

3.2.5 FAUNA

3.2.5.1 MAMMALIA

The GM has a rich diversity of terrestrial fauna as a result of the range of habitat from the Outeniqua Mountains to the coast. The higher, mountainous areas are habitats favoured by species such as leopards, klipspringers, forest shrews and forest birds. Forested areas support species such as bushbuck and vervet monkey. Lowland Fynbos areas support Bontebok and the estuarine areas of Wilderness support a host of coastal species such as seals. **Table 4** lists the mammal species with Red Data Status found within the Wilderness National Park.

TABLE 4: RED DATA STATUS OF MAMMALS FOUND WITHIN THE GM.

COMMON NAME	SPECIES	RED DATA STATUS
Cape horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus capensis</i>	Near Threatened
Honey badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Near Threatened
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus dorcas dorcas</i>	Vulnerable
Southern elephant seal	<i>Mirounga leonine</i>	Endangered

Source: South African National Parks; 2006; Red Data status as listed in Camp 2003.

3.2.5.2 AVIFAUNA

Over 293 bird species are potentially found within the GM area (Roberts Bird CD, 2002). Birds listed in the ESKOM red data book as species of conservation priority are listed in **Table 5**. The Blackrumped Buttonquail has been recorded in the George area and is listed as an Endangered species. Threats to the populations of this species is due to habitat loss where mountain Fynbos and grassland are the preferred habitats (Barnes, 2000).

TABLE 5: RED DATA BIRD SPECIES FOUND WITHIN THE GM.

COMMON NAME	SPECIES	RED DATA STATUS
Wandering Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Vulnerable
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Vulnerable
Yellownosed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	Vulnerable
Secretary Bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	Near Threatened
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Vulnerable
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	Vulnerable
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	Vulnerable
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>	Near Threatened
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	Vulnerable
Blackrumped Buttonquail	<i>Turnix hottentotta</i>	Endangered
Striped Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura affinis</i>	Vulnerable
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>	Vulnerable
Blue Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>	Vulnerable
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	Vulnerable
Stanleys Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>	Vulnerable
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	Vulnerable
Knysna Woodpecker	<i>Campethera notata</i>	Near Threatened
Knysna Warbler	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>	Vulnerable

Source: Barnes, 2000.

3.2.5.3 FRESHWATER FISH

An overview of the Freshwater Fish of Southern Africa (Skelton, 2001) revealed red data fish species that may be potentially found within the freshwater streams and rivers of the George Municipal area

(Table 6). Alien invasive fish species such as Tilapia and Bass species are a significant threat to local indigenous species and are prevalent in most freshwater streams and rivers.

TABLE 6: FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES FOUND WITHIN THE GM.

COMMON NAME	SPECIES	RED DATA STATUS
Eastern Cape Redfin	<i>Pseudobarbus afer</i>	Near Threatened
Small scale Redfin	<i>Pseudobarbus asper</i>	Vulnerable
Cape Galaxias	<i>Galaxias zebratus</i>	Near Threatened

Source: Skelton, 2001.

3.2.5.4 INVERTEBRATES

Invertebrates, although poorly sampled are likely to be well represented. The Fynbos Biome, which is well represented in the GM, is well known for its diversity of ant species. This is likely to be mirrored with butterfly species and other invertebrates.

3.2.6 FRESHWATER

Water is a crucial resource on which all living systems depend. There is a large range of human activities that require safe and clean water, and the lack of access to safe water and sanitation presents a fundamental obstacle to improving people’s health, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development. Water availability, or lack thereof, may ultimately prove to be a limit to growth in the GM. The George municipality is located in a region that experiences rainfall all year. Freshwater resources described in this section refer to river catchments, and water stored in dams.

The GM encompasses a number of smaller and larger river catchments (Figure 8). Amongst the most important ones are the Swart, Kaaimans, and Malgas River Catchments (George Local Municipality (c), 2005).