NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT 2018 (NBA 2018): ECOLOGICAL CONDITION, ECOSYSTEM THREAT STATUS AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION LEVELS

1. MAP ECOSYSTEM TYPES

- 322 river ecosystem types resulted from combining vegetation, flow and geomorphic zone categories.
- 135 inland wetland ecosystem types resulted from combining vegetation bioregions with four hydrogeomorphic units (depressions, floodplains, swamps and valley-bottom wetlands).

- 90% of the length of river ecosystem types have been assessed for present ecological state using expert ratings.
- 10% of the length of river ecosystem types are poorly understood (inadequate or missing expert input to units or regions).

- 2 million ha of inland wetlands have been assessed because they are larger widespread.

2. DETERMINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION

- The majority of rivers (79%) are heavily to severely/critically degraded.
- The majority of inland wetlands are heavily to severely/critically degraded.

3. DETERMINE THE ECOSYSTEM THREAT STATUS AS A PROPORTION OF THE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION AGAINST THE BIODIVERSITY TARGET

- 64%, 59% and 53% of South Africa's river, coastal, marine, terrestrial and sub-Antarctic counterparts are threatened, respectively.
- Less than 2% of river, coastal, marine, terrestrial and sub-Antarctic counterparts are threatened, respectively.

4. DETERMINE THE ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION LEVELS AS A PROPORTION OF THE NATURAL AND NEAR-NATURAL ECOLOGICAL CONDITION CATEGORIES AGAINST THE BIODIVERSITY TARGET

- Wetland ecosystem types were likely more threatened than their river, coastal, marine, terrestrial and sub-Antarctic counterparts. 60%, 64%, 69%, 74% and 78% of river, coastal, marine, terrestrial and sub-Antarctic ecosystem types are threatened respectively. In this assessment, estuarine ecosystem types were found to be more threatened compared to the wetlands, with 86% of the ecosystem types threatened.

- The eight freshwater lakes have been assessed for present ecological state and resulted from combining vegetation bioregions with four hydrogeomorphic units (depressions, floodplains, swamps and valley-bottom wetlands).

- 49% of the length of river ecosystem types have been assessed for present ecological state using expert ratings.
- 41% of the length of river ecosystem types are poorly understood (inadequate or missing expert input to units or regions).

- The majority of rivers (67%) are heavily to severely/critically degraded.

Data sets used in modelling ecological condition for inland wetlands:

Information for this poster was extracted from the SAIIAE report. Please cite: