

SOUTH AFRICA

Convention on Biological Diversity

THEMATIC REPORT ON

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

2003



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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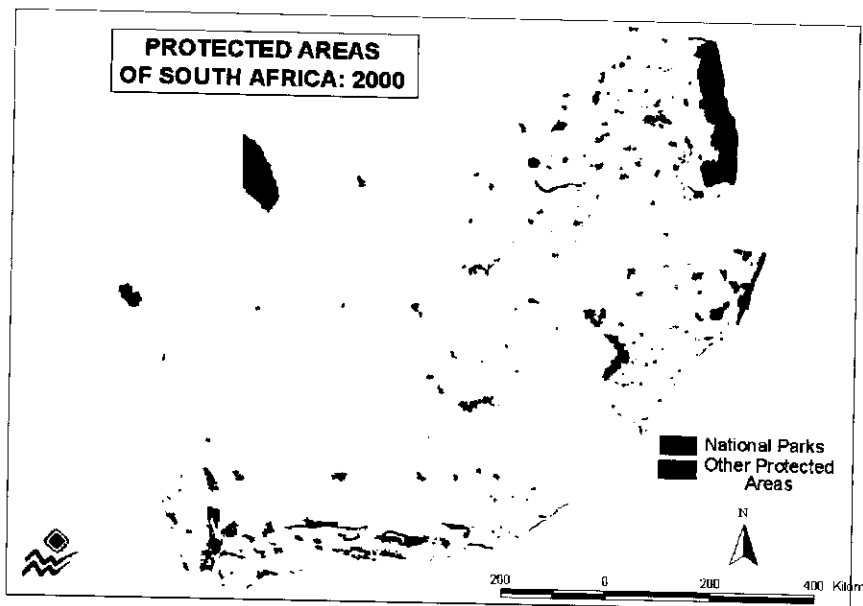
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INTRODUCTION

1. System of protected areas

South Africa has a well developed system of protected areas. There are some 403 terrestrial protected areas with a total area of 6 638 658ha or 5,44% of our land area (fig 1). There are 57 marine protected areas with a total area of 332 745ha. Of the terrestrial areas, 20 are national parks covering an area of 3 524 352ha or 53% of the total area. The rest of the protected areas are made up of a special nature reserve (Prince Edward Islands), state forests or provincial nature reserves.



2. Legislation

Protected area legislation in South Africa is in the process of reform. A new protected areas act (National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Bill) is to be tabled in parliament during 2003. At national level, present legislation relating to protected areas is as follows:

Under the Minister of Environmental Affairs and tourism:

- Special nature reserves and protected natural environments are declared in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act (73 of 1989)
- National parks are declared in terms of the National Parks Act (57 of 1976)

- Lake areas are declared in terms of the Lake Areas Development Act (39 of 1975)
- World Heritage sites are declared in terms of the World Heritage Convention Act (49 of 1999) and
- Marine protected areas are declared in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act (18 of 1998) and

Under the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry

- Specially protected forest areas, forest nature reserves and forest wilderness areas are declared in terms of the National Forests Act (Act No 84 of 1998) and
- Mountain catchment areas are declared in terms of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act (63 of 1970).

In addition to this national legislation, each of the nine provinces in South Africa is responsible for provincial legislation relating to protected areas.

3. Management

The number of state protected area agencies in South Africa reflects the range of legislation relating to protected areas in South Africa

At national level:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Marine and Coastal Management is responsible for marine protected areas and the Prince Edward Islands;
- South African National Parks is responsible for the national parks and Lake areas;
- The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park Authority is responsible for the Greater St Lucia World Heritage site
- The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is responsible for state forests and mountain catchment areas (a number of state forests have been delegated to SANParks or to provincial management agencies, and all mountain catchment areas have been delegated to provincial agencies); and

At provincial level South Africa has five statutory boards (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Limpopo Tourism and Parks Board, Mpumalanga Parks Board, North West Parks and Tourism Board and Western Cape Nature Conservation Board) as well as five provincial departments (in Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape).

4. The future

The White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable use of South Africa's Biological Diversity (1997) stated that government would consider the desirability of achieving at least 10% representation of each habitat and ecosystem within each biome. In 2001 the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism released a document entitled "A bioregional approach to South Africa's protected areas", where a target of increasing South Africa's terrestrial protected areas to a total of 8% of the surface area by the year 2010 was set.

South African "hotspots" of biodiversity (determined initially by centers of phyto-endemism and diversity) are being used as a starting point. Eight such hotspots have been identified within South Africa (figure 2). Activities towards securing viable as well as representative areas as part of the protected area network have been initiated. These are as follows:

- Wolkberg – Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve, Blyde-Sand proposed national park
- Maputaland – Greater St Lucia Wetland Park (World Heritage site) and Lubombo transfrontier conservation area

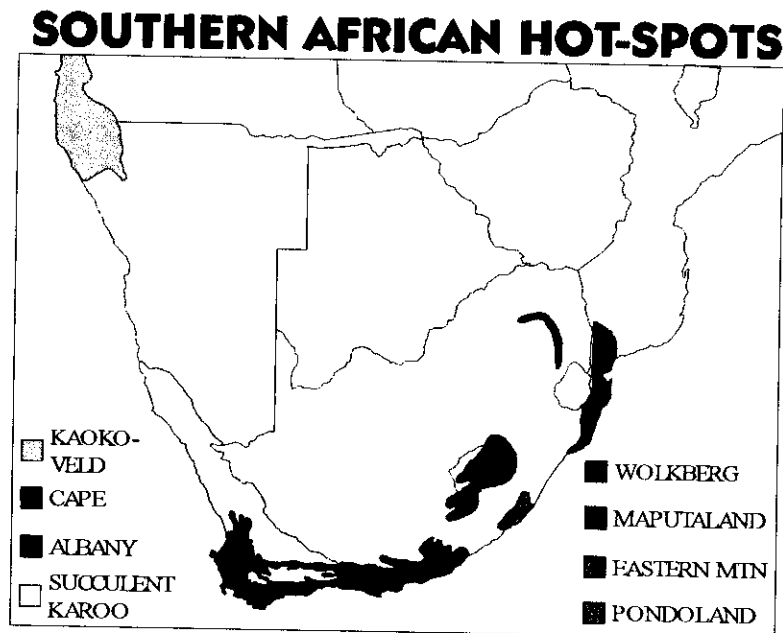


Figure 2: Southern African hotspots.

- Eastern Mountains – Ukahlamba-Drakensberg World Heritage site, Maloti-Drakensberg transfrontier conservation area
- Pondoland – proposed Wild Coast conservation area and national park

- Albany – Greater Addo National Park
- Cape – the Garden Route Initiative, Agulhas National Park, Cape Peninsula National Park
- Succulent Karoo – Namaqualand national park.

The latter three are being supported by innovative conservation planning exercises known as the Subtropical Thicket Ecosystems Project (STEP), the Cape Action for People and Environment programme (CAPE) and the Succulent Karoo Ecosystems Project. Projects using a similar approach have been completed in the province of Kwazulu-Natal and have been initiated for the forest biome. A similar project for the grassland biome has been proposed.

Both the White Paper and the Bioregional approach document recognize the need to rationalize the system of protected areas and its management. Three principles are to be applied, these are the consolidation of protected areas where possible, rationalization of their management and expansion of protected areas where necessary and possible. The planning exercises above are dealing with the consolidation and expansion of our protected areas, while the first major step in rationalization in legislation has been taken in the development of the new draft legislation on protected areas.

While the objective of a protected area system in South Africa is a part of its strategy to manage and conserve its biodiversity, protected areas are expected to provide tangible economic benefits to the country, contribute substantively to poverty alleviation and job creation, and have to be integrated into local planning and development initiatives.

Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Date of submission:	30 May 2003

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

This report was compiled by G I Cowan and M O Kumalo using data and information held by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and supplemented with information collated from a number of officers involved in various aspects of protected area management and planning in different management agencies in South Africa. The document was circulated to all protected area management agencies represented at the Protected Areas Forum for their input. Contributions towards this report were received from the following

Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Mr E Mokgane (Transfontier Conservation and Protected Areas)

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International Coordinating Unit

South African National Parks:

Dr P Novellie

Provinces:

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Mr N Grobler (Gauteng: Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs)

Mr P Nel (North West Parks & Tourism)

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Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					X
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken					X
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents	X
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) in early stages of development	
c) in advanced stages of development	
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets	X

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	X
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	X
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	X
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	X
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	X

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	X

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	X

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further information)	X
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	X
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	

16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	X

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	
21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	X

Further comments

SYSTEM OF PROTECTED AREAS

Question 2

The following programmes are designed for the systematic planning process for the development and implementation of a national system of protected areas:

The document "*A Bioregional approach to South African's protected areas*" was released in May 2001 by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. This document establishes the objective of maximizing benefits of South Africa's natural heritage for all South Africans, both now and in future, through establishing a comprehensive and representative system of protected areas covering South African biological diversity. It sets a goal of increasing the terrestrial protected area estate from the current 6% of South Africa's land surface to 8% and the marine protected area from 5% to 20% by 2010. (Document attached as annexure 1)

In support of reaching this goal, a number of biome based systematic conservation planning processes have been initiated in South Africa, including:

i) Cape Action for People and the Environment

The goal of the Cape Action for People and the Environment (C.A.P.E. Program) is to effectively conserve the biological diversity of the Cape Floral Kingdom (CFK), while creating significant social and economic benefits and alleviating poverty in the region, in a way that is embraced by local communities, endorsed by government and recognized internationally. The program represents a major pillar in South Africa's strategy to conserve 1 of the 3 eco-regions of global significance falling within its boundaries. (Document attached as annexure 2)

ii) Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Plan project(STEP):

This is a three year project which sets out to conduct a thorough conservation planning exercise in the Thicket Biome and work closely with key stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the outcomes of the planning. This project followed the lead of CAPE, but has taken the process further by developing application tools for the conservation plan developed.

The STEP Project focuses on the core area of the Thicket Biome, which occurs between the Groot-Gouritz river system in the west (west of Oudtshoorn), the Kei River in the east, and the

Great Escarpment in the hinterland in the vicinity of Graaff-Reinet in the west to Queenstown in the east (Document attached as annexure 3)

iii) Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Plan (SKEP):

As with CAPE & STEP projects, this project facilitates a strategic conservation planning process within the Succulent Karoo Biome. It aims to develop an overarching plan for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the Succulent Karoo Biome that will provide a hierarchy of priority actions to guide conservation efforts and donor investment in the Biome. (Document attached as annexure 4)

iv) A protected area system plan for indigenous forest in South Africa

Recently initiated by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, this project aims to identify key areas for protection with a range of management objectives for South Africa's smallest biome, the forest biome. It will be using the same basic methodology as the CAPE, STEP and SKEP projects.

Two province wide, rather than biome wide initiatives have also taken place:

v) Systematic Conservation Plan and Decision-Framework for KwaZulu-Natal (Document attached as Annexure 5)

It aims at:

- Determining acceptable goals and targets for the conservation of the KwaZulu Natal Province.
- Identifying critical areas of the province that require protection in order to achieve these goals
- Incorporating these results into a systematic but flexible decision framework suitable for inclusion into the Integrated Development Plans required by local authorities

vi) The Mpumalanga Parks Board has conducted a detailed survey and analysis of the biodiversity found in the Mpumalanga Province. The study determined the conservation value of land within the Mpumalanga province – and was locally referred to as the Biobase Project. The

Biobase project is seen as first phase of a three-phase process which would contribute towards a Bioregional Plan for Mpumalanga. The second phase involves the incorporation of the Biobase data into the Systematic Conservation Planning process. The third phase would be to draft a conservation strategy and policy, amongst others, for the establishment of an appropriate system of protected areas.

Question 3

A full assessment for the country has yet to be completed. However a number of initiatives have been undertaken and are outlined below.

i) According to the *White Paper on the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's Biological Diversity*, South Africa's system of terrestrial protected areas is well developed. The 403 formally protected areas constitute some 5,44% of the land surface area. About 74% of plant, 92% of amphibian and reptile, 97% of bird, and 93% of mammal species of South Africa are estimated to be represented in the present protected area system. The existing system does not adequately protect the lowland fynbos, succulent karoo, Nama karoo, and highveld grassland and thicket biomes of South Africa. (pp 27,8,29,30,31&32 annexure 6)

ii) The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's Marine and Coastal Management branch (MCM) has completed an assessment for marine protected areas. This assessment is reflected in the document called *Summary for the Marine Biodiversity Status Report for South Africa* in which it indicates that South African marine systems are showing signs of severe stress. It also contains a unique summary of the current marine biodiversity knowledge across the full range of ecosystems and disciplines in the South African marine environment. It reflects the strong commitment of the marine science community of South Africa to contribute to marine biodiversity conservation. (annexure 7)

iii) In KwaZulu-Natal Province an assessment has been undertaken. This is outlined in the document called a *Rapid Assessment of Terrestrial Protected Area Management Effectiveness in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa* in which the overall objectives of the assessment were to determine the current management effectiveness attributed to formally protected areas in KwaZulu-Natal and to identify priorities for management action and resource allocation (annexure 8)

REGULATORY FRAME WORK

Question 4

The *White Paper on the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's Biological Diversity* sets the policy framework for protected areas in South Africa. There is a range of enabling legislation (see introduction) for protected areas. A first step towards rationalizing this legislation has been taken in the tabling of The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Bill in parliament. is a legislation that is in place for the establishment and management of Protected Areas. The objectives of the bill is attached as annexure 9)

Question 5

At least 10% of each habitat and ecosystem type within each biome is set as an objective for terrestrial areas in the White Paper. The Bioregional approach establishes the objective of maximizing benefits of South Africa's natural heritage for all South Africans, both now and in future, through establishing a comprehensive and representative system of protected areas covering South African biological diversity. It sets a goal of increasing the terrestrial protected area estate from the current 6% of South Africa's land surface to 8% and the marine protected area from 5% to 20% by 2010.

Guidelines, criteria and targets have been adopted for marine protected areas. In the face of ever-increasing requests for the proclamation of marine protected area in South Africa, there is a need to develop an objective protocol for their evaluation. To achieve this a methodology is described for which the acronym "COMPARE" (Criteria and Objectives for Marine Protected Area Evaluation) is coined. COMPARE also allows existing marine protected area to be evaluated in terms of their efficiency and can assess the effect of changes to either legislation or management of existing marine protected areas. 14 objectives are defined that may be met by marine protected areas. These fall into three categories: biodiversity protection fisheries management and human utilization. A series of criteria were then proposed which can be used to quantify the degree to which marine protected areas meet these objectives. (annexure 10).

Question 6

Benefit sharing arrangements with local communities are in place for some National Parks. An example is the Richtersveld National Park, which is managed according to a contractual agreement with the local community. Elected representative of the local communities serve on management committee

together with South African National Park officials. South African National Park pays an annual sum into a community trust as payment for the use of the land for Richtersveld. Another example is the extreme northern part of the Kruger National Park which is managed in terms of contractual agreement between the local Makuleke Community and South African National Park. The Cape Peninsula National Park has also made use of incentives for private land owners to become contractually involved in the national park

In the province of KwaZulu-Natal, incentive measures are implemented for all protected areas e.g. Small Medium Enterprise sector, Joint Venture, free access and community trust (levy)

MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Question 7

The following programmes are in place to deal with major threats to protected areas:

i) Working for Water Programme

This programme was launched in 1995 in an effort to tackle the problem of invading alien plants and unemployment. It is a multi-departmental initiative led by the Departments of Water Affairs and Forestry, Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Agriculture. With 300 projects throughout the country, the programme aims to enhance water security, improve ecological integrity, restore the productive potential of land and promote sustainable use of natural resources and invest in the most marginalised sectors of South African society. (A copy of Annual report for Working for Water is attached as annexure 11)

ii) Working for Wetlands programme

Working for Water and Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism have formed a partnership to address wetland rehabilitation. In 2001/2 R30 million was allocated towards wetland rehabilitation projects throughout the country.

The projects include national priority wetlands (including existing and proposed Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance).

The employment to be created from implementing these projects is expected to be over 2000 people. Most of the projects in 2000/1 are considered to have been highly successful, judging by the immediate response of the wetlands and the amount of sediment trapped by erosion control structures within only a few months after construction.

Rehabilitation work carried out by workers employed in the wetlands projects includes gabion construction, the removal of invasive alien plants in the immediate area, surveying of flood irrigation furrows, construction and placing of grass bale gabions and leveling of drainage furrows.

iii) South African National Parks monitoring programmes:

These programmes are run either by South African National Parks scientist or else in cooperation with external scientist, they have been implemented to track both threats and the effectiveness of counter measures. A good example is the River Research Programme in the Kruger National Park.

iv) The overwhelming threat to marine biodiversity in South Africa is fishing. Hence Marine Protected Areas are specifically protected against fishing activities.

Question 8

Marine protected areas play a vital role in fishing management by protecting spawning fish stocks and by providing undisturbed areas against which the effects of fishing can be compared and assessed. MPAs are thus vital for the industries that surround them.

Both the White Paper and the Bioregional approach set protected areas within the wider context and goals of the South African government. The three overriding principles of the government (eradication of poverty, sustainable development of its economy and social development of its people) provide the context within which the objectives of all development takes place. Mainstreaming of protected areas into the economy and the upliftment of South Africans is a priority.

SANParks is implementing a strategy and process described as “social ecology” that conveys the philosophy and approach of the SANParks to neighbouring communities and establishes mutually beneficial dialogues and partnerships with these communities. The process ensures that the views of the community are taken into account to the largest possible extent and are acted upon, that the Parks’ existence is a direct benefit to neighbouring communities and that, in turn, communities adjacent to Parks welcome the conservation efforts of the SANParks”.

Question 9

The following legislation show that protected areas are operated through different management regimes:

- i) Environmental Conservation Act (73 of 1989) provide for special nature reserves and protected natural environments. The Act's objective is to provide for the effective protection and controlled utilization of the environment and for matters incidental thereto.

- ii) National Parks Act (57 of 1976) provide for national parks. The objective of the constitution of a national park is the establishment, preservation and study therein of wild animal, marine and plant life and objects of geological, archaeological, historical, ethnological, oceanographic, educational and other scientific interest and objects relating to the said life or the first-mentioned objects or events in or the history of the park, in such manner that the area which constitutes the park shall, as far as may be and for the benefit and enjoyment of visitor, be retained in its natural state.

- iii) National Forest Act (84 of 1998) – Its aim is to promote sustainable, use management and development of forests for the benefit of all.

- iv) World Heritage Convention Act (49 of 1999) provide for World Heritage Sites. The objectives of the act is to provide for the incorporation of the World Heritage Convention into South African law; the enforcement and implementation of the World Heritage Convention in South Africa; the recognition and establishment of World Heritage Sites; the establishment of Authorities and the granting of additional powers to existing organs of state; the powers and duties of such Authorities, especially those safeguarding the integrity of World Heritage Sites; where appropriate, the establishment of Boards and Executive Staff Components of the Authorities; integrated management plans over World Heritage Sites; land matters in relation to World Heritage Sites; financial, auditing and reporting controls over the Authorities; and to provide for incidental matters.

- v) Mountain Catchments Areas Act (63 of 1970) provide for declaration and management of mountain catchments areas. The objective of this act is to provide for the conservation, use, management and control of land situated in mountain catchments areas, and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

Question 10

Stakeholders have participated actively in the development and management of number national parks, including the Addo National Park, Cape Peninsula National Park, Kruger National Park and the Richtersveld National Park. (For more details see point number 6). The new legislation makes specific provision for public participation in the management of protected areas.

The Natal Parks Board launched an extensive series of programmes to make conservation in general and in protected areas in particular, more relevant to poor communities. These aim to encourage participation in protected area management and planning by creating neighbour's forum to:

- Create trust
- discuss boundary and land uses
- create wildlife resources harvesting programme
- provide controlled free access
- formalize and honour commitments

Question 11

Formally recognized protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies include :

- i) private nature reserves, which are declared in terms of provincial ordinances,
- ii) the game farming industry (which, with the support of the former Natal Parks Board, through extension services for wildlife management and supply of game at subsidized prices, has grown to cover 167,394 ha or 6.7% of the province. This growth in the wildlife industry has replaced conventional agricultural practices, primarily domestic stock farming. Apart from incentives provided by the provincial wildlife department, this change has been brought about the growing local and international demand for nature-based experiences such as game viewing and hunting
- iii) Biosphere reserves. Since 1995 South Africa has been actively participating in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme. In 1998 the first Biosphere reserve namely the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve was listed on the World Network. In 1999 the Cape West Coast Biosphere reserve, and in 2001 another two biosphere reserves namely Waterberg Biosphere Reserve and

the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Reserve were listed.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Question 12

According to protected area management agencies, financial resources are the main limiting factors. Resources are limiting because they are inadequate to expand the national park system. In particular there is a need for funds to develop and integrate newly acquired land in expanded parks.

In Mpumalanga Province there is insufficient staff and financial resources for fulfilling mandate into the Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act, including the management of existing nature reserves.

However, the principle problem is one of fragmentation of our protected areas management with its associated duplication of institutional arrangements. Management capacity is also lacking.

Question 13

South Africa has asked and received funding for a number of projects from the Global Environmental Facility. Projects included in this funding are the Cape Action Plan for the Environment, the Subtropical Thicket Ecosystem Planning project, the Maloti-Drankesberg Transfrontier Park and the Namaqua National Park (annexure 12).

ASSESSMENT

Question 14

Principle constraints to the implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas have been identified as legal (numerous, uncoordinated pieces of legislation dealing with protected areas), fragmentation of protected area management (South Africa has four agencies at national level and 10 agencies at provincial level responsible for our protected areas), and the associated duplication within these institutions.

The legal constraints are being addressed with the introduction of the Protected Areas Bill, part of a suite of legislation related to the existing National Environmental Management Act. The aim of this bill is to

consolidate legislation relating to terrestrial protected areas into one act. It is hoped that some rationalization of institutions will logically follow.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is in the process of withdrawing from the management of state forests by assigning them to other management agencies both at national and provincial level.

Question 15

No programme to assess the effectiveness of protected area management exists at present. An assessment of state forests managed by the provinces was completed in 2000. Limpopo province similarly completed an internal assessment. In the future reporting and assessment will be required in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, once promulgated.

Question 16

The value of marine protected areas in terms of fisheries has been assessed qualitatively in the academic literature.

The wider value of protected areas in South Africa is well recognized. Tourism is our fastest growing industry, based mainly on the attraction of the natural beauty of the country as sampled in our protected areas. The value of protected areas in relation to our water resources is reflected in the existence of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act, and has been reinforced by a recently completed ten year research programme known as the Kruger National Park Rivers Research Programme. The values of many other resources within protected areas is reflected in the direct financial returns from game auctions, the wildflower industry and medicinal plants collected from protected areas, while at the same time protected areas provide a base for stocking neighbouring areas.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Question 17

South Africa is particularly active in developing a number of transfrontier conservation areas (TFCA's). At present, six such areas are at various stages of development. These are: the Great Limpopo TFCA (South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe), Lubombo TFCA (South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland), Maloti-Drakensberg TFCA (South Africa, Lesotho), Ai Ais-Richtersveld (South Africa, Namibia), Kgalagadi (presently South Africa and Botswana, may be extended to include Namibia) and Limpopo-Shashe (South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe). A seventh area, Songimvelo – Malolotja

(South Africa and Swaziland) is under consideration.

(A copy of briefing document to relevant Departments and implementing agencies on Transfrontier Conservation Areas initiatives is attached for details as annexure 13).

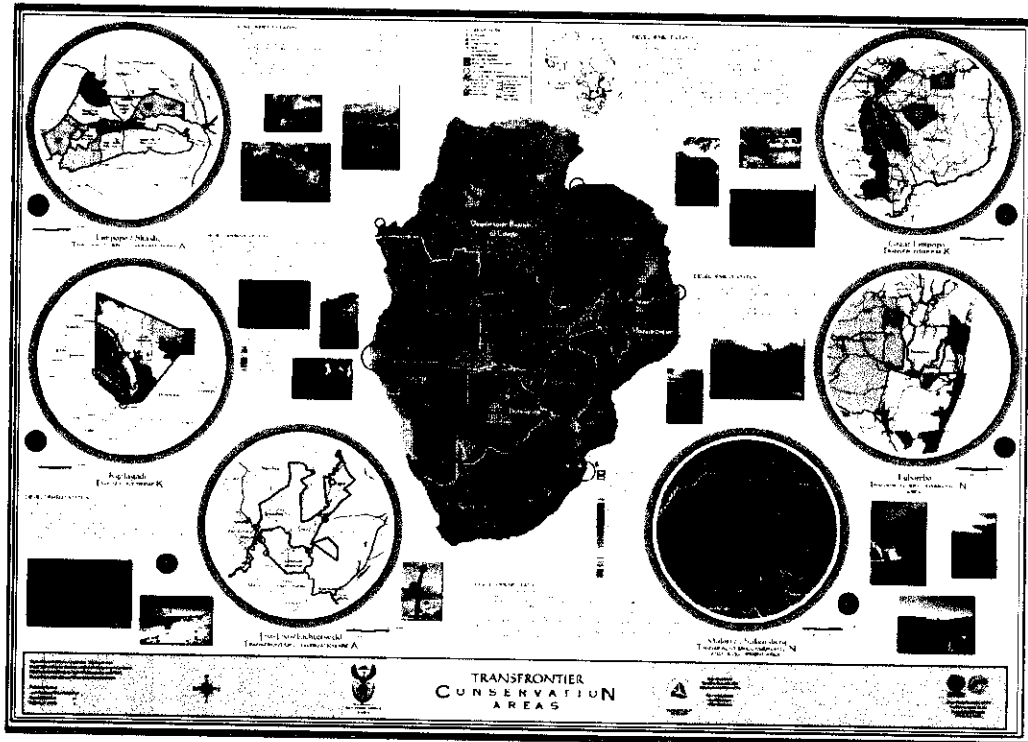


Figure Transfrontier Conservation Areas

Question 18

Only a few of South Africa's professionals are members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. A large pool of expertise exists in South Africa who are not members. It is likely that many of them will be recruited at the World Parks Congress, which is to be hosted by South Africa in September 2003.

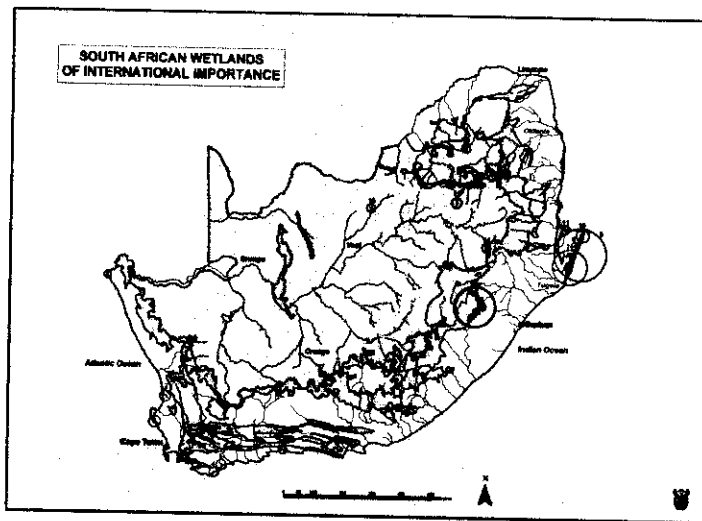
Question 20

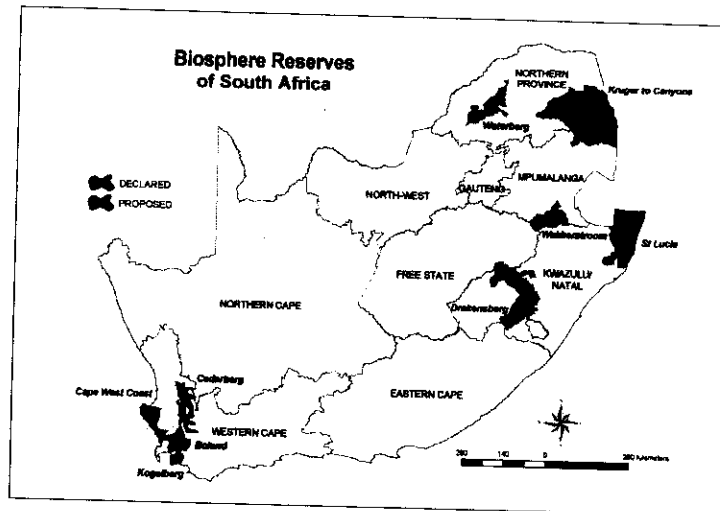
South Africa has designated a number of sites under international conventions and programmes. Besides the transfrontier conservation areas noted in question 17, South Africa has:

- i) designated 17 Wetlands of International Importance in terms of the Convention on

Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (annexure 14).
Ramsar report (website: www.ramsar.org)

- ii) designated four Biosphere Reserves in terms of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme (annexure 15) Man And the Biosphere report (website: www.unesco.org/mab);
- iii) designated four World Heritage sites in terms of the World Heritage Convention (annexure 16).





Question 21

South Africa has a wealth of experience and expertise in the development and management of protected areas. Our protected areas are arguably the most intensively managed in Africa. The field experience is supported by a number of top quality academic institutions. A number of examples of expertise which could be of direct value other Contracting Parties include among a number of others:

- i) the further development of a systematic planning approach to identifying protected areas (as illustrated in the CAPE, STEP and SKEP projects;
- ii) The use of No-take Marine Protected Areas in the fishing management is a relatively untested concept for most countries. We have as much experience in this regard as any other country and more than most.
- iii) Kruger Park Rivers Research Programme which provided support for development of the ecological water reserve in terms of the National Water Act.
- iv) Translocation of large animals including elephants;
- v) Reintroduction & saving of endangered species such as rhino, black wildebeest, bontebok;
- vi) Game Ranch Management;
- vii) Alien Plant Control as illustrated by the Working for Water Project; and
- viii) Threatened Plant Species programme

List of Annexures *

1. A bioregional approach to South Africa's protected areas
2. Cape Action Plan for the Environment
3. Subtropical thicket ecosystem planning project
4. The Succulent Karoo ecosystem plan
5. Systematic conservation plan and decision framework for Kwazulu-Natal
6. White Paper on the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biological diversity
7. Marine biodiversity status report for South Africa
8. A rapid assessment of terrestrial protected area management effectiveness in Kwazulu-Natal
9. Memorandum on the objects of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Bill
10. Criteria, objectives and methodology for evaluating marine protected areas in South Africa
11. The Working For Water Programme – annual report
12. Status report: South African and regional GEF projects
13. Briefing document to relevant departments and implementing agencies on transfrontier conservation areas initiatives
14. National planning tool for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
15. South Africa's national report on the Man and the Biosphere programme
16. Annual report World Heritage Convention

*** Photocopies of annexures available from the SCBD National Reports Unit.**