



KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA THE ECOPOTENTIAL PROJECT SITE



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About the Protected Area

Kruger National Park (KNP) is a National Park managed by the South African National Parks (SANPARKS). Originally designated as a National Park because of concern for over-hunting. Since then the objectives have changed considerably and way beyond just protecting animals. The park was preserved since 1902, and became a National Park in 1926.

Vision of SANPARKS

A sustainable National Park System connecting society

Mission statement of SANPARKS

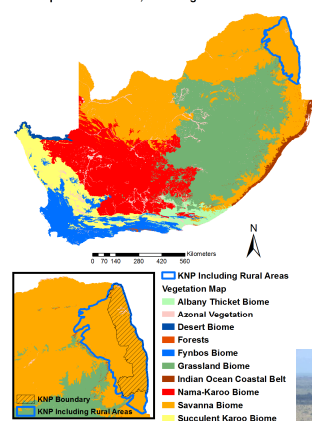
To **develop, expand, manage and promote a system of sustainable national parks** that represents biodiversity and heritage assets, through innovation and best practice for the just and equitable benefit of current and future generations.

Location set up and Biodiversity

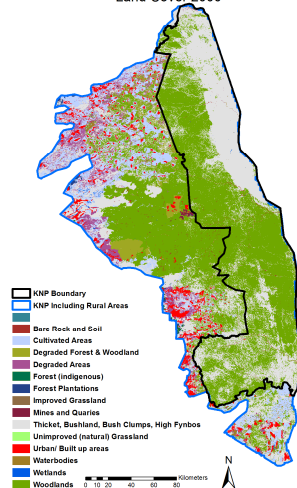
KNP is a fenced National Park located in the north-eastern part of South Africa. In a savanna ecosystem, Kruger is nearly occupying about 2 million hectares with impressive number of species. It is bordered by the rural areas, game reserves and agricultural activities in the western and southern part.



Biome Map of South Africa, Including Lesotho and Swaziland



Land Cover 2000



Ecosystem function and services

Type of Ecosystems

- Savanna Woodlands
- Open Savanna Grasslands
- Riparian Ecosystems

Ecosystem Functions

- Vegetation production, fire
- Fire
- Biogeochemical cycling
- Biodiversity

Ecosystem Services

- Ecotourism
- Agriculture (livestock production)
- Grazing and browsing resources
- Energy
- Carbon sinks or sequestration
- Watershed protection
- Food resources
- Riparian biodiversity
- Wood resources
- Flood control

Major Threats

- Poaching of large mammals (e.g. Rhino)
- Land use changes in the buffer areas of the park
- Bush encroachment
- Invasive species (e.g. *Paternionium spp*)
- Climate change
- Loss of vegetation structure
 - Illegal logging outside the park
- Reduction in water quality and quantity– inflow to the park

Major Ecosystem Drivers

- Fire
- Geology
- Precipitation
- Topography
- Grazers and browsers

Existing data sets

KNP has a history of research activities with reach *in situ* data. CSIR has a history of research activities in this area with plethora of remote sensing data and products.



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