

## Living Catchments Project overview

The Living Catchments Project is a collaborative project that is being implemented and led by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) in partnership with the Water Research Commission (WRC) through funding from the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). The project was developed in response to the Water Research, Development and Innovation Roadmap (Water RDI Roadmap), which is a national planning intervention by the WRC, DSI, and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). The Water RDI Roadmap is aimed at addressing water scarcity in South Africa over a ten-year period between 2015 and 2025. The Living Catchments Project responds specifically to the RDI Roadmap's Supply Cluster 3: Improve adequacy and performance of supply infrastructure.

The project is being implemented in four unique catchments across South Africa: the uMzimvubu, Thukela, Berg-Breede and the Olifants catchments. The intention of the project is to create more resilient, better resourced and more relational communities with the ultimate vision to strengthen an enabling environment for catchment governance and the integration of built and ecological infrastructure in support of water security, economic development and livelihood improvement. The project also intends to strengthen an enabling environment for water governance at the nexus of landscapes and water supply in South Africa. The project is centred on co-learning and co-creation, through communities of practice, to enable collaboration, grow the practice of transformative social learning, and strengthen the practice of policy engagement and how biodiversity is mainstreamed into the water sector.

For further information on the Living Catchments Project, please contact the Project Leader, Mahlodi Tau, at SANBI: [m.tau@sanbi.org.za](mailto:m.tau@sanbi.org.za)

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## Berg-Breede Catchment

### Wicked problems and water quality in the lower Breede River catchment

By Pienaar du Plessis

Water quality management can be seen as a wicked problem of our time. Wicked problems are part of complex systems, where the interaction of many different parts of the system create challenges that cannot be comprehensively solved without creating a slew of additional challenges. For example, banning certain pesticides due to its impact on freshwater ecosystems could cause farmers to use other substances that are harmful in other ways, such as to human health. It could also reduce the profitability of regulated farms, causing job losses and an increase in poverty.

While wicked problems cannot be solved, they can be managed more effectively. Due to the cross-cutting nature of such problems, increasing the capacity for collaboration and co-ordination across different sectors of society can be one way to improve the management of wicked problems.

With this in mind, Living Lands recently completed a Water Research Commission funded project that explored the socio-ecological aspects of water quality in the Rivieronderend and lower portions of the Breede River

catchments. The project provided the opportunity to gain a better understanding of knowledge gaps and the potential for deeper collaboration and co-ordination around water quality management.

Through interviews with key stakeholders, specific sources of pollution and water quality challenges were identified. Factors that were influencing water quality directly included faulty waste water treatment works, vandalism of infrastructure, point source pollution from industries and agriculture (specifically animal agriculture), seepage from septic systems, and storm water drainage.

A series of common challenges faced by those involved in water quality governance also became apparent. Internal factors such as shrinking capacity both in terms of financial and human resources, aging infrastructure and policies misaligned with the realities on the ground made for a challenging management environment. External issues such as poverty, migration, and population increase were seen as powerful drivers of water quality degradation, but are outside the scope of direct water quality governance.



*Stakeholders engaging and finding solutions for the water quality challenges.*





*The lower Breede River polluted and degraded.*

Emerging issues that are not yet affecting water quality, but will most likely do so in the future were also mentioned. Novel pathogens and pollutants (such as medicines, microplastics, and other novel chemicals) were seen as one potential issue that deserves proactive monitoring and study. Climate change and an increase of drought events was another factor that could increase the impact of current water quality challenges.

The project concluded with a field trip and round table discussion that brought key role players into the field to look at practical examples of ways to mitigate water quality challenges, such as investing in rehabilitation of ecological infrastructure as one example. A discussion was also facilitated around better ways of working together, sharing data and resources, and improving the collective decision-making capacity of organisations.

We hope to integrate the insights garnered through this project into the Breede-Sonderend Catchment Collaborative (BSCC), a landscape initiative supported by Living Lands through the Living Catchments Project. The BSCC is a network of practitioners that are involved in natural resource management in the lower Breede River catchment and Riviersonderend catchment who meet on a quarterly basis to share and discuss the ongoing work in the catchment and how best to facilitate natural resource management from a more holistic and integrated perspective.

## Olifants Catchment

### SAEON Science Week: Citizen science freshwater monitoring

*By Itumeleng Selebalo*

On the 3rd of August 2022 the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C) in collaboration with our partners the South African Earth Observation Network (SAEON) conducted freshwater monitoring training for the

ecosystem custodians and citizen science monitors in Phiring, Limpopo. The training was aimed at expanding the freshwater ecosystem monitoring conducted by our citizen science monitors.

*Dr. Tony Swemmer from SAEON showing the K2C citizen science monitors and ecosystem custodians how to use a water quality multimeter in Phiring.*







*Ecosystem custodian Lucius Hlatswayo presenting miniSASS to science week participants.*

The science week event was centred on introducing freshwater monitoring tools such as miniSASS and the interpretation of the monitoring results to determine the state of the local water resources. The K2C citizen science monitors led the miniSASS training, showcasing what they have learned from the Living Catchments training. Dr. Tony Swemmer from SAEON led the training on the use of a multimeter for measuring water quality parameters in the local streams.

The science week enabled the K2C monitors to share more of their knowledge on freshwater monitoring with ecosystems custodians in the landscape to further contribute to their capacity development. This process gave the participants insight on the significance of healthy water resources and the impacts of anthropogenic activities on water qual-



*Citizen science monitor Jeff Sekgobela demonstrating how to use a water quality multimeter.*

ity. The event was concluded with a result interpretation process in which the participants discussed activities that impact water resources in the village and mitigation measures that can be implemented to improve water quality and quantity in their local streams.

## **SANBI visit in preparation for Catchment-Based Indaba**

*By Zodwa Maphanga (Site Co-ordinator) & Reshoketswe Mafogo (Project Manager)*

In November 2022, the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C) will be hosting the Catchment-Based Ecological Infrastructure Indaba, together with SANBI. The purpose of the Indaba is to enhance research, development and innovation for socio-economic impact through engaged communities of practice in key catchments associated with Strategic Water Source Areas. One of the objectives of the Indaba is to further an understanding of the people, dynamics, processes and culture of the catchment as they relate to water security.

In preparation of the Indaba, the Dinkwenyana Water Smart project hosted SANBI representatives as Phiring will be one of the sites that will be visited during the Indaba. Upon their arrival, they were welcomed by the Dinkwenyana Water Smart site-co-ordination team and did an on-site introduction of the Dinkwenyana Water Smart Project. The purpose of the visit was to go into the field to physically see work that is being done for better usage of water, as well as to test accessibility to the sites for all the Indaba guests (approximately 150).





*Dansile with the Ba-Dingwenyana Water Smart project site co-ordinator from the left Rose Selahle, for the region by the region site, Zondwa Maphanga, rangeland management site and Dumisa Khoza, agroecology, Itumeleng Selebalo catchment co-ordinator.*



*Sania Mokoena (ecosystem custodian) demonstrating seed collection at the agro-ecology demonstration garden at Thorometsane Primary School, Phiring.*

Our first stop was at the demonstration garden at our local primary school. We explained the agroecological practices and that the demonstration garden is for the whole community and school learners to learn and see effectiveness of the practice. Vegetables harvested add to the school feeding scheme. We had to cross a river to reach our second destination which was at the rangelands, showcasing restoration activities such as erosion control, brush packing, pruning and rotational grazing. Our last

stop was at Sethunyeng (gun rock), one of our identified tourist sites showcasing our beautiful biodiversity and scenery of a rock in the form of a gun.

We had a session with the SANBI team to discuss improvements in terms of accessibility on our different sites.

The Dinkwenyana Water Smart team is ready to host the Indaba guests!!



*SANBI team with K2C at the Sethunyeng (gun rock) hiking trail in Phiring.*



*Sethunyeng (gun rock) one of our identified tourist sites showcasing our beautiful biodiversity and scenery of a rock in the form of a gun.*

## uMzimvubu Catchment

### 'Swim for Rivers' gifts Amadiba Community with hippo rollers

*By Mxolisi Ngongoma*

A rewarding partnership between Swim for Rivers, Siyazisiza Trust and Sustaining the Wild Coast has yet again made the people of Amadiba area wear a smile on their faces. This comes after small-scale farmers under

eGobodweni Farmers Forum received 94 hippo rollers during September 2022. These hippo rollers reduce the amount of time they spend on fetching water from the streams.





*Eco-bricks that are made by the farmers.*

Sustaining the Wild Coast has worked with the Amadiba residents of the coastal villages of Eastern Mpondoland since 2008, seeking to support their commitment to protect their land, livelihoods and culture. The Siyazisiza Trust has also recently joined forces with Sustaining the Wild Coast to work with Amadiba farmers. Both organisations are working with smallholder community farmers to build capacity for the improvement of their livelihoods, food security and environmental protection. This is where the partnership with Swim for Rivers came about as these organisations work towards upliftment of rural communities.



*Hippo rollers ready to be distributed.*

The eGobodweni farmers forum has 245 passionate members who are mostly affected by water scarcity especially in the dry season, as it is public knowledge that South Africa is a water scarce country. But besides those who are part of the farmers forum, Amadiba community is home to more than 26 villages with people who experience the same water crisis. In rural areas it becomes problematic for elderly people and young children to fetch water on a regular basis carrying heavy buckets over long distances. The 90-litre mobile drums called hippo rollers provide some relief. That is where Swim for Rivers comes into the picture with the aim of creating awareness

*A bench made with eco-bricks.*







*Small-scale farmers receiving their hippo rollers.*

of the water crisis, seeking solutions to the problem and helping protect the environment. With the help of donors, supporters and volunteers, Swim for Rivers has raised funds and distributed over 800 hippo rollers across the Eastern Cape province.

Swim for Rivers brings in the awareness about plastic litter that is often all over the land and thus gets washed into rivers and end up in our oceans, thus causing untold damage to marine life. The idea for Swim for Rivers is that people collect plastics and make eco bricks as part of control measures to the challenge of plastic pollution. The community members bring the eco bricks before collecting their hippo rollers as a way of seeking collective solutions to plastic problems. This move promotes the personal eco-bricking process to raise awareness of consequences of consumption and the dangers of plastics in our societies. This has revived the Sustaining the Wild Coast idea of making eco-bricks which was first introduced to YES4youth project. People are encouraged to make the eco-bricks which could be used in building numerous items, including furniture, garden walls and other structures.

*"A change in consumption patterns especially in rural areas has stopped people from eating organic food*

*grown from their own gardens, but now are buying stuff with social grant money to provide for themselves. However, this has contributed to one of the environmental problems as people are still maintaining the dumping sites they used while they were eating organic food from their gardens, now they dump plastics they are getting from shops. Also, because people have access to money, they now buy disposable nappies and dump them in the rivers, and this causes a big environmental problem. This now calls for more awareness about plastic problems and actions to seek solutions," says Sinegugu Zukulu.*

Swim for River's Andrew Chin has swum with fellow swimmers in different provinces as an attempt to raise awareness for water safety and advocating for the importance of healthy rivers. But some of the challenges the swimmers are facing in the rivers include plastic pollution, sewerage overflows, fertilizer run off and other elements that have a negative impact on river health.

For more information see, Sustaining the Wild Coast: [www.swc.org.za](http://www.swc.org.za); The Siyazisiza Trust: [www.siyazisiza.co.za](http://www.siyazisiza.co.za) and Swim for Rivers: [www.swimforrivers.co.za](http://www.swimforrivers.co.za)



## Stewardship, youth and the role of collaboration in the uMzimvubu Catchment

By Yonela Sipeka and Nicky McLeod

The implementation of activities in the uMzimvubu Catchment is done through active collaboration, with a range of partners playing a variety of roles within a common vision and Memorandum of Understanding developed in 2013. One of the core outcomes of this collaboration has been the formation of the Maloti Thaba Tsa Metsi (MTTM) stewardship area, incorporating six traditional authorities, two land-claim beneficiary groups and a private landowner along the upper catchment forming the border with Lesotho.

Collaboration has proven to be a key contributing factor towards the success of addressing the challenges that were raised during stakeholder engagement with communities. The challenges are addressed through the implementation of different activities by different stakeholders across the traditional authorities in the buffer zone of the proposed protected environment. These activities include spring protection, alien plant control and managed grazing through the signing of conservation agreements.

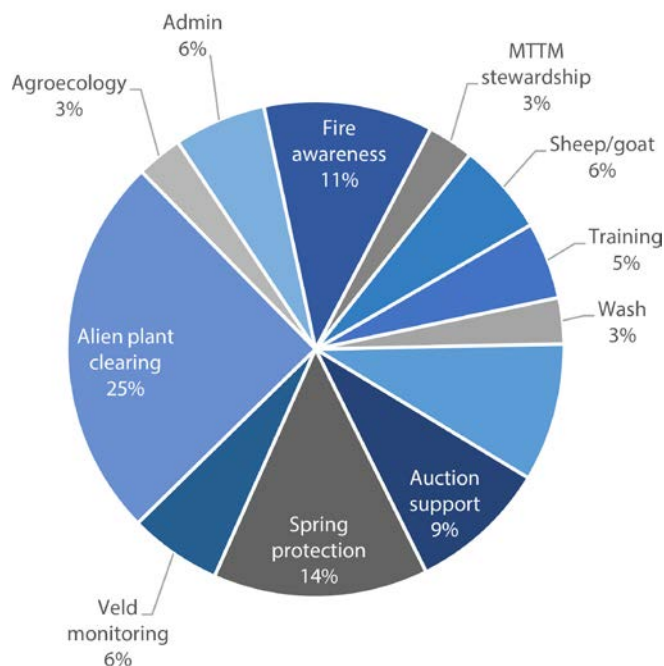
As a result, more than 30 communities no longer struggle to access clean potable water year-round. Both quantity and quality of livestock have been observed to improve along with improved rangelands. Returns from sales at mobile auctions are in excess of R42 million, with the equivalent of 1500 jobs per year. Youth empowerment has played a major role in building collaboration between generations and stakeholders. Youth participants in a variety of programmes – including ecochamps, the Water Research Commission's Graduate Employment Programme, Yes4Youth and FirstJobs – have benefitted over 150 local young people in the MTTM footprint.

The funding mechanisms from the different partners have been catalytic in the implementation of the activities, with each partner responsible for sharing some of the lessons learned through their implementation experiences. As part of the ongoing engagements with communities regarding the proposed protected environment, the activities formed part of the incentive packages provided to communities that have agreed to participate in the Maloti Thaba Tsa Metsi Protected Environment.



*Ecochamps assisted NGO partners with a wide range of collaboration activities including community surveys, trail exploration, mapping and understanding ecological infrastructure challenges in the Maloti Thaba Tsa Metsi footprint and buffer zone.*

**Ecochamp activities focus  
Oct 2021–Mar 2022**



*The tasks undertaken by Environmental and Rural Solutions' ecochamps over a six-month period.*



## A real community of practice in action: water for life!

By Reholile Ngaka and Batho Mosuang

A forty-minute drive from Matatiele along a rough gravel road you will find Makhoaseng village, located in the mountains of the Sibi Traditional Authority in the Upper Umzimvubu Catchment. Despite living in a water source area, the Makhoaseng community has grown tired and frustrated with the lack of water in their village, notwithstanding the presence of a bulk water system from a nearby borehole. Unfortunately, the system relies on a diesel pump, and fuel supply challenges have resulted in the system being non-functional for the majority of the time.

The entire community under the leadership of their Headman took the initiative and approached Environmental and Rural Solutions (ERS) for assistance to capture a spring above the community and connect it to the existing reticulation system. ERS has extensive knowledge and experience with spring protection projects, having protected 23 springs to date with the assistance of various donors and the support of WWF. It usually takes a month of preparation including negotiation, design and recruitment of workers to assist, and up to seven weeks to protect a spring. However, the Makhoaseng community managed to protect the spring and connect it to the reticulation system in five days, with limited technical supervision and material support from ERS. The Makhoaseng spring was protected with



*The ERS and Makhoaseng spring protection team, largely comprised of volunteers.*

funding from WWF-SA and the PepsiCo foundation, and on-site technical support from the Alfred Nzo District local technician who is a resident of the village. The final cost per village beneficiary is a staggeringly cost-effective R65 to have water for life.

This is a mammoth achievement that demonstrates the true power of collaboration between communities, local leadership, and non-government organisations.

## Upper Thukela Catchment

### Addressing water needs at KwaMagaba

By Zinhle Ntombela, Mfundo Myende and Brigid Letty

Multi-stakeholder engagement activities through the Living Catchments Project soon showed that access to water is a challenge for many rural households in the Upper uThukela catchment, despite it falling within the Northern Drakensberg Strategic Water Source Area. The Institute of Natural Resources (INR) approached SANBI and requested that a small amount of resources be made available through the Living Catchments Project to support some pilot activities that can demonstrate the types of interventions that can improve access to water for several communities. One of the sites that was selected for support was KwaMagaba. This village was identified by Bawinile Mtolo, an active community member who is from Obonjaneni and who provides support to the INR. The households from KwaMagaba draw water directly from an unprotected spring that is located in the wetland beyond their homesteads. The only infrastructure comprises two

metal drums that have been placed over the eye of the spring to allow for collecting of water using a bucket or jug. Maintenance of the system is restricted to cleaning out the drums when required, and replacing them when they become too rusty.

The INR team and independent engineer Alain Marechal visited the site and met with a group of women from KwaMagaba to talk about how the water supply system could be improved. It became apparent that water collection is still very much a woman's task in this village, since no men participated in the meeting even though it was open for everyone. It is a very sacred resource to the community as it was regarded as the most reliable source of water throughout the year compared to the municipal supply. The community has no concerns related to the quality of water harvested from the spring. When





*The women, with the help of one man from the village, completed fencing the spring and fitting a wire gate.*

they were asked, they indicated that water was used immediately without boiling or applying disinfectants. The engineer presented the preliminary interventions to improve the spring but the community was not shy to express their thoughts and concerns about the interventions. This demonstrated a good co-development and co-learning exercise and a collective way forward was achieved.

Natural springs are technically a free for all, for example, they can be used by people and livestock. Therefore, the first step that was decided upon to improve this spring was to fence off the spring to prevent access by livestock. The INR used a different approach compared to the “expected” where a project would supply inputs and hire labour. In order to facilitate responsibility and a sense of ownership, we entered into an agreement of only supplying the inputs for spring protection and the community would contribute their time and effort.

Mfundo Myende, who works for the INR, went up to Bergville and worked with the women to start fencing the spring. The women, with the help of one man from the village, completed fencing the spring and fitting a wire gate.

The approach worked really well as people came to assist and brought food and amahewu while woman who couldn't work came to observe.

The next step was to appoint a retired contractor, Mr Chris Ndlela, to work with the women to construct a chamber that would replace the drums. This construction was recently completed and the chamber will be covered with corrugated iron to keep dirt out of the water until a more permanent solution can be found to close the chamber and provide access through a manhole.

The importance of co-developing solutions with the community became apparent when we heard from the



*Group of women from KwaMagaba working together for their community.*



women that there are a lot of cultural beliefs related to using springs, especially when they will be disturbed in some way. As a result of this, the women suggested that the least invasive intervention should be used to improve water supply, such that the amount of digging and

disturbance would be limited. While the system is simple and still requires that a jug or bucket be used to collect water from the chamber, it is an improvement on the original arrangement and the KwaMagaba community is very appreciative of the support that has been provided.

## SANBI

### Citizen science training in the Olifants Catchment

*By Puseletso Nkadameng and Namhla Mbona*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022, a citizen science training workshop was held at the Olifants catchment in Hoedspruit, Limpopo. The purpose of this event was to introduce freshwater monitoring tools for citizen science monitors based in the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C). This initiative aimed at nurturing youth leaders. It was conducted as part of the Living Catchment Project's capacity development agenda. The citizen science training program aimed to improve freshwater monitoring skills by introducing GroundTruth tools such as the miniSASS, BioBlitz, velocity plank and clarity tubes.



*K2C citizen science monitors with their co-ordinator Itumeleng Selebalo and the SANBI team Namhla Mbona and Puseletso Nkadameng.*



*Namhla Mbona demonstrating the clarity tube to the citizen science monitors.*





Summary of the second field day of the citizen science demonstrations.

The training will equip the citizen science monitors with the ability to use freshwater monitoring tools to determine river health, stream flow and water quality in the Bushbuckridge and Maruleng regions.

The four K2C citizen science monitors and their supervisor Itumeleng Selebalo met with SANBI team in the Botshabelo community hall on the first day of the training program. For the demonstrations, we travelled to the Moetladimo Stream in Metz. The following day, Dimakatso Nonyane, their supervisor, and the SANBI team met with the second of the four citizen science monitors in the Sehlarie tribal council. To showcase the tools, we went to the Klaserie Stream.

One of the citizen science monitors, Jeffrey Sekgobela, delivered a talk on the velocity plank and clarity tube, and he used the monitors to demonstrate each tool in the river. The aquatic creatures we had to identify while introducing the miniSASS piqued their interest the most. Abigail Monageng stated,

*"I was intrigued by the water clarity tube, the black disk feature, and the magnets for moving the disk inside the tube really caught my interest. How the disk suddenly disappears inside the tube when the water quality is reduced was a wow factor for me."*

The mood was upbeat; many people were fascinated by the tools' abilities, and the citizen science monitors were inspired and motivated by the day's activities.

The programme for the training workshop was successful. The youth in attendance eagerly engaged in the workshop. People engaged in social interaction and left their comfort zones. Because the group was smaller than what we typically work with, the citizen science monitors felt comfortable enough to ask questions. They were impressed by how much easier the tools made it for them to collect data for their regions. The citizen science monitors were capable of recognising the gaps in their work of conducting diaper surveys and how they may be assisted by the tools through the participation in the conversation that took place.

## Living Catchments Project student workshop

By Puseletso Nkadimeng and Zoleka Mkhize

The Living Catchments Project hosted a students' workshop which took place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Pretoria National Botanical Gardens. Students from the Living Catchments Project, members of the project staff, and special guest speaker Dr. Nontutuzelo Gola all attended the session. The main purpose of this session was to connect and encourage learning among all the Living Catchment Project students. Each student was given a chance to discuss their experiences in the project and the progression of their academic work as part of this process. This incredible platform was developed so that the students may find intersections, conflicts, and chances

to support one another in their research and practice situations. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to meet with their SANBI supervisors for a short period in a more informal setting.

The workshop was structured to allow students to present and articulate the different research work they are conducting in the catchments. The presentations allowed students to tell their research journeys and opened for commentary and further guidance from the team.

Students were excited to share the joy that comes with the engagement of the residents in the catchments





*Dr. Gola giving her talk on policy and research.*

they are conducting the research in. This has brought confidence to know that the work they do adds value to society. Students were also thankful for the support and the exposure the Living Catchments Project has provided them.

*"I love how integral we have been as students in the project, we attend and participate in various project engagements, and we do not feel like we are just a number but we feel valued"*

reflected one of the students.

Responding to the students' quest to understand the role and influence of their research work on policy, Dr. Gola gave a talk where she explained the context of policy. During this talk, she encouraged students to look into existing policies that align highly with their research projects. This would allow the students to understand where their research contributes in terms of policy. The talk motivated the students to incorporate policy thinking into their research.

The student workshop was a fruitful event where we gained a great deal of knowledge from the research the students are doing, emphasising the applicability of their many fields of study to the development of policies. This process allowed deep conversations where students excitedly shared their thinking around their work. The research should be written in a way that will make visible the linkages from the research done in the catchments. We learned more about the Living Catchment Projects expectations after its completion as well as for SANBI as a whole.



*The Living Catchments Project team.*



## Great Southern BioBlitz 2022

By Puseletso Nkadimeng

The 'Great Southern BioBlitz', or 'GSB' for short, is an international period of intense biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species across the Southern Hemisphere in Spring. The purpose of this event is to highlight both the immense biodiversity spread across the Southern Hemisphere in the flourishing springtime, as well as to engage the greater public in science and nature learning. It is a BioBlitz-style competition where cities around the world are in a contest against each other to see who can make the most observations of biodiversity, who can find the most diverse species, and who can engage the most people. GSB22 will be held from 28<sup>th</sup> of October until the end of 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022, incorporating different communities, areas and regions across the Southern Hemisphere.

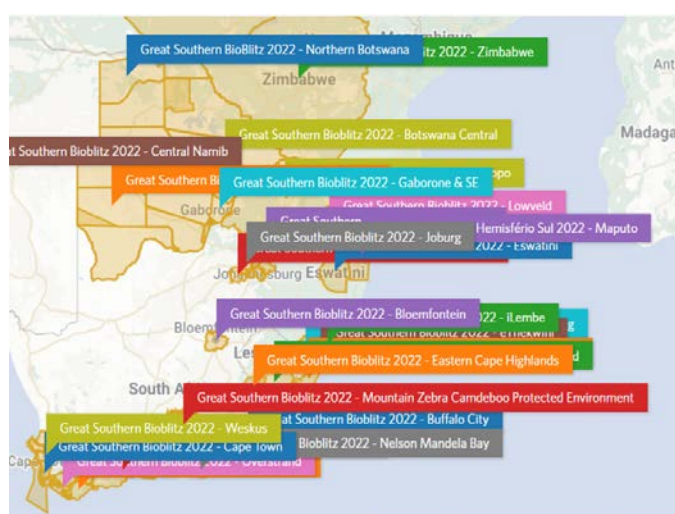
Through participating in the GSB, we hope to create extensive community awareness of local biodiversity and promote further exploration of local environments. We join as citizen scientists to bring effort to record as many species within a designated location and time period as possible. This is a great platform for naturalists, scientists and curious members of the public to meet in person in the great outdoors and have fun. As a result, allowing citizen scientists to participate in research procedures can increase discovery opportunities that would otherwise be impossible. These datasets are used to gain a better understanding of biodiversity, including monitoring population trends, influencing conservation priorities and land-use decision making.

In 2020 across the Southern Hemisphere the first GSB attracted over 3 000 participants in 157 local areas

across 12 countries over 3 continents. More than 91 000 observations of species were uploaded of more than 12 000 species. The second GSB in 2021 attracted 5 789 observers in more than 180 local areas across 19 countries over 3 continents. In 2022 the third Great Southern BioBlitz, #GSB22, is shaping up to be bigger and better than before as places such as the Great Barrier Reef and Madagascar are added to the list of participating areas and countries, respectively, as nominated by volunteer Local Area Organisers.

The African countries and areas that will be participating are as follows: Maputo; Northern Botswana; Botswana Central; Botswana South; Central Namib; Gaborone & SE; Kenya; Maganizo Nomoto, Zomba, Malawi; Rwanda; Zambia and Zimbabwe. The South African cities that will be participating this year are as follows: uMzimvubu Watershed; Bloemfontein; Cape Town; Garden Route; Joburg; KZN South Coast; Limpopo; Lowveld; Nelson Mandela Bay; Overberg; Overstrand; Pietermaritzburg; Potchefstroom; Tshwane; Weskus; eThekweni and iLembe.

SANBI's citizen science team and other partners will be participating in the GSB representing the different cities within the country. The organisers of each participating area may specify one or more local government areas as the observation parameters if they so choose. Anyone can organise an area, including the local council, youth organisations, environmental organisations, Landcare groups, "Friends of" organisations, etc. The GSB actively encourages community collaboration and participation. Everyone is encouraged to participate.



*The Southern African countries participating in the Great Southern BioBlitz.*