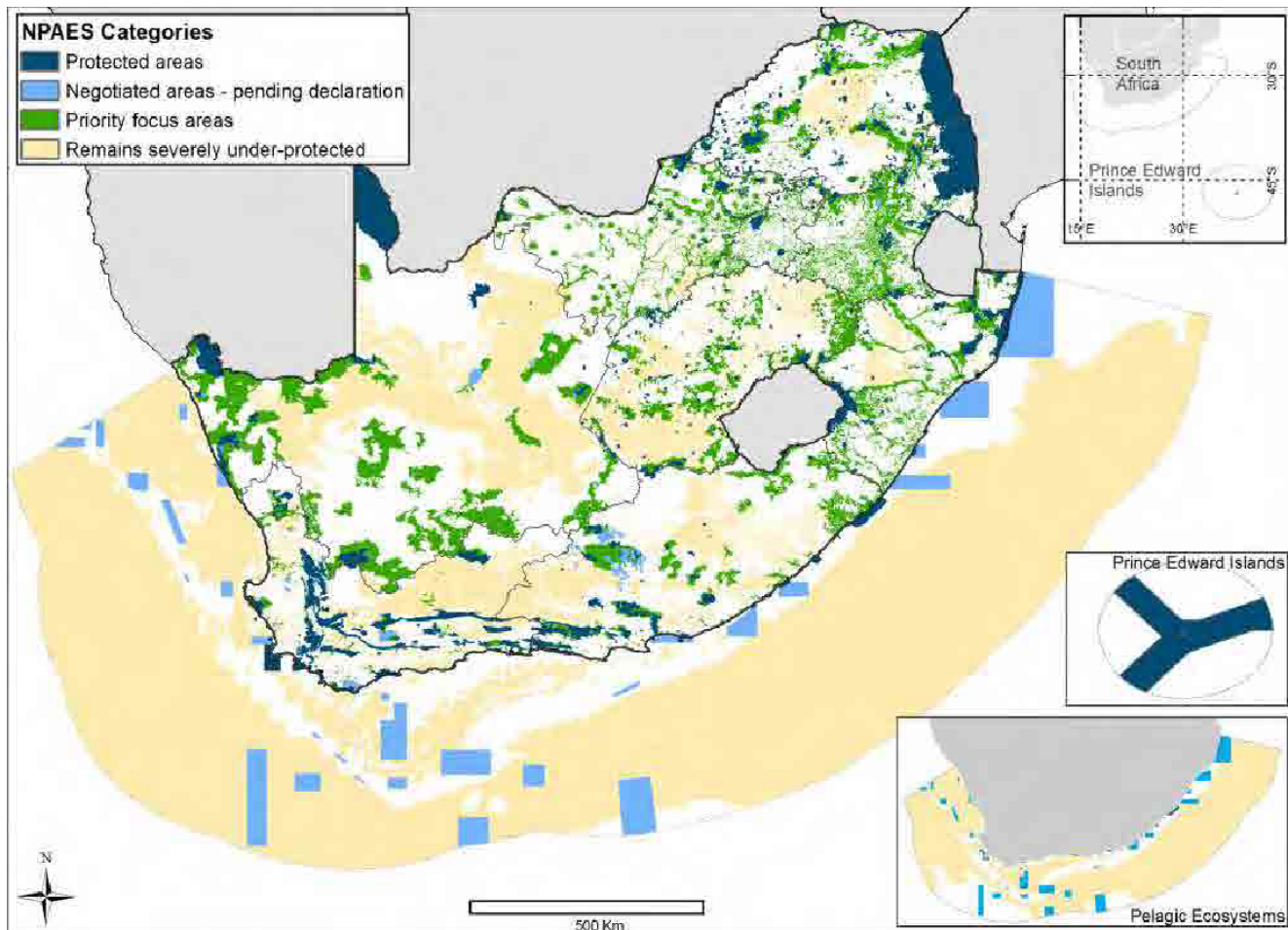


Figure. The current 2018 NPAES reflects different approaches and objectives from each province, doesn't meet the 30x30 ambition in the Marine or Terrestrial realms, and still leaves many areas and ecosystems severely unprotected.

## 2.2 Proposed terrestrial ambition and Targets

Table. Terrestrial PAs and OECM baseline, current rate, GBF ambition (and area equivalence), as well as the likely split between protection and other effective area-based measures contribution.

What	Baseline Q1 2023	Business as usual	30 x 30 ambitious target	% contribution
Terrestrial PAs	9.88% 0.1% /yr	0.5% /yr 3.5% 13.38%	Double 2023 PA estate (another 9.88% by 2030) Total 19.76% at 2030 <sup>3</sup> Terrestrial PAs 22%	65% contribution towards overall Target
OECMs	Unknown <sup>4</sup>			35%

<sup>3</sup> A clear process to be implemented at national and provincial levels to agree on ambitious Target, and then break this into annual Targets

<sup>4</sup> A very rough estimate of likely current contribution by compliant OECM mechanisms is around 1 000 000 ha

Strategic Source mechanisms	Water Area	18,9% <sup>5</sup> 1,89m ha	0,5% p.a.	30% = 1,4m ha 50% = 3,1m ha	12% (contained in the above)
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Given that the current NPAES (2018) is insufficient to convey the required scale, ambition and representivity of the terrestrial component of Target 3, another product is required. Provinces develop their own Biodiversity Sector Plans, but they update on different schedules, follow slightly different methodologies, and are mostly not yet calibrated to 30 x30. SANParks is currently underway with its Vision 2040 process, which aims to fundamentally rethink the role and contribution of National Parks. This includes an exciting reimagining of where and what landscapes National Parks can anchor. The preliminary work is not yet available to inform Target 3 but is almost certain to follow other planning and prioritisation exercises.

Fortunately, the DFFE (in collaboration with SANBI and UNDP) embarked on an exercise to explore Essential Life Support Action Areas (ELSAs). The outputs from this process provide a snapshot of what a broad-based approach to reach Target 3 could look like and caters for multiple other GBF and White Paper objectives simultaneously. The best indication of where future, representative protection would best be located shown in the output overleaf (model run with a protection Target of 30%<sup>6</sup>.)

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<sup>5</sup> This percentage is included in the 9.88% for all terrestrial PAs above

<sup>6</sup> Although the ELSAA software doesn't explicitly cater for representation of different biogeographic features, it implicitly seeks to find optimal areas for protection across 14 different features – which are based on representational protection Targets (i.e., Underprotected ecosystems, Underprotected Species, CBAs, KBAs, SWSAs etc).



# Essential Life Support Action Areas: ELSAA Map for South Africa with 30% protection target

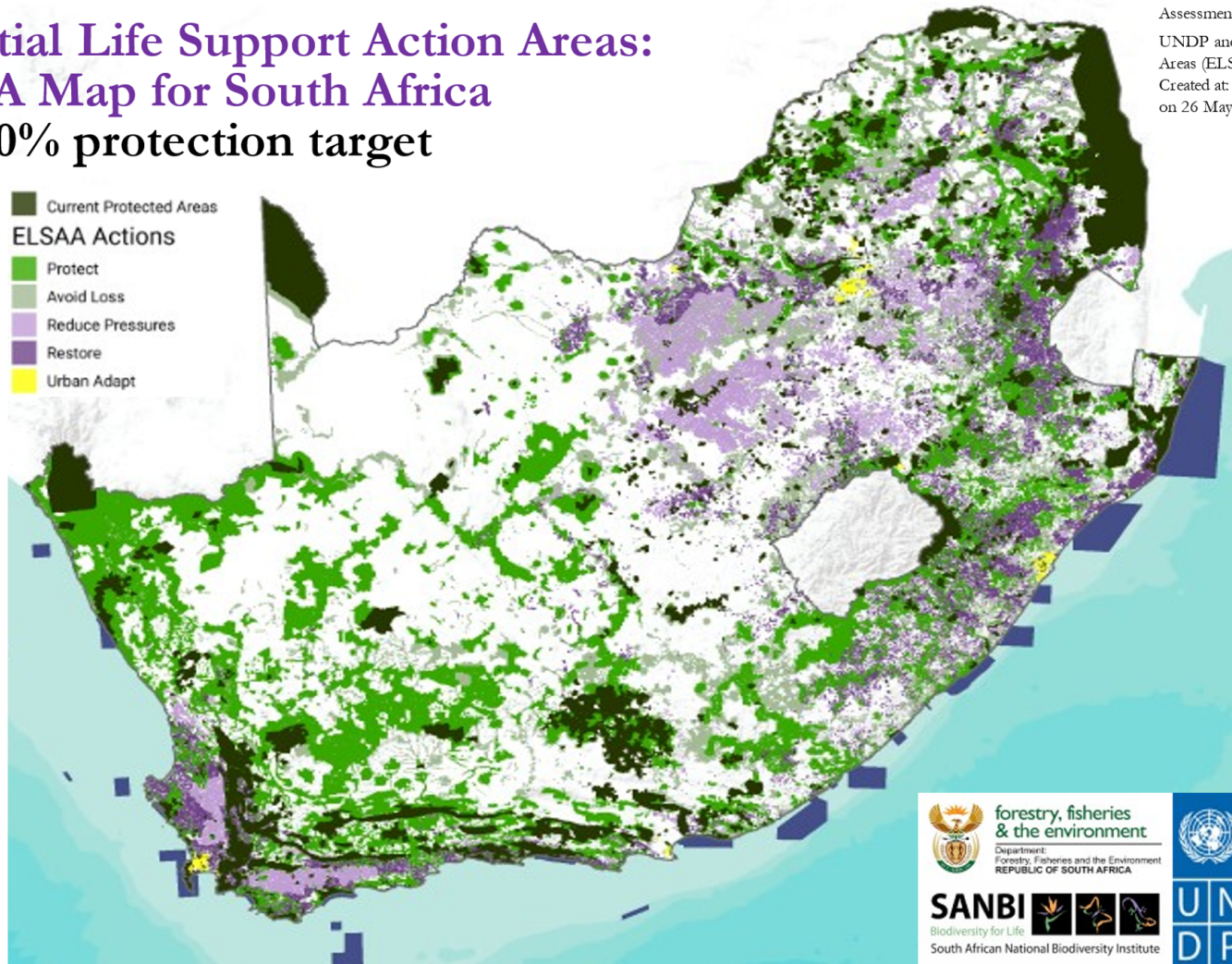


Figure An output of the Essential Life Support Action Areas tool, with a protection Target set to 30%.

## 2.3 Marine and Estuarine Ambition and Targets

### Overall Targets

Proposed Target for the marine and estuarine realm is at least<sup>7</sup>:

- 30% representation of each of 22 estuarine types,
- 30% representative spatial protection of the marine areas (including territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones) of continental South Africa and of the Prince Edward Islands (PEIs), and
- 30% of coast (with a focus on admiralty reserve and coastal public property) on priority land.

The following specific targets and area selection criteria to be used in preparing the proposals for MPAs/OECMs for consultation with stakeholders:

### Marine

- At least representative 30% protection in MPAs/OECMs of the combined marine areas of continental South Africa and the Prince Edward Islands (PEI)
  - We are currently at 14.8% overall
  - Only 5.4% for the continental South Africa marine areas are in MPAs
  - Current protection in the PEI EEZ is 35.9% in MPAs
- To achieve 30% protection of the combined marine areas is, we need:
  - 27.4% total protection coverage of continental marine area
  - 21.9% additional MPA/OECM area is needed in continental marine area (to add to existing 5.4%)
- At least half of the spatial protection in the continental EEZ should be in MPAs, while the remainder can be achieved through OECMs.
- In the continental marine area, marine targets would primarily be achieved in the priority areas identified in the Critical Biodiversity Areas<sup>8</sup> map.
- The protection mechanism (MPA vs OECM) for specific areas will be guided by local context and stakeholder engagements, but will likely be focussed on the following (from the CBA map):
  - Critical Biodiversity Area natural (18%)
  - CBA restore (3.6%)
  - Ecological Support Areas and other<sup>9</sup> areas (6.6%)
- It was emphasised that MPA expansion and the recognition of OECMs need to be in synergy with marine spatial planning (MSP) processes, and thus proactive engagement

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<sup>7</sup> The targets are minimum representation targets. There are many other reasons for including more than 30% of a specific type in PAs and OECMs, including fisheries, tourism, support for ecosystem services etc. Where an ecosystem type has above 30% inclusion, only the 30% contributes to meeting the minimum representation requirements. Further, just because an ecosystem type has 30% in PAs, this does not imply that the 30% is in good enough condition, sufficiently managed etc. Significant work is still needed on resourcing and achieved required management effectiveness on current and new PAs and OECMs.

<sup>8</sup> Where targets cannot be achieved in identified CBAs and ESAs, alternative sites will need to be identified. This would require additional areas beyond the current CBA network.

<sup>9</sup> Some other areas may be required to achieve implementable/ manageable PA boundaries. These would be determined in the detailed implementation planning phase as consultations occur with stakeholders, and local issues are taken into account.



with the MSP team needs to be pursued. The Biodiversity Sector is trying to achieve appropriate biodiversity management and conservation of the same CBA and ESA areas as above through the MSP process – hence the need for coordination between the processes to avoid risk of them undermining one another. Above all, potential stakeholder confusion about the processes will need to be addressed.

### Estuarine

- 30% representation of each of 22 estuarine types.
- At least 58 priority estuaries<sup>10</sup> (but may be more to get representation of all estuary types, key habitats and species) to be brought forward here (majority by expansion of existing PAs)
  - Minimum area requirements to achieve a representative target of 30% of each of the 22 estuary types is additional 155 km<sup>2</sup>, and should be primarily achieved within the identified 58 priority<sup>11</sup> estuaries (which have a total area of 567.2 km<sup>2</sup>)
  - Majority of this estuary protection to be achieved by the expansion of existing PAs and MPAs), prioritized adjacent to terrestrial and marine CBA natural and CBA restore areas.
- Marine protection should take into account estuarine plumes and requirements for fisheries and threatened species.
- About 10% of the estuarine estate is in areas under traditional leadership, encapsulating 13% of mangrove areas, 4% of saltmarsh and 6% of seagrass. Indicating that especially in the case of protection of systems with mangrove habitat, it would be of extreme importance to develop a community-based approach to the management and protection of estuaries that would not only benefit the environment but also the surrounding communities. It would thus be of importance to engage both the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and traditional leadership through bodies such as the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Contralesa). Such a community-based conservation model be developed at key sites, e.g., Mngazana, in such a manner that meets the criteria of an OECMs.

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<sup>10</sup> Orange, Buffels, Spoeg, Swartlontjies, Olifants, Jakkalsvlei, Verlorenvlei, Groot Berg, Rooiels, Bot/Kleinmond, Palmiet, Klein, Uilkraals, De Hoop Cluster: Heuningnes & Breede, Goukamma, Keurbooms, Noetsie, Sout Oos, Gamtoos, Swartkops, Great Fish, Tyolomnqa, Keiskamma, Quko, Great Kei, Qora (Qhorha), Mbashe, Mngazana, Mzimvubu, Mnyameni, Misikaba, Mtentu, Mntafufu, Mtakatye, Xora, Nqabara, Nxaxo, uMtamvuna, iMpenjani, iZotsha, uMzimkhulu, aMahlongwa, uMahlongwane, uMkhomazi, uMsimbazi, iLovu, uSetheni, uMdlotane, iZinkwazi, aMatigulu/Nyoni, uMlalazi, iMfolozi/uMsunduze, Durban Bay. *Identified post-workshop to meet species targets for Critically Endangered species: West Kleinemonde, East Kleinemonde, Bushmans, Kariega, Kasouga*

<sup>11</sup> Further consideration of specific habitats and species may result in adjustments during detailed planning.

## Specific Targets for Estuaries

Table. The different biogeographic estuary types, extent, GBF 30% Target, current protection level and shortfall. The estuarine targets focus on achieving the overall target of 30% representation of each of the estuarine ecosystem types.

Ecosystem Type	Overall 30 x 30 Target Requirements					30 x 30 Priority Sites
	Total Extent (km <sup>2</sup> )	30% expressed in km <sup>2</sup>	Current PA (km <sup>2</sup> )	Shortfall (km <sup>2</sup> )	Representation Shortfall	Identified Priority Sites (km <sup>2</sup> )
1 Cool Temperate - Arid Predominantly Closed	14,4	4,3	1,7	2,6	Yes	2,4
1 Cool Temperate - Estuarine Lagoon	60,1	18,0	59,5	0,0	No	
1 Cool Temperate - Estuarine Lake	72,4	21,7	8,8	12,9	Yes	61,3
1 Cool Temperate - Large Fluvially Dominated	30,2	9,1	5,7	3,4	Yes	30,2
1 Cool Temperate - Large Temporarily Closed	39,5	11,9	13,6	0,0	No	1,1
1 Cool Temperate - Predominantly Open	154,6	46,4	0,0	46,4	Yes	153,5
1 Cool Temperate - Small Fluvially Dominated	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	No	
1 Cool Temperate - Small Temporarily Closed	5,5	1,7	2,1	0,0	No	0,2
2 Warm Temperate - Estuarine Bay	30,1	9,0	29,8	0,0	No	
2 Warm Temperate - Estuarine Lake	143,9	43,2	34,5	8,7	Yes	89,5
2 Warm Temperate - Large Fluvially Dominated	5,7	1,7	0,2	1,6	Yes	5,6
2 Warm Temperate - Large Temporarily Closed	70,0	21,0	5,7	15,3	Yes	7,6
2 Warm Temperate - Predominantly Open	177,6	53,3	22,6	30,7	Yes	95,7
2 Warm Temperate - Small Fluvially Dominated	1,2	0,4	0,8	0,0	No	
2 Warm Temperate - Small Temporarily Closed	16,2	4,9	3,1	1,7	Yes	0,4
3 Subtropical - Estuarine Bay	28,2	8,4	0,0	8,4	Yes	
3 Subtropical - Estuarine Lake	818,6	245,6	618,8	0,0	No	
3 Subtropical - Large Fluvially Dominated	107,7	32,3	49,4	0,0	No	61,3
3 Subtropical - Large Temporarily Closed	52,1	15,6	3,5	12,1	Yes	15,7
3 Subtropical - Predominantly Open	76,9	23,1	12,7	10,3	Yes	41,6
3 Subtropical - Small Temporarily Closed	20,2	6,1	5,1	1,0	Yes	1,1
4 Tropical - Estuarine Lake	81,7	24,5	75,2	0,0	No	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 006,9</b>	<b>602,1</b>	<b>952,8</b>	<b>155,2</b>	<b>13 types need improved representation</b>	<b>567,2</b>

Note that representation outcomes predominate over area-based Targets for estuaries. This table is designed to summarise the minimum requirements to achieve a representative

Target of 30% of each of the 22 estuary types. Just because an ecosystem type has 30% in PAs, does not imply that the 30% is in good enough condition, sufficiently managed etc. Significant work is needed. Where an ecosystem type has above 30% inclusion, only the 30% contributes to meeting the minimum representation requirements. There are many other reasons for including more than 30% in PAs, including fisheries, tourism, support for ecosystem services etc. The table also summarises the current identified implementation priority estuaries. The 155km<sup>2</sup> should primarily be achieved within the 58 priority estuaries (which have a total area of 567.2 km<sup>2</sup>). Marine area needs to include offshore plumes to ensure functionality and optimize values for support of fisheries.

### Coast

- At least 30% of coastal strip of qualifying<sup>12</sup> coastal land in admiralty reserve or coastal public property
  - Find synergies with the National Biodiversity Assessment and CBA coastal spatial planning processes
  - Prioritise the coastal zones in nature reserves adjacent to the coastline

Table. Estuarine, marine inshore and offshore protection baseline, current rate, GBF ambition and percent contribution

What	Total area	Baseline		Business as usual (Existing targets / plans as a % of total area)	30 x 30 ambitious target		To achieve 30 x 30 ambition – MPAS and OECMs	
		(km <sup>2</sup> )	(% of total area)		(km <sup>2</sup> )	(% of total area)	(km <sup>2</sup> to be added)	(% of total area to be added)
Estuaries			47.5%			55.2%		7.7%
Total marine (continental and PEI EEZ)	1 534 900	227 844	14.8%	20% by 2036	460 470	30%	232 626	15.2%

<sup>12</sup> These areas must be priority areas (e.g., Critical Biodiversity Areas), in good or fair condition, and need to be effectively managed (including management plans, staff and dedicated resources, with monitoring and evaluation).



Continental Mainland Marine EEZ	1 061 578	58 053	5.4%	10% (by 2036) <sup>13</sup>	290 679	27.4% (at least half in MPAs )	232 626	21.9% (at least half in MPAs)
PEI EEZ	473 322	169 791	35.9%	35.9%	169 791	35.9%	0	0%

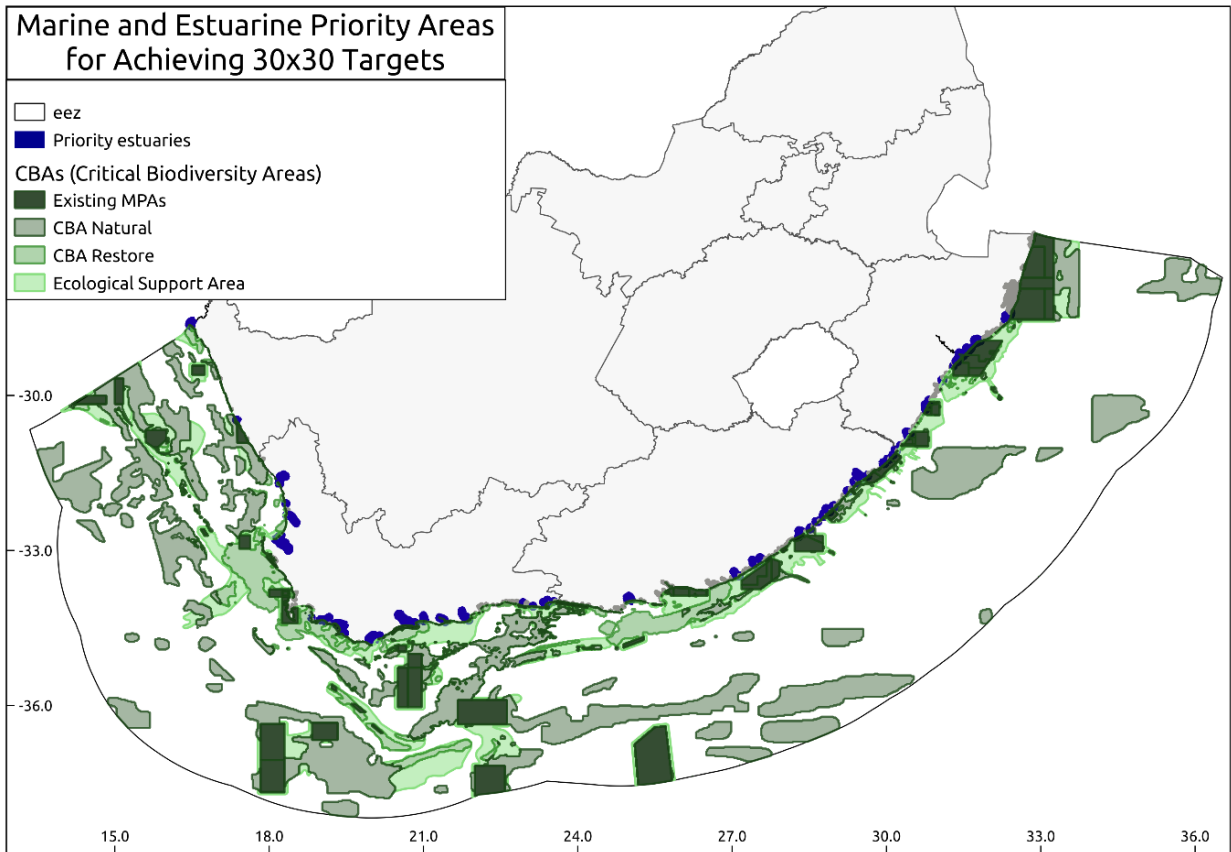


Figure. Workshop derived spatial representation of key Target areas for all estuarine, coastal, inshore, and offshore protection Targets.

<sup>13</sup> NPAES 2018



### 3. Cross cutting Issues, Challenges and Solutions

This section focuses on proposed solutions to common themes and issues emerging from or relevant to most of the four thematic groups. The objective is to set out what the issue or challenge is, and then to frame some aspects on what effective solutions might entail. Headings are not meant to be restrictive/limiting.

#### 3.1 Establish a Presidential Commission on GBF or similar high-level structure

Many issues affecting South Africa's ability to pursue Target 3 seem to require high level intervention or significant facilitation to enable cooperative governance and resolve impasses. Amongst these issues are ensuring Presidential Commitments are understood by other ministries and the respective roles and abilities of national and provincial spheres to lead or contribute. A priority is resolving fundamental conflicts between competing sectors in line with the sustainable development principles in NEMA and recognising that the environment is held in the public trust. The requirements for a step change in ambition, resourcing and focused delivery may indicate that the Presidency (Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation) needs to augment the Inter-Ministerial committee. Enhanced collaboration with other line functions (especially Water & Sanitation, Finance, Public Works) is deemed crucial. Importantly, the role of any high-level structure would be to support the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries with unlocking progress, and not to overshadow those efforts.

The progress made by the Presidential Commission on Climate Change is remarkable and built on the back of solid technical and policy option analysis. The biodiversity sector does not appear to have been as effective at getting its message across, aligning with the climate agenda, or underscoring how protection and restoration of nature are key elements of any successful climate response strategy and fundamental to economic development and societal wellbeing. There is a need for thought leaders and decision makers to articulate the linkages more effectively between the GBF and the climate agenda and pursue mutually reinforcing opportunities.

Key roles of such a commission would be as follows:

- Resolve conflict between Mineral Resources around mining applications in biodiversity priority areas. This issue has proved impossible to address through usual channels, resulting in paralysis, uncertainty and expensive legal remedies.
- Expedite progress with Public Works in allocating unused state land for PA expansion, especially where alternative land uses or settlements are inadvisable. (GIAMA which governs the process of land allocation for PA management is cumbersome and a key constraint in pursuing further declaration of large, suitable areas of state land).
- Engage with Rural Development around declaration of community protected areas would facilitate speedy decision making – something which has frustrated progress with community-based protection.



- Explore opportunities to collaborate with DWS around water use licensing issues and protecting and restoring SWSA.
- Resolve differences between the environment and local government sectors through engaging with COGTA and SALGA at the land use planning, at district and local municipal levels as a route to securing biodiversity and the establishment of protected areas and OECMs. It is also essential that a unified approach to address property rates exemptions for nature reserves and national parks, in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act, No. 6 of 2004 (see section 17(1)(e)) is enabled and adopted.
- Facilitate resolution of land invasions in protected areas (and World Heritage Sites). These can be politically fraught, often beyond the ability of protected area managers to resolve and require senior political leadership to negotiate appropriate settlements. This is a difficult space, but vital if the White Paper is to be implemented and South Africans to enjoy their constitutional rights, let alone pursue Target 3.

### 3.2 Acknowledge trade-offs between speed, consensus and the durability of protection

It is important to recognise that effective protection takes time, spatial planning & trade-offs, and careful negotiation with key sectors and stakeholders. There is a danger of pursuing Targets for reporting's sake, and not focusing on building the processes and foundations for long-term impact.

Managing competing interests in terrestrial and marine by clarifying powers and practice in cooperative governance is paramount. Building from the high level or inter-ministerial structure discussed above, we need to build the consultative process and clear consultation timeframes to make solid progress.

Spatial planning has a key role to play in sectoral engagement – through explicit identification of priority areas for conservation, industry use and navigating inevitable trade-offs. Provincial Biodiversity Sector Plans need to be updated explicitly to cater for the increased ambition and to feed into IDPs and other planning processes. Fine scale mapping of some protection Targets (e.g., in Mega Conservation Landscapes, SWSAs) may be needed.

The National Spatial Development Framework already supports some GBF-related Targets (e.g., recognising the pivotal role of Strategic Water Source Areas) but greater investment in outreach and “mainstreaming” into other sector plans may be necessary – especially large-scale infrastructure and renewable energy roll out plans. Marine Spatial Planning provides a strong iterative basis for capturing priorities and requires urgent completion of the prioritisation process to contribute to Target 3 ambition.

Opportunities exist to proactively direct ecological compensation, biodiversity offset actions and related regulatory mitigation into the priorities for reaching Target 3. There are clear roles

for DFFE Integrated Environmental Authorisations, Forestry and Oceans & Coasts branches to explore implementing this in internal processes. Further, bilateral meetings with other line functions (building on the high-level political support unlocked by the inter-ministerial committee) are required to showcase Target 3 ambition and secure cooperation.

### 3.3 Improve regime for PA declaration & OECM verification and reporting

There are several interrelated issues needing resolution: definitional, legal, administrative and monitoring/reporting.

Greater clarity on alignment with international definitions and reporting criteria for protection mechanisms is needed, especially with regards to provisional and confirmed OECMs (see 3.7). This is not necessarily a legislative issue, as some OECMs might function best outside of enabling law and within contract law or other governance structures. A process to deepen this understanding and align with best practice across the country and internationally is necessary.

There is a clear need for greater clarity on the administrative and legislative process for declaring sites – probably best captured in a dedicated regulation under the NEMPAA. This regulation would stipulate application requirements, administrative time frames, processes for objection and appeal, and clear role definition – to circumvent the significant delay and confusion in the various provincial arrangements for declaration. This could include modernising the public consultation process. Additional training is required for legal services to administer declarations, especially once a Regulation has been adopted.

In addition to a Regulation on Declaration (or possibly as a part of it) is a formal process to clarify the deeming provisions of NEMPAA for old order and provincial protected areas that are inadequately addressed, verified, and validated. This would include specific steps to take to engage current owners, ascertain willingness to be appointed management authorities or adopt management plans, provide scaled assistance relative to the level of protection and management required etc.

Greater administrative capacity is required for assisting with property survey and delineation of protection mechanisms, drafting requisite agreements and notices, processing declarations, curating databases for effective tracking and reporting, and dealing with challenges and appeals.

Specialised administrative capacity is needed to:

- Resolve issues with Public Works regarding allocation and vesting of unused or priority state land that is best formally protected and not used for other incompatible land uses. There are many properties owned by the state in SWSAs that are not suited for other land uses, resettlement, or afforestation. However, advancing the process to vest these with conservation agencies has been fraught and protracted. High level intervention may be required, followed up by diligent administrative capacity to finalise the transfers and vesting. This is a cheap and uncontroversial opportunity to expand protection in priority areas with multiple beneficial outcomes.

- Undertake verification and validation for old order protected areas and regularise those that meet the relevant requirements.
- Process complex legal interpretations into effective protection measures, especially for coastal public lands, and contested mandates and objectives.

### 3.4 Strengthen National communities of practice and governance platforms

Recognising that several vibrant communities of practice exist (Biodiversity Planning Forum, Stewardship Technical Working Group), there is a need for sustained open collaboration between NGOs (who have done the most PA expansion in the last decade) and government entities. There is also a need to include new voices from traditional leadership, civil society organisations and other user groups (Traditional Healers Organisation; small scale fishers etc). A clear opportunity is thus to provide for greater inclusive membership of working groups to accommodate aligned NGOs and CSOs. As far as possible, these should be integrated with existing formal government structures (e.g., the Protected Area Technical Task Team), providing an avenue to make inputs into them and allowing issues raised by civil society to be fed into formal government engagement structures. This will help to:

- Build capacity, understanding and skills
- Ensure a collective focus on the transformation agenda
- Incorporate emerging work on OECMS, Legal issues and Resourcing & Incentives
- Provide a platform for sharing lessons learnt; and
- Strengthen linkages to formal structures (WG1, PATT, CEO's Forum, Marine Biodiversity Working Group)

### 3.5 More effective use of existing regulatory tools and programs to pursue Target 3

DFFE (and DWS) and other competent authorities have the powers to require applicants for licences and authorisation to provide appropriate mitigation for impacts. Given the threat to ecosystems and ecological functioning, it is critical that mitigation is structured around proactive setting aside of biodiversity priority areas (and ecological infrastructure) and sufficient security for the rehabilitation and management of these areas. The Biodiversity Offset Implementation Guideline (under NEMA S24J) has recently been approved for final publication, which provides a massive opportunity to leverage developers and impacting industries to better safeguard our natural heritage. Regulations for water use licences (out for comment in June 2023) provide for security, but don't explicitly suggest proactive water ecosystem restoration or "replenishment" as suitable mitigation measures.

DFFE manages a substantial budget for environmental programmes, but to date it has been difficult to discern how these programmes contributed to prior PA expansion or reinforced landowner and community commitments to conservation. There is significant opportunity to better target (spatially) and streamline (reduced administrative burden and redesigned eligibility criteria) the natural resource management programs to Target 3 priorities.



There are a range of other government programmes that could be empowered to support the implementation of the White Paper and GBF – primarily Landcare, Extension Revitalisation and the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programmes. There is a significant opportunity for alignment of these investments to enhance ecological and water security.

### 3.6 Unlock sufficient resources for the GBF

There is a significant need for dedicated focus on the resourcing of GBF activities. Available budgets for direct management have declined and many existing statutory protected areas have inadequate staffing, skills and operational resources. Fiscal investment in the conservation function (at around 0,05% of the national budget) is insufficient given the existing estate let alone the increased ambition. More work is needed to convey the foundational importance of a healthy environment to human and economic well-being, as well as the direct costs of not adequately protecting and managing priority areas.

Funds, support and additional capacity are needed from fiscal contributions, more effective allocations of existing budgets, greater private sector & donor contributions and aligned incentives for landowners and industries. A focus on explicit costing of effective protection and management (as well as restoration) of Target 3 is required. This could be done by priority area/landscape, SWSA, or MPA. More accurate costings and staff requirements are vital to demonstrate the needs, gaps, additional requirements, where external funders can contribute, and set the stage for further work on effective resourcing. Project Finance for Permanence frameworks and bespoke endowments for priority landscapes and MPAs are promising means to support long term outcomes.

The work on costing effective conservation must be twinned with ongoing work to make the case for the economic, social, spiritual, and other benefits of improved protection. Previous investments in making the case have borne fruit, but constant reinforcement is required given the turnover in political office bearers and decision makers. Importantly, such work can also incorporate explicit cost-savings that are possible, avoided risks and expenditures from ineffective conservation and management, as well as new economic sectors and livelihoods that are developing.

Specifically, an expenditure review of allocations to conservation entities, percentage splits between conservation and non-conservation staff, as well as field and office-based positions would be valuable. Further, clarity on the split between provincial and national expenditure against percentage conservation estate would be revealing. The last review was conducted in 2014-5 and then in only 3 provinces. The review could aid discussions on appropriate resourcing and recalibration against requirements and management effectiveness.

Several discussions arose on dedicated new Fund(s) for civil society to contribute to Target 3 and the broader GBF and White Paper. The key questions are how to adequately resource these funds, and what appropriate governance mechanisms can be developed.

An obvious opportunity is the explicit redirecting of existing DFFE restoration budgets to priority areas. Participants indicated that current allocations may not be optimally deployed,

and it is within DFFE's purview to better route environmental programme funds to according to needs aligned with the GBF commitments and White Paper objectives.

Improve regulatory and voluntary ecological compensation and offset mitigation to Target priority areas and leverage greater resources for restoration and management.

### **3.7 Improve Capturing, Monitoring and Reporting of Progress**

Effective implementation requires clarity on what mechanisms meet GBF requirements for reporting on Targets, and which do not. There is a need for clarity and consensus on existing protection baselines and the nuances of Target 3 (what aligns with the CBD criteria). Alignment with international guidance and building on the solid foundation of prior work will help to focus agencies and NGOs on effective mechanisms. There are nuances to consider regarding 'representativeness' of important ecosystems E.g., Estuary protection requires that 155km<sup>2</sup> should be achieved within the 58 priority estuaries (which have a total area of 666.4 km<sup>2</sup>), and not just in other estuaries that have already met their Targets.

There is a need for databases of conservation mechanisms to be reconfigured to be fit for purpose for multiple functions. It is possible that SAPAD (Legislative clarity on control of incompatible land/sea use) and SACAD need to be augmented by an OECM database (further reporting on Target achievement), and that some instruments/designations that don't provide for effective protection or management might need their own database (for reporting on other Conventions and Multilateral Environmental Instruments).

### 3.8 Cross Cutting Issues: Immediate next steps

What (Enabling)	Who	Priority
"Presidential Commission" on GBF. (Inter-ministerial committee & TT can fulfil some of this function)	DFFE and Minister-Consultants: draft the rationale & what needs to be addressed	Short term
Manage Competing interests in Terrestrial and Marine	Launch 'Phakisa' type processes in key sectors – Forestry, Mining, Fisheries	
Improved enabling environment for PA Declarations Legislative and Regulatory Reform	DFFE/BDS TWG/BDS Legal Reference Group	Short to medium term
Investigate mechanisms to streamline the process for PA declaration (to MEC stage) at both national and provincial levels	DFFE (PATT) and BSP TWG	Short term
Strengthening and deepening the role of BDS TWG	Government and NGO Partners	Short term
Clarity on OECMs, application of criteria, understanding the enabling provisions and support capacity required.	DFFE and NGO Partners	Short term
Increased capacity to undertake escalated declarations. (Consideration of centralized function for declaration support, e.g., legal, administrative, extension)	PATT, TWG and DFFE (PAs)	Short term

## 4. Terrestrial Protected Areas

### 4.1 Challenges and Solutions

**Declarations at the MEC level:** In several provinces protected area declarations have not taken place for years, not because of a lack of willingness from landowners and communal land rights holders, but because of internal issues within provincial conservation agencies and at the level of provincial MECs. These challenges stem from:

- A lack of understanding of protected area expansion imperatives
- Misalignment with conservation authority and MEC performance agreements
- Competing mandates of MECs (MECs frequently hold more than one mandate)
- A lack of understanding of rights of landowners (e.g., a real right to have a property declared as a protected area versus a perceived right of a company applying for a prospecting right)
- Political interference from other government departments that are commenting authorities in the declaration process (e.g., the DMRE)

To some extent, these issues would be resolved through the promulgation of regulations in terms of NEMPAA, as discussed above. This would particularly relate to the need to apply timeframes in administrative decisions in which MECs would be compelled to decide to declare a protected area or not and the decision made would have to be a rational decision, as required by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, No. 3 of 2000 (PAJA). These issues could further be addressed through the creation of a central advisory body within DFFE, which could be tasked with reviewing and vetting protected area declarations, providing advice and guidance to provincial conservation authorities on declarations and giving comfort that the correct processes have been followed.

**Capacity and resources within Provincial conservation authorities:** Over the past 10 years there has been a steady decline in the resources and capacity of provincial conservation authorities to meet their mandates, including protected area expansion. This impacts on declaration processes, post declaration support, aligning and unlocking incentives for landowners, management advice and agency support. The result of this has been that much of the effort to undertake protected area expansion has been driven by the NGO sector. This has resulted in strong collaborative arrangements and partnerships between the conservation authorities and the NGO sector. It is likely that much of the protected area expansion effort required to achieve Target 3 of the GBF will continue to be provided by the NGO sector. Nevertheless, it is imperative that provincial conservation authorities continue to play a strong role in supporting protected area expansion efforts. This should include enabling declaration processes through provincial MECs and providing post-declaration support, including extension and various incentives to enable effective protected area management (e.g., herbicide assistance for invasive alien plant control).

Provincial authorities are also required to play an oversight role in ensuring contract protected areas and OECMs on private and communal land are being effectively managed

using management effectiveness assessments, and ensuring reporting is undertaken on the implementation of management plans. All of this requires dedicated resources and capacity within the provincial conservation authorities. This requires a relatively small, dedicated budget that can lead to large gains through highly efficient protected area expansion efforts, the bulk of the costs of which will be borne by landowners and communal land rights holders and the NGOs supporting them. A proposal through the BioFin project making the case for a Conditional Grant framework from DFFE to the provinces (as well as building out the Value Proposition of Biodiversity Stewardship) requires resolution and immediate action.

**Competing development agendas in landscapes:** In many instances protected area declarations are hampered by competing development agendas, particularly related to mining and in some instances, pending land claims. There is legal uncertainty around some of these issues (e.g., land claims are not addressed in NEMPAA, and protected area declarations are not addressed in the Restitution of Land Rights Act, No. 22 of 1994). In numerous instances, these issues relate to a lack of understanding of the real rights of landowners and communal land rights holders. Section 35 of NEMPAA confers a right on landowners to initiate the declaration of their land, which is consistent with the environmental rights provided for in section 24 of the Constitution. As an example, an objection by the DMRE or a mining company to a proposed protected area declaration because of a pending prospecting or mining rights application cannot be upheld because this would not constitute a real right, whereas an awarded prospecting or mining right would constitute a real right. There is thus a need to avoid such conflicts which regularly arise during protected area declaration processes. To some extent this could be addressed through the sharing of spatial information between different government entities (e.g., mining, land reform, the renewable energy sector, etc.) to prioritise focus protected area expansion efforts in areas that have the least competing agendas and aim to achieve the best land use outcomes for specific areas. It would also be significantly assisted by the establishment of a central advisory body within DFFE, as described above. This body could vet individual protected area declarations and review any objections raised during the declaration process. It could provide the correct legal advice and guidance on the merits of objections and how to proceed with a declaration when an objection arises. This would provide provincial conservation authorities and MECs with certainty and comfort about the decisions made when declaring a protected area and not conflict with this concurrent competency.

**Legislative Challenges:** NEMPAA provides a flexible and effective tool for protected area expansion in South Africa. Nevertheless, there are provisions within the Act that are problematic and that hamper certain processes. To address these issues, an urgent review and amendment of NEMPAA is required. It is understood that such processes can be prolonged and complicated but given the urgency of the GBF and the step change that is required, measures to expedite the process must be considered. The following key issues have been identified:

- The existing Norms and Standards for the Inclusion of Private Nature Reserves in the Register of Protected Areas do not provide the tools required to enable compliance



of historically declared protected areas with NEMPAA. It is recommended that transitional arrangements be inserted into NEMPAA, which compels landowners to regularise their old-order private nature reserves with NEMPAA, within defined timeframes. Regularisation should involve confirmation that the area in question retains biodiversity that warrants it remaining a protected area. Once this has been confirmed, at the least such areas should then have a management authority assigned triggering the requirement for a management plan to be prepared and submitted to the MEC for approval. This will ensure that such protected areas may be effectively managed and would not constitute paper parks.

- As discussed regarding the promulgation of regulations, administrative timeframes are required for the declaration process. This would address current issues in which decisions are simply not made following objections raised to pending protected area declarations. The inclusion of timeframes would compel MECs to make decisions and those decisions should be rational as required by PAJA. This should reduce the need to undertake judicial reviews of decisions (which are usually unmade decisions), which is not conducive to a constructive partnership between provincial conservation authorities, MECs and NGOs.
- The current public consultation process, outlined in NEMPAA, is outdated and should be aligned with current ways of engaging society. The need for two national newspaper advertisements to be published can be costly and often does not reach the intended audience (e.g., the Isolezwe Newspaper is not a national newspaper but is the most widely read isiZulu newspaper in KwaZulu-Natal). Rather than being prescriptive, the public consultation process should be more closely aligned with the public consultation processes contemplated when undertaking an environment impact assessment and should allow a degree of flexibility that enables an effective defensible process to be implemented (e.g., using social media).

It is recommended that immediate consultation with the National Stewardship Technical Working Group be initiated on this issue and that engagement be undertaken through formal governance structures (e.g., Working Group 1 and MINMEC) to expedite the process to undertake a legislative review and amendment of NEMPAA. The purpose of this should be to identify those amendments that could be relatively easily made to enable and expedite processes, without being contentious. The focus should be on improving administrative processes without dramatically altering any of the substance of NEMPAA.

**Addressing and preventing land invasions:** There is a clear requirement to establish or confirm governance structures and streamline response and resolution processes and transparency regarding land invasions of protected areas (and any priority state land that may be important for Target 3).

There are several examples of land invasions having taken place in both state and non-state protected areas. Such issues need to be addressed carefully and sensitively. Given the myriad of issues involved when such instances occur, it is recommended that land invasions be addressed through inter-governmental structures at provincial and national levels.

**Making the case for the benefits of protecting nature:** Clearly communicating and presenting the business case of protected areas is needed to unlock community socio-economic development through the conservation economy.

The establishment of protected areas frequently results in multiple other benefits, in addition to protecting biodiversity. There are outstanding examples of protected area on communal land being primary drivers of rural economic development providing jobs and business opportunities for the community members involved. The GBF provides the opportunity to re-frame rural economic development in South Africa, placing it on a sustainable trajectory that can lead to meaningful improvements in livelihoods and social well-being. At the heart of this lies protected areas, which provide the legal protection and foundation for the types of interventions and investments required to drive sustainable rural economic development.

Protected areas provide the obvious platform when considering initiatives linked to the biodiversity economy, sustainable rangeland management and other forms of agriculture, and ecological restoration linked to the provision of essential ecosystem services. The legal status of protected areas provides security for the types of investments made, as does the presence of a management authority, which is an established legal entity with which investors can engage and enter into partnerships. The adoption of a management plan and its implementation provides a framework for good management of such areas and embeds mechanisms that ensure oversight and accountability.

The business case and value proposition for protected area expansion entails much more than the conservation of biodiversity. It provides a platform for completely re-shaping rural economic development in South Africa, leading to far greater, equitable benefits for the rural poor. This must be central to the messaging linked to the GBF and the role that protected area expansion can play in South Africa.

**Declarations on state-owned communal land:** Section 34 of NEMPAA requires that when declaring a national park, nature reserve or protected environment on land that is owned by the state but that is held in trust for a community or other beneficiary, the declaration may only be made with the concurrence of the Minister or MEC responsible for the administration of that land. This is the case for most land that is owned by the state but administered by a traditional authority. Such declarations are legally complex, as they require a declaration process by the Minister or an MEC, they require the consent of the land rights holders (the community members) and they require the concurrence of the Minister or MEC responsible for the administration of the land, which is usually the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR).

As the declaration of such land is fundamentally important for the achievement of the GBF goals, particularly Target 3, and for the provision of socio-economic benefits associated with the declaration of communal land, it is essential that an agreed upon process for such declarations be co-developed between the DFFE and DARDLR. A similar agreed upon process should also be developed between the DFFE and the Ingonyama Trust, which administers such land in KwaZulu-Natal. As part of this process, it would be ideal to develop

an agreement between the departments on goals and Targets linked to protected area expansion on state-owned communal land and land reform and restitution sites. This could be addressed by a revival of the Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative, which although nominally a partnership between the DFFE, DARDLR and SANBI has historically been very poorly supported by DARDLR. If made a priority of the Presidential Commission recommended above, this may provide the impetus for the support that is required by DARDLR.

**Collaborative relationships to enable effective PA declaration:** The Biodiversity Stewardship Programme, which provides the tools for the declaration of private and communal land and for the establishment of OECMs has a 20-year history of collaboration between government and the NGO sector. This relationship has led to the formation of a highly effective community of practice that has developed most of the technical tools and approaches to protected area expansion on private and communal land. It has developed such products as the Business Case for Biodiversity Stewardship and the national Biodiversity Stewardship Guideline and has facilitated various training events and learning exchanges.

It is essential that this community of practice is retained and built upon, strengthening the linkages between the NGO sector and government. The national stewardship technical working group includes representatives from all of the provinces, the DFFE and SANBI, and all NGOs implementing protected area expansion. It meets twice a year and forms the basis for the community of practice that exists. It also has a sub-committee, the legal reference group, which deals specifically with legal issues related to protected area declarations. By further strengthening the technical working group, a formal reporting structure could be created between it and the government's Protected Area Technical Task Team. This enables key issues of protected area declarations to be formally communicated to Working Group 1 and MINMEC. Moreover, making state resources available to NGOs (as opposed to just relying on donor funds) to undertake direct implementation of stewardship towards Target 3 would be the quickest way to deliver progress towards 30x30.

**Alignment with other agendas and processes:**

- SANParks 2040 vision may be useful to guide the process of reimagining land-based protection and the entire conservation estate, but it will be important to get provinces to integrate into and contribute to this.
- A mapping exercise/process that captures the following layers – where priorities are, who is working in these spaces and the finances required, and possibly incorporating Natural Capital Accounts to show the value to the economy.
- Seeking to work with industry to achieve joint beneficial outcomes (e.g., offset receiving areas)
- Establishment of offset banking opportunities (working across sectors)

- Regulatory alignment (clarity on tax incentives, property rates exclusions, eligibility for NRM resources etc)
- Emerging corporate ESG<sup>14</sup> and TNFD<sup>15</sup> commitments (clearly define this through contractual arrangements)
- NGOs to play an operational role in undertaking declarations, and government to play a role in facilitating declarations at MEC and political level.

## 4.2 Resourcing

The following opportunities were proposed in the four main areas of resourcing biodiversity management:

### **Financing: Generate**

- GEF remains a key funding conduit, and should be more accessible to direct implementers
- KBA Related Funding (e.g., Rainforest Trust)
- National and Provincial Treasuries remain the primary source of funds for the conservation function – but this needs to be increased and optimised:
  - To do: Build the social/economic/business/moral case for biodiversity building on the Value Proposition already developed by BioFin
  - Securing additional resources for conditional grants to implementers
- Philanthropic NGO Funding (e.g., Campaign for Nature, large endowments, bequests)
- Offsets and related ecological mitigation measures
- Value Proposition to industry and private sector
- Position the biodiversity protection sector to better exploit Carbon and Biodiversity credits and engage with multinationals (with SA footprint) looking for such credits to show an enabling environment and opportunity.

### **Financing: Manage**

- Sector Collaboration and coordination to result in more effective and efficient spend
- Being Strategic about how we leverage funding
  - For example, offset banks, disaster risk reduction spending.
- Specific set of skills required to enable this leverage?
  - Carry out a skills audit across the sector as well as understand the resources/opportunities already in place to strengthen these skills
  - Strategic utilization of skills from across the sector to enable this.
  - Also bring in additional skills from other sector (cross sector collaboration)
- Utilise existing structures (for example building on existing outcomes-based funding mechanisms)
- Consideration of sustainability beyond 30x30?

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<sup>14</sup> Environmental Social and Governance considerations

<sup>15</sup> Task Force on Nature-based Financial Disclosures

- Utilise the most efficient mechanisms for PA expansion

### **Financing: Deploy**

- Collaboration and coordination of effort amongst the sector to result in more effective and efficient spend
- Strengthen skills to enable this.
  - Carry out a skills audit across the sector as well as understand the resources/opportunities already in place to strengthen these skills
- Create the correct institutional structures to effectively declare and manage PAs

### **Financing: Align incentives**

- Alignment with Global Biodiversity Fund
  - Show country progress to position ourselves effectively
- Clearly define and enable the suite of benefits available under the BSP
  - fiscal and tax benefits
  - Extension support
  - Skills development
- Providing security for and de-risking of investment – especially in exposed sectors (Renewable energy, Oil & Gas, Minerals, Export Agriculture)
- Effective spatial planning with other sectors to ensure efficient processes
- Align with climate commitments to ensure efficient spend and access to climate funding for dual biodiversity benefit
- Alignment with Corporate sectors social 'license-to-operate'
- Responsible tourism guidelines



### 4.3 Next steps and roles

What (Enabling)	Who	Priority (short/medium/ long term)
Legislative and Regulatory Reform – including a PA declaration Regulation under NEMPAA, clarifying deeming & transitional provisions of NEMPAA, and updating NEMPAA to address challenges with certain clause formulations.	DFFE/BDS TWG/BDS Legal Reference Group	Short to medium term
Investigate mechanisms to streamline process for PA declaration (to MEC stage) at both national and provincial levels.	DFFE (PATT) and BSP TWG	Short term
Resolve funding arrangements from National & Provincial Treasuries for provincial and other implementing agents for Target 3	DFFE & MinMEC/Mintech	Short - medium term
Increased capacity to undertake escalated declarations. (Consideration of centralized function for declaration support, e.g., legal, administrative and extension support) And role out training	TWG to prepare motivation and outline to PATT.	Short term
Development of streamline process for declaration of state-owned community land	TWG, DFFE and DALRRD	Short term
Strengthening and deepening the role of BDS TWG	Government and NGO Partners	Short term
Meeting to develop National and Provincial spatial priorities	National and Provincial Authorities	Short term
TWG partners to indicate spatial priorities and areas of operation	TWG partners	Short term
Establishment of GBF Fund	Lead by DFFE, supported by NGO	Short term
Alignment with industry (Offsets receiving areas and ESG)	SANBI, supported by NGO partners	Short term

## 5. Marine Offshore, Inshore, Coastal and Estuarine grouping

### 5.1 Challenges and Solutions

Challenges	Solutions / enablers	Who leads	Who supports	6m	1y	3y
<b>Need a time bound action plan with milestones is in place and the resource needs are identified</b>	Development of time bound expansion action plan with resource needs	DFFE	Conservation agencies, NGOs, traditional leadership, COGTA, SALGA	x		
<b>Increasing competition for ocean &amp; coastal space given different government strategies for ocean economy growth, different legislation and policies for the same ocean space. Particularly oil and gas, mining, aquaculture, energy sector, shipping transport, water and sanitation.</b>	Bilateral engagements between DFFE and sector depts (list) including sector plan and alignment	DFFE			x	
<b>Fisheries and biodiversity conservation sectors and priorities need better alignment</b>	Process within DFFE to align fisheries and biodiversity conservation priorities in context of 30x30 Target supported by South Africa	DFFE B&C, O&C & Fisher ies branc hes		x	x	x

<b>Alignment with MSP</b>	MSP and sector plans, include MSP DFFE team, conservation sector needs to feed in strategically how conservation priorities enter MSP process, prioritise proactive engagement	DFFE	SANBI	x		
<b>Alignment with other sectors and MSP, technical work needs to be done to incorporate those</b>	Strong iterative spatial basis for marine priorities - National Coastal and Marine Spatial Biodiversity Plan; need urgent action to complete prioritisation processes at increased pace for the marine and coastal areas to contribute to 30%.	DFFE	SANBI, conservation entities, supported by NGO	x	x	x
<b>Coastal areas have multisector pressures</b>	Utilise sector synergy with heritage and tourism, alongside the management planning processes	DFFE	MSP Work Group	x	x	x
<b>Resourcing for expanded protection (technical work, management plans, and enforcement, capacity for stakeholder engagement, management staff and infrastructure, running costs)</b>	Pursue MPAs, PAs and OECM network wide innovative sustainable financing mechanisms, going forward from the "Sustainable MPA Financing Workshop) held in May. Success to leverage donor and investor funding requires a clear time-bound Action Plan for expansion and effectiveness.	DFFE	Conservation agencies and NGOs, provinces, traditional leadership, COGTA, SALGA	x	x	x
<b>Resourcing for management effectiveness in existing and new protection spaces (impacts on appetite for expansion and stakeholder perceptions for</b>	Pursue MPAs, PAs and OECM network wide innovative sustainable financing mechanisms, going forward from the "Sustainable MPA Financing Workshop) held in May. Success to leverage donor and investor funding requires a clear time-bound Action Plan for expansion and effectiveness.	DFFE	Conservation agencies and NGOs, provinces, traditional leadership, COGTA, SALGA	x	x	x

<b>expansion towards the Target).</b>						
<b>Stakeholder confusion (Targets, process, different initiatives, how different initiatives fit together – MPAs, MSP, NGO work, etc)</b>	Strong communication campaign to inform stakeholders and clear up confusions. Strong communication on the government political commitment in terms of Targets, what has changed, and what the new goals and Targets are (at a high political level)	DFFE	Conservation agencies and NGOs, provinces, traditional leadership, COGTA, SALGA	x	x	x
<b>Uncertainties with regards to values placed on ocean space and estuaries linked to communities and other users.</b>	Consultations and further research and valuations (socio-economic), including spiritual and cultural values	NGOs	Consultants guided by DFFE		x	
<b>Some data linked to site prioritization linked to ecosystem service values may be deficient in some areas.</b>	Integration with Climate change (e.g., NDCs, climate protection, EBAs), ecosystem services	SANBI	DFFE, conservation entities, supported by NGO		x	
<b>Land based degradation of water quality and quantity and pollution reducing coastal health.</b>	Need to be national DWS municipal engagements and catchment management	DWS & DFFE	Conservation agencies, each province's Coastal management units, SALGA	x	x	x
<b>Confusion on OECM concepts</b>	Establish an appropriate OECM evaluation process to determine which mechanisms will contribute effectively for conservation through an OECM (feeding into general process).		DFFE, conservation agencies NGOs, provinces, traditional leadership,	x		

			COGTA, SALGA			
	Consider how to create seascape level conservation management areas which incorporate multiple mechanisms, tools and multi use				x	

## 5.2 Resourcing

The Marine group will be conducting a focus exercise on resourcing which will build on the progress with Sustainable Finance for MPA explored in a workshop in May 2023.

## 5.3 Immediate next steps

Table. Specific areas for short term protection gains.

Region/Type	Site / Protected Area	What is required
<b>MPAs</b>	Goukama, MPA and estuary	Amendment to regulations published
	5 shark and ray sanctuary areas	Start key stakeholder consultations (August) Briefing submission to Minister
	i-Atlantic offshore prioritization	
	uThukela MPA estuaries	Expand to include all estuaries adjacent to MPA
<b>Protected Areas</b>	Orange estuary (Ramsar site)	Rework and submit NC gazette



	Verlorenvlei (Ramsar site)	Secure declaration of Moutonshoek PE in catchment, Compliance with abstraction from river, Pursue Verlorenvlei PA (CapeNature, BLSA)
	Spoeg estuary	SANParks to expand to include entire estuary
	WC estuary systems (Ramsar site)	
<b>OECMs</b>	Parts of Coastal public property	
	CAF penguin process- island closures	
	Military areas	
	Fisheries exclusion zones around islands –already in permit conditions (OECM)	Evaluate the extent to which existing Fisheries exclusion zones can contribute to OECMs using criteria such as conditions and motivation for the exclusion zone
	Groot Berg, estuary stewardship on saltmarshes	Community and NGOs in the process of engaging with CapeNature
	Olifants estuary (community driven)	Communities and NGOs in the process of engaging with CapeNature
	uMngazana (blue carbon)	Need to develop a community-based conservation model. Engage with Blue Carbon team (NMU) and tribal authorities

The following intermediate steps need to be initiated to start the process of increasing Estuary Protection:

- Provide 30x30 meeting feedback at Working Group 7 Estuary Task Team
- Constitute a Task Team to drive Estuary Protection Expansion Process
- Optimize Marine & Coast CBA Spatial Planning Process to inform Estuary Prioritization
- Finalize potential short list of estuaries (with Agencies, Specialists, and Planners)

- Engage TNPA about Durban Bay shallow water areas as OECMs (Subtropical Estuarine Bay Target)
- Engage with Conservation Agencies on the possible inclusion of estuaries in existing parks
- Develop funding model for estuaries expansion with 30 x 30 Funding Team
- Identify a basket of tools/mechanisms for protection (including a Legal Lab on estuary protection)
- Engage with the Estuary Management Planning process (this may require the funding and development of new EMPs)
- Develop a Community-based Conservation model for critical Blue Carbon systems – focusing on Mngazana as a case study (develop a proposal with DFFE & NGOs)
- Develop Estuary Protection and restoration Communication Strategy
- Engage Independent consultants to assist with stakeholder processes in various regions (Co-funding from NGOs)
- Start local stakeholder process through Estuary Advisory Forums (Co-funding from NGOs)
- Gazette protection level/mechanisms at the appropriate level (provincial or national)
- Appoint resources to implement the inclusion of estuaries in National/Provincial Park Plans
- Develop Park plans that fit into/align with Estuary Management Plans

## 6. Strategic Water Source Areas

Water security is a national priority. Securing catchments through increasing protection levels, greatly improved restoration and capturing dedicated management funding streams is gaining traction in several SWSAs. Avoided carbon losses, and pursuing ecologically sensible sequestration, can play a role in funding water source protection and management.

What's different about the approach to conserve SWSA is that it is explicitly multisectoral – drawing on interests of industries, communities, society. Furthermore, it is centred on a developmental paradigm for the economy and human wellbeing (building on traditional notions of “water is lifeblood”). At its heart is equitable water governance incorporating communities; local leaders; core user groups and landowners. What is required are empowered and capacitated multi stakeholder platforms, effectively convened by conservation agencies, that are enabled to operate at catchment scale.

DFFE now has a unique opportunity with the incorporation of the Forestry Branch. This amalgamation brings with it responsibility for Forest Reserves (most of which are located in SWSA) as well as a tradition (now much weakened) of significant in-field management capacity and personnel base. Revitalising forestry protected areas, reestablishing appropriate budget lines and using the forestry regulatory tools to pursue greater attention and investment from plantation owners into watershed protection and management is a unique DFFE opportunity to shift from Business as Usual towards a large contribution to Target 3.

### 6.1 30 x 30 Ambition

SWSAs are 18,9% protected in a variety of protected areas. Some (especially Mountain Catchment Areas) require increased attention to land use control, management plan development and improved assistance with management and rehabilitation. To reach 30% protection, around 1.4m more ha is required to be effectively conserved in SWSA. However, recognizing their pivotal role in supporting downstream economies, communities, and livelihoods, a greater protection level seems prudent. An ambition to protect 50% of SWSAs would be a sound basis for securing their benefits for people, nature, and downstream economies. If a 50% Target level is agreed, this implies an additional 3.1m ha are required to be effectively protected. Given the nature of catchments and landownership it is proposed that at least half of this should be in formal protected areas, and the remainder via OECMs.

## 6.2 Challenges and Solutions

Issue/ Challenge	Response/ Solution	Who	Supporting	Timeline
<b>Fragmentation of Dept roles,</b>	Requires Dept leadership. Achieve collaborative & synergy (policy harmonisation) between DFF, DWS, COGTA & Prov agencies	DFFE	DWS, COGTA	Short-medium
<b>Admin of land vesting, blockages in DPW</b>	High level structure (Commission or Inter-ministerial) to resolve allocation and vesting of appropriate state land with conservation entities and provincial departments.	Min FFE	SANBI, DFFE	Short
<b>Clarity on mandates &amp; responsibility</b>	Appoint management authorities for all PAs in SWSA. Clarify National Budget lines (where available) as water and Forestry are exclusive national competencies	DFFE	NT	Short
<b>S21 WULs to advance protection</b>	Amend S21 WUL regulations to require applicant investment in protection and replenishment. Consider aligning "security" required in WULs with Financial Provisions in NEMA S24P	DWS	DFFE SANBI	Short
<b>DWS RQOs underpin licences</b>	RQO implementation to be reinforced by NEMA linked mitigation measures, CARA directives	DWS	DFFE DARLDR	Medium
<b>Agency budgets, esp for convening &amp; implementation</b>	Build income streams & resource effectively & calibration of Dept and entity budgets according to need and risk. Resolve MA impasse between Provinces and DFFE on case-by-case basis	DFFE	SANBI, SANParks & Provs	Medium
<b>Collaborative structures per Catchment/ focus areas</b>	Strong role for local resolution of differences, establishment of governance – support by National, requires resources	DFFE SANBI	Provinces	Short – medium
<b>Traditional structure approvals/support</b>	Contralesa to assist with unlocking support for key protection measures in SWSAs. High-level support (Presidential Commission/Interministerial Committee) to broker between traditional and municipal authorities.	DFFE Contralesa		

### 6.3 Current opportunities to increase protection in catchments/SWSAs

Note: much data are still being acquired / verified.

Pro v	SWS A	Quat catch	Cod e	Where	What	Lead	Partner	Area Contrib	Readine ss	Required?	Contact
LM	Sou	A71H	1	W Soutpansberg	NR	EWT	PVT	33,800	Ready	Unlock Declaration	Cath Vise
LM	Wol	B82B	2	Mooketsi Valley NR	NR	PVT	CO	12,000	Pipeline	Unlock Declaration	Greg Martindale
LM	Wol	B81A	1	Upper Letaba	PE	K2C	PVT	5,000	Early	Feasibility	Nick Theron
LM	Wol	B81B	1	Colberg & Iron Crown	NR	LEDET	PVT	1 945	Pipeline	Transfer & Vesting	Errol Moeng
				Wolkberg	NR	PVT	K2C	13,000	Early	Pre-feasibility	Mark Botha
LM	Wol	B71F	1	Limpopo Escarpment State-Owned (K2C Corridor)	NR	LEDET	K2C	20,444	Early	Feasibility & Regularisation for Blyde Piece	Nick Theron
LM	Wol	B71G	1	Limpopo Escarpment Community-Owned (K2C Corridor)	PE/N R	K2C	TA	49,717	Early	Feasibility/Resources/Commun ity Consent	Nick Theron
MP	Mpd	B60J	1	Mpumalanga Escarpment Private Land (K2C Corridor)	NR	PVT	K2C	14,779	Ready	Resources & Declaration	Nick Theron
Mp	Mpd	B60B	1	Blyde Community Land	PE/N R	K2C	CPA	61,282	Early	Community consent & feasibility	Nick Theron
Mp	Mpd	B60A	1	Blyde Grassland Regularisations	NR	MTPA	K2C	2,427	Ready	Resources	Nick Theron/ Brian Morris
Mp	Mpd	B60A		Middle Blyde	NR	MTPA	PVT	5,000	Ready	Regularise De Facto	Brian Morris
Mp	Mpd	B42D		Mt Anderson	NR	PVT	MTPA	2,300	Ready	Declaration	Brian Morris
Mp	Mpd	B41G		De Berg NR	NR	PVT	MTPA	13,000	Ready	Declaration	Brian Morris

Pro v	SWS A	Quat catch	Cod e	Where	What	Lead	Partner	Area Contrib	Readine ss	Required?	Contact
Mp	Mpd	X21B		Santa Estate NR	NR	PVT	CO	1,500	Ready	Declaration	Greg Martindale
Mp	Mpd	X21K		Kaapsehoop	PE	PVT	MTPA		Pipeline		Brian Morris
Mp	MbH	X23B		Barbeton	NR	CFW	MTPA & SANParks	<b>10,000</b>	Early		Chris Austin
Mp	UUs	W24A		Upper Usuthu	PE	WWF	CPA	<b>15,000</b>	Pipeline	Community consent	Ayanda Cele
Kz	EGr	V32A		Enkangala	PE	WWF	PVT	<b>10,000</b>	Pipeline		Angus Burns
Kz	NDb	V11C		N Drakensberg	NR	CO	PVT	<b>8,000</b>	Pipeline	Finalise documents	Kevin McCann
Kz	NDb	V11E		Mweni N Berg	PE	WT	CPA	<b>20,000</b>	Pipeline	Community resolution, support ITB	Andrew Whitley
Kz	SDb	V20A		Kilburn Farm NR	NR	CO	PVT	<b>1,500</b>	Pipeline	Finalise documents	Greg Martindale
EC	SDb	T31A C +T33 A		Maloti Thaba Tsa Metsi	PE	ERS	CPA	<b>30,000</b>	Ready	Finalise consent	Nicky McCleod/Yon ela Sipeka
EC	ECD	D31B		EC Drakensberg	NP	SANPar ks	WWF	<b>30,000</b>	Early		Thembanani Nsibande
EC	AMA	R10B		Amatholes	NR	TNC?	Multi	<b>20,000</b>	Early		Louise Stafford
				Forest Exit Areas & State Land	NR	DFFE	Multi	<b>150,000</b>	Pipeline	Unlock transfer & vesting	DDG Pumezo Nodada
				SANParks Expansion	NP	SANPar	Multi	<b>30,000</b>	Early	Acquisition & Contractual	Kristal Maze



Pro v	SWS A	Quat catch	Cod e	Where	What	Lead	Partner	Area Contrib	Readine ss	Required?	Contact
						ks				clarity	
								<b>558,749</b>			
				Forestry BMAs for set asides	BMA	DFFE	SANBI	750,000	Early	Explore list SWSA as TE under NEMBA	
				Community Grazing Agreements		CSA	CPA	0,000	eline	date to meet OECCMs criteria	Peter Shisani
				Groundwater Management Zones							

## 6.4 Resourcing

Significant additional work is required to explore resourcing SWSA protection. Inevitably this will be closely linked to funding the backlog of restoration work and calibrating conservation agency staffing levels and budgets. TNC SA has offered to fund an example or two to kick start this process, building on its experience with the Greater Cape Town Water Fund and Blyde Catchment Investment Programme costing exercises.

What follows are perspectives raised in the breakaway group.

### **Financing: Generate**

- Resources for implementation of projects & enabling actions
  - Offsets for impacts in SWSAs & abstraction – 30yr
  - “Replenishment” requirements mandatory in S21a WUL of DWS
  - Corporate Commitments (TNFD) routed to SWSA priorities, including voluntary offset or “credits”.
- Long term resources to maintain gains & management.
  - Capitalise Water Funds (Catchment Investment Programs) to provide short term/ high impact & long-term maintenance.
  - TNC collaboration with Sustainable Finance Coalition Task Force on costing restoration as a platform to unlock further investments.
  - Tap into water economy through Catchment Management Charges in Raw Water Pricing Strategy

### **Financing: Manage**

- TBD – DFFE reconfiguration opportunities, especially in the Forestry branch budget, old forest guard/plantation worker posts available that can be redeployed to conservation activities.
- Development Finance Institutions & Lenders de-risking Loans through proactive investments in SWSAs

### **Financing: Deploy**

- Identify coordinating individual to avoid duplication
- Piggyback on Restoration coordination mechs
- NRM resources better aligned to protection mechanisms with restoration outcomes
- SANBI GEF 8 project on NCA, BDS & Business Network
- Explore tighter linkages between traditional infrastructure finance and ecological infrastructure restoration.

### **Financing: Align incentives**

- A range of forestry lease fees, SFRA licence charges, WRM charges, property rates, insurance premiums, escalated financial provisions and other charges could be used to shift landowner behaviour in SWSA

- Greater focus is needed on creative deployment of NRM funds from DFFE to unlock long term investment by landowners and community land users

## 6.5 Next steps and roles

What (Enabling)	Who	Priority (short/medium/ long term)
Traditional structure support to unblock specific processes. ITB (Mweni); Council & TA (MTTM). Build support for emerging areas (Tshivhase).	Contralesa +SANBI & EKZNW + ECPTA + LEDET	Short term (Mweni, MTTM) Medium (Tshivhase)
Accommodate spiritual & cultural protection (including traditional norms) explicitly in PA expansion and management. Consider session & BPF, and ongoing relationship between Planners & Traditional leaders (& Traditional Healers Organisation) SALIPSO. NUPAATHPSA	Contralesa + SANBI + WWF Land team	Short term, (Local catchment forums + National level engagement)
DPW admin of land, vesting with conservation entity – understanding history & shifting BAU.	FFE Ministerial engagement - TNC support	Short term, Boland & Amathole packages Med term, (DFFE, DARDLR & DPW) Long term handover of bulk
DARDLR engagement on community support in SWSA	SANBI - LRBSI	Re-establish formal ties – Short
Explore SWSA listed as NEMBA Threatened Ecosystems enabling Biodiversity Management Agreements for Forestry (links to Forestry SFRA Licence and State land lease agreements)	DFFE	Medium term 1-3 yrs.
Strengthen Env Authorisations to leverage protection & management (offsets) and restoration (conditions) in SWSA	DFFE, SANBI SANParks,	Short term (BioFin - SANParks), Medium (GEF8)
Strengthen WUL conditions & practice to leverage management (replenishment, offsets) and restoration (conditions) in SWSA	DWS, SANBI	Short (EI4WS). NWA regulation out for public comment Jun 2023
Expand Reference Group for SWSA, from Govt, Entity, Management Authorities to include, NGOs, Traditional Authorities & THO to report to Govt Authority Committee	DFFE & SANBI support	Short
National Fund established to support SWSA Multistakeholder Coordination Platforms capacity	iMvelo Yethu Nobuntu & SANBI	Medium
Continue to lodge SWSA Protection & Restoration in CMA [& WUA] business and operations	SANBI & WRC	Medium

DFFE Forestry Lease Agreements Conditions revised to include greater protection & management of set asides & natural ecosystems	DFFE (For Reg)	Short
Env Programs (NRM) use Stewardship as criterion, and local catchment plans for coordinating & alignment of Implementation Action	DFFE (+ SANBI, TNC, WWF)	Short
Policy enabling Resourcing of Catchment conservation & Restoration – Water Pricing Strategy, Ecological Fiscal Transfers,	SANBI, WFA	Medium
Grazing Agreement updating (OECM), and contribution mapped	CSA, Meat Naturally	Short
GCF & EbA Water [& EcoDRR] informed by Target 3 outcomes	SANBI	Short
RELISA priorities interrogated re SWSA protection contribution	DFFE & SANBI, EWT	Short
Fine scale mapping of Protection priorities in SWSAs – report to GAC & BPF	Spatial Planning TT + EWT	Short
Build dedicated SWSA coordination capacity in DFFE (Motivation for Cluster coordinator resources commensurate with priority & value offering) - Incl aligning support at Policy & Snr Management Level As well as On-ground coordination.	DFFE B&C & SANBI	Short - Medium
Costing Implementation of SWSA protection – bottom-up approach	Sust Fin Coalition Task Force & TNC-SA	Short - Medium

## 7. Stewardship Category 2 Non-Protected Areas including Other area-based Effective Conservation Measures

OECMs are understandably a little further behind than the other mechanisms. In order to lay a solid foundation several enabling conditions are required. These include: DFFE gearing up to institutionalise the definition and reporting of OECMs; SANBI has offered to provide a platform through existing convening structures (Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group) for further examination of OECMs; certain measures require greater examination and development to align with the 8 criteria (including wildlife ranches, private sector certification systems, and other measures with clear consultation and consent mechanisms). Birdlife will be able to provide information, templates and examples of how OECM criteria have been applied and eligible measures confirmed in the W Cape. Lastly, updated global IUCN guidelines incorporating an assessment tool are coming out soon, and will be circulated via the SANBI platform.

### 7.1 30 x 30 Ambition

By process of deduction, if protected areas are aiming at securing 65% of the GBF Target, then OECMs will need to make up the balance of around 35%. As further experience and demonstrated success of different OECMs emerges, the opportunity to increase this contribution grows. There is great reputational risk of adopting and reporting on measures that do not meet the global criteria even if these measures appear to provide significant contributions to area Targets. Other countries have already suffered reputational damage due to overzealous claiming of progress.

The following categories/measures were identified as being potential OECMs with greatest chance of meeting all (or at least the majority) of criteria, and should be prioritise for development and deployment:

- Biodiversity Management Agreement
- Biodiversity Agreement
- Conservation Servitude
- Landowners Associations (with specific conservation objectives and mutual endorsement on title deeds)
- Special Management Area
- Military Land
- National Botanical Garden



## 7.2 Challenges

Clarity is required on a number of topics to bring OECMs to their full potential:

**Clarity on criteria to define OECMs:** Existing global criteria provide the framework for defining OECMs. The two pilot projects provide a solid basis to build on, and ongoing work will refine the eligible measures. Regular community of practice engagements are required to ensure a sound basis for adopting and approving specific measures.

**Prioritising where to apply OECMs:** Certain measures in place already qualify as OECMs using the existing global criteria e.g., Biodiversity Management Agreements. There is a need for collective decision making on how to prioritise application - e.g., using 'existing' options vs working to transition particular opportunities to OECMs, which may be more labour intensive.

**Spatial delineation of OECMs:** Once the criteria to define OECMs has been agreed upon, a spatial delineation process will be useful to estimate the potential contribution in number of hectares.

**Reporting on OECMs:** a process is needed to determine how OECMs get reviewed and approved to be reported to GBF. This includes investigation of using an existing database or creation of a new database.

**Generating a collective understanding of OECMs:** As the term is relatively newly emerging in South Africa, there is a need for the development of a collective understanding of the details of OECMs across a wide group of stakeholders, including how to design, implement, monitor and measure them.

## 7.3 Resourcing

Existing Resourcing Opportunities:

- BIOFIN value proposition for stewardship
- GEF7 Early Action support process
- Payment for Ecosystem services (carbon)
- Business and Biodiversity Initiatives (wool etc.)
- Wildlife Economy
  - Certification scheme
- Official Development Assistance funding

Below is a typology of potential funding mechanisms to support OECM deployment / expansion and the developmental stage they are currently in the following table.

Table. Various potential funding mechanisms that may contribute to OECM deployment or expansion. Note that some may also be appropriate for Protected Areas as well.

Ideas (to be developed)	Incubation (already under development)	Implement (needs action)	Impact
Official Development Assistance (GBF alignment)	Carbon	BioFin Value Proposition for Stewardship	GEF 7
Biodiversity Fund	Wildlife Certification	Tax Incentive for Candidate OECMs (BMAs)	
	Biodiversity Credits		
	Performance Related Bonds		
	Agro-Economy Certifications (Wool Standards)		

#### 7.4 Next steps and roles

Table. Near term activities to deepen the understanding and support further of OECMs to allow them to be recognised as contributing to Target 3 of the GBF.

What (Enabling and Implementing) 1	Who	Priority (short/medium/long term)
Identification and provisional mapping of existing OECMs	SANBI led with support from DFFE Conservation Agencies, Isimangaliso, BirdLife SA, SANBI, Conservation Outcomes, SANParks, CSA (BDS TWG OECM SWG)	Short (1 year)
Determining what the process is to get OECMs reviewed and approved to be put on a database (PACA?) [Implementation]	DFFE led with support from Conservation Agencies, Isimangaliso, BirdLife SA, SANBI, Conservation Outcomes, SANParks, CSA (BDS TWG OECM SWG)	Short (2-3 years)

Reviewing database in terms of understanding how to record OECMs and how to change them if they are no longer OECMs	DFFE, SANBI, CapeNature, Conservation Agencies	Medium (3 years)
Specific conversation to unpack OECMs with regards to Biospheres and place on PACA database	BDS TWG Legal Reference Group (SANBI, IUCN, DFFE)	Short (1-3 years)
Early action support (component 4) costing of the implementation of the GBF national Targets (work to feed into Finance Task Force work)	DFFE in collaboration with partners	Short (1-2 years)
30x30 Financing task force (cross pollination with Early Action Support)	Sustainable Finance Coalition with collaboration from DFFE, SANBI and relevant partners	Short (1-3)
Phase Two of Green Trust OECM Pilot	BirdLife SA, Conservation Outcomes, DFFE, SANBI	Short (1-3)
Identifying spatial prioritization process integrated with PA group using EXISTING information to layer information (including renewable energy, agro economy, NPAES, 2040 SANParks etc) and which area-based measures to use where	SANBI, DFFE, Conservation Agencies, SANParks, other Departments, NGOs	Short (1 year)
Generation of guidelines and knowledge products for OECMs in South Africa and identifying links to existing guidelines (i.e., BDS Guidelines)	BDS TWG OECM (DFFE, SANBI, supported by BirdLife SA, Conservation Outcomes, Wessa, IUCN)	Short to Medium
<p>OECM 'bootcamp' to introduce stakeholders into a common understanding of how South Africa will use OECMs to contribute to 30x30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish working group asap</li> <li>- Generation of knowledge products</li> <li>- OECM Criteria Clarity (effectiveness)</li> <li>- Mapping of OECMs into Database</li> <li>- Greens vs Oranges (Biospheres ,Wildlife Sector, Forestry etc.)</li> <li>- Development of Bootcamp Agenda</li> </ul>	SANBI with support from SANParks, DFFE, Cons Agencies BLSA, CO, WFA, IUCN, Wessa , CSA	First bootcamp in 1 year with ongoing meetings through medium term (5 years)

Explore opportunities for potential provisions and possibly develop legislative amendments for OECMs e.g., through NEMBA - Amendment of NEMBA: develop legislative provisions for OECMs (DFFE)	DFFE, support from the BDS TWG Legal Reference Group	Short (1-2 years) Long (7 years)
Use existing platforms (e.g., BSTWG, Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group) to consult with other stakeholders such as Land reform, and use inter-governmental platform such as JPTT to engage with DMRE	SANBI, DFFE with support from SANParks	Ongoing
Engaging with DALRRD and using existing structures to clarify communal land tenure arrangements and institutions to unlock potential for consideration as OECM status	DFFE (explore existing structures SANBI MoU), DTA	Short – Medium
Information sharing to create readiness for OECM implementation with public (sharing of knowledge products)	DFFE, SANBI, NGOs, TWG OECM SWG, all parties	Medium to ongoing

## 8. Process going forward

There are several short- and medium-term actions to maintain the momentum and build a durable Implementation Plan for 30x30.

Among these are to:

1. Compile a List of pending and outstanding/frozen Declaration process (by 18 June) and submit this to Intergovernmental Structures in July. The intention would be to resolve outstanding issues at MinMEC level and clarify matters either way.
2. Pursue further Traditional Leaders engagement, including People & Parks representatives and possibly traditional healers, with a view to deepening the collaboration, scoping out specific areas of cooperation (such as unlocking key declarations in SWSAs; mapping sites for protection of cultural and spiritual priorities and integrating in biodiversity spatial planning) and building out representation on multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g., in Mega Conservation Area Landscapes, SWSA).
3. Develop more detailed Implementation Costing exercises per mechanism – preferably to be completed in October 2023 to inform Implementation Plans and Resourcing endeavours?
4. Reconvene as a Government – NGO – CSO Collaborative in October to check progress.
5. Define & ID projects for ambitious national Targets & associated M&E.

Formal platforms for further development and engagement include:

- Reaching out to the respective co-leads of each breakaway theme to engage directly in follow up discussions
- Joining the Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group (next meeting scheduled 17 July 2023)
- Requesting participation in the Marine Biodiversity Working Group

Government processes taking the Implementation Plan forward include:

- Feed into White Paper Implementation – Due by Dec
- M&E system for reporting progress – SANBI & partners
- Submission of National Targets to CBD – 2024
- Review & Update of NBSAP – 2026

## 9. Acronyms

BSTWG	Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group	NBA	National Biodiversity Assessment
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
DARDLR	Dept Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform	OECD	Other area-based Effective Conservation Measure
DFFE	Dept Forestry Fisheries and Environment	PA	Protected Area
DWS	Dept Water & Sanitation	PE	Protected Environment
DMRE	Dept Mineral Resources and Energy		
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework	SANBI	SA National Biodiversity Institute
GIAMA	Government Immovable Asset Management Act	SANParks	SA National Parks
JPTT	Joint Planning Task Team – between Environment, Water & Mineral Regulation	SFC	Sustainable Finance Coalition
		SWSA	Strategic Water Source Area
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation	THO	Traditional Healers Organisation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	TNFD	Task Force on Nature-based Financial Disclosures
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning	TWG	Technical Working Group
MTTM	Maloti Thaba Tsa Metsi (PE)	WUL	Water Use Licence

## 10. Annexures

- Annexure 1 Workshop Report