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BIODIVERSITY IN THE UMKHOMAZI CATCHMENT



Working together with
partners in the UCWG.

In January 2026, a BioBlitz was conducted in collaboration with the Umkhomazi Catchment Working Group across priority sites in the upper uMkhomazi catchment, including Inzinga, Qutsheni, Nguga / Mapanekeni and Stoffelton. A BioBlitz is an intensive, community-driven biodiversity survey where scientists, citizen scientists, and local community members work together to record as many species as possible in a given landscape over a short period.

SPECIES RECORDED



± 330
Species
(dominant group)

Plantae (Plants)



± 40
Species

Insecta (Insects)



± 25
Species

Aves (Birds)



LOW
but important
representation

Other Classes

Reptiles, Arachnids,
Amphibians, Mammals, Fungi

The dataset confirms the presence of several threatened and regionally significant species, including:



Southern Bald Ibis
(*Geronticus calvus*)
Listed as vulnerable



Cape Vulture
(*Gyps coprotheres*)
Listed as vulnerable



Wattled Crane
(*Grus carunculatus*)
Listed as endangered



Martial Eagle
(*Polemaetus bellicosus*)
Listed as endangered

The inclusion of the following species demonstrates that the landscape still supports intact ecological processes - essential for long-term ecosystem stability:



Apex predators
(e.g., Verreaux's Eagle)



Scavengers
(e.g., vultures)



**Pollinator-supported
plant species**



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