Botanical Society implementation of Biodiversity Stewardship in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany hotspot
“Conservation in landowner’s hands”
• 53% of important biodiversity in private / communal ownership.

• Conservation goals are not being achieved by KZN protected areas expansion.

• Current lack of resources to acquire critical land for biodiversity conservation.

• Need to look at off-reserve options.
The Programme offers four basic options / categories for participating landowners.

Has legislative backing.

The categories offer different levels of security and require different levels of commitment.

Different categories will attract different incentives and benefits.

All options are voluntary.

Landowner retains title and ownership.
The Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) has identified the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany (MPAH) centre of endemism as a critical biodiversity hotspot, and is currently funding conservation projects in this area.

The Botanical Society successfully applied for funding to implement Biodiversity Stewardship in eight botanically significant sites in KZN from 2012 to 2014.
Botanical Society CEPF Project Stewardship sites

- Hlomohlomo (1000ha)
- Nomalanga (2500ha)
- Wingfield (1500ha)
- Bostonview (350ha)
- The Shelter (?5000ha)
- Umgano (1500ha)
- Fairview (60ha)
- Red Desert (250ha)
- Edgeware (300ha)
- Highover (1000ha)
Site Identified

Site selection database update

KZN BSP Working Group – site approval

Initial Site Visit – by facilitator, DCO or SI
(Request Site Assessment)

PHASE 1

Stewardship plan
DCO puts site forward
Landowner contacts BSP Unit
IEM interaction

Accreditation (formal training) of SI and provision of documents, tools

Inform DCO, DCO obtains site info – use standard info sheet

DCO or facilitator brings site to WG for approval

Stewardship plan, approach from landowner, land changing hands (e.g. land claim), IEM identification, identified through SI interaction

PHASE 2

Desktop Assessment

Due diligence

Field Assessment

Site Assessment Summary

Review Panel

Notification Letter to L/O

Integrity check of all documents

Facilitator or SI

Facilitator

Facilitator

SI, DCO, CREW, EcoAdvice & L/O (& DoA)

DCO or SI

Facilitator

Facilitator

Facilitator

Facilitator

DCO or SI

L/O completes application form

L/O = Landowner

SI = Stewardship Implementer (any of our NGO partners)
PHASE 5

Management Authority established

Formation of an Advisory Committee

Finalise Management Programmes – MP, Part 2

Facilitate supply of incentives

MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREA

Biodiversity Monitoring

Social Monitoring

ANNUAL AUDIT

PA management Effectiveness assessment

Update national DEAT PA register

5 year MP Review

Facilitator, DCO & Eco-advice Management Authority

Management support By EKZNW

Facilitator & Management Authority

DCO, facilitator, Eco-advice Management Authority

Management Authority

KZN BSP manager

Facilitator & Management Authority

KZN BSP manager

DCO

Facilitator
## Summary of site progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Red Desert</th>
<th>Noma langa</th>
<th>Umgano</th>
<th>Boston view</th>
<th>Wingfield</th>
<th>The Shelter</th>
<th>Hlomo hlomo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>landowner/s contacted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initial site visit</td>
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<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Phase 2                  |             |            |        |             |           |             |             |
| desktop assessment       | yes         | yes        | yes    | yes         | yes       | yes         | yes         |
| field/site assessment    | yes         | yes        | yes    | yes         | 28/29 Nov 12 | yes         |
| review panel             | yes         | yes        | yes    | yes         |           |             |             |
| letter to landowner      | yes         | yes        | yes    | yes         |           |             |             |

| Phase 3                  |             |            |        |             |           |             |             |
| follow up meeting with landowner | yes        | yes        | yes    | yes         |           |             |             |
| bsp category agreement in writing | yes        | yes        | yes    | yes         |           |             |             |
| develop management plan  | yes         |            |        | in process   |           |             |             |
| negotiate contract       | yes         |            |        |             |           |             |             |

| ROC                      | EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |
| EXCO                     | EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |
| Board approval           | EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |

| Phase 4                  |             |            |        |             |           |             |             |
| Submit to DEAE           | EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |
| MEC approval             | EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |
| Proclamation             | EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |
| Notarial deed endorsement| EKZNW       | EKZNW      | EKZNW  | EKZNW       | EKZNW     | EKZNW       | EKZNW       |
Hlomohlomo
Proposed Nature Reserve
(1000ha)

Biodiversity value:
Critically Endangered species
*Encephalartos aemulans*
*Viable population ± 500 individuals reproducing*
Red Desert Nature Reserve
250ha

- Critically Endangered: Pondoland Ugu Coastal Sandstone Coastal Sourveld
- *Phylica natalensis* – largest known population
- Rich in Pondoland endemic plants
- Red Desert archaeological site
Umgano
Proposed Nature Reserve
1500ha

“Umgano forest is a remarkable example of old-growth mistbelt forest”

Asclepias concinna

Inkosi Baleni

Encephalartos ghellinckii
Umgano Land Use

Nature Reserve area 1500ha
Umgano - Botanical mentoring of field rangers
Basic botany
Plant identification
Using keys
Plant specimen collection
Using field guides donated by KZN Inland Botsococ Branch
CREW have been involved with botanical surveys, identifying threatened species and producing plant species lists for most of the sites...

- Nicholson Botanical Group – Red desert and Fairview
- Mkampathini CREW – Wingfield
- Umvoti CREW - Nomalanga
- Boston CREW – Bostonview and Edgeware
- Underberg CREW – The Shelter and Umgano
- BotSoc KZN Inland Branch and CREW A-team – Umgano
- CREW A-team - Highover
Edgeware

- Suggested by Boston CREW
- Proposed Stewardship implementation by BotSoc and Midlands Conservancy Forum

Asclepias bicuspis

Conservation values:
Midlands Mistbelt Grassland – Endangered.
Priority species – CR plants Cranes
Proximity to Protected Area
Natural seeps – wetland recharge.
Adjacent to mistbelt forest
Grassland untransformed and not grazed (300ha)
Highover

- Suggested by Richard Boon
- CREW botanical visit on 15 November
- Site assessment 26 November

Biodiversity value
- 1000ha Mistbelt grassland
- Blue swallows
- Oribi
Midlands Mist belt grassland natural distribution (pre transformation)
Extent of transformation dated 2000.
Thank you