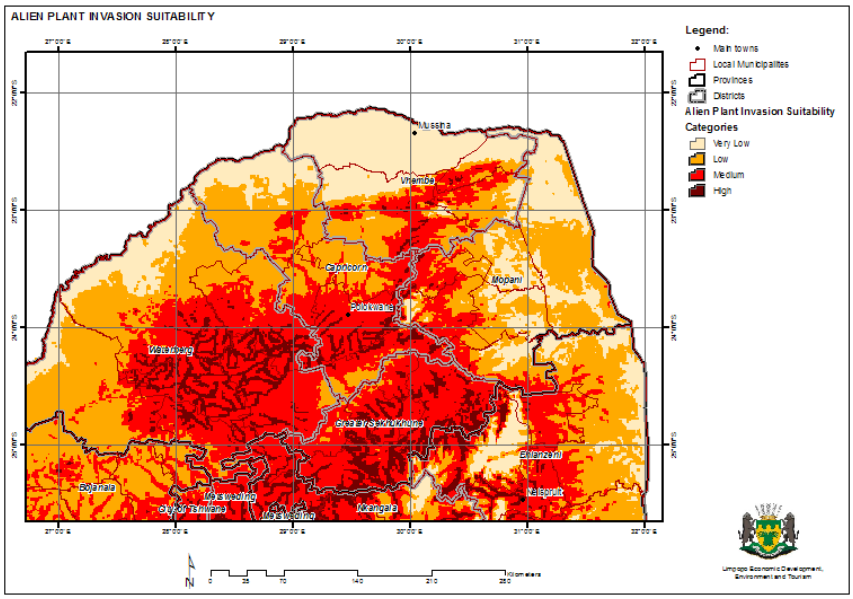
THEME:	**CATEGORY:**
ALIEN PLANT INVASION SUITABILITY	**BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEMS**



Invasive alien species negatively impact on both biodiversity and the economy as they pose a threat to the survival of endangered species of plants of all ecosystems, reduce the annual river flow, increase fire hazards and accelerate soil erosion. After habitat loss, alien plant invasions are the leading cause of a decrease in biodiversity. It is therefore important to monitor alien invasions and identify areas which are susceptible to invasions and address these problems accordingly.

This map indicates an index depicting the percentage of habitat suitable for alien plant invasion as illustrated by a grading of high (100) to low (0). Suitability means that areas that are of high suitability are at most risk of being invaded. As illustrated in this map, darker regions have very high ratios of invasive alien plants and are subject to government projects to limit the distribution and information campaigns informing the public. This variable measures the extent to which sustainable management practices are sought. Invasive plant species have a detrimental effect on the environment and improved management practices will aim to combat/lessen this effect.

Source: SANBI, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and Working for Water website: www.dwaf.gov.za

This map contains the following layers:

- Alien plant invasion suitability – indicates invasion potential
- 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