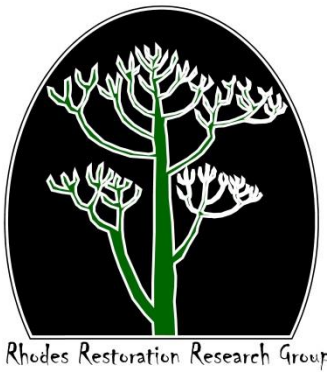
Pristine Albany Thicket for a one year crop of water melons – can Woolworths and Marks and Spencer please explain?



Mike Powell
Restoration Research Group (RRRG)
Rhodes University, South Africa.
mpowell@ru.ac.za

Thicket Forum 2013
September 4th

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Thicket Forum 2012

ARE MELONS A THREAT TO SUNDAYS RIVER THICKET?

Div de Villiers
12-09-2012

Thicket Forum 2012

Div de Villiers 12-09-2012

New NEMA Regulations 2010: listing notice 3 even stricter for clearing indigenous vegetation in critical biodiversity areas (includes thicket) – cannot clear > 1ha without authorisation

Clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more of vegetation where 75% or more vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation, In Eastern Cape outside urban areas, **within 10 kilometres from any other protected area identified** in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve.

Thicket Forum 2012

Div de Villiers 12-09-2012

- **Habata Farms** (4000 t) melons/annum
- Distribute nationally and internationally
  Woolworths and Mark and Spencers
- Quality Control – fungi!!!
- Associated with replanting on same lands
- Habata instructed to plant on virgin land or land that has been fallow for 3 years

Thicket Forum 2012

Div de Villiers 12-09-2012

CONCLUSIONS

- Progress with implementation of legislation and awareness
- DEDEAT can only do so much
- It appears that melon farming can have a devastating impact on virgin Thicket
- Need a strategy to address

Questions from 2012?

- Where is the monitoring?
- What are the ECPTA and SANParks Buffer policies?
- Where is the coordinated and cooperative governance? ECIC, DEA, DAFF, etc?
- Where are these guys?

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Questions for 2013+

Taxonomic Group	Species	Endemic Species	Percent Endemism
Plants	8,100	1,900	23.5
Mammals	194	4	2.1
Birds	541	0	0.0
Reptiles	209	30	14.4
Amphibians	72	11	15.3
Freshwater Fishes	73	20	27.4

CI Biodiversity Hotspot

Questions for 2013+

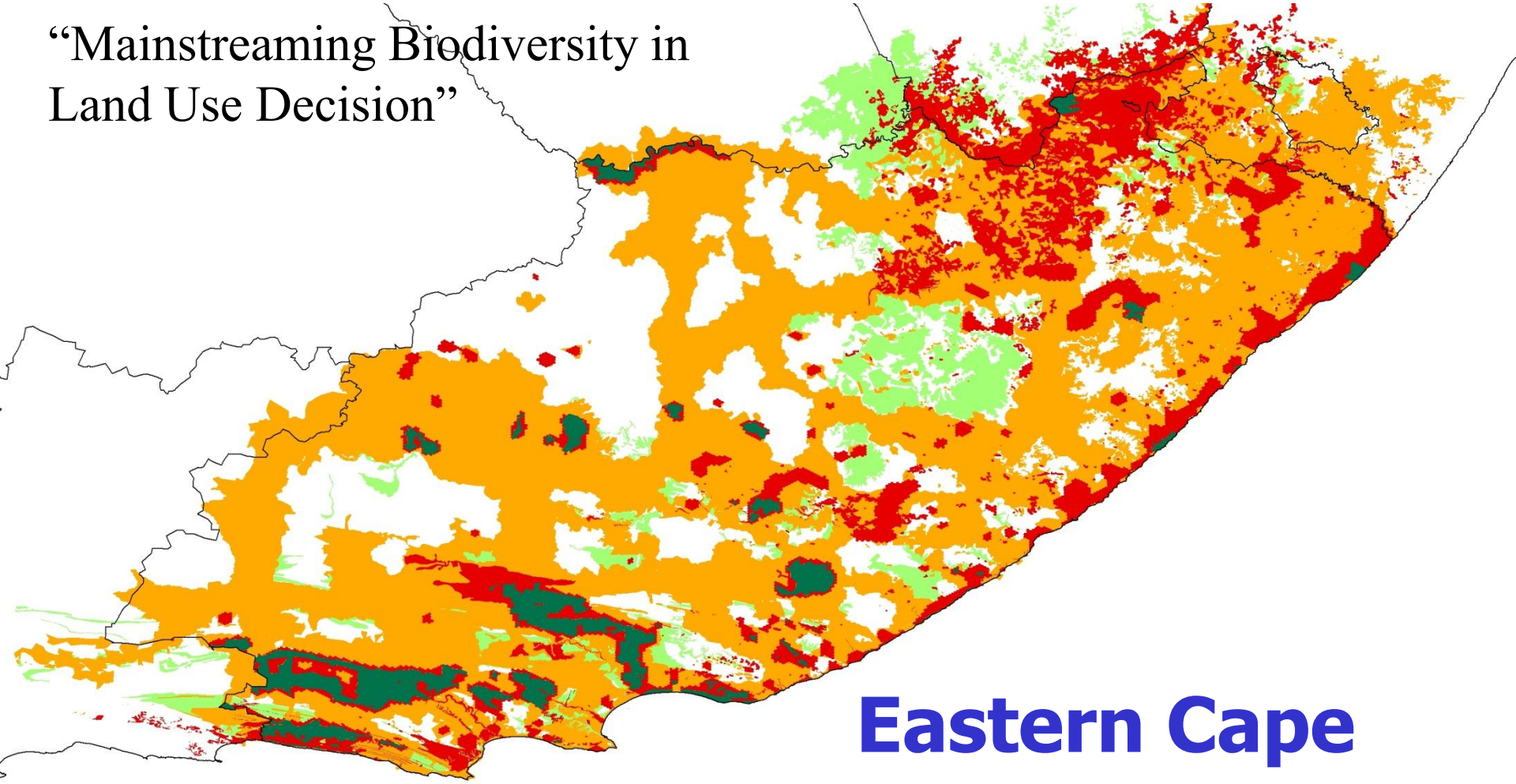
IDPs, SDFs, EMFs, LEAPs, MBSPs

Are we just tickboxing?

Is there capacity and will power to monitor?

Questions for 2013+

"Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Land Use Decision"



Eastern Cape Conservation Plan

Berliner &Desmet 2007.

Critical Biodiversity Areas

CBA map category	Code	BLMC	
Protected areas Terrestrial CBA 1 (not degraded)	PA1 PA2 T1	BLMC 1	Natural landscapes
Terrestrial CBA 1 (degraded) **Terrestrial CBA 2**	**T1** **T2** **C1** **C2**	**BLMC 2**	**Near-natural landscapes**
Other Natural Areas	ONA T3 ONA	BLMC 3	Functional landscapes
Transformed areas	TF	BLMC 4	transformed landscapes

Berliner et al. 2007.

Biodiversity Land Management Class

	Land use Management Class Type			
Landuse	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Conservation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Game farming	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Communal livestock	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Commercial livestock ranching	No	No	Yes	Yes
Dry land cropping	**No**	**No**	**Con**	**Yes**
Irrigated cropping	No	No	Con	Yes
Dairy farming	**No**	**No**	**Con**	**Yes**
Timber	No	No	Con	Yes
Low density rural settlement	No	No	Con	Yes
Low density urban settlement	No	No	Con	Yes
High density urban	No	No	Con	Yes

The case of Alexandria Forest

Data from: Lloyd *et al*. 2002 and Lombard *et al*. 2002.

The case of Gamtoos Valley Thicket

Forests and Woodlands Symposium
PE 2006

"The full restoration of degraded subtropical thicket is going to require considerable financial and institutional resources, as well as a significantly long time line (with no guarantee of full ecosystem recovery). **Society cannot allow the continued mining of natural capital through overstocking of livestock**. The relevant authorities urgently need to **start monitoring** and controlling the **unsustainable harvesting of agricultural resource**s in order to make land users accountable for their actions."

Intergenerational Equity and Natural Capital

“Providence meant to spoil our farmers in placing the spekboom on the hills of the Karroo” Palmer & Pitman pg 111, (1961).

Questions for 2014

Can these guys register for TF 2014 now please?