

MAPUTALAND

TRANSNATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 3 – Feb 07

Welcome to the third and final Maputaland transnational conservation planning project newsletter, which contains information on what we have achieved during the project.

Conservation Planning System

The Maputaland Conservation Planning System (CPS) has now been completed and is available from the project website and on CD-ROM. It was developed together with experts from our partner organisations and contains distribution and target data on 44 landcover types, 20 vertebrate species, 13 invertebrate species, 20 plant species and 13 ecological processes, as well as maps showing risk of transformation to subsistence agriculture and potential profitability from game ranching.



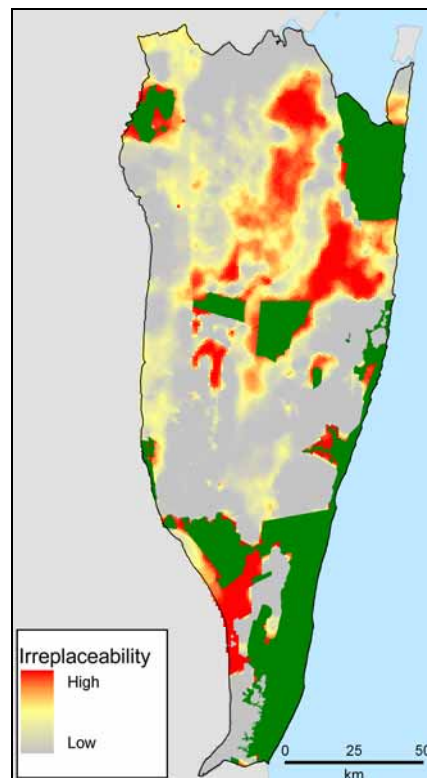
Participants in the conservation feature workshop, Maputo 2006

The CPS is the culmination of three years work that included mapping the region's biodiversity, developing new software and building capacity. It has already been used to provide information for land-use planning in Maputaland (see below) and should be an invaluable tool for guiding future conservation activities.

Conservation Assessment results

In 2006 we used the Maputaland CPS to undertake the first Maputaland Conservation Assessment (MCA). The MCA was used to design a preliminary

conservation landscape for Maputaland. This landscape was designed to meet the targets for all the landcover types, species and ecological processes whilst minimising the inclusion of land that was most at risk of being transformed by agriculture. One part of the MCA was producing a priority area map for conserving the landcover types and species, and this is shown below. The colours in the map relate to the extent to which an area is needed to meet the targets. Areas in red will always be needed. Areas in yellow are also important but could be swapped for similar areas.



Maputaland's priority conservation areas

This map was used to identify where conservation linkages could be established and to guide the development of the conservation landscape. Further details are given in our report entitled "*The Maputaland Conservation Planning System and Conservation Assessment*" (Smith & Leader-Williams, 2006)

MSc students graduate

As part of our Maputaland project, Petros Ngwenya from South Africa and Bruno Nhancale from Mozambique undertook the MSc in Conservation Biology at DICE. Both students graduated in 2006 with Merit and their research dissertations provided important information for our project partners and the Maputaland CPS. A number of other DICE MSc students worked on the Maputaland project, so we would also like to thank Paul Brookes, Nerissa Chao, Julian Easton, Louise McRae and Chris Ransom for all their help.

Bruno Nhancale starts PhD research

After completing his MSc, Bruno Nhancale was awarded funding from the University of Kent and the African Wildlife Foundation to undertake PhD research at DICE.



His research is entitled "*Strengthening and mainstreaming the Maputaland systematic conservation planning system*" and will build on the work of our original Darwin Initiative project. He is currently finalising his research proposal in Canterbury but will return to Mozambique at the end of March.

CLUZ

The Maputaland project also produced the CLUZ conservation planning software.

CLUZ has proved very popular, and has been downloaded by 556 people from 72 countries since it was created in July 2004. This software can be downloaded for free from the CLUZ website, together with a manual and tutorial. Recently, we also produced a step-by-step web guide to using CLUZ for conservation assessments.

TFCA project

The Darwin Initiative project has come to end but DICE will continue to work in Maputaland, as part of a new project that will involve working with the National Directorate of Conservation Areas (DNAC) of the Ministry of Tourism, Mozambique and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo. This is a three year project that will focus on the Lubombo, Greater Limpopo and Chimanimani Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCA). The Lubombo TFCA falls entirely within Maputaland and so the Maputaland CPS will continue to be updated as part of this project and Bruno Nhancale's PhD research.

Project outputs available

All of our project outputs are available without charge. All of the reports, peer-reviewed publications, press releases and teaching materials are available from the Maputaland project website:

<http://www.mosaic-conservation.org/maputaland/outputs.html>

The main document describing the Maputaland CPS and MCA is also available as a paper report and all of the project outputs, including the GIS data and the MSc research dissertations are available on the project CD-ROM. All of our project partners will receive a copy of this main report and the CD-ROM but further copies can be requested from Bob Smith.



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