

2. Fynbos Biome

2.1 Quartzite Fynbos

Quartzite fynbos comprises almost 10% of the area of fynbos vegetation, being the third most extensive fynbos group, after sandstone and sand fynbos. Within the Fynbos Biome, it is largely confined to the more arid areas.

2.1.1 FFq6 Suurberg Quartzite Fynbos

This vegetation unit is statutorily conserved in the AENP (15%), with an additional 16% protected in the private Rockdale Game Ranch and Frontier Safaris Game Farm. Grassy fynbos is the most typical structural type, with localised patches of dense proteoid and ericaceous fynbos. On drier, north-facing slopes grassland replaces this unit, but the south-facing slope always carry fynbos unless converted to grassland by excessive burning or to thicket by over-protection from fire (Mucina & Rutherford 2006)

2.2 Shale fynbos

Shale fynbos occurs in areas with leached soils derived from shale. Shale fynbos is the fourth largest group of fynbos types and comprises 5% of the area of fynbos. Floristically and structurally the shale fynbos is very similar to granite fynbos except that it lacks the rocky outcrops and boulders typical of granite fynbos and thus lacks the scrub forest and thicket elements (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).

2.2.1 FFh10 Suurberg Shale Fynbos

About 40% of this vegetation unit is statutorily conserved in the AENP and 6% in addition in the private Rockdale Game Ranch and Kuzuho Game Reserve (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). This vegetation occurs normally in low mountains or hill, supporting low to medium high, closed, ericoid shrubland or grassland, with closed restioid and/or grass understorey. Graminoid fynbos, with localised patches of dense proteoid fynbos, also occurs.