

4.4.9 Zone 9: Linkages and Corridors

This management zone acknowledges the complex landscape-level interactions in the study area and the need for establishing appropriate hydrological and ecological corridors that are able to create linkages between highly sensitive features for safeguarding water resources and critical ecosystem types. The establishment of a network of protected nature areas and the linking of such areas through appropriate ecological corridors have been proposed by stakeholders in the area but it has not yet been formalised. This includes a link between Lake Nsezi in the north-west to the Sanctuary Estuary. Biodiversity linkages and corridors for the coastal plain area must still be defined.

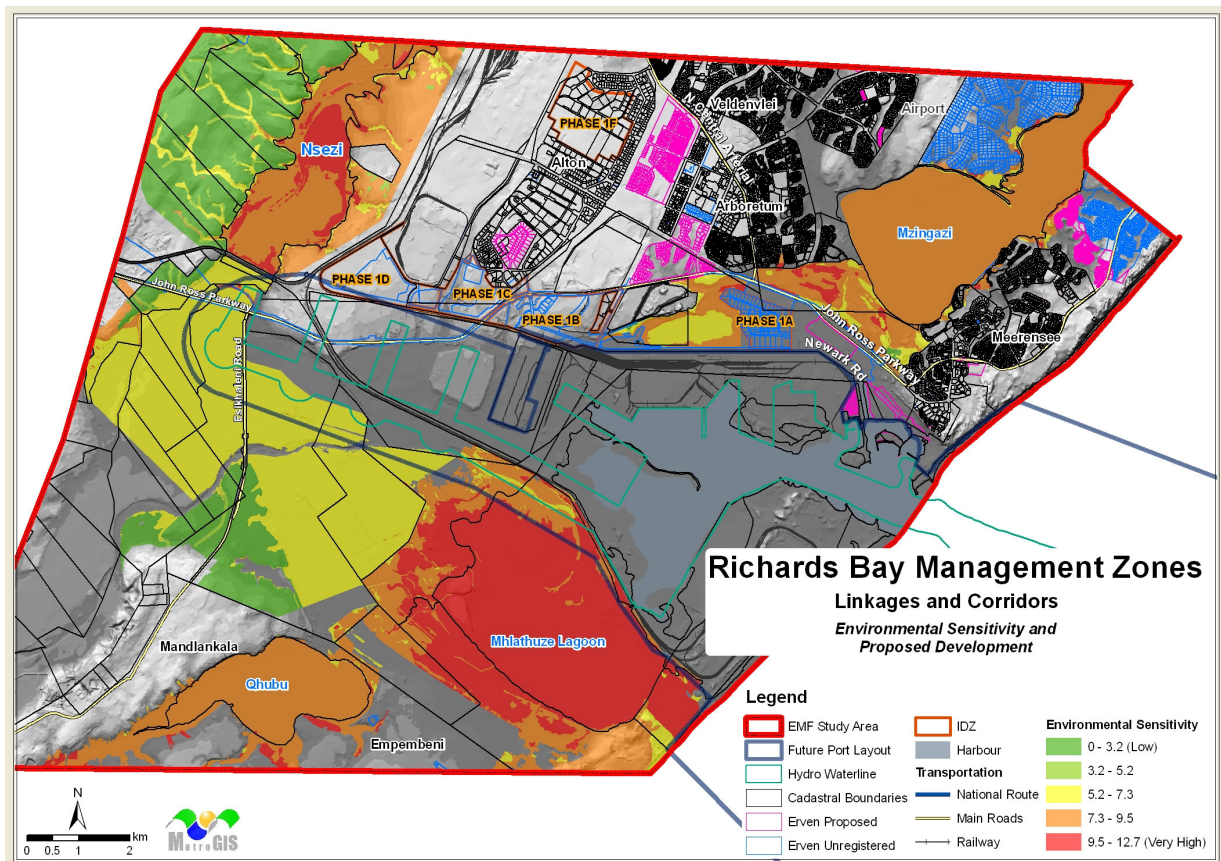


Figure 61: ZONE 9: Linkages and Corridors

CONSTRAINTS IN THIS ZONE:

Land earmarked for conservation is under private tenure and classified as prime agriculture land.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS ZONE:

There are opportunities to “unlock” development in the study area through the identification, proclamation and formal management of an appropriate conservation corridor which could also serve as a potential off-set zone. The realisation of the conservation corridor seems to be constrained by weak decision-making structures and financial factors.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN OPPORTUNITIES:

The biggest conflict would be between agriculture and conservation.