

**A focus on conserving the
Thicket Biome with socio-
economic development in**

National Parks:

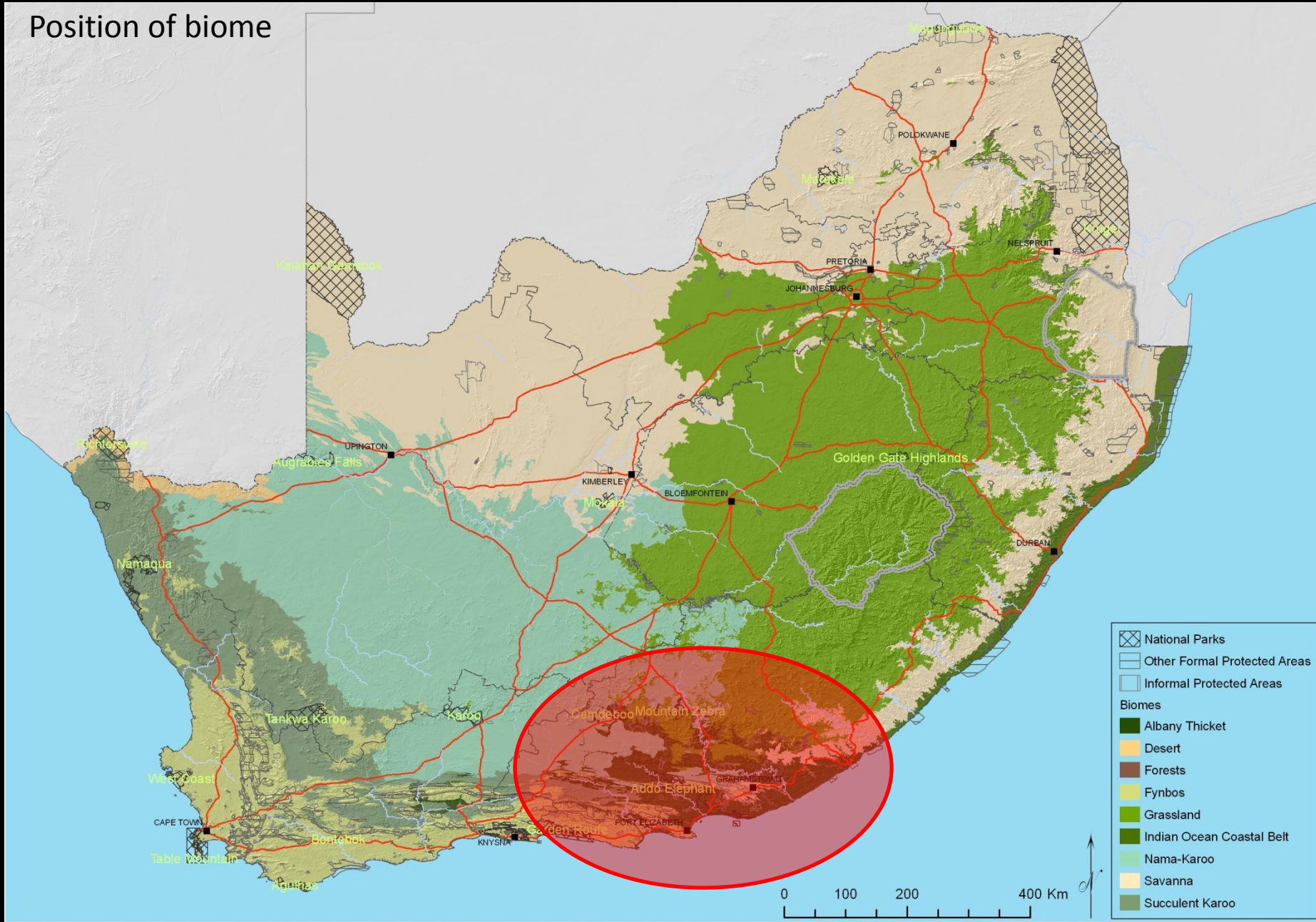
***A modern-day political love
story.***

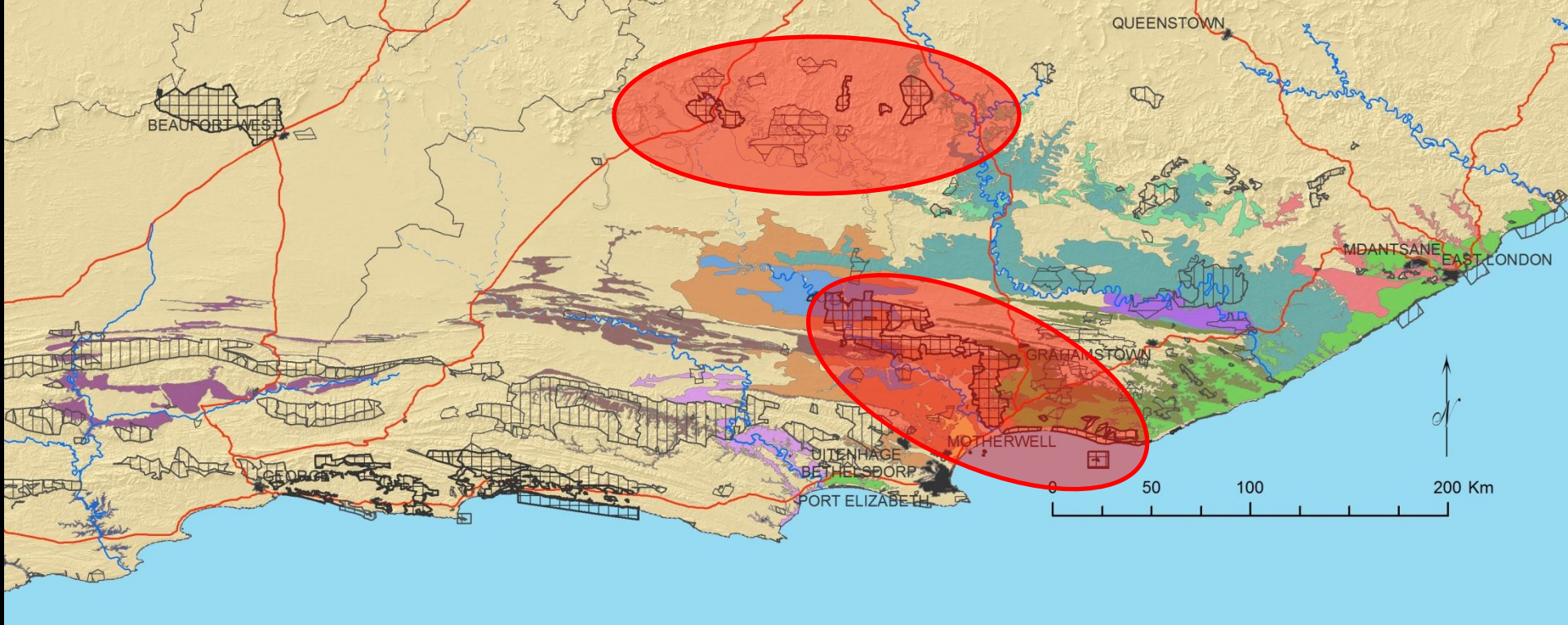


MH Knight, P Bradshaw & R Smart

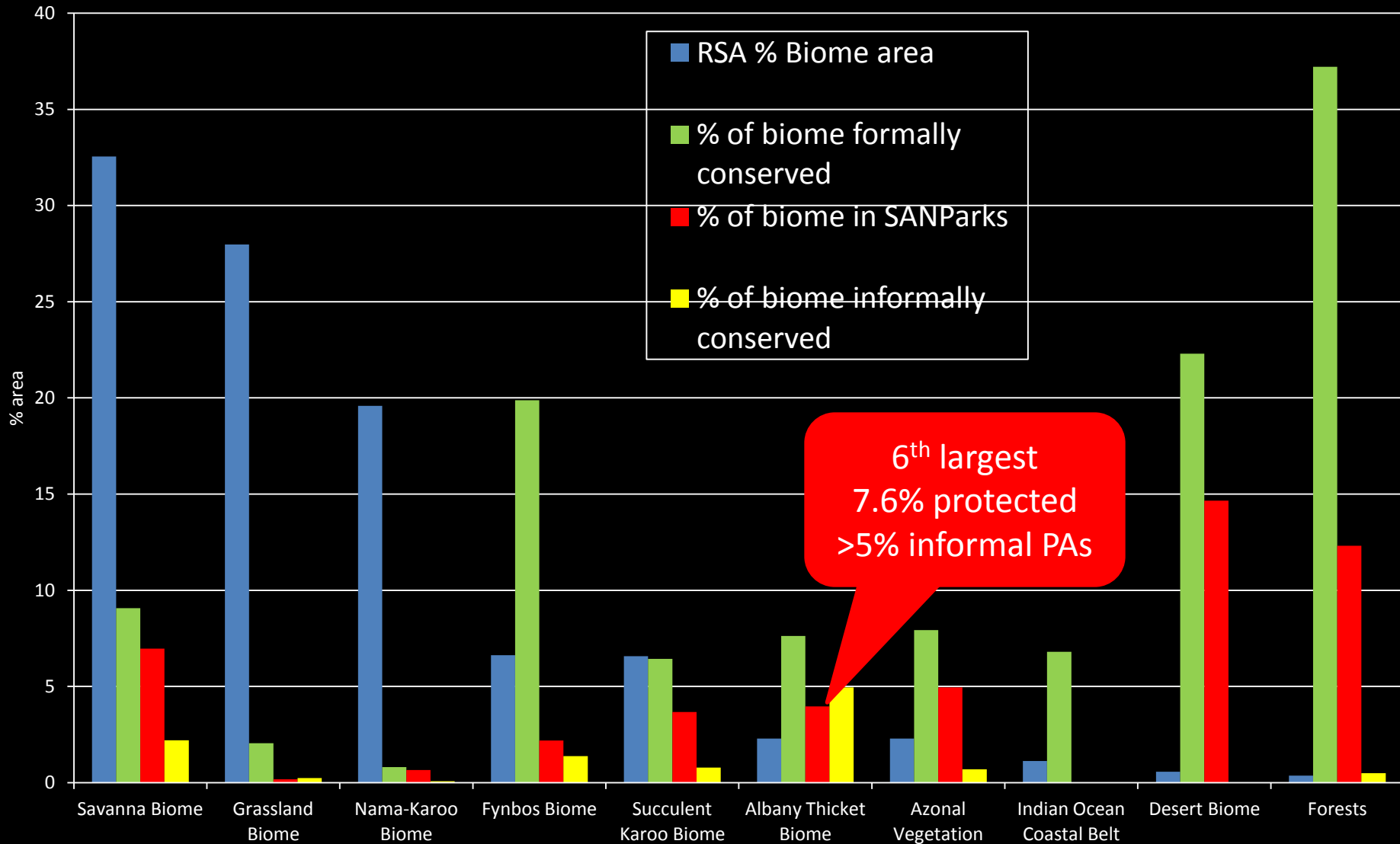


Position of biome

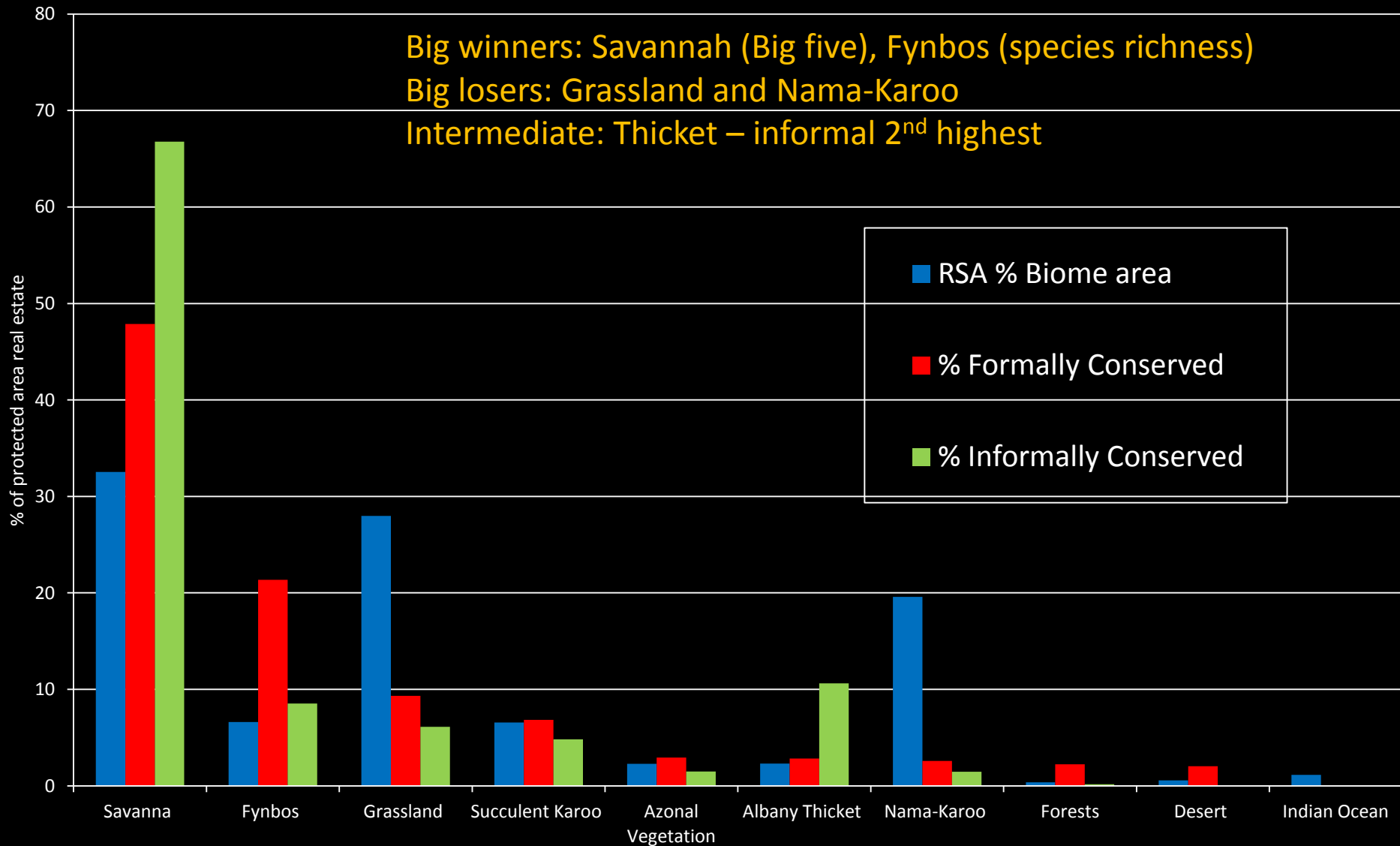




% of biome protected via different means



% of different forms of protection across biomes

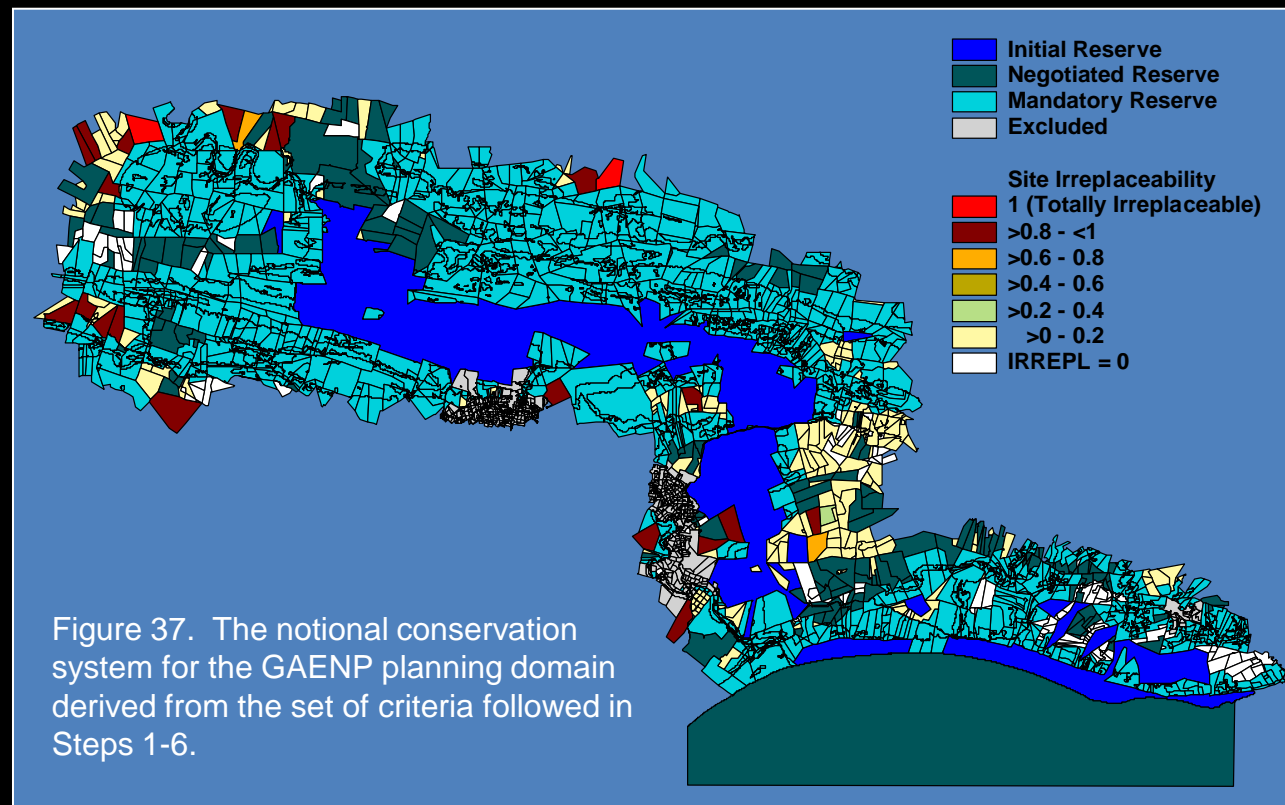


- Case Studies: Addo Elephant NP and Camdeboo-Mountain Zebra NPs, from elephants and zebras to representative thicket biodiversity
- The shift in conservation thinking from a single species approach, to habitat and process initiatives has ultimately moved to a point where NPs are regional economic hubs, creating an array of direct and indirect job opportunities.



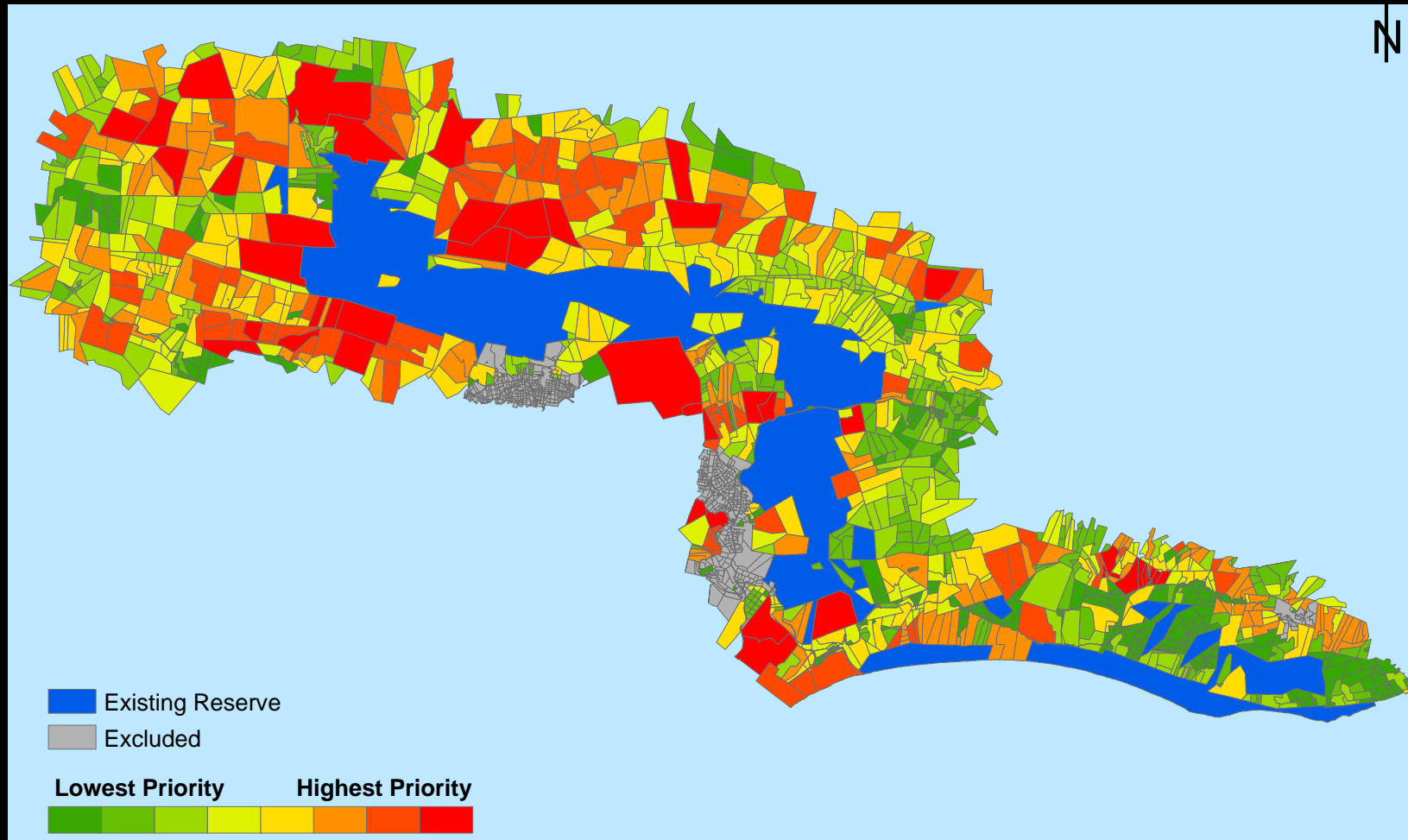
ADDO: The CSIR Plan (2002)

- Initial planning suggested that 84% of the planning domain would be required to meet all targets
- Fine as a long term goal, but very problematic for implementation as:
 1. Immediate priorities for purchase were not identified
 2. Limited resources were available for initial purchases
 3. Potential for private landowner concern as whole area painted 'red' (light blue)



ADDO: Modified Plan (2004)

- Previous = land hungry (large mammals with large planning domain)
- Newer approach focused on the product of habitat type value and irreplaceability values (higher irreplaceability = higher value)
- Property index then modified by threat (higher threat = higher value)
- More focused, less “red”
- Adjacency



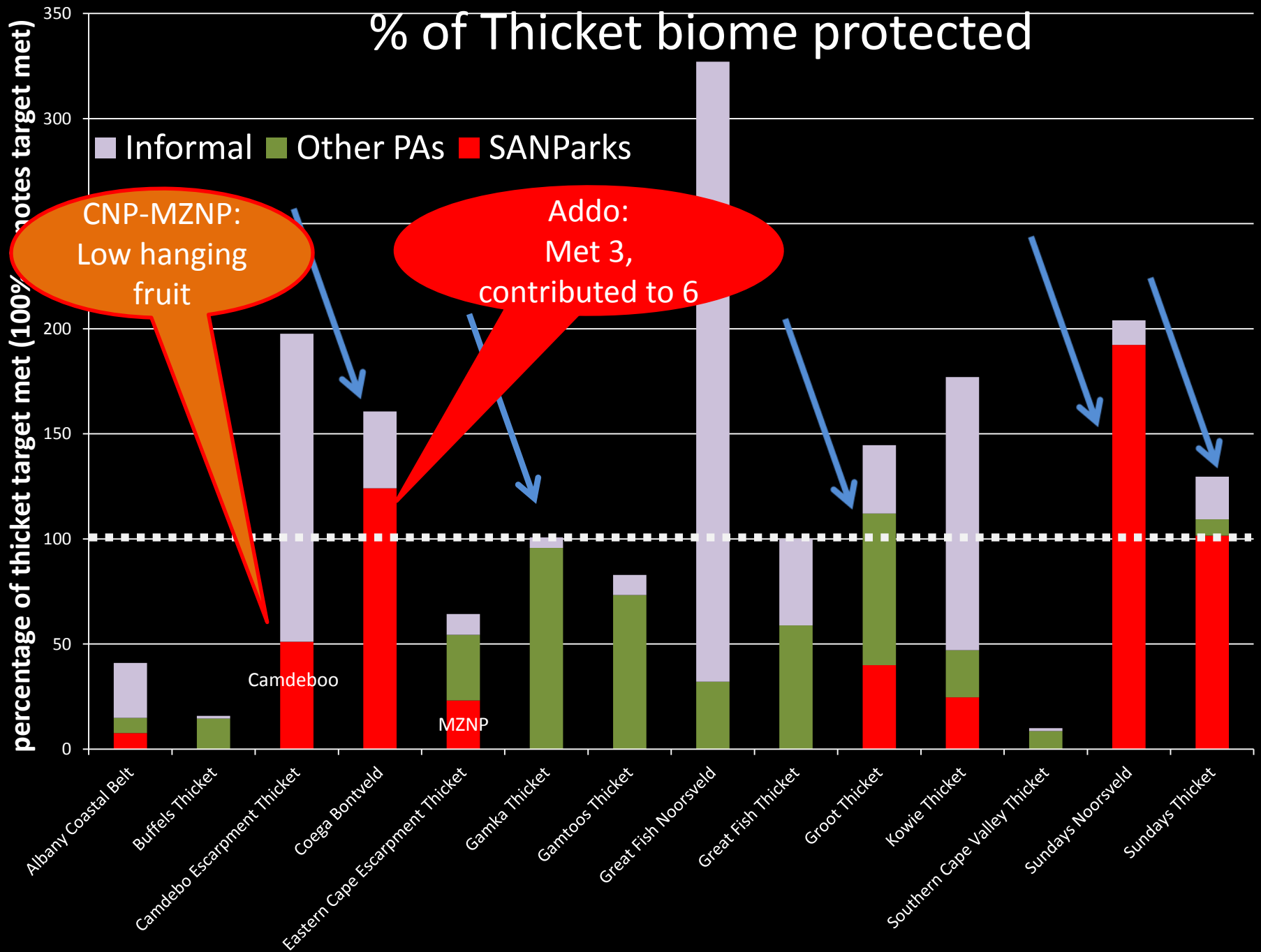
More recently

National Vegetation Targets

Target of **10.41%** of vegetation type areas in formal protected area obtained from NPAES, 2008, derived from 54% of NSBA targets (2004)

Vegetation unit	Formal PA target %	Formal PA target (km ²)	Currently formal PA (km ²)	Required for formal PA (km ²)
Albany Coastal Belt	10.41	340.38	52.39	287.99
Buffels Thicket	10.41	117.88	14.33	103.55
Camdebo Escarpment Thicket	10.41	205.76	104.97	100.79
Coega Bontveld	10.41	25.64	25.64	0.00
Eastern Cape Escarpment Thicket	10.41	134.5	73.12	61.38
Gamka Thicket	10.41	153.51	145.90	7.61
Gamtoos Thicket	10.41	91.93	66.95	24.98
Great Fish Noorsveld	10.41	70.17	22.51	47.66
Great Fish Thicket	10.41	704.19	414.46	289.73
Groot Thicket	10.41	258.67	258.67	0.00
Kowie Thicket	10.41	234.13	110.58	123.55
Southern Cape Valley Thicket	10.41	18.48	1.59	16.89
Sundays Noorsveld	10.41	132.35	132.35	0.00
Sundays Thicket	10.41	545.13	538.96	6.17
Grand Total	10.41	257.27	157.43	99.84

% of Thicket biome protected



Albany Thicket Biome vegetation types

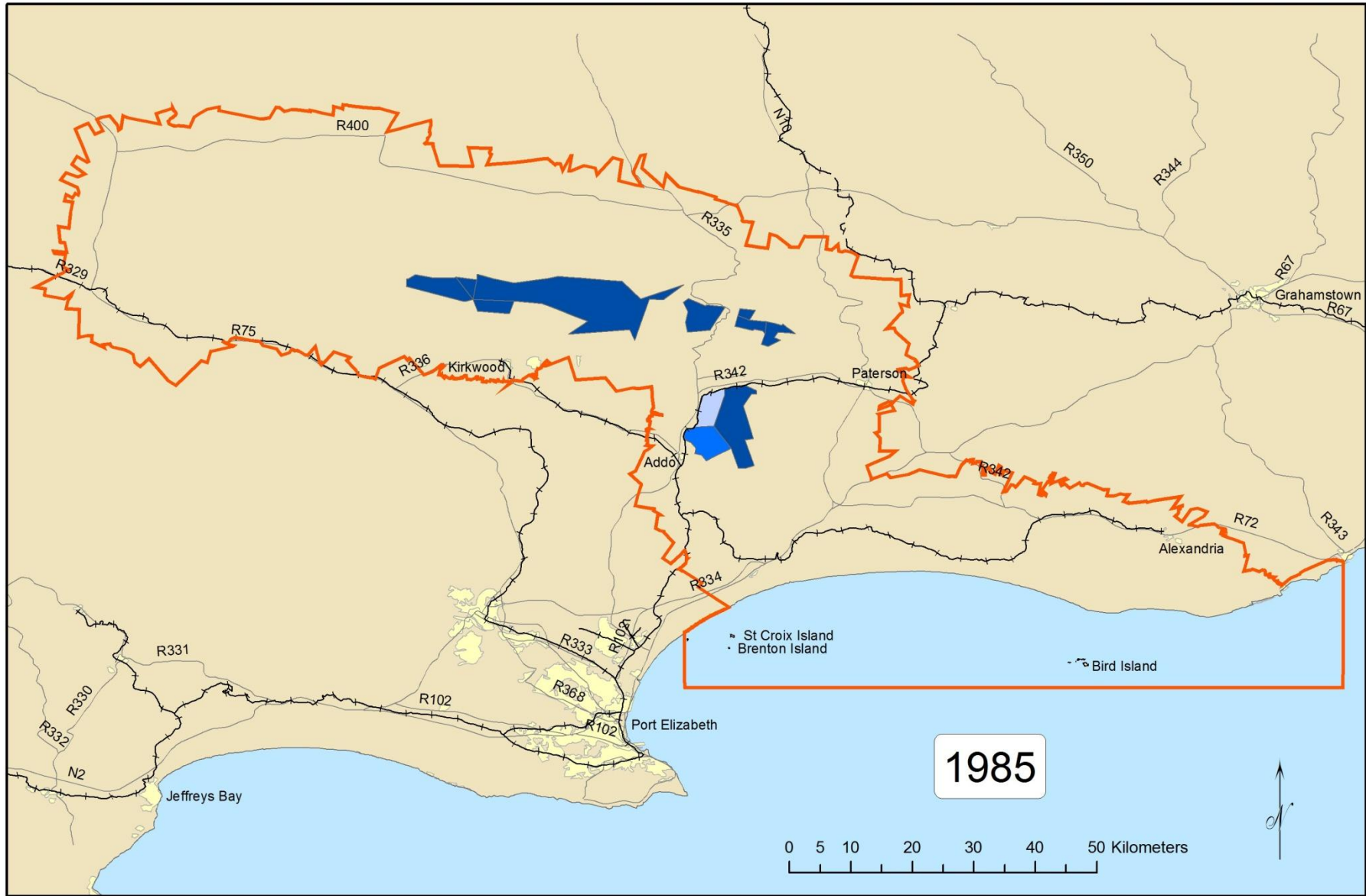
The Addo Elephant National Park



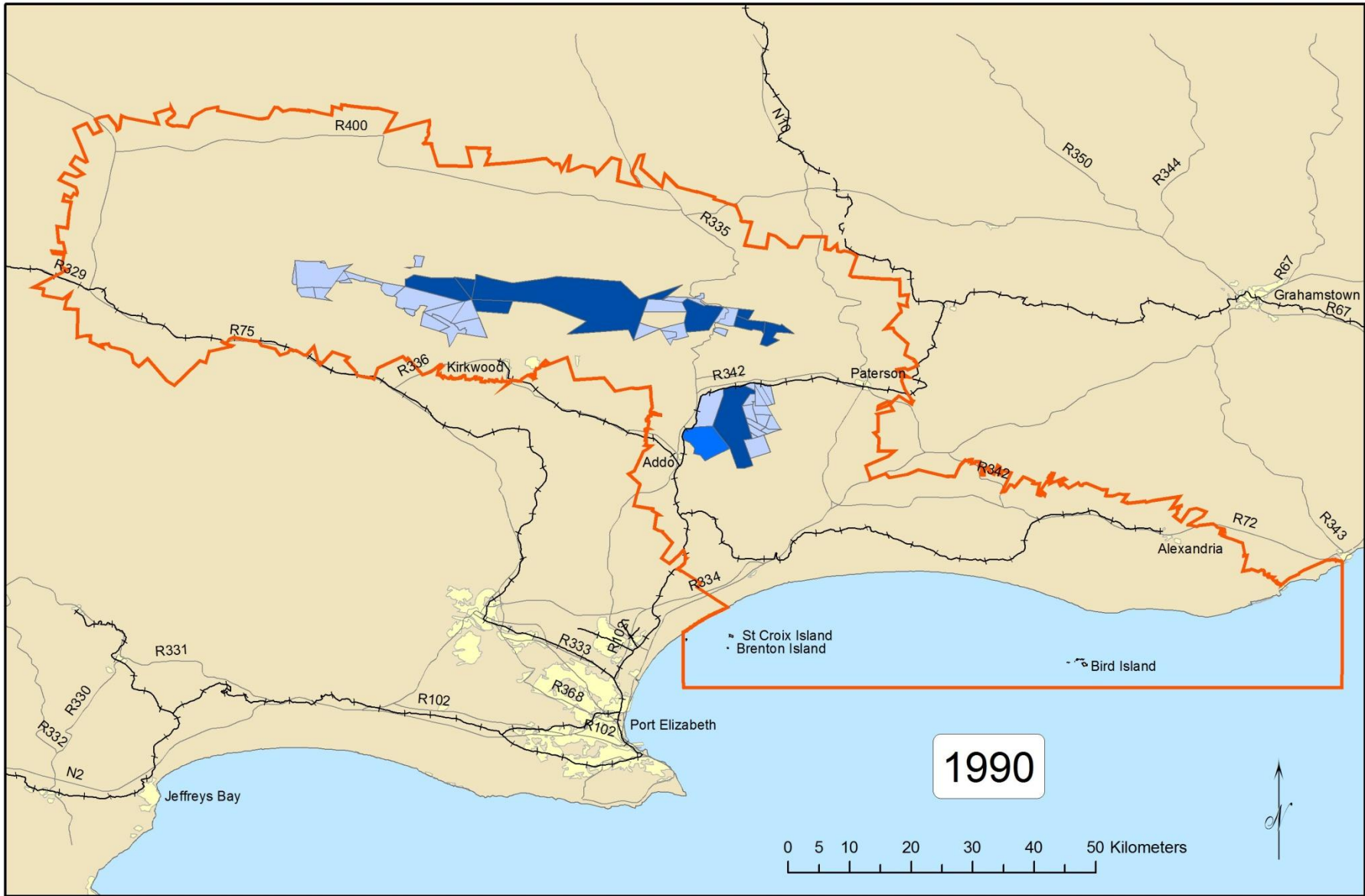
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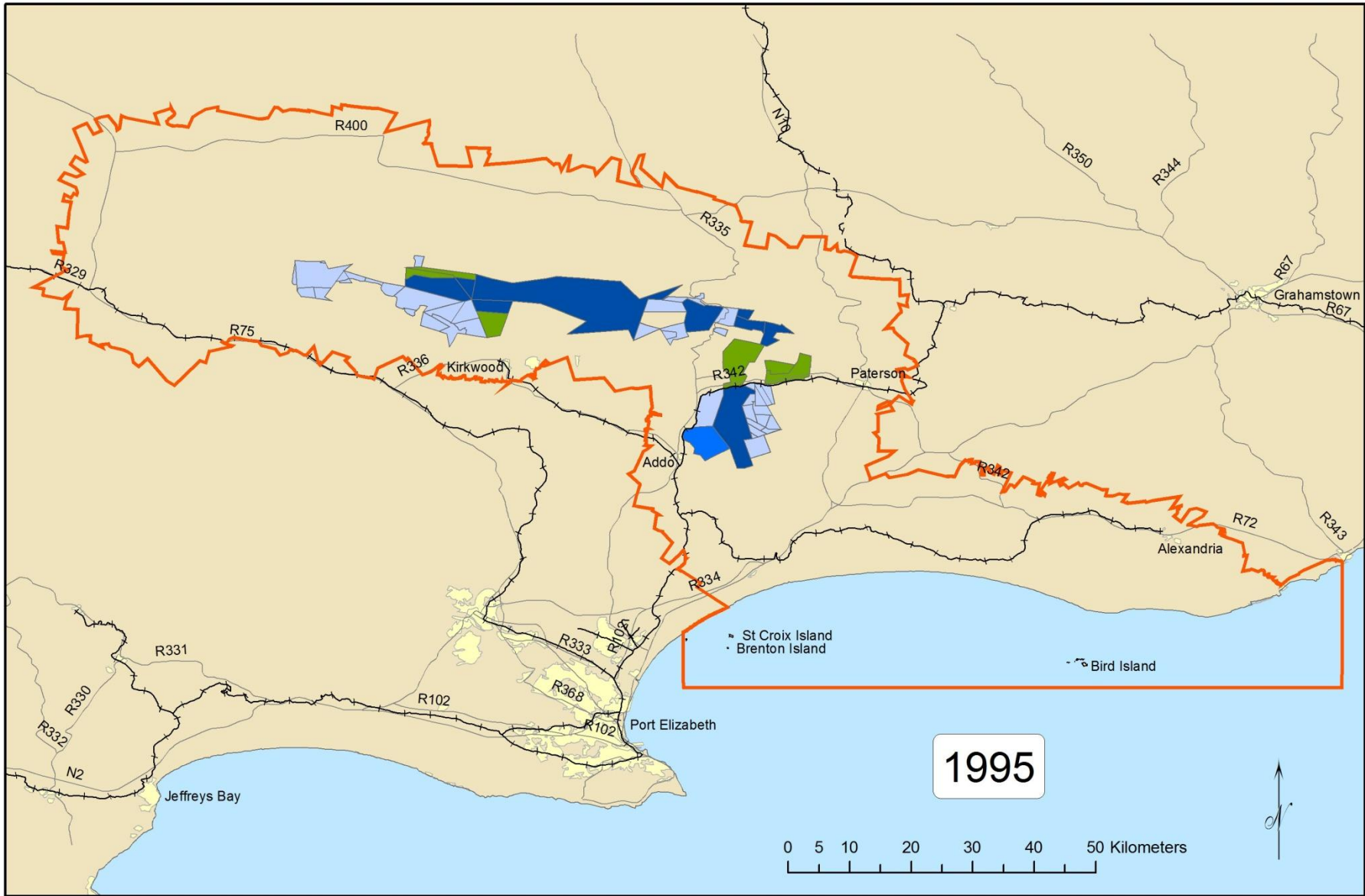
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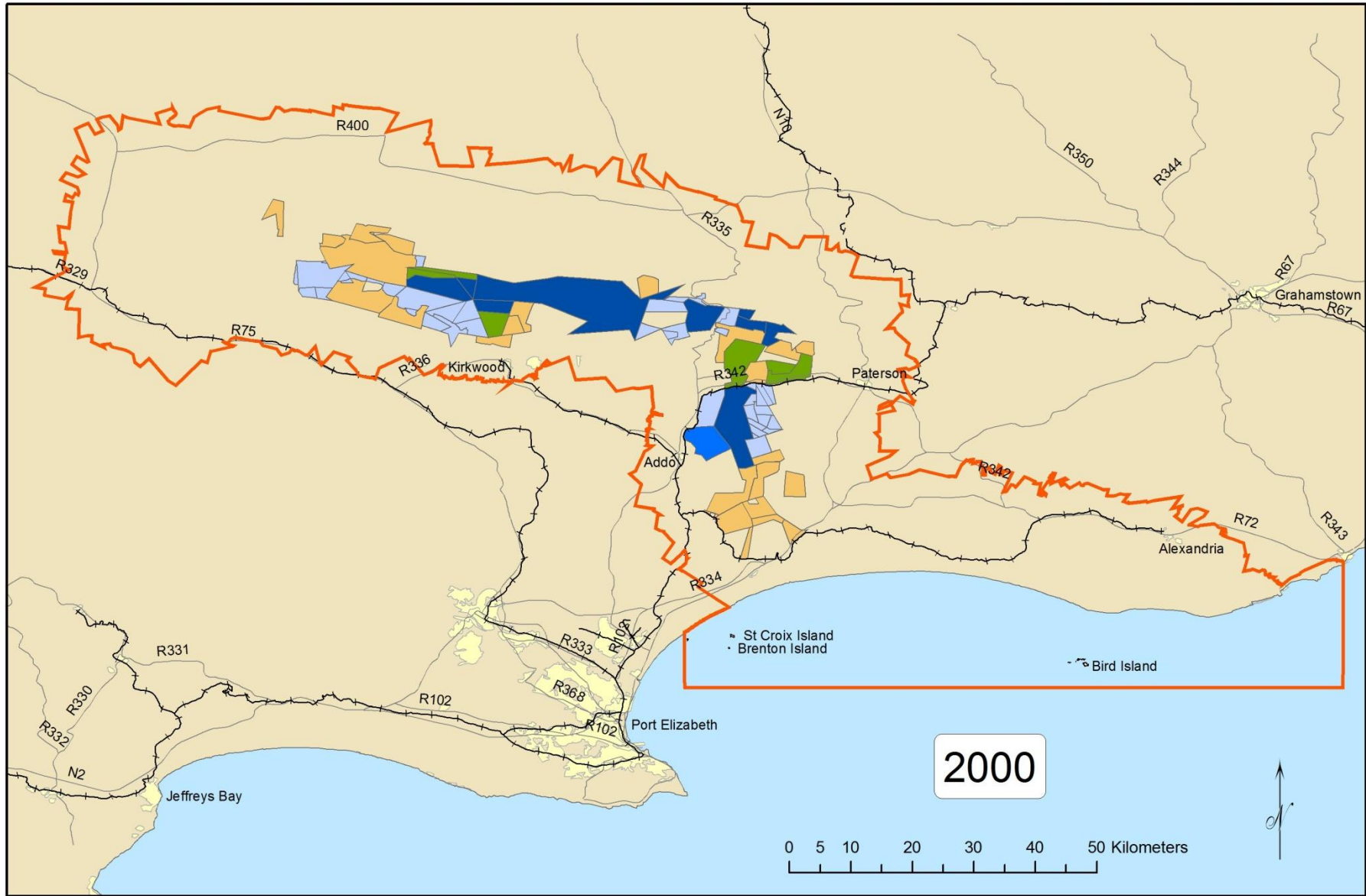
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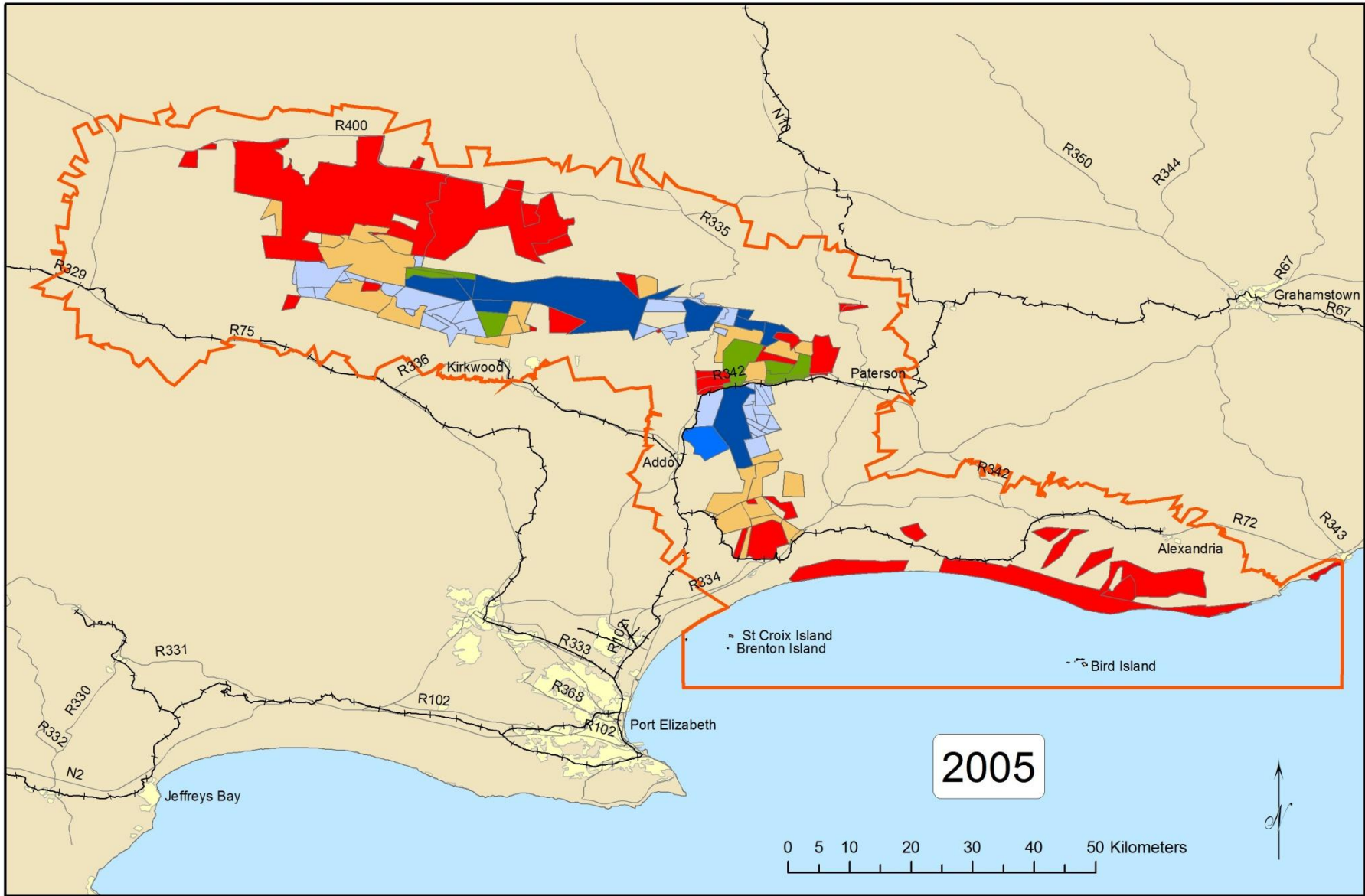
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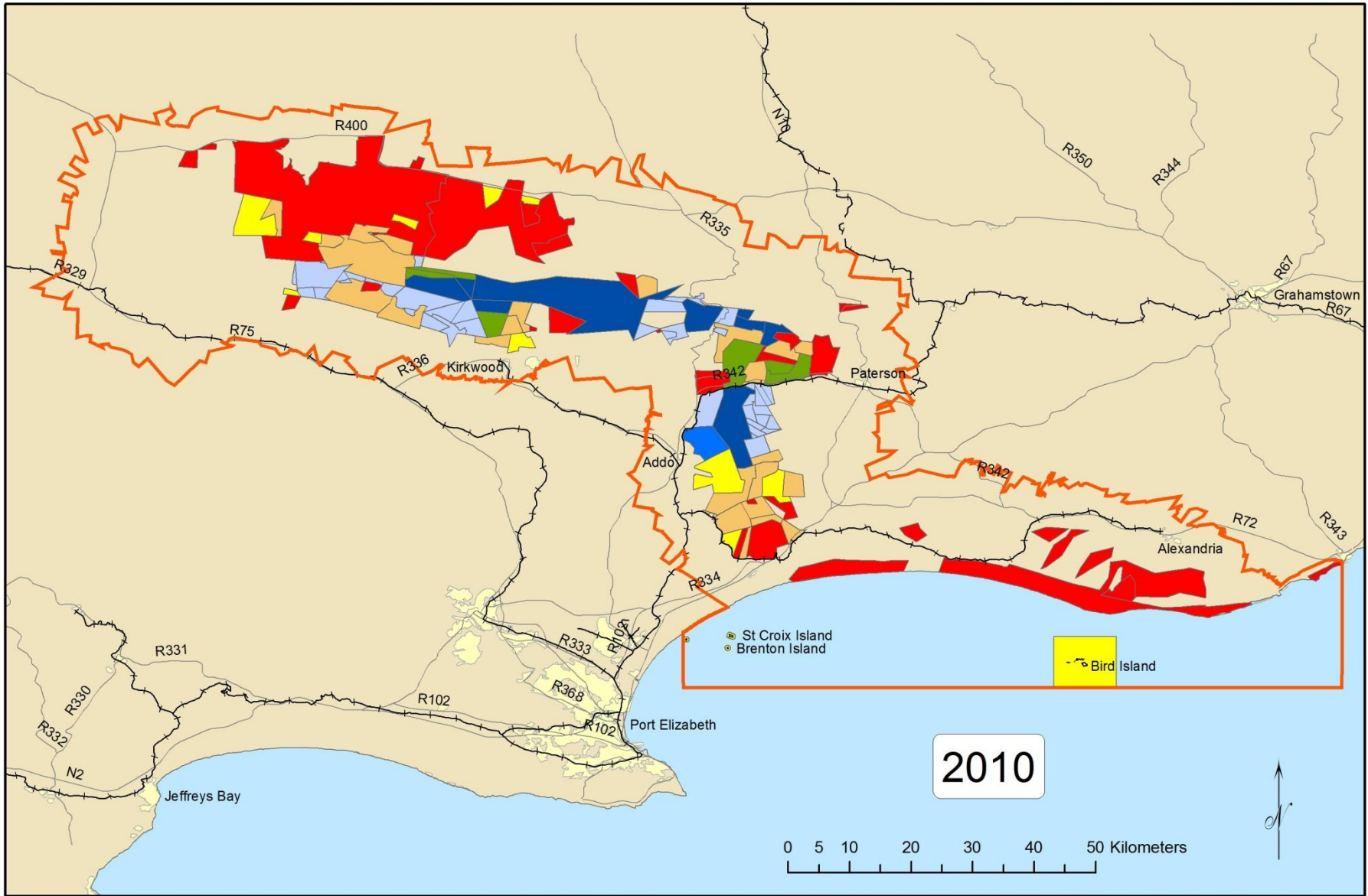
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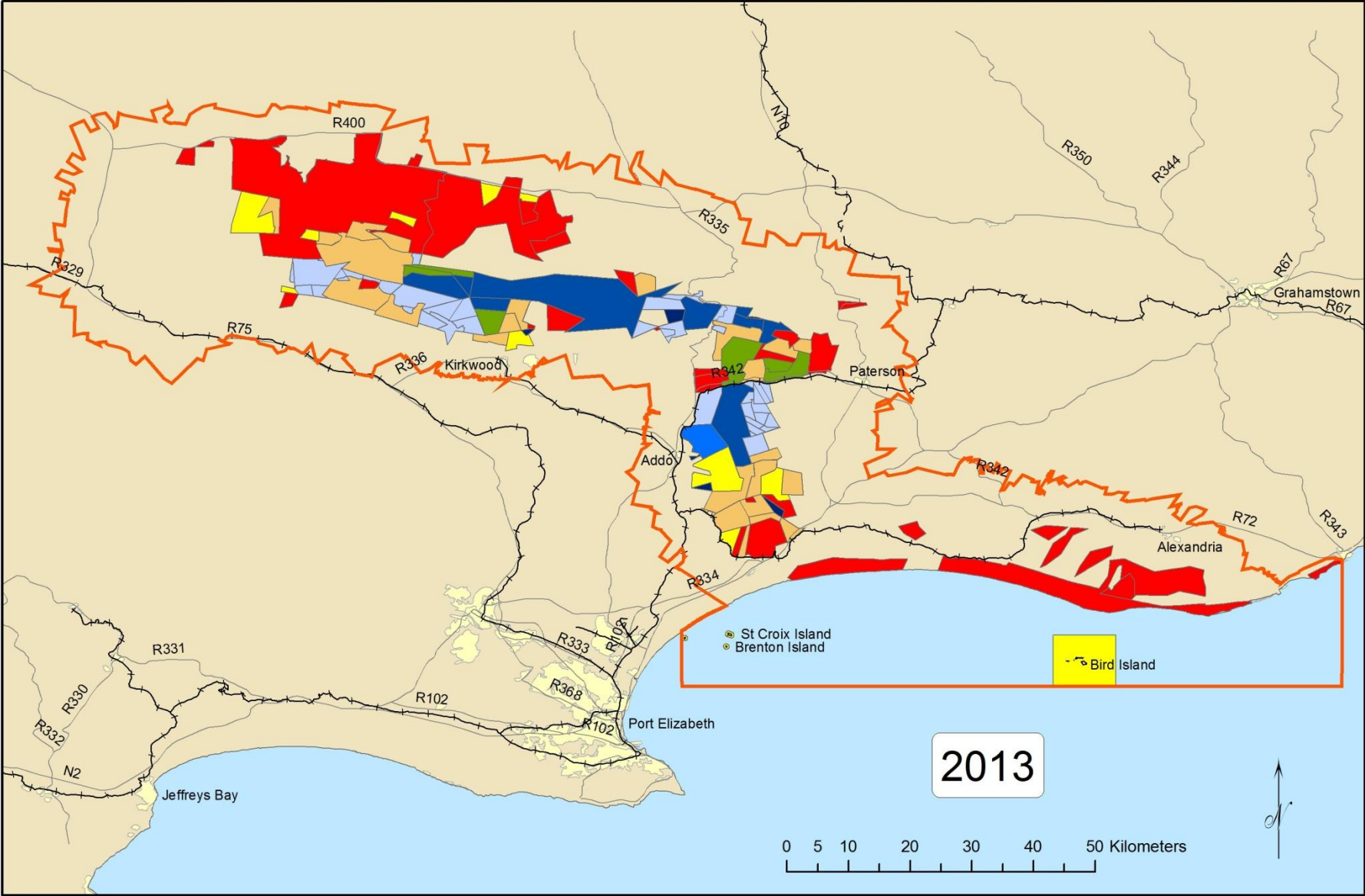
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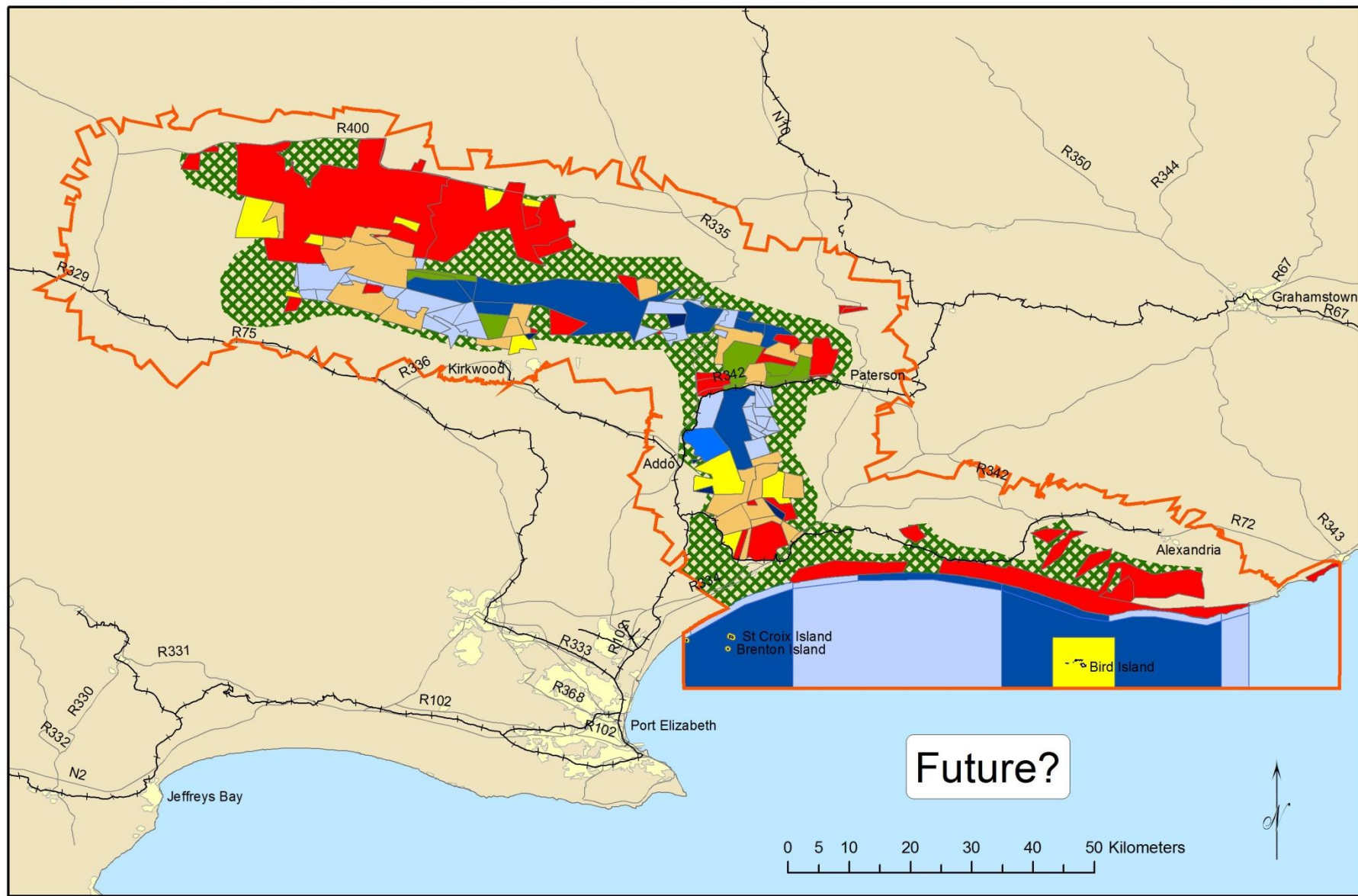
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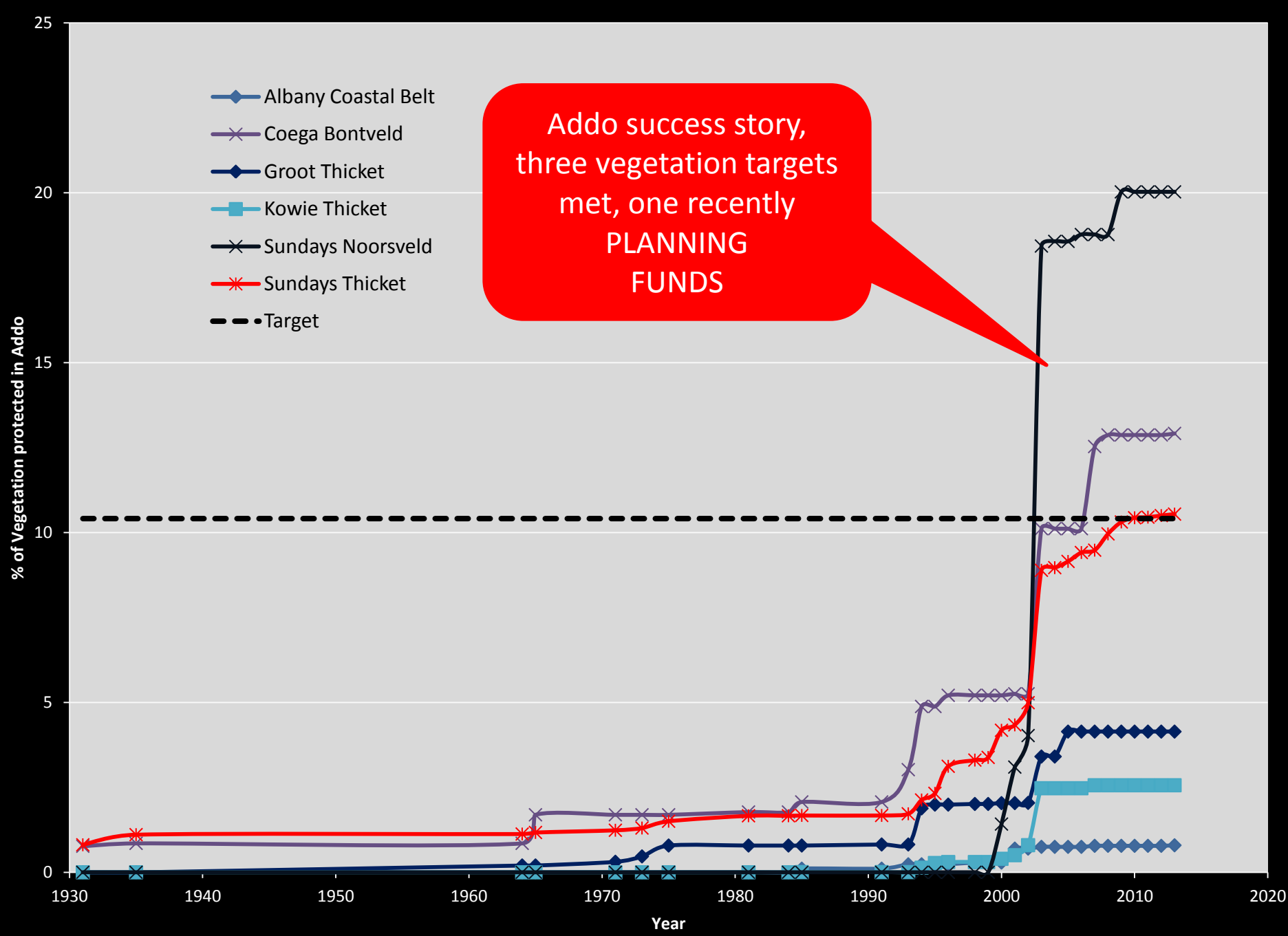


The Addo Elephant National Park



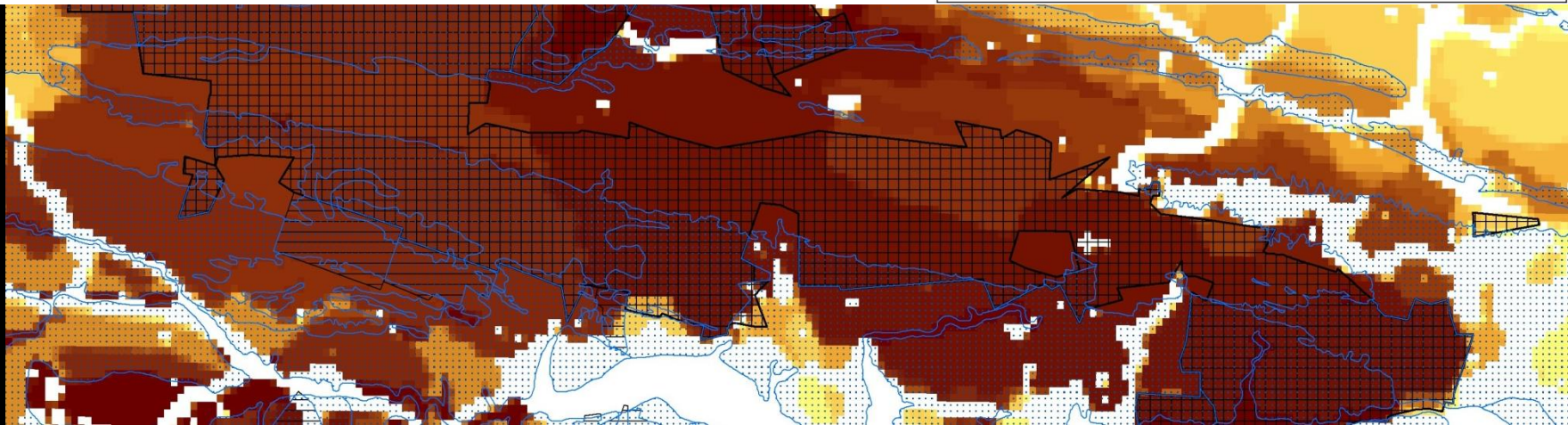
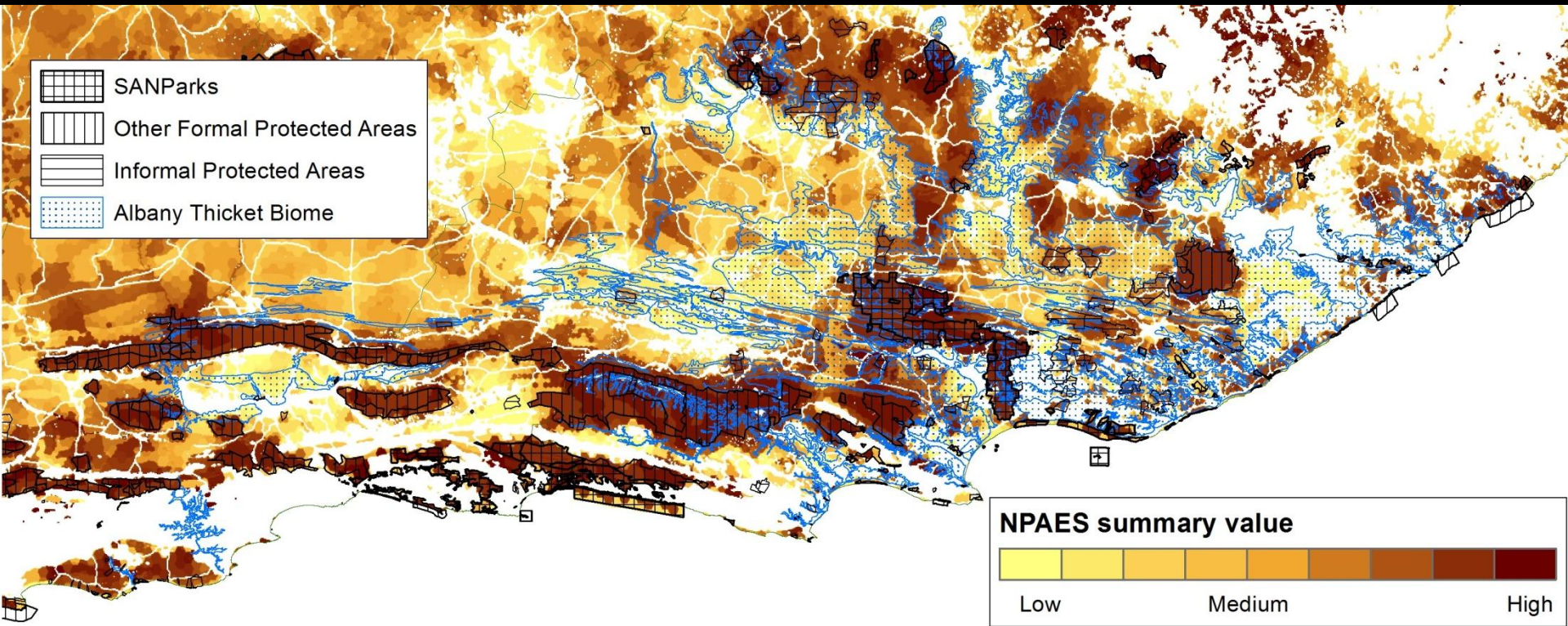
The Addo Elephant National Park





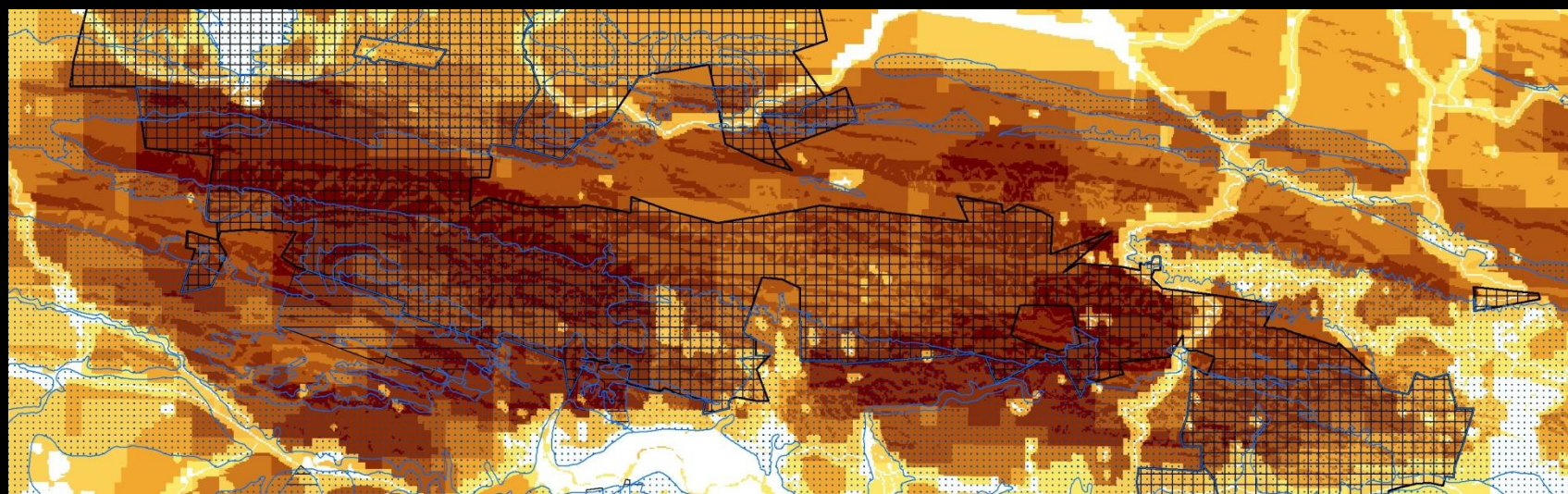
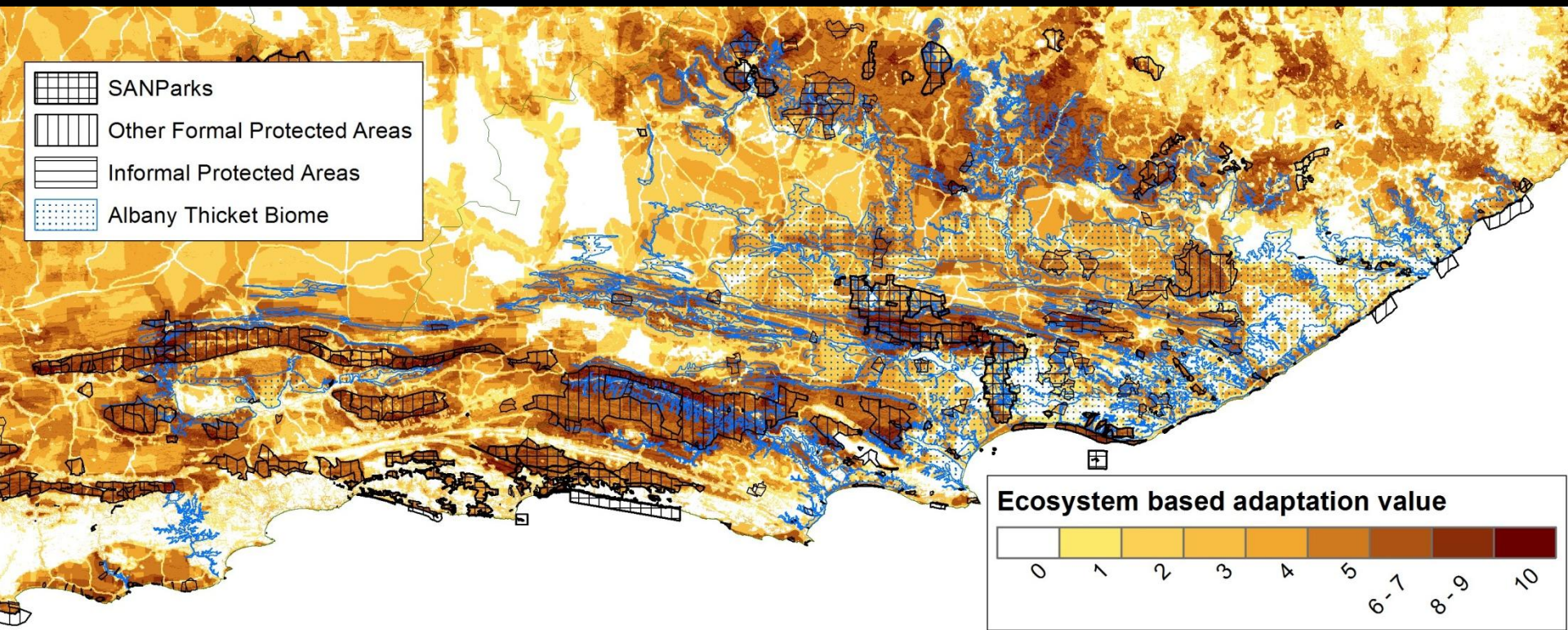
NPAES

Focus on refugia, biodiversity, filtered by transformation, selection bias to larger fragments for PA expansion

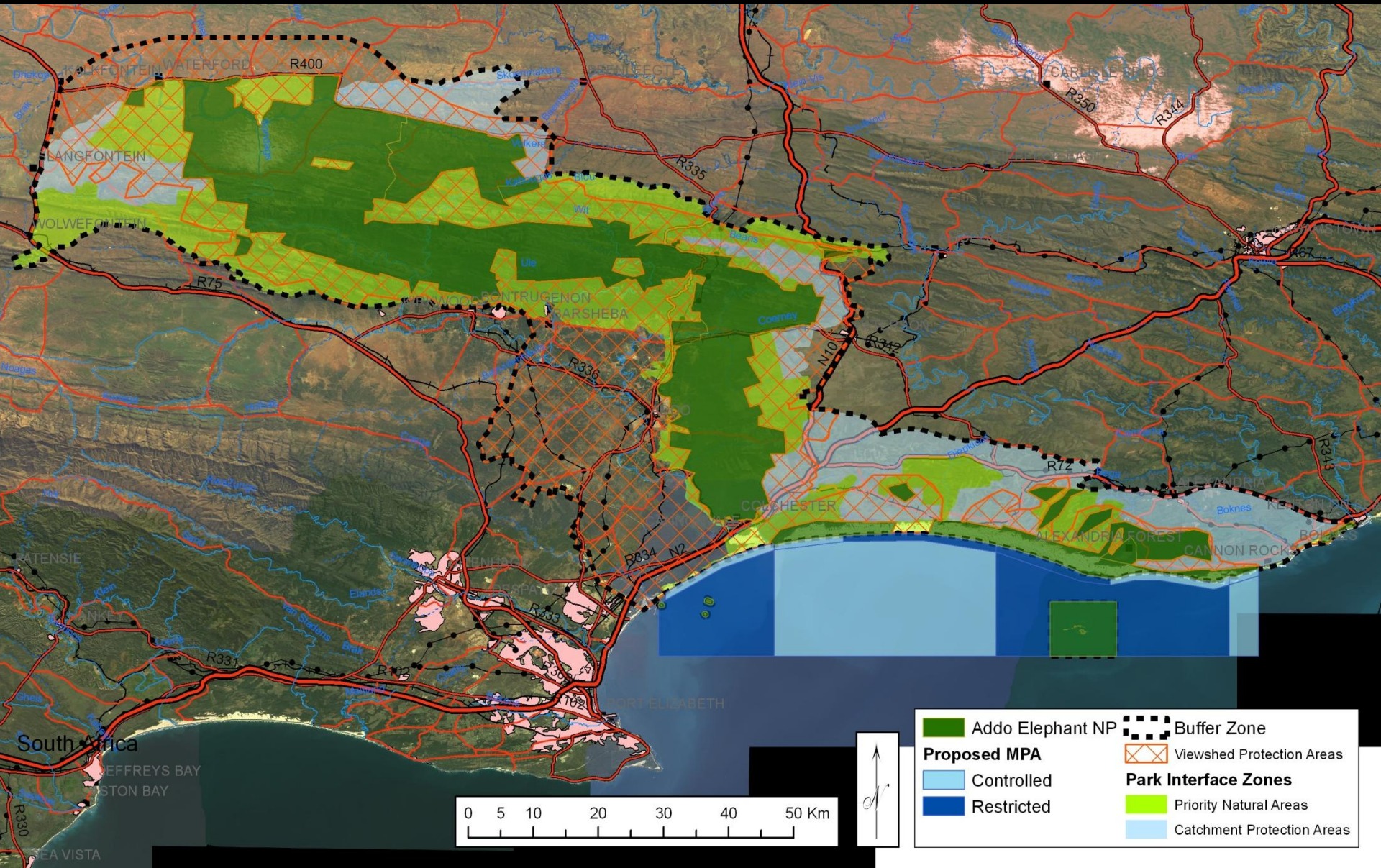


NBA 2011 update

Focus on refugia, biodiversity, filtered by transformation, additional filter of Climate Change



Planning for the buffer zones reducing threats





AENP Local Municipalities

CBA Map Category

- Formal Protected Areas
- Critical Biodiversity Areas
- Ecological Support Areas
- Other Natural Areas
- No Natural Areas Remaining
- Informal Conservation Areas

40 Km



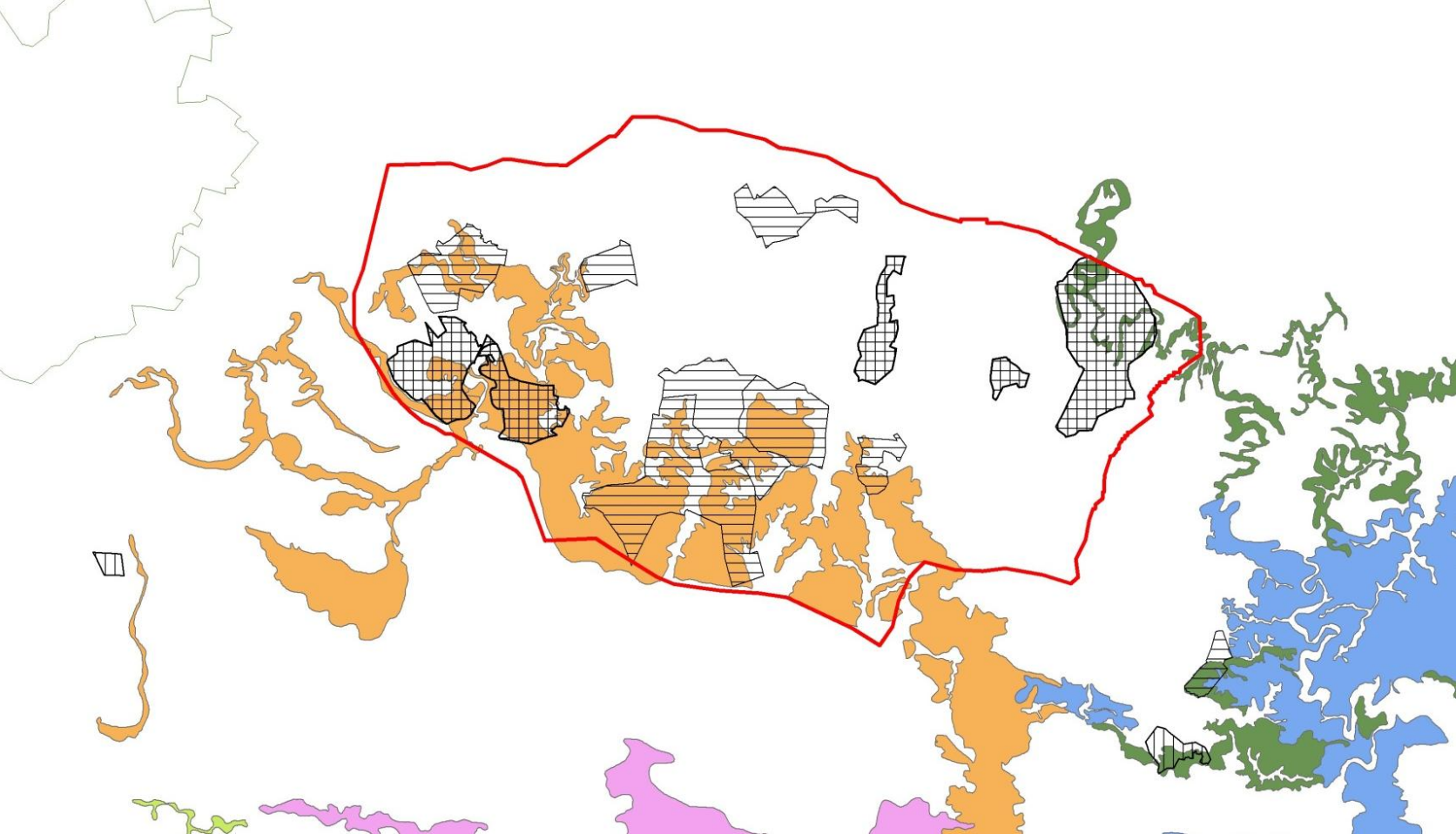
Replication & free-riding on other initiatives

- Systematic conservation planning is now replicated in most developing parks.
- Although the corridor linking Mt zebra and Camdeboo NPs is focused primarily on the grassland habitats, the fact that 22% of the planning domain contains Thicket, helps guide the conservation outcome.

MZNP-Camdeboo Expansion
















- Footprint contains 1,155 km² (58%) of Camdeboo Escarpment Thicket and 47 km² (3.6%) of Eastern Cape Escarpment Thicket
- Thus, although primarily a Grassland initiative, 22% of Planning domain thicket

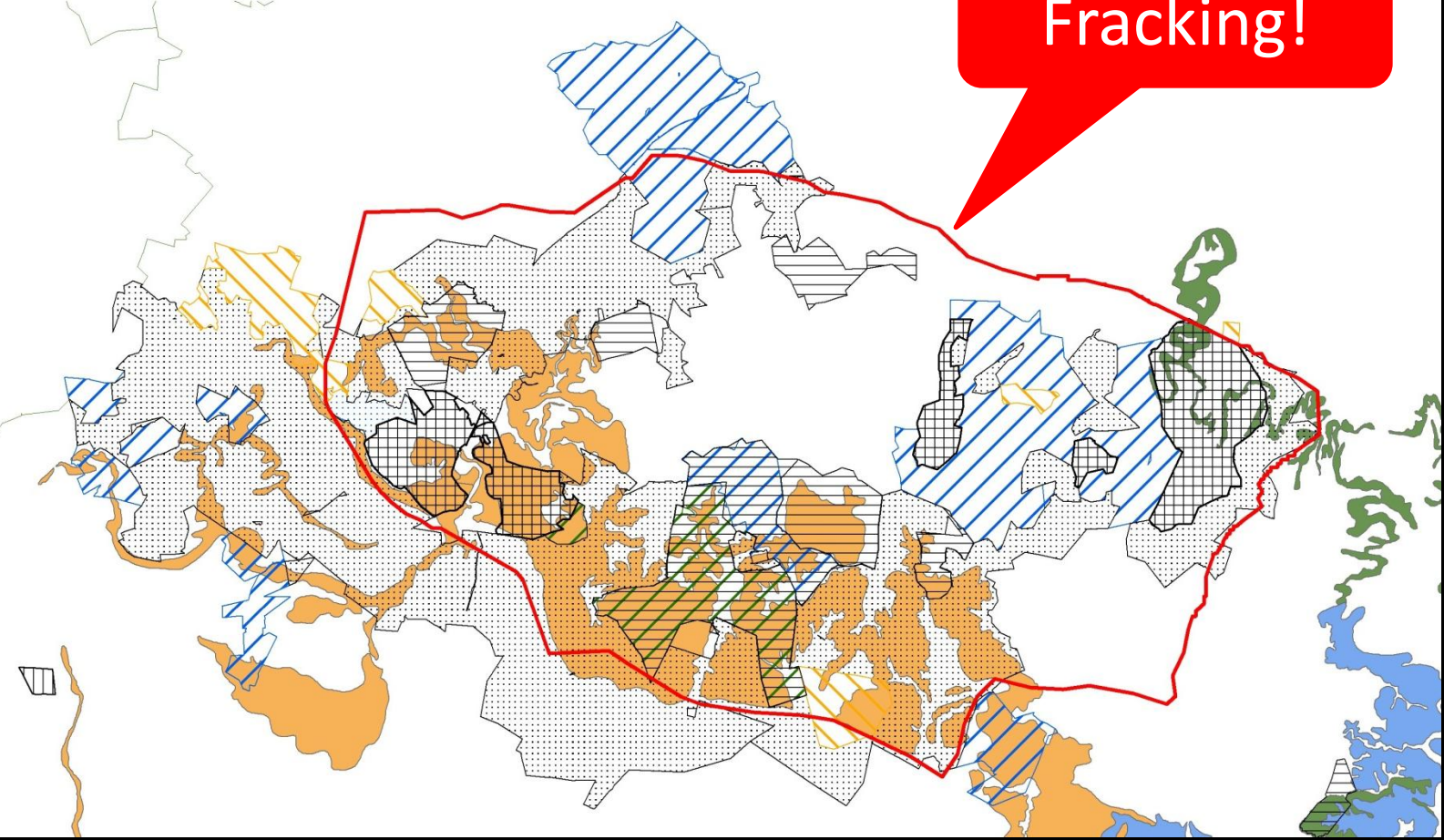
	Camdeboo MZNP Focus Area	Thicket type		Groot Thicket	
	Park Boundaries		Camdebo Escarpment Thicket		Sundays Noorsveld
	Other Formal Protected Areas		Eastern Cape Escarpment Thicket		Sundays Thicket
	Informal Protected Areas		Great Fish Thicket		



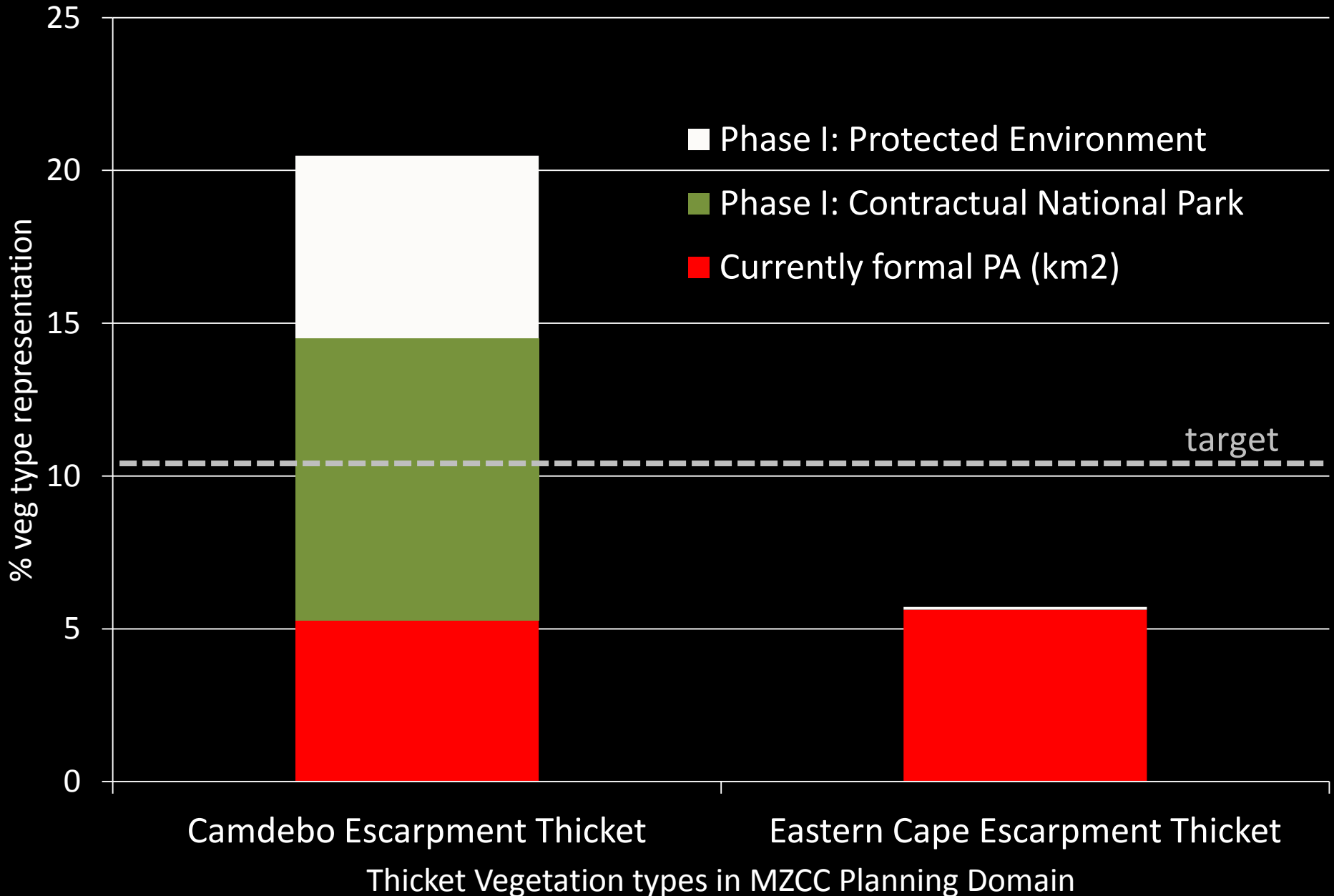
MZCC Expansion

- Phase I land owner interest in signing for P.E. status will result in more protected thicket
- Phase II focus area also covers large thicket areas

 Camdeboo MZNP Focus Area	MZCC Planning	Thicket type	 Groot Thicket
 Park Boundaries	 Phase I: Contractual National Park	 Camdebo Escarpment Thicket	 Sundays Noorsveld
 Other Formal Protected Areas	 Phase I: Protected Environment	 Eastern Cape Escarpment Thicket	 Sundays Thicket
 Informal Protected Areas	 Phase I: Proud Partner	 Great Fish Thicket	
	 Phase II: Protected Environment		
	 Phase II: Focus Areas		



MZCC expansion: another vegetation target met



BUT, sustainable protection requires socio-economic outcomes

- Expansion planning not only for biodiversity outcomes
 - Potential social benefit and impacts are included in planning
 - Economic potential and value adding opportunities are also identified



Planning and social outcomes

- The mechanisms for the protection of specific habitats acts as a catalyst in leveraging co-funding opportunities. (In AENP up to \$80mil.)
- The MZCC with its project development and job creation layer is a good example, funded through the Green Fund/DBSA, SANParks & planning for GEF5



Social Outcomes: Addo JOBS!

- 35% increase in employment in domain
 - 1676 full-time, 849 part-time jobs
 - Internal positions increased 607% (106 to 644 posts)
 - 150 of 180 (ie 88%) businesses linked to park
 - # bus employees incr from 6 to 23/business
 - 4 times as many jobs are created @double salary of agriculture/ha



Social Outcomes: ADDO

- Deliberate SMME support and stimulation is seen as integral to park development goals.
 - SMMEs 25 (11 sustainable)
 - SMME Employees 326
 - Transfer of funds to SMME around 0.5mil USD/yr



Social Outcomes: Addo

cont.

- Accessing of government poverty relief programs
- Education, awareness & reputation initiatives are considered
- Expansion being supported through community development and buy-in eg. Mayibuye Ndlovu Development Trust
 - Community owned trust to channel benefits
 - Represents all 8 communities around park
 - Receives royalties from SANParks tourism development



Economic Outcomes

- Careful economic & tourism planning
 - Viable and sustainable projects
 - Not short term aid supported projects
 - Strong financial and business management
- Park viable and profitable
 - 170 000 visitors per annum (14% growth)
 - Beds 174 to 505



Economic Outcomes



- Public-Private partnerships
- Contracts
 - Private companies and landowners incorporate land into park and run a tourism business
- Concessions
 - Companies run a business in the park
 - Mostly high end tourism lodges
 - 6 concessions AENP



Ingredients for success

- Social, economic and biodiversity incorporated up front as objectives
 - Poverty relief was not an afterthought
- Well planned and implemented project
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment/ systematic conservation plans
 - Project management unit
 - Internal agency capacity & support
 - Audited and accountable



Ingredients for success

cont.



- Strong partnerships
 - National Government (investment especially in poverty relief projects)
 - Local government
 - Private business
 - Development funding (GEF, FFEM)
 - NGO (land investment)
- Community buy-in
- Effective and representative park forum



Ingredients for success



cont.

- Strong economically viable project
 - Major tourism drawcards (including Big 7 potential)
 - Tourism viability
 - Near metropolitan area, existing tourist route and airport
- Stimulated by targeted external investment
 - GEF & FFEM
 - Catalyst for leveraging additional funding
 - 7 Million USD funding leveraged 80 Million USD total spend



Concluding comments

- Well-planned and implemented protected area expansion projects have the ability to deliver social, economic and biodiversity benefits
- But they must be viable and sustainable projects which are designed to deliver these benefits
- And need to be undertaken with a suite of partners and have on the ground support



Challenges



- Fragmentation
- Management of key driver species (elephants, large carnivores)
- Transformation
- Political & socio-economic relevance
- Private land contractual inclusions
- Climate change
- Conservation vs societal values
- Financial viability
- Cross subsidisation

