



2012 Biodiversity Planning Forum

Dates: 22–25 May 2012

Venue: Nombolo Mdhluli Conference Centre, Skukuza Camp, Kruger National Park

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1. Background

The Biodiversity Planning Forum was established in 2004 to provide an opportunity for individuals, agencies and departments involved in spatial biodiversity planning to share and synthesise valuable lessons from biodiversity planning projects across South Africa. This Forum is intended primarily for those involved in the technical aspects of biodiversity planning and the production of biodiversity planning products. This includes people from conservation agencies, provincial environmental and conservation departments, conservation NGOs, universities and research institutes (national and international), and bioregional programmes, as well as independent biodiversity planning consultants. The core focus of the Forum is on systematic biodiversity planning, with a key theme being planning for implementation. Much of the biodiversity planning done in South Africa underpins strategic interventions and supports improved environmental decision-making.

The 2012 Biodiversity Planning Forum is co-hosted and co-sponsored by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the South African National Parks (SANParks).

2. Themes

The Forum includes plenary and parallel information sharing sessions, discussion sessions on a variety of technical issues and a poster and exhibition interactive session. Themes for the 2012 Forum may include:

- Using biodiversity plans to inform decisions about mining.
- Climate change adaptation and biodiversity planning.
- Mapping ecosystem services.
- Integration of biodiversity planning products e.g. FEPA maps and provincial biodiversity plans.
- Implementation of biodiversity plans: challenges and opportunities.
- Updates on national, provincial and local biodiversity planning projects.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SANBI
Biodiversity for Life



3. Venue, important dates and times

The 2012 Forum will be held at the **Nombolo Mdhluli Conference Centre, Skukuza Camp, Kruger National Park** from 22–25 May 2012.

Start of Forum: Tuesday, **14:00, 22 May 2012** (Official opening)

End of Forum: Friday, **14:00, 25 May 2012**

Please note that participants will only be able to check-in into their accommodation from **14:00 on Tuesday, 22 May 2012** and will need to vacate their accommodation by **10:00 on Friday, 25 May 2012**. Arrangements have been made for storage of luggage before and after these times.

The Forum will close with lunch on Friday, 25 May 2012.

Please take note of these important deadlines:

Early bird registration and payment	2 MARCH 2012
Submitting of abstracts	2 MARCH 2012
Student sponsorship motivations	2 MARCH 2012
CANCELLATIONS (see Terms and conditions)	15 MARCH 2012
Late registration and payment (includes a 10% late registration fee)	30 MARCH 2012

4. Registration and bookings

Please register and pay for the 2012 Biodiversity Planning Forum before **2 March 2012** by filling in the attached registration form.

Please contact Tebogo Mashua (t.mashua@sanbi.org.za) on 012 843 5232 with any queries regarding logistics and registration.

NB: Registration after 30 March 2012 can unfortunately NOT be considered.

5. Forum costs and payment

Participants will be required to cover their own Forum costs. The accommodation at the venue consists of bungalows, safari tents and camping. The total cost per person (indicated below) includes accommodation for 3 nights (22, 23 and 24 May 2012), all meals for the duration of the Forum, conference and registration fees. Due to space limitations we request that, if possible, participants share rooms.

Participants will have to cover the costs of and arrange their own transport to and from the venue.

PLEASE NOTE

Accommodation has been block booked by SANBI. Please indicate clearly your accommodation option on the registration form. Securing this option will be dependent on availability.

BANKING DETAILS

Name of account holder:	South African National Biodiversity Institute
Bank name:	Nedbank Ltd
Bank address:	Cavendish Square, Claremont, 7700, Cape Town, RSA
Bank branch code:	104-609
Account number:	1046-361-635
Swift code:	NEDSZAJJ

Please include your surname and initials as the reference.

Contact Tebogo Mashua if you require a quote or invoice (tel.: 012 843 5232, t.mashua@sanbi.org.za).

Accommodation bookings and full payment must be made by **2 March 2012** to take advantage of the early bird registration and secure your booking. Late registration includes a 10% fee and payment must be made by **30 March 2012** or your booking will be cancelled.



Accommodation options at Skukuza Camp

Option	Accommodation type	Description	Total cost of Forum per person (3 nights): early bird payment by 2 March 2012	Total cost of Forum per person (3 nights): late payment by 30 March 2012
1	Camping (single)	1 person per site, communal ablutions, bring all your own equipment	R2 400.00 (incl. VAT)	R2 640.00 (incl. VAT)
2	Camping (sharing: 2 people)	2 people per site, communal ablutions, bring all your own equipment	R2 200.00 (incl. VAT)	R2 420.00 (incl. VAT)
3	Safari tent (sharing: 2 people)	1 bedroom with 2 single beds, communal ablutions, fan	R2 500.00 (incl. VAT)	R2 750.00 (incl. VAT)
4	Safari tent (sharing: 3 people)	1 bedroom with 3 single beds, communal ablutions, fan	R2 300.00 (incl. VAT)	R2 530.00 (incl. VAT)
5	Bungalow (sharing: 2 people)	1 bedroom with 2 single beds, WC and shower, aircon	R3 000.00 (incl. VAT)	R3 300.00 (incl. VAT)
6	Bungalow (single)	1 bedroom, WC and shower, aircon	R4 300.00 (incl. VAT)	R4 730.00 (incl. VAT)

Accommodation is limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Securing your preferred option will be dependent on availability.

If participants **choose not to stay** at the venue, the following rates apply for attending the Forum (22–25 May 2012):

Option 7: R1 800.00 (includes registration, conference fees and all lunches but excludes all breakfast, accommodation and dinner), OR

Option 8: R2 400.00 (includes registration, conference fees, all lunches and dinners but excludes breakfast and accommodation).

PLEASE NOTE that if you are staying outside the Park (or at another camp) you will need an escort after the camp gates close. The cost of this escort is R200.00 and is for your own account.

As well as the costs above, participants will be expected to pay for additional drinks at the Forum and a cash bar will be available. Participants do receive one soft drink each with their lunch and dinner. SANBI and DEA will cover the additional conference fee costs, including teas. Participants will also be responsible for their own incidental expenses e.g. telephone calls etc.

6. Terms and conditions

Payment conditions:

- All payments must be deposited into SANBI's account before **2 March 2012** to take advantage of the early bird registration.
- Late payments, which include a 10% late registration fee, must be deposited into SANBI's account before **30 March 2012**. If payment is not made by this date the booking will be cancelled.
- Due to strict venue cancellation policies on accommodation, registration and payment after 30 March 2012 will **NOT** be considered.

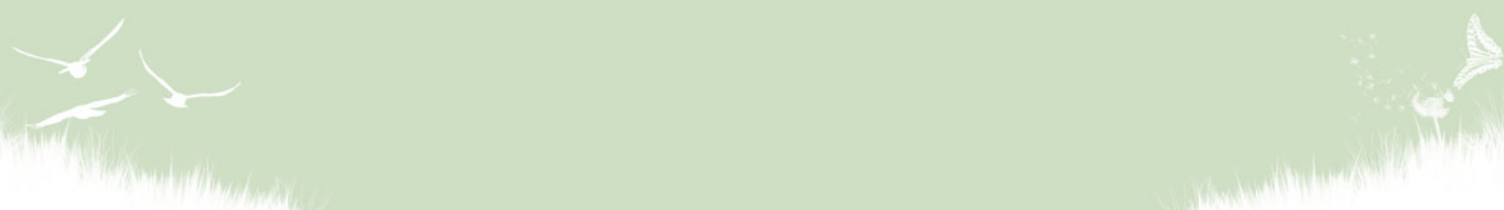
Cancellations:

- All cancellations must be done in writing and sent to Tebogo Mashua (t.mashua@sanbi.org.za) by **15 March 2012**.
- Any registered participant failing to cancel by the due date will be liable to pay the **FULL AMOUNT** as indicated on their registration form.

7. Call for presentations and posters

There will be an open session for participants to make short presentations (12 minutes) on systematic biodiversity planning research and projects. Please send in the title, authors, affiliations and short abstract (no more than 200 words) by **2 March 2012** to Tebogo Mashua (t.mashua@sanbi.org.za) if you would like to present your work at this session. As there is limited time on the agenda it is possible that not all proposed presentations will be selected.

There will also be an interactive poster and exhibition session looking at biodiversity planning products. **Please bring any maps, posters etc. with you for display and discussion purposes during this session.**



8. Sponsorship for students attending the Forum

We encourage students to attend the Forum and have dedicated funds available to support students with either travel costs, or the cost of the Forum or both. Students wanting to apply for this financial assistance must **send a motivation** to Tebogo Mashua (t.mashua@sanbi.org.za) by **2 March 2012**.

9. Introduction session on biodiversity planning prior to the Forum

In conjunction with the University of Pretoria, we will be hosting a session on biodiversity planning basics: an introduction to systematic biodiversity planning prior to the start of the Forum. Each year the Forum attracts new participants who do not necessarily have experience in systematic biodiversity planning. The aim of this 1-day session is to introduce systematic biodiversity planning including basic concepts and principles, practical demonstrations, applications in South Africa and relevant legislation such as publishing of bioregional plans.

There has also been a request to include a 1-day practical component on how to use biodiversity planning software. This component will only be included if there is sufficient interest expressed by participants. If you are interested in attending such a session prior to the start of the Forum please e-mail Tebogo Mashua (t.mashua@sanbi.org.za) by **31 January 2012**.

A separate announcement for this biodiversity basics session, including the costs involved, will be sent shortly.

