

LIMPOPO PROVINCE
LIMPOPO PROVINSIE
XIFUNDZANKULU XA LIMPOPO
PROFENSE YA LIMPOPO
VUNDU LA LIMPOPO
IPHROVINSI YELIMPOPO

**Provincial Gazette • Provinsiale Koerant • Gazete ya Xifundzankulu
Kuranta ya Profense • Gazethe ya Vundu**

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Closing times for **ORDINARY WEEKLY** **2019** **LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL GAZETTE**

The closing time is **15:00 sharp** on the following days:

- **27 December 2018**, Friday for the issue of Friday **04 January 2019**
- **04 January**, Friday for the issue of Friday **11 January 2019**
- **11 January**, Friday for the issue of Friday **18 January 2019**
- **18 January**, Friday for the issue of Friday **25 January 2019**
- **25 January**, Friday for the issue of Friday **01 February 2019**
- **01 February**, Friday for the issue of Friday **08 February 2019**
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- **15 February**, Friday for the issue of Friday **22 February 2019**
- **22 February**, Friday for the issue of Friday **01 March 2019**
- **01 March**, Friday for the issue of Friday **08 March 2019**
- **08 March**, Friday for the issue of Friday **15 March 2019**
- **14 March**, Thursday for the issue of Friday **22 March 2019**
- **22 March**, Friday for the issue of Friday **29 March 2019**
- **29 March**, Wednesday for the issue of Friday **05 April 2019**
- **05 April**, Friday for the issue of Friday **12 April 2019**
- **12 April**, Friday for the issue of Friday **19 April 2019**
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- **25 April**, Thursday for the issue of Friday **03 May 2019**
- **03 May**, Friday for the issue of Friday **10 May 2019**
- **10 May**, Friday for the issue of Friday **17 May 2019**
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- **24 May**, Friday for the issue of Friday **31 May 2019**
- **31 May**, Friday for the issue of Friday **07 June 2019**
- **07 June**, Friday for the issue of Friday **14 June 2019**
- **13 June**, Thursday for the issue of Friday **21 June 2019**
- **21 June**, Friday for the issue of Friday **28 June 2019**
- **28 June**, Friday for the issue of Friday **05 July 2019**
- **05 July**, Friday for the issue of Friday **12 July 2019**
- **12 July**, Friday for the issue of Friday **19 July 2019**
- **19 July**, Friday for the issue of Friday **26 July 2019**
- **26 July**, Friday for the issue of Friday **02 August 2019**
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- **08 August**, Thursday for the issue of Friday **16 August 2019**
- **16 August**, Friday for the issue of Friday **23 August 2019**
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- **19 September**, Thursday for the issue of Friday **27 September 2019**
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- **04 October**, Friday for the issue of Friday **11 October 2019**
- **11 October**, Friday for the issue of Friday **18 October 2019**
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- **25 October**, Friday for the issue of Friday **01 November 2019**
- **01 November**, Friday for the issue of Friday **08 November 2019**
- **08 November**, Friday for the issue of Friday **15 November 2019**
- **15 November**, Friday for the issue of Friday **22 November 2019**
- **22 November**, Friday for the issue of Friday **29 November 2019**
- **29 November**, Friday for the issue of Friday **06 December 2019**
- **06 December**, Friday for the issue of Friday **13 December 2019**
- **12 December**, Thursday for the issue of Friday **20 December 2019**
- **18 December**, Wednesday for the issue of Friday **27 December 2019**

PROVINCIAL NOTICES • PROVINSIALE KENNISGEWINGS

PROVINCIAL NOTICE 1 OF 2019**LIMPOPO**
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICAECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**DETERMINATION OF BIOREGIONS AND PUBLICATION OF BIOREGIONAL PLANS IN TERMS OF SECTION 40(1) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)**

I, Seaparo Charles Sekoati, Member of the Executive Council for Economic Development, Environment and Tourism, hereby determine bioregions for the Waterberg District Municipality and the Mopani District Municipality and publish bioregional plans in respect of those bioregions in terms of section 40(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).

The borders of the Waterberg District Municipality Bioregion and Mopani District Municipality Bioregion are aligned with the borders of the Waterberg District Municipality and the Mopani District Municipality respectively.

Basic maps of the Waterberg District Municipality Bioregion and the Mopani District Municipality Bioregion are depicted, and executive summaries for the bioregional plans for those bioregions are set out, in Schedule 1 to this notice. Digital copies of the full bioregional plans are available at: <http://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Details/204> Mopani District and <http://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/183> Waterberg District and hard copies are available at the offices of the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism at 19 Biccard Street, Polokwane.

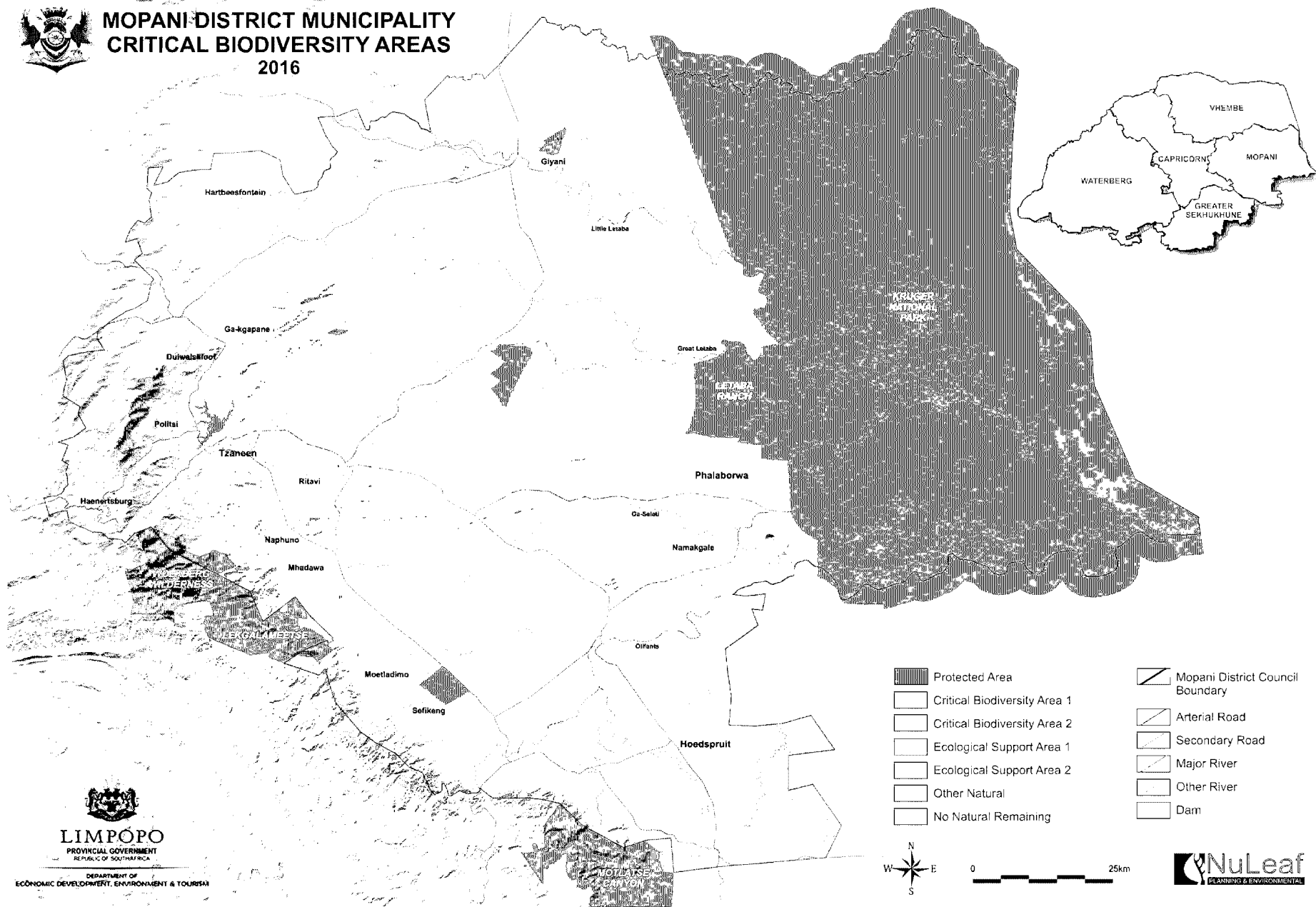
For further information: MoengET@ledet.gov.za

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seaparo Charles Sekoati'.
SEAPARO CHARLES SEKOATI**MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM****SCHEDULE 1**

[Basic maps and executive summaries]

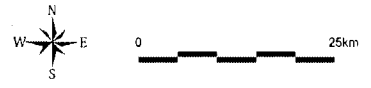


**MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS
2016**



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | Protected Area | | Mopani District Council Boundary |
| | Critical Biodiversity Area 1 | | Arterial Road |
| | Critical Biodiversity Area 2 | | Secondary Road |
| | Ecological Support Area 1 | | Major River |
| | Ecological Support Area 2 | | Other River |
| | Other Natural | | Dam |
| | No Natural Remaining | | |



Executive Summary

Purpose and objectives:

The declaring of bioregions and the gazetting of bioregional plans forms part of the legislated tools identified by the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004), hereafter referred to as the Biodiversity Act, to aid in the conservation and management of South Africa's biodiversity.

The purpose of a bioregional plan is to facilitate the safeguarding of biodiversity within identified biodiversity priority areas that fall outside of the Protected Area (PA) Network.

Additionally, the aim is to provide a map of biodiversity priorities with accompanying land use planning and decision-making guidelines to inform land-use planning, environmental assessment and authorisations, and natural resource management. A bioregional plan is the biodiversity sector's input into various multi-sectoral planning and authorisation processes.

Need for a bioregional plan:

A bioregional plan for the Mopani District is warranted based on the following:

- Biodiversity value;
- Pressures on biodiversity;
- Protection of biodiversity.

Intended users and uses:

The bioregional plan has both mandatory and recommended users. Mandatory users are obligated to take the bioregional plan into consideration, while recommended users could find the bioregional plan to be a useful planning and development tool.

Underlying biodiversity plan:

The Mopani District Bioregional Plan is based on the Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) maps developed in the LCPv2, the current systematic biodiversity plan for the province undertaken by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

Physical context:

Mopani District Municipality (MDM) is situated in the north-eastern part of the Limpopo Province, approximately 60 km east of Polokwane. There are five Local Municipalities (LM's), namely:

- Greater Tzaneen LM;
- Greater Letaba LM;

- Greater Giyani LM;
- Ba-Phalaborwa LM;
- Maruleng LM.

Significance of biodiversity:

The Savanna biome covers approximately 68% of the District with the remainder being made up of Grassland (16%) and Forest (10%) biomes. Azonal vegetation is found in patches along rivers and wetlands, such as the Little and Great Letaba Rivers.

Mopani District, inclusive of the Kruger National Park (KNP), has twenty-five different vegetation types. Of these, 24 lie outside of the KNP.

9 of the 25 vegetation types are classified as *Threatened ecosystems*. Of these, 5 are classified as *Vulnerable*, 2 as *Endangered* and 2 as *Critically Endangered*. The majority of *Threatened ecosystems* are dispersed along the escarpment and in the north west of the District.

Nine of the vegetation types occurring within the District are classified as *endemic* and five as *near-endemic* to the Province. *Transvenosus encephalartus*, the prehistoric Modjadji palm, is limited to the small Modjadji Nature Reserve within Ga-gapane.

In addition to unique and diverse vegetation, the Lowveld region has a number of important geothermal springs (the resort in the Hans Merensky Nature Reserve and Soutini Baleni on the banks of the Little Letaba River.)

PAs, including a portion of the KNP, cover 31.7% of Mopani District and Private Nature Reserves (PNRs) cover an additional 10.2%. The Amalgamated Private Nature Reserves (APNR) represents the bulk of the PNRs in the District. These conservation areas also represent part of the core area of the Kruger to Canyons (K2C) Biosphere Reserve.

Notwithstanding the large percentage under formal protection, 48% of the vegetation types found in the District are *under-protected*, which is the collective term used to refer to ecosystems that are unprotected, poorly protected and moderately protected.

The Wolkberg area is highly significant, functioning as an important biodiversity hotspot, ecological corridor, centre of endemism, Important Bird Area (IBA), Strategic Water Source area and the source of the Great Letaba River system. In addition, the Haenertsburg Modjadji focus region is one of the highest scoring sites for expansion of Protected Areas in the Province, being particularly valuable in terms of Critical Biodiversity Areas and freshwater features. This was also identified as Limpopo's largest *endangered* landscape.

Planning environment:

The following instruments and informants were addressed in terms of understanding the status quo of the planning environment relating to biodiversity conservation and planning within the District:

- Protected Areas planning, including:
 - Protected Areas;
 - Conservation areas;
 - Kruger National Park Integrated Land Use Zones;
 - Foot and Mouth Disease control zones;
 - National and Limpopo Protected Areas Expansion Strategy;
 - The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Protected Areas Project.
- Multi sectoral planning, including:
 - The Olifants and Letaba Catchment Environmental Management Framework (OLCEMF).
 - Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) for the District and Local Municipalities.
 - Strategic Development Frameworks (SDFs) for the District and Local Municipalities.
- Other Informants, including:
 - Kruger to Canyons (K2C) Biosphere Region;
 - National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA's);
 - Strategic Water Source Areas;
 - Important Bird Areas (IBAs);
 - Wolkberg Centre of Endemism.
- Other plans and programmes, including:
 - USAID's Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) programme;
 - Environmental Outlook: Limpopo.

Critical Biodiversity Areas:

One of the outputs of the LCPv2 is a map of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs). These are classified into these different categories based on biodiversity characteristics, spatial configuration and requirement for meeting targets for both biodiversity pattern and ecological processes.

- *Protected Areas* are declared and formally protected under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (no 57 of 2003), hereafter referred to as the Protected Areas Act. These include National Parks, Nature Reserves, World Heritage Sites and Protected Environments that are secured by appropriate legal mechanisms.

- *Critical Biodiversity Areas* are sites that are required to meet each ecosystem's biodiversity target, and need to be maintained in the appropriate condition for their category. The majority of the CBAs in the Mopani District are CBA 1, which can be considered *irreplaceable* in that there is little choice in terms of areas available to meet targets. Those areas falling within CBA 2 are considered *optimal*. Although they represent areas where there are other spatial options for achieving targets, the selected sites are the ones that best achieve targets of the systematic biodiversity plan.
- *Ecological Support Areas* (ESAs) are areas that are important for maintaining the ecological processes on which CBAs depend. This category has also been split into ESA1 and ESA2 on the basis of land cover. ESA1s are in a largely natural state, and are important for supporting CBAs, while ESA2s are no longer intact but potentially retain significant importance from an ecological process perspective (e.g. agricultural land maintaining landscape connectivity).
- Other Natural Areas (ONAs) are areas that still contain natural habitat but that are not required to meet biodiversity targets.
- No Natural Areas Remaining are areas without intact habitat remaining.

Mopani District Bioregional Plan:

The proposed bioregional plan for the Mopani District Municipality was based on the Limpopo Conservation Plan v2 (Desmet *et al.*, 2013) and adapted to take into account stakeholder comments, threats and agreed resolutions. These threats and resolutions were tested during an extensive stakeholder consultation process (refer to Appendix 1).

In response to potential losses and threats identified during the alignment process undertaken during the development of the Mopani District Bioregional Plan, the CBAs and ESAs of the LCPv2 required updating in order to ensure that biodiversity targets remained intact within the District.

Guidelines for decision-making:

These guidelines provide a framework for land-uses compatible with the land management objectives of each category on the Map of CBAs. The guidelines are designed to aid planners to identify the appropriate zones and controls to impose on areas designated as Critical Biodiversity Areas or Ecological Support Areas.

Importantly, the Mopani District Bioregional Plan provides guidance on appropriate land uses and does not grant or remove existing land-use rights or take the place of development application authorisation processes.

The guidelines should be used in conjunction with other sector-specific guidelines applicable within the Province. Examples of such guidelines include the following:

- *Mining and Biodiversity Guideline* (SANBI, 2013);
- *Grazing and Burning Guidelines* (SANBI, 2014);

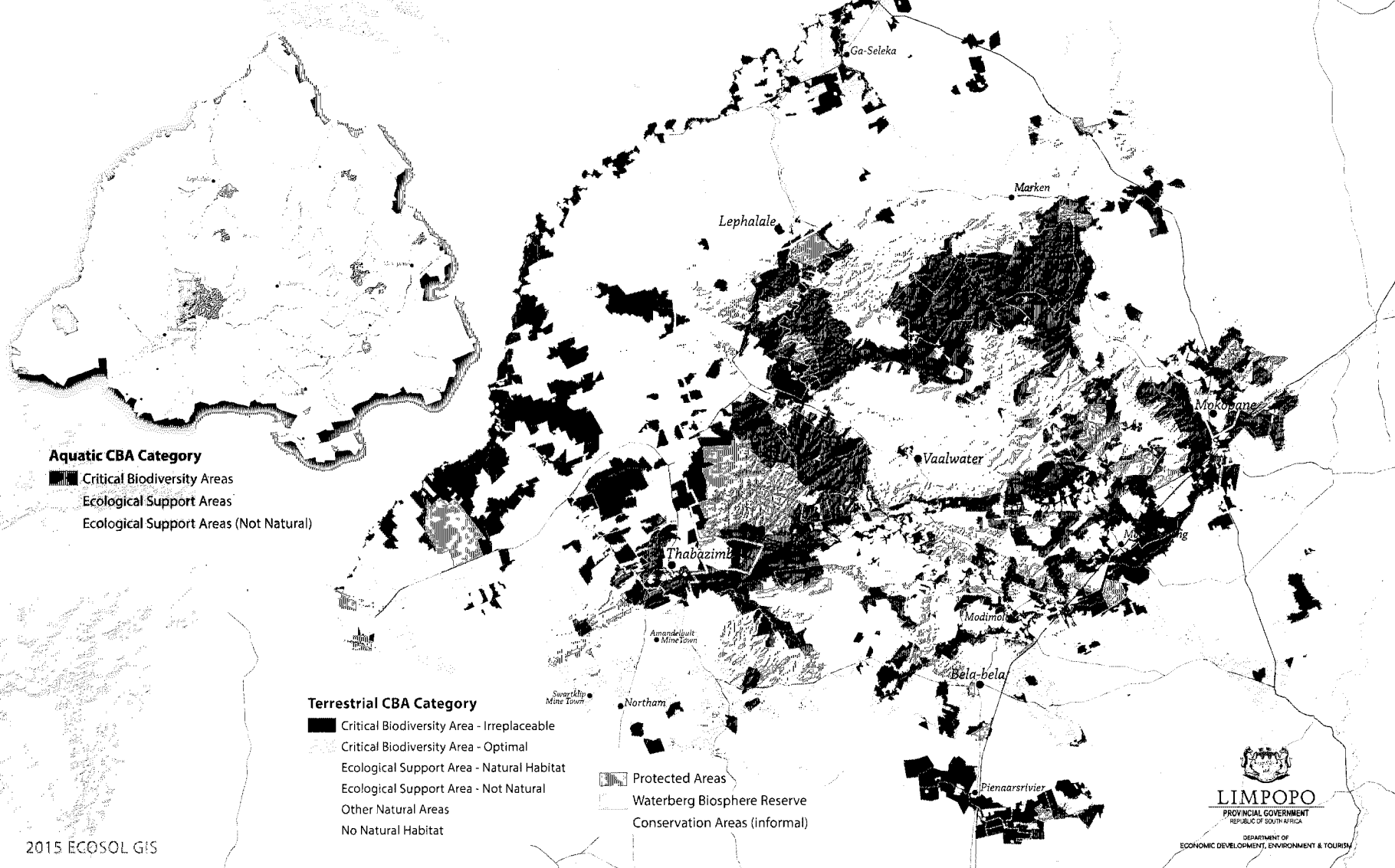
- *Guidelines for working in Freshwater Priority Areas* (Nel et al., 2011);
- *The Grassland Ecosystem Guidelines* (SANBI, 2013);
- *Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment* (Brownlie et al., 2009).

Of specific relevance to the Mopani District are the various planning instruments and informants applicable to the District. These include the following:

- *Limpopo Protected Area Expansion Strategy Technical Report* (Desmet et al, 2014);
- *Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Area* (Environomics, 2009);
- *Guidelines for Development within Kruger to Canyons Biosphere Region* (unpublished report);
- *Veterinary Procedural Notice for Foot and Mouth Disease Control in South Africa* (DAFF, 2014);
- *State of the Rivers Report: Letaba and Luvuvhu River Systems* (WRC, 2001);
- *Technical Report for the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas project* (Nel et al, 2011).



Waterberg District Municipality Map of Critical Biodiversity Areas



Aquatic CBA Category
 ■ Critical Biodiversity Areas
 ■ Ecological Support Areas
 ■ Ecological Support Areas (Not Natural)

Terrestrial CBA Category
 ■ Critical Biodiversity Area - Irreplaceable
 ■ Critical Biodiversity Area - Optimal
 ■ Ecological Support Area - Natural Habitat
 ■ Ecological Support Area - Not Natural
 ■ Other Natural Areas
 ■ No Natural Habitat

■ Protected Areas
 ■ Waterberg Biosphere Reserve
 ■ Conservation Areas (informal)

2015 ECQSOL GIS



Executive Summary

This Bioregional Plan covers the Waterberg District located within the Limpopo Province of South Africa. The Waterberg District Municipality is the primary implementing agent of the Bioregional Plan. The spatial component of the Bioregional Plan is based on a provincial systematic biodiversity plan, the Limpopo Conservation Plan version 2 (LCPv2), undertaken by the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET).

The purpose of a bioregional plan is to inform land-use planning, environmental assessments and authorisations, and natural resource management, by a range of sectors whose policies and decisions impact on biodiversity. This is done by providing a map of biodiversity priority areas, referred to as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), with accompanying land-use planning and decision-making guidelines.

Agriculture, wildlife and mining are important economic sectors in the region, with plans underway to expand the mining industry as part of the Strategic Integrated Project, particularly along the Northern Mineral Belt. Expansion of the mining industry is one of the Strategic Integrated Projects that is being coordinated by the Presidential Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee, which forms part of the implementation of the National Development Plan. Wildlife breeding has shown massive expansion in the past 5 years. This is strictly an agricultural activity that is having negative impacts on the natural environment. The Growth in the tourism sector is leading to an increase in game farming, tourism facilities, lifestyle estates and golf estates. Consequently, increasing development pressures on biodiversity and the remaining natural ecosystems should be appropriately managed. These factors together make a bioregional plan a useful tool for addressing the need to take biodiversity into account in land-use planning and decision-making, in order to promote sustainable development.

The Waterberg District falls largely within the Savanna biome, with Grassland biome elements located on the higher peaks of the Waterberg. Three endemic and three near-endemic ecosystem types cover 70% of the Waterberg District. Two nationally listed threatened ecosystems are found in the district. Sixty-four plant species of special concern occur in the District. Twenty-two of these species are threatened. It is also home to three Important Bird Areas of South Africa, reflecting a high diversity of bird species and 21 threatened bird species. There are at least 45 mammal species of special concern in the District, of which 15 are threatened. Three reptile species of special concern occur, two of which are threatened. Aquatic systems are equally unique, with 72% of the wetland types and 64% of the river types assessed as threatened, providing habitat for at least three Near Threatened freshwater fish species. The region supports numerous endemic species as well, and its unique topography and varied geology sets it apart from the rest of South Africa.

Land-use patterns indicate that approximately 84.8% of the Waterberg District is natural or near-natural land cover. In terms of non natural land cover categories: 1.3% is urban (62.5% change 2009-2014), 10.9% is under dryland cropping (-5% change 2009-2014); 1.6% is under irrigation cropping (24% change 2009-2014); and, 0.31% is under mining (21% change 2009-2014), making up 13.8% as severely or irreversibly modified. Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) cover 51.0% of the Waterberg District; Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) cover a further 14.8% of the District.

Protected Areas cover 4.2% and Conservation Areas 7.6%. Protected Areas and Conservation Areas together cover 11.4% of the Waterberg District. Protected Areas (excluding Conservation Areas), Critical Biodiversity Area and Ecological Support Areas together cover 70.0% of the Waterberg District.

The spatial component of the Waterberg District Bioregional Plan is based on the Map of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas identified and described in the Limpopo Conservation Plan v2 (LCPv2), a provincial systematic biodiversity plan developed by LEDET, and further refined to align with other relevant spatial plans for the District, such as the Waterberg Environmental Management Framework (EMF), the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve and municipal Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs). The Waterberg District Bioregional Plan is consistent with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004), and meets all the requirements of the Guideline Regarding the Determination of Bioregions and the Preparation and Publication of Bioregional Plans (DEAT, 2009). There are many mandatory and recommended users of bioregional plans whose decisions and actions impact on biodiversity. These users include local, provincial and national government departments and authorities; national and provincial conservation authorities; environmental and planning consultants; conservation NGOs; and private and communal landowners.