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# FORUM on International Cooperation among Environmental Research Infrastructures

## Expanded Freshwater and Terrestrial Environmental Observation Network

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science & technology
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NRF National Research Foundation | SAEON South African Environmental Observation Network

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# Expanded Freshwater and Terestrial Environmental Observation Network (ETFEON)

- EFTEON is a RI project under the DST South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR)
- A 20-year duration initiative by Department of Science and Technology, launched in 2017
- Aims to keep South African researchers globally competitive with respect to equipment and facilities that are too large and long-term to be effectively managed by individual institutions
- After a five-year planning and proposal phase, 11 initial Infrastructures were selected – 8 have received funding so far including the Enhanced Freshwater and Terrestrial Environmental Observation Network (EFTEON) and the Shallow Marine and Costal RI (SMCRI)
- In start-up phase presently. Plans to run indefinitely, but at least a decade
- An open-data platform for use by many individuals and institutions both nationally and internationally

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# Background to EFTEON

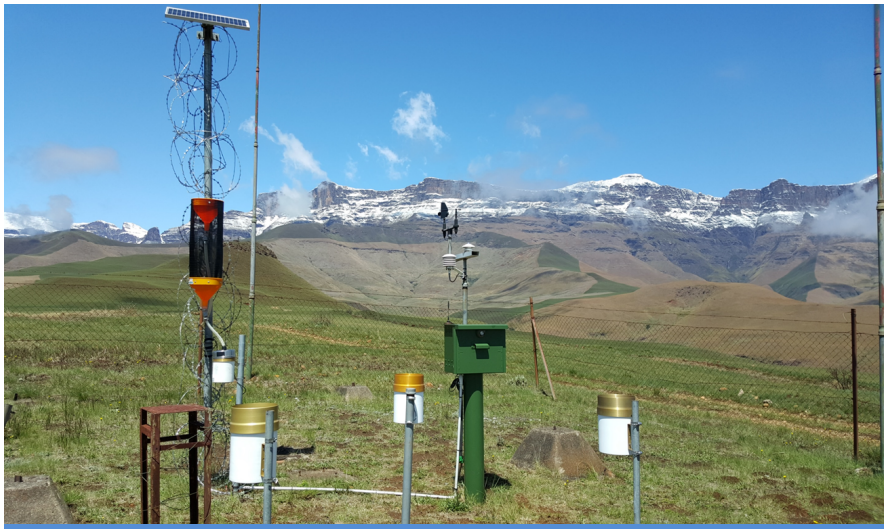
Conceived as a modular, networked research infrastructure to support studies on coupled social-ecological systems in South Africa.

Hosted by the South African Environmental Observation Network

**Design based on ~ 6 distributed landscapes**
Representing important South African Ecosystem-Human complexes.

Representatives of major biomes and human transformed ecosystems and their embedded aquatic systems

Supported by a national co-ordination and data management facility (shared with the SMCRI and general SAEON operations) .



View of the existing instrumentation at Cathedral Peak

Each landscape has heavily-instrumented core sites for fresh water and terrestrial observations and a linked network of lightly instrumented subsidiary sites, plus a survey system for collecting social data and biodiversity data

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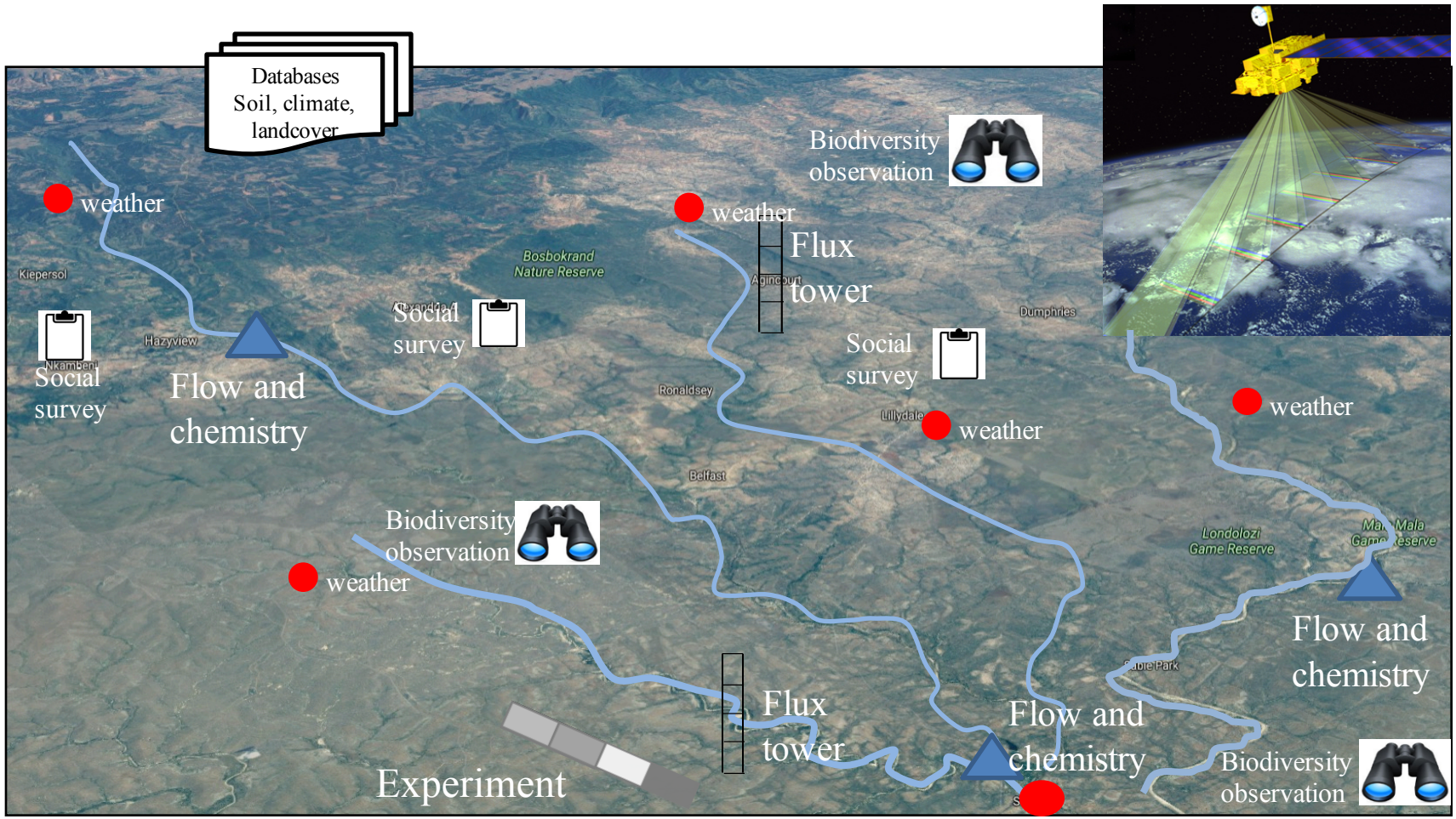
# What will the infrastructure look like?

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# *What would be in your opinion the most important elements needed to ensure the value added of FIERI*

- Continued engagement
  - RI are by nature long term and dynamic and need to adapt to new challenges, opportunities and needs
  - Earning of trust between partners
  - Community of users
- Co-Creation
  - all parties bring something to the table, whether it is a technical experience, biological/ geographical advantage or diverse needs
  - Experience and perspectives are important contributions
- Focus
  - Clear focus and achievable goals
- Data interoperability and tool

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# How could FIERI contribute to the alignment of upcoming international funding calls for international cooperation among Environmental Research Infrastructures?

- Networking and the ability to gather partner RI from across regions
- Sharing of expertise across research infrastructures
- Sharing of needs and science questions

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# In your opinion, which are the priority actions to facilitate sharing and reuse of knowledge among Environmental Research Infrastructures worldwide?

- Data interoperability
- Joint training
- Traditional science communications (conferences, publications…)

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# Table slide example

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