



# Protected Areas: a powerful tool for fighting poverty and protecting ecosystems - an example of successful intervention in South Africa



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# Outline

- **Overview of the Addo Elephant National Park Project**
- **Biodiversity, social and economic outcomes**
- **Ingredients for success – are there broader lessons for linking poverty alleviations and biodiversity??**





Namibia

★ Windhoek

Botswana

★ Gaborone

★ Pretoria

North West

Mbabane

Swaziland

★ Maputo

★ Maseru

Lesotho

South Africa

**Addo Elephant National Park**

US Dept of State Geographer  
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28°34'27.67" S 23°51'54.10" E elev 1316 m

Eye alt 1673.13 km

# Addo Elephant National Park Objectives



Conserve *unique* biodiversity, patterns and processes through reserve expansion



Reduce critical threats facing the park



Establish a marine protected area



Efficient & effective management



Promote a sustainable & inclusive eco-tourism industry.



Promote capacity building in local community and institutions

More land conserved

Marine systems conserved

Better managed

More jobs

Ecological

Economic

Social

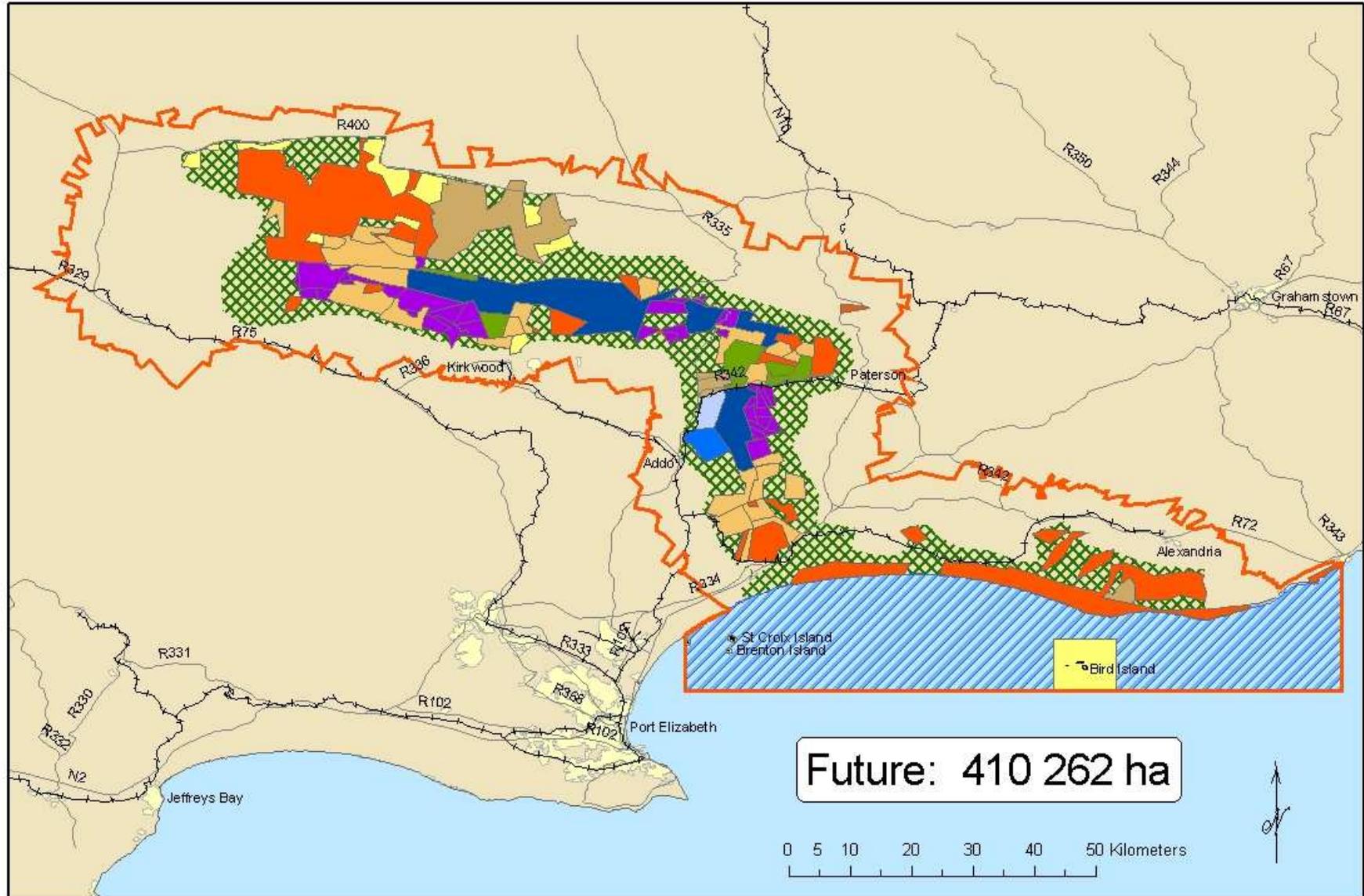
Sustainable into the future

# Park expansion project

- Ongoing, but major expansion focus 2000-2010
- Internal funds and resources
- Development loans
- World Bank and French GEF (FFEM Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial)
- NGO

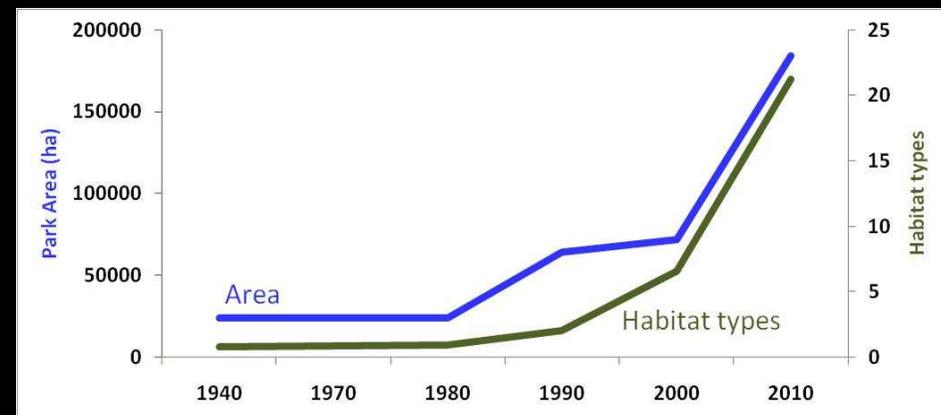
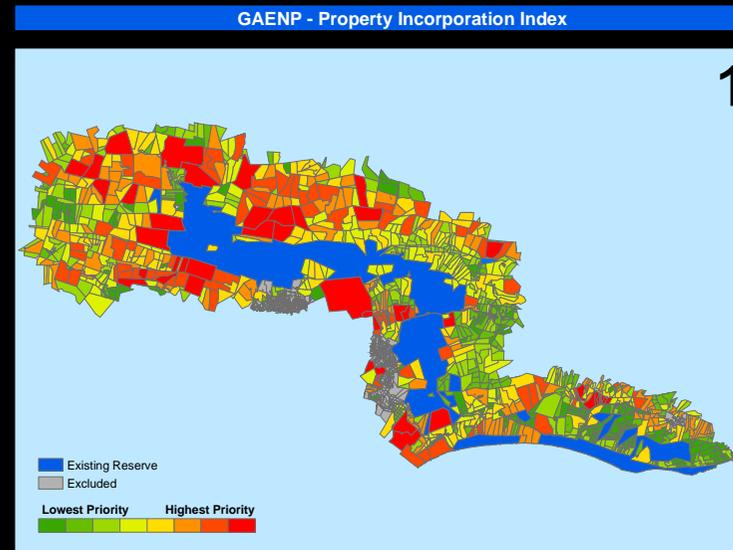


# The Addo Elephant National Park



# Biodiversity Outcomes

- Detailed systematic conservation planning
  - Habitats
  - Species
  - Ecological processes
- Baseline surveys, research and monitoring
- Improved representation of habitats & species
  - 178 000 hectares
  - Extension into new biomes
    - Marine
    - Forest



# Biodiversity Outcomes

- Re-establishing of missing species
  - Predators
- Range extension for threatened species
  - Elephant
  - Black Rhino



# Biodiversity Outcomes

- Improved protection of ecological processes
  - Key catchments
  - Climate change corridors
  - Islands & marine
- Rehabilitation of degraded systems
  - Working for Water
  - Coastcare
  - 75,044 ha aliens cleared



# Social Outcomes

- Planning not only for biodiversity
  - Social benefit and impacts included in planning
  - Key issue not impacting poor marginalized farm-workers negatively
  - Database of outcomes
    - Permanent & contract jobs
    - Housing
    - Training



# Social Outcomes

- Mechanism for community development and buy-in
- Mayibuye Ndlovu Development Trust
  - Community owned trust to channel benefits
  - Represents all 8 communities around park
  - Receives royalties from tourism development
- Trustees
  - Mostly from communities but include SANParks, local govt and business
- Current projects
  - Community choice of projects
  - Composting (first big commercial venture)
  - Bursaries for local community for conservation, business skills, hospitality



# Social Outcomes

- Emphasis on job creation
- Accessing of government poverty relief programs
  - Labour intensive
  - Extended public works programs
  - Working for Water (alien clearing)
  - Coastcare
  - Include training & development



# Social Outcomes

- Deliberate SMME support and stimulation
  - Eyethu Hop-On Guides
  - Mayibuye Ndlovu Development Trust
  - Poverty relief linked programs
  - SMMEs 25 (11 sustainable)
  - SMME Employees 326
  - Transfer of funds to SMME around 0.5mil USD/yr



# Social Outcomes

- Studies indicate:
  - 4 times as many jobs
  - @double salary of agriculture/ha
- 35% increase in employment in domain
  - 1842 jobs directly linked to Addo
- Internal positions increased 607%
  - (106 to 644 posts)



# Economic Outcomes

- Careful economic & tourism planning
  - Viable and sustainable projects
  - Not short term aid supported projects
  - Strong financial and business management
- Park viable and profitable
  - 170 000 visitors per annum (14% growth)
  - Beds 174 to 505



# Economic Outcomes

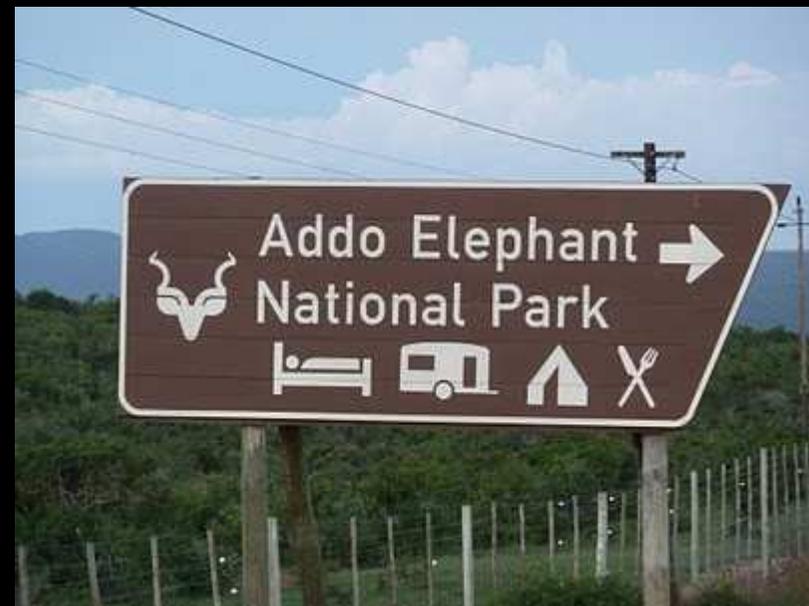


- Public-Private partnerships
- Contracts
  - Private companies and landowners incorporate land into park and run a tourism business
- Concessions
  - Companies run a business in the park
  - Mostly high end tourism lodges
  - 6 concessions



# Economic Outcomes

- Footprint impact
  - 170 businesses of which 150 benefit directly from AENP
  - 10.71 employees each gives 1606 direct jobs and 8032 dependents
  - But tourism multiplier suggests actual jobs could be 4829



# Ingredients for success

- Social, economic and biodiversity incorporated up front as objectives
  - Poverty relief was not an afterthought
- Well planned and implemented project
  - Strategic Environmental Assessment
  - Project management unit
  - Internal agency capacity
  - Audited and accountable



# Ingredients for success

- Strong partnerships
  - National Government (investment especially in poverty relief projects)
  - Local government
  - Private business
  - Development funding (Thank you!)
  - NGO (land investment)
- Community buy-in
- Effective and representative park forum



# Ingredients for success

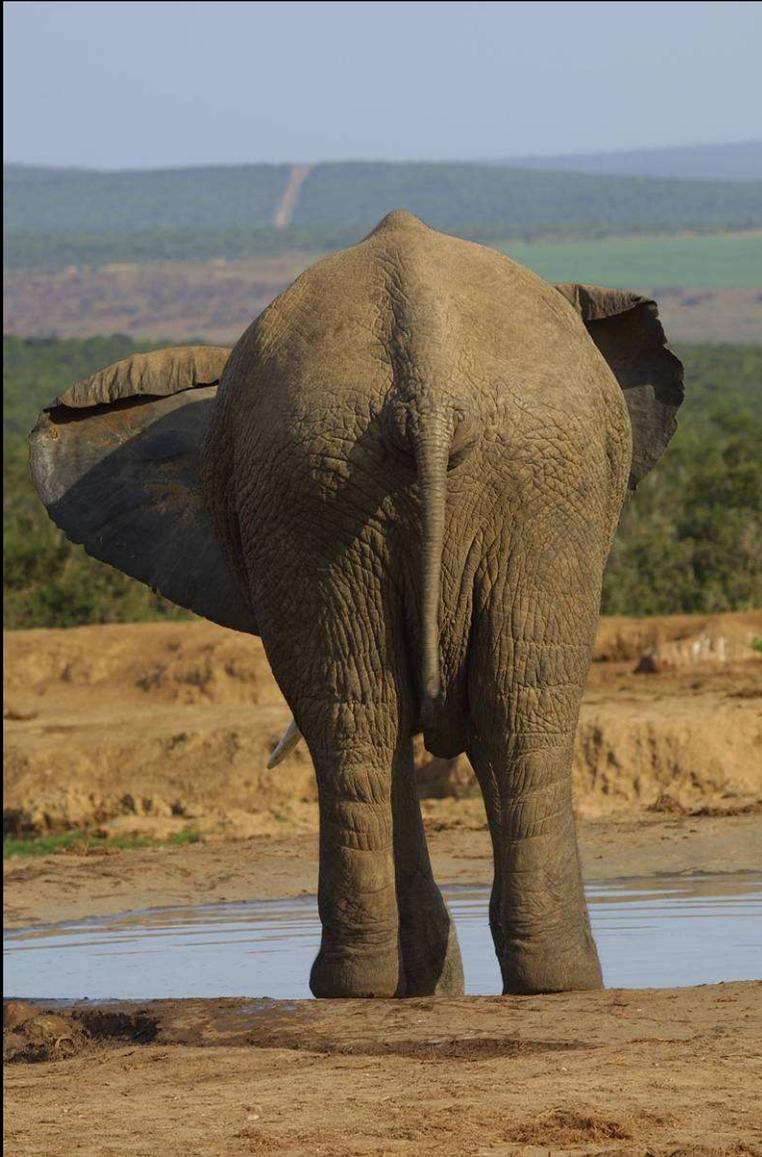
- Strong economically viable project
  - Major tourism drawcards (including Big 7 potential)
  - Tourism viability
    - Near metropolitan area, existing tourist route and airport
- Stimulated by targeted external investment
  - World Bank & FFEM
  - Catalyst for leveraging additional funding
  - 7 Million USD funding leveraged 80 Million USD total spend



# Concluding comments

- Well-planned and implemented protected area expansion projects have the ability to deliver social, economic and biodiversity benefits
- But they must be viable and sustainable projects which are designed to deliver these benefits
- And need to be undertaken with a suite of partners and have on the ground support





**Thank you!**



**South African  
NATIONAL PARKS**