

Inventory of the flora and vegetation of the calcareous dunes of the Cape south coast

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The calcareous Holocene dunes of the Cape Floristic Region's south coast support a coherent vegetation unit, comprising a mosaic of fynbos and thicket, that is species- and endemic-rich. Being coastal, this region is under increasing threat from a wide range of pressures. There is an urgent need to update the national vegetation map for this region, and to reassess the conservation status of its Red Data Book and endemic species. Our project will address this need by collating and collecting data required for these tasks, and by producing user-useful and user-friendly outputs for SANBI's biodiversity monitoring and biodiversity planning functions. These outputs include annotated checklists; a coherent, statistically defensible classification and delimitation of each mapping unit; digital maps at 1:30 000 scale; updated species conservation assessments; and specimens for barcoding and archiving. The project will include participation of five, mostly equity undergraduate students as a contribution to training a new generation of vegetation scientists for South Africa.