Protecting Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas using Biodiversity Stewardship: through government, landowner and NGO partnerships

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Background: Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

- 122 IBAs in South Africa.
- Network of most important sites for bird conservation.
- More than 60% unprotected.
Background: Development context

Threats to grasslands

- Mining & agriculture.
- Only 2.8% protected.
- 65% transformed.
- 71% under mining.
**Background: Expanding Protected Areas**

- Road map for PA expansion.
- Aims to meet targets – CBD Aichi target 11.
- Speaks to development and biodiversity needs.
- Allows the formal protection of a multiple use landscape, under private ownership.
- **Biodiversity Stewardship**, a policy enabled, cost-effective model to expand protected area network.
Case Study: Mpumalanga Lakes District

- 350 natural pans and wetlands in pristine grasslands.
- An ‘IBA in Danger’.
- Proclaimed a PA in January 2014 using Biodiversity Stewardship.
Case Study: Threats

Inappropriate Mining

Incorrect Burning

Over Grazing
Privately owned areas with high biodiversity value receive secure conservation status and are linked to a network of other conservation areas in the landscape.
Landowner Incentives & Benefits

- Management support.
- Economic development.
- Fiscal benefits, e.g. taxes & rebates.
- Protection in perpetuity.

Creates Tourism and Jobs
Management for Biodiversity and Development

Climate change mitigation

Food and water security
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