ECOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT WITHIN STRATEGIC WATER SOURCE AREAS OF THE WESTERN CAPE

PROJECT STATUS

The project forms part of the Western Cape Ecological Infrastructure Investment Framework, which sets out to improve human wellbeing in the province by investing in ecological infrastructure associated with improved water security, reduced flood and fire risk, and improved agricultural yield. Investment in ecological infrastructure leverages many other benefits, often with real commercial value, which contributes meaningfully to the Sustainable Development Goals and other national and provincial objectives.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Approximate value: R3 billion over 5 years.
This project is scalable to meet the objective associated with investment, or the quantum of investment and its investment profile (i.e., we can scale implementation and the associated impacts based on the investment amount and the duration for which investment is committed). Clearing invasive alien plants in Strategic Water Source Areas requires **R10 BILLION OVER 30 YEARS**, increasing to **R16.5 BILLION** for the entire province. Early intervention is crucial to avoid rising future costs.

PRIVATE SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

This project aims to restore the ecological health of key catchments that supply most of the Western Cape's water. It presents a compelling investment case for:

- Government entities across all these spheres and sectors such as water services, disaster risk reduction, and environmental protection
- Downstream users like agriculture, manufacturing, and other water-intensive industries seeking improved water security
- Property owners, insurers, and banks that benefit from reduced flood and wildfire risks
- Entrepreneurs and workers in value-added industries using harvested biomass
- Corporations pursuing ESG goals, CSR commitments, or impact investment opportunities

Potential for a **473% RETURN ON INVESTMENT**, with annual water savings of **R1.8 BILLION** for municipalities.

Opportunity for co-financing and leveraging blended funding from sources like the Green Climate Fund.

Water security improvements will directly benefit agriculture, businesses, and human settlements.

KEY PARTIES

- **Western Cape Government** (lead coordination)
- **CapeNature** (implementation in protected areas)
- **Municipalities** (key beneficiaries and partners)
- **Private sector & NGOs** (co-investment and operational support)
- **Collaborative platforms:** Greater Cape Town Water Fund; Boland Groot Winterhoek Collective; Outeniqua to Tsitsikamma Water Working Group

TIMELINE

- **Years 1-5:** Confirm and verify partnerships for financing arrangements and beneficiation. R3 billion catalytic investment for large scale clearing of alien vegetation resulting in job creation.
- **Years 6-10:** Sustained investment from CapeNature and partners.
- **Long-term:** Ongoing maintenance to ensure invasive species do not return, and to ensure that ecosystem goods and services continue to supply key value chains

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VALUE PROPOSITION

The project aims to improve water security, reduce disaster risks, and protect infrastructure while creating jobs and supporting economic growth.