# Advances in plant conservation biology:

## Implications for flora management and restoration

## Symposium program and abstracts

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**Abstracts**

## SCALING UP – FLORISTIC HOTSPOTS AND THEIR USES FOR CONSERVATION

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Much activity in flora conservation is focused on threatened species or communities. This work is essential to inform management and minimise extinction. Yet the pace of change and rate of destruction of native flora in some regions are so great that higher-level strategic approaches are needed for effective conservation in the short term. Centres of species richness and endemism have been of interest ever since the world-wide system of biogeographic regions was founded by Augustin de Candolle in 1820 on the basis of the distribution of plants. Recently, data on centres of endemism have been combined with that on conservation status to identify 25 global biodiversity hotspots for strategic priority in conservation management and research. This initiative is now leading to national and regional studies identifying hotspots at different scales. Here, we review the theory behind hotspots and compare their utility for conservation against other approaches such as vegetation mapping and the exciting raft of approaches used in conservation planning for the Cape Floristic Region in South Africa. These themes are explored using a case study of the Southwest Australian Floristic Region.