

Action Plan for Southern African Botanical Gardens





Action Plan for Southern African Botanical Gardens

Proceedings of a Regional Workshop on
Networking Southern African Botanical Gardens

Pretoria & Witwatersrand National Botanical Gardens
Gauteng, South Africa
12–16 March 2001



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Recommended citation format:

Willis, C.K. & Turner, S. (eds) 2001.
Action plan for southern African botanical gardens.
Southern African Botanical Diversity Network Report No. 12.
SABONET, Pretoria.

Published by

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from whom copies of reports in this series are available on request.

ISBN 1-919795-61-8

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Cover: *Aloe broomii*, Free State National Botanical Garden.
(Photograph: National Botanical Institute Collection)

Cover design: Antoinette Burkhardt, Vanilla Design Studio, Pretoria, South Africa
(27) 12 809-0318.

Text design and layout: Vanilla Design Studio, Pretoria, South Africa
(27) 12 809-0318.

Printed in 2001 in the Republic of South Africa by Business Print Centre, Pretoria
(27) 12 349-2295.

SABONET web site: <http://www.sabonet.org>

NBI web site: <http://www.nbi.ac.za>

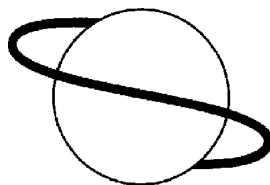
This report is a joint product of the National Botanical Institute of South Africa and the Southern African Botanical Diversity Network (SABONET) and was made possible through support provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/World Conservation Union—Regional Office for southern Africa (IUCN ROSA) (Plot no. 14818 Lebatlane Road, Gaborone West, Extension 6 Gaborone, Botswana), under the terms of Grant No. 690-0283-A-00-5950. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the GEF/UNDP, the SABONET Steering Committee or SABONET National Working Groups.

IUCN
The World Conservation Union



undp

United Nations Development Programme



GEF



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Foreword

The Southern African Botanical Diversity Network has provided a remarkable stimulus to the science and practice of plant conservation in the region since its launch in 1996. Many of the hopes and expectations of the historic February 1990 meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, that recommended the establishment of such a network, have been met, especially those relating to training in taxonomy and herbarium management.

Botanical gardens have been somewhat neglected within SABONET and it is appropriate that they now enjoy greater priority. The detailed needs assessment carried out during 1998–99 by Botha, Willis and Winter provides an excellent evaluation of the “state of the gardens”. The assessment clearly identifies capacity building and infrastructure strengthening as primary needs, but also recommends the development of an active network of the staff of these often isolated and poorly resourced centres.

The establishment of the Southern African Botanical Gardens Network and the preparation of an Action Plan for the participating institutions is timely. Recent international initiatives, such as the *Gran Canaria Declaration*, the *International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation* and the *Global Plan for Plant Conservation* call for strengthening the role of botanical gardens, particularly in developing countries. Southern Africa, through the excellent work of SABONET, is well positioned to make major contributions towards reaching the ambitious plant conservation goals of the 21st century.



Brian Huntley

**Chief Executive Officer
National Botanical Institute**

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|---------|--|
| BGCI | Botanic Gardens Conservation International |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CBO | Community-Based Organisations |
| CPG | Common Policy Guidelines |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| IABG | International Association of Botanical Gardens |
| INIA | National Institute of Agronomic Research, Mozambique |
| LHDA | Lesotho Highlands Development Authority |
| NBG | National Botanical Garden |
| NBI | National Botanical Institute, South Africa |
| NBRI | National Botanical Research Institute, Namibia |
| NBSAP | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| NGO | Nongovernmental Organisation |
| PRECIS | National Herbarium (PRE) Computerised Information System |
| SABONET | Southern African Botanical Diversity Network |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |

Acknowledgements

The editors would like to express their gratitude to Stefan Siebert, Nyasha Rukazhanga-Noko, and Carina Haasbroek of the SABONET Secretariat for arranging and hosting the workshop, and to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for financial support made available through the SABONET Project. We also thank the SABONET Steering Committee for approving the funding for the workshop, which made it possible to bring together botanical garden staff from eight southern African countries for the first time in the region's history.

This Action Plan was made possible thanks largely to the excellent guidance and facilitation provided by Rose Clark (CSIR, Pretoria, South Africa) on the first afternoon of the workshop, for which we are truly grateful. A special thank you to Fiona Dennis (BGCI), Christopher Fominyam (Limbe Botanic Garden, Cameroon), and Maureen Wolfson (NBI), for their valuable contributions and input.

We also thank the participants from each participating country (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) for their excellent presentations and contributions, and for sharing their valuable experiences.

Finally, our sincere thanks to Mark Mattson and Marthina Mössmer for technical editing of this report.