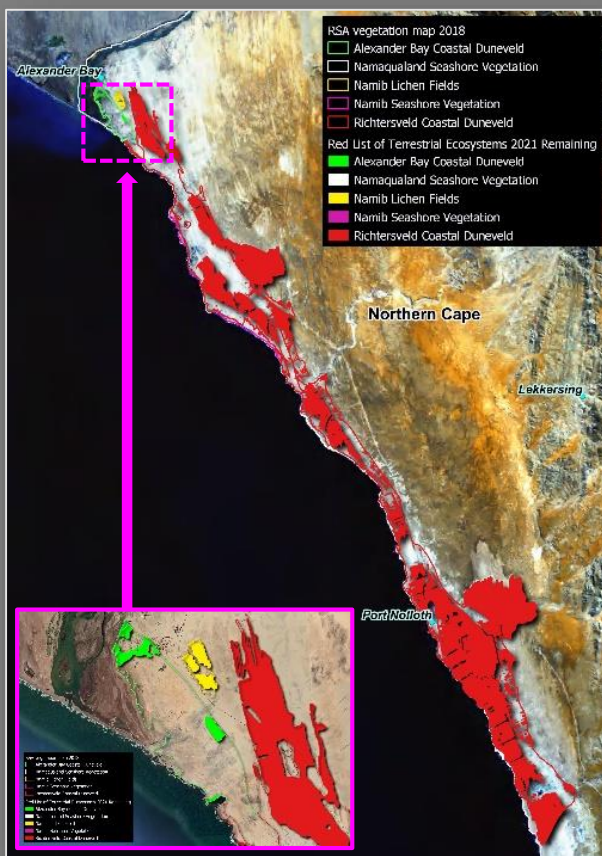


Red List of Ecosystems in the Northern Cape

The Northern Cape Province has a number of land-based threatened ecosystems that are contained in the draft Red List of Ecosystems for South Africa (2021). This list was compiled to supplement the 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment and replace the previous 2011 Red List. The criteria used is that of the IUCN Red Listed Ecosystems Framework which is the current standard in global evaluations.



South Africa’s Draft Red Listed Ecosystems (2021)



The northern coastal region had 5 RDL ecosystems

Ecosystems are categorised into four classes representing their risk of collapse, in order of risk:

- Least Concern
- Vulnerable
- Endangered
- Critically Endangered

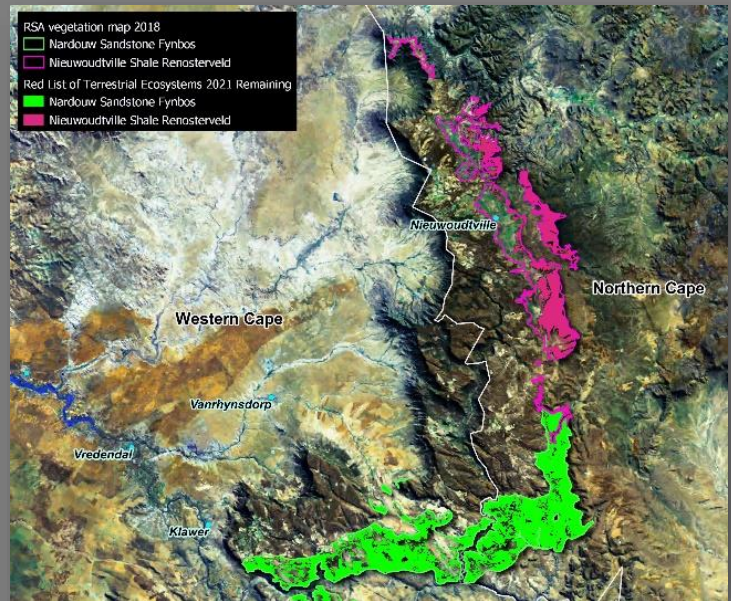
The Northern Cape has seven draft Red List ecosystems, all with Critically Endangered ratings. These ecosystems that are at risk occur in two broad regions namely the northern coastal region and the Bokkeveld.

The Red Data ecosystems of the northern coastal region are:

- o Alexander Bay Coastal Duneveld
- o Namaqualand seashore vegetation
- o Namib lichen fields
- o Namib seashore vegetation
- o Richtersveld Coastal Duneveld

The Red Data ecosystems of the Bokkeveld are:

- o Nardouw Sandstone Fynbos
- o Nieuwoudtville Shale Renosterveld



The Bokkeveld region has 2 RDL ecosystems



Namib lichen fields outside Alexander bay

Drivers of habitat loss: The advanced threats status of these ecosystems are due to their small sizes, the rate of habitat loss and limited intact habitat left. Habitat loss in the Bokkeveld region is primarily due to Rooibos tea cultivation and other agricultural lands and in the northern coastal region due to mining activity.

Implications for development: The National Environment: Biodiversity Act (No. 10 of 2004) makes provision for the listing of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection. The status of ecosystems are considered in environmental authorisation reviews to ensure that ecosystems and their functionality is maintained. Representative areas of Ecosystems must be protected and development must not push ecosystems into higher threat status categories. It is worth noting that the Northern Cape's draft Red Data Listed ecosystems are already in the highest threat status category.



Renosterveld vegetation of the Bokkeveld