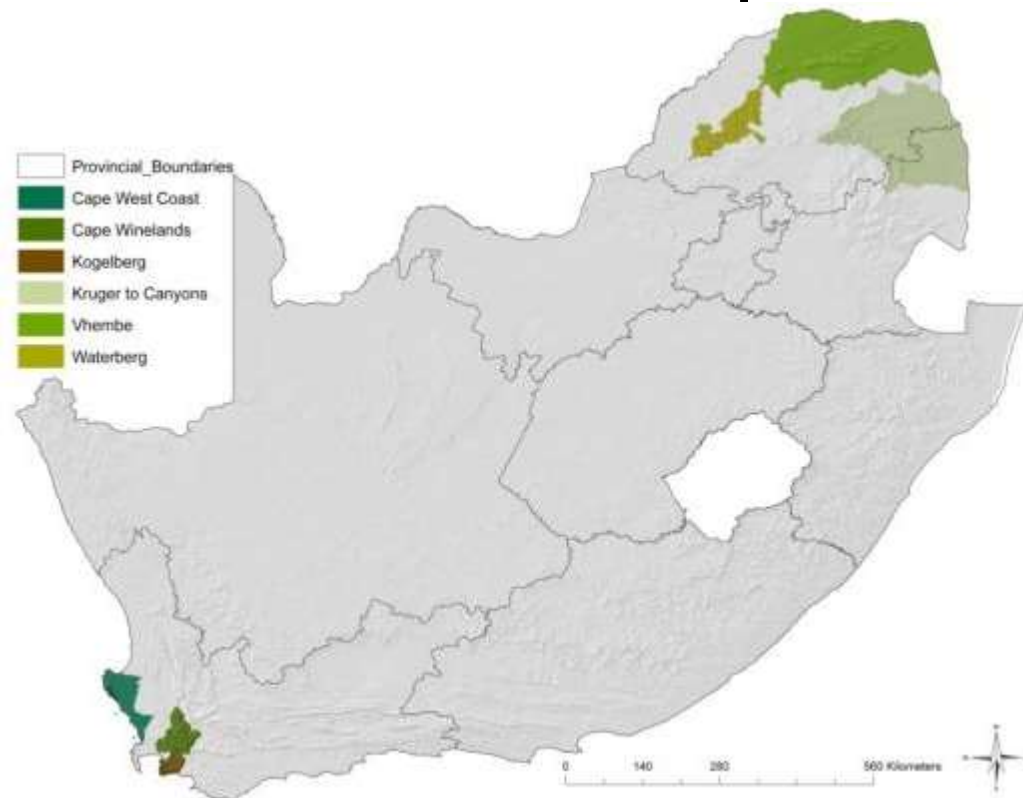




Status of Biosphere Reserves in South Africa



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Acknowledgement: Fhatani Ranwashe

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- Ecosystem Threat Status & Protection Level
- Way forward



Introduction

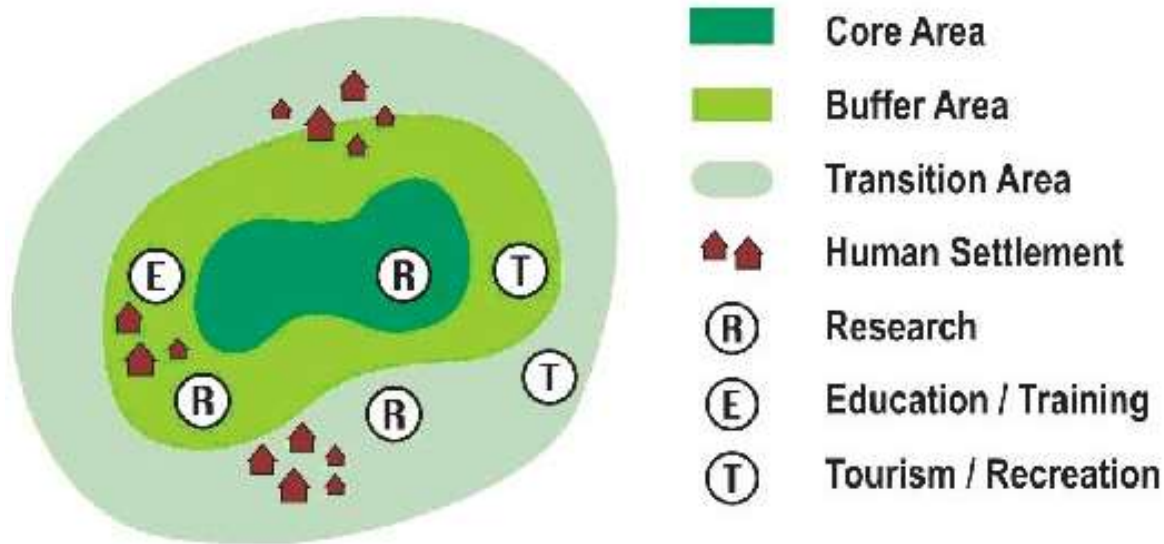
Biosphere reserves are areas identified either on terrestrial or marine ecosystems (or both) that are internationally recognized under the framework of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme.

MAB is..

- is an intergovernmental scientific programme aiming to ensure harmonious coexistence of people with nature.
- It is housed in and supported by UNESCO



Spatial Zonation of a Biosphere Reserve

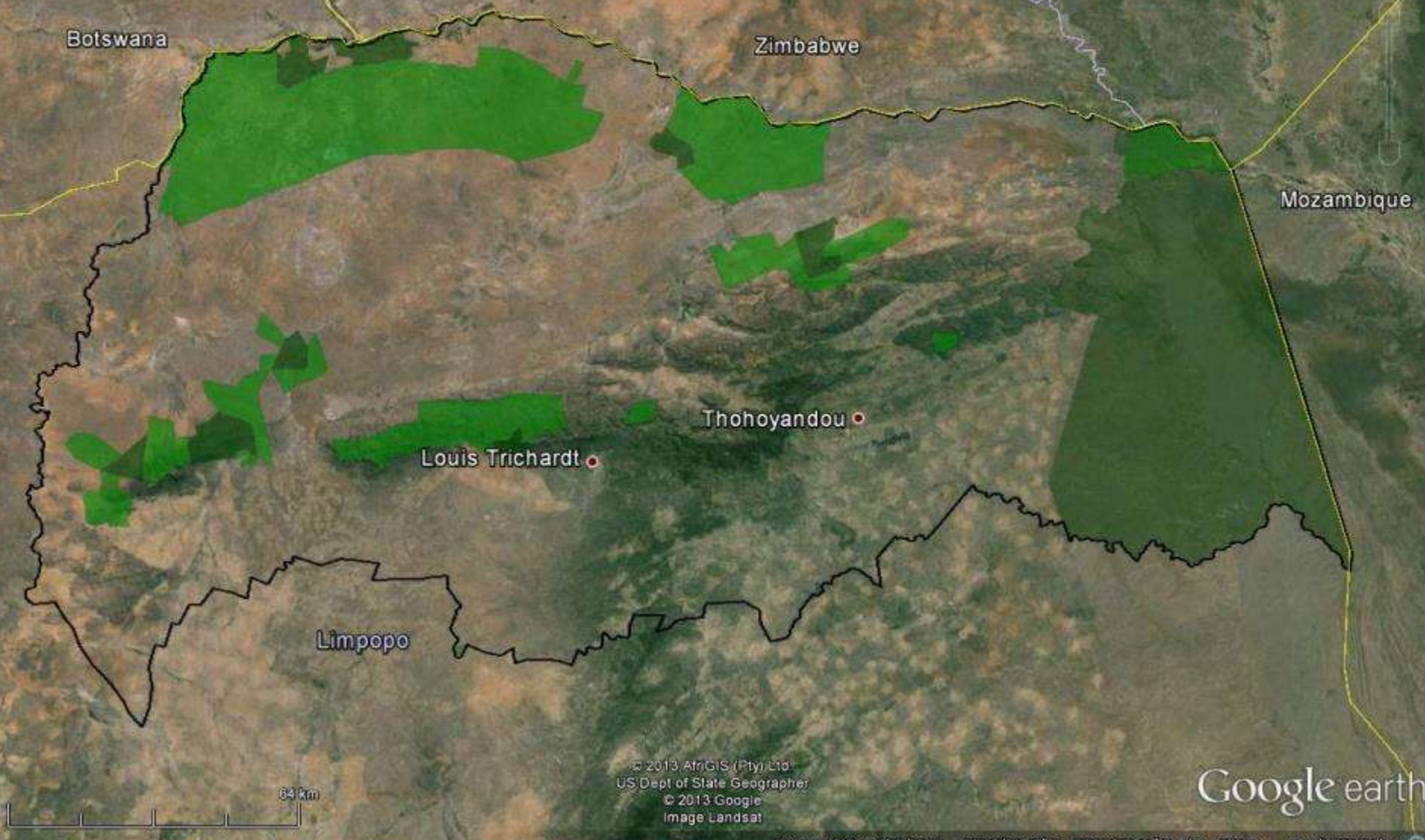


- **Core zone/s** - these are areas that must have a legal/long term protection status in terms of national laws
- **Buffer zone/s** – these areas **usually** surround or adjoin the core zones
- **Transition zone** – is the area which contains diversity of sustainable activities



Spatial Zonation in reality (Vhembe BR)

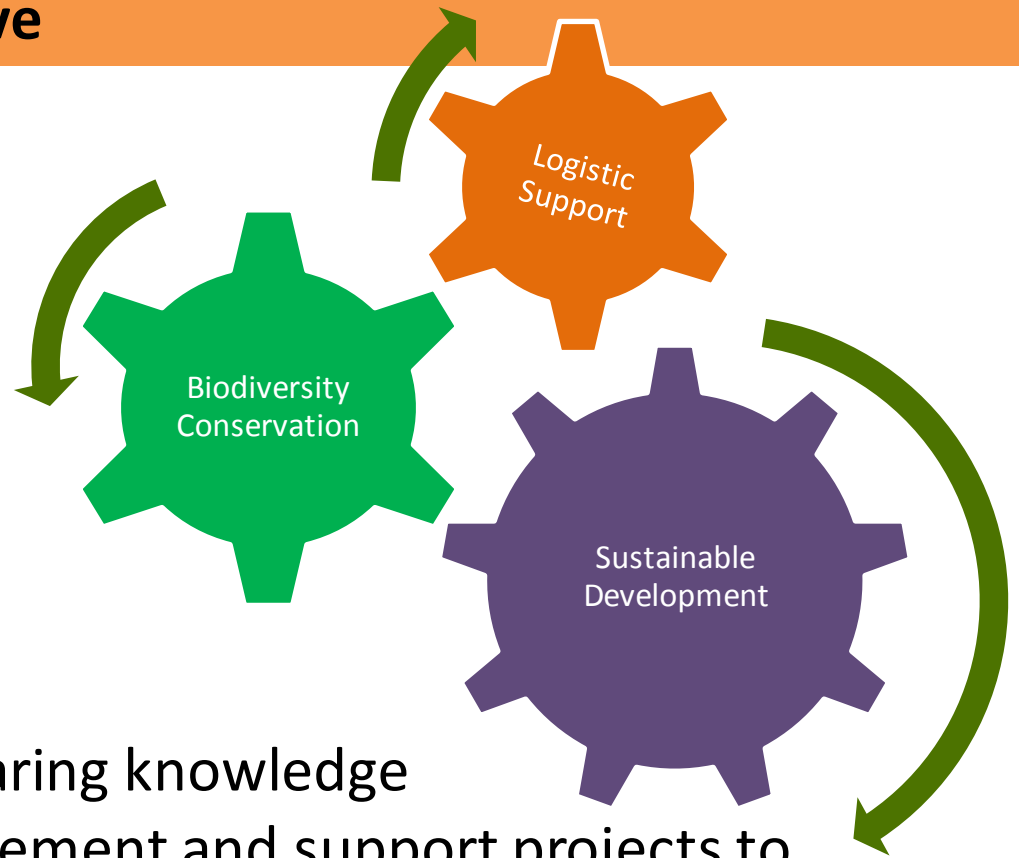
- Core zones
- Buffer zones
- Transition zone
- International boundary



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Functions of a Biosphere Reserve



- Exchange of experience & sharing knowledge
- These functions serve to implement and support projects to demonstrate critical ways to resolve land use conflicts and ensure protection of biodiversity while promoting sustainable development.



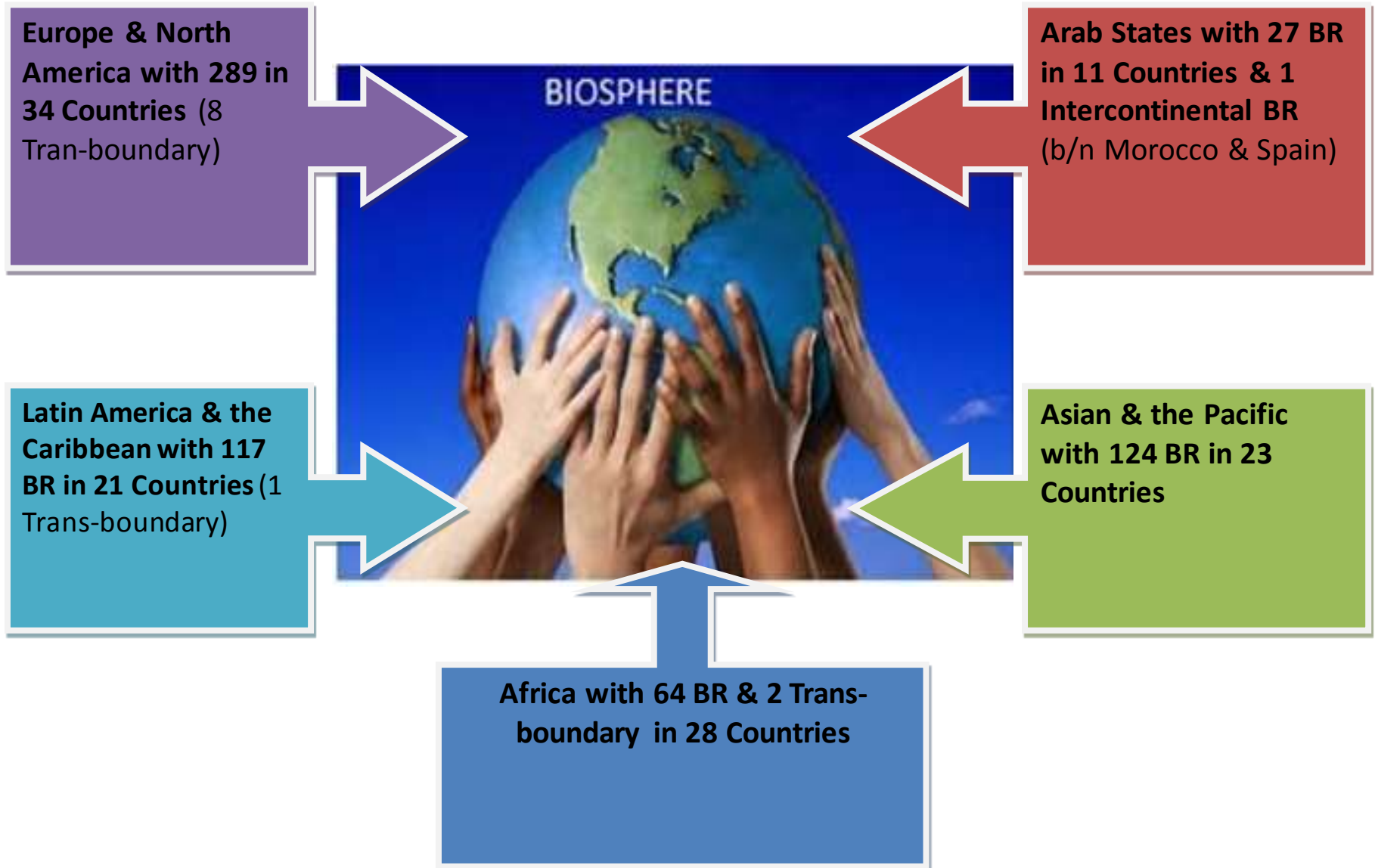
Why Biosphere Reserve In South Africa

- They integrate fragmented spatial and non-spatial information of the area
- Present an opportunity to prioritize the use of existing information to influence decision
- Contribute to mainstreaming of biodiversity information into municipal spatial plans
- International recognized – vehicle to attract international donors



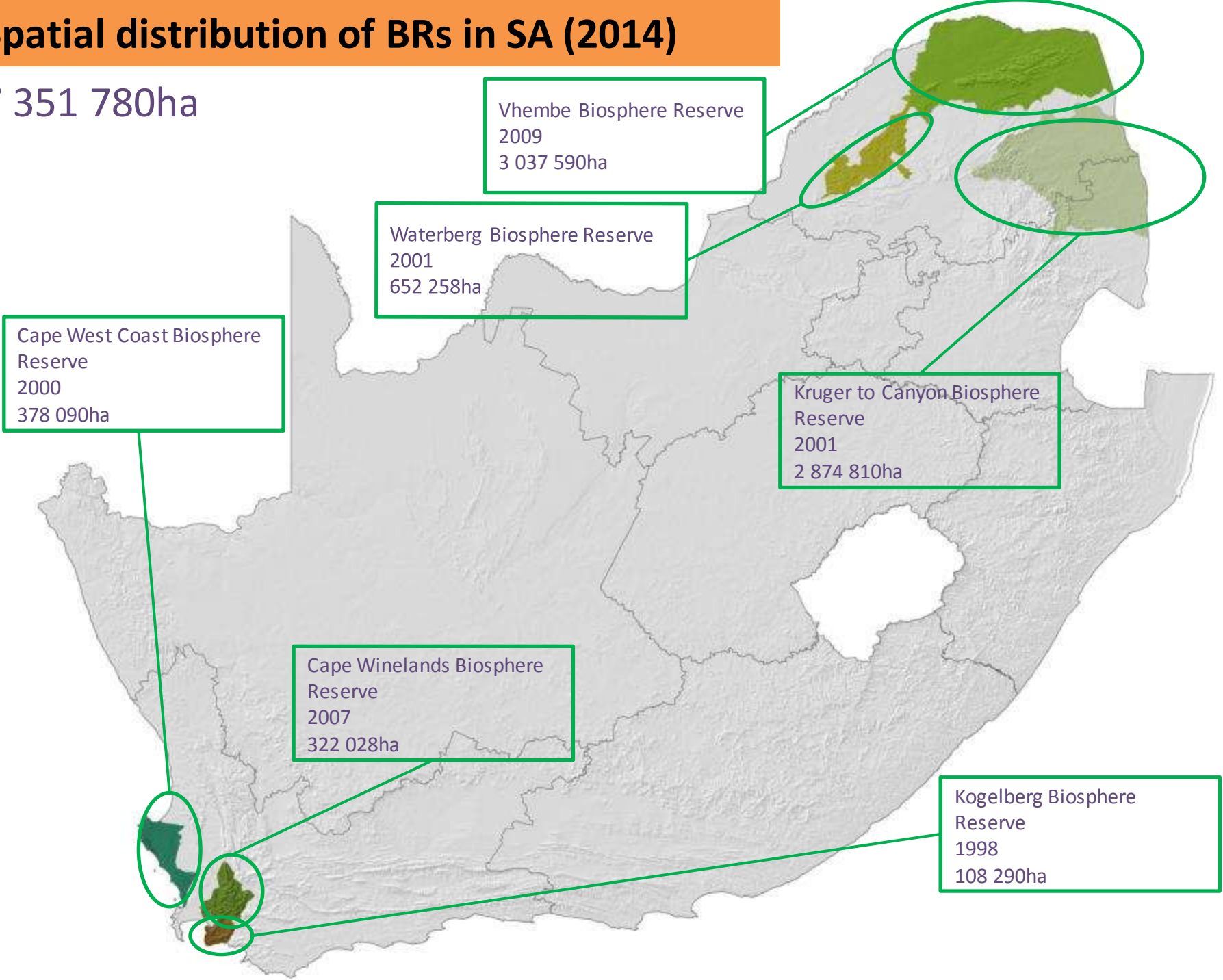
Global Status of Biosphere Reserves (2013)

There are 621 BR in 117 countries, Including 12 TBR

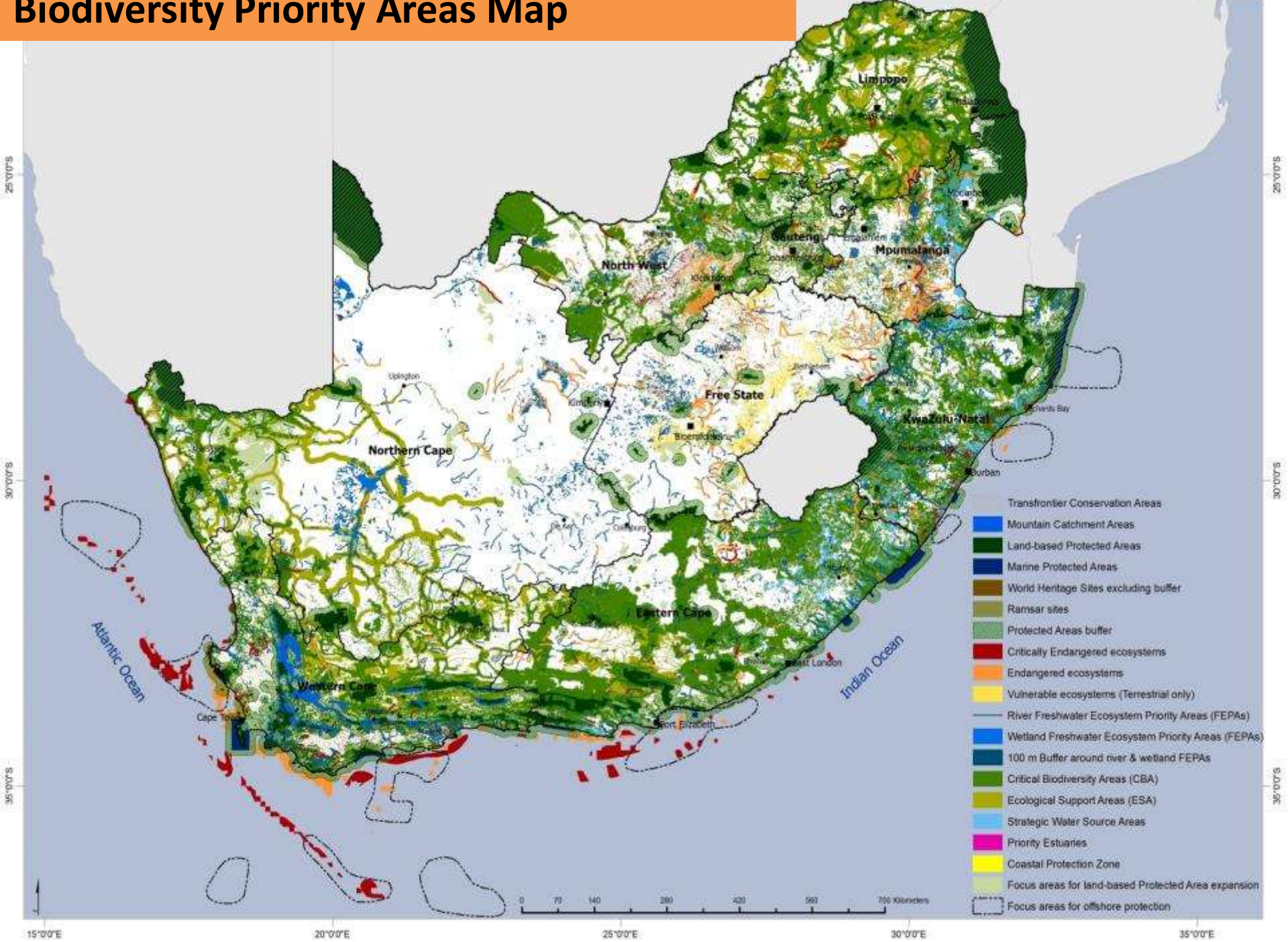


Spatial distribution of BRs in SA (2014)

7 351 780ha

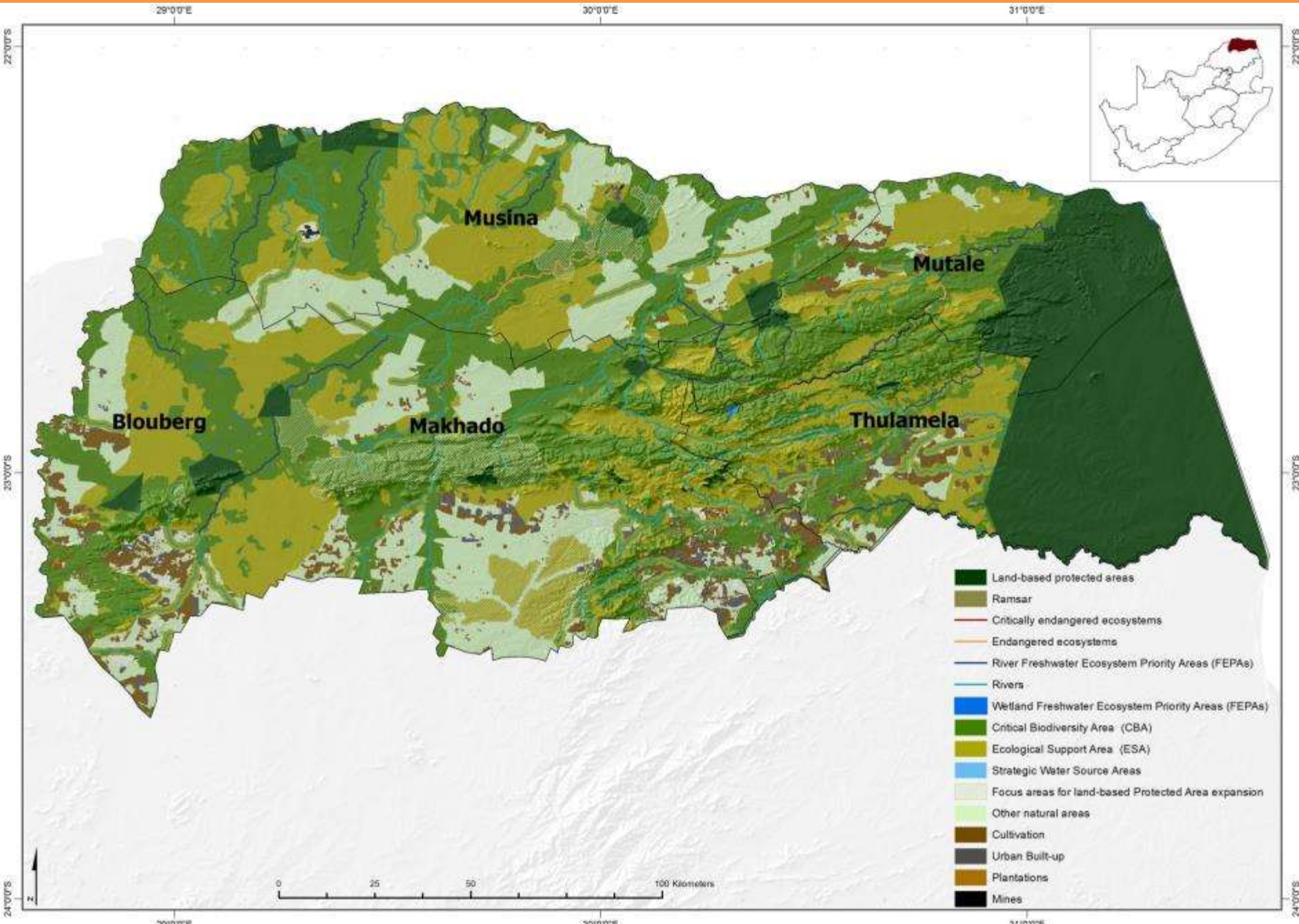


Biodiversity Priority Areas Map



15°0'0"E 20°0'0"E 25°0'0"E 30°0'0"E 35°0'0"E

Biodiversity Priority Areas Map of Vhembe BR (3 037 590ha)



Spatial Zonation in reality (Vhembe BR)

- Core zones
- Buffer zones
- Transition zone
- International boundary



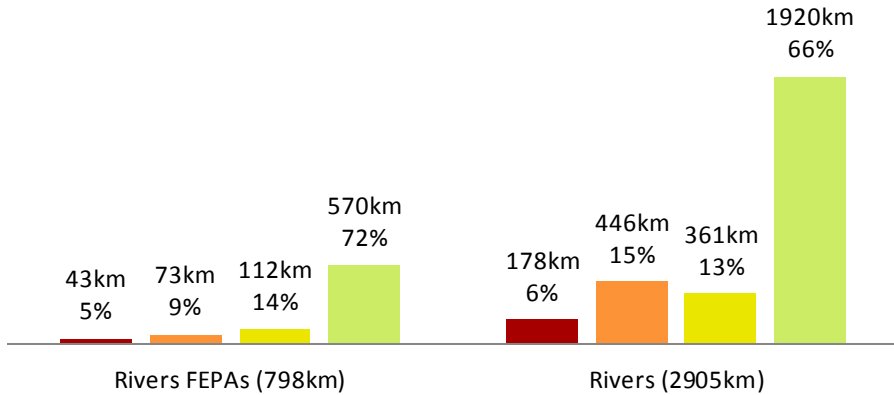
Biodiversity Priority Areas Stats for Vhembe BR (3 037 590ha)

BPAs	Area (ha) Length (km)	%
Land Based Protected Areas	492 977	16.2%
Critical Biodiversity Areas	1 119 972	36.9%
Focus Areas for Land-Based Protected Areas Expansion	132 237	4.4%
Strategic Water Source Areas	152 848	5%
Ramsar Sites	10 393	0.3%
Wetlands	15 483	0.5%
Wetlands FEPAs	2 057	0.06%
Rivers	2 905	0.09%
Rivers FEPAs	798	0.02%

Ecosystem Threat Status & Protection Level for Vhembe BR

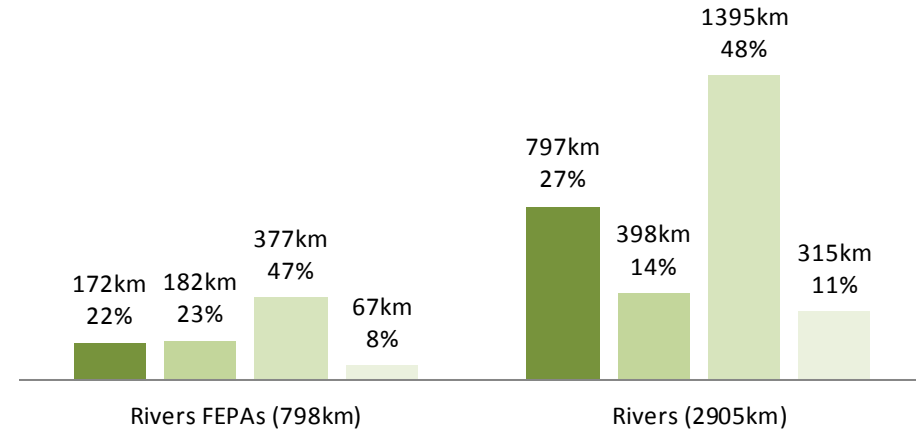
River Threat Status

■ Critically Endangered ■ Endangered ■ Vulnerable ■ Least Threatened



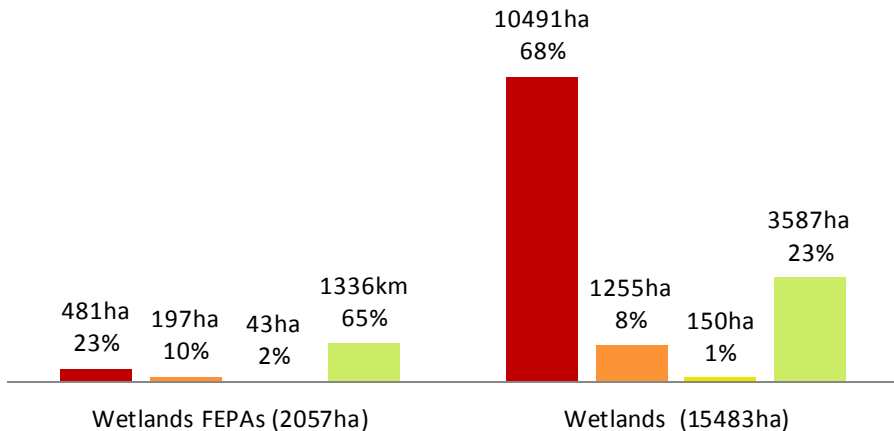
Rivers Protection Level

■ Well protected ■ Moderately protected ■ Poorly protected ■ Not protected



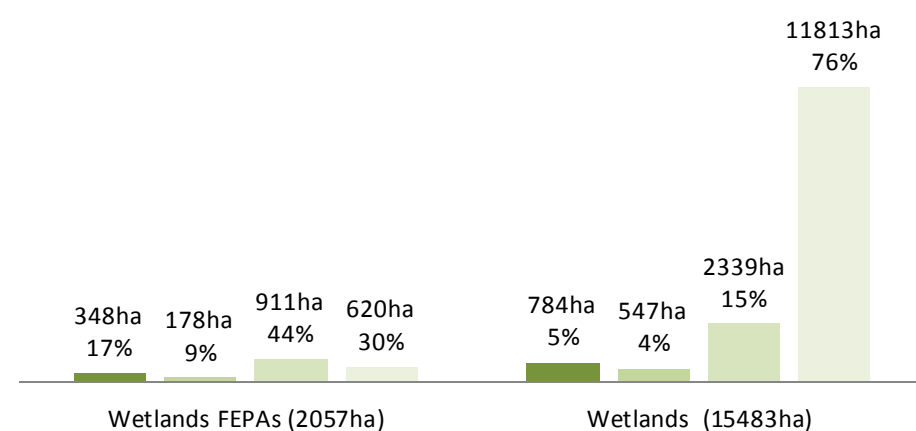
Wetlands Threat Status

■ Critically Endangered ■ Endangered ■ Vulnerable ■ Least Threatened



Wetlands Protection Level

■ Well protected ■ Moderately protected ■ Poorly protected ■ Not protected



Way Forward

Constraints

- BRs are poorly documented in SA
- lack of capacity is not/poorly recognized
- Some BRs have no man. Plan
- Outdated/old management plans

Opportunities

- DEA will soon embark on the process of developing National Strategy for BR



Questions & Comments

