## The Biodiversity Advisor website, adding value, building capacity and merging biodiversity databases

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South Africa's first online gateway to a comprehensive array of biodiversity information resources and tools – the Biodiversity Advisor, was launched on 28 January 2010.

The Biodiversity Advisor offers a host of unique cost and time saving benefits for those requiring information regarding the distribution of species and other biodiversity data for any specified area within South Africa's borders. The Advisor guides the user through the process of using biodiversity information and in so doing eliminates the guess work of what information to use and how to use it. Other noteworthy benefits offered by the Biodiversity Advisor include: access to data aggregated from various sources; scientifically sound biodiversity data; informed environmental decision-making; and useful linkages to other sources of biodiversity data.

The development of the Biodiversity Advisor is indicative of SANBI's commitment towards driving our mandated responsibility to enable and ensure easy and affordable access to accurate and reliable biodiversity information. SANBI expects that the Advisor will serve as a useful tool for academics, conservationists, developers, planners, investors, and members of the public who may be interested in information of this nature.