

**METADATA REPORT – 7 July 2021**

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| **DATA IDENTIFICATION:** | |
| **Title** | RLE\_Terrestrial\_2021\_June2021\_ddw |
| **Description (detailed)** | Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) for terrestrial realm for South Africa. **This datasets contains the historical / potential extent (circa 1750) of each of the 458 ecosystem types assessed.** This means that those portions of ecosystems that have been lost to anthropogenic activities such as mining or croplands **are part of the dataset.** A separate dataset (RLE\_Terr\_2021\_June2021\_Remnants\_ddw.shp) is also available and contains only the natural remaining remnants of each ecosystem type. This represents a revision of the “List of terrestrial ecosystem that threatened or in need of protection” published in the government gazette in December 2011. The revision is based on the best available data and used the IUCN RLE risk assessment framework version 1.1 (Bland et al. 2017). Ecosystem are categorised into one of four classes representing their risk of collapse; in descending order of risk: Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, Least Concern. The national vegetation map, 2018 version (Mucina and Rutherford 2006; Dayaram et al., 2019) provided the units of assessment for the RLE (Vegetation Unit / Type level).  Details in: SANBI (2021) South Africa’s Terrestrial Red List of Ecosystems (RLE): Technical report on the revision of the “List of terrestrial ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection”. Report 7639. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria, South Africa.  http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/7639. |
| **Purpose** | The list of threatened terrestrial ecosystems is an important input into spatial planning and decision making in South Africa. The list and the spatial data underpinning it is referred to in national regulations relating to environmental impact assessment (EIA); specifically – Critically Endangered and Endangered ecosystem types trigger additional steps and processes during environmental authorisation processes. The data will also become part of the Environmental Screening Tool developed by the Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment which all prospective developers are required to complete prior to the environmental authorisation process. The remnants of the threatened types are input features in systematic biodiversity plans and are mostly absorbed as part of the Critical Biodiversity Areas network. |
| **Status** | Version for public comment June 2021 |
| **Maintenance and update frequency** | This layer is maintained by SANBI on a continuous basis and it is envisage that updates will occur every three years. |
| **Topic category** | Ecosystem Assessment |
| **Lineage** | The List of terrestrial ecosystems that are threatened or in need of protection that was gazetted in 2011 represents the first version of the dataset, using slightly different methods and input data from 2000 and 2006. Work on this version of the Red List of Ecosystems started in 2016 as part of the National Biodiversity Assessment, and a preliminary output was published in 2019 as part of the NBA. In 2020 further updates were applied and review comments by conservation authorities were incorporated. This version was approved for public comment (by the national Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment and the Provincial departments of environment) in June 2021. |
| **Citation** | SANBI & DFFE (2021) Red List of Terrestrial Ecosystems of South Africa June 2021 – version for public comments. South African National Biodiversity Institute. Pretoria, South Africa. |
| **Keywords** | ecosystem, threat status, assessment, remaining extent, remnants, terrestrial |

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| **ORIGINATOR OF THE DATASET:** | |
| **Individual name** | Andrew Skowno  South African National Biodiversity Institute  NBA Science Lead  +27 21 799 8711  Kirstenbosch Research Centre, Newlands, Cape Town  [A.Skowno@sanbi.org.za](mailto:A.Skowno@sanbi.org.za) |
| **Organisation name** |
| **Position name** |
| **Contact Number** |
| **Contact Address** |
| **Contact Email** |
| **Role** | Responsible for the research, assessment and monitoring of the extent and condition of ecosystems. |
| **Funders** | South African National Biodiversity Institute |

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| **AUTHOR OF THE METADATA:** | |
| **Individual name** | Andrew Skowno  South African National Biodiversity Institute  NBA Science Lead  +27 21 799 8711  Kirstenbosch Research Centre, Newlands, Cape Town  A.Skowno@sanbi.org.za |
| **Organisation name** |
| **Position name** |
| **Contact Number** |
| **Contact Address** |
| **Contact Email** |
| **Role** | Author; Custodian; Distributor; Owner; Point of contact; Processor; User. |

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| **RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS:** | |
| **Access constraints** | Copyright holder: South African National Biodiversity Institute |
| **Use constraints** | This data may not be reproduced by any means, nor redistributed via web site or ftp site, without prior permission. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of data, users are advised to use the data and conclusions drawn from its use with caution. Users noting errors and omissions are requested to notify the data custodian (A.Skowno@sanbi.org.za) to improve data accuracy. These data are not for resale or replicating. **This digital version is in the public domain requiring only the conventional acknowledgement of source in publications and reports.** |
| **Other restrictions** | **APPROPRIATE USE OF THIS DATASET**: The Threat status statistics must be interpreted with an understanding of the approach and rationale described in the technical reports. |

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| **SPATIAL RESOLUTION:** | |
| **Spatial representation type** | Geodatabase, Shapefile, Text. |
| **Equivalent scale - Denominator** | Various (See technical documents) 1:3000 to 1:50 000 (same as National Vegetation Map 2018 and the Land cover maps of 2009 and 2014 as these were used as one of the foundational layers for the assessment) |

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| **COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM: Custom** | |
| **Projected/Geographic coordinate system** | Geographic (unprojected)  GCS\_WGS\_1984 |

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| **TEMPORAL EXTENT (time period covered by the content of the dataset):** | |
| **Temporal extent** | 2018 |

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| **ONLINE RESOURCE (additional resources available online):** | |
| **Description** | SANBI (2021) South Africa’s Terrestrial Red List of Ecosystems (RLE):  Technical report on the revision of the “List of terrestrial ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection”. Report 7639. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria, South Africa. |
| **Linkage** | <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/7639>. |

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| **LEGEND PROPERTIES:** | |
| **Classification** | RLE 2021 using IUCN RLE recommended colours for CR, EN, VU and LC. |

The attribute field data can also be provided as a MS Excel spreadsheet and uploaded as an online resource.

| **ATTRIBUTE FIELDS** |
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| **Field Name** | **Full name** | **Description** |
| OBJECTID | Object Identification | Internal feature number. |
| Shape | Shape | Feature geometry. |
| NAME |  | name of vegetation type version 2018 (based on Mucina and Rutherford 2006, updated Dayaram and Skowno 2018), 458 types in South Africa, 459 in SA , LES and SWA |
| BIOREGION |  | Part of the vegetation hierarchy |
| BIOME |  | Part of the vegetation hierarchy |
| RLE2021 | Threat Status 2021 | Red List of Ecosystems category (CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, LC = Least concern |
| Trigger | Triggering Criteria | IUCN RLE v1.1 criteria that were triggered in the assessment and result in the status listed. |
| Summary | Assessment Summary | Narrative describing the triggering criteria |
| GlobvsNat | Global vs National scope | National Status (for non edemic types that extend beyond SA borders); Global and National status (for types which are endemic and the assessment covers whole global extent) |
| Endemic | Endemism | Is the ecosystem type restricted to South Africa: Endemic; Not Endemic; Unsure -Needs Research; Likely not endemic; Likely endemic to ZA LS SZ |
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The descriptions of the metadata fields are provided and copyright of Open Source Geospatial Foundation. Available at https://geonetwork-opensource.org/manuals/2.10.4/eng/users/appendix/glossary\_of\_metadata/index.html