

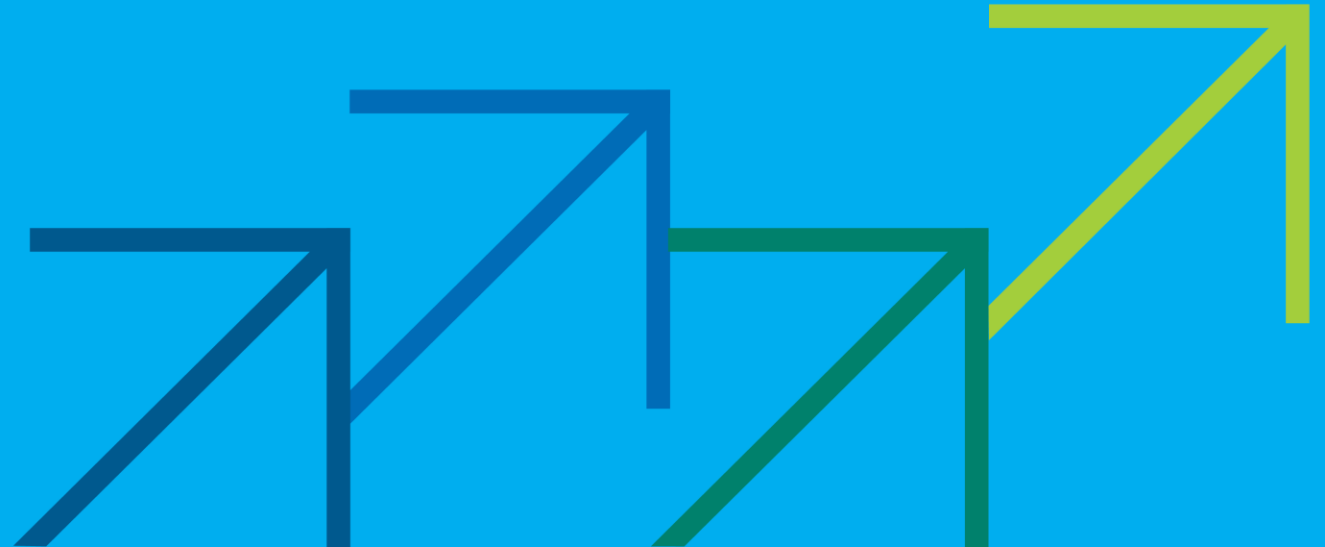


**KGID
2025**

**Green Growth:
The Path to
Sustainable Jobs**

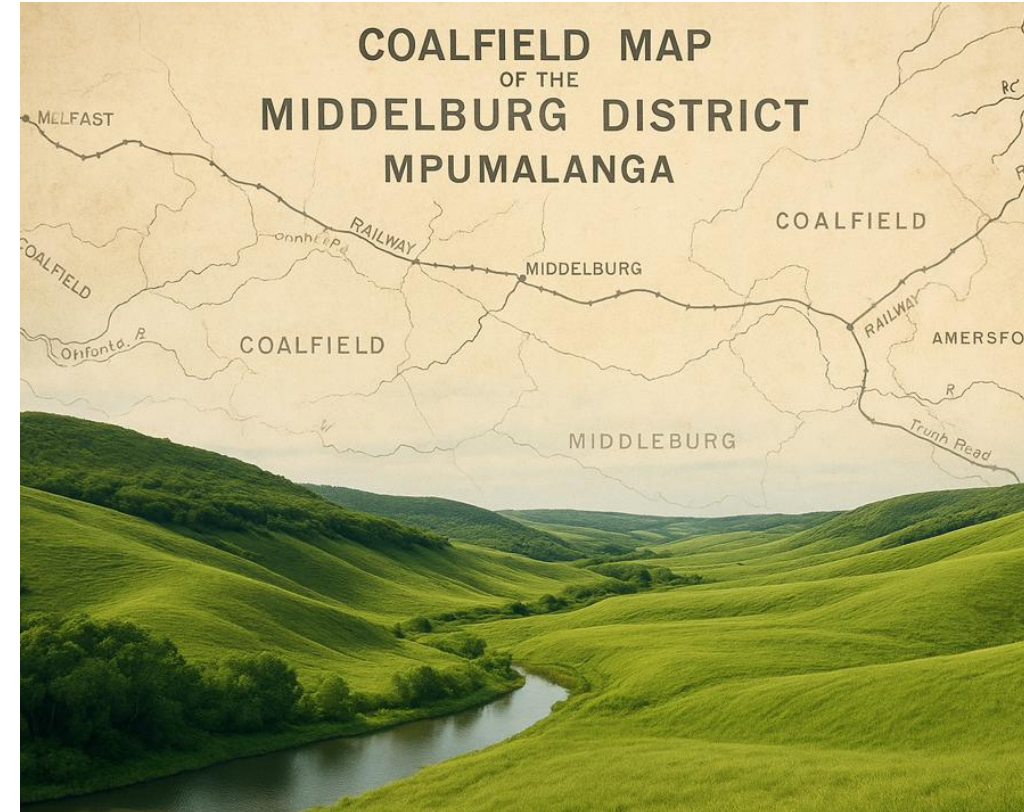
From Coalfields to Green Corridors: Turning Retired Mines into Biodiversity Assets

Philippe Ambrosi, Senior Environmental
Economist, World Bank



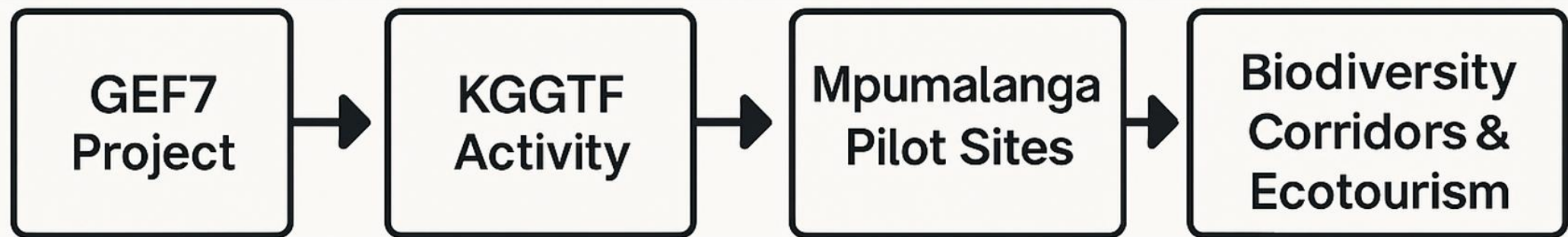
Mpumalanga at the Heart of South Africa's Energy Transition

- Mpumalanga produces ~80% of South Africa's coal and power.
- Mine closures → land degradation, job loss, and socio-economic disruption.
- Opportunity: Reclaiming land for biodiversity restoration and green enterprise.
- Just Transition: integrating environmental renewal with economic inclusion.



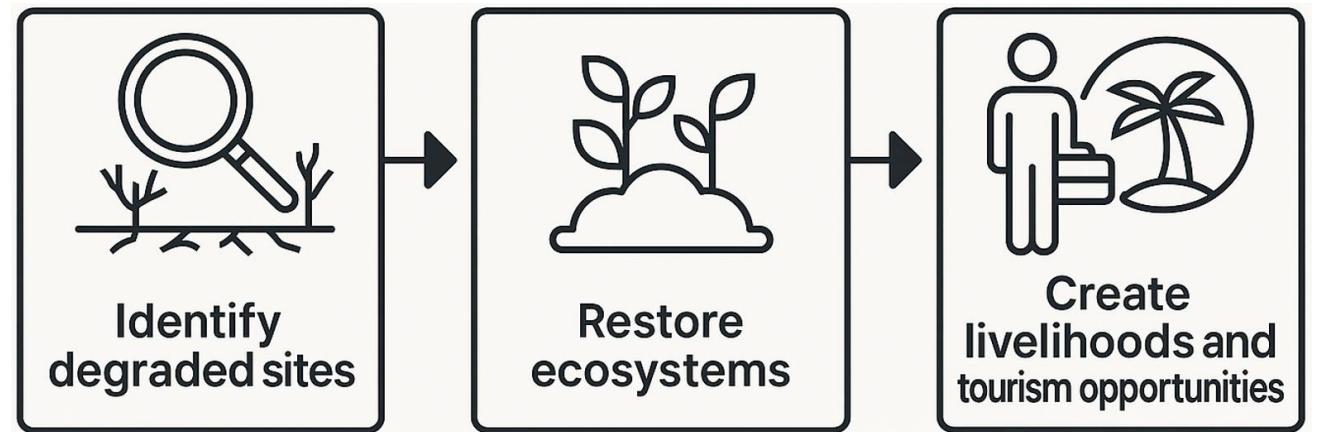
From the GEF7 South Africa Biodiversity Project to the KGGTF Grant

- The GEF7 project established a national framework for biodiversity protection and sustainable landscapes.
- This KGGTF grant builds on that foundation—focusing on mine-to-nature repurposing in Mpumalanga.
- Objective: bridge global biodiversity goals with local green growth and community benefits.



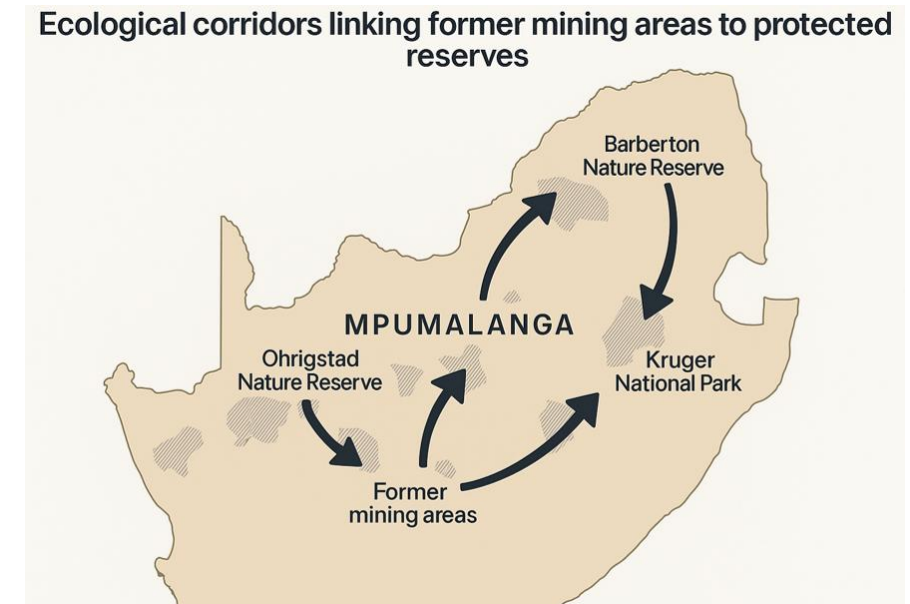
Building a “Mine-to-Nature” Framework for Mpumalanga

- Develop a repurposing framework for retired mining sites.
- Integrate ecological rehabilitation, stakeholders and community engagement, and nature-based enterprises.
- Strengthen policy alignment and inter-departmental coordination through DARDLEA.
- Design an early investment pipeline for biodiversity and ecotourism projects.



From Degraded Land to Ecological Corridors

- Restored mines can reconnect fragmented habitats and protect watersheds.
- Activities such as wetland restoration, indigenous revegetation, and soil-carbon enhancement deliver measurable biodiversity and climate co-benefits.
- Restoration = Nature + Jobs: ecological work directly generates local employment and skills development.



Biodiversity Restoration as a Path to Green Jobs

- Local employment through restoration, monitoring, and eco-guiding.
- New revenue sources: ecotourism, carbon finance, and sustainable enterprises.
- Builds community ownership and stewardship of reclaimed lands.



Restoring Nature, Reviving Communities



- Retired mines are not the end of an economic story—they can be the beginning of a new ecological one.
- Together, we can turn coalfields into green corridors that sustain both biodiversity and livelihoods.
- Experience from South Korea, led by the Korea Mine Rehabilitation and Mineral Resources Corporation