

# Impacts of ploughing and introduction of commercial fynbos species on the diversity of sandstone fynbos on the Agulhas Plain, South Africa.



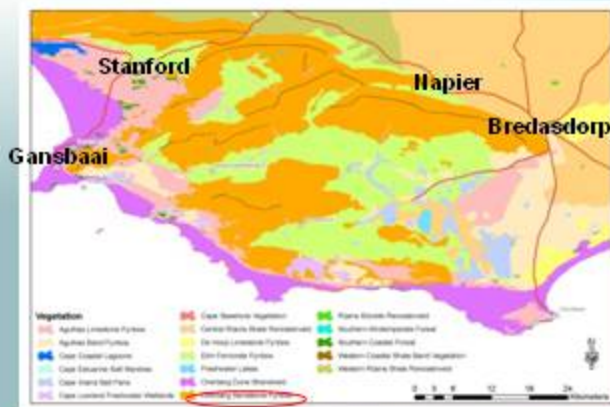
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## Background

- >40% natural vegetation transformed; threatening biodiversity
- Agulhas: flower harvesting common & generates high income
- focal species harvested from 'natural veld' in high demand
- preparation methods used in wildflower production
- impacts farming practices have on natural fynbos largely unknown



## Study Aims & Objectives

Two components

### Questionnaire survey

- extent of fynbos farming activities
- opinion of landholders about impact on fynbos

### Vegetation survey

- species richness
- rare & threatened species
- growth forms
- mode of regeneration

## Methods

### 1) Questionnaire survey

- personal interviews with landholders
- semi-structured interview schedule
- open- and closed-ended, Likert statements

### 2) Vegetation survey

- Record abiotic & biotic data (various spatial scales)
- 1x1m (1m<sup>2</sup>); 2x5m (10m<sup>2</sup>); 10x10m (100m<sup>2</sup>) --- Nested
- Sept/Oct 2009; March/April 2010



## Study Outcomes

- extent of disturbance activities on properties
- understanding relationship between 'farmer and environment'
- impacts on structural and floristic composition of fynbos
- sustainable fynbos farming in Agulhas Plain

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