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An ecological forecasting manifesto for a Global Biodiversity Hotspot

Managing and mitigating threats to biodiversity requires regularly-updated, spatially-explicit information. Better still would be to have explicit, regularly updated forecasts of anticipated change in ecological properties on timescales relevant for management and policy decisions. The hyperdiverse Cape Floristic Region (CFR) is both a Global Biodiversity Hotspot and a Global Extinction Hotspot, threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, altered fire regimes, invasive species, and climate change, among others. I'll present a set of ongoing ecological forecasting projects and feasible forecasting opportunities that relate directly to existing management and policy needs within the CFR. I'll focus on the potential for learning from these forecasts, but also the potential to compare, couple and build on these forecasts, to gain a much deeper understanding of the anomalous biodiversity, ecology and conservation of this globally important region.