

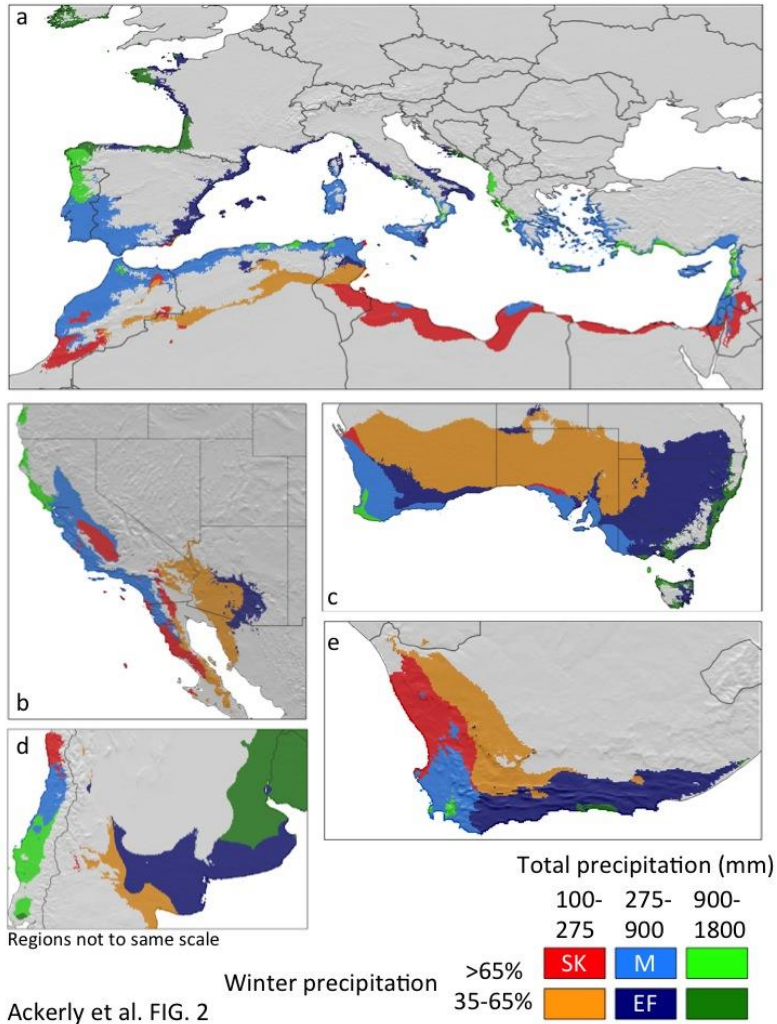


Towards 100 priority questions for biodiversity conservation in the fynbos region

Nicky Allsopp, Karen Esler, Jasper Slingsby



Background



Ackerly et al. FIG. 2

Globally Mediterranean Ecosystems suffer disproportionately high conservation threat

Similar ecological processes

High biodiversity

Similar threats

Teams from MTEs to collate local priority questions. Collate joint Questions for MTEs.

Approach

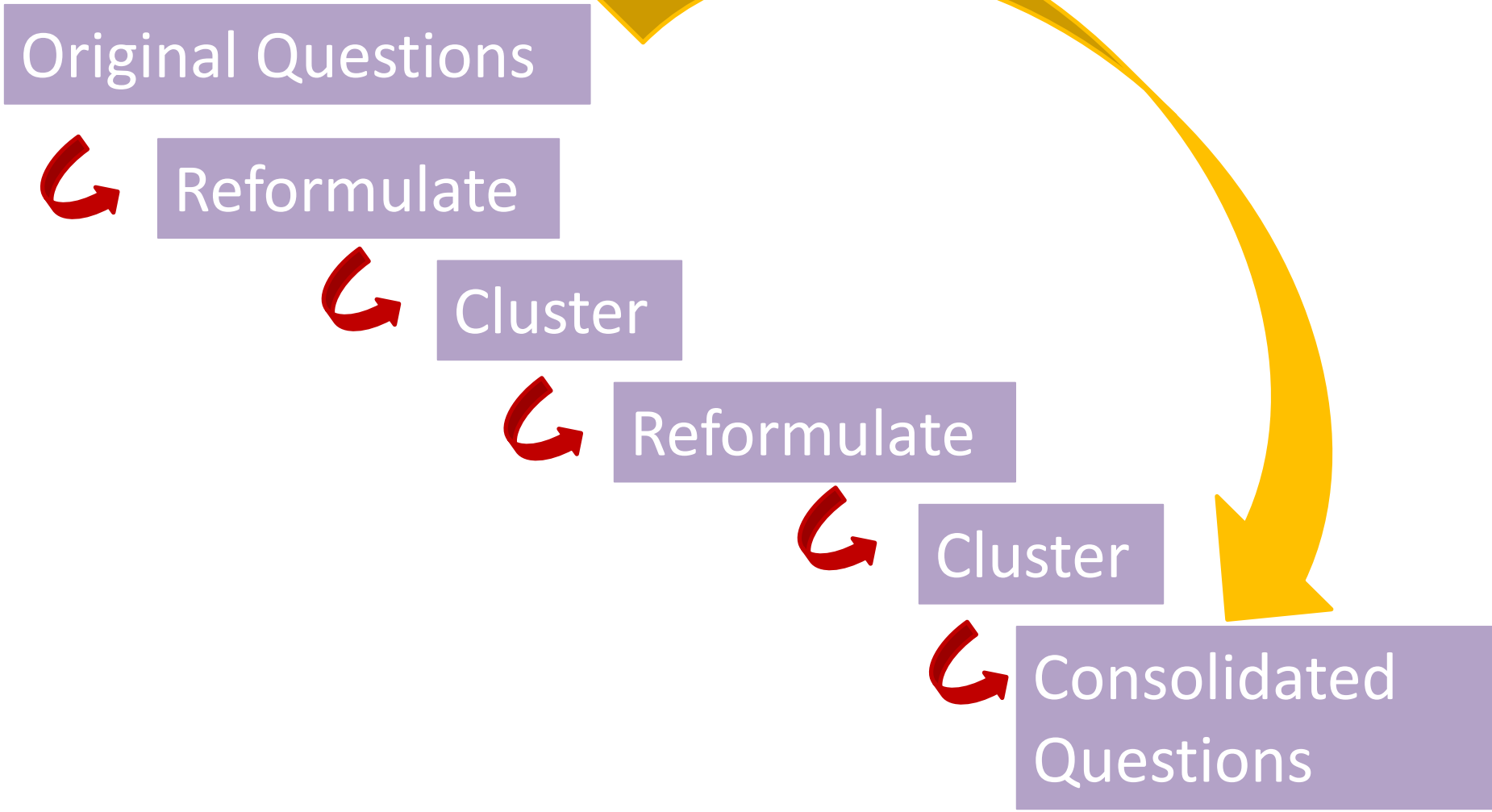
- 182 people approached to complete on-line survey
- Requested to provide 10 questions that they think, if answered, *would have a high probability of increasing the success of actions targeted at the conservation of biological diversity in the Fynbos biome*
- Received responses from 53 people
- 358 questions-splitting complex questions became 360 questions

Thank you

and apologies, caveats and disclaimers



Approach



	Original question	Reformulated question
1	Can regulatory procedures be simplified while maintaining their contribution to ecologically sustainable development?	How can regulatory procedures be simplified while maintaining their contribution to ecologically sustainable development?
2	Fynbos and the law: how effective is South Africa's constitution and legal system in enforcing environmental laws?	How effective is environmental legislation?
3	To what extent is conservation-oriented legislation successful in shaping on-the-ground behaviour that affects fynbos conservation?	How effective is environmental legislation?
4	To what extent is conservation-oriented legislation successful in shaping on-the-ground behaviour that affects fynbos conservation?	How effective is environmental legislation in influencing conservation behaviour?
5	What is the state of environmental legislation and how does it influence sustainability?	How effective is environmental legislation?
6	Is the EIA a solution to every developmental problem? How can we overcome the apathy, loathsomeness caused by the tedious, sometimes unnecessary EIA process.?	How can we reform the EIA process so that it has better conservation outcomes?
7	What key changes do we need to make to the EIA process to actually make it more meaningful and less open to exploitation?	How can the EIA process be made more effective, especially with respect to responsibility for appointment of Environmental Assessment Practitioners?

Where are the problems and loopholes in EIAs?

How can we simplify legislation?

What is the current status?

How can legislation and policy become more effective in conserving biodiversity?

How can we improve enforcement?

What are the best societal scale for devolving legislation?

Should we also include ecosystem processes and services in legislation?

Alignment with preset categories

	First choice	Second choice
Other	11	21
Farming and forestry	12	12
Protected areas	19	19
Fire and grazing	21	21
Impact assessment & mitigation	22	27
Species management	24	17
Alien and invasive species	26	7
→ Climate change	32	22
Public participation	36	25
Governance	38	17
Ecosystem function and services	45	25
Landscape management and restoration	64	51



Overarching themes

Effective conservation management

- 143 original questions
- 13 priority questions

Detecting and understanding change

- 86 original questions
- 9 priority questions

Making the case: Biodiversity supports critical ecosystem services

- 20 original questions
- 4 priority questions

Improving governance and action for effective conservation

- 46 original questions
- 6 priority questions

Making biodiversity a shared concern

- 44 original questions
- 8 priority questions

Securing sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation

- 22 original questions
- 4 priority questions

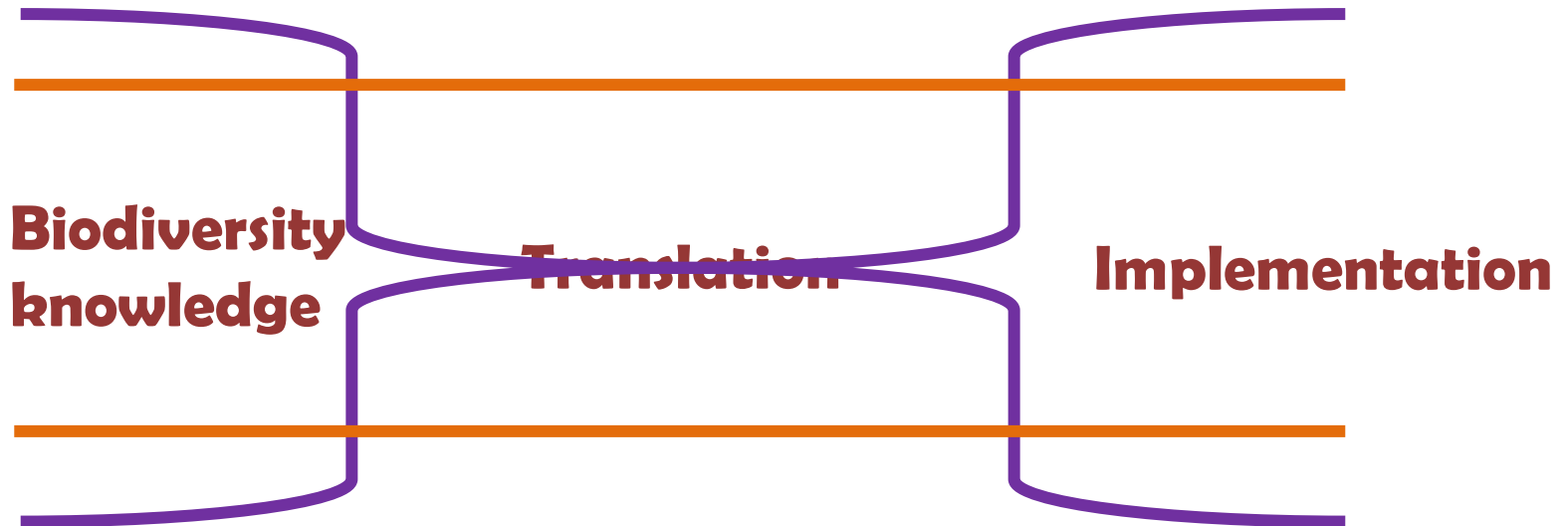
Prioritising research

- 1 original question
- 1 priority question

Does this knowledge already exist?

What's the Bottleneck?

Why is there a failure to implement despite evidence?



Where are we now?

Still a work in progress

41 questions



Each question supports several lines of research

We want to capture this detail and nuance

Archive original questions for future reference

Are people currently researching these questions?

Palaeoscapes

What have we learnt from past extreme events that will aid us to understand and manage future impacts?

What is the potential for heritage protection (e.g. archaeological sites, cultural heritage) to complement biodiversity conservation?

How do global change drivers impact biodiversity from species to ecosystem function and boundaries?

What components of biodiversity are resilient to global change?

Are people currently researching these questions?

People and Nature

What approaches to landscape planning and management, including restoration, can be developed that will enable us to optimise and sustain ecosystem services and biodiversity in both natural and transformed landscapes in a changing world?

Are there effective approaches to species conservation outside their natural habitat?

What institutional and governance structures are most effective at conserving biodiversity?

How can we accommodate different world views to provide motivation for conservation?

How does biodiversity contribute to human wellbeing?

How can we improve the benefits to livelihoods of investments in protected areas and biodiversity conservation?

How do we determine the impact of harvest/consumptive use of indigenous species and set sustainable harvest guidelines in reserves?

Some overarching considerations before settling on final questions

Further refining of questions

Is this a priority question?

Does this problem require research?

Does the solution to this problem lie elsewhere?

Summarise the background considerations

Keep the link between final research questions and original data

Publish

Over to you.....

How do we take the 100(or 41Q) forward?

Will these questions be useful to you?

What would you use them for?

How best could we disseminate questions?

What would be useful for you in your environment?

How could we get feedback from the community?

allsopp@saeon.ac.za

KJE@sun.ac.za

jasper@saeon.ac.za



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Department:
Science and Technology
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South African Environmental
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