

# *The conservation history of the Baviaanskloof*

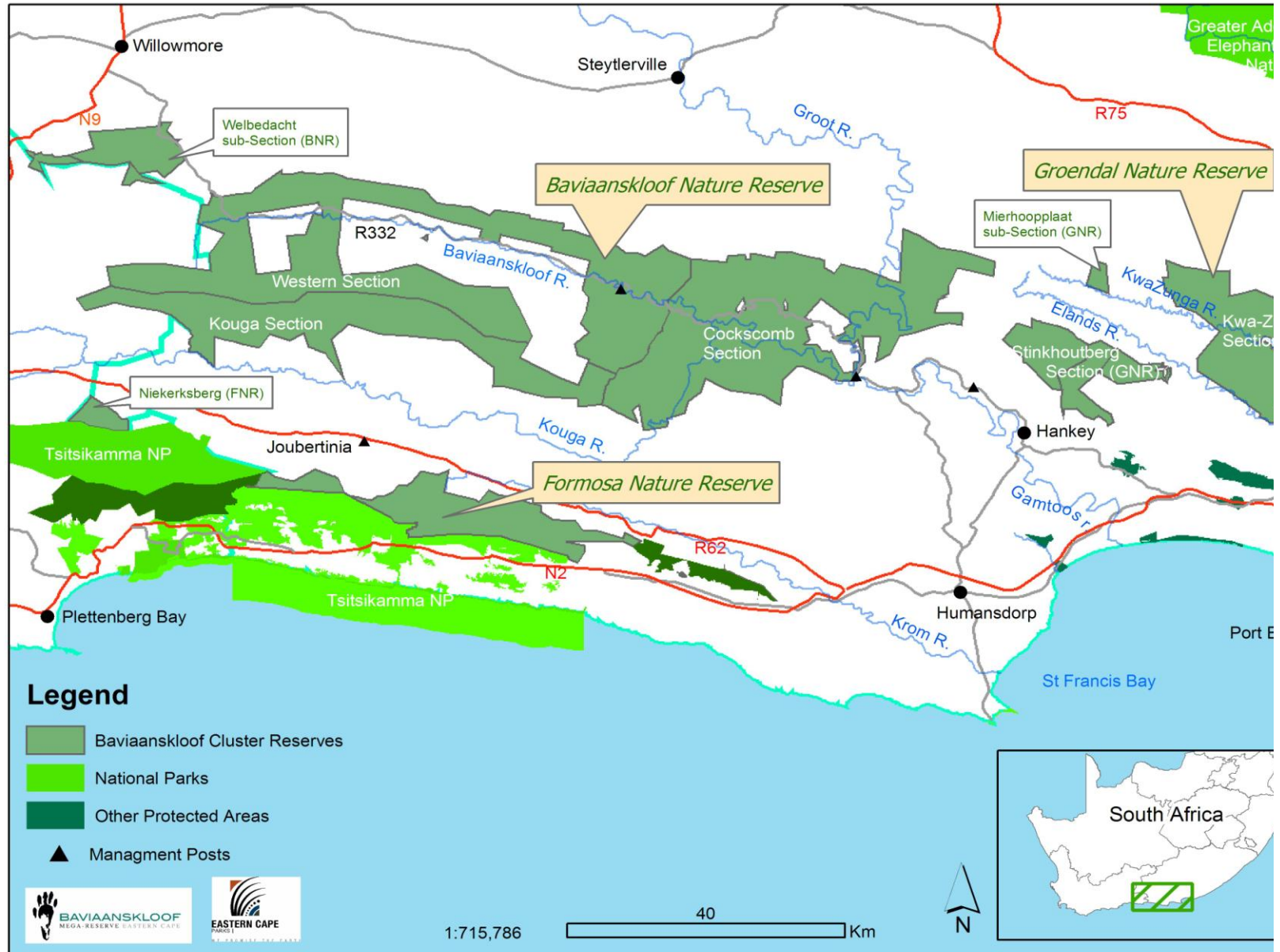
Japie Buckle

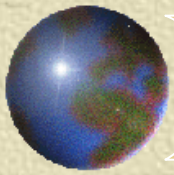


# *Content*

- ⊕ Location and Extent
- ⊕ Pre 1923 – Khoi-San & “Crown Land”
- ⊕ Management since 1923 – Dept. of Forestry
- ⊕ 1970’s – Water catchment area
- ⊕ 1987 – 1994: Cape Nature Conservation and ECNC
- ⊕ 2002 – Baviaanskloof Mega Reserve idea
- ⊕ 2004 World Heritage Site status

**Map 1. Location of Eastern Cape Parks Board Baviaanskloof Reserve Cluster; including the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve, Groendal Nature Reserve and Formosa Nature Reserve** (The Island Nature Reserve situated in Port Elizabeth is part of the region but is not shown)

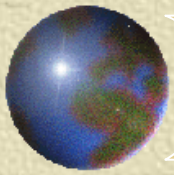




## *Location and Extent*

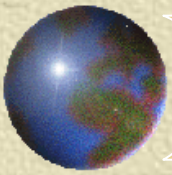
- Cluster made up of 3 Nature Reserves
  - 1) Baviaanskloof NR (Western, Cockscomb, Kouga sections)
  - 2) Groendal NR
  - 3) Formosa NR (Tsitsikamma mountains) - 45 175ha

Cluster made up of 3 Nature Reserves	
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Cluster	
Baviaanskloof NR	211 476ha
Groendal NR	<u>45 428</u>
<b>TOTAL Area</b>	<u>256 904ha</u>



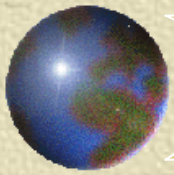
## *Conservation Prehistory*

- ✚ Past 20 000 years San (Bushmen) hunter-gatherers lived in caves and rock shelters – many rock paintings in the area as proof
- ✚ Some 2000 years ago Khoi pastoralist settled in the region
- ✚ First European farmers arrived around 1817 in the Kloof – cultivation of floodplains and livestock grazing



## *Pre - 1923*

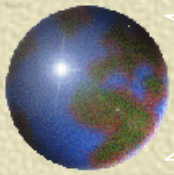
- ✦ Mountainous areas was declared “Crown Land” - no management
- ✦ Open land available for grazing by neighboring landowners



## *Period from 1923 - 1970*

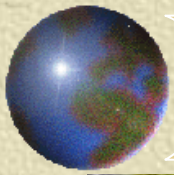
- ✚ Crown Land was Declared as the Baviaanskloof Forest Reserve and managed by the then Department of Forestry with a Forester stationed at Prince Albert
- ✚ The first Forester in the Baviaanskloof was appointed at Studtis in the 1930's
- ✚ Interventions was limited to reconnaissance, impounding stray livestock and controlling fires

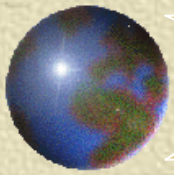




## *Period 1970 to April 1987*

- ✦ Status of Forest Reserve –managed by the Dept. of Environment and Forestry as a Mountain Catchment Area
- ✦ During 1977 parcels of land along the Kouga River was purchased and transferred to the Dept. to be managed as mountain catchment.
- ✦ During this period more staff was appointed to managed the area.



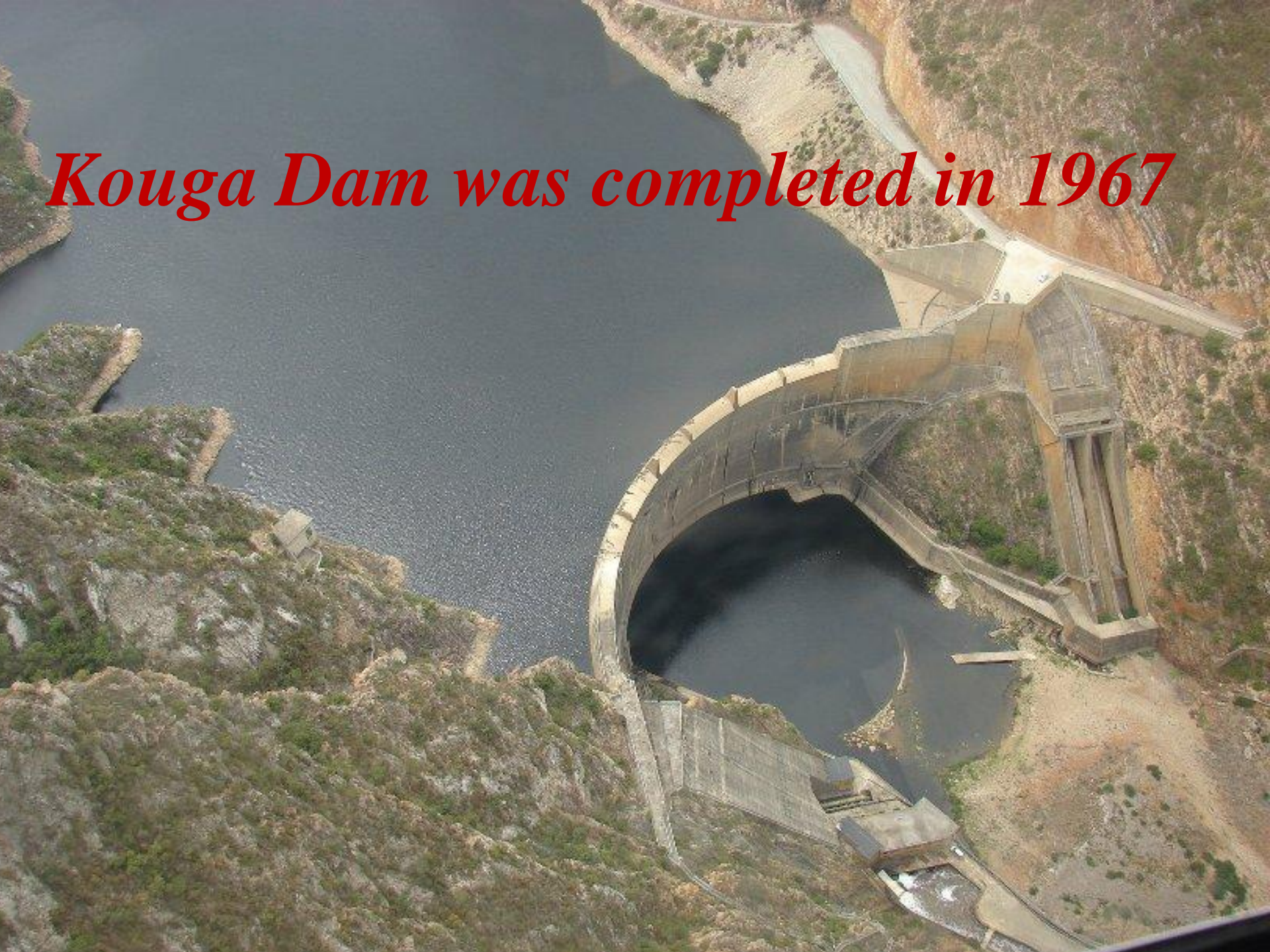


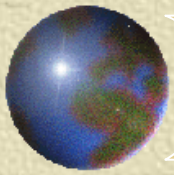
## *Period 1970 to April 1987*

- ✚ Main management activities during this period included the making of firebreaks for the purpose of rotational block burning scheme to reduce fire hazards.
- ✚ Foresters also embarked on the building of a road network into the mountains to make the area more accessible.
- ✚ A program to control Alien invasive plants also started during this period – Black wattle, Hakea, Pines and Nerium oleander.



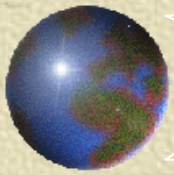
*Kouga Dam was completed in 1967*





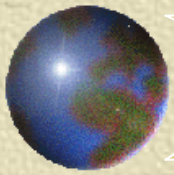
## *Period 1987 to 1994*

- From 1 April 1987 control was transferred to the Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope, and the area was managed by Cape Nature Conservation until 1994, when control was transferred to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism



## *Period 1987 to 1994*

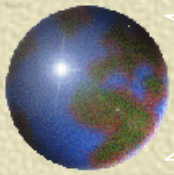
- ✚ These departments were the driving force behind the consolidation and expansion of the Baviaanskloof protected area to form the Mega Reserve which comprises both formal protected areas and privately owned land.



## *Period 1987 to 1994*

- ✿ A program of land purchase began in 1986, and with the assistance of funds from the World Wildlife Fund, SAA, the African Wildlife Heritage Trust, the Willow Trust, the Wilderness Leadership School and the Brodie Family, some 15 322 ha of land were purchased and a further 4 338 ha acquired by the State. Subsequently further land was purchased





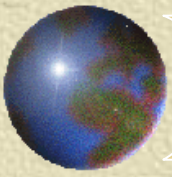
## *Period 1987 to 1994*

- ✦ **Main management objectives during this period:**
- ✦ Managed the catchment for good quality water production including natural fire management
- ✦ Removal of Alien Invasive plants (70% of budget) and domesticated animals (donkeys and cattle)
- ✦ Managed the area as a Wilderness Area for recreational use by the public



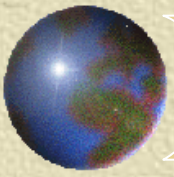
# *Doodsklip*

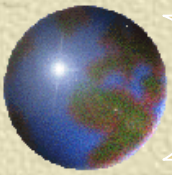




# *Slot canyons*



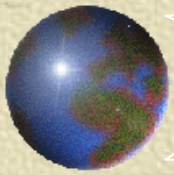




## *Definition of a wilderness area*

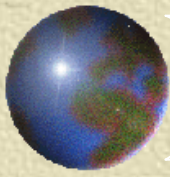
*“Large areas of unmodified or slightly modified land retaining its natural character and influence, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural condition.”*

*As defined in the 7<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress proceedings*

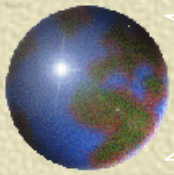


## *Period 1987 to 1994*

- ✚ **Main management objectives during this period:**
- ✚ Re-introduction of game that used to occur in the area e.g.
- ✚ Mountain Zebra in 1990
- ✚ Eland in 1989
- ✚ Red Hartebeest in 1991



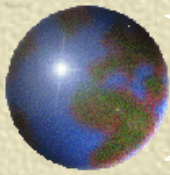


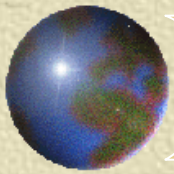


## *Period 1994 to 2004*

- ✦ Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve managed by Dept. of Economic Affairs, Environment & Tourism – E. Cape Prov. Govt.
- ✦ 2002 – Project Management Unit - WF
- ✦ Sections managed according to wilderness principles
- ✦ Reduction in management budget
- ✦ Introduction of Buffalo into the core Wilderness area
- ✦ Access road deteriorated

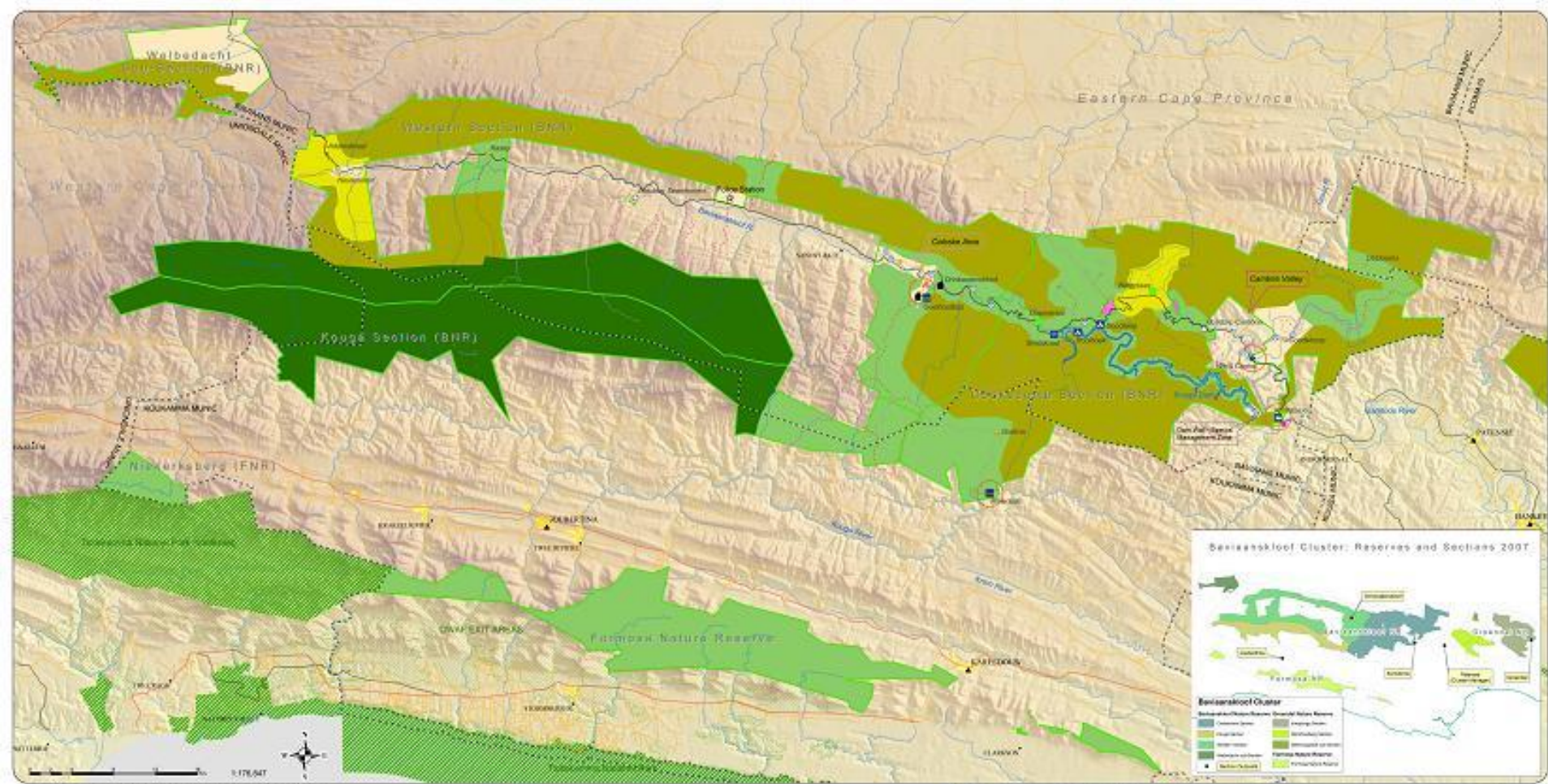






## *Period 2004 to present*

- ✦ In June 2009 the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency took responsibility for the management and further development of the Mega-Reserve landscape initiative
- ✦ Stewardship program
- ✦ Strategic Management plan produced by the PMU
- ✦ Introduction of Black Rhino – require intense monitoring
- ✦ Outsourcing of tourism facilities.



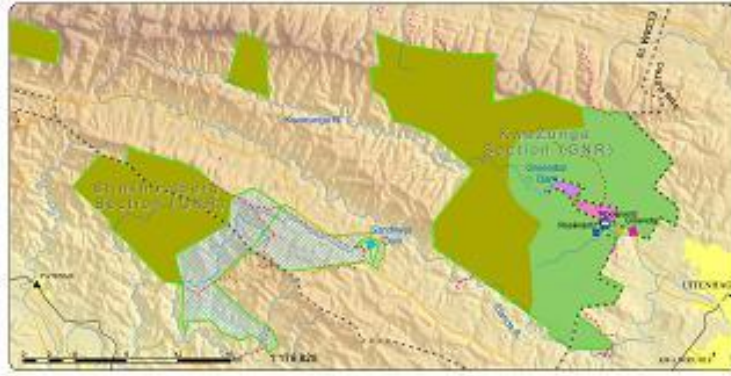
**BAVIAANSKLOOF RESERVE CLUSTER  
CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT  
FRAMEWORK: Draft 1  
February 2007**

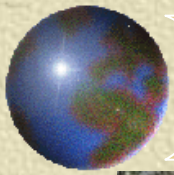


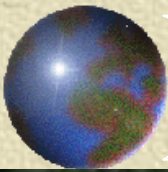
Draft CDP © February 2007. Prepared by Andrew Shorroch  
Baviaanskloof Reserve Cluster (BRC)

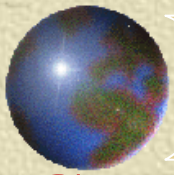
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>FRONTIER AREAS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-CDP PA</li> <li>CDP Reserve</li> <li>Non-CDP/CDP Cluster Section</li> </ul> <p><b>Roads and Tracks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main road (not R102)</li> <li>Other road (not R102)</li> <li>Foot track</li> <li>Waterfall</li> <li>Former dirt road</li> <li>Managed track (not R102)</li> <li>Coast road</li> </ul> <p><b>Municipalities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Area</li> <li>Village</li> <li>Facilities</li> <li>Major Street</li> <li>State</li> <li>Neighbourhood</li> </ul> | <p><b>Relative Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cottage &amp; chalet</li> <li>Basic structure</li> <li>CDP &amp; non-CDP site</li> <li>POC site</li> <li>Heritage site</li> <li>Coast road</li> <li>Coast road</li> <li>Heritage office</li> <li>POC office</li> <li>Entry/exit</li> <li>Intercept</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Management Overlay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation Area</li> <li>Heritage Management Area</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
WILDERNESS	An area retaining an inherently wild appearance and character, which is undisturbed and free from roads, artificial permanent improvements or human habitation and provides outstanding opportunities for scientific study. Currently designated or planned for designation as Wilderness in areas of Protected Areas. For within the next 5 years. Managed to protect and maintain natural and cultural resources sustainably and the protection of environmental goals and scientific. Limited management interventions, applied using 'Track-light' principles. Restricted number of users, using a track or foot path. Activities include hiking on no defined routes, and scientific research.
WILDERNESS	Area retaining a predominantly wild character and Wilderness appearance but does not comply with criteria for legal designation as Wilderness. Human impacts, infrastructure etc. are low in the area but are not from certain heritage paths. Management needs to mitigate the impact from within the zone. No new social infrastructure but existing buildings of cultural value could be used where possible to reduce the impact. Limited interaction between groups, activities could include, hiking on defined routes, learning, environmental education, research, and scientific. The restricted access, and have no issue camping only for defined activities.
WILDERNESS	Similar to Remote Zone in that it is predominantly wild and wild area, but with greater facility with regard to infrastructure, picnic sites, trails and other controlled site activities. All infrastructure designed to have minimal impact on the wilderness character of the area. Restricted user numbers and group size. Activities include site visits, horse trails, hiking trails, mountain-bike trails. Management access to area regular in order to mitigate negative impact of tourist activities.
QUANT	This Zone provides an outdoor recreation environment in a natural quiet setting, with limited interaction between groups and a reduced level of isolation. The activities in the Zone are low-impact and low-intensity, and the activities are all low-impact. Activities include horse trails, hiking on designated trails, mountain-bike trails, learning, scientific research, and scientific. Limited and carefully designed infrastructure and tourism infrastructure provided. Access to management services only.
LOW INTENSITY (CDP)	This Zone provides for a range of recreational activities (mountain and non-mountain) in a landscape that is open to farms, a greater number of visitors and groups. Infrastructure (except group) is part of the experience. Limited sensitive base affect on accessibility and enjoyment of the area. POC site, scientific research, mountain-bike, horse trails, and management of the reserve. A range of low-impact recreational activities including, hiking, mountain-bike, learning, scientific research, and scientific. Limited and carefully designed infrastructure and tourism infrastructure provided. Access to management services only.
WILDERNESS	Special Zone - Primary interest is in the scientific value of the reserve. Agreements between owner and CDP are in place to manage access to the reserve and scientific research, and scientific. Management of the reserve.
WILDERNESS	Special Zone - Area around the Cape Gate which is managed by the Baviaanskloof Reserve Cluster (BRC). Formation of agreements between BRC and CDP to manage access and scientific research, and scientific. Management of the reserve.
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## *Current research and rehabilitation projects on Conservation and Private land*

- ✚ Spekboom project
- ✚ Restoration of the Alluvial “fans” of tributaries entering the Baviaanskloof River – Living Lands
- ✚ Rehabilitation of the wetlands in the floodplains of the main truck of the Bavaainskloof River

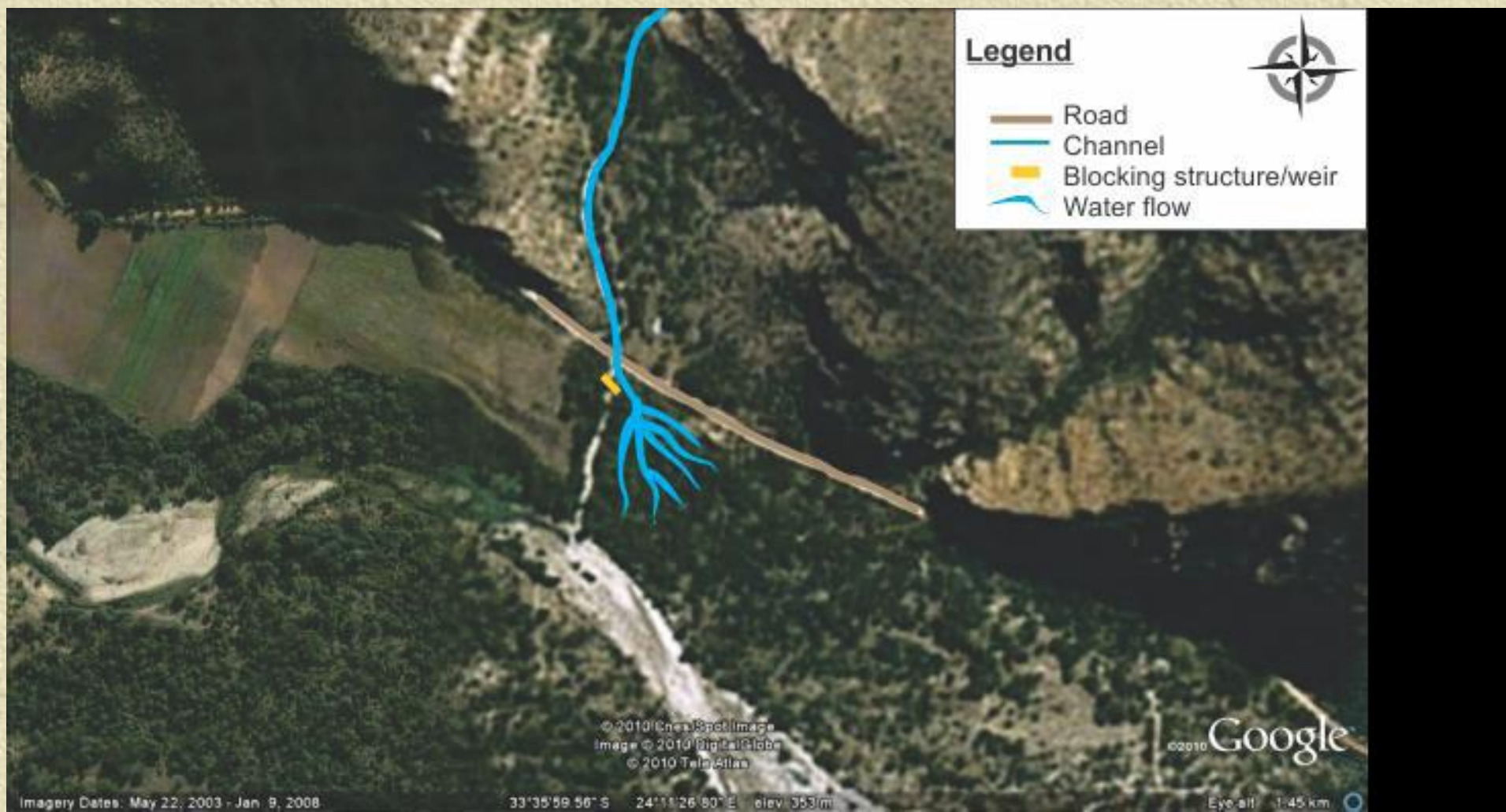
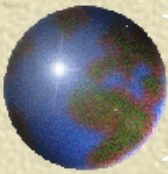


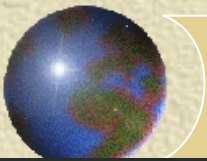


18/02/2012 17:08



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### Legend









-  Road
-  Channel
-  Artificial berms
-  Blocking structures/wiers
-  Buildings
-  Water flow

Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe  
© 2010 Inria Atlas

Google

Imagery Date: May 22, 2003

33°34'32.45" S 24°08'21.52" E elev. 388 m

Eye alt: 1.91 km





