

National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)

- NEMA is governed by three listing notices*, containing in total 123 listed activities that are typically threshold-dependent.
- If the proposed activity exceeds the threshold, NEMA is triggered, and the landowner must submit a Basic Assessment or Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (depending on the activity) for environmental authorisation from the appropriate competent authority:
- Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: general developments
- National Department of Environmental Affairs: protected areas and energy
- Department of Mineral Resources: mining

What can go ahead without environmental authorisation?



Brush-cutting firebreaks according to best practice



Alien clearing according to best practice



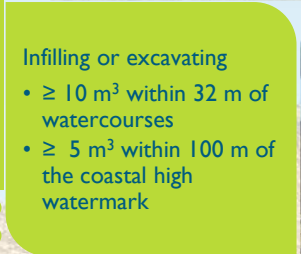
Activities approved as part of a Maintenance Management Plan, e.g. regular silt clearing of weir

Examples of common farm activities that trigger NEMA*



Ploughing virgin soil

- ≥ 300 m² of endangered or critically endangered indigenous vegetation
- ≥ 1 ha of non-threatened indigenous vegetation



Infilling or excavating

- ≥ 10 m³ within 32 m of watercourses
- ≥ 5 m³ within 100 m of the coastal high watermark



Water-related activities

- Dams, weirs, pipelines, jetties, bridges, etc.
- Wastewater treatment, infrastructure and transport



Electricity

- Generation: solar farms and wind turbines
- Transmission: power lines



General infrastructure

- Tourism accommodation and facilities
- Roads and runways
- Masts

What is a watercourse?

- Includes the bed and banks of rivers, wetlands, streams, springs, pans, lakes and natural dams
- Can be seasonal or permanent
- May not always be visible aboveground
- Should be delineated by a freshwater ecologist

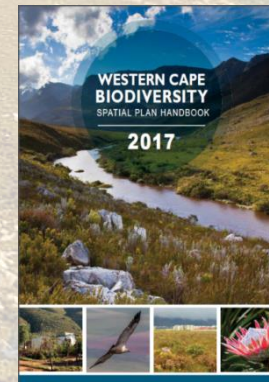


What is indigenous vegetation?

- Contains naturally occurring plants, regardless of level of invasive alien plant infestation
- Old lands left fallow with topsoil undisturbed for ≥ 10 years
- Should be surveyed by a botanical specialist, typically in spring.



Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP)

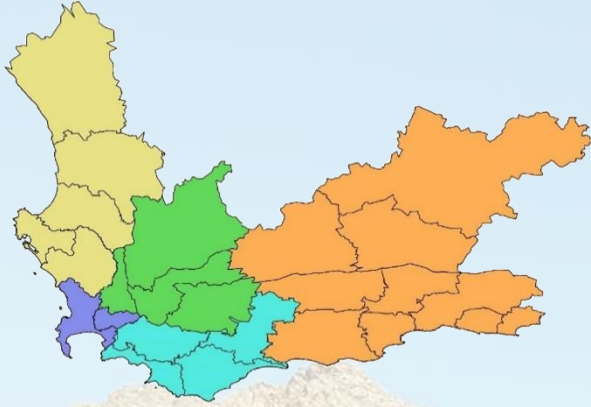


The WCBSP used best-available science to determine biodiversity priority areas. The WCBSP Handbook outlines the importance of Protected Areas, Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas and Other Natural Areas, and guides landowners on appropriate land uses therein. Download the maps and handbook at

<http://bgis.sanbi.org/Projects/Detail/194>, or access the maps online from CapeFarmMapper: <http://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>.

* Please refer to NEMA Listing Notices 1, 2 and 3 for the full conditions of all listed activities.

CapeNature Land Use Advice officials in your municipality



Berg River, Cederberg, Matzikamma,
Saldanha and Swartland
Alana Duffell-Canham
aduffell-canham@capenature.co.za

Breede Valley, Drakenstein, Langeberg and
Witzenberg
Philippa Huntly
phuntly@capenature.co.za

Beaufort West, Bitou, Knysna, Hessequa,
George, Kannaland, Laingsburg,
Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay and Prince Albert
Colin Fordham
cfordham@capenature.co.za

City of Cape Town and Stellenbosch
Rhett Smart
rsmart@capenature.co.za

Cape Agulhas, Overstrand, Swellendam and
Theewaterskloof
Chanel Rampartab
crampartab@capenature.co.za



Common farm activities: When do you need environmental authorisation?

