



**2014 Biodiversity Planning Forum**  
13–16 May, Mpekweni Beach Resort, Eastern Cape

# **Municipal Biodiversity Summaries project**

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# Outline

- Background
- Components
- Progress
- Timelines
- Wall maps



# Background

First project phase was completed in 2009 as an initiative by SANBI and DEA

Project objectives :

- Provide easily accessible biodiversity information
- Ensure that municipalities have reliable biodiversity information to use and integrate into their various plans

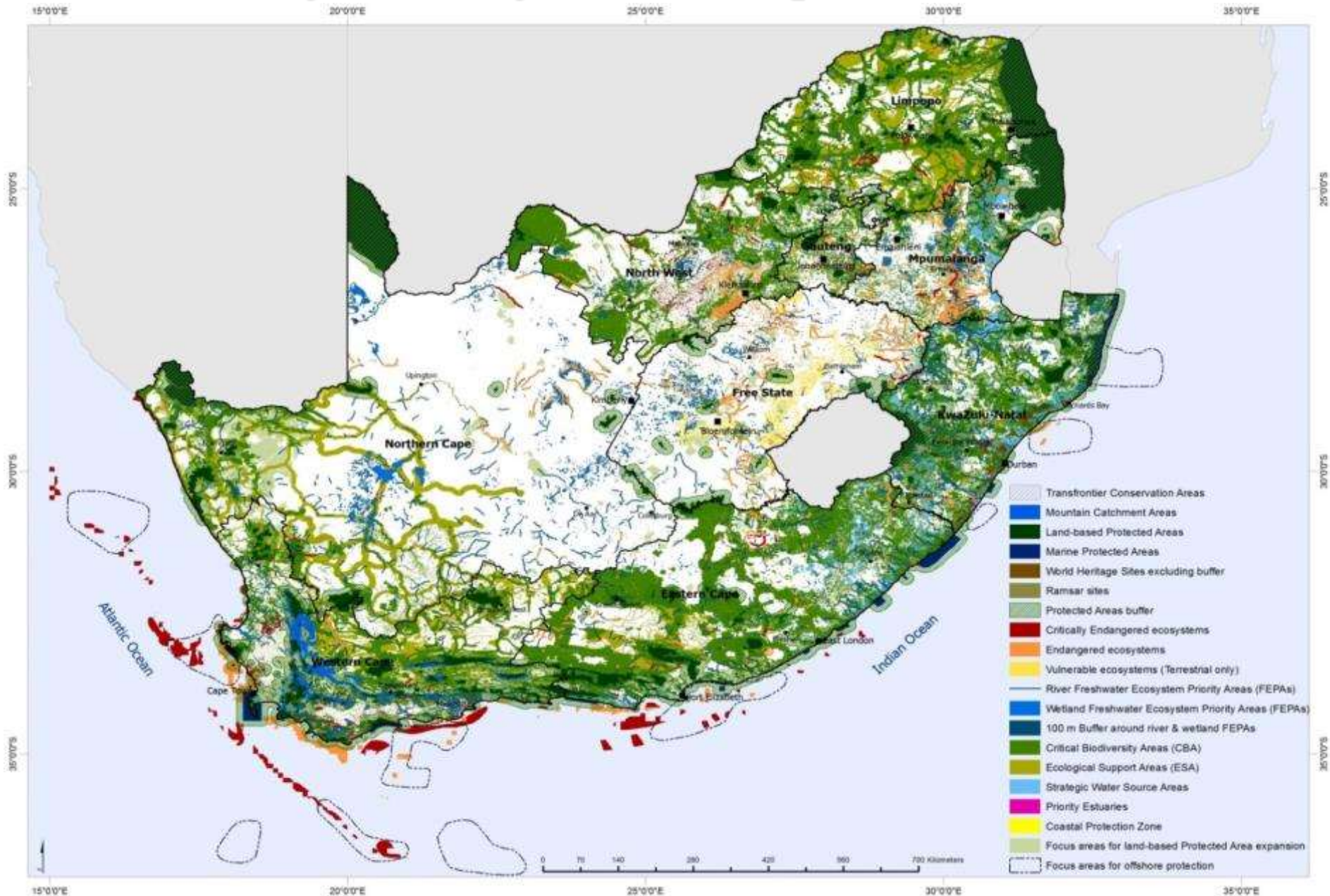


# Biodiversity priority areas

Features in the landscape and seascape that are important for conserving a representative sample of ecosystems and species, for maintaining ecological processes, or for the provision of ecosystem services.

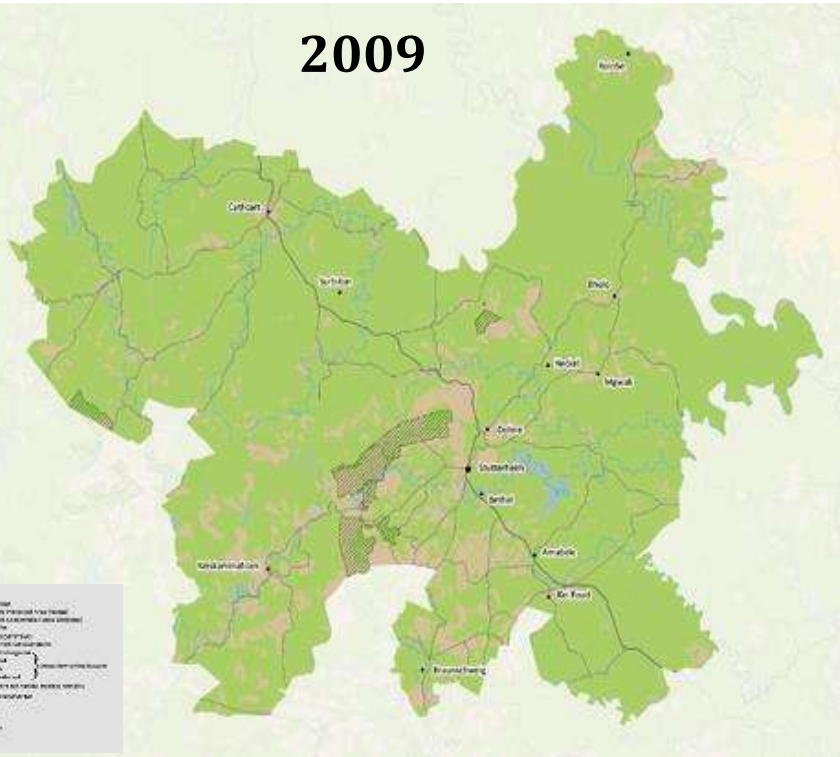


# Biodiversity Priority Areas map

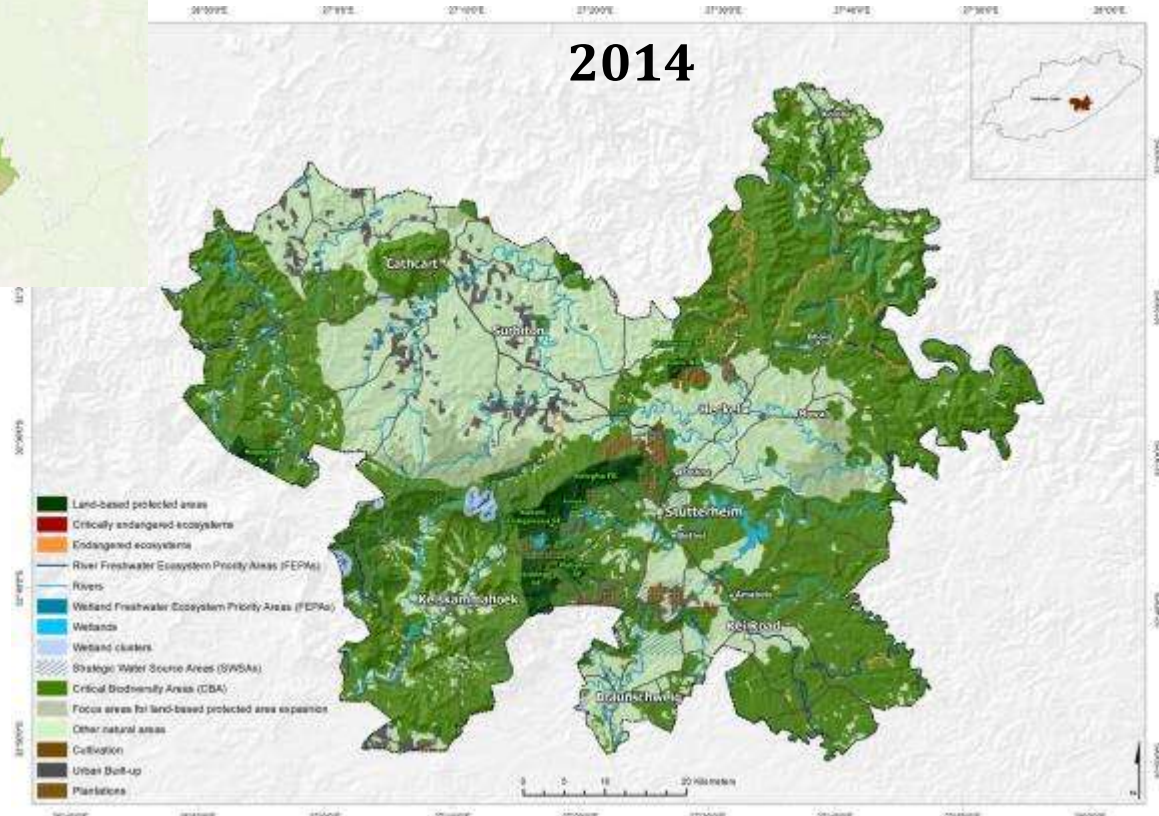


# Amahlathi Local municipality

2009



2014





# Components

- Municipal biodiversity summaries maps
- Shape files
- Statistics
- Factsheets
- Wall maps





# Summary statistics

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Municipal name					
2	Summary Statistics					
3	<b>General Statistics</b>					
4	Size of Municipality					
5	Total natural					
6	Total remaining					
7						
8						
9						
10	<b>Critical Biodiversity Areas</b>			Area		
11	Land-based protected areas (formally protected)					
12	Marine Protected Areas					
13	Critical Biodiversity Areas					
14	Ecological Support Areas					
15	Other Natural Areas					
16	No natural remaining areas					
17						
18						
19	<b>Threatened Ecosystems</b>					
20	by area/length					
21			Critically Endangered	Endangered	Vulnerable	Least threatened
22	Terrestrial Ecosystems					
23	Rivers					
24	Wetlands					
25	By number					
26	Terrestrial Ecosystems					
27	Rivers					
28	Wetlands					
29						
30	<b>Aquatic Ecosystems</b>					
31	Freshwater	FEPAs	non Fepas	Total		
32	Rivers					
33	Wetlands					
34		Priority estuaries	Other estuaries	Total		
35	Estuaries (by number)					
36	Estuaries (by area)					

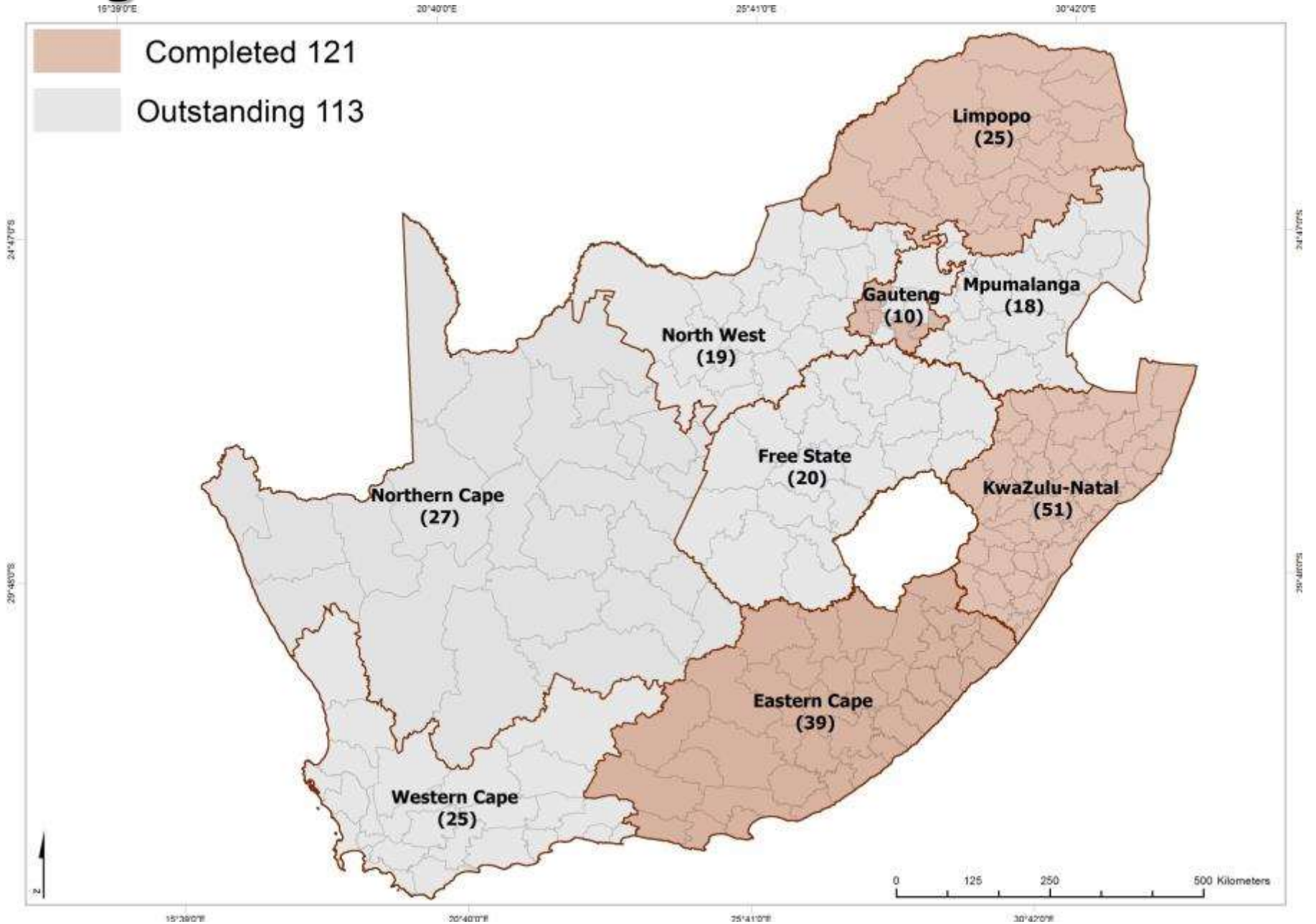


# Detailed statistics

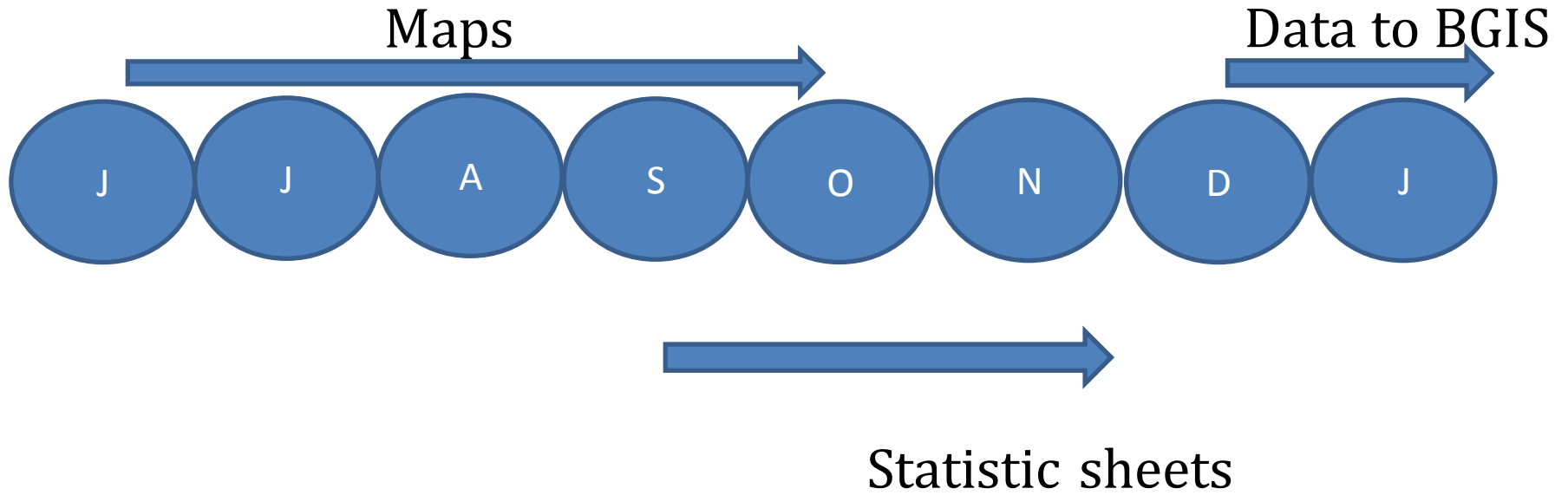
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Full Statistics						
2	Protected Areas						
3							
4	Land Based Protected areas						
5	Name	Category	Area (ha)				
6							
7							
8							
9	Terrestrial Ecosystems						
10							
11	Biomes						
12	Name	Area(ha)					
13							
14	Vegetation Types						
15	Name	Area (ha)	Threat Status	Eco Protection level			
16							
17							
18							
19	Aquatic Ecosystems						
20							
21	Rivers						
22	River name	Length (km)	FEPA length	non FEPA length	% River_FEPA		
23							
24							
25							
26	Wetlands						
27	WETTYPE	Area (ha)	FEPA area	Non FEPA area	% FEPAs		
28							



# Progress



# Timelines



# SUPPORTING PRODUCTS

## What is currently being used

- The National Biodiversity Priority Areas Map ('Fruit Salad Map') represents a compilation of the latest spatial biodiversity information for South Africa.
- The map is the core of the municipal summaries factsheets
- There are 8 factsheets with the following topics:
  1. Introduction to the project
  2. Definitions
  3. Environmental Legislation
  4. Terrestrial Ecosystems
  5. Freshwater Ecosystems
  6. Coastal and Inshore Marine Ecosystems
  7. Bioregional Plans
  8. How to use the products available
- Information presented mainly as text



# What is being developed

- To allow for better understanding and easier interaction with the maps, two products are being developed.
- These products will unpack the complexity of the map by breaking down the layers into the various themes.

## **WALL MAP**

- National Scale
- General information per theme
- High visual appeal

## **WEB BASED PRODUCT**

- Move from national to municipal scale
- Specific information per theme for that specific municipality
- Interactive map.

**i** Protected Areas: an area of land or sea that is formally protected by law and managed mainly for biodiversity conservation

## CATEGORIES OF PROTECTED AREAS AS SET OUT IN THE ACT

Special Nature Reserves, National Parks, Nature Reserves (includes Botanical Gardens), Protected Environments (and other biodiversity stewardship sites), World Heritage Sites, Protected Forest Areas, Mountain-Catchment Areas and Marine Protected Areas.



## 1. PROTECTED AREAS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATION

Protected Areas present the most effective option for implementing climate change response strategies.

### The role of Protected Areas in the climate change response

- A. Mitigation: Store (prevent the loss of stored carbon from vegetation and soils) and Capture (absorb more carbon from the atmosphere into the natural ecosystem).
- B. Adaptation: Protect by maintaining ecosystem integrity, buffer local climate, and reduce risk and impact from extreme climatic events.

## 2. PROTECTED AREAS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Conservation

- Conservation of biodiversity is the central purpose of Protected Areas.
- High levels of biodiversity keep ecosystems healthy and resilient.
- Protecting biodiversity is vital to safeguard the economy, our cultural, spiritual and aesthetic values as well as the intrinsic value of species.

### National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy

The National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy serves to function as a national framework for an integrated, co-ordinated and uniform approach in the expansion and consolidation of National Protected Areas.

National Protected Area System is made up of formal terrestrial and marine protected areas. The long-term objective of this strategy is to adequately conserve a representative sample of the country's biodiversity and maintain key ecological processes across the land- and seascape. Two focus areas have been identified in this regard: Land-based Focus Areas (42) and Offshore Focus Areas (10).

## 3. PROTECTED AREAS FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS

'In the next few decades, the world will experience unprecedented change through urbanisation explosion, which will place further strain on ecosystems. The environment, as one of the key drivers of change, will play a vital role in lifting another billion people out of poverty.' - National Developmental Plan.

**Tourism:** South Africa's tourism sector is emerging as one of the most important pillars in terms of growth and competition with other emerging economies.

**Biodiversity Stewardship:** Biodiversity Stewardship can support the stimulation of rural economies by diversifying rural livelihood options; thereby creating nodes of rural development, stimulating job creation and skills development.

### Job Creation Statistics

- 486 000 work opportunities created in environmental rehabilitation programmes since 1995;
- 15 000 jobs created through formal conservation of Protected Areas.
- 70 000 jobs in game ranching and eco-tourism.

## Special Nature Reserves



Special Nature Reserves are highly protected areas from where all people and human activities are excluded except for conservation activities and scientific research.



National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, Act No. 57 of 2003.



Number of Special Nature Reserves in South Africa: 2



Continued research on the natural environment and how it functions.



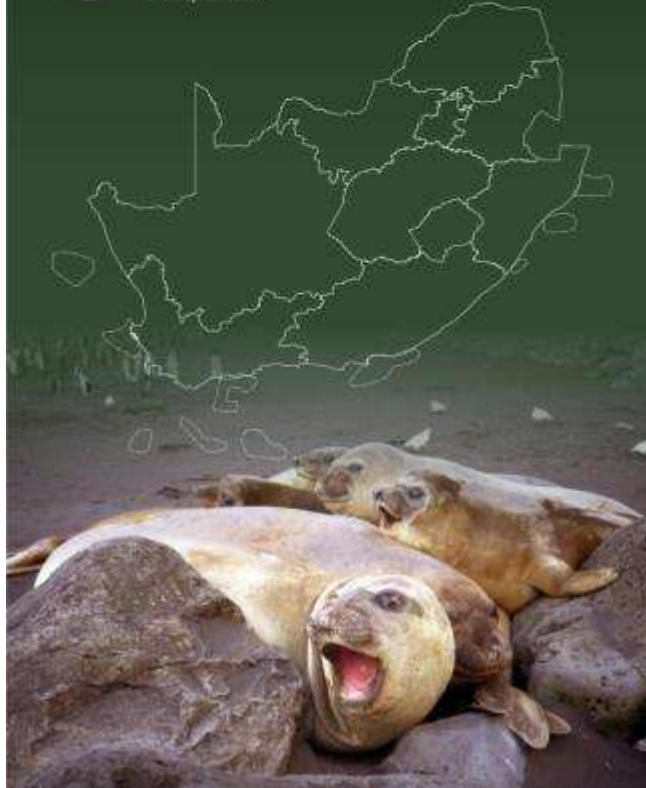
### Marion Island

Location: Southeast from Port Elizabeth; politically part of the Western Cape.

Area: 290km<sup>2</sup>. Coastline of 72 km mostly made up of high cliffs.



Animals that can be found on the island include the king penguin and the elephant seal.





**Thank you**