

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT (NBA) 2018

WHAT IS THE NBA?

The National Biodiversity Assessment is a collaborative effort to synthesise the best available science on South Africa's biodiversity to inform policy and decision making in a range of sectors, and contribute to national development priorities.

INFORMATION INTO ACTION

THE STATE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY



ANALYSES

GRAPHS

MAPS

RESPONSE				
Policy	Legislation	Management Tools	Management Responses	Monitoring
●	●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●	●

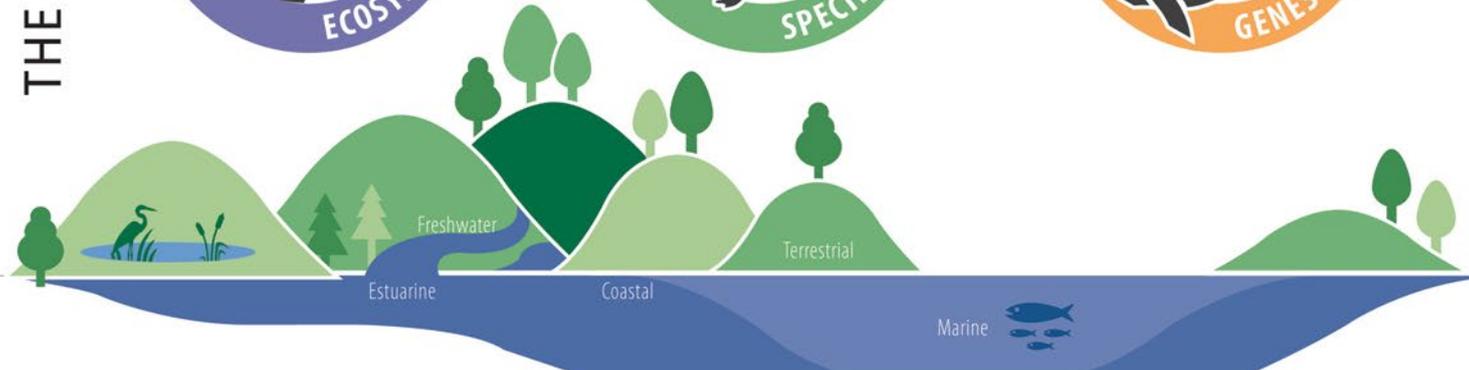
FINDINGS



Considering drivers of change



Considering benefits to people



The NBA addresses ecosystems, species and genetic diversity across all realms

The NBA seeks to answer the following high-level policy-relevant questions:

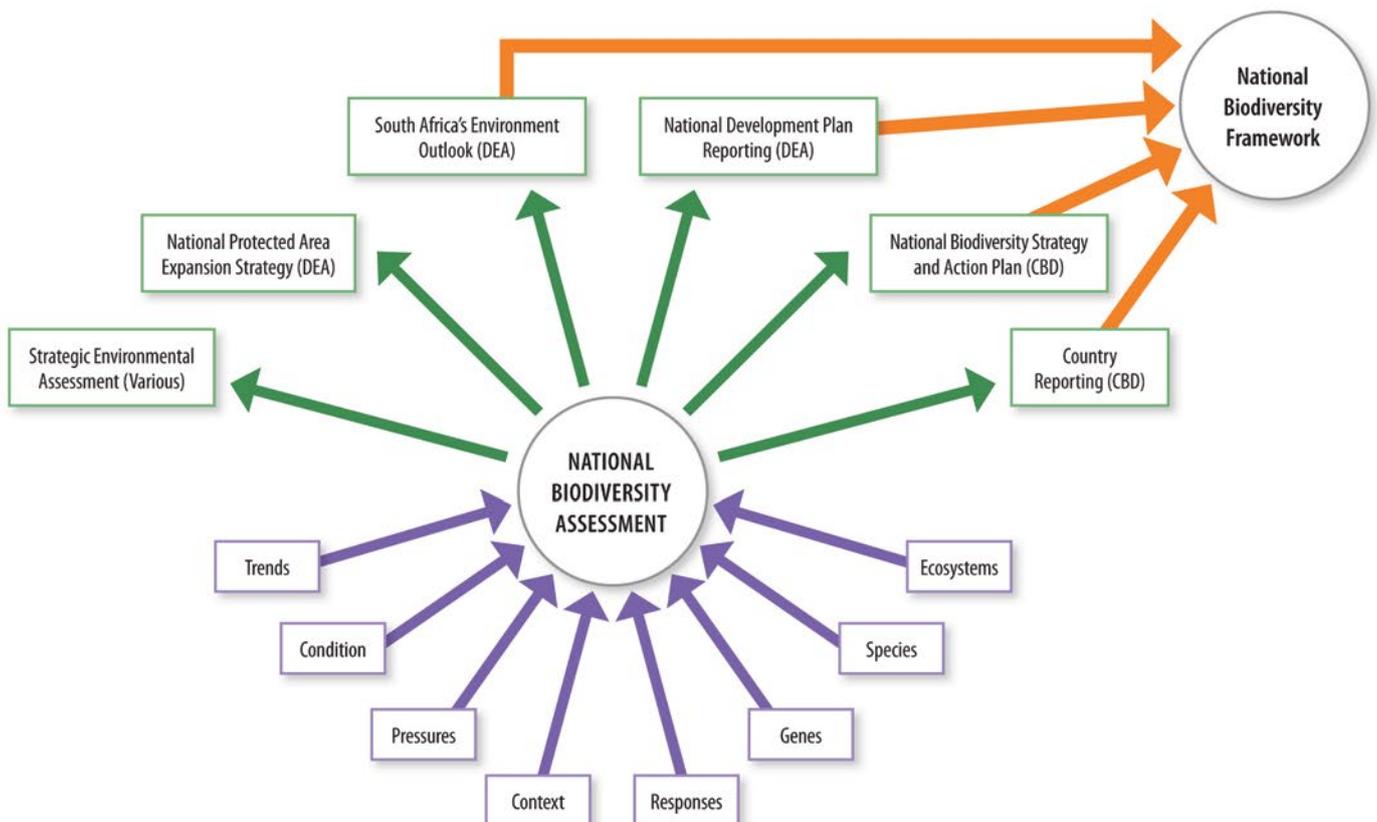
- **Status:** How is South Africa's biodiversity doing at the ecosystem, species and genetic level?
- **Trends:** Are ecosystems, species and genetic diversity doing better or worse?
- Are we **responding** effectively to the challenge of managing and conserving biodiversity?
- How is society **benefiting** from biodiversity?

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE NBA?

SANBI leads this collaborative effort, building on contributions by over 300 biodiversity scientists and practitioners.

WHAT IS THE NBA USED FOR?

- The NBA is used to **inform policy** in the biodiversity sector, such as the National Biodiversity Framework and the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy, as well as informing policies and strategies of a range of other sectors that rely or impact on natural resources, such as the water, agriculture and mining sectors.
- The NBA provides information to help **prioritise the often limited resources** for managing and conserving our biodiversity – actions can focus on preventing further loss and degradation of ecosystems and ecological infrastructure; on consolidating and expanding the protected area network; and on interventions required to restore areas not in good condition so that they become healthy, functioning systems of benefit to people.
- The NBA provides context and information that **feeds into strategic planning processes** such as Strategic Environmental Assessments and bioregional plans.
- The NBA provides information for a range of **national level reporting** processes such as the South Africa Environment Outlook, and ensures that the Department of Environmental Affairs has the necessary biodiversity information to meet our **international reporting commitments** to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The NBA is a **key reference and educational product** relevant to scientists, students, consultants and decision makers, and acts as a platform for collaboration and information sharing in the biodiversity sector in South Africa.

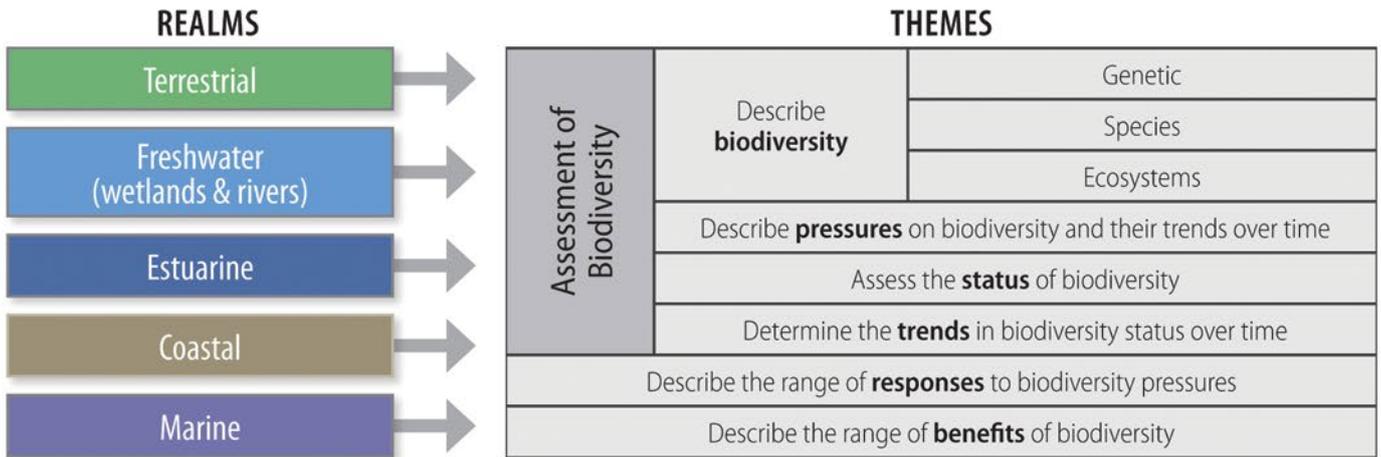


NBA CONTENT

The NBA addresses ecosystem, species and genetic diversity across all realms – terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine, with the coast a joint effort between realms. This information, when combined with information on pressures on biodiversity and ecological condition, allows for the assessment of the state of biodiversity. Wherever possible, spatially explicit information is used in the assessment, including maps of ecosystem types and ecological condition, species distribution maps, maps of protected areas, and maps of pressures on biodiversity. The NBA also addresses the range of responses by government

and civil society to the pressures on biodiversity, such as biodiversity stewardship programmes and invasive alien plant clearing programmes. In addition, the NBA discusses the benefits that biodiversity and intact ecosystems offer society, for example: water security, food security, supporting ecotourism and resilience to climate change.

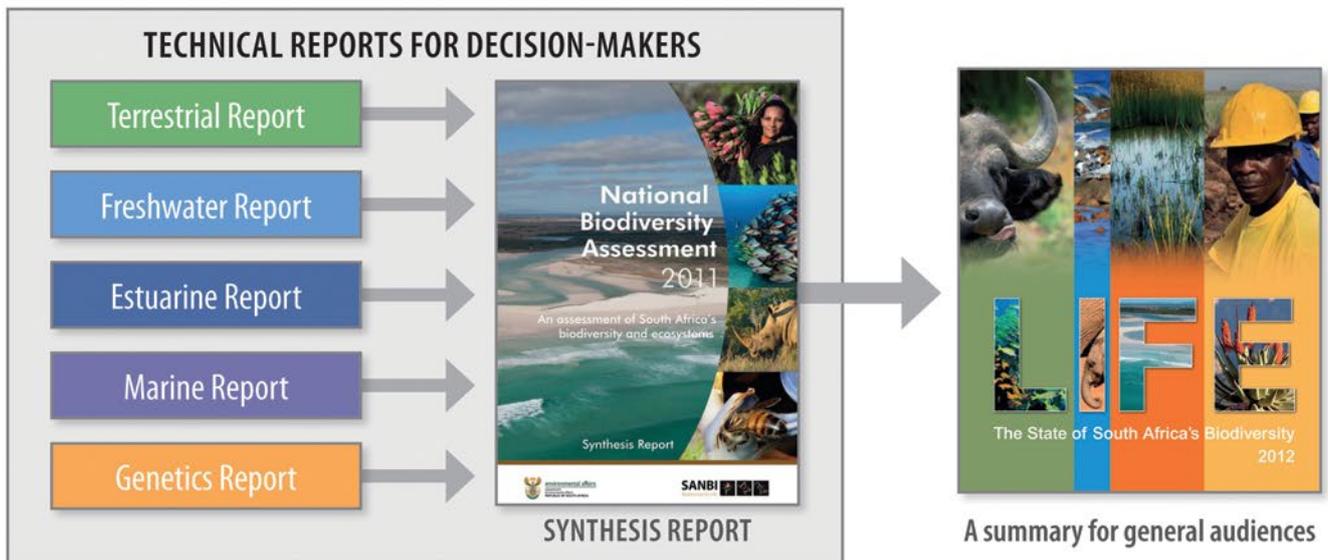
*Key outputs of the NBA are the headline indicators of threat status and protection level for both species and ecosystems.



FORM

The NBA consists of detailed technical reports for each realm (terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine) and genetic diversity, a synthesis report, and a summary for general audiences. The technical reports are comprehensive volumes covering data and detailed methods for a scientific and technical audience. The Synthesis Report, used by policy and

decision makers, pulls together the key information and messages contained in the technical reports. A summary for general audiences is the final step in the reporting and communication process of the NBA, aimed at politicians and the general public, using graphics and accessible language and messages.



The reports and underlying data, maps and accompanying metadata associated with the NBA are publicly available on SANBI's Biodiversity Advisor and BGIS websites.

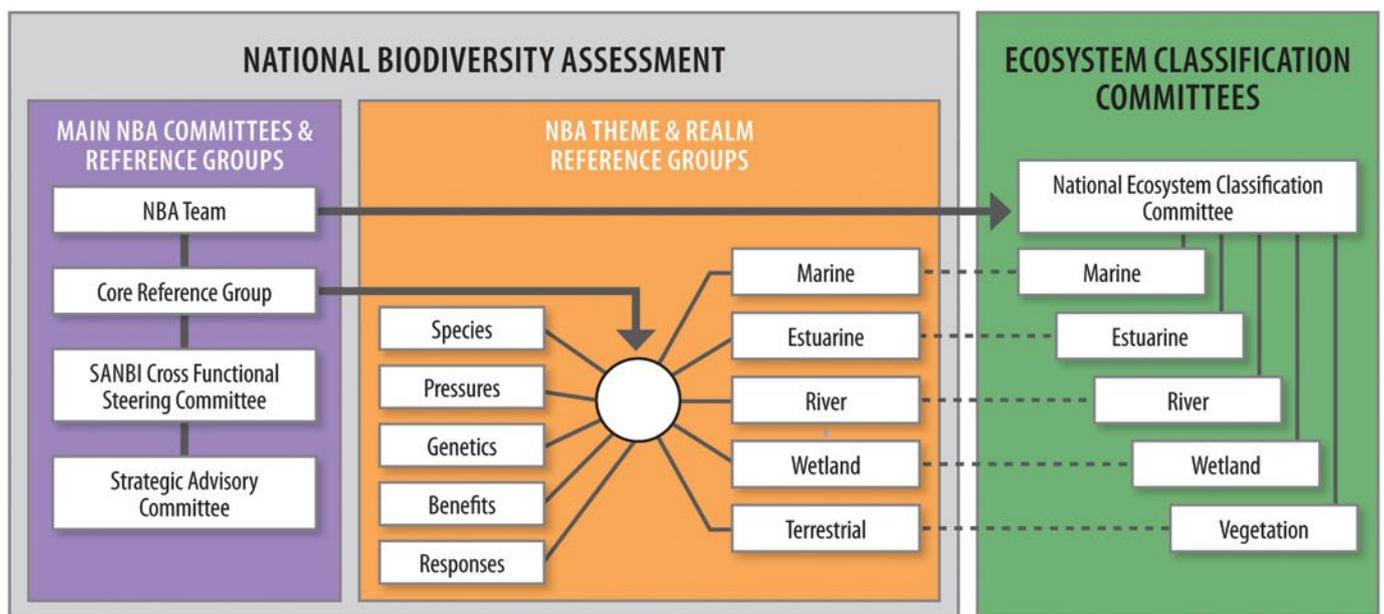
SANBI'S MANDATE

The National Biodiversity Assessment is the overarching tool for monitoring and reporting on biodiversity in South Africa and provides focus and impetus for measuring several indicators and synthesising them periodically at the national scale. There are several additional reports that provide more detail on certain aspects, including: status reports for invasive alien species, reports on impacts of genetically modified organisms and reports linked to the trade of threatened or protected species. All of these form part of SANBI's mandate to monitor and report regularly on the status of South Africa's biodiversity, in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004).

PROCESS

The NBA is led by SANBI in partnership with a range of other organisations. SANBI does not have all the capacity required to undertake the NBA in-house, and draws substantially on contributions of time and other in-kind resources from a wide range of partners over the course of the project. This is important not only for completing the work, but also for the collective ownership of the NBA by the biodiversity science community in South Africa. The NBA is a multi-author and multi-stakeholder project, and as a result a number of committees and reference groups exist for governance of the process and to ensure input from the relevant stakeholders.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) played a particularly important role in the NBA 2011 and will again in NBA 2018, providing leadership and technical capacity for the freshwater and estuarine components.



For more information, contact www.sanbi.org/nba or
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