

An initial assessment of biodiversityrelated employment in South Africa

Amanda Driver and Fulufhelo Mukhadi

Abstract

In the context of high and persistent unemployment in South Africa, this paper explores the extent to which the country's biodiversity assets, which are exceptional in global terms, contribute to providing jobs. A conceptual framework for defining biodiversity-related employment is presented. Using a methodology that draws on a combination of three different data sources (administrative data, national survey data, and existing estimates for particular biodiversity-related sectors), an initial estimate is developed of 390 000 biodiversity-related jobs in 2014, representing 2.5% of national employment. Of these, 18% (70 000) are jobs directly involved in conserving biodiversity, and 82% (318 000) are jobs that depend directly on using biodiversity, including both non-consumptive and extractive use. The results suggest strong potential for biodiversity assets to support long-term inclusive growth and employment outside major urban centres, with further work needed to quantify this potential and to determine how best it can be enabled.

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Acronyms

BDE Biodiversity-related employment

DAFF Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

DEA Department of Environmental Affairs
DMR Department of Mineral Resources
DPRU Development Policy Research Unit
EPWP Expanded Public Works Programme

FTE Full-time equivalent

NBA National Biodiversity Assessment NGO Non-government organisation

PHASA Professional Hunting Association of South Africa

QES Quarterly Employment Survey
QLFS Quarterly Labour Force Survey

REDI3x3 Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution & Inclusive Growth

SAHGCA South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association

SAMWA South African Wildlife Management Association
SANBI South African National Biodiversity Institute

SANParks South African National Parks

SASCO South African Standard Classification of Occupations

SIC Standard Industrial Classification

Stats SA Statistics South Africa

TEEB The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

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1 Introduction

As one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, South Africa has an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure (see box). Much of these are still relatively intact, as assessed in the National Biodiversity Assessment (Driver et al., 2012) and summarised in *LIFE: The State of South Africa's Biodiversity* (SANBI, 2013).

South Africa also has an employment crisis. The unemployment rate (25.5%) and poverty headcount (56.8%) remain high (Stats SA, 2014a), with ongoing significant job losses within the primary and labour-intensive sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing and agriculture, making the situation even worse (DMR, 2012; Gwatidzo & Benhura, 2013). This poor state of employment has persisted for the past 15 years (Stats SA, 2015a).

The extent to which South Africa's biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure contribute to the economy in general, and to employment in particular, is currently not well quantified. The few studies that have attempted to improve understanding of the contribution of biodiversity to employment have either focused on a single economic sector (e.g. hunting (Van der Merwe et al., 2014), traditional medicine (Mander, 2007)), or on selected professions within the biodiversity sector (e.g. SANBI & The Lewis Foundation, 2010).

Defining biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure

Biodiversity assets are ecosystems, species and other biodiversity-related resources (such as genetic material) that generate social, cultural or economic benefits, including supporting livelihoods, providing the basis for economic activity, and contributing to human wellbeing.

Ecological infrastructure refers to naturally functioning ecosystems that generate and deliver valuable services to people, such as fresh water, climate regulation, soil formation and disaster risk reduction. It is the nature-based equivalent of built or hard infrastructure, and is just as important for providing services and underpinning socio-economic development.

(SANBI, 2015)

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Moreover, attempts to date have adopted different definitions and estimation methodologies, complicating comparisons between these studies. Nevertheless, there is some evidence that jobs related to biodiversity may be substantial (Peter et al., 2010; Blignaut, et al., 2008; Vass, et al., 2009), and that the potential for biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure to generate future employment and contribute to inclusive growth in South Africa may be significant (Maia et al., 2011).

The widely cited "Green Jobs report" for South Africa (Maia et al., 2011) assessed how many additional jobs may be created in the medium and long-term by promoting the green economy. The report focused largely on energy generation, resource efficiency and pollution control, but also investigated potential employment in a fourth category – those jobs related to natural resource management. This included "the sustainable management and restoration of natural resources, specifically water, soil and land, as well as the conservation and restoration of ecosystems" (Maia et al., 2011: 3). The report found that the number of potential jobs in this last category outweighed all the other three categories of green jobs (energy generation, resource efficiency and pollution control), providing the potential creation of over 230 000 jobs over the long term.

A European Union report (Jurado et al., 2012) on biodiversity and the labour market showed that as many as 14.6 million jobs in the European Union, or 7%, are highly dependent on biodiversity. This report also found that this proportion would be substantially higher in developing countries where rural populations were more closely dependent on biodiversity. It estimated that 927 million jobs, or 35% of the labour market, in developing countries are dependent on biodiversity.

A draft Biodiversity Economy Strategy for South Africa was published for comment by the Department of Environmental Affairs in 2015 (DEA, 2015). It includes ambitious targets for employment related to biodiversity (60 000 additional jobs created by the wildlife sector by 2030), but with no clear baseline. The finalisation and implementation of the Biodiversity Economy Strategy is likely to highlight the need for good information on biodiversity-related employment, so this work is timely from that point of view. In addition, SANBI has identified the number of biodiversity-related jobs in the country as a potential headline indicator of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity, to be monitored over time and reported on in the National Biodiversity Assessment every seven years.² DEA has recently proposed the development of a Green Jobs Index, into which such an indicator of biodiversity-related employment could feed.

In this context, this working paper aims to:

- Establish guiding principles for understanding employment in the biodiversity sector through the development of a framework for defining biodiversity-related employment,
- Establish a systematic, repeatable method for measuring biodiversity-related employment in South Africa,
- Quantify current biodiversity-related employment, to establish a baseline for future work.

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² The National Biodiversity Assessment is led by SANBI as part of its mandate to monitor and report on the state of South Africa's biodiversity. The NBA is undertaken approximately every seven years, with work on the NBA 2018 underway. Biodiversity-related employment was not included as an indicator in the previous two NBAs (2004 and 2011).

As a broader goal, we hope to offer an employment perspective on the potential contribution that South Africa's wealth of biodiversity assets can make towards inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The following specific research questions were identified:

- 1. What constitutes biodiversity-related employment, and can we develop a coherent framework for defining and measuring it?
- 2. What data is available for measuring biodiversity-related employment, and what are the key data gaps?
- 3. How many jobs are currently related to biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure in South Africa?
- 4. Where are these biodiversity-related jobs located (e.g. by province, municipality, urban/rural)?
- 5. What types of jobs are related to biodiversity (e.g. temporary/seasonal/permanent, skilled/semi-skilled/unskilled)? Are there skills barriers or other barriers to entering employment in this sector?
- 6. What proportion of biodiversity-related jobs are held by women, youth and people with disabilities?
- 7. What are the priorities for addressing data gaps, with a view to laying the foundation for further research in this area?

We recognised from the outset that questions 4, 5 and 6 were probably over-ambitious for this initial assessment, given data limitations. As discussed later in the paper, this indeed proved to be the case, so this paper focuses on questions 1, 2 and 3.

Possible longer term research questions that were identified at the outset were:

- 8. What is the potential for growth in biodiversity-related employment in South Africa, and how could such growth be facilitated and supported?
- 9. Are there significant policies, institutional, educational, financial or other blockages to growing employment in this sector, and if so how might they be addressed?

The paper is structured as follows:

- Section 2 introduces the **conceptual framework** for defining biodiversity-related employment.
- Section 3 on methodology presents and explains the three approaches we adopted in measuring biodiversity-related employment.
- Section 4 presents and compares the **results** from each of the three approaches, and uses them to develop an estimate of total biodiversity-related employment in South Africa.
- Section 5 **discusses** the results and examines the implications and opportunities presented by the findings, as well as priorities for future work.
- Section 6 summarises the **conclusions** of the study.

2 Conceptual framework for biodiversity-related employment

The starting point for measuring biodiversity-related employment was to conceptualise clearly what we mean by biodiversity-related employment, in order to guide the scope of the measurement effort. This section sets out the logic and rationale for a conceptual framework that was developed and refined iteratively, including through two workshop sessions held within SANBI, one in August 2014 and the second in December 2015.

The first step in developing the framework was deciding what constitutes biodiversity-related economic activity or the biodiversity economy. Jobs linked to biodiversity-related economic activity would then be considered biodiversity-related employment. However, defining the biodiversity economy is not straightforward, and there is no international consensus on a definition.

One challenge is to distinguish between the "green economy" and the biodiversity economy. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) defines the green economy as "an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities" (UNEP, 2013). This is a broad concept, often related to renewable energy, reduced waste and more sustainable business choices. There is not necessarily a direct link to biodiversity.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), a global project led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), recognises that there are two ways that business can be linked with biodiversity, firstly through business impacts on biodiversity and secondly through business dependence on biodiversity (TEEB, 2012). Most business activities have both impacts and dependencies on biodiversity, but some economic sectors are more likely to have stronger links through either their impacts or dependence on biodiversity. In practice, business activities that depend on biodiversity are less well described and have received less attention in discussions about business and biodiversity than those that impact (often negatively) on biodiversity.³

South Africa's Biodiversity Economy Strategy, gazetted in draft form in 2015, adapts a definition for the biodiversity economy proposed by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (Van Paddenburg et al., 2012). This definition encompasses "businesses and other economic activities that either directly depend on biodiversity for their core business or that contribute to conservation of biodiversity through their activities" (DEA, 2015). An important subset of the biodiversity economy is the wildlife economy or wildlife sector, which in South Africa is usually taken to mean game ranching and hunting conducted by the private sector for profit. Another subset of the biodiversity economy is the public sector whose primary objective is the conservation of biodiversity or the management of natural resources.

We have used the WWF/DEA definition of the biodiversity economy as the basis for the conceptual framework for biodiversity-related employment. Fundamental to this definition is that it sets out two broad categories of biodiversity-related economic activities: those that contribute directly to conservation, and those that depend directly on biodiversity. It does not include activities simply

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³ Examples of business activities that impact negatively on biodiversity include mining, intensive agriculture and plantation forestry, which usually result in irreversible loss of natural vegetation as well as degradation of freshwater ecosystems such as rivers and wetlands.

because they attempt to reduce impacts on biodiversity or the natural environment, even though such activities might be considered part of the "green economy".

Given this definition, biodiversity-related jobs can be separated into two broad categories: those that contribute to conserving biodiversity and those that utilise biodiversity. Generally speaking, conserving biodiversity is the role of government agencies and NGOs, while use of biodiversity often occurs within the private sector or on a subsistence basis. Within these two categories of biodiversity-related employment (BDE) we identified further sub-categories as follows:

- BDE Category A: Conserving Biodiversity, including employment in:
 - A1. Protecting and managing biodiversity assets
 - A2. Restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure
 - A3. Research and professional services related to biodiversity
- BDE Category B: Using Biodiversity, including employment that depends on:
 - B4. Non-consumptive use of biodiversity
 - B5. Extractive use of biodiversity

It was important to consider the boundaries of the sub-categories carefully, and to clarify the logic for both inclusion and exclusion of economic activities from each. A brief description of the sub-categories is provided below.

A1. Protecting and managing biodiversity assets

Jobs directly involved in conservation of the country's biodiversity assets, both ecosystems and species. This includes management of protected areas and conservation areas, ⁴ and efforts to conserve particular species. It also includes efforts to mainstream biodiversity in planning and decision-making in biodiversity priority areas⁵ outside of the protected area network.

A2. Restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure

Jobs aimed at restoring the functioning of ecosystems to improve their ability to generate and deliver valuable services to people. This includes, for example, removing invasive alien plants to improve water supply and agricultural productivity, and restoring wetlands to improve water quality and prevent flooding. It also includes a range of natural resource management and catchment management activities that contribute to maintaining healthy ecosystems.

A3. Research and professional services related to biodiversity

Jobs that contribute to knowledge of biodiversity, forming the foundation for effective management of biodiversity as well as innovation in the management and sustainable use of biodiversity. This includes the work of universities, other research institutions, biodiversity consulting services and biodiversity information management.

⁴ Protected areas are areas that are formally protected in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act 57 of 2003). Conservation areas are not formally protected but are managed for conservation goals.

⁵ Biodiversity priority areas are geographic areas that have been identified based on best available science as the areas that should remain in natural or at least semi-natural condition in order to secure a viable representative sample of ecosystems and species as well as the long-term ecological functioning of the landscape and seascape as a whole. These areas have been comprehensively identified and mapped across the country. Most of them fall outside major urban centres.

B4. Non-consumptive use of biodiversity

Jobs that depend on the enjoyment of biodiversity but do not involve extraction or consumption of the underlying biodiversity asset and can thus be sustained on a long-term basis. This includes nature-based tourism (e.g. bird watching, whale watching, diving, hiking), some adventure sports, and production of media and art related to biodiversity (e.g. through nature journalism, photography, and film making). These activities can take place inside or outside of protected areas.

B5. Extractive use of biodiversity

Jobs that depend on the direct extraction or consumption of biodiversity in the form of indigenous species or ecosystems, either for profit or subsistence. This includes:⁶

- game ranching and hunting,⁷
- rangeland agriculture (which depends on natural ecosystems such as Grassland and Karoo),
- harvesting of wild indigenous resources (e.g. fisheries, medicinal plants, wildflowers such as proteas),
- biotrade (trade in harvested indigenous resources),
- cultivation of indigenous species (e.g. rooibos),
- horticulture and floriculture based on indigenous species,
- processing or manufacturing of products based on indigenous resources (e.g. fibres and building materials),
- bioprospecting (e.g. to develop pharmaceuticals, neutraceuticals, cosmetics based on indigenous species and genetic resources).

Some of these activities, such as game ranching, rangeland agriculture and harvesting of wild resources, can, at least in principle, be compatible with the long-term persistence of biodiversity if they are appropriately managed. Others, such as intensive cultivation or farming of indigenous species, such as rooibos tea, ostriches or game, almost always have substantial negative impacts on biodiversity as they result in outright and usually irreversible loss of natural ecosystems. All of these activities are included, partly because in practice it is often difficult to distinguish between products produced from wild-harvested indigenous resources and those from cultivated indigenous resources, and partly because cultivated or intensively farmed indigenous resources depend on indigenous genetic resources even if they are produced outside of their natural ecosystem context. *Not* included in this sub-category is intensive farming of non-indigenous species (i.e. conventional intensive agriculture or aquaculture).

These two broad categories and five sub-categories of biodiversity-related economic activity, summarised in Figure 1, form a coherent conceptual framework for defining and classifying biodiversity-related employment, and provided the framework upon which our measurement of biodiversity-related employment was based.

⁶ This is not necessarily a comprehensive list, and some of these items might overlap depending on the definitions used (e.g. biotrade and bioprospecting, processing/manufacturing and biosprospecting). Discussion within SANBI was underway at the time of writing to firm up this list. Nevertheless this can be considered a reasonable and adequate starting point for this research.

⁷ Also referred to as wildlife ranching.

Figure 1: Conceptual framework for biodiversity-related employment, showing two broad categories and five sub-categories

Biodiversity-related employment

A. Conserving Biodiversity

(sectors/activities that <u>contribute</u> <u>actively</u> to conserving or managing biodiversity)

- A1. Protecting and managing biodiversity assets
- A2. Maintaining and restoring ecological infrastructure
- A3. Research and professional services

B. Using Biodiversity

(sectors/activities that <u>depend</u> <u>directly</u> on biodiversity)

B4. Non-consumptive use of biodiversity

B5. Extractive use of biodiversity

Doesn't include sectors/activities simply because they attempt to **reduce impacts** on biodiversity

3 Methodology

The methods developed here represent the first effort towards developing a standardised national methodology for measuring biodiversity-related employment. As discussed in Section 0, our aim is not simply to quantify biodiversity-related employment once-off, but also to establish methods that can be repeated at regular intervals to measure trends in biodiversity-related employment as a national indicator of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity.

A key challenge for measuring biodiversity-related employment is that the jobs involved are scattered across the industry and occupational classifications that are conventionally used in the National Statistical System, which makes it difficult to extract data on biodiversity-related employment directly from national survey data. A similar challenge exists for using national survey data to quantify employment related to the tourism economy or "green jobs" related to the green economy. It arises because biodiversity-related economic activity, as with tourism-related economic activity, is not characterised by the primary activity of the firm. Firms are classified in terms of their primary activity or core activity, whereas the biodiversity economy or the tourism economy is a characteristic or objective that cuts across a range of primary activities. The same applies for occupations, although as discussed in Section 3.3 there is slightly more correspondence for occupation than for industry between biodiversity-related activities and the primary focus of some classes.

This challenge notwithstanding, we felt it was important to test whether it may in some cases be possible to link industry and occupation sub-classes either fully or partially to biodiversity-related

economic activity, given that national survey data is readily available at regular intervals and presents a potentially convenient and cost-effective data source for measuring trends.

Recognising that data from the National Statistical System would probably provide only a partial picture, we also pursued two other approaches to gathering data on biodiversity-related employment:

- Administrative data, which we hoped would be relatively readily available for at least some biodiversity-related employers, especially public sector organisations,
- Existing estimates of employment arrived at through studies of particular biodiversity-related sectors or sub-sectors, which we knew to exist in some instances.

The methods used for each of these approaches are described below.

3.1 Administrative data

Using the conceptual framework for biodiversity-related employment as a starting point, we developed lists of organisations involved in biodiversity-related activities in different categories, based on our extensive working knowledge of the sector. The focus was mainly on BDE Category A: Conserving Biodiversity, which is made up predominantly of public sector organisations and NGOs. In BDE Category B: Using Biodiversity, a very wide range of firms, households and communities are involved, so it was not possible to develop a comprehensive list, but we did list organisations such as industry associations where possible.⁸

In BDE Category A, 146 organisations were identified and grouped as shown in Table 1. The full list of organisations is provided in an expanded version of this table in Appendix 1. We attempted to be as comprehensive as possible, but may have missed some organisations. Feedback on these initial results will help to identify gaps that can be addressed in future work.

Within BDE Category A, it was important to distinguish between three different types of organisations:

- Organisations whose central mandate / core function is related to conserving and/or managing biodiversity,
- Organisations for which conserving and/or managing biodiversity forms an explicit part of a broader environmental mandate or function,
- Organisations which play a substantial role in relation to managing biodiversity, but for which is this is secondary to their central mandate (which might be, for instance, water resource management or agriculture).

This distinction is reflected in Table 1, and its implications for the methodology are discussed below.

⁸ In future, we may be able to source bioprospecting permits from DEA, for which applicants are required to disclose employment figures. This could contribute towards estimates for Sub-category B5.

Table 1: Biodiversity-related employers included in the administrative data gathering process, showing whether the organisation's core mandate or function is biodiversity-related

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
BDE Sub-category A1: Protecting and managing biodiversity assets		
Department of Environmental Affairs (relevant sections)	✓	
Other national departments (relevant sections) Department of Water & Sanitation Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Department of Mineral Resources South African Police Services South African Revenue Services		√
 Public entities related to biodiversity South African National Biodiversity Institute (including National Botanical Gardens) South African National Parks iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority National Zoological Gardens 	✓	
Provincial departments of environmental affairs (relevant sections/ programmes) (In some provinces, the environmental affairs department incorporates the provincial conservation authority; other provinces have a standalone conservation agency)	✓	
Provincial conservation agencies	~	
Provincial departments of agriculture (relevant programmes/sections)		✓
 Metropolitan municipalities (relevant sections)⁹ Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality City of Cape Town City of Johannesburg (including Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo) City of Polokwane City of Tshwane Ethekwini Municipality Manaung Metropolitan Municipality Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality 		✓
Conservation NGOs (32 of these)	✓	
Other conservation-related organisations and projects (including non-government botanical gardens, Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative)	✓	
Total number of organisations in Sub-category A1	8	33

⁹ Most metropolitan municipalities have a unit or section that deals with biodiversity-related issues, with at least some staff (in some cases quite large numbers) dedicated to biodiversity-related work. The same may be true for some district and local municipalities, but it was not feasible to include district and local municipalities at this stage – it may be worth exploring this in future work.

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
BDE Sub-category A2: Restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure	e	
 Expanded Public Works Programme – DEA Environmental Programmes Staff of Environmental Programmes branch Work opportunities created in Working for Water, Working for Wetlands, Working on Fire, Working for Land, Working for Coasts 	1	
 Expanded Public Works Programme – other relevant elements Department of Public Works: EPWP Programme Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries: LandCare Programme, Working for Fisheries Department of Water and Sanitation: Adopt-a-River Project 		✓
Catchment Management Agencies (relevant staff) • Inkomati Catchment Management Agency • Breede Overberg Catchment Management Agency (These are the two that have been established, out of a potential nine)		✓
NGOs involved in restoration and maintenance (5 of these)	✓	
Total number of organisations in Sub-category A2	12	
BDE Sub-category A3: Research and professional services related to biod	iversity	
 Government research institutions and agencies Department of Science & Technology (relevant sections) Agricultural Research Council (ARC) Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) South African Environmental Observations Network (SAEON) South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) Water Research Council (WRC) Museums (natural history components) 		√
 Education and training related to biodiversity Universities (staff of relevant departments, such as Botany, Zoology, Life Sciences, Ecology) Colleges specialising in wildlife Relevant education NGOs 		✓
 Human capital development programmes related to biodiversity Groen Sebenza Programme DEA's Environmental Monitors 	1	
Media organisations (relevant staff)		✓
 Membership organisations and associations (staff of the organisation) South African Association of Botanists South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) Southern African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Scientists (SAIEES) 		√
Biodiversity specialists registered with SACNASP and SAIEES ¹⁰	✓	
Total number of organisations in Sub-category A3	5	1

¹⁰ We recognise that this may result in some double-counting, as some of these specialists may work for an organisation already included in the list. Others may be independent consultants who would otherwise not be counted. The numbers are relatively small and we included only 50% of the registered consultants in the final results.

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
Total number of organisations in BDE Category A	1	46
BDE Sub-category B4: Non-consumptive use of biodiversity		
No administrative data found for this category.		
Total number of organisations in Sub-category B4		0
BDE Sub-category B5: Consumptive or extractive use of biodiversity		
 Membership organisations and associations for biodiversity-related industries (staff of the organisation) Professional Hunting Association of South Africa (PHASA) National Confederation of Hunters Associations of South Africa Protea Producers of South Africa Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) South African Flower Export Council South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA) Cape Flora South Africa Wildlife Ranching South Africa Bioprospecting and natural products – specific projects/initiatives Council for Scientific and Industrial Research: Bioprospecting section Individual bioprospecting projects granted permits by DEA (includes harvesting, processing and distribution of the biodiversity resources concerned) 		✓
 Game ranching and hunting Certain private game reserves and game farms for which studies are available 		✓
Indigenous flower harvesting and floriculture – specific projects/initiatives • Flower Valley Conservation Trust	✓	
Total number of organisations in Sub-category B5	1	.2
Total number of organisations in BDE Category B	1	2
Total number of organisations across all categories	158	

For the organisations in BDE Category A, relevant external data sources on employment were identified and accessed. Data sources included:

- Annual reports, usually downloaded from the organisation's website,
- Websites of the organisations concerned, which were consulted for information about numbers of employees and the organisation's mandate and programmes.

This was supplemented in some cases by primary data collected through email and telephone correspondence with key informants, usually one or more staff members in the organisation, who provided further information on request.

Administrative data were collected preferably for 2014, but in some cases for 2013 or 2012. ¹¹ This was not considered a major limitation, as job numbers in the organisations concerned do not usually fluctuate greatly from year to year.

For those organisations whose core mandate focuses on biodiversity, we counted all employees as contributing to biodiversity-related employment, including jobs in supporting functions such as administration, finance and marketing. All employment within the organisation was regarded as biodiversity-related since if it was not for biodiversity functions the other jobs would become obsolete. We did not include board members and/or trustees of these organisations as they are not considered to be employees. Examples of organisations for which this applied are SANBI, South African National Parks (SANParks), provincial conservation agencies and conservation NGOs.

For organisations that have part of their mandate related to biodiversity as part of a broader environmental mandate, we included those programmes or sections directly focused on biodiversity, as well as a portion of the jobs in other programmes likely to include biodiversity elements. In most cases it was possible to identify these from annual reports, which usually categorise employment per programme of work or function. Jobs in support functions or corporate services were excluded. Examples of organisation for which this applied are DEA and provincial environmental affairs departments and metropolitan municipalities. Notes on decisions about what portion of jobs to include are detailed in a spread sheet available on request. 12

Organisations for which biodiversity is a secondary part of their function or mandate generally do not have specific programmes or sections dedicated to biodiversity-related work, but include biodiversity related aspects in some of their programmes. For example, provincial departments of agriculture usually have sustainable resource management programmes which are likely to deal with some biodiversity issues, especially related to ecological infrastructure. For these organisations we included a proportion of the jobs in relevant programmes. Again, notes on decisions made are detailed in a spread sheet available on request.¹³

For biodiversity-related work opportunities created through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), we decided to present the number of jobs based on full-time-equivalents (FTEs) rather than the total number of short-term work opportunities created. The reasons for this are discussed in Section 4.1.

Levels of certainty or confidence are relatively high for administrative data for organisations whose core mandate is biodiversity-related, as it is a relatively straightforward matter to acquire total

¹¹ For example, in a few cases provincial agencies did not have annual reports for 2014 on their websites at the time the administrative data collection was undertaken, and in another few cases the information needed to extract the biodiversity-related employment figures was much more straightforwardly presented in the 2012 or 2013 report.

¹² For example, in provincial environmental affairs departments we counted a portion of the jobs in programmes that are likely to have a biodiversity-related element, such as compliance monitoring and enforcement and environmental authorisations. We used the following rule to estimate the proportion: if there was a standalone provincial conservation agency (i.e. a public entity or board separate from the environmental affairs department), we counted 20% of staff in relevant environment programmes, based on the assumption that the biodiversity-related aspects would be carried out mainly by the conservation agency; if the provincial conservation authority was part of the department we counted 40% of staff in relevant environment programmes.

¹³ For example, in provincial departments of agriculture we counted 40% of staff in programmes dealing with sustainable resource management, including LandCare programmes.

employment numbers for these organisations, and in most cases these numbers are likely to be relatively stable.

For organisations with only part of their mandate related to biodiversity, or with biodiversity as a secondary mandate, confidence levels for administrative data are medium. Uncertainty is introduced because in some cases assumptions have to be made about which programmes or sections of these organisations should be counted as biodiversity-related. For future work, it may be worth spending time interviewing key informants in these organisations to verify which programmes or positions should be considered biodiversity-related.

A further source of uncertainty is whether we have included all relevant organisations – we welcome suggestions for additions.

3.2 Existing sector estimates

As discussed in Section 2, the biodiversity economy includes several identifiable commercial or subsistence sectors or sub-sectors that depend on biodiversity (such as nature-based tourism, game ranching and hunting, fisheries and traditional medicine). For some of these sectors, studies have been done estimating their size, for example their contribution to the economy and to employment. We decided to source relevant reports and papers to glean information about biodiversity-related employment where possible.

Our preference was that estimates should:

- Include jobs throughout the industry value-chain (for example, in the game ranching industry
 this would include ranch management, accommodation on ranches, hunting activities, and
 taxidermy; in the rooibos tea industry this would include cultivation or harvesting, processing,
 packaging, and production of rooibos-based products such as cosmetics and neutraceuticals),
- Include only employment in activities directly linked to the industry or sub-sector, not indirect employment effects in the wider economy via multipliers,
- Be based on primary research, such as sample surveys or gathering first-hand information from key industry stakeholders.

A challenge with existing sector estimates is that they come predominantly from grey literature, with varying degrees of reliability, and are frequently not up-to-date. In some sectors, a particular figure for the number of jobs is repeatedly cited and becomes accepted wisdom, with no source provided and no description of what the figure encompasses. It took some detective work in these cases to track down the original source of the figure. This is discussed further in Section 4.2.

The studies found for the larger sectors that make up the bulk of the employment numbers from this data source (traditional medicine, game ranching and fisheries) seem to be credible and well considered – see Section 4.2 for further discussion of these studies. Nevertheless, overall levels of confidence in the sub-sector estimates are lower than levels of confidence in the administrative data. It may be worthwhile to explore whether data from the Quarterly Employment Survey (see Section 3.3) could be used to cross-check some of the existing estimates in BDE Category B.

A further key weakness for this data source is that we have estimates for only a subset of biodiversity-related sectors, with many gaps. This means that adding up the various employment figures from these sector estimates does not yield a comprehensive total. This is discussed further in Section 4.2. Future work should include more comprehensive secondary research to identify existing estimates for further biodiversity-related sub-sectors, and primary research to develop estimates for sectors that are likely to be significant contributors to employment.

3.3 Survey data from the National Statistical System

In South Africa, labour market surveys are undertaken by Statistics South Africa. Two types of surveys are used, the Quarterly Labour Force Surveys (QLFS) and Quarterly Employment Survey (QES). The QES is a quarterly survey of approximately 20 000 VAT-registered businesses, and it provides detailed information regarding the number of persons employed in South Africa's non-agricultural formal sector, as well as their gross and average monthly earnings for the reference quarter. The QLFS, on the other hand, is a household-based sample survey which collates data on the number of people who are employed (across formal and informal sectors), unemployed or not economically active. The QLFS is conducted in 30 000 private households and worker hostels across South Africa, after which the data is weighted to provide estimates that are representative of the South African population as a whole. Although the two surveys are complementary, the QLFS was preferred as a source of data in this research as it uses larger sample sizes and also takes into account both the formal and informal sectors of the economy. As noted in Section 3.2, the QES may be useful for further work in cross-checking existing sector estimates for BDE Category B.

Those QLFS respondents who are employed are required to give a brief description of the type of work they do, which is used to assign each respondent to an industry and an occupation, based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and the South African Standard Classification of Occupations (SASCO). These are hierarchical classification systems that use a set of nested codes to classify industries and occupations from broad through to detailed levels. As discussed earlier, biodiversity-related industries and occupations cut across the codes used in SIC and SASCO in most cases, making it challenging to identify biodiversity-related industries and occupations. Nevertheless, some of the codes at the more detailed levels can be linked to biodiversity.

Using the Standard Industrial Classification 5th edition and SASCO 2003,¹⁴ we worked through the industry codes and descriptions at the 3-digit level, and the occupation codes and descriptions at the 4-digit level, and assigned each of them to one of four groups:

- All or most jobs related to biodiversity (> 80%)
- **Some** jobs related to biodiversity (between 20% and 80%)
- **Few** jobs related to biodiversity (< 20%)
- No jobs related to biodiversity (0%)

In many cases it was clear which group a particular code should fall into; in others a judgement call was required. Decisions were made based on the description for each code, combined with our knowledge of industries and occupations that contribute directly to conserving biodiversity or

¹⁴ These are the versions used in the QLFS.

depend directly on biodiversity. The groups were kept broad, reflecting the fact that in most cases there was insufficient basis for finer divisions. Notes on the decisions about allocation of codes to groups have been documented in a spread sheet which is available on request, and in further work it may be worth revisiting these decisions and testing them with a wider group of expert informants.

Table 2 and Table 3 list the industry and occupation codes that were identified as being biodiversity-related in all or most / some / few cases. In each case, the number of codes for which all or most jobs are considered biodiversity-related is notably small, as summarised in Table 4 – just two industry codes (1% of the total number of 3-digit codes) and six occupation codes (1.4% of the total number of 4-digit codes).

Table 2: Industry codes selected as biodiversity-related from the full set of 3-digit level codes in the Standard Industrial Classification

Industry code		Grou based on estimated p to biodiv			BDE
(3-digit level)	Industry description	All or most (estimate >80% BDE)	Some (estimate 20-80% BDE)	Few (estimate <20% BDE)	category
115	Game hunting, trapping and game propagation, including related services	~			B5
131	Ocean and coastal fishing	✓			B5
641	Hotels, camping sites and other provision of short stay accommodation		✓		B4
964	Sporting and other recreational activities		✓		B4
112	Farming of animals			✓	B5
121	Forestry and related services			✓	A2
315	Dressing and dyeing of fur; manufacture of articles of fur			✓	B5
871	Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering			✓	A3
911	Central government activities			✓	A1
914	Provincial administrations			✓	A1
920	Education			✓	А3
932	Veterinary activities			✓	A1
951	Activities of business, employers and professional organisations			✓	A3*
959	Activities of other membership organizations			✓	A3*
961	Motion picture, radio, television and other entertainment activities			✓	B4
963	Library, archives, museums and other cultural activities			✓	A3

Table note:

^{*} These two codes were very difficult to allocate to a BDE category, as they could belong to any of the five categories. The allocation to A3 is relatively arbitrary. The results for these codes from QLFS 2014 were 634 and 1988 respectively, which did not influence the overall results greatly. Another option would be to divide the number of jobs for these codes equally between all five sub-categories.

Table 3: Occupation codes selected as biodiversity-related from the full set of 4-digit level codes in the South African Standard Classification of Occupations

Occup code			Group timated propo to biodiversity		A3 B5 B5 B5 B5 B5 B5
(4-digit level)	Occupation description	All or most (estimate >80% BDE)	Some (estimate 20-80% BDE)	Few (estimate <20% BDE)	
2211	Biologists, botanists, zoologists and related professionals	✓			A3
3241	Traditional medicine practitioners	✓			B5
6152	Inland and coastal waters fishery workers	✓			B5
6153	Deep-sea fishery workers	✓			B5
6154	Hunters and trappers	✓			B5
9213	Fishery, hunting and trapping labourers	✓			B5
1221	Production and operations managers/department managers in agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing and mining		✓		B5
1225	Production and operations managers/department managers in hotels, restaurants and other catering and accommodation services		✓		B4
1311	General managers in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing		✓		B5
1315	General managers of hotels, restaurants and other catering or accommodation services		✓		В4
2212	Biological sciences, Chemical sciences, Medical sciences, Physical sciences and Veterinary sciences		√		А3
3111	Natural science technicians		✓		A3
6210	Subsistence agricultural and fishery workers		✓		B5
7121	Builders, traditional materials		✓		B5
7424	Basketry weavers, brush makers and related workers (including apprentices/trainees)		√		B5
1120	Senior government officers			✓	A1
1143	Senior officers of humanitarian and other special-interest organisations			✓	A1
1210	Directors and chief executives			✓	**
2210	Scientist			✓	A3
2213	Agronomists, food scientists and related professionals, Agriculture, forestry and food scientists, Natural sciences technologists			✓	А3
2223	Veterinarians			✓	A1
2290	Life science and health professionals not elsewhere classified			✓	А3

Occup code		Group based on estimated proportion related to biodiversity			- BDE
(4-digit level)	Occupation description	All or most (estimate >80% BDE)	Some (estimate 20-80% BDE)	Few (estimate <20% BDE)	category
2310	Technikon, teacher training, technical and other colleges, university and other higher education institutions teaching professionals and Other post-secondary education teaching professionals			✓	А3
2431	Archivists and curators			✓	A3
2451	Authors, journalists and other writers, editors, reporters, journalists, writers, poets, playwrights and Other writers, commentators, proof-readers			√	В4
2452	Sculptors, painters and related artists			✓	B4
3131	Photographers and image recording equipment operators, Sound recording equipment operators			✓	B4
3211	Life science technicians, Biological science and Medical science			✓	А3
3213	Farming and forestry advisers/consultants			✓	A3
3227	Veterinary assistants			✓	A1
3242	Faith healers			✓	B4
3444	Government licensing officers			✓	A2
4211	Cashiers and ticket clerks			✓	B4
5113	Travel guides			✓	B4
5161	Fire-fighters			✓	A2
5169	Protective services workers not elsewhere classified, Rangers and game wardens			✓	A1
6113	Gardeners, horticultural and nursery growers (farm owners and skilled farm workers)			✓	B4
6121	Dairy and livestock producers (farm owners and skilled farm workers)			✓	B5
6123	Apiarists and sericulturists (farm owners and skilled farm workers)			✓	B4
6141	Forestry workers and loggers			✓	A2
6190	Market-oriented skilled agricultural and fishery workers not elsewhere classified			✓	B5
6211	Subsistence farmers			✓	B5
7331	Handicraft workers in wood and related materials (including apprentices/trainees)			✓	B5
7332	Handicraft workers in textile, leather and related materials (including apprentices/trainees)			1	B5
9211	Farmhands and labourers			✓	B5
9212	Forestry labourers			✓	A2
9290	Agricultural, fishery and related labourers not elsewhere classified			✓	B5

Table note

^{**} In this it is not possible to say which of the five categories of BDE is most likely to apply. The result for this code for QLFS 2014 was 3 997, which we divided equally between all five sub-categories.

Table 4: Number and percentage of industry and occupation codes for which all or most / some / few / no jobs are estimated to be biodiversity-related

	Industry codes (3-digit) Occupation codes (4-digit)			
Group	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
All or most	2	1%	6	1.4%
Some	2	1%	9	2.1%
Few	12	5.9%	32	7.4%
None	186	92.1%	384	89.1%
Total	202	100%	431	100%

QLFS data for the years 2008 to 2014 were sourced and estimates for the relevant industry codes and occupations codes were extracted with assistance from the DPRU. Quarters were pooled to look at the whole year.

For each group of codes (All or most, Some, Few), a decision was necessary about the proportion of QLFS estimate that should be used to calculate the number of biodiversity-related jobs. The proportions used are shown in Table 5, together with alternative proportions that we used for sensitivity testing. The choice of these proportions was ultimately arbitrary but erred on the side of being conservative, with the proportion used in each case falling closer to the bottom than the top of the range. In further work, a process of triangulating the results they yield with administrative data and sub-sector research may help to refine the proportions on the basis of evidence, and we may want to take a more nuanced approach of using different proportions for different codes within a group instead of a blanket proportion per group.

Table 5: Proportions used to calculate number of biodiversity-related jobs from QLFS estimates

Group to which industry/occupation code	Proportion used to calculate number of	Alternative proportions for sensitivity testing		
allocated	biodiversity-related jobs	Conservative	Generous	
All or most (estimate >80% BDE)	85%	80%	90%	
Some (estimate 20-80% BDE)	40%	30%	50%	
Few (estimate <20% BDE)	3.5%	1%	5%	

4 Results

This section sets out the results based on administrative data, existing sector estimates and survey data, compares and contrasts these, and presents an aggregate estimate of biodiversity-related employment based on the data source judged to be most reliable for each BDE sub-category.

4.1 Results based on administrative data

Results from the administrative data are summarised in Table 6 for BDE Category A: Conserving Biodiversity. Administrative data for BDE Category B: Using Biodiversity was insufficient to provide a meaningful result, so we report administrative results only for Category A. The bulk of Category A is accounted for by the public sector and NGOs, for which administrative data is relatively reliable. We thus have good confidence in these estimates. Uncertainty is introduced in some cases through having to estimate what proportion of jobs within a particular organisation, or within a particular section/programme within an organisation, are related to biodiversity. As explained in Section 3, this was done mainly based on descriptions in annual reports or on our knowledge of the types of work likely to be undertaken by different organisations. Further work may be warranted to verify or refine these estimates by engaging with key informants in the organisations concerned.

The total number of jobs in BDE Category A based on administrative data was just over 61 000 in 2014. A third of these, just more than 20 000, were in Sub-category A1: protecting and managing biodiversity assets, which includes the management of South Africa's more than 500 state-owned protected areas totalling over 80 000 km², 15 as well as work beyond the boundaries of protected areas to ensure that priority biodiversity assets in a range of landscape and seascape settings are appropriately managed. Public entities (including SANParks and SANBI) and provincial conservation authorities accounted for the bulk of the jobs in Sub-category A1.

A further 59% of the jobs in BDE Category A were in Sub-category A2: Restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure, with jobs related to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) making up by far the bulk of these. Public employment schemes have featured in job creation and poverty alleviation efforts in South Africa post-1994, predominantly in the form of EPWP, which is co-ordinated by the Department of Public Works and implemented by various government departments. Maintaining and restoring ecological infrastructure has been a strong focus of EPWP from the outset, particularly in DEA's Environmental Programmes, which include Working for Wetlands, Working on Fire, Working for Land and Working for Coasts. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)'s Working for Fisheries and LandCare programmes are also part of EPWP but have not been implemented on nearly as large a scale.

As mentioned in Section 3.1, we decided to present the number of jobs related to EPWP in terms of full-time-equivalents (FTEs) rather than the total number of short-term work opportunities created. The results reported here show why this approach is necessary. The total of 35 575 jobs for DEA's Environmental Programmes in Table 6 consists of 252 staff within DEA's Environmental Programmes branch, and 35 323 FTEs which comprised more than 1 million work opportunities in 2014.

¹⁵ Dr Stephen Holness (NMMU), pers. comm. Feb 2016.

Presenting the number of jobs in terms of work opportunities would unduly inflate the figures for Sub-category A2, and would explode the overall estimate of biodiversity-related employment, reducing its credibility. Further, our view is that the work involved in maintaining and restoring ecological infrastructure is ongoing and long-term, and should preferably be undertaken not primarily through short-term work opportunities. As such, FTEs may in principle provide a more meaningful estimate of the number of full-time jobs that might be involved in this work. We return to this issue in Section 5.

The remaining 8% of the jobs in BDE Category A were in Sub-category A3: Research and professional services related to biodiversity, and included jobs in government agencies and universities related to research and teaching, as well as specialist consultants.

Table 6: Number of biodiversity-related jobs based on administrative data, for BDE Category A (2014)*

Number of jobs	BDE Category		
	A. Conserving biodiversity		
Biodiversity-related employers**	A1 Protecting & managing	A2 Restoring & maintaining	A3 Research & professional services
Department of Environmental Affairs (relevant branches)	314		
Other national departments (relevant sections)	2 195		
Public entities related to biodiversity	5 700		
Provincial departments of environmental affairs	929		
Provincial conservation agencies	6 155		
Provincial departments of agriculture (relevant programmes/sections)	1 624		
Metropolitans municipalities (relevant sections)	1 206		
Conservation NGOs	1 770		
Other conservation-related organisations and projects	481		
EPWP: DEA Environmental Programmes		35 575***	
EPWP: Other relevant elements		711	
Catchment Management Agencies		48	
NGOs involved in restoration and maintenance		86	
Government research institutions and agencies			806
Education and training related to biodiversity (relevant staff)			1 270
Human capital development programmes related to biodiversity			2 241
Media organisations (relevant staff)			6
Membership organisations and associations (staff of the organisation)			17

Biodiversity specialists registered with SACNASP and SAIEES			310
Total employment per sub-category	20 373 (33%)	36 420 (59%)	4 650 (8%)
Total employment for BDE Category A			61 443 (100%)

Table notes:

4.2 Results from existing sector estimates

Results based on existing sector or sub-sector estimates are summarised in Table 7, with just over 230 000 jobs across four sectors, all within BDE Sub-category B5: Extractive use of biodiversity. Each estimate is discussed further below.

Table 7: Summary of existing sector estimates and job numbers, for BDE Sub-category B5

Industry sector or sub-sector	Description	Source	Number of jobs (rounded to '000s)
BDE Category B5	Extractive use of biodiversity		
Trade in traditional medicine	Estimate includes the whole traditional medicine industry value chain i.e. harvesters, healers, street traders, transportation, wholesale, processing and packaging of muti.	Mander et al. 2007	133 000
Game ranching and hunting	Estimate restricted to permanent employment directly on game ranches. Excludes temporary employment and employment in related industries such as wildlife translocators, fencing businesses, and taxidermists.	Taylor et al. 2015	65 000
Fisheries	Estimate for commercial fisheries only, not subsistence fisheries. Includes activities related to harvesting, processing and marketing of wild-caught fish.	Mather et al. 2003, Sauer et al. 2003	28 000
Indigenous tea production	 Estimate includes: Rooibos tea industry (whole value chain i.e. harvesting, production/cultivation, fermenting, drying, packaging) Honeybush tea industry (whole value chain i.e. harvesting, production/cultivation, retail packaging plants, distribution, marketing and export research and maintenance) 	DAFF 2012a, DAFF 2012b	6 000
Total number of estimates	4	Total number of jobs	232 000

^{*} As explained in the text, in a few cases figures for 2013 or 2012 were used.

^{**} See Table 1 for a full list of the organisations included in each row.

^{***} This figure includes 35 323 full-time-equivalents which represent more than 1 million short-term work opportunities – see further discussion in text.

The largest estimates are for trade in traditional medicine, and game ranching and hunting. The estimate of over 133 000 jobs related to trade in traditional medicine comes from paper by Mander et al. (2007), which synthesises the research findings from four seminal studies. ¹⁶ It deals with the full range of activities linked to the trade, including plant harvesters (63 000), street traders (3 000) and full-time traditional healers (68 000). Mander et al. stress that many of the people involved are rural women. This work is dated, but we decided to include it because of the major contribution of this sector, which is likely to have been a relatively stable sector not subject to major market fluctuations. ¹⁷ As will be seen in Section 4.3, the QLFS 2014 estimate for traditional medicine practitioners was over 45 000 people, which is reasonably consistent with Mander et al.'s findings.

The estimate of 65 172 jobs (rounded to 65 000 here) in game ranching and hunting comes from a recent study led by the Endangered Wildlife Trust, funded through the Development Bank of Southern Africa's Green Fund (Taylor et al., 2015). Based on a detailed survey of 251 game ranches in 2014 (out of an estimated 9 000 game ranches nationally), the median number of permanent employees per hectare was extrapolated to the estimated area of 170 000km² over which game ranches occurs in South Africa. The estimate is for permanent employment directly on game ranches, and excludes temporary employment and employment in related industries such as wildlife translocators, fencing businesses, and taxidermists. The median salary per person per month was R3 441.

The estimate we found initially for fisheries was 27 000 jobs, which is cited in many DAFF documents (such as annual reports and the Integrated Growth and Development Plan for Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries produced in 2012) without an explicit source. This estimate appears to originate from a detailed study commissioned by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in 2000 and led by Rhodes University. The study included a survey of all commercial fisheries right holders and processing establishments, with a response rate of 87%. The total number of jobs was found to be 27 730, which we have rounded to 28 000, the bulk of which came from the linefish, squid, hake, rock lobster and tuna fisheries. A wealth of information is reported in two volumes (Mather et al., 2003; Sauer et al., 2003) including information about the demographic profile and incomes from the industry. This work is dated, but given the high quality of the information and the substantial contribution of the fisheries sector we decided to include it. In future it may be possible to update this figure based on knowledge of trends in the industry and complementary data from the QLFS and QES. The figure of 28 000 is for commercial fisheries only, and does not include livelihoods supported by subsistence fisheries. ¹⁸

The estimate of 6 000 jobs in indigenous tea production is based on profiles produced by DAFF of the rooibos tea and honeybush tea industries (DAFF, 2012a; DAFF, 2012b). Although the methodology for arriving at job numbers is not explicit, it seems to be based on detailed information provided by key industry stakeholders. The estimate includes 5000 jobs in the rooibos industry (including jobs on 350-500 farms and in eight large processors, both temporary and permanent), and 780 jobs in

¹⁶ SANBI intends to commission further work in 2017 on quantifying the socio-economic benefits of the traditional medicine trade in 2017, which may include updating these figures.

¹⁷ Of whom we included 85% or 38 740 in the final results in reported in Table 10.

¹⁸ Subsistence fisheries are reported in many DAFF documents to support 28 000 households, but it is not clear where this figure comes from.

honeybush (including jobs in harvesting, processing, distribution, research). The honeybush tea profile notes that current supply is not able to keep up with demand.

A frequently cited estimate of 17 500 jobs in floriculture in South Africa seems to originate from a study by Kaiser Associates (2000). It deals with traditional greenhouse floriculture as well as indigenous floriculture, and points out that demand for South African indigenous products (especially Proteas and other Fynbos species) is strong world-wide. Although the study discusses the relative capital intensity and employment per hectare in traditional greenhouse vs indigenous floriculture it is not possible to determine what proportion of employment is from the indigenous sub-sector, and we were thus not able to use the estimate.¹⁹

We did not find any existing estimates for sectors or sub-sectors within BDE Sub-category B4: Nonconsumptive use of biodiversity, which, as discussed in 2, we have defined to include nature-based tourism (e.g. bird watching, whale watching, diving, hiking), some adventure sports, and production of media and art related to biodiversity (e.g. through nature journalism, photography, and film making). Arguably the biggest gap in this regard is nature-based tourism, which is likely to be the largest contributor to Sub-Category B4. According to Statistics South Africa's Tourism Satellite Account (Stats SA, 2014b), there were 617 287 people employed in tourism-related industries in 2012. Although the Tourism Satellite Account does not mention nature-based tourism or biodiversity, on the face of it there would seem to be an argument that much of South Africa's tourism potential is linked to the country's natural assets, and could thus be considered biodiversityrelated. However, there are several challenges in quantifying numbers of jobs related to naturebased tourism. One is simply that estimating jobs related to any form of tourism is not easy, as they cut across conventionally recognised industry sectors. Another is that nature-based tourism can be defined either narrowly, as closely linked to protected areas and pristine or near-pristine areas, or more broadly as tourism related to range of natural and semi-natural features, sites or areas. Further research using the Tourism Satellite Account as a starting point and combining it with additional information, for example, on visitor numbers and bed nights in protected areas, may help to provide a firmer estimate. Care would need to be taken not to double-count jobs in nature-based tourism (Sub-category B4), game ranching and hunting (Sub-category B5), and management of the country's protected area network (Sub-category A1).

As discussed in Section 3, the results reported here based on existing sector estimates do not represent the full set of biodiversity-related economic activities in Sub-categories B4 or B5, and can thus be considered an under-estimate of the number of jobs in BDE Category B: Using Biodiversity. Further work to identify additional sectors or sub-sectors for which estimates are available, as well as priority sectors or sub-sectors for which estimates could be developed, would be worthwhile.

4.3 Results based on the Quarterly Labour Force Survey

As described in Section 3, data was extracted from the QLFS for the years 2008 to 2014, using industry and occupation codes identified as being biodiversity-related. For each the identified codes, all or most / some / few jobs were considered to be biodiversity-related, and a proportion of the

¹⁹ Kaiser Associates also make reference to a study conducted by the Agricultural Research Council, analysing the floriculture sector using a social accounting matrix, but we were not able to locate that study.

QLFS estimate for that code (85% / 40% / 3.5% respectively) was included in the total number of biodiversity-related jobs. The results across the seven years are summarised in Table 8 and Figure 2, and the results for 2014 are set out in detail by industry and occupation code in Table 10 and Table 11.

All QLFS results throughout the paper have been rounded to the nearest thousand to reflect the uncertainty associated with QLFS estimates, which, as discussed in Section 3.3, are extrapolated from a sample survey.

Table 8: Overview of QLFS results, including range, mean and sensitivity testing of the mean

	Range 2008 – 2014		Range 2008 – 2014 Mean 2008 – 2014		Sensitivity testing of the mean		
	Lowest	Highest	2008 – 2014	Conservative proportions*	Generous proportions*		
Industry	139 000 (2010)	150 000 (2008)	145 000	86 000	189 000		
Occupation	152 000 (2010)	167 000 (2013)	159 000	97 000	203 000		

Table note:

The total number of jobs based on QLFS results by industry averaged 145 000 across the seven years, while the total based on QLFS by occupation was consistently higher than that based on industry, averaging 159 000 (Table 8). This is approximately 1% of total employment in South Africa, which averaged 14.6 million over this period. For both industry and occupation, the results across the seven years were reasonably consistent, and there was no clear overall trend over the period. In 2013 the results by industry and occupation diverged most substantially, by just over 28 000 jobs, with a temporary trend in opposite directions. Aside from that year, they moved more or less together (Figure 2). More detailed analysis of the individual codes would be needed to determine the source of the divergence in 2013.

Sensitivity testing of the overall results shows the importance of the proportions used to calculate the number of biodiversity-related jobs, depending on whether all or most, some, or few jobs for a particular industry or occupation code are thought to be biodiversity-related, with differences of over 40 000 jobs in both directions. Further work is needed to settle on the most appropriate proportions, and there may well be an argument for a more nuanced approach in which the proportions are customised for different codes rather than applied uniformly within each group of codes.

^{*} See Table 5 in Section 3.3 for proportions used.

²⁰ Based on QLFS figures for total employment, provided by the DPRU.

170000 165000 No. of biodiversity-related jobs 160000 155000 Occupation estimates 150000 Industry estimates 145000 140000 135000 130000 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 Years

Figure 2: Trends in biodiversity-related employment based on results from the QLFS 2008 – 2014, by industry and occupation

Disaggregated analyses of the results for QLFS 2014, by industry and occupation and by biodiversity-related employment sub-category, are shown in the tables below. Table 9 gives an overview, and Table 10 and Table 11 show detailed results per industry and occupation code respectively.

For **BDE Category A: Conserving Biodiversity**, the analysis shows that:

- The industry codes do not seem to be reliable for picking up employment in the public sector, with 9 000 biodiversity-related jobs identified in Sub-Category A1 (including 8 000 in central government activities and provincial administrations) compared with the relatively certain estimate of approximately 20 000 based on administrative data.
- For Sub-category A2, the approximately 36 000 EPWP full-time-equivalents related to biodiversity (representing more than 1 million work opportunities) do not seem to be picked up at all in the result of 1 000 based on industry codes.
- The results for occupation codes look initially better for BDE Category A. However, the largest contributor, in Sub-category A1, is approximately 19 000 jobs in the occupation "Protective service workers not elsewhere classified, Rangers and game wardens", which probably includes large numbers of security guards who should not be included as biodiversity-related employees. This substantially reduces the usefulness of QLFS occupational estimates for Sub-Category A1.
- As with QLFS results by industry, the result by occupation for Sub-category A2 of 3 000 jobs does not seem to pick up the 36 000 EPWP full-time-equivalents related to biodiversity.
- For Sub-category A3 (research and professional services), occupation codes provide a much
 more nuanced set of results than industry codes, because they are able to distinguish people
 working in specific disciplines. The result for occupation codes is 14 000 jobs, mostly natural
 science or biological science-related. Industry codes are un-usefully blunt for Sub-category A3,
 picking up 38 000 jobs, mainly from the code "Education".
- For BDE Category A it thus seems that QLFS results by industry are not meaningful, but that QLFS results by occupation may be a useful estimate for Sub-category A3.

For **BDE Category B: Using Biodiversity**, the analysis shows that:

- For BDE Sub-category B4, results by industry give a total of 86 000 jobs, with the bulk coming from two codes: Hotels, camping sites and other provision of short stay accommodation (59 000); and Sporting and other recreational activities (25 000). Both of these codes fell into the group "Some jobs related to biodiversity", so 40% of the total number of jobs in these codes are reflected in this result. These results may be useful as a starting point for estimating jobs related to nature-based tourism. Occupation codes seem blunter for BDE Sub-category B4, partly because they combine catering and accommodation, and most catering jobs are unlikely to be related in any firm way to biodiversity.
- For BDE Sub-category B5, results by industry give a total of 15 000 jobs, of which 7 000 are in ocean and coastal fishing. Existing sector estimates for Sub-category B5 give an estimate of 230 000 jobs, more than 15 times greater, suggesting that industry codes are not suitable for this sub-category. Results by occupation give a total of 88 000, the bulk of which come from two codes: traditional medicine practitioners (39 000, or 85% of 45 000), and farmhands and labourers (31 000). As with industry codes, occupation codes seem not to pick up most sub-sectors in Sub-category B5. Notwithstanding these limitations, the results for some industry and occupation codes in Sub-category B5 may be useful for cross-checking some of the existing sector estimates and additional sector estimates that may be developed in future.

In summary, it seems that QLFS data may provide useful estimates for BDE Sub-categories A3 and B4. Given that we expected substantial challenges in relating QLFS industry and occupation codes to biodiversity-related employment, this can be considered an encouraging result.

Table 9: Summary and comparison of QLFS 2014 results per BDE sub-category, by industry and occupation

BDE	Results b	y industry	Results by	occupation
Category	# jobs	Notes	# jobs	Notes
A1	9 000	Almost all from central and provincial government activities. Low compared with result of 20 000 from admin data. Not useful.	21 000	19 000 from "5169 Protective services workers not elsewhere classified, Rangers and game wardens", likely to include large numbers of security guards. Not useful.
A2	1 000	Does not appear to pick up EPWP jobs. Not useful.	3 000	Does not appear to pick up EPWP jobs. Not useful.
A3	38 000	Almost 34 000 from "920 Education" – seems too high. <i>Not useful.</i>	14 000	Mostly natural science/biological science-related. May be useful.

BDE	Results b	y industry	Results by	occupation
Category	# jobs	Notes	# jobs	Notes
B4	86 000	Almost all from "641 Hotels, camping sites and short stay accommodation", and "964 Sporting and recreational activities". May be useful.	36 000	Over 23 000 from hotels, restaurants and other catering and accommodation related codes; 10 000 from cashiers and ticket clerks. Less useful than results by industry for this sub-category, partly because the occupation codes mix catering and accommodation, and there are unlikely to be many catering jobs that are biodiversity-related.
B5	15 000	9 000 from "115 Game hunting etc" and "131 Ocean and coastal fishing" combined – certainty relatively high for these figures. 6 000 from "112 Farming of animals". Less comprehensive than existing sector estimates, but may be useful for cross-checking some sector estimates.	88 000	Nearly 39 000 from "3241 Traditional medicine practitioners" – not picked up in industry codes. Over 30 000 from "9211 Farmhands and labourers". Other large contributions from agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing related codes. Doesn't pick up all biodiversity-related sectors/sub-sectors but may be useful for cross-checking some sector estimates.

Table 10: Detailed estimates of biodiversity-related employment from QLFS 2014, by industry

Numl	Number of jobs		BDE Category					
			A. Conserving Biodiversity			B. Using Biodiversity		
Indus	try code and description	A1	A2	А3	B4	B5		
All or	most related to biodiversity							
115	Game hunting, trapping and game propagation, including related services					1 000		
131	Ocean and coastal fishing					7 000		
Most	related to biodiversity							
641	Hotels, camping sites and other provision of short stay accommodation				59 000			
964	Sporting and other recreational activities				25 000			
Few r	elated to biodiversity							
112	Farming of animals					6 000		
121	Forestry and related services		1 000					
871	Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering			< 1 000				
911	Central government activities	8 000						
914	Provincial administrations	< 1 000						
920	Education			34 000				
932	Veterinary activities	< 1 000						

951	Activities of business, employers and professional organisations			1 000		
959	Activities of other membership organizations			1 988		
961	Motion picture, radio, television and other entertainment activities				1 000	
963	Library, archives, museums and other cultural activities			1 000		
Total	employment per sub-category	9 000	1 000	38 000	86 000	15 000
Total employment per broad category				48 000		101 000
Total	Total biodiversity-related employment					149 000

Table 11: Detailed estimates of biodiversity-related employment from QLFS 2014, by occupation

Numb	er of jobs		BDE Category					
		A. Conserving Biodiversity			ty B. Using Biodiversity			
Occup	ation code and description	A1	A2	А3	B4	B5		
All or r	most related to biodiversity							
2211	Biologists, botanists, zoologists and related professionals			1 000				
3241	Traditional medicine practitioners					39 000		
6152	Inland and coastal waters fishery workers					3 000		
6153	Deep-sea fishery workers					1 000		
6154	Hunters and trappers					< 1 000		
9213	Fishery, hunting and trapping labourers					2 000		
Some	related to biodiversity							
1221	Production and operations managers/department managers in agriculture, hunting, forestry, fishing and mining					2 000		
1225	Production and operations managers/department managers in hotels, restaurants and other catering and accommodation services				11 000			
1311	General managers in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing					8 000		
1315	General managers of hotels, restaurants and other catering or accommodation services				12 000			
2212	Biological sciences, Chemical sciences, Medical sciences, Physical sciences and Veterinary sciences			< 1 000				
3111	Natural science technicians			9 000				
7121	Builders, traditional materials					< 1 000		
7424	Basketry weavers, brush makers and related workers (including apprentices/trainees)					1 000		
Few re	elated to biodiversity							
1120	Senior government officers	1 000						
1210	Directors and chief executives	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000		
2210	Scientist			< 1 000				

Numb	er of jobs	BDE Category				
		A. Conserving Biodiversity B			B. Using B	iodiversity
Occup	ation code and description	A1	A2	A3	B4	B5
2213	Agronomists, food scientists and related professionals, Agriculture, forestry and food scientists, Natural sciences technologists			< 1 000		
2223	Veterinarians	< 1 000				
2310	Technikon, teacher training, technical and other colleges, university and other higher education institutions teaching professionals and Other post-secondary education teaching professionals			2 000		
2431	Archivists and curators			< 1 000		
2451	Authors, journalists and other writers, Editors, Reporters, journalists, Writers, poets, playwrights and Other writers, commentators, proofreaders				1 000	
2452	Sculptors, painters and related artists				< 1 000	
3131	Photographers and image recording equipment operators, Sound recording equipment operators				< 1 000	
3211	Life science technicians, Biological science and Medical science			< 1 000		
3213	Farming and forestry advisers/consultants			< 1 000		
3227	Veterinary assistants	< 1 000				
3242	Faith healers				< 1 000	
3444	Government licensing officers		< 1 000			
4211	Cashiers and ticket clerks				10 000	
5113	Travel guides				< 1 000	
5161	Fire-fighters		1 000			
5169	Protective services workers not elsewhere classified, Rangers and game wardens	19 000				
6113	Gardeners, horticultural and nursery growers (farm owners and skilled farm workers)				< 1 000	
6121	Dairy and livestock producers (farm owners and skilled farm workers) Apiarists and sericulturists (farm owners and skilled					< 1 000
6123	farm workers)		1.000			< 1 000
6141	Forestry workers and loggers		1 000			11.000
7331	Subsistence farmers Handicraft workers in wood and related materials (including apprentices/trainees)					< 1 000
7332	Handicraft workers in textile, leather and related materials (including apprentices/trainees)					< 1 000
9211	Farmhands and labourers					31 000
9212	Forestry labourers		1 000			
Total e	employment per sub-category	21 000	3 000	14 000	36 000	88 000
Total e	employment per broad category			38 000		125 000
Total l	biodiversity-related employment					163 000

4.4 Comparison of results across different data sources, and initial total estimate

From the discussion above, it is clear that some data sources are better at picking up jobs in some BDE sub-categories than others. The approach we have taken in developing an estimate of total biodiversity-related employment is thus to see *the different data sources as complementary rather than as mutually exclusive alternatives*. The results from all three different sources of data are summarised for comparison in Table 12, together with an assessment of which we consider to be the best available data source for each BDE sub-category. Table 13 combines the best result for each sub-category to provide a total estimate of biodiversity-related employment, presented graphically in Figure 3.

The total estimate is 388 000 jobs. This total draws on a combination of administrative data for Subcategories A1 and A2, QLFS data by occupation for Sub-category A3, QLFS data by industry for Subcategory B4, and existing sector estimates for Sub-category B5. The rational for the choice of data source for each sub-category is discussed below.

Table 12: Comparison of results from administrative data, existing sector estimates and QLFS 2014, showing the preferred estimate for each BDE Sub-category

BDE sub-category	Admin data	Existing sector estimates	QLFS by industry	QLFS by occupation	Preferred estimate
A1 Protecting & managing biodiversity assets	20 373		9 000	21 000	Admin data
A2 Restoring & maintaining ecol. infrastructure	36 420		1 000	3 000	Admin data
A3 Research & professional services	4 650		38 000	14 000	QLFS by occupation
B4 Non-consumptive use of biodiversity			86 000	36 000	QLFS by industry
B5 Extractive use of biodiversity		232 000	15 000	88 000	Existing sector estimates

Table 13: Initial estimate of biodiversity-related employment for 2014

BDE category	Best estimate	% of total	Source
A1 Protecting & managing biodiversity assets	20 000	5%	Administrative data
A2 Restoring & maintaining ecol. infrastructure	36 000	9%	Administrative data
A3 Research & professional services	14 000	4%	QLFS by occupation
A: Conserving biodiversity	70 000	18%	
B4 Non-consumptive use of biodiversity	86 000	22%	QLFS by industry
B5 Extractive use of biodiversity	232 000	60%	Existing sector estimates
B: Using biodiversity	318 000	82%	
Total biodiversity-related employment	388 000	100%	
Ratio of Category A jobs to Category B jobs		1:4	

A1
20 000

A2
36 000

A3
14 000

A1 Protecting & managing

A2 Restoring & maintaining

A3 Research & professional services

B4
86 000

B5 Extractive use

Figure 3: Initial estimate of biodiversity-related employment in 2014

In general, administrative data is considered more reliable than survey data, provided that it can be comprehensively gathered. Administrative data is especially suitable for Sub-Categories A1 and A2, which consist mainly of public sector and NGO jobs. It is less suited to Sub-category A3, which has a private sector component in the form of, for example, independent consultants and experts employed by consulting firms, for which administrative data sources are scanty. Because QLFS data by occupation is good at picking up jobs in particular professions, some of which are clearly related to biodiversity, we decided to use the QLFS result by occupation as the preferred data source for Sub-category A3. There is potentially some double-counting between administrative data for Sub-category A1 and QLFS data for Sub-category A3, as some biologists, botanists, zoologists and related professionals may work in government or NGOs; however, on balance we felt that the proportion of these specialist occupations in the public service is likely to be small. Although biodiversity-related public sector organisations may employ people with tertiary qualifications in biological and natural science, most of these people occupy non-scientific positions.²¹

For Sub-category B4, QLFS results by industry provide the best available estimate, as these results can be seen as a starting point for estimating jobs related to nature-based tourism, for which no other estimate is available. Further work is required for this sub-category, including exploring potential links with Stats SA's tourism satellite account.

For Sub-category B5, the existing sector estimates that we have chosen to use are those that are based on surveys and/or first-hand information from industry stakeholders. We are confident that they are reliable, even though some of them are out of date. We are also confident that collectively they represent an under-estimate of employment in Sub-category B5, as there are many sectors within this sub-category for which no estimates were available. There is unlikely to be significant double-counting across the existing sector estimates we have used (trade in traditional medicine, game ranching and hunting, fisheries, and indigenous tea production) as these sectors are by and

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²¹ In fact, a concern in biodiversity-related public sector organisations is the small and declining number of scientific positions, such as ecologists in provincial conservation authorities. It may be useful to test whether the QLFS data would be useful for exploring this further, for example through cross-tabulations of occupation and industry codes.

large unrelated to each other. There may be some double-counting between jobs in game ranching and hunting in Sub-category B5 and those in accommodation, sporting and recreation activities in Sub-category B4; however, the employment estimate for game ranching and hunting is for on-ranch jobs only, and to the extent that this includes some jobs in, for example, hotel or short-stay accommodation, these jobs are likely to be a tiny proportion of such jobs nationally.

As noted, the estimate for Sub-category B5 is based on sources that are out of date in some cases (and 2015 in the case of game ranching). Nevertheless, we have chosen to give the date of the initial overall estimate as 2014. This is partly to meet the objective of creating an indicator that can be tracked over time, with this research providing the baseline. It is thus necessary to provide a year, and 2014 seems like the best option, as it is a largely accurate reflection of the dates for Subcategories A1, A2, A3 and B4.

Table 13 shows that of the total of 388 000 jobs, 18% or 70 000 come from BDE Category A and 82% of 318 000 come from BDE Category B, giving a ratio of approximately 1:4. This suggests that for every job dedicated to conserving biodiversity, there are more than four jobs that depend directly on using biodiversity. In fact, this is likely to be an under-estimate of the ratio given that the Category B figure is not comprehensive. We return to this issue of the ratio between jobs in BDE Categories A and B in Section 5.

5 Discussion

This section discusses biodiversity-related employment in the context of other sectors in the economy, provides initial thoughts on the spatial distribution and skills profile of biodiversity-related jobs, suggests some policy implications of the work presented in this paper, reflects on the extent to which the objective of establishing a repeatable methodology for a national indicator on biodiversity-related employment has been achieved, and sets out priorities for further work.

5.1 Key findings and policy implications

It is important to put the results presented in Section 4 in the context of employment in other sectors and the country as a whole, as shown in Figure 4. The initial estimate of approximately 390 000 biodiversity-related jobs represents 2.5% of national employment, and compares with approximately 430 000 jobs in the mining sector, 700 000 jobs in the agricultural sector, and 1.8 million jobs in manufacturing.

An advantage of biodiversity-related employment is that it is based on a renewable resource that, if appropriately managed, can provide the basis for ongoing economic activity in the very long term. We suggest that in a context where employment in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture is declining, biodiversity-related sectors could provide a source of sustainable long-term growth. This may not apply across every biodiversity-related sector or sub-sector (for example, growth in wild-caught fisheries is firmly constrained by the ecological limits of the underlying resource base), but it may apply to large relatively well-established biodiversity-related sectors such as nature-based tourism and game ranching, and also to smaller emerging sectors such as indigenous tea production, indigenous floriculture and bioprospecting. Tourism in particular is

regarded as a rapidly growing sector globally and in South Africa, and is estimated to provide an increasing number of jobs nationally based on Stats SA's Tourism Satellite Account. Game ranching has grown rapidly in the last 25 years, from a very small number of commercial game ranches in the 1980s to an estimated 9 000 in 2014 (Taylor et al., 2015).²²

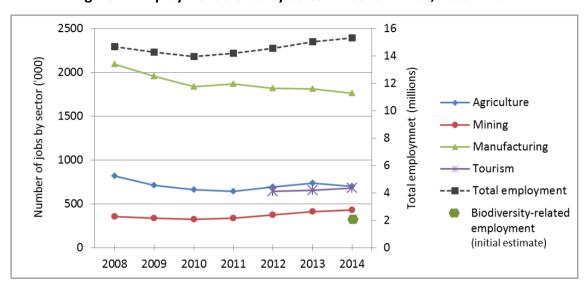


Figure 4: Employment trends by sector in South Africa, 2008 - 2014

(Source: Stats SA, 2014b; Stats SA, 2015b)

This research did not extend to analysis of the spatial distribution and skills profile of biodiversity-related employment. However, on the face of it there is a case to be made that many biodiversity-related jobs are located outside major urban centres, and that they are likely to include a substantial proportion of low-skilled jobs. Initial reflections on how this might apply to the different BDE Subcategories are given in Table 14, and this is an area that warrants further work. Our hypothesis is that growth in biodiversity-related sectors could support rural development and inclusive growth, and that a biodiversity "lens" could be useful in discussions and efforts towards employment creation and poverty alleviation.

Table 14: Notes on spatial distribution, skills profile and growth potential per BDE sub-category

BDE sub-	Notes on spatial distribution	Notes on skills profile	Notes on growth potential
category			
A1	Many jobs involved in	Likely to include labour-	Limited by resource
(70 000	conserving biodiversity are	intensive activities with low	constraints in the public
jobs)	located in protected areas.	formal skills requirements.	sector and by the extent to
	With a few exceptions (such	Higher skill levels required for	which protecting and
	as Table Mountain National	managerial and specialist	managing biodiversity assets
	Park in Cape Town) these are	positions.	is viewed as a priority
	located outside major		amongst many other pressing
	centres.		priorities for government.

²² This growth was enabled by the Game Theft Act (Act 105 of 1991), which allowed for legal ownership of wildlife by landowners for the first time in South Africa. Previous to that a range of government policies and practices had actively discouraged game farming in favour of livestock farming (Taylor et al., 2015).

BDE sub-	Notes on spatial distribution	Notes on skills profile	Notes on growth potential
category			
A2 (36 000 jobs)	Many of these jobs are located in rural areas, where the bulk of priority areas for restoring ecological infrastructure are located. Distributed across the country.	Likely to include labour- intensive activities with low formal skills requirements. Higher skill levels required for managerial and specialist positions.	Limited by resource constraints in the public sector and by the extent to which restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure is viewed as a priority amongst many other pressing priorities for government.
A3 (14 000 jobs)	Likely to be based mainly in urban centres.	Likely to have require high levels of formal skills (most jobs would require a tertiary qualification).	Likely to be modest.
B4 (86 000 jobs)	Many of these jobs likely to be located in rural areas – where the nature-based assets occur.	May have a similar skills profile to the hospitality sector more generally.	May be substantial. Further work required to determine growth potential of nature-based tourism, a large contributor to this subcategory.
B5 (232 000 jobs)	Likely to vary substantially across different sectors within this sub-category e.g. game ranching – mainly rural, bioprospecting more hightech and based in major centres (although with backward linkages into rural areas to source raw materials).	Skills profile varied across sectors within the subcategory. Some sectors likely to include substantial numbers of jobs with low formal skills requirements (e.g. game ranching likely to have a similar skills profile to livestock farming).	May be substantial in some sectors within this subcategory. Further work needed to identify which are most promising from a growth perspective as well as barriers to growth (e.g. bioprospecting generally considered to have high growth potential that is currently constrained by a restrictive regulatory environment)

An important aspect of the results reported here is that for every job dedicated to conserving or managing South Africa's biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure, at least four jobs depend on utilising biodiversity (see Section 4.4). The implication is that current efforts to conserve and manage biodiversity should be seen not simply as an end in themselves but as an investment in a resource that supports much wider economic activity and employment. A key challenge is to ensure that activities in BDE Category B: Using Biodiversity are sustainably managed and are not depleting the underlying biodiversity assets on which they depend. Many of the public sector and NGO jobs in BDE Category A make an essential contribution in this regard.

BDE Category A also includes large numbers of employment opportunities related to managing and conserving ecological infrastructure, which currently take the form mainly of short-term work opportunities through EPWP. As discussed briefly in Section 0, ecological infrastructure refers to naturally functioning ecosystems that deliver valuable services to people. Examples of ecological infrastructure include strategic water catchments that provide the bulk of the country's water

supply,²³ intact wetlands that prevent flooding by acting as sponges in the landscape and improve water quality by filtering toxins, coastal dunes that buffer human settlements from storm surges, riparian (river-bank) vegetation that filters nutrients and pesticides from irrigation return flows, estuaries (river mouths) that provide nurseries for commercially important fish species (without which stocks cannot be replenished), and healthy natural rangelands that support agricultural productivity. In the face of climate change, ecological infrastructure will be increasingly important in buffering people from the impacts of extreme weather events and natural disasters.

In many cases ecological infrastructure is subject to a range of human-induced pressures and requires ongoing maintenance (for example, to prevent infestation or re-infestation by invasive alien plants), or in some cases active restoration to re-establish its functioning (for example, restoring wetlands). Restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure is not a once-off activity but requires sustained effort, in the same way that transport infrastructure or other forms of built infrastructure must be regularly maintained if they are not to become dilapidated. (See SANBI (2014) for a framework and set of principles for investing in ecological infrastructure.)

Recognising that work related to maintaining and restoring ecological infrastructure is of a long-term nature and contributes to an important public asset, we suggest that it would be useful to consider alternative models for this type of employment, rather than restricting it mainly to short-term work opportunities. There may be the potential to embed some of this employment in the public sector organisations that have the mandate and responsibility for managing the country's natural assets, providing further long-term employment in BDE Category A with a direct public benefit. We recognise that there would be many complexities in restructuring or reconfiguring the current approach, and that a combination of approaches may be required.

In BDE Category B, further work is required to assess which sectors or sub-sectors have the greatest potential for inclusive growth that is labour-absorbing, and to understand how best to support these sectors through policy interventions. This is likely to require close collaboration between the Department of Trade and Industry, DEA and the Department of Science and Technology, among others. Some of this work is currently underway as part of the Biodiversity Economy Lab which was initiated by the Presidency earlier this year with a focus on unlocking the economic potential of the wildlife economy (game ranching and hunting), marine and coastal tourism, and bioprospecting.

In summary, key policy-relevant findings of the work presented here include the following:

- South Africa's biodiversity assets provide substantial employment in a range of sectors, and should be seen as a public good that contributes to the economy.
- Development based on these assets has the potential to support growth in non-traditional sectors and to provide employment outside major urban centres.

Policy implications that follow from these findings include the following:

• Continued investment in managing and conserving biodiversity assets, led by the public sector, is essential in order to ensure that private sector economic activities that depend on biodiversity are sustainably managed and do not deplete the underlying resource base.

²³ Eight percent of South Africa's land area provides 50% of mean annual run-off, often supporting major urban and industrial centres a long way away (Nel et al., 2013).

- Investment in restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure should be approached as a long-term endeavour and should be seen as an opportunity to create long-term employment in labour-intensive activities, many of which would be located outside major urban centres.
- Biodiversity-related sub-sectors that are growing or have the potential to grow should be the focus of support through industrial policy and related interventions.

5.2 Methodological recommendations for a national indicator on biodiversity-related employment

In addition to determining how many jobs are currently related to biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure in South Africa, a key objective of this research was to establish a systematic, repeatable method for measuring biodiversity-related employment, in order to develop a headline indicator of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity that can be reported periodically in the National Biodiversity Assessment. Our recommendations in this regard include the following:

- A national indicator on biodiversity-related employment is feasible to develop and track over time, and provides a meaningful measure of the socio-economic contribution of South Africa's biodiversity assets.
- The indicator requires a methodology that that draws on multiple data sources. For the
 foreseeable future these will include all three data sources used here: administrative data,
 sector or sub-sector estimates, and national survey data (in the form of the QLFS, possibly also
 drawing on the QES), notwithstanding limitations of each of them.
- Although administrative data is time-consuming to collect, it provides a reliable data source for biodiversity-related employment in the public and NGO sectors, and should form a component of the methodology. Because the indicator will be reported on only every five to seven years, the time-intensive effort required to gather this data is not prohibitive. It may also be possible to set up arrangements with some of the larger biodiversity-related employers to collate the data themselves.
- Given the inherent limitations of using industry and occupation codes to identify biodiversityrelated employment, sector estimates are likely to remain an essential component of the methodology if a meaningful total estimate is to be achieved. Two challenges in relation to sector estimates stand out:
 - There is no standard methodology for developing such estimates, and their quality and reliability is variable. As part of formalising this methodology, a set of criteria or requirements for sector estimates will need to be developed.
 - Sector estimates tend to be undertaken on a once-off basis and there is often no impetus to update them. Once estimates have been developed for a reasonably comprehensive range of biodiversity-related sectors, a set of priority sectors for regular updating will need to be identified, and arrangements for regular updates will need to be put in place. Again, because the timeframe for updates is five to seven years, this seems feasible. Research to develop and refine sector estimates may be able to be supported by research institutions, NGOs and industry associations.
- Because QLFS data is readily available and has proved useful for estimating employment in some BDE sub-categories, it should also remain a component of the methodology. Suggestions for further work to refine the use of QLFS data for this purpose are discussed below.

SANBI is well-placed to lead the process of formalising the national indicator on biodiversityrelated employment, and should develop a working document that sets out the methodology
based on the research and recommendations presented here, including a set of guidelines for
sector estimates. Regular updates of the indicator should be co-ordinated by SANBI in
collaboration with a range of data providers and partners.

5.3 Priorities for further work

Several priorities for further work have been mentioned in the preceding sections, and are gathered together below. For **administrative data**, further work should include:

- Confirming that the 146 organisations identified for BDE Category A (Table 1 and Appendix 1) provide a comprehensive list. We welcome suggestions for additions.
- For organisations with only part of their mandate related to biodiversity, or with biodiversity as a secondary mandate, verifying or refining estimates of the proportion of jobs within these organisations that should be considered biodiversity-related, for example by engaging with key informants in the organisations concerned.
- Exploring options for gathering administrative data to support BDE Category B estimates, for example administrative data derived from permitting or authorisation requirements at provincial or national level.

For **sector estimates**, further work should include:

- More comprehensive secondary research to identify additional existing estimates that we may
 have missed, and to develop a list of additional sectors or sub-sectors for which estimates are
 could be developed.
- Prioritising sectors or sub-sectors for development of estimates, based on several criteria
 including whether they are likely to be significant contributors to employment and whether they
 have potential for growth. This could involve a combination of secondary research and
 consultation with sector experts or knowledge holders.
- Primary research to develop estimates for these priority sectors or sub-sectors.
- Research to develop an estimate for nature-based tourism, which in itself is likely to require
 drawing on several data sources. For example, it may be possible to use the Tourism Satellite
 Account as a starting point and combine it with additional information, such as visitor numbers
 and bed nights in protected areas.
- Updating the existing estimates for the traditional medicine and fisheries sectors, both of which are known to be substantial contributors to employment.
- Exploring the use of QLFS or QES data to cross-check some sector estimates.
- Developing a set of guidelines or minimum requirements for sector estimates that are to be used in the national indicator of biodiversity-related employment.

For QLFS data, further work should include:

• Confirming the allocation of industry and occupation codes to BDE Sub-categories and to groups (all or most, some, few, or no jobs likely to be related to biodiversity), through revisiting these with a wider group of expert informants.

- For the codes in the "all or most", "some" and "few" groups, taking a more nuanced approach to
 the proportion of jobs counted as biodiversity-related, with a view to customising the
 proportions for different codes rather than applying them uniformly to all codes within a group.
 It would be worth doing this only for BDE sub-categories for which the QLFS data has proved
 useful (A3 and B5).
- Analysis of trends between 2008 and 2014 for QLFS data for BDE Sub-categories A3 and B5, and exploring whether cross-tabulations for the industry and occupation codes in these subcategories provide any useful insights.

Areas of possible collaboration with Stats SA include:

- Exploring whether data from the QES could be used to cross-check any of the existing sector estimates or could feed into the development of new sector estimates.
- Exploring whether it would be possible to include a specific focus on nature-based tourism within the tourism account.

Lastly, we return to the original set of research questions posed in Section 0. The first three questions as well as question 7 have been reasonably comprehensively addressed in this paper:

- 1. What constitutes biodiversity-related employment, and can we develop a coherent framework for defining and measuring it?
- 2. What data is available for measuring biodiversity-related employment, and what are the key data gaps?
- 3. How many jobs are currently related to biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure in South Africa?
- 7. What are the priorities for addressing data gaps, with a view to laying the foundation for further research in this area?

Questions 4 and 5 have been tentatively discussed, but require further research to develop a firm evidence base:

- 4. Where are biodiversity-related jobs located (e.g. by province, municipality, urban/rural)?
- 5. What types of jobs are related to biodiversity (e.g. temporary/seasonal/permanent, skilled/semi-skilled/unskilled)? Are there skills barriers or other barriers to entering employment in this sector?

Questions that remain to be addressed are:

- 6. What proportion of biodiversity-related jobs are held by women, youth and people with disabilities?
- 8. What is the potential for growth in biodiversity-related employment in South Africa, and how could such growth be facilitated and supported?
- 9. Are there significant policies, institutional, educational, financial or other blockages to growing employment in this sector, and if so how might they be addressed?

Questions 8 and 9 especially would need to be addressed in a way that focuses on particular biodiversity-related sectors and sub-sectors, rather than for biodiversity-related economic activities as a whole, given the varied nature of these activities and sectors. Further work on questions 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 could be incorporated into the development and revision of sector estimates, and would help both to identify those biodiversity-related sectors that have the greatest potential to contribute

to inclusive growth, and to provide the basis for designing policy interventions that could enable growth in those sectors and the employment they provide.

6 Conclusion

This paper set out to develop a conceptual framework for defining and measuring biodiversity-related employment; to establish a systematic, repeatable method for measuring biodiversity-related employment in South Africa; and to estimate the number of jobs currently related to biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure in order to establish a baseline for a national indicator of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity. A broader goal was to highlight the potential for biodiversity-related economic activity to contribute to the country's development priorities.

A conceptual framework for biodiversity-related employment was developed, with a key distinction made between jobs in sectors or activities that *contribute actively to conserving and managing biodiversity*, termed BDE Category A, and jobs in sectors or activities that *depend directly on using biodiversity*, termed BDE Category B. Generally speaking, conserving biodiversity is the role of government and NGOs, while use of biodiversity often occurs within the private sector or on a subsistence basis. Three sub-categories were identified within Category A, relating to protecting and managing biodiversity assets, restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure and research and professional services related to biodiversity. Two sub-categories were identified within Category B, relating to non-consumptive use of biodiversity and extractive use of biodiversity.

An initial estimate of approximately 390 000 biodiversity-related jobs in 2014 was developed, based on multiple data sources. Administrative data proved the most reliable source for Sub-categories A1 and A2, QLFS data for Sub-categories A3 and B4, and existing sector estimates for Sub-category B5. The estimate of 390 000 jobs is an underestimate, as available data for BDE Category B5 is not comprehensive. It represents approximately 2.5% of employment nationally, and compares with 430 000 jobs in the mining sector and 700 000 in agriculture.

Of the 388 000 biodiversity-related jobs, 70 000 or 18% are in BDE Category A, and 318 000 or 82% are in BDE Category B. This means that for every job dedicated to conserving biodiversity, there are at least four jobs that depend directly on using biodiversity, highlighting the value of biodiversity to the economy. Activities in BDE Category A should be recognised as an investment in an important socio-economic resource, not simply as an end in themselves.

Work related to restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure (Sub-category A2) is currently undertaken mainly through short-term work opportunities in EPWP. Recognising that this work is of a long-term nature and contributes to an important public asset, it would be useful to consider alternative models, including embedding some of this employment in the public sector organisations that have the mandate and responsibility for managing the country's natural assets.

Biodiversity-related economic activity is based on a renewable resource that, if appropriately managed, can provide the basis for ongoing economic activity in the very long term. A key challenge is to ensure that the activities in BDE Category B are sustainably managed and do not erode the assets on which they depend.

Because biodiversity assets and ecological infrastructure are located largely outside major urban centres and because their management and use is often labour-intensive, biodiversity-related economic activity has the potential to provide labour-absorbing growth in rural areas. Further work is needed to map and quantify this potential in more detail.

Based on the methods explored in this research, a methodology for the proposed national indicator on biodiversity-related employment was recommended, with clear priorities for refining the use of administrative and QLFS data and for filling data gaps through further work on estimates for particular biodiversity-related sectors or sub-sectors.

Further work on sector estimates will help not only to increase confidence in the estimate of total biodiversity-related employment, but should also provide insight into which biodiversity-related sectors have the greatest potential to contribute to inclusive growth and how best those sectors might be supported through policy interventions.

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Appendix 1

Table 15: Full list of biodiversity-related employers included in the administrative data gathering process, showing whether the organisation's core mandate or function is biodiversity-related

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
BDE Category A1: Protecting and managing biodiversity assets		
Department of Environmental Affairs (relevant sections) Biodiversity & Conservation Branch Ocean and Coasts Branch Legal, Authorisation, Compliance and Enforcement Branch Other national departments (relevant sections) Department of Water & Sanitation Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Department of Mineral Resources South African Police Services South African Revenue Services Public entities related to biodiversity South African National Biodiversity Institute (including National Botanical Gardens)	✓	✓
 South African National Parks (SANParks) iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority National Zoological Gardens Provincial departments of environmental affairs (relevant sections/programmes) 	,	
 Eastern Cape Department of Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Free State Department of Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Gauteng Department of Department of Agriculture & Rural Development KwaZulu-Natal Department of Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration North West Department of Economic Development, Conservation & Tourism Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning 	√	
Provincial conservation agencies	√	
Provincial departments of agriculture (relevant programmes/sections)		✓

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
 Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Free State Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Gauteng Provincial Department of Agriculture & Rural Development KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Agriculture and 		
 Environmental Affairs Limpopo Provincial Department of Agriculture Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration Northern Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development 		
 Western Cape Department of Agriculture [no data could be found for North West Province] Metropolitan municipalities (relevant sections) 		
 Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality City of Cape Town City of Johannesburg (including Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo) City of Polokwane City of Tshwane Ethekwini Municipality 		✓
 Manaung Metropolitan Municipality Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality Conservation NGOs 		
 Biowatch South Africa BirdLife South Africa Cape Leopard Conservation Trust Conservation South Africa Dyer Island Conservation Trust Endangered Wildlife Trust Fire Protection Association FreeMe Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Human Wildlife Solutions ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Indigo Development and Change Natures Valley Trust Ocean Research Conservation Africa - ORCA Foundation Overberg Crane Group Peace Parks Foundation South African Shark Conservancy Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) TRAFFIC Vulture Programme for the Conservation of Vulture Species in Southern Africa Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) Wilderness Foundation Whale Coast Conservation 	•	

Organis	sations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
•	WWF-South Africa		
•	Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve		
•	Cape Winelands Biosphere Reserve		
•	Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve		
•	Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Reserve		
•	Vhembe Biosphere Reserve		
•	Waterberg Biosphere Reserve		
Other c	onservation-related organisations and projects		
•	Drakensberg Botanical Garden		
•	Durban Botanical Garden		
•	Garden Route Botanical Garden		
•	Manie van der Schifjj Botanical Garden	/	
•	North West University Botanical Garden	•	
•	Stellenbosch University Botanical Garden		
•	KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board		
•	Land Reform and Biodiversity Stewardship Initiative (22		
	projects)		
Total n	umber of organisations in Category A1	8	3
	tegory A2: Restoring and maintaining ecological infrastructure		
Expand	ed Public Works Programme – DEA Environmental Programmes		
•	Staff of Environmental Programmes branch	✓	
•	Work opportunities created		
Expand	ed Public Works Programme – other relevant elements		
	Department of Public Works: EPWP Programme		
•	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries: LandCare		✓
	Programme, Working for Fisheries		
•	Department of Water and Sanitation: Adopt-a-River Project		
Catchm	ent Management Agencies (relevant staff)		
•	Inkomati Catchment Management Agency		✓
•	Breede Overberg Catchment Management Agency		
NGOs ir	nvolved in restoration and maintenance		
•	Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)		
_			
•	Institute of Natural Resources (INR) South African Association for Marine Biological Research	✓	
•	(SAMBR)		
•	Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI)		
•	National Association of Conservancies/Stewardship SA		
Total ni	umber of organisations in Category A2	1	2
	tegory A3: Research and professional services related to biodivers	sity	
	ment research institutions and agencies	1	
•	Department of Science & Technology (relevant sections)		
•	Agricultural Research Council (ARC)		
•	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)		
•	South African Environmental Observations Network (SAEON)		✓
•	South African Institute of Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB)		
•	Water Research Council (WRC)		
•	East London Museum		
•	Iziko Museums of South Africa		
		I .	l

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
KwaZulu-Natal Museum		
 Life Sciences Museum and Biodiversity Centre 		
National Museum Bloemfontein		
Durban Natural Science Museum		
Education and training related to biodiversity		
 Universities (staff of relevant departments) 		
 Cape Peninsula University of Technology 		
Durban University of Technology		
 Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University 		
 North West University 		
 Rhodes of University 		
 Tshwane University of Technology 		
 University of Cape Town 		
 University of Fort Hare 		
 University of Free State 		
 University of Johannesburg 		
 University of KwaZulu-Natal 		
 University of Limpopo 		
 University of Pretoria 		•
 University of South Africa 		
 University of Stellenbosch 		
 University of Venda 		
 University of Western Cape 		
 University of Zululand 		
 Walter Sisulu University 		
Wits University		
 Colleges 		
 Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) 		
Tracker Academy		
Relevant education NGOs		
 Cape Town Environmental Education Trust 		
 DELTA Environmental Education 		
Human capital development programmes related to biodiversity		
Groen Sebenza Programme	✓	
DEA's Environmental Monitors		
Media organisations (relevant staff)		,
Africa Media		✓
Membership organisations and associations (staff of the organisation)		
South African Association of Botanists		
South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions		
(SACNASP)		✓
 Southern African Institute of Ecologists and Environmental 		
Scientists (SAIEES)		

Organisations included	Biodiversity = all or part of core mandate /function	Biodiversity = secondary mandate/ function
Biodiversity specialists registered with SACNASP and SAIEES ²⁴ • Aquatic scientists • Biological scientists • Botanists		
 Ecologists Marine scientists Water care scientists Water Resource Scientists Zoologists 	✓	
Total number of organisations in Category A3		51
Total number of organisations in Category A	1	46
BDE Category B4: Non-consumptive use of biodiversity		
[No administrative data found for this category]		
Total number of organisations in Category B4		0
BDE Category B5: Consumptive or extractive use of biodiversity		
 Membership organisations and associations for biodiversity-related industries (staff of the organisation) Professional Hunting Association of South Africa (PHASA) National Confederation of Hunters Associations of South Africa Protea Producers of South Africa Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) South African Flower Export Council South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA) Cape Flora South Africa Wildlife Ranching South Africa 		✓
 Bioprospecting and natural products – specific projects/initiatives Council for Scientific and Industrial Research: Bioprospecting section Individual bioprospecting projects granted permits by DEA (includes harvesting, processing and distribution of the biodiversity resources concerned) 		✓
 Game ranching and hunting Certain private game reserves and game farms for which studies are available 		✓
Indigenous flower harvesting and floriculture – specific projects/initiatives • Flower Valley Conservation Trust	√	
Total number of organisations in Category B5	1	12
Total number of organisations in Category B	1	12
Total number of organisations across all categories	1	58

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 $^{^{24}}$ [might want to footnote that we recognize this might result in some double counting]

The Research Project on Employment, Income Distribution and Inclusive Growth (REDI3x3) is a multi-year collaborative national research initiative. The project seeks to address South Africa's unemployment, inequality and poverty challenges.

It is aimed at deepening understanding of the dynamics of employment, incomes and economic growth trends, in particular by focusing on the interconnections between these three areas.

The project is designed to promote dialogue across disciplines and paradigms and to forge a stronger engagement between research and policy making. By generating an independent, rich and nuanced knowledge base and expert network, it intends to contribute to integrated and consistent policies and development strategies that will address these three critical problem areas effectively.

Collaboration with researchers at universities and research entities and fostering engagement between researchers and policymakers are key objectives of the initiative.

The project is based at SALDRU at the University of Cape Town and supported by the National Treasury.

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