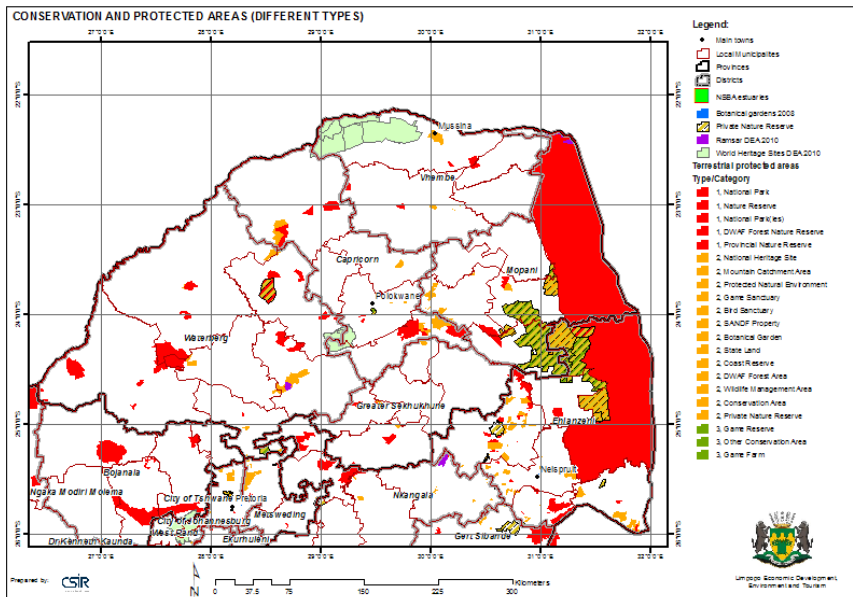


THEME:**CONSERVATION AREAS****CATEGORY:****BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS**

The protection levels of terrestrial ecosystems were assessed to determine how well the protected area network is performing in terms of representing terrestrial biodiversity. Prior to the NSBA, there was no complete map of all protected areas in South Africa. The first step was to gather protected area information from all 9 provinces, SANParks and DEAT in order to compile such a map.

Protected areas were grouped as follows: Type 1: includes National Parks, Provincial Nature Reserves, Local Authority Nature Reserves and DWAF Forest Nature Reserves Type 2: includes Mountain Catchment Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, private nature reserves, National Heritage Sites, DWAF Forest Areas, SANDF property, bird sanctuaries, and botanical gardens. Type 3: includes game farms, private game reserves and conservancies (SANBI, 2010)

The **Ramsar** is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wetlands, i.e., to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future, recognising the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. <http://www.ewisa.co.za/misc/Wetlands/defaultramsar.htm>

A **UNESCO World Heritage Site** is a place (forest, mountain, lake, desert, monument, building, complex, or city) that is listed by the UNESCO as of special cultural or physical significance.

This map contains the following layers:

- Biosphere zones - a voluntary, cooperative, conservation reserve created to protect the biological and cultural diversity of a region while promoting sustainable economic development.
- Botanical gardens - well-tended parks displaying a wide range of plants labelled with

their botanical names. They may contain specialist plant collections.

- World Heritage site - see description above
- Informal protected areas - areas of land not formally protected by law but informally protected by the current owners and users and managed at least partly for biodiversity conservation
- RAMSAR sites - see description above
- National parks
- Terrestrial protected areas – protection levels of terrestrial ecosystems assessed to determine how well the protected area network is performing in terms of representing terrestrial biodiversity.
- Homelands – boundaries of previous homeland territories
- Tribal Areas – areas under tribal management
- Mesozones (base layer) – spatial unit type created for GAP for meso-level use.
- Basemap layerset – contains roads, administrative areas etc.

Note: not all layers are active – the user must activate it to be visible.

Source:

South African National Biodiversity Institute, www.sanbi.org.za