



CAPE FLORISTIC REGION PARTNERSHIP

CFRP Research and Practice Gap Working Group *Incorporating Research for better Management*

Terms of Reference **October 2024**

Preamble

The Research and Practice Gap Working Group is dedicated to bridging the persistent gap between research and implementation in natural resource management/land use management, particularly within the Cape Floristic Region. Our group is committed to supporting the CFRP's mission and objectives by addressing the critical challenges that arise when research fails to effectively inform practical land management actions or when land management practices lack sufficient scientific input.

The group will encourage open dialogue and partnerships between researchers and practitioners to facilitate knowledge exchange, implementation, and innovation. We look to foster a collaborative environment that acknowledges and addresses the drivers on both sides of the research-practice divide. Through these collective efforts, we seek to create a more effective and efficient system of natural resource management that benefits both biodiversity and communities/beneficiaries.

- **Name**

CFRP Research and Practice Gap Working Group

- **Mission and Objective statement**

The mission of the CFRP Research and Practice Gap Working Group is to develop a long-term, more coordinated, collaborative, and transformative way of working amongst researchers, practitioners, and communities/beneficiaries across the CFR, to move towards greater environmental resilience and equity for all.

Objectives:

- Develop a spatial representation of active researchers and practitioners linked to existing spatial platforms like CapeFarmMapper.
- Facilitate research development collaboration, including understanding both sides' timing and drivers.
- Identify and share potential supervisors and co-supervisors within land use management communities.

- Facilitate the identification of research gaps through prioritization and coordination. This will lead to the identified research questions from key researchers and practitioners being shared through the CFRP website.
- Connect researchers to opportunities for funding and funders to researchers through platforms like a research fair.
- Share and promote best practice examples of integrating science and practice through supporting the distillation and broadcasting of scientific knowledge using accessible language and methods.

- **Membership**

Relevant competent and experienced representatives from interested and affected Academic Institutions, agencies, government and NGOs, relevant private companies/ collaboratives/initiatives who could make a meaningful contribution to this group to advance the objectives of CFRP and, in particular, the outcomes articulated for this group.

A membership list is provided in Appendix A.

- **Responsibilities and roles**

- All members commit to using this working group as a safe space for constructive, probing, and focused outcomes-based debate.
- Each member commits to providing advice based on their area of expertise or interest.
- Members may bring any representatives to meetings by prior arrangement.
- Each member commits spatial data, where applicable, for activities/projects implemented.
- Each member must be prepared to give feedback and share information during meetings, where applicable.
- Each member shall endeavour to provide strategic and practical advice and/or action toward achieving this group's objectives.

- **Meetings**

- Meetings will be held quarterly, initially alternating in person and online (until the group members decide that the initial phase is done or after 1 year).
- A standard agenda will be used to facilitate the meeting.
- A standing Chair and deputy will be identified before the next meeting.
- The working group will look to last for a five-year period from 2024 to 2029, and then it will be revisited.
- The following matters shall be dealt with at each meeting:
- Identify barriers and threats to the pursuance of objectives

- Report on activities, including successes and challenges as per the agreed workplan (detailing activities and expected outcomes)
- Strategic planning and collaborative action
- Set a date for the next meeting

- **Minutes**

Minutes will be taken at each meeting and emailed to the list of interested parties.

- **Confidentiality**

A member who receives confidential information during the exchange of information as a consequence of participating in any meeting established under this Terms of Reference shall respect the confidentiality of the information received and the conditions under which it was furnished.

- **Participants**

Institution\Individual

Signature

Date

.....

.....

.....