



## WCSIF MEETING, HELD AT KIRSTENBOSCH, 7 MARCH 2017

The Western Cape Spatial Information Forum (WCSIF) is an initiative of the Department of the Premier and Rural Development and Land Reform. Other key role players for this event were the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the City of Cape Town (CoCT). This successful event was hosted by SANBI and CoCT facilitated the interactive session on GIS challenges experienced in the work environment.

The forum was well attended with more than 70 delegates present. Delegates were mainly from the provincial and national government; 11 municipalities including the Municipal Manager from Bergrivier Municipality; 3 tertiary institutions; and other organs of State which included Statistics SA, Cape Nature, Eskom and SANBI. The programme covered the following presentations which are available on the WCSIF website (<https://www.westerncape.gov.za/general-publication/western-cape-spatial-information-forum>):

- **Availability of water, the challenges and some solutions.** André Roux from the Department of Agriculture, Western Cape Government, shared with the meeting how water was a resource under threat, and the challenges and solutions people are facing in the Western Cape.
- **Geographical Information Struggles** was an Interactive session where organisations were asked to complete a 'GIS Blueprint form' to evaluate their organisation against seven criteria. A report on the findings is has been compiled and is available on the WCSIF website. This report has been distributed to delegates and it will also be presented to the Municipal Managers' forum, as well as to the Municipal ICT forum. The findings will also be shared with the Committee for Spatial Information.
- **CSI/NSIF Feedback.** Mimi Chauke, Director: National Spatial Information Framework, explained the role of the CSI and the work currently in progress at a national level. She said that they will continue to engage the WCG in future for support and guidance regarding spatial data governance and collaboration between organs of state.
- **Putting Geography back into GIS** was presented by Brian Engel from National Geo-Spatial Information (NGI). He emphasised the importance of geography in GIS. Brian indicated that he can be contacted for MapAware Workshops. See the presentation for details.
- **Pressures on Biodiversity: How they intensify fires and drought.** Kedibone Lamula, from SANBI, shared the important work undertaken by SANBI in this regard, such as Working for Water and Working for Fire. Delegates found it interesting to learn more about how fire, alien species, and other aspects have an impact on our environment and biodiversity.

The feedback from delegates were that most presentations were found to be both informative and entertaining; they enjoyed the opportunity to network; and they complimented the overall organisation of the event.