



grasslands
LIVING IN A WORKING LANDSCAPE



VISION ... To sustain and secure the biodiversity and ecosystem services of South Africa's grasslands biome ... *to strengthen the economy* ... to contribute to social development ... *to become a cornerstone of SA's development path.*

HOW ... Acknowledge production sectors as important stewards of the grasslands biome ... *Negotiate trade-offs between production and conservation needs through market mechanisms, incentives and conservation stewardship* ... Catalyse the experience of existing initiatives in the grasslands biome for greater impact ... *Implement through partnerships.*

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GRASSLANDS

... The grasslands cover **30%** of South Africa's land area and occur in **6 provinces**.

... Grasslands sustain SA's major **economic, agricultural, industrial** and **urban** centres:

6.4 million cattle and 13 million sheep graze the biome.

*It is the **bread basket** of South Africa.*

*It provides the **coal** that feed SA's power stations.*

*The Gauteng economy generates **33.9% of SA's GDP.***

*The total output value of plantation forestry is **R5.4 billion.***

... Grasslands provide the following **ecosystem services**:

Water production, wetlands functioning and flood attenuation.

Good quality soil and forage for livestock.

Culture, heritage and recreational amenities.

Support to livelihoods such as grasses for housing and weaving, and medicinal plants.

... The grasslands biome contains:

***80** vegetation types.*

***42** river ecosystems.*

***3370** plant species.*

***15** of South Africa's 34 endemic mammal species.*

***10** of South Africa's 14 globally threatened bird species.*

***3** world heritage sites.*



GRASSLANDS BIOME ■



AGRICULTURE

Of South Africa's grasslands:

23% is cultivated ... 65% is used for livestock and game grazing

The Grasslands programme works to:

- ... Incorporate biodiversity priority areas into planning and decision-making.
- ... Develop biodiversity management tools for cultivation & grazing.
- ... Design demonstration projects, communications and advocacy.
- ... Initiate range-fed red meat certification.
- ... Promote incentives, e.g. property rates exemption.



FORESTRY

1.25 million hectares of grasslands is currently under monoculture forestry plantations.

The Grasslands programme works to:

- ... Incorporate biodiversity priority areas into planning and decision-making.
- ... Develop biodiversity management tools for forestry.
- ... Support forestry companies expand their conservation stewardship role.
- ... Strengthen forestry certification.



URBAN EXPANSION

By 2015 the cities of Pretoria, Johannesburg, Vereeniging and their surrounds, will be the world's 12th largest megacity (Population = 14.6m)

The Grasslands programme works to:

- ... Integrate biodiversity management into urban planning and decision-making.
- ... Develop biodiversity toolkits.
- ... Strengthen capacity through targeted awareness raising, communications and training.
- ... Secure biodiversity priority areas.

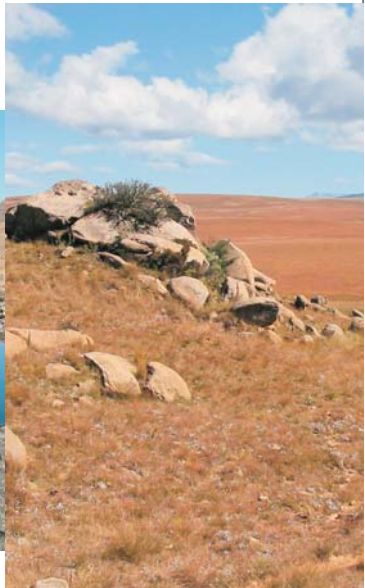


COAL MINING

South Africa is one of the 5 top coal producing countries in the world.

The Grasslands programme works to:

- ... Develop a biodiversity offsets scheme piloting wetland mitigation banking.
- ... Incorporate biodiversity priority areas into planning/decision-making.



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THE GRASSLANDS PROGRAMME IS CURRENTLY FUNDED BY:
 South African Dept. of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT);
 South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI); the United
 Nations Development Programme Global Environment Facility
 (UNDP GEF); and, WWF The Green Trust.



Photography: David Hoare; Richard Lechmere-Oertel; Belinda Reyers; Therese Brinkcate