WORKING PROJECT TITLE	The development of improved indicators for the National Status Report on the Status of Biological Invasions in South Africa
CORE TEAM MEMBER	Prof. Dave M. Richardson
ACADEMIC LEVEL OF THE PROJECT	MSc or PhD
PROJECT BACKGROUND	The National Status Report on the Status of Biological Invasions in South Africa considers three main aspects of invasions, pathways, species, and areas, as well the effectiveness of control measures and the effectiveness of the NEM:BA regulations). A key part of the Status Report is a set of 21 indicators that will be used to quantify changes in different facets of invasions over time (Status Report need to be compiled every three years). For each indicator, a fact sheet was developed outlining how the indicators are to be measured, and providing a method for ascribing a level of confidence when assigning values to indicators. Indicators were developed for pathways (to describe the opportunities available for introduction to and dispersal within South Africa as well as the degree to which alien species are being introduced along these pathways); species (to quantify the number and status of alien species in the country, the extent and abundance of these alien species, and the impacts caused in terms of standardised impact scoring schemes), invaded areas (to reflect the absolute numbers of alien species in different areas, the

	relative number of alien species to native species, the abundance of invasive species relative to native species, and the impact of invasions on particular areas); and for interventions (to assess key inputs, outputs, and outcomes). Together, the set of indicators assesses the status of the above-mentioned facets of invasions in South Africa. In addition, four high-level indicators (one for each aspect) were developed for use in the national suite of environmental indicators on which the Department of Environmental Affairs reports on a regular basis. Although the indicators reflect the best current understanding of key facets of invasions in South Africa, many of the data that can be used to assign values to these indicators are lacking. This project will explore the feasibility of collecting robust data at regular intervals in an efficient way, to enable the detection of trends in aspects of biological invasions in South Africa. .
FURTHER READING	
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