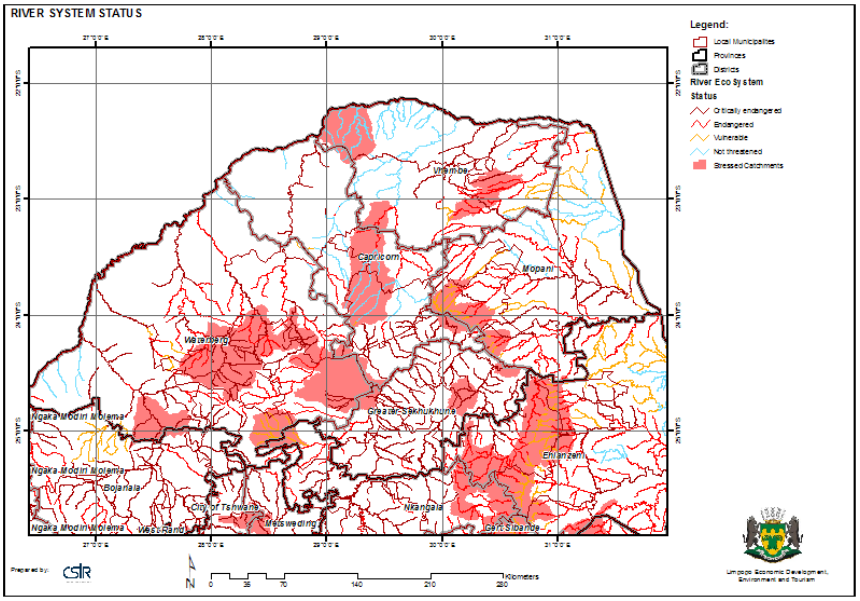
THEME:	**CATEGORY:**
RIVER SYSTEM STATUS	**INLAND WATER**



River ecosystems, in addition to providing habitat to a large number of species, are crucial for the production of the province's water supply. Well-functioning, intact river ecosystems are crucial for flood control. Together with wetlands, they play a key role in purifying and delivering water to Limpopo Province. First, the river and geomorphic province GIS layers were spatially overlaid to classify rivers according to the geomorphic province within which they occur. Next, the hydrological index class was joined to the rivers using a relational join on the quaternary catchment identifier. This produced 120 unique combinations of geomorphic provinces and hydrological index, which were used as river heterogeneity signatures to depict biodiversity at a national scale. This map was created using an index placing the integrity of river ecosystems within the Limpopo Province into four different categories namely:

- Critically Endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- Least Threatened

Also contains stressed catchments.

This map contains the following layers:

- River EcoSystem status - an index placing the integrity of river ecosystems into four different categories
- Stressed Catchments
- Primary, secondary and tertiary catchments
- 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:

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, www.csir.co.za
South African National Biodiversity Institute, www.sanbi.org.za