
GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 1477 OF 2009

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)

DRAFT NATIONAL LIST OF THREATENED ECOSYSTEMS

I, Buyelwa Patience Sonjica, Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs hereby give notice of my intention to publish under section 52(1)(a) read with section 100 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004), a draft national list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection in the schedule hereto.

Interested persons are requested to submit written comments to the Director-General: Environmental Affairs, for attention:

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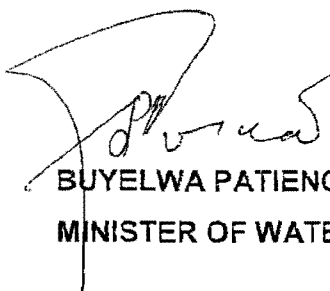
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Comments must reach the department within 30 days of the date of notice. Comments after the closing date may not be considered



BUYELWA PATIENCE SONJICA

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SCHEDULE

Threatened Ecosystems in South Africa: General Information

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Acronyms

BMP-E	Biodiversity management plans for ecosystems
BMP-S	Biodiversity management plans for species
CBA	Critical biodiversity area
CR	Critically endangered
DEAT	Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
DWAF	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Environmental Implementation Plan
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EN	Endangered
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IUCN	World Conservation Union
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NLC	National Land Cover
NSBA	National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TOPS	Threatened or Protected Species
VU	Vulnerable

Executive Summary

This document provides background information on the listing of threatened or protected ecosystems, including the purpose and rationale for listing ecosystems, the criteria used to identify listed ecosystems, the implications of listing ecosystems, and summary statistics and maps of listed ecosystems. It is accompanied by another document, *Threatened Ecosystems in South Africa: Descriptions and Maps*, which gives detailed information on each listed ecosystem. **These two documents, together with the spatial data, can be accessed on the BGIS website (<http://bgis.sanbi.org>).**

References are not provided in this executive summary, but can be found in footnotes in the main document.

The Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) provides for listing of threatened or protected ecosystems in one of the following categories:

- **critically endangered (CR) ecosystems**, being ecosystems that have undergone severe degradation of ecological structure, function or composition as a result of human intervention and are subject to an extremely high risk of irreversible transformation;
- **endangered (EN) ecosystems**, being ecosystems that have undergone degradation of ecological structure, function or composition as a result of human intervention, although they are not critically endangered ecosystems;
- **vulnerable (VU) ecosystems**, being ecosystems that have a high risk of undergoing significant degradation of ecological structure, function or composition as a result of human intervention, although they are not critically endangered ecosystems or endangered ecosystems;
- **protected ecosystems**, being ecosystems that are of high conservation value or of high national or provincial importance, although they are not listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable

All stakeholders agreed early on that a **phased approach** should be taken to listing ecosystems, given the complexity of the process. The **current (first) phase of listing deals with threatened ecosystems in the terrestrial environment**. Future phases will deal with threatened ecosystems in the freshwater, estuarine and marine environments, and with protected