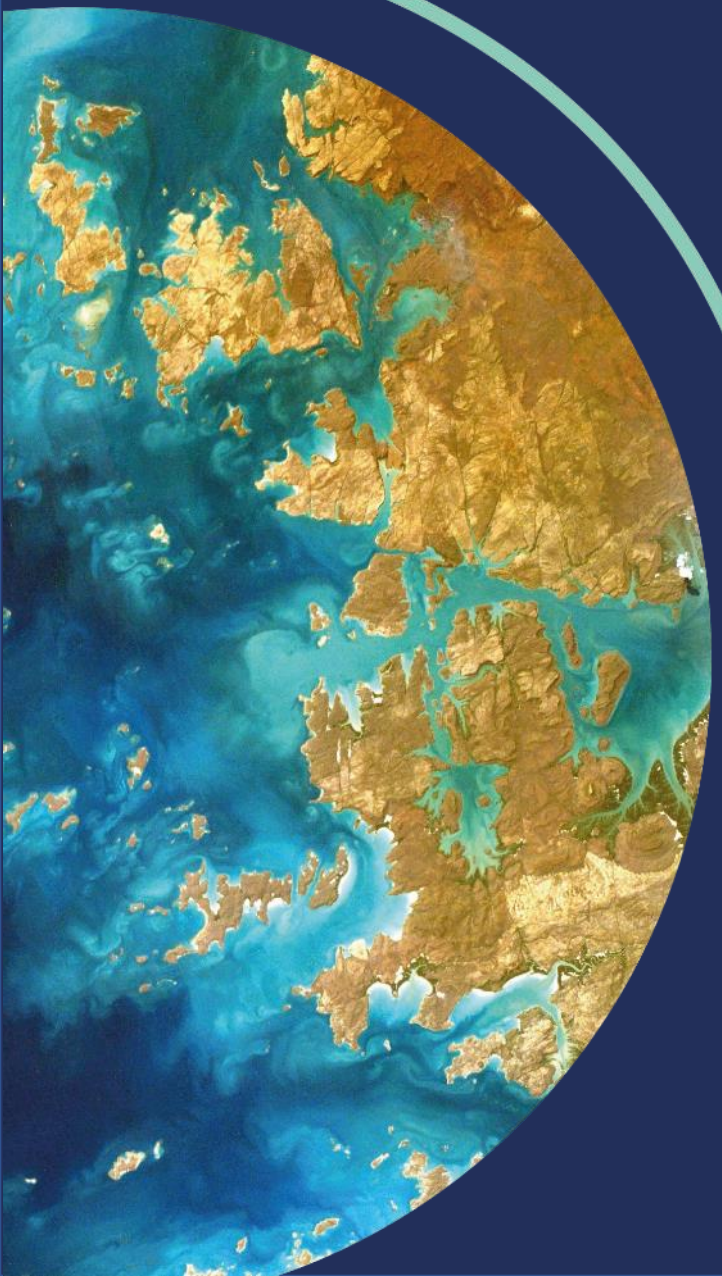
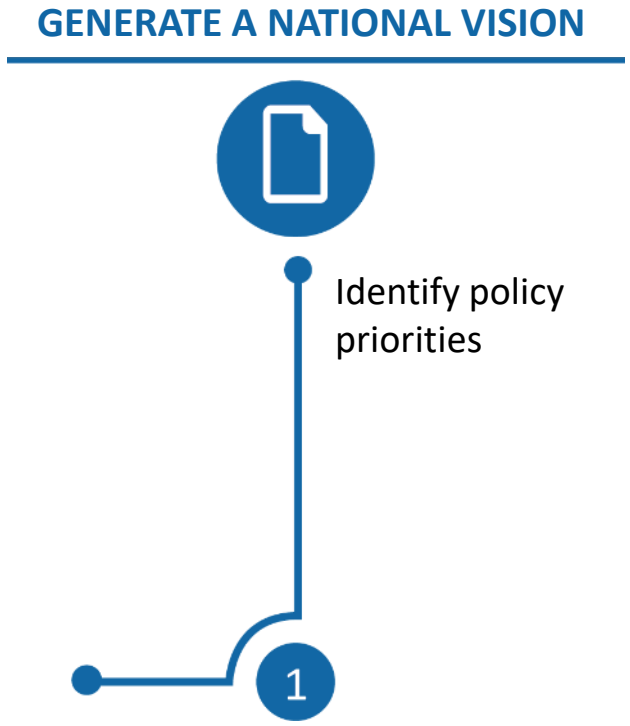


POLICY ANALYSIS OF SOUTH AFRICA

How to identify synergies between national policies for biodiversity, climate change and human well-being?

OBJECTIVE

- Identify key policy documents that guide action on nature, climate and sustainable development in South Africa
- Evaluate documents to identify all nature-based targets
- These nature-based targets will provide us with a foundation to start the policy hackathon



METHODS

METHODS

- Work with in-country partners to identify up to ~10 key policy documents
- Perform a keywords search in each document to identify nature-based targets
- Write the targets in the Excel matrix according to their corresponding theme:
    1. Nature (biodiversity and ecosystems)
    2. Natural climate solutions (carbon sequestration)
    3. Sustainable development (water security, food security, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods)
- Identify targets that are mappable, i.e. can be supported by mapping

1. SOUTH AFRICA | IDENTIFICATION OF POLICY DOCUMENTS

1. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2015-2025
2. Strategic Plan of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (SPDFFE), 2019/20 - 2023/24
3. National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS), 2019
4. National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES), 2016
5. National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (NBES), 2016
6. Strategic Framework and Overarching Implementation Plan for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (SFOIPEA), 2016-2021
7. National Botanical Garden Expansion Strategy (NBGES), 2019–2030
8. National Water Resource Strategy (NWRS), 2013
9. NDP Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2019-2024
10. Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP)
11. Low Emissions Development Strategy 2050 (LEDS)

2. SOUTH AFRICA | NEW DOCUMENTS

Included in the analysis:

- Land Degradation Neutrality Targets

Not included in the analysis:

- National EbA Action Plan and Priority Map Report
- Green Book
- National Climate Change Information System
- National Climate Change Response Policy
- National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and to Mitigate the Effects of Drought for South Africa
- Draft Conservation Agriculture Policy
- Draft Climate-Smart Agriculture Strategic Framework
- Climate Change Bill
- Conservation Agricultural Resources act. no 43 of 1983 (include national grazing capacity data layer)
- Spatial Land Use Management Act
- National Biodiversity Framework

3. SOUTH AFRICA | EXCEL MATRIX SYNTHESIS

Nature - Species & Ecosystem Persistence						
Policy document	**Objectives/Actions**	**Outcomes**	**Indicators**	**Base line**	**Targets*/Vision**	**Comments**
NBSAP	Management of biodiversity assets and their contribution to the economy, rural development, job creation and social well-being is enhanced	1.1 The network of protected areas and conservation areas includes a representative sample of ecosystems and species, and is coherent and effectively managed.	Areas protected under the Protected Areas Act (ha, km, km2)	N/A	By 2028, in protected areas: 10.8m land-based hectares, 353km inshore, 210 000km2 marine offshore in SA's EEZ plus 93 300km2 marine offshore in Prince Edward Islands EEZ	(GP) Note that the source given for this is the NPAES - but the numbers given are those from the 2008 NPAES, not the 2016 version. This number having since been updated, our focus should be on this latest PA target
		1.2 Species of special concern are sustainably managed	Status of threatened and protected species		No species status (of threatened and protected) declines	
			% of threatened species conserved ex situ		60% of threatened plant species conserved ex situ	
			% of species with ex situ collections active in restoration programmes		1% of plant species with ex situ collections active in restoration programmes	
	Promote, manage and provide strategic leadership on oceans and coastal conservation	Strengthened knowledge, science and policy interface	Percentage increase of the EEZ under marine protected areas	In 2017/2018, 0,4% of the EEZ under protection	By 2023/2024, final Research report on possible additional 5% of oceans an coastal area protection compiled	
	Ensure the regulation and management of all biodiversity, heritage and conservation matters in a manner that facilitates sustainable economic growth and development.	Ecosystems conserved, managed and sustainably used	Percentage of land under conservation	In 2017/2018, 12.96% (15,797,120.74 /121,909,000.00)	By 2023/2024, 15.7% (19 175 164 / 121,909,000 ha) in total land under conservation for 2023/2024. 0.5% of land under conservation added	
			Number of new national parks established	N/A	By 2023/2024, 2 national parks declared	
			Percentage of area of state managed protected areas assessed with a METT score above 67%	In 2017/2018, 75% of area of state managed protected areas assessed with a METT score above 67%	By 2023/2024, 90% (6 566 977 / 7 296 641ha) of area of state managed protected areas assessed with a METT score above 67%	
			Number of interventions to ensure conservation of strategic water sources and wetlands developed and implemented	N/A	By 2023/2024, 5 wetlands of international significance (Ramsar sites) designated	
					By 2023/2024, 11 of 22 strategic water source areas secured	
			Number of hectares receiving initial clearing of invasive plant species	In 2017/2018, 167 017 ha	By 2023/2024, the number of hectares receiving initial clearing of invasive plant species is brought to 167 439 (794 419) ha	

SUMMARY | Human - DRR, Food&Water, Jobs | Natural Climate Solutions | **Nature - Species & Ecosystem** | Area-based ...

RESULTS

WHAT ARE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS?

Actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems to directly address societal challenges in an efficient and adaptive manner, while ensuring human well-being and producing biodiversity benefits

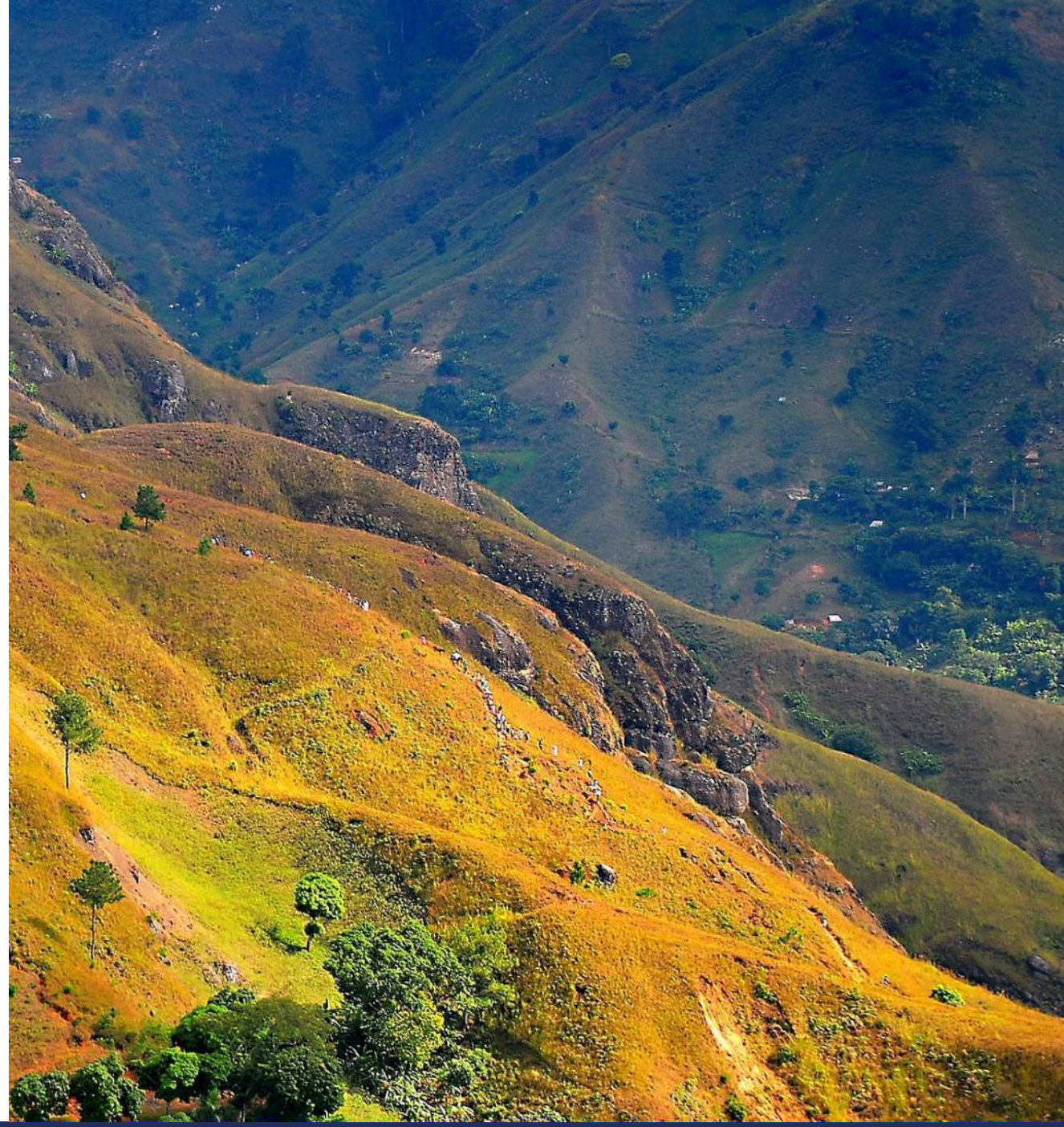
Cohen-Schaman et al. 2016 (IUCN)

COMMON THEMES AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE DOCUMENTS ANALYZED

- Urban greening
- Water security
- Invasive alien species
- Protection of threatened ecosystems
- Ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Climate change mitigation
- Climate change adaptation

HIGHLY AMBITIOUS TARGETS

- MTSF: 80% of degraded ecological infrastructure restored by 2024.
- NBES: Conservation Area Expansion: 2 million ha of private owned, communal and reform land improved and developed for conservation and commercial game ranching
- NPAES: 255 877km2 need to be added to the protected area network over the next 20 years (by 2035)
- SPDFFE: By 2023/2024, 90% (6 566 977 / 7 296 641ha) of area of state managed protected areas assessed with a METT score above 67%



COMPLEMENTARY TARGETS

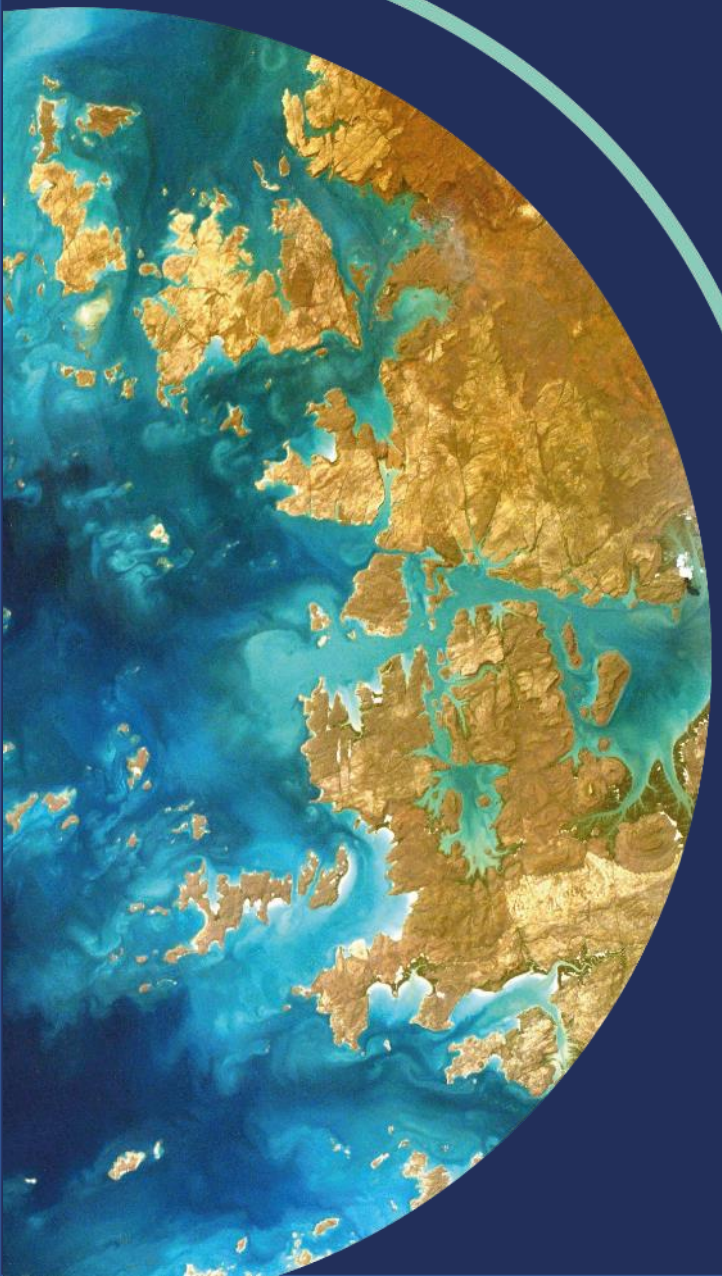
1. Wetland protection
    - SPDFFE, NWRS
2. Reforestation
    - NCCAS, SPDFFE
3. Invasive alien species
    - NCCAS, SPDFFE
4. Biodiversity economy
    - NBSAP, SPDFFE, NBES

REFLECTIONS AND INSIGHTS ON ANALYSIS

- NBS are not always explicitly identifiable on the basis of the elements presented within the objectives or strategies.
- Majority of policy commitments contain a dedicated timeframe and indicator(s) but few provide baselines to evaluate the feasibility and monitor the progress to achieve the set objectives.
- Most targets from the NBSAP could not be considered in the analysis since they are now outdated. Only the 20-year targets from the NPAES were considered in the analysis since they are valid until 2035. All 5-year targets were removed from the final list of targets, as they are now outdated.
- The SPDFFE, NPAES, MTSF and NBSAP were identified as the most detailed documents, as they concentrate most area-based objectives, quantitative indicators and included a timeframe for their implementation.
- The NBES shows a good alignment with the NBSAP's biodiversity economy targets. The SPDFFE is well aligned with the MTSF as they show very similar and some identical targets.
- Many NBS-related targets and ambitions in its current policies. Policy alignment needed to promote synergies and impact and optimize available resources.

Link to policy analysis

- The policy analysis can be found at this link: https://www.learningfornature.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ELSA-Policy-Analysis-South-Africa_final-mappable-targets-6.xlsx



THANK YOU!

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