

Participatory Restoration of Ecosystem Services & Natural Capital, Eastern Cape



PRESENCE: a network for mainstreaming the restoration of living landscapes

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VISION

To restore **Living Landscapes** by 'mainstreaming' restoration as a viable multi-functional land-use for diverse sectors of society in southern Africa.

MISSION

PRESENCE aims to be an adaptive and well-structured learning organisation – and network – which serves as a solid platform to support and mainstream existing - and catalyze new - programmes for restoring 'living landscapes' (ecosystem services and natural & social capital) in key areas of the Eastern Cape and Maputa-Pondoland-Albany hotspot.

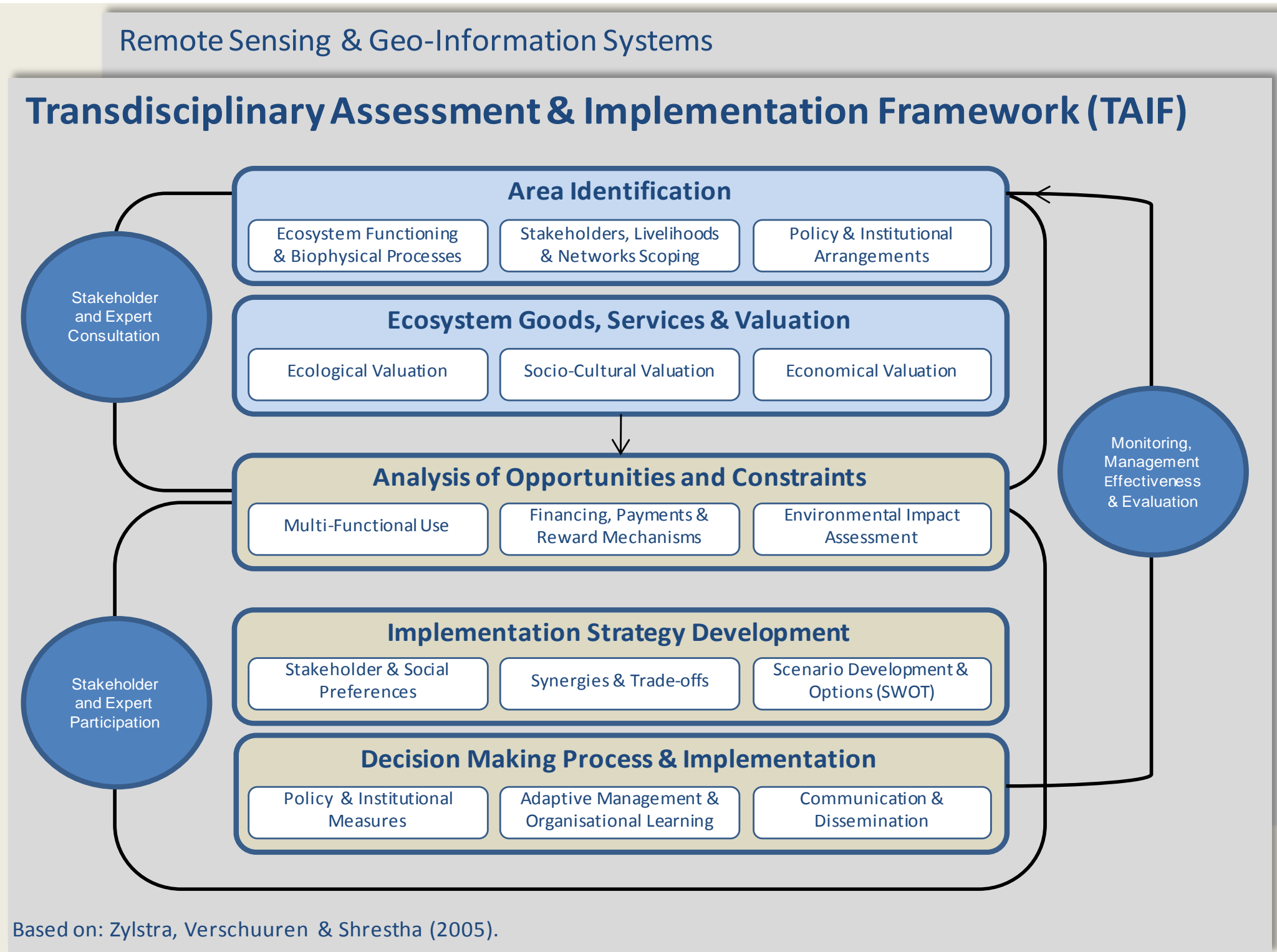
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objective of PRESENCE is to guide, facilitate and enable:

	Rigorous transdisciplinary research/programmes to address critical knowledge gaps in our current understanding of ecological, cultural, economic and socio-political factors and their integration into optimal restoration strategies;
	Best Management Practices for natural resource management to ensure equitable and effective restoration over various geographical and institutional scales. The transdisciplinary research underpinning the BMP will guide implementation to become:
	Stakeholder-driven and recognising potential trade-offs in restoring desired ecosystem services;
	Socio-economically acceptable in supporting local livelihoods and cultural traditions;
	Ecologically sustainable by maximising ecosystem integrity and biodiversity outcomes;
	Financially viable through the development of innovative reward mechanisms for ecosystem management (e.g. carbon, water, biodiversity credits, tourism initiatives);
	Institutionally feasible through promoting good governance arrangements, effective community-based learning organisations and appropriate social change processes (e.g. social marketing strategies);
	Capacity building (locally and regionally) through the mainstreaming of restoration processes. This involves two-way communication, education and the dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned to diverse stakeholder groups .

STRATEGY:
To be adaptive and strategically opportunistic in order to respond to:
– stakeholder preferences;
– implementer's needs and constraints;
– improved scientific understanding; and
– institutional learning.

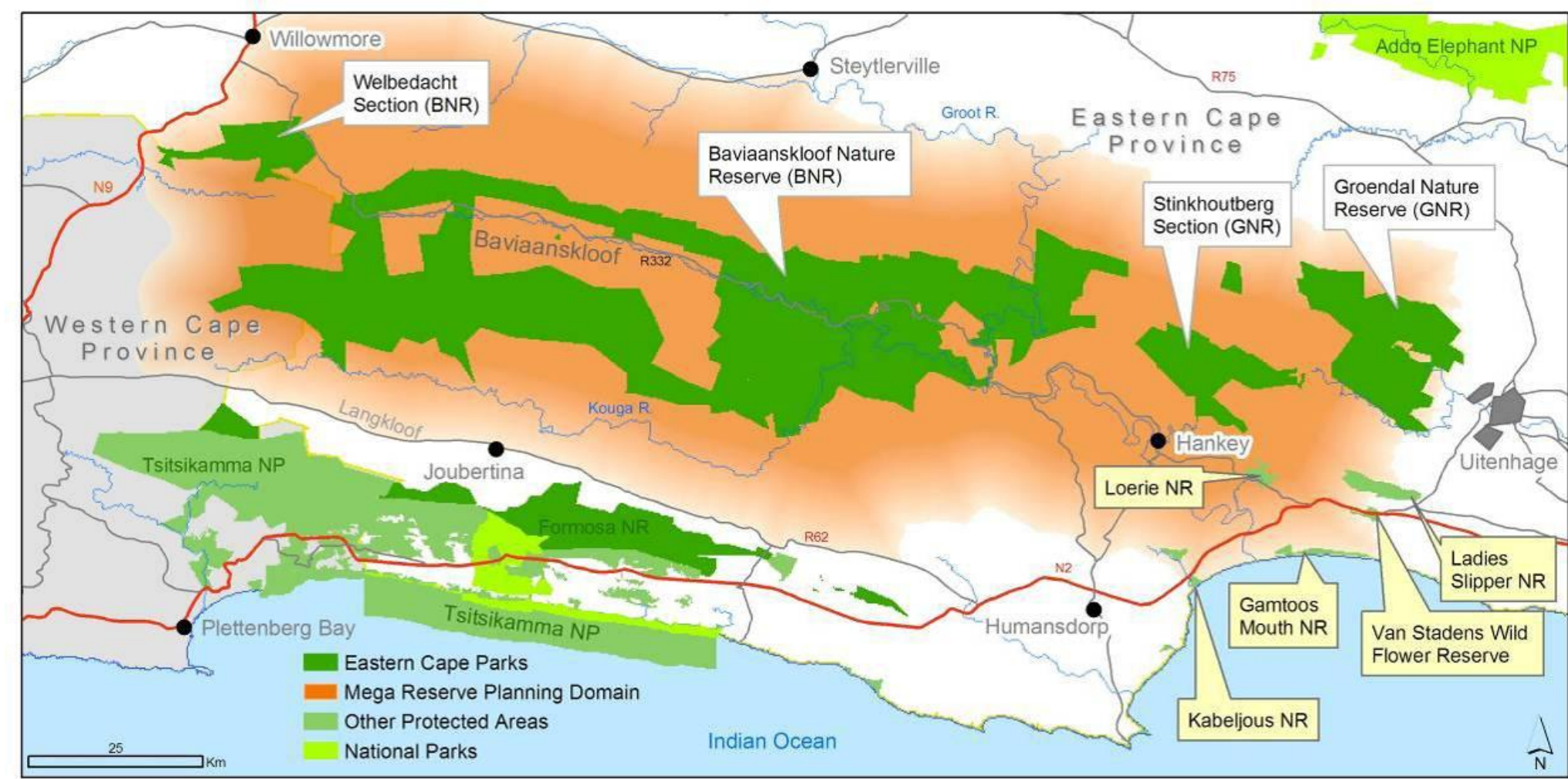
The adaptive approach (based on IUCN's Ecosystem Approach) (see right) is currently being tested and applied in the pilot study. It seeks to understand area processes, uses and values, trade-offs & viable options.



Living Lands as facilitator and coordinator of PRESENCE is currently active in forming mutually beneficial and synergistic partnerships in South Africa and internationally. It is seeking to secure continued collaboration and investment to ensure that PRESENCE's ambitious yet exciting shared vision and objectives remain achievable into the foreseeable future. You are welcome to contact Living Lands for more information or to enquire about collaboration possibilities.

PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof Mega-reserve: A strategy for integrated catchment restoration

The PRESENCE approach is currently being trialled in the World-Heritage listed Baviaanskloof. The programme is initiating a holistic stakeholder-driven restoration programme aimed at restoring denuded areas of subtropical thicket and river/riparian systems under threat in order to move toward sustainable catchment management.



This map shows the Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve Planning Domain the focus area of PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof.



PRESENCE in the Baviaanskloof in collaboration with the following programmes:

- Water for Food & Ecosystems in the Baviaanskloof**
This programme is funded by the government of the Netherlands. The goal of the programme is to implement water retention measures in order to enhance biodiversity, reduce erosion, and to increase water availability. Furthermore, assist the process of conversion to ecosystem services for landowners. The main activities of the programme are:
Restoration planning, Implementation of measures, Monitoring, Research, and Stakeholder engagement. The programme is being coordinated by Living Lands.
- Working for Water: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) / Gamtoos Irrigation Board (GIB)/ Rhodes restoration Research Group (R3G)**
This world-renowned conservation restoration exercise employs the win-win scenario of using previously unemployed people to clear alien invasive plants from priority water catchments areas to ensure long-term water security, biodiversity conservation and social upliftment.
- Working for Woodlands – Subtropical Thicket Restoration Programme, DWAF / GIB/ R3G**
In the same spirit and mould as Working for Water, this innovative poverty relief programme strives to use the same principles to actively restore degraded subtropical thicket ecosystems and investigate possibilities to use the carbon market and other financial/motivational incentives as a catalyst for implementation.
- Working for Wetlands – DWAF / GIB/ R3G/ SANBI/ WWF**
Using the same model as above, Working for Wetlands focuses primarily on wetlands (area of land whose soil is saturated by moisture) and riparian areas: the Kouga Riparian Rehabilitation Project and Kromme River restoration are showcase examples within the Eastern Cape.

The PRESENCE Learning Village (at Kouga Dam) is a hub for restoration research and implementation in the Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve and beyond. South African and international students, local communities and professionals come together to share information, knowledge and experience. You are welcome to visit and become inspired ...



The PRESENCE network consists of the following partners:



Facilitated by: **livinglands**