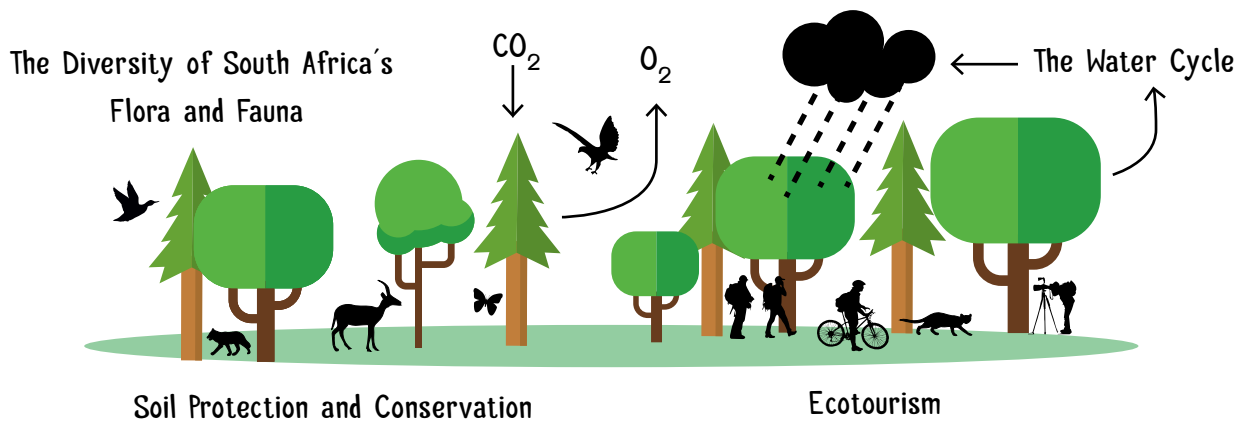


# GETTING TO KNOW SOUTH AFRICA'S FORESTS

**FORESTS** have a **CRUCIAL** role to play in:



Globally, there are over **800** definitions of a forest!

In South Africa, a forest is considered to be:

An area of land **DOMINATED** by **TREE SPECIES**  
with **OVERLAPPING CANOPIES**, covering at least **75%**  
of the area and very **LITTLE** grass or herbaceous **GROUND COVER**.



Although, South Africa by nature is not a forest rich country,  
it does have some natural (or indigenous) forests,  
as well as timber plantations.

# NATURAL FORESTS


# TIMBER PLANTATIONS


Areas of naturally growing indigenous tree species.

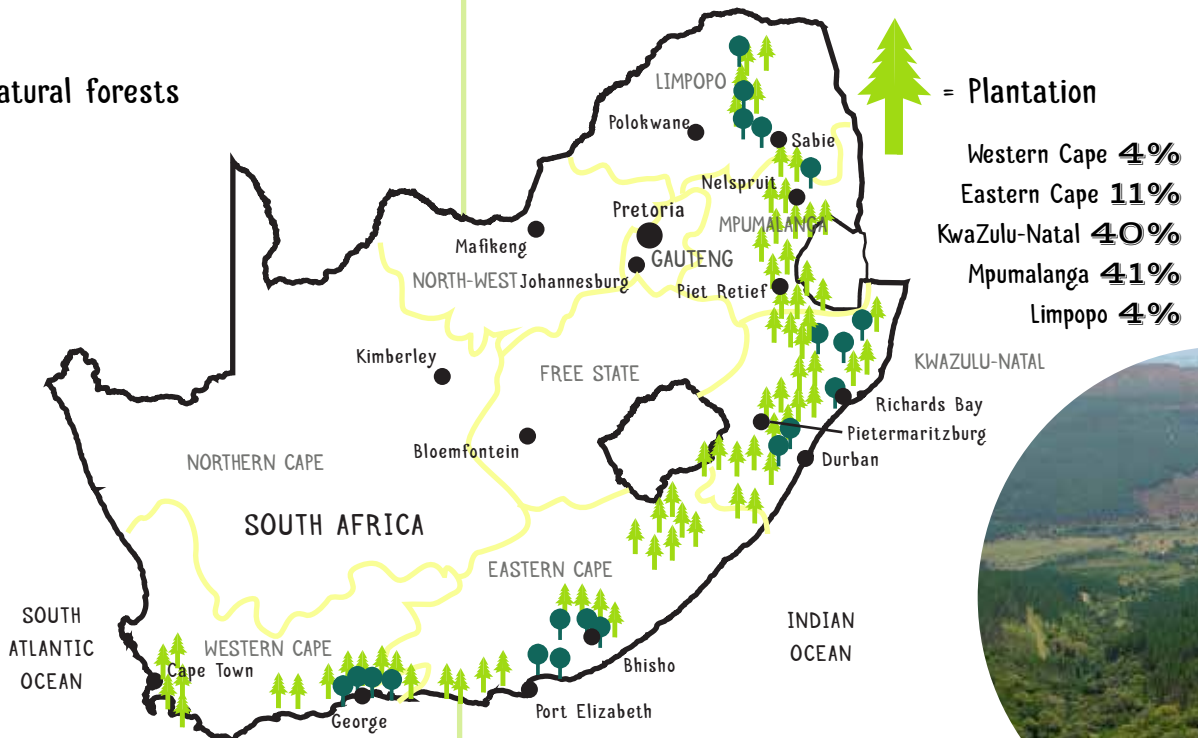
Established through afforestation, (planted on what were previously non-forest ecosystems). They comprise almost exclusively non-indigenous, (exotic), commercially profitable tree species.

**0.5 MILLION** hectares.  
**0.4%** of South Africa's land cover.

**1.3 MILLION** hectares.  
**1%** of South Africa's land cover.

 = Natural forests

 = Plantation



David Everard



David Everard

South Africa's natural forests are home to some **649** woody and **636** herbaceous natural plant species.

South Africa grows **3** major genera: Pine, Eucalyptus and Wattle.



Some are completely unique to South Africa.

The other **1%** is made up from a mix of other commercially grown indigenous species.

Around **25%** of South Africa's natural forests are conserved within timber plantations.