

SA CHROME DINNER AWARDS 2026

From invasion to restoration

Sterkstroom River Alien Invasive Plant Eradication Project

Restoring biodiversity • Protecting water resources • Creating shared value

SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

THE CHALLENGE

A sensitive river corridor under pressure

Dense alien invasive vegetation restricted access, displaced indigenous vegetation and reduced ecological functionality.



Lantana camara was the dominant target species, accounting for approximately 90% of treatment effort.

Section C of the Sterkstroom River

A defined intervention area within Tharisa’s operational area, linked to biodiversity and water-use commitments.



2.1 km

River corridor addressed

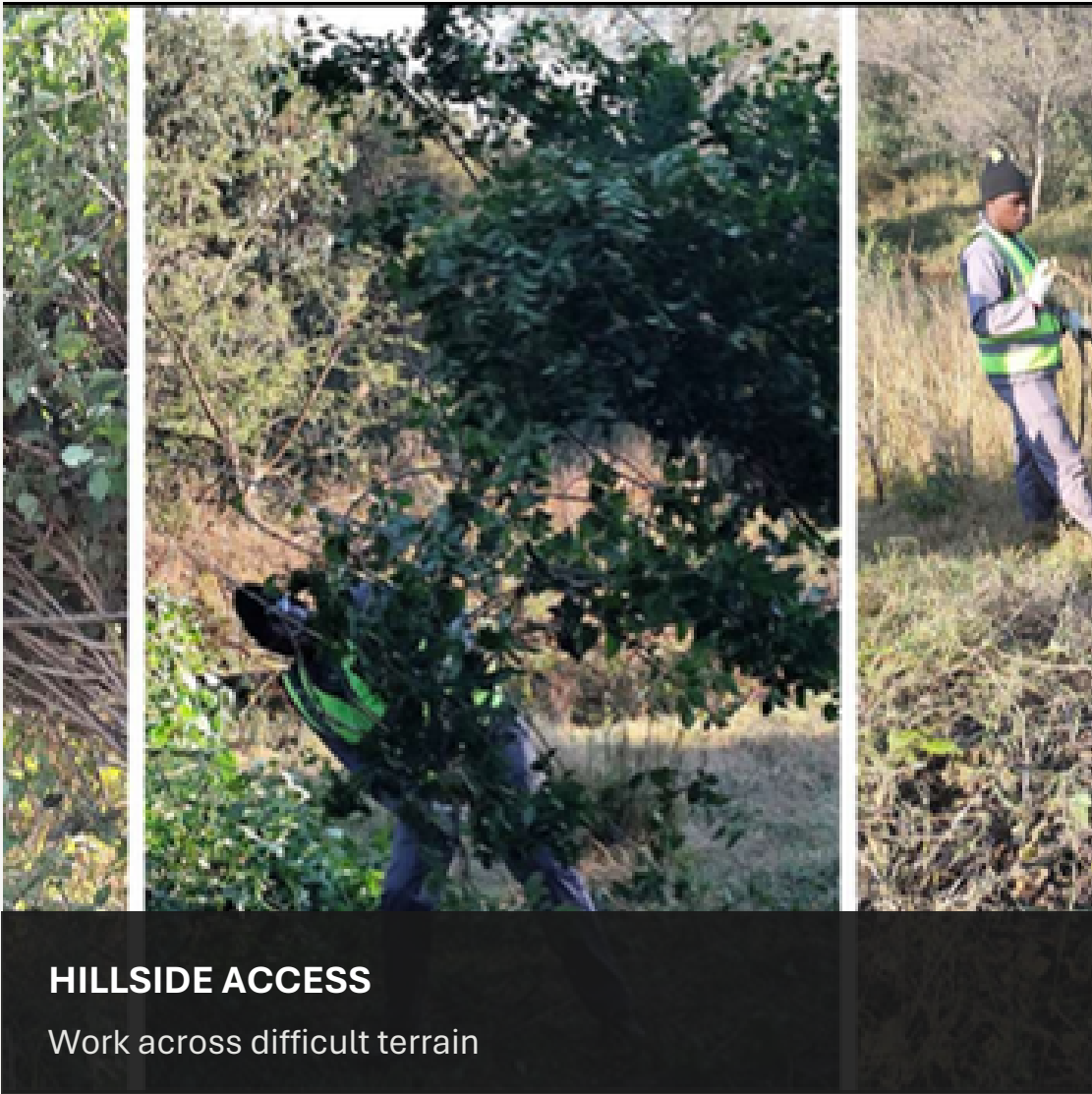
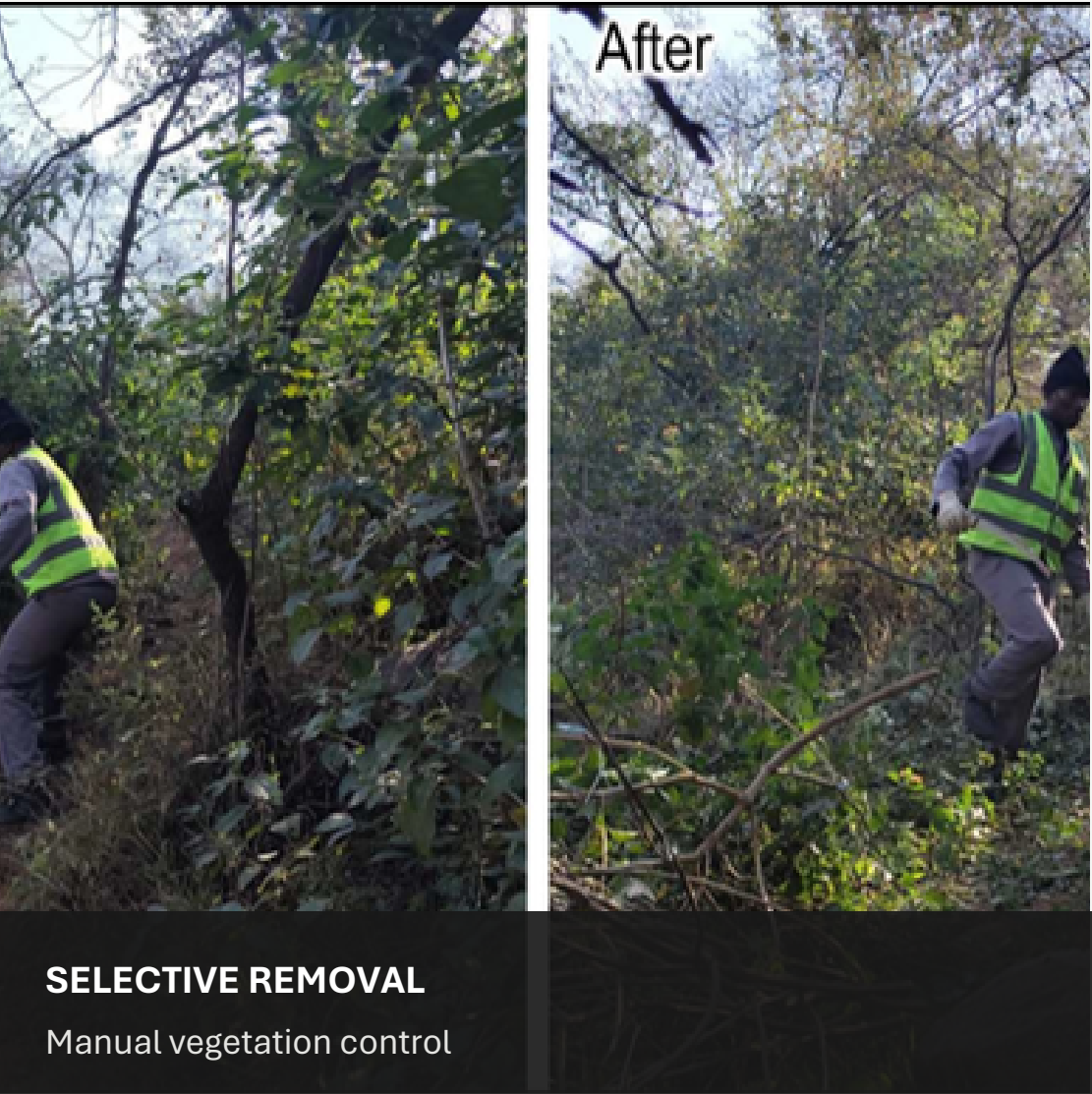
50,000 m²

Invaded habitat treated

Planned footprint:
approximately 30,000 m²

Selective methods for difficult terrain

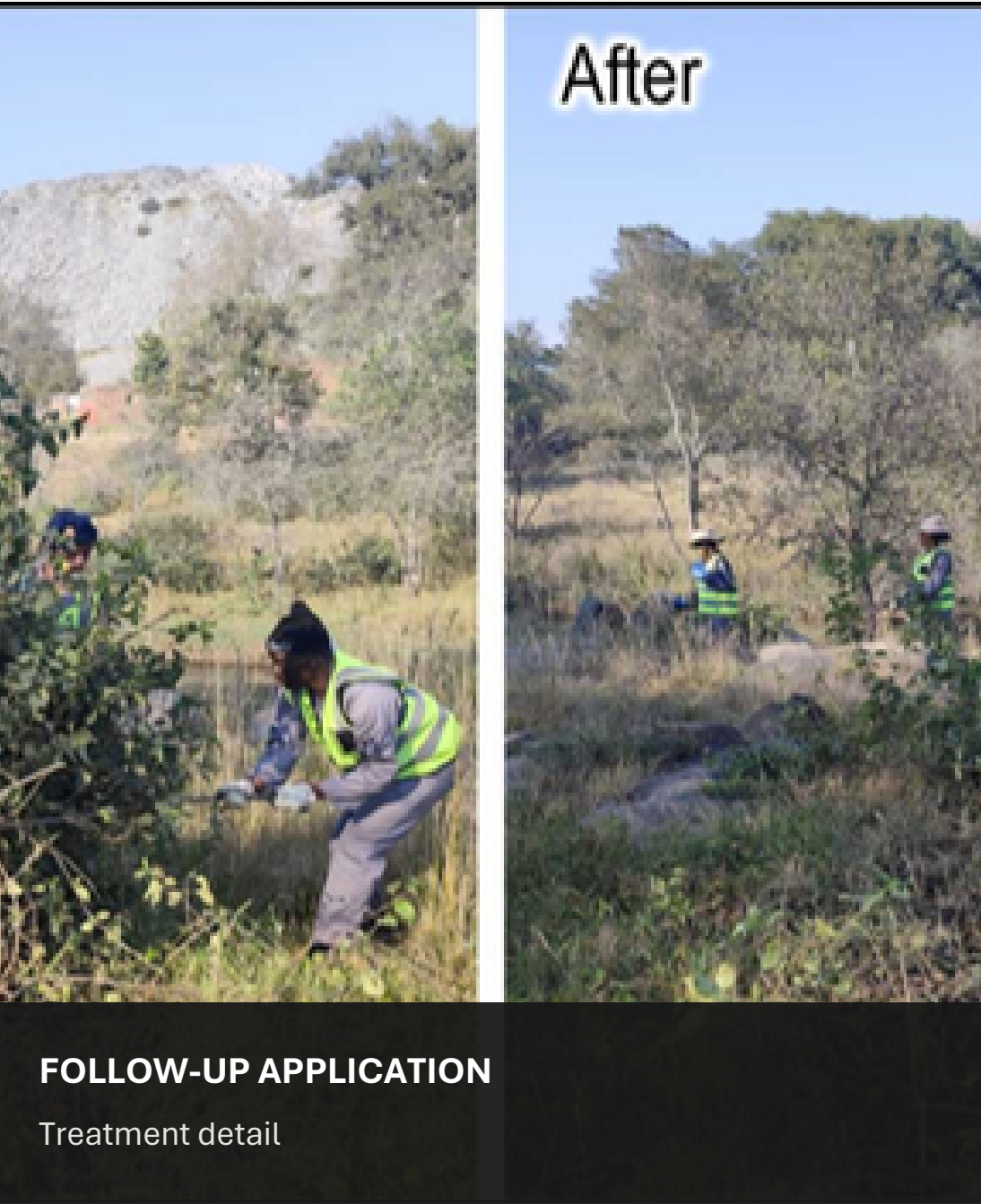
Mechanical clearing, manual removal and targeted treatment were selected to control invasives while protecting indigenous vegetation.



TARGETED • SELECTIVE • SITE-SPECIFIC

Control designed to limit regrowth

Cut-stump treatment and ringbarking were applied to targeted specimens as part of the eradication programme.



Early clearing outcomes across the corridor

Before-and-after comparisons show improved access and reduced invasive pressure following treatment.



LANTANA CONTROL



MANUAL CLEARING



CORRIDOR CHANGE

Measurable ecological and operational outcomes

Maintenance inspections provide encouraging evidence of treatment effectiveness and improved site conditions.

50,000 m²

Habitat cleared and treated

2.1 km

River corridor addressed

90%

Effort focused on Lantana

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Major environmental, H&S incidents



Priority invasive infestations controlled



Access through the treated corridor improved



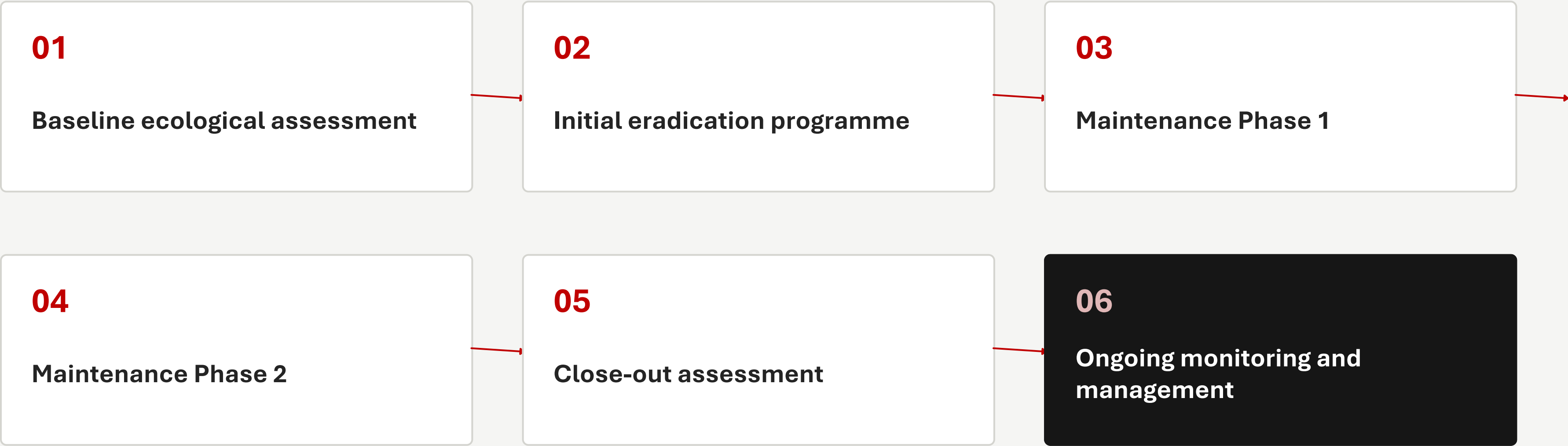
Limited and stunted regrowth observed



Conditions created for indigenous recovery

More than a once-off clearing programme

A phased, science-based process supports sustained control, ecosystem recovery and adaptive management.



Local participation strengthens stewardship

Community recruitment supported income, practical field exposure and direct participation in river rehabilitation.



LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Income opportunities for neighbouring communities

PRACTICAL SKILLS

Invasive plant control, rehabilitation and safe work

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

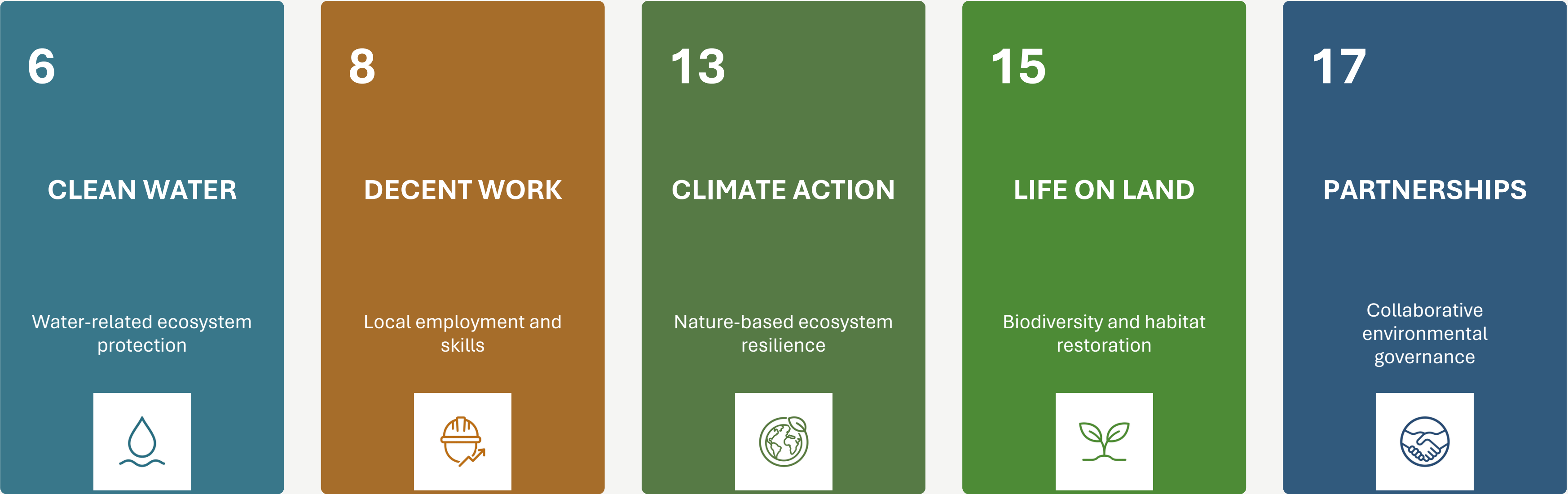
Understanding biodiversity and water-resource value

SHARED OWNERSHIP

Direct participation in long-term river stewardship

Five SDGs. One integrated restoration programme.

The initiative connects water protection, local work, climate resilience, biodiversity and partnership.



Before

After

WHY THIS PROJECT DESERVES RECOGNITION

A degraded corridor transformed into a managed ecological asset.

Measurable rehabilitation. Long-term monitoring. Biodiversity protection. Water-resource resilience. Local participation.

RESPONSIBLE MINING IN ACTION

THARISA MINERALS