



STATE OF THE KORINGLANDS RIVER

The upper section of the river is in a near natural state with minimal invasive species. Although no fyke net monitoring was undertaken, indigenous fish are known to occur in this reach.

Further downstream, invasive vegetation becomes more prevalent, though the river remains in fairly good condition. In the lower sections of town, the ecological state declines to fair condition. Here, invasive plants dominate and visible disturbances, including litter, become more common. Activities such as washing cars close to the river are observed.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- Prioritise the removal of invasive vegetation and re-establish natural riparian buffers.
- Raise awareness on littering and other disturbances to river health.
- Educate communities about invasive plants, especially those spread from gardens into the riparian area.
- Discourage harmful activities such as car washing at lower river sites.
- Reestablish natural riparian buffer zones which will assist to stabilise river banks.



STATE OF OUR RIVERS





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SWELLENDAM KORINGLANDS RIVER

SWELLENDAM KORINGLANDS RIVER



INDEX

ECOLOGICAL CATEGORY
(Average species per taxon (ASPT) is a biological index used to assess river health by averaging the sensitivity scores assigned to each macro-invertebrate family found in a sample. Based on interpretation of SASS data using Dallas (2007) SASS data interpretation guidelines.)

Ecological categories are based on interpretation of SASS data using Dallas (2007) SASS data interpretation guidelines.

2- Natural B - Good C - Fair D - Poor E - Seriously/Critically Modified

RIPIARIAN VEGETATION HEALTH
(Based on a visual estimate of invasive plants)

A - Healthy: Mostly indigenous plants (invasives < 5%).
B - Good: Indigenous plants dominate, but invasives are present (5-50%).
C - Poor: Invasive plants dominate, but some indigenous remain (> 50% indigenous).
D - Very Poor: Almost entirely invasive plants (indigenous < 5%).

Adjustments
A minus [-]: Indigenous plants have low diversity (3 or fewer species).
A plus [+]: High plant diversity (4 or more indigenous species).

VISIBLE DISTURBANCE

A - Healthy: No visible disturbance or pollution.
B - Fair: One visible disturbance (e.g. pipes, abstraction, riverbed disturbance, cattle, litter).
C - Poor: Two to three visible disturbances.
D - Very Poor: Multiple types of disturbances present.

Adjustments
A minus [-]: Signs of pollution (e.g. algae growth, bad smells).
A plus [+]: Mitigation measures in place (e.g. fencing, rehabilitation, controlled access).

The trend for ecological category, is determined based on consistency trend over the last 2 results with a US increase or decrease. Other trends are based on comparison with previous years and known changes.



H7KORI-GAIUP

Trend: Improved Declined No change

ASPT

04/09/2022	14/04/2023	04/04/2023	01/05/2024	28/12/2024	07/05/2025
7,84	8,00	8,56	7,86	8,73	7,75

Ecological Category

26/06/2022	16/04/2023	06/10/2023	07/05/2024	28/12/2024	07/05/2025	
Temp (°C)	10,47	14,04	16,35	14,24	15,2	14,54
pH	4,42	5,12	5,35	5,37	3,34	3,82
DO (mg/L)	5,66	8,5	4,91	6,19	1,5	11,85
EC (mS/m)	4,8	4,5	6,7	-	5,2	4,7

H7KORI-GRACE

ASPT

19/04/2023	13/05/2025
6,2	6,8

Ecological Category

19/04/2023	13/05/2025	
Temp (°C)	15	13,49
pH	7,01	6,2
DO (mg/L)	4,08	7,52
EC (mS/m)	71	7,3

H7KORI-BRIDG

ASPT

04/09/2022	14/04/2023	07/11/2023	16/05/2024	12/12/2024	13/05/2025
4,4	4,3	5,7	5,6	4,6	4,9

Ecological Category

04/09/2022	14/04/2023	07/11/2023	16/05/2024	12/12/2024	13/05/2025	
Temp (°C)	13,66	18,1	19,9	16,2	25,2	12,9
pH	7,31	7,7	7,29	6,75	7,87	6,8
DO (mg/L)	3,9	5,75	5,35	9,39	2,14	5,07
EC (mS/m)	291	21,8	39	24,7	29,6	24,7



STATE OF THE HUIS RIVER

The upper section of the river is in excellent condition, with diverse indigenous vegetation and only minimal invasive plants. It still supports a healthy population of critically endangered indigenous fish. A potential emerging threat is litter linked to unauthorised access.

As the river approaches the town, agricultural pressures become evident, with a noticeable increase in invasive plants and other disturbances, including litter and human waste. Ecological health declines further within the town. Indigenous fish are still present, but their health is affected by parasites and invasive fish. Downstream of the town, impacts remain present but are somewhat reduced due to ongoing riparian restoration and invasive plant management.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- Secure the upper catchment with exclusion fencing and signage to limit access and disturbance.
- Continue removing invasive plants in agricultural and urban areas.
- Restore and maintain riparian buffers to reduce impact of runoff from agricultural and urban activities.
- Monitor and maintain septic tanks to prevent leaks and flooding.
- Raise awareness on responsible detergent and chemical use and proper septic tank care.
- Educate communities to prevent the spread of invasive fish.



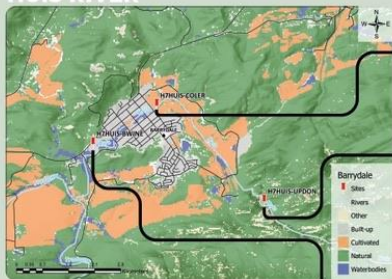
STATE OF OUR RIVERS



SASS data and fish data collected in partnership with CapeNature and the Breede Oifants Overberg Catchment Management Agency
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BARRYDALE HUIS RIVER

BARRYDALE HUIS RIVER



INDEX

ECOLOGICAL CATEGORY
(Average species per Taxon (ASPT) is a biological index used to assess river health by aggregating the sensitivity scores assigned to each macroinvertebrate family found in a sample. Based on interpretation of SASS data using Dallas (2007) SASS data interpretation guidelines.)

Ecological categories are based on interpretation of SASS data using Dallas (2007) SASS data interpretation guidelines.

Legend: A - Natural B - Good C - Fair D - Poor E - Seriously/Critically Modified

ADJUSTMENTS
A minus (-): Indigenous plants have low diversity (3 or fewer species).
A plus (+): High plant diversity (6 or more indigenous species).

FISH HEALTH
(Based on 2 fyke netting results in April/May and October/November)

A - Healthy: Only indigenous fish present.
B - Fair: Indigenous fish present, but invasive also occur.
C - Poor: Only invasive fish present.
D - Very Poor: No fish present, but indigenous fish were historically known from the site. (Do not use if fish site is naturally fish-free).

ADJUSTMENTS
A minus (-): Fish unhealthy or with parasites; only small size classes; or very low numbers (<5 individuals over both samples in a given year).
A plus (+): High density (20 indigenous species), many size classes (including large/breeding fish), and abundant numbers (20+ individuals over both samples in a given year).

VISIBLE DISTURBANCE
A - Healthy: No visible disturbance or pollution.
B - Fair: One visible disturbance (e.g. pipes, abstraction, riverbed disturbance, cattle, litter).
C - Poor: Two to three visible disturbances.
D - Very Poor: Multiple types of disturbances present.

ADJUSTMENTS
A minus (-): Signs of siltation (e.g. algal growth, bad smells).
A plus (+): Mitigation measures in place (e.g. fencing, rehabilitation, controlled access).

The trend for ecological category is determined based on consistency trend over the last 2 results with a 0.5 increase or decrease. Other trends are based on comparison with previous years and known changes.



H7HUIS-COLER



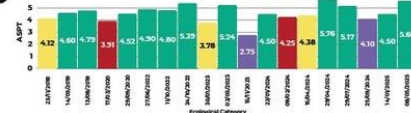
	15/11/2023	09/02/2024	14/01/2025	08/05/2025
Temp (°C)	20.7	23.7	23.88	14.43
pH	8.32	8.2	7.94	7.26
DO (mg/L)	8.25	13.47	9.76	11.05
EC (µS/cm)	749	40.5	52.3	26.9

H7HUIS-UPDON



	09/08/2023	23/11/2023	05/02/2024	18/05/2025
Temp (°C)	10.8	20.48	24.67	13.63
pH	4.18	4.9	4.46	4.27
DO (mg/L)	-	2.45	9.01	7.49
EC (µS/cm)	6	13.2	6.1	5.6

H7HUIS-BWINE



	23/11/2018	07/04/2022	12/02/2023	02/02/2023	16/01/2023	09/02/2024	16/04/2024	28/04/2024	25/09/2024	14/01/2025	08/05/2025
Temp (°C)	19.7	9.7	18.3	15.86	23.74	24.9	16.35	17.8	15.35	25.27	13.9
pH	6.09	7.81	8.16	8.41	9.28	8.29	7.23	8.7	7.78	6.51	6.88
DO (mg/L)	6.6	12.2	4.84	3.89	9.03	12.88	3.56	9.5	10.28	10.98	12.32
EC (µS/cm)	-	172	48.6	27.4	10.09	40.1	24.5	-	33.7	15.4	27.36



STATE OF THE GROOTVADERSBOSCH RIVER

The upper tributary of the river is in good ecological condition. Although invasive vegetation is widespread, the system remains close to a natural state and supports a healthy population of indigenous fish, although invasive species numbers are increasing.

Despite slight declines in ASPT, the river health through the town of Suurbraak is still very good. Invasive alien plants are present but not dominant, and indigenous riparian vegetation remains fairly strong. Indigenous fish occur, but invasive fish species are dominant. Occasional cattle access the river and scattered litter are visible impacts at this site.

The site downstream of the town is also in good condition, with limited invasive vegetation. However, invasive fish species remain dominant in this section.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- Clear invasive vegetation, particularly in the upper reaches.
- Prevent cattle access to the river to reduce bank erosion and pollution.
- Control the spread of invasive fish by preventing their transport, especially to upstream areas that remain free of invasives.
- Raise community awareness about the importance of invasive plant clearing and keeping the river free of litter.



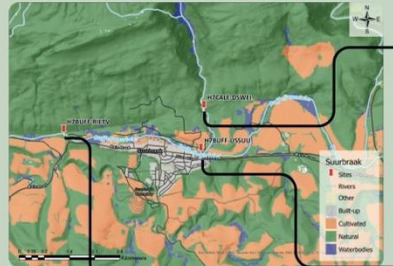
STATE OF OUR RIVERS



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SUURBRAAK GROOTVADERSBOSCH RIVER

SUURBRAAK GROOTVADERSBOSCH RIVER



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ECOLOGICAL CATEGORY
Average species per Taxon (ASPT) is a biological index used to assess river health by averaging the sensitivity scores assigned to each macroinvertebrate family found in a sample. Based on interpretation of SASS data using Dallas (2007) SASS data interpretation guidelines.

Ecological categories are based on interpretation of SASS data using Dallas (2007) SASS data interpretation guidelines.

ECOLOGICAL CATEGORY
A - Excellent B - Good C - Fair D - Poor E/F - Seriously/Critically Modified
Based on a visual estimate of invasive plants

RIPARIAN VEGETATION HEALTH
(Based on a visual estimate of invasive plants)

A - Healthy: Mostly indigenous plants (invasives < 5%).
B - Good: Indigenous plants dominate, but invasives are present (5-50%).
C - Poor: Invasive plants dominate, but some indigenous remain (> 50% indigenous).
D - Very Poor: Almost entirely invasive plants (indigenous < 5%).

ADJUSTMENTS
A minus (-): Indigenous plants have low diversity (3 or fewer species).
A plus (+): High plant diversity (4 or more indigenous species).

FISH HEALTH
(Based on 2 year nesting results in April/May and October/November)

A - Healthy: Only indigenous fish present.
B - Fair: Indigenous fish present, but invasives also occur.
C - Poor: Only invasive fish present.
D - Very Poor: No fish present, but indigenous fish were historically known from the site. (Do not use D if the site is naturally fish-free).

ADJUSTMENTS
A minus (-): Fish unhealthy or with parasites; only small size classes; or very low numbers (< 5 individuals over both samples in a given year).
A plus (+): High diversity (2+ indigenous species), many size classes (including large/medium/large and abundant) present for individuals over both samples in a given year.

VISIBLE DISTURBANCE
A - Healthy: No visible disturbance or pollution.
B - Fair: One visible disturbance (e.g. pipes, abstraction, riverbed disturbance, cattle, litter).
C - Poor: Two to three visible disturbances.
D - Very Poor: Multiple types of disturbances present.

ADJUSTMENTS
A minus (-): Signs of pollution (e.g. algae growth, bad smells).
A plus (+): Mitigation measures in place (e.g. fencing, rehabilitation, controlled access).

TREND
The trend for ecological category is determined based on consistency trend over the last 2 results with a 0.5 increase or decrease. Other trends are based on comparison with previous years and known changes.



26/10/2020	08/04/2021	27/05/2022	09/11/2022	10/11/2023	07/05/2025
Temp (°C)	15.7	13.59	17.81	17.5	13.26
pH	3.96	4.2	4.07	5.6	3.83
DO (mg/L)	8.93	12.25	3.38	3.7	9.29
EC (mS/m)	-	4.8	5.2	4.5	5.3



	21/04/2022	10/10/2022	13/04/2023	01/11/2023	02/11/2024	14/05/2025
Ecological Category						
Temp (°C)	11.8	20.13	16.3	18.8	21.96	13.24
pH	7.6	7.26	7.06	6.83	7.35	6.13
DO (mg/L)	14	3.04	3.66	5.79	-	7.87
EC (mS/m)	29.2	38	19.3	29.5	48	26.1



27/10/2020	13/04/2022	11/10/2022	04/04/2023	10/11/2023	23/04/2024	28/04/2025	14/05/2025
Temp (°C)	20.63	19.18	23.12	18.25	21.8	19.26	19.24
pH	6.29	5	7.28	7.35	6.92	7.14	6.56
DO (mg/L)	18.29	-	2.93	3.75	5.54	3.38	8.48
EC (mS/m)	14.1	25.83	33.3	15.7	43.5	39.1	21.4

THIS RIVER IS ALIVE

And you can help keep it that way

WHY THIS RIVER MATTERS

This is one of five rivers monitored by the Grootvadersbosch Conservancy. These rivers are lifelines – supporting people, livelihoods and nature. They provide water to towns, farms and communities along their course. They are also home to unique and threatened species found nowhere else on Earth.

When a river is healthy, everything downstream benefits. That's why protecting it matters.

YOU ARE A RIVER CUSTODIAN

The health of this river depends on the actions of individuals. Whether you live near the river, or are simply visiting, your actions matter.

Here's how you can help protect this river

- Take your litter home – keep the river clean
- Use water wisely
- Choose eco-friendly cleaning products
- Avoid washing cars or equipment in the river
- Never release invasive fish or plants
- Remove invasive alien vegetation
- Plant indigenous, water-wise species
- Help restore damaged or eroded areas
- Respect wildlife and natural riverbanks
- Maintain healthy buffer zones
- Ensure proper septic system maintenance
- Follow environmental regulations for river work

Every action YOU take can help make our rivers healthier.

WORKING TOGETHER

River conservation is a shared responsibility.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR RIVER

The Grootvadersbosch Conservancy, working with partners, has collected data and compiled river health assessment reports for these rivers.

Scan the QR code to access the river health reports and learn more.



FIRST STEPS TO PROTECT THIS RIVER

The Grootvadersbosch Conservancy is a non-profit organisation working with landowners between Swellendam, Barrydale and Riversdale.

The Conservancy works with partners in the area to support river health by:

- Monitoring river health through water quality testing, aquatic insect monitoring and freshwater fish surveys
- Tracking changes over time to guide conservation action
- Environmental education, working with local schools to inspire future custodians of the river.



GROOTVADERSBOSCH
CONSERVANCY



www.gvbconservancy.co.za

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:
CapelNature | Swellendam Municipality
Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve

