

Promoting Thicket in Urban Settings



NIKKI KÖHLY

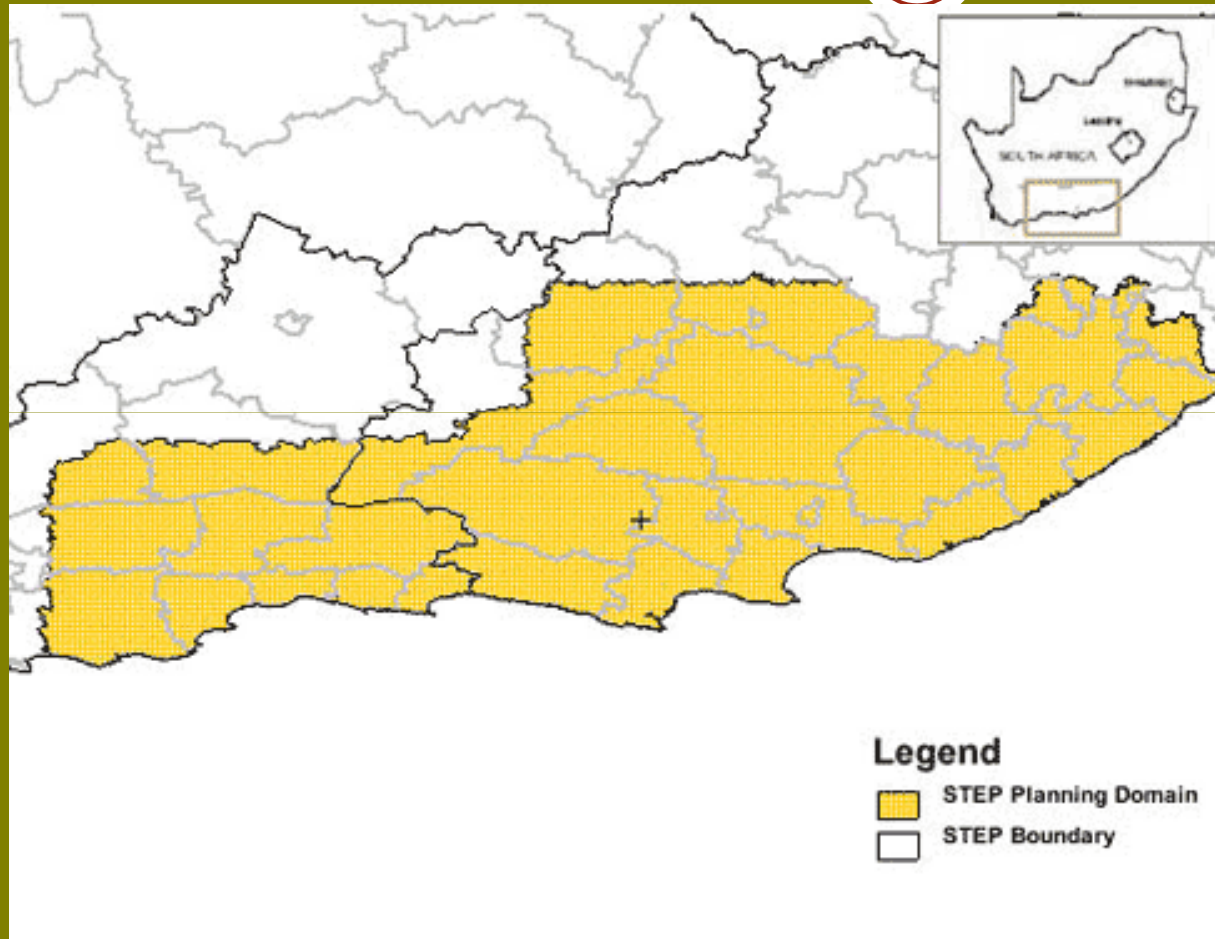
NOVEMBER 2011



Introduction



Extent of Thicket in Urban Areas



- Less than 10% of STEP (Sub-Tropical Planning Ecosystem Project) is covered by urban areas.

McConnachie, Shackleton & McGregor (2008) "The extent of public green space and alien plant species in 10 small towns of the Sub-Tropical Thicket Biome, South Africa".

Views of Thicket



- “... we require a much better appreciation of the ways in which humans view thicket and the choices they would make regarding its use or abuse...”

Knight & Cowling (2003) “Conserving South Africa’s ‘Lost’ Biome. A Framework for Securing Effective Regional Conservation Planning in the Subtropical Thicket Biome”.



Value of Thicket in Urban Settings

a personal view



Low Maintenance Hardy Plants



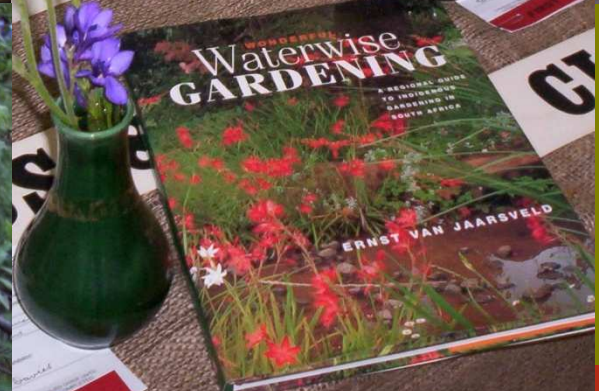


Compared with

high maintenance
(time and money!)



Waterwise Garden





Compared with

thirsty gardens and
empty dams



topo-edapho-climatic constraints



Visit
[http://lifeisagarden.co.za/
home/water-wise-gardening](http://lifeisagarden.co.za/home/water-wise-gardening)

Working with the Soil



Live mulching

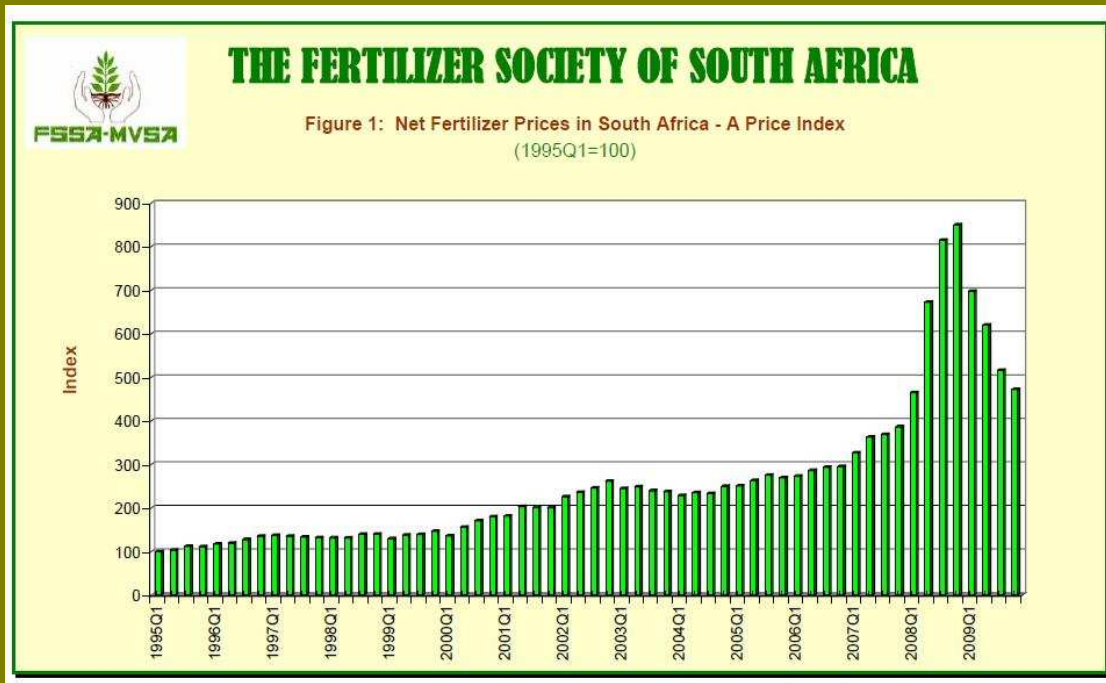
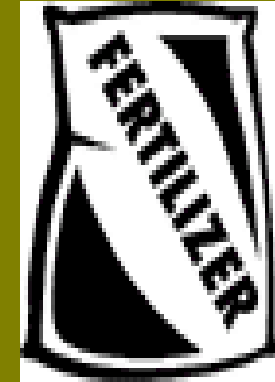


Nitrogen fixing root nodules
(Legume family)



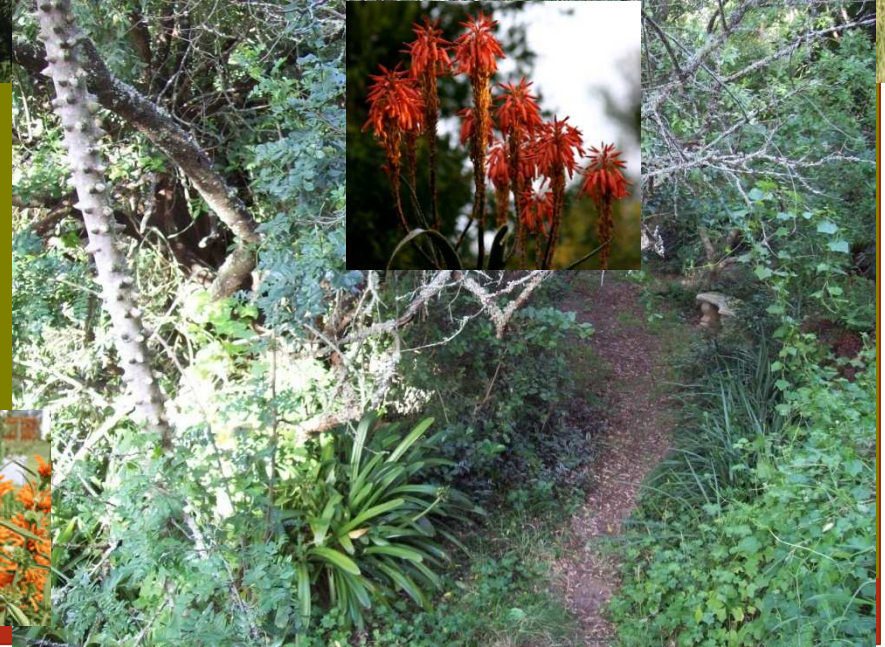
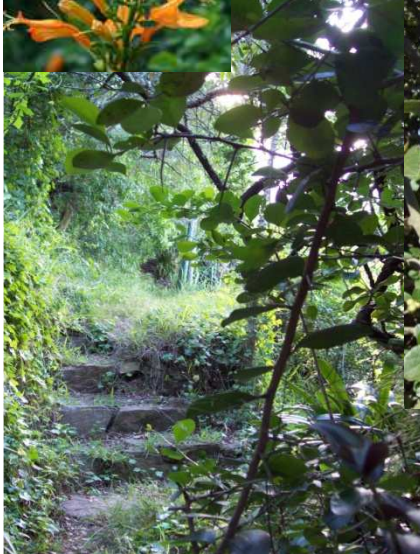
Compared
with

costly chemical
fertiliser



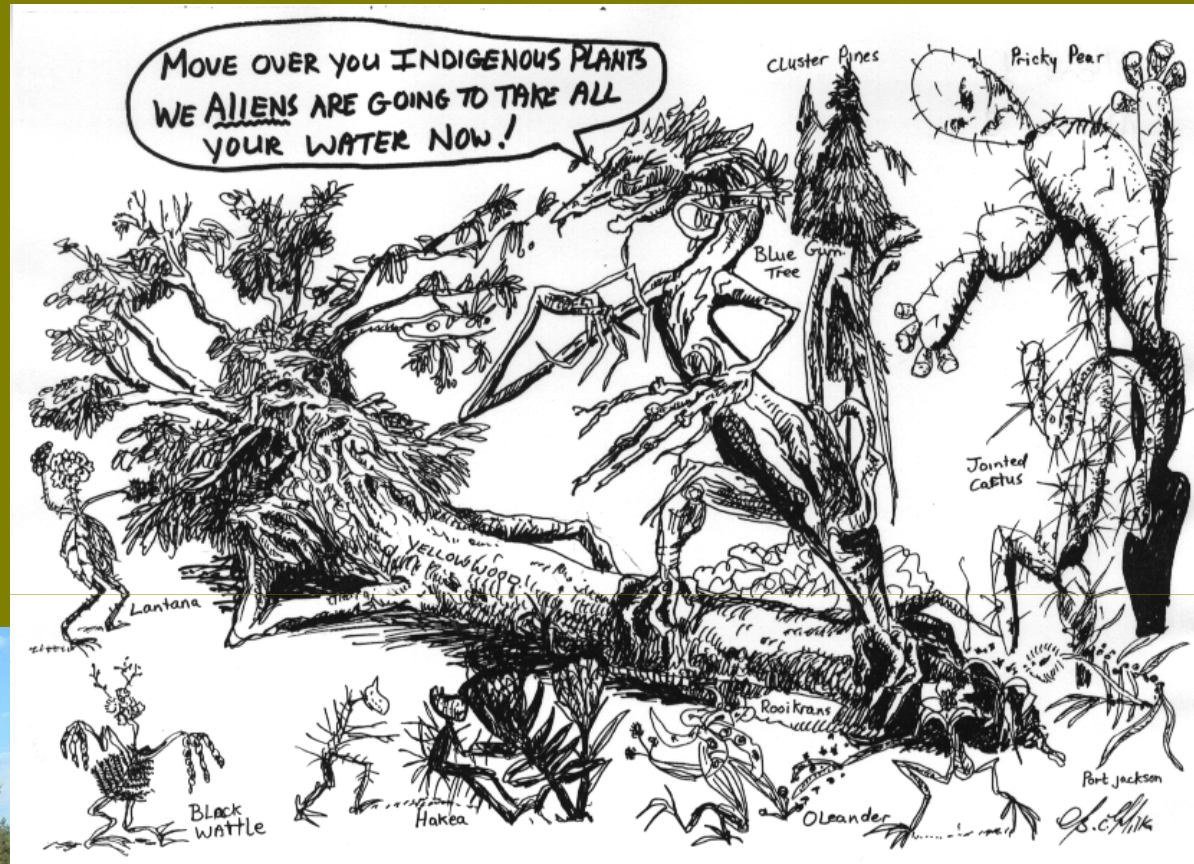
www.fssa.org.za

Local Diversity





Compared with alien invasion



Pretty bad!



Living Fences





Compared with

bare fencing or ... a
shocking experience



Sense of Wilderness





Compared
with
lifeless 'green deserts'



Fireproof Barriers





**Compared
with**
fighting fires



Iconic Species



Iconic Species



Artistic Inspiration



On the cusp of the Eremozoic “the age of loneliness”

Exhibition of Plant Portraits -
exploring the biodiversity of the
Eastern Cape

Prints from
Transparencies
by Dez Weeks

Venue: Albany Science Museum,
through the Blue Planet Gallery

Grahamstown National Arts Festival 2-11 July 2009





Activities supporting Thicket



Green Fund Run




Green Fund Run

8 October
16h30 - 17h30

Starts at entrance to
Makana Botanical Gardens,
Lucas Avenue, Rhodes University

Entry forms available:
Friday 7 October (09h00-15h00) at Eden Grove (Lucas Avenue),
or at the start at least 30 minutes before race,
or online

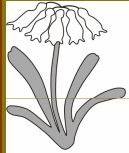
5km
teams/individuals
walk/run



Green Fund Working Group
Rhodes University Environmental Committee
www.ru.ac.za/department/committee/greenfund/annual



Grahamstown Flower Festival



Albany Horticultural Society INCORPORATING THE East Cape Liliium Society

18 Fitzroy Street, Grahamstown 6139
Telephone: 046 622 7720



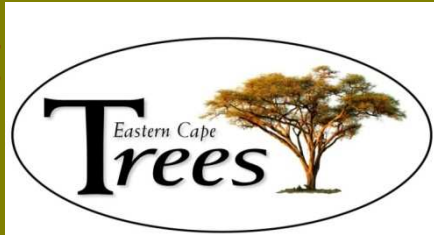
Albany Branch

Botanical Society of South Africa



Botanical Society Award
For the best specimen
of an indigenous species
that merits wider
cultivation in gardens

Tree Growing & Planting Activities



Millennium Tree Planting Project



Other local Organisations



FRIENDS OF
THOMAS BAINES
NATURE RESERVE



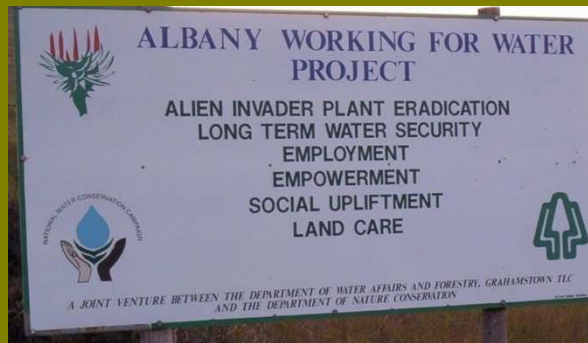
Friends of the
Great Fish
River Reserve

The logo for Inkcubeko Nendalo features a stylized green plant with a red flower. The text "INKCUBEKO NENDALO" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Bio-Cultural Diversity Conservation Programme
Inkcubeko nendalo ("culture and nature")**

The logo for KCC (Kowie Catchment Campaign) features the letters "KCC" in a bold, white, sans-serif font on a blue background.

KCC Kowie Catchment Campaign
Working together for a healthy river catchment





Challenges



Cultural perspectives



- African: bare area around home = tidy household
(see Lubbe, Siebert & Cilliers 2010 “Political legacy of South Africa affects the plant diversity patterns of urban domestic gardens along a socio-economic gradient”)
- English: pretty roses & other non-indigenous flowering plants



Socio-economic status



- Affluent: more species, mostly non-indigenous
- Poor: fewer species, mostly indigenous

(see Lubbe, Siebert & Cilliers 2010 “Political legacy of South Africa affects the plant diversity patterns of urban domestic gardens along a socio-economic gradient”)



Way Forward?

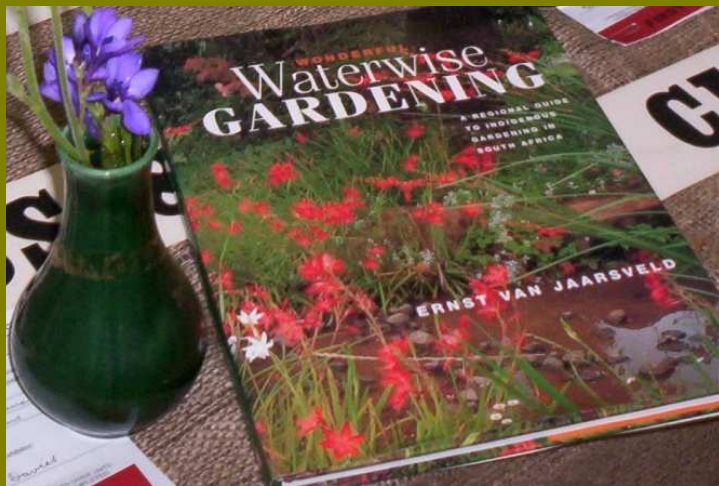
STEP in the right
direction



Popularise Thicket



- Demonstrate the value of thicket in gardens (link human interests to thicket conservation)



Stewardship Agreements



- Nature reserve: legally recognised; exempt from municipal rates
- Protected environment: legally recognised; communal conservation action
- Conservation area: informal, flexible, not legally recognised; includes conservancies



Citizen Science



- Involve gardeners, scholars, interest groups
- Improved understanding of thicket





Eastern Cape Thicket ...

