



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 South Africa'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 South Africa'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 South Africa's power stations.*
 - The Gauteng economy generates **33.9% of South Africa'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 in expanding 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.

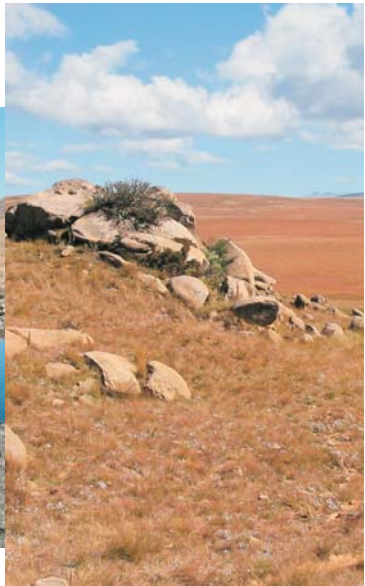


COAL MINING

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 and decision-making.



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