

CAPE TOWN'S UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY: VEGETATION

Half of South Africa's **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED** veld types are found in Cape Town!

Cape Town contains 19 National veld types. **SIX** of these are endemic to Cape Town – found nowhere else in the world!



1 Peninsula Shale Renosterveld

- Endemic to the Cape Town City Bowl.
- Very productive, used to support large game (Rhino, Cape Lion).
- Grasses and bulbs are common.
- Burns naturally every 3-5 years.
- Critically Endangered: 13% remains; 11% conserved.

CAPE TOWN'S 19 VELD TYPES:

- 10 are listed as **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED** (53%)
- 3 are listed as **ENDANGERED**
- 4 are listed as **VULNERABLE**
- 2 are listed as **LEAST CONCERN** (only 2!)
- 8 have met the national conservation target
- 9 have less than 10% of their natural area conserved



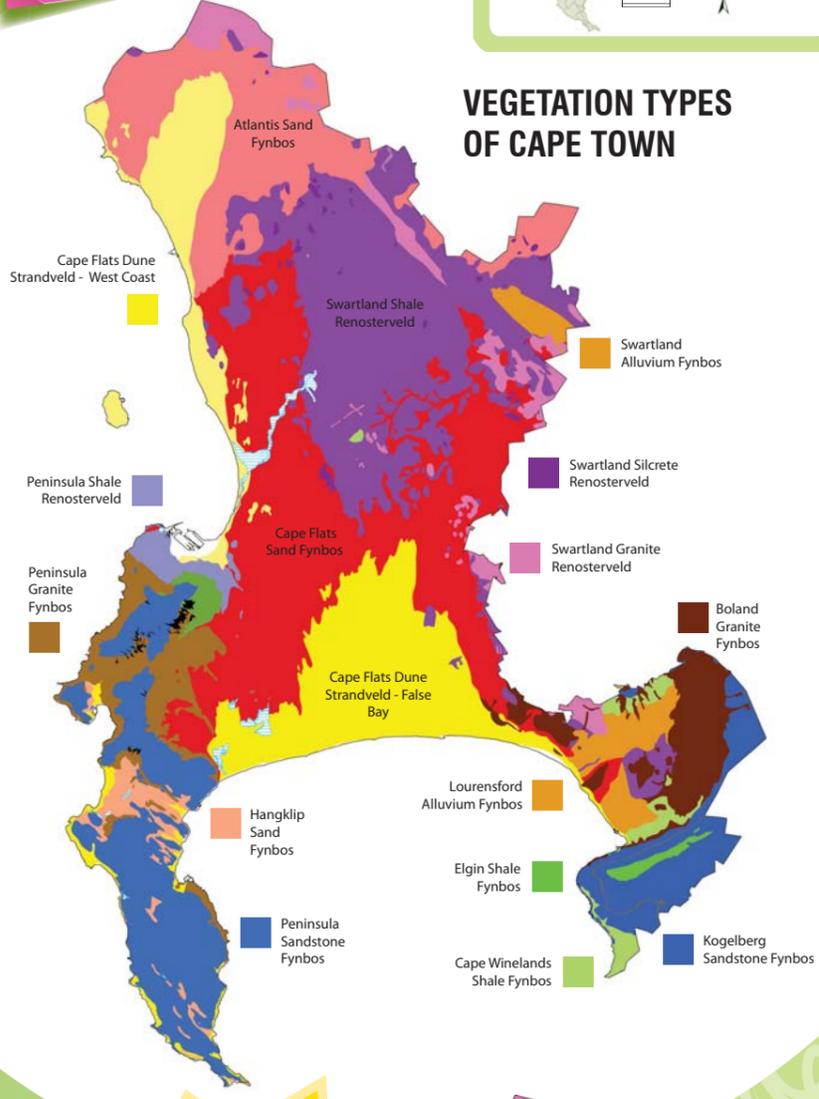
4 Lourensford Alluvium Fynbos

- Endemic to the Helderberg region.
- The most transformed endemic veld type, was lost early.
- Very rich in bulbs.
- Critically Endangered: 6% remains; 3% conserved.



2 Peninsula Granite Fynbos

- Endemic to the Table Mountain foothills.
- The most fertile of Fynbos types. Previously sustained more animals, but now consists mostly of vines and plantations.
- Burns fiercely every 10-20 years.
- Home to Silvertrees in southern form and Grey Tree Pincushions in northern form.
- Endangered: 43% remains; 30% conserved (includes plantations).



5 Cape Flats Dune Strandveld

- Endemic on recent sand dunes near the sea.
- Not a fire-adapted system.
- Supports a high biomass of browsing animals.
- Endangered: 49% remains; 19% conserved.



3 Peninsula Sandstone Fynbos

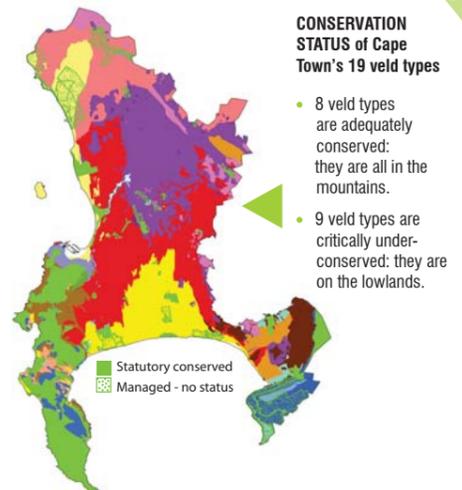
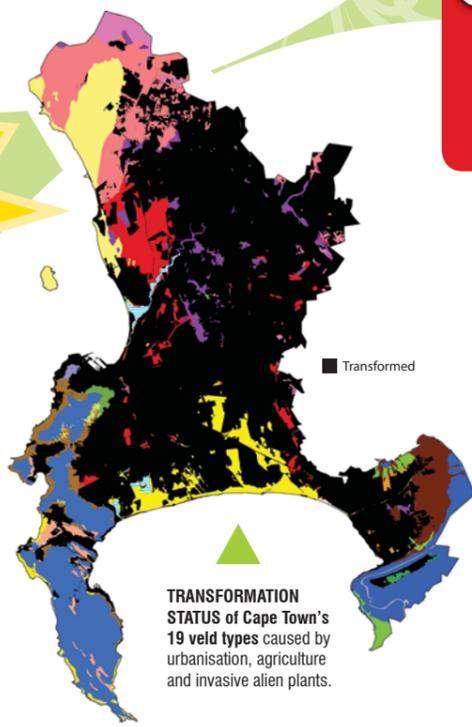
- Endemic to Table Mountain and the Peninsula chain.
- The most diverse veld type in terms of plants.
- Many endemic species.
- Well conserved: 97% remains; 90% conserved.
- Endangered as it has over 65 threatened Red List plant species.



6 Cape Flats Sand Fynbos

- Endemic to Cape Flats on older, leached sands.
- The richest and most diverse Sand Fynbos type.
- Has the highest number of threatened plant species.
- Half of what remains is degraded by alien plants (wattles and grasses).
- Critically Endangered: 14% remains; 1% conserved.

Unless we protect enough of our veld types, lots of plant and animal species will go extinct, and our natural life support systems will be lost!



- Every day an area equal to 2 soccer fields is developed
- By 2020 no more natural veld will be left to conserve
- By 2020 it may be too late to conserve any more of our threatened unique biodiversity



We must act now!

We have an international biodiversity crisis in our back yard. **WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?**

For more information on the veld types, their conservation, a glossary of terms and how you can help visit www.capetown.gov.za/environment, go to "Publications" then "Brochures & Booklets" and select "Fact sheets on Cape Town's unique biodiversity".