

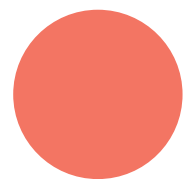
## PROBLEM STATEMENT



*The Waterberg is characterised by abundant biodiversity consisting of valuable, important, endemic and endangered species. At a landscape level there is insufficient levels of protection both for species and area status, thus hindering conservation initiatives and enabling criminal activity.*

*Diverse demographics, landuse and socio-economic priorities exacerbated by inadequate communication and coordination creates disharmony and increases the burden on overstretched resources reducing the effectiveness of area integrity benefits, especially safety and security.*

*Various technologies have proven effective in deterring and facilitating apprehension of potential criminals. There is however, a shortage of these technology devices across the greater Waterberg. There is also insufficient community engagement and coordinated initiatives that include the broader community.*



## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The risks to biodiversity and the sustainability of protected and conservation areas (such as environmental crime, diminishing water quality and quantity, and impacts of development) largely originate due to unsustainable economic development. However, the environment and biodiversity form the basic building blocks of any economy.

Degraded, exploited and under-valued environmental resources will all impact the local economy. This is especially true for the Waterberg where the economy is largely based on nature-based resources, with little other options. These risks are increasing over time, driven by climate change and socio-economic pressure linked to poverty and unemployment constantly increasing pressures on natural areas and biodiversity.

The Waterberg has largely intact biodiversity and ecological processes. It is also a known tourism destination and includes an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a Ramsarwetland and a World Heritage Site. It has a range of landscapes and attractions and already has a well developed biodiversity economy.

There is little long term sustainable financing for either conservation or community work. There is the constant threat of environmental crime, especially rhino and pangolin poaching. Human-wildlife conflicts still occur, mostly with predator species. Unemployment remains high and there are difficulties for rural communities to access conservation and biodiversity economy. The area's biodiversity is also relatively under studied and under valued.

However, set between the strengths and the challenges of the area, there are potential opportunities that through collaborative approaches could bring investment and benefits for people and the environment, such as the further development of nature-based tourism, increasing the reach of environmental education, increasing research and biodiversity knowledge, especially through citizen science, as well as promotion and further development of the biodiversity economy. These would allow the conservation potential of the area to be enhanced as well as strengthening livelihoods and rural economies.



# THE IMPORTANTE OF THE WATERBERG

Largest district in Limpopo  
-44,913km<sup>2</sup> and home  
to 762,000 people

Area of unique topography,  
geology, important ecosystems,  
unique vegetation types  
and endemic species

Half of the district is the  
Waterberg Mountain Complex

Significant biodiversity economy  
with the potential for further  
growth and conservation

An interconnected landscape with  
PA's, game farms and other OECM's  
that occupy about 70% of the  
district and creates >3 million ha  
of conservation estate

Critical water catchment containing  
many wetlands including SA's largest  
inland wetland Nylsvley

The area contains UNESCO  
Biosphere Reserve, International  
Important Bird Area, Ramsarsite  
and World Heritage site

Sparsely populated, undeveloped  
with much natural environment

Waterberg occupies 3.7% of SA  
but contains 40% of SA's birds  
and mammals and 34% of reptiles

Re-wilding over the past 3 decades  
have changed land type from  
agriculture to conservation making  
the area a biodiversity hotspot



## OUR VISION

“

*A well protected and conserved Waterberg  
that is valued locally, recognised globally  
and sustains a nature based future.*

”

## OUR MISSION



*To actively undertake, facilitate, and support the promotion and enhancement of the conservation and biodiversity value of the area.*

*We strive to elevate the recognition, protection, and importance of biodiversity and landscape conservation, while fostering a deeper understanding of their fundamental roles in the ecosystem.*





# THE OVERALL APPROACH OF WATERBERG LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

The Waterberg Landscape Alliance aims to take a holistic approach to better direct collective action, some of which is already underway, such as the security and safety objectives. The Waterberg Landscape Alliance aims to facilitate a collective vision across the landscape with stakeholders and communities to identify tangible conservation opportunities such as conservancies, compatible livelihoods and economic opportunities, ways to communicate these, and strengthen structures, and partnerships to ensure these are effectively realised.





## THEMES OF THE WATERBERG LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE



**Conservation at many levels;** species, habitats and landscape integrity is important to retain the character, importance and opportunities of the area.



**The integrity of the area;** there are many issues that can negatively impact an area. Crime in particular can negatively impact on everything and everyone and is interconnected so the theme of safety and security would deal with all crime and not just wildlife crime.



**Community;** its role in both being the capacity for achieving objectives as well as the beneficiaries of the outputs and outcomes of the objectives and mission such as impact on local economy, employment and livelihoods within the biodiversity economy.

Each theme would be achieved by the organisation providing a platform for supporting, coordinating and facilitating conservation implementers for the region.



## EACH THEME ACHIEVED BY



### **COLLECTING INFORMATION**

On the status of conservation and biodiversity.



### **WORKING WITH PARTNERS**

To enhance current work and to increase further opportunities through networks.



### **LINKING CONSERVATION**

To the local economy for job creation.



### **RAISING AWARENESS**

So biodiversity and conservation is recognised and readily communicated.



### **PROVIDING SUPPORT**

To landowners including state, private and new landowners.



### **INCREASING EFFORT**

By promoting or implementing conservation priority projects



### **STRENGTHENING OUTPUTS**

Through status documents, information resources and strategic plans.

## CONSERVATION

### IDENTIFIED OUTPUTS BASED ON THE WATERBERG, PAST WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS



The security focus has benefited not just rhino conservation in the Waterberg but many threatened species.

While rhinos are the target of poaching syndicates, all species are important in terms of conservation and protection (both at species and habitat levels) in order to achieve ecosystem integrity.

Therefore, the future of conservation is likely to lie at the landscape level which aims to keep as much biodiversity intact, and key ecosystem attributes such as water catchments in good health.

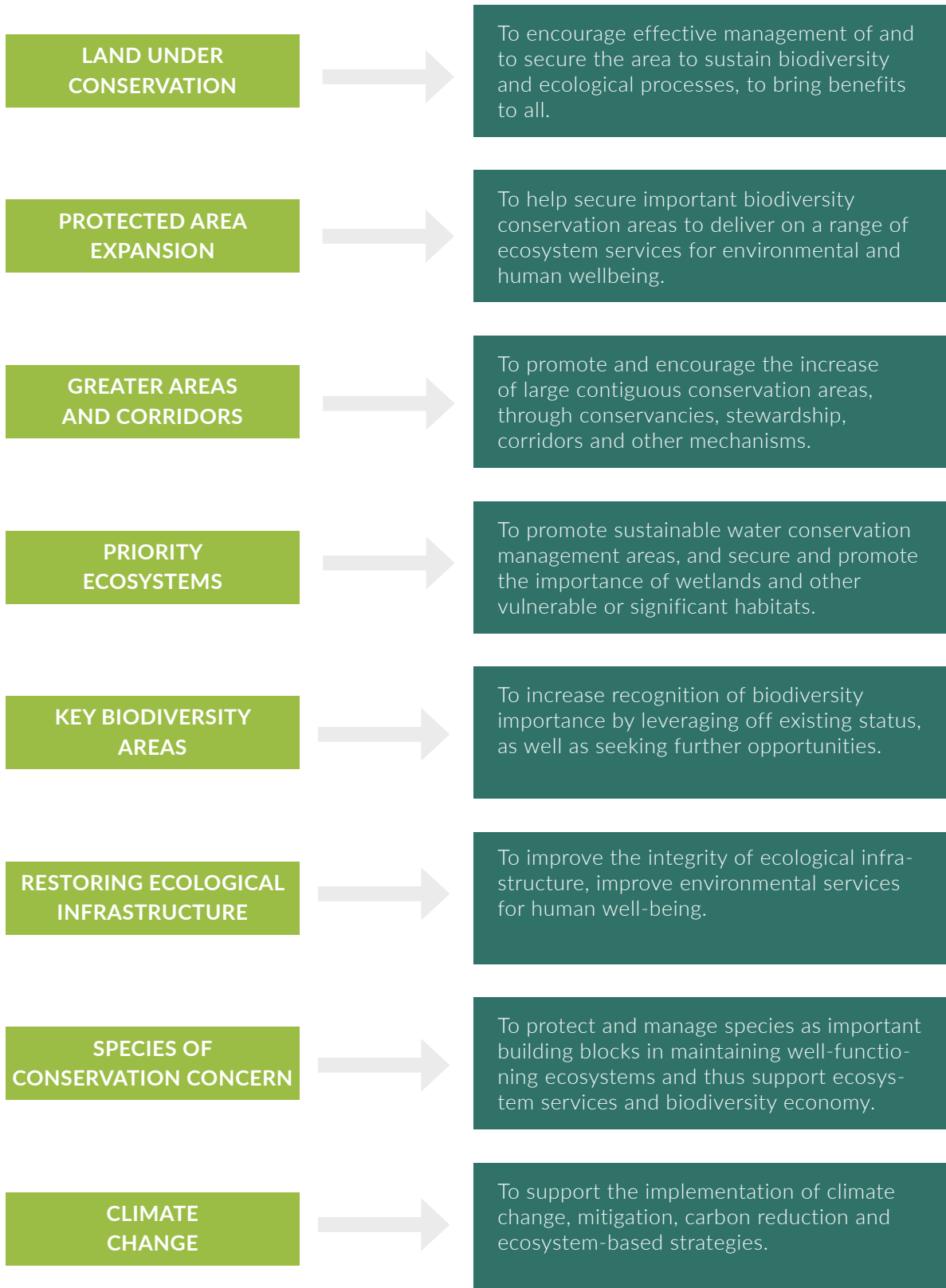
For the region to realise its conservation potential now and in the future, landscape level conservation should be recognised and promoted.

Landscape level protection and conservation will help achieve species conservation and increase wildlife industry opportunities.

The organisation can play an important role gathering information that can be a shared resource between stakeholders/ partners as to what conservation work is being done and what conservation organisations are in the area.



## CONSERVATION FOCUS & OBJECTIVES



## AREA INTEGRITY

### IDENTIFIED OUTPUTS BASED ON THE WATERBERG, PAST WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

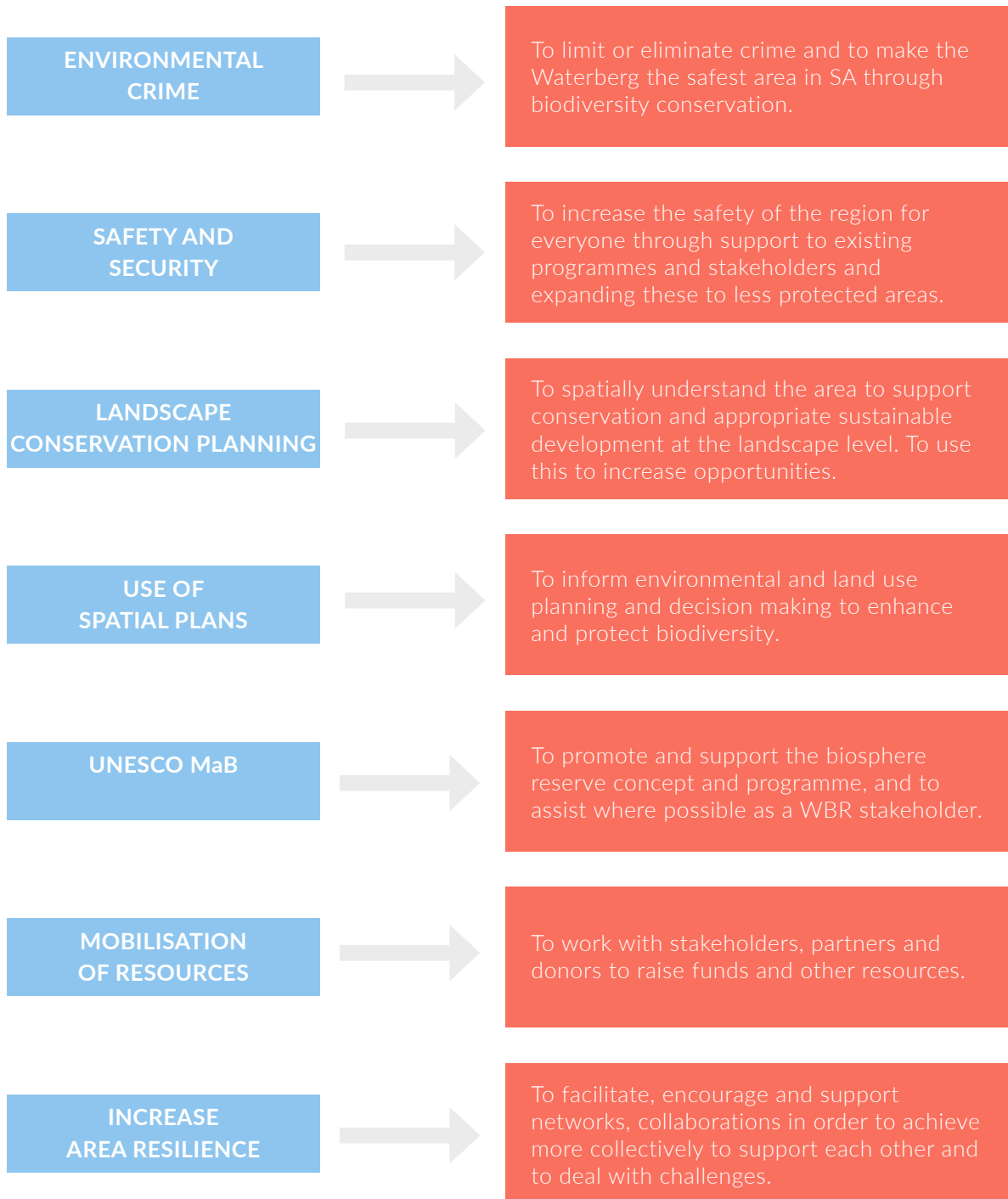


The security network and implementation for the area by security stakeholders is already at an advanced stage. Over the last decade defined geographical areas called clusters have developed and now form the basis of a region-wide security implementation network.

However, many improvements have been identified by stakeholders that can still leverage greater area integrity aiming towards the concept of a biodiversity stronghold; an area where species and the landscape are free from wildlife crime and the communities benefit from living and working in a crime free environment.



## AREA INTEGRITY FOCUS & OBJECTIVES



## COMMUNITY

### IDENTIFIED OUTPUTS BASED ON THE WATERBERG, PAST WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS



In the past the organisation has undertaken limited community focus, having undertaken some environmental education, participation in awareness days, and small scale beneficiation projects such as vegetable gardens and school assistance.

If communities cannot see the benefit of wildlife (or habitat conservation) to them, they cannot value wildlife / ecosystem services.

Including community theme as a focus area for the organisation is important because most conservation objectives (and benefactors) now must include a community component to be inclusive and relevant for buy in and support.

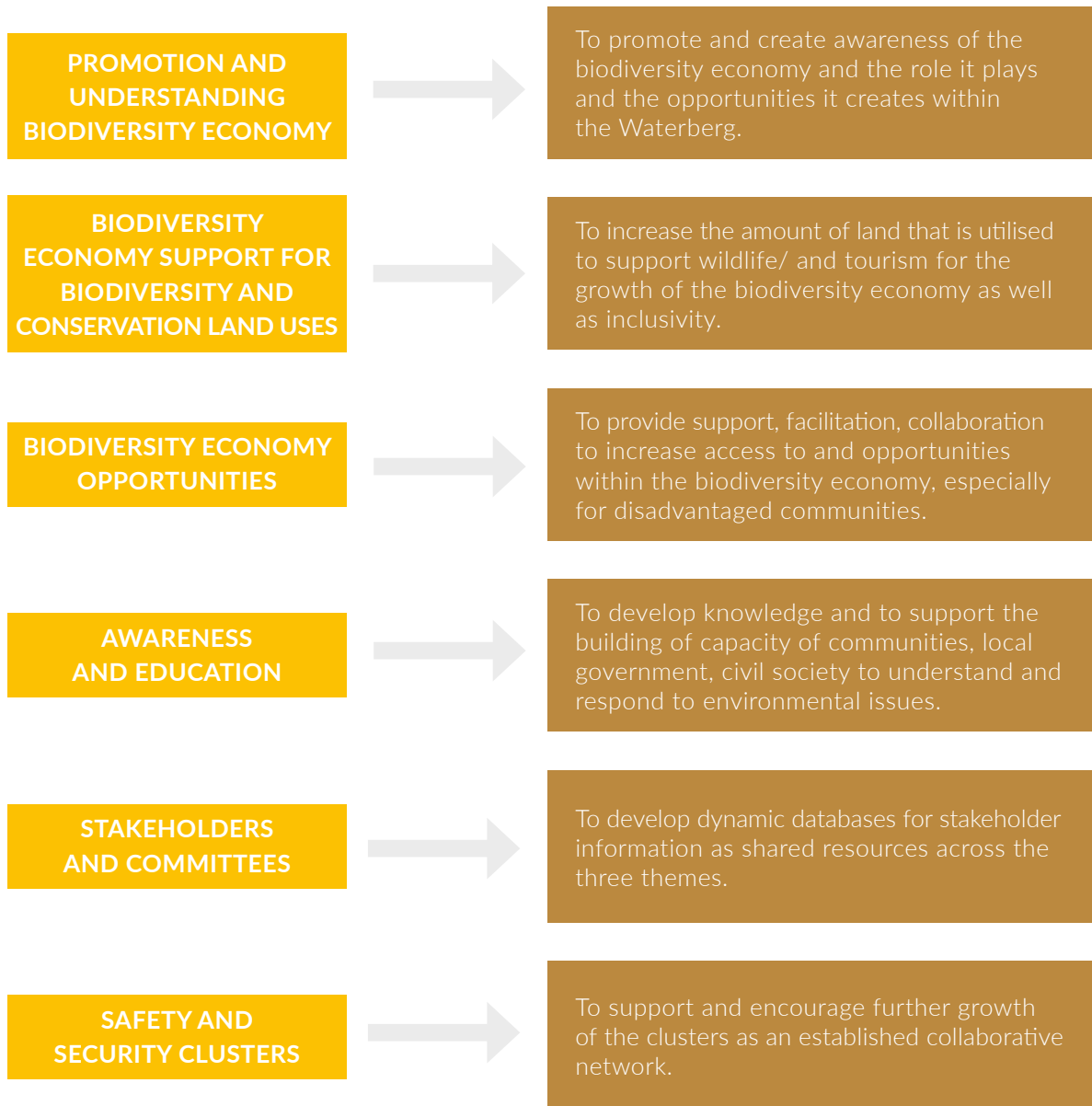
This is to be a strategic theme, where the role will be support, facilitating, and connecting opportunities not implementing projects.

The organisation can work with strategic partners implementing community focus projects where we can add value.

Again, the organisation can play a valuable role assisting in gathering information as to what is happening in the area.



## COMMUNITY FOCUS & OBJECTIVES





**WATERBERG**  
LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

Contact information

**WATERBERG LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE**

