



Invitation

14th National Biodiversity Planning Forum

20–23 June 2017, Nombolo Mdhluhi Conference Centre, Skukuza Camp, Kruger National Park

Theme: Biodiversity prioritisation to support spatial planning for the rural economy

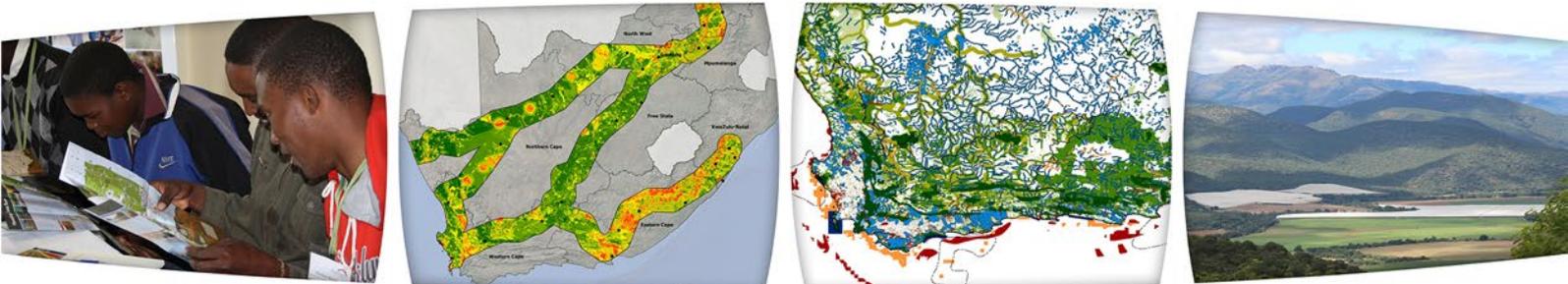
The Biodiversity Planning Forum, established in 2004, provides an opportunity for individuals, agencies and departments involved in spatial biodiversity planning to share and synthesise valuable lessons from systematic biodiversity planning projects across South Africa. Much of the biodiversity planning done in South Africa underpins strategic interventions and supports improved environmental decision-making.

The theme for the 2017 Forum focuses on biodiversity prioritisation to support spatial planning in other sectors, especially sectors that are central to the rural economy. Unlocking the potential of rural economies is one of the national priorities for South Africa. Sessions will focus on biodiversity planning products that identify biodiversity priority areas and how these interface with other key land uses in rural areas. The Forum will allow the biodiversity planning community of practice to explore how our work links or could link with other spatial planning initiatives including planning for protected area buffers, mapping and prioritisation in the agriculture sector, and spatial planning for the wildlife economy. It will also include a focus on global work on spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritisation, and an opportunity for participants to engage with the National Biodiversity Assessment 2018.

Key sessions for the 2017 Forum

- Global approaches to biodiversity prioritisation
- Key biodiversity areas and links to biodiversity planning
- Spatial aspects of the wildlife economy
- Spatial planning and agriculture
- Spatial planning in protected areas and their buffers
- Mapping, assessment and prioritisation of ecological infrastructure
- National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) 2018
- Spatial data and information systems relating to biodiversity planning
- Implementation of biodiversity plans: challenges and opportunities (especially in relation to the overall theme)
- New biodiversity plans and updates from existing biodiversity planning processes

The focus in all these sessions will be on the technical aspects of biodiversity planning and its implementation. Sessions will concentrate on *new approaches, methodologies and issues identified and undertaken* since the previous Forum. The sessions will follow various formats depending on the nature of the discussions and the information to be shared.



Who should attend?

The Forum is intended primarily for those involved in the technical aspects of biodiversity planning and the production and use of biodiversity planning products. This includes people from conservation agencies, provincial environmental and conservation departments, conservation NGOs, universities and research institutes, and independent biodiversity planning consultants.

Call for presentations

Participants are invited to submit 200-word abstracts of papers on a relevant key session by no later than 8 May 2017. The abstracts should be in Calibri font, size 11 and 1.5 line spacing, and should be accompanied by the following: full names, title and affiliation of presenter and co-authors, and contact details of the presenter (including landline and cell phone numbers, an e-mail address and a postal address) and co-authors (e-mail address only). If accepted the presentation length will be confirmed with you.

Please note that due to limited time not all proposed presentations will be selected. Presentations need to be relevant to the sessions and criteria highlighted above in order to be considered. **The organisers would like to encourage speakers who have not previously presented their work at the Forum to submit an abstract.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to bpf@sanbi.org.za. The Forum's organising committee will confirm acceptance/rejection of papers by 15 May 2017.

Interactive poster and exhibition session

There will also be an opportunity to exhibit posters and other biodiversity planning products. Please bring any maps, posters, etc. with you for display and discussion purposes during this session. Please submit your poster abstract by 8 May 2017 to bpf@sanbi.org.za to ensure it is included in the programme.

Sponsorship for students and interns

We place a big emphasis on capacity building and would like to encourage students and interns to attend the Forum. Sponsorships are available to support students and interns involved in spatial biodiversity planning assessments, prioritisation and GIS mapping with either travel costs, or the cost of the Forum, or both. Students and interns, in relevant fields, should apply for this sponsorship by sending a motivation to bpf@sanbi.org.za by 8 May 2017. The motivation should include the following:

- Full names of student/intern
- Contact details (including landline and cell phone numbers, an e-mail address and a postal address)
- Names of supervisor/s including contact details (landline and cell phone numbers, and e-mail address)
- Academic record and proof of registration/internship for 2017
- A motivation of not more than 500 words highlighting interest and experience in spatial biodiversity planning assessments, prioritisation and GIS mapping and how participating in the Forum will contribute to your studentship/internship

The Forum's organising committee will notify applicants of approved funding by 15 May 2017.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Abstract submissions	8 May 2017
Student sponsorship motivation	8 May 2017
Early-bird payments	19 May 2017
Cancellations (via e-mail only)	19 May 2017
Registration closes	29 May 2017
All other payments	5 June 2017
Official opening of Forum	14:00 on 20 June 2017
Official closing of Forum	13:00 on 23 June 2017
Accommodation check-in	14:00 onwards on 20 June 2017
Accommodation check-out	Before 10:00 on 23 June 2017

Registration details and fees	On or before 19 May 2017	After 19 May 2017 and on or before 29 May 2017
Full delegate (single , dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights in bungalow with own bathroom)	R6 600.00	R7 300.00
Full delegate (sharing , dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights in bungalow with own bathroom)	R4 950.00	R5 450.00
Full delegate (single , dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights in safari tent with communal bathroom)	R4 800.00	R5 300.00
Full delegate (sharing , dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights in safari tent with communal bathroom)	R3 900.00	R4 300.00
Day delegate for entire Forum (no accommodation or breakfast)	R2 550.00	R2 800.00
Day delegate for entire Forum (no accommodation, breakfast or dinner)	R1 900.00	R2 100.00
Day delegate (single day, no accommodation, breakfast or dinner)	R600.00	R650.00
Day delegate (single day, with single accommodation, dinner and breakfast)	R1 850.00	R2 050.00
Accompanying adult (sharing, dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights)	R3 300.00	R3 300.00
Accompanying adult (sharing accommodation only for three nights, no meals)	R2 200.00	R2 200.00
Accompanying child under 12 (sharing, dinner, bed and breakfast for three nights)	R850.00	R850.00
Accompanying child under 12 (sharing accommodation only for three nights, no meals)	R250.00	R250.00
Camping (1–2 people per site, communal bathroom, for three nights including breakfast and dinner, bring own equipment)*	R3 450.00 (per delegate)	R3 800.00 (per delegate)

*Note: a maximum of 6 people are allowed per camping site. There is an additional charge of R88.00 per night (accompanying adults (no meals)) and R44.00 per night (accompanying children (no meals)).

Payment details and conditions

- Participants will be required to cover their own Forum costs as detailed above. This fee includes accommodation, dinner and breakfast for three nights, registration and conference fees, including lunch, unless specified otherwise above.
- Participants will be expected to pay for additional drinks at the Forum and a cash bar will be available. Participants do receive one soft drink each with their lunch and dinner.
- Due to space limitations, we request that, if possible, participants share rooms. Kruger National Park is a very popular tourist attraction and accommodation is limited.
- Delegates will be allocated accommodation on receipt of payment or an official order on a first come first accommodated basis. Please note that your preferred accommodation option may not be available.
- Participants will have to cover the costs of and arrange their own transport to and from the venue.
- To take advantage of the early-bird registration fee discount, payments must be received before 19 May 2017.
- Participants will receive revised invoices for payment after 19 May 2017 (early-bird deadline) and will be liable for the difference.
- Payments received after 29 May 2017 (payment deadline) will attract a 5% surcharge, unless an official order is received.
- FURTHER PAYMENT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ON THE REGISTRATION FORM.

Cancellations

- All cancellations must be done in writing and sent to Jackey (bpf@sanbi.org.za) by 29 May 2017.
- Any registered participant failing to cancel by the due date will be liable to pay the FULL AMOUNT as indicated on their registration form.

REGISTER BY COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT JACKEY ON
bpf@sanbi.org.za OR dot@mpu.co.za.