



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

# LOCAL ACTION FOR OUTSTANDING NATURE: How to conserve biodiversity hotspots – CAPE TOWN

Biodiversity Management, Environmental  
Management, City of Cape Town

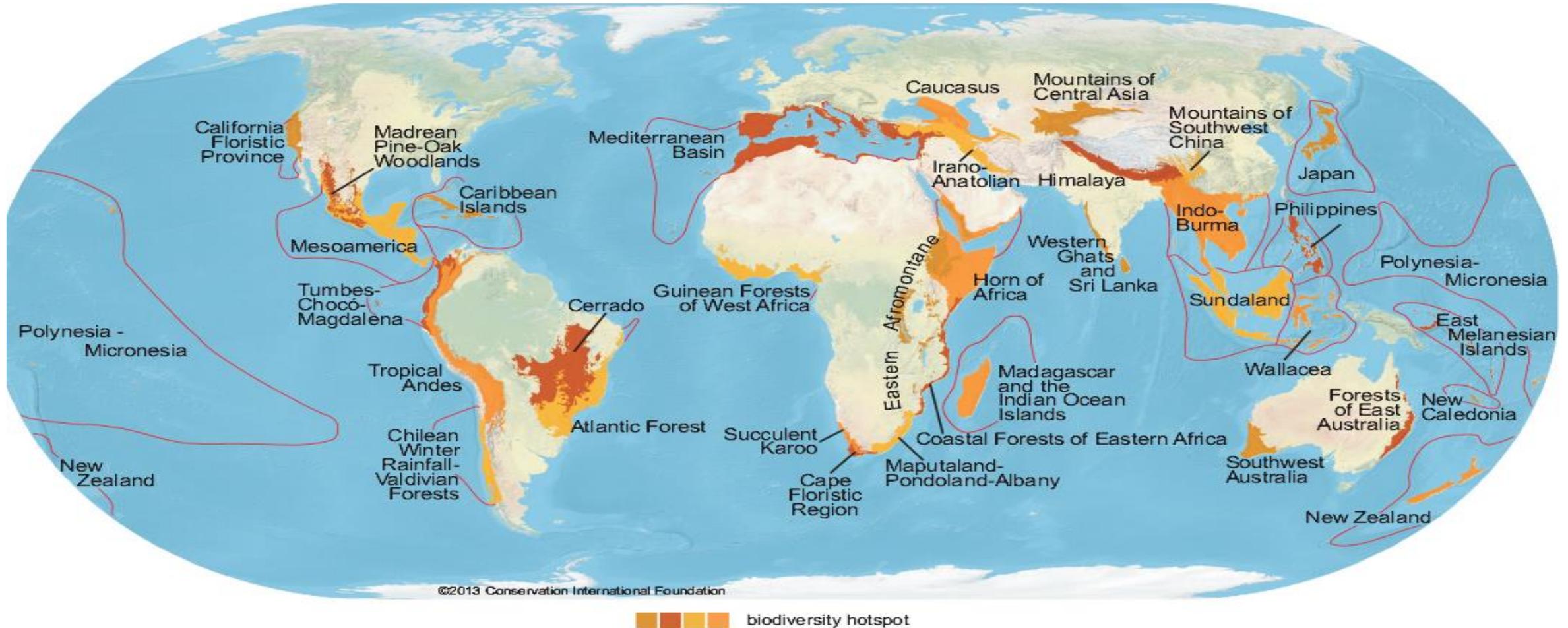
21 June 2021

# A long term sustainable City

- Hope and healing
- Sense of place
- Ecosystem Services
- Resilience
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

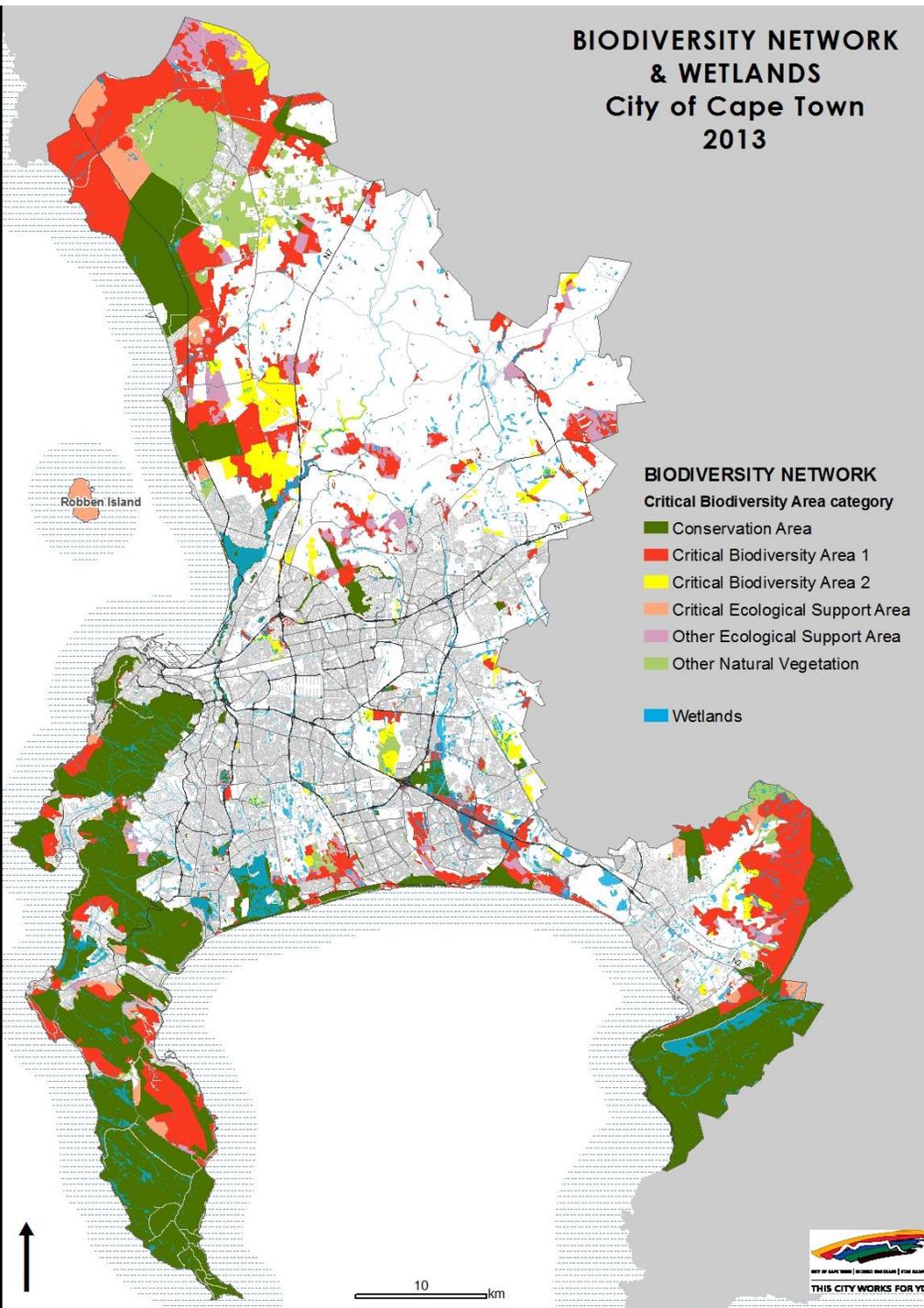


# CAPE TOWN'S BIODIVERSITY: GLOBAL CONTEXT



The Cape Floristic Region (CFR) – a global biodiversity hotspot  
“Cape Town is the **Most Biodiverse City** in the world” – Thomas Elmqvist,  
leader of UN’s City and Biodiversity Outlook Project

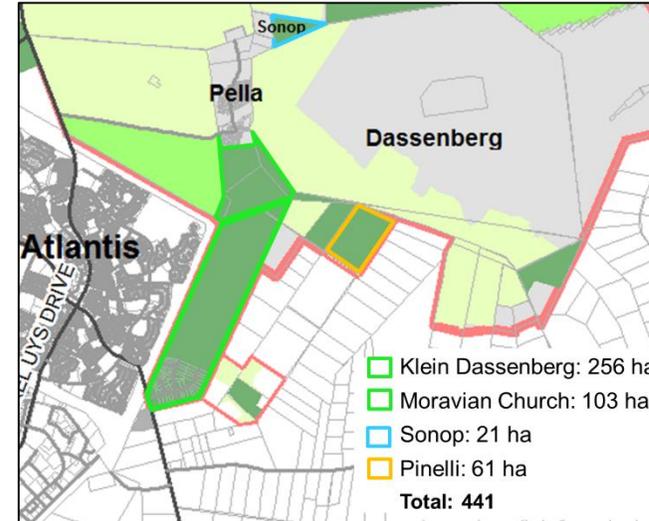
**BIODIVERSITY NETWORK  
& WETLANDS  
City of Cape Town  
2013**



## CONSERVATION PLANNING

- Municipalities cover all of South Africa
- Most areas have completed fine scale plans
- Based on science
- Computer programme selects remnants
- Identified remnants are needed to reach natural targets – Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs)
- Most biodiversity plans incorporate climate change issues
- Many like NMM and Cape Town have incorporated Biodiversity layer into Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) – Spatial layer of the IDP
- Bioregional Plan
- BioNet – 65% by 2022 (9% in terms of Aichi target 11)

# Development Facilitation through Land Acquisition



## Vegetation in Atlantis Urban Edge:

- Total of 906 ha CR or EN natural veg.
- Atlantis Incentive Scheme – ERMD to provide a land bank.
- Meet conservation targets outside urban edge and facilitate development inside.
- DEA&DP & CapeNature are in support.
- 3 developments facilitated to date.

# Cape Flats Dune Strandveld – West and False Bay





## Job Creation

- **1 691 Job Opportunities**  
(target 1000); (2018/2019 = 3 318)
- **233.12 FTEs** (target (214);  
(2018/2019 = 461.24)
- **53 617.6 Person Days**  
(2018/2019 = 106 127)



Before and after photos of clearing water hyacinth in Black River

Other department/national EPWP stats facilitated by BMB

487 Job Opportunities

13 037 Person Days

Ward allocation and 5 other lines departments (Human Settlements, Urban Management, Water and Sanitation (Water and Solid Waste), Parks and Recreation.

**All together BMB facilitated over 2 000 job opportunities**

## Skills Development

Of the 23 vacancies in the BMB, 14 were filled by EPWP/skills development candidates or previous EPWP/skills development.

# Environmental Education, Awareness and Volunteers

**23 040 learners**

Over **30 798** (2018/2019 = 67 000) **individuals** attended education programmes, events, exhibitions, formal or awareness activities on and off the reserves

**32 786 person days of education**  
(2018/2019 = 47 464)



Volunteers and sponsored programmes –  
Volunteers – 318 individuals  
(approximate value = R478 000)  
Sponsored programmes – 213 individuals  
(approximate value = R5.7 M)

# Covid-19 Lockdown



Limited staff returning to work; note the high touch point sign, hand sanitising, masks and social

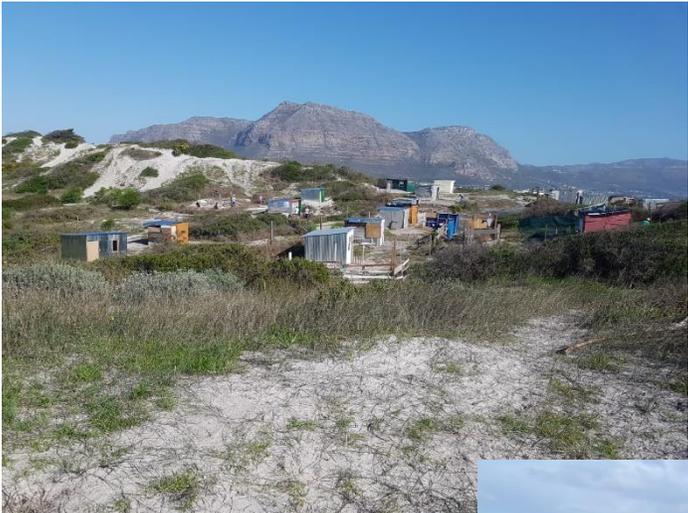
# Covid-19 Welcome back – 17 July 2020



## Impact of lockdown

- 1) Minor Climate change benefits
- 2) No huge benefits to biodiversity/species but faunal species movement and feeding patterns could have changed (eg. they took advantage of areas not disturbed by people and dogs)
- 3) Residents observed biodiversity in gardens and close to home
- 3) Disaster for natural areas which need income from tourism
- 4) Disaster in relation to land invasion (economy struggling)
- 5) Lockdown shown huge interest in the City's reserves; showing us the benefit our areas bring to Cape Town (recreation, tourism, economy)

# Covid-19 Land invasion / illegal activities





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**THANK YOU | DANKIE | ENKOSI**

