The previous South African Red Data Book for Mammals was published in 1986 (Smithers, 1986) and covered terrestrial mammals only. Since this publication, South Africa has experienced changes to its provincial borders, amendments to the taxonomic A CAMP is a broad-based, comprehensive and scientifically-sound assessment of the taxonomic groups of a region or country using the IUCN’s Red List criteria to categorise the level of threat facing species. As a means of updating the South African Red Data Book for Mammals, the CBSG’s CAMP process was identified as a comprehensive and scientifically-sound means of assessing species and CBSG Southern Africa, a regional CBSG.

South Africa's long coastline stretches for over 3000 kilometres, from Namibia in the West to Mozambique in the East. There are a few key features to note about South Africa's coastline and marine biomes. The area is also characterised by sands and rocky and red clay, making erosion occur easily. Flora: it is characterised by grassy dwarf shrub land. Fauna: the flora provides good grazing for sheep and goats. South Africa's Cape Floristic region is legendary, and the unique nature of the fynbos biome has been celebrated by biologists, conservationists, development experts, and ecologist worldwide. (Adapted from speech by Tasneem Essop the Western Cape Provincial Minister for Environment, Planning and Economic Development). The Red Data Book that classifies rare and endangered plants records that the fynbos biome has the highest number of listed plants in it in the world. Three quarters of all plants in the South African Red Data Book occur in the Cape Floral Kingdom. Human Development and Expansion. Colonisation of the Cape and growing European settlement gradually transformed fynbos country into vast farmlands of wheat, barley, oats, canola, fruit trees, vineyards and livestock pastures for sheep and cattle.