

WCC Session 45169: Incorporating Nature in
Development Planning through Natural Capital Accounting
IUCN World Conservation Congress
4 September 2021



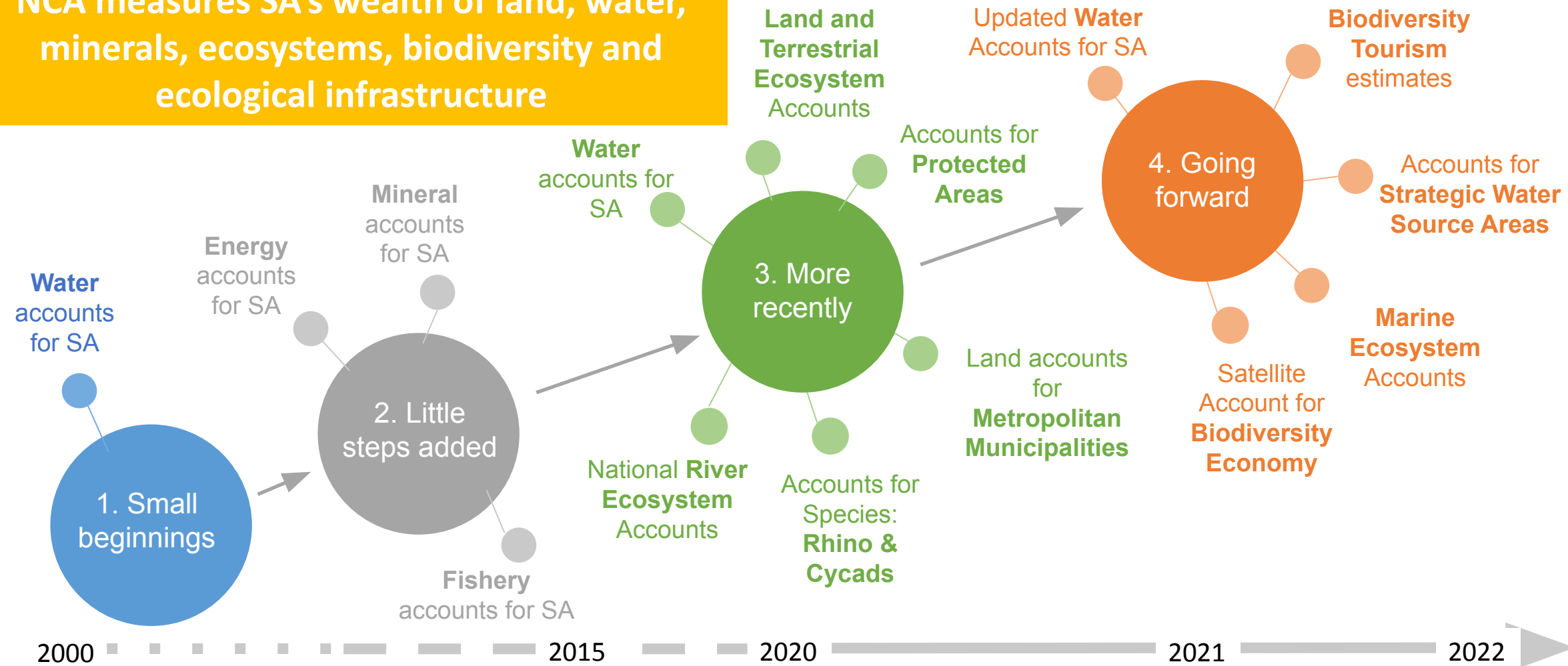
Overview

- Achievements to date at the national level
- Work underway
- Five lessons and take-homes



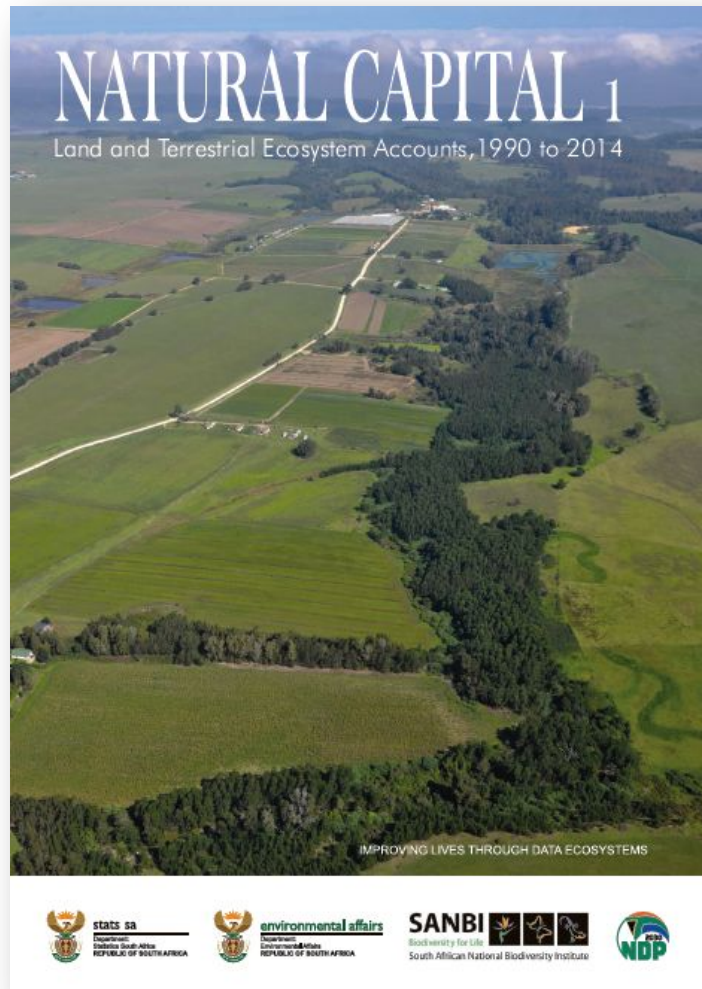
Snapshot of NCA in South Africa

NCA measures SA's wealth of land, water, minerals, ecosystems, biodiversity and ecological infrastructure

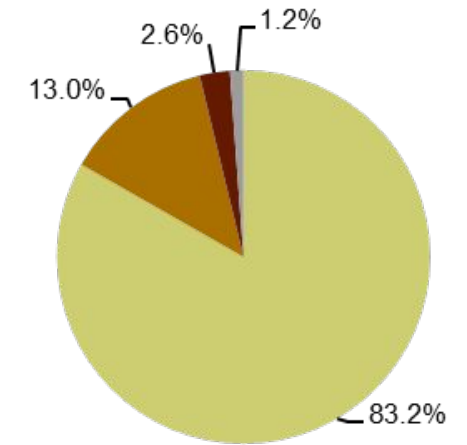
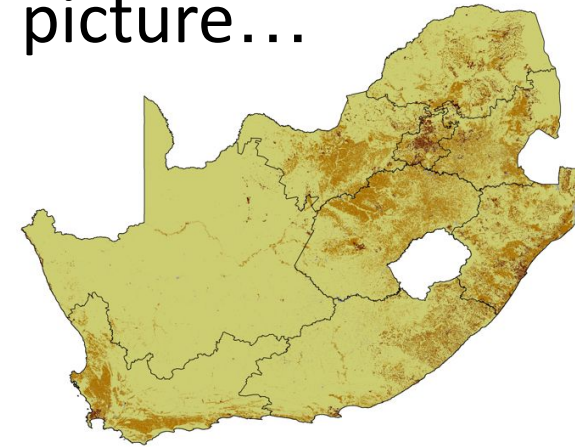
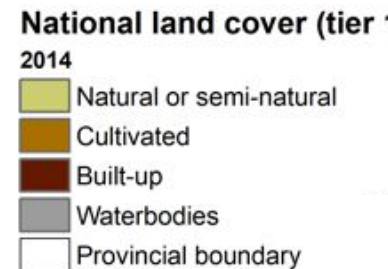


From early beginnings with national water accounts in 2000, momentum has grown. Since 2014, donor funded projects have helped to increase capacity, especially for ecosystem accounting.

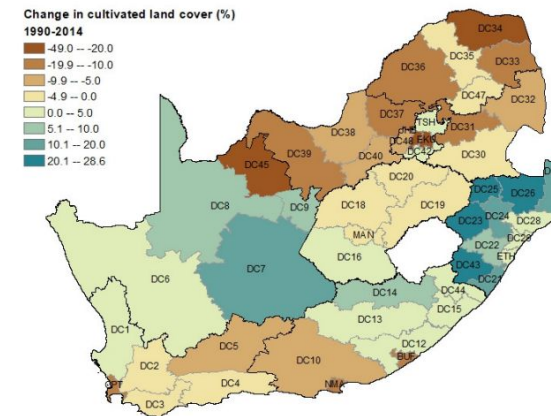
Stats SA's new *Natural Capital series*, launched Dec 2020 with first national Land and Terrestrial Ecosystem Accounts, 1990 to 2014



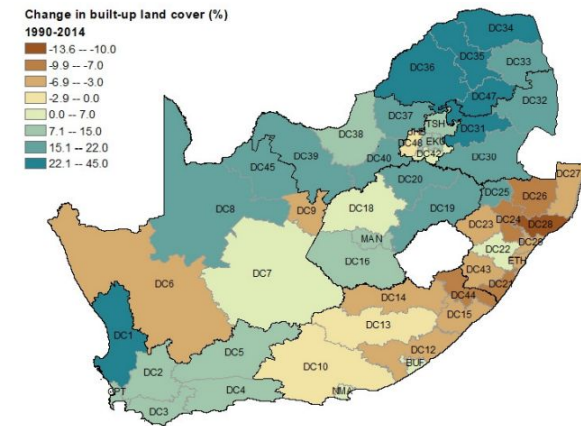
Broad national picture...



...can be disaggregated to subnational level, e.g. Districts

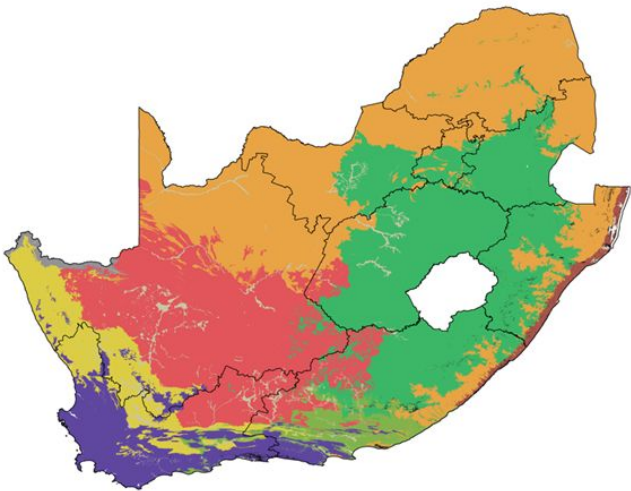


% change in cultivated land cover
1990-2014

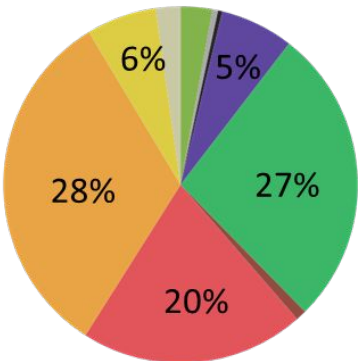


% change in built-up land cover
1990-2014

Terrestrial ecosystem extent account

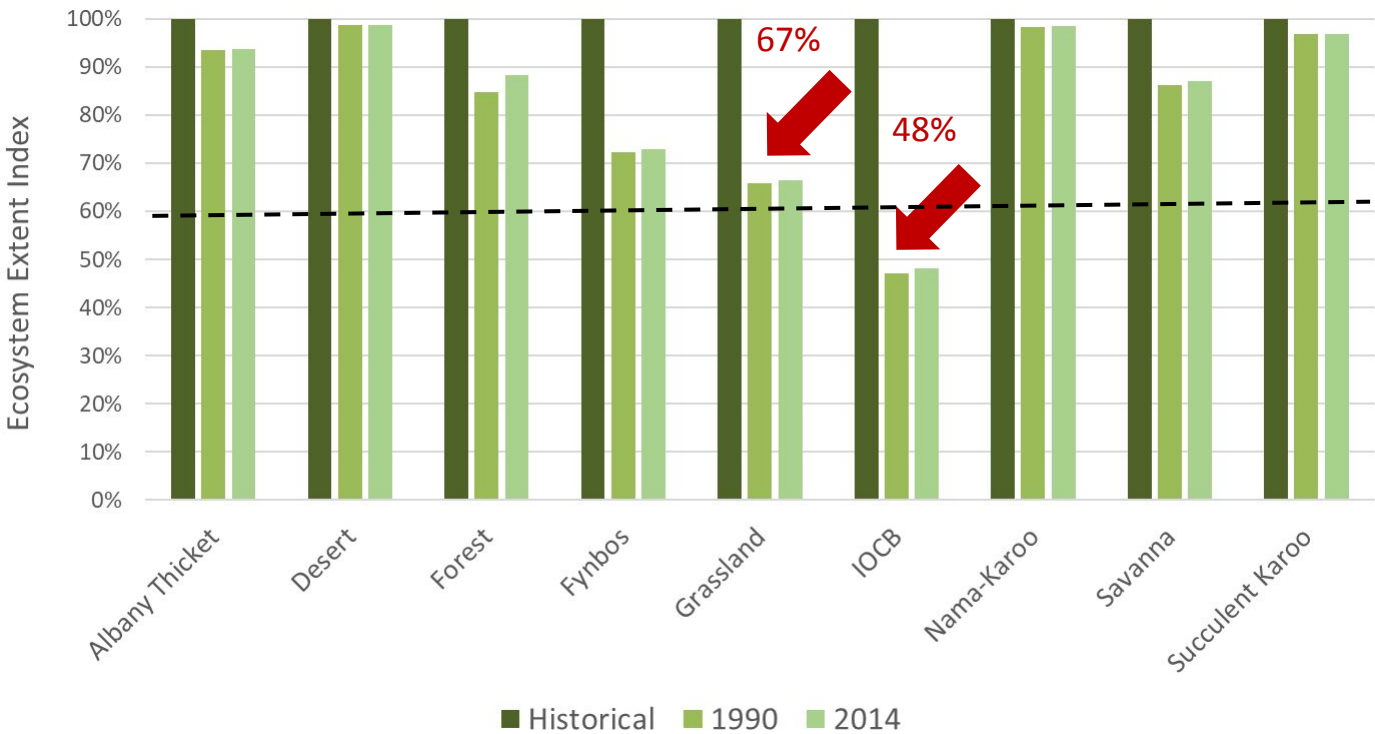


Historical extent of natural biomes



458 terrestrial ecosystem types are grouped into **9 biomes**

Ecosystem Extent Index measures reduction in extent relative to historical extent

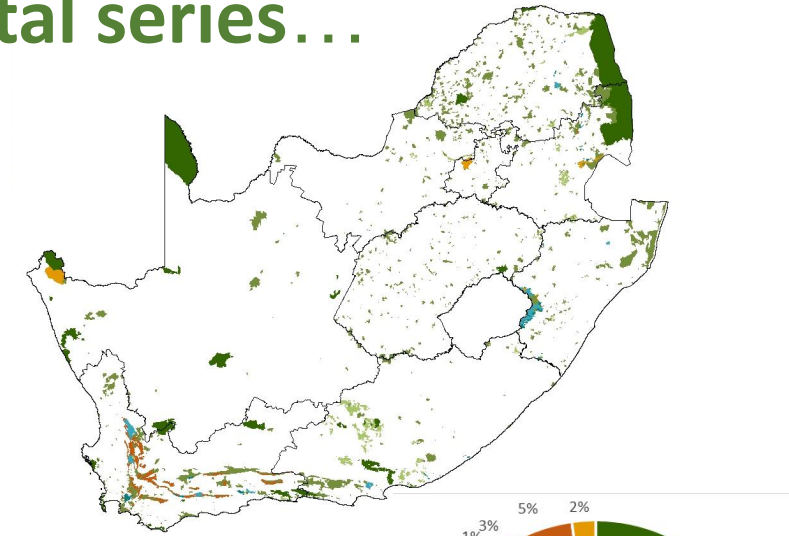
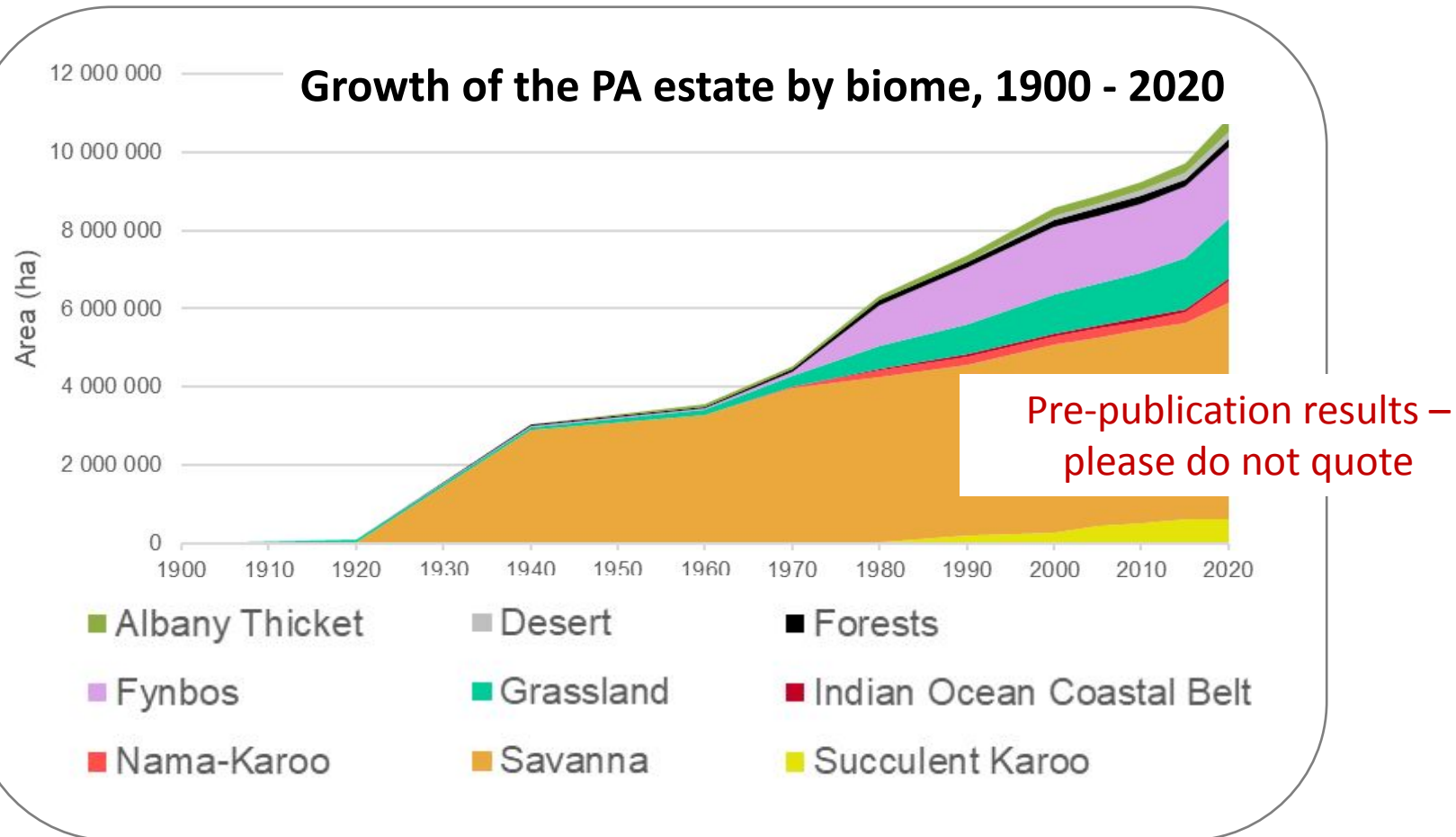


Biomes or ecosystem types that falls below an ecological function threshold have less ability to provide services and benefits to people

To be published later this month in the **Natural Capital series...**

Accounts for Protected Areas, 1900 – 2020

- Focuses on **size and composition** of the protected area estate
- Future updates will build on this to show **socio-economic links**



Composition of the PA estate in 2020



National NCA Strategy

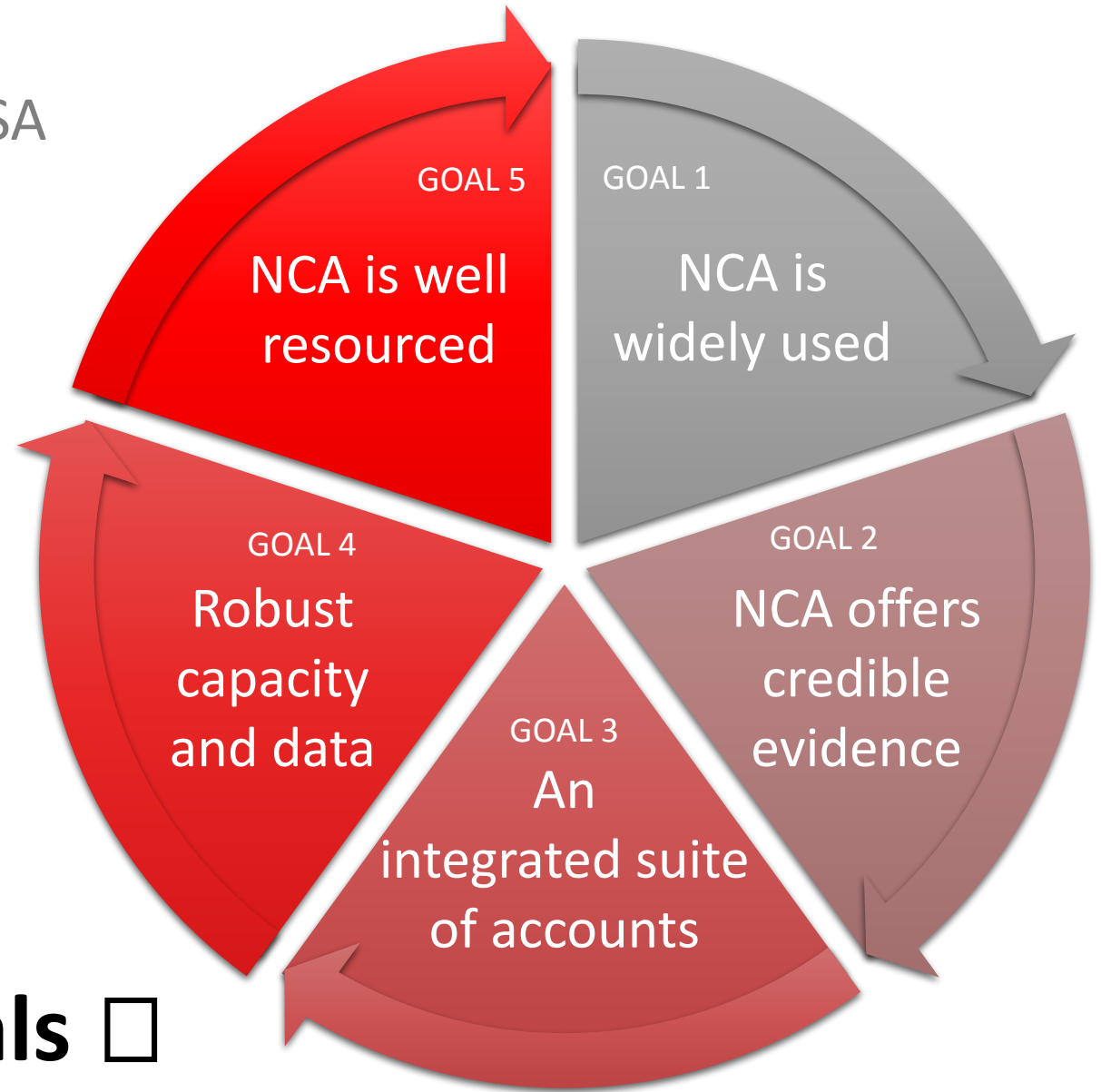
A ten-year strategy for advancing NCA in SA

Published by Statistics South Africa
in June 2021

Vision:

Natural capital accounting is widely used to provide credible evidence for integrated planning and decision-making, in support of the development needs of the country

5 inter-related goals □



Vibrant community of practice: national meetings and workshops have enabled cross-sectoral sharing of perspectives, discussion and learning

National NCA Stakeholder Workshop

(Pretoria,
19 March 2018)
>70 people
from 30
organisations



National NCA Training Workshop

(Pretoria,
21-23 May
2019)
27 participants
from 14
institutions



Technical task teams
to tackle specific technical
issues, as needed



National NCA Forum (Stats SA Auditorium, July 2019): 131 delegates from 24 organisations

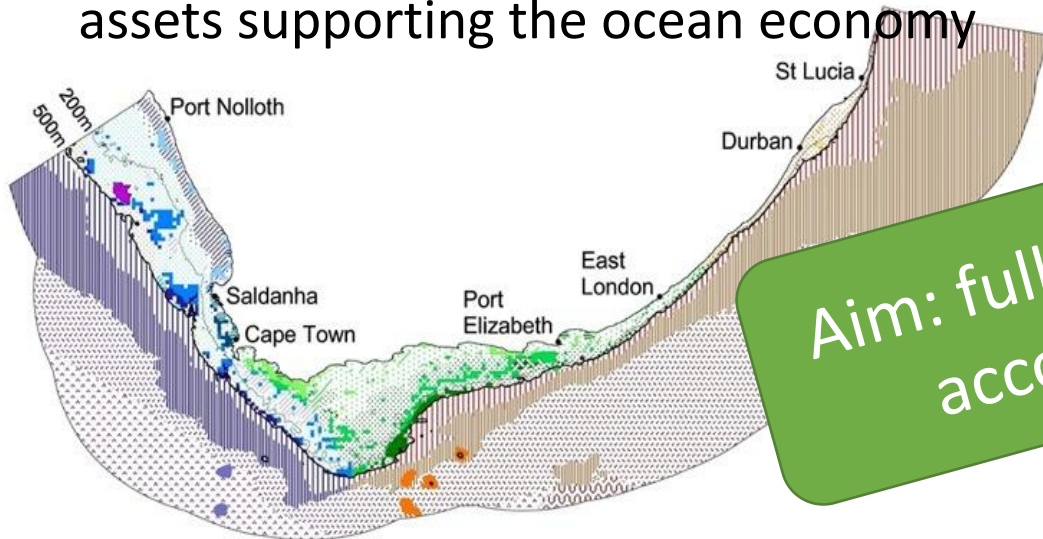


Future accounts in Stats SA's *Natural Capital* series

Accounts for species: **rhino & cycads** – part of our biodiversity heritage



Accounts for **marine ecosystems** – assets supporting the ocean economy



Aim: full suite of ecosystem asset accounts across all realms

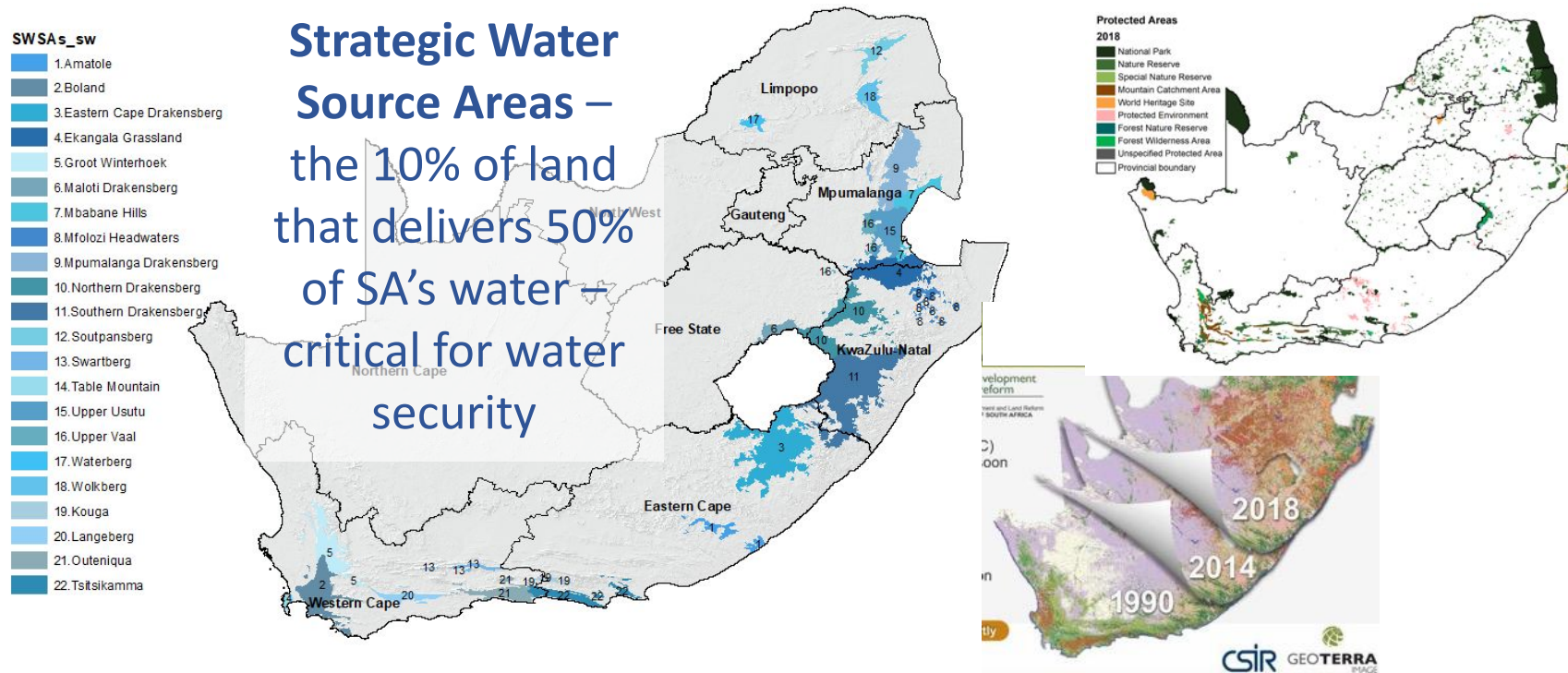
Accounts for estuarine ecosystems



Accounts for river ecosystems



Work underway: Accounts for Strategic Water Source Areas



SWSAs are a national policy priority:

- **Medium Term Strategic Framework**
- 5 year target: 11 of 22 SWSAs secured
- **National Spatial Development Framework**
- SWSAs a key element in National Ecological Infrastructure System

ACCOUNTS

SWSA extent account

Land accounts for SWSAs

Accounts for SWSA protection

INDICATORS

Proportion of SWSA per province, district, WMA

Proportion of SWSA in different land cover classes

Proportion of SWSA in different types of protected areas

Work underway: Biodiversity Economy Satellite Account

- Partnership between Stats SA, Department of Environment and SANBI
- Aim to quantify the contribution of biodiversity to GDP and employment
- Making the case for biodiversity as a contributor to inclusive growth and development



Builds on previous work on biodiversity-related employment, undertaken in the National Biodiversity Assessment 2018

Ecosystem accounts will support reporting on indicators for SDGs and Post 2020 targets...

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Post-2020

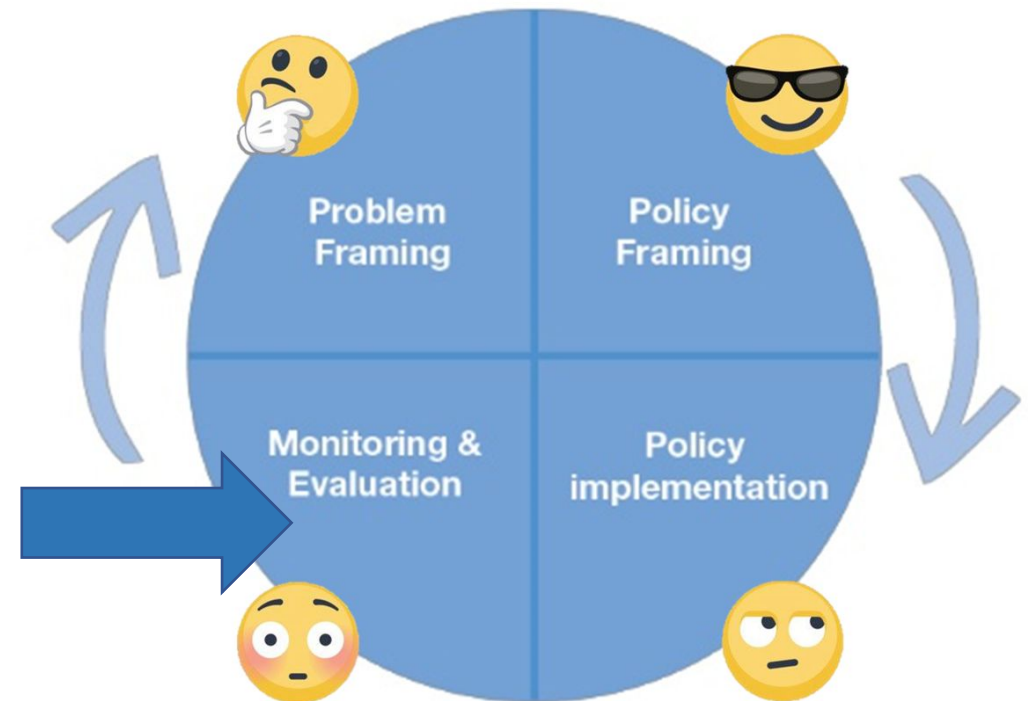
Global Biodiversity Framework



Convention on
Biological Diversity

NCA can help
with this step!

Policy cycle

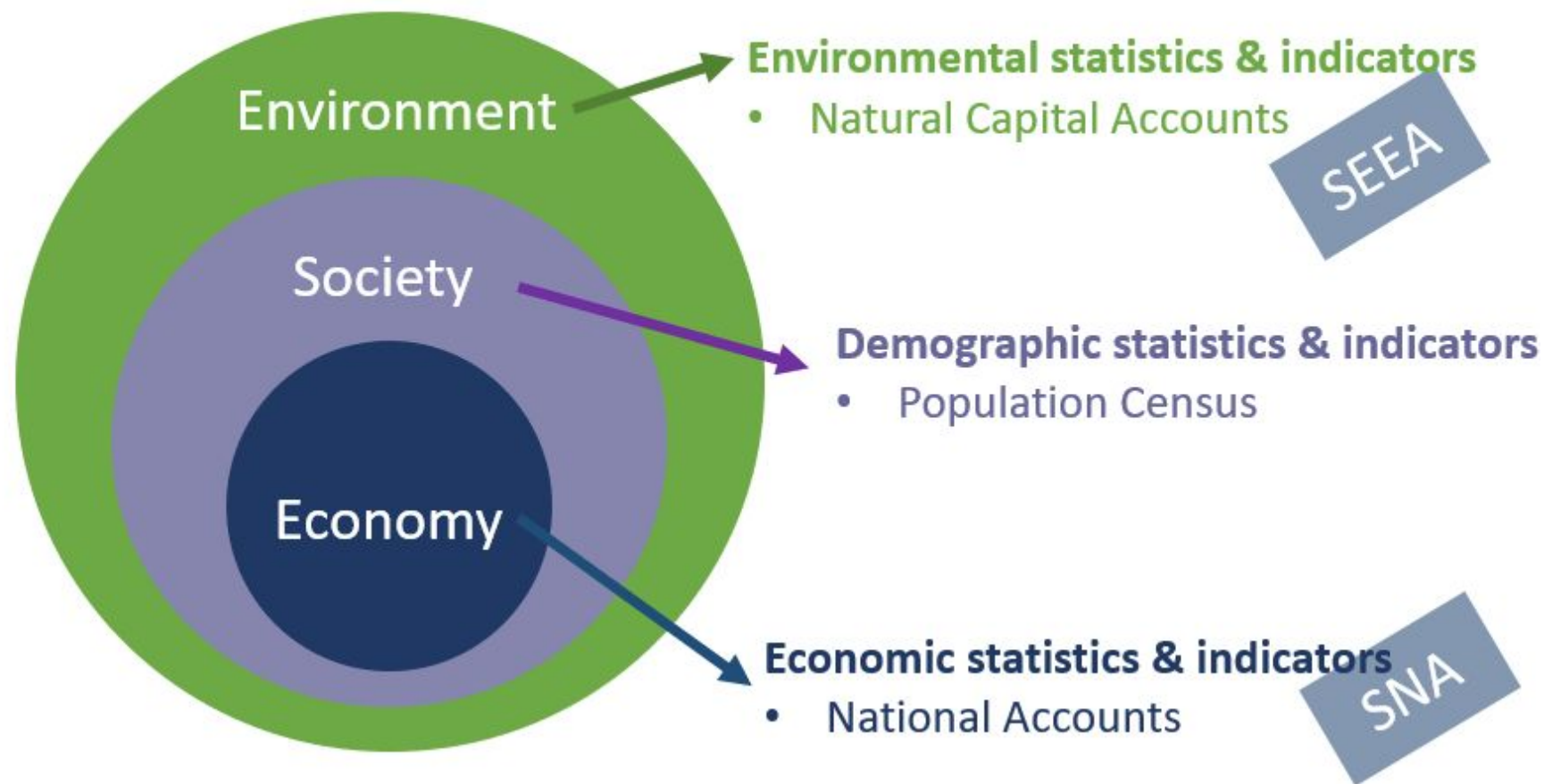


Five lessons and take-homes

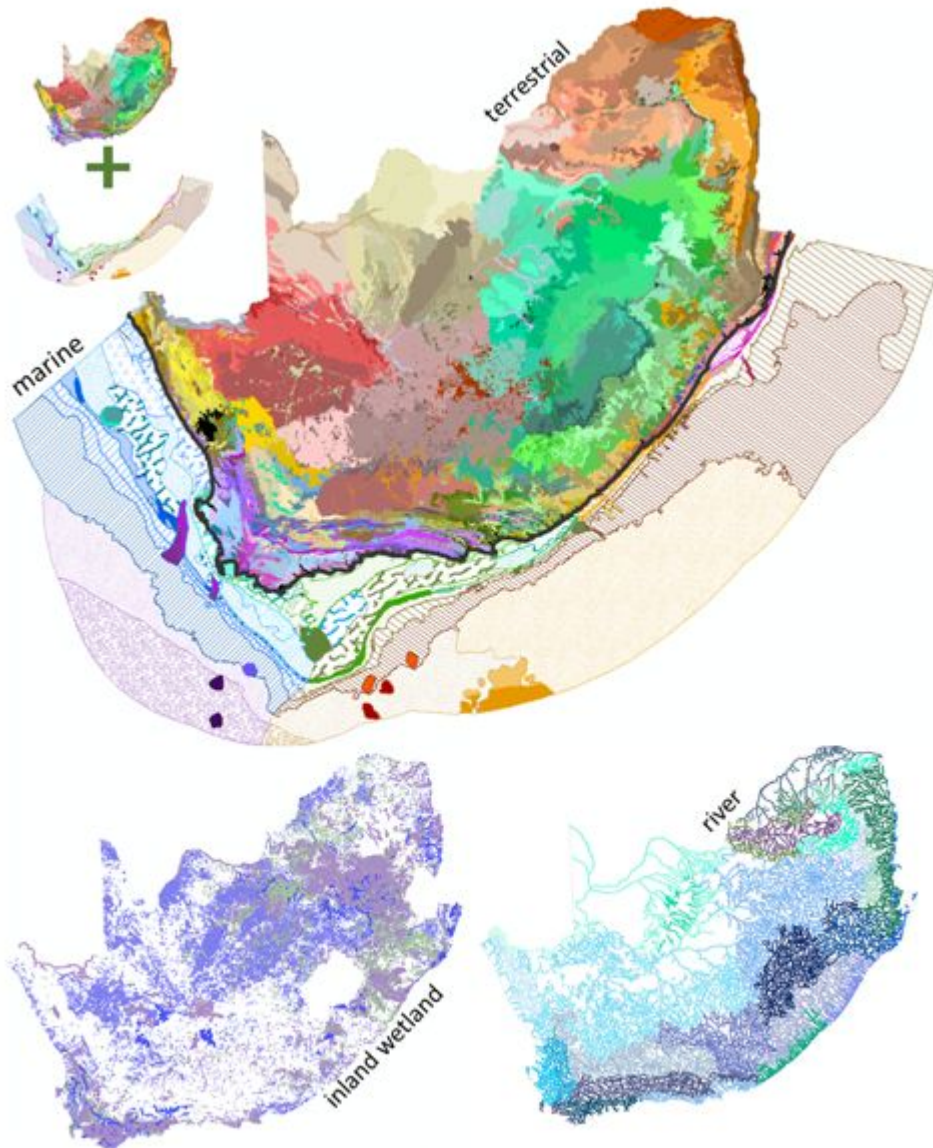
NCA is a powerful mainstreaming tool

- NSOs provide credibility and consistency
- Boosts incorporation of ecosystems and biodiversity into national policy and other decision making

NCA elevates the status of environmental statistics and indicators

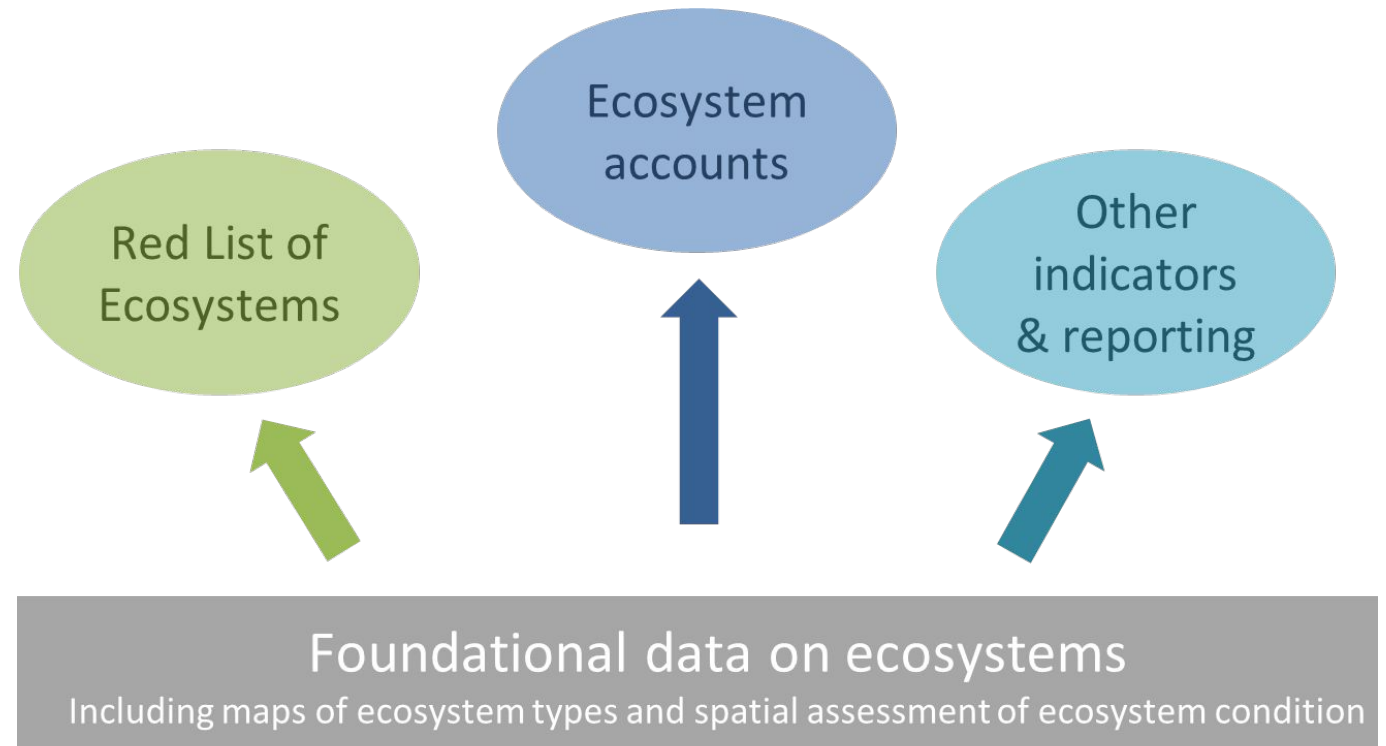


Good science on ecosystems underpins good ecosystem accounts

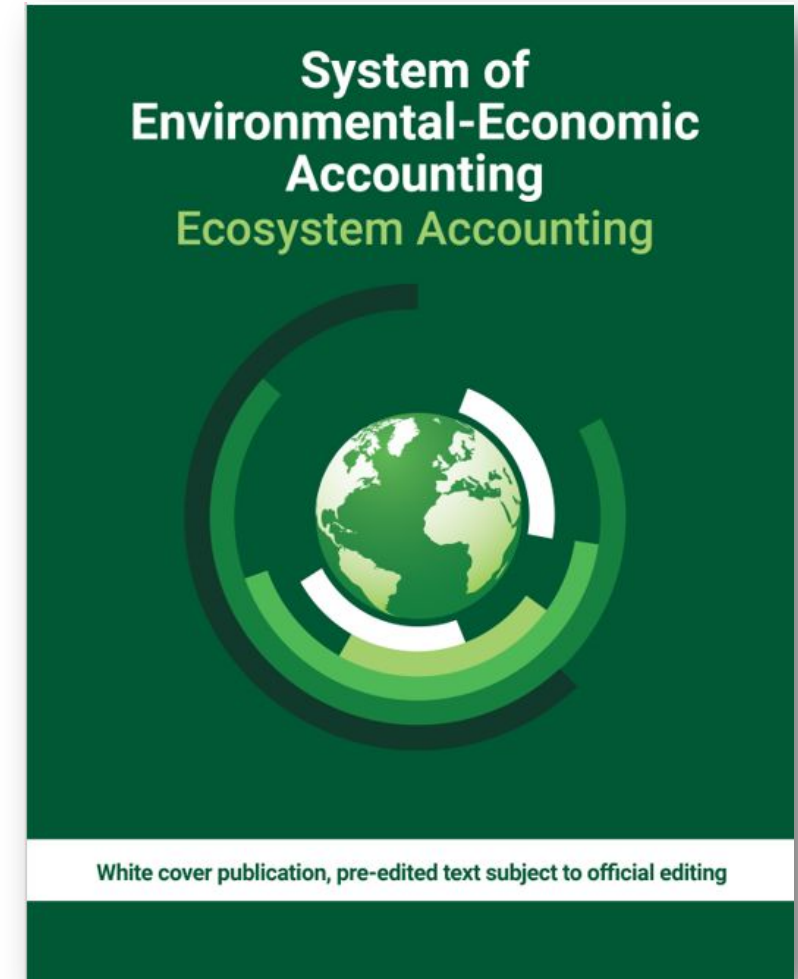
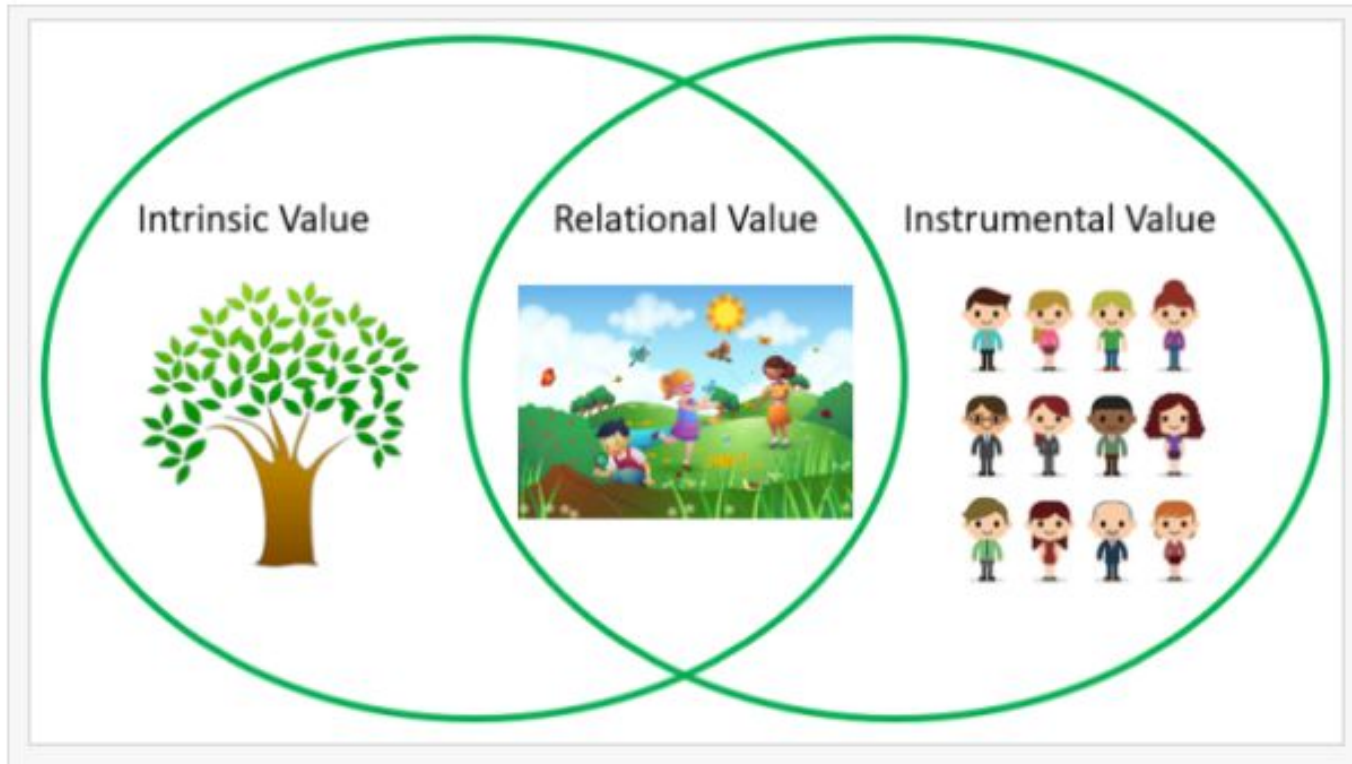


South African National Ecosystem Classification System (SA-NECS)

- Maps and classifies ecosystem types across all realms
- Cross-walks nicely to the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology 😊
- Recently adopted as a standard by Statistics SA



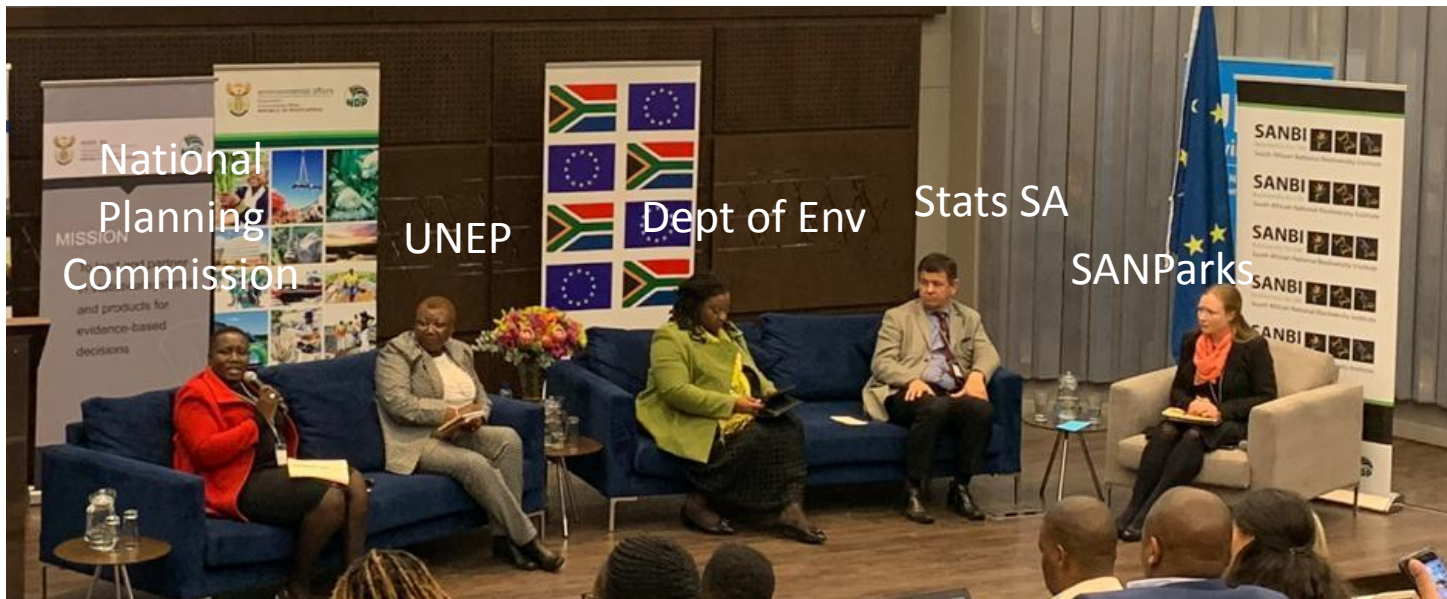
SEEA Ecosystem Accounting can support **multiple value perspectives** on nature



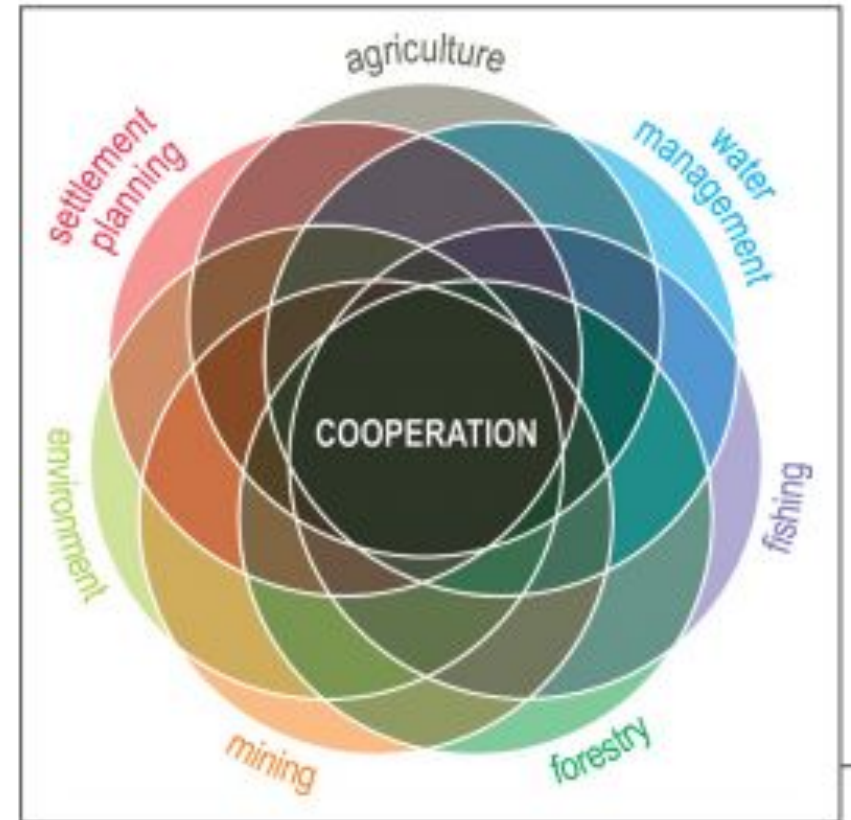
- Accounting is not always about money!
- Biophysical metrics are powerful in their own right – can be used in many different applications

Ecosystem accounting can catalyse new relationships and partnerships

- Collaboration between ecologists, economists and statisticians
- Collaboration across sectors
- These partnerships aren't formed overnight
- Requires champions



Panel discussion at the National NCA Forum, July 2019



Donor resources have helped to unlock and leverage national capacity

Advancing Natural Capital Accounting 2014-2015

1

Logos of partner organizations for Advancing Natural Capital Accounting 2014-2015:

- SANBI Biodiversity for Life South African National Biodiversity Institute
- stats sa Department: Statistics South Africa REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- CSIR our future through science
- EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE conservation, naturalness & tourism
- water & sanitation Department: Water and Sanitation REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- United Nations Statistics Division
- UNEP
- Convention on Biological Diversity

Layering of successive projects has been a key success factor

Natural Capital Accounting & Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Learn more

3

ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WATER SECURITY

Unlocking development finance to secure ecological infrastructure for water security in critical water catchments

EI4WS 2019 – 2023

□ has an NCA component

2

NCAVES 2018 - 2020

Logos of partner organizations for NCAVES 2018 - 2020:

- stats sa Department: Statistics South Africa REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- environmental affairs Department: Environmental Affairs REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
- SANBI Biodiversity for Life South African National Biodiversity Institute
- European Union flag
- United Nations
- UN environment
- System of Environmental Economic Accounting
- 2030 NDP

Do more

Invest in ecological infrastructure and natural resources to achieve national development goals

www.sanbi.org.za

www.facebook.com/sanbi

@sanbi_za

Logos of partner organizations for EI4WS 2019 – 2023:

- Environmental Affairs Science and Technology Water and Sanitation
- SANBI Biodiversity for Life South African National Biodiversity Institute
- WATER RESEARCH PROJECTS
- gef
- DBSA Development Bank of Southern Africa
- stats sa Department: Statistics South Africa REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA