

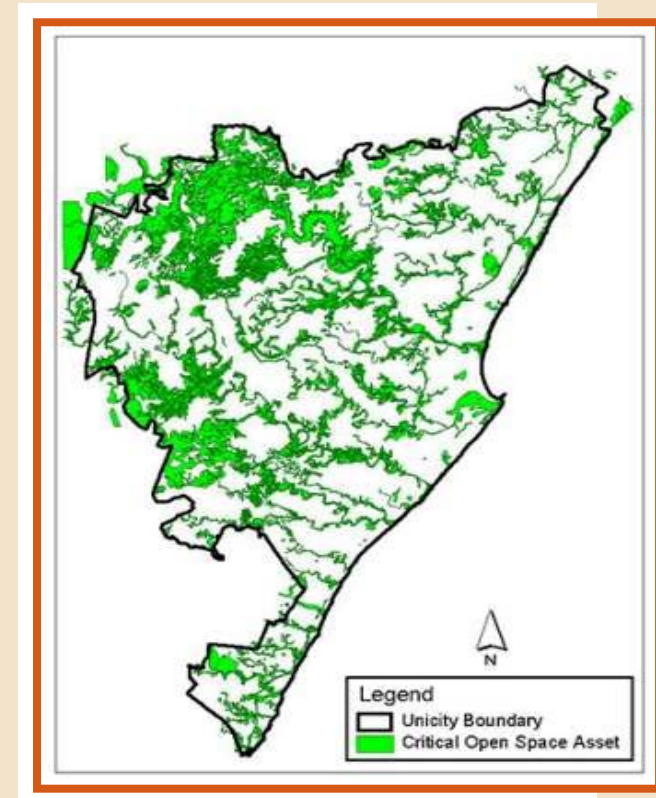
# ETHEKWINI ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT PLAN (D'MOSS)

From Planning to Implementation – Progress in the  
eThekweni Municipality



# EThekwini Environmental Services Management Plan - EESMP

- Biodiversity planning in Durban has been ongoing for 25+ yrs
- The EESMP aims to protect and utilise our biodiversity sustainably to ensure a continued supply of high quality environmental goods and services
- It identifies 63 000 ha (or 27% of EMA) of untransformed land which needs to be secured in order to meet the aim



## Some implementation challenges

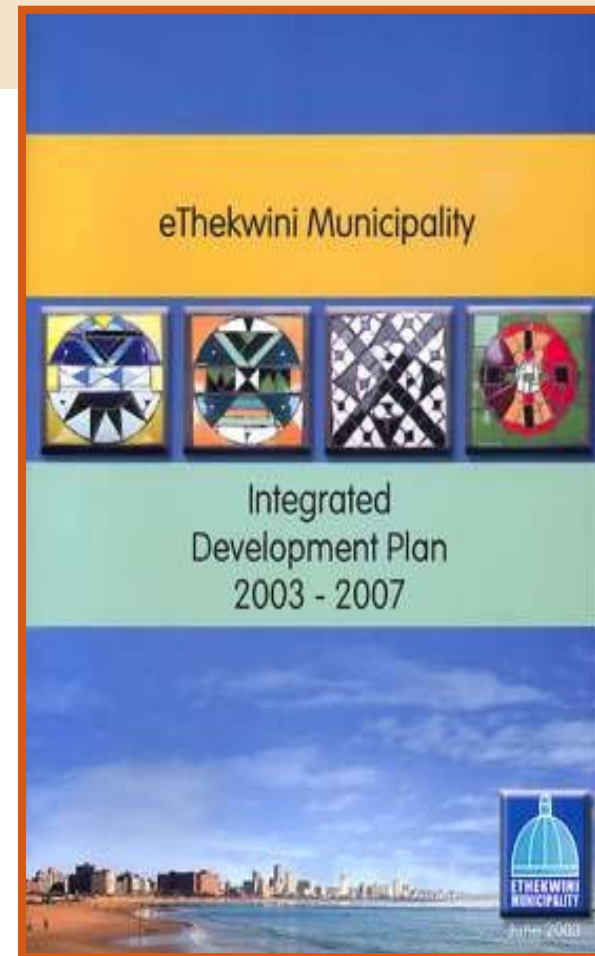
- Legal mandate
- Most of the 63 000 ha is not owned by government and is zoned for other uses
- Only 9.1% is protected by proclamation, zoning or servitude
- Inadequate management resources - R 608 million/annum (1999)
- Multiple management agencies without common goals
- Understanding the carrying capacity of the natural resource base
- Traditional leadership in rural, upper catchments
- Provincial and national biodiversity plans





## Political support and integration with city plans

- Environmental goods and services valued at R 3.1 billion per annum (excl. contribution to the tourism sector)
- Implications of EESMP discussed with politicians and housing department
- EESMP approved by Council in March 2003
- Sustaining the Natural and Built Environment is a key objective of the IDP and EESMP is part of the strategy
- Included in hierarchy of city development plans
- Discussion with traditional leadership has been initiated







## Some implementation activities



- Complete a biodiversity strategy and action plan
- Prepare a strategy and action plan for invasive alien species organisms
- Prepare a climate change adaptation plan
- Internal and external biodiversity forums established
- Increase compliance and enforcement capacity
- Communicate directly with all landowners (and professionals) affected by EESMP
- Initiation of a city-wide river health monitoring programme

# Development Assessment

- Policy – all applications on or adjacent to EESMP referred to Department
- View development “rights” as notional and maximum
- Acquisition possible in limited cases
- Look for win-win results
- Where approvals are issued these are often with conditions
- Environmental servitudes





## Environmental Special Rating Area

- Property Rates Act
- 500 ha site (municipality owns 50 ha)
- Additional property tax in return for increased management
- Will include controlled burns, invasive species control, trail maintenance, security, etc..
- Protected Areas Act proclamation
- In principle support from key stakeholders.







## Traditional Authority Areas

- 2/3 of the city is rural and falls with area under joint jurisdiction with traditional leadership
- Government poverty alleviation money secured and to be directed to environmental and socio-economic priorities
- To establish relationships with a view to securing key open space assets and their benefits







## Contact Details

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