

Endangered Wildlife Trust



Protecting Forever Together

50 YEARS

Dr Ian Little  
Head of Conservation & Science

# The Strategic Imperatives of the EWT Strategy

Three Strategic Imperatives form the key pillars of our conservation impact.

We adopt 11 cross-cutting approaches to achieve our six high-level goals.

<b>Saving Species</b> Take action to conserve threatened wildlife	<b>Saving Habitats</b> Uphold ecosystem integrity and conserve threatened habitats	<b>Benefiting People</b> Enable biodiversity-friendly businesses, enterprises and livelihoods
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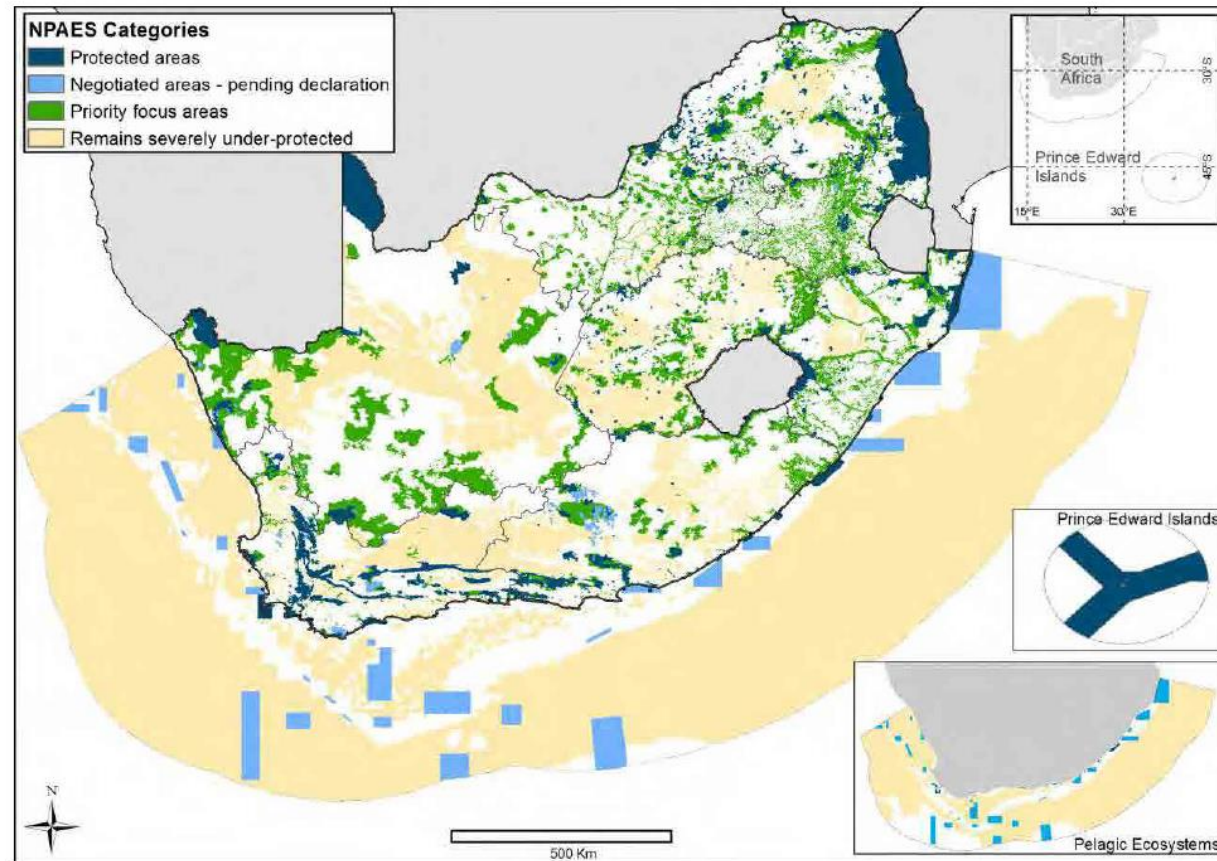
## 11 CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES

Skills and capacity development | Partnerships and collaboration | Innovation and horizon scanning | Robust science and evidence | Supporting the legal framework | Population, health and environment | Social development | Mainstreaming biodiversity | Advocacy | Africa range expansion | Sustainable impact

# KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



**TARGET 3:** Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed.



**BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP  
GUIDELINE 2018**

ASSESSMENT

‘Shift in conservation thinking’: A new biodiversity White Paper could make SA a world leader if it becomes law



- Draft [White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable use of South Africa’s Biodiversity](#)
- Its vision is of “an inclusive, transformed society living in harmony with nature, where biodiversity conservation and sustainable use ensure healthy ecosystems, with improved benefits that are fairly and equitably shared for present and future generations”
- The White Paper admits that to become effective, it will take considerable redirection of funds plus strategic integration of the ideas into all departments, both national and local.







***“There is growing concern that South African Provincial Reserves, which contain high biological diversity and threatened ecosystems, are not fulfilling their conservation objectives”***



# THE STATE OF PROVINCIAL RESERVES IN SOUTH AFRICA

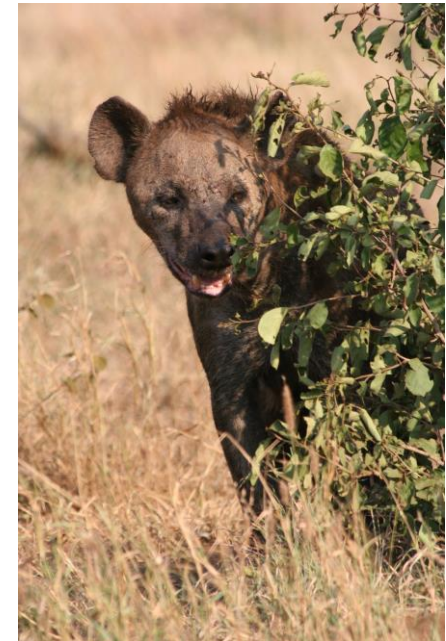
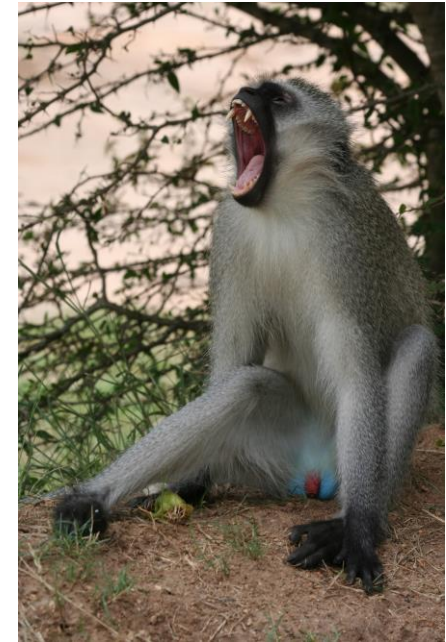
## CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



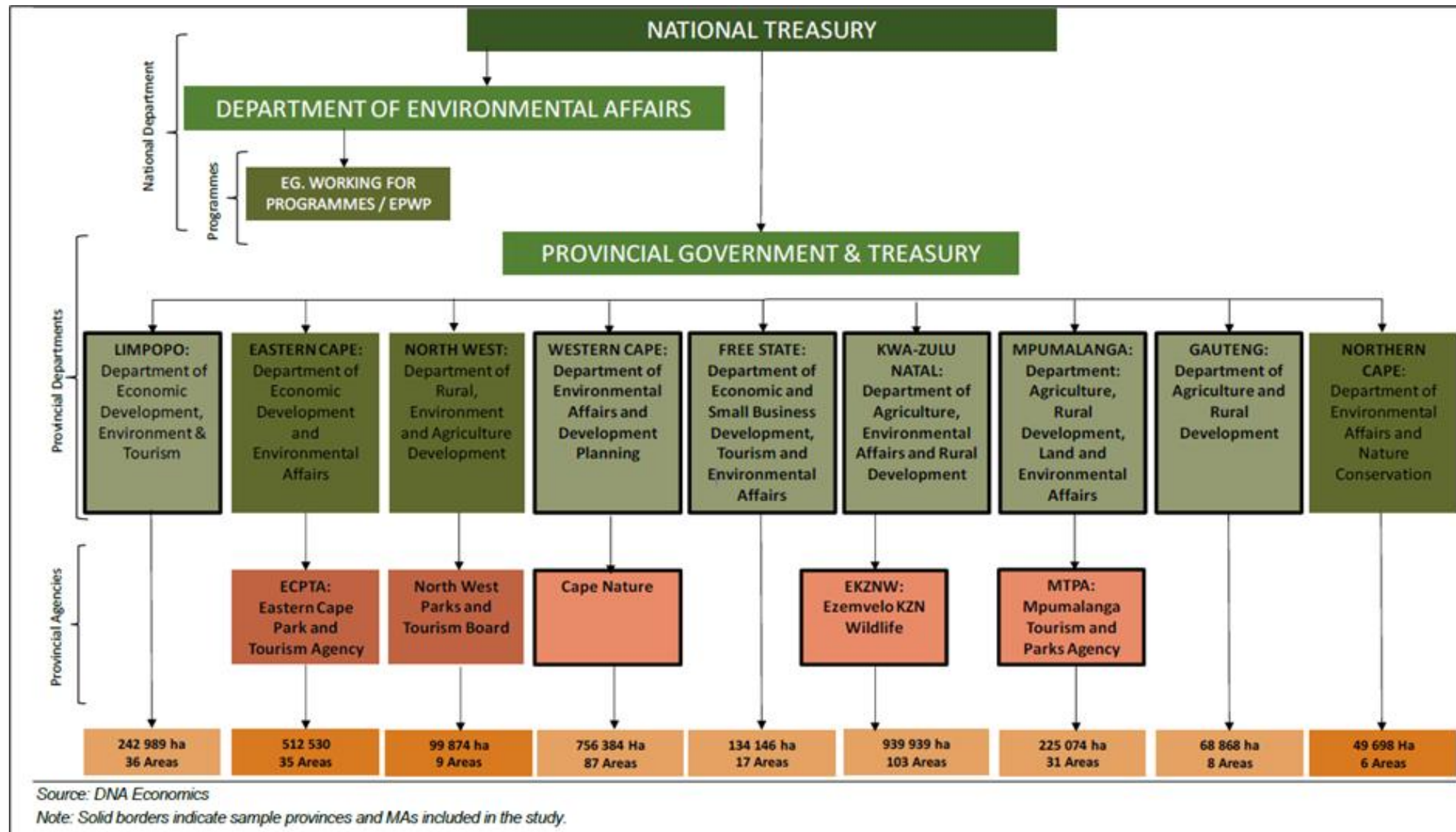
Authors: Tamanna Patel\*, Oliver Cowan\*, Ian Little\*, Yolán Friedmann\*, and Andy Blackmore\*\*

# INTRODUCTION

- **>400 PRs covering over 3 million ha** in South Africa
- Play a **vital role in securing our biodiversity** and ecosystem services
- Is the current standard of **management of these reserves** is effective for the conservation of critical biodiversity?
- 16.65% of South Africa's 121 million hectares of terrestrial land are under conservation estate (just over 20 million hectares) and about 14.5% of South Africa's coastal and marine areas are protected (DFFE)
- This terrestrial protection percentage includes the country's vast biosphere reserves, which have expansive buffer zones, which offer no real or effective protection for biodiversity
- According to SAPAD, our protected area estate would equate to around **9.8% without these biosphere buffer areas**







The basic institutional arrangement in each province, the number of PAs under its jurisdiction, and the aggregate size of the PAs. About 54% of Provincial Nature Reserves are situated within KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape and are run by state-owned entities, namely Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and CapeNature (Cloete et al. 2018).

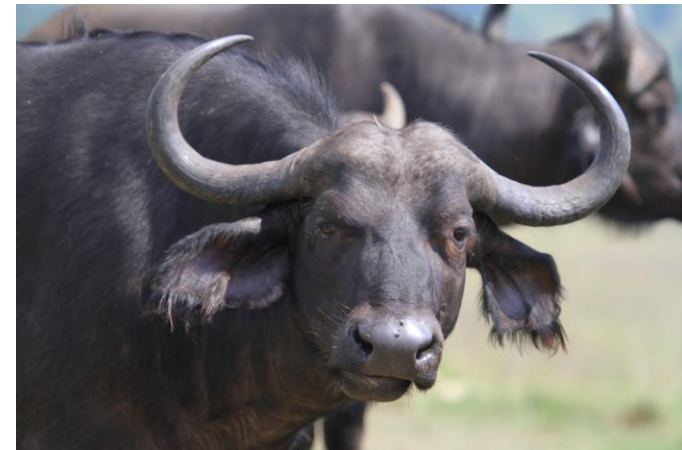


# SOUTH AFRICAN PROVINCIAL RESERVES REPORT



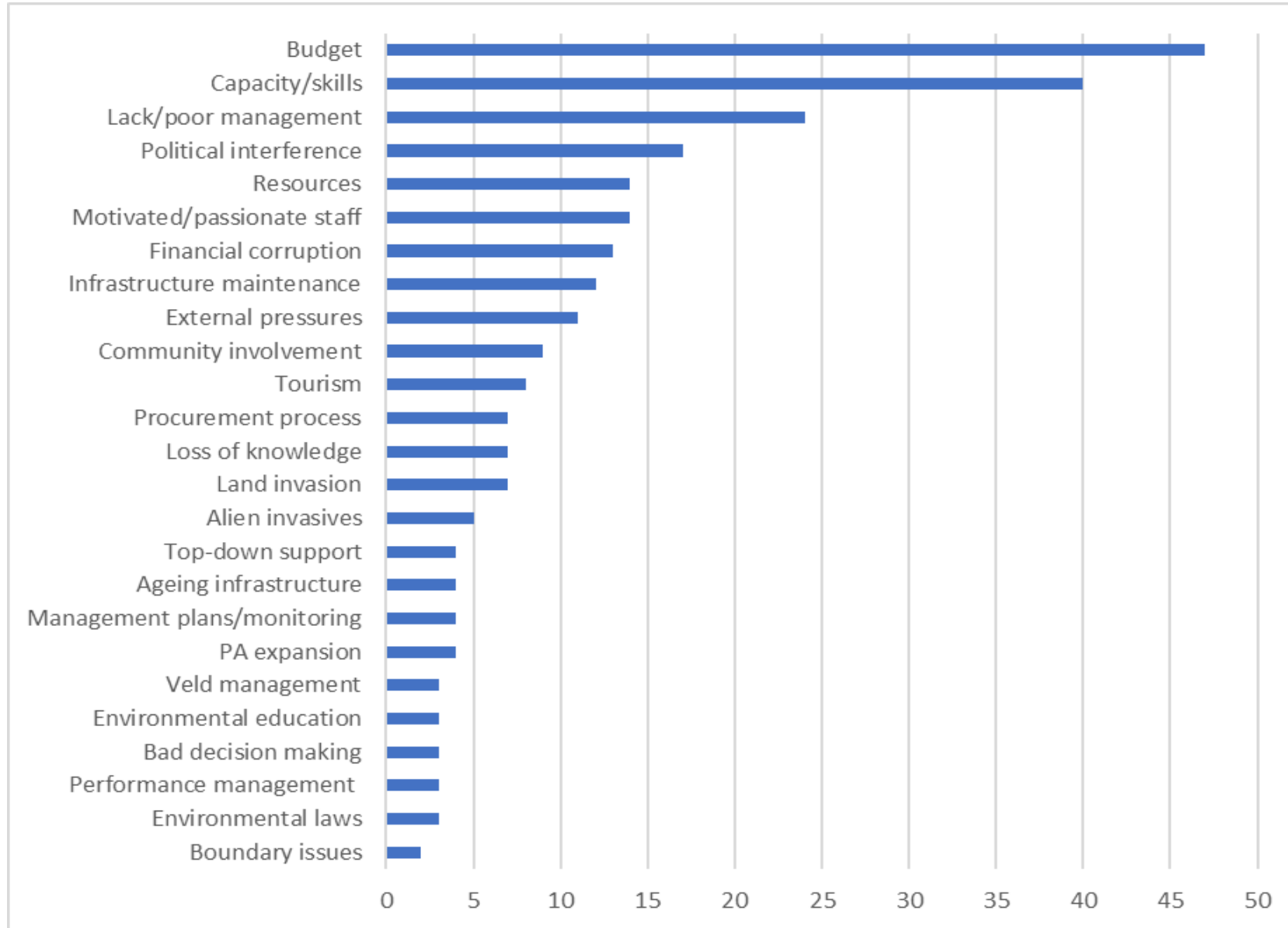
We used three main data sources to compile the findings in this report:

1. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-SA) reports
2. Online survey
3. Interviews with PR managers, conservation practitioners well-versed in park management, and relevant non-government representatives





# Frequently mentioned challenges (survey)



## Frequently mentioned opportunities to address some of the challenges (survey)



## INTERVIEWEES LIST OF PROVINCIAL RESERVES THAT REQUIRE URGENT SUPPORT OR ATTENTION

Table 4: Provincial Reserves that require urgent support or attention (based on responses from the interviews), together with their METT (Biodiversity Management Indicator) score.

Provincial Reserve	Province	METT score (%)	Challenges
Borakalalo National Park	NW	61.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a lot of potential, but it has been ravaged by poaching</li> </ul>
Madikwe Game Reserve	NW	58.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excessive number of lodges may impinge on the ecology and growing elephant populations</li> </ul>
Pilanesberg Game Reserve	NW	48.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget goes to staff and officials – no budget for operational activities.</li> <li>Infrastructure problems – poor road conditions affect tourism</li> </ul>
Lillie Cycad Reserve	LP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poaching of cycads</li> </ul>
Atherstone Nature Reserve	LP	63.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huge populations of white and black rhinos and elephants, but it is not well managed</li> </ul>
Nylsvley Nature Reserve	LP	80.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramsar site – a wetland system of international importance; needs attention but is currently under-resourced and poorly managed</li> </ul>
Hans Merensky Nature Reserve	LP	63.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sable population is not doing well</li> <li>Reserves with Roan Antelope are not managed well</li> </ul>
Succulent Karoo area	NC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top 10 biodiversity hotspot areas – poaching of succulent plants is a major threat here</li> </ul>
Gamsberg area	NC	86.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are, on average, three cases of succulent plant poaching per week in this area</li> </ul>
Orange River Mouth	NC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none</li> </ul>
General across NC	NC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No clear ecological management plans to follow</li> <li>Logistical challenges and budget limitations</li> <li>Small reserves – larger landscape plans are lacking</li> </ul>

Many others were mentioned....





**Table 1: Low-scoring<sup>7</sup> Provincial Reserves in South Africa in terms of biodiversity management indicators. Data based on METT-SA reports obtained from DFFE.**

Provincial Reserve	Province	Size (ha)	Year of report	Biodiversity resource management (%)	# Animals of conservation concern <sup>8</sup>
Soada Forest Nature Reserve	KZN	496.2	2020	6.9	21
Nababeep Nature Reserve	NC	10,850.3	2020	11.1	Not in SAPAD
Bothasvlei Nature Reserve	LP	1,463.9	2021	11.4	3
Pigeon Valley Nature Reserve	KZN	13.9	2021	16.7	5
Rolfontein Nature Reserve	NC	6,322.1	2021	16.7	12
Thabina Nature Reserve	LP	1,613.3	2021	16.7	7
Doornkloof Nature Reserve	NC	9,751.8	2020	19.4	Not in SAPAD
Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve	NC	6,169.8	2021	19.4	6
Springside Nature Reserve	KZN	21.3	2019	20.0	10
Silverglen Nature Reserve	KZN	391.2	2019	22.2	
Happy Rest Nature Reserve	LP	2,247.4	2021	22.6	
Table Bay Nature Reserve	WC	880.0	2020	27.8	
Burman Bush Nature Reserve	KZN	42.2	2020	30.3	



**Table 2: High-scoring<sup>9</sup> Provincial Reserves in South Africa in terms of biodiversity management indicators. Data based on METT-SA reports obtained from DFFE. Fifty-seven PRs achieved a score of >67%. This table includes the top 22 high-scoring PRs.**

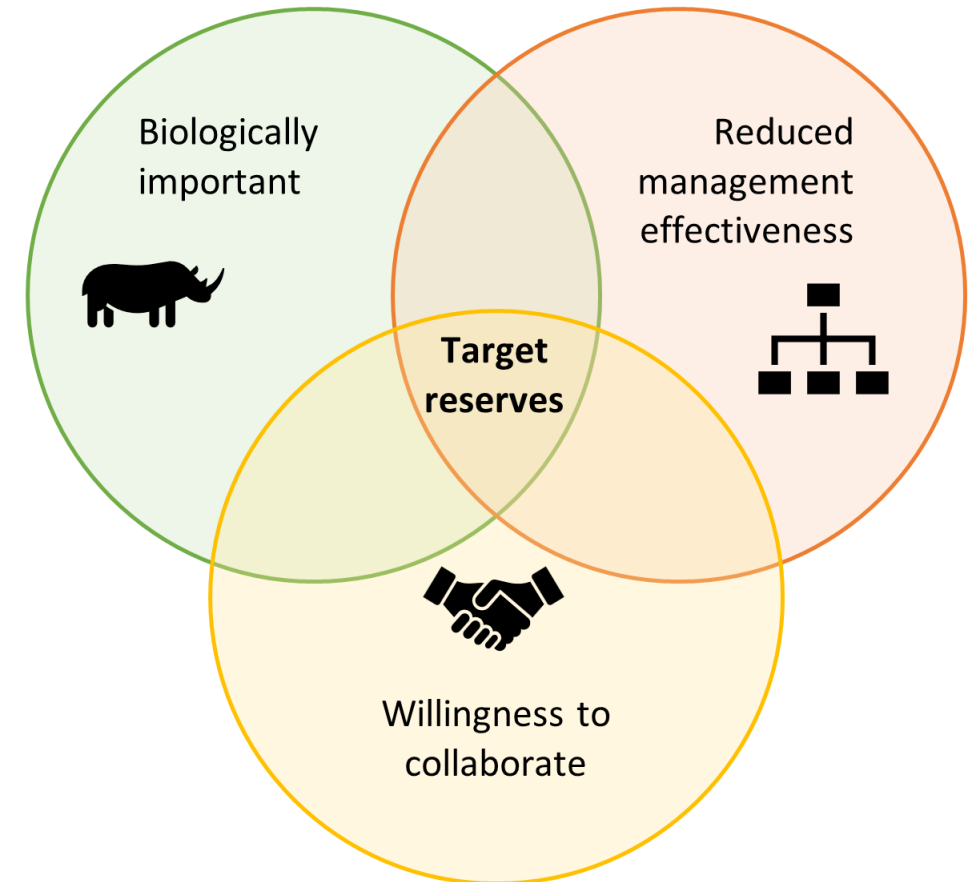
Provincial Reserve	Province	Size (ha)	Year of report	Biodiversity resource management (%)	# Animals of conservation concern <sup>10</sup>
Nylsvley Nature Reserve	LP	3,089.8	2021	80.6	Not in SAPAD
Songimvelo Nature Reserve	MP	55,316.4	2021	80.6	28
Sterkfontein Dam Nature Reserve	FS	13,337.1	2020	80.6	Not in SAPAD
Alice Glöckner Nature Reserve	GP	155.4	2020	80.7	6
Leeuwfontein Collaborative Nature Reserve	GP	2,260.9	2021	81.8	7
Dassen Island Nature Reserve		268.7	2020	82.8	No AS layer available
iSimangaliso Wetland Park	KZN	321,652.5	2021	83.3	Not in SAPAD
Sandveld Nature Reserve	FS	31,111.2	2020	83.3	5
Seekoivlei Nature Reserve	FS	4,302.9	2020	83.3	19
Anysberg World Heritage Site	WC	73,812.9	2021	86.1	9
Gamkaberg World Heritage Site and Nature Reserve Complex	WC	1,0430.0	2020	86.1	Not in SAPAD

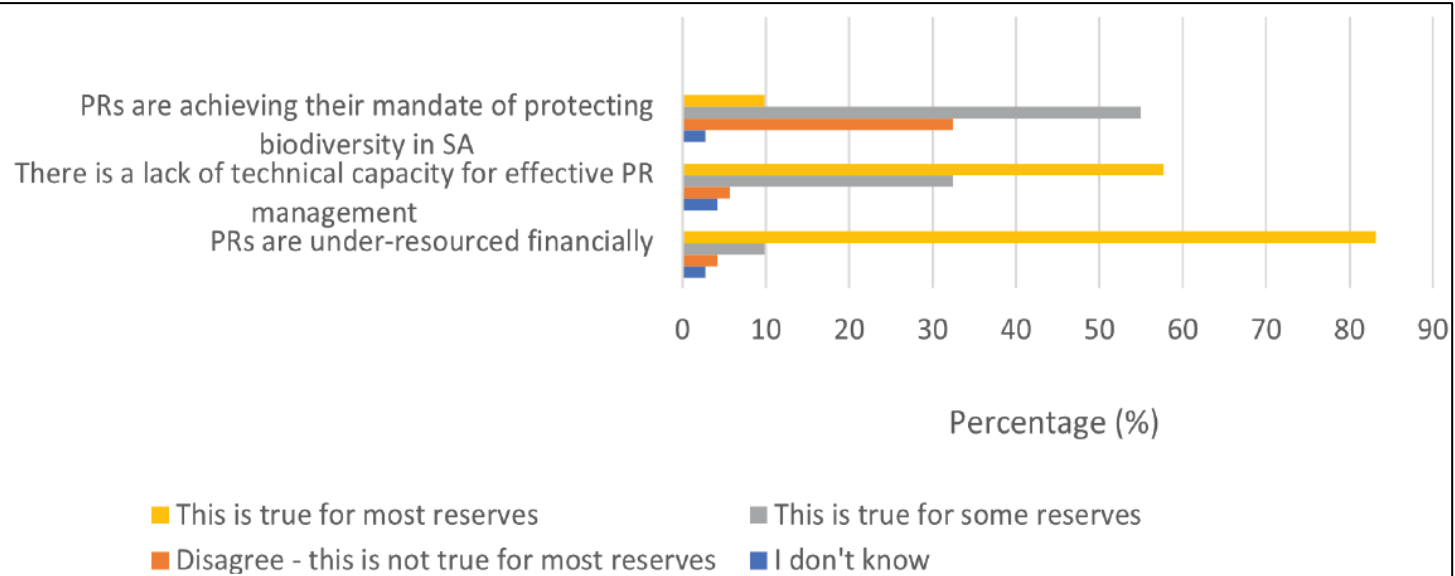
# THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSPECTIVE WHEN PRIORITISING PROVINCIAL RESERVES FOR TARGETED INTERVENTION



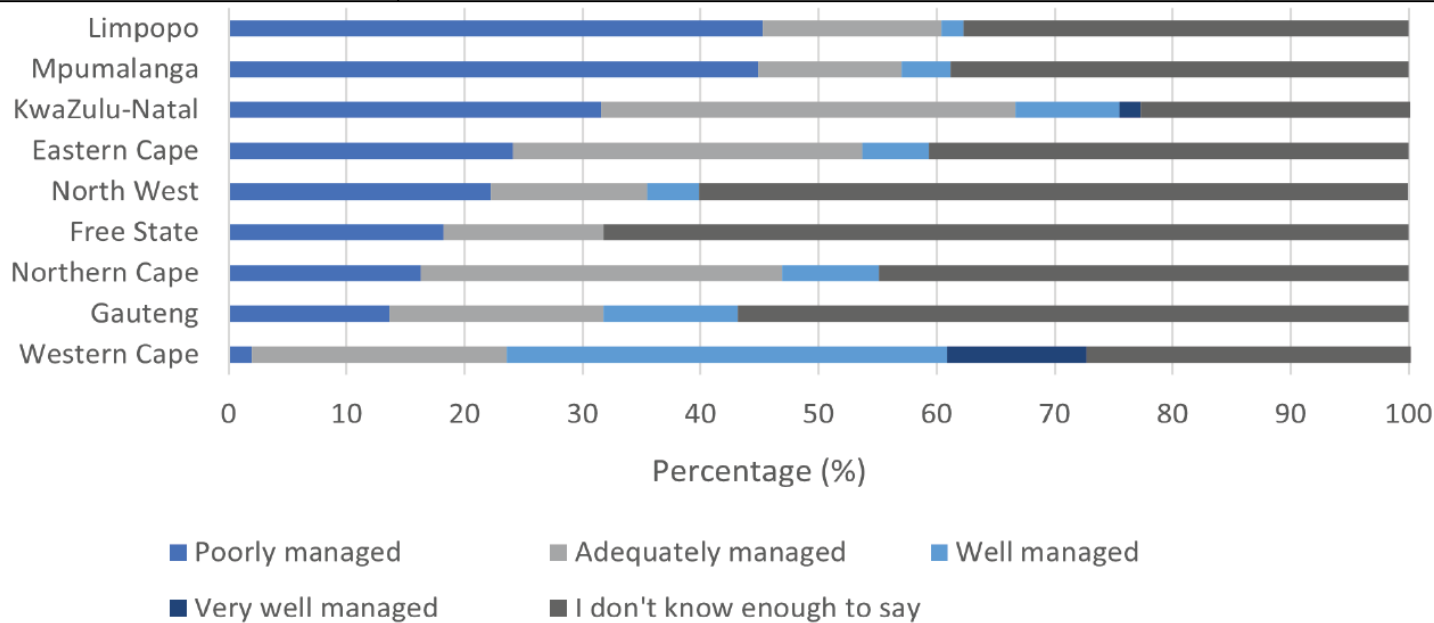
Table 5: A shortlist of priority candidate reserves for improved management towards protecting biodiversity, the province in which they occur, their size, the number of trigger species, and the total number of animals of conservation concern as per the Environmental Screening Tool (EST). The METT Biodiversity Management indicator is also listed for PRs for which we had METT reports.

Protected Area Name	Province	Area (ha)	#trigger species	# animals of conservation concern	METT indicator (%) (Biodiversity Management)
Karkloof Nature Reserve	KZN	3340.9	5	30	60.6
Barberton Nature Reserve	MP	27357.5	4	26	71.4
Fort Nottingham Nature Reserve	KZN	1224.0	3	26	44.4
Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve	LP	1649.9	4	21	38.9
Umlalazi Nature Reserve	KZN	1451.3	3	21	-
Pongola Nature Reserve	KZN	9014.1	4	19	-
Amatikulu Nature Reserve	KZN	1572.1	3	19	47.2
Midmar Nature Reserve	KZN	2961.6	6	18	50.0
Sterkspruit Nature Reserve	MP	10878.2	1	18	60.6
Albert Falls Nature Reserve	KZN	2925.7	3	17	-
Pongola Bush Nature Reserve	KZN	881.8	4	17	50.0
Riviersonderend Nature Reserve	WC	28580.0	1	16	-
Vryheid Hill Nature Reserve	KZN	900.0	5	13	-
Umvoti Vlei Nature Reserve	KZN	268.7	4	13	-
Moor Park Nature Reserve	KZN	260.8	3	12	-
Ruitersbos Nature Reserve	WC	Not available	1	12	-
Paarl Mountain Nature Reserve	WC	2008.0	1	11	-
Himeville Nature Reserve	KZN	105.1	3	11	36.1
Queensriver Reserve	MP	3719.2	1	11	-
Marievale Nature Reserve	GP	541.5	3	8	75.0
Voëlvlei Provincial Nature Reserve	WC	866.3	1	8	-
Kgaswane Mountain Reserve	NW	4386.2	1	8	63.9
Akkerendam Nature Reserve	NC	1560.1	1	7	-
Knersvlakte Nature Reserve	WC	85220.3	2	7	66.7
Rolfontein Provincial Nature Reserve	NC	6322.1	1	7	16.7
Doornkloof Provincial Nature Reserve	NC	9751.8	1	6	19.4
Rust-De-Winter Nature Reserve	LP	6011.5	3	6	58.3
Kasteelberg Nature Reserve	WC	Not available	1	6	-
Klein Dassenberg Nature Reserve	WC	Not available	1	5	-





**Figure 4: Expert opinions on important issues facing Provincial Reserve management in South Africa (n=71 survey responses).**



**Figure 3: Expert opinions on the overall management effectiveness of Provincial Reserves in each province in South Africa (n=71 survey responses).**



# Urgent interventions are needed

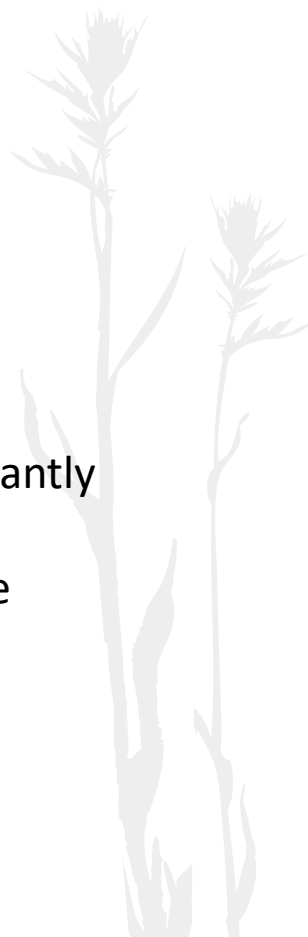


## Experienced staff

- Appointing (and retaining) experienced staff
- Passionate and dedicated career conservationists (including park management boards to ensure that board members are effective, objective and committed – rather than political appointees)
- Need for targeted training and mentoring of existing staff and managers

## More money

- Across all provinces, there are inadequate budgets for effective park management
- No inflation-linked budget increases to maintain reserves, and in many cases, budgets have been cut significantly
- “Parks are supposed to make money”
- Political heads of provincial conservation departments should be pushing more strongly to provide adequate finance to parks and reserves to fulfil their conservation mandate for current and future generations





## Tourism and infrastructure

- Poorly maintained infrastructure (from roads to rondavels) needs to be refurbished
- Many have below-standard infrastructure, accommodation, and under-resourced catering facilities
- Greater infrastructure investment or strategic partnerships with dedicated tourism operators
- Many have the potential to generate income through tourism but require capital investment to upgrade facilities before this is even possible
- Maintaining infrastructure over time, as the current financial model within provincial systems does not allow income generated through tourism to be channeled back to reserve maintenance





## New private sector and community partnerships

- Partnerships and collaborations with the private sector, NGOs and communities
  - private/public partnership options
  - co-management agreements (private sector and community)
- This approach could entail contractual agreements such as long-term leases to tourism operators or co-management agreements with neighbouring private or communal farming or tourism enterprises

## Climate and biodiversity funding

- Explore new “sustainable finance” options such as e-carbon markets, offset agreements and biodiversity credits





# Provincial level financial planning across all reserves



Socio-economic impact assessment of the greater Kruger  
- using GBF as a spingboard to rethink the approach for protected area management.

Park	Profit/loss per visitor
Addo	R 150
Kruger	R 65
Richtersveld	R 50
Table Mountain	R 45
Bontebok	R 35
Mtn zebra	R -5
Augrabies Falls	R -5
Karoo	R -10
West Coast	R -10
Kgalagadi TFP	R -15
Mapungubwe	R -15
Camdeboo	R -15
Marakele	R -20
Golden Gate	R -20
Agulhas	R -25
Mokala	R -55
Namaqua	R -75
Tankwa	R -100

**Not real figures**



# IN SUMMARY



- Several South African PRs with high-scoring conservation value are not being managed effectively
- Key challenges
  - lack of critical skills and capacity
  - poor management implementation
  - inadequate budgets
- Opportunities to address these challenges and key recommendations include
  - building staff capacity and ensuring experienced managers are appointed
  - refurbishing poorly-maintained infrastructure to develop the tourism potential of the PRs
  - encouraging partnerships and collaborations with the private sector, NGOs, and communities to catalyse opportunities for income generation and mutually beneficial relationships between PRs and local communities

Community collaboration and co-benefit options are critical.



# SOME OF THE MEDIA RESPONSE



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led, warns Pandor #4 Say sorry, Gun Free SA urges Cele, who faces lawsuits over stolen SAPS firearms used to kill #5 Gordh

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SCIENCE

## SA's provincial reserves urgently need support to protect biodiversity

The Endangered Wildlife Trust has identified 29 out of 429 provincial reserves requiring urgent intervention

24 April 2023 - 20:16

 **Claire Keeton**  
Senior features writer

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[SA's provincial reserves urgently need support to protect biodiversity \(timeslive.co.za\)](https://www.timeslive.co.za/science/2023/04/24/sas-provincial-reserves-urgently-need-support-to-protect-biodiversity/)

DAILY MAVERICK

OUR BURNING PLANET

PARKS PERIL

## More money, better leadership, trained staff: How to prevent SA's provincial wildlife gems from sliding into ruin



One of three elephants shot and killed early in 2023 after escaping from Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. (Photo: Supplied)

By Tony Carnie Follow 02 May 2023 3 absa

[How to prevent SA's provincial wildlife gems from sliding into ruin \(dailymaverick.co.za\)](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/news/2023/05/02/how-to-prevent-sas-provincial-wildlife-gems-from-sliding-into-ruin/)



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50 YEARS

Thank you

