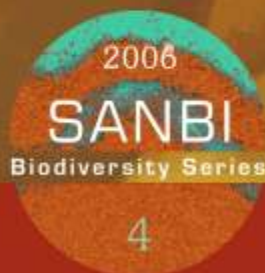




**fynbosfynmense**

*people  
making  
biodiversity  
work*









# C.A.P.E.



Table Mountain Fund



# Signatory Partners



South African  
National Parks

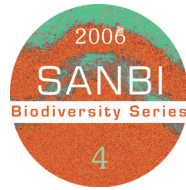


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**SANBI Biodiversity Series 4**

# **Fynbos Fynmense: people making biodiversity work**

**Ally Ashwell**

**Trevor Sandwith**

**Mandy Barnett**

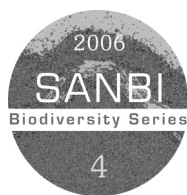
**Asiza Parker**

**Fumanekile Wisani**



**Pretoria**

**2006**



## SANBI Biodiversity Series

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was established on 1 September 2004 through the signing into force of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) No. 10 of 2004 by President Thabo Mbeki. The Act expands the mandate of the former National Botanical Institute to include responsibilities relating to the full diversity of South Africa's fauna and flora, and builds on the internationally respected programmes in conservation, research, education and visitor services developed by the National Botanical Institute and its predecessors over the past century.

The vision of SANBI is to be the leading institution in biodiversity science in Africa, facilitating conservation, sustainable use of living resources, and human well-being.

SANBI's mission is to promote the sustainable use, conservation, appreciation and enjoyment of the exceptionally rich biodiversity of South Africa, for the benefit of all people.

*SANBI Biodiversity Series* publishes occasional reports on projects, technologies, workshops, symposia and other activities initiated by or executed in partnership with SANBI.

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# Foreword

**F**ourteen years after the Rio Summit, South Africa is hosting The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly, with delegates addressing key environmental issues in one of the world's "hot-test" biodiversity hotspots, the Cape Floristic Region (CFR). The Cape region is the location of several fascinating GEF-funded projects where biodiversity is being successfully integrated into social and economic development.



WORLD BANK GROUP  
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT  
FACILITY PROGRAM

South Africa has had an extraordinary political and development history. The change in government and democratization in 1994 led to a realization that biodiversity conservation must be more inclusive and linked to socio-economic development. Programmes such as Working for Water have led the way in innovation, linking clearance of invasive alien species to ecosystem services, poverty alleviation and job creation. Development and conservation are often considered trade-offs, yet South Africa has demonstrated how biodiversity concerns can be mainstreamed in development efforts. These successes can be attributed to four main factors: good scientific information and subsequent awareness raising; institutional capacity and commitment; strategic cross-sectoral coordination and public-private partnerships; and entrepreneurship by the conservation community in seizing opportunities to demonstrate that good biodiversity management is good for the economy, good for local development, and good for business. Many of these attributes are present in biodiversity projects which South Africa has designed for GEF funding.

The World Bank is proud to have been associated with the development of a rich and innovative GEF portfolio of projects in South Africa. The portfolio spans two, uniquely South African, biodiversity hotspots (Cape Floristic Region and Succulent Karoo) as well as exciting transboundary initiatives in the Maloti-Drakensberg highlands linking South Africa and Lesotho. The Bank's GEF portfolio has supported the expansion of national parks and protected areas in the Cape Peninsula, Namaqualand, Addo and Baviaanskloof as well as creative off-reserve solutions and new partnerships with private and community landowners. South Africa has been a leader in integrating biodiversity in production landscapes, especially through partnerships under the Cape Action for People and the Environment program (C.A.P.E.) and the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Partnership (SKEP). The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has supported conservation planning and engaged civil society in active partnerships for conservation in the production sector, including private and community lands. A suite of GEF medium-sized projects have demonstrated good practice in conservation farming, conservation planning, and greater engagement of local communities in establishing community conservation areas. Many of the lessons from earlier projects are being scaled up and replicated under the current C.A.P.E. Biodiversity and Sustainable Development project, within the Cape Floral Kingdom.

This volume, illustrates the results achieved on the ground of the ongoing partnership of C.A.P.E. and will contribute to disseminating lessons learned from the C.A.P.E. programme to other bioregional programmes worldwide. The inspiring stories presented here provide examples of creative thinking in promoting biodiversity conservation in the context of sustainable development. Many of the case studies have relevance to other countries and other sectors, demonstrating synergies between conservation and the fight against poverty, innovative solutions to shared needs, and opportunities to make biodiversity an indispensable part of ordinary people's lives.

Katherine Sierra  
Vice President, Sustainable Development

The World Bank

Gobind Nankani  
Vice President, Africa Region

The World Bank



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# Message

from the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

South Africa launched the Cape Action for People and the Environment Programme (C.A.P.E.) in 2000 in response

not only to its obligations to secure globally significant biodiversity for the international community, but driven by the opportunity that the rich resources of the region offer for social and economic development of our people. Underlying the programme is a desire to unlock the opportunities for economic development while ensuring much greater involvement and participation among local communities and other stakeholders in decision-making and in sharing the benefits of sustainable use of biodiversity.



environment & tourism

Department:  
Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The C.A.P.E. Strategy set out the challenges. Government and non-governmental organisations at every level have stepped in to provide the appropriate enabling environment for rapid implementation. From the perspective of government, rapid steps were taken to develop the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act and the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act. Among other functions, these far-reaching laws provide the context for the development and publication of bioregional plans that empower programmes like C.A.P.E. and set the standards for the designation and management of protected areas that fully represent and maintain biodiversity across the regional landscape. These have been followed by the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment and the adoption of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The most striking innovation however, is coming from the partners and communities themselves who are contributing directly to conservation stewardship on private and communal lands, through industry best practices and innovations, such as the Biodiversity and Wine Initiative and through mobilising government, business and stakeholders to partner in ensuring that sustainable development is achieved at a local level.

South African businesses are yet to fully embrace and harness the economic opportunities that biodiversity offers, but there are signs that this is changing. In addition to industry role players, there are also striking examples of how local communities are seizing opportunities such as the flower harvesting in association with tourism on the Agulhas Plain and the development of the Hoerikwaggo Guides, creating new jobs and increased revenue in the Table Mountain National Park.

South Africa's projections of a growing economy expressed in strategies such as ASGISA are founded on the continued sustainable use of natural resources, and the value that biodiversity creates in the economy. Growing the biodiversity-based economy requires that new and innovative means are found to identify and add value to South Africa's globally unique resources, without depleting them, and while expanding social benefits. The stories and lessons reflected in this publication record some of the enormous diversity and creativity, but also commitment of South Africans—all Fynbos Fynmense—to find workable responses to the problems and opportunities of sustainable development in a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk  
Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism

# Message

**from Mbulelo Songoni, the Eastern Cape Provincial Minister for Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism**

**T**he Eastern Cape is at the eastern end of the Cape Floristic Region, where it intersects with four other biomes in South Africa, making the Eastern Cape unusually rich in habitats and species. The Eastern Cape government realizes that this diversity, matched only by the variety of people and interests in the region, is a source of pride but also opportunity. For this reason, as a founder signatory of the C.A.P.E. programme, the Eastern Cape has invested in several conservation and development flagship projects, notably the Baviaanskloof Megareserve. While the Baviaanskloof is a component of the Cape Floristic Region World Heritage Site, it is also the source of water for the Nelson Mandela Bay metropole and a place where farmers and other communities derive their livelihoods. This means that the way in which conservation is undertaken in the region must accord with the social and economic development needs of the Eastern Cape. Planning for the Baviaanskloof Megareserve has become a model for other large landscape initiatives elsewhere in the Eastern Cape and in the rest of the Cape Floristic Region.



In line with the C.A.P.E. Strategy, the Eastern Cape has undertaken a review of environmental and nature conservation functions and proudly launched the Eastern Cape Parks Board earlier this year as the agency that would ensure that it met its biodiversity responsibilities, while seeking appropriate investment in development, and successfully integrating these. The pilot activities that C.A.P.E. has undertaken in the Eastern Cape are being closely examined by provincial and local government in the Eastern Cape as a source of lessons and capacity-building across the region. In particular, the Eastern Cape has established an Eastern Cape Implementation Committee for Bioregional Programmes and will be guiding and driving a range of important initiatives, including C.A.P.E., STEP and the Wild Coast Initiative.

# Message

**from Tasneem Essop, the Western Cape Provincial Minister for Environment, Planning and Economic Development**

**T**he astonishing richness and diversity of the Western Cape's natural resources is matched only by the resourcefulness and diversity of its many people. Historical patterns of unsustainable use of resources have led to the Cape Floristic Region being listed as one of the world's threatened bioregions, and the scars are deeply etched in the land and its people. Now the people of the Western Cape are exploring new and sustainable ways to value and benefit from these globally important assets. It is no secret that the biodiversity of the Western Cape underpins the regional economy, generating value in excess of R10 billion per annum, a large part of which is captured in the growth of tourism in the region, based principally on the scenic beauty and the jewels that are our protected areas. These assets are the cornerstone of the "environmental economy" of the Western Cape and can play an important role in the regeneration of the soul of our people.

More important, is the need to deepen the involvement and participation of all of the people of the region, resulting in improved livelihood opportunities that are translated into sustainable employment and quality of life. To this end the provincial government has adopted a Provincial Spatial Development Framework that fundamentally recognizes the importance of the natural environment. It sets out a pattern for improving human settlements and avoiding urban sprawl, but also recognizes the development opportunities of appropriate land-uses that will diversify economic opportunities in the rural landscape. The Western Cape Provincial Government has supported the roll-out of the C.A.P.E. Programme as one of the initiatives underpinning our Sustainable Development Implementation Plan. We expect the programme to pilot, analyse and recommend appropriate approaches, while securing effective participation and involvement of all of our people. The stories in this volume are evidence of the growing commitment and mobilization of our "fynbos fynmense" in support of sustainable development.





# Message

from Helen Zille, Executive Mayor of the City of Cape Town

The City of Cape Town is well aware of its unique position in the Cape Floristic Region. It has also taken seriously its responsibility to reverse the trends that have led to the City having one of the highest densities of threatened species on earth. The City has come to understand that biodiversity can be a powerful driver of tourism, economic growth and social upliftment. We recognize the benefits of being one of the few places in the world where two natural World Heritage Sites and an entire National Park are contained within a single municipal boundary.



One of the most important steps taken by the City of Cape Town was to prepare its Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Programme (IMEP), one component of which was to declare its commitment to biodiversity. Since then, the City has developed a Biodiversity Strategy that provides a framework for linking the important ecological systems across the City and providing nodes for innovative programmes such as Cape Flats Nature—our successful partnership programme targeting community conservation on the Cape Flats—and the consolidating of Table Mountain National Park. The Biodiversity Strategy also provides the basis for co-ordination across the many sectors that provide services in the City and meeting the needs for public recreation, water management and disaster management.

The City of Cape Town is also proud to have initiated Local Action for Biodiversity, an international partnership project joining 15 world cities focused on enhancing the protection, management and appropriate use of biodiversity within municipal boundaries, and also on working towards reversing the global trend towards species extinction by 2010. As one of the founding signatories of the Cape Action for People and the Environment Programme (C.A.P.E.), the City of Cape Town is taking full responsibility for providing opportunities for its own “fynbos fynmense” to participate and benefit from making biodiversity a part of all Capetonians’ lives.

# Message

from Monique Barbut, CEO of the Global Environment Facility

**T**he richness of biodiversity found in South Africa's Cape Floristic region is legendary, and the unique nature of the fynbos biome has been celebrated by biologists, conservationists, development experts, and ecologists worldwide.



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has a strong and mutually-supportive partnership with the Government of South Africa. We are proud that our project portfolio covers a broad spectrum of issues—biodiversity conservation, climate change, eliminating of toxic chemicals, improved management of international waters, and others—that are directly linked to, and supportive of South Africa's sustainable development agenda.

Through the work of our implementing agencies—United Nations Development Program, United Nations Environment Programme, and The World Bank—GEF-financed projects are making a positive difference in people's lives while protecting the global environment. Notable examples are the Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative, Cape Action for People and Environment (C.A.P.E.) project, Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Partnership (SKEP), including among others, the Small Grants Program (SGP) which is helping link local communities to national development goals.

We are delighted that South Africa is hosting the Third GEF Assembly in Cape Town, the first time that we are meeting on the African continent. The launch of this volume at the Assembly is indicative not only of the importance of biodiversity conservation, but also broad-based partnerships that mobilize public, private and civil society efforts in protecting the global environment for the benefit of all. The GEF is pleased to be a part this partnership which is helping overcome poverty and help achieve the internationally-agreed Millennium Development Goals.