

Urban Ecosystems Restoration

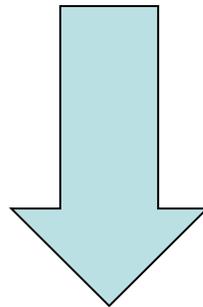


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Restoration Ecology Branch

Purpose: To combine innovative research with practical implementation, as a means to guide ecosystem restoration and sustainability, within the Municipality.



Working to achieve a 'foresighting function' to anticipate how to respond to future challenges, to implement accordingly, and to inform other relevant municipal [and other] role-players

Functions of the branch...



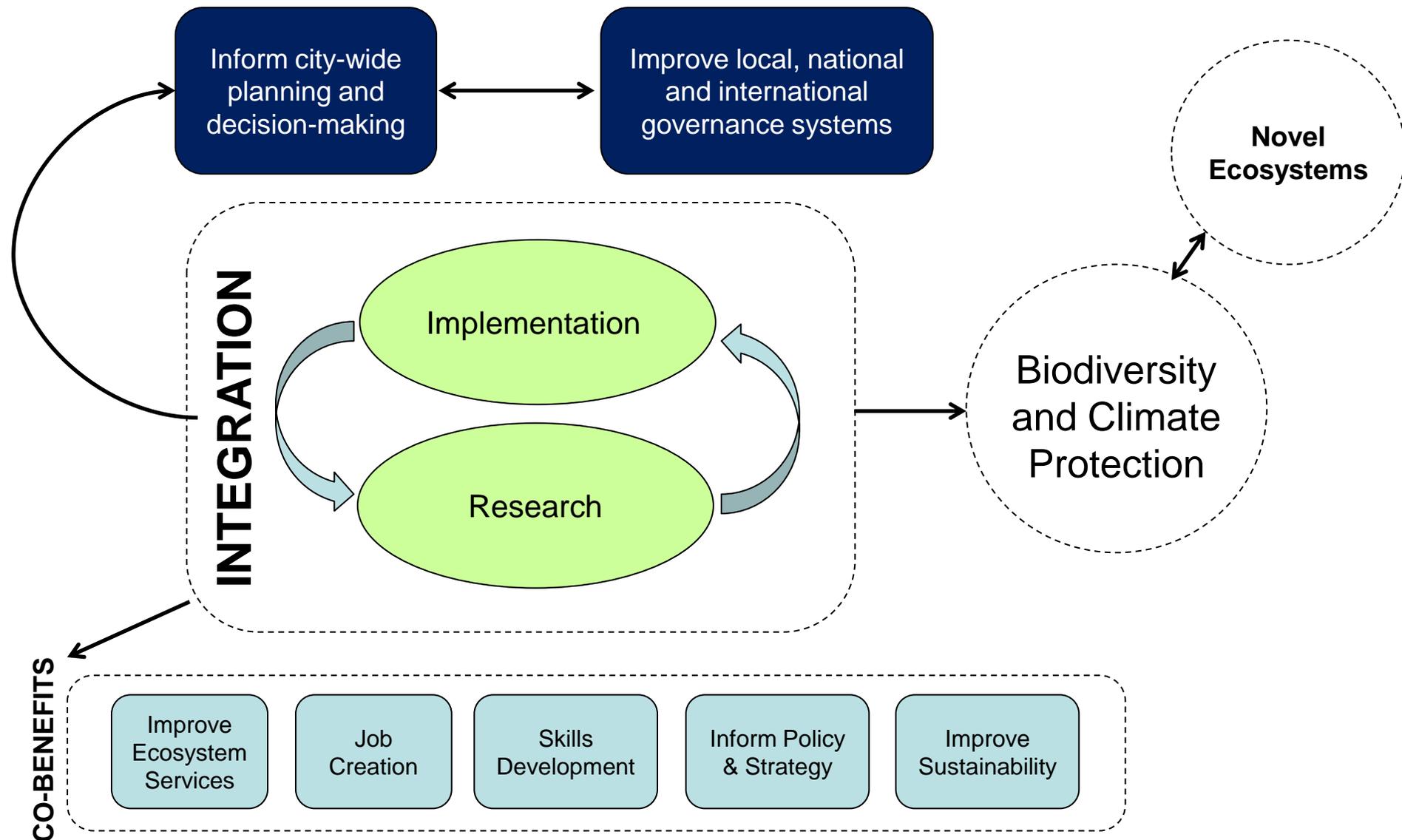
Develop and implement policies, plans & projects, for biodiversity & climate protection

Ensure optimal and appropriate environmental asset management

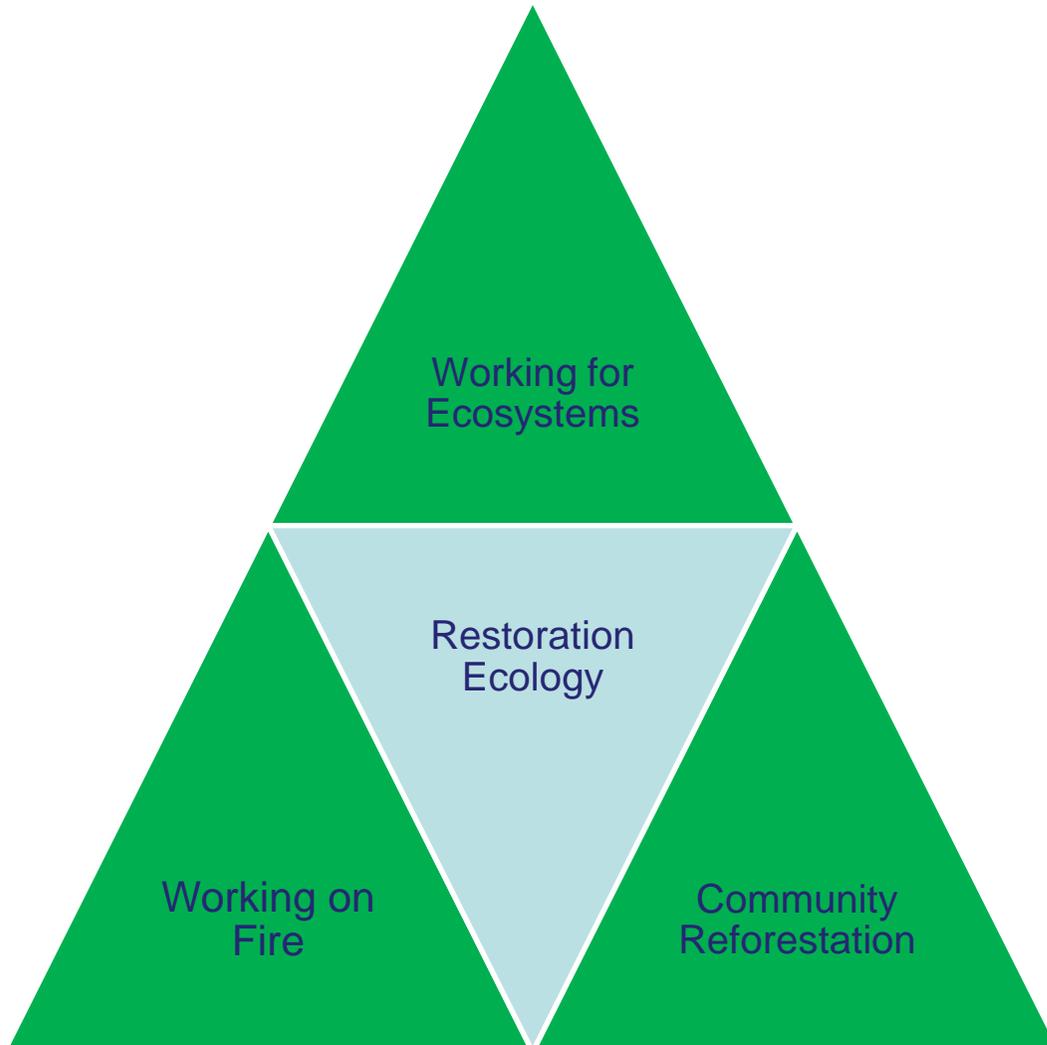
Undertake research to improve ecosystem restoration and sustainability

Optimise co-benefits relating to skills development and job creation





3x Large Scale Implementation Programmes



Working for Ecosystems

- In operation since 2007
- Focus is catchment management
- Alien Plant Control in natural areas

Key benefits

- Restoration of 1800 ha of high priority open spaces

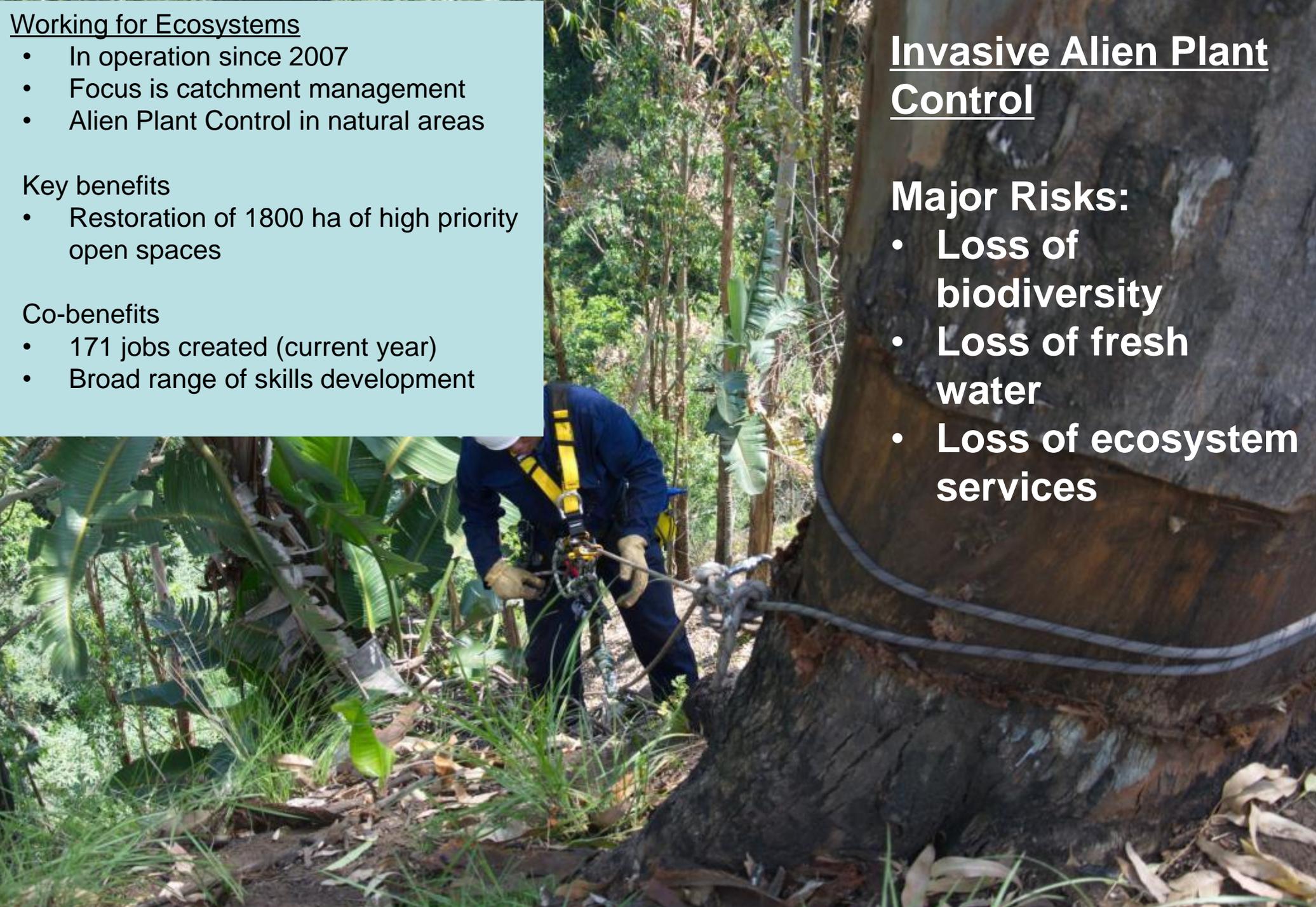
Co-benefits

- 171 jobs created (current year)
- Broad range of skills development

Invasive Alien Plant Control

Major Risks:

- **Loss of biodiversity**
- **Loss of fresh water**
- **Loss of ecosystem services**



Working on Fire

- In operation since 2009
- Alien Plant Control primarily on grasslands
- Fire control (winter months)

Key benefits

- Restoration of over 800 ha of high priority open spaces
- Fire control on over 300 ha of land

Co-benefits

- 63 permanent jobs created (current year)
- Broad range of skills development

Fire control

Major Risks:

- Loss of life
- Loss of biodiversity
- Loss of property / assets
- Reduced ecosystem services



Reforestation

- Initiated in 2008
- Co-funding over current three-year cycle
- R36 million external funding secured from the National Green Fund
- Durban committed R20 million

Key benefits

- Buffelsdraai : To date over 400,000 trees planted in approximately 400 ha of land

Co-benefits

- Over 600 active Treepreneurs: grow trees which they swap for credits
- 55 permanent jobs created



Research

Reforestation Research Partnership

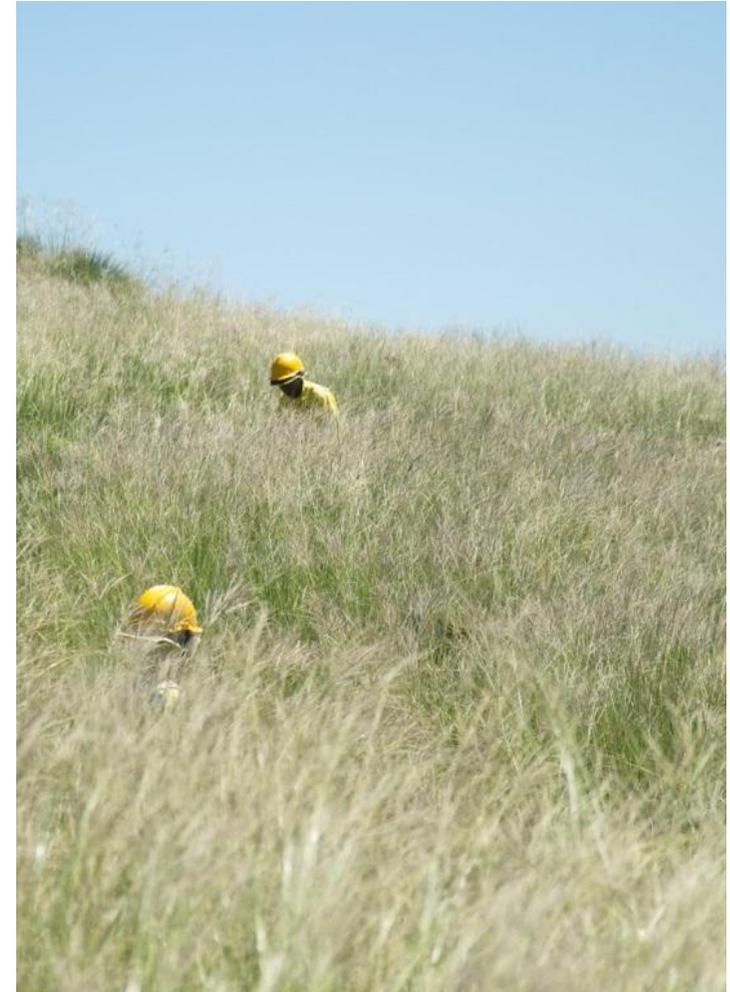
- Reforestation Programme
- 3x Postdoc; 4x PhD; 9x MSc;
 - Evidence-based practice: environmental decision-making
 - Development of a research monitoring system
 - Climate change mitigation and adaptation
 - Human capital
 - Research partnerships and capacity building

Researching SMMEs development

- Working for Ecosystems programme
 - 1x MSc Study (Rhodes University)

Veld Condition Assessment (VCA)

- Working on Fire programme
 - Assess fuel loads of priority grasslands
 - Implement appropriate burning regimes





Thank you