

Projected contribution of WWF Sustainable Farms Initiative to the conservation of biodiversity in the Western Cape (Fruit & Wine Sector) with recommendations for prioritisation.

FOOTPRINT Environmental Services (FES) were required to provide the WWF with an industry footprint for the Fruit and Wine Sector in the Western Cape Province in terms of the number of cadastral, Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA's), Critical Ecological Support Areas (CESA's), Ecological Support Areas (ESA's), NFEPA Rivers & Wetlands, TMF Corridors, Mountain Catchment Areas (MCA's) and vegetation status. To achieve this FES aimed to provide a series of data sets which addressed the following key requirements:

- The aim of the prioritisation process should be based on a choice in terms of weighting the relevant criteria used to drive the prioritisation of a given parcel of land or in this instance a particular quaternary catchment containing multiple parcels of land, a variety of landuse, protection status and biodiversity features.
- The prioritisation process should reflect the relative importance of these parcels of land within a quaternary catchment relative to one another in an integrated manner.
- The criteria used to drive the prioritisation process are not discrete entities but interactive and as such should all be represented in the process of prioritisation, the eventual importance of a given criterion in driving the priorities should be assigned subjectively by the management team in accordance and alignment with the desired strategic outcome of the conservation intervention.
- Cost effectiveness of management interventions must in some way be accommodated in the prioritisation process. In an instance such as this decision making on prioritisation should particularly focus on extension effort for conservation returns. This is a second tier prioritisation process to be applied to a set number of identified prioritised catchments to aid decision making when choosing between two priority catchments.
- A robust means of calculating gains that the sector as a whole makes to conserving important biodiversity is required.