

EXPANSION OF PA INTO THE DECLARED SKA AREA

BIODIVERSITY PLANNING FORUM

24 JUNE 2015



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Background on declared SKA

- The [Astronomy Geographic Advantage](#) (AGA) Act was promulgated on the 17 June 2008.
- DST Minister declared the NC province as Astronomy Advantage Areas on the 19 Feb 2010
- Declared the Karoo core AAA on 20 Aug 2010

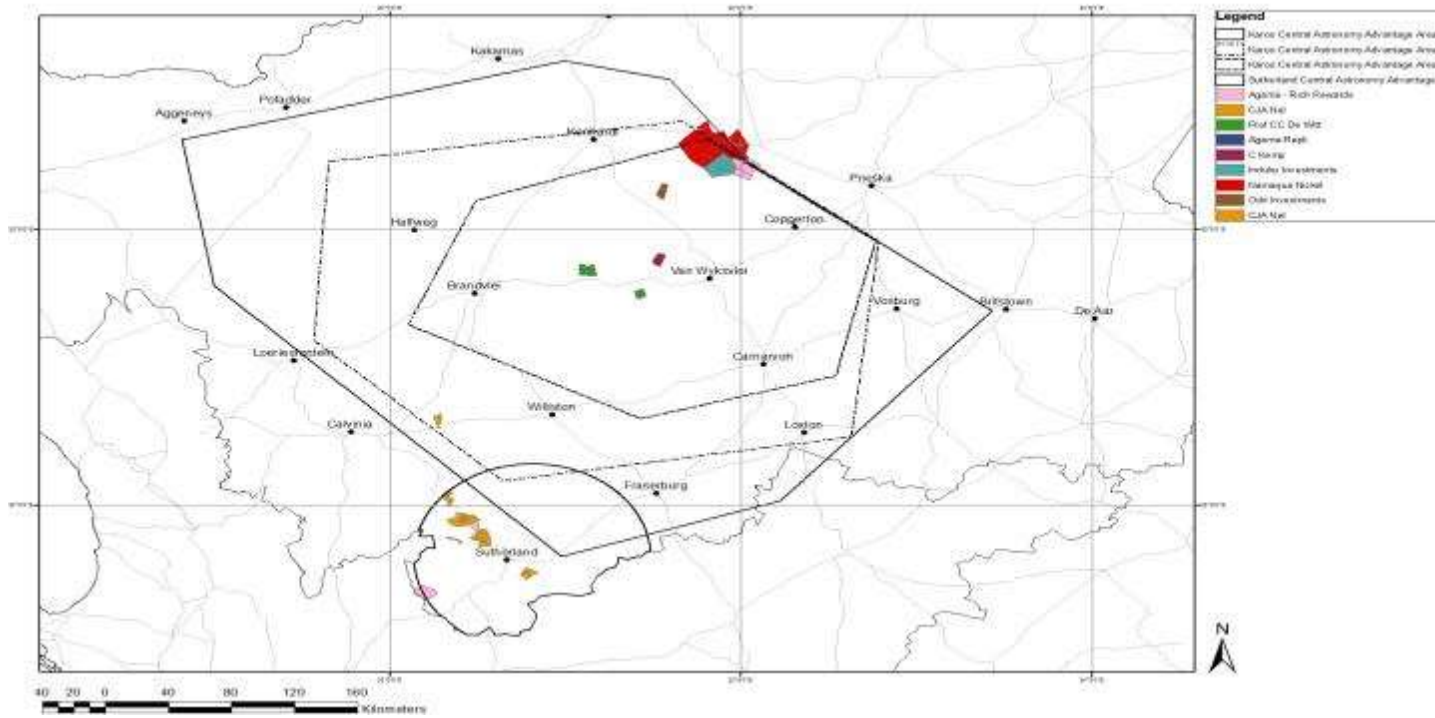


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Declared SKA area in Carnarvon

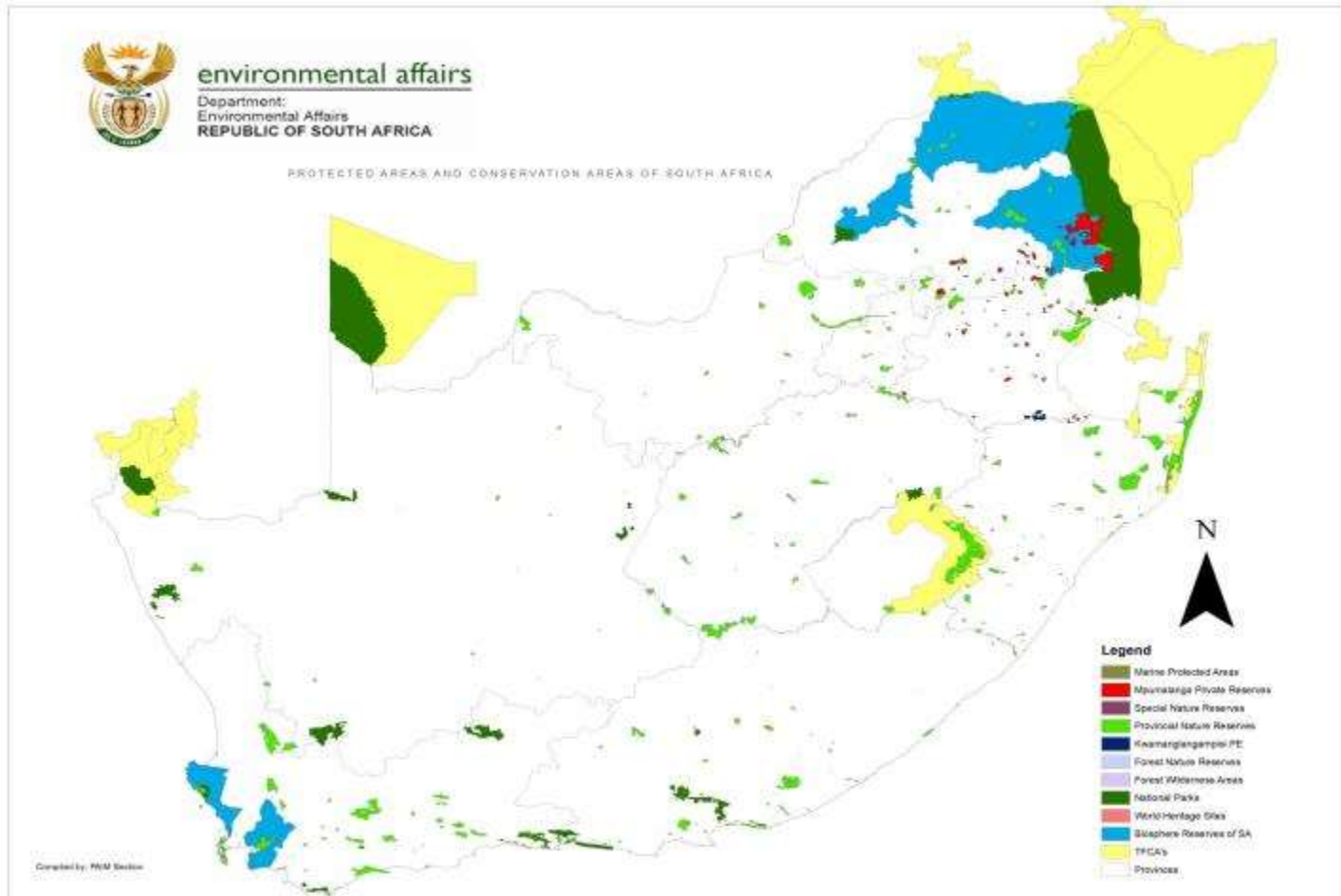


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Current protected areas and conservation estate



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DEA process on including SKA as a protected/conservation area

- Identifying of relevant stakeholders
- Conducted site visit (March 2014)
- Formal invitation of the stakeholders
- Conservation initiative task team formed
- Members are DEA, DST, SANParks, SANBI, DENC, SKA



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Cont.

- Inception meeting held on September 2014
- Actions from inception meeting
 - ❖ development of TOR
 - ❖ Join NC provincial SKA Working group
- CSIR - appointed to develop the broader SEA
- DEA to align SEA process and Conservation Initiative task team

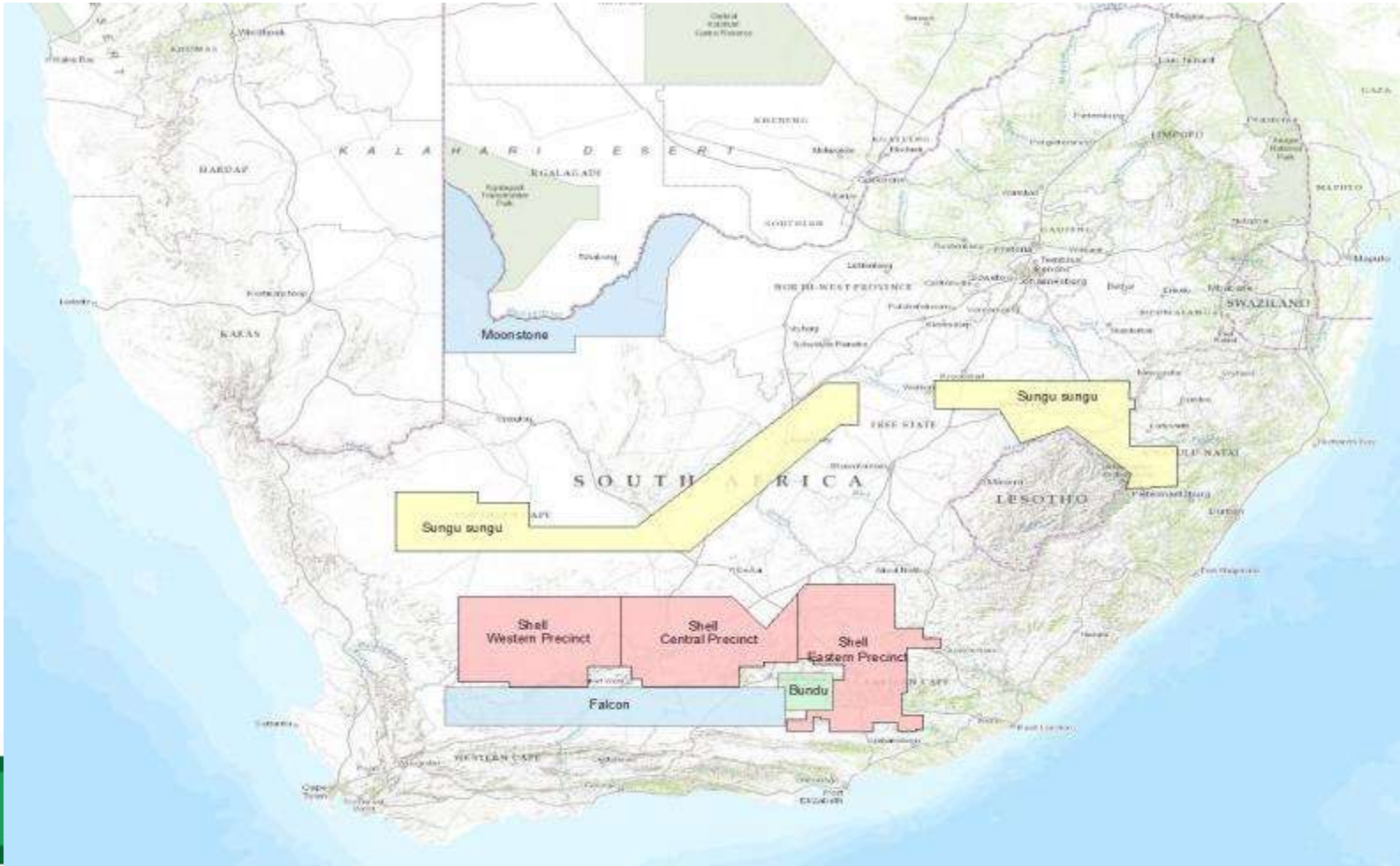


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Map of Area identified Shale Gas Exploration



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Identified Challenges

- Shale GAS exploration/Renewable energy....
- Lack of detailed biodiversity DATA
- No provincial expansion plan to inform-declaration
- Radio interference
- Type of protected/Conservation Areas and
- Management Authority issue??



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Recommendations

- SANBI on research/biodiversity DATA
- Mapping of Alien Invasive Species
- SANParks expanding the existing NP in the area
- Stakeholders who is missing??



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