



**Key Biodiversity Areas and Corridors in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot**

A biodiversity hotspot is an area that contains at least 1,500 endemic plants, but has lost at least 70 percent of its native vegetation. Scientists have identified 34 such areas around the world, providing a basis for global prioritization of conservation investments.

Covering nearly 275,000 square kilometers and parts of three countries, the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot is the second richest floristic region in southern Africa (after the Cape Floristic Region) and also the second richest floristic region in Africa for its size. An estimated 8,100 plant species occur in the region, of which at least 1,200 are endemic to the region. At a habitat level, one type of forest, three types of thicket, six types of bushveld and five types of grasslands are endemic to the region. Approximately 18 million people live in the hotspot.

This map depicts geographic priorities for conservation in the hotspot, showing Key Biodiversity Areas (site-level outcomes) to be protected and corridors (landscape-level outcomes) to be consolidated in order to prevent biodiversity loss. Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are sites that are globally significant for biodiversity conservation and are considered actually or potentially manageable for conservation. KBAs contain species that require site-scale conservation to prevent extinction in the short- and medium-term: globally threatened species, restricted-range species, and globally significant congregations of species. Corridors are inter-connected landscapes of sites, anchored on KBAs, with the rest of the conservation corridor comprising either areas that have the potential to become part of an existing KBA (through management or restoration) or areas that contribute to the ability of the conservation corridor to support all elements of biodiversity in the long term.

In 2009, a team led by Conservation International and the South Africa National Biodiversity Institute consulted more than 150 stakeholders from civil society, government, and donor institutions to gather and synthesize data on biodiversity, socioeconomic and institutional context, climate change, ecosystem services, and ongoing and planned conservation investments in the three countries in the hotspot. This team identified 72 KBAs and 12 corridors, which themselves are home to 534 threatened plant species, 34 threatened bird species, 18 threatened reptile species, 17 threatened mammal species, 11 threatened amphibian species, 16 threatened freshwater fish species, and eight threatened invertebrate species.

To achieve maximum conservation impact with finite resources, CEPF has prioritized 22 KBAs and two corridors. Criteria used to prioritize these targets include: number of globally threatened species, presence of threatened habitat types, resilience to climate change, status of protection provision of ecosystem services, threats, and opportunities for conservation action.

CEPF's niche in the Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Hotspot is to support civil society in applying innovative approaches to conservation in under-capacitated protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, and priority corridors, thereby enabling changes in policy and building resilience in the region's ecosystems and economy to sustain biodiversity in the long term. The specific strategic directions and investment priorities for the hotspot can be found in the ecosystem profile available at [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net).

**Conservation Outcomes**  
 Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany

- hotspot boundary
- CEPF priority corridor
- other biodiversity conservation corridor
- Key Biodiversity Area, CEPF Priority\*
- Key Biodiversity Area, Other\*
- protected area
- town (national capitals underlined)
- country border
- river
- lake

Biodiversity hotspots are regions that harbor especially high numbers of endemic species and, at the same time, have been significantly impacted by human activities. Each hotspot faces extreme threats and has already lost at least 70 percent of its original natural vegetation. Over 50 percent of the world's plant species and 42 percent of all terrestrial vertebrate species are endemic to the biodiversity hotspots, making them urgent priorities for biodiversity conservation at a global scale.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, the French Republic's Agence Française de Développement and the World Bank. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

The political and geographic designations shown on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on behalf of CEPF or any of its partners concerning the legal status or delimitation of the frontiers of any country, territory or area.

This map was produced by the Conservation Mapping Program (K. Kwanyo - Cartographer, Conservation International, 2011 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 22202, © November 2010, CI)

- Roster of Key Biodiversity Areas**  
 denotes priority
- 1 Bathurst
  - 2 Big Bend-Manzini-Hathikhulu
  - 3 Sisho
  - 4 Boston
  - 5 Bushbuckridge
  - 6 Camdeboo complex
  - 7 Crocodile River
  - 8 East Cape St. Francis complex
  - 9 East London and south
  - 10 Eston complex
  - 11 Etshewini north
  - 12 Etshewini south
  - 13 Fort Fancie Reserve complex
  - 14 Great Fish
  - 15 Greater Addo complex
  - 16 Greater Grahamstown
  - 17 Greater Greytown complex
  - 18 Greater Itala complex
  - 19 Hazzyview
  - 20 High Flats area
  - 21 Hlane-Muswisa complex
  - 22 Hluhluwe-Mkhuzi lowveld
  - 23 Hogsback-Stutterheim
  - 24 Inyanga-Cala-Nguzo-Elliot
  - 25 Inyavuma
  - 26 Kolibing complex
  - 27 Kei Mouth-Haven
  - 28 Kenton-Alexandria-Paterson
  - 29 Luvuvu Forests and Eastern Swazi Lebombo
  - 30 Lower Kei
  - 31 Lower Mooli River valley
  - 32 Lower Mzimba
  - 33 Lower Tugela River valley
  - 34 Magude-Muomba
  - 35 Mankhwa
  - 36 Maputo north

- 37 Masingi-Limpopo National Park
- 38 Mbashe River-Coffee Bay
- 39 Melmoth
- 40 Melmoth grasslands
- 41 Middle Kei-Cathcart
- 42 Midlands
- 43 Mtsibet grasslands
- 44 Mountain Zebra National Park complex
- 45 Mthatha-Tsolo
- 46 Mvoti estuary complex
- 47 Namacha
- 48 Ncomati plain
- 49 Ngoye coastal complex
- 50 Nkandla complex
- 51 Nkomati valley
- 52 Northern Drakensburg foothills
- 53 Northern Eastern Cape
- 54 Opathe Intoloko link

- 55 Onibi Gorge-Mbumbazi complex
- 56 Orpen
- 57 Pekaibona
- 58 Pearson Escarpment
- 59 Pondoland North Coast
- 60 Pondola-Magudu
- 61 Porto do Ouro
- 62 Port Elizabeth complex
- 63 Port St. Johns Forests
- 64 Queenstown highlands
- 65 Sibaya-Kosi Bay
- 66 Southern Drakensburg foothills
- 67 Tsheneni
- 68 Umfolosi
- 69 Umzimkulu complex
- 70 Vernon Crooks corridor
- 71 Waterford-Jansenville
- 72 Xai-xai and Limpopo floodplain

- Roster of Biodiversity Conservation Corridors**  
 denotes priority
- 1 Albany
  - 2 Amathole-Sneeberg Montane Belt
  - 3 Escarpment Lowveld Links
  - 4 Highland Grasslands
  - 5 KZN Coastal Belt
  - 6 KZN Midlands
  - 7 Lebombo Transfrontier
  - 8 Limpopo
  - 9 Mozambique Coastal Belt
  - 10 Pondoland
  - 11 Swaziland Lowveld
  - 12 Zululand

