



Semaine internationale des zones humides Ramsar

Ateliers - Séminaire technique - Animations

20 - 25 mai 2024

Ile de La Réunion - France





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Communities and Restoration

Dalton Gibbs – City of Cape Town
Environmental Management Department

Making progress possible. **Together.**

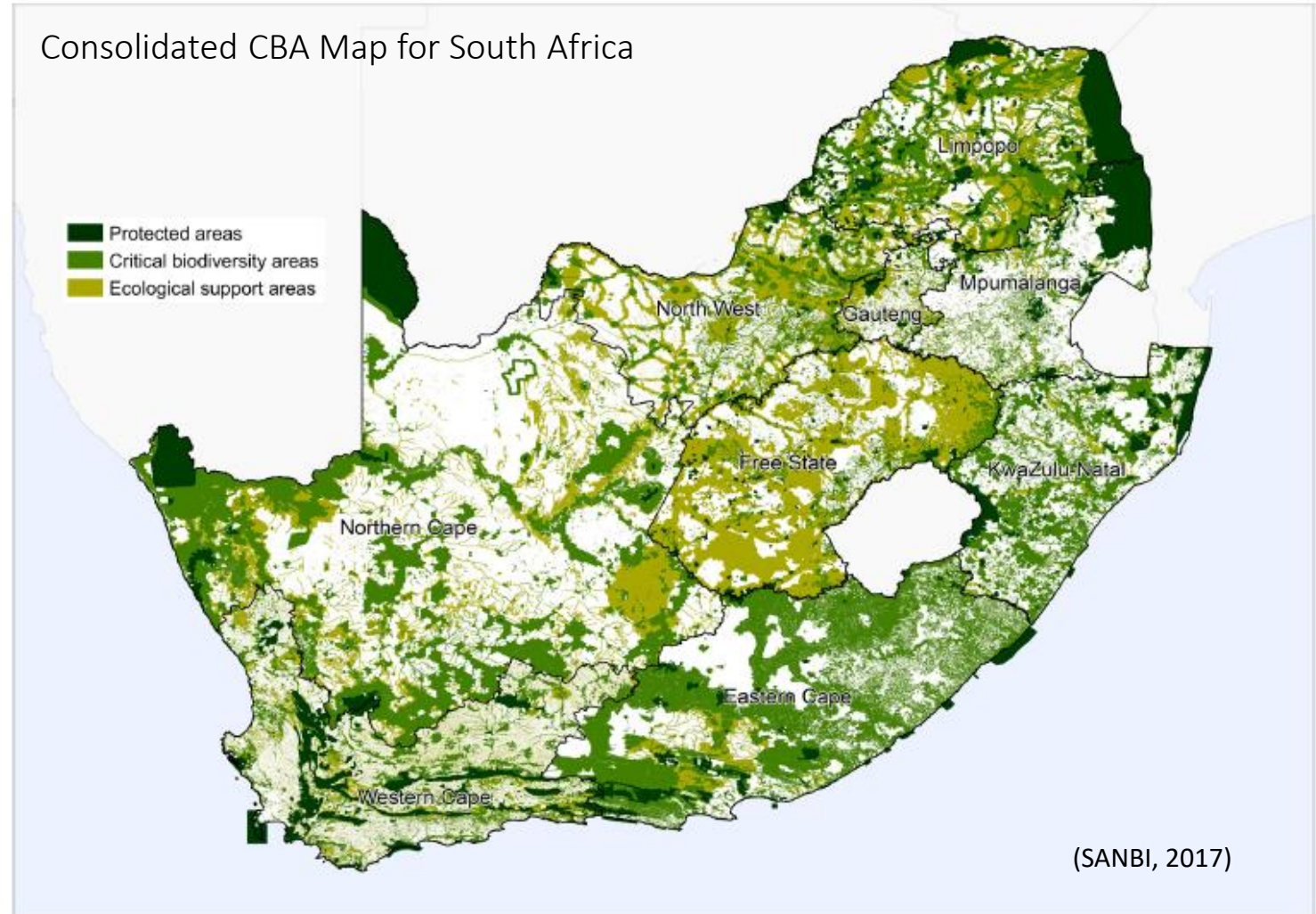
Dalton Gibbs

- City of Cape Town – Biodiversity Management Branch



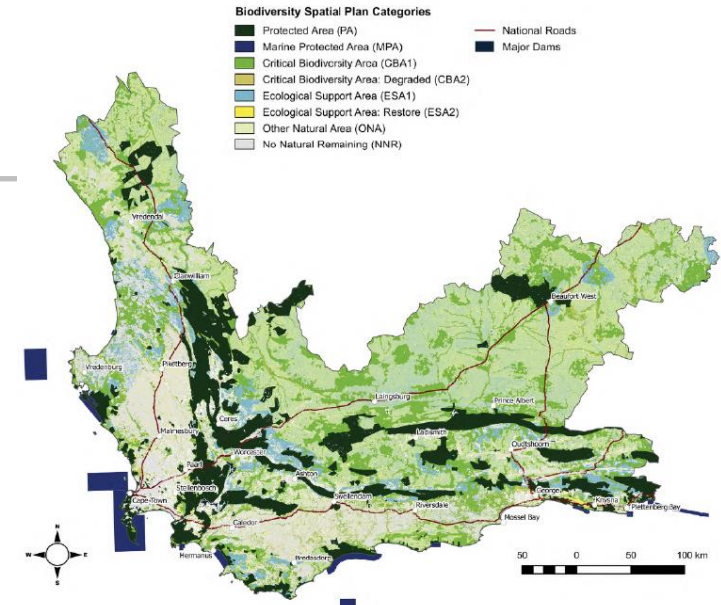
The South African Context

- South Africa has 11 official languages
- Diverse cultures
- Large social wealth gap
- Third most biodiverse country on earth



Western Cape Province

- The Western Cape is a winter rainfall area
- About 90 000 km sq (about the size of Portugal)
- The supports 20% of Africa's flora (9000 species)
- Supports 3% of the plant species on earth



Cape Town

- The most biodiverse city in the world (IUCN 2015).

- 2500 km sq.
- 3200 Plant species
- 60 Mammals
- 610 Birds
- 21 Amphibians
- 52 Reptiles



Extremely high levels of endemism

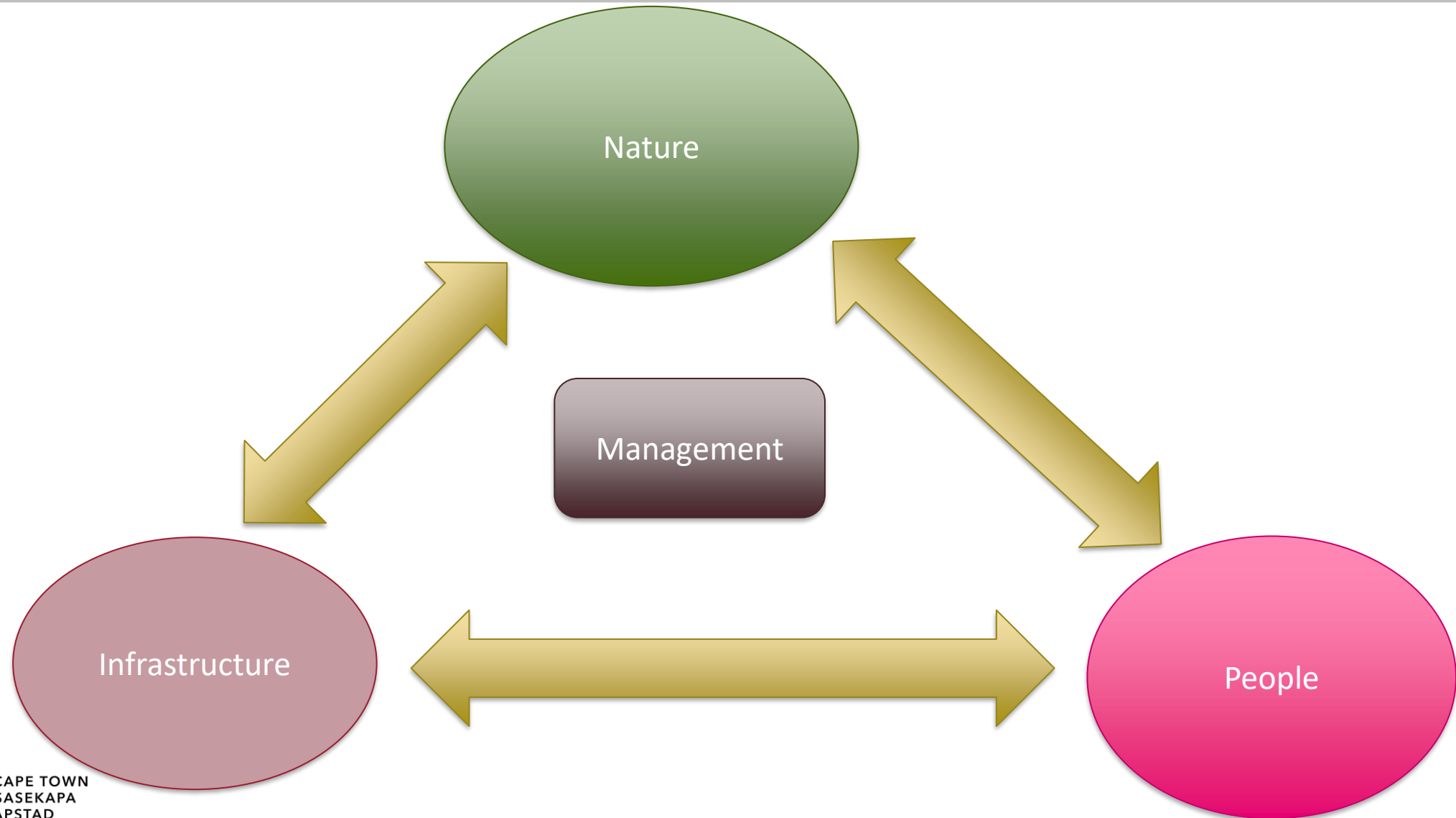


Cape Town

- The highest rates of plant extinction for its size in the world.
 - 3.6 million people
 - Water scarce
-



The Protected Area Management Feedback



Restoration is a long term endeavour and will far outlive those involved in it!

- This multi generational thinking is often contrary to Western short term thinking.
- Restoration work with communities thus has to be sold as long term natural heritage investment.
- The concept of “A living legacy”.



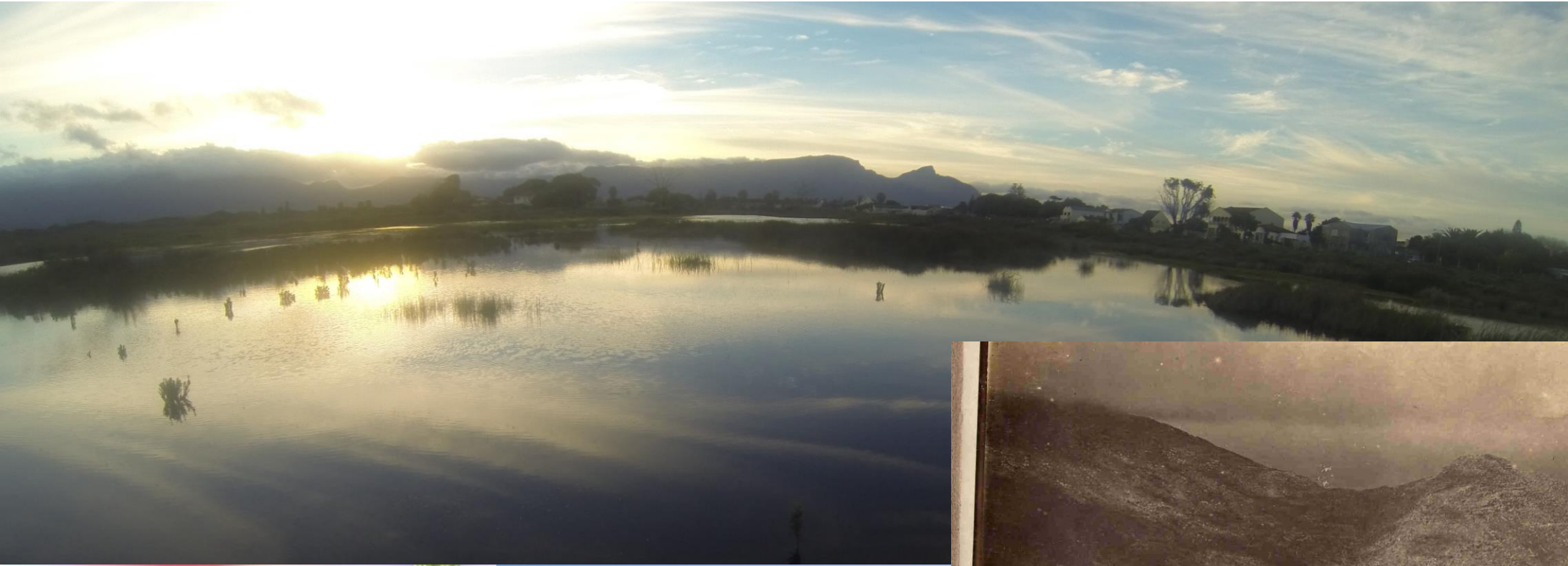
Set Expectations with Communities!

- Re-vegetation
- Rehabilitation
- Restoration



Restoration

- Establishing a fully functional intact ecosystem with all its indigenous components



Restoration

- We need to know and explain to communities what the final product looks like.
-



Where is the Restoration going to take place?

Do we have...

- Legislative protection for the site?
- The necessary expertise to sustain the effort?
- A secure long term budget?
- Safety & security – the necessary Law Enforcement & Security if needed?



- What invasive species do we need to remove?





- What species do we need to introduce?





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- What ecological processes do we need to sustain the species?
 - Will these impact local communities?
-



- Example pre-scribed ecological fires





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- Example annual draw downs



Communities

Communities?

- Who is your community?



- Anyone who wants to become involved!



Partnerships

CAPE BIRD CLUB



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Partnerships

- Where multiple partners are involved define roles & responsibilities – good fences make good neighbours....
- Consider a Project Scope Document if necessary



Liability?

- Are there possible safety issues for volunteers?
- Do you need a formal agreement (Memorandum of Agreement) between people and/or organisations who may be assisting?



Designate a clear Restoration Project Manager

- A suitable staff member in your organisation with a clear mandate and understanding of the Restoration Project
- Someone with good communication skills...



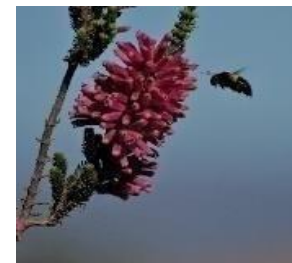
The Champions!

- Establish and nurture champions in communities you are working with.



Set Milestones

- As part of setting expectations, set conservative milestones when certain species could be re-introduced.



Institutionalise and Celebrate the Restoration Project

- Use annual events, like Heritage Day or Spring Day, to annually celebrate and remind communities of the Project.



Social Media



Case Studies

Zeekoevlei Draw Down



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27 April – Freedom Day



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Water Hyacinth Eradication



Toad Tunnels – Western Leopard Toad

- University – research
- City Roads Department
- Residents Association
- Local Environmental Group

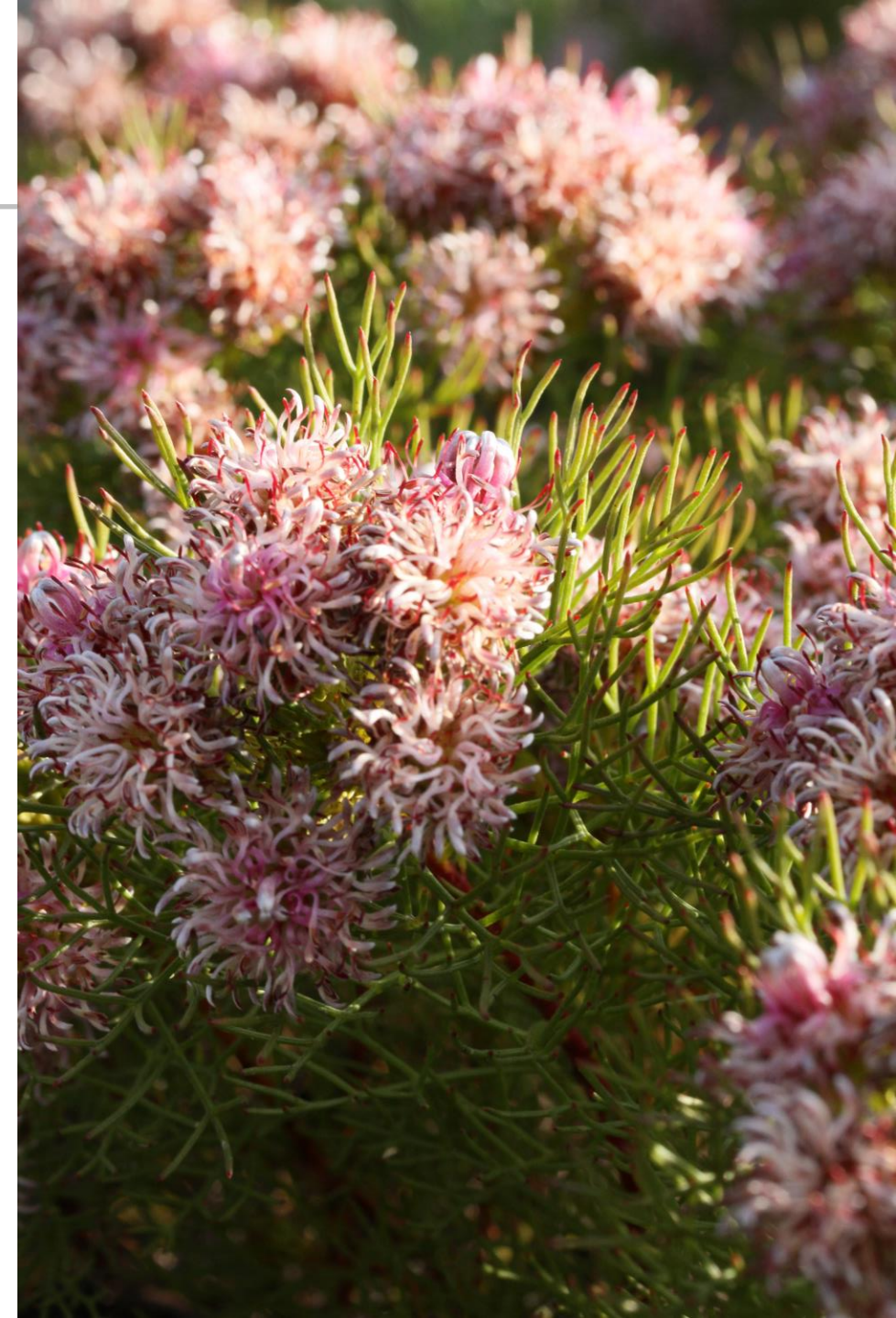




Use every opportunity to re-enforce partnerships



Erica verticillata & Serruria foeniculaceae







Community hack group





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Thank You

Making progress possible. Together.