



environmental affairs

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Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CMS Implementation in South Africa



**CMS Family Manual – Workshop
for African National Focal Points
Meeting, Cape Town, South Africa
29 – 31 October 2013**

South Africa
3rd most biodiverse country in the world



Introduction

- **SA party to:**
 - **CMS** since December 1991;
 - *2 Daughter Agreements:*
 - **AEWA** since January 2000;
 - **ACAP** since November 2006;
 - *3 MoU's:*
 - On the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles & their Habitats of the Indian Ocean & SE Asia, November 2008;
 - Raptors MoU, December 2008 and;
 - On the Conservation of Migratory Sharks, May 2011



Introduction - II

- DEA Branch: Biodiversity and Conservation - National Focal Point for:
 - CMS, AEWA, Raptors MoU



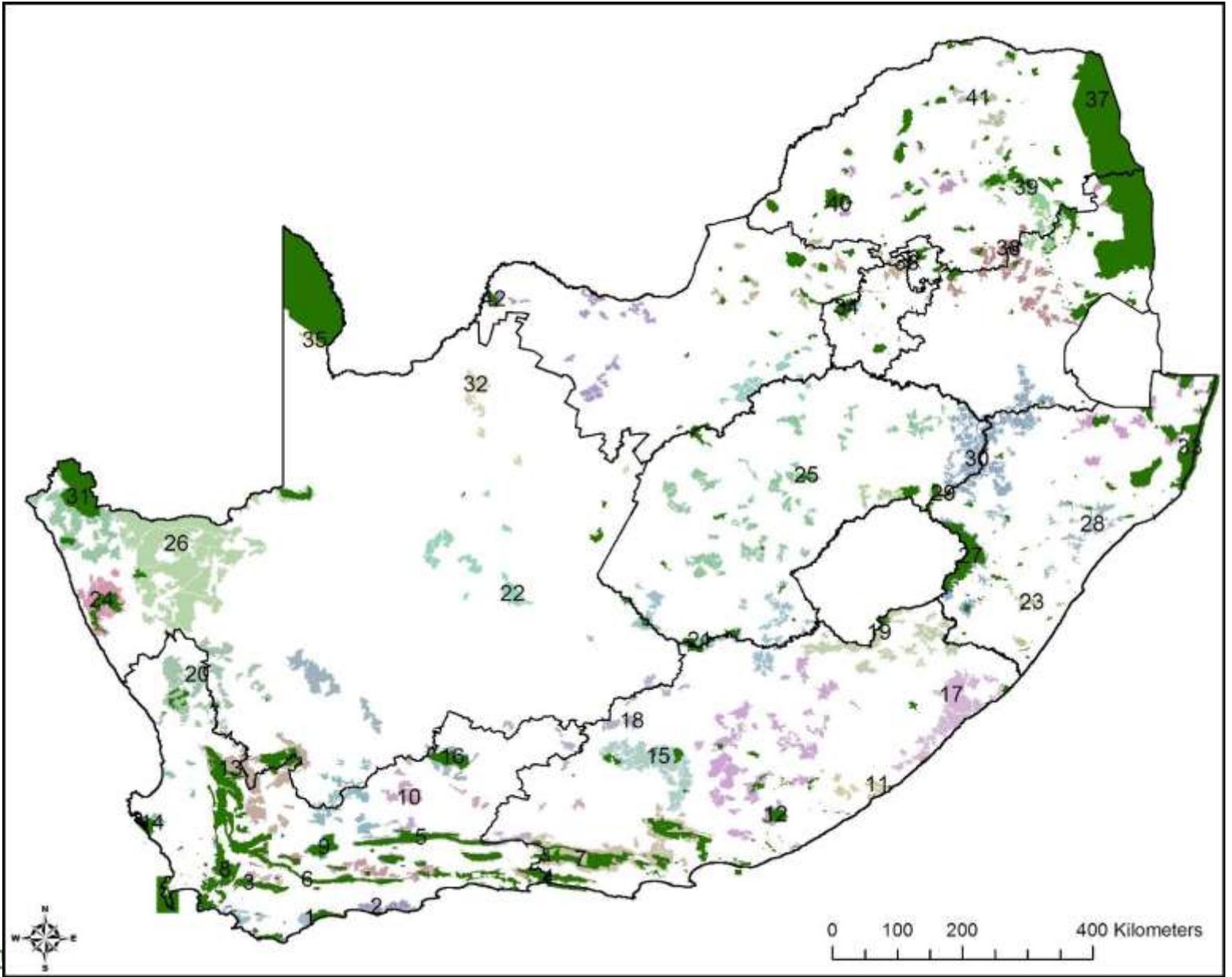
- DEA Branch Oceans & Coasts – National Focal Point:
 - ACAP, Marine Turtles MoU & Migratory Sharks MoU



The big picture

- Biodiversity Act, 2004 makes provision for BMPs (African Penguin, Crane, Wild dog and Cheetah, Bearded vulture) and legislation re threatened or protected species
- SANBI
- Protected Areas Act 2003 makes provision for different categories of PAs
- SANParks

NPAES: Focus areas for land-based PA expansion



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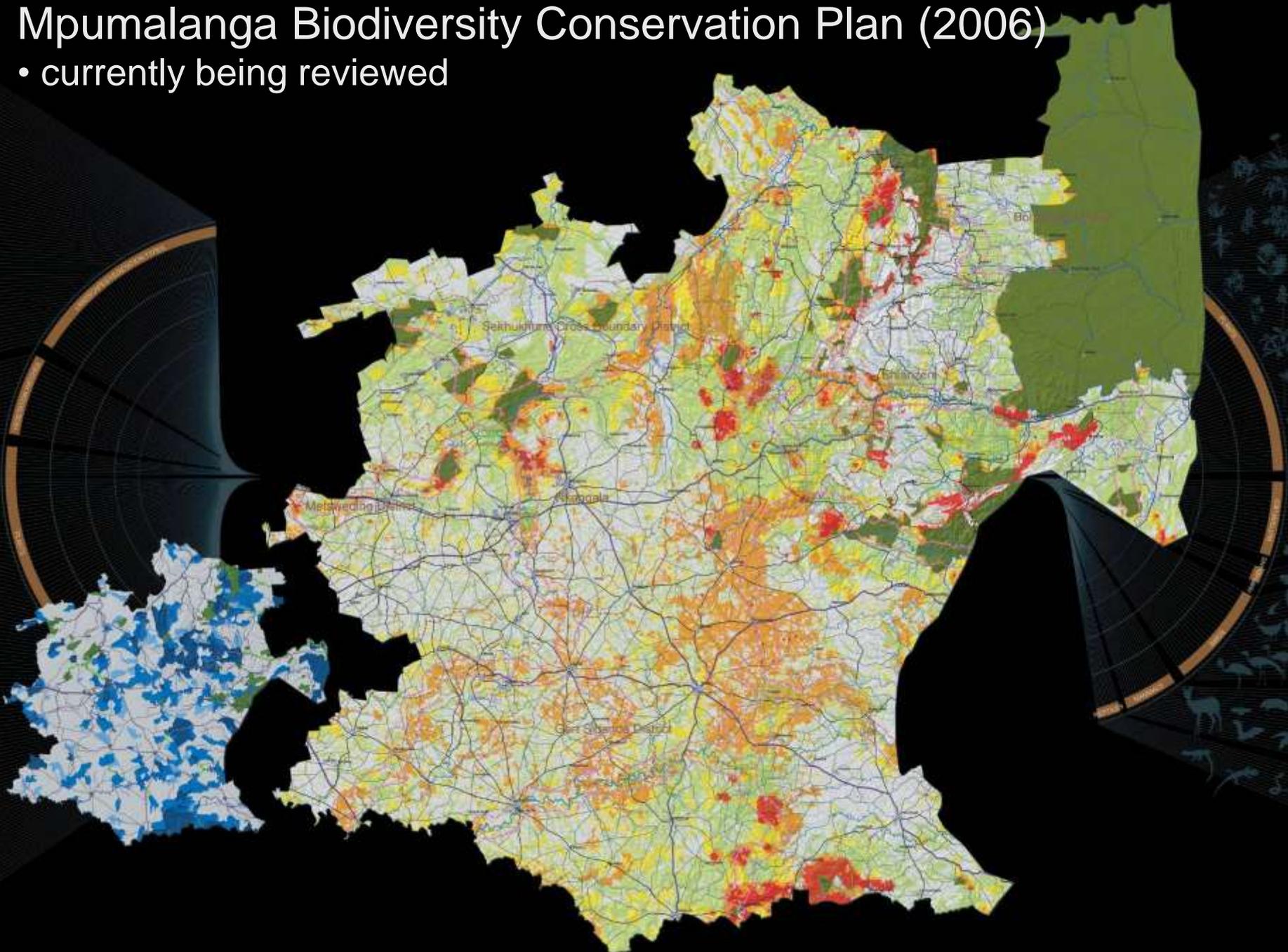
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The big picture (2)

- Systematic conservation planning (connectivity, persistence and ecosystem services)-CBAs and IBAs
- Transfrontier Conservation Areas for easy movement of migratory species across boundaries

Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2006)

- currently being reviewed



Activities in South Africa aimed at the Implementation of the CMS (NGOs)

Activity	Relevant Target/Result/Action of the CMS Strategic Plan 20115-2023
White-winged Flufftail research and conservation undertaken by BirdLife South Africa & the Middelpunt Wetland Trust	This work should ultimately lead to a revised SSAP for White-winged Flufftail
Agreement between Wetlands International & Birdlife SA to undertake a desktop survey of key estuaries in Mozambique, including past waterbird counts along the coastline in place	Improved awareness & understanding of waterbird conservation issues
Birdlife SA assists with monthly waterbird counts at Durban Harbour, KwaZulu-Natal as part of an ongoing waterbird monitoring project (12 th year)	
Raising awareness for wetland conservation through Bird of the Year programme (2012 & 2013), annual Igula World Wetlands Day activities (Birdlife SA)	

Activities in South Africa - II

Activity	Relevant Target/Result/Action of the CMS Strategic Plan 20115-2023
Habitat is protected with the involvement of the Birdlife International IBA network sites of national & international importance.	A flyway network of protected & managed sites
Birdlife SA has undertaken an avifaunal assessment at the Umhlatuze Estuary, KwaZulu-Natal, the 3 rd most important bird estuary for birds in SA.	To establish a baseline reference for diversity and abundance values of migratory waders (shorebirds and other waterbirds)
Inputs to new developments threatening IBAs including sites of national & international importance (Birdlife SA)	Recommendations to mitigate serious threats to migratory species provided through Environmental Impact Assessments

Activities in South Africa - Public

Activity	Relevant Target/Result/Action of the CMS Strategic Plan 20115-2023
<p>Bi-annual Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC) undertaken by citizen scientists and members of bird clubs (Animal Demography Unit, Cape Town)</p>	<p>Increased support and participation in CMS activities by national Partners</p>
<p>SABird Atlas Project (SABAP2 data collection by citizen scientists on the occurrence and distribution of species)</p>	
<p>Birds in Reserves (Birp) – collection of bird occurrence data in protected areas by citizen scientists (ADU)</p>	
<p>SAFRING administers bird ringing in southern Africa, supplying rings, ringing equipment and services to volunteer and professional ringers in South Africa and neighbouring countries.</p>	

Illustration(s) of National Activities in South Africa

Citizen Scientists – Birp & CAR Projects (ADU)

Citizen Scientists – Penguin Watch (ADU) & Bird of the Year 2013 Fundraiser (Birdlife SA)



Activities in South Africa - IV

Activity	Relevant Target/Result/Action of the CMS Strategic Plan 20115-2023
<p>Kruger to Canyons Migratory Bird Programme – an NGO proposal for a research programme to analyse, monitor & record data on the movements of migratory birds in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (2.5 million hectares)</p>	<p>Numbers of Partners supporting an participating in the work of the CMS increased</p>
<p>Turtle Conservation Programme – 50 years of conservation, monitoring and research (coordinated by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife & research conducted by the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) on the loggerhead (including, Leatherback, Green, Hawksbill & Olive Ridley turtles)</p>	

Illustration(s) of National Activities in South Africa - II



Courtesy of Ronel Nel (NMMU) -
**Turtle Conservation, Monitoring
Research Programme**



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Challenges faced with the implementation of CMS in South Africa

- Lack of sufficient resource capacity to implement national projects – HR/skills and financial, e.g. Animal Demography Unit
- Little coordination among the many projects being undertaken/operating in silos(?)
- Lack of effective commitment and cooperation within the region and flyways



Suggestions to facilitate the implementation of CMS

- Improved familiarity with instruments and reporting requirements by NFPs
- Review of national legislation and the identification of gaps
- Setting up a National Consultation Process – SA in the process of establishing a National Scientific Committee to coordinate implementation with Partners
- Promoting the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan

Suggestions to facilitate the implementation of CMS

- Strengthened Monitoring, Assessing and Reporting on National Implementation
- NFPs could show how migratory species implementation strategies fit with global priorities, e.g. the Millenium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals, 'Aichi' Biodiversity Targets

Suggestions to facilitate the implementation of CMS (2)

- GEF through their involvement with the NBSAP may assist migratory species conservation in the context of broader biodiversity issues
- Collaboration with other relevant international bodies - could include the IUCN, the Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN, the United Nations University and the World Resources Institute
- Encourage involvement of international NGOs in communication, advocacy and lobbying for migratory species conservation, e.g. BirdLife International, WWF, Fauna and Flora International. Others – possibly Nature Conservancy and Wetland International

Suggestions to facilitate the implementation of CMS (3)

(2) *Stand alone National Implementation Plan for Migratory Species:*

- Alternative approach to NBSAP
- **Advantage:** Less cumbersome than a NBSAP and the conservation needs of migratory species will be more visible
- **Disadvantage:** may be less political and financial support from government

Thank You!

Merci!

