

**SANBI**

Biodiversity for Life

South African National Biodiversity Institute



# Lessons learned from National Biodiversity Assessments in South Africa

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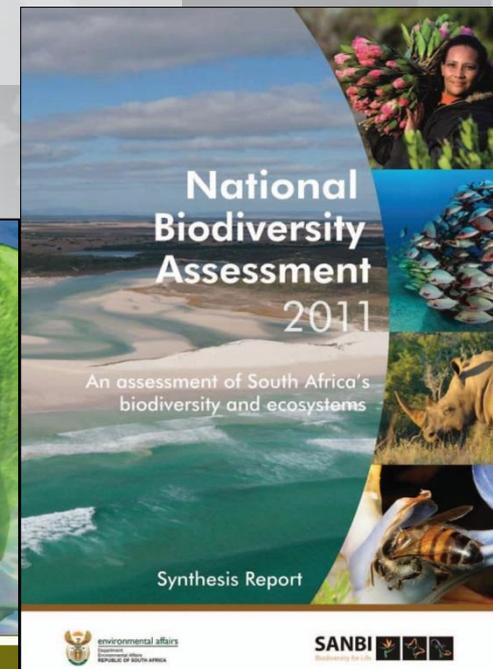
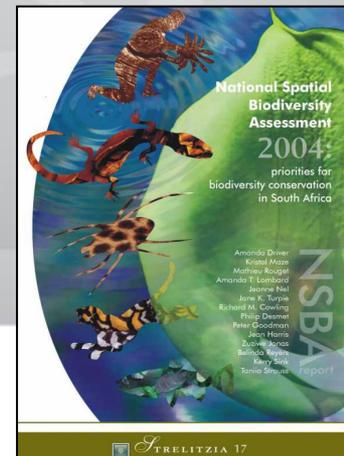
# What is the National Biodiversity Assessment?

- Assesses SA's biodiversity and ecosystems
- Every 5 to 7 years
- Part of SANBI's mandate to monitor and report on the state of biodiversity

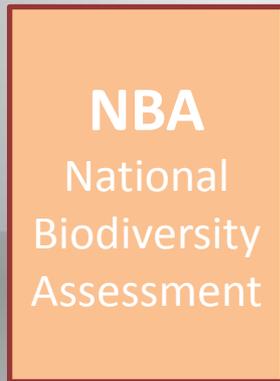
National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004

National Biodiversity Assessment 2011

→ 1<sup>st</sup> assessment across  
terrestrial, river, estuarine & marine  
environments



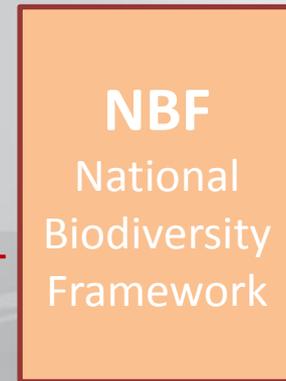
# NBA informs NBSAP and NBF



CBD requirement



Biodiversity Act  
requirement



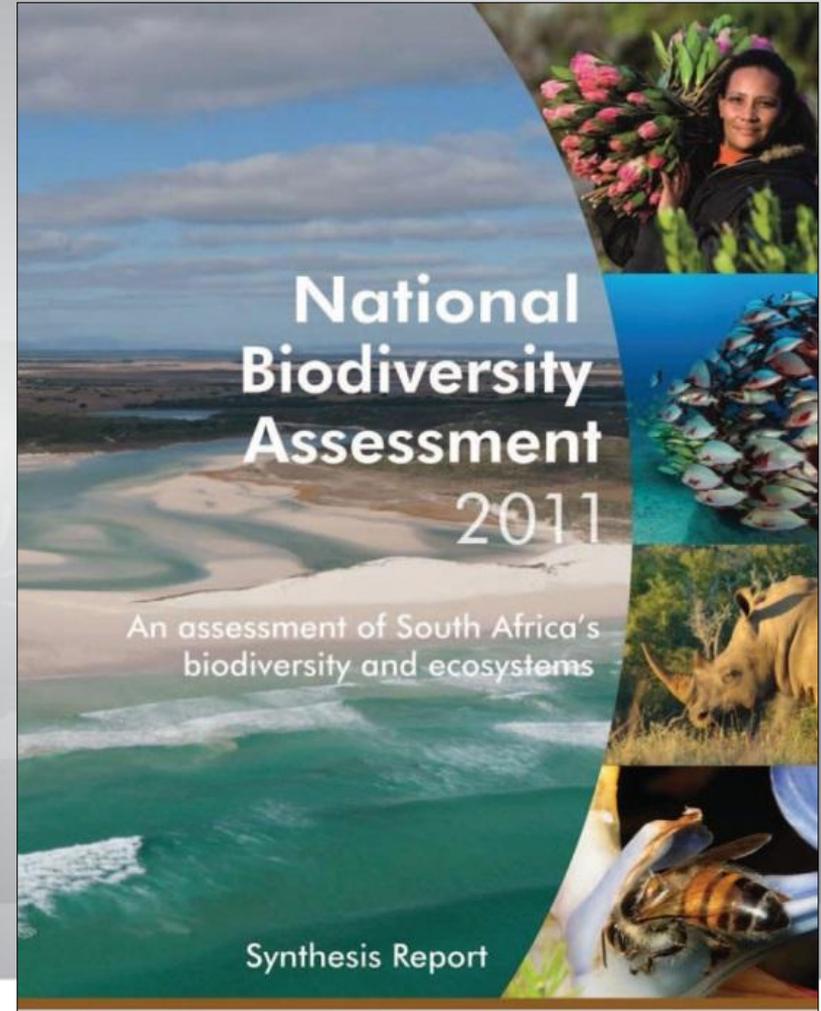
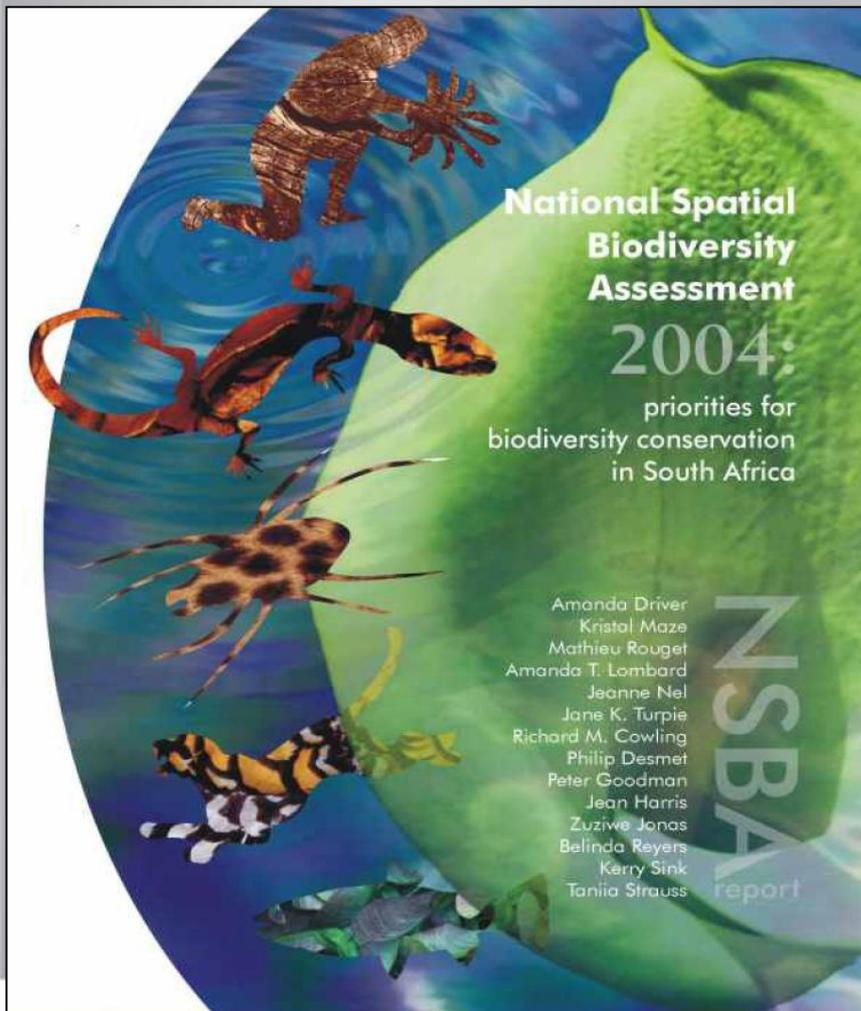
- provides headline indicators for monitoring & reporting
- summarises spatial biodiversity priorities
- based on best available science

- broad, comprehensive
- sets strategic objectives
- sets long-term targets
- based on stakeholder engagement and consultation

- focused
- identifies top priority actions & targets for next five years

NBA = the science  
NBSAP & NBF = “to do”

# Lessons learned from the 2004 and 2011 NBAs



# Lessons learned: Process

- Need an overall conceptual leader to weave golden thread
- Working understanding of the policy environment
- Lots of collaboration- have technical reference groups
- Meetings
- **Can be done with a limited budget (US \$ 50000)**
- Good to have legal framework to work to as well
- Synthesis and technical reports needed



# Lessons learned: Capacity

- Need overlap of people
  - Can lose some but not all people
  - Need people who have some history with the assessment

- Need a core set of dedicated people who understand and the work





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- Credible lead people per component



# Lessons learned: Data

- Ecosystem mapping underpins the assessment
- Good ecological condition key for an assessment
- Expert workshops add value for collecting data on under mapped areas
- Targets – important to agree upon and standardise
- Piggy back on other mapping projects like OMPA and NFEPA
- Data and reports available (<http://bgis.sanbi.org>)



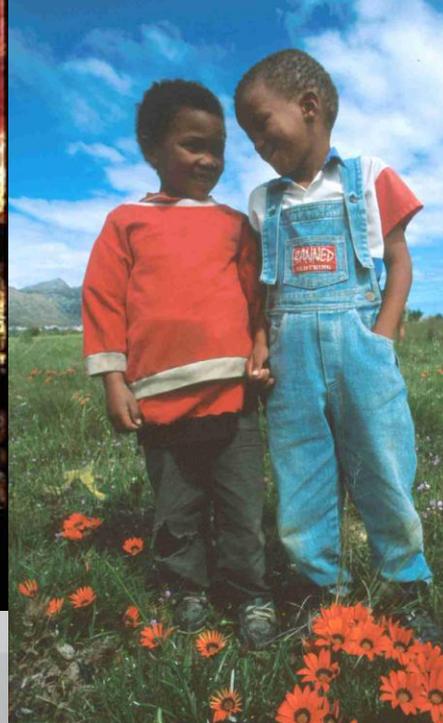
# Value of the assessment

- The first NSBA helped to
  - Serve as proof of concept that it was possible to do a national assessment
  - Helped unlock funding for improving the aquatic component work
  - Used in EIAs
  - Development of headline indicators for ETS and EPL
- Visibility and understanding that biodiversity isn't just species and isn't just terrestrial
- National priorities for species, ecosystems and places

# NBA 2017

- Funding from the Norwegian government
- Capacity building focus, in SANBI and Southern Africa
- Integration into monitoring framework
- Bigger focus on ecosystem services
- Stronger focus on peer reviewed articles in scientific journals





Thank you

