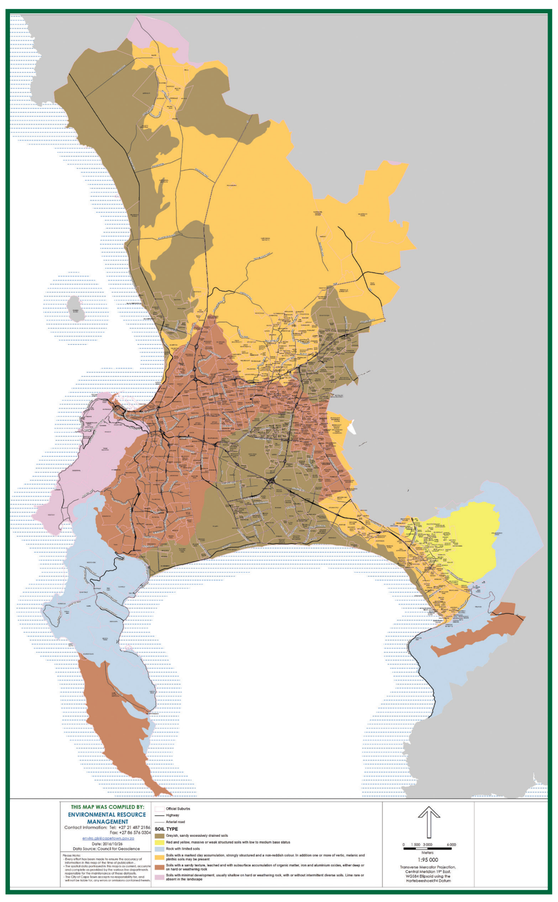
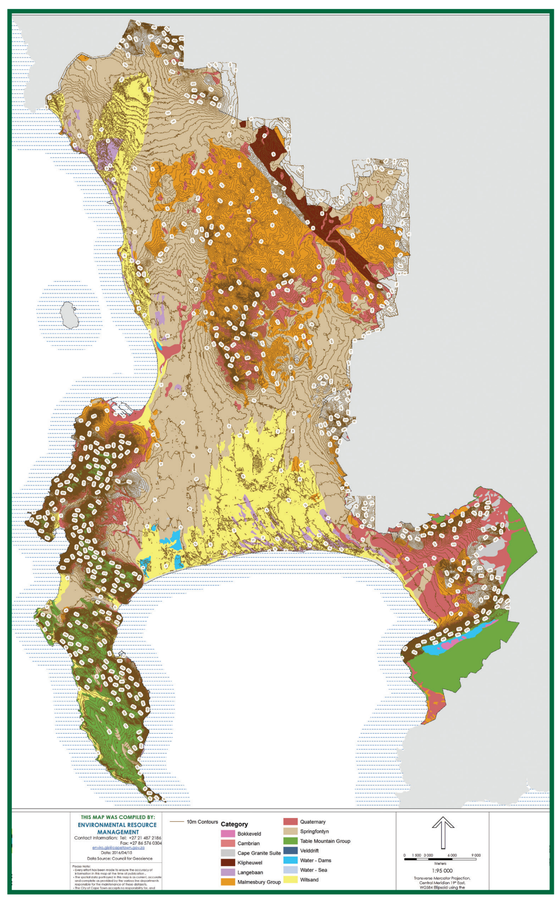
WITZANDS AQUIFER NATURE RESERVE

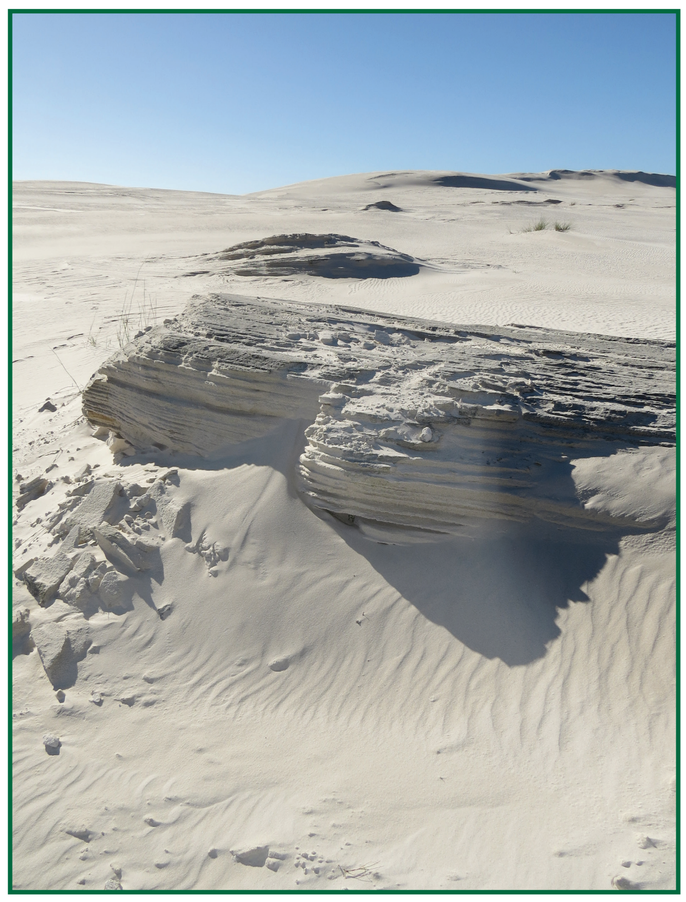
GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The geology of the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve comprises unconsolidated Cenozoic sediments associated with the sandveld group. Soil types are mainly quartz sand, which was deposited on shale bedrock of the Malmesbury group. The lower Varswater formation is of a shallow marine origin, while the upper Bredasdorp formation is of an Aeolian origin. Shale bedrock outcrops occur sporadically along the coastal parts and inland towards the south and north of Atlantis.

The reserve incorporates a number of environments, two vegetation types as well as an ecotone between them. One wetland (infiltration pond) and an un-vegetated mobile dune field occur at the Witzands Aquifer Nature Reserve. It is a dynamic system consisting of a number of active dune fields that move through an area of naturally vegetated dunes. Granite outcrops of Dassenberg, Kanonkop and Mamre-Darling near Mamre constitute the highest points in the area, at altitudes of 210–410 m above sea level.







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Making progress possible. Together.