



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

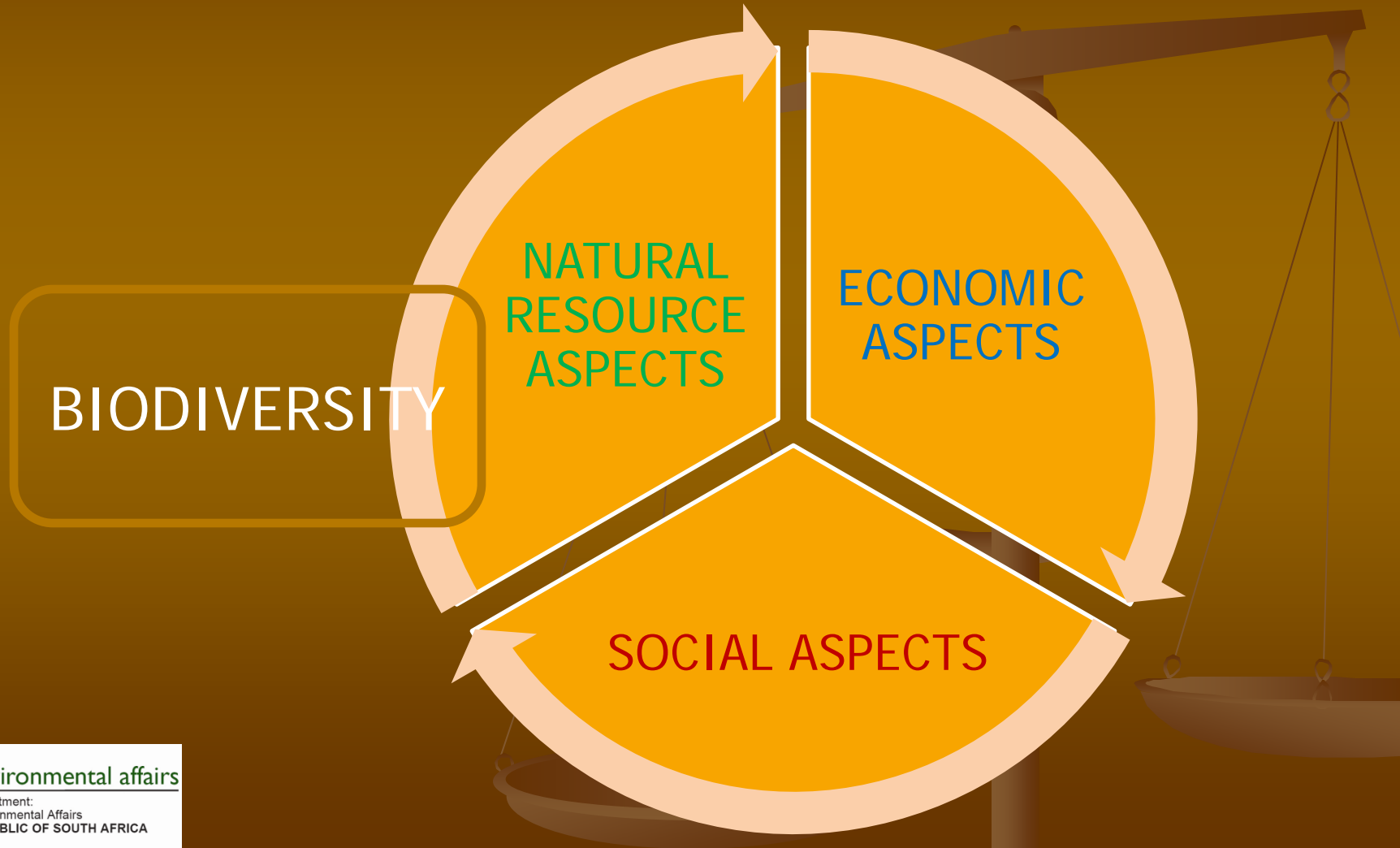
# The Case for Biodiversity and Climate change

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# Key National Priorities

- Create decent work and sustainable livelihoods
- Build an economic and social infrastructure
- Comprehensive rural development strategy
- Strengthen skills and human resource base
- Fight against crime and corruption
- Build a developmental state
- Improve the health profile of all South Africans
- Enhance international cooperation
- Build an improved public service

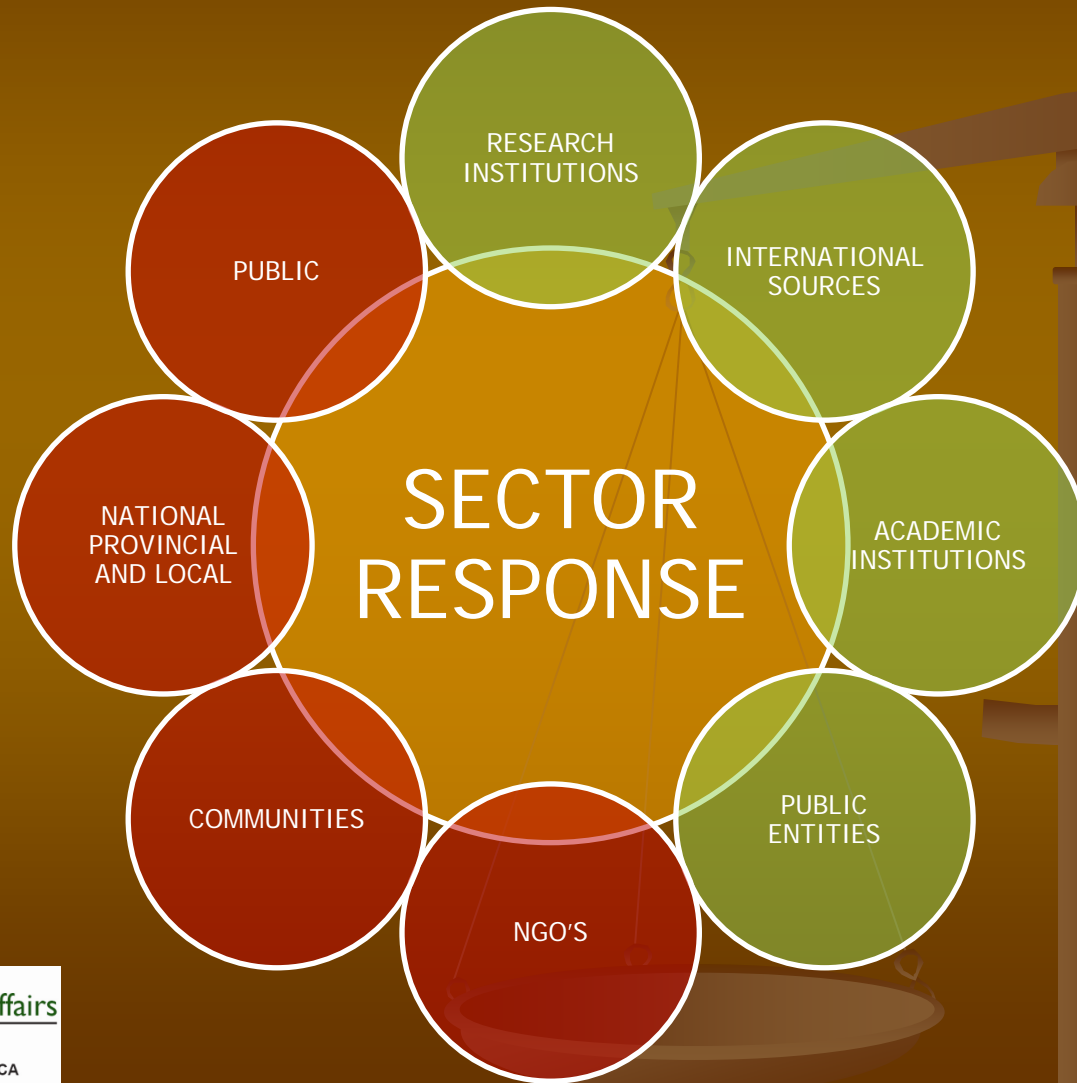
# Biodiversity in Context



# Climate Change is everybody's business

- Climate change will bring indirect impacts to biodiversity through changes in socio-economic drivers, working practices, cultural values, policies and use of land and other resources.
- There will be opportunities as well as threats for biodiversity and adaptation needs to address both

# We are all in this together....



# Biodiversity Sector Response

- The links between biodiversity and climate change run both ways: biodiversity is threatened by climate change, but proper management of biodiversity can reduce the impacts of climate change.
- The resilience of ecosystems can be enhanced and the risk of damage to human and natural ecosystems reduced through the adoption of biodiversity-based adaptive and mitigative strategies.
- We must take into consideration long term shifts and disappearance of bioclimatic zones
- However, the sector response must be aligned to the national priorities and must contribute to the achievement of these priorities.

# So what.....

- Climate change has major implications not just for biodiversity and conservation, but also for the livelihoods of people.
- Recognition that the rural poor are especially vulnerable to the loss of essential services when an ecosystem becomes degraded.
- The formation of soils suitable for crop-growing, the availability of medicinal plants, the provision of fresh water and the income gained from ecotourism, for example, are all underpinned by the web of life and the interaction of species ranging from the smallest micro-organisms to the largest predators.

# The Environment is Key

- Without the biophysical environment- Life ceases to exist
- Infrastructure and Development is Resource intensive
- Natural Resources underpins Global Markets- National GDPs
- Biodiversity and its Ecosystems goods and services underpins, Air, Water, Soil and Energy Quality.
- The Green Environment is the quality of life which leads to economic prosperity

# The People are key.....

- The loss of ecosystem services has a devastating impact for the poor.
- As we seek ways to help the poor to adapt to climate change priority must be given to the role of biodiversity, an element often neglected from current sustainable development strategies
- Environmental and social challenges cannot be solved in isolation. Designing resilient actions that address multiple areas is a key requirement.
- Our goal is to ensure that we take the necessary steps to facilitate the adaptation of biodiversity to a changing climate, and therefore ensure the livelihoods of the poorest of the poor.

# The People are the Solution

- WE need to build new values, responsibility, a sense of respect and contribution- Human values that will preserve Human values for a better planet
- People have been adapting to changing conditions since the concept of Colonization
- Recognize and revitalize indigenous knowledge, human well being and ancestral mechanisms
- Adaptation can come from the people-Emerging social movements

# Economics is key.....

- The Current Global Economic crisis is an indication of unsustainable consumption patterns
- This is an opportunity for the Biodiversity sector -Never waste a good recession: A series of crashes in the past have led to waves of innovation
- Adaptation activities that make use of biodiversity and ecosystem services may contribute to cost-effective climate change adaptation in addition to environmental and societal benefits
- Accounting for the value of biodiversity and the ecosystems it supports, is important for the decision-making process, and for providing incentives for societal adaptation to climate change
- Adaptation measures for biodiversity should be explicitly linked with the wider benefits that they bring.
- Public goods typically have no markets and no prices, so their gradual disappearance is not reflected in our current economic system.
- Impacts of Climate Change and Biodiversity loss on different economic sectors

# Possible adaptation options for biodiversity

- Reducing existing threats to biodiversity to build resilience into natural systems and species,
- Incorporation of climate change information into management tools for biodiversity management,
- Assisting the natural adaptation of species and ecosystems through improved in-situ and ex-situ management of areas of high conservation value,
- Continual development of a comprehensive, adequate and representative National Protected Areas system which incorporates adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- Increased monitoring and research into the impacts of climate change and adaptation options for species and ecosystems threatened by climate change.



# Its an Environmental Revolution against the Adverse Effects of Climate Change



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