



IBA PROGRAMME

Knysna Turaco
ALBERT FRONEMAN

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) Programme is a BirdLife International initiative to conserve important bird species and their habitats. There are over 12 500 IBAs worldwide.

A remarkable 847 bird species occur in South Africa, about 8% of the world's bird species. Sadly, over 15% of our bird species are threatened with extinction, mainly due to loss of suitable habitat. Managing a network of 112 South African IBAs is our best hope of conserving our threatened, endemic, biome restricted and congregatory birds. There are 13 IBAs in the Eastern Cape.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING IBAS

IBAs are determined using globally accepted scientific criteria. An IBA is selected on the presence of one or more of the following bird species in a geographic area:

- Bird species that are globally (A1) or regionally (C1) threatened;
- Assemblages of restricted-range (A2) bird species (restricted to less than 50 000 km²);
- Assemblages of biome-restricted (A3) bird species (75% of range confined to one biome); and
- Sites that either hold >1% of the biogeographic population of a congregatory species, or hold >20 000 waterbirds to meet the global criteria (A4), or >0.5% or >10 000 waterbirds to meet the regional criteria (C4).

CONSERVING IBAS

BirdLife South Africa conserves IBAs by prioritising sites for conservation action, obtaining formal protection, developing management plans for IBAs and biomes, defending priority sites that are under threat and implementing monitoring programmes. Volunteer based Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) support these projects by surveying IBAs, implementing conservation action and educating the local youth about birds and habitats. BirdLife South Africa works with bird clubs, landowners and other organisations across the Eastern Cape to establish LCGs.

Biodiversity Stewardship is a national programme that engages private and communal landowners to assist them to formally declare their high biodiversity value lands as legally protected areas, and to improve the management of these lands for supporting livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. The Regional Conservation Manager is working with partners to implement stewardship work aimed at formally proclaiming priority IBAs as protected areas. BirdLife South Africa comments on proposed developments in or surrounding IBAs to ensure that these developments take account of valuable natural resources.

BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA

BirdLife South Africa is the country partner of BirdLife International, a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity. BirdLife International is represented in over 100 countries. BirdLife South Africa works nationally and has more than 4,000 members and over 30 affiliated bird clubs. BirdLife South Africa focuses on threatened bird species and Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, and works with people to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

BirdLife South Africa relies on the public, especially birders and nature enthusiasts, as well as landowners, government and NGO partners, to assist us in conserving IBAs. You can get involved in the following ways:

- Join BirdLife South Africa: visit www.birdlife.org.za
- Join your local bird club
- Join an existing Local Conservation Group, or assist us to start one around your local IBA
- Bring to our attention any threats to an IBA, and join us in advocating for the IBA's protection
- Become an IBA Champion for a priority IBA
- Donate to the IBA Fund to support ground level conservation work in IBAs

IBAS OF THE EASTERN CAPE

Name	IBA No.	Approx. size (ha)	Protection status	Qualifying criteria
Matatiele Nature Reserve	SAo82	4 580	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Mkhambathi Nature Reserve	SAo87	7 474	Fully	A1, A2, A3, A4ii
Colleywobbles Vulture Colony	SAo88	3097	None	A1, A4ii
Dwesa–Cwebe Nature Reserve	SAo89	5 735	Fully	A1, A2, A3
Camdeboo National Park	SAo90	22 710	Fully	A1, A3, A4ii
Amatola–Katberg Mountain	SAo92	310 290	Partial	A1, A2, A3
Kouga–Baviaanskloof Complex	SAo93	298 311	Partial	A1, A2, A3
Woody Cape Section: Addo Elephant NP	SAo94	79 420	Partial	A1, A2, A3
Algoa Bay Islands: Addo Elephant NP	SAo95	2 678	Fully	A1, A4i, ii, iii
Swartkops Estuary–Redhouse and Chatty Salt pans	SAo96	2 878	Partial	A1, A2, A3, A4i, iii
Maitland–Gamtoos Coast	SAo97	1 498	Partial	A1, A2, A3, A4i
Tsitsikamma–Plettenberg Bay	SAo98	57 570	Partial	A1, A2, A3, A4i
Pondoland Cape Vulture	SA126	12 260	None	A1, A4ii

Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas of the EASTERN CAPE



WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Rupert Nature Foundation



CONTACT DETAILS

Important Bird Areas Manager: Daniel Marnewick

IBA National Office

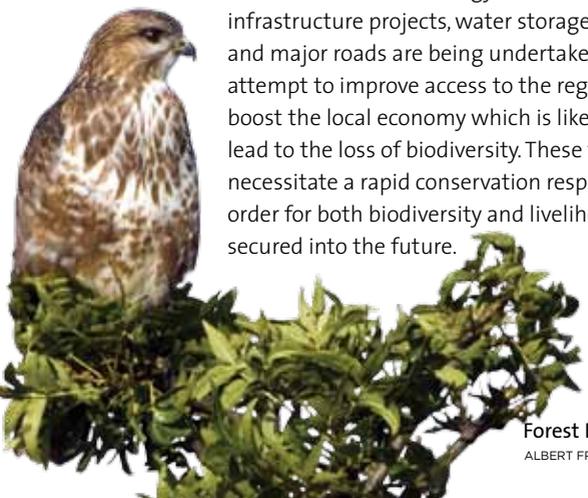
Tel: +27 (11) 789 1122 • email: daniel.marnewick@birdlife.org.za

www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/important-bird-areas/iba-directory

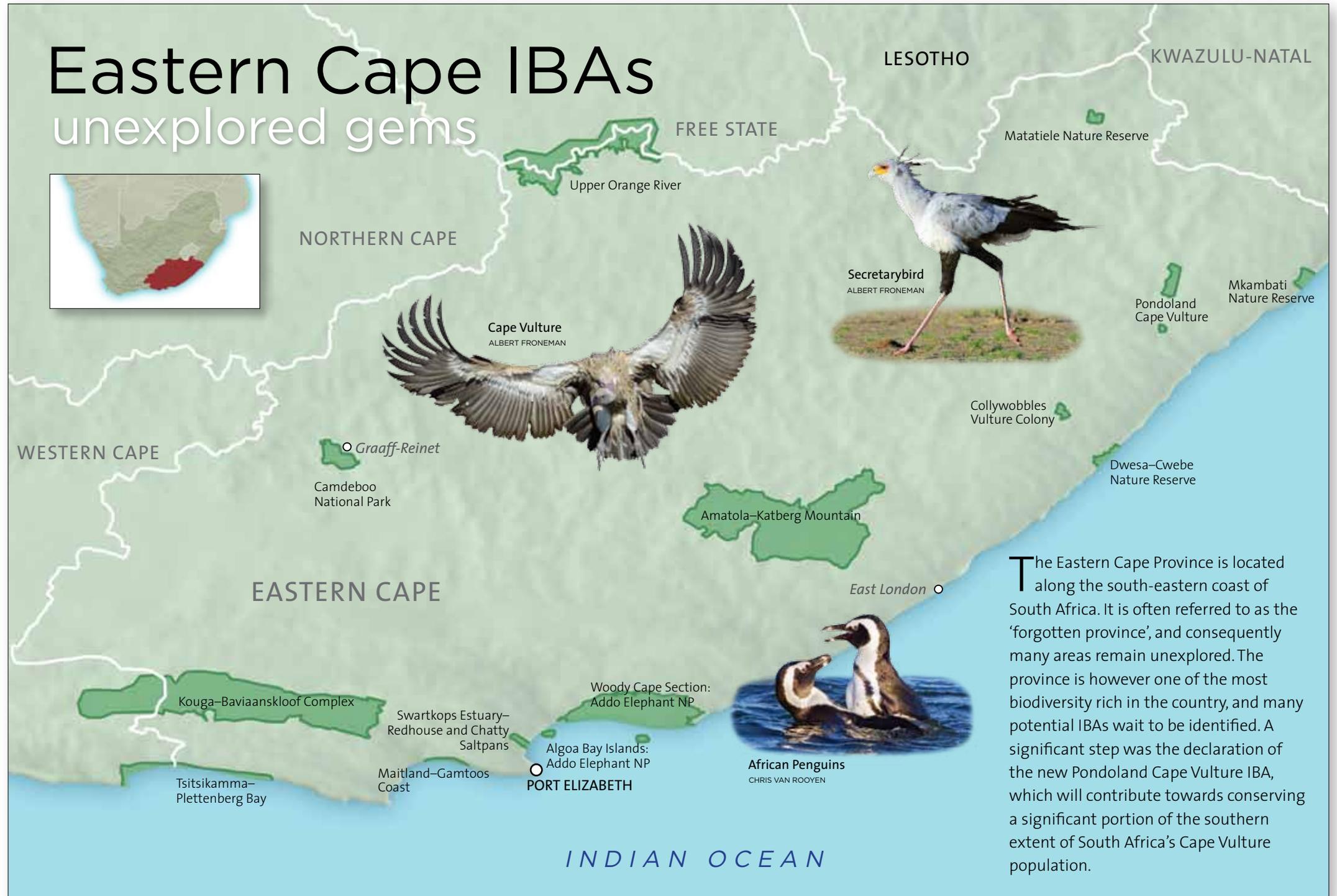
HABITAT TYPES The region has the highest biome diversity of any province, hosting seven major biomes, namely the Fynbos, Forest, Thicket, Grassland, Savanna, Nama-Karoo and Succulent Karoo Biomes. There are also three global biodiversity hotspots which overlap to varying degrees within the province, thus illustrating both the national and international importance of conservation in the region. These hotspots are the Cape Floristic Region, Succulent Karoo and the Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany.

FLAGSHIP SPECIES FOR THE REGION There are 13 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas in this region, spread across coastal, forest and Karoo landscapes. The province hosts 31 threatened bird species, many different raptors and, importantly, it has a large population of Cape Vultures. The Forest Biome hosts a number of biome-restricted species such as Knysna Woodpecker, Knysna Turaco, Olive Bush-Shrike and Forest Buzzard. Dry-land Karoo species occupy the north of the region, including Secretarybird, Denham's Bustard and Karoo Korhaan. This is further contrasted by the diversity of coastal species, and the Algoa Bay Islands are fast becoming the most important breeding locality on the South African coast for African Penguins and Cape Gannets.

THREATS TO EASTERN CAPE'S BIRDS Although approximately 70% of the province still contains natural land with low levels of transformation, only an estimated 4% of the province is contained within formal protected areas, and these sites are generally skewed towards the west of the province. To the east of the province is the previous Transkei homeland which is one of the least developed regions in South Africa with many rural communities still reliant on natural resources. A number of developments such as wind energy facilities, electrical infrastructure projects, water storage schemes and major roads are being undertaken in an attempt to improve access to the region and boost the local economy which is likely to lead to the loss of biodiversity. These factors necessitate a rapid conservation response, in order for both biodiversity and livelihoods to be secured into the future.



Forest Buzzard
ALBERT FRONEMAN



The Eastern Cape Province is located along the south-eastern coast of South Africa. It is often referred to as the 'forgotten province', and consequently many areas remain unexplored. The province is however one of the most biodiversity rich in the country, and many potential IBAs wait to be identified. A significant step was the declaration of the new Pondoland Cape Vulture IBA, which will contribute towards conserving a significant portion of the southern extent of South Africa's Cape Vulture population.