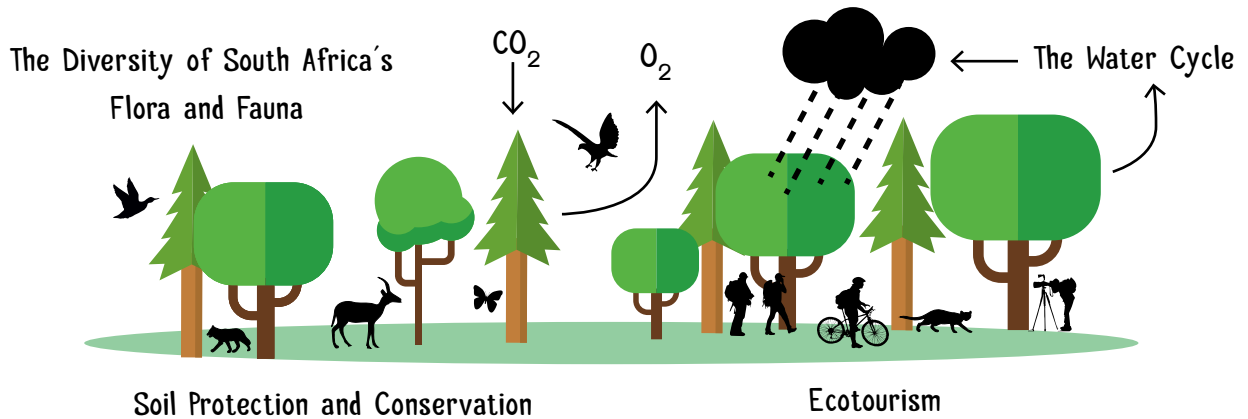


GETTING TO KNOW SOUTH AFRICA'S FORESTS

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.

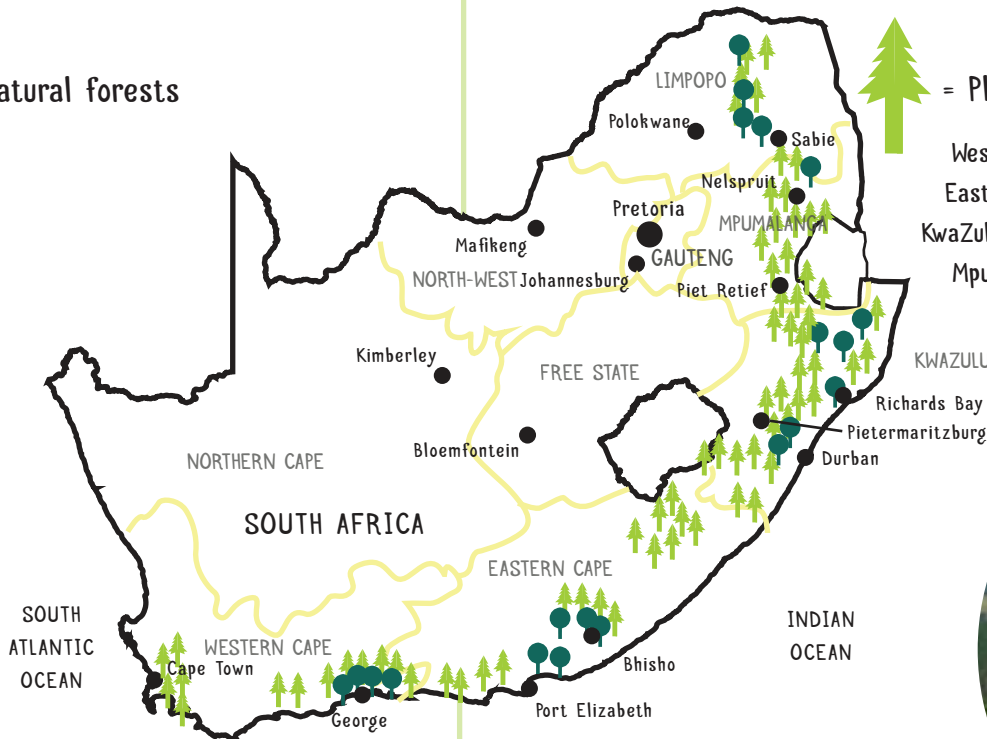
NATURAL FORESTS


TIMBER PLANTATIONS

Areas of naturally growing indigenous tree species.

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

 = Natural forests



 = Plantation

- Western Cape 4%
- Eastern Cape 11%
- KwaZulu-Natal 40%
- Mpumalanga 41%
- Limpopo 4%



David Everard

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



Some are completely unique to South Africa.

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

1.2 MILLION hectares,
1% of South Africa's land cover.

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



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



David Everard

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

