SANBI
Biodiversity for Life
South African National Biodiversity Institute

Annual Report

2024/2025

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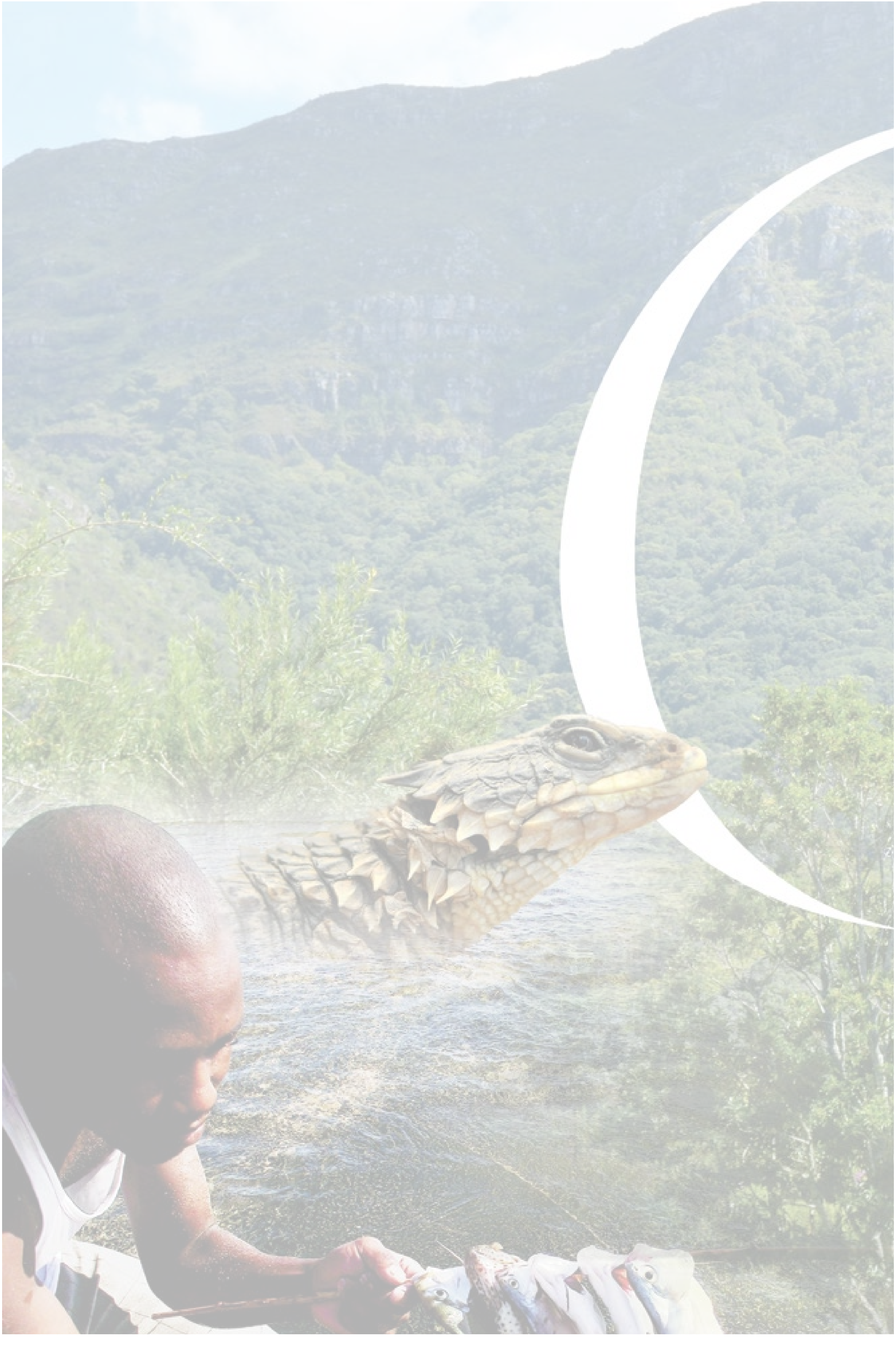

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General Information

NAME:	South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
REGISTRATION NUMBERS AND/OR OTHER RELEVANT NUMBERS (E.G. FSP):	SANBI is a Public Entity established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004)
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BANK:	Nedbank, 135 Rivonia Road Sandown, Sandton, 2196
BOARD COMPANY SECRETARY:	Ms Lebogang Ralepeli

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Adaptation Fund
AGSA	Auditor-General of South Africa
AN	Adaptation Network
APP	Annual Performance Plan
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BBBEE	Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment
BHCDS	Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy
BIM	Biodiversity Information Management
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BS&PA	Biodiversity Science and Policy Advice
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community-Based Organisations
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COHORT	Committee of Heads of Organizations of Research & Technology
COP	Conference of the Parties
CREW	Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers
DAE	Direct Access Entity
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
DPW&I	Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
DSTI	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EbA-Farm	Ecosystem-based approaches for transforming smallholder farming systems that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in South Africa
EbA-Water	Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Water Security in South Africa
ECPTA	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
EcoAdapt	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EcoDRR	Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction
EE	Employment Equity
EI4WS	Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security
ERP	Enterprise Resource Plan
ESA	Ecological Support Area
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
FABI	Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute
FPAs	Fire Protection Associations

GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GRAP	Generally Recognised Accounting Practices
GSCC	Groen Sebenza Climate Change
HLP	High Level Panel
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
HCD	Human Capital Development
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
INR	Institute of Natural Resources
IP	Intellectual Property
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
LLA	Locally Led Adaptation
MANCO	Management Committee
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
MoU	Memorandum/-a of Understanding
MSBP	Millennium Seed Bank Partnership
MINTEC	Ministerial Technical Committee for the Environment
MINMEC	Ministers and Members of Executive Councils
NBA	National Biodiversity Assessment
NBF	National Biodiversity Framework
NBIS	National Biodiversity Information System
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NBG	National Botanical Garden
NBI	National Business Initiative
NDGs	National Development Goals
NDP	National Development Plan
NDMC	National Disaster Management Centre
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NEMBA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
NIE	National Implementing Entity

NPAES	National Protected Area Expansion Strategy
NRF	National Research Foundation
NZG	National Zoological Garden
NCAVES	Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
NDFs	Non-Detriment Findings
NEHAWU	National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSCF	Natural Science Collections Facility
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PAAZA	Pan African Association of Zoos and Aquaria
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PPP	Public–Private Partnership
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SANParks	South African National Parks
SAGEA	South African Graduate Employers Association
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFC	Sustainable Finance Coalition
SHE	Safety, Health and Environment
SWSA	Strategic Water Source Area
SUN	Stellenbosch University
TOPS	Threatened or Protected Species
UCT	University of Cape Town
UKZN	University of KwaZulu Natal
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UWC	University of the Western Cape
WITS	University of Witwatersrand
WRC	Water Research Commission
WSU	Walter Sisulu University
WEF	Water, Energy and Food nexus
WECC	Wetland Ecosystem Classification Committee
WIL	Work Integrated Learning
WWF-SA	World Wide Fund for Nature – South Africa
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZODATSA	Zoological Database of Southern Africa

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

It is a pleasure to present the 2024/2025 Annual Report for the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

I wish to congratulate SANBI on receiving a clean audit outcome for the 2024/25 financial year.

SANBI is one of the entities within the Environmental portfolio under the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. The Institute is mandated through the National Environment Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (NEMBA) to provide leadership in biodiversity research, conservation, policy advice and human capital development for the sector, and is responsible for generating the scientific evidence and data that informs biodiversity planning, decision making and programmes of action.

SANBI also provides technical, strategic and scientific support to South Africa's participation in international and regional biodiversity programmes, including multilateral environmental agreements for climate change and biodiversity, in pursuing the country's developmental interests, reversing biodiversity loss, combating land degradation and mitigating the impact of climate change through ecosystem-based adaptation measures.

The Institute is further tasked with managing a diverse network of 11 national botanical gardens, and two campuses of the National Zoological Garden as windows into South Africa's biodiversity across the eight provinces for conservation, research, environmental education, recreation, tourism and public engagement.

In the execution of its biodiversity conservation mandate, SANBI makes an important contribution towards South Africa's national imperatives of addressing high levels of unemployment through human capital development initiatives and supporting the development of small and medium enterprise programmes that are implemented within its network of national botanical and zoological gardens.

The Ministry has adopted the 'Big 6 priorities' for the Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment portfolio in the 7th Administration. These are addressing 'Climate Change'; the 'Kruger-Kirstenbosch-iSimangaliso Icon Status Strategy'; the 'FILLER' initiative, which is short for 'Fair Industry for Lions, Leopards, Elephants and Rhinos'; 'Fishing for Freedom' – an initiative dedicated to connecting local communities to the ocean economy while promoting marine conservation; 'RESET', which stands for 'Regulatory Efficiency Strategy for Environmental Thrust' and the strategy aimed at resource mobilisation represented by the apex marine mammal – the whale.

SANBI continues to support the department to deliver across the majority of these key priorities. In line with the Kruger-Kirstenbosch-iSimangaliso Icon Status Strategy' (KISS), SANBI implemented strategies to consolidate and elevate Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden's well-earned recognition as a world-class destination and set new standards for conservation, research, education and sustainable tourism. In recognition of the garden's efforts, Kirstenbosch received the TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Best of the Best award for 2022, 2023 and 2024, placing the garden in the top 1% of 'things to do' worldwide.

Climate change is warming Africa at approximately 1.5 times the global average rate, leading to more frequent and severe extreme weather events across the continent and in South Africa. Parliament has now adopted the Climate Change Bill, which provides for a detailed response through climate change mitigation and adaptation. Our focus will be on coordinating a response across all three spheres of government, business and broader civil society.

SANBI plays a critical role in advancing ecosystem-based adaptation measures across all sectors aimed at enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has worked hard to provide policy certainty and a strong policy base for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and equitable use of biological resources as encapsulated in the White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity and the associated legislative tools. The existing regulatory mechanisms serve as enablers for achieving our country's biodiversity obligations including the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

SANBI hosts and retains the capacity for biodiversity research and notably the spatial biodiversity data and information that contributes to the implementation and monitoring of the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework as well as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and works with a network of partners to develop a guideline for mapping biodiversity priorities.

In recognition of SANBI's capacity, role and influence internationally and in the region, the Institute has been selected as the Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centre for Southern Africa (TSC) to support the implementation of the KM-GBF in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

The TSC facilitates collaboration, capacity building and the exchange of technical expertise to address environmental challenges affecting southern Africa. This confidence in the Institute places South Africa as a leading authority in the regional effort to strengthen biodiversity action plans. I commend SANBI management for this and pledge the continued support from my department in ensuring that the country's KM-GBF goals are realised.

I extend my gratitude to the SANBI Board, management and staff for their excellent performance in delivering on SANBI's mandate. I also want to take this opportunity to thank SANBI's network of partners for their significant contributions.

It is with pleasure that I present to you the SANBI Annual Report for 2024/2025, which complies with all statutory reporting requirements of the Public Finance Management Act, as well as the National Treasury Regulations.

DR DION GEORGE

Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) Board is a statutory body appointed by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) as prescribed in the *National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act* (Act 10 of 2004). The current Board term ends on 30 September 2025. The Board has made significant progress in its oversight work undertaken since its appointment in October 2021 to date, which include amongst others, providing consistent strategic guidance to Management.

SANBI received an unqualified audit opinion without findings (clean audit outcome for the 2024/25 financial year). This is a significant achievement by the Institute. In addition, SANBI achieved an overall performance of 86% of the pre-determined Annual Performance Plan (APP) objectives, with 18 of the 21 APP targets achieved.

This consistently notable APP achievements over the different financial years during the Medium-Term Strategic Framework has ensured that many of the 5-year Corporate Strategic Plan outcome targets are met during the 6th Administration term.

The 2024/25 financial year was the last financial year of the 2019–2024 Medium Term planning period of the 6th Administration and also represented a period of transition into the new term of National Government for the 2025–2030 Medium Term Development Planning cycle.

To this end, SANBI Management participated in a number of high-level engagements during the financial year relating to the preparations for the 7th Administration.

The transition required that SANBI develops a new 5-year Corporate Strategic Plan, which has since been considered by the Board, approved by the Minister and tabled in Parliament in March 2025.

Management continued with phased implementation of approved Board strategies and priorities, including but not limited to the following:

- National Zoological Garden Repositioning Strategy and Implementation Plan – including consideration of the NZG Master Plan.
- Financial Sustainability Strategy (including update on SANBI Gardens Membership card).
- Biodiversity Human Capital Develop Strategy.
- Marketing and Commercialisation Strategy.
- SANBI Digital Transformation Strategy.
- SANBI Infrastructure Master Plan.
- National Botanical Garden Expansion Strategy.
- SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy.
- National Strategy and Action Plan to address Illegal Trade in South African Succulent Flora.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the board continued to monitor progress towards achieving key outcomes outlined in the approved strategies. In addition, the Board worked with SANBI management to realise the six key priorities as identified by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, with specific focus around contributing to the Regulatory Efficiency Strategy for Environmental Thrust (RESET). In line with this priority, the Board is gratified that SANBI received another unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor General in the year 2024/25 and that it has been improved to unqualified without findings from unqualified with findings in the prior years.

Significant strides were made in relation to resource mobilisation for the Institute's financial sustainability by pursuing project funding from international donor organisations. SANBI is the accredited direct access entity of the Green Climate Fund, which is the largest operating entity of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Three funding proposals are in various stages of development, all of which are not only aimed at contributing to addressing the country's immediate climate change challenges among the most vulnerable communities of our society but also contributing to SANBI's financial sustainability.

SANBI has been selected as one of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centres and will serve Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

In this role, SANBI is responsible for promoting and facilitating technical and scientific cooperation among Member States to enable the effective use of science, technology and innovation in support of implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

SANBI continued to play a leading role in the implementation of the Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy (BHCDS) for the biodiversity sector with an emphasis on a pipeline of skills in biodiversity research and innovation. To this end, SANBI rolled out the second iteration of the Groen Sebenza Graduate Development Programme.

A total of 1 278 graduates participated in the Groen Sebenza Graduate Development Programme, a flagship human capacity development initiative for the biodiversity sector. The participating graduates were employed on contracts by SANBI, the DFFE and over 70 other public service and private host organisations with their contracts ending in December 2024.

In line with the core objective of the programme, over 300 of the participating graduates were appointed into stable, formal employment during the course of and at the end of this important human capacity development programme.

I thank my fellow Board members for their positive and immense contribution to the oversight work of SANBI. Through leadership of SANBI CEO, Shonisani Munzhedzi, together with EXCO, staff members at the Institute continuously strive for excellence in delivering SANBI's mandate.

I wish to thank the DFFE, including the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, for their unwavering support and oversight. I convey my sincere gratitude to the Ministry for the leadership in advocating the value of biodiversity for a healthy environment as well as economic and social prosperity in the country, the region and globally.

PROF. A. EDWARD NESAMVUNI

Chairperson

Board of the South African National Biodiversity Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Edward Nesamvuni

Ms Beryl Ferguson

Dr Lesley Luthuli

Dr Pulane Molokwane

Dr Mmaphaka Tau

Dr Reginald Legoabe

Mr Leluma Matooane

Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize

Mr Tichaona Zororo
**Expert ARC member

Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi
Chief Executive Officer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) continues to fulfil its primary mandate through providing leadership in biodiversity research, policy advice, conservation and human capital development; and to promote the appreciation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of South Africa's biodiversity.

The Institute continues with phased implementation of several key strategies and programmes that safeguard the integrity of ecosystem services. This includes, among others, the strategy for the repositioning of the National Zoological Gardens, the National Botanical Gardens Expansion Strategy, the SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy, and the Infrastructure Master Plan, which is aimed at improving the state of facilities of the Institute for enhanced customer product offering and improved income generation.

A total of 1 460 563 patrons visited South Africa's national botanical and zoological gardens in the 2024/25 financial year, with over 668 259 visiting the internationally renowned Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (NBG) in the Western Cape. This high visitor number was achieved as an outcome of innovative marketing and communication initiatives and following the successful hosting of key events across the gardens, including the popular annual Kirstenbosch NBG summer sunset concerts. Over 214 113 people visited the Walter Sisulu NBG, 121 404 visited the Pretoria NBG and 205 051 visited the National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria, in Gauteng.

These gardens are among the most popular nature-based tourism destinations within SANBI's diverse network of 11 national botanical gardens and two campuses of the National Zoological Garden across eight of South Africa's provinces.

In 2024/25, SANBI hosted the inaugural National Gardens Week during the period 10 to 16 March 2025. This initiative allowed South Africans free access to all national botanical and zoological gardens, with over 126 000 visitors accessing national gardens during this week.

This is an important initiative aimed at enhancing SANBI's brand recognition, raising awareness of the value of national gardens and facilitating access to South Africa's natural assets to promote its appreciation and encourage collective action of society for biodiversity conservation efforts. It furthermore advances the role of these gardens in biodiversity education, awareness, tourism, recreation, research and conservation.

A further 153 165 individuals, mostly children and young people/students, participated in the 'Kids in Gardens Programme', which is an on-going environmental education and awareness initiative implemented in national botanical and zoological gardens.

Environmental education and awareness are part of SANBI's legal mandate, and this is an important initiative aimed at educating society and raising levels of awareness required to promote the kind of behaviour required to conserve and protect our biodiversity. The programme also contributes to increasing the pursuance of different careers in the biodiversity sector.

National botanical and zoological gardens contribute to the stimulation of socio-economic activities in their localities through job creation as well as procurement of services and products required for the gardens' daily operations. This contribution creates and sustains economic value chains at a regional level. In addition to their conservation function and being nature-based tourism destinations for recreation, national botanical and zoological gardens play an important function in society through human capital development programmes.

In 2024/25, a total of 166 higher education graduates in different fields of biodiversity conservation related careers benefitted from implementation of SANBI's human capital development programmes. Over 1 200 graduates were recruited into the Groen Sebenza Graduate Internship Programme as part of SANBI's key interventions in implementation of the Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy.

SANBI is an accredited National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund and a direct access entity of the Green Climate Fund. This accreditation places SANBI in an excellent position to secure resources for climate change adaptation in fulfilment of its mandate and those of its many partner organisations.

In 2024/25, SANBI continued efforts to build its proposal pipeline, having secured project preparation funding for three GCF funding proposals, with an associated USD 90 million proposal pipeline in advanced development.

SANBI continues its contribution in supporting South Africa's pursuit of its objectives to Multilateral Environmental Agreements by providing robust state of biodiversity reports, as well as scientific analyses and advice for several of the major conventions including CITES, UNCBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

In 2024/25 financial year, SANBI mobilised just over R95 million through resource mobilisation efforts from a number of national and international funders to supplement grant funding from the MTEF allocation. These mobilised resources support the implementation and scaling-up of key SANBI legislative mandate programmes.

SANBI's efforts are well under way to launch the next iteration of the National Biodiversity Assessment in 2025–2026. Equally good progress is being made in preparation for the next report on the status of biological invasions, which is expected to be launched in 2026.

As one of 18 globally appointed Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centres, SANBI continues its efforts to build capacity and support SADC countries to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets. SANBI continues to receive support from international partners and funding agencies for its work of the TSC, including but not limited to support from Germany (GIZ), France (AFD), CBD Secretariat and the African Union Commission, among others. Through the TSC, SANBI has been placed in a global leadership position and is being called upon to assist with setting of global agendas for workshops and various meetings of the AU and CBD. SANBI also continues its efforts in mobilising resources to support the TSC and nine of the SADC countries that have selected SANBI to provide them with support.

In 2024/25, SANBI generated over R180 million from own operations predominantly from admission fees from visitors to the national botanical and zoological gardens and successful hosting of key garden-based events. SANBI launched its own membership card in April 2024. This was developed as part of the financial sustainability strategy for the organisation. Membership offers visitors unlimited access to national botanical and zoological gardens while contributing to the conservation efforts of the organisation in maintaining ex situ collections of some of the most unique and often vulnerable plant species in the country.

A total of 297 work opportunities were created in national botanical and zoological gardens through implementation of the Greening and Open Space Management (GOSM) Programme during the 2024/25 financial year. This programme enhances the quality of maintenance services while proving technical skills to the participants.

SANBI implements a number of infrastructure projects annually as part of its Infrastructure Master Plan. The primary objective is to maintain existing infrastructure and to develop new infrastructure in national botanical and zoological gardens. This is in support of ongoing efforts to keep all facilities in excellent condition, to diversify product and to enhance visitor experiences as well as attract more visitors. Infrastructure programmes also support the growth and sustainability of SMMEs and job creation.

By the end of March 2025, SANBI achieved an overall performance of 86% of the 2024/2025 Annual Performance Plan targets.

In a significant outcome for the Institute, SANBI received an unqualified audit opinion without matters of emphasis.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment for the guidance and support they have given SANBI during the financial year under review. I extend my gratitude to the SANBI Board Chair and the entire Board for their unwavering support and strategic oversight.

I commend the SANBI management team and all SANBI staff members for their dedication and hard work. I also extend my appreciation to our network of partners, donors and stakeholders for the valuable support they continue to provide to SANBI.

MR SHONISANI (SHONI) MUNZHEDZI

Chief Executive Officer
South African National Biodiversity Institute

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOARD

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) was established in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) of 2004 (No. 10 of 2004) and is subject to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) of 1999 (No. 1 of 1999).

The PFMA requires the Accounting Authority to ensure that SANBI keeps full and proper records of its financial affairs. The annual financial statements should fairly present the state of affairs of SANBI, its financial results, its performance against predetermined objectives and its financial position at the end of the year in terms of the effective South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board (ASB).

The annual financial statements are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The External Auditors are responsible for independently auditing and reporting on the Annual Financial Statements.

These annual financial statements are based on appropriate accounting policies, supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, and have been prepared on a going-concern basis. The Board of Directors has reviewed SANBI's cash flow forecast for the year ending 31 March 2026 and considered the risks and challenges for the future. In light of this review and the current financial position, the Board is satisfied that SANBI has adequate resources or has access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence in the short term.

To enable the Board of Directors to meet the above-mentioned responsibilities, it sets standards and implements systems of internal control. The controls are designed to provide cost-effective assurance that assets are safeguarded, and that liabilities and working capital are efficiently managed.

Policies, procedures, structures and approval frameworks provide direction, accountability and division of responsibilities, and contain self-monitoring mechanisms. The controls throughout SANBI focus on the critical risk areas identified by operational risk management and confirmed by Executive Management. Both Management and the Internal Auditors closely monitor the controls and actions taken to correct deficiencies as they are identified.

Based on the assurance given by Management, Internal Auditors and the Auditor-General of South Africa on the result of their audits, the Board believes that the internal accounting controls are adequate to ensure that the financial records may be relied upon for preparing the financial statements. This includes assurance that accountability for the assets and liabilities is also maintained.

Nothing significant has come to the attention of the Board of Directors to indicate that any material breakdown has occurred in the functioning of these controls, procedures and systems during the year under review.

In the opinion of the Directors, based on the information available to date, the annual financial statements fairly present the financial position of SANBI as at 31 March 2025 and the results of its operations and cash flow information for the year.

The audited annual financial statements of SANBI for the year ended 31 March 2025, which have been prepared on a going-concern basis, have been approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

PROF. EDWARD NESAMVUNI

Chairperson

South African National Biodiversity Institute Board

MR SHONISANI (SHONI) MUNZHEDZI

Chief Executive Officer

South African National Biodiversity Institute

31 July 2025

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

SANBI Board

L.V. Ralepeli
Company Secretary

M.S. Munzhedzi
Chief Executive Officer

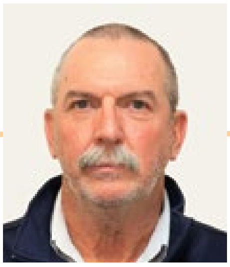
Ms M. Raliphada
Director: Internal Audit

M. Sedite
Chief Financial Officer

E. Mashile
Chief Operations Officer
Corporate Services

Dr T. Frantz
Head of Branch

Prof. R. Sebola
Chief Director:
Foundational
Biodiversity Science



C.K. Willis
Chief Director:
National
Botanical Gardens

M. Tau
Chief Director:
Biodiversity
Information &
Policy Advice

T. Makholela
Chief Director:
Biodiversity Research,
Assessment &
Monitoring

Dr M. Barnett
Chief Director:
Adaptation Policy &
Resourcing

M.J. Netshiombo
Chief Director:
Human Resources

L. Mudimeli
Chief Director:
National
Zoological Gardens

N. Mpulo
Chairperson:
Management Committee
Director: Marketing,
Communication &
Commercialisation

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MANDATES

The South African National Biodiversity Institute was established in terms of Section 10(1) of the National Biodiversity Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004). SANBI is a public entity in terms of Section 38(1)(m) of the Public Finance Management Act. It is classified as a Schedule 3A entity, i.e., one that will receive substantial support from the National Revenue Fund.

Section 2 of NEMBA stipulates that SANBI's purpose is to assist in achieving the objectives of the Biodiversity Act.

Section 2 sets the further objectives of the Act, i.e.:

(a) within the framework of the National Environmental Management Act, to provide for:

(i) the management and conservation of biological diversity within the Republic and of the components of such biological diversity;

(ii) the use of indigenous biological resources in a sustainable manner; and

(iii) the fair and equitable sharing among stakeholders of benefits arising from bio prospecting involving indigenous biological resources;

(b) to give effect to ratified international agreements relating to biodiversity, which are binding on the Republic;

(c) to provide for co-operative governance in biodiversity management and conservation; and

(d) to provide for a South African National Biodiversity Institute.

SANBI's mandate comes from the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity (Act No. 10 of 2004): Section 11.

FUNCTIONS

(1) The Institute:

(a) must monitor and report regularly to the Minister on:

(i). the status of the Republic's biodiversity;

(ii). the conservation status of all listed threatened or protected species and listed ecosystems; and

(iii). the status of all listed invasive species;

(b) must monitor and report regularly to the Minister on the impact of any genetically modified organism that has been released into the environment including the impact on non-target organisms and ecological processes, indigenous biological resources and the biological diversity of species used for agriculture;

(c) must act as an advisory and consultative body on matters relating to biodiversity to organs of state and other biodiversity stakeholders;

(d) must coordinate and promote the taxonomy of South Africa's biodiversity;

(e) must manage, control and maintain all national botanical gardens;

(f) must manage, control and maintain:

(i). herbaria; and

(ii). collections of dead animals that may exist;

(g) must establish facilities for horticulture display, environmental education, visitor amenities and research;

(h) must establish, maintain, protect and preserve collections of plants in national botanical gardens and in herbaria;

(i) may establish, maintain, protect and preserve collections of animals and micro-organisms in appropriate enclosures;

(j) must collect, generate, process, co-ordinate and disseminate information about biodiversity and the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources and establish and maintain databases in this regard;

(k) must allow, regulate or prohibit access by the public to national botanical gardens, herbaria and other places under the control of the Institute and supply plants, information, meals or refreshments or render other services to visitors;

(l) must undertake and promote research on indigenous biodiversity and the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources;

(m) must coordinate and implement programmes for:

(i). the rehabilitation of ecosystems; and

(ii). the prevention, control or eradication of listed invasive species; must coordinate programmes to involve civil society in:

- *the conservation and sustainable use of indigenous biological resources; and*
- *the rehabilitation of ecosystems;*

(n) on the Minister's request, must assist him or her in the performance of duties and the exercise of powers assigned to the Minister in terms of this Act;

(o) on the Minister's request, must advise him or her on any matter regulated in terms of this Act, including:

(i). the implementation of this Act and any international agreements affecting biodiversity which are binding on the Republic;

(ii). the identification of bioregions and the contents of any bioregional plans;

(iii). other aspects of biodiversity planning;

(iv). the management and conservation of biological diversity; and

(v). the sustainable use of indigenous biological resources;

(p) on the Minister's request, must advise him or her on the declaration and the management of, and development in, national protected areas;

(q) must perform any other duties:

(i). assigned to it in terms of this Act; or

(ii). as may be prescribed.

(2) When the Institute in terms of subsection (1) gives advice on a scientific matter, it may consult any appropriate organ of state or other institution, which has expertise in that matter.

48. (3) The Institute must:

(a) assist the Minister and others involved in the preparation of the National Biodiversity Framework, a bioregional plan or a biodiversity management plan to comply with subsection (1); and

(b) make recommendations to organs of state or municipalities referred to in subsection (2); align their plans referred to in that subsection with the National Biodiversity Framework and any applicable bioregional plan.

60. (2) The Institute must provide logistical, administrative and financial support for the proper functioning of the Scientific Authority.

SANBI IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF NEMBA:

- Threatened or Protected Species Regulations;
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Regulations;
- Draft Alien and Invasive Species Regulations.

Underpinning the successful implementation of provisions of NEMBA is the submission of scientific evidence to support policy and decision-making relating to the conservation and management of biodiversity and the impacts of and adaptation to climate change.

Key priorities are also derived from official sources that identify issues with a high relevance to policy, such as, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the National Biodiversity Framework (NBF), government delivery agreements, and other national priorities (e.g., wildlife trade, the green economy), and specific mandates such as provided by the *White Paper on the National Climate Change Response Policy.*

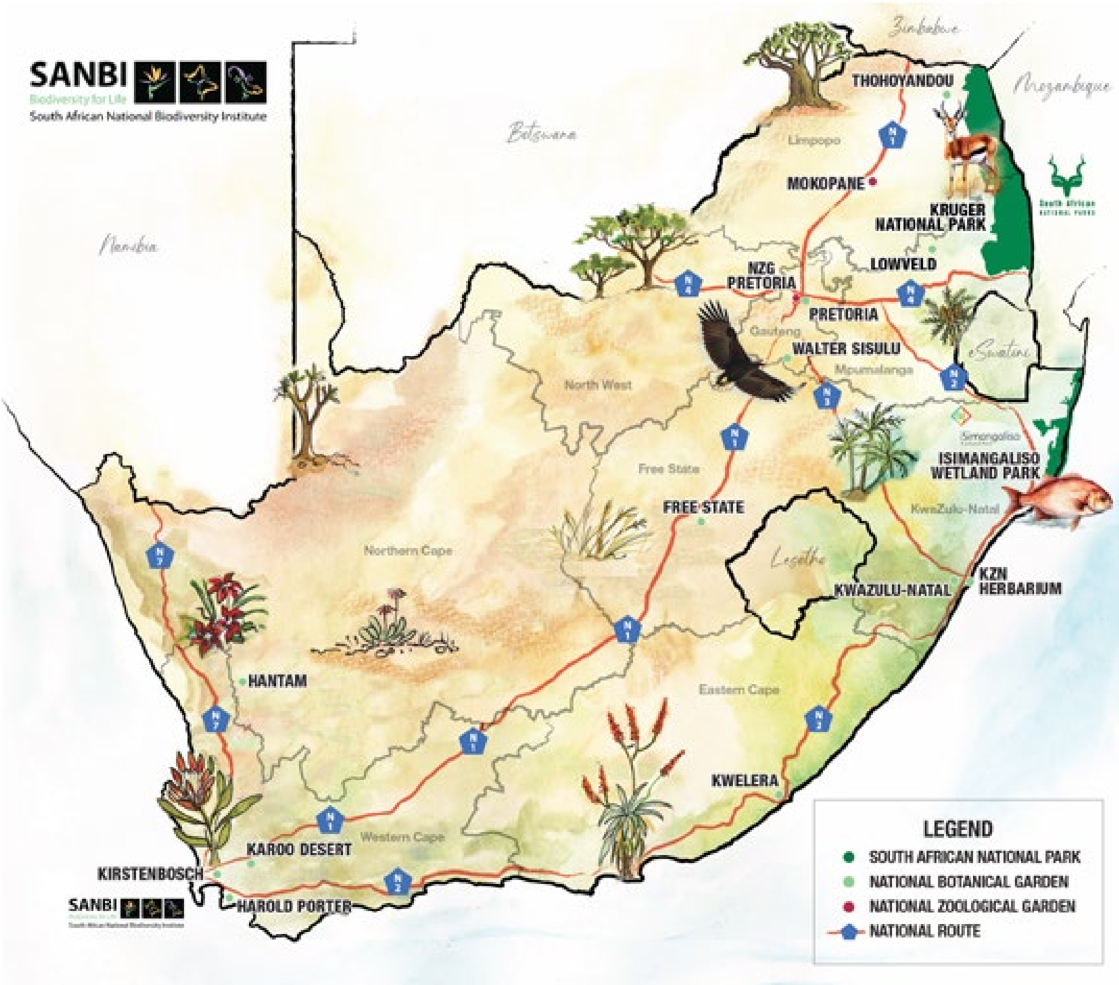
SANBI manages its human resources through the following legislation:

- Labour Relations Act (No. 66 of 1995);
- Basic Conditions of Employment Act (No. 75 of 1997);
- Employment Equity Act (No. 55 of 1998);
- Skills Development Act (No. 97 of 1998);

- Skills Development Levies Act (No. 9 of 1999);
- Occupational Health and Safety Act (No. 85 of 1993)
- Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act (No. 130 of 1993).

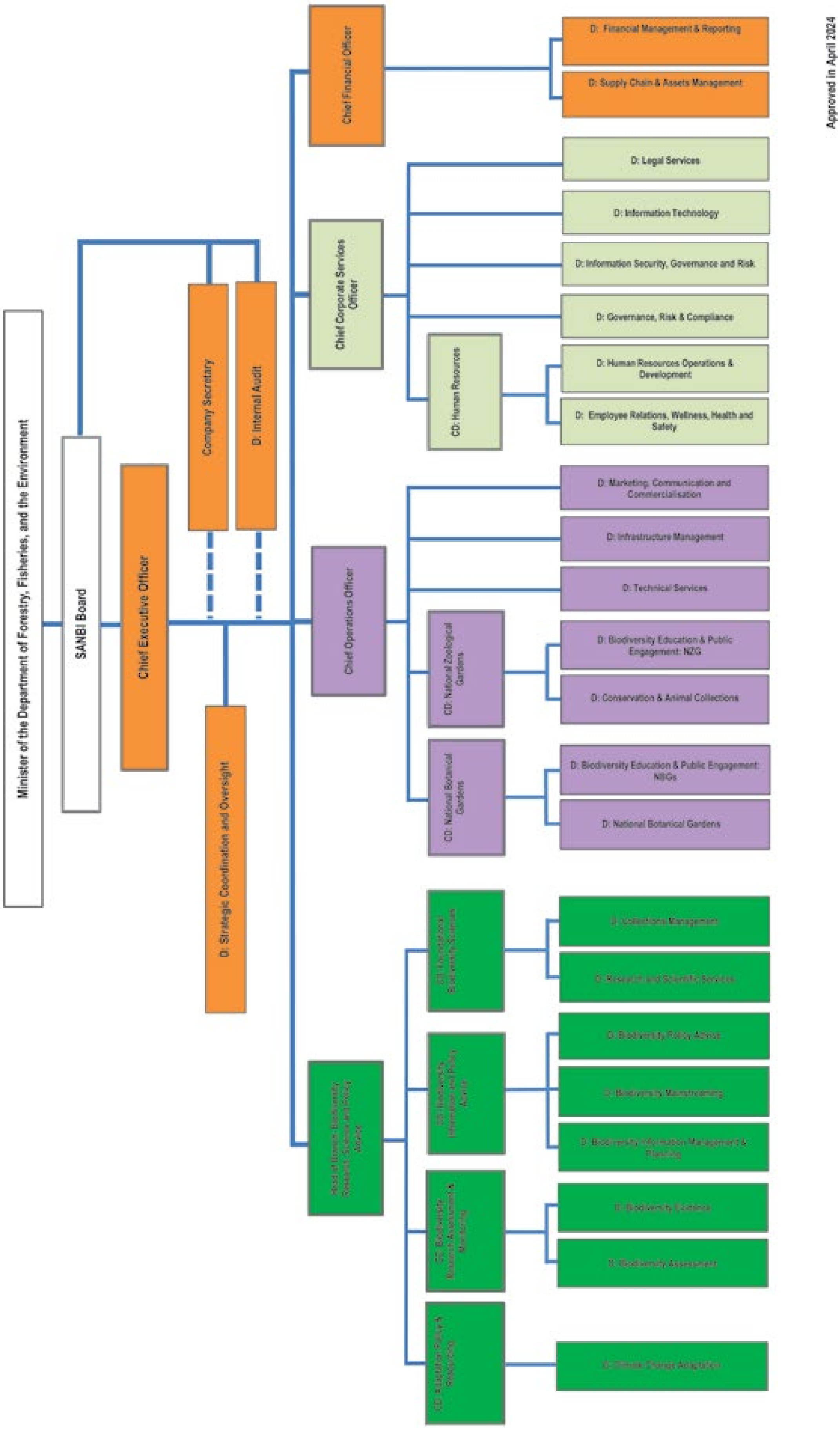
The Institute also complies with the Public Finance Management Act and relevant Treasury regulations.

SANBI'S national botanical & zoological gardens



Biodiversity richness for all South Africans

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



NETWORK OF PARTNERS

COLLABORATIONS WITH NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS/ENTITIES

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD)
Department of Basic Education (DBE)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
Department of Human Settlements (DHS)
Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)
Department of Tourism (DT)
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)
Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes (EPIP)
Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)
Isimangaliso Wetland Park Authority
National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)
South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
South African National Parks (SANParks)
South African Police Services (SAPS)
South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL)
South African Weather Service (SAWS)
Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
Breede–Gouritz Catchment Management Agency
Umgeni Water
Zonderend Water Users Association

COLLABORATIONS WITH PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS

CapeNature
Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)
Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)
Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZNW)
Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism & Environment Affairs (DESTEA)
Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)
Gauteng Department of Education
KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA)
Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET)
Limpopo Department of Education
Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARD-LEA)
Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)
North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT)
Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform
Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP)
Western Cape LandCare

COLLABORATIONS WITH MUNICIPALITIES

Bojanala Platinum District Municipality
Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
Cape Winelands District Municipality
Capricorn District Municipality
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality
City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality
Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality
Ehlanzeni District Municipality
Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality
Midvaal Local Municipality
Mopani District Municipality
Msunduzi Local Municipality
Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality
Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality
Nketoana Local Municipality
Oudtshoorn Municipality
Overstrand Local Municipality
Polokwane Metropolitan Municipality
Sedibeng District Municipality
Setsoto Local Municipality
Stellenbosch Municipality
Thulamela Local Municipality
uMgungundlovu District Municipality
Vhembe District Municipality
West Rand District Municipality

COLLABORATIONS WITH UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

African Centre for DNA Barcoding (ACDB)
Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
Albany Museum
Biobanks South Africa (BBSA)
Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
Centre for Water Resources Research
Chrysalis Academy
Coaltech Research Association
Council for Geoscience
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
Durban Natural Science Museum
East London Museum
Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI)
Freshwater Research Centre
Future Water Institute
Glen Agricultural College

Iziko Museums of SA National Museum, Bloemfontein
KwaZulu-Natal Museum
National Research Foundation (NRF)
Nelson Mandela University (NMU)
North-West University
Port Elizabeth Museum
Rhodes University
Rutgers University
Sol Plaatje University
South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)
South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR)
South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)
South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)
South African Medical Research Council
South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR)
South African Wildlife College
Stellenbosch University (SU)
Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)
University of Cape Town (UCT)
University of Georgia
University of Johannesburg (UJ)
University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
University of Limpopo
University of Mpumalanga
University of Pretoria (UP)
University of South Africa (UNISA)
University of the Free State
University of the Western Cape (UWC)
University of the Witwatersrand (WITS)
University of Venda (UNIVEN)
Washington University
Water Research Commission (WRC)

COLLABORATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS/BUSINESSES

Adaptation Network
Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)
BirdLife South Africa
Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc)
Brenton Blue Trust (BBT)
Cape Horticultural Society (CHS)
Centre for Local Capacity Building (CLCB)
Conservation Outcomes
Conservation South Africa (CSA)
Duzi Umngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT)
Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG)
Environmental and Rural Solutions (ERS)

Forestry South Africa
Gamtoos Irrigation Board
Gondwana Alive
Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association (GCFPA)
Greater Stutterheim Fire Protection Association
GreenMatter Partnership
GroundTruth
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
Indigo Development and Change
Institute of Natural Resources
Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region (K2C)
Kwelera Nature Reserve Proprietary Limited
Lepidopterists' Society of Africa
Living Lands
Mabula Ground Hornbill Project
Marine and Coastal Educators Network (MCEN)
National Business Initiative (NBI)
National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA)
Nature Conservation Corporation (NCC)
Nature Speaks and Responds NPC
NCT Forestry Cooperative Ltd
Networx for Career Development
Oppenheimer Generations
Pan African Association of Zoos and Aquaria
Panthera Proteus Initiative
Sappi
Sci-Bono Science Centre
South African Association of Science and Technology Education Centres (SAASTEC)
South African Cities Network (SACN)
Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB)
Sustainable Energy Africa NPC (SEA)
Table Mountain Fund (TMF)
The Garden Route Botanical Garden
The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
Vhembe Biosphere Reserve
Vulpro
Waterberg Biosphere Reserve
Wildlands Conservation Trust
Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA)
World Flora Online (WFO)
World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA)
ZZ2 farms

COLLABORATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES

Adaptation Fund
Addis Ababa University
African Wildlife Forensics Network (AWFN)
American Museum of Natural History

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Biodiversity Observation Network (BON)-Development Working Group
Catalogue of Life
Conabio
Conservatory and Botanical Garden Geneva (CJBG)
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
COST Wildlife Malaria Network (WIMANET)
Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF)
Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VV OB)
French Development Agency (AFD)
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES)
Government of Flanders
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Green Climate Fund
Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht
International Association of Botanic Gardens (IABG)
International Barcode of Life (iBOL)
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
International Zoo Educators Association (IZE)
IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)
Joint Ethno-botanical Research Advocacy–Uganda (JERA)
JRS Biodiversity Foundation
Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP)
Missouri Botanical Garden
Norwegian Environment Agency
Ocean Conservancy
Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG, Kew)
Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)
Southern African Development Community (SADC)
The Open University, United Kingdom
TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network
UN Statistics Division
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UUNEP-WCMC)
World Bank

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

SANBI
Biodiversity for Life
South African National Biodiversity Institute

UGREAT

Vision

South Africa's biodiversity is conserved and enhanced to deliver sustainable benefits for all.

Mission

To provide leadership in biodiversity research, policy advice, conservation and human capital development; and to promote the appreciation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of South Africa's biodiversity.

SANBI values

U – Ubuntu
Harnessing, caring, sharing and being in harmony with all of creation.

G – Growth
Nurturing and empowering teams and individuals to grow and reach their true potential.

R – Respect and tolerance
Creating open, honest relationships built on trust, mutual respect, dignity and fairness AND valuing and accepting individuals and diversity.

E – Excellence
Providing service excellence through passion, professionalism, and commitment not just to our clients, but also to each other.

A – Accountability
Taking pride and responsibility in our work, and caring for our environment and communities with honesty and integrity.

T – Transformation
We use equitable approaches to change the world, foster togetherness, and inclusivity within our organisation, the sector and our communities.

Performance Information

PURPOSE

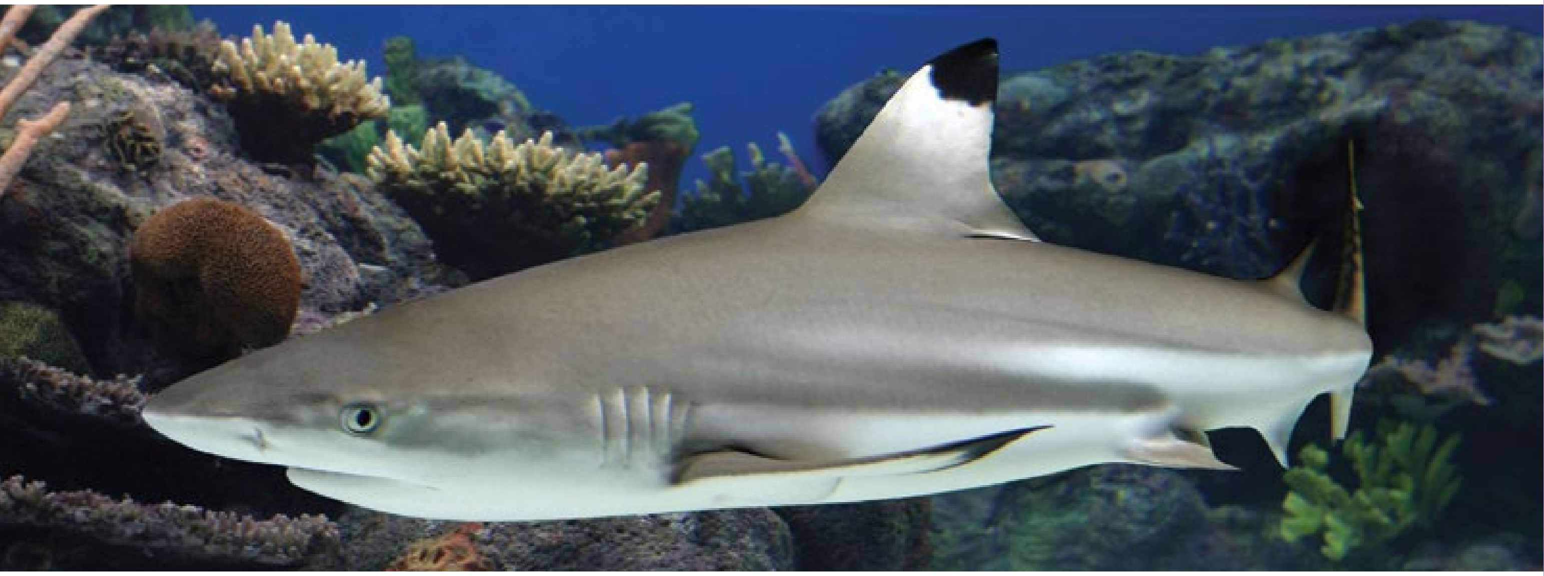
- Promote the conservation and awareness of South Africa's biodiversity and manage the national botanical and zoological gardens as centres of social cohesion and valuable nature-based recreational facilities.

OUTCOMES

- **Outcome 1:** The network of national botanical and zoological gardens are managed and maintained for conservation, research, recreation, education and awareness.
- **Outcome 2:** National Zoological Garden (NZG) is repositioned to effectively contribute to conservation, animal welfare, research, recreation, tourism, education, awareness and public engagement.

Programme 1

National Botanical Gardens
and
National Zoological Garden



National Botanical Gardens

Promote the conservation and awareness of South Africa's biodiversity and manage the national botanical and zoological gardens as centres of social cohesion and valuable nature-based recreational facilities.

Outcomes

- The network of national botanical and zoological gardens are managed and maintained for conservation, research, recreation, education and awareness.

Output Indicators

- Number of SANBI infrastructure maintenance and development projects completed.
- Percentage of Annual Plan for SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy implemented.
- Number of visitors to national botanical and zoological gardens (excluding Hantam and Kwelera national botanical gardens (NBGs)).
- Percentage of Annual Plan for national zoological gardens (NZGs) conservation programmes implemented.
- National Zoological Garden (NZG) Repositioning Strategy implemented.

Programme Performance

Both national botanical and zoological gardens benefited from a dedicated Greening and Open Space Management (GOSM) allocation (as part of a multi-year grant linked to specific projects) from the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in 2024/25. This assisted the gardens towards their implementation of required infrastructure maintenance work to ensure that the gardens remain popular ecotourism destinations and important centres of social cohesion for surrounding communities.

The Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) team and its partners realised a total number of collections for the financial year of 401, of which 187 were new to the MSBP. Forty-seven (47) seed collection field trips around South Africa were undertaken by the MSBP team.

The MSBP together with Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG), Kew, hosted a very successful celebration and symposium at Kirstenbosch NBG, followed by an inspiring workshop and field day from 15 to 17 May 2024. The event celebrated 24 years of seed conservation through the SANBI and RBG Kew partnership. Through this collaboration a valuable national collection of some 6 637 samples from over 4 600 taxa representing 20% of South Africa's magnificent flora has been developed. Representatives from RBG Kew, South African conservation organisations, the SANBI Board of Trustees, NGOs, national universities and voluntary conservation groups joined the SANBI MSB team, management staff and representatives from the MSB Africa team in celebrating these achievements and charting the way forward for the SANBI Wild Plant Seed Bank and Seed Conservation Programme.

Renovations made to the seed conservation building at Kirstenbosch NBG to transform it into a Seed Bank complete with new dry rooms, a -20°C freezer and associated laboratories, received practical completion.

The Arcadia Threatened Species Hotspots Project came to an end on 30 September 2024, however a submission to extend the programme to August 2025 was made to RBG, Kew. The

Millennium Seed Bank team, Kirstenbosch NBG.

Renovated seed conservation building, Kirstenbosch NBG.

submission was approved, and a grant agreement received for a no-cost extension to August 2025. This extension's targets are limited to seed processing, germination testing, seed banking and sending shipments to Kew.

A new project, 'Securing seed material for SA's most critically threatened plants – *Aloidendron pillansii* and *Crassula columella'*, was funded by Dave and Vikki Laurence administered by the RBG, Kew Foundation, providing an amount of £14 155 to SANBI.

A funding proposal was submitted to the Global Botanic Garden Fund, GGI-Gardens Award Programme. SANBI's project: 'Securing tissue, herbarium voucher and seed material of South Africa's threatened plants for ex-situ conservation and research', was successful and $6 500 was awarded to SANBI for this work.

A tissue sampling training course was hosted by the MSBP at Kirstenbosch NBG and facilitated by Mudzuli Mhavanga, Curator of SANBI's National Indigenous Plant Tissue and DNA Biobank. The training course brought seed conservation, DNA banking and horticulturists together to learn how to collect tissue samples from wild plants to be banked at the DNA Biobank.

A new grant agreement was received from RBG, Kew, which funds an existing project called: 'Conservation without borders – Conservation of three Critically Endangered South African species; *Marasmodes'*. The grant awards SANBI with £6 500 for this work.

Following SANBI's acceptance from WWF-SA of erf 5159 (2.18 ha) as an extension to the Harold Porter NBG, DFFE published an intention to declare notice for the land portion in Government Gazette No. 50273 on 8 March 2024. No comments were received. The formal declaration of the land portion by DFFE as an extension to the garden is expected in 2025/26.

New developments made in the Kwelera NBG through the year included a new gatehouse, visitors' centre and staff facility (final completion planned for 2025/26), as well as bulk services, roads and parking areas required for the new developments.

The gardens hosted a range of events during the year, from indigenous plant sales, open air movies, concerts, night runs and walks, trail runs, yoga sessions, book launches, biodiversity awareness talks, picnic events, family fun days, farmers' markets and art markets/exhibitions amongst others. Both the Pretoria and Harold Porter NBGs continued to host weekly park run events. A new Children's Edutainment Garden, funded by GOSM, was constructed in the Pretoria NBG and officially opened at a ribbon-cutting event by the new Minister of the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Dr Dion George, together with members of the SANBI Board.

Kirstenbosch's 'Room to Grow Wednesday Talks' continued to be hosted in Kirstenbosch NBG in partnership with Struik Nature and the Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc). Sculptures

DFFE Minister, Dr Dion George at the launch of the Children's Edutainment Garden, Pretoria NBG.

Anton Smit sculptures on display in the Pretoria NBG.

designed and made by local sculptor, Anton Smit, were displayed in Pretoria, Kirstenbosch and Walter Sisulu NBGs during the year. A sculpture exhibition entitled 'Avian' by Sonja Swan, which describes the ancient history of birds and humankind's symbiotic relationship with them, was hosted in Kirstenbosch NBG from February 2025.

During 2024/25, SANBI's national botanical and zoological gardens started developing the concept of the 'Gardens of the Future', with the support and guidance of the SANBI Board. SANBI is also working towards contributing towards the DFFE Minister's 'Kruger, Kirstenbosch, iSimangaliso Icon Status Strategy', or KISS. KISS is a bold initiative designed to elevate South Africa's national parks, botanical gardens and marine protected areas to become world-renowned tourism destinations. Through KISS, the aim is to transform these national treasures into 'economic powerhouses' for South Africa.

Tourism monitors in the KwaZulu-Natal NBG, sponsored by the National Department of Tourism.

Mango Groove performing during the Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concert Series.

By enhancing visitor experiences and employing innovative management practices, SANBI and the other public entities under DFFE will ensure that South Africa's national parks, gardens and marine protected areas do more than conserve our natural and cultural heritage – they will also serve as meaningful contributors to an inclusive, green economy in which everyone can participate and benefit. This strategy will focus on unlocking opportunities for investment, for community development, poverty alleviation and most importantly, for job creation, especially for South Africa's youth. The development of Kirstenbosch NBG and other national botanical gardens will also present a wealth of opportunities and potential career pathways. By learning about our biodiversity, ecosystems and the tourism industry, young people across South Africa will be able to leverage these natural assets into fulfilling careers in fields such as conservation, horticulture, nature-based tourism, as well as environmental management and protection.

During 2024/25, SANBI's 13 national botanical and zoological gardens were supported for a year by 128 dedicated tourism monitors sponsored by the National Department of Tourism. Several tourism monitors were assigned to support the Mphaphuli Cycad Nature Reserve east of Thohoyandou/Sibasa in the Limpopo Province, and managed by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

A Travellers' Choice 2024 award from TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel site, was presented to the Kirstenbosch NBG. This award is TripAdvisor's highest recognition and is presented annually to those businesses that are ranked the Best of the Best on TripAdvisor – those that earn excellent reviews from travellers and are ranked in the top 1% of properties worldwide.

The Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concert Series was successfully held from December 2024 to March 2025, for the 32nd season of live entertainment. Some of the local artists performing during the concert season included Jeremy Loops, Mi Casa, Goldfish, Mango Groove, Ami Faku and Simmy, Mandisi Dyantyis, Matthew Mole, as well as the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, amongst others. International artists included Soul II Soul, Goo Goo Dolls and Stef Bos.

For the first time in the history of South Africa's national botanical and zoological gardens, a new annual SANBI Membership Card was launched on 1 April 2024. Dual pricing for Kirstenbosch

NBG continued to be successfully implemented throughout the year.

SANBI continued to receive support from the Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc) as a strategic partner. SANBI's Director: National Botanical Gardens, Thompson Mutshinyalo, joined the General Manager of BotSoc, Ms Antonia de Barros, on a peer-to-peer exchange and resource mobilisation mission to several botanical gardens in both the United States of America (USA) and the United Kingdom (UK) in January/February 2025.

The Lepidopterists' Society of Africa (LepSoc Africa) continued undertaking monthly butterfly surveys in some of SANBI's national botanical gardens. Various previously unrecorded butterfly species have been added to the national botanical gardens' biodiversity checklists through this initiative.

Work continued with the implementation of the business plan developed for the use of the bequest left for Kirstenbosch NBG by the late Mrs Joan Wrench. The set of projects approved for implementation using funds from the bequest included: (a) internal upgrades to the existing Gold Fields Education Centre to become the Joan Wrench Learning Centre; (b) sponsored transport for disadvantaged individuals (learners, senior citizens, disabled) to Kirstenbosch NBG and the Joan Wrench Learning Centre; and (c) the establishment of a scholarship fund, known as the Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Fund, which has now been established by SANBI and is used to provide funding for scholarships and internships to previously disadvantaged individuals (for garden-based students specifically). During 2024/25, nine interns and 24 postgraduate students were supported by the Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Fund. For the financial year 2024/25, a total of 7 728 beneficiaries were transported to Kirstenbosch NBG through financial support provided by the Wrench bequest.

Horticultural staff from the Karoo Desert and Kirstenbosch national botanical gardens continued to assist conservation and law enforcement authorities in the ongoing succulent poaching crisis. The NBGs' Horticultural Enrichment Forum (HEF) was held in the Lowveld NBG in August 2024 and included various interns and other horticultural staff from across SANBI's gardens. The SANBI Horticultural Career Ladder Moderation Committee convened its annual meeting in October 2024. The National Botanic Gardens of Ireland based in Dublin, Ireland, together with support from the Irish Museums Trust, generously seconded one of their experienced horticulturists, Ms Nora Mulcahy, to SANBI for three months in 2024 to assist with the management of SANBI's diverse conservation horticultural collections.

As part of the implementation of South Africa's National Botanical Gardens Expansion Strategy (2019 to 2030), SANBI Management and North West provincial authorities (North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, DEDECT, and North West Parks and Tourism Board) have earmarked the Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (KMR) near Rustenburg as the preferred site for a national botanical garden to be located in the province. A new professional service provider was appointed by SANBI in 2025 to conduct a feasibility study of the Waterkloofspruit site inside the KMR.

SANBI continued to work with SANParks in establishing the Richtersveld Desert Botanical Garden (RDBG) in Sendelingsdrift, |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park (ARTP) as a demonstration garden for the conservation and display of plants of South Africa's unique Desert Biome. The RDBG was celebrated with members of the local community and media at a function held in August 2024. SANBI is working closely with SANParks as part of a collaboration agreement to showcase the unique flora of South Africa's

Butterflies continued to be monitored across several national botanical gardens by members of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa.

Desert Biome in the Sendelingsdrift camp site of the Richtersveld National Park. SANBI's interpretation team made significant contributions towards the interpretive signage displayed in the RDBG.

SANBI received a Kudu Award in the category 'Associated Partners' at the SANParks 2023/24 Kudu Awards evening held in November 2024 in recognition of SANBI's significant contribution to combat the illegal trade in succulents and mobilise resources, expertise and partnerships to safeguard these species.

A combined number of 1 460 563 visitors to the national botanical and zoological gardens were recorded for the financial year. NBGs received 1 255 512 visitors while the NZGs received 205 051 visitors during the financial year. Visitor numbers across SANBI's gardens were stimulated by the first National Gardens Week being held during the week of 10–16 March 2025, where free access to SANBI's national botanical and zoological gardens was given to visitors during the week. It is envisaged that National Gardens Week will become an annual event on the SANBI corporate calendar, to enhance exposure and awareness of the gardens to surrounding communities and allow them to experience the unique product offerings the different gardens have to offer, free of charge. The process of migration of botanical and zoological gardens to a cashless payment system continued through the year.

SANParks team managing the Richtersveld Desert Botanical Garden, Richtersveld National Park.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with the University of Venda and the Garden Route Botanical Garden Trust, amongst others, during the financial year. The opportunity to establish an indigenous botanical garden on the University of the Free State (UFS)'s Qwaqwa Campus in Phuthaditjhaba, eastern Free State continued to be pursued through the MoU between SANBI and the UFS. Efforts are underway to establish an indigenous demonstration garden around the UFS's Afromontane Research Unit on the campus.

SANBI's Director: National Infrastructure Programme, as well as two Deputy Directors: Regional Infrastructure Programme, continued to support the coordination, management and oversight of SANBI's various infrastructure and maintenance projects in the national botanical gardens.

Despite a budget cut of R60 million imposed on SANBI (reducing the annual infrastructure grant from the initial R180 million to R120 million), progress continued in the implementation of SANBI's DFFE-funded Infrastructure Programme,

New boardwalk in the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden.

Multi-function Hall in the KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden.

with significant investment allocated for improving and refurbishing the organisation's buildings and related infrastructure, as well as information technology infrastructure. Some of the infrastructure projects implemented during the year included completion of a multi-function hall and paved pathways in the KZN NBG, new wetland boardwalks in Kirstenbosch and Harold Porter NBGs, a new ClearVu boundary fence in the Free State NBG, repairs to nursery infrastructure, new growing tunnels, renovations to staff residences and various security infrastructure projects, amongst others. Design plans were developed by professional teams for various proposed new structures, including administration buildings, herbaria, multifunction halls, overflow parking area, and public ablutions in several national botanical gardens. Following heavy rains in February 2023, the damaged Lowveld NBG pedestrian bridge was restored and a new viewing platform constructed and opened to the public.

Integrated wildfire management plans were prepared by an appointed service provider for both the Kirstenbosch and Harold Porter NBGs. These plans will assist these gardens with wildfires experienced from time to time. Two wildfires on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain were experienced during the year on the Table Mountain National Park land under the management of SANParks. Fortunately, no damage was done to SANBI's built infrastructure through these wildfires.

Various green energy and water conservation projects were also completed during the year. Forty (40) priority maintenance projects were completed through the year, as well as 10 priority new infrastructure assets. A landscape architect and draftsperson were appointed on a term contract to assist prepare master plans in selected priority NBGs and NZG.

A new 5-year Business Case for infrastructure needs across SANBI for the period 2026/27 to 2030/31 was prepared and is scheduled to be finalised in 2025/26.

Solar panels were erected on the roofs of the Biodiversity Centre and National Herbarium, Pretoria.

Renovations and refurbishment of buildings at the KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium, Durban.

New viewpoint built in the Lowveld National Botanical Garden, Mpumalanga.

Programme Highlights

- A dedicated grant allocation for Greening and Open Space Management (GOSM) projects across SANBI's national botanical and zoological gardens was committed from the national Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). This enabled the gardens to ensure they remained popular ecotourism destinations and important centres of social cohesion for surrounding communities.
- SANBI's Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy was implemented in several gardens.
- Kirstenbosch's Summer Sunset Concert season, which started in December 2024, was successfully concluded in March 2025. Many popular national and international artists performed, across a range of genres.
- Various infrastructure and building maintenance projects were completed across SANBI's gardens during the year. This included 33 maintenance projects and 5 new infrastructure asset projects.
- A new annual SANBI Membership Card, allowing access to all national botanical and zoological gardens, was launched on 1 April 2024.
- MoUs were signed with the University of Venda and the Garden Route Botanical Garden Trust.
- Kirstenbosch NBG received a Travellers' Choice 2024 award on TripAdvisor as an attraction that consistently earned great reviews from travellers.
- The combined number of system-generated visitors to NBGs and NZGs for the year totalled 1 460 563.

National Zoological Garden

Conservation and Animal Collections

During the 2024/25 financial year, the National Zoological Gardens (NZG) continued to advance its mandate in management of biological diversity, conservation, animal welfare and scientific research across its two campuses – Pretoria and the Mokopane Biodiversity Conservation Centre.

The development of the new Masterplan for the Zoological Gardens was successfully completed, guiding long-term infrastructure, collection planning and conservation initiatives. For the second consecutive year, NZG received the PAAZA Conservation Award, recognising outstanding contributions to the conservation of African species and ecosystems.

The NZG continued to play a key role in implementing the Multi-species Biodiversity Management Plan for Vultures in South Africa (as gazetted in 2014), contributing through its membership in the National Breeding Steering Committee. The NZG manages studbooks for six of the seven resident breeding vulture species. The National Zoological Gardens holds a breeding group of 34 Cape Vultures and successfully bred three chicks in the financial year, with three chicks released to augment the dwindling wild population. NZG also maintains a breeding pair of Palm-nut Vultures.

Further conservation breeding achievements in the current financial year include the birth of offspring from the Endangered Northern Bald Ibis, buff-cheeked gibbons, scimitar-horned oryx, and the Vulnerable urial, contributing to global efforts to preserve threatened species.

Confiscations and Wildlife Rescue

In collaboration with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and other regulatory bodies, NZG provided sanctuary for 888 specimens from 17 confiscation operations, including a confiscated tiger. These animals were intercepted in efforts to curb illegal wildlife trade and demonstrate NZG's role as a national rescue and rehabilitation facility.

Animal Collection Enhancement

To support conservation, education and biodiversity representation, NZG expanded its collection through various sources including both imports and local sourcing. Key additions in the current financial year included:

- 220 marine fish, including three blacktip reef sharks.
- New species such as jewel cichlids, fennec foxes and golden-handed tamarins.
- A pair of roan antelope transferred from Mokopane to Pretoria NZG.

Animal Welfare and Retirement

As part of its commitment to animal welfare, NZG facilitated the retirement of its lone African savanna elephant, Charley, to Shambala Private Game Reserve, following a decision by the SANBI Board. Charley's relocation was conducted with the highest welfare standards.

NZG continues to maintain high animal welfare standards supported by its state-of-the-art animal hospital and research facility, reinforcing its role as a leading conservation institution within South Africa and beyond.

Contributions to biodiversity education and public engagement programmes

In the 2024/25 financial year, the National Zoological Garden (NZG), through its Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement (BEPE) Directorate, delivered impactful environmental education and public engagement programmes

Cape Vulture

Billy the Bin conducting a ‘Don’t litter’ lesson.

across its sites, including the Mokopane Biodiversity Conservation Centre (MBCC). These initiatives supported SANBI’s strategic objective of maintaining a well-managed network of diverse national botanical and zoological gardens that contribute to conservation, education, research and recreation. They also align with the NZG’s repositioning strategy, which aims to establish the gardens as preferred nature-based tourism destinations.

A total of 87 282 learners participated in structured educational activities. Programmes included curriculum-aligned lessons such as ‘Genetics for Grade 12, reptile discovery, micro zooming’ and commemorative events linked to environmental calendar days. These educational initiatives demonstrate SANBI’s ongoing commitment to biodiversity education, youth development and inclusive community engagement through science-based learning and conservation awareness.

Outreach efforts were expanded through stakeholder partnerships across provinces, including the hosting of biodiversity careers exhibitions

Vegetable gardening project with Science Club learners.

SANBI staff, SANParks officials and Zoo Club members at the SGH station launch.

Learners and partners at the debate competition.

Students engaged in a microscope zooming lesson.

and science expos, connecting Grade 7–12 learners to career pathways in biodiversity and STEM, and providing access to bursary information.

Key highlights include:

- **Mokopane environmental education initiatives**: In collaboration with the Mogalakwena Environmental Education Stakeholders Forum, BEPE delivered programmes such as Climate Change Action Week, Arbor Week vegetable gardening projects, and recycling awareness through the 'Trash Show' competition, promoting sustainability and environmental literacy among school communities.
- **Southern Ground Hornbill education campaign**: Following an MoU with the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, conservation awareness on the Southern Ground Hornbill (SGH) was incorporated into BEPE's public engagement and educational programmes. This included the use of a dedicated SGH mascot, an SGH-themed study guide, ambassador training for Zoo Club members, and the launch of the SGH Animal Talk Station at NZG. Eighteen volunteers from Honorary SANParks Rangers and our internal BEPE staff were trained to deliver these conservation talks.
- **Science and debate competitions**: SANBI's BEPE Directorate hosted a Life Sciences Competition (funded by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement / National Research Foundation, SAASTA/NRF) and a debate competition in partnership with stakeholders such as SAPS and the Gauteng Department of Community Safety. Winners of the Life Sciences Competition were awarded laptops and participated in an environmental education excursion to Durban, facilitated by the Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and sponsored by SANBI's Adaptation Policy and Resourcing Directorate. The debate competition engaged learners on the theme of environmental law enforcement vs education, fostering critical thinking and civic engagement.

Infrastructure Capital and Maintenance Projects

The Management and Upkeep of Infrastructure at the NZG

The proper maintenance and refurbishment of buildings, walkways, animal enclosures and visitor facilities at the National Zoological Garden (NZG) is essential for creating a safe, functional and welcoming environment for staff, visitors and animals. A well-maintained facility not only upholds safety standards but also contributes to a clean, attractive and enjoyable experience for all.

SANBI manages the day-to-day maintenance of the infrastructure with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPW&I) providing essential support for the maintenance of key electrical and mechanical systems, including fire safety, HVAC, pumps and generator infrastructure.

An equally important aspect of infrastructure management at the NZG is biosecurity – a critical component in preventing the introduction and spread of diseases and pests that could threaten native biodiversity, the economy and surrounding communities. In a zoological setting, proactive biosecurity measures are essential to protect the health and wellbeing of animals, staff, domestic species and nearby ecosystems.

Since 2017 and continuing into the 2024/2025 financial year, the NZG has been actively implementing a long-term programme to address the refurbishment needs of its over 125-year-old facility. This programme is benchmarked against other international zoos, and aims to modernise the zoo while supporting conservation, education and tourism goals.

Key infrastructure projects undertaken include:

- Design, upgrade and reconstruction of the aquarium facilities, including the aquatic mammal pools and tanks.
- Significant restoration of aging infrastructure, including roofing and structural improve-

Southern Ground Hornbill.

ments of revenue generating facilities such as kiosks, events venues and restaurants.

- Key projects in the current financial year includes the following construction and renovation initiatives:
  - Installation of bird netting and footpaths.
  - Repairs to wire roofing on animal enclosures.
  - Modifications to small mammal enclosures.
  - Remedial works on existing buildings.

NZG has also prioritised the design and upgrade of animal enclosures, including the construction of new facilities and night rooms for various species such as primates, zebras, rhinos, raptors and other birds. These projects demonstrate the NZG's commitment to upholding high standards of animal welfare and improving biodiversity conservation, while also enhancing the overall visitor experience.

Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure: Zoo Train Initiative

In partnership with the National Department of Tourism, NZG received an allocation of R1 million for infrastructure upgrades aimed at improving customer service and the visitor experience. A key outcome of this collaboration was the successful purchase and commissioning of a battery-powered zoo train, officially launched in March 2025.

This environmentally friendly transport solution not only enhances visitor convenience and accessibility within the zoo but also aligns with national sustainability objectives. The train is designed for energy efficiency, operating on battery power to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact. The initiative reflects NZG's ongoing transition toward green-rated operations, the adoption of innovative technologies, and a firm commitment to supporting a low-carbon future.

In addition to the ongoing refurbishment and maintenance work, the NZG is advancing a Public–Private Partnership (PPP) project with the support of the National Treasury's Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC) and the DPW&I. The project has reached the feasibility stage, with the appointed Transaction Advisor having completed the feasibility study. This initiative is intended to unlock long-term infrastructure development opportunities at NZG, including the revival of the historic cable car, the establishment of a new eastern entrance gate, and the introduction of both revenue-generating and non-revenue infrastructure. The PPP aims to enhance visitor access, diversify attractions and strengthen NZG's financial sustainability while aligning with its repositioning and tourism development strategy.

The NZG team welcomed three blacktip reef sharks and over 220 vibrant marine fish to the aquarium, adding a new layer of wonder and biodiversity to the largest inland aquarium on the African continent.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56

Branch:

Biodiversity Science and Policy Advice

Divisions

Foundational Biodiversity Science

Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring

Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice

Adaptation Policy and Resourcing

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this programme is to ensure that foundational information on species and eco-systems is generated and collated. This involves describing and classifying species and ecosystems in South Africa.

OUTCOMES

- **Outcome 3:** The state of biodiversity is assessed and relevant knowledge and evidence is generated to inform decision support.
- **Outcome 4:** Decision support tools are produced for mainstreaming biodiversity into policy, and resources are mobilised for ecosystem-based adaptation.

Programme 2

Division:

Foundational Biodiversity Science

Foundational Biodiversity Science

Programme Performance

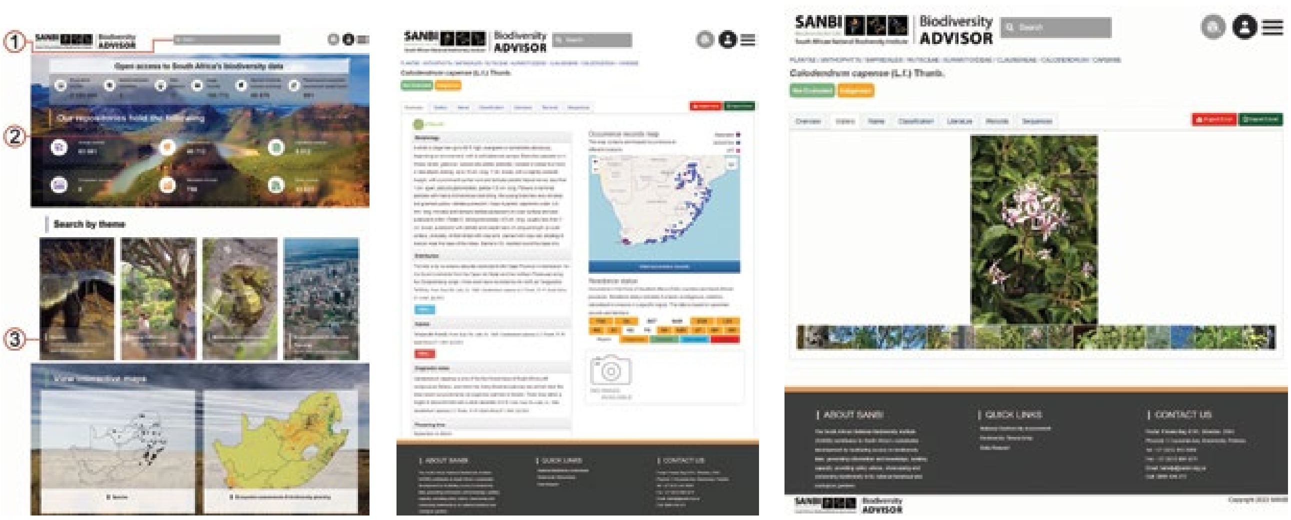
An inventory of South Africa's biodiversity is one of the mandated functions of SANBI, and to this end comprehensive national checklists for plants and animals are generated annually. The checklists include a list of species names and distributions, indicate knowledge gaps to be prioritised for research, and serves as taxonomic backbone for biodiversity research work, including assessments and monitoring.

In the past year, the following animal taxonomic groups were added Annelida (Polychaeta), Anostraca, Appendicularia, Ascidiacea, Bivalvia, Cephalopoda, Maxillopoda (Copepoda: Calanoids), Cladocera (Diplostraca), Demospongiae, Echinodermata (Holothuroidea and Crinoidea), Malacostraca (Amphipoda, Decapoda and Stomatopoda), Nematoda (Adenophorea), Ostracoda, Sagittoidea and Sorberacea. In addition, synonyms for 15 taxa groups (bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, caddisflies, decapods, frogs, land snails, long tongue flies, mammals, mayflies, mites, marine fish, reptiles, spiders and stoneflies) were added on ZODATSA. A few taxonomic changes were incorporated for the butterflies, some species were moved to a new genus e.g., *Spialia* to *Ernsta*. SANBI has also contributed to the establishment of animal species database for SANPARKS and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife by providing them with a checklist for valid species names to advise on decision making for permit applications. All these are accessible through a central online platform, the *Biodiversity Advisor* (https://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/search/specieslist?category=zodatsa_01072024).

SANBI staff member working on an animal checklist.

Updates to the *South African National Plant Checklist* during the past year include the addition of 570 names to the checklist (314 accepted names and 256 synonyms) from 231 genera in 77 families. An important change is the amended orthography of a set of plant names that are culturally offensive. Following a decision by the Nomenclature Section meeting of the XXth International Botanical Congress held in Madrid, Spain, during July 2024, names with the root *caf[f][e]r-*, such as *cafra*, *caffra*, *cafrorum*, and *cafrum*, are not permitted under the rules of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants*. These names are to be treated as orthographical variants and is

Biodiversity Advisor website. From left to right: homepage; species page example; species image library example.



replaced by epithets with the root *af[e]r-*, such as *afra*, *afrorum*, and *afrum*. Accordingly, 343 names associated with 94 taxa in 71 genera from 43 families of South African plants were amended in the South African National Plant Checklist following the new Article 61.6 of the *Madrid Code*.

SANBI is involved in the global plant nomenclature community with a representative on two of the Permanent Nomenclature Committees of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy, namely the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants and the Editorial Committee of the *Madrid Code*. The Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants plays a crucial role in ensuring stability in plant names by making recommendations regarding proposals to conserve or reject plant names, and on requests for binding decisions on the confusability of plant names (homonyms) and the valid publication of plant names. The Editorial Committee is responsible for updating the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* – the rules and recommendations that govern how plants are named – by incorporating the proposals to amend the *Code* that was approved at the Madrid Nomenclature Section. SANBI is also represented on the CITES Plants Committee through the Nomenclature Specialist of this committee, who ensures that the names of plants used by this multilateral environmental agreement are correct and up to date.

CITES has commissioned SANBI to create an updated *CITES Checklist for Aloe Species*, containing a total of 1 468 names associated with the 646 accepted species of aloes of the world. This checklist will be presented for approval to the 20th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties, to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in November–December 2025, whereafter it will be included as a standard nomenclature reference in CITES Resolution 12.11 on *Standard Nomenclature*.

The division continues to make human capital development an integral part of the operations and has contributed 39 to a total number of 107 publications in peer reviewed ISI journals, and a significant number of early career scientists and those on internships contributed as either first/lead authors or as co-authors. Over 90 workshops, training and/or conferences were attended by staff. The division hosted 32 interns.

This training forms a critical component of SANBI's broader initiative to enhance forensic and scientific support services linked to wildlife trafficking investigations. By building a robust and geo-referenced DNA barcode reference library, SANBI aims to provide reliable scientific evidence for enforcement agencies, including the Scientific Authority, provincial bodies, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). The implementation of standardised chain of custody (CoC) protocols ensures that genetic data collected for priority species, including those threatened by international trade, is both admissible in legal proceedings and valuable for biodiversity policy development. The success of this training not only strengthens SANBI's capacity in forensic biodiversity science but also reinforces its role as a key player in South Africa's response to wildlife crime.

Dr Momohale Chaisi, Senior Scientist, received her a C2 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) whilst Ms Janine Baxter, an early career scientist, has been awarded the highly competitive Thuthuka Grant for her doctoral research as part of a cohort of only 66 students nationwide to receive PhD track funding.

SANBI, through the CEO, took the leadership as Head of Delegation for South Africa to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). The Division has participated in the G20 Programme of Work under the Research and Innovation Working Group (G20RIWG), leading on Priority 2: Biodiversity Information for Sustainable Development, which focus on natural history collections as critical research infrastructures

uniquely placed to address urgent and emergent issues through research, education and conservation.

South Africa is at the forefront of modernising endeavours to digitise taxonomic literature, successfully developing the *e-Flora of South Africa*. The e-Flora was launched in 2024 as part of the *Biodiversity Advisor* and is built on the foundation of the *South African National Plant Checklist*. It comprises species pages for all indigenous species with descriptions of their morphology, distribution, habitat and diagnostic characters, compiled from a large body of existing published literature. A team effort, involving all scientists and supporting herbarium staff of SANBI, as well as some external contributors, enabled this immense achievement.

One Health and Disease Epidemiology group, SANBI staff and volunteers collecting vectors of zoonotic diseases for research purposes.

SANBI partnered with 53 other organisations to form the World Flora Online consortium. Since 2016, the e-Flora has been available online through the *World Flora Online* (https://www.worldfloraonline.org/) website, fulfilling South Africa's obligation to the *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation* Target 1: To create a global Flora for all the plants of the world. By participating in this international effort, South Africa has contributed to the collective knowledge of plant species worldwide. This is important because plants form the backbone of ecosystems. Knowing what our plant biodiversity (and ecosystems) consists of – currently and moving into the future – informs the evaluation of species and ecosystem health. It enables us to understand how species and ecosystems might respond to climate change, deforestation, urban expansion, and the introduction of invasive species. A Flora is a tool for conservation studies, ecosystem management and securing our natural resources that benefits all people. The *World Flora Online* is a collaborative approach and a testament to the power of international cooperation in the pursuit of a shared goal: to understand, protect, secure and celebrate the incredible diversity of plant life on Earth.

As part of the Barcode of Wildlife Project, funded by the Global Environment Facility Seventh Replenishment (GEF-7) on commitment to strengthening biodiversity crime forensic analysis, SANBI hosted a specialised training workshop on CoC voucher specimen sampling at the National Zoological Gardens in Pretoria on 8 April 2024. Thirteen SANBI staff members participated in the training, which was conducted in collaboration with the DFFE. The training, led by an expert from the Environmental Management Inspectorate, provided participants with an understanding of CoC protocols for reference sample collection essential for forensic applications. Through a combination of theoretical presentations, practical hands-on exercises and group discussions, participants were equipped with the necessary skills to ensure the integrity and traceability of collected voucher specimens in the creation of validated libraries to support compliance and enforcement efforts in tackling illegal wildlife trade.

Ditiro Moloto (GEF 7 Technician) demostrationg Chain of Custody (CoC) sampling process

Zoonotic Programmes

Infectious diseases represent significant public health and food security challenges. In contrast to pandemics, endemic zoonoses constitute a constant social and economic burden. They usually do not spread as widely as pandemics and affect human populations and domestic animals that live near wild animals. In endemic areas, endemic zoonoses perpetuate poverty by affecting the health and welfare of wild and domestic animals, livelihoods and food security. Many endemic zoonoses are transmitted by vectors such as mosquitoes and other blood-feeding flies, biting midges, fleas and ticks, and have wildlife reservoirs that are associated with complex transmission cycles. They are caused by parasites, bacteria or viruses, and are characterised as 'neglected' as they mainly affect poor and marginalised communities, particularly in low-income countries, and are usually excluded from formal surveillance systems. Therefore, their incidence and burden are underestimated. To address this gap, the One Health and Disease Epidemiology group, in collaboration with external partners, carries out surveillance of vectors and vector-borne pathogens in livestock, wildlife and the environment to determine different aspects of their biology.

SANBI, in collaboration with the Agricultural Research Council – Onderstepoort Veterinary Research (ARC-OVR), is involved in the surveillance and monitoring of tsetse flies, which are vectors of Animal African Trypanosomiasis (AAT), commonly known as *nagana*, in northeastern

Janine Baxter verifying PCR amplification results using gel electrophoresis

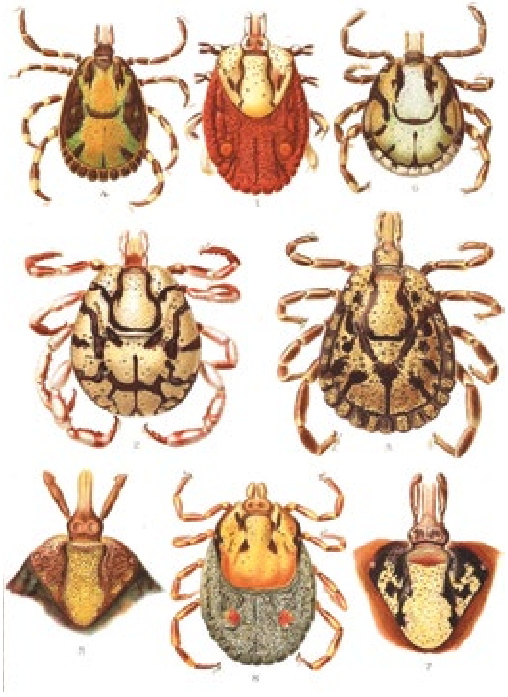
SANBI participants at the Chain of Custody (CoC) workshop

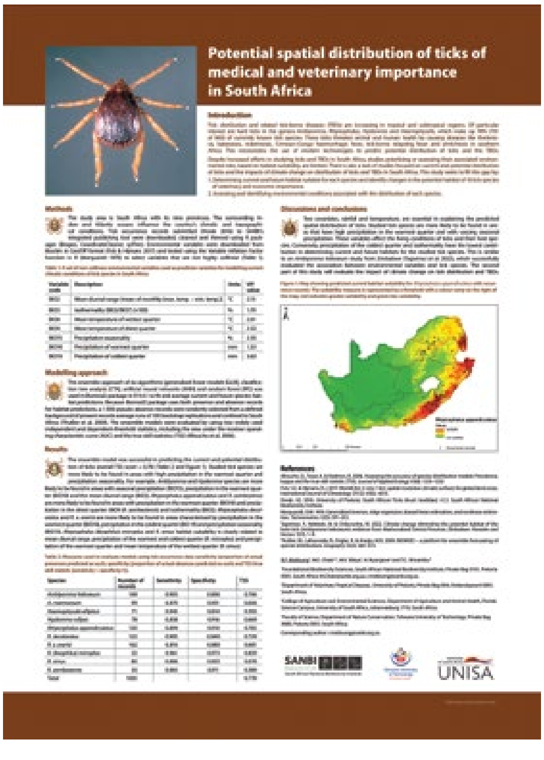
KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). In South Africa, *nagana* is mainly caused by protozoan blood parasites of the genus *Trypanosoma*, namely *T. congolense* (savannah and kilifi sub-species), *T. vivax* and *T. brucei brucei*. These parasites cause severe clinical disease in cattle and have been implicated in causing disease in dogs, while the African buffalo serve as reservoir hosts. The project is aimed at developing a national atlas for tsetse flies and AAT in South Africa under the COMBAT (Controlling and Progressively Minimizing the Burden of Animal Trypanosomiasis) project, which is funded by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). Additionally, the project intends to highlight the role of other blood-feeding flies in the transmission of AAT in northeastern KZN. The AAT database has a record of over 300 *nagana* cases identified using parasitological, entomological, immunological and molecular detection methods from 2004 to 2024 sampling periods. The data was collected by scientists in academic and research institutions and governmental departments. The database includes field tests observed for domestic animals (cattle, sheep, goats and dogs), as well as African buffalo and black rhino. Other research activities include screening blood-feeding flies for other blood parasites of economic and public health importance.

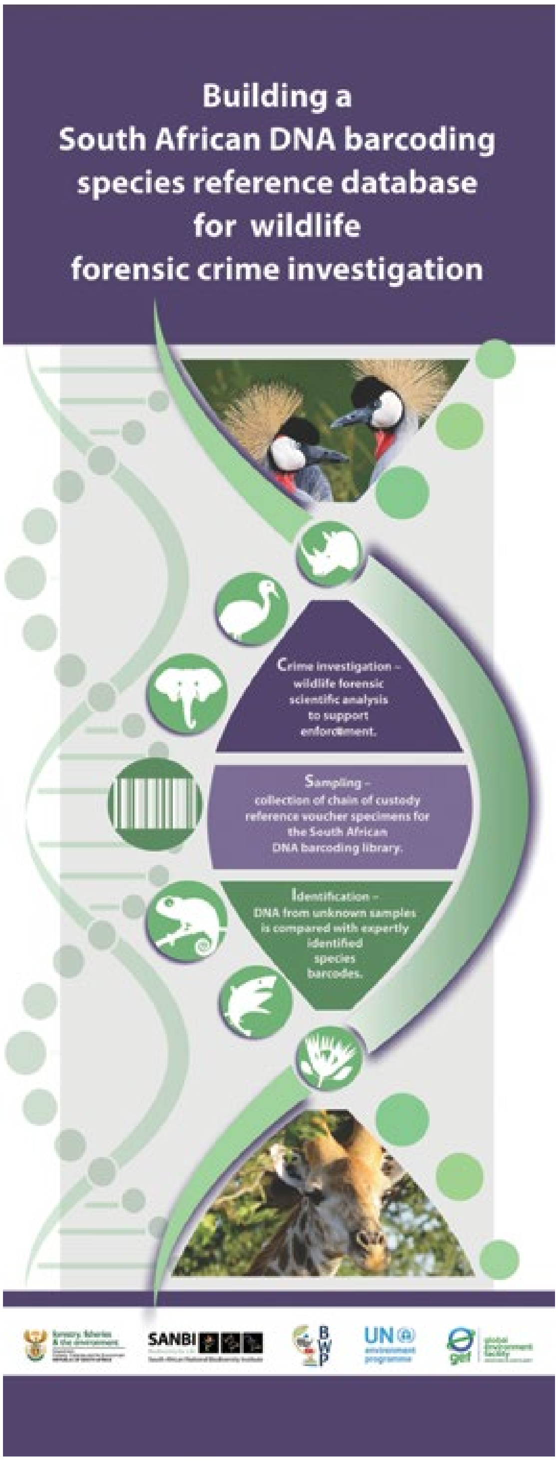
There are approximately 44 zoological gardens in South Africa, however, there is a scarcity of One Health-related research on the potential Diptera fly diversity and zoonotic pathogens they may harbour. Zoonotic diseases transmitted by flies can pose significant health threats to the zoo animals, animal handlers and zoo visitors. As a result, this study pioneers documentation of Diptera fly diversity at the SANBI National Zoological Garden, zoonotic bacteria composition, as well as the antibiotic resistance and virulence profiles of the flies. Preliminary findings indicated a wide diversity of filth flies across the various animal enclosures. These consist of three families (Calliphoridae, Muscidae and Sarcophagidae) with flies identified to species level using molecular-based techniques for genetic characterisation of the flies. The filth fly species include *Lucilia sericata, Musca domestica* and *Sarcophga burungae*. Culture-based methods indicate that the flies carry *Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa,* which form part of the ESKAPE pathogens, a group of six highly pathogenic, multidrug-resistant bacteria of veterinary and public health concern. Further tests for confirmation of the bacteria are ongoing. These findings will contribute to public health awareness campaigns aimed at educating zoo visitors, staff and surrounding communities about the potential risks associated with Muscidae flies and the importance of preventive measures.

Ticks transmit pathogens of veterinary and public health importance. Understanding their

diversity is critical as infestations lead to significant economic losses globally. To date, over 90 species across three families (Ixodidae, Argasidae and Nuttalliedae) have been identified in South Africa. However, the taxonomy of most species has not been resolved due to challenges with morphological identification. DNA barcoding is therefore a valuable tool for species verifications for biodiversity assessments. The Division performed a comprehensive analysis of gaps in the DNA barcoding of ticks of veterinary and public health importance in South Africa from the Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD) and published literature. The analyses indicated that 31 of the 97 documented species (32%) from 11 genera and three families have verified COI barcodes. These are distributed across all nine provinces with the Eastern Cape, followed by Limpopo, having the highest species diversity, and KwaZulu-Natal having the least diversity. The outcomes of this study were published in a peer-reviewed journal and presented at the Parasitological Association of Southern Africa 2024 conference.







PURPOSE

- Facilitate the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure and unlock nature's contribution to people through providing appropriate knowledge, evidence, and policy support for decision-makers.

OUTCOMES

- **Outcome 3:** The state of biodiversity is assessed and relevant knowledge and evidence is generated to inform decision support.
- **Outcome 4:** Decision support tools are produced for mainstreaming biodiversity into policy, and resources are mobilised for ecosystem-based adaptation.

Programme 2

Division:

Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring

Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring

Programme Highlights

Creation of New Scientific Knowledge

SANBI primarily uses two indicators to measure progress in generating new knowledge, these being the number of research papers published in journals accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and the number of risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed and approved by the Alien Species Risk Analysis Review Panel (ASRARP). DHET-accredited journals include those listed in the International Science Index (ISI) or similar internationally recognised indices, as well as selected South African journals.

The 2024–2025 Annual Performance Plan set a target of 100 publications, which was exceeded by 7. These publications aligned with SANBI's research strategy and strategic objectives, covering diverse biodiversity topics including conservation (42%), biological invasions (22%), taxonomy (17%), climate change, science-policy, One Health, and biodiversity assessment. They were co-authored by senior researchers, emerging scientists, postdoctoral fellows and students.

The Alien Species Risk Analysis Review Panel, May 2024. From left to right: Prof. Sjirk Geerts, Dr Tatenda Dalu, Ms Kanyisa Jama, Ms Rene Brink, Dr Sabrina Kumschick, Prof. Graham Alexander, Dr Ashlyn Padayachee and Dr Lynn Jackson.

The top five journals featuring SANBI publications were *Nature* (impact factor 50.5), *Science* (44.7), *Nature Genetics* (31.8), *Nature Sustainability* (26.2), and *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* (16.7). A journal's impact factor reflects how often its articles are cited, indicating its influence and significance in the field.

The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004) – Alien and Invasive Species (NEMBA A&IS) Regulations form the basis for managing biological invasions in South Africa. These regulations list taxa requiring intervention and set associated targets. Risk analyses, which inform this listing, assess: (1) the likelihood of introduction, establishment and spread; (2) potential negative impacts; (3) risk mitigation options, including benefits; and (4) accessibility of the information. In 2024–2025, SANBI met the annual performance plan target of developing 35 additional risk analyses, primarily for priority taxa already listed in the NEMBA A&IS Regulations. Despite various challenges, this marks the third consecutive year the target has been met. SANBI also facilitated three training courses for risk analysis assessors.

The Alien Species Risk Analysis Review Panel (ASRARP), comprising independent experts and SANBI ex-officio members, met quarterly to review the scientific content of the analyses. Notably, the first in-person panel meeting was held in May 2024, hosted and facilitated by SANBI.

National-level Assessments on the Status of Biodiversity

SANBI is mandated in the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) to monitor and report on:

a) the status of South Africa's biodiversity, including listed threatened or protected species;

b) the status of listed invasive species; and

c) the impacts of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) released into the environment.

Annual Assessment Report on the Illegal Trade of Succulent Plants

Over the past financial year, SANBI and its partners made significant progress in addressing the illegal trade of South Africa's succulent flora, aligned with the National Response Strategy and Action Plan (NRSAP). The Threatened Species Unit (TSU) developed and implemented an enhanced monitoring strategy targeting 61 Critically Rare, single-locality *Conophytum* species, with 19 successfully monitored over the past year.

Notable progress was also made in the establishment and strengthening of ex situ collections. A strategic partnership with the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland was facilitated, resulting in a horticulturist seconded to SANBI for three months to support inventory audits, staff training and care of confiscated plants. Inventories revealed high plant loss in some facilities due to climate mismatch, limited staffing and the poor condition of confiscated material.

However, other sites showed higher survival rates, attributed to more suitable climates, as well as horticultural expertise. Infrastructure was expanded, including new greenhouses, with support from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. A triage system was introduced to sort plants by conservation status, and over 11 900 individuals were successfully relocated to more suitable locations, despite logistical challenges. Some facilities now host the last known individuals of species Extinct in the Wild, playing a critical role in restoration efforts. A major milestone was the successful reintroduction of *Conophytum ficiforme* onto private land.

In the compliance and enforcement sector, a decline in new confiscation cases suggests increased vigilance and stronger international protection under CITES Appendix III. SANBI's legal involvement grew, with staff serving as expert witnesses and contributing to a standard operating procedure for plant-related enforcement, developed in collaboration with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). SANBI also supported response efforts to the *Clivia mirabilis* poaching crisis, which involved 4 000 confiscated plants and 50 arrests. Regulatory advances included the CITES Appendix III listing of *Conophytum* and 17 other species, improving enforcement and requiring permits for all plant material, including seeds, enhancing traceability and protection.

Efforts to develop a legal, sustainable succulent economy advanced, following a key workshop in January 2024. SANBI's input (including succulents) was integrated into the draft National Biodiversity Economy Strategy. International collaborations are also underway, with discussions initiated with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) on establishing conservation collections of endemic species in botanic gardens abroad through CITES-compliant plant loan agreements. SANBI is developing a nursery network for legal trade and exploring options for direct SANBI participation in plant sales or auctions, with potential revenue supporting conservation and anti-poaching initiatives.

Programme Performance

Threatened Species Programme

The Threatened Species Programme (TSP) leads SANBI's efforts to monitor the conservation status of species. Current work focuses on updating Red List assessments for birds, mammals, amphibians, pollinators and selected marine, coastal and freshwater invertebrates in preparation for the 2025 National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA).

Red List update

Over the past year, the TSU prioritised completing assessments across various taxonomic groups for the 2025 NBA, in collaboration with

expert groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The Bird Red List, led by BirdLife South Africa and completed in February 2025, found that 147 of South Africa's 754 bird species are of conservation concern, listed either as Threatened or Near Threatened. Since the 2015 assessment, 32 species have become more threatened mainly as a result of habitat degradation, while the threat status of nine species has decreased due to conservation efforts. In contrast, of the 134 amphibian assessments completed in March 2025, only two species changed status, both becoming more threatened due to mining and climate change on the West Coast. Although the 334 Mammal Red List assessments were originally scheduled for 2026, strong collaboration with national experts has fast-tracked completion to May 2025, allowing inclusion in the 2025 NBA.

SANBI also led the first-ever Red List assessment for fairy shrimps (36 *Anostraca* species), completed through the Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme's Refresh project and submitted to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Red List. This expands freshwater invertebrate representation in the NBA from two to three groups.

Pollinator assessments resulted in 112 species being finalised for submission. Additionally, 20 beach invertebrate species were assessed – the first of their kind submitted to the IUCN Red List. Together, these efforts highlight SANBI and South Africa's expert network as global leaders in species assessment.

South African group of experts attending the IUCN Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi, in October 2024. Suvarna Parbhoo Mohan and Domitilla Raimondo pictured with the group from various organisations in and outside of South Africa.

Strategic inputs into decision-making

The TSU compiled key plant and animal data for the Boegoebaai Green Hydrogen Strategic Environmental Assessment, covering 32 animal and 602 plant species. Many of these have recently had their threat status uplisted by SANBI due to the anticipated impacts of the development and regional climate change.

Co-ordinating species experts

The TSU team established the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) South African National Species Specialist Group, uniting taxon experts nationwide under a formal structure to support species conservation. The group conducted the first assessment of species in urgent need of recovery, presenting findings at the SANBI and DFFE-led National Species Conservation Congress on May 13, and participating in the successful Global Species Congress on May 14.

SANBI also had a strong presence at the IUCN SSC Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi (October 2024), with four staff – Domitilla Raimondo, Suvarna Parbhoo Mohan, Dewidine van der Colff and Loyiso Dunga – representing South Africa. Domitilla and Suvarna received awards for their leadership roles as Co-Chair of the IUCN SSC Plant Conservation Committee and Co-Chair of the Southern African Plant Specialist Group, respectively.

The National Biodiversity Assessment

The National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) 2025 is expected to be released in November 2025. During the 2024/25 financial year, work progressed across all components. SANBI led the terrestrial, freshwater, marine, threatened species and genetic diversity components; the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) led the estuarine component; and the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR) at Nelson Mandela University led the coastal component.

Several donor-funded initiatives contributed to the NBA, including the '*Building biodiversity knowledge for action in Southern Africa: Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritisation and Planning in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi*' (SBAPP Regional Project). This project is partly supporting Red List updates for plants, mammals and birds in South Africa and is advancing research on ecological conditions in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, which will inform future Red List of Ecosystems updates.

The SBAPP Regional Project is showcasing the sequential process of: mapping → assessing

→ prioritisation & planning → mainstreaming that SANBI is promoting through the second edition of the guide '*Mapping biodiversity priorities: a practical approach to spatial biodiversity assessment and prioritisation to inform national policy, planning, decisions and action*', which was launched at the Convention on Biological Diversity's Conference of the Parties in Colombia in October 2024.

NBA 2025 will be released in a web-based format –a major undertaking involving over 100 webpages to comprehensively cover all assessment components. Significant work is underway to establish clear procedures for writing, reviewing, editing and approving both the webpages and their supporting technical documentation. The online format enhances transparency and credibility by allowing users to access underlying datasets and analyses behind the NBA findings. Key messages that are likely to appear in the *Summary of Findings and Key Messages* booklet have been drafted and will undergo stakeholder consultation in the early 2025/26 financial year.

The GMO Assessment Unit

In line with its mandate under the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004) and the National Environmental Laws Amendment Act (No. 14 of 2009), SANBI monitors and reports on the environmental impacts of all categories of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) post-commercial release. Following the first assessment report, the GMO Assessment Unit developed a comprehensive work programme to guide ongoing monitoring and research for the next report.

This involves conducting, coordinating and consolidating research related to the monitoring of environmental impacts of GMOs in South Africa. It also includes case-specific studies, such as a current project investigating potential gene flow from cultivated GM cotton to wild and weedy relatives in South Africa. This post-release monitoring seeks to validate the assumptions made during the original risk assessments that supported GM cotton's commercial approval.

The Unit also provided scientific and technical support to DFFE on issues related to living modified organisms under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In May 2024, the Unit participated in the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice meeting in Nairobi, and in June, attended a workshop on post-release environmental monitoring of gene drive-modified mosquitoes in Reston, USA. These engagements have enhanced SANBI's capacity to support regulatory processes and international discussions on synthetic biology and gene drive technologies.

Invasives assessment

Preparations are underway for the *4th National Status Report on Biological Invasions*, due in October 2026. Data collection and analysis have begun through several initiatives, including the *Biodiversity Building Blocks for Policy* (B-Cubed: https://b-cubed.eu/) project and a special journal issue titled *List of Introduced and Invasive Species in Sub-Saharan Africa* (https://neobiota.pensoft.net/topical_collection/270/).

The B-Cubed project, coordinated by Meise Botanic Garden in Belgium and funded by the European Research Executive Agency, is a collaborative effort involving 12 partners from South Africa, Europe, and Australia. SANBI, as a key partner, is working to ensure that the project's outputs, such as data cubes, models and indicators, contribute directly to South Africa's national invasive reporting. These tools will help address three key gaps identified in the previous report: aligning indicators, mobilising spatial and impact data, and automating workflows for data reporting and communication (e.g., through dashboards).

SANBI is also coordinating the special issue on invasive species lists in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on alien taxa checklists from the Global South, including Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. The issue features papers on workflows and protocols for compiling species lists, documentation of processes, evaluations of published lists, and datasets containing new or revised lists.

The second edition of the Mapping Biodiversity Priorities guide, co-authored by SANBI and UNEP-WCMC, was launched at CBD CoP16 by South Africa's Deputy Minister Mr Narend Singh, alongside SANBI CEO Mr Shonisani Munzhedzi, UNEP-WCMC Deputy Director Ms Melissa de Kock, and DFFE Deputy Director-General Ms Flora Mokgohloa. The guide was welcomed by the CBD Secretariat and IUCN as a valuable tool to support countries in implementing and tracking multiple targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Freshwater programme

Despite its small team and limited funding, SANBI's Freshwater Programme undertook the significant task of preparing foundational data and updating river and wetland ecosystem status assessments for the NBA 2025 and the National Wetland Map project. Valuable voluntary support from a Freshwater Scientist in the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs bolstered capacity, especially in GIS-based wetland predictive modelling and automated wetland condition assessments. This collaboration led to a substantial increase in mapped wetland extent across four provinces and the development of a reproducible, standardised condition assessment approach aligned with field practitioner methodologies and terminology.

Attendees of the two national workshops, co-hosted by SANBI and the Global Wetland Watch (GWW), DFFE and DWS, in Pretoria and Cape Town, in March 2025.

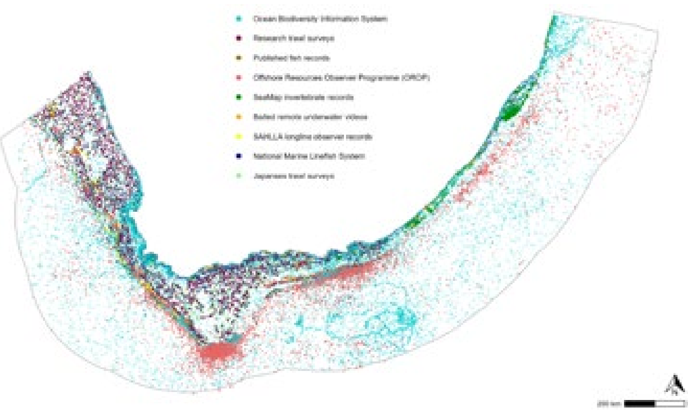
In March 2025, the Programme co-hosted two national workshops in partnership with Global Wetland Watch (GWW), DFFE, and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), held in Pretoria and Cape Town. Over 80 stakeholders participated, including representatives from SANBI, DWS, DFFE, DLRRD, ARC, SANSA, several provinces, academia and the private sector. The international delegation included GWW leads from DHI and UNEP senior officials. Key topics included data needs for wetland management, restoration and conservation, and future collaboration.

GWW will continue to share valuable datasets, such as surface water frequency, which has already improved South Africa's wetland ecosystem classification. The partners have committed to ongoing alignment between national and global wetland classification and reporting frameworks.

The Marine Programme

SANBI's Marine Programme made strong advances in foundational biodiversity science, marine ecosystem mapping and inclusive ocean planning. Responding to the growing volume of marine biodiversity and environmental data, the team is shifting from expert-driven methods to data-driven, reproducible workflows. These new frameworks use scripted, version-controlled analytical processes housed in online repositories, ensuring transparency, collaboration and adaptability as new data and methods emerge.

A map of all point occurrence records for marine species from SANBI's new marine database, supporting ecosystem mapping, assessments and spatial planning.



The EU-Mission Atlantic-funded science-policy workshop where key marine findings of the NBA 2025 were reviewed and actions jointly developed by scientists and decision-makers.

Significant progress was made in offshore spatial planning (12–200 nautical miles) through the Deep Connections project, which introduced ecological connectivity into prioritisation analyses for the first time. The SeaMap project (under the Foundational Biodiversity Information Programme) continues to enhance spatial planning with new datasets, supporting marine spatial planning and the expansion of protected areas.

Transdisciplinary research by the Marine Programme has informed guidance on inclusive stakeholder processes and contributed to mapping Culturally Significant Areas. The SeaPeople Collective was co-developed to strengthen participatory planning, protection, and management in South Africa's marine environment.

The EU-funded Mission Atlantic project supported the marine component of the National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA), including a science–policy workshop where scientists and policymakers co-developed priority actions based on draft NBA findings.

The Molecular Ecology and Evolution Unit

The Unit completed a 5-year bilateral project, co-funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the U.S. National Science Foundation, to study adaptation to urbanisation. This project resulted in 11 publications (published or under review) during the last financial year. In collaboration with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), the unit published findings on the rediscovery of 'lost species' through targeted biodiversity surveys, enhancing the IUCN Red List data for previously Data Deficient species.

Additionally, the unit conducted field surveys for SANParks at the newly established Meerkat National Park in the Northern Cape. Our surveys uncovered new foundational knowledge about the park's species, including the unexpected discovery of African bullfrogs (*Pyxicephalus adspersus*), listed on the Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS) list. This discovery has important implications for the park's protection status and its role in national conservation efforts.

SANBI post-doctoral researcher, Dr Jody Barends, with a Karoo sand snake (*Psammophis notostictus*) found during surveys at Meerkat National Park. Photographer: Krystal Tolley.

The discovery of African bullfrogs at Meerkat National Park was an added bonus for SANParks. Photographer: Jody Barends).

PURPOSE

- Facilitate the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure, and unlock nature's contribution to people through providing appropriate knowledge, evidence, policy support and resource mobilisation for piloting innovative nature-based responses including Ecosystem-based Adaptation, towards achieving National Development Goals.

OUTCOMES

- **Outcome 3:** The state of biodiversity is assessed and relevant knowledge and evidence is generated to inform decision support.
- **Outcome 4:** Decision support tools are produced for mainstreaming biodiversity into policy, and resources are mobilised for ecosystem-based adaptation.

Programme 2

Division:

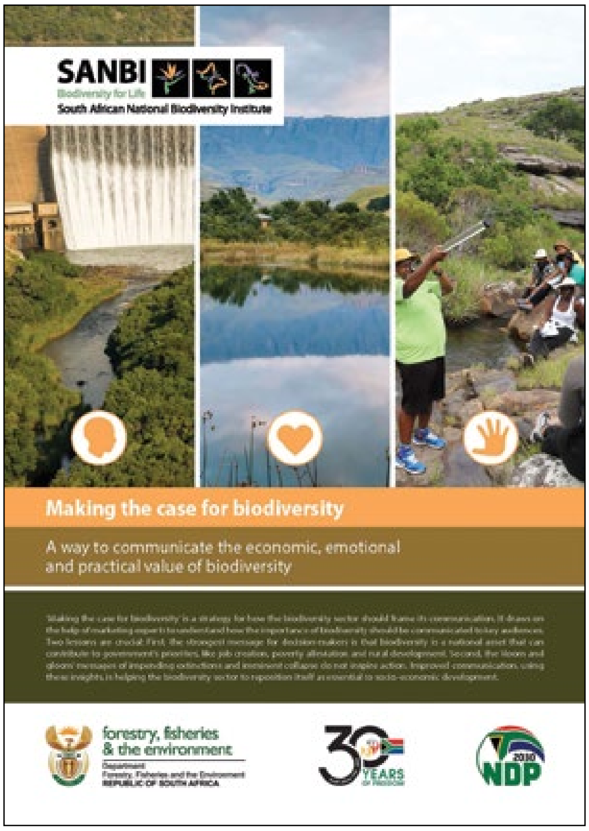
Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice

Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice

SANBI's Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice (BIPA) Division helps to translate biodiversity science into policy and action. Knowledge generated by SANBI and its partners is interpreted into decision-support tools, providing science-based policy advice and mainstreaming biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure into other sectors. The division works within the context of South Africa's development goals, using biodiversity science to understand how healthy ecological infrastructure can deliver services and improve livelihoods and well-being of people.

Through spatial biodiversity prioritisation and planning, biodiversity priority areas are identified which are then used to inform protected area expansion, restoration of ecological infrastructure as well as mainstreaming biodiversity into land-use planning and environmental management in a range of sectors. Pilot projects, implemented in collaboration with partners, demonstrate improved approaches to managing biodiversity and ecological infrastructure and highlight the value of conserving biodiversity and its contribution to socio-economic development. These projects contribute to growing capacity and skills in young professionals, enabling them to provide policy advice and support mainstreaming initiatives.

Factsheet developed to highlight a way of communicating the economic, emotional and practical value of biodiversity.



Programme Highlights

- Celebrated the close-out of the Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security (EI4WS) partnership project.
- Selected as one of 18 international organisations to host a Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) regional or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre.
- Initiated the Early Action Support project to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).
- Initiated Phase 2 of the Living Catchment project to facilitate capacity development support for district municipality officials and local communities.
- Built capacity in over 850 young professionals, Enviro-Champs, citizen scientists, communities and government officials to support securing water source areas and building the biodiversity economy.
- Finalised five policy advice products to support mainstreaming biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure.

Programme Performance

Access to Biodiversity Information

Information management is vital to ensure that biodiversity data and knowledge are collated, co-ordinated and made accessible to a range of users across different sectors. SANBI's Biodiversity Advisor (https://biodiversityadvisor.sanbi.org/) provides free, user-friendly access to biodiversity data and information, knowledge products and value-added tools to support the integration of biodiversity considerations into planning and decision-making. It aims to promote better quality and standardisation of biodiversity data, with new information continually being added to the platform.

Technical and Scientific Support in the Subregion

SANBI was selected as one of 18 international organisations to host a Convention of Biological

Diversity (CBD) regional or subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centre. The SANBI Technical and Scientific Cooperation (TSC) Support Centre will support nine Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles and Zimbabwe. In this role, SANBI will enable these countries to utilise science, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the KM-GBF and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

SANBI's appointment to this significant role reaffirms South Africa's leadership in the biodiversity sector and its commitment to evidence-based decision-making supporting sustainable development. By strengthening collaboration among countries of the Global South, it provides an opportunity to address shared challenges while advancing global equity and social justice. The SANBI TSC Support Centre will ensure that sustainable economic development is underpinned by sound science, regional and international cooperation, and policies that balance conservation with responsible resource use ensuring that biodiversity and natural resources contribute meaningfully to job creation, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Some of the initial activities of the SANBI TSC Support Centre included:

- Hosting a technical visit with the CBD Secretariat and delegates from Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe to discuss effective implementation of the KM-GBF Target 3 to conserve and manage 30% of terrestrial, inland water and coastal and marine areas in SADC countries by 2030. This collaborative effort will strengthen regional capacities, promote best practice, and foster partnerships critical for achieving area-based conservation goals.
- Extending a call for partnership in the establishment and operationalisation of the SANBI TSC Support Centre with more than 50 local and international organisations responding.
- Participating in the Pan-African Workshop to support an enabling environment for Access and Benefit Sharing and Biotrade, exploring opportunities for regional rollout of the Train-the-Trainer programme aimed at promoting biodiversity-based value chains in southern Africa.
- Participating in the sub-regional capacity building workshop on the KM-GBF Target 3 for central, southern and eastern Africa, providing technical support to the CBD Secretariat.

Sustainability and Financing for Nature

SANBI has worked with its network of partners and has proactively built new partnerships and relationships. The partnerships through the EI4WS project have yielded many opportunities, particularly in the water and development finance space. These partnerships have allowed SANBI to reach new areas and strengthen the policy landscape in the water sector to better consider biodiversity and ecological infrastructure.

A key consideration, from a sustainability perspective, has been to explore new avenues for future resourcing. Partnerships through development finance institutions like the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) have initiated support to explore options on nature finance and other blended finance mechanisms. Work that SANBI has led though its data pipeline, natural capital accounting and broader mainstreaming work are key entry points for tapping into new nature finance opportunities and integrating biodiversity considerations into investment decisions. SANBI participated in:

- An International Biodiversity Day event hosted by the DBSA and the African Natural Capital Alliance themed 'Unveiling nature-positive finance: a path forward' with investment professionals from banks, insurance companies and asset management firms and representatives from non-financial institutions with a vested interest in nature conversation. The EI4WS project presented on natural capital accounting and work done with the AFD on nature related risks and opportunities.
- The 5th annual Finance in Common Summit, co-hosted by the DBSA and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank with support from the AFD. The summit focused on key development issues such as infrastructure for climate action, adaptation and resilience, inclusive finance and digital transformation. SANBI participated in a panel discussion to explore opportunities for transformational impact in the realm of climate and nature.
- A biodiversity credits workshop hosted by the AFD as well as a bilateral to explore a funding mechanism to support knowledge exchanges and focus on building capacity to mainstream biodiversity into the finance sector.

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) project on 'Thriving People and Nature' was endorsed and is in the project development phase. The project will provide a robust and accessible evidence base for the benefits of biodiversity for both people and nature, building on the country's existing experience in natural capital accounting and biodiversity stewardship.

Policy Advice and Decision Support

SANBI participated in the 2024 United Nations Biodiversity Conference held in Cali, Colombia supporting DFFE at CBD CoP 16. SANBI was the lead negotiator on mainstreaming, knowledge management, clearing house mechanisms, capacity building and development, technology transfer, technical and scientific cooperation, and scientific and technical needs for KM-GBF implementation. SANBI participated in side events on mainstreaming, spatial biodiversity planning, knowledge management and implementation of the KM-GBF, using the opportunity to profile the SANBI TSC Support Centre.

SANBI provided technical advice to DFFE at the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the fourth and fifth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. SANBI was nominated as co-chair for negotiations under the KM-GBF Monitoring Framework Contact Group.

Women in national capital accounting representing Stats SA, SANBI, DFFE and DWS at the National NCA Forum 2024.

SANBI Chief Director: Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice explaining the history of the EI4WS project at the close-out celebration.

SANBI was nominated as the co-chair of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Midterm Review Panel, providing a strategic opportunity to influence the interface between science, policy and practice, particularly from the perspective of the Global South.

SANBI initiated the Early Action Support project, a country-led initiative funded by the GBF, to fast-track readiness and early actions to implement the KM-GBF. The project has reviewed South Africa's national targets, NBSAP, and policy and monitoring frameworks to align these with the KM-GBF and will develop a biodiversity finance plan.

SANBI was invited to attend the International Research Conference and participate in a panel session to highlight work co-developed with the AFD on the socio-economic and spatially explicit assessment of nature-related risks. SANBI co-chaired a session on nature-related transition risks as part of the Coalition for Capacity on Climate Action, a facility of the World Bank, which bridges the gap between science and policy on climate and nature related economic and financial policies.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), together with SANBI, DFFE and the Water Research Commission (WRC), hosted the National Natural Capital Accounts (NCA) Forum 2024 on 'NCA Making Waves'. Participants from the public and private sectors gathered to discuss natural capital accounting and its influence on policy and economic decisions. The importance of interdisciplinary collaboration for integrating nature into economic decision-making was emphasised.

Biodiversity and Water

The EI4WS project hosted its close-out event in February 2025. The event celebrated the culmination of seven years of work demonstrating the power of ecological infrastructure in addressing South Africa's water challenges. Funded by the GEF and led by SANBI in partnership with the DBSA, DFFE, and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the project demonstrated how investing in ecological infrastructure can improve water security in two demonstration catchments, the Greater uMngeni and the Berg–Breede. From concept to reality, the project was a journey of collaboration, innovation and resilience. Together with dedicated partners, it achieved remarkable outcomes, using the practical experience in the two catchments to strengthen investment in ecological infrastructure in the country. The event was an opportunity for everyone involved to celebrate the achievements, share insights and discuss future opportunities. As SANBI's Chief Director of Biodiversity Information and Policy Advice highlighted 'People need jobs, a way out of poverty and to grow the economy'. The idea of ecological infrastructure was our way of showing how we could meaningfully contribute.'

The EI4WS project was the focus of a special edition of the Water Research Commission's Water Wheel. Stories on Natural Capital Accounting, mainstreaming into finance institutions, natural resource management, policy, social learning and partnerships emphasised the work done in the project and how it was done, highlighting the mainstreaming effort into the water sector.

SANBI initiated Phase 2 of the Living Catchments project, which will be implemented in three district municipalities, namely Alfred Nzo, Ehlanzeni and Vhembe, in Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, respectively. The Living Catchments project, a three-year project funded by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, will facilitate capacity development support for district municipality officials and local communities, especially youth and women.

Building capacity for water security

SANBI has focused its efforts on building capacity for water security in a number of its projects. The EI4WS project was very intentional in employing young professionals to not only expand their technical knowledge but also demonstrate how interdisciplinary approaches bridging biodiversity, water management, research, and financial sustainability are key to addressing South Africa's environmental challenges. At both the close-out celebration and the NCA Forum the crucial role of youth was emphasised. Some capacity building highlights from the project included:

- Hosting, in collaboration with the Institute of Natural Resources, a BioBlitz with Enviro-Champs, citizen scientists, high school learners and traditional healers.
- Participating in the International Water Management Institute webinar, sharing lessons on implementing the EI4WS project through a collaborative approach.
- Hosting, in partnership with uMngeni uThukela Water, a celebration event with the 57 Enviro-Champs employed in the catchment to implement community-based environmental monitoring systems and engaged local communities to promote sustainable practices.
- Hosting, together with uMngeni uThukela Water and other partners, a World Wetlands Day celebration led by the Enviro-Champs and focused on high school learners, to highlight the possibilities of careers in the environmental sector.

SANBI hosted six citizen science awareness workshops with traditional healers in collaboration with 'Nature Speaks and Responds' and DWS. These workshops bridge the gap between conventional science and traditional healing practices. The workshops included training on citizen science tools, data collection and monitoring of aquatic ecosystems to enable Traditional Health Practitioners to become active participants in the conservation and management of their aquatic ecosystems.

EI4WS project and partners hosting a BioBlitz to celebrate International Biodiversity Day.

EI4WS project celebrating World Wetlands Day at Mpophomeni's Mthinzima Wetland.

SANBI, in collaboration with partners, hosted the 4th annual Catchment-based Indaba on Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security in the Berg–Breede Catchment. The Indaba highlighted the strategic role of ecological infrastructure in addressing water security, enhancing rural livelihoods and fostering resilience to climate change. A Youth Learning Exchange was held as part of the event where young people showcased innovative water conservation ideas.

Citizen science awareness workshop with traditional healers demonstrating citizen science tools

SANBI convened the Strategic Water Source Area (SWSA) Spatial Task Team, bringing together technical expertise from conservation, water, spatial planning and legal sectors to provide guidance in terms of the spatial work required to support securing SWSAs. SANBI held capacity building work sessions with 13 district municipalities to build capacity to mainstream SWSAs into municipal planning and decision-making.

Two SANBI staff members completed their Master's degrees in Sustainability and Environmental Policy through the Masters Programme for Future Global Leaders in Environmental Policy in South Korea, funded by the South Korean Ministry of Environment.

Biodiversity and the Economy

The Biodiversity Economy project, a five-year GEF-funded project, aims to boost the biodiversity economy for communities living in and around protected areas. The project builds on South Africa's National Biodiversity Economy Strategy, which seeks to balance the protection of biodiversity with sustainable use for economic development. The project, initiated in 2022 in three biodiversity economy nodes, will expand land under conservation while ensuring that the communities located within and around these areas reap the benefits associated with their local biodiversity.

SANBI, as one of the executing agents of the project, together with DFFE, SANParks, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA) and iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, have supported opportunities to increase investment in the three nodes. SANBI supported DFFE to profile biodiversity economy projects for including on the Biodiversity Sector Investment Portal, which will match these projects with potential investors.

Participants at the 4th Annual Catchment-based Indaba.

Through SANBI's partnership with the ECPTA in the Greater Addo–Amathole Node, the Brakfontein Community Nature Reserve conducted its first formal business venture following the sale of two hunting packages at the ECPTA auction. This milestone marked the reserve's entry into the commercial hunting sector and its emerging role in sustainable wildlife management and community-driven conservation.

Capacity building and knowledge exchange

A big component of the project is to share lessons and build capacity to replicate and scale-up the project:

- SANBI and DFFE hosted a capacity building workshop on biodiversity stewardship to support facilitators to implement biodiversity stewardship on communal and land reform sites across the three nodes.
- SANBI and SANParks hosted a Greater Kruger–Limpopo Biodiversity Economy Node Community Learning Exchange on biodiversity stewardship and economic sustainability for local livelihoods.
- SANBI hosted a capacity building workshop on building resilient businesses to provide communities and landowners with knowledge and tools to initiate sustainable business practices in the wildlife economy sector.
- SANBI supported a learning exchange for members from the Brakfontein Community Nature Reserve to learn from the successful model implemented by the Babanango communities in KwaZulu-Natal resulting in better conservation practices and community development.
- SANBI hosted the National Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative Learning Exchange themed 'Biodiversity Stewardship: A Catalyst for Transformation in Conservation' to share experiences and insights on integrating land reform and communal land areas within the context of biodiversity conservation and community development.
- Two videos highlighting community projects in the Greater Kruger Limpopo Biodiversity Economy Node and the iSimangaliso Biodiversity Economy Node were produced showcasing the positive impact of ongoing biodiversity stewardship and biodiversity economy initiatives.

SANBI convened the National Biodiversity Stewardship Legal Reference Group and the National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group to support securing and managing biodiversity stewardship sites and alignment with global obligations and national policies impacting biodiversity stewardship. SANBI presented at the Korean Green Innovation Days Jeju 2024 event held in Jeju Island, Korea on South Africa's biodiversity stewardship programme as part of the Korean Green Growth Trust Fund project. This provided an opportunity to engage with international partners to advance the biodiversity stewardship programme in South Africa and more broadly in the subregion through the SANBI TSC Support Centre.

Participants at the Greater Kruger–Limpopo Biodiversity Economy Node Community Learning Exchange.

PURPOSE

- Facilitate the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure and unlock nature's contribution to people through providing appropriate knowledge, evidence, policy support and resource mobilisation for piloting innovative nature-based responses, including Ecosystem-based Adaptation, towards achieving National Development Goals.

OUTCOMES

- **Outcome 3:** The state of biodiversity is assessed and relevant knowledge and evidence is generated to inform decision support.
- **Outcome 4:** Decision support tools are produced for mainstreaming biodiversity into policy, and resources are mobilised for ecosystem-based adaptation.

Programme 2

Division:

Adaptation Policy and Resourcing

Adaptation Policy and Resourcing

SANBI's Adaptation Policy and Resourcing Division (D:APR) champions the mainstreaming and resourcing of climate change adaptation responses using the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach towards benefiting both people and the environment in South Africa's response to climate change.

This is achieved through:

- Unlocking international climate finance to secure and manage resources that support the implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) projects and activities.
- Supporting the implementation of projects that empower communities to adapt to climate change.
- Advocating for the 'direct access' funding modality towards enabling developing countries and local communities to control their own climate change responses.
- Providing climate change adaptation policy advice.

Typical landscapes to be restored through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) project to support community members to be more resilient to the impacts of flood, fire and drought that will be exacerbated by climate change.

The impacts of climate change have never been more evident in South Africa and across the globe.

Climate change has the potential to undermine development efforts and reverse development gains due to inadequate means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity building), if society doesn't respond appropriately. People and ecosystems will have to find ways to adapt to life in a world where weather patterns are less predictable and more turbulent. For poorer and vulnerable communities, this kind of adaptation calls for well-resourced and capacitated local responses.

As an accredited National Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund (AF) (since 2011) and a Direct Access Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (since 2016), SANBI is in a unique position to mobilise resources for national and subnational climate change adaptation responses.

Programme Performance

Unlocking Climate Finance for Climate Change Adaptation

In 2020, SANBI received core support from the Government of Flanders for a project entitled 'Unlocking Climate Finance for Climate Change Adaptation'. The €2.6 million project was approved for four years. The project aimed to support SANBI to:

- Submit four full funding proposals, each valued at least $10 million, through an increasingly capacitated direct access entity and multi-stakeholder engagement processes.
- Ensure that SANBI's GCF programme of work is informed by climate science through a coordinated climate change research network.
- Strengthen capacity, awareness, knowledge and advocacy for climate change among young professionals, targeted provinces and civil society.
- Mainstream gender into all SANBI GCF proposal development processes, climate change adaptation research and capacity building activities.

The 'Unlocking Climate Finance for Climate Change Adaptation' project was completed in December 2024 and provided crucial catalytic funding to SANBI. It addressed a gap that funders are rarely willing to venture into, providing core support funding for institutional strengthening and project development processes.

Key deliverables at the end of the project:

- **Project development:** Seven projects are at various stages of development, with four projects at more advanced stages and projected to be submitted to the GCF and AF in 2025 and 2026. These four have an approximate combined grant request value of $95 million.
- **Contributions to improved climate science:** The project funded several crucial research positions in SANBI's Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring (BRAM) Division, to undertake research that contributed to SANBI's key climate science work.

Through collaboration agreements with academic institutions such as the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) and the University of Cape Town (UCT), the most updated climate research was used to inform the climate science work in project development and implementation. Some of the key deliverables of these collaborations include the development of 53 Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)-style climate change factsheets for all provinces and district municipalities in South Africa (these will be formally launched in 2025); the development of crucial research datasets and a hydrological modelling system for our freshwater work, the development of a science–policy brief on ecosystem-based adaptation research themes for South Africa; a guidance brief for conducting climate risk assessments for adaptation; a gender research paper and factsheet, to mention a few. In addition, opportunities for young doctoral students were provided through Agreements with the University of the Western Cape (UWC), UCT and the Stellenbosch University (SUN).

A climate science research network was established in 2023 and is coordinated through the Ecosystem-based Adaptation Steering Committee, to continue the collaborative climate science work.

Opportunities for and Planted Seeds in Young Professionals

The project supported the placement of 41 interns, including 15 Groen Sebenza Climate Change (GSCC) interns, at various host institutions. Twenty-six interns were also placed with the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden unskilled workers' project. These internships provided various individual and group capacity building opportunities, enhancing the interns'

capacity and awareness to contribute meaningfully to the sector. The GSCC interns attended their Celebratory Close-Out engagement in November 2024, where they shared their transformative stories of change through their internship journeys, participated in post-internship readiness training, and received certificates for their participation in the internship.

In partnership with the Adaptation Network, SANBI built the capacity of more than 1 300 people from Civil Society Organisations (55% women) and their constituents through various capacity building activities. Additionally, more than 150 education, awareness and advocacy products were developed, including an online atlas tool that provides resources and information for various needs designed to support climate change adaption, and a suite of advocacy videos produced by youth in our communities to give voice to their views of climate change.

Groen Sebenza Climate Change Close-Out event workshop and certification ceremony.

Synergy in Communicating SANBI's Climate Change Work

Through the communication and dissemination strategy that was developed, SANBI engaged across its divisions to draft climate change messages for the organisation. Several climate change posters were developed for SANBI's gardens, aligned with SANBI's climate change messages, to be used in education and awareness raising activities.

Mainstreaming Gender Endeavours

Gender is an integral part of the project development process and activities of the D:APR. Gender Action Plans (GAPs) must be developed for each of the GCF projects under development. To date two GAPs have been developed for the Eco-DRR and the EbA-Farm project respectively (please see below).

2024 Climate Change Adaptation and Gender Mainstreaming Dialogue graphics of engagements.

SANBI undertook specific gender activities, including hosting the second national Climate Change Adaptation and Gender Mainstreaming Dialogues in October 2024 and developing and implementing a gender participatory training course. Additionally, SANBI developed a Gender and Climate Change research paper and factsheet titled 'Integrating Intersectionality into Climate Risk Assessments: Review of Gendered Vulnerability in South Africa'. SANBI also co-hosted a 'Gender-responsive budgeting to improve climate change resilience' training session with the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and an international network called the Women's Budget Group in September 2024. SANBI also supported DFFE in the provincial stakeholder consultation of the National Climate Change and Gender Action Plan. These gender initiatives align with SANBI's Gender Mainstreaming strategy and SANBI's intentions to contribute to positive transformation in the biodiversity sector. To this end, SANBI continues to contribute to the 'Strategy toward Gender Mainstreaming in the Environment Sector 2016–2021' (extended to 2025).

Adaptation Fund Project Development

The Concept Note for a $5 million locally led adaptation project, titled 'Upscaling and Enhancing the Locally-led Adaptation Small Grants Facility for South Africa Phase 1', was completed. This project aims to build on the lessons of the first Small Grants Facility project, which was funded by the Adaptation Fund from 2015 to 2021, and expand the work into four new district municipalities in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. The project's objective is to support locally led climate adaptation through concrete adaptation initiatives that reduce the vulnerability of communities in these targeted district municipalities to the impacts of climate change. The Concept Note will be submitted to the Adaptation Fund in 2025, for approval to proceed to full project proposal development.

As a national accredited entity of the GCF, and through the innovative direct access modality, SANBI is championing efforts to develop proposals that will unlock a programme of investment in ecosystem-based approaches to address the impacts of climate change. SANBI has several proposals in development, including three that have been formally accepted into the GCF system and approved for Project Preparation Facility support.

First proposal: The project titled 'Scaling up ecosystem-based approaches to managing climate-intensified disaster risks in vulnerable regions of South Africa' (Eco-DRR) has a requested grant value of $40.1 million. This project aims to scale up ecosystem-based approaches to buffer the impacts of climate-intensified floods, droughts and wildfires, thereby enhancing the adaptive capacity of communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Key objectives include:

- Integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into the management of ecological infrastructure to enhance the resilience of people, ecological infrastructure and built infrastructure against climate change impacts.
- Improving disaster preparedness and response to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on at-risk communities and critical infrastructure.

APR team members engaging with smallholder farmers of the Ehlanzeni District in Mpumalanga, as part of the development of the EbA-Farm project, to be funded by the Green Climate Fund.

APR members and SANBI's CFO at the Green Climate Fund headquarters in Songdo, South Korea, as part of a workshop to expedite the completion of SANBI's first proposal to the Green Climate Fund, for the $40 million Eco-DRR project.

- Creating an enabling environment for improved investment in ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction through improved evidence, knowledge management and policy strengthening.

Led by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the National Disaster Management Centre of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, in partnership with the South African Local Government Association, the project will be implemented in four district municipalities across the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West. An updated full funding proposal has been submitted to the GCF for consideration, with approval anticipated in 2025.

The Adaptation Policy and Resourcing Division team members at Hantam, '*iyani ni divhonele*'.

Second proposal: The project titled 'Ecosystem-based approaches for transforming smallholder farming systems that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in South Africa' (EbA-Farm), has a proposed grant value of $25 million.

This project will adopt a participatory, action-learning approach using ecosystem-based approaches to enhance the resilience of smallholder and household producers in vulnerable catchments in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. The first stage Concept Note proposal was endorsed by the GCF Secretariat, Project Preparation Facility support has been secured, and development of the Funding Proposal is at an advanced stage. Submission to the GCF is expected in 2025.

Third proposal: The project titled 'Ecosystem-based Adaptation for water security in South Africa' (EbA Water) has a proposed grant value of $25 million. This project aims to secure and safeguard the resource base and strengthen water security in South Africa's Strategic Water Source Areas. The project leads include DFFE and the Department of Water and Sanitation, in collaboration with SANBI. The first stage Concept Note proposal has been endorsed, and Project Preparation Facility resources have been approved, with the Funding Proposal development underway.

Several additional projects are under discussion with national and provincial partners and will form the focus of formal future engagements.

SANBI's HoB: BSPA and APR team members during the learning exchange visit with the National Environment Management Authority of Kenya at the site visit in KwaZulu-Natal.

With a combined anticipated grant value of at least $95 million, these efforts are expected to unlock significant investments that deliver direct tangible benefits, focusing on communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and gender inequities, integrating science with local and indigenous knowledge, engaging the private sector and catalysing systemic and policy responses to support South Africa's just transition to a climate resilient society.

Events and Information Sharing

SANBI's D:APR engages with various Communities of Practice, workshops and meetings to share lessons learned from project development and implementation. By participating in these platforms, D:APR contributes to the collection of climate knowledge generated to improve donor and implementer processes and activities, and champions the direct access modality for climate finance.

The division has been intentional about building its collective capacity within the team and SANBI. Senior staff are accompanied by junior staff to national and international engagements to enhance capacity through exposure and engagement with other counterparts worldwide. This approach has allowed most of the D:APR staff, including interns, an opportunity to attend these engagements, thereby contributing to their capacity to make significant contributions to SANBI and the sector at large.

Events:

- Pre-SB 62 African Group of Negotiators Experts Support Strategy Meeting, (25–28 February).
- Pan-African Forum on Mobilising and Structuring Climate Adaptation Financing, Togo (16–20 December).
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) Technical Workshop, Songdo (28–29 November).
- Virtual Launch of IPCC Style Climate Factsheets, (25 November).
- Groen Sebenza Climate Change Internship Celebratory Close Out (20–23 November).
- UNFCCC COP 29: Panel discussion on Financing the Just Transition and Climate Action at a Local level South African Local Government Association Panel (11–16 November).
- GCF 3rd Integrity Forum, Songdo (5–7 November).
- 2024 Climate Change Adaptation and Gender Mainstreaming (CCA&GM) Dialogue, themed: 'Reflecting on Gender Mainstreaming in a 30-year democracy'(23–25 October).
- Head of Branch: Dr Theressa Frantz, the Acting CEO at the time, welcomed participants to the 2024 Dialogue and SANBI's Pretoria National Botanical Garden, where the Dialogue was hosted.
- Deputy Minister, DFFE, Ms Bernice Swarts, officially opened the 2024 Dialogue.
- 2024 Women in Environment Awards with DFFE as part of the 2024 CCA&GM Dialogue (25 October).
- Chief Financial Officer: Ms Maphefo Sedite, Acting CEO at the time, welcomed attendees to the Awards Ceremony and awarded certificate recipients with the Deputy Minister of DFFE, Ms Bernice Swarts.
- Gender Responsive Training, pre-2024 CCA&GM Dialogue (22 October)
- 13th Oppenheimer Research Conference, (October 2024).
- Game Changers for a Liveable Planet: A Youth Empowerment Seminar, (12 October).
- Lessons Learned: Accreditation Process for the Green Climate Fund. Interview, (September 2024).
- Gender-responsive Budgeting and Accounting for Economic Impact to Improve Climate Change Resilience, (27 September).
- Adaptation Network (AN) Online Policy Space, (26 September).
- Adaptation Fund Implementing Entity Annual Readiness Seminar: Focus on Innovation (16–20 September).
- Environmental Law Association and the University of Witwatersrand Annual Conference, (5–7 September).
- SANBI Foundational Biodiversity Science: Women's Day Event, (16 August).
- Lecture at the University of Cape Town, (2 August).
- DFFE workshop: Finalise the Coastal Resilience GCF Concept Note for Advancing Land-Sea Interface, (31 July–1 August).
- Adaptation Roundtable convened by the National Business Initiative, (31 July).
- AN Colloquium, Cape Town (15–17 July).
- AN Online Policy Space, presented on Climate Change and Biodiversity Bill (27 June).
- SANBI's internal Climate Change Messaging Workshop, (11–12 June).
- Global Environment Facility 8 Biodiversity Stewardship workshop, presented on Declaration of Communal and Prive Land in South Africa, (22 May).
- Adaptation Fund Country Exchange for National Implementing Entities, Tanzania (13–17 May).

Human Capital Development and Transformation

Subprogrammes:

Human Resources:
Building the talent pipeline

Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement
Careers in the biodiversity sector

Biodiversity Research Assessment and Monitoring
Civil Society engaged

PURPOSE

- Contribute towards the development of the next generation of black biodiversity professionals.

OUTCOME

- **Outcome 5:** A transformed and suitably skilled workforce and active citizenry is developed to strengthen the biodiversity sector.

Programme 3

Human Resources: Building the talent pipeline

Human Resources: Building the talent pipeline

Programme Performance

SANBI's internship programme exposes graduates and postgraduates to careers in research/science and provides research staff an opportunity to identify students for further training and development with SANBI. See below feedback from some of our interns hosted in 2024/25 as well as postgraduate students that have completed their studies.

Papama Yose, Adaptation Policy and Resourcing (APR) Intern (with Dr Mandy Barnett and Ms Marilyn Martin-Vermaak)

In February 2023, I got a life-changing call from SANBI inviting me for an interview. After passing the interview and landing the role of Community and Stakeholder Engagement Intern with the Adaptation Policy and Resourcing Division, SANBI, I knew my journey was about to take off – but I had no clue just how far it would go.

Over the past two years, I've been exposed to so much that I can't possibly do it justice in a few sentences. My role was to support the SANBI APR team in its work as an Accredited Entity for the Green Climate Fund and a National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund, helping to develop climate action projects for South Africa. What made this experience even more meaningful was knowing that these projects directly benefit rural communities – people who are often hit hardest by climate change. Coming from a rural area myself, I understand just how much of a difference these initiatives can make in improving livelihoods.

Papama Yose

Through this internship, I've gained valuable technical skills: reviewing high-level reports, working on theories of change and engaging in project development processes that many people never get the chance to be part of. This experience has given me a competitive edge. I've also travelled across South Africa, meeting diverse stakeholders and strengthening my communication and networking skills. On top of that, I had the incredible opportunity to travel internationally to Rwanda, Tanzania and South Korea for community-of-practice workshops – an experience I never imagined I'd have.

One of the biggest highlights for me has been working in a small, close-knit team and directly supporting Dr Mandy Barnett, the Chief Director. This gave me access to strategic meetings and a front-row seat to high-level decision-making. I've learned to think strategically, adapt quickly and take on different roles; because in our team, no two days ever look the same! The variety of work has shaped my skills in ways I never expected, and I'll always be grateful for this experience.

Maria Paul, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Intern (with Dr Tammy Smith)

I was selected as a Joan Wrench intern in 2022. SANBI has always been an organisation I've looked up to since my undergraduate years and being able to work here was truly a dream come true. My official title was Biodiversity Mainstreaming Officer, and at its core, this role focuses on integrating biodiversity considerations into various sectors. For example, how can industries like agriculture, mining or tourism incorporate biodiversity into their processes to ensure sustainability and minimise harm to the environment?

Maria Paul

Musa Mantantana

However, the fabulous thing about being an intern at SANBI is the freedom to step beyond your assigned division and role. You have the opportunity to collaborate across departments, work on various projects and contribute to diverse teams. This is exactly what I did, and what followed was the most productive and fulfilling period of my career so far. I've gained valuable experience in project management, writing, research, stakeholder engagement and more, which helped me grow both professionally and personally. I was also fortunate to work with an amazing set of colleagues – kind, compassionate and brilliant individuals who were not only easy to work with but also empathetic and supportive in every situation. Their guidance and camaraderie made this experience even more enriching and memorable.

Being based in Cape Town and working at Kirstenbosch NBG was a wonderful opportunity. The beauty and biodiversity that surrounded me every day served as a constant reminder of the vital mission to preserve and promote biodiversity in South Africa.

Musa Mantantana, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholar – Honours Student (with Dr Ruan Veldtman)

In 2024, I felt fortunate and grateful to had received the SANBI scholarship to pursue my Honours degree in Zoology at Walter Sisulu University.

I worked under the guidance of two esteemed supervisors, Prof. Kuria (WSU) and Dr. Veldtman (SANBI) who are renowned experts in their field. With their exceptional guidance and support, I successfully completed my first thesis titled 'Impact of urbanization on ground dwelling arthropod community in Mthatha, King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality', gaining invaluable experience scientific research and writing.

The scholarship not only covered my academic fees but also provided for my living expenses. This financial security enabled me to focus solely on my studies, without the burden of worrying about finances. I am deeply grateful for the peace of mind that came with knowing my needs were taken care of. Throughout my research project, I acquired essential skills in designing, implementing and reporting scientific research. My supervisors' mentorship and the scholarship's comprehensive support played a significant role in my academic growth and success. I appreciate the opportunity to have been part of this programme and am thankful for the experience and knowledge gained during my time as a SANBI scholar.

Khanya Ntondini, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Intern (with Dr Nicola Bergh and Prof. John Manning)

As an herbarium intern, I had the incredible opportunity to immerse myself in the world of plant collections and biodiversity data management. I actively assisted with handling new accessions and meticulously capturing specimen data, ensuring their seamless integration into the herbarium's records. A key aspect of my role involved working with BRAHMS, a specialised database used to catalogue and manage herbarium specimens. Additionally, I contributed to a large-scale digitisation initiative aimed at creating a virtual herbarium, granting scientists worldwide remote access to invaluable botanical specimens.

Khanya Ntondini

Beyond my daily responsibilities, I had the privilege of attending the Natural Science Collections Facility (NSCF) Symposium, where I gained first-hand insight into the vast spectrum of preserved specimen collections and their critical role in conservation. Another highlight was assisting Joan Wrench scholars during their fieldwork, allowing me to engage with real-world biodiversity research and field data collection.

The pinnacle of my internship, however, was being selected as part of the SANBI-GBIF support team. This role allowed me to contribute to training programs designed for Honours, MSc and PhD scholars, focusing on biodiversity informatics, data analysis and conservation tools. Through this experience, I deepened my understanding of how biodiversity data can drive meaningful conservation efforts and policy decisions.

Lauren James, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholar – Master's Student (with Dr Nicola Bergh)

My journey with SANBI began in 2021 when I was selected to be a plant taxonomy intern at the Compton Herbarium. The diverse flora of South Africa has fascinated me for as long as I can remember, so being able to work on the Cape Flora was a dream come true. I had just completed my BSc Honours in Botany but was not yet sure which area of botanical research I wanted to pursue further. My internship allowed me to explore taxonomy and systematics and learn a broad range of skills.

Lauren James

I was then fortunate to be awarded a Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship to enrol for an MSc at the University of Cape Town (UCT) supervised by Prof. Tony Verboom (UCT), Dr Nicola Bergh (SANBI) and Prof. Allan Ellis (Stellenbosch University). I investigated the phylogenetic relationships and species delimitation in *Osteospermum* section *Polygalinae* DC. (Asteraceae), a group of daisies in particular need of taxonomic revision.

I also investigated fruit dispersal of these species, focusing on understanding the role of ants in dispersal. My research took me from high misty peaks to sandy coastal plains across the Western and Eastern Cape, which was such a privilege.

I would like to thank all the people I have met along the way who have each contributed to making this an incredible journey – a journey during which I have grown and learnt so much. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities and financial support I have received from SANBI, which has enabled me to advance my career as a researcher in a field that inspires me so greatly. I will now be furthering my studies in botanical systematics by starting my PhD in 2025.

Khomotso Mokono, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Intern (with Dr Graham von Maltitz)

I joined SANBI in April 2023 as a Joan Wrench Intern. This opportunity has been a transformative experience, significantly contributing to my professional and personal growth.

Khomotso Mokono

Throughout this journey, I enhanced my skills in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), research, stakeholder engagement, data management and event management. I coordinated the inaugural Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Science Research Network workshop, bringing scientists, practitioners, and policymakers together to explore priority research themes for Ecosystem-based Adaptation in South Africa. These themes will be developed into a National Research Strategy for Ecosystem-based Adaptation. Additionally, I contributed to developing a national database of restoration and EbA projects, an initiative currently progressing towards publishing a scientific paper.

My work on EbA has been inspiring. It has fuelled a deep passion for restoration/EbA initiatives and motivated me to pursue a PhD focusing on the monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives. I also had the privilege of presenting my work at various workshops, including the 13th Oppenheimer Research Conference 2024, where I presented my poster titled 'Assessing the Progress and Data Adequacy of South African Restoration and Ecosystem-based Adaptation Interventions in Meeting International and Local Environmental Goals'. This marked a significant milestone in my science communication journey.

These experiences have sharpened my ability to engage with diverse audiences, multitask effectively, and collaborate across disciplines. My time at SANBI has been a transformative learning experience that has equipped me with the skills and knowledge to excel in my career.

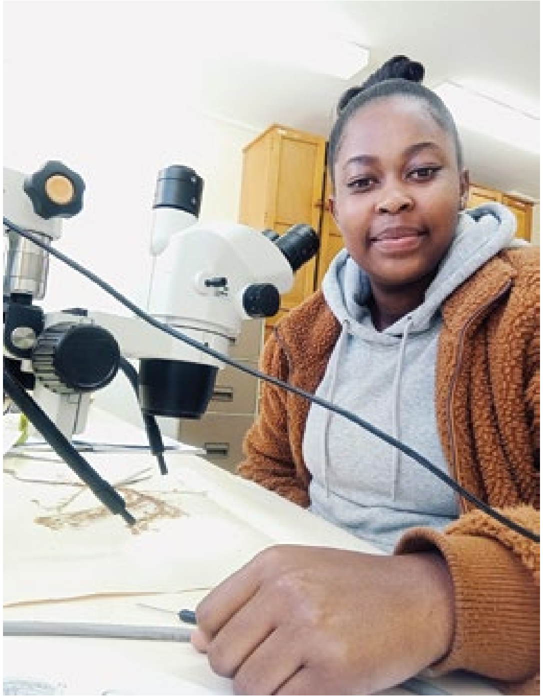
Lerato Mokoena, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Intern (with Mr uPhakamani M'Afrika Xaba)

This internship has played a pivotal role in shaping me into a more confident individual, both professionally and personally. Initially, I was uncertain about many aspects of the work and the challenges ahead, but through continuous exposure to new tasks and responsibilities, I have developed a stronger sense of self-assurance. By taking on challenging projects, presenting my work to others and interacting with experts in the field, I gradually became more comfortable with stepping outside of my comfort zone.

One of the most impactful experiences was learning to communicate and collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders. Engaging with fellow interns, scholars, students and line managers has strengthened my interpersonal and communication skills, allowing me to express my ideas more clearly and assertively. I presented at Intern Presentation Day, overcoming initial nerves, and participated in the National Horticultural Enrichment Forum, where I was awarded Best Postgraduate Research Project (2023) and Best Garden Development and Maintenance Project (2024). A highlight was being a part of two field trips to the Eastern Cape, for a cycad conservation and restoration project focused on the Critically Endangered *Encephalartos latifrons*.

This internship played a key role in my career development by allowing me to lead skills development training for confiscated *Clivia mirabilis* plants, a Vulnerable species. We successfully rescued over 3 000 plants, and I was entrusted with a redeveloping garden section in the Dell. This experience provided me with critical hands-on skills, boosting my skills and inspiring me to pursue a Postgraduate Diploma.

Samkelisiwe Mathonsi, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Intern (with Ms Aarifah Jakoet)



When I received the call informing me that I had been accepted into the internship programme with SANBI at the Compton Herbarium in Kirstenbosch NBG, I experienced a mix of emotions. While I was thrilled about the opportunity, I was also apprehensive about the working environment and concerned about the distance from home. However, upon my arrival, all my worries were put to rest. The environment was healthy and welcoming, and my colleagues made me feel at ease.

My journey as a plant taxonomy intern with SANBI began in April 2023 under the supervision of Aarifah Jakoet. My overall experience exceeded my expectations and provided me with invaluable learning opportunities. Throughout the internship, I was involved in various technical support and research activities, including fieldwork, specimen curation, mounting, digitisation, imaging, plant identification and data capture. Additionally, I gained hands-on experience in laboratory techniques such as DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing.

A significant highlight of my internship was the opportunity to contribute to SANBI's Plant of the Week, for which I authored two articles on *Indigofera denudata* and *Erica ampullacea*. This experience enhanced my research and scientific writing skills while deepening my knowledge of plant taxonomy.

Overall, my time at SANBI has been incredibly enriching, providing me with practical experience, professional growth, and a deeper appreciation for plant taxonomy. This internship has reinforced my passion for biodiversity conservation, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of such a dynamic and supportive institution. I am deeply appreciative of the guidance and support from my supervisor and colleagues, whose insights and professionalism made my experience even more fulfilling.

Dr Lehlohonolo Adams, Biological Invasions PhD Student (with Dr Thabiso Mokotjomela)

I started my PhD studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in February 2021, funded by SANBI and focusing on fleshy-fruited invasive alien plants in South African grasslands. The study was under the supervision of Prof. Colleen Downs in collaboration with Prof. Sandy-Lynn Steenhuisen (Afromontane Research Unit, University of the Free State UFS) and Prof. Grant Martin (Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University).

My research explored community perceptions on invasive alien plants, seed dispersal and tracking invasive plant populations over time. Using Google Street View, bird feeding trials and seed germination experiments, I gained valuable insights into biological invasion dynamics of fleshy-fruited invasive alien plants in the grasslands.

Presenting my findings at both national and international conferences, such as the 16th International Conference on Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions in Chile, as well as the Seed Dispersal Symposium in Brazil, improved my communication skills and expanded my network. I also really enjoyed my field trips to different provinces during my PhD studies.

Now a postdoctoral fellow based at Stellenbosch University's Centre for Invasion Biology, I am expanding my research to focus on tree invasions in South Africa. SANBI's support has been instrumental in equipping me with skills, knowledge and opportunities to make meaningful contributions to biodiversity conservation. I am also grateful that my postdoc is funded by SANBI

Tshifhiwa Mandaha, Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security (EI4WS) Intern (with Ms Ayaka Peter)

Being part of SANBI has truly been a dream come true. My journey as a Biodiversity Information Policy Advice (BIPA) intern has been an enriching experience, and I have had the privilege of working closely with the incredible team as part of the GEF-7 Project. I have been fortunate to collaborate with professionals who are passionate about biodiversity conservation, and I have gained invaluable experience in various aspects of the field.

This opportunity has allowed me to contribute meaningfully to the organisation's mission. It has been an enriching experience, I am grateful for the support, mentorship and guidance I have received from my supervisor and the Biodiversity Stewardship Team, which has played a pivotal role in shaping my professional growth.

Aimin Sivanda, Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security (EI4WS) Intern (with Mr Reinford Sinegugu)

During my postgraduate studies, after covering water governance as a topic, I jokingly

Aimin Sivanda

mentioned to one of my lecturers that one day I'll be managing water in a dam. Few months later, I got hosted by the Breede–Olifants Catchment Management Agency as an Ecological Infrastructure intern.

Joining the SANBI EI4WS team after the September 2023 floods that parts of the Western Cape experienced, it gave me a different perspective on the destruction climate change comes with. Not only was infrastructure and productive agricultural land lost in the process but also lives. This got me into conversations on how to collaborate with local municipalities, farming communities and the general public to build a resilient community of practice to address water security. Through the lens of alien clearing projects in strategic areas yielding high volumes of water, biodiversity corridors are maintained and restored. The application of river maintenance management plans shows proactiveness towards minimising future loss to property damage and simultaneously supporting hard built infrastructure.

With water scarcity a concern and over allocation of water resources, the verification and validation process also shed light on the literal meaning that 'every drops counts'. Ensuring farmers use water sustainably is one step in the right direction towards building a resilient agricultural sector in a changing environment. Going forward, I would be interested in contributing to integrated water resources management and also raising awareness about the importance of keeping Strategic Water Source Areas healthy and functional for future generations to appreciate as well, considering the fact they are the workhorses for society.

Jubilant Sithole, Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Master's student (with Ms Anisha Dayaram)

Prior to starting my postgraduate studies, I worked as a research assistant at SANBI in 2021, under Anisha Dayaram, and we georeferenced historical images to evaluate how landscapes in several South African locations have evolved. The work we completed inspired me to pursue ecology as a field of study. Given the Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship, I was able to continue my education at the University of the Free State, where, under the guidance of Anisha Dayaram and Dr Andri van Aardt, I earned my honours degree in 2022 with a focus on 'Phytosociological classification of the current extent of the Drakensberg–Amathole Afromontane Fynbos (Gd6) in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Free State, South Africa'. In 2022, I applied for a scholarship, which I was awarded to pursue a master's degree in 2023–2024, and in October 2024, I turned in my thesis. The thesis was titled: 'Plant communities and habitat characteristics of the Drakensberg–Amathole Afromontane Fynbos (Gd6)'.

I have applied for a PhD with the Joan Wrench scholarship and have been awarded this bursary for 2025, pending a successful outcome of my Master's degree.

Some of the skills I have acquired include research writing, fieldwork for vegetation sampling, using an herbarium, identifying plant species and using the JUICE program to produce a phytosociological table. I was able to study and hand in my dissertations within the required time without worrying about finances. I will forever be grateful to the Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship Fund and SANBI for the chance to continue with my studies. I wish to continue working as a researcher and publish scientific papers after completing my studies using the knowledge that I have gained over the years.

Londiwe Makhaye, Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security Intern (EI4WS) (with Mr Lindokuhle Khanyile)

My internship journey working under the EI4WS (Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security) project has been more than I had expected it to be, especially given that it was only 12 months. Applying the knowledge I gained from my university studies has been incredibly fulfilling. Providing mapping support to the project has sharpened my skills in data analysis and visualisation as I have had to map the work that has been done within the Greater uMngeni Catchment over the years. Additionally, supporting both the research and implementation aspects of the project has allowed me to gain valuable hands-on experience, directly contributing to research outputs.

Furthermore, my involvement in planning and participating in engagements with communities and organisations has increased my confidence in speaking in front of an audience, while also enhancing my presentation and facilitation skills. I am incredibly grateful for my team, which has been supportive throughout my journey and my supervisor, Mr Lindokuhle Khanyile, for his guidance in helping me understand the intricacies of the work within the project. My other mentors, Dr Pearl Gola and Mrs Nomalungelo Ndlovu have taught me to be mindful of the quality of my work, to not just complete tasks for the sake of ticking boxes but to actually care about what it is that I'm putting out there and the impact that it might have. I am grateful to have had an internship that has equipped me with skills and experiences that I can apply in my future career endeavours.

Sameshan Govender, DSTI–HSRC Intern (with Dr Yashica Singh)

I am honoured to share my experience as a DSI–HSRC intern working with the KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium. As a Durban-born graduate with an Honours degree in Biological Sciences from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, I entered this internship with much excitement. My primary goal was to gain practical experience and broaden my understanding of the biodiversity sector.

During my time at the herbarium, I was involved in various aspects of physical curation, such as specimen mounting, filing, cleaning, data capture and specimen verification. One of the most fulfilling experiences was contributing to the scientific curation process, including digitising and scanning herbarium specimens to support researchers who could not visit in person. I took part in numerous field trips, conferences and fairs, gaining insights into citizen science and the valuable contributions made by the public through platforms such as iNaturalist.

One of my internship highlights was scanning around 2 800 specimens, and I found great reward in mentoring and tutoring fellow students, as well as overcoming my initial nervousness around public speaking. These experiences significantly boosted my confidence and scientific communication skills.

I am sincerely grateful to my mentors, Dr Yashica Singh and Prof. Himansu Baijnath, and the entire KZN Herbarium team for their support. This internship has not only equipped me with practical skills but also reinforced my passion for the biodiversity sector.

Sibonelo Mhlongo, Biological Invasions Master's Student (with Dr Mlungele Nsikani)

My journey with SANBI began in 2021 when I joined as a Groen Sebenza Intern under the mentorship of Dr Mlungele Nsikani. My internship experience gave me the opportunity to explore and engage with different facets of biological invasions, broadening my understanding of the subject. My duties included amongst other things: assisting with conducting risk analysis of listed alien and invasive taxa; reviewing risk analyses; biodiversity policy, planning and management; and management of the Global Environmental Facility project on biosecurity.

The diverse experiences I gained through my internship in biological invasions have fuelled my passion for the field, motivating me to continue my academic journey by enrolling in a master's degree programme at Stellenbosch University, which was funded by SANBI. My MSc focused on emerging invader species, and their eradication feasibility. Insights from the study will contribute to improving national and regional efforts for managing invasive alien plants in South Africa. I will always be appreciative of SANBI for giving me the chance to further my studies in the field of biological invasions and complete my MSc.

In summary, my time with SANBI has been extremely encouraging, inspiring and empowering, helping me to become a self-sufficient individual capable of overcoming problems with minimum support. I am grateful to SANBI for providing the opportunity to advance my education and build my professional networks in the field of science. This experience has also encouraged me to want to pursue a PhD in future.

Siphindile Shangase, DSTI–HSRC Intern (with Ms Nozipho Mahlanze and Ms Eunice Jurgens)

I began my journey with SANBI in July 2023 as a DSI–HSRC intern, and over the course of my internship as an Environmental Education Officer in the Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement Directorate, I have gained invaluable skills and insights into biodiversity conservation and public engagement. This experience has allowed me to contribute to developing and delivering educational programmes aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices among diverse communities.

Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including schools, communities and government entities, I have facilitated numerous outreach initiatives that empower individuals to become stewards of the environment. One of the most rewarding aspects of my work has been seeing the positive impact of that these programmes have on both the participants and the natural environmental. This experience has not only enhanced my understanding of environmental challenges but has also deepened my passion for promoting biodiversity conservation through education. Working closely with my supervisor and colleagues, I have received mentorship and guidance that has been instrumental in shaping my professional and personal growth.

As I approach the end of my internship, I recognise how much I have grown, not only as an environmental educator but also as a passionate advocate for sustainability. I look forward to continuing to apply the knowledge and skills I have gained in future endeavours, and I am thankful to have been part of SANBI's mission to protect and celebrate South Africa's rich biodiversity.

Lethabo Selala, DSHI–HSRC Intern (with Ms Rethabile Motloung)

In September 2023, I began my DSI–HSRC internship at SANBI as a Zoological Systematics & Collections Intern under the mentorship of Rethabile Motloung, an Animal Species Scientist. My primary role was contributing to the e-Fauna Project, where I conducted research on foundational species data through systematic data collation from primary taxonomic literature, field surveys and biodiversity databases such as the Catalogue of Life, the Reptile Database, and Mammals of the World. This data was then integrated into the Zoological Database of Southern Africa (ZODATSA) using Specify 7 for efficient management.

Additionally, I played a key role in developing the *e-Fauna of South Africa* manuscript, contributing to its conceptualisation, writing and editing. This experience honed my ability to synthesise complex biodiversity data into structured scientific outputs.

Beyond research, I collaborated with SANBI and ARC teams, participating in fieldwork and biodiversity monitoring, gaining valuable hands-on experience. I also took part in training sessions that expanded my expertise in GIS, environmental impact assessments and scientific writing, strengthening my contributions to biodiversity research and conservation efforts.

My internship at SANBI has been a transformative experience, deepening my passion for biodiversity research and environmental health. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to SANBI's mission and extend my sincere thanks to my mentors and colleagues for their invaluable guidance and support.

PURPOSE

- Contribute towards the development of the next generation of black biodiversity professionals.

OUTCOME

- **Outcome 5:** A transformed and suitably skilled workforce and active citizenry is developed to strengthen the biodiversity sector.

Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement:

Careers in the biodiversity sector

Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement (BEPE): Careers in the biodiversity sector

Programme Performance

Biodiversity human capital development as mandated by the National Biodiversity Human Capital Development Strategy (BHCDS) and Action Plan reinforces the need for a skilled workforce in the biodiversity sector, aligning with national development imperatives. The BHCDS, covering the period 2010–2030, adopts a pipeline approach to skills development; exploring initiatives that support foundational skills for biodiversity in the early childhood development years, to high schools, universities and into workplaces. Developing a sense of care and connection with nature is crucial for both biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods, as it fosters a sense of responsibility and promotes sustainable practices that benefit both people and the environment.

A key programme towards supporting foundation-building skills for biodiversity in early years is SANBI's Kids in Gardens (KIG) programme, which aims to operationalise the first strategic objective of the BHCDS; to attract talented black South Africans to work in the sector by developing foundational biodiversity skills and knowledge.

The KIG involves experiential hands-on, fun, interactive learning programmes of approximately three-hours long being facilitated in the national botanical gardens. The programme aims to create a sense of awe and wonder for nature and for children to feel a sense of connection to the natural world around them, whilst inspiring young minds. The programme is closely aligned to the South African school curriculum and also customised to the various groups that attend the lessons. The majority of the participants in this programme are mainstream school children who are supported to engage with the relevant biodiversity content knowledge and skills.

Over and above school learners, the KIG programme supports a wide range of beneficiaries, for example students from Higher Education Institutions, community youth and adult groups and people with special educational needs. All of the learning programmes have relevant biodiversity conservation and sustainability messages, and all have components of opportunities for the beneficiaries to take positive actions for the natural environment. This year the bookings at all the centres increased and the annual target of 60 000 was exceeded with a total of 65 883 beneficiaries reached.

Thohoyandou National Botanical Garden Kids in Garden Programme.

Supporting environmental theme days in South Africa is crucial for raising awareness about pressing environmental issues, promoting sustainable practices and galvanising action towards a healthier planet. Twenty-two environmental theme days were celebrated, engaging 8 555 beneficiaries including school learners, community youth and community adults. Each event supported beneficiaries to gain insight on the theme day and, where possible, contextually relevant environmental actions were taken such as planting trees and indigenous gardens. The events to celebrate environmental theme days took place within the national botanical gardens while others were hosted in communities.

Raising awareness about biodiversity crimes in South Africa is crucial because these crimes, like poaching and illegal wildlife trade, threaten the country's rich biodiversity, ecosystems, and the livelihoods of communities dependent on natural resources. To raise awareness, various events and workshops were conducted in collaboration with relevant partners about biodiversity crimes. Matters of concern around succulent and cycad poaching were some the biodiversity crimes that were highlighted. The 287 beneficiaries of this programme included school learners, community youth, members of SAPS and traditional healers.

SANBI offers fun and exciting holiday programmes focusing on connecting young people to nature and in this financial year 657 beneficiaries were engaged through the programme. These programmes include many fun activities such as games, art and crafts, storytelling and nature treasure hunts, so as to be both educational and entertaining. The beneficiaries, mainly children and youth, were drawn from a broad spectrum of society; while some were able to pay for the programmes, others were invited and fully sponsored as they are from orphanages, places of safety and a variety of community-based youth organisations. Holiday programmes focusing on biodiversity offer children valuable opportunities to connect with nature, fostering environmental awareness, appreciation, and a sense of responsibility for the planet.

Wetland Day celebrations at Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden.

Careers Programme

Building a strong foundation and competencies for a biodiversity-focused career requires the development of core skills like communication, problem-solving and research, as well as exploring specialised fields like conservation biology, ecology or environmental science. Young people are also exposed to relevant internships and volunteer opportunities.

The SANBI Biodiversity Careers Programmes aims to reach Primary and High School learners as well as students in Higher Education Institutions. The programme aims to raise awareness of biodiversity as a field of study and the various career options available in the sector so that young black professionals are attracted and retained in the sector, ultimately addressing transformation and the scarcity of skills in the biodiversity sector.

The Primary School Career Programme engages learners in role plays allowing learners to explore information about biodiversity careers and then creating short plays, poems, presentations or posters that represent the careers. In this way,

KwaZulu-Natal NBG: Experiential Learning through the KIG programme.

learners engage with information about biodiversity careers in an active, fun-filled manner, which helps them to understand the range of careers available while at the same time developing a sense of care and love for the environment, which will hopefully impact their decisions on subject choices and careers as they move to high school and beyond. This year, 863 primary school learners participated in these career events.

The High School Career Expos are facilitated in partnership with a number of environmental organisations and different SANBI directorates so that a range of biodiversity careers are showcased. Each stand is set up to represent a specific biodiversity career. Presenters are required to include information about the career, for example: name of career; work involved; qualifications and courses required to enter the career; possible career and learning pathways; and possible employers. This year, 795 high school learners and teachers participated in the High School Career Expos held at the SANBI gardens and an additional 2019 high school beneficiaries were reached through ad hoc requests for career expos and career fairs.

Skills for biodiversity conservation and career guidance are crucial in higher education because they equip students with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to address pressing environmental challenges and pursue meaningful careers in a rapidly changing world, promoting both sustainable development and individual success.

Lucia Legodi (SAASTE INTERN) presents at the High School Career Programme: Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden.

The Higher Education Institution (HEI) Careers programme in particular is also based on anecdotal evidence that many university students get to their second or third year of study without knowing what kinds of career pathways are potentially available to them in the biodiversity sector after they graduate. The Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement (BEPE) directorate engaged with students from higher education institutions providing support and guidance on different careers in the biodiversity and environmental sector. The staff participated in online webinars, career lounges and University Career Expos. Students from 21 mainstream universities were supported and students from three private Higher Education Institutions were also supported.

Outreach Greening

The Outreach Greening programme links to the strategic objective and outcomes in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and National Biodiversity Framework (NBF). which indicate 'People are mobilised to adopt practices that sustain the long-term benefits of biodiversity by providing opportunities for people's awareness for the value of biodiversity to be enhanced through more effective coordination and messaging and people are mobilised to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity'.

Healthy environments are important for human wellbeing and the Outreach Greening programme supports schools and communities to create environments that will show care for others and the environment by creating more sustainable environments. This programme aims to enhance the capacity of participants from schools and community organisations, allowing them to plan, develop and sustain indigenous gardens through the structured programme of attending horticultural workshops and receiving follow-up support. Schools and community organisations stay in the programme for three years to plant and extend their gardens and eventually graduate from the programme to maintain their biodiversity garden. In Cape Town, Western Cape, one (1) community garden has been completed and handed over, two (2) schools have established their gardens while one (1) school is currently maintaining their gardens. Two (2) community projects are ongoing and planting will take place in the new financial year.

In Limpopo, around the Thohoyandou National Botanical Garden, three (3) school gardens were established and the BEPE staff are visiting schools to provide support and advice. In addition, several schools and community organisations have received ad hoc assistance, horticultural advice and plant donations, which have allowed them to develop their own indigenous gardens.

Teacher and Teacher Education Programme

During the 2024/2025 financial year period, a total of 16 capacity building workshops were delivered through the Fundisa for Change Programme, reaching a total of 426 teacher and teacher educator groups. Fundisa for Change is a collaborative nationwide initiative dedicated to enhancing transformative environmental learning in South Africa, through teacher training. The teacher groups comprised of educators from various educational phases, including the Intermediate Phase, Senior Phase, and Further Education and Training Phase; while the teacher educator groups comprised of curriculum advisers from provincial education departments and forums, and environmental education practitioners from the public and private sectors. The primary aim of the workshops was to strengthen the capacity of participants to engage with and teach sustainability-related content in meaningful and transformative ways. The objectives were designed to align with the broader goals of promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within teacher education. Seven out of the nine provinces were impacted this year, with the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape being the only two provinces that did not have training activity. A group of network partners, including DFFE, Rhodes University and Rand Water, played a key role in facilitating workshops alongside SANBI. Participants described the workshops as valuable networking opportunities that facilitated the sharing of best practices among colleagues. These sessions broadened their knowledge and encouraged both collaborative and reflective learning.

The Fundisa for Change programme has played a critical role in supporting curriculum strengthening of the environmental and ESD content. This was achieved by presenting during the training of curriculum writers and providing technical support to the Department of Education.

Many of the BEPE programmes were facilitated by young professionals from the Groen Sebenza programme who gained workplace experience by engaging in these practices while making a very tangible contribution to the targets and capacity within the directorate.

Natural Science Teachers engage in practical hands on learning through the Fundisa for Change programme at Pretoria National Botanical Garden BEPE Centre.

Fundisa for Change workshop held at Lapalala Wilderness School.

GS Phase II Close-out Training held in KwaZulu-Natal National Botanical Garden.

GS Phase II Close-out Training held in Pretoria National Botanical Garden.

GS Phase II Close-out Training held in Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.

Groen Sebenza (GS) Programme

The current iteration of the Groen Sebenza Programme came to an end on 31 March 2025. The programme aimed to:

- Incubate and enable workplace-based learning for graduates to build and strengthen their capacity at various levels positioning them for study, fulltime and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Create job opportunities for 1 050 young unemployed graduates.
- Strengthen different organisational development aspects including transformation in its totality, mentoring and proactive skills planning.
- Through research develop contribute to a 'live' skills intelligence system that will enable the sector to proactively plan for skills and to track and trace the utilisation of the developed skills.

Key highlights for 2024 are:

- By the end of the programme, 31 December 2024, over 1 278 interns were mentored through the programme.
- GS was consistent with the national strategies for biodiversity and human capital:
  - Critical skills deficiencies identified at the national level were incubated in GS, for example: GIS & planning specialists, climate change and other natural scientists (ecologists, biologists, taxonomists, conservationists, wildlife managers, policy analysts, etc.).
  - Deployment and retention of skilled young biodiversity professionals in the sector. Of the 296 interns transitioned, 199 are in fulltime and contract positions in the biodiversity sector, while others went into business and further studies. The track and trace will continue as GS Phase I has demonstrated that intern transitions continue well into six to twelve months post project closure.
- Interns acquired technical and social skills including:
  - Stakeholder engagement and management, project management, research fieldwork techniques, geographic information systems (GIS), snake handling, climate change and society, water governance, scientific writing, field ranger, firearm handling, law enforcement, safety management training, ARC-GIS, basic assessment reports (BARs) environmental impact assessments (EIAs), etc.

- The programme enhanced work readiness and clarified career objectives by offering mentorship and real-world experience:
  - Each intern was paired with a mentor who on a daily basis coached and mentored them.
  - Interns were registered with professional bodies to further enhance their professional development, networking, employability and further study opportunities.
  - Ninety-seven (97) were registered with various regulatory professional bodies including Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa (EAPASA), South African Veterinary Council (SAVC), Heath Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), South African Council for Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP), South African Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAAVT) and South African Council for Natural Science Professions (SACNASP). Work readiness training, including a module on emotional intelligence and self-management, CV writing and interview etiquette etc. were offered to interns during the programme close-out sessions.
- Host organisations benefited from the GS interns' contributions to research, policy, education and fieldwork initiatives, for example:
  - Contributing to surveys, including terrestrial monitoring of flora and fauna on Table Mountain.
  - Reaching learners through the Kids in Gardens programme due to increased capacity from trained GS interns.
  - Contributing to the review of the mainstreaming of climate change responses into provincial and municipal sector plans; updating of the provincial Mpumalanga Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan; and contributing to the development of the Mpumalanga Climate Change Response Strategy for the Agricultural Sector.
  - Contributing to the review of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for large-scale developments, ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and providing critical feedback to developers and consultants.
  - Contributing to the establishment of the first UNESCO Global Geopark in the country to conserve and celebrate the significant and unique geological heritage in the country.
  - Contributing to aquatic and biomonitoring through obtained SASS training.
- Groen Sebenza advanced transformation by diversifying the biodiversity sector's workforce. Of the 1 278 interns:
  - 100% were youth.
  - 99% were blacks against a target of 90%.
  - 88% were females against a target of 70%.
  - 24% were people with disabilities against a target of 2%.
  - 27% of the appointed interns had NQF Level 6 (diploma) qualifications, 32% had NQF Level 7 (first degrees), 14% NQF Level 8 (Honours degrees), 4% NQF Level 9 Master's degrees and 1% NQF Level 10 PhD degrees.
  - 274 mentors trained.

PURPOSE

- Contribute towards the development of the next generation of black biodiversity professionals.

OUTCOME

- **Outcome 5:** A transformed and suitably skilled workforce and active citizenry is developed to strengthen the biodiversity sector.

Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring:

Civil society engaged to contribute to science, monitoring and biodiversity conservation

Biodiversity Research, Assessment and Monitoring: Civil society engaged

Citizen Science Work

The Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) Programme, jointly funded by SANBI, the Mapula Trust, and the Botanical Society of South Africa, continues to play a pivotal role in plant conservation through its dynamic and dedicated network of citizen scientists. The three CREW Nodes conducted 142 field trips (44 of which were carried out in under-sampled biodiversity stewardship sites) during the 2024/25 field season. Over the past year, the CREW programme has contributed three plant species new to science and rediscovered four plant species that have not been seen for a long time and were thought to be Extinct in the Wild. In addition, the CREW network has surveyed 170 of the 558 critical habitat species (species that occur in an area of less than or equal to 10 km^2).

iNaturalist: Growing Citizen Science

SANBI serves as South Africa's national focal point for the iNaturalist citizen science platform, curating several thematic projects to support biodiversity monitoring. For example, the 'South African Red List of Plants and Animals' iNaturalist project consolidates species across Red List categories, allowing curators to automatically compile data on taxa of conservation concern and notify observers of a species' threat status. This information directly supports Red List assessments and land use decision-making. Over the past year, the project recorded 4 354 observations representing 1 176 species.

Similarly, the 'NEMBA Alien Species (South Africa)' iNaturalist project integrates observations related to invasive and prohibited species. In the past year, the project logged 35 939 observations across 371 species, contributing significantly to invasive species monitoring and management.

SANBI also leads southern African participation in two major iNaturalist BioBlitzes: the City Nature Challenge (CNC) and the Great Southern Bioblitz (GSB). In collaboration with 16 African countries, the region recorded 247 691 observations of 20 828 species, including 1 127 species of conservation concern and 488 invasive alien species in South Africa alone.

Human Capital Development remains a key focus of the CREW Programme, which continues to strengthen botanical skills among its citizen

Left: Ixia ebrahimii – a newly described species from the Western Cape (Photographer I. Ebrahim), named in honour of right: Ismail Ebrahim, CREW CFR Node Manager, for his outstanding contributions to plant conservation.

scientists. CREW provided iNaturalist training sessions at 13 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across South Africa. Following the training, a dedicated iNaturalist project is created to track student participation over the year, with a recognition awarded to the top contributor. In 2024, a few students from four HEIs collectively contributed 309 observations representing 140 species to the City Nature Challenge.

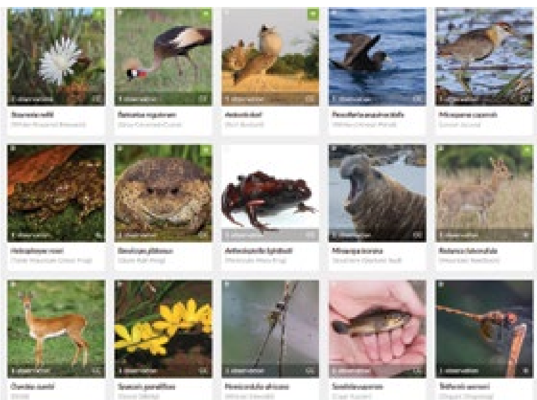
The Scientific Authority

The Scientific Authority Technical Support Unit provides the scientific, administrative and logistical support needed for the effective operation of the Scientific Authority, established by the Minister under the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004). The Technical Support Unit advises on the trade and sustainable use of South Africa's wildlife, spanning terrestrial and marine animals and hundreds of plant species.

Two meetings were convened in October 2024 and March 2025, where matters such as proposed exports of cheetahs and white rhinos for reintroduction and Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) were reviewed. This year, comprehensive NDFs were completed for the majority of South Africa's CITES-listed species, including *Avonia quinaria* and the Natal Midlands Dwarf Chameleon (*Bradypodion thamnobates*). Field research for the Natal Grass Cycad (*Stangeria eriopus*) is underway to inform a future NDF.

The unit supported the South African delegations to the 27th CITES Plants Committee and 33rd CITES Animals Committee, contributing to critical discussions on assessing trade impacts for newly listed shark species. It is also spearheading the development of national guidelines for metapopulation management of priority mammals, a framework for managing damage-causing leopards, and translocation protocols for the species.

Threatened species recorded during the City Nature Challenge 2024



A national compliance assessment of succulent plant nurseries, focused on key CITES species, is progressing well. The South African Leopard Monitoring Project continues to provide essential data to support evidence-based quota setting. In March 2025, SANBI launched the 'Safeguarding Succulents' project, examining the illegal trade in succulents between South Africa and South Korea. A working visit to South Korea established valuable links with the country's Scientific Authority and research institutions.

The year concluded with a successful engagement at Pretoria National Botanical Garden with the Faraday Committee, focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of species traded in the Faraday traditional medicine market, one of South Africa's largest.

Succulent plants for sale at Jongno Flower Market, Seoul, South Korea.

Administration

Subprogrammes:

Business Innovation and technology

Governace, Risk and Compliance

Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation

Human resources

PURPOSE:

- To promote sustainability through effective resource utilisation, income generation and good governance.

OUTCOME:

- **Outcome 4:** Improved financial sustainability through innovative and diverse revenue generation initiatives.
- **Outcome 5:** Good corporate governance achieved through legislative compliance, responsive business systems, and a skilled and transformed workforce.
- **Outcome 6:** Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.

Programme 4

Administration

Business innovation and technology

PURPOSE:

- To drive SANBI business by creating value for all its stakeholders.
- To increase operational efficiency through implementation and maintenance of modern technologies.

OUTCOME:

- **Outcome 6:** Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.

Programme Performance

The focus areas for the 2024–2025 financial year were:

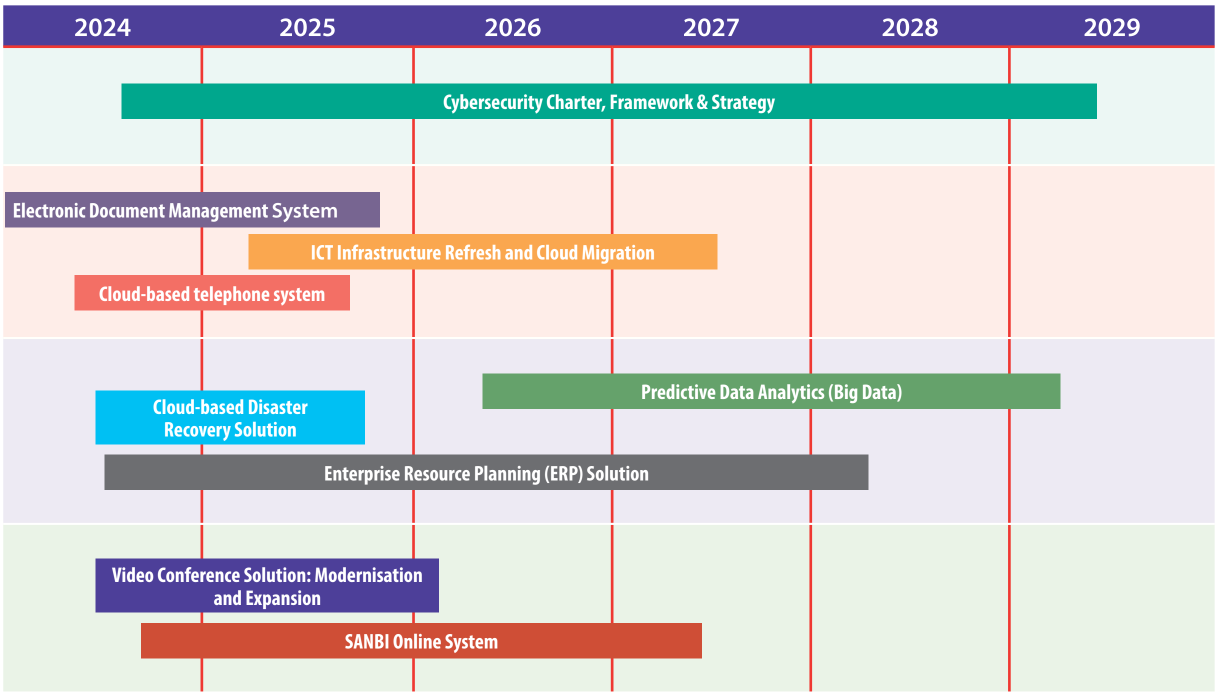
- To increase or improve the availability of ICT systems, which is affected by the ongoing load shedding from Eskom. Availability of ICT systems is critical for any business as it contributes towards productivity and efficient communication.
- To improve the information security posture of the organisation, which would result in the adequate protection of SANBI's information assets.
- To build internal ICT capacity to provide a cost-effective service to business, ensure greater flexibility and have more control over critical functions and decisions.

Programme Highlights

During the financial year, the following initiatives and performance targets were successfully achieved:

- Improvement of network connectivity in some of our gardens, which included installation of additional Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) devices, repairing of fibre cables and improving Wi-Fi network connectivity.

A roadmap was developed to visualise how SANBI is planning to implement the priorities of the Digital Transformation Strategy



- Appointment of ICT support engineers as part of the plan to insource and take over the outsourced ICT support services.
- Establishment of the Information Security, Governance and Risk Directorate by appointing a director responsible from 01 December 2022 and insourcing the ICT function when the contract with the external service provider came to and end.
- Achieved 94% uptime of ICT systems against the annual target of 90% uptime of ICT systems.
- The development for a Digital Transformation Strategy along with a roadmap for its implementation over the next five years.

Digital Transformation Technologies

For the next five (5) years SANBI will focus on the implementation of the digital technologies. Digital transformation is not only about implementation of the digital technologies, but it is also about the reconfiguration of SANBI business processes as well as change management.

Systems, processes, workflows, and culture are all part of digital transformation process. This transformation brings together data across areas to work together and effectively. For many organisations, the driver for digital transformation is cost effectiveness. For example, migrating systems and data to cloud lowers operational costs, frees up software and hardware costs, as well as ICT personnel to work on other projects.

https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/computers

The reconfiguration of SANBI business processes and the achievement of business objectives will be driven by the technologies below.

Cybersecurity Solutions

- Protect SANBI information assests
- Improve security posture
- Prevent financial fraud
- Prevent reputational damage

Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)

- Saves time and money
- Central repository
- Document security and control
- Data managment

ICT Infrastructure Refresh and Cloud migration

- Enable collaborations
- Operational efficiencies
- Reliable service
- Save cost
- High availibility
- Mobility and flexibility

Cloud-based Telephony

- Reduce cost of hardware
- Mobility
- Improve productivity
- Accessible on mulitiple devices

Cloud-based Disaster Recovery Solution

- Reduce complexities
- High scalibility
- Reduce infrastructure costs
- Less downtime
- High reliability

Modern Video Conference Solution

- Reduce travel time and cost
- Increase productivity
- Intergrate with other digital solutions
- Reliable and easy to support and maintain

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Solution

- Business processes integration
- Real-time reporting
- Optimise business processes
- Collaboration
- Centralised data

SANBI Online System (eCommerce)

- Reduce paperwork
- Reduce long queues
- Ease of making bookings and payments
- Access to customer data
- Easy to showcase best sellers

Big Data

- Breaks up data and analysis
- Faster processing
- Uses Artificial Intelligence for analysis
- Data lakes

Governance, Risk and Compliance (Enterprise Risk Management)

PURPOSE

- Promote sustainability through effective resource utilisation, income generation and good governance.

OUTCOME

- **Outcome 6:** Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.

Programme Performance

Enterprise Risk Management.

SANBI has adopted the ISO 31000 risk management methodology, including aligning with the 2017 COSO Enterprise Risk Management integrating with Strategy and Performance. As required by section 57(1)(a)(i) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999) (the PFMA), SANBI has established a Risk and Fraud Prevention Committee that advises the Chief Executive Officer and the Board on matters pertaining to risk, ethics and fraud management.

To support the achievement of its strategic goals, SANBI continued to implement risk management processes in accordance with the approved Risk Management Policy. A detailed risk assessment was conducted for the 2024/25 financial year with executive management to revise the strategic risk register. Strategic risks are categorised as per the integrated reporting framework as follows:

- Human capital
- Financial capital
- Infrastructure capital
- Intellectual property capital
- Social and relationship capital, and
- Natural environmental capital.

SANBI has defined its risk appetite and tolerance levels, which is being implemented by management to ensure adherence when discharging their responsibilities.

Operational risk registers were also developed in collaboration with designated risk owners. These assessments provided a foundation for internal audit plans and were aligned with the annual performance plans to ensure that risk management efforts effectively contributed to improved organisational performance.

The outcomes of the risk assessment were evaluated by the Audit and Risk Committee and subsequently endorsed by the SANBI Board. Ongoing monitoring efforts enabled the continuous identification of emerging risks, which in turn supported improvements in SANBI's overall performance.

SANBI is currently implementing the Business Continuity Management Policy, with ongoing business impact analyses and validation processes aimed at identifying gaps and ensuring that the business continuity plans are accurately revised and kept up to date.

Fraud Prevention

The SANBI's Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan outlines the mechanisms for effective fraud prevention. The main objective of the Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan is to install a culture of zero tolerance to corruption and fraud within the organisation and improve or implement the necessary controls on fraud risk areas within the organisation.

To support this, the Risk Management and Fraud Prevention Committee (RMFPC) was established to oversee the implementation of both the Risk Management and Fraud Prevention policies. The RMFPC, chaired by the Chief Operations Officer and operating under its approved Terms of Reference, also reviews reported cases of alleged fraud received through the whistle-blowing system or other authorised channels.

As part of the broader risk assessment process, a fraud risk assessment was conducted. To strengthen awareness, SANBI rolled out an online and physical awareness programme aimed at promoting ethical conduct and encouraging whistle-blowing. SANBI has a fully operational Whistle-Blowing Hotline, which is independently managed by a service provider named Advanced Call, which refers cases of suspected fraud or misconduct to management for investigation when necessary. SANBI also manages reports – whether formal, informal or anonymous – received through various communication platforms.

Incidents involving loss or damage of assets are recorded in a Loss Control Register and addressed by the Loss Control Subcommittee. Where negligence, recklessness or carelessness is confirmed, appropriate sanctions are imposed. All fraud and corruption allegations are submitted quarterly to the SANBI Board through the Audit and Risk Committee for review and oversight.

SANBI continued to implement the Ethics Management Policy, which was approved by the Board. An awareness programme has been implemented to raise awareness on fraud prevention and ethical behaviour in the workplace, this include online awareness as well as physical workshops.

Compliance Management

Non-compliance with applicable legislation has been identified as a key risk by SANBI, with measures in place to prevent it from impacting daily operations. SANBI is committed to maintaining full compliance with all relevant legal requirements across its functions. In alignment with the principles of King IV, SANBI's leadership also promotes adherence not only to binding laws but to non-binding rules, codes and standards, fostering a culture of good governance and ethical conduct.

Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation

PURPOSE

- Promote sustainability through effective resource utilisation, income generation and good governance.

OUTCOME

- **Outcome 6:** Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.

Programme Highlights

- The Kirstenbosch Summer Concert Series hosted from December 2024 to 31 March 2025 generated over R20 million in revenue.

- The SANBI Membership Card went live on 1 April 2024 and generated an estimated R3.8 million in its first year of operation.

- SANBI's Financial Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Plan, which was approved in 2023, is the foundation for the implementation of a number of programmes undertaken by the Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation (MCC) directorate, and is intended to reduce the organisation's reliance on the government grant, optimise the utilisation of government grants, and explore new ways to increase own-generated revenue. This is being achieved through inter-departmental engagement within the organisation, and by developing a clear value proposition to approach funders, donors and sponsors. Additionally, the organisation aims to improve its ability to commercialise its assets in the areas of tourism, education, research and recreation. The ultimate goal of the strategy is to increase SANBI's ability to attain and maintain financial sustainability over the long term. During the 2024/25 financial year, SANBI developed a Brand Enhancement Strategy, which aims to deliver on the output of a compelling brand built to position SANBI as a leading biodiversity institute and a premiere outdoor attraction for visitors to experience the fullness of nature.

- Following research conducted, a situational analysis report, which detailed the market demand for, and competitors of each garden, was developed. In addition, a benchmarking exercise was done with local and national institutions. The output of the situational report has been summarised in a gaps and opportunities analysis. This informed the Brand Enhancement Strategy.

- The Brand Enhancement Strategy conceptualised the brand positioning and marketing mix for SANBI as an institution, then customised it for each garden's unique setting and market. The strategy also expands on the tactical recommendations and implementation plan to realise the goal of enhancing the SANBI brand.

- Based on the research conducted, the SANBI brand positioning is defined as follows:
    - An intimate and embedded component of the country brand and the national brand (representing this physical place on earth, all it stands for, all it is celebrated for, and all we are proud of as a nation).
    - A champion/hero of the rich, teeming life that exists within South Africa in an intricate, amazing, wonderful web of survival and sustainability (and of which people are part).
    - An expert-appointed body invested in protecting and understanding all this rich, teeming life for its own sake as well as for the sake of the people whose heritage it is (and who need it and rely on it).

Programme Performance

Building on Foundations and Expanding for Growth

During the 2024–2025 financial year, the team focused its efforts on consolidating the gains received from the launch of the SANBI Gardens Membership card. This initiative, a first for the institute, aimed to contribute to the financial sustainability of the organisation by collecting annuity income from members. Benefits offered through the membership include free access to all national botanical and zoological gardens. These benefits were previously enjoyed exclusively by members of the Botanical Society of South Africa, however the SANBI membership is open to all South African residents. In its first year, the SANBI Gardens membership recruited over 5 000 members of the public and this number is set to grow in with the introduction of couples, families and pensioner pricing options in March 2025. The differentiated pricing includes a national membership, which provides access to all gardens including the flagship Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden (NBG) and the Pretoria Zoo.

National Gardens Week

For the first time in its history, SANBI gave visitors the national botanical and zoological gardens free access for the week of 10–16 March 2025. This saw over 120 000 visitors stream to the gardens to enjoy the activities arranged throughout the week.

From exercise sessions to guided walks and plant sales, to picnics, braais and wildlife encounters, everyone had the opportunity to find what brings them joy. Visitors also had the chance to learn more about conservation through interactive displays, expert talks and up-close encounters with wildlife, showcasing SANBI's role in protecting South Africa's rich biodiversity.

The National Zoological Garden experienced the highest number of visitors with over 70 000 visitors making their way through the gates of the Pretoria Zoo during National Gardens Week.

Anton Smit Collaboration

SANBI partnered with world renowned artist, Anton Smit, to showcase his sculptures across three of SANBI's national botanical gardens: Walter Sisulu NBG (Johannesburg), Pretoria NBG and Kirstenbosch NBG (Cape Town).

The project aims to create a seamless connection between art and nature, allowing visitors to experience Smit's monumental sculptures in a natural setting. His works, which include tower-

Colossal Man

Urban Echoes

ing heads, human figures and intricate designs, evoke deep emotions and philosophical reflections. The exhibition highlights pieces such as 'Stream of Consciousness', 'Faith Mask', 'Crouching Man' and 'Whirlwind – Izandla Ziyagezana', crafted from materials like steel, bronze and glass reinforced polymer.

Beyond aesthetics, the collaboration emphasises the harmonious relationship between creativity and conservation, reinforcing SANBI's mission to preserve biodiversity while fostering cultural appreciation. The sculptures are thoughtfully placed within each garden to complement the landscape, enhancing the visitor experience.

NZG Programme for Positive Media Coverage

SANBI's strategy around influencing sentiment about the National Zoological Garden during the year under review was to produce positive messages regarding the conservation and research work undertaken at the zoo. To that end, the team distributed media releases and invited media to events regarding the conservation activities at the Zoo including the following:

Jan 2024	Infrastructure update
Feb 2024	Birth of Neymar, the giraffe
April 2024	Charley's retirement
July 2024	Infrastructure update
July 2024	World Tiger Day
July 2024	Charley's retirement update
Aug 2024	World Lion Day
Aug 2024	Charley – opinion piece.
Oct 2024	125 Year Celebration
Dec 2024	Binga the gorilla goes to the dentist
Dec 2024	Media hosting – animal enrichment

Anton Smit on a walkabout at Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden.

Jan 2025	Year of the wood snake
Feb 2025	Reverse the red – NZG conservation efforts
Feb 2025	Valentine's Day activities
Mar 2025	National Gardens Week – free access to all national botanical and zoological gardens.

In addition, social media content was shared daily and internal communication regarding 'What's on at NZG' and profiles of NZG staff.

Tourism Month Campaign

'As South Africa celebrates Tourism and Heritage Month and welcomes the birth of a new season, Spring, this is the opportune time to call on people, families, couples and individuals to visit the 11 national botanical and two zoological gardens, experience the spaces and nature, learn more about the fauna and flora, and share these experiences on social media.'

The objective of the campaign was to:

- **Showcase SANBI's offerings:** highlight the unique features and attractions of South Africa's national botanical and zoological gardens.
- **Promote September visits:** encourage South Africans to visit SANBI gardens during September to explore the nation's rich heritage and biodiversity; celebrate Spring; boost SANBI's membership scheme– drive and increase sign-ups for the SANBI membership card by emphasising its benefits and the exclusive offers.
- **Inspire employee advocacy:** foster a culture of advocacy and ambassadorship among SANBI employees, encouraging them to promote SANBI's mission and activities.
- **Build an online community:** develop a bonded and engaged online community that actively participates in SANBI-related activities and initiatives. The campaign succeeded in growing SANBI's online community through the YouTube channel and achieved its email to engage local influencers to support the SANBI brand. In addition, membership card sales increased from an average of 250 for the previous months to 410 during the period of the campaign.

Digital Media

Digital media is integral to the MCC directorate's efforts at SANBI, providing avenues for compelling storytelling, interactive features and a broader audience engagement than conventional printed materials.

Biodiversity-related information is consistently updated and shared on both corporate websites, sanbi.org and pretoriazoo.org. Additionally, SANBI's internal portal, MySANBI, serves as a resource for staff, providing access to essential documents such as policies approved by the EXCO and the Board, standard operating procedures, newsletters, announcements and various forms.

The MCC team developed a social media strategy to guide the delivery of content and engagement with SANBI's key audiences on digital platforms.

During the period under review, SANBI's corporate websites have achieved over 3.3 million page views, drawing in more than 1.1 million users from around the world. Furthermore, during this timeframe, users have downloaded in excess of 100 000 documents. Over 9.7 million event count/activities have been recorded on the websites. The event count refers to a total

Spring Day at Pretoria National Botanical Garden.

Homecoming.

Christmas carols at Harold Porter National Botanical Garden.

Revolution Run at Pretoria NBG.

number of times a specific user action is triggered on a website.

During the past financial year, SANBI's social media presence expanded significantly, with an increase of more than 5 400 followers across various platforms. Twenty-one (21) photo albums, which collectively feature over 2 400 images highlighting SANBI activities nationwide, were uploaded. Additionally, the SANBI YouTube channel garnered more than 4 800 views, amounting to a total viewing time of over 149 minutes.

Events

The marketing teams increased efforts to increase the number and variety of events hosted within the gardens. The result has been a direct increase in income compared to the previous financial year. The model that SANBI uses for concerts is to provide the venue, and event organisers arrange sound and staging. This is replicated at all SANBI gardens except for Kirstenbosch NBG, which organises its own concerts during the Summer Concert Season from November to March annually.

Kirstenbosch NBG in Cape Town kicked off its 2024/2025 series of Summer Sunset Concerts on Sunday, 8 December 2024, with an exciting, star-studded line-up of South Africa's most celebrated, dance-worthy acts.

The new season began with the 'Cradle to the Cape' concert on 8 December to warm the audiences up for the festive season. The season concluded 17 weeks later, on 30 March 2025, with an unforgettable performance by Ami Faku and Simmy. Music lovers danced along all summer to acts like Mi Casa, The Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, Jeremy Loops, and many more.

Unity at Kirstenbosch NBG ushered in the festive season with live performances on 22 December 2024. The New Year's Eve Concert saw Will Linley and Lloyiso take to the stage for a memorable start to 2025. Freshlyground, with new lead singer Mbali Makhoba, and Congo Cowboys kept the party going on 5 January 2025.

Exhibitions

The World Trade Market Exhibition took place on 10–12 April 2024 in Cape Town International Convention Centre. The highlight of the exhibition was the launch of the SANBI Membership Card.

The Africa Travel Indaba took place from 13 to 16 May 2024 at the Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban. The showcase of tourism products across the continent to buyers from the United States and Europe allowed

SANBI to reconnect with tourism industry operators who wish to collaborate with the institute to increase visitor numbers to the country and to our gardens.

Following the success of the exhibition at the Comrades Marathon, SANBI exhibited for the second time, and this resulted in increased brand visibility for the KwaZulu-Natal NBG among domestic travellers and runners who participated in the marathon.

The NZG Biodiversity Education and Public Engagement (BEPE) team collaborated with the MCC team at the Kwalata Science Fair as well as at Sasol Techno X. The SANBI stand received the Sustainability Award at Sasol Techno X and was awarded a Golden Award at the Bloem Show in the Free State for the second time.

Internal Communications

The MCC team developed an internal communication strategy that aims to enhance the frequency and quality of internal communication; promote transparency and trust building across the organisation; empower employees as brand ambassadors and cultivate a sense of belonging/ownership and engagement among employees, encouraging them to become brand advocates both within and outside the organisation. Strengthening science communication and promote knowledge sharing across SANBI divisions was also a priority. The programme for internal communications included celebrating internationally recognised biodiversity-related days as well as days of national importance including Human Rights Day, Freedom Day, Youth Day, Women's Day, Heritage Day and the Day of Reconciliation. SANBI staff were profiled through the 'Faces of SANBI' campaign and areas of SANBI's work were covered in the 'In Focus' feature. In addition, the work of SANBI divisions was showcased in the SANBI Gazette through articles developed by staff members and interns across the organisation. A stakeholder engagement strategy was developed, deployed and activities reported on a quarterly basis.

SANBI's Citizen Science Awareness Workshops

SANBI, in collaboration with the Department of Water Sanitation (DWS) and Nature Speaks and Responds hosted a series of Citizen Science workshops aimed to facilitate co-learning by incorporating indigenous knowledge systems into monitoring aquatic ecosystems (including river health) with Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs). By joining in citizen science initiatives, participants contributed valuable data on water quality, biodiversity and ecosystem health, while also sharing their traditional ecological knowledge.

SANBI Graphics and Editing

SANBI's mandated activities, knowledge generation and marketing communications depend largely on the print and electronic media produced in-house by SANBI Graphics & Editing (GRE).

The highlight of the World Trade Market Exhibition exhibition was the launch of the SANBI Membership Card.

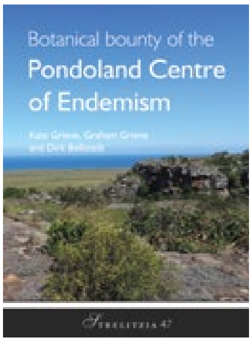
In addition to corporate and marketing communication products, science-based and scientific research manuscripts are published through the *Strelitzia* and *Suricata* monograph series and two journals: the ISSN-rated open access journal *Bothalia – African Biodiversity & Conservation*, and the DHET-rated biennial journal *Flowering Plants of Africa*.

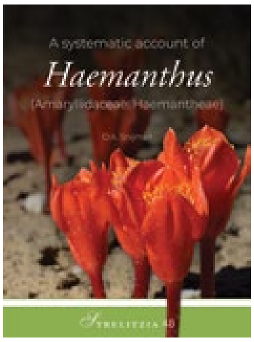
Other biodiversity-related and ad hoc information are published as part of *the SANBI Biodiversity Series*, initiated in 2006 when SANBI's predecessor organisation, the National Botanical Institute's, mandate was expanded to include all biodiversity, and not only plants.

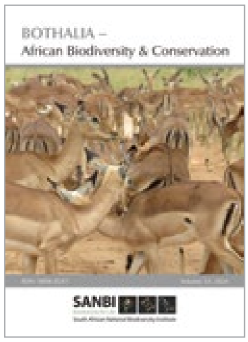
The books that are published are distributed locally and internationally through the SANBI Libraries' exchange agreements with other local and international libraries and are made available via the SANBI Bookshop for purchase by local and international book distributors, the public, research institutions and scientific communities.

Downloads of all publications are also available free of charge on https://www.sanbi.org/gardens/pretoria/sanbi-bookshop/

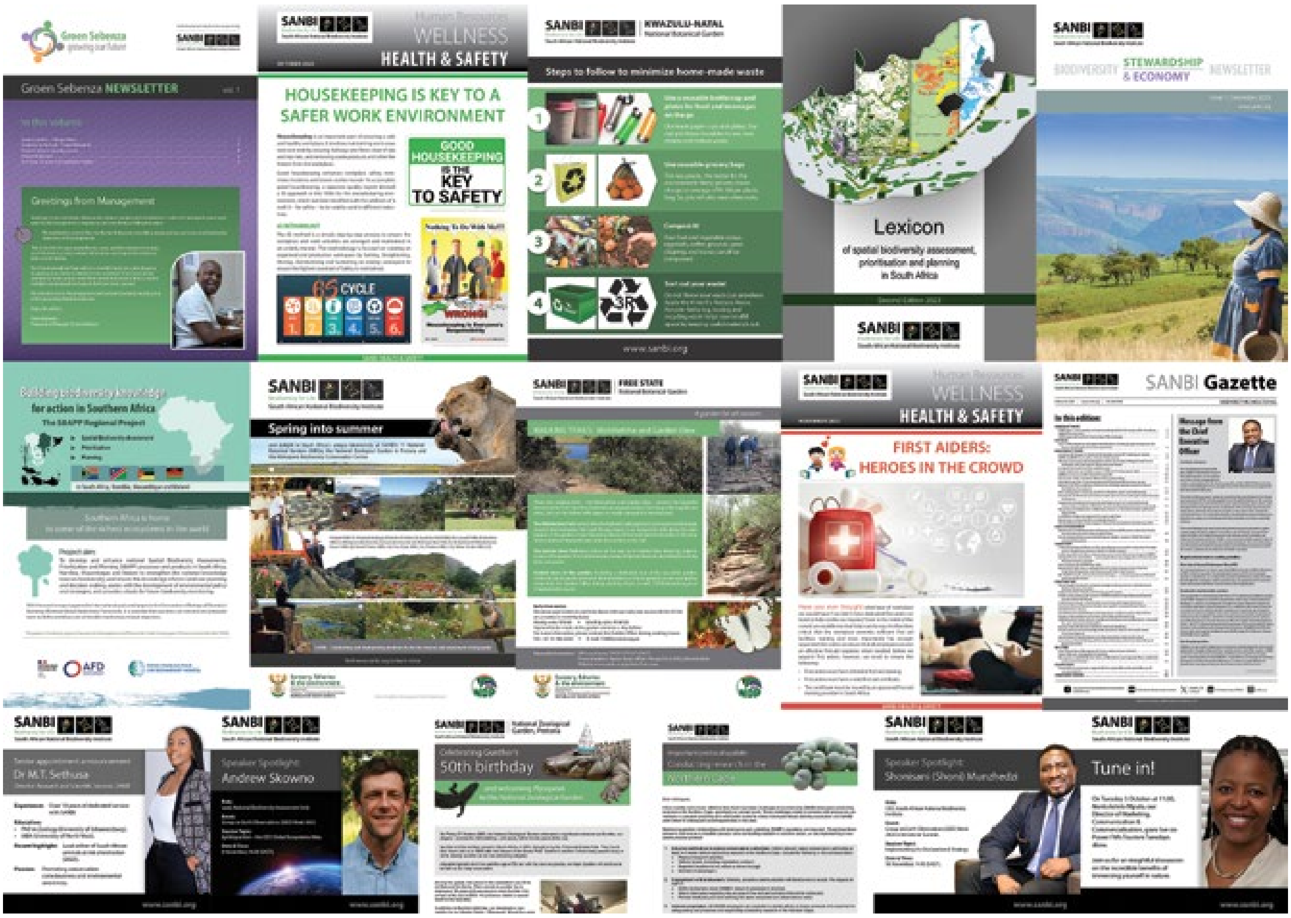
Several scientific research publications were published in the *Strelitzia* and *Suricata* monograph series, as well as Volume 54 of the ISSN-rated open access journal *Bothalia – African Biodiversity & Conservation*.







Examples of materials produced by the Graphics and Editing team for all SANBI divisions including posters, brochures, social media items, fact sheets, reports, banners and promotional items.



Human Resources

PURPOSE

- Promote sustainability through effective resource utilisation, income generation and good governance.

OUTCOME

- **Outcome 6:** Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.

Programme Performance

Human Capital Development

SANBI entered into an agreement with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to host interns on a Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) programme. In addition to rigorous training on RECP, the programme involves resource efficiency assessments (water, energy and waste), which could culminate in the implementation of low-cost and no-cost RECP opportunities.

SANBI hosted a final intake of second and third year students on the DFFE-funded work-integrated learning (WIL) programme. In addition to the students gaining practical workplace experience relevant to their study fields, they contributed hugely towards key work areas at the various gardens.

Two of the Joan Wrench Kirstenbosch Scholarship-funded postgraduate students joined SANBI as horticulturists in the past year. Since the establishment of the Scholarship, SANBI has hosted 47 interns and supported 56 postgraduate students.

Professional development tally 2024/25:

- Work-integrated learning students: 96
- Interns: 40 (excluding Groen Sebenza)
- Postgraduate student degrees completed: 16
- Postgraduate student bursaries awarded: 15

Health and Safety

SANBI remains dedicated to fostering a safe and healthy working environment. SANBI's ongoing commitment to achieving a zero-harm safety culture underpins all our health and safety initiatives. In the 2024/25 financial year, the primary focus areas included compliance monitoring, compliance improvement, training and awareness initiatives.

Number of staff bursaries awarded in 2024/25:

Undergraduate	Honours	Masters	Doctoral	Total
42	12	6	6	66

Appointments as at 31 March 2025

Race/Gender	AM	AF	CM	CF	IM	IF	WM	WF	Total
Number	29	32	3	1	0	1	2	2	70
Percent	41.4%	45.7%	4.3%	1.4%	0.0%	1.4%	2.9%	2.9%	100%

Employee profile as at 31 March 2025

Race/Gender	AM	AF	CM	CF	IM	IF	WM	WF	Total
Number	402	357	71	59	3	14	26	55	987
Percent	40.7%	36.2%	7.2%	6.0%	0.3%	1.4%	2.6%	5.6%	100%

SANBI is committed to establishing and maintaining SHE Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) management as a core organisational value, ensuring responsible use of resources and continually improving its SHE performance. Effective systems are implemented to identify, assess, control and review SHE risks and ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and standards. SANBI takes accountability for preventing work-related injuries and ill health, establish and communicate clear incident reporting procedures, and ensure timely reporting and investigation of incidents. The SHE representatives play a key role in advising and monitoring the implementation of the SHE management system. SANBI fosters open dialogue with stakeholders, provide ongoing health, safety and environmental awareness, and adhere to national health guidelines, especially in managing emerging pandemics.

Throughout the year, SANBI placed significant emphasis on monitoring compliance with health and safety regulations. This involved both proactive and reactive measures to ensure safety standards were met across all our gardens.

A total of 12 SANBI centres were inspected throughout the year namely Kwelera NBG, Free State NBG, Pretoria NBG, National Zoological Gardens (Pretoria), National Herbarium (Pretoria), Walter Sisulu NBG, Karoo Desert NBG, Thohoyandou National Botanical Garden, Lowveld NBG, Hantam NBG, Kirstenbosch NBG and Harold Porter NBG. These inspections focused on identifying potential hazards, ensuring compliance with safety protocols, and assessing the overall safety performance at each garden. Action plans are developed and implemented following these inspections to address any non-compliance issues identified by the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) National Office.

Training is a key pillar of our health and safety programme. Over the course of the year, we conducted several training and awareness initiatives designed to improve employee knowledge, skills and attitudes towards health and safety. These initiatives were designed to enhance the capability of employees, managers and health and safety representatives in managing and mitigating risks.

SANBI's OHS newsletters are distributed monthly to raise awareness on a range of important topics. These newsletters keep employees informed and engaged with the latest updates on health, safety and environmental matters, promoting a proactive approach to workplace safety. Additionally, all gardens are encouraged to conduct daily, weekly and monthly toolbox talks within their operations, ensuring that safety becomes an integral part of daily life across SANBI.

Several internal training sessions took place over the past year aimed at increasing awareness and improving safety practices across the organisation, for example roles and responsibilities of health and safety representatives, refresher training for health and safety committees, incident reporting and investigations, induction and refresher training, employee engagement and safety culture, safety representatives and OHS Committees.

Employee Relations

Case Management

Each case is assigned to a case manager to ensure that the end-to-end report is facilitated in accordance and within the parameters of our policies. Consistent and fair application of Labour Law prescripts are important and takes precedence in our case management of all employee relations cases.

Trade Unions Engagements

SANBI management and NEHAWU meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Employment Equity and Training Committee

Quarterly Employment Equity and Training meetings were held with representation from different designated groups, and identified barriers and affirmative action measures are being addressed.

Employee Health and Wellness

SANBI adopted an integrated approach to health, safety and wellbeing of its employees, aimed at improving work-life balance. Monthly employee wellness newsletters and articles were shared with employees, together with the contact details of the service provider and referral process for individual employees and managers.

Workshops and Webinars

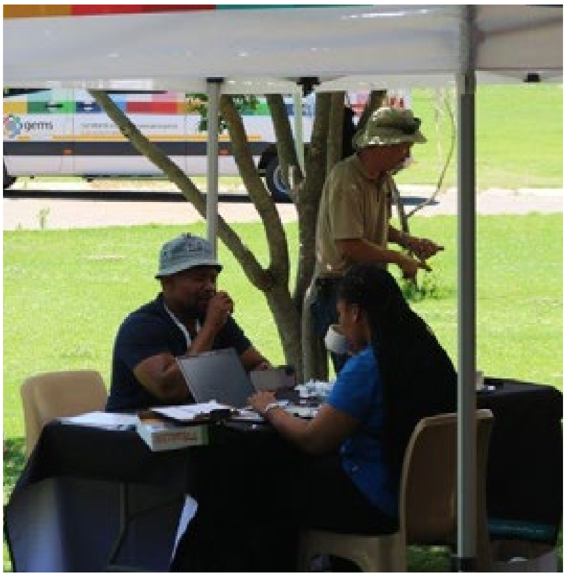
The following topics were covered during the year under review:

- Men's health.
- Women's health.
- Handling of incapacity management process.
- HIV/AIDS and gender based violence talk.
- Substance abuse webinar.

Wellness Days

The aim of SANBI's physical wellness activities is to promote the health and physical wellbeing of employees and encourage employees to adopt healthy lifestyles. These activities assist employees to perform optimally and create a healthy working environment. Employees participated in health screenings and activities, which included indigenous games, in collaboration with multidisciplinary health teams.

Wellness Day at Free State National Botanical Garden.



Wellness Day at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden.


SANBI

Performance against **Predetermined Objectives 2024/25**

SANBI 2024/25 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST PREDETERMINED OBJECTIVES

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
Programme 1: National Botanical Gardens and National Zoological Gardens								
The network of National Botanical Gardens (NGBs) and National Zoological Gardens (NZGs) are managed and maintained for conservation, research, recreation, education and awareness.	Completed infrastructure maintenance and development projects.	Number of SANBI Infrastructure Maintenance and Development projects completed.	**Annual target achieved** 50 priority maintenance, repair or refurbishment infrastructure projects completed in the established NBGs or NZGs. 10 priority new infrastructure projects completed in the established NBGs or NZGs.	**Annual target achieved** 50 priority infrastructure maintenance projects completed. 10 priority new infrastructure assets completed.	50 priority infrastructure projects completed (40 maintenance projects and 10 new infrastructure development projects).	**Annual target not achieved** 38 priority infrastructure projects completed (33 maintenance projects and 5 new infrastructure development projects).	Annual target missed with a shortfall of 12 projects.	**Challenges:** Annual project list adjusted to exclude projects relating to movable asset and other items, which following an audit assessment were deemed not to be meeting the criteria for reporting under the indictor **Corrective measure:** 2025/26 Annual maintenance and new infrastructure plan will be developed and enhanced taking into account the audit lessons and recommendations.
	Completed Green Energy and Water Conservation projects (as per annual plan).	Percentage of Annual Plan for SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy implemented.	**Annual target achieved** SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy and Implementation Plan developed.	**Annual target achieved** 100% of Annual Plan for SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy implemented. Battery backup and inverters installed to the Solar PV System at Free State NBG. Solar PV System installed at Pretoria NBG. New ozone treatment plant installed at Kirstenbosch NBG. New borehole drilling investigated, safe yield determined, and installation completed at Free State NBG.	100% of Annual Plan for the SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy implemented.	**Annual target achieved** 100% of Annual Plan for the SANBI Green Energy and Water Conservation Strategy implemented: **Karoo Desert NBG**: New borehole, reservoir repairs and automated irrigation system. **Walter Sisulu NBG**: New automated irrigation system. **KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium:** Solar PVs for the new buildings. **Karoo Desert NBG:** Upgrades to the grid-tied solar PV system.	N/A	N/A
	Visitors to the NBGs and NZGs.	Number of visitors to national botanical and zoological gardens (excluding Hantam and Kwelera NBGs).	**Annual target exceeded** 1 460 744 visitors to NBGs and NZGs combined.	**Annual target exceeded** 1 448 763 visitors to SANBI gardens.	1 386 000	**Annual target exceeded** **1 460 563** visitors to national botanical and zoological gardens.	Planned annual target exceeded by 74 563.	The inaugural National Gardens Week held across all gardens from 10 to 16 March 2025, offering free entry to national botanical and zoological gardens resulted in higher numbers of visitors in March 2025.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
The network of National Botanical Gardens (NGBs) and National Zoological Gardens (NZGs) are managed and maintained for conservation, research, recreation, education and awareness.	Achieved outputs (as per Annual Plan on NZG conservation programmes).	Percentage of Annual Plan for NZGs' conservation programmes implemented.	**Annual target achieved** Four conservation programmes implemented: PAAZA ex situ small population management projects implemented. Mabula Ground Hornbill Project implemented. Programme with Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (five separate confiscations received involving 131 specimens, 288 specimens held on behalf of DFFE during 2022/2023. City of Tshwane MoU: 7 collaboration activities conducted as part of MoU. Future activities identified.	**Annual target achieved** 100% of Annual Plan for 4 existing NZGs' conservation programmes implemented. SANBI / Mabula Ground Hornbill Project MoU: Final progress reports on status of birds owned and/or housed by the NZG compiled and submitted. Annual stakeholder engagement session held to monitor implementation of the conservation programme. PAAZA ex situ Small Population Management projects: Annual stakeholder engagement session held to monitor implementation of the conservation programme. SANBI–DFFE Conservation Programme: Final progress report on number and status of confiscations received compiled. SANBI–City of Tshwane (CoT) MoU: Conservation Programme: Final progress reports on collaborative activities undertaken with CoT. Annual stakeholder engagements session held to monitor implementation of conservation programme.	100% of Annual plan for NZGs' conservation programmes implemented.	**Annual target achieved** 100% of Annual Plan for NZGs conservation programmes implemented for the following programmes: SANBI / Mabula Ground Hornbill Project MoU. PAAZA ex situ Small Population Management projects. SANBI–DFFE Conservation Programme (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment). SANBI–City of Tshwane MoU Conservation Programme.	N/A	N/A

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
The network of National Botanical Gardens (NGBs) and National Zoological Gardens (NZGs) are managed and maintained for conservation, research, recreation, education and awareness.	Completed projects on implementation of NZG Repositioning Strategy.	National Zoological Gardens (NZG) Repositioning Strategy implemented.	**Annual target achieved** NZG Repositioning Strategy and Implementation Plan approved by the Board for implementation.	**Annual target achieved** 3 annual priority actions on implementation of NZG Repositioning Strategy completed as follows: 1. Master Plan for NZGs developed and presented to EXCO. 2. Stormy Bay (seal pool complex) renovation: (i) Renovation work at kitchen and hospital area completed; (ii) Brickwork and roof installation of new kernel completed. 3. Service provider for investigation of NZG fresh water supply appointed. Management of service provider in accordance with scope of work is on-going.	3 Priority NZG Repositioning Strategy actions completed: 1. Renovation of Stormy Bay (seal pool complex) completed. 2. NZG Masterplan approved. 3. Feasibility study for NZG PPP completed.	**Annual target achieved** 3 planned priority NZG Repositioning Strategy actions completed as follows:1 1. Renovation of Stormy Bay (seal pool complex): Practical project completion achieved. 2. NZG Masterplan approved. 3. Feasibility study for NZG PPP conducted and report issued to Management.	N/A	N/A
Programme 2: Biodiversity Science and Policy Advice								
The state of biodiversity is assessed, and relevant knowledge and evidence is generated to inform decision support.	Annual updated versions of plant and animal checklists released.	Annual updated version releases of biodiversity checklists comprising scientific and common names for plants and animals as a taxonomic backbone for South Africa's biodiversity.	**Annual target achieved** 2 versions of Biodiversity Checklists released (1 South African National Plant Checklist (SANPC) released; 1 Animal Checklist released).	**Annual target achieved** Annual updated version of plant checklist released with the following updates: (i) New records added to database (3 506); (ii) Information for existing records corrected (13 320); (iii) Records checked/verified (2 254).	Annual updated version of plant checklist released.	**Annual target achieved** Annual updated version of plant checklist released.		
				Annual target achieved Annual updated version of animal checklist released for 41 taxon groups including 18 095 species.	Annual updated version of animal checklist released.	**Annual target achieved** Annual updated version of animal checklist released.		

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
The state of biodiversity is assessed, and relevant knowledge and evidence is generated to inform decision support.	100 research papers published in journals accredited by Department of Higher Education and Training.	Number of research papers published in journals accredited by DHET.	**Annual target exceeded** 116 research papers published.	**Annual target exceeded** 112 research papers published in journals accredited by DHET.	100	**Annual target exceeded** 107 research papers published in journals accredited by DHET.	Planned annual target exceeded by publication of additional 7 research papers.	The publication process is managed by journals and is independent of SANBI. SANBI ensures there are sufficient publications in the pipeline to meet the annual target, and this has resulted in the target being exceeded marginally.
	35 risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed.	Number of risk analyses compiled for alien and invasive species.	**Annual target achieved** 45 risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed.	**Annual target achieved** 45 risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed.	35	**Annual target achieved** 35 risk analyses compiled.	N/A	N/A
	Assessment report on state of illegally traded succulent plants compiled.	Annual updated assessment report on state of illegally traded succulent plants compiled.	**Annual target achieved** Annual report on status of illegally traded succulent plants.	**Annual target achieved** 1 updated assessment report on state of illegally traded succulent plants produced.	Updated assessment report on state of illegally traded succulent plants compiled.	**Annual target achieved** Updated assessment report on state of illegally traded succulent plants compiled.	N/A	N/A
	Policy advice products finalised.	Number of policy advice products developed to support mainstreaming of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure.	**Annual target exceeded** 8 policy advice products developed.	**Annual target achieved** 8 policy advice products finalised.	5 policy advice products finalised.	**Annual target achieved** 5 policy advice products finalised.	N/A	N/A
	Capacity building work sessions held with 13 district municipalities.	Number of district municipalities provided with capacity building support to mainstream Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) into municipal planning and decision making.	**Annual target achieved** Final framework to support mainstreaming of SWSAs into municipal planning and decision making developed.	**Annual target exceeded** Capacity building work sessions held with 20 district municipalities.	13 district municipalities provided with capacity building support through hosting of capacity building work sessions.	**Annual target achieved** 13 district municipalities provided with capacity building support through hosting of capacity building work sessions.	N/A	N/A

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
Programme 3: Human Capital Development (HCD) and Transformation								
A transformed and suitably skilled workforce and active citizenry is developed to strengthen the biodiversity sector.	Black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates in biodiversity-related fields benefitting from SANBI Human Capital Development (HCD) programmes.	Number of black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates in biodiversity-related fields benefitting from SANBI Human Capital Development (HCD) programmes (post-graduate studies, Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and Internship programmes.	**Annual target achieved** 257 black biodiversity professionals supported (benefitting from SANBI Human Capital Development programmes).	**Annual target exceeded** 175 black biodiversity professionals benefitting from SANBI HCD programmes.	105 black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates in biodiversity-related fields benefiting from SANBI Human Capital Development programmes.	**Annual target exceeded** 166 black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates benefiting from SANBI HCD programmes.	Planned annual target exceeded with additional 61 beneficiaries of SANBI Human Capital Development programmes.	More students appointed for Work Integrated Learning Programme (WIL) than anticipated. This was for Human Science Research Council (HSRC) student replacements, and another intake of National Youth Service Programme (NYSP) candidates.
	Groen Sebenza interns trained.		**Annual target exceeded** 1 117 Groen Sebenza interns appointed and placed with host organisations.	**Annual target exceeded** 301 Groen Sebenza Interns trained (technical training). 970 Groen Sebenza Interns trained (generic training).	600 Groen Sebenza interns trained.	**Annual Target exceeded** 610 Groen Sebenza interns trained.	Planned annual target exceeded with training of 10 additional interns.	Training was done by SANBI and by host organisation of interns using the allocated training funds. This enabled improved performance towards planned annual target.
	Beneficiaries trained in biodiversity conservation.	Number of beneficiaries trained in biodiversity conservation management.	**Annual target exceeded** 260 teachers/teacher educators trained.	**Annual target exceeded** 459 teachers/teacher educators trained.	300 beneficiaries trained in biodiversity conservation.	**Annual Target exceeded** 426 beneficiaries trained in biodiversity conservation.	Planned annual target exceeded with additional 126 beneficiaries trained in biodiversity conservation.	Additional number of beneficiaries trained in response to ad hoc training requests received in Quarters 3 and 4.
	140 000 participants in the Kids in Gardens Programme.	Number of participants in the Kids in Gardens Programme.	**Annual target exceeded** 160 413 (49 464 NBGs and 110 949 NZGs) beneficiaries participating online and physically.	**Annual target exceeded** 217 808 beneficiaries participated in the Kids in Gardens Programme.	140 000	**Annual target exceeded** 153 165 participants on the Kids in Gardens Programme.	Planned annual target exceeded with additional 13 165 participant in the Kids in Gardens Programme.	Pretoria NBG Education Centre and NZG received high number of bookings in the last quarter of the financial year. This was mainly influenced by the section of the curriculum that schools are teaching students on.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
Programme 4: Administration								
Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.	Increase in own income generated.	Percentage increase of own income generated.	**Annual target exceeded** 101% year-on-year increase on income generated. Income of R209 861 055 was generated compared to R104 566 367 the same period of the previous financial year (2021/22).	**Annual target exceeded** 82% (R82.5 million) increase from 2021/22 baseline. R209 861 055.	10% increase in own income generated (from baseline of 2023/24 annual income).	**Annual target not achieved** Increase in own income generated (from baseline of 2023/24 annual income) not achieved. **R 180.8 million** of own income generated in 2024/25 is lower than R195 million generated in 2023/24.	Planned annual target missed. Lower own income generated than planned annual target.	**Challenges:** Own income generated is lower compared to 2023/24 due a number of factors, including (i) decrease in interest received during the year due to lower cash reserves; (ii) lower visitor numbers than projected during Quarters 2 and 3 because of multiple factors with, some outside SANBI's control, including unfavourable weather conditions, such as extended rainy days which are not ideal for outdoor activities. **Corrective measure**: Efforts for own revenue generation will continue in 2025/26 financial year, with improved and innovative marketing and communications strategy to address challenges.
	Signed contracts on funding with external funders.	Revenue raised through resource mobilisation.	**Annual target not achieved** R85 817 240 revenue has been received by SANBI.	**Annual target exceeded** R 101 million raised.	R105 million raised	**Annual target not achieved** **R 96.3 million** raised through resource mobilisation.	Planned annual target missed by R8.7 million.	**Challenges:** The target is estimated based on identified potential sources for funding for the financial year. This estimate is however subject to other factors, including funder approval processes, which are not within SANBI's control. This factors have resulted in funding processes not concluded within the financial year, and thus resulting in the planned target marginally missed. **Corrective measure**: Resources mobilisation efforts will continue in 2025/26 financial year, with annual target estimates set considering all relevant factors.

Outcome	Output	Output Indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Planned 2024/25 Annual Target	2024/25 Actual Achievement	Deviation from planned 2024/25 Annual Target	Reasons for Deviation
Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.	Unqualified external audit opinion.	External audit opinion.	**Annual target exceeded** Unqualified external audit opinion (AGSA) for the 2021/22 issued in July 2022 with number of findings reduced by 60% (reduction from 10 findings in 2020/21 to 4 in 2021/22).	**Annual target missed** Unqualified report received from AGSA for 2022/23 financial year. Reduction in material audit findings lower than 50%.	Unqualified external audit opinion.	**Annual Target achieved** SANBI received an unqualified external audit opinion without findings from AGSA for the 2023/24 financial year.	N/A	N/A
	90% procurement to Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) suppliers.	Percentage of procurement from BBBEE suppliers.	**Annual target exceeded** 94.38% of procurement to BBBEE suppliers. From the total procurement spent of R346 603 161, there was R327 125 387 spent from BBBEE suppliers.	**Annual target exceeded** 99% of procurement were awarded to BBBEE suppliers. From the total procurement spend of R88 647 420.52, there was R87 597 438.93 spent from BBBEE suppliers.	90% procurement to BBBEE suppliers.	**Annual Target exceeded** 91% of procurement awarded to BBBEE suppliers. From R 243 750 425 of total procurement spend, R222 069 506 was on BBBEE suppliers.	**Planned annual target exceeded by 1%**	Improved performance is supported by procurement on special goal by black owned suppliers.
	Percentage of female staff in Senior and Top Management.	Percentage of female staff appointed in Senior and Top Management positions.	**Annual target exceeded** 47.1% of staff in full-time employment are female (458/972 × 100).	**Annual target missed** 47.4% of staff in top and senior management are female(18/38 × 100).	49% of female staff appointed in Senior and Top management.	**Annual Target exceeded** 50% female staff appointed in Senior and Top Management (20/40 × 100).	**Planned annual target exceeded by 1%.**	Two female Senior Managers appointed and assumed duty in March 2025.

DETAILS ON AMENDMENTS TO ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

The table below provides actual achievement against the original performance outputs in the 2024/25 Annual Performance Plan before approval of the amendments in October 2024 and re-tabling of the APP amendments in Parliament.

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Original Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25 until date of re-tabling	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2024/25	Reasons for deviations	Revised Annual 2022/23 Annual Target	Reasons for revisions to the Outputs / Output indicators / Annual Targets
Programme 2: Biodiversity Science and Policy Advice **Purpose:** Facilitate the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure, and unlock nature's contribution to people through providing appropriate knowledge, evidence, and policy support and piloting innovative nature-based solutions towards achieving National Development goals.										
The state of biodiversity is assessed, relevant knowledge and evidence is generated, and this informs implementation and the provision of policy support and advice.	Risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed.	Number of risk analyses compiled for alien and invasive species.	**Annual target achieved** 45 risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed.	**Annual target achieved** 45 risk analyses for alien and invasive species developed.	45	**Quarter 1:** 5 risk analyses compiled for alien and invasive species. **Quarter 2:** 7 risk analysis compiled in quarter 2 (Cumulative 12) .	**None.** Progress provided as at 30 September 2024.	N/A	35	Reduced key human resources capacity for this programme of work has necessitated a revision of the annual target. This was due to prolonged uncertainty around the budget allocation which had delayed the filling of vacant posts.
Programme 3: Human Capital Development and Transformation **Purpose:** Contribute towards the development of the next generation of black biodiversity professionals										
A transformed and suitably skilled workforce and active citizenry is developed to strengthen the biodiversity sector.	Black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates in biodiversity related fields benefitting from SANBI Human Capital Development (HCD) programmes.	Number of black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates in biodiversity related fields benefitting from SANBI Human Capital Development (HCD) programmes (postgraduate studies, work-integrated learning (WIL) and internship programmes.	**Annual target achieved** 257 black biodiversity professionals supported (benefitting from SANBI Human Capital Development programmes).	**Annual target exceeded** 175 black biodiversity professionals benefitting from SANBI HCD programmes.	150	**Quarter 1:** 25 black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates in biodiversity-related fields benefiting from SANBI Human Capital Development Programmes. **Quarter 2:** 53 black undergraduates, graduates and postgraduates benefiting from SANBI HCD programmes (cumulative 78).	**None.** Progress provided as at 30 September 2024.	N/A	105	The funding cycle for the Work Integrated Learning Programme ended in December 2024. There was no confirmation for continuation of funding from DFFE in the 2024/25 financial year. The awarding of student bursaries for the Biological Invasion Programme was also affected by budget constraints.

Outcome	Output	Output indicator	2022/23 Audited Actual Performance	2023/24 Audited Actual Performance	Original Planned Annual Target 2024/25	Actual Achievement 2024/25 until date of re-tabling	Deviation from planned target to Actual Achievement 2024/25	Reasons for deviations	Revised Annual 2022/23 Annual Target	Reasons for revisions to the Outputs / Output indicators / Annual Targets
Programme 4: Administration **Purpose:** Promote sustainability through effective resource utilization, income generation and good governance.										
Improve financial sustainability and provide effective corporate services to achieve SANBI's mandate.	Unqualified external audit opinion.	External audit opinion.	**Annual target exceeded** Unqualified external audit opinion (AGSA) for the 2021/22 issued in July 2022 with number of findings reduced by 60% (reduction from 10 findings in 2020/21 to 4 in 2021/22).	**Annual target missed** Unqualified report received from AGSA for 2022/23 financial year. Reduction in material audit findings lower than 50% .	Unqualified external audit opinion without findings.	**Quarter 1:** 2023/24 SANBI annual financial statements approved by Board and submitted to AGSA and National Treasury by 31 May 2024. **Quarter 2:** Received unqualified audit outcome/opinion from AGSA (for 2023/24 financial year).	None. Progress provided as at 30 September 2024.	N/A	Unqualified external audit opinion.	SANBI's audit improvement plan, which forms the basis for a progressive movement towards a clean audit, needed to be enhanced based on previous audit lessons and considering the required and available capacity (human and financial) to fully address all audit findings to avoid reoccurrence of the matters. In some audit areas (i.e. implementation of an ICT Disaster Recovery Solution), fully addressing findings require significant financial investment and management is addressing the issues in a phased approach over the financial years. Furthermore, the proposed revised annual target is aimed at ensuring alignment with the target of the Department and other Public Entities within the Portfolio to ensure consistency.

Governance Statement 2024–2025

Governance statement

The South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) corporate governance is made up of a set of processes, policies, and laws affecting the way SANBI is directed, administered and controlled. The approach prioritises the nature and extent of accountability in the Institute, and the mechanisms that are aimed at reducing or eliminating corporate governance deficiencies. SANBI's corporate governance system also includes the relationships among its many stakeholders and the goals governing the Institute. SANBI's main external stakeholder groups are government, shareholders, non-governmental organisations, debt holders, trade creditors, suppliers, customers and communities affected by SANBI's activities. Internal stakeholders are the Board of Directors, Executives and the rest of employee workforce.

SANBI subscribes to and is committed to complying with the principles and standards of integrity and accountability expressed in the Public Finance Management Act, relevant National Treasury Regulations, and where applicable, King IV Report principles and recommendations on corporate governance.

SANBI's Board, it's Committees and the Executive Management Committee (EXCO) ensure that the Institute upholds and complies with principles of good ethical practices.

Appointment and composition of the SANBI Board

According to Section 15 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004 (No. 10 of 2004), the SANBI Board Members are appointed by the Executive Authority for a term of three years. In terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), the Board is the Accounting Authority of the Institute. Executive members eligible for attendance of the Board include:

- The Chief Executive Officer and/or acting person in the position is an *ex officio* Board member.
- The Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operations Officer, and the Head of Branch: Biodiversity Research and Policy Advice attend Board meetings as permanent invitees.
- Other members of the Executive Management Committee (EXCO) attend Board meetings by invitation, to present on specific subject matter, as determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Board meets quarterly, and when required for specific extra-ordinary meetings. The business of the Board and its functions are conducted in line with the approved Board Manual/Charter and in accordance with provisions of NEMBA, Act No. 10 of 2004 *(i.e., Part 3: Operating procedures of Board)*. The Board induction is conducted on appointment of the new Board members covering inter alia the following:

- Introduction and overview of SANBI and its organisational structure.
- Legal mandate of the Institute.
- Financial performance and position.
- Enterprise Risks Management (Strategic Risks).
- Information Communication Technology Governance Framework implementation.
- Human Resources Programme.
- Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation initiatives and activities.
- Five-year Corporate Strategic Plan.
- Annual Performance Plan.
- Capex, Opex and Projects.

The SANBI Board consists of not fewer than seven (7) and not more than nine (9) members who are appointed by the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). The Board further includes the Director-General, or an official of the DFFE designated by the Director-General, and the Chief Executive Officer of the SANBI, as an *ex officio* member.

The SANBI Board is appointed and reconstituted every three (3) years in accordance with a process outlined in Section 17 of National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) (Act No. 10 of 2004). The current SANBI Board term was extended by the Minister Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment from 30 September 2024 to 30 September 2025.

SANBI board members for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

- Prof. E. Nesamvuni (Board Chairperson)
- Mrs B. Ferguson (Deputy-Board Chairperson)
- Dr L. Luthuli
- Dr P. Molokwane
- Dr M. Tau
- Dr R. Legoabe

- Mr L. Matooane (Department of Science and Innovation representative)
- Dr N. Mkhize (Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Enviroment representative from July 2024)
- Mr S. Munzhedzi (Chief Executive Officer) (*ex officio*)

Fiduciary duties

SANBI Accounting Authority exercises its fiduciary duties to enable reasonable protection of the assets of the Institute. The roles of the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer do not vest in the same person. The Board Chairperson is a non-executive member of the Institute and is responsible for leading the Board of Directors and ensuring its effectiveness. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the execution of SANBI's strategy and day-to-day operations and is supported by the Executives and the Executive Committee (EXCO).

Implementation of the mandate is evaluated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and progress reports are tabled at the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (PCFFE) every quarter.

Board evaluation/assessment

The Board is conscious of its responsibility to evaluate its performance, the performance of its Sub-committees, its Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, individual Members and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as good practice. The evaluation was also done in compliance with the Corporate Governance Agreement (CGA) entered into between the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment with the Members of the SANBI Board in line with Principle 9 of the King IV Report (which provides that "*The governing body should ensure that the evaluation of its own performance and that of its committees, its chair and its individual members, support continued improvement in its performance and effectiveness*'").

The Board had, during the reporting period, resolved that its performance assessment/evaluation be outsourced and conducted by an external service provider to ensure the independence and transparency of the process. An external service provider, Merchantec (Pty) Ltd- Acorim, was appointed to conduct the assessment.

The key issues covered included the Board's role and agenda setting; the size, composition and independence of the Board; Members orientation and development; and Board meetings.

The outcome indicated that the Board is well balanced, the size of the Board is adequate for the group and the Board has the relevant knowledge relating to the SANBI's mandate. Members believe that the Board contributes to value creation in the company and has the relevant knowledge to make a meaningful contribution to its strategic objectives and goals. Members also believe that Board meetings are well organised and efficiently run and that all relevant aspects of the Institute's businesses are dealt with thoroughly by the Board and its various Committees, which have all discharged their responsibilities adequately. The Board is satisfied that the evaluation process improves its performance and effectiveness.

This external assessment concluded that the Board, its Sub-committees, its Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, individual Members and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) were particularly effective. The 2024 Board and Committee Evaluation revealed that the Board is performing well with **an overall score of 3.70 out of 4.00**. This score indicates that the Board is performing well, demonstrating strong alignment with the Institute's strategic objectives, effective risk management and robust governance practices.

Board committees

For operational effectiveness, the Board has appointed Committees for key functional areas of SANBI in line with their qualifications, expertise and skills. These Committees comprise members of the Board and Experts who are well versed in their lines of business. The Experts appointments are determined and approved by the Board. All Committees of the Board are chaired by members of the Board. A framework for Committees' responsibilities was developed to ensure focused oversight of each Committee and to avoid duplication of reporting lines and conflicting decisions being made. Each Committee's mandate and activities are guided by the Terms of Reference/Charters approved by the Board and reviewed on an annual basis.

The role of the committees is mainly to advise the board on:

- SANBI's mandate.
- SANBI's strategic direction.
- The implementation of the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Annual Performance Plan.
- The monitoring and evaluation of key performance objectives.
- Establishing and approval of budgeting requirements.

Each of the following Committees operates within the approved Terms of Reference, which are reviewed annually and/or when a need arises.

1. Audit and risk committee (ARC)

The Committee is constituted as a statutory committee of SANBI in respect of its statutory duties in terms of the Section 51 (1) (a) of the PFMA and Treasury Regulations 27.1.7 and 27.1.10.

- Assist the Board in discharging its duties relating to the safeguarding of assets, the operation of adequate systems, internal controls and control processes, and the preparation of accurate financial reporting and statements in compliance with all applicable legal requirements, corporate governance and accounting standards.
- Provide support to the Board on the risk appetite and risk management of SANBI.

The Committee ensures that the assurance coverage provided by management, risk management, as well as the internal and external audit functions is optimised, and adequately focuses on priority risk areas. The Committee plays an integral role in the risk management of the Institute and oversees the annual risk-based internal audit. The committee engages with an external audit initiated by the Auditor-General in line with the PFMA. The Committee also evaluates the Institute's reporting with specific focus on:

- Financial reporting.
- Risk management.
- Internal controls.
- Fraud risk as it relates to financial reporting.
- ICT governance.

**As required by Treasury Regulation 27, the Board appointed an Audit and Risk Committee to assist with the discharge of its duties. The terms of reference of this Committee are approved by the Board. The Committee meets four times per year, and one extra-ordinary meeting is held during the end of May annually, to consider the Annual Financial Statements and other year-end reports.*

2. Human Resources and Remuneration Committee (HR and REMCO)

The HR and REMCO advises and provides guidance to the Board on all matters relating to human resources and remuneration, transformation, succession planning and development, and ethics.

Through this Committee, the Board within the terms of the agreed policy, determines the scope of the remuneration packages of the executive and general staff, including, where appropriate, performance bonuses. The Committee also contributes to the development of the CEO's performance agreement and oversees the general organisational climate, ethical conduct and any other matters formally delegated by the Board to the Committee from time to time.

3. Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RD&I)

The RD&I Committee facilitates the effective exercise of the SANBI Boards' responsibility for governance oversight of the core mandate of the Institute. This Committee advises the Board on matters relating to research, policy advice, conservation, gardens (botanical and zoological) and tourism. The Committee further assists the Board to discharge its transformation and sustainability responsibility with regard to the implementation of practices that are consistent with good corporate citizenship.

Company secretary

The Company Secretary's function is mandatory and plays a pivotal role in the governance of the Institute. The Company Secretary guides and advises the Board and Management on governance principles and legislative compliance and supports the Board and its subcommittees. The Company Secretary is also the formal point of contact for the Institute, its Board, the Ministry and Parliamentary Committees.

Management structure

The Executive Management Committee (EXCO) comprises of the following:

- Chief Executive Officer (as Chairperson).
- Head of Biodiversity Science and Policy Advice.
- Chief Financial Officer.
- Chief Operations Officer.
- Chief Directors.
- Chair of the Management Committee (MANCO) *(in attendance)*.
- Company Secretary *(in attendance)*.
- Director: Internal Audit (*in attendance*).
- Director: Marketing, Communication and Commercialisation *(in attendance)*.
- Director: Strategic Coordination and Oversight (*in attendance*).
- Director: Legal Services (*in attendance*).
- Director: Information Security, Governance and Risk.
- Directors and subject specialists are invited as when required to present on specific subject.

Attendance record of meetings

The attendance record of Board and Committees' meetings are reflected below:

BOARD MEETINGS								
Number of meetings each member attended								
Names	11 Apr. 2024	31 May 2024	13–15 Aug. 2024	29 Aug. 2024	26 Nov. 2024	26 Feb. 2025	12–13 Mar. 2025	Total (07)
Prof. E. Nesamvuni (Board Chairperson)	–	√	√	√	√	√	√	6
Mrs B. Ferguson (Deputy Chairperson)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7
Dr L. Luthuli	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7
Dr P. Molokwane	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7
Dr M. Tau	√	√	√	-	√	√	√	7
Dr R. Legoabe	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	7
Mr L. Matooane	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	6
Ms S. Ntshanga	–	–	√					0
Dr N. Mkhize			√	√	√	–	–	3
Mr S. Munzhedzi (CEO and *ex officio*)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	7

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS						
Number of meetings each member attended						
Names	29 Apr. 2024	28 May 2024	31 Jul. 2024	31 Oct. 2024	31 Jan. 2025	Total (5)
Dr L. Luthuli (Chairperson)	√	√	√	√	√	5
Dr P. Molokwane	√	√	√	√	√	5
Dr M. Tau	√	√	√	-	√	5
Dr R. Legoabe	√	√	√	√	√	5
Mr T. Zororo (Expert-Advisor)	√	√	√	√	√	5
Mr T. Poho (Expert advisor, resigned on 30/09/2024)	√	√	√			3
Mr S. Munzhedzi (CEO and *ex officio*)	√	√	√	√	√	5

HUMAN RESOURCES AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS					
Number of meetings each member attended					
Names	16 Apr. 2024	22 Jul. 2024	22 Oct. 2024	28 Jan. 2025	Total (4)
Dr P. Molokwane (Chairperson)	√	√	√	√	4
Dr R. Legoabe	√	√	√	√	4
Mrs B. Ferguson	√	√	√	–	3
Mr S. Munzhedzi (CEO and *ex officio*)	√	√	√	√	4

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS					
Number of meetings each member attended					
Names	24 Apr. 2024	18 Jul. 2024	12 Nov. 2024	24 Jan. 2025	Total (4)
Mrs B. Ferguson (Chairperson)	√	√	√	√	4
Dr L. Luthuli	√	√	√	√	4
Dr M. Tau	√	√	√	√	4
Mr L. Matooane	√	√	√	√	4
Dr N. Mkhize (appointed w.e.f. Jul. 2024)			√	√	2
Mr S. Munzhedzi (CEO and *ex officio*)	√	√	√	√	4

This Committee meets monthly and also on an *ad-hoc* basis as deemed necessary by the Chairperson. The role of the Committee is to ensure the coordinated and efficient execution of all functions delegated to it by the Board. EXCO operations are guided by its approved Terms of Reference.

The management and administration structure of the Institute is geographically decentralised because of the wide geographical spread and activities of its various units. The Head of each Unit is called a 'Head of Division' (Head of Division). The Management Committee (MANCO) is comprised predominantly of Directors and plays a role of advising EXCO on specific operational matters, development of new policies/procedures/guidelines and review of organisational policies and meet on a monthly basis.

Implicit in the concept is a substantial measure of delegation of both responsibility and authority, which in turn requires effective control and evaluation systems. Both financial and management responsibilities are delegated and clearly communicated to the Head of Divisions. These officers are actively involved in the budget development and take responsibility for the management of their cost centre budgets within clearly defined policies, procedures and Delegations of Authority (DOA) approved by the Board.

External and internal audit

The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) is the external auditor of the SANBI in terms of the Public Audit Act, No.25 of 2004.

The Internal Audit function of SANBI is co-outsourced between the private audit firm, BDO Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd and the Director: Internal Audit appointed in August 2024. The Board, through the Audit and Risk Committee, exercises oversight on financial reporting and internal control systems. The Internal Auditors (IA) reports directly to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) according to the approved Internal Audit Charter. Included in the Internal Audit Charter is a structured internal audit approach, premised on the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditors (ISPPIA) as prescribed by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).

The Audit and Risk Committee tasks the Internal Audit function with compiling a three-year rolling annual audit plan that is approved annually.

The external and internal auditors are encouraged to cooperate and ensure that there is an optimal overlap between them as crucial assurance providers.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

SANBI continues to implement Risk Management processes as per the approved Risk Management Policy and Framework. A comprehensive risk assessment is conducted annually with the Executive Management. The assessment focused on risks at strategic and operational levels which forms the basis for the Internal Audit plans. Strategic Risks were categorised as per the integrated reporting framework as follows:

- Human Capital.
- Financial Capital.
- Infrastructure Capital.
- Intellectual Property Capital.
- Social and Relationship Capital.
- Natural Environmental Capital.

These strategic risks were aligned to the annual performance plans to ensure that efficient management of risks contributes to improved performance. The results of the assessment were reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and subsequently approved by the SANBI Board on an annual basis. The continuous identification of emerging risks was done as part of risk management monitoring.

An Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) system, BarnOwl, has been implemented and is being used to monitor progress on the risk action plans. The Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and the Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) have been implemented and progress in this regard is regularly reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Based on the mature ERM culture within SANBI, the Combined Assurance Model was developed and is being used to report on the adequacy and effectiveness of all the assurance providers to the Audit and Risk Committee as and when required

Fraud and corruption

SANBI's Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan provides mechanisms for the implementation of fraud prevention.

The Risk Management and Fraud Prevention Committee (RMFPC) has been established to drive the implementation of Risk Management Policy, including the Fraud Prevention Policy and Plan. The RMFPC also adjudicates on alleged fraud cases reported through the whistle blowing system or other approved means. This Committee functions in line with its approved Terms of Reference; and it is chaired by the Chief Operations Officer. The Fraud risk assessment was conducted as part of risk assessment process. The Online Awareness Programme was implemented to encourage whistle-blowing as well as to promote ethical behaviour in the Institute.

A Whistle-Blowing Hotline is fully functional and is administered and managed by Advanced Call. Advanced Call reports any cases of fraud or misconduct to management for investigation if warranted. SANBI also receives and administers formal, informal and anonymous matters from various communication mediums.

Cases of loss and/or damages to assets are recorded into a Loss Control Register and dealt with by the Loss Control Sub-Committee. Sanctions are always administered in cases of proven negligent losses and damages that are ascribed to recklessness and carelessness.

All allegations of fraud and corruption are reported for consideration to the SANBI Board through its Audit and Risk Committee on a quarterly basis.

Delegation of Authority (DOA)

The Board approved the Financial and Supply Chain Delegation of Authority Framework for effective operational requirements. This clarifies lines of authority and powers for various transactions the Institute undertakes. The DOA is regularly reviewed and amended to suit the operations of the Institute and for alignment with National Treasury instructions and other regulations.

Internal control systems

Internal control is a process, effected by SANBI's Board of Directors, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives relating to the following areas:

- Operations – effectiveness, efficiency, safeguarding of assets.
- Reporting – reliability, timeliness, accurate, integrity.
- Compliance – within regulatory environment, contracts, policies and procedures.

Financial and operational systems of internal control are adhered to as required by applicable regulations and laws. Management has a fundamental responsibility to develop and maintain effective internal controls. These controls are designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are concluded in accordance with management authority, assets are protected, and the financial transactions are properly recorded.

Management of Information Communication Technology

The Board is responsible for Information Communication Technology (ICT) governance. The Board delegated aspects of oversight of Business Information Technology (BIT) governance to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). There is an approved SANBI Information Technology Policy Framework (Principles and Guidelines) based on the premise that ICT governance exists to inform and align decision making for information technology planning, policy and operations to meet business objectives, ascertain that risk are managed appropriately and verify that resources are being used responsibility and strategically. There is an ICT Governance Framework supported by an implementation plan that is monitored by the Audit and Risk Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) takes overall responsibility for the governance of information technology and have delegated the functions to a BIT steering committee. The BIT Steering Committee has been established at a management level to deal with BIT governance and advises EXCO on BIT strategic matters. Risk management forms an integral part of the institutional strategy with a key objective being to control and mitigate significant risks that BIT is or may be exposed to while simultaneously facilitating the realization of operational and strategic objectives. Audit processes are conducted for BIT to continuously evaluate internal controls and take measures to improve these controls where necessary.

The BIT's risk management is the responsibility of the Board and forms an integral part of the Institute's corporate strategy. The primary objective is to control and mitigate the most significant risks that BIT is or may be exposed to, while at the same time facilitating the realisation of operational and financial objectives. BIT continuously evaluates its internal controls and takes measures to improve these controls where necessary. BIT risk is thus incorporated into the corporate risk management framework and discussed at the ARC and BIT Steering Committee. Business Information Technology (BIT) is taking steps to strengthen the risk and internal control framework. The position of the Director: ICT Governance, Information Security and Risk has been created as part of the revised and approved strategy to reflect the increasing importance of cyber security within the organisation. Risks related to cyber security have also been added to the risk framework. BIT considers risk management to be a continuous process, an essential part of which is to embed policy in control systems and procedures at every level of the organisation.

Cyber-security is critical as SANBI's virtual presence increases and more organisational content goes online. The exponential and accelerated growth in the use of technologies like cloud infrastructure and information stored, processed and transmitted over the SANBI network compels SANBI to strengthen its defences on all fronts. The BIT Directorate is adopting a holistic approach to not only respond to cyber-security threats but also implement controls that deals with information security at an enterprise level by monitoring of security events to prevent, detect and respond to security incidents using a combination of technologies and well-defined processes to ensure a safe and secure operating environment.

Employment Equity Plan

SANBI's Employment Equity (EE) Plan is monitored by the Employment Equity and Training Committee. The primary aim of the Employment Equity Plan is to achieve the following:

- Compliance with the provisions and legal requirements of the Employment Equity Act No. 55 of 1998.
- Promotion of equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment through the elimination of unfair discrimination.
- Implementation of affirmative action measures to redress the barriers in employment experienced by designated groups to ensure their equitable representation in all occupational categories and levels in the workplace.
- Accommodation of physically challenged people through modification and adjustment of the physical working environment.
- Attraction, development and retention of staff members with emphasis on those from designated groups.

SANBI strives to achieve its Employment Equity Vision through the following initiatives:

- Implementation of all the critical success factors for effective Employment Equity transformation;
- Provision of all necessary personnel and financial resources;
- Utilisation of SANBI structures to consult and communicate with all employees, either directly or indirectly;
- Implementation of the enabling systems and working environment geared towards the maximisation of advancement of persons from designated groups.
- Encouragement of employee participation by putting best practices in place to foster good and co-operative relationships and employee participation at all levels of the Institute. Union representation, staff meetings, and task teams are all instrumental in facilitating participation.

Health, safety and environmental issues

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act No. 85 of 1993 prescribes specific compliance requirements for specific environments. Given the diverse nature of the SANBI operations, health and safety requirements vary and require specific interventions. The Employee Relations, Wellness, Health and Safety Directorate ensures that specific needs are met by customising compliance interventions across the SANBI.

Social and ethics responsibility

SANBI has conducted and will continue to conduct its business in a manner that meets existing needs without compromising the achievement of the mandate. SANBI takes cognisance of the impact that the business has on its stakeholder community.

Code of conduct

A Code of Conduct that applies to all staff members is implemented as part of a number of consolidated human resources policies and procedures. The Code of Conduct facilitates sound business ethics in the Institute and plays an important role in defining the organisational culture and in governing effective discipline within the Institute. It is a standard annexure to all letters of staff appointment to ensure that new staff members are well informed. A breach of the code of conduct by staff members is be dealt with in terms of the SANBI's disciplinary policy and procedure.

Board members are subjected Code of Conduct for the Board as prescribed by the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, which is part of the Shareholder Agreement. A breach of the code of conduct by Board members will be dealt with in terms of the as part of relevant sections of the Shareholder Agreement, by the Minister.

Conflict of interest

As part of the appointment protocol, all new staff members of the Institute are obliged to complete a 'Declaration on Conflict of Interest'. These declarations are annually renewed for all senior staff members. A 'Declaration of Conflict of Interest' register is maintained for all Board, Management, and Bid Committee meetings.

All members of the Supply Chain Management Unit declare their interests annually. All members of staff involved in drafting the specifications to the award of the bids and in contracts, signs a disclosure statement on conflict of interest. Non-disclosure of interest is taken very seriously, and punitive action is instituted in line with the

SANBI Disciplinary Policy. All the organisation's processes and operating processes are open to audit, evaluation and review.

Supply Chain Management (SCM)

In accordance with Regulation 16A of the PFMA, SANBI has implemented an effective and efficient SCM system to acquire goods and services and dispose of goods and assets. The organisation ensures that SCM processes adhere to legislation and internal controls in demand management, disposal management, SCM risk management and assessment of SCM performance. This is achieved by designing and implementing appropriate policies, processes, systems including workflow, and providing support through training, templates, advisories, advice, directives and contributing to the bid adjudication processes. Transversal agreements are used where feasible. SANBI has implemented the mandatory Bid Committees with approved formal terms of reference and members serving a two year term.

Compliance with laws and regulations

SANBI uses relevant tools, applications and software that identify applicable pieces of priority legislation, regulations and codes of best practices that are continuously monitored and updated.

Legislative framework

The Institute, being a Section 3A Public Entity, has to comply with a number of laws, including:

- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004
- National Environment Management Act: 107 of 1998
- Labour Relations Act No. 66 of 1995
- Basic Conditions of Employment Act No. 75 of 1997
- Employment Equity Act No. 55 of 1998
- Skills Development Act No. 97 of 1998
- Skills Development Levies Act No. 9 of 1999
- Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 1999 (PMFA)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act No. 85 of 1993
- National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008
- Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP)
- Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act No. 130 of 1993
- Promotion of Access to Information Act No. 2 of 2000.
- Government Immovable Asset Management Act No. 19 of 2007.
- Protection of Personal Information Act No. 4 of 2013
- Promotion of Administrative Justice (Act 3 of 2000)
- Animals Protection Act No. 71 of 1962
- Animal Health Act 7 of 2002
- Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003
- National Environment Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act 24 of 2008
- National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003
- Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (No. 169 of 1993)
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 1983
- National Heritage Resource Act 25 of 1999
- Control of access to public premises and vehicles Act 53 of 1985
- Water Management Act of 2000
- National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998
- World Heritage Convention Act of 1999
- Environmental Conservation Act 2003
- Limpopo Environmental Management Act 7 of 2003
- SANS 10379:2005 (Ed1): Zoo and Aquarium Practise: Compliant
- SANS 10386:2008: The care and use of animals for scientific purposes
- SANS 1884-1: 2003 South African National Standard: Holding pend for temporary housing of animals (Part 1: Holding pens for Wild Herbivores at auctions and in quarantine facilities).

SANBI continues to review its governance system and structures to ensure that they support effective decision-making processes; establish a corporate culture aligned with the Institute's goal and values; and align with evolving best governance practices.

MR SHONISANI MUNZHEDZI

Chief executive officer

South African National Biodiversity Institute

Report of the Auditor-General

to Parliament
on the
South African National Biodiversity Institute

Report of the auditor-general to parliament on the South African National Biodiversity Institute

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the Annual financial statements of the South African National Biodiversity Institute set out on pages 160 to 241, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) as at 31 March 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Recognised Accounting Practise (GRAP) and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing {ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the public entity in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA code) as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other matter

6. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

7. The supplementary information set out on pages 242 to 253 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on them.

Responsibilities of the accounting authority for the financial statements

8. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Generally Recognised Accounting Practise and the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and for such internal control as the accounting authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
9. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting authority is responsible for assessing the public entity's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the public entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements

10. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Report of the auditor-general to parliament on the South African National Biodiversity Institute

11. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report. This description, which is located at page 144, forms part of my auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

12. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance against predetermined objectives for the selected programme presented in the annual performance report. The accounting authority is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.

13. I selected the following programme presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 31 March 2025 for auditing:

Programme	Page numbers	Purpose
National Botanical Gardens and National Zoological Gardens	Pages 29 to 40	Promote the conservation and awareness of South Africa's biodiversity and manage the national botanical and zoological garden as centres of social cohesion and valuable nature-based recreational facilities.

14. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected programme against the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice. When an annual performance report is prepared using these criteria, it provides useful and reliable information and insights to users on the public entity's planning and delivery on its mandate and objectives.

15. I performed procedures to test whether:

- the indicators used for planning and reporting on performance can be linked directly to the public entity's mandate and the achievement of its planned objectives
- all the indicators relevant for measuring the public entity's performance against its primary mandated and prioritised functions and planned objectives are included
- the indicators are well defined to ensure that they are easy to understand and can be applied consistently, as well as verifiable so that I can confirm the methods and processes to be used for measuring achievements
- the targets can be linked directly to the achievement of the indicators and are specific, time bound and measurable to ensure that it is easy to understand what should be delivered and by when, the required level of performance as well as how performance will be evaluated
- the indicators and targets reported on in the annual performance report are the same as those committed to in the approved initial or revised planning documents
- the reported performance information is presented in the annual performance report in the prescribed manner and is comparable and understandable
- there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and for the reasons provided for any over- or underachievement of targets.

16. I performed the procedures for the purpose of reporting material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

17. I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected programme.

Other matter

18. I draw attention to the matters below.

Report of the auditor-general to parliament on the South African National Biodiversity Institute

Achievement of planned targets

19. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides explanations for over- or underachievements. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the reported performance information.

20. The table that follows provides information on the achievement of planned targets and lists the key indicators that were not achieved as reported in the annual performance report. The reasons for any underachievement of targets are included in the annual performance report on pages 117 to 126.

National Botanical Gardens and National Zoological Gardens

Targets achieved: 80%
Budget spent: 34.27%

Key indicator not achieved	Planned target	Reported achievement
Number of SANBI infrastructure main-tenance and development projects projects completed	50 priority infrastructure projects completed (40 maintenance projects and 10 new infrastructure development projects)	**Annual target not achieved** 38 priority infrastructure projects completed (33 and maintenance projects and five new infrastructure development projects)

Material misstatements

21. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information for National Botanical Gardens and National Zoological Gardens. Management subsequently corrected all the misstatements, and I did not include any material findings in this report.

Report on compliance with legislation

22. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The accounting authority is responsible for the public entity's compliance with legislation.

23. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the findings engagement methodology of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

24. Through an established AGSA process, I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the public entity, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

25. I did not identify any material non-compliance with the selected legislative requirements

Other information in the annual report

26. The accounting authority is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and the selected programme presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in this auditor's report.

27. My opinion on the financial statements and my reports on the audit of the annual performance report and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information included in the annual report and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion on it.

Report of the auditor-general to parliament on the South African National Biodiversity Institute

28. My responsibility is to read this other information and, in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected programmes presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

29. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

30. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.

31. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Auditor-General

Pretoria

31 July 2025

AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Annexure to the auditor's report

The annexure includes the following:

- The auditor-general's responsibility for the audit
- The selected legislative requirements for compliance testing

Auditor-general's responsibility for the audit

Professional judgement and professional scepticism

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected programmes and on the public entity's compliance with selected requirements in key legislation.

Financial statements

In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor's report, I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the public entity's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made
- conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the public entity to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a public entity to cease operating as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Communication with those charged with governance

I communicate with the accounting authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide the accounting authority with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

Compliance with legislation -selected legislative requirements

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Annexure to the auditor's report

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION SELECTED LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations
Public Finance Management Act No.1 of 1999 (PFMA)	Section 51(1)(a)(iv); 51(1)(b)(i); 51(1)(b)(ii); 51(1)(e)(iii) Section 53(4) Section 54(2)(c'); 54(2)(d) Section 55(1)(a); 55(1)(b); 55(1)(c)(i) Section 56(1); 56(2) Section 57(b); Section 66(3)(c'); 66(5)
Treasury Regulations public entities (TR)	Regulation 8.2.1; 8.2.2; 16A3.2; 16A3.2(a); Regulation 16A6.1; 16A6.2(a); 16A6.2(b); Regulation 16A6.3(a); 16A6.3(b); Regulation 16A6.3(c); 16A6.3(e); 16A6.4; 16A6.5; Regulation 16A6.6; 16A.7.1; 16A.7.3; 16A.7.6; Regulation 16A.7.7; 16A8.3; 16A8.4; 16A9.1(b)(ii); Regulation 16A 9.1(d); 16A9.1(e); 16A9.1(f); Regulation 16A9.2; 16A9.2(a)(ii); 30.1.1; 30.1.3(a); Regulation 30.1.3(b); 30.1.3(d); 30.2.1; 31.2.1; Regulation 31.2.5; 31.2.7(a); Regulation 33.1.1; 33.1.3
Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000	Section 18(1)
Construction Industry Development Board Regulations, 2004	Regulation 17; 25(7A); 25(1); 25 (5)
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No.12 of 2004 (PRECCA)	Section 34(1)
PPPFA	Section 1(i); 2.1(a); 2.1(b); 2.1(f)
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017	Paragraph 4.1; 4.2 Paragraph 5.1; 5.3; 5.6; 5.7 Paragraph 6.1; 6.2; 6.3; 6.5; 6.6; 6.8 Paragraph 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.5; 7.6; 7.8 Paragraph 8.2; 8.5 Paragraph 9.1; 9.2 Paragraph 10.1; 10.2 Paragraph 11.1; 11.2 Paragraph 12.1 and 12.2
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022	Paragraph 3.1 Paragraph 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4 Paragraph 5.1; 5.2; 5.3; 5.4
PFMA SCM Instruction no. 09 of 2022/2023	Paragraph 3.1; 3.3 (b); 3.3 (c); 3.3 (e); 3.6
National Treasury Instruction No.1 of 2015/16	Paragraph 3.1; 4.1; 4.2

Annexure to the auditor’s report

Legislation	Sections or regulations
National Treasury SCM Instruction Note 03 2021/22	Paragraph 4.1; 4.2 (b); 4.3; 4.4; 4.4 (a); 4.4 (c) -(d); 4.6 Paragraph 5.4 Paragraph 7.2; 7.6
National Treasury SCM Instruction 4A of 2016/17	Paragraph 6
National Treasury SCM Instruction Note 03 2019/20	Par 5.5.1(vi); Paragraph 5.5.1(x);
National Treasury SCM Instruction Note 11 2020/21	Paragraph 3.1; 3.4 (a) and (b); 3.9; 6.1;6.2;6.7
National Treasury SCM Instruction note 2 of 2021/22	Paragraph 3.2.1; 3.2.2; 3.2.4(a) and (b) ; 3.3.1; 3.2.2 Paragraph 4.1
National Treasury instruction note 4 of 2015/16	Paragraph 3.4
Second amendment of NTI 05 of 2020/21	Paragraph 4.8; 4.9 ; 5.1 ; 5.3
Erratum NTI 5 of 202/21	Paragraph 1
Erratum NTI 5 of 202/21	Paragraph 2
Practice note 7 of 2009/10	Paragraph 4.1.2
Practice note 11 of 2008/9	Paragraph 3.1 Paragraph 3.1 (b)
NT instruction note 1 of 2021/22	Paragraph 4.1

Report of the Accounting Authority

Report by the Accounting Authority

The Accounting Authority of SANBI hereby presents its report for the year ended 31 March 2025 to the Executive Authority and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

Services rendered by SANBI

The narrative section of this Annual Report gives a more in-depth discussion of key performance indicators and overview of programme performance. Key projects delivered during the period under review as well as services offered by the Institute are also discussed in the narrative section of this report laid out on pages 29 to 114.

Corporate governance arrangements

Information pertaining to corporate governance is explained in the Corporate Review section of this Annual Report on pages 129 to 137.

Performance information

In line with the requirements of National Treasury, performance targets are set on an annual basis and performance against these targets is reported to National Treasury through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on a quarterly basis after approval by the Board. The DFFE assessed the quarterly performance reports and gave SANBI feedback during the year under review.

Executive management's interest in contracts

In the current financial year SANBI did not enter into any material contracts wherein its Executive Management had interest.

Preparation and presentation of the annual financial statements

SANBI has adopted the South African Statements of Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (GRAP).

Financial highlights

The financial position and performance of the operations and programme activities of SANBI are disclosed, with applicable notes, in the financial statements which form an integral part of this annual report. Material facts and circumstances that occurred between the accounting date and date of this report have been accounted for accordingly.

Financial Performance

A surplus of R45 million is reported on the statement of financial performance which is higher than a restated surplus of R25 million in the previous financial year.

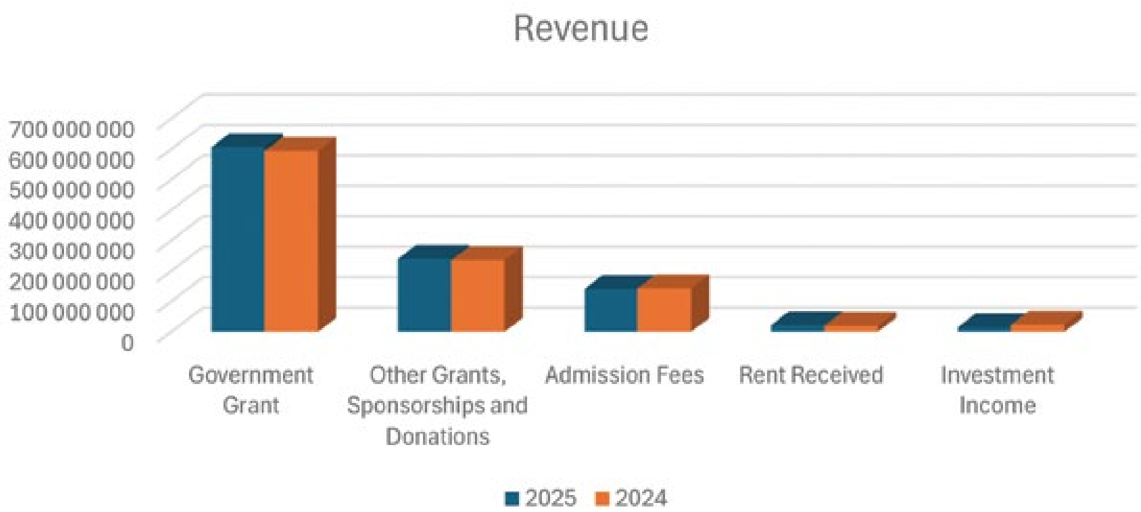
Total revenue as disclosed in the statement of financial performance increased by 0.9% year-on-year from R1 054 million to R1 064 million. Admission fees decreased by R2.1mil (-1.5%) due to decreased visits to the facilities during the financial year and tough economic conditions.

Revenue from non-exchange transactions has increased by R21 million (2.4%) due to an increase in project funds and operational grants. Donors and funders of grants and sponsorships are acknowledged as detailed on Annexure A to the financial statements.

Total expenditure of R1 018 million has decreased by -1,1% from the spending in the previous financial year of R1 029 million. Employee costs of R629 million have increased by R4 million (0.7%) from the previous financial year as a result of lhe filling of critical vacancies.. As the main cost driver in the organisation, the line item accounts for 62% of the total costs.

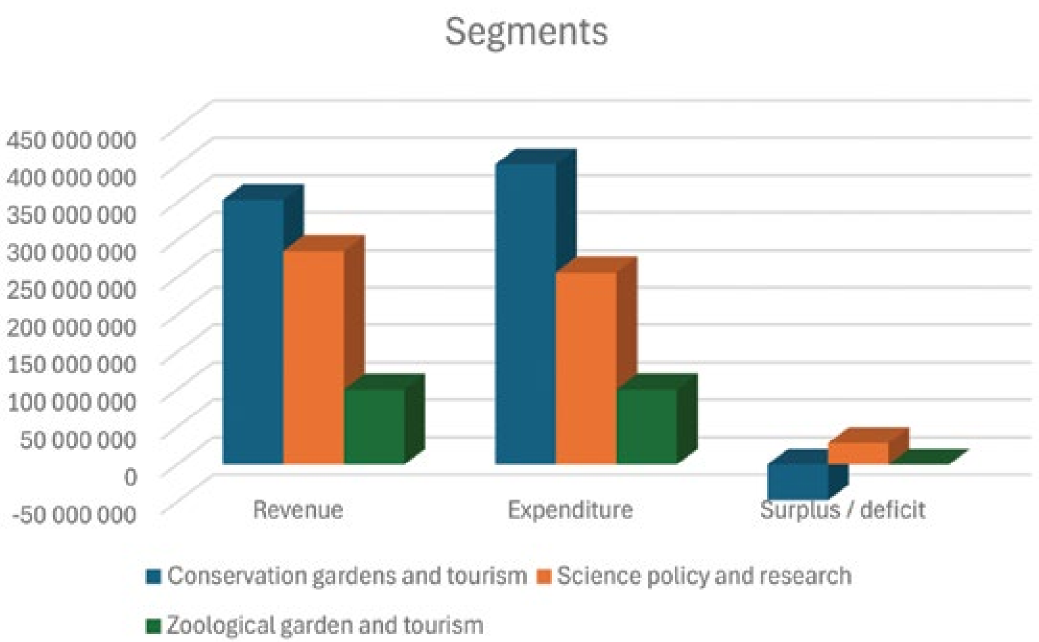
Operating expenses have decreased by R15.5 million (-4,6%) from R335 million in the previous year to R320 million and is indicative of the financial constraints that we encountered during the year. The main operating cost drivers have been information technology, project implementer costs, consulting and professional fees, security, municipal charges, repairs and maintenance and travel costs.

Report by the Accounting Authority



Segmental Financial Performance

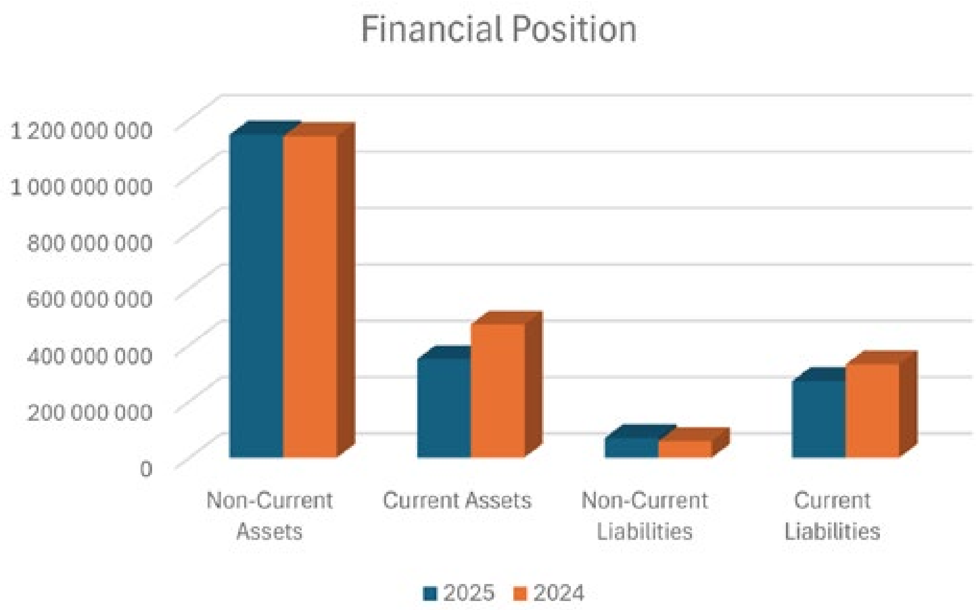
SANBI is structured on the basis of mandated areas. As such, the segments are organised around the type of service delivered and the target market. The overall performance per segment is depicted graphically. The detailed segmental report is in note 37.



Financial Position

Overall, the institute's financial position is solvent with total assets exceeding total liabilities by R804 million and liquid with the current assets of R350 million exceeding the current liabilities of R272 million by a margin of R78 million. The material movements noted during the financial year are as follows:

Report by the Accounting Authority



Current assets have decreased by R123 million (26%) from the previous financial year mainly due to a R109 million decrease in cash balances. The main driver for the decrease was expenditure on capital assets.

Current liabilities have decreased by R60 million (19%) from the previous financial year due to decreases in unspent conditional grants and accounts payable at year end.

Non-current liabilities have increased by R11 million (19%) from the previous financial year emanating from the actuarial valuation of an employee benefit obligation.

Cash flow

For the year, SANBI received a total of R1 025 million from the various sources as detailed in the statement. This is an incease of R5 million (1.7%) over the previous financial year with the main drivers for this being operational and other grants.

From this amount and other cash on hand R970 million was paid to suppliers, employees and others. The net cash inflow resulting from the operational activities is thus R54 million. This is a increase of R17 million (46%) from the previous financial year. R163 million was paid out for investing activities in line with R163 million in the previous financial year.

In total the net cash outflow for the financial year is R109 million compared to an outflow of R125 million in the previous financial year. The total cash amount of R268 million has been fully committed against ring-fenced, externally funded projects and obligations of the Institute as detailed in the annual financial statements.

Irregular Expenditure

During the financial year, we did not incur irregular expenditure. Irregular expenditure amounting to R1.99 million was incurred in the previous financial year.

Restatement of previously reported 2024 results

Note 42 to the annual financial statements details the corrections of errors, and the impact thereof, emanating from transactions related to prior years.

Report by the Accounting Authority

ADDRESS

Registered office:

South African National Biodiversity Institute
2 Cussonia Avenue
Brummeria
Pretoria
0002

Private Bag X101
Pretoria
0001

AUDITORS

SANBI, as a schedule 3A Public Entity, is audited by the Auditor-General of South Africa.

Financial Information

Annual financial statements

Index

The statements set out below comprise the financial statements presented to the parliament:

General Information

Country of incorporation and domicile	South Africa
Nature of business and principal activities	SANBI plays a leadership role in: • generating, coordinating and interpreting the knowledge and evidence required to support policies and decisions relating to all aspects of biodiversity. • the human capital development strategy of the sector. SANBI also manages the National Botanical Gardens and the National Zoological Garden as windows to South Africa's biodiversity for recreation, education and research purposes.
Members	Prof. E. Nesamvuni (Board Chairperson) Mrs B. Ferguson (Deputy Board Chairperson) Dr P. Molokwane Dr L. Luthuli Dr M. Tau Dr R. Legoabe Dr N. Mkhize * (appointed effective 23 July 2024) Mr L. Matooane* Mr T. Zororo ** Mr T. Poho ** (resigned effective 01 October 2024) Mr S. Munzhedzi (Chief Executive Officer) (ex officio) * State employee ** Expert-Advisor
Registered office	2 Cussonia Avenue Brummeria Pretoria 0002
Postal address	Private Bag X101 Pretoria 0001
Controlling entity	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Bankers	South African Reserve Bank Nedbank Limited ABSA Limited
Auditors	Auditor-General South Africa

Accounting Authority's Responsibilities and Approval

The members are required by the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999), to maintain adequate accounting records and are responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is the responsibility of the members to ensure that the annual financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the entity as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended. The external auditors are engaged to express an independent opinion on the annual financial statements and was given unrestricted access to all financial records and related data.

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) including any interpretations, guidelines and directives issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

The annual financial statements are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The members acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the entity and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the members to meet these responsibilities, the accounting authority sets standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or deficit in a cost effective manner. The standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the entity and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the entity's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the entity is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of risk across the entity. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the entity endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The members are of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or deficit.

The members have reviewed the entity's cash flow forecast for the year to 31 March 2026 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, they are satisfied that the entity has or has access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The entity is dependent on the entity for continued funding of operations. The annual financial statements are prepared on the basis that the entity is a going concern and that the entity has neither the intention nor the need to liquidate or curtail materially the scale of the entity.

Although the accounting authority is primarily responsible for the financial affairs of the entity, they are supported by the entity's external auditors.

The external auditors are responsible for independently reviewing and reporting on the entity's annual financial statements. The annual financial statements have been examined by the entity's external auditors and their report is presented on page 139.

The annual financial statements set out on page 8, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the accounting authority on 31 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

PROF. EDWARD NESAMVUNI
Chairperson
South African National Biodiversity Institute Board

MR SHONISANI (SHONI) MUNZHEDZI
Chief Executive Officer
South African National Biodiversity Institute

Audit and Risk Committee Report

We are pleased to present our report for the financial year ended March 31, 2025.

Audit committee members and attendance

The audit committee consists of the members listed hereunder and should meet 6 times per annum as per its approved terms of reference. During the current year 6 number of meetings were held.

- Dr Lesley Luthuli (Chair)
- Dr Mmaphaka Tau
- Dr Reginald Legoabe
- Dr Pulane Molokwane
- Mr Tichaona Zororo

Audit and Risk committee responsibility

The Audit and Risk Committee reports that it has complied with its responsibilities arising from section 51(1)(a) of the PFMA and Treasury Regulation 27.1. The Audit and Risk Committee has adopted appropriate formal Terms of Reference as its Audit and Risk Committee Charter, has regulated its affairs in compliance with this Charter and has discharged all its responsibilities as contained therein.

The effectiveness of internal control

The system of internal controls is designed to provide cost effective assurance that assets are safeguarded and that liabilities and working capital are efficiently managed. The Audit and Risk Committee has evaluated all significant and material issues raised in reports issued by the Internal Audit Function, the Audit Report on the Annual Financial Statements, and management letter of the Auditor-General, and is satisfied that they have all been, or are being, appropriately resolved. In line with the PFMA and the King Report on Corporate Governance, the Internal Audit Function and other assurance providers provided the Audit and Risk Committee and management with assurance that the internal controls are appropriate and effective for those areas included in the annual operational plan. This is achieved by means of the risk management process, as well as the identification of corrective actions and suggested enhancements to the controls and processes. The Audit and Risk Committee has evaluated the work performed by the Internal Audit Function and other assurance service providers. Based upon this evaluation, the Committee reports that the systems of internal controls for the period under review were effective and efficient.

The work performed by the outsourced internal audit was based on an approved risk-based internal audit plan for the year under review. The internal audit function conducted the following reviews during the 2024/2025 financial year:

- Supply Chain Management
- Financial Management Control
- Inventory Management Review
- Asset Management Review
- Human Resources and Payroll
- National Botanical Gardens
- Foundational Biodiversity Science
- Marketing and Stakeholder Engagement Review
- Audit of Performance Information
- IT Cyber Review (Internal Vulnerability Assessment)
- Information Technology General Controls Review
- Annual Financial Statements – High Level GRAP Compliance Review
- Follow-up Review – Previous Internal Audit and AGSA Findings

Audit and Risk Committee Report

The Committee has considered the entity's action plans to remedy the internal control weaknesses as reported.

Evaluation of annual financial statements

The Audit and Risk Committee is satisfied with the content and quality of monthly and quarterly reports prepared and issued by the Institute during the year under review.

The Audit Committee has:

a) Reviewed and discussed the audited annual financial statements to be included in the annual report with the Office of the Auditor-General and the Chief Executive Officer;

b) Reviewed the Auditor-General's management letter and management's response thereto;

c) Reviewed accounting policies; and

d) Reviewed significant adjustments resulting from the audit.

The Audit and Risk Committee considered the Auditor-General's conclusions on the annual financial statements and is of the opinion that the audited annual financial statements be accepted and read together with the report of the Auditor-General.

The audit committee is satisfied that the internal audit function is operating effectively and that it has addressed the risks pertinent to the entity and its audits.

The audit committee has met with the Auditor-General of South Africa to ensure that there are no unresolved issues.

DR L. LUTHULI

Chairperson of the Audit Committee

Date: 31 July 2025

Statement of Financial Position as at March 31, 2025

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2025	2024 Restated*
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	268 303 754	377 505 957
Receivables from exchange transactions	4	14 693 793	19 439 707
Inventories	5	21 223 972	22 555 463
Operating lease asset	6	217 190	305 417
Receivables from non-exchange transactions	7	45 386 668	52 653 750
		349 825 377	**472 460 294**
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	676 158 259	557 671 490
Investment property	9	62 297 069	61 946 172
Intangible assets	10	14 840 360	14 761 176
Heritage assets	11	38 514 872	38 514 872
Living resources	12	4 886 994	3 696 389
		796 697 554	**676 590 099**
Total Assets		**1 146 522 931**	**1 149 050 393**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Unspent conditional grants and receipts	14	177 097 706	199 479 795
Payables from exchange transactions	15	88 784 551	121 380 067
Provisions	16	1 842 820	2 267 102
Transfers payable (non-exchange)	17	4 206 218	8 348 279
		271 931 295	**331 475 243**
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	16	4 558 435	4 564 235
Employee benefit obligation	18	65 452 000	54 024 000
		70 010 435	**58 588 235**
Total Liabilities		**341 941 730**	**390 063 478**
Net Assets		**804 581 201**	**758 986 915**
Accumulated surplus		804 581 201	758 986 915
Total Net Assets		**804 581 201**	**758 986 915**

Statement of Financial Performance

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2025	2024 Restated*
Revenue			
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Sale of goods		3 301 874	3 583 673
Admission fees		140 403 276	142 510 127
Rental of facilities		21 838 878	19 868 043
Interest received		14 947 451	23 600 143
Fair value adjustment		203 562	(21 844)
Other income	19	5 582 404	6 807 629
Gain on foreign exchange		359 631	-
Gain on biological assets and agricultural produce		-	842 283
Total revenue from exchange transactions		**186 637 076**	**197 190 054**
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfer revenue			
Government grants & subsidies	20	606 310 454	593 690 945
Other grants, bequest, sponsorship and donation	21	239 193 065	235 090 920
Fines, Penalties and Forfeits	41	4 933 322	3 007 632
Services in kind		27 335 844	25 208 619
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions		**877 772 685**	**856 998 116**
Total revenue		**1 064 409 761**	**1 054 188 170**
Expenditure			
Employee related costs	23	(629 396 606)	(624 966 403)
Operating expenses	24	(320 219 202)	(335 801 202)
Depreciation and amortisation	25	(42 308 464)	(40 199 914)
Reversal of impairments		(197 564)	(2 072 688)
Lease rentals on operating lease	26	(25 605 458)	(24 584 887)
Debt Impairment	27	906 107	(376 005)
Finance costs	28	(415)	(427)
Loss on disposal of assets and liabilities		(1 993 873)	(1 355 504)
Loss on foreign exchange		-	(320 925)
Total expenditure		**(1 018 815 475)**	**(1 029 677 955)**
Surplus for the year		**45 594 286**	**24 510 215**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Figures in Rand	Accumulated surplus /deficit	Total net assets
Opening balance as previously reported	723 424 550	723 424 550
Adjustments		
Correction of errors - note 42	10 240 634	10 240 634
Balance at April 1, 2023 as restated*	**733 665 184**	**733 665 184**
Changes in net assets		
Surplus for the year	24 510 215	24 510 215
Correction of errors - note 42	811 516	811 516
Total changes	25 321 731	25 321 731
Restated* Balance at April 1, 2024	**758 986 915**	**758 986 915**
Changes in net assets		
Surplus for the year	45 594 286	45 594 286
Total Changes	45 594 286	45 594 286
Balance at March 31, 2025	**804 581 201**	**804 581 201**

Cash Flow Statement

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2025	2024 Restated*
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Vat		26 026	-
Other grants, bequest, sponsorship and donations		244 674 250	244 330 713
Grants		588 967 187	585 822 681
Interest income		14 947 451	23 600 143
Commercial and other income		176 521 954	166 556 970
		1 025 136 868	1 020 310 507
Payments			
Employee costs		(615 801 826)	(627 086 606)
Suppliers		(354 819 048)	(355 491 935)
Finance costs		(415)	(427)
		(970 621 289)	**(982 578 968)**
Net cash flows from operating activities	30	**54 515 579**	**37 731 539**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8	(157 296 019)	(155 240 885)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	8	(197 180)	-
Purchase of investment property	9	(2 910 965)	(2 112 469)
Purchase of other intangible assets	10	(2 728 555)	(5 924 095)
Purchase of living resources	12	(585 063)	-
Proceeds from sale of living resources	12	-	(69 325)
Net cash flows from investing activities		**(163 717 782)**	**(163 346 774)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**(109 202 203)**	**(125 615 235)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		377 505 957	503 121 192
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	3	**268 303 754**	**377 505 957**

The accounting policies on pages 165 to 193 and the notes on pages 194 to 241 form an integral part of the annual financial statements.

Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts

Budget on Cash Basis					
Figures in Rand	**Approved budget**	**Adjust-ments**	**Final Budget**	**Actual amounts on comparable basis**	**Difference between final budget and actual**
Statement of Financial Performance					
Revenue					
Revenue from exchange transactions					
Admission fees	156 271 736	-	**156 271 736**	140 403 276	**(15 868 460)**
Rental of facilities	22 000 000	-	**22 000 000**	21 838 878	**(161 122)**
Interest received	6 500 000	-	**6 500 000**	14 947 451	**8 447 451**
Other income	6 000 000	-	**6 000 000**	5 582 404	**(417 596)**
Sale of goods	5 500 000	-	**5 500 000**	3 301 874	**(2 198 126)**
Total revenue from exchange transactions	**196 271 736**	**-**	**196 271 736**	**186 073 883**	**(10 197 853)**
Revenue from non-exchange transactions					
Government operational grant	665 386 010	-	**665 386 010**	606 310 454	**(59 075 556)**
Other grants, bequests, sponsorship and donations	233 380 689	-	**233 380 689**	239 193 065	**5 812 376**
Fines, Penalties and Forfeits	-	-	**-**	4 933 322	**4 933 322**
Services in-kind	-	-	**-**	27 335 844	**27 335 844**
Total revenue from non-exchange transactions	**898 766 699**	**-**	**898 766 699**	**877 772 685**	**(20 994 014)**
Total revenue	**1 095 038 435**	**-**	**1 095 038 435**	**1 063 846 568**	**(31 191 867)**
Expenditure					
Employee related costs	(587 534 639)	-	**(587 534 639)**	(629 396 606)	**(41 861 967)**
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	**-**	(42 308 464)	**(42 308 464)**
Finance costs	-	-	**-**	(415)	**(415)**
Lease rentals on operating lease	-	-	**-**	(25 605 458)	**(25 605 458)**
Operating expenses	(387 593 796)	-	**(387 593 796)**	(320 219 202)	**67 374 594**
Capital expenditure	(119 910 000)	-	**(119 910 000)**	(157 296 019)	**(37 386 019)**
Count back - capital expenditure not included in surplus	-	-	**-**	157 296 019	**157 296 019**
Total expenditure	**(1 095 038 435)**	**-**	**(1 095 038 435)**	**(1 017 530 145)**	**77 508 290**
Operating surplus	**-**	**-**	**-**	**46 316 423**	**46 316 423**
Non-cash items					
Gain on foreign exchange	-	-	**-**	359 631	**359 631**
Fair value adjustments	-	-	**-**	203 562	**203 562**
Debt impairment	-	-	**-**	906 107	**906 107**
Reversal of impairments	-	-	**-**	(197 564)	**(197 564)**
Loss on disposal of assets and liabilities	-	-	**-**	(1 993 873)	**(1 993 873)**
Non-operating expenditure					
	-	**-**	**-**	**(722 137)**	**(722 137)**
Surplus before taxation	**-**	**-**	**119 910 000**	**45 594 286**	**45 594 286**
Surplus for the year	**-**	**-**	**-**	**45 594 286**	**45 594 286**

Explanations for material differences between budget and actual amounts are provided in note 32.

Accounting Policies

1. Significant accounting polices

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these annual financial statements are set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), issued by the Accounting Standards Board in accordance with Section 91(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999).

These annual financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention as the basis of measurement, unless specified otherwise. They are presented in South African Rand.

These accounting policies are consistent with the previous period.

1.2 Presentation currency

These annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand, which is the functional currency of the entity.

1.3 Going concern assumption

These annual financial statements have been prepared based on the expectation that the entity will continue to operate as a going concern for at least the next 12 months.

1.4 Materiality

Material omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the nature or size of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The nature or size of the information item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.

Management has applied its judgement to assess materiality in the annual financial statements. Materiality is determined as 1% of total actual operating expenditure and was set at R 10 950 000 for the 2024/25 financial year. This materiality is from management's perspective and does not correlate with the auditor's materiality.

For comparison between budget and actual amounts, material differences are variances of:

- more than 10%; and
- a value of more than R8 500 000.

The entity does not retrospectively adjust the accounting of past items (or group of items) that were previously assessed as immaterial, unless an error occurred.

1.5 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing the annual financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts represented in the annual financial statements and related disclosures. Use of available information and the application of judgement is inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from these estimates which may be material to the annual financial statements. Significant judgements include:

Accounting Policies

1.5 Significant judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Trade receivables

The entity assesses its trade receivables for impairment at the end of each reporting period. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in surplus or deficit, the provincial entity makes judgements as to whether there is observable data indicating a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a financial asset.

Provisions

Provisions were raised and management determined an estimate based on the information available. Additional disclosure of these estimates of provisions are included in note 16 - Provisions.

Useful lives of assets

The entity's management determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation charges for the property, plant and equipment. This estimate is based on industry norm. Management will increase the depreciation charge where useful lives are less than previously estimated useful lives.

Post-retirement benefits

The present value of the post-retirement obligation depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a number of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions will impact on the carrying amount of post-retirement obligations.

The entity determines the appropriate discount rate at the end of each year. This is the interest rate that should be used to determine the present value of estimated future cash outflows expected to be required to settle the pension obligations. In determining the appropriate discount rate, the entity considers the interest rates of high-quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid, and that have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related pension liability.

Other key assumptions for pension obligations are based on current market conditions. Additional information is disclosed in Note 18.

Effective interest rate

The entity used the prime interest rate to discount future cash flows.

Allowance for doubtful debts

On debtors an impairment loss is recognised in surplus and deficit when there is objective evidence that it is impaired. The impairment is measured as the difference between the debtors carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the effective interest rate, computed at initial recognition.

1.6 Investment property

Investment property is property (land or a building - or part of a building - or both) held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both, rather than for:

- use in the production or supply of goods or services or for

Accounting Policies

1.6 Investment property (continued)

- administrative purposes, or
- sale in the ordinary course of operations.

Investment property is recognised as an asset when, it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential that are associated with the investment property will flow to the entity, and the cost or fair value of the investment property can be measured reliably.

Investment property is initially recognised at cost. Transaction costs are included in the initial measurement.

Where investment property is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Costs include costs incurred initially and costs incurred subsequently to add to, or to replace a part of, or service a property. If a replacement part is recognised in the carrying amount of the investment property, the carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

Cost model

Investment property is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided to write down the cost, less estimated residual value by equal installments over the useful life of the property, which is as follows:

Item	Useful life
Property - buildings	40–50 years

Investment property is derecognised on disposal or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its disposal.

Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of investment property is the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in surplus or deficit in the period of retirement or disposal.

Compensation from third parties for investment property that was impaired, lost or given up is recognised in surplus or deficit when the compensation becomes receivable.

The entity separately discloses expenditure to repair and maintain investment property in the notes to the annual financial statements (see note 8).

The entity discloses relevant information relating to assets under construction or development, in the notes to the annual financial statements (see note 9).

1.7 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are tangible non-current assets (including infrastructure assets) that are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, rental to others, or for administrative purposes, and are expected to be used during more than one period.

Accounting Policies

1.7 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset when:

- it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity; and
- the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is the purchase price and other costs attributable to bring the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Trade discounts and rebates are deducted in arriving at the cost.

Where an asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is its fair value as at date of acquisition.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment is acquired in exchange for a non-monetary asset or monetary assets, or a combination of monetary and non-monetary assets, the asset acquired is initially measured at fair value (the cost). If the acquired item's fair value was not determinable, it's deemed cost is the carrying amount of the asset(s) given up.

The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located is also included in the cost of property, plant and equipment, where the entity is obligated to incur such expenditure, and where the obligation arises as a result of acquiring the asset or using it for purposes other than the production of inventories.

Recognition of costs in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment ceases when the item is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line basis over their expected useful lives to their estimated residual value.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Buildings	Straight-line	40–50 years
Motor vehicles	Straight-line	5–10 years
Operational equipment	Straight-line	3–10 years
Infrastructure	Straight-line	40–50 years
Community	Straight-line	1–40 years

The depreciable amount of an asset is allocated on a systematic basis over its useful life.

Accounting Policies

1.7 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

The depreciation method used reflects the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits or service potential are expected to be consumed by the entity. The depreciation method applied to an asset is reviewed at least at each reporting date and, if there has been a significant change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset, the method is changed to reflect the changed pattern. Such a change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that the entity expectations about the residual value and the useful life of an asset have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the entity revises the expected useful life and/or residual value accordingly. The change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

The depreciation charge for each period is recognised in surplus or deficit unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset.

Items of property, plant and equipment are derecognised when the asset is disposed of or when there are no further economic benefits or service potential expected from the use of the asset.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised. The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the item.

Assets which the entity holds for rentals to others and subsequently routinely sell as part of the ordinary course of activities, are transferred to inventories when the rentals end and the assets are available-for-sale. Proceeds from sales of these assets are recognised as revenue. All cash flows on these assets are included in cash flows from operating activities in the cash flow statement.

The entity separately discloses expenditure to repair and maintain property, plant and equipment in the notes to the financial statements (see note 8).

The entity discloses relevant information relating to assets under construction or development, in the notes to the financial statements (see note 8).

1.8 Intangible assets

An asset is identifiable if it either:

- is separable, i.e. is capable of being separated or divided from an entity and sold, transferred, licensed, rented or exchanged, either individually or together with a related contract, identifiable assets or liability, regardless of whether the entity intends to do so; or
- arises from binding arrangements (including rights from contracts), regardless of whether those rights are transferable or separable from the entity or from other rights and obligations.

A binding arrangement describes an arrangement that confers similar rights and obligations on the parties to it as if it were in the form of a contract.

Accounting Policies

1.8 Intangible assets (continued)

An intangible asset is recognised when:

- it is probable that the expected future economic benefits or service potential that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity; and
- the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

The entity assesses the probability of expected future economic benefits or service potential using reasonable and supportable assumptions that represent management's best estimate of the set of economic conditions that will exist over the useful life of the asset.

Where an intangible asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its initial cost at the date of acquisition is measured at its fair value as at that date.

Expenditure on research (or on the research phase of an internal project) is recognised as an expense when it is incurred.

Intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

Internally generated brands, mastheads, publishing titles, customer lists and items similar in substance are not recognised as intangible assets.

Internally generated goodwill is not recognised as an intangible asset.

Amortisation is provided to write down the intangible assets, on a straight-line basis, to their residual values as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Computer software	Straight-line	3–8 years

The entity discloses relevant information relating to assets under construction or development, in the notes to the financial statements (see note).

1.9 Heritage assets

Assets are resources controlled by an entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the entity.

Carrying amount is the amount at which an asset is recognised after deducting accumulated impairment losses.

Class of heritage assets means a grouping of heritage assets of a similar nature or function in an entity's operations that is shown as a single item for the purpose of disclosure in the annual financial statements.

Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Standards of GRAP.

Heritage assets are assets that have a cultural, environmental, historical, natural, scientific, technological or artistic significance and are held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations.

Accounting Policies

1.9 Heritage assets (continued)

Recognition

The entity recognises a heritage asset as an asset if it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the entity, and the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Initial measurement

Heritage assets are measured at cost.

Where a heritage asset is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

After recognition as an asset, a class of heritage assets is carried at its cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Impairment

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that it may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable amount or the recoverable service amount of the heritage asset.

Transfers

Transfers from heritage assets are only made when the particular asset no longer meets the definition of a heritage asset. Transfers to heritage assets are only made when the asset meets the definition of a heritage asset.

Derecognition

The entity derecognises heritage asset on disposal, or when no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its use or disposal.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of a heritage asset is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised (unless the Standard of GRAP on leases requires otherwise on a sale and lease-back).

1.10 Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or a residual interest of another entity.

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation.

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

Derecognition is the removal of a previously recognised financial asset or financial liability from an entity's statement of financial position.

Accounting Policies

1.10 Financial instruments (continued)

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

A financial asset is:

- cash;
- a residual interest of another entity; or
- a contractual right to:
  - receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or
  - exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity.

A financial liability is any liability that is a contractual obligation to:

- deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or
- exchange financial assets or financial liabilities under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Liquidity risk is the risk encountered by an entity in the event of difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset.

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

A financial asset is past due when a counterparty has failed to make a payment when contractually due.

A residual interest is any contract that manifests an interest in the assets of an entity after deducting all of its liabilities. A residual interest includes contributions from owners, which may be shown as:

- equity instruments or similar forms of unitised capital;
- a formal designation of a transfer of resources (or a class of such transfers) by the parties to the transaction as forming part of an entity's net assets, either before the contribution occurs or at the time of the contribution; or
- a formal agreement, in relation to the contribution, establishing or increasing an existing financial interest in the net assets of an entity.

Transaction costs are incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, issue or disposal of a financial asset or financial liability. An incremental cost is one that would not have been incurred if the entity had not acquired, issued or disposed of the financial instrument.

Accounting Policies

1.10 Financial instruments (continued)

Financial instruments at amortised cost are non-derivative financial assets or non-derivative financial liabilities that have fixed or determinable payments, excluding those instruments that:

- the entity designates at fair value at initial recognition; or
- are held for trading.

Financial instruments at cost are investments in residual interests that do not have a quoted market price in an active market, and whose fair value cannot be reliably measured.

1.11 Tax

Tax expenses

No provision has been made for taxation as SANBI is exempt from income tax in terms of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act,1962 (Act no. 58 of 1962).

1.12 Leases

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time.

A lease is classified as a finance lease if it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. A lease is classified as an operating lease if it does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership.

When a lease includes both land and buildings elements, the entity assesses the classification of each element separately.

Operating leases - lessor

Operating lease revenue is recognised as revenue on a monthly basis as the higher of the minimum contractually agreed amount or as a percentage of the lessee's turnover.

Income for leases is disclosed under revenue in statement of financial performance.

Operating leases - lessee

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The difference between the amounts recognised as an expense and the contractual payments are recognised as an operating lease asset or liability.

1.13 Inventories

Inventories are initially measured at cost except where inventories are acquired through a non-exchange transaction, then their costs are their fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Subsequently inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost where they are held for;

- distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge; or
- consumption in the production process of goods to be distributed at no charge or for a nominal charge.

Accounting Policies

1.13 Inventories (continued)

Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of operations less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale, exchange or distribution.

Current replacement cost is the cost the entity incurs to acquire the asset on the reporting date.

The cost of inventories comprises of all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition.

The cost of inventories of items that are not ordinarily interchangeable and goods or services produced and segregated for specific projects is assigned using specific identification of the individual costs.

The cost of inventories is assigned using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) formula. The same cost formula is used for all inventories having a similar nature and use to the entity.

When inventories are sold, the carrying amounts of those inventories are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised. If there is no related revenue, the expenses are recognised when the goods are distributed, or related services are rendered. The amount of any write-down of inventories to net realisable value or current replacement cost and all losses of inventories are recognised as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write-down of inventories, arising from an increase in net realisable value or current replacement cost, are recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.

1.14 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Cash equivalents are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment or other purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents comprise bank balances, cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are available on demand.

Some equity investments are included in cash equivalents when they are, in substance, cash equivalents.

Bank overdrafts which are repayable on demand forms an integral part of the entity's cash management activities, and as such are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents.

1.15 Impairment of cash-generating assets

Cash-generating assets are assets used with the objective of generating a commercial return. Commercial return means that positive cash flows are expected to be significantly higher than the cost of the asset.

Impairment is a loss in the future economic benefits or service potential of an asset, over and above the systematic recognition of the loss of the asset's future economic benefits or service potential through depreciation (amortisation).

Accounting Policies

1.15 Impairment of cash-generating assets (continued)

Carrying amount is the amount at which an asset is recognised in the statement of financial position after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses thereon.

A cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets used with the objective of generating a commercial return that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Costs of disposal are incremental costs directly attributable to the disposal of an asset, excluding finance costs and income tax expense.

Depreciation (Amortisation) is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of an asset in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the costs of disposal.

Recoverable amount of an asset or a cash-generating unit is the higher its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

Useful life is either:

- the period of time over which an asset is expected to be used by the entity; or
- the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by the entity.

Identification

When the carrying amount of a cash-generating asset exceeds its recoverable amount, it is impaired.

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that a cash-generating asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the asset.

Value in use

When estimating the value in use of an asset, the entity estimates the future cash inflows and outflows to be derived from continuing use of the asset and from its ultimate disposal and the entity applies the appropriate discount rate to those future cash flows.

Basis for estimates of future cash flows

In measuring value in use the entity:

- base cash flow projections on reasonable and supportable assumptions that represent management's best estimate of the range of economic conditions that will exist over the remaining useful life of the asset. Greater weight is given to external evidence.

Recognition and measurement (individual asset)

If the recoverable amount of a cash-generating asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. This reduction is an impairment loss.

An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

Accounting Policies

1.15 Impairment of cash-generating assets (continued)

Cash-generating units

Cash-generating units are identified consistently from period to period for the same asset or types of assets, unless a change is justified.

The carrying amount of a cash-generating unit is determined on a basis consistent with the way the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is determined.

An impairment loss is recognised for a cash-generating unit if the recoverable amount of the unit is less than the carrying amount of the unit. The impairment is allocated to reduce the carrying amount of the cash-generating assets of the unit on a pro rata basis, based on the carrying amount of each asset in the unit. These reductions in carrying amounts are treated as impairment losses on individual assets.

In allocating an impairment loss, the entity does not reduce the carrying amount of an asset below the highest of:

- its fair value less costs to sell (if determinable);
- its value in use (if determinable); and
- zero.

The amount of the impairment loss that would otherwise have been allocated to the asset is allocated pro rata to the other cash-generating assets of the unit.

Where a non-cash-generating asset contributes to a cash-generating unit, a proportion of the carrying amount of that non- cash-generating asset is allocated to the carrying amount of the cash-generating unit prior to estimation of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit.

Reversal of impairment loss

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that an impairment loss recognised in prior periods for a cash-generating asset may no longer exist or may have decreased. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of that asset.

A reversal of an impairment loss for a cash-generating asset is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

Redesignation

The redesignation of assets from a cash-generating asset to a non-cash-generating asset or from a non-cash-generating asset to a cash-generating asset only occur when there is clear evidence that such a redesignation is appropriate.

1.16 Impairment of non-cash-generating assets

Cash-generating assets are assets used with the objective of generating a commercial return. Commercial return means that positive cash flows are expected to be significantly higher than the cost of the asset.

Non-cash-generating assets are assets other than cash-generating assets.

Impairment is a loss in the future economic benefits or service potential of an asset, over and above the systematic recognition of the loss of the asset’s future economic benefits or service potential through depreciation (amortisation).

Accounting Policies

1.16 Impairment of non-cash-generating assets (continued)

Carrying amount is the amount at which an asset is recognised in the statement of financial position after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses thereon.

A cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets managed with the objective of generating a commercial return that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Costs of disposal are incremental costs directly attributable to the disposal of an asset, excluding finance costs and income tax expense.

Depreciation (Amortisation) is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

Fair value less costs to sell is the amount obtainable from the sale of an asset in an arm's length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the costs of disposal.

Recoverable service amount is the higher of a non-cash-generating asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Useful life is either:

- the period of time over which an asset is expected to be used by the entity; or
- the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by the entity.

Identification

When the carrying amount of a non-cash-generating asset exceeds its recoverable service amount, it is impaired.

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that a non-cash-generating asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable service amount of the asset.

Value in use

Value in use of non-cash-generating assets is the present value of the non-cash-generating assets remaining service potential.

Depreciated replacement cost approach

The present value of the remaining service potential of a non-cash-generating asset is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of the asset. The replacement cost of an asset is the cost to replace the asset's gross service potential. This cost is depreciated to reflect the asset in its used condition. An asset may be replaced either through reproduction (replication) of the existing asset or through replacement of its gross service potential. The depreciated replacement cost is measured as the current reproduction or replacement cost of the asset, whichever is lower, less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost, to reflect the already consumed or expired service potential of the asset.

Accounting Policies

1.16 Impairment of non-cash-generating assets (continued)

The replacement cost and reproduction cost of an asset is determined on an "optimised" basis. The rationale is that the entity would not replace or reproduce the asset with a like asset if the asset to be replaced or reproduced is an overdesigned or overcapacity asset. Overdesigned assets contain features which are unnecessary for the goods or services the asset provides. Overcapacity assets are assets that have a greater capacity than is necessary to meet the demand for goods or services the asset provides. The determination of the replacement cost or reproduction cost of an asset on an optimised basis thus reflects the service potential required of the asset.

Recognition and measurement

If the recoverable service amount of a non-cash-generating asset is less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable service amount. This reduction is an impairment loss.

An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

When the amount estimated for an impairment loss is greater than the carrying amount of the non-cash-generating asset to which it relates, the entity recognises a liability only to the extent that is a requirement in the Standards of GRAP.

After the recognition of an impairment loss, the depreciation (amortisation) charge for the non-cash-generating asset is adjusted in future periods to allocate the non-cash-generating asset's revised carrying amount, less its residual value (if any), on a systematic basis over its remaining useful life.

Redesignation

The redesignation of assets from a cash-generating asset to a non-cash-generating asset or from a non-cash-generating asset to a cash-generating asset only occur when there is clear evidence that such a redesignation is appropriate.

1.17 Employee benefits

Identification

Employee benefits

Employee benefits are all forms of consideration given by an entity in exchange for service rendered by employees or for the termination of employment.

Short-term employee benefits are employee benefits (other than termination benefits) that are due to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service.

Post-employment benefits are employee benefits (other than termination benefits and short-term employee benefits) that are payable after the completion of employment.

Other long-term employee benefits are all employee benefits other than short-term employee benefits, post-employment benefits and termination benefits.

Termination benefits are employee benefits provided in exchange for the termination of an employee's employment as a result of either: (a) an entity's decision to terminate an employee's employment before the normal retirement date; or (b) an employee's decision to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment.

Accounting Policies

1.17 Employee benefits Identification Employee benefits (continued)

Classification of plans

A binding arrangement is an arrangement that confers enforceable rights and obligations on the parties to the arrangement as if it were in the form of a contract. It includes rights from contracts or other legal rights.

Post-employment benefit plans are formal or informal arrangements under which an entity provides post-employment benefits for one or more employees.

Defined contribution plans are post-employment benefit plans under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity (a fund) and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Defined benefit plans are post-employment benefit plans other than defined contribution plans.

Multi-employer plans are defined contribution plans (other than state plans) or defined benefit plans (other than state plans) that: (a) pool the assets contributed by various entities that are not under common control; and (b) use those assets to provide benefits to employees of more than one entity, on the basis that contribution and benefit levels are determined without regard to the identity of the entity that employs the employees.

State plans are plans established by legislation that operate as if they are multiemployer plans for all entities in economic categories laid down in legislation.

Net defined benefit liability (asset)

The net defined benefit liability (asset) is the deficit or surplus, adjusted for any effect of limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling.

The deficit or surplus is: (a) the present value of the defined benefit obligation; less (b) the fair value of plan assets (if any); plus

(c) any liability that may arise as a result of a minimum funding requirement.

The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

The present value of a defined benefit obligation is the present value, without deducting any plan assets, of expected future payments required to settle the obligation resulting from employee service in the current and prior periods.

Plan assets comprise: (a) assets held by a long-term employee benefit fund; and (b) qualifying insurance policies.

Assets held by a long-term employee benefit fund are assets (other than nontransferable financial instruments issued by the reporting entity) that: (a) are held by an entity (a fund) that is legally separate from the reporting entity and exists solely to pay or fund employee benefits; and (b) are available to be used only to pay or fund employee benefits, are not available to the reporting entity's own creditors (even in liquidation), and cannot be returned to the reporting entity, unless either: (i) the remaining assets of the fund are sufficient to meet all the related employee benefit obligations of the plan or the reporting entity; or (ii) the assets are returned to the reporting entity to reimburse it for employee benefits already paid.

Accounting Policies

1.17 Employee benefits Identification Employee benefits (continued)

A qualifying insurance policy is an insurance policy issued by an insurer that is not a related party (as defined in GRAP 20) of the reporting entity, if the proceeds of the policy: (a) can be used only to pay or fund employee benefits under a defined benefit plan; and (b) are not available to the reporting entity's own creditors (even in liquidation) and cannot be paid to the reporting entity, unless either: (i) the proceeds represent surplus assets that are not needed for the policy to meet all the related employee benefit obligations; or (ii) the proceeds are returned to the reporting entity to reimburse it for employee benefits already paid.

Defined benefit cost

Service cost comprises: (a) current service cost, which is the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from employee service in the current period; (b) past service cost, which is the change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for employee service in prior periods, resulting from a plan amendment (the introduction or withdrawal of, or changes to, a defined benefit plan) or a curtailment (a significant reduction by the entity in the number of employees covered by a plan); and (c) any gain or loss on settlement.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) is the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time.

Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability (asset) comprise: (a) actuarial gains and losses; (b) the return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset); and (c) any change in the effect of the asset ceiling, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset).

Actuarial gains and losses are changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from: (a) experience adjustments (the effects of differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has actually occurred); and (b) the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions.

The return on plan assets is interest, dividends or similar distributions and other revenue derived from the plan assets, together with realised and unrealised gains or losses on the plan assets, less: (a) any costs of managing the plan assets; and (b) any tax payable by the plan itself other than tax included in the actuarial assumptions used to measure the present value of the defined benefit obligation.

A settlement is a transaction that eliminates all further legal or constructive obligations for part or all of the benefits provided under a defined benefit plan, other than a payment of benefits to, or on behalf of, employees that is set out in the terms of the plan and included in the actuarial assumptions.

Short-term employee benefits

Post-employment benefits: Defined contribution plans

Recognition and measurement

When an employee has rendered service to the entity during a reporting period, the entity recognises the contribution payable to a defined contribution plan in exchange for that service:

Accounting Policies

1.17 Employee benefits Identification Employee benefits (continued)

(a) as a liability (accrued expense), after deducting any contribution already paid. If the contribution already paid exceeds the contribution due for service before the end of the reporting period, the entity recognises that excess as an asset (prepaid expense) to the extent that the prepayment will lead to, for example, a reduction in future payments or a cash refund; and

(b) as an expense, unless another Standard requires or permits the inclusion of the contribution in the cost of an asset. When contributions to a defined contribution plan are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service, they are be discounted using the discount rate as specified.

Post-employment benefits: Defined benefit plans

Recognition and measurement

The entity determines the net defined benefit liability (asset) with sufficient regularity that the amounts recognised in the financial statements do not differ materially from the amounts that would be determined at the end of the reporting period.

Statement of financial position

The entity recognises the net defined benefit liability (asset) in the statement of financial position. When the entity has a surplus in a defined benefit plan, it measures the net defined benefit asset at the lower of:

(a) the surplus in the defined benefit plan; and

(b) the asset ceiling, determined using the discount rate specified. Any adjustments arising from the limit is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Asset recognition ceiling: When a minimum funding requirement may give rise to a liability

If the entity has an obligation under a minimum funding requirement to pay contributions to cover an existing shortfall on the minimum funding basis in respect of services already received, the entity determines whether the contributions payable will be available as a refund or reduction in future contributions after they are paid into the plan. To the extent that the contributions payable will not be available after they are paid into the plan, the entity recognises a liability when the obligation arises. The liability reduces the defined benefit asset or increases the defined benefit liability so that no gain or loss is expected to result when the contributions are paid.

Recognition and measurement: Present value of defined benefit obligations and current service cost

Actuarial valuation method

The entity uses the projected unit credit method to determine the present value of its defined benefit obligations and the related current service cost and, where applicable, past service cost.

Attributing benefit to periods of service

In determining the present value of its defined benefit obligations and the related current service cost and, where applicable, past service cost, the entity attributes benefit to periods of service under the plan's benefit formula. However, if an employee's service in later years will lead to a materially higher level of benefit than in earlier years, the entity attributes benefit on a straight-line basis from:

Accounting Policies

1.17 Employee benefits Identification Employee benefits (continued)

(a) the date when service by the employee first leads to benefits under the plan (whether or not the benefits are conditional on further service); until

(b) the date when further service by the employee will lead to no material amount of further benefits under the plan, other than from further salary increases.

Actuarial assumptions

Actuarial assumptions are unbiased and mutually compatible.

Financial assumptions are based on market expectations, at the end of the reporting period, for the period over which the obligations are to be settled.

Actuarial assumptions: Mortality

The entity determines its mortality assumptions by reference to its best estimate of the mortality of plan members both during and after employment.

Actuarial assumptions: Discount rate

The rate used to discount post-employment benefit obligations (both funded and unfunded) reflects the time value of money. The currency and term of the financial instrument selected to reflect the time value of money is consistent with the currency and estimated term of the post-employment benefit obligations.

Actuarial assumptions: Salaries, benefits and medical costs

The entity measures its defined benefit obligations on a basis that reflects:

(a) the benefits set out in the terms of the plan (or resulting from any constructive obligation that goes beyond those terms) at the end of the reporting period;

(b) any estimated future salary increases that affect the benefits payable;

(c) the effect of any limit on the employer's share of the cost of the future benefits;

(d) contributions from employees or third parties that reduce the ultimate cost to the entity of those benefits; and

(e) estimated future changes in the level of any state benefits that affect the benefits payable under a defined benefit plan, if, and only if, either:

  (i) those changes were enacted before the end of the reporting period; or

  (ii) historical data, or other reliable evidence, indicates that those state benefits will change in some predictable manner, for example, in line with future changes in general price levels or general salary levels.

Assumptions about medical costs takes account of estimated future changes in the cost of medical services, resulting from both inflation and specific changes in medical costs.

Accounting Policies

1.18 Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognised when:

- the entity has a present obligation as a result of a past event;
- it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

The amount of a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure expected to be required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date.

Where some or all of the expenditure required to settle a provision is expected to be reimbursed by another party, the reimbursement is recognised when, and only when, it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the entity settles the obligation. The reimbursement is treated as a separate asset. The amount recognised for the reimbursement does not exceed the amount of the provision.

Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. Provisions are reversed if it is no longer probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required, to settle the obligation.

Where discounting is used, the carrying amount of a provision increases in each period to reflect the passage of time. This increase is recognised as an interest expense.

A provision is used only for expenditures for which the provision was originally recognised.

Provisions are not recognised for future operating surplus (deficit).

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised. Contingencies are disclosed in note 39.

1.19 Commitments

Items are classified as commitments when an entity has committed itself to future transactions that will normally result in the outflow of cash.

Disclosures are required in respect of unrecognised contractual commitments.

Commitments for which disclosure is necessary to achieve a fair presentation should be disclosed in a note to the financial statements, if both the following criteria are met:

- Contracts should be non-cancellable or only cancellable at significant cost (for example, contracts for computer or building maintenance services); and
- Contracts should relate to something other than the routine, steady, state business of the entity – therefore salary commitments relating to employment contracts or social security benefit commitments are excluded.

1.20 Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period when those inflows result in an increase in net assets, other than increases relating to contributions from owners.

An exchange transaction is one in which the entity receives assets or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of goods, services or use of assets) to the other party in exchange.

Accounting Policies

1.20 Revenue from exchange transactions (continued)

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Measurement

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of trade discounts and volume rebates.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when all the following conditions have been satisfied:

- the entity has transferred to the purchaser the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods;
- the entity retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Rendering of services

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services can be estimated reliably, revenue associated with the transaction is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. The outcome of a transaction can be estimated reliably when all the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity;
- the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred for the transaction and the costs to complete the transaction can be measured reliably.

When the outcome of the transaction involving the rendering of services cannot be estimated reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent of the expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Service revenue is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at the reporting date. Stage of completion is determined by services performed to date as a percentage of total services to be performed.

Interest, royalties and dividends

Revenue arising from the use by others of entity assets yielding interest, royalties and dividends or similar distributions is recognised when:

- It is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the entity, and
- The amount of the revenue can be measured reliably.

Accounting Policies

1.20 Revenue from exchange transactions (continued)

Interest is recognised using the effective interest rate method for financial instruments, and using the nominal interest rate method for statutory receivables. Interest levied on transactions arising from exchange or non-exchange transactions is classified based on the nature of the underlying transaction.

Royalties are recognised as they are earned in accordance with the substance of the relevant agreements.

Service fees included in the price of the product are recognised as revenue over the period during which the service is performed.

1.21 Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Non-exchange transactions are transactions that are not exchange transactions. In a non-exchange transaction, an entity either receives value from another entity without directly giving approximately equal value in exchange, or gives value to another entity without directly receiving approximately equal value in exchange.

Transfers are inflows of future economic benefits or service potential from non-exchange transactions, other than taxes.

Recognition

An inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset is recognised as revenue, except to the extent that a liability is also recognised in respect of the same inflow.

As the entity satisfies a present obligation recognised as a liability in respect of an inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset, it reduces the carrying amount of the liability recognised and recognises an amount of revenue equal to that reduction.

Measurement

Revenue from a non-exchange transaction is measured at the amount of the increase in net assets recognised by the entity.

When, as a result of a non-exchange transaction, the entity recognises an asset, it also recognises revenue equivalent to the amount of the asset measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition, unless it is also required to recognise a liability. Where a liability is required to be recognised it will be measured as the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date, and the amount of the increase in net assets, if any, recognised as revenue. When a liability is subsequently reduced, because the taxable event occurs or a condition is satisfied, the amount of the reduction in the liability is recognised as revenue.

Receivables that arise from statutory (non-contractual) arrangements are initially measured in accordance with this accounting policy, as well as the accounting policy on Statutory Receivables. The entity applies the accounting policy on Statutory Receivables for the subsequent measurement, derecognition, presentation and disclosure of statutory receivables.

Interest is recognised using the effective interest rate method for financial instruments, and using the nominal interest rate method for statutory receivables. Interest levied on transactions arising from exchange or non-exchange transactions is classified based on the nature of the underlying transaction.

Accounting Policies

1.21 Revenue from non-exchange transactions (continued)

Bequests

Bequests that satisfy the definition of an asset are recognised as assets and revenue when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the entity, and the fair value of the assets can be measured reliably.

Gifts and donations, including goods in-kind

Gifts and donations, including goods in kind, are recognised as assets and revenue when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the entity and the fair value of the assets can be measured reliably.

Services in-kind

Except for financial guarantee contracts, the entity recognise services in-kind that are significant to its operations and/or service delivery objectives as assets and recognise the related revenue when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential will flow to the entity and the fair value of the assets can be measured reliably.

Where services in-kind are not significant to the entity's operations and/or service delivery objectives and/or do not satisfy the criteria for recognition, the entity disclose the nature and type of services in-kind received during the reporting period.

1.22 Cost of sales

When inventories are sold, the carrying amount of those inventories is recognised as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognised. The amount of any write-down of inventories to net realisable value and all surplus (deficit) of inventories are recognised as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write- down of inventories, arising from an increase in net realisable value, is recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.

1.23 Investment income

Investment income is recognised on a time-proportion basis using the effective interest method.

1.24 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are interest and other expenses incurred by an entity in connection with the borrowing of funds.

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

1.25 Translation of foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions

A foreign currency transaction is recorded, on initial recognition in Rands, by applying to the foreign currency amount the spot exchange rate between the functional currency and the foreign currency at the date of the transaction.

At each reporting date:

- foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate;

Accounting Policies

1.25 Translation of foreign currencies Foreign currency transactions (continued)

- non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction; and
- non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined.

Exchange differences arising on the settlement of monetary items or on translating monetary items at rates different from those at which they were translated on initial recognition during the period or in previous annual financial statements are recognised in surplus or deficit in the period in which they arise.

Cash flows arising from transactions in a foreign currency are recorded in Rands by applying to the foreign currency amount the exchange rate between the Rand and the foreign currency at the date of the cash flow.

1.26 Comparative figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

1.27 Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is incurred when the resulting expenditure is made in vain and no value for money was derived from the expenditure or the use of other resources.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure must fulfill the following conditions in the definition –

(a) expenditure must be made in vain; and

(b) such expenditure would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised.

Upon detection of alleged fruitless and wasteful expenditure an assessment must be conducted to confirm whether expenditure incurred meets the definition of fruitless and wasteful expenditure. If it has been confirmed that expenditure is fruitless and wasteful, the delegated authority must recover such amounts of fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the responsible employee(s) where they are deemed liable in law.

The amount of debt recoverable from the responsible employee(s) may equate to –

(a) the value of the debt incurred as a consequence of his/her/their action(s) that led to incurrence of the fruitless and wasteful expenditure;

(b) a lesser amount, determined by the delegated authority in accordance with the debt management policy of the SANBI.

A debt must be identified, reported and recorded in the books of SANBI where such a debt arose as a result of incurring fruitless and wasteful expenditure. If a debt from a responsible employee is irrecoverable, the delegated authority may write off the debt in terms of the debt write off policy of the SANBI.

All expenditure relating to fruitless and wasteful expenditure is recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance in the year that the expenditure was incurred. The expenditure is classified in accordance with the nature of the expense, and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the statement of financial performance.

Accounting Policies

1.28 Irregular expenditure

Irregular expenditure is defined as the incurrence of a financial transaction in contravention of, or not in accordance with legislation; and where expenditure has been recognised in the statement of financial performance or liability recognised in the statement of financial position.

Where irregular expenditure results in a loss the delegated authority must institute a claim against the responsible employee for recovery of the loss. A debt must be identified, reported and recorded in the books of SANBI where such a debt arose from losses incurred as a result of irregular expenditure.

The amount of debt recoverable from the responsible employee(s) may equate to –

(a) the value of the debt incurred as a consequence of his or her action(s) that led to incurrence of the irregular expenditure; or

(b) a lesser amount, determined by the delegated authority in accordance with the debt management policy of the SANBI

If the amount of a debt is irrecoverable from the responsible employee, the delegated authority may write off the debt in accordance with the debt write off policy of the SANBI.

All expenditure relating to irregular expenditure is recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance in the year that the expenditure was incurred. The expenditure is classified in accordance with the nature of the expense, and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the statement of financial performance.

1.29 Segment information

A segment is an activity of an entity:

- that generates economic benefits or service potential (including economic benefits or service potential relating to transactions between activities of the same entity);
- whose results are regularly reviewed by management to make decisions about resources to be allocated to that activity and in assessing its performance; and
- for which separate financial information is available.

Reportable segments are the actual segments which are reported on in the segment report. They are the segments identified above or alternatively an aggregation of two or more of those segments where the aggregation criteria are met.

1.30 Budget information

Entity are typically subject to budgetary limits in the form of appropriations or budget authorisations (or equivalent), which is given effect through authorising legislation, appropriation or similar.

General purpose financial reporting by entity shall provide information on whether resources were obtained and used ingua accordance with the legally adopted budget.

The approved budget is prepared on a cash basis and presented by economic classification linked to performance outcome objectives.

The approved budget covers the fiscal period from 4/1/2024 to 3/31/2025.

Accounting Policies

1.30 Budget information (continued)

The budget for the economic entity includes all the entities approved budgets under its control.

Comparative information is not required.

1.31 Related parties

A related party is a person or an entity with the ability to control or jointly control the other party, or exercise significant influence over the other party, or vice versa, or an entity that is subject to common control, or joint control.

Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

Joint control is the agreed sharing of control over an activity by a binding arrangement, and exists only when the strategic financial and operating decisions relating to the activity require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control (the venturers).

Related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between the reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.

Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of an entity, but is not control over those policies.

Management are those persons responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, including those charged with the governance of the entity in accordance with legislation, in instances where they are required to perform such functions.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by that person in their dealings with the entity.

The entity is exempt from disclosure requirements in relation to related party transactions if that transaction occurs within normal supplier and/or client/recipient relationships on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those which it is reasonable to expect the entity to have adopted if dealing with that individual entity or person in the same circumstances and terms and conditions are within the normal operating parameters established by that reporting entity's legal mandate.

Where the entity is exempt from the disclosures in accordance with the above, the entity discloses narrative information about the nature of the transactions and the related outstanding balances, to enable users of the entity's financial statements to understand the effect of related party transactions on its annual financial statements.

1.32 Events after reporting date

Events after reporting date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the reporting date and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the reporting date (adjusting events after the reporting date); and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting date (non-adjusting events after the reporting date).

Accounting Policies

1.32 Events after reporting date (continued)

The entity will adjust the amount recognised in the financial statements to reflect adjusting events after the reporting date once the event occurred.

The entity will disclose the nature of the event and an estimate of its financial effect or a statement that such estimate cannot be made in respect of all material non-adjusting events, where non-disclosure could influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

1.33 Living and non-living resources

Living resources are those resources that undergo biological transformation.

Non-living resources are those resources, other than living resources, that occur naturally and have not been extracted.

Agricultural activity is the management by an entity of the biological transformation and harvest of biological assets for:

(a) sale;
(b) distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge; or
(c) conversion into agriculture produce or into additional biological assets for sale or distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge.

A bearer plant is a living plant that:

(a) is used in the production or supply of agricultural produce;
(b) is expected to bear produce for more than one period; and
(c) has a remote likelihood of being sold as agricultural produce, except for incidental scrap sales.

Biological transformation (for purposes of this Standard) comprises the processes of growth, degeneration, production, and procreation that cause qualitative or quantitative changes in a living resource.

Carrying amount is the amount at which an asset is recognised after deducting any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire an asset at the time of its acquisition or development and, where applicable, the amount attributed to the asset when initially recognised in accordance with the specific requirements of other Standards of GRAP.

Depreciation is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life.

Depreciable amount is the cost of an asset, or other amount substituted for cost, less its residual value.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Group of resources means a grouping of living or non-living resources of a similar nature or function in an entity's operations that is shown as a single item for the purpose of disclosure in the annual financial statements.

Accounting Policies

1.33 Living and non-living resources (continued)

The residual value of an asset is the estimated amount that an entity would currently obtain from disposal of the asset, after deducting the estimated costs of disposal, if the asset was already of the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

Useful life is the period over which an asset is expected to be available for use by an entity, or the number of production or similar units expected to be obtained from the asset by an entity.

Recognition

Non-living resources, other than land, are not recognised as assets. Required information are disclosed in the notes to the annual financial statements.

A living resource is recognised as an asset if it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset will flow to the entity, and the cost or fair value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Where the entity is required in terms of legislation or similar means to manage a living resource, but it does not meet the definition of an asset because control of the resource cannot be demonstrated, relevant information are disclosed in the notes to the annual financial statements.

Where the entity holds a living resource that meets the definition of an asset, but which does not meet the recognition criteria, relevant information are disclosed in the notes to the annual financial statements. When the information about the cost or fair value of the living resource becomes available, the entity recognise, from that date, the living resource and apply the measurement principles.

Measurement at recognition

A living resource that qualifies for recognition as an asset is measured at its cost.

Where a living resource is acquired through a non-exchange transaction, its cost is measured at its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

The cost of a living resource comprises its purchase price, including import duties and non-refundable purchase taxes, and any costs directly attributable to bringing the living resource to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Measurement after recognition

Cost model

After recognition as an asset, a group of living resources are carried at its cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation

Living resources are depreciated and the depreciation charge for each period is recognised in surplus or deficit unless it is included in the carrying amount of another asset, where appropriate.

The depreciable amount of a living resource is allocated on a systematic basis over its useful life.

Accounting Policies

1.33 Living and non-living resources (continued)

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is any indication that the entity's expectations about the residual value and the useful life of a living resource have changed since the preceding reporting date. If any such indication exists, the entity revises the expected useful life and/or residual value accordingly. The change(s) are accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

In assessing whether there is any indication that the expected useful life of the living resource has changed, the entity considers the following indications:

(a) The use of the living resource has changed, because of the following:

- The entity has changed the manner in which The living resource is used.
- The entity has made a decision to dispose of the living resource in a future reporting period(s) such that this decision changes the expected period over which the living resource will be used.
- Legislation, government policy or similar means have been amended or implemented during the reporting period that have, or will, change the use of the living resource.
- The living resource was idle or retired from use during the reporting period.

(b) The living resource is approaching the end of its previously expected useful life.

(c) There is evidence that the condition of the living resource improved or declined based on assessments undertaken during the reporting period.

(d) The living resource is assessed as being impaired.

In assessing whether there is any indication that the expected residual value of the living resource has changed, the entity considers whether there has been any change in the expected timing of disposal of the living resource, as well as any relevant indicators as noted above.

The depreciation method used reflects the pattern in which the future economic benefits or service potential of the living resource is expected to be consumed by the entity.

The depreciation method applied to a living resource is reviewed at least at each reporting date and, if there has been a significant change in the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the living resource, the method is changed to reflect the changed pattern. Such a change is accounted for as a change in an accounting estimate.

The depreciation methods and useful lives of items of living resources have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life
Living collections	Straight-line	2–100 years
Amphibians	Straight-line	10–30 years
Birds	Straight-line	3–100 years
Fish	Straight-line	3–70 years
Bonsai trees	Straight-line	40–50 years
Invertebrates	Straight-line	1–80 years
Mammals	Straight-line	8–65 years
Reptiles	Straight-line	3–152 years

Accounting Policies

1.33 Living and non-living resources (continued)

Impairment

The entity assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that the living resource may be impaired. If any such indication exists, the entity estimates the recoverable amount or the recoverable service amount of the living resource.

Compensation from third parties for living resources that have been impaired, lost or given up, is included in surplus or deficit when the compensation becomes receivable.

Transfers

Transfers from living resources are made when the particular asset no longer meets the definition of a living resource and/or is no longer within the scope of this accounting policy.

Transfers to living resources are made when the asset meets the definition of a living resource.

Derecognition

The carrying amount of a living resource is derecognised on disposal, or when no future economic benefits or service potential are expected from its use or disposal.

The gain or loss arising from the derecognition of a living resource is included in surplus or deficit when the item is derecognised.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

2. New standards and interpretations

2.1 Standards and interpretations issued, but not yet effective

The entity has not applied the following standards and interpretations, which have been published and are mandatory for the entity's accounting periods beginning on or after April 1, 2025 or later periods:

Standard/ Interpretation:	Effective date: Years beginning on or after	Expected impact:
• GRAP 107 Mergers	To be determined	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• GRAP 106 Transfer of Functions Between Entities Not Under Common Control	To be determined	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• GRAP 105 Transfer of Functions Between Entities Under Common Control	To be determined	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• GRAP 2023 Improvements to the Standards of GRAP 2023	To be determined	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• GRAP 1 (amended): Presentation of Financial Statements (Going Concern)	To be determined	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• GRAP 103 (as revised): Heritage Assets	No effective date	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• iGRAP 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance	April 1, 2025	Unlikely there will be a material impact
• GRAP 104 (as revised): Financial Instruments	April 1, 2025	Unlikely there will be a material impact

3. Cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash on hand	241 243	161 024
Bank balances	271 846 308	381 915 494
Credit card	(3 783 797)	(4 570 561)
	268 303 754	**377 505 957**

Credit quality of cash at bank and short term deposits

The credit quality of cash at bank and short term deposits, excluding cash on hand and credit card, that are neither past due nor impaired can be assessed by reference to external credit ratings (if available) or historical information about counterparty default rates:

Bank accounts	2025	2024
Nedbank Limited - current accounts (various)	9 028 139	15 547 636
Nedbank Limited - investment accounts (various)	201 383 691	303 308 980
South African Reserve Bank - investment account	61 434 478	63 058 878
	271 846 308	**381 915 494**

Credit card accounts relate to:	2025	2024
American Express - Credit card	(3 783 797)	(4 570 561)

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

4. Receivables from exchange transactions

Trade debtors	4 188 378	2 744 746
Accrued income	2 837 539	4 963 471
Sundry receivables	3 872 708	8 082 175
Prepaid expenses	695 308	523 429
VAT receivables	3 099 860	3 125 886
	14 693 793	**19 439 707**

Fair value of trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables	14 693 793	19 818 678

Amounts neither past due nor impaired are considered fully recoverable. No credit quality issues are noted.

Trade and other receivables past due but not impaired

Trade and other receivables which are less than 3 months past due are not considered to be impaired. At March 31, 2025, R169 490 (2024: R1 693 385) were past due but not impaired.

The ageing of amounts past due but not impaired is as follows:

3 months past due	169 490	1 693 385

Trade and other receivables impaired

At March 31, 2025, the ageing of these debtors is as follows:

Over 6 months	673 128	1 579 235

Reconciliation of provision for impairment of trade and other receivables

Opening balance	1 579 235	1 203 231
Provision for impairment	(906 107)	376 004
	673 128	**1 579 235**

Due to unfavourable trading conditions at certain restaurants run on SANBI property, the collection for rental due became difficult and resulted in their debtors ageing being over 6 months. Some of these restaurants have since ceased trading.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

5. Inventories

Books	5 365 023	5 971 705
Chemicals	1 293 887	1 149 892
Consumable stores	1 922 916	2 386 047
Fuel (Diesel, Petrol)	203 971	146 556
Marketing materials	323 249	56 999
Small tools and consumables	2 983 048	3 250 593
Stationery	1 272 961	1 563 022
Food and Beverage	228 526	604 249
Animal food	672 868	993 740
Animal and staff medical supplies	380 431	471 521
Maintenance materials	1 568 606	1 648 429
Plants	4 172 335	4 198 696
Uniform stock	836 151	114 014
	21 223 972	**22 555 463**

Plants are for sale in SANBI's nurseries and are therefore consumable inventories. The fair value of these plants was determined using an estimated selling price based on marked prices at SANBI nurseries. Given that no additional staff is employed for selling the plants and very little time is actually spent by existing staff on selling plants, costs to sell are considered negligible, and are therefore not taken into consideration in determining the valuation of the plants.

As these plants represent excess stock of plants actually grown for use in the gardens, the period between when the plants meet the definition of inventory and actual sale is too short to result in changes in value either of a physical or market-related nature.

6. Operating lease asset (liability)

Current assets	217 190	305 417

The operating lease asset relates to the straight lining of the lessor leases over the term of the relevant lease.

The entity has entered into commercial property leases for the maximum duration of 10 years period. These leases are negotiated for a term of between 1 year and 10 years and rentals are turnover based between 5% and 10% with a minimum rental amount payable.

There are no contingent rents receivable.

At the reporting date SANBI had lease receipts receivable under non-cancellable operating leases for property, which fall due as follows:

Minimum lease payments due		
-within one year	2 021 665	3 446 052
-in second to fifth year inclusive	2 487 399	2 722 672
-later than five years	71 526	90 216
	4 580 590	**6 258 940**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

7. Receivables from non-exchange transactions

Penalties receivable	3 027 456	3 007 632
Receivables from project donors	4 245 949	1 017 819
Government Operating Grants (EPWP)	38 113 263	48 628 299
	45 386 668	**52 653 750**

Receivables from non-exchange transactions relate to amounts due from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, and funders for projects at year end. Penalties receivable relate to charges against construction contractors for non-performance.

8. Property, plant and equipment

Figures in Rand	2025			2024		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Buildings	335 506 844	(83 251 297)	252 255 547	296 137 829	(77 292 925)	218 844 904
Motor vehicles	74 106 096	(37 072 928)	37 033 168	68 962 230	(33 229 913)	35 732 317
Operational equipment	225 503 791	(126 069 922)	99 433 869	192 689 962	(106 689 844)	86 000 118
Infrastructure	322 103 684	(34 668 009)	287 435 675	245 791 715	(28 697 564)	217 094 151
Total	**957 220 415**	**(281 062 156)**	**676 158 259**	**803 581 736**	**(245 910 246)**	**557 671 490**

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2025

	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Deprecia-tion	Impairment loss	Total
Buildings	218 844 904	39 380 457	(7 899)	(5 961 915)	-	252 255 547
Motor vehicles	35 732 317	5 278 948	(44 061)	(3 846 015)	(88 021)	37 033 168
Operational equipment	86 000 118	34 433 567	(447 310)	(20 442 963)	(109 543)	99 433 869
Infrastructure	217 094 151	78 203 047	(1 297 423)	(6 564 100)	-	287 435 675
	557 671 490	**157 296 019**	**(1 796 693)**	**(36 814 993)**	**(197 564)**	**676 158 259**

Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment - 2024

	Opening balance	Additions	Disposals	Deprecia-tion	Impairment loss	Total
Buildings	180 487 601	46 168 307	-	(5 799 561)	(2 011 443)	218 844 904
Motor vehicles	30 454 284	8 670 693	(7 244)	(3 369 410)	(16 006)	35 732 317
Operational equipment	84 027 771	22 375 563	(613 490)	(19 744 480)	(45 246)	86 000 118
Infrastructure	139 562 077	82 765 450	(8 758)	(5 224 618)	-	217 094 151
	434 531 733	**159 980 013**	**(629 492)**	**(34 138 069)**	**(2 072 695)**	**557 671 490**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

8. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Assets subject to finance lease (Net carrying amount)		
Office equipment	373 440	373 440

Property, plant and equipment in the process of being constructed or developed

Cumulative expenditure recognised in the carrying value of property, plant and equipment		
Buildings	103 222 826	64 346 527
Infrastructure	161 499 334	100 446 947
	264 722 160	**164 793 474**

In accordance with the mandate as envisaged in the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), SANBI is responsible for managing, controlling and maintaining all National Botanical Gardens and the National Zoological Garden. The majority of the land that is currently utilised as National Botanical Gardens and the National Zoological Garden in the Republic belongs to the different tiers of government, and the control of the land is vested in SANBI in accordance with its mandate. There are no restrictions, as no title / property, plant and equipment is pledged as security for any liabilities.

Carrying value of property, plant and equipment that is taking a significantly longer period of time to complete than expected		
<u>Design and construction of a new animal quarantine facility at National Zoological Gardens</u>	834 226	834 226
The project is delayed due to land issues. The area on which the animal quarantine facility must be constructed is owned by City of Tshwane (CoT) and getting the approval was a major challenge. SANBI is still planning to proceed with the project and the PSP has provided a special power of attorney letter to CoT, which has been submitted on 16th February 2024.		
<u>New visitors entrance at the National Zoological Gardens</u>	422 280	422 280
The project has been delayed due to lack of funding. Currently SANBI does not have sufficient funds to cover the costs of the project, and the project will potentially be funded via PPP in future.		
<u>Installation of solar PV plant at Kirstenbosch NBG</u>	1 559 616	-
Delay in commissioning and completion due to the City of Cape Town not yet confirming a date for the contractor to connect to the main electrical kiosk.		
	2 816 122	**1 256 506**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

8. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Property, plant and equipment in the process of being constructed or developed

Carrying value of property, plant and equipment where construction or development has been halted either during the current or previous reporting period(s)		
The construction of a new lapa, refurbishment of the existing gate house & ablutions and new services (water, sewer & stormwater) at Mokopane Biodiversity Conservation Centre	240 243	240 243
The project was halted due to underperformance by the contractor which affected the quality of work done. Some of the works were not done to specification and the contrac-tor was instructed to re-do the work. The impairment assessment was done, and it was concluded that there should be not impairment process on the cumulative expenditure as the amount is immaterial in relation to the work that has already been done.		
Construction of new office buildings and Herbarium renovations at KZN Herbarium	-	1 028 387
The project was halted in the previous reporting periods due to unsatisfactory performance by the contractor and the contract was subsequently terminated. The impairment to the tune of R2 788 030 was processed in the previous financial years. SANBI is in the process of appointing a new contractor to complete the project.		
Renovations of Gold Fields Education Centre at Kirstenbosch NBG	5 791 603	-
The project was halted due to unsatisfactory performance by the contractor and the contract was subsequently terminated		
Renovations & upgrades to the National Herbarium at PTA NBG	6 655 115	-
The project was halted due to unsatisfactory performance by the contractor and the contract was subsequently terminated		
Renovations to mammal enclosures and installations of biosecurity measures at NZG	11 370 415	-
The project was halted in the due to unsatisfactory performance by the contractor and the contract was subsequently terminated.	-	-
	24 057 376	**1 268 630**
Expenditure incurred to repair and maintain property, plant and equipment		
Repairs and Maintenance	10 463 689	13 479 516

A register containing the details of property, plant and equipment is available for inspection at the registered office of the entity.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

9. Investment property

	2025			2024		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Investment property	106 087 932	(43 790 863)	62 297 069	103 176 967	(41 230 795)	61 946 172

Reconciliation of investment property - 2025

	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Total
Investment property	61 946 172	2 910 965	(2 560 068)	62 297 069

Reconciliation of investment property - 2024

	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Total
Investment property	62 322 008	2 164 578	(2 540 414)	61 946 172

Investment property in the process of being constructed or developed

Cumulative expenditure recognised in the carrying value of Investment property

	2025	2024
Investment property - Cost	4 350 883	1 439 918

Investment property mainly consist of SANBI buildings operated by third parties as restaurants at the various gardens.

A register containg the information required by the Public Finance Management Act is available for inspection at the registered office of the entity.

There are no restrictions, as no title / investment property is pledged as security for any liabilities.

Investment property mainly consist of SANBI buildings operated by third parties as restaurants at the varies gardens.

A register containing the information required by the Public Finance Management Act is available for inspection at the registered office of the entity.

There are no restrictions, as no title / investment property is pledged as security for any liablities.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

10. Intangible assets

	2025			2024		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Computer software, other	22 032 642	(18 318 416)	3 714 226	19 304 088	(15 669 046)	3 635 042
National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS)	11 126 134	-	11 126 134	11 126 134	-	11 126 134
Total	**33 158 776**	**(18 318 416)**	**14 840 360**	**30 430 222**	**(15 669 046)**	**14 761 176**

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2025

	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software, other	3 635 042	2 728 555	(2 649 371)	3 714 226
National Biodiversity Information System (NBIS)	11 126 134	-	-	11 126 134
	14 761 176	**2 728 555**	**(2 649 371)**	**14 840 360**

Reconciliation of intangible assets - 2024

	Opening balance	Additions	Amortisation	Total
Computer software, other	4 079 735	2 799 739	(3 244 432)	3 635 042
Intangible assets under development	8 001 778	3 124 356	-	11 126 134
	12 081 513	**5 924 095**	**(3 244 432)**	**14 761 176**

Intangible assets in the process of being constructed or developed

Cumulative expenditure recognised in the carrying value of Intangible assets

	2025	2024
Intangible assets under development	-	11 126 134

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

11. Heritage assets

	2025			2024		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated impairment losses	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated impairment losses	Carrying value
Historical monuments	224 062	-	224 062	224 062	-	224 062
Conservation areas	18 422 401	-	18 422 401	18 422 401	-	18 422 401
Library books	19 868 409	-	19 868 409	19 868 409	-	19 868 409
Total	**38 514 872**	**-**	**38 514 872**	**38 514 872**	**-**	**38 514 872**

Reconciliation of heritage assets 2025

	Opening balance	Total
Historical monuments	224 062	224 062
Conservation areas	18 422 401	18 422 401
Library books	19 868 409	19 868 409
Total	**38 514 872**	**38 514 872**

Reconciliation of heritage assets 2024

	Opening balance	Additions	Total
Historical monuments	224 062	-	224 062
Conservation areas	18 422 401	-	18 422 401
Library books	-	19 868 409	19 868 409
	18 646 463	**19 868 409**	**38 514 872**

Heritage assets

SANBI's national botanical gardens are managed as mandated under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) No. 10 of 2004. Some of the national botanical gardens have, since Kirstenbosch was established in 1913, been included under various national and international heritage categories. For example, the Free State-, KwaZulu-Natal and Pretoria National Botanical Gardens are registered by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) as provincial heritage sites (formerly national monuments). Van Riebeeck's hedge in Kirstenbosch is also included as a provincial heritage site due to its historical significance. Due to Kirstenbosch's geographical location on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain National Park, it was included under UNESCO's Cape Floristic (Floral) Region World Heritage Site. These national and international classifications afford a level of recognition to specific gardens and responsibility for SANBI to preserve biodiversity as well as to manage and maintain healthy and thriving living plant collections in its gardens for the benefit of current and future generations. Included in the garden is the Camphor Avenue which draws a number of interests both locally and internationally. The avenue is known for its rich and diverse fauna and flora.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

11. Heritage assets (continued)

First time adoption of GRAP 103 for Library books kept at botanical gardens

GRAP 103 (Heritage Assets) defines heritage assets as those that have a cultural, environmental, historical, natural, scientific, technological or artistic significance and are held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations.

The register of library books includes those which the SANBI has published itself and those that have been acquired from external sources.

a) The books are useful for research purposes and provide a knowledge repository for the knowledge contribution of bygone and current researchers, scholars, practitioners, and academics. The significance of the books is derived by their link to their status as a key factor in the entity fulfilling its mandate. In this way they are significant - for scientific and historical reasons

b) The intention and practice of The SANBI is to keep the books indefinitely for use by both current and future researchers, scholars, practitioners, and academics. Members of the public who are not SANBI staff may access the books for use in our libraries, but may not remove them from these designated libraries. SANBI staff may remove the books from the libraries for use in their workspaces. This ensures preservation of the books for future generations whilst providing access to the current generation. In certain instances, where a need for increased access is observed, books may be copied into digital format. The physical books are still preserved in our libraries for the benefit of current and future generations as historical specimens.

The library books, therefore, fulfil both requirements for classification as heritage assets.

The entity has applied the deemed cost approach as permitted by Directive 7, using fair value as at the date of adoption 31 March 2024 as the deemed cost.

Heritage assets which fair values cannot be reliably measured

The following heritage assets were not recognised due to a reliable measurement not being possible on initial recognition as follows:

The Institute manages 11 proclaimed national botanical gardens and the national zoological garden which are protected as conservation areas in terms of its mandate. A significant portion of the land is owned by state institutions. Due to the nature of the Institute's activities, the Institute could not establish either a fair value/deemed cost nor a replacement cost for these heritage assets. The entity is not the legal owner of most of the land and only the management authority. The total size of the land is 9571 hectares, spread in 11 proclaimed national botanical gardens across the country and the national zoological garden in Gauteng and a centre in Limpopo , is being held indefinitely for the benefit of present and future generations. The land is protected, kept unencumbered, cared for and preserved for its natural heritage. Other heritage assets which are not held for sale are as follows:

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

11. Heritage assets (continued)

SANBI Herbaria houses archived specimens of dried plant material mounted on cardboards or in packets, stored in cupboards arranged in an accessible system. These plant specimens are kept in modern steel cabinets with magnetic sealing doors (some are kept in older wooden cabinets made of different kinds of wood and now forming a valuable collection of examples of worked timber). The collection currently stands at approximately 2.1 million specimens of which 1.5 million are computerised. Most specimens are from Southern Africa, but the collection extends into the rest of Africa and surrounding islands and includes small collections from outside Africa. Vascular plants, bryophytes, and lichens are represented.

The collection of the National Herbarium (PRE) was extended by several valuable collections over the years, including that of E.E. Gal pin and, in 1952, the Transvaal Museum (TRV). More recently the Saasveld Herbarium and the Forestry Herbarium (PRF) were incorporated in the National Herbarium (PRE), currently making it by far the largest herbarium in Africa.

The oldest specimen in this collection is a specimen of *Erica mammasa*, collected by W.J. Burchell (1781–1863) on the Cape Flats near Salt River in January 1811. Other historically significant specimens in the collection includes: *Dichrostachys cinerea* subsp. *africana* var. *africana* collected by Burke & Zeyher on their first trip to the Magaliesberg in 1841 and *Ochna pulchra*, collected by General J.C. Smuts near the Pienaars River, 50 miles west of Bela-Bela, in October 1932.

There are approximately 14 000 type specimens in the collections of the National Herbarium. Type specimens are scientifically significant specimens in the collection as they are acting as a reference for the plant name, upon which the name is based.

The cryptogrammic collection of the National Herbarium consists of more than 80 000 mounted specimens of bryophytes (Hornworths, liverworts and mosses). It contains the largest and most representative collection of Southern African cryptogams. The PRE cryptogrammic herbarium is the largest of its kind in Africa and one of the largest in the southern hemisphere.

SANBI has two main libraries - the Mary Gunn Library in Pretoria and the Harry Molteno Library in Cape Town. They rank amongst the biggest botanical libraries in the southern hemisphere and are a valuable resource for information on Southern African flora and biodiversity. The Mary Gunn Library dates back to 1916 and is housed in the National Herbarium in Pretoria and is currently the most comprehensive botanical library of its kind in Africa and serves as one of the important botanical and biodiversity resources in Africa. The library houses a magnificent Africana and Rare Antiquarian Book Collection such as the 18 broadsheet edition of Redouté's Les Liliacées (1807-1816) and the Xylotech Book Collection by Clementz H. Wehdemann (early 1800s).

The Harry Molteno Library at Kirstenbosch dates back to 1913 when the Garden was founded but was officially started in 1921. Since that time it has grown considerably and has moved several times. It is presently housed in the Kirstenbosch Research Centre.

SANBI has a rich and valuable collection of original watercolour plates and pen and ink drawings housed at herbaria in Pretoria and Cape Town. The Pretoria collection was built up from around 1916, by the former Botanical Research Institute, as the original artwork for its many journals and books. It continues to be added to new papers and books as they are published. There are also additional smaller collections of artwork that were acquired by means of bequests to the nation or purchased by grants.

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Figures in Rand	2025	2024

11. Heritage assets (continued)

Art Medium	No of Items
Biological material	1
Bromide	41
Bronze	1
Cameo	1
Charcoal	1
Colour	5 204
Colour etchings	20
Colour pencil	19
Colour plate	21
Colour print	12
Copy	299
Medals	1
Oil painting	14
Pen & Ink	6 017
Pencil	36
Photo	66
Print	34
Sepia	2
Stainless steel sculpture	1
Watercolours	796
Wool tapestry	1
Total	**12 588**

Botany requires a precise and simple system of nomenclature used by botanists in all countries, dealing on the one hand with the terms that denote the ranks of taxonomic groups or units, and on the other hand with the scientific names that are applied to the individual taxonomic groups of plants. The purpose of giving a name to a taxonomic group is not to indicate its characters or history, but to supply a means of referring to it and to indicate its taxonomic rank.

As a result, all botanical art is referenced using The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants as prepared under the authority of the International Commission for the Nomenclature. This is known as the Vienna Code of 2006.

A botanical illustration is not primarily judged on its artistic beauty, but on its scientific accuracy. It must portray a plant with enough precision and detail for it to be recognised and distinguished from other species.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

11. Heritage assets (continued)

The reason for this is twofold.

a) A botanical illustration can preserve a plant species, variety, or cultivar in books and journals almost in perpetuity, even if it goes extinct in the wild.

b) Botanical drawings help identify and understand plants in a timeless manner. Its original purpose was to aid in plant identification for medicinal and culinary uses. Over the centuries, as the discipline developed, botanical illustration has proven itself invaluable in identifying newly discovered plants.

Fair values could not be obtained due to the specialised nature of the botanical art collection held by the entity. General market prices are not readily available, making it impossible to find suitable market prices and suitable valuers for the collection held.

SANBI Biobank collection curates about 180 000 biomaterials from various taxa including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibian representing over 70 000 individual animals from 24 countries. These individuals represent approximately 200 families, including more than 580 genera and 880 species. This collection is made available to both national and international researchers, collaborators and stakeholders for use in research and conservation related investigations. The full holdings are databased on SPECIFY.

The Biobank consists of dedicated laboratories (freeze drying, reception, tissue culture), storerooms, and multiple banks for storing biomaterials from room temperature, down to minus 196 degrees Celsius (liquid nitrogen). These materials include semen, fibroblasts, blood derivatives, extracted DNA, hair and feathers, skin biopsies, freeze-dried materials, tissue, post mortem samples (Formalin-fixed paraffin embedded wax blocks, formalin, histopathology slides, frozen organs), microbiome swabs, and parasites.

The Biobank collection is the custodian of a number of important collections including:

a) A cell culture collection curated at cryo-temperatures ever, and represents species such as the Extinct Diceros bircornis longipes (Western black rhinoceros), the Critically Endangered Ceratotherium simum cottoni (Northern white rhinoceros), a black rhinoceros hybrid (Diceros bicornis michaeli x minor) and various other Southern African wildlife species.

b) A wildlife Formalin-fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) wax block collection for histopathology studies.

c) A collection of blood smears collected from affected marine and coastal bird species of the various oil spills off South African coastlines dating back to the 1980's.

d) The Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) blood collection from various in situ marine and coastal bird species. including various islands off the South and Southern African coast. Species include African, King, Macaroni and Rockhopper penguins, Dark-mantled and light-mantled sooty albatrosses, Wandering albatross, Southern and Northern giant petrels, and Cape, Bank and White-breasted cormorants.

e) A mammalian cell culture collection of approximately 2000 vials donated by the University of Stellenbosch including species such as the Manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris), ten different mole species including Juliana's golden mole (Neamblysomus julianae), Aardvark (Orycteropus afer), various species of rabbits and hares, including the suspected extinct volcano rabbit (Romerolagus diazi), and many other shrew and mouse species.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

12. Living resources

	2025			2024		
	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value	Cost / Valuation	Accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment	Carrying value
Living resources	6 488 336	(1 601 342)	4 886 994	5 125 591	(1 429 202)	3 696 389

Reconciliation of living resources - 2025

	Opening balance	Increase due to purchases	Additions through non exchange functions	Disposal	Depreciation	Total
Living resources	3 696 389	585 063	1 100 923	(211 348)	(284 033)	4 886 994

Reconciliation of living resources - 2024

	Opening balance	Increase due to purchases	Additions through non exchange functions	Disposal	Depreciation	Total
Living resources	3 842 295	69 325	842 283	(780 513)	(277 001)	3 696 389

Living Resources – Category 2 – CITES and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List species

Plants held in national botanical gardens for conservation, research or display purposes may be included in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or under national Threatened or Protected Species (TOPS) regulations. These include living resources, including plants, that are deemed to have some form of trade restrictions or limitations in place due to their threatened or protected statuses.

SANBI gardens comply with the restricted activities linked to the DFFE-published regulations on the prohibition of trade in certain Encephalartos (cycad) species.

Fair values on these living resources are not able to be reliably measured due to no definitive formula and inability to find suitable valuers with the required specialist skills and knowledge of domestic and international wildlife markets. Many complex variables need to be considered in order to determine fair value that include age, size, condition (signs of damage, disease or improper care), sex, ability to determine useful life of the plant, conservation and legal status, cultural and spiritual significance, knowledge of domestic and international wildlife markets, amongst others.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

12. Living resources (continued)

Living Resources (Additions)

Living resources include the zoological and botanical specimens managed by SANBI for conservation and education purposes.

Bonsai Collections

SANBI has received bonsai donations for display and educational purposes in its Kirstenbosch and Pretoria gardens. The collection is maintained under SANBI's custodial mandate as per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA). Although subject to conditions preventing sale or transfer without the consent of the South African Bonsai Association, SANBI retains full control, curatorial responsibility, and use of the bonsai for public service purposes. The bonsai trees are classified as living resources and are valued based on assessments conducted by the South African Bonsai Association.

Conservation and Threatened Plant Collections

SANBI manages conservation plant collections in its nursery facilities across various gardens, consisting primarily of threatened, endemic, and research-focused species. These are not available for sale and are maintained to support biodiversity restoration and scientific research. Due to the absence of active markets, inability to determine reliable fair values, and to prevent increased poaching risk, these collections are not recognised as assets. In accordance with paragraph 26 of GRAP 1, detailed disclosure of the number, location, or identity of these specimens has been omitted for security and conservation reasons.

Entity as custodian

SANBI is mandated by NEMBA to manage and maintain the living and non-resources within its control. The resources are used for its provision of services, recreation, conservation, education and training, research, rehabilitation and breeding purposes.

Living resources borrowed from other entities

In terms of the loan agreements, these living resources and their offspring belong to the original entity. The transfer to the receiving entity is for non-commercial purposes like conservation, breeding and education. Despite these conditions, the transferring entity loses control over the living resource for the period of transfer. The receiving entity for the period of transfer uses the living resource for its mandate, is responsible for the care of the living resource and uses it to derive economic benefit and/or service potential. Consequentially living resources on loan from other entities are controlled by SANBI and living resources on loan to other entities are not controlled by SANBI.

Invertebrates	184	262
Amphibians	60	84
Fish	544	842
Reptiles	41	36
Birds	159	174
Mammals	39	39
	1 027	**1 437**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

12. Living resources (continued)

Living resources on loan to other entities

In terms of the loan agreements, these living resources and their offspring belong to the original entity. The transfer to the receiving entity is for non-commercial purposes like conservation, breeding and education. Despite these conditions, the transferring entity loses control over the living resource for the period of transfer. The receiving entity for the period of transfer uses the living resource for its mandate, is responsible for the care of the living resource and uses it to derive economic benefit and/or service potential. Consequentially living resources on loan from other entities are controlled by SANBI and living resources on loan to other entities are not controlled by SANBI.

	2025	2024
Fish	35	**39**
Reptiles	3	**5**
Birds	8	**8**
Mammals	17	**18**
	63	**70**

Restrictions on use or capacity to sell

There are restrictions on the movement of animals which must adhere to the requirements of the export regulations, and transportation permits, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) requirements, animal conditions and government regulations.

Pledged as security

No living resources have been pledged as security.

Living resources categories:

Living resources - Category 1 - Alien invasive species

In terms of NEMBA, animals included in this category may not be moved at all as these animals are prohibited from entering the country. The National Zoological Gardens however is in possession of these animals due to obtaining a group of such animals prior to the publication of the NEMBA listing in 2014.

Included in this category is 13 (2024: 14) species representing 153 (2024: 177) individual animals.

Living resources - Category 2 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list species

The first five classes of the red list have been included in this category as these items are deemed to have some form of trade restrictions or limitations in place due to their threatened statuses.

Included in this category is 45 (2024: 68) species representing 342 (2024: 496) individual animals.

Living resources - Category 3 - Species not typically traded

The category mostly consists of birds, fish, primates, and reptiles which are generally not actively traded on the open market.

Included in this category is 325 (2024: 410) species representing 3,381 (2024: 4,420) individual animals.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

12. Living resources (continued)

Living resource - Category 4 - Organisms held for research and conservation

The category includes a collection of organisms such as plants, seeds, fibroblasts, sperm, and ova held for research and conservation purposes which are not necessarily actively traded on the open market.

Living resources not recognised

The entity did not recognise the following living resources, due to the definition and/or recognition criteria not being met:

Living resource - Animals and plants in botanical gardens

Natural areas of the gardens are generally regarded as in situ conservation areas comprising naturally occurring plants and animals and their associated interactions that require less maintenance than the landscaped areas. These areas may be subject to management actions such as controlled burns and invasive alien species removal, where resources allow. These natural areas are also used by the public for walking trails/runs mostly on dedicated pathways and routes that have been laid out since the garden was established. The natural areas differ in size, complexity, accessibility and exposure to natural and/or man-made disturbance (such as fires, floods, invasive alien species), from one garden to another.

SANBI has no control over or ability to restrict the movement of living resources into and from the gardens under its management. Plants, and other organisms, such as fungal spores for example, may be dispersed by wind, water, or animals, either into or from the gardens. A range of different plants are managed in national botanical gardens, most of which are classified as conservation gardens. Plants and biodiversity associated with them are included as part of the garden's conservation estates. All indigenous South African plants have different conservation statuses based on population impacts in their natural distribution areas, mostly located outside of SANBI's gardens. Plants represented in gardens may also occasionally be exposed to natural disturbances that may impact plants and animals in various ways, including wildfires, drought and floods. As many plants represented as ex situ (off site) collections in gardens are outside of the plants' natural distribution ranges, they may be subject to local animal predators (e.g. mammals, insect larvae), fungi and other pests and pathogens, which may have varying impacts on different plant parts and the plant's health and life spans. Due to multiple impacts and biodiversity-associated interactions, most of which are unseen, including the impacts of climate change, SANBI is unable to control the plants in its national botanical gardens.

SANBI is also not able to control self-seeding plants. Animals may move over, through, or burrow under fences and fly over fences (birds, insects, bats). A range of living resources may burrow and spend all, or part of, their lives underground and are not visible, thereby not being able to be documented or recorded (e.g., moles, earthworms, mongooses, porcupines, aardvark, foxes, rain frogs, various arthropods (insects, millipedes, centipedes, mites, spiders, scorpions and seeds)). A range of animals also spend part of their life cycles on land and part in water (e.g., dragonflies, frogs, mosquitoes, turtles).

SANBI does not have the ability to direct the use, including directing the disposal of living resources and restricting the access of others to the resource (e.g., through predation, decomposition of one organism by other organisms).

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

12. Living resources (continued)

While SANBI manages and conserves the environments in the landscaped and natural areas as a whole, it does not manage the physical condition of each individual animal and/or plant within the gardens, and therefore does not control these living resources, in both the landscaped and natural areas. Therefore, the recognition criteria is not met.

13. Non-living resources

Entity as custodian

SANBI is mandated by the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) to manage and maintain the living and non-living resources within its control. The resources are used for its provision of services, recreation, conservation, education and training, research, rehabilitation and breeding purposes.

Nature and types of non-living resources for which the entity is responsible

Bodies of water within the boundaries of the gardens, including waterfalls, streams, rivers and boreholes.

Land on which the gardens are situated, is recognised in accordance with GRAP 103.

Liabilities and/or contingent liabilities that arise from the non-living resources

There are no liabilities or contingent liabilities that arise from the non-living resources.

Compensation from third parties

No compensation was received from third parties for non-living resources relinquished or transferred during the reporting period, in accordance with paragraph .116(c) of GRAP 110.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

14. Unspent conditional grants and receipts

Unspent conditional grants and receipts comprises of:

Unspent conditional grants and receipts		
Unspent conditional grants and receipts	168 551 757	194 161 976
Debit balances transferred to receivables from non-exchange transactions	4 245 949	1 017 819
Unspent conditional grant deposits	4 300 000	4 300 000
	177 097 706	**199 479 795**

Movement during the year		
Balance at the beginning of the year	199 479 795	148 462 148
Additions during the year	369 902 232	447 096 442
Prior year debit balances	(1 017 819)	-
Interest earned	8 667 895	10 766 905
Income recognition during the year - Government operational grants (EPWP)	(178 460 453)	(182 441 945)
Income recognition during the year - Other grants	(221 848 650)	(220 289 850)
Disbursements	(3 871 243)	(5 131 724)
Debit balances transferred to non-exchange transactions	4 245 949	1 017 819
	177 097 706	**199 479 795**

15. Payables from exchange transactions

Trade payables	19 953 408	33 566 669
Income received in advance	1 291 787	260 896
Other payables	21 705 442	33 552 345
Accrued leave pay	25 360 692	25 247 339
Accrued service bonus	11 225 695	11 225 695
Accrued expense	9 247 527	17 527 123
	88 784 551	**121 380 067**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

16. Provisions

Reconciliation of provisions - 2025

	Opening Balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Total
Workmen's compensation	1 817 102	-	(491 282)	1 325 820
Capped leave provision	1 955 155	55 899	(225 619)	1 785 435
Long service awards	3 059 080	680 920	(450 000)	3 290 000
	6 831 337	**736 819**	**(1 166 901)**	**6 401 255**

Reconciliation of provisions - 2024

	Opening Balance	Additions	Utilised during the year	Total
Workmen's compensation	-	1 817 102	-	1 817 102
Legal proceedings	3 103 862	-	(3 103 862)	-
Capped leave provision	1 920 663	34 492	-	1 955 155
Long service awards	3 473 952	284 944	(699 816)	3 059 080
Property rates	4 310 965	-	(4 310 965)	-
	12 809 442	**2 136 538**	**(8 114 643)**	**6 831 337**

	2025	2024
Non-current liabilities	4 558 435	4 564 235
Current liabilities	1 842 820	2 267 102
	6 401 255	**6 831 337**

Capped leave provision represents the value of leave credits accumulated prior to 01 July 2000. There is uncertainty as to the timing vesting of the leave.

The long service bonus awards are payable to employees who have completed uninterrupted milestone service with the SANBI. The value of the awards is determined by SANBI policy as reviewed from time to time. The timing of the payout is known but there is uncertainty if the employee will still be in service on these dates. The values have been calculated by independent Actuaries ARCH Actuarial Consulting.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

17. Transfers payable (non-exchange)

Funds held for onwards transfers to third parties on attainment of agreed objectives	4 206 218	8 348 279

1. Adaptation Fund.

SANBI acts as the National Implementing Entity. Funds are disbursed as per contractual arrangements in the form of:

- Building resilience in the greater uMngeni catchment which aims to increase resilience of vulnerable communities through interventions such as early warning systems, climate smart agriculture and climate proofing settlements.

2. Global Environment Facility

- Mainstream biodiversity and ecosystems values to unlock development finance and secure ecological infrastructure for water security in two critical water catchments, the Berg-Breede and the Greater uMngeni catchments.

Revenue received

Administration Fee (Global Environment Facility)	10 249 523	8 063 213
Interest earned on Total Revenue	1 191 351	1 581 354

Reconciliation of carrying amount of transfers payable 2024/2025

	Opening Balance	Transfers from funder	Disbursement	Total
The Adaptation Fund	6 720 917	-	(1 309 601)	5 411 316
Global Environmental Facility - GEF6	1 627 362	5 246 897	(8 079 356)	(1 205 097)
	8 348 279	**5 246 897**	**(9 388 957)**	**4 206 219**

Reconciliation of carrying amount of transfers payable 2023/2024

	Opening Balance	Transfers from funder	Disbursement	Total
The Adaptation Fund	14 487 844	-	(7 766 927)	6 720 917
Global Environmental Facility	(128 495)	4 778 227	(3 022 370)	1 627 362
	14 359 349	**4 778 227**	**(10 789 297)**	**8 348 279**

18. Employee benefit obligations

The amounts recognised in the statement of financial position are as follows:

Carrying value

Present value of the defined benefit obligation	(65 452 000)	(54 024 000)

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

18. Employee benefit obligations (continued)

Post-Retirement benefits

The South African National Biodiversity Institute Retirement Funds consist of the South African National Biodiversity Institute Provident Fund and the South African National Biodiversity Institute Pension Fund. The values have been calculated by independent Actuaries, Old Mutual.

Membership of the funds is a prerequisite for all permanently employed staff employed as from the 1st of December 1994.

The policy is to provide retirement benefits for employees by means of seperate Pension and Provident Funds to which both employee and employer respectively, contribute in equal proportion.

The Provident Fund is a defined contribution fund. The Pension Fund is also a defined contribution fund. The employer contributes to the Provident Fund while the employee's contribution is paid to the Pension Fund.

Retirement benefit income statements amounts are included in personnel costs.

Total employer's contribution	33 638 380	23 444 022
Fair value of the Defined Benefit Obligation		
Opening balance	(364 938 570)	(362 112 654)
Interest cost	(40 359 109)	(37 149 669)
Current service cost	(27 578 378)	(17 981 132)
Benefits paid	50 006 135	33 633 190
Actuarial gains/(loss) on plan assets	(2 895 146)	18 671 695
Present value of obligation as at 31 March	**(385 765 068)**	**(364 938 570)**
Fair Value of Plan Assets		
Opening balance	424 947 422	397 714 803
Expected return on plan assets	46 840 640	40 699 402
Contributions	21 096 847	14 431 400
Benefits paid	(50 006 135)	(33 633 190)
Actuarial gains/(loss) on plan assets	11 499 421	5 735 007
Present value of obligation as at 31 March	**454 378 195**	**424 947 422**
Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Position		
Present value of funded obligation	(385 765 068)	(364 938 570)
Fair value of plan assets	454 378 195	424 947 423
Surplus in plan	68 613 127	60 008 853
Unrecognised actuarial (gains)/losses	(68 613 127)	(60 008 853)
	-	-

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

18. Employee benefit obligations (continued)

Post-retirement benefits

In terms of GRAP 25 an asset should not be recognised in the entity's statement of financial position unless the entity has control of the asset, the asset arises due to past events (e.g. excess contributions) and the entity has beneficial use of assets (e.g. via a contribution holiday or cash refund). A liability must always be recognised. The values have been calculated by independent Actuaries.

Current cost	27 578 378	17 981 133
Interest on obligation	40 359 109	37 149 669
Expected return on plan assets	(46 840 640)	(40 699 402)
	21 096 847	**14 431 400**

Key actuarial assumptions in determining the above positions

Discount rate annualised yield on R213 (2024: R213)	11.69 %	11.40 %
Inflation rate	5.86 %	5.52 %
Expected rate of salary increases (Inflation +1%)	6.86 %	6.52 %
Expected rate of return on plan assets (Actuarial valuation)	11.69 %	11.40 %

Defined benefit pension plan

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Defined benefit obligation	(285 463 674)	(299 226 924)	(362 112 654)	(364 938 570)	(385 765 068)
Plan assets	331 891 427	368 689 380	397 714 803	424 947 423	454 378 195
Surplus (Deficit)	46 427 753	69 462 456	35 602 149	60 008 852	68 613 127
Experience adjustments on plan liabilities	20 544 026	(17 805 010)	39 094 740	(18 671 695)	2 895 146
Experience adjustments on plan assets	(4 223 787)	(5 229 692)	(6 332 798)	(5 735 007)	(11 499 421)

Post-retirement medical aid benefits

Amounts Recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance

Service cost	1 060 000	2 048 949
Interest cost	6 745 000	6 945 169
Actuarial (gain)/loss recognised	6 864 000	(13 728 840)
	14 669 000	**(4 734 722)**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

18. Employee benefit obligations (continued)

Present value of funded obligation

Members	27 588 000	24 213 000
Non-members	37 864 000	29 811 000
	65 452 000	**54 024 000**

Movements in the Net Liability in the Statement of Financial Position

Post-employment medical obligation

Net liability at the start of the year	54 024 000	59 403 768
Interest cost	6 745 000	6 945 169
Current service cost	1 060 000	2 048 949
Benefit payment	(3 241 000)	(2 473 046)
Projected accrued services liability at the end of the year	58 588 000	65 924 840
Actuarial (gain)/loss	6 864 000	(11 900 840)
	65 452 000	**54 024 000**

Principal Acturial Assumptions at Statement of reporting date

Discount rate	11.50 %	12.86 %
General increases to medical aid subsidy (%)	7.50 %	8.37 %
Proportion continuing membership at retirement (%)	75.00 %	75.00 %
Proportion of retiring members who are married (%)	60.00 %	60.00 %
Retirement age (years)	62	62

Projection of liability to 31 March 2026

The projection of the results from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, assuming that the experience follows the assumptions exactly, is as follows:

Post-employment medical obligation

Net liability at start of year 1 April 2025	65 452 000
Interest costs	7 324 000
Current service costs	1 357 000
Projected accrued service liability as at 31 March 2026	74 133 000

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

18. Employee benefit obligations (continued)

Sensitivity analysis

The results are dependent on the assumptions used. In order to illustrate the sensitivity of the Actuarial results to changes in certain key variables, the Actuaries have recalculated the liabilities using the following assumptions:

- A 1% increase / decrease in the Medical Aid maximum cap inflation will result in the following amounts as disclosed below
- A PA(90) and PA(90)-1 in the assumed level of mortality will result in the following amounts as disclosed below

PA(90)-1 (PA(90) with a one-year adjustment) means that, to each beneficiary a mortality rate of an individual one year younger than that beneficiary was attached. A lighter mortality rate implies that the individual lives longer than expected in the valuation basis.

Medical Aid and maximum cap inflation	-1% Medical aid and maximum inflation rate	Valuation Assumption (Rand)	-1% Medical aid and maximum inflation rate
Total accrued liability	62 577 000	65 452 000	68 235 000
Service cost	989 000	1 060 000	1 135 000
Interest cost	6 496 000	6 745 000	7 017 000

Mortality	Valuation basis PA (90) (Rand)	PA (90) - 1 (Rand)
Employer's accrued liability	65 452 000	67 356 000
Employer's service costs	1 060 000	1 084 000
Employer's interest costs	6 745 000	6 946 000

19. Other income

	2025	2024
Sundry income	691 985	1 101 830
Guided tours	671 386	677 756
Insurance refund	33 450	431 955
Staff transport	116 293	119 788
Use of garden facilities	181 540	412 020
Professional services	1 497 380	1 275 260
Public functions	50 660	67 470
Golf cart rentals	2 339 710	2 721 550
	5 582 404	**6 807 629**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

20. Government operational grant

Operating grants		
Government operating grant	427 850 000	411 249 000
Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)	150 601 651	224 219 799
Transfers (to) / from unspent conditional grants and receipts (EPWP)	27 858 803	(41 777 854)
	606 310 454	**593 690 945**

Conditional and Unconditional

Included in above are the following grants received:

Conditional grants received	178 460 454	182 441 945
Unconditional grants received	427 850 000	411 249 000
	606 310 454	**593 690 945**

21. Other grants, bequests, sponsorships and donations

Sponsorships	98 420 581	45 902 644
Capital grant	120 880 000	176 974 000
Bequest	74 000	2 167 372
Donations	1 811 873	654 085
Transfers (to) / from unspent conditional grants and receipts	2 548 070	(2 586 794)
Other grants	15 458 541	11 979 613
	239 193 065	**235 090 920**

Conditional and Unconditional:

Included in above are the following grants, bequests, sponsorships and donations:

Conditional	221 848 650	220 289 850
Unconditional	17 344 413	14 801 070
	239 193 063	**235 090 920**

22. Services in-kind

Volunteers	1 646 662	963 717
Use of premises	25 689 181	24 244 902
	27 335 843	**25 208 619**

Services derived from volunteers represents the cost of the hours of work performed by the volunteers in the Education Centre and CREW programs.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

22. Services in-kind (continued)

The National Zoological Garden (NZG) was transferred to SANBI during the 2017/2018 financial year. As part of the transfer various assets and liabilities were transferred to SANBI which includes the living resources and buildings of the NZG. SANBI uses buildings and facilities situated at Boom Street, Pretoria and Mokopane in a variety of ways including use of office space, animal holding facilities, research, restaurants and entertainment purposes. The use of the buildings are significant to the SANBI operations in execution of the entity's mandate.

In terms of GRAP 23, SANBI controls the buildings as the entity can use or otherwise benefit from the asset in pursuit of its objectives and can exclude or otherwise regulate the access of others to that benefit.

The buildings related to the NZG were not quantified at the time of the transfer and no values were provided for the listing of assets and liabilities transferred in line with section 42 of the PFMA. The buildings are unique in terms of its location and structure, therefore the fair value of the buildings cannot easily be measured when compared to the market value of properties in the surrounding areas.

While the buildings possess all the essential characteristics of an asset, a reliable fair value of the properties under the control of SANBI cannot be quantified. Due to this, the recognition requirements of services in-kind in terms of GRAP 23 are not met and the property assets are not reflected in the records of SANBI.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024
23. Employee related costs		
Basic	319 413 234	298 255 319
Bonus	24 832 348	23 545 887
Medical aid - company contributions	33 737 555	29 979 796
UIF	2 824 481	3 177 323
WCA	-	1 817 102
Leave pay provision charge	1 850 051	13 901
Decrease in provisions	-	(2 320 768)
Senior management services allowances	22 652 752	21 624 577
Cell phone allowances	836 541	841 426
Other short term costs	445 823	1 803 338
Overtime payments	25 893 968	23 765 623
Long-service awards	428 688	699 816
Acting allowances	1 213 367	1 195 806
Car allowance	308 547	313 956
Housing benefits and allowances	12 211 085	11 657 325
Merit awards	-	72 449
Contract employee information	77 927 938	79 282 700
Research assistants	2 181 090	1 787 698
Student stipends	64 323 694	91 364 375
Long-term benefits - incentive scheme	12 213 187	11 442 450
Termination benefits	24 998 864	23 444 021
	628 293 213	**623 764 120**
Remuneration of accounting authority and sub committee members		
Meeting fees	1 103 392	1 122 984
Total employee related cost	**629 396 605**	**624,887,104**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

24. Operating expenses

Advertising	1 856 110	576 525
Animal Costs	9 678 777	10 013 335
Auditors remuneration	8 767 472	10 519 754
Bank charges	3 942 194	3 344 896
Biological asset cost	422 482	491 376
Bursaries	6 618 864	7 146 285
Cleaning	12 292 197	10 773 499
Concert - costs	7 343 784	2 887 019
Conferences and seminars	8 574 412	4 178 977
Consulting and professional fees	40 838 637	44 325 147
Consumables	819 572	4 605 711
Entertainment	356	275
Field trips	25 874	101 139
Hire of equipment	175 329	709 084
Cost of sales	1 966 277	2 852 566
Insurance	9 221 605	6 381 576
IT expenses	7 637 279	10 079 911
Legal settlement	-	(2 120 217)
Marketing	1 576 538	2 486 971
Motor vehicle expenses	10 360 038	14 407 454
Municipal charges	35 602 426	29 953 866
Postage and courier	587 617	233 048
Printing and stationery	4 493 846	2 495 454
Project implementer costs	3 659 795	26 763 538
Protective clothing	1 894 923	2 722 119
Recruitment costs	927 098	1 667 968
Refuse	1 616 623	1 413 654
Repairs and maintenance	10 490 832	13 479 516
Royalties	551 583	1 032 181
Security	29 255 858	27 178 839
Staff welfare	2 377 454	2 750 151
Subscriptions and membership fees	1 352 398	1 347 960
Sundry expenses	10 017 373	13 306 229
Garden operating expenses	42 023 735	33 827 009
Telephone and fax	2 667 790	2 175 812
Training	3 920 244	3 550 472
Travel expenses	35 819 019	36 871 878
Uniforms	29 790	4 294
Venue expenses	813 001	1 265 931
	320 219 202	**335 801 202**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

25. Depreciation and amortisation

Property, plant and equipment	36 814 993	34 138 069
Investment property	2 560 068	2 540 414
Intangible assets	2 649 371	3 244 431
Living resources	284 032	277 000
	42 308 464	**40 199 914**

26. Lease rentals on operating lease

Premises		
Contractual amounts	25 605 458	24 584 887

27. Debt impairment

Debt impairment	(906 107)	376 005

28. Finance costs

Trade and other payables	415	427

29. Auditors' remuneration

Fees	7 310 364	8 778 037
Consulting	1 457 108	1 741 717
	8 767 472	**10 519 754**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

30. Cash generated from operations

Surplus	45 594 286	24 510 215
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation	42 308 464	40 199 914
Loss on sale of assets	1 993 873	1 355 504
Fair value adjustments	(203 562)	21 844
Impairment deficit	197 564	2 072 688
Debt impairment	(906 107)	376 005
Movements in operating lease assets	88 227	202 562
Movements in retirement benefit assets and liabilities	11 428 000	(5 379 768)
Movements in provisions	(430 082)	(5 978 105)
Bonsai donation	1 670 274	-
Foreign exchange loss/(gain)	(359 631)	320 925
Gains with the acquisition of Living Resources	-	(842 283)
Non cash acquisition of living resources	(1 100 923)	-
Changes in working capital:		
Inventories	1 331 491	(1 107 968)
Receivables from exchange transactions	4 745 914	(4 637 674)
Other receivables from non-exchange transactions	7 267 082	(52 653 750)
Payables from exchange transactions	(32 585 141)	(5 735 147)
Transfers payable (non-exchange)	(4 142 061)	(6 011 070)
Unspent conditional grants and receipts	(22 382 089)	51 017 647
	54 515 579	**37 731 539**

31. Commitments

Authorised capital expenditure		
Already contracted for but not provided for		
• Property, plant and equipment	123 431 318	197 332 050
• Intangible assets	24 981 564	-
	148 412 882	**197 332 050**

Total capital commitments		
Already contracted for but not provided for	148 412 882	197 332 050

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

31. Commitments (continued)

Total commitments

Authorised capital expenditure	148 412 882	197 332 050

The above commitments will be financed by retained surpluses, existing cash resources and goverment grants.

The capital commitments relating to Property, Plant and Equipment was previously reported as R 190 337 074, but the balance excluded expenditure committed amounting to R 6 994 976. The restated balance reported for 2023/24 amounts to R 197 332 050.

32. Budget differences

Material differences between budget and actual amounts

The variances of more than 10% and more than materiality of R 10 950 000 between the approved budget and actual results are due to the following:

Government operational grant

- Cash was disbursed against a conditional grant only to the extent that expenses were incurred.

Admission fees

- The negative variance is primarily due to lower-than-anticipated visitor numbers, influenced by the prevailing economic climate.

Other grants, bequest, sponsorships and donations

Funds relating to specific projects were not realised.

Expenditure:

Employee related costs

- Higher levels of temporary staff appointed through the EPWP conditional grant.

Operating expenses

Budget and cash pressures resulted in cost containment measures being implemented.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

33. Related parties

Relationships

Controlling entity	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Entities under common control	South African National Parks South African Weather Services iSimangaliso Wetland Park Marine Living Resources Fund
Members of key management	Refer to note 35

SANBI receives it's grant allocation for operations and various programs through the DFFE. We also provide various goods and services to the DFFE and related entities such as venue hire and consulting services as well as sourcing goods and services from them. From time to time, there may be collaboration on specific projects. Outstanding amounts at year end may arise from these transactions which are included at arm's lenght.

34. Risk management

Financial risk management

The entity's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including currency risk, fair value interest rate risk, cash flow interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

In the course of entity's operations it is exposed to credit, liquidity and market risk. The entity has developed a comprehensive risk strategy in terms of Treasury Regulation 27.2 (require a public entity to have a comprehensive risk strategy, which includes a fraud prevention plan) in order to monitor and control these risks. The risk management process relating to each of these risks is discussed under the headings below.

The entity's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the entity's financial performance. The entity does not uses derivative financial instruments to hedge certain risk exposures. Risk management is performed by management under policies approved by the accounting authority. Entity identifies, evaluates and hedges financial risks in close co-operation with the entity's operating units.

Liquidity risk

The entity's risk to liquidity is a result of the funds available to cover future commitments. The entity manages liquidity risk through an ongoing review of future commitments and credit facilities.

Cash flow forecasts are prepared.

The entity's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the entity's financial performance. The entity does not uses derivative financial instruments to hedge risk exposures. Risk management is performed by management under policies approved by the executive committee. Management identifies, evaulates and manages financial risks in close co-operation with the entity's operating units.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

34. Risk management (continued)

At March 31, 2025	Less than 1 year	Between 1 and 2 years	Between 2 and 5 years	Over 5 years
• Trade and other payables	50 916 752	-	-	-

At March 31, 2024	Less than 1 year	Between 1 and 2 years	Between 2 and 5 years	Over 5 years
• Trade and other payables	84 646 137	-	-	-

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. Financial assets, which potentially subject SANBI to the risk of non performance by counter parties, consist mainly of cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable.

SANBI limits it's treasury counter-party exposure by only dealing with well-established financial institutions approved by National Treasury through the approval of their cash management policy in terms of Treasury Regulation. SANBI's exposure is continously monitored by the Accounting Authority. SANBI does not have any material exposure to any individual or counter- party. SANBI's largest concentration of credit risk is limited mainly to the sale of plants. No events occurred in the industry during the financial year that may have an impact on the accounts receivable that has not been adequately provided for,

However these guarantees are fully recoverable from the employees cash portion of their retirement fund. Due to the nature of the Institute's financial instruments it is highly unlikely that the Institute will encounter difficulty in raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments.

Financial assets exposed to credit risk at year end were as follows:

Financial instrument	2025	2024
Trade receivables	60 080 461	76 668 654
Cash and cash equivalents	268 303 754	377 344 933

Market risk

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. SANBI obtains competitive rates from approved financial institutions on a monthly basis.

As SANBI has significant interest-bearing assets, hence SANBI's income and operating cash flows are dependent on changes in market interest rates. SANBI reviews its interest rate exposure on a regular basis.

Market rates are compared with stable and credit-rated financial institutions. Various institutional rates are simulated taking into consideration terms of deposits, availability of cash resources and any related risk factors.

At 31 March 2025, if interest rates on Rand-denominated investments had been 0.1% higher/lower with all other variables held constant, surplus for the year would have been R 321 250 (2024: R3 906 480) lower/higher, mainly as a result of higher/lower interest received on floating rate investments.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

34. Risk management (continued)

Foreign exchange risk

The entity does not operate internationally, but undertakes some transactions denominated in foreign currencies, and is thus exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from fluctuations in foreign currencies.

The entity does not hedge itself against exposure to foreign exchange risk Foreign currency exposure at financial year-end relates to trade payables and is disclosed in the note to the annual report.

The entity does not hedge foreign exchange fluctuations.

At 31 March 2025, if the currency had weakened/strengthened by 11% against the US dollar with all other variables held constant, post surplus for the year would have been R 26 835 (2024: R1 347) lower, mainly as a result of foreign exchange gains or losses on translation of US dollar denominated trade payables.

Foreign currency exposure at statement of financial position date

	2025	2024
Liabilities		
Current, USD 13 374.50 (2024: USD 750)	243 955	12 244
Exchange rates used for conversion of foreign items were:		
USD	18.2815	18.9926

Audit and Risk Committee Oversight

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) of SANBI is responsible for overseeing the entity's risk management process. In compliance with Section 51(1)(a) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and Treasury Regulations, the committee ensures that risk management controls and internal audit procedures are effectively implemented and monitored. The committee reviewed SANBI's risk register quarterly and provided strategic guidance on emerging risks. Additionally, the ARC engaged with the internal and external auditors, including the Auditor-General of South Africa, to ensure compliance with financial and risk management best practices.

Internal Audit Function

SANBI's Internal Audit Function is outsourced to BDO Advisory Services (Pty) Ltd, operating under an approved Internal Audit Charter aligned with International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. The internal audit plan follows a risk-based approach, ensuring the evaluation of key operational areas. During the 2024/25 financial year, internal audits covered aspects such as financial controls, supply chain management, cyber risk, ethics, fraud prevention, and compliance with GRAP standards. The internal audit function reports directly to the Audit and Risk Committee and provides independent assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of SANBI's internal controls.

Board Oversight

The SANBI Board plays a critical governance role in ensuring the effective implementation of risk management processes. The Board receives quarterly reports from the ARC and ensures that SANBI adheres to regulatory frameworks such as the PFMA and Treasury Regulations. Additionally, the Board has delegated specific risk management responsibilities to subcommittees, ensuring continous monitoring of enterprise risk and financial sustainability.

This disclosure provides an overview of the governance mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with SANBI's risk management framework.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

35. Board and executive management emoluments

Board and committee members

2025

	Members' fees	Total
Prof. E. Nesamvuni (Board Chairperson)	222 882	222 882
Mrs B. Ferguson (Deputy Board Chairperson)	152 192	152 192
Dr P. Molokwane	159 884	159 884
Dr L. Luthuli	202 250	202 250
Dr M. Tau	137 256	137 256
Dr R. Legoabe	144 814	144 814
Mr T. Zororo **	53 882	53 882
Mr T. Poho **	30 232	30 232
Total disbursements	-	193 862
	1 103 392	**1 297 254**

2024

	Members' fees	Total
Prof E Nesamvuni (Board Chairperson)	231 844	231 844
Mrs B Ferguson (Deputy Board Chairperson)	149 358	149 358
Dr P Molokwane	184 822	184 822
Dr L Luthuli	197 964	197 964
Dr M Tau	112 420	112 420
Dr R Legoabe	128 483	128 483
Mr T Zororo **	68 022	68 022
Mr T Poho **	50 071	50 071
Total disbursements	-	631 728
	1 122 984	**1 754 712**

* No honororia were paid–state employee

** Board sub-committee member

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

35. Board and executive management emoluments (continued)

Executive management

2025

	Basic	Non-pensionable allowance	Pension and medical benefits	Total
S. Munzhedzi (Chief Executive Officer) (ex officio)	1 907 811	529 248	291 716	2 728 775
T. Makholela - Chief Director: Bio Research Assessment & Mon	90 242	18 815	22 454	131 511
M.J. Netshiombo - Chief Director: Human Resources	1 302 008	288 763	434 300	2 025 071
C.K. Willis - Chief Director: Conservation Gardens and Tourism	1 116 006	493 406	484 886	2 094 298
R.J. Sebola - Chief Director: Biosystematics and Collections	1 173 145	283 977	237 122	1 694 244
M Barnett - Leader: Climate Fund	990 692	426 543	288 255	1 705 490
E.M. Mashile: Chief Operating Officer	1 422 922	364 559	215 564	2 003 045
L. Mudimeli - Managing Director: NZG	1 051 132	380 650	159 795	1 591 577
T.R. Frantz - Chief Corporate Officer	1 360 764	348 731	242 240	1 951 735
M. Tau - Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Policy Advice	1 088 983	279 093	165 473	1 533 549
P.M. Sedite - Chief Financial Officer	1 435 134	369 760	217 396	2 022 290
	12 938 839	**3 783 545**	**2 759 201**	**19 481 585**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

35. Board and executive management emoluments (continued)

2024

	Basic	Non-pensionable allowance	Pension and medical benefits	Total
S. Munzhedzi (Chief Executive Officer) (ex officio)	1 794 564	498 573	138 242	2 431 379
C.H. Mbizvo - Head of Branch: Biodiversity Research, Policy and Knowledge Management	1 216 445	538 675	301 598	2 056 718
L. Sithole - Chief Financial Officer	579 638	237 608	40 543	857 789
M.J. Netshiombo - Chief Director: Human Resources	1 240 555	284 687	208 660	1 733 902
C.K. Willis - Chief Director: Conservation Gardens and Tourism	1 063 333	468 994	318 719	1 851 046
R.J. Sebola - Chief Director: Biosystematics and Collections	1 102 986	266 881	126 684	1 496 551
D. Pillay - Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Policy Advice	837 680	280 145	159 295	1 277 120
M. Barnett - Leader: Climate Fund	931 638	410 073	155 988	1 497 699
E.M. Mashile: Chief Operating Officer	1 338 025	343 872	102 477	1 784 374
L. Mudimeli Managing Director NZG	988 693	358 573	75 647	1 422 913
T.R. Frantz - Chief Director: Biodiversity Research, Information and Monitoring	1 240 555	316 028	95 167	1 651 750
M. Tau - Chief Director: Biodiversity Planning and Policy Advice (appointed March 2024)	80 008	22 265	6 178	108 451
P.M. Sedite - Chief Financial Officer (appointed - January 2024)	318 000	88 403	24 381	430 784
	12 732 120	**4 114 777**	**1 753 579**	**18 600 476**

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

36. Financial instruments disclosure

Categories of financial instruments

2025

Financial assets

	At amortised cost	Total
Trade and other receivables from exchange transactions	7 025 917	7 025 917
Other receivables from non-exchange transactions	45 386 668	45 386 668
Cash and cash equivalents	268 303 754	268 303 754
	320 716 339	**320 716 339**

Financial liabilities

	At amortised cost	Total
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	50 916 752	50 916 752

2024

Financial assets

	At amortised cost	Total
Trade and other receivables from exchange transactions	22 503 107	22 503 107
Other receivables from non-exchange transactions	54 165 547	54 165 547
Cash and cash equivalents	377 344 933	377 344 933
	454 013 587	**454 013 587**

Financial liabilities

	At amortised cost	Total
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	84 646 137	84 646 137

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

37. Segment information

General information

Identification of segments

The entity is organised and reports to management on the basis of three major functional areas: primary, secondary and tertiary educational services. The segments were organised around the type of service delivered and the target market. Management uses these same segments for determining strategic objectives. Segments were aggregated for reporting purposes.

The segmental information have been prepared in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), issued by the Accounting Standards Board in accordance with Section 91(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (Act 1 of 1999).

The segment information have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention as the basis of measurement, unless specified otherwise. They are presented in South African Rand.

Information reported about these segments is used by management as a basis for evaluating the segments' performances and for making decisions about the allocation of resources. The disclosure of information about these segments is also considered appropriate for external reporting purposes.

Types of goods and/or services by segment

These reportable segments as well as the goods and/or services for each segment are set out below:

Reportable segment	Goods and/or services
Conservation gardens and tourism	National Botanical Gardens and related materials
Science policy and research	Biodiversity and Zoological research and policy advice
Zoological garden and tourism	National Zoological Gardens and related materials

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

37. Segment information (continued)

Segment surplus or deficit, assets and liabilities

2025

	Conservation gardens and tourism	Science policy and research	Zoological gardens and tourism	Total
Revenue				
Revenue from non-exchange transactions	204 780 538	283 955 762	81 080 799	569 817 099
Revenue from exchange transactions	143 629 979	982	19 065 534	162 696 495
Interest revenue	4 890 761	1 364 652	-	6 255 413
Total segment revenue	**353 301 278**	**285 321 396**	**100 146 333**	**738 769 007**
Head office revenue				325 281 651
Entity's revenue				**1 064 050 658**
Expenditure				
Salaries and wages	154 499 350	**173 619 643**	81 107 804	409 226 797
Other expenses	255 624 048	**83 085 036**	19 253 064	357 962 148
Total segment expenditure	**410 123 398**	**256 704 679**	**100 360 868**	**767 188 945**
Total segmental surplus/(deficit)	**(56 822 120)**	**28 616 717**	**(214 535)**	**(28 419 938)**
Head office expenditure				(251 267 427)
Total segmental surplus/(deficit)				(28 419 938)
Total revenue reconciling items				325 281 651
Entity's surplus (deficit) for the period				**45 594 286**

Additions to non-current assets, total assets and total liabilities of segments have not been disclosed as the amounts are not regularly provided to management for review.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

37. Segment information

2024

	Conservation gardens and tourism	Science policy and research	Zoological gardens and tourism	Total
Revenue				
Revenue from non-exchange transactions	298 709 180	199 060 175	82 722 552	580 491 907
Revenue from exchange transactions	135 162 477	1 280 661	29 693 356	166 136 494
Interest revenue	5 193 896	1 833 608	10	7 027 514
Total segment revenue	**439 065 553**	**202 174 444**	**112 415 918**	**753 655 915**
Head office revenue				274 509 961
Entity's revenue				**1 028 165 876**
Expenditure				
Salaries and wages	147 491 769	166 734 500	80 649 402	394 875 671
Other expenses	245 383 709	91 718 729	21 765 485	358 867 923
Total segment expenditure	**392 875 478**	**258 453 229**	**102 414 887**	**753 743 594**
Total segmental surplus/(deficit)	**46 190 075**	**(56 278 785)**	**10 001 031**	**(87 679)**
Total revenue reconciling items				274 509 961
Head office expenditure				(244 374 863)
Total segment surplus				(87 677)
Prior year adjustment				(5 537 206)
Entity's surplus (deficit) for the period				**24 510 215**

Additions to non-current assets, total assets and total liabilities of segments have not been disclosed as the amounts are not regularly provided to management for review.

Information about geographical areas

Science policy and research segment is not defined to a specfic geograhical location.

The entity’s conservation garden and tourism operations are in eight of the nine provinces.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

37. Segment information (continued)

The entity's zoological garden operates in the Gauteng province.

The table below indicates the relevant geographical information after eliminating inter segmental transfers:

2025

	External revenues from non-exchange transactions	External revenues from exchange transactions	Total expenditure
Eastern Cape	-	16	1 849 241
Free State	-	1 512 449	14 433 700
Gauteng	285 394 007	38 962 753	347 860 598
KwaZulu-Natal	-	1 870 821	13 580 511
Limpopo	43 372	447 321	2 497 678
Mpumalanga	5 000	2 864 238	18 572 971
Northern Cape	3 080	274 472	2 835 428
Western Cape	415 878	121 654 204	108 854 139
Total	**285 861 337**	**167 586 274**	**510 484 266**

Non-current assets are excluded from the above table as the necessary information is not available and the cost to develop it would be excessive.

2024

	External revenues from non-exchange transactions	External revenues from exchange transactions	Total expenditure
Eastern Cape	-	(78)	878 942
Free State	-	986 675	12 709 377
Gauteng	404 294 265	48 843 180	358 116 672
KwaZulu-Natal	-	1 524 368	10 662 173
Limpopo	452 268	224 792	2 079 614
Mpumalanga	12 315	2 500 577	18 550 423
Northern Cape	15 972	691 977	2 389 996
Western Cape	2 613 849	114 435 966	89 016 976
Total	**407 388 669**	**169 207 457**	**494 404 173**

Non-current assets are excluded from the above table as the necessary information is not available and the cost to develop it would be excessive.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

38. Irregular and Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure

Irregular expenditure	-	1 990 497
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure	-	427
Total	**-**	**1 990 924**

***Refer to reconciling notes in the annual report**

No material losses incurred though criminal conduct (2024: R 1 990 924)

Disciplinary steps taken as a result of losses, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Disciplanary processes were implemented against the responsible officials	2 143 492	565 400

Irregular Expenditure

During the current financial year, it was identified that certain amounts were incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure in previous years:

An amount of R51 320.96 for the 2022/23 financial year was incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure.

An amount of R141 256.28 for the 2023/24 financial year was also incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure.

An amount of R240 454 for the 2023/24 financial year was incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure.

These classification errors have been corrected in the current year's financial statements in accordance with GRAP 3 (Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors). These corrections do not impact the overall totals of surplus, deficit, or net assets, but ensure accurate classification and disclosure of financial information.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

39. Contingent Liabilities

SANBI is defending three contract related matters which are listed below

(a) The matter relates to the supplier's failure to deliver on contractual obligations and subsequently issued summons against SANBI for payment of the contract price for the supply of goods purchased though an RFQ process. The matter went to trial and the preceding officer decided in favour of SANBI. The Plaintiff is appealing against the ruling at the High Court. The appeal was heard in the High Court. In the assessment of SANBI's legal representatives, SANBI enjoys reasonable prospects of success in the appeal.

The claim is for an amount of R152 700. If the Appellant succeeds, and factoring in the issue of costs, SANBI may be liable in the estimated amount of R300 000.

(b) This is an alleged breach of contract matter where SANBI was served with summons by a service provider appointed to provide security services. SANBI is defending the claim. SANBI has filed and served a Pleas and a counter claim against the Plaintiff. The matter is ready for trial, the Plaintiff applied for a trial date.

The claim is for an amount of R453 001.91. If the Plaintiff is successful SANBI may be liable for the claimed amounts.

(c) This is an alleged breach of contract matter where the Sheriff of Mokopane visited Mokopane NZG to effect service of a warrant of execution as well as a notice of attachment on which an inventory of some of SANBI's property was recorded. SANBI has no record of this action, in particular the relevant claim/legal action documents which would have resulted in the Plaintiff obtaining judgment against SANBI. It is SANBI's stance that the Plaintiff obtained judgement in error. SANBI has applied for a recission of judgement. The Magistrate decided in favour of the Applicant. SANBI intends to appeal the decision. An appeal has strong prospects of success.

The claim is for an amount of R200,000. If the SANBI were to lose an appeal, SANBI may be liable for the claimed amounts.

(d) SANBI has 3 pending CCMA cases, 8 pending Labour Court cases and 1 Equality court case. The entity estimates liability of R 1 472 100, should SANBI lose all these cases at their respective forums. However, the analysis reveals that the prospects of success for SANBI in all these cases is very high.

Surrender of surpluses

The entity submits requests to the relevant Treasury to retain surpluses in terms of section 53(3) of the PFMA, as and when appropriate. Unless exempted by the National Treasury, the entity invests surplus funds with the Corporation for Public Deposits.

The entity surrenders for re-depositing into the relevant Revenue Fund, all surpluses that were realised in a particular financial year –

(a) which were not approved for retention by the relevant Treasury in terms of section 53(3) of the PFMA; or

(b) where no application was made to the relevant Treasury to accumulate the surplus in terms of section 53(3) of the PFMA.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

39. Contingent Liabilities (continued)

The surpluses are surrendered for re-depositing into the relevant Revenue by no later than 30 November of each year, as prescribed.

Failure by the entity to submit a surplus retention request to the relevant Treasury by 30 September each year will result in the entity having to surrender the surplus to the relevant Revenue Fund by 30 November, unless there has been a delay in the finalisation of the audit.

In the case of a delay in the finalisation of the audit –

(a) a letter is sent to the relevant Treasury by the 30th September explaining the delay.

(b) a surplus retention request is submitted to the relevant Treasury within 30 days of finalising the audit.

Contingent assets

SANBI is in a process of negotiating :

(A) the transfer of Erf 875 and Erf 878 to the RSA and have them declared as part of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. The cost is estimated to be R396 542.74.

(B) the transfer of land and buildings at the National Zoological Garden premises in Pretoria and Mokopane in terms of Section 42 of the PFMA and S18 of GIAMA.

The value of these properties is approximately R54m.

40. Gains or losses on biological assets

Gains or losses arising from a change in fair value less point of sale costs	-	842 283

41. Fines, Penalties and Forfeits

Fines, Penalties and Forfeits	4 933 322	3 007 632

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

42. Prior period errors

The correction of the error results in adjustments as follows:

Statement of Financial Position

	As previously stated	Prior period error adjustment	Amount restated
Receivables from exchanges transactions	18 109 788	1 329 919	19 439 707
Accumulated Surplus - 2023 year adjustments opening balance	(723 424 550)	(10 240 634)	(733 665 184)
Accumulated Surplus - prior year adjustments opening balance	(758 240 615)	(746 300)	(758 986 915)
Payables from exchange transactions	(104 950 383)	(16 429 684)	(121 380 067)
Heritage Assets	18 646 463	19 868 409	38 514 872
Living resources	2 950 089	746 300	3 696 389
Accumulated depreciation: living resources	(1 363 986)	(65 216)	(1 429 202)

Statement of Financial Performance

	As previously stated	Prior period error adjustment	Amount restated
Admission fees	(140 732 737)	(1 777 390)	(142 510 127)
Depreciation	40 134 698	65 216	40 199 914
Lease rentals on operating lease	339 985	24 244 902	24 584 887
Services in-kind	(963 717)	(24 244 902)	(25 208 619)
Operating expenses	328 551 811	7 249 380	335 801 191

(a) Online admissions sales that were received during the 2024-2025 financial year that related to the 2023-2024 financial year was not raised an accrued income during the 2023-2024 financial year.

(b) Services in kind was not accounted for in the prior period.

(c) In the current financial year, the entity reviewed its accounting treatment of library books and determined that these assets meet the definition of heritage assets in accordance with GRAP 103: Heritage Assets. In prior years, library books were not recognised.

This oversight has been corrected retrospectively, and the library books have now been recognised as heritage assets in the statement of financial position.

Given the age, uniqueness, and the absence of historical cost or market data for the book collection, SANBI has elected to adjust only the comparative figures. This decision is based on the difficulty in determining the value of the books over time, making it impractical to reliably establish their fair value of the books over time.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Figures in Rand	2025	2024

42. Prior period errors (continued)

(d) Included in the above prior period error is expenditure not correctly accounted for in the previous years.

(e) Management reviewed the valuation of the living collection in order to correctly account for the asset.

43. Subsequent events

Subsequent to the reporting period SANBI's proposal on The "Scaling up ecosystem-based approaches to managing climate- intensified disaster risks in vulnerable regions of South Africa (Eco-DRR)" project proposal was approved by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The aim of the project is to scale up ecosystem-based approaches to managing climate intensified disaster risks, specifically floods, droughts and wildfires, in vulnerable regions of South Africa. It's objective is that almost 4 million people who are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change intensified floods, droughts and wildfires will have improved resilience resultingfrom the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to disaster risk reduction.

The EcoDRR project is valued at USD 50 million (~ZAR R900 105 000), including USD 9 million of in kind co-financing (~ZAR 162 018 900) and USD 41 million (~ZAR 738 086 100) in donor funding.

Annexure A - Donations, other grants and sponsorships

	March 2025	March 2024
Government		
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	274 481 651	401 193 799
Department of Science and Innovation	47 837 895	33 424 483
National Research Foundation (NRF)	6 320 000	5 168 015
South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA)	10 805	89 198
South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON)	82 162	133 728
South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)	151 100	-
Water Research Commission	1 081 950	-
Rand Water	450 000	125 000
	330 415 563	**440 134 223**
Foreign		
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)	117 802	83 252
Cites Secretariat	324 882	-
European Commission Research Executive Agency	1 285 928	-
French Development Agency (AFD) & (FFEM) the French Facility for Global Environment	630 064	1 341 430
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	-	160 740
Global Environment Facility (via Development Bank of South Africa)	15 496 421	12 841 440
JRS Biodiversity Foundation	-	834 134
Mesemb Study Group	-	7 995
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew	1 027 076	1 985 126
Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FEON) (via UNEP - WCMC)	509 914	618 622
The Indianapolis Zoological Society	-	383 532
Global Environment Facility (via DFFE)	24 740 037	2 800 000
University of Graz	-	48 246
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)	84 894	39 899
Government of Flanders	14 203 136	-
	58 420 154	**21 144 416**
Individuals and Organisations		
Birdlife South Africa	-	100 000
Dr Andrew Engelbrecht	-	7 990
DST-NRF via Stellenbosch University	-	40 000
Freshwater Research Centre	98 053	91 151
Mr Trevor Honneysett	132 000	-
Mrs EMJ and E/L C Ceronio	739 000	-
Institute of Natural Resources	-	13 125
Out the Box Solutions	-	320 000
The Botanical Society of South Africa	1 425 315	1 109 440
World Wide Fund for Nature - South Africa (WWF-SA)	217 098	150 000
	2 611 466	**1 831 706**

Supplementary Information

	March 2025	March 2024
Trusts		
Estate Late YE Parfitt	34 000	33 000
Botanical Education Trust	48 500	25 000
Dr Sunshine	-	23 894
Estate Late N. van der Sluijs	-	101 730
Estate Late P Herr	-	533 214
Estate Late P Morgenrood	-	524 263
Estate Late JM von Witt	15 000	-
Frances M Hawes Will Trust	1 238	2 129
Estate Late NR Wenzelburger	25 000	-
Estate Late Prof RE & Ms LC Lighton	53 149	-
HR Hill Trust	163 120	199 388
Mapula Trust	488 255	660 720
Sue and Basil Robinson Trust	-	951 271
Fitzroy Charitable Trust	150 000	-
WWF Nedbank Green Trust	-	448 500
	978 262	**3 503 109**
Other	-	55 000
Bench Donations	68 097	7 286
Sundry Donations	**68 097**	**62 286**
Total donations, grants and sponsorships	**392 493 542**	**466 675 740**
Conditional donations, grants and sponsorships	98 420 580	45 902 644
Conditional infrastructure grant	271 481 651	401 193 799
Unconditional donations, grants and sponsorships	15 458 541	11 979 613
Bequests	74 000	2 167 372
Donations	1 811 873	654 085
Agency (excluded from Revenue)	5 246 897	4 778 227
	392 493 542	**466 675 740**

Additional Financial Information

Contract expansions and variations

No	Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type (expansion or variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous expansion or contract	Value of contract expansion or variation
1	Appointment of a service provider to provide the South African National Biodiversity Institute with writing support to generate content and develop science-based policy advice products for a three (3) year period	Emily Anne Botts	Expansion	BIPA382/2021	1 369 500,00	-	-
2	Appointment of a Microsoft Azure Managed service provider to migrate and manage data systems and applications in a Microsoft Azure environment for the South African National Biodiversity Institute for a period of two (2) years	BUI Medical and Technology Suppliers (Pty) Ltd	Expansion	BIPA392/21	3 197 209,80	1 032 547.97	640 000
3	Appointment of a service provider to the South African National Biodiversity Institute to lead the development of the South African Wildlife Population System and its roll-out to users	Information Decision System (PTY) LTD	Expansion	BRAM436/2022	4 612 362.60	-	470 274.65
4	Request for tender for auditor for the French-funded SBAPP Regional Project for annual financial audits of four (4) financial statements for five (5) project years	Nexia SAB&T	Expansion	BRAM654/2023	2 461 435	-	103 500
5	Appointment of an operator for the tea garden at the Pretoria National Botanical Garden	Milkplum Café	Expansion	G202/2014	-	-	-
6	Appointment of a service provider to provide security services at Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden for a period of five (5) years	GNG Trading Enterprise cc - 2385-GAR-GSIS-1-GSIS	Expansion	G337/2019	12 038 026.96	1 298 128,96	537 642.92
7	Appointment of a multidisciplinary team as the principal agent from the South African National Biodiversity Institute panel of professionals (G360/2020) for the assessment, design and project management of renovations to selected buildings, including food and beverage outlets, for the South African National Biodivesity Institute at the National Zoological Garden	EBESA Architects	Expansion	G360/2020-02	918 803.74	-	419 295.72

Contract expansions and variations

No	Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type (expansion or variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous expansion or contract	Value of contract expansion or variation
8	Appointment of a multidisciplinary team as the principal agent from the South African National Biodiversity Institute panel of professionals (G360/2020) for the assessment, design and project management of required renovations and upgrades to various infrastructure assets for the South African National Biodiversity Institute at the Pretoria National Botanical Garden	ZAS Architects and Planners	Expansion	G360/2020-12	1 805 555.69	-	572 965.79
9	Appointment of a multidisciplinary team as principal agent from the South African National Biodiversity Institute panel of professionals (G360/2020) for the design review, construction monitoring and project management of the incomplete new office buildings and renovations of various buildings for the South African National Biodiversity Institute at the KwaZulu-Natal Herbarium, Durban, for a period of 24 months	Projectneers Pty Ltd	Expansion	G360/2020-14	1 500 000	69 685	892 348
10	Appointment of First Technology Western Cape (Pty) Ltd for the supply, installation, configuration, deployment, monitoring and support of Veeam for Microsoft Office 365 cloud back-up solution for the South African National Biodiversity Institute for three (3) years	First Technology Western Cape (Pty) Ltd	Expansion	IT458/2022	2 881 716	-	173 741.75
11	Appointment of a service provider to provide security services for the South African National Biodiversity Institute at the National Zoological Garden for a period of three (3) years	Elihle Intusi (PTY) LTD trading as Titanium Security Services	Expansion	NZG380/2021	15 000 381.38	-	-
12	Appointment of a contractor for the upgrade of the following equipment: aquarium pump and filtration systems, Duku Duku Restaurant HVAC and cold rooms, and Flamingo Restaurant HVAC and cold rooms at the National Zoological Garden	Nzwalo Investments t/a Lumacon (MAAA0048030)	Expansion	NZG430/2022	5 081 590.40	-	624 156.9

Contract expansions and variations

No	Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type (expansion or variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous expansion or contract	Value of contract expansion or variation
13	Appoitnment of a service provider to provide assistance during annual statutory audit for a period of two (2) years	Mubesko Africa (PTY) LTD in consortium with Tsholo Consulting Solution (PTY) LTD	Variation	Q10479/2023	390 885	-	280 000
14	Appointment of a service provider to provide security guarding and cashier services	Eldna	Variation	Q10511/2024	991 580.60	330 526.86	661 053.72
15	Appointment of a service provider to provide security guarding services for the South African National Biodiversity Institute at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden for a period of three (3) months	Prime African Security	Expansion	Q10525/2024	605 879.55	192 573.50	385 147.10
16	Appointment of a service provider to provide security guarding services for the South African National Biodiversity Institute at the National Zoological Garden for a period of two (2) months	Phepha MV Security Services	Expansion	Q10627/2024	875 634	-	875 634
17	Appointment of a service provider to provide sound engineering services and audio-visual equipment for the Kirstenbosch Summer Sunset Concerts and New Year's Eve Concert for a period of two (2) months at the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden	Audio Engineering PTY LTD	Expansion	Q11203/2024	975 000	-	800 000
18	Appointment of a service provider to provide security guarding services for the South African National Biodiversity Institute at the National Zoological Garden for a period of two (2) months	Phepha MV Security Services	Expansion	Q11227/2024	810 007.20	-	10 000
19	Capacity development and training support to the SANBI-GBIF node in the arena of biodiversity informatics, which includes skills in data mobilization, data management, publishing, analysis and use	Vernon Visser	Expansion	Q7083/2021	60 000	-	9 000
20	Appointment of a scientific editor to provide specialised scientific and technical editing support services to SANBI Graphics & Editing (SANBI GRE) for a period of three (3) years	Nicole L. Meyer	Expansion	Q8163/2022	496 800	-	74 520

Contract expansions and variations

No	Project description	Name of supplier	Contract modification type (expansion or variation)	Contract number	Original contract value	Value of previous expansion or contract	Value of contract expansion or variation
21	Appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced service provider to the South African National Biodiversity Institute for the repair, service and maintenance of all horticultural equipment for a period of five (5) years at the Pretoria National Botanical Garden	Tharollo B Construction & Projects Pty Ltd	Expansion	Q8417/2022	500 000	-	50 000
22	Appointment of a service provider to provide data science support for biodiversity databases and workflows	Exegetic Computing	Expansion	Q8568/2022	850 425	-	120 060
23	Appointment of an independent external auditor to provide audit services to the South African National Biodiversity Institute for eleven (11) project audits for a period of three (3) years	Licksman Accounting Services	Expansion	Q8874/2022	900 000	-	135 000
24	Appointment of a service provider to provide maintenance and support services to the telephone system at the National Zoological Garden for a period of 24 months	Kinetix Connect Solutions	Expansion	Q9168/2022	600 000	-	-
25	Appointment of a service provider for the reconfiguration of the backup environment	Columbus	Expansion	RFQ0005808	759 000	-	759 690
26	Appointment of a service provider to repair the existing telephone faults, supply additional telephone devices, supply additional telephone software licenses, and provide maintenance and support for a period of twelve (12) months	Ukuvela	Expansion	RFQ0005825	695 224.41	-	121 912.46
27	Appointment of three (3) service providers to render travel management services to the South African National Biodiversity Institute for a period of five (5) years starting from 01 December 2019 to 30 November 2024	BCD Travel South Africa, Travel with Flair Pty Ltd, Harvey World Travel / Emazokeni	Expansion	SANBI:F341/2019	8 800 000		

Financial disclosures

	2024/25	2023/24
Irregular expenditure note		
Opening balance from the previous financial year	2 576 523	1 097 642
Add: irregular expenditure	-	2 183 074
Less: irregular expenditure condoned and removed	- 2 143 492	- 704 193
Less: prior year error	- 433 030.96	-
Less: irregular expenditure not condoned and removed	-	-
Less: irregular expenditure recoverable	-	-
Less: irregular expenditure not recovered and written off	-	-
Closing balance	-	2 576 523
Reconciling notes to the annual financial statement disclosure		
Irregular expenditure that was under assessment in 2023/24	-	-
Irregular expenditure that relates to 2022/23 and identified in 2023/24	-	-
Irregular expenditure incurred		2 576 523
Total	-	2 576 523
Details of current and previous year irregular expenditure (under assessment, determination and investigation)		
Irregular expenditure under assessment		606 339
Irregular expenditure under determination	-	-
Irregular expenditure under investigation	-	-
Total	-	606 339
Details of current and previous year irregular expenditure condoned		
Irregular expenditure condoned	2 143 492	704 192.81
Total	2 143 492	704 193
Details of current and previous year irregular expenditure removed - (not condoned)		
Irregular expenditure not condoned and removed	-	-
Total	-	-
Details of current and previous year irregular expenditure recovered		
Irregular expenditure recovered	-	-
Total	-	-
Details of current and previous year irregular expenditure written off (irrecoverable)		
Irregular expenditure written off	-	-
Total	-	-
Details of non-compliance cases where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is not responsible for the non-compliance)		
None	-	-
Total	-	-
Details of non-compliance cases where an institution is involved in an inter-institutional arrangement (where such institution is responsible for the non-compliance)		
None	-	-
Total	-	-

Financial disclosures

	2024/25	2023/24
Details of current and previous year disciplinary or criminal steps taken as a result of irregular wxpenditure		
Disciplinary steps taken		
The contracted amount was exceeded without proper approval by the delegated official. The responsible officials were taken through disciplinary processes.	-	446 271
The services and goods were received without following proper procurement processes. The responsible officials were taken through discipinary processes.	2 143 492	-
Incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure for 2022/23.	51 320.96	
Incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure for 2023/24	141 256	
Incorrectly classified as Irregular Expenditure for 2024/25	240 454	
	2 576 522.96	**446 271.07**

Financial disclosures

	2024/25	2023/24
Reconciliation of fruitless and wasteful expenditure		
Opening balance	6 836.78	143 837.85
Add: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure confirmed	-	427,00
Less: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure written off	- 6 409.78	- 128 308.55
Less: Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recoverable	- 427.00	- 9 119.52
Closing balance	- 0.00	6 836.78
Reconciling notes to the annual financial statement disclosure		
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure that was under assessment in 2022/23		15 000
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure that relates to 2022/23 and identified in 2023/24	-	-
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the current year	-	-
Total		-
Details of current and previous year fruitless and wasteful expenditure (under assessment, determination, and investigation)		
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under assessment	0	0
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under determination	0	0
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure under investigation	0	-
Total	-	-
Details of current and previous year fruitless and wasteful recovered		
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure recovered	427.00	-
Total	427.00	-

Include discussion here where deemed relevant.

Details of current and previous year fruitless and wasteful expenditure written off (irrecoverable)		
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure written off	6 409.78	128 308.55
Total	6 409.78	128 308.55

Include discussion here where deemed relevant.

Details of current and previous year disciplinary or criminal steps taken as a result of fruitless and wasteful expenditure

Disciplinary steps taken

The circumstances which led to the incurrence of fruitless and wasteful expenditure were found to have been outside the control of SANBI due to its inability to operate during the unforeseen and unplanned lockdown restrictions.

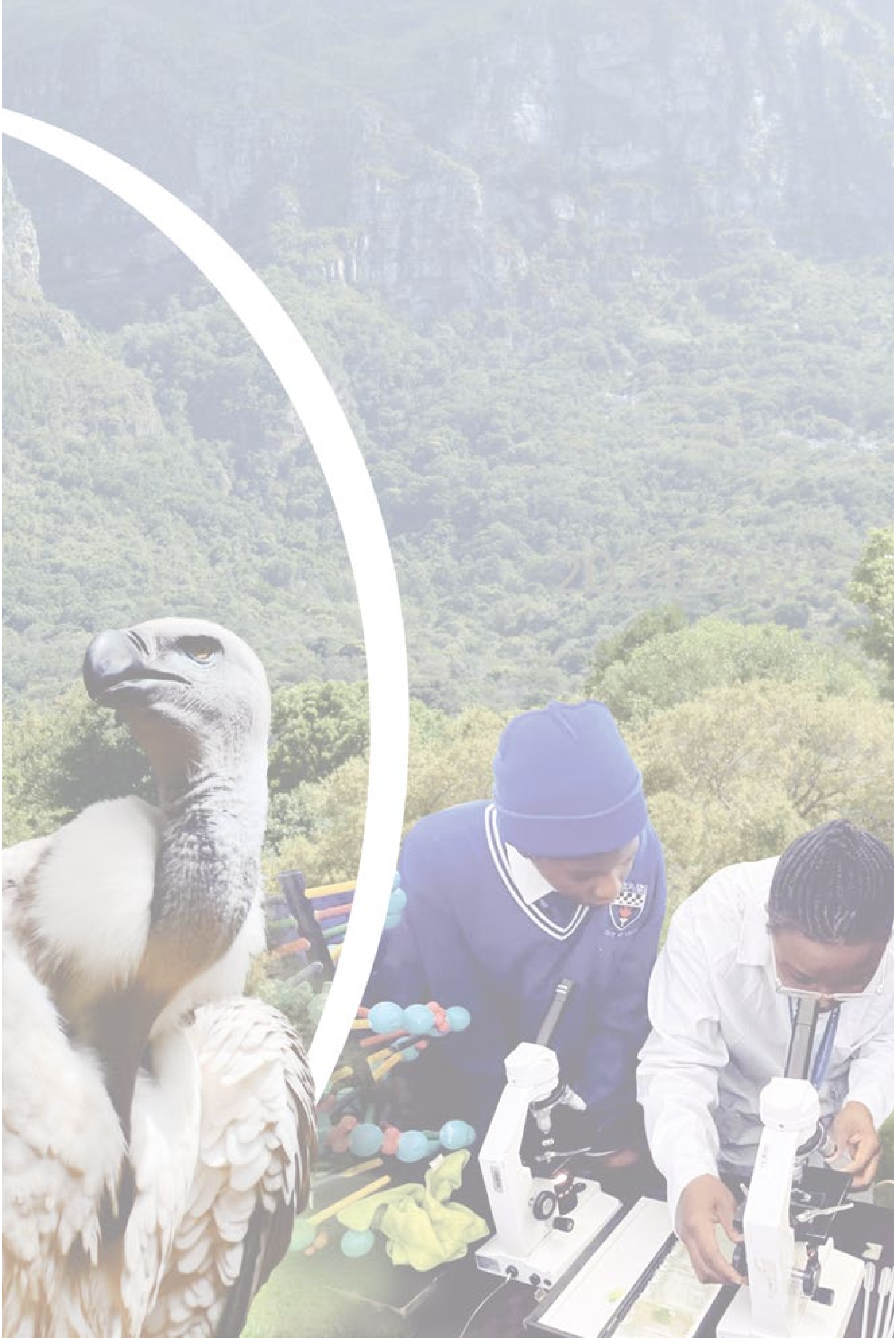
Include discussion here where deemed relevant.

Procurement by other means

No	Project description	Name of supplier	Contract number	Type of procurement by other means	Value of transaction/ contract
1	The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) requires a security guard service provider through emergency at National Zoological Garden	Eldna Security Services	No contract awarded	Emergency	693 833.33
2	Request CFO to approve a single source to appoint Guy & Associates Attorneys to represent SANBI at CCMA including Labour Court and any other Court	Guy & Associates Attorneys	No contract awarded	Single	Rate charged expected not to exceed 1 500 (amount capped at 500 000)
3	The South African National Biodiversity Institute requires a service provider for procuremet and transportation of marine fish at National Zoological Garden	Kenya Tropical Sea Life	No contract awarded	Single	514 654.76
4	Sole source appointment of Predicate Logistics for IQUAL. Net maintenance agreement for a period of a year (2024/2025)	Predicate Logistics	No contract awarded	Sole Source	703 039.98
5	Request appointment of Capital Media as sole service provider for the Get It magazine	Capital Media	No contract awarded	Sole Source	667 457.01
6	Landed fees	Various Artists	Single source	Single	4 978 953.75

Summary note: payment of invoices

Suppliers invoices report, National Treasury reporting period: 2024/25 financial year - quarterly stats 2025; report date: 17 April 2025				
Description	**Number of invoices**	**Percentage**	**Value**	**Applicable reasons**
Valid invoices received	2452	100,00%	R294 449 104.45	N/A
Invoices paid within 30 days or agreed period	2265	95,04%	R279 857 606.61	N/A
Invoices paid after 30 days or agreed period	130	3,64%	R10 717 479.17	N/A
Invoices older than 30 days or agreed period (unpaid and without dispute)	53	0,86%	R2 525 318.83	N/A
Invoices older than 30 days or agreed period (unpaid and in dispute)	2	0,00%	R4 600.00	N/A



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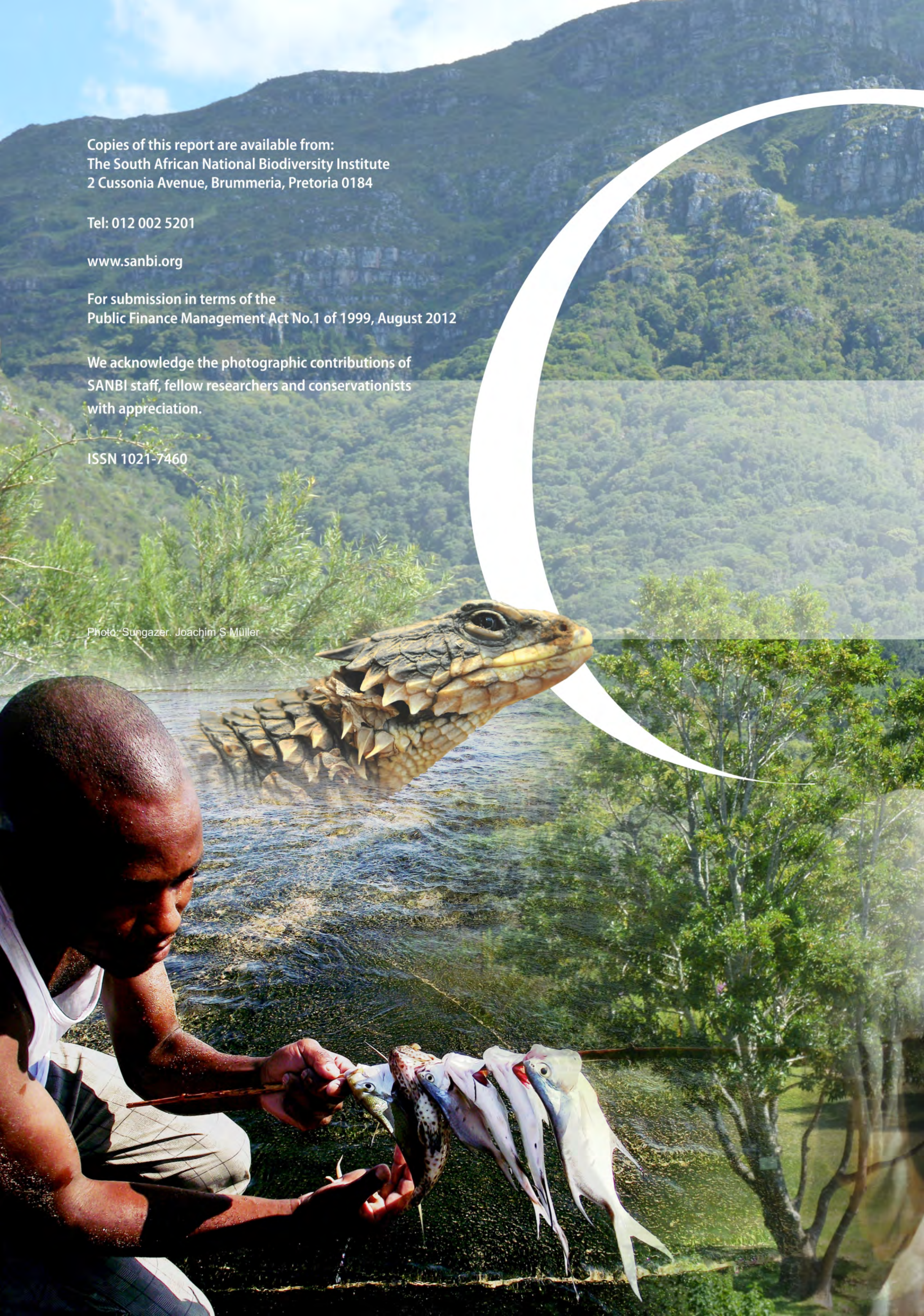

Photo: Sungazer. Joachim S Müller