

2025 National Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative (LRBSI) Learning Exchange

Theme: 'Biodiversity stewardship: A catalyst for transformation in conservation.'



Day 1: Monday, 24 February 2025

Arrival and registration

Agenda item	Responsibility
14:00–18:00 Arrival, Registration and Networking Streaming videos: showcasing stories on biodiversity stewardship	All

Day 2: Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Time: 08:00 – 10:30 | Welcome and setting a scene for the 2025 National LRBSI LE, Chair: Mahlodi Tau (SANBI) & Tembisa Jordaan (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)

Agenda item	Responsibility
Arrival and registration	All
Opening remarks	Vuyiswa Radebe (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)
Welcome remarks	Sabelo Nkosi (eThekweni Municipality)
Check-in: Buzz Groups	Ntwanano Mendes (SANBI)
Community experience in biodiversity stewardship- Babanango Game Reserve	Kenneth Buthelezi (Emcakwini CPA)
Overview of the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme in South Africa	Mpho Ratshikhopha (SANBI), Tshilidzi Netshisaulu (DFFE)
Effectiveness of the Provincial Biodiversity Stewardship Model in KwaZulu-Natal	Tembisa Jordaan (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)

Tea break 10:30–11:00

Feedback from provinces: reflections on roles, challenges, and successes: - Mashudu Nmutandani (North West) Ramatsea Erick (Limpopo); Tebogo Mawela (Northern Cape); Anita Wheeler (Western Cape); Differ Mogale (Mpumalanga); Solly Shishenge (Gauteng); Bheka Memela (eThekweni Municipality)	Mthobisi Nzimande (SANBI)
Spatial distribution of biodiversity stewardship in South Africa: lessons learned	Norma Malatji (SANBI)
An overview of Land Reform Programme in South Africa	DALRRD (speaker TBC)
Experiences/Lessons learned from the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights regarding conservation claims	Cindy Benyane (CRLR)
Question and Answer	Mahlodi Tau (SANBI)

Lunch break 13:00–14:00

Time: 14:00 – 15:00 | Enabling environment for biodiversity stewardship to thrive – Chair: Ntando Mkhize (SANBI)

Rezoning processes for biodiversity stewardship on communal land	Ntshengedzeni Tshishonga (Limpopo COGHSTA)
The role of National Spatial Development Framework in Land Use Planning and its impact on Biodiversity Stewardship planning	Ngodiseni Musetha (DALRRD)
Spring protection project - land use planning in communities	Samson Phakathi (EWT)

Afternoon Tea 15:00–15:30

Approaches to community conservation	Ayanda Cele (WWFSA)
Bringing community conservation into mainstream Protected Area management	Kirsten Olivier (Wild Trust)
Interactive session: Panel discussions with CPA representatives	Ayanda Cele(WWF-SA)
Panellists: Barrington Mabuela (Bela Bela CPA), Simon Mafela (Tshivhula CPA), Thokozani Mlambo (Makhasa Community Trust), Chief Quali (Bakoena Traditional Council), Melusi Yende (Donkerhoek CPA), Fanafuthi Gumbi (Somkhanda CPA), Chief Nxumalo(Gidjana Village)	
Open dialogue hour	Mpho Ratshikhopha (SANBI) and Ayanda Cele(WWF-SA)

17:00 | Closure and announcements

Day 3: Wednesday, 26 February 2025

Time: 08:00 – 11:10 | Transforming Biodiversity Stewardship: celebrating progress, embracing equity, and unlocking opportunities – Chair: Simon Mafela (Tshivhula CPA) & Sabelo Nkosi (eThekweni Municipality)

Agenda item	Responsibility
Arrival and registration.	All
Buzz groups	Ntwanano Mendes (SANBI) & Wenzile Giyose (SANParks)
Session 1 – Setting the scene: What is transformation in the context of the biodiversity sector	
Gender mainstreaming: empowering women and girls - inclusive conservation	Sibongile Mtungwa (WLTP)
Moving towards a more inclusive sector	Nomathemba Langa (IYPSB) Nandi Nomatyindyo (CapStone)
A National Perspective: Biodiversity Sector Transformation Framework	Koena Cholo (DFFE)
Transformation in Biodiversity Stewardship for inclusive participation, equitable access, and benefit sharing (panel discussion)	Facilitator: Koena Cholo (DFFE)
Panellists:	
- Government representative: driving equity through policy reform (White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable-use and NBES)	Koena Cholo (DFFE)
- Looking at transformation through the Indigenous knowledge lens	Sinegugu Zukulu (SANBI)
- Communal Property Association: inclusive governance and community empowerment.	Aubrey Maluleke (Makuleke CPA)
- NGO perspective: bridging the gap between socio-economic development and conservation.	Malherbe Rossouw (CSA)
- Academia: the role of institutions of higher learning in promoting transformation in the biodiversity sector	Wiseman Ndlovu (Stellenbosch University)
- Traditional Authority: A Community Perspective	Chief Nxumalo (Gidjana Village)

Tea break 11:10–11:30

Time: 11:10 – 13:00 | Session 2: Unlocking Investment in the Biodiversity Economy Sector– Chair: Ngcali Nomtshongwana (SANParks)

Marketing and investment in the biodiversity economy	Wiseman Ndlovu (Stellenbosch University)
The Nedbank Indalo Fund: financial support and strategic mentorship	Rest Kanju (Indalo Inclusive)
The Tourism Incentive Programme	Bernie Meyer (Department of Tourism)
Tourism Infrastructure Project	Xolani Dlamini (Department of Tourism)
Biodiversity Economy in Practice	
- Demonstrating business opportunities in the Wildlife Economy and its value chains	

- Likhayaletu CPA's journey in the conservation and Wildlife Economy sector
Portia Sambo and Jeremiah Machavi (SANParks)
Thulani Mfundisi (Likhayaletu CPA)
- Opportunities in Bioprospecting Economy, access and benefit sharing and how communities can participate in this economy
Natalie Feltman (DFFE)

Lunch break 13:00–14:00

Time: 14:00 – 17:00 | Session 3: Bridging Finance and Conservation – Chair: Ngcali Nomtshongwana (SANParks)

Opportunities in rural communities, saving stokvels, SMMEs and financial management
Fikile Khila (Kamva Capital)

Resource Mobilisation and SMME Development
Sithembile Nkosi (MUT)

Panel discussion: unlocking access to funding solutions for Community Conservation initiatives and Sustainable Use
Tshilidzi Netshisaulu

Panellists: Anele Moyo (UNDP Small Grants); Lucia Motloug (DFFE); Kirsten Olivier (Wildlands Trust); Rest Kanju (Indalo Inclusive); Fikile Khila (Kamva Capital), Sithembile Nkosi (MUT), Kevin McCann (Conservation Outcomes)

Question and Answer
Chair

Open Dialogue Hour
Differ Mokgale (MTPA) and Mpho Ratshikhopha

Closure and announcements, Wisani Lubisi (SANBI)

Day 4: Thursday, 27 February 2025

Time: 08:00 – 10:30 | Driving conservation through innovation, policy, and community involvement – Chair: Ntakadzeni Tshidada (SANBI) & Lucia Motloug

Time	Agenda item	Responsibility
	Arrival and registration	All
	Buzz Group	Noxolo Mbebe (SANParks)
	Innovative Conservation Models: Expanding Landscapes, Unlocking Potential, Chair: Ayaka Peter (SANBI)	
	Mega Living Landscapes: Exploring large-scale, dynamic conservation areas that integrate ecological sustainability with socio-economic benefits	Wenzile Giyose (SANParks)
	CSA's Collaborative Agreements: Lessons from CSA's flexible, community-centred approach to conservation agreements	Ronwen Newman (CSA)
	Unpacking Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and their role in achieving biodiversity goals (what does this mean for the communities)	Pamela Kershaw (DFFE) and Ayaka Peter (SANBI)
	The Technical Support Cooperation & Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework	Ntakadzeni Tshidada (SANBI)
	Facilitated Q & A session	Chair

Tea break 10:30–11:00

Time: 11:00 – 13:00 | Session 4: Information Sharing Breakaway Session

Parallel Information-sharing sessions
Zimkhitha Zungula (SANParks)

Room 1: Topic 1: Unpacking the value of conducting effective Veld Assessments
Topic 2: Celebrating biodiversity through observation (Citizen Science)
Nthabeliseni Munyai (SANParks),
Suvarna Parbhoo (SANBI)
Facilitator: Tebogo Mawela (DAERL)

Room 2: Strengthening Climate Change Resilience within Communities
Lindelani Maraganedzha (Universal Greening)

Room 3: Insights on Communal Property Association Model and the importance of community resolution, Trusts, Traditional Authorities	Facilitator: Mashudu Nemutandani (NWPTB) Mr Mogaswa , Ms Mahlangu and Ms Nkosi(DALRRD) Facilitator: Phunyuzwa Xhegwana (SANParks)
Room 4: Topic 1: Sustainable Agriculture and Rangeland management Topic 2: Biodiversity stewardship Categories	Sinegugu Zukulu (SANBI), Nompendulo Mgwali & Ayanda Cele (WWF-SA) Nqobile Sibiya(eZemvelo KZN Wildlife) Facilitator: Noxolo Mbebe
Plenary: Feedback from groups	All
Lessons learnt from Maloti Thaba Tsa Metsi Protected Environment	Chief Quali (Bakoena Traditional Authority)
Sustainable Environmental Education Program for the benefit of communities	Bangibizo Primary School
Lunch break 13:00–14:00	
Time: 14:00 – 16:30 Reflecting on community lived experiences in biodiversity stewardship: Chair Eric Ramatsea	
Setting the scene for the Market stalls: Co- Management: lessons learned from the Makuleke CPA experiences	Aubrey Maluleka(Makuleke CPA)
Interactive session - market stalls <i>Showcasing Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship in action</i>	
Market stall 1: Barrington Mabuela (Bela Bela CPA)	Ntshengedzeni Tshishonga(COGHSTA)
Market stall 2: Njabulo Hudla (Nambiti Game Reserve)	Zoluntu Ngwane(eZemvelo KZN Wildlife)
Market stall 3: Simon Mafela (Tshivhula CPA)	Lucia Motloung (DFFE)
Market stall 4: Thokhozani Mlambo (Makhasa Community Trust)	Sibusiso Zondi(iSimangaliso)
Market stall 5: Melusi Yende- (Donkerhoek CPA)	Ayanda Cele(WWF-SA)
Market stall 6: Kenneth Buthelezi(Emcakwini CPA)	Fhumulani Khobo(SANParks)
Time: 16:30 – 17:30 Reflecting on Progress, Inspiring Future Action, Chair: Ntwanano Mendes (SANBI) and Noxolo Mbebe (SANParks)	
Small group session:	All
Room 1: Reflection on the LRBSI program	
Room 2: Reflection on the LRBSI Learning Exchange	
Plenary: Feedback from various groups	All
Open Dialogue Hour	Mavhungu Malima(GDARD)and Mpho Ratshikhopha
Vote of thanks and closure	Mahlodi Tau (SANBI)
Day 5: 28 February 2025	
Departures	