



Introducing indigenous plants occurring in the  
**Sedgefield Island Conservancy**

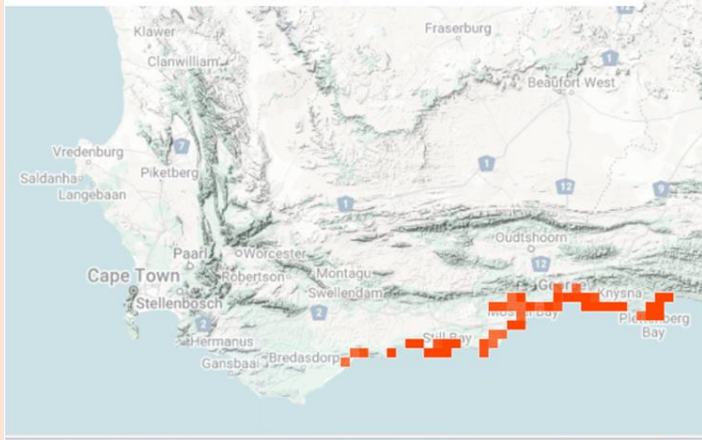
**This introduction to some indigenous plants occurring naturally in the Sedgefield Island Conservancy was prepared by Justin Ponder, a young birding and nature enthusiast on behalf of In Toto Retreat. Justin surveyed different patches of vegetation in September – October 2023, and the photos used in this overview during his survey to identify the most commonly occurring species of plants. This introduction provides an introductory overview of 53 plant species with a short description (including the scientific, English and Afrikaans names of the plant), a local and regional indication of sightings of the species logged on iNaturalist and a photo of the plant.**

Short  
description

**Agathosma apiculata, Garlic Buchu**

Terrestrial plant that can reach up to 3m tall, but usually about 1m. Dark green leaves appear slightly succulent and triangular, arranged in a column up the stem. Flowering head is a bundle of small, messy white flowers. Flowers April – Jan.

Afrikaans name – Knoffelboegoe



Regional map of sightings  
registered on iNaturalist

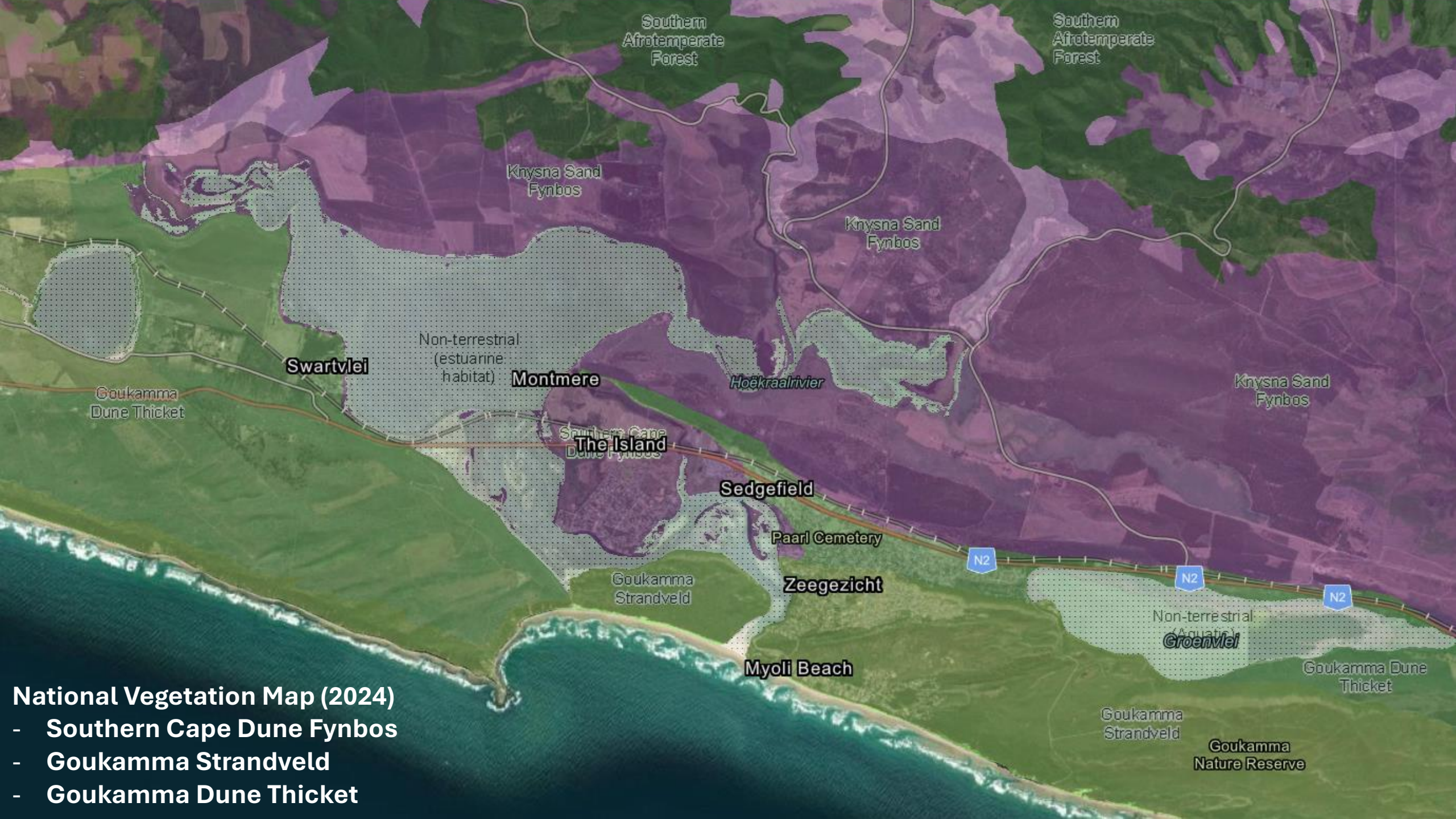


Local map of sightings  
registered on iNaturalist



Image of  
plant





- National Vegetation Map (2024)**
- Southern Cape Dune Fynbos
  - Goukamma Strandveld
  - Goukamma Dune Thicket



# WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN DUNE FYNBOS

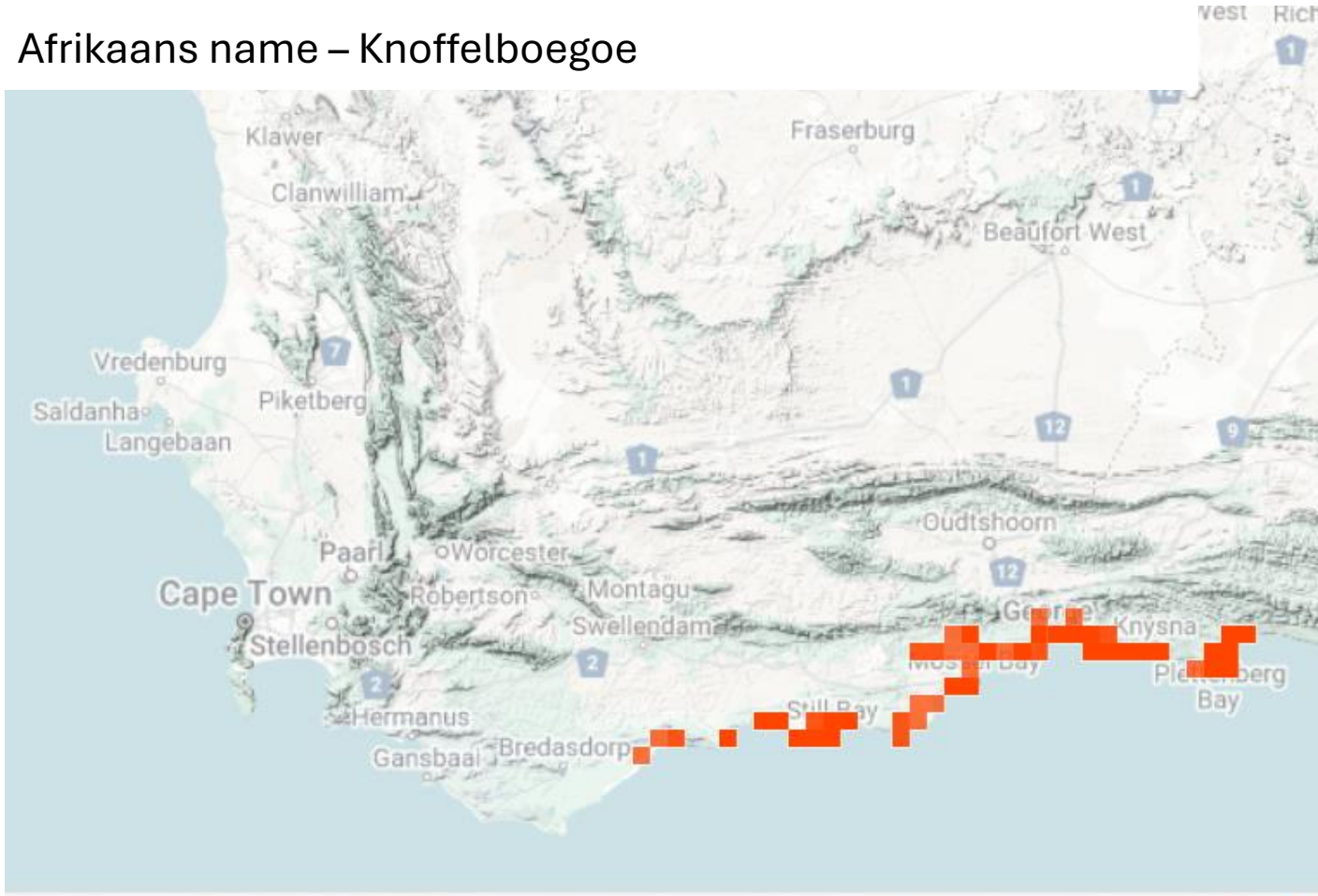
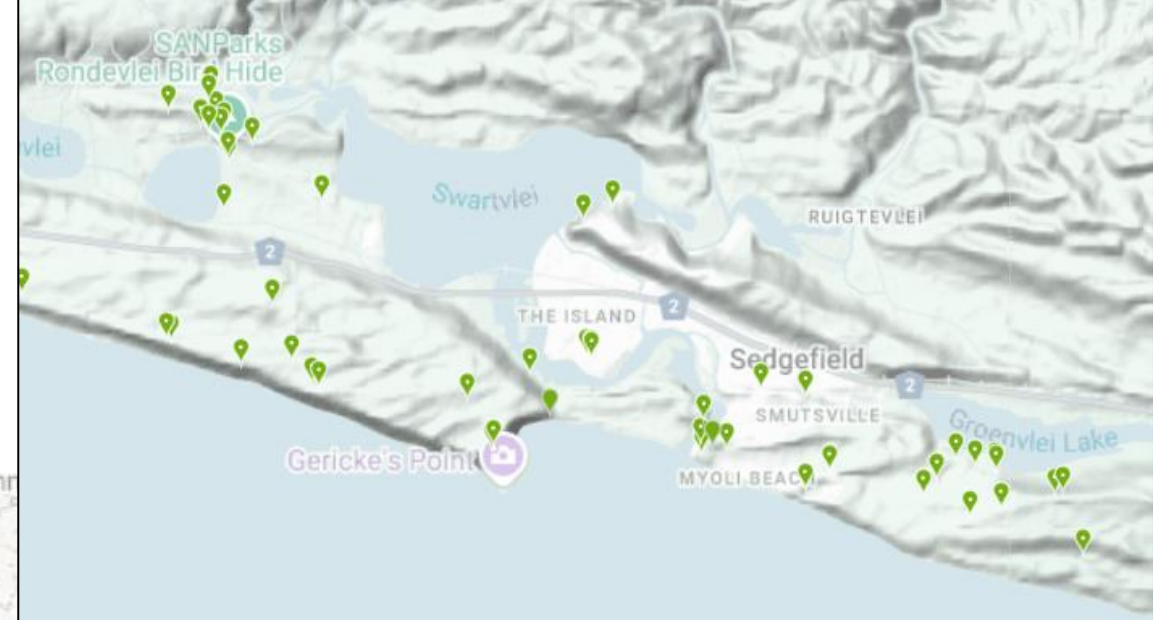
- Daisy (Asteraceae), pea (Fabaceae), grass (Poaceae) and sutera (Scrophulariaceae) families make up the greater part of dune fynbos
- Plant families that we typically associate with fynbos such as restio (Restionaceae) and heath (Ericaceae) families have relatively few members in dune flora – but most of them, such as *Elegia microcarpa*, *Restio eleocharis* (both Restionaceae), *Erica chloroloma* and *Erica glumiflora* (both Ericaceae), are localised to dunes (dune endemics)
- The buchu family (Rutaceae), especially the genus *Agathosma*, has a lot of different species in dune fynbos
- The protea family (Proteaceae), so characteristic of fynbos elsewhere, is conspicuously absent in dune fynbos
- There are plenty of bulbs, especially those that bloom after fire, including members of the amaryllis (Amaryllidaceae), iris (Iridaceae) and orchid (Orchidaceae) families



# Agathosma apiculata, Garlic Buchu

Terrestrial plant that can reach up to 3m tall, but usually about 1m. Dark green leaves appear slightly succulent and triangular, arranged in a column up the stem. Flowering head is a bundle of small, messy white flowers. Flowers April – Jan.

Afrikaans name – Knoffelboegoe

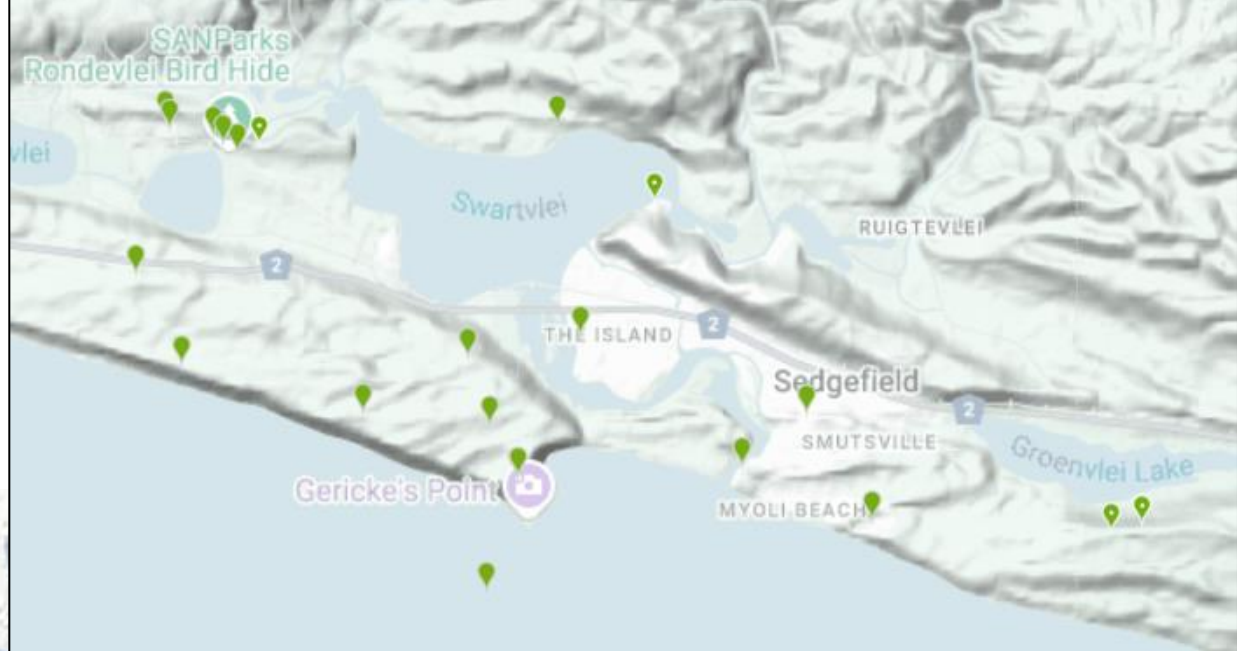
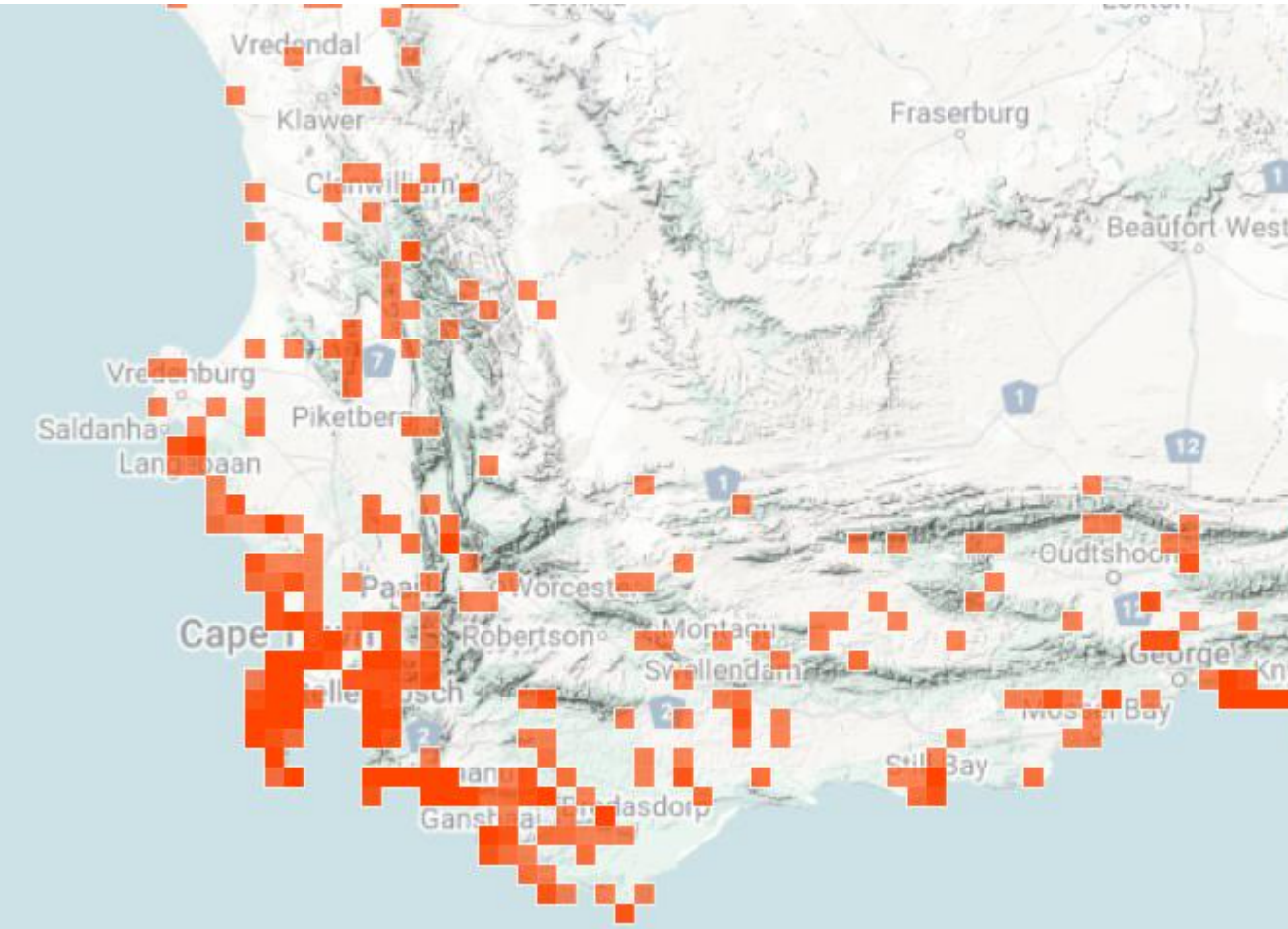




# Albuca cooperi, Dainty Tamarak

Terrestrial plant that grows up to 60cm tall. Leaves small and grass-like at the base the bare stalk. Yellow-green flowers nod downward, shaped like a three-point star. Flowers Sept – Jan.

Afrikaans name – Blougif

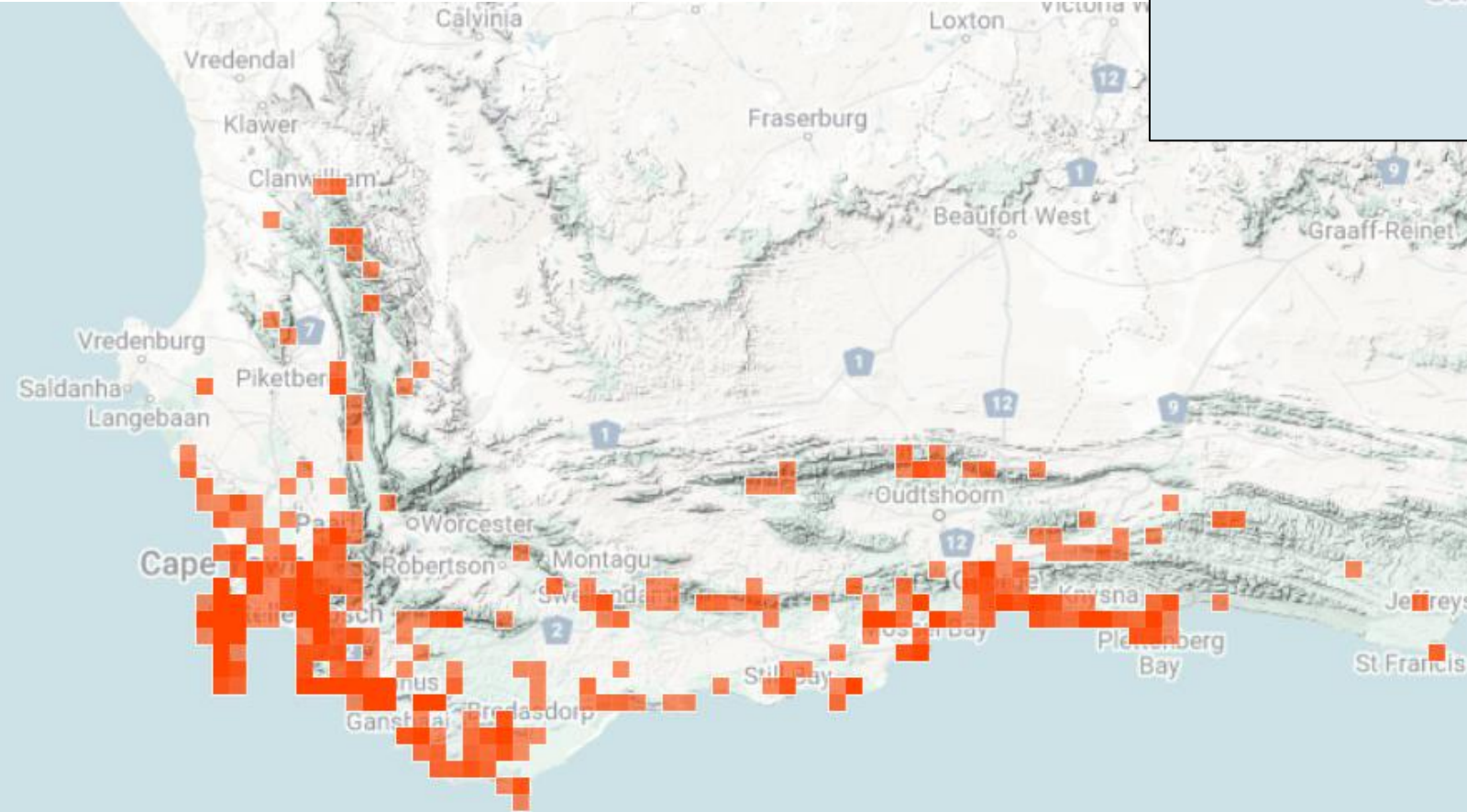
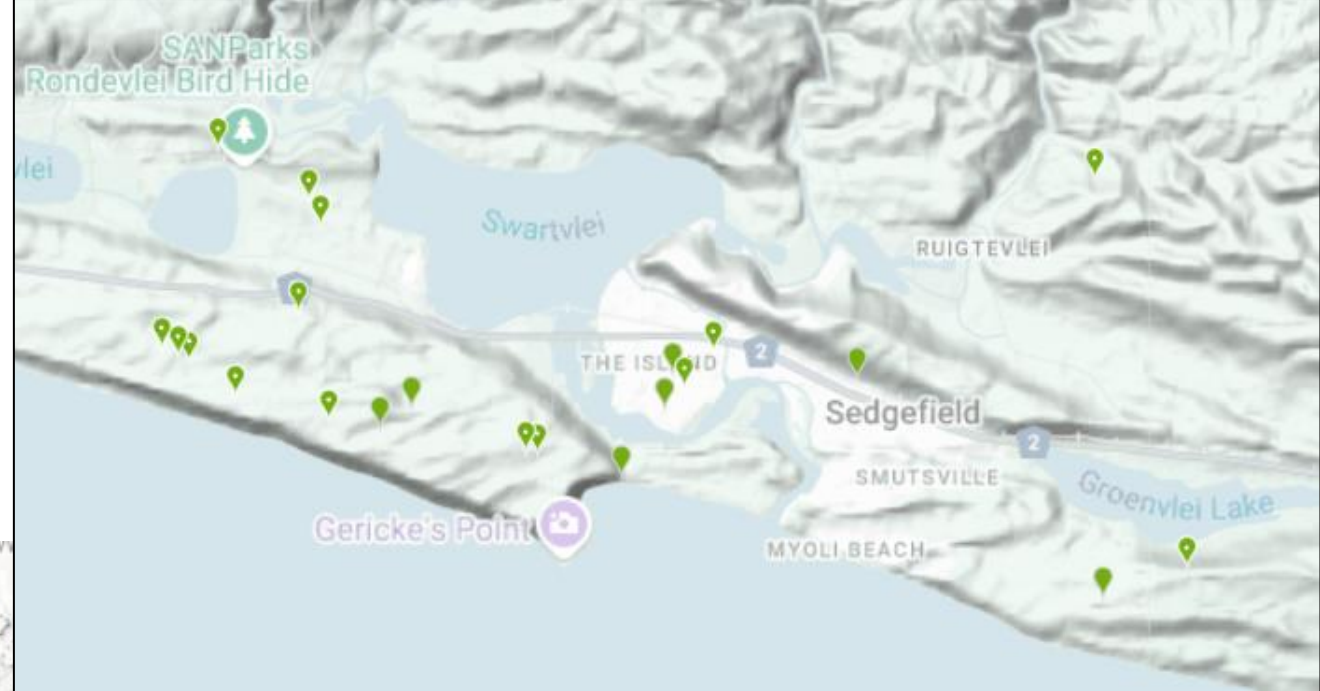




# ***Anthospermum aethiopicum*, Tall Flowerseed**

Terrestrial plant that grows up to 2m tall. Similar to an erica in appearance, leaves somewhat thin and sharp. Small, round yellow flowers not unlike that of a clutia and in clumps by the leaves. Flowers Aug – Jan.

Afrikaans name - Jakkalsstert

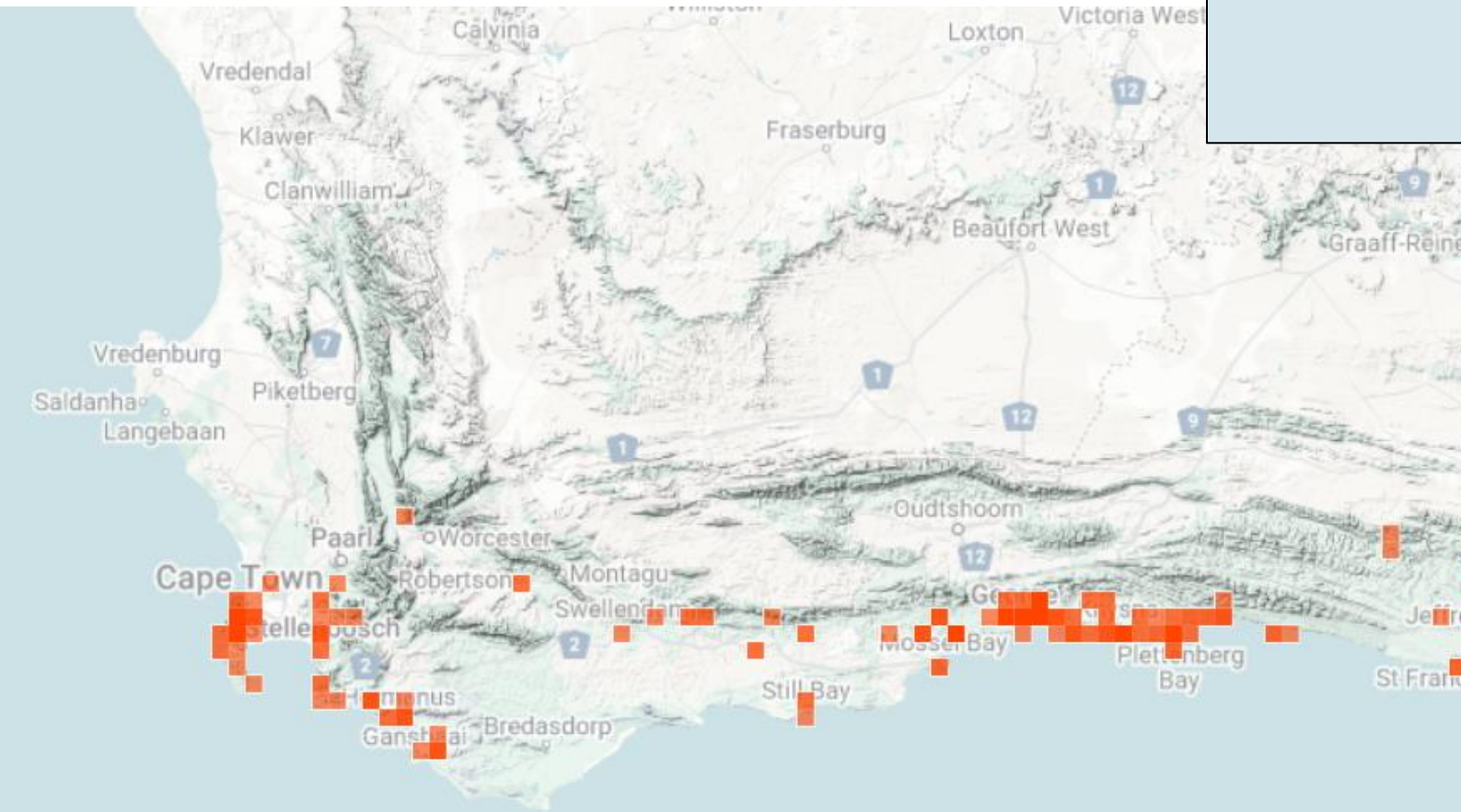




# Apodytes dimidiata, White Pear

Smallish, bushy tree usually 4 to 5 m tall, but can reach up to 20 m. Glossy, bright green leaves with a paler green, dull underside. Bark is pale grey and smooth. Small white flowers appear in summer, fruit is black and red and berrylike.

Afrikaans name – Witpeer

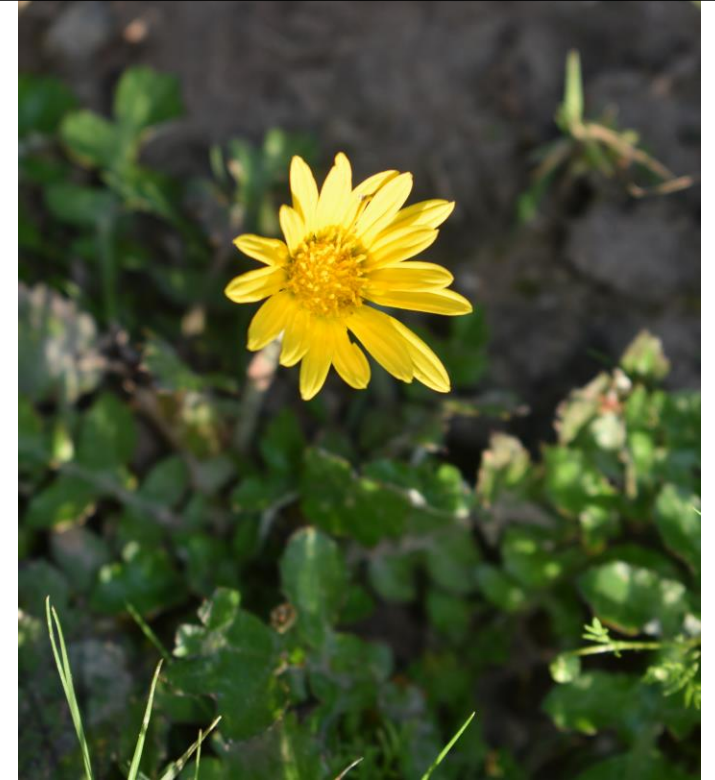
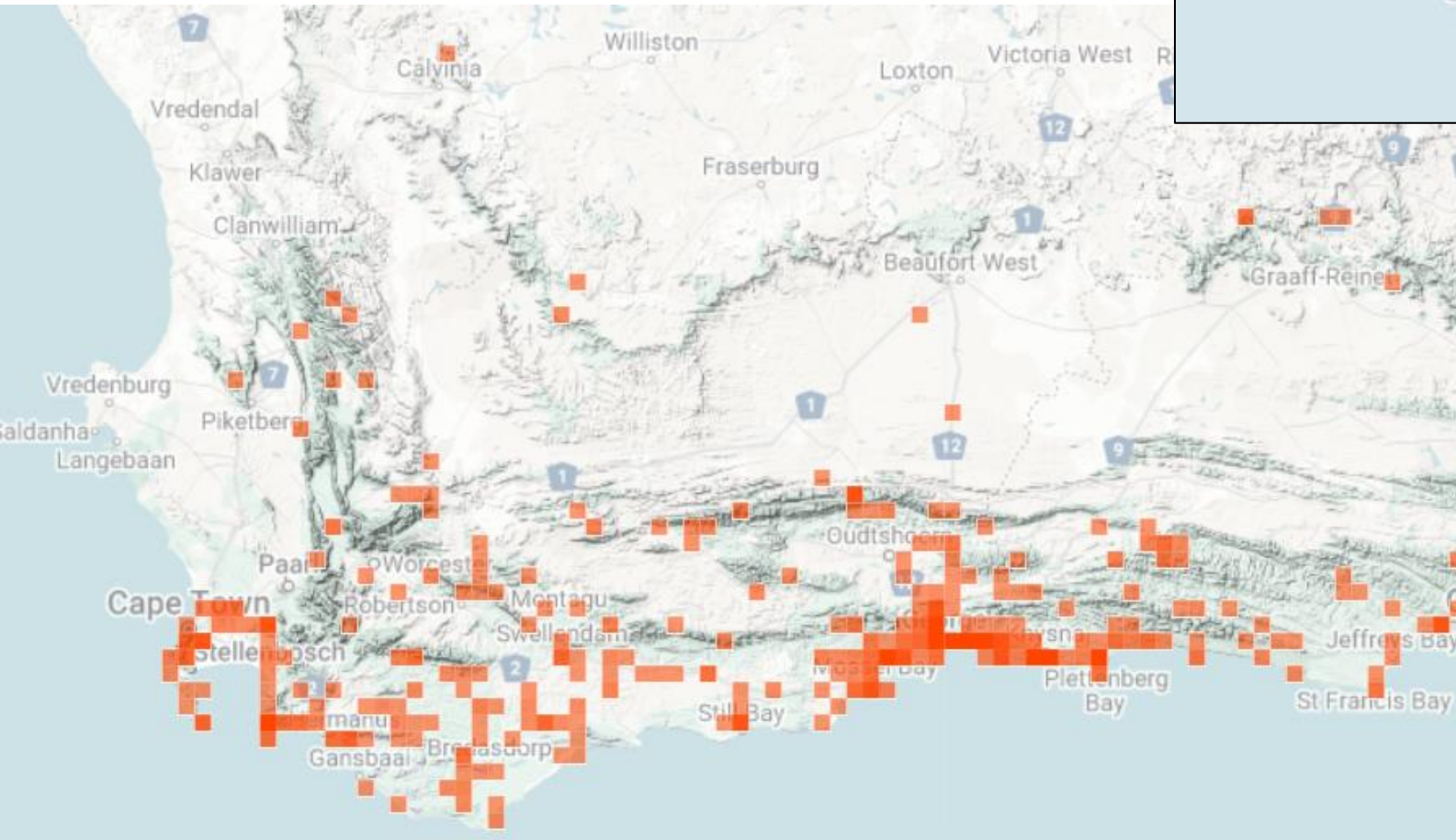




# **Arctotheca prostrata, Prostrate Capeweed**

Small, terrestrial plant that grows low to the ground in grassy patches with little vegetation. Flower round and daisy-like, 2cm – 8cm in diameter. Leaves flat on the ground, green on top and white underneath. Flowers year round.

Afrikaans name – none

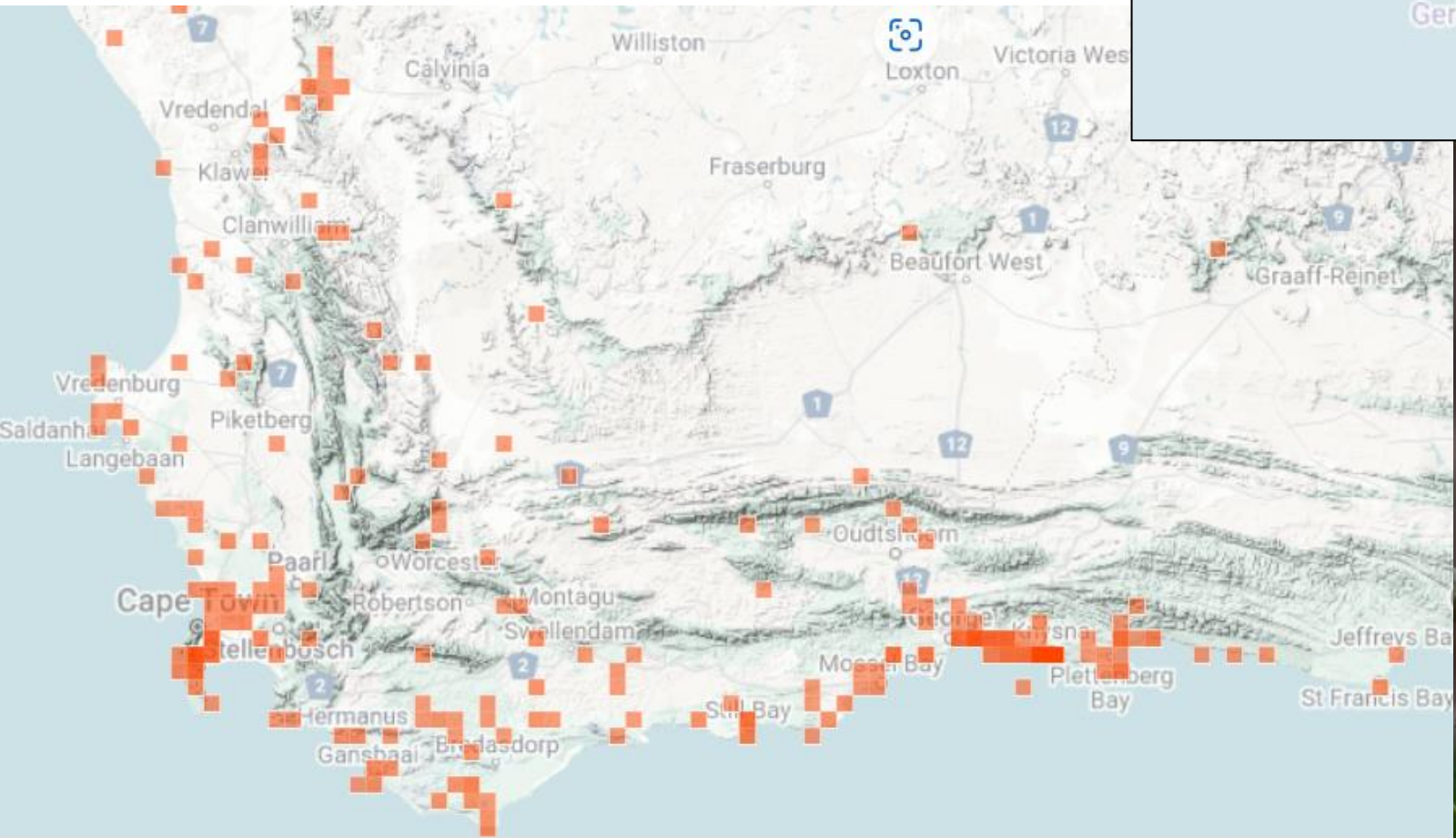




# **Asparagus asparagoides, Bridal Asparagus**

Climbing plant, many-branched with twisting, wiry, spineless stems that can grow up to 3 m in length. Shiny green “leaves” (flattened stems that good like leaves). Very small, greenish white flowers appear in late winter – early spring.

Afrikaans name – Krulkransie

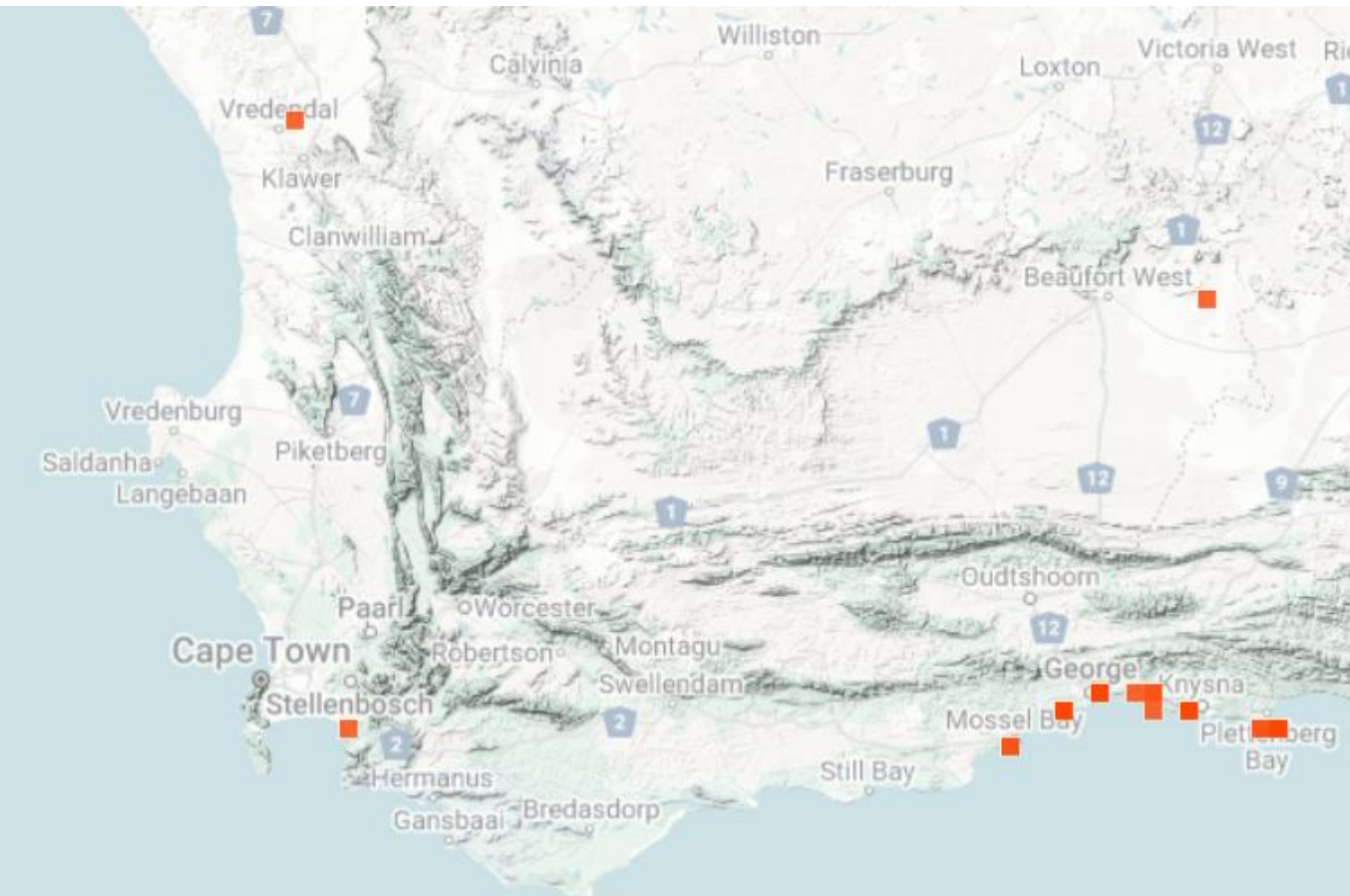




# Asparagus densiflorus, Foxtail Asparagus

Scrambling plant that can reach up to 1m wide and tall. Thin needle like leaves with small thorns on the stems. Very small, pale pink or white flowers hard to see. Produces bright red berries erratically.

Afrikaans name – Smaragsiervaring

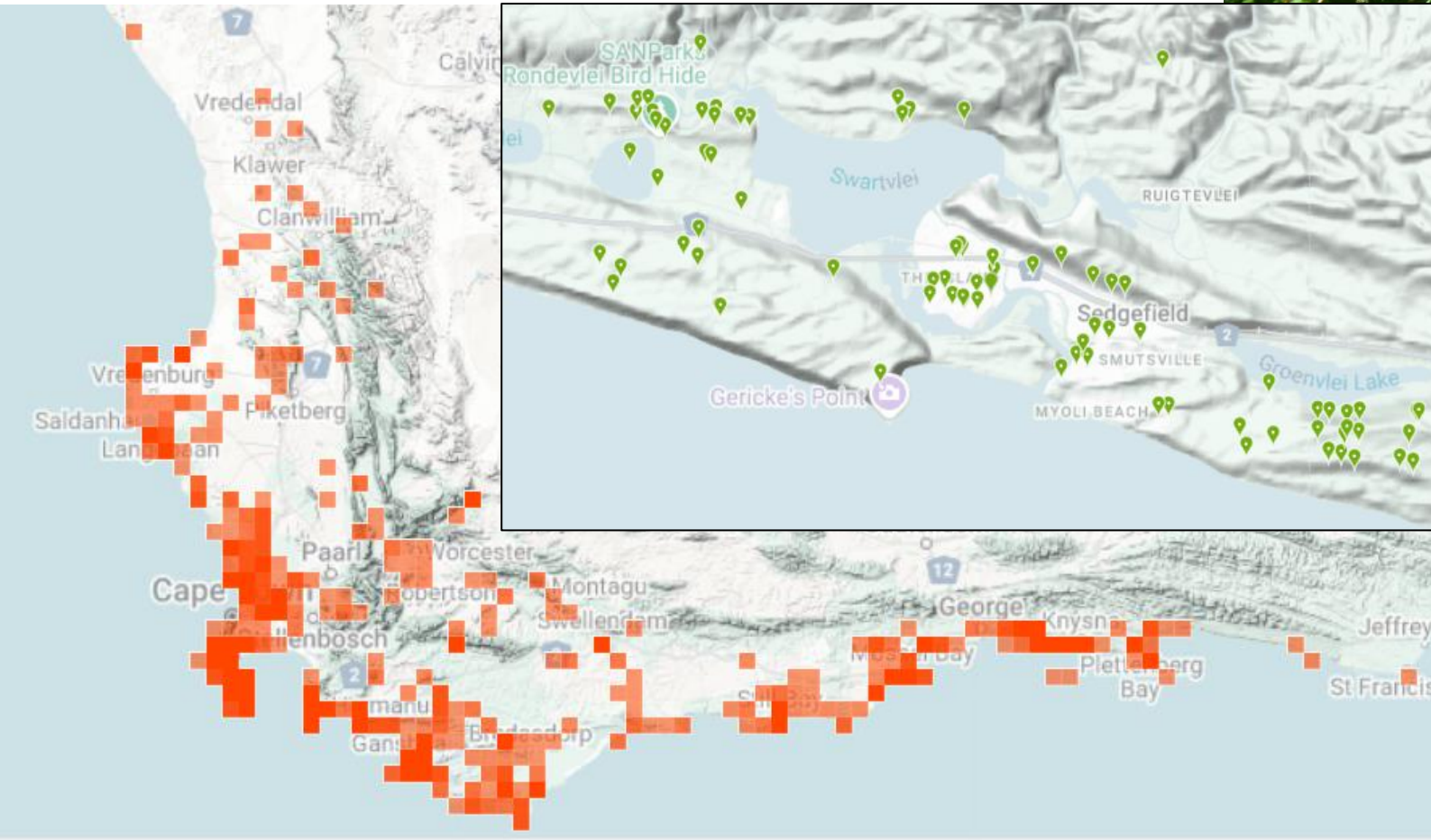




# Brunsvigia orientalis, Candelabra Lily

Large, flat green leaves fairly diagnostic. Produces many red flowers in a spherical shape off a single stalk Feb – Mar. Found in sunny areas with low vegetation, often on grass and lawns. Dried flowerhead resembles a tumbleweed.

Afrikaans name: Koningskandelaar

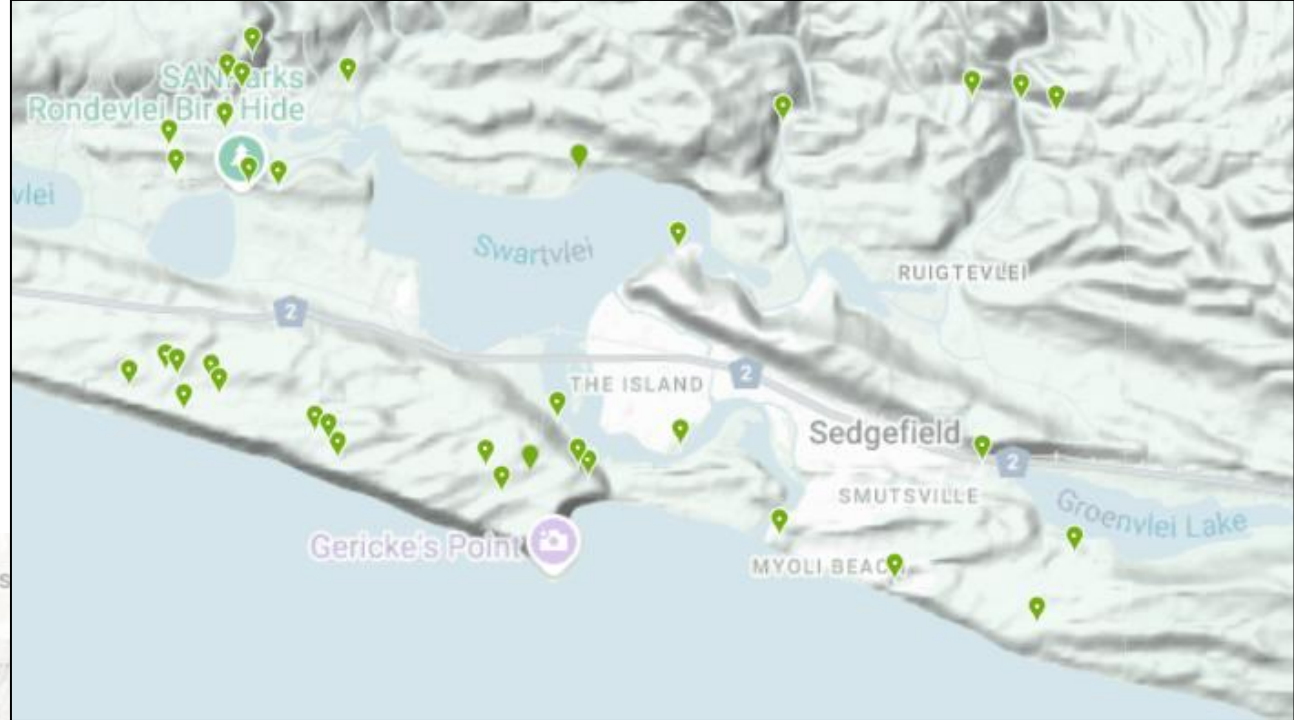
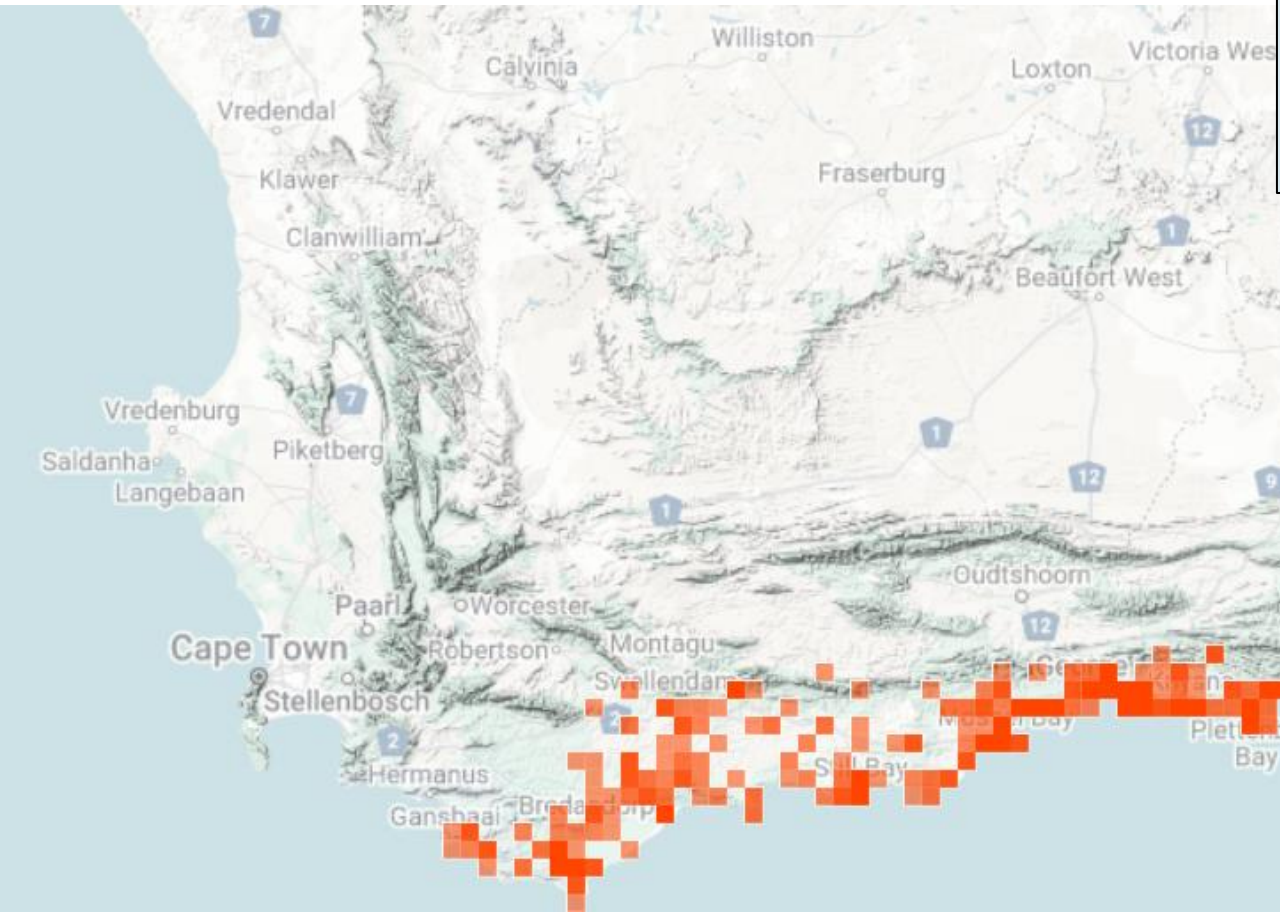




# **Carissa byspinosa, Num-num**

Dense bush or rambling shrub, usually going around 2m tall, but can get up to 5m. Branches and thorns form fork like patterns. Leaves opposite and oval shaped, glossy green on top and paler below. Flowers smallish and white, clustered at the tip of the branches. Flowers throughout spring and summer.

Afrikaans name – Bosnoemnoem

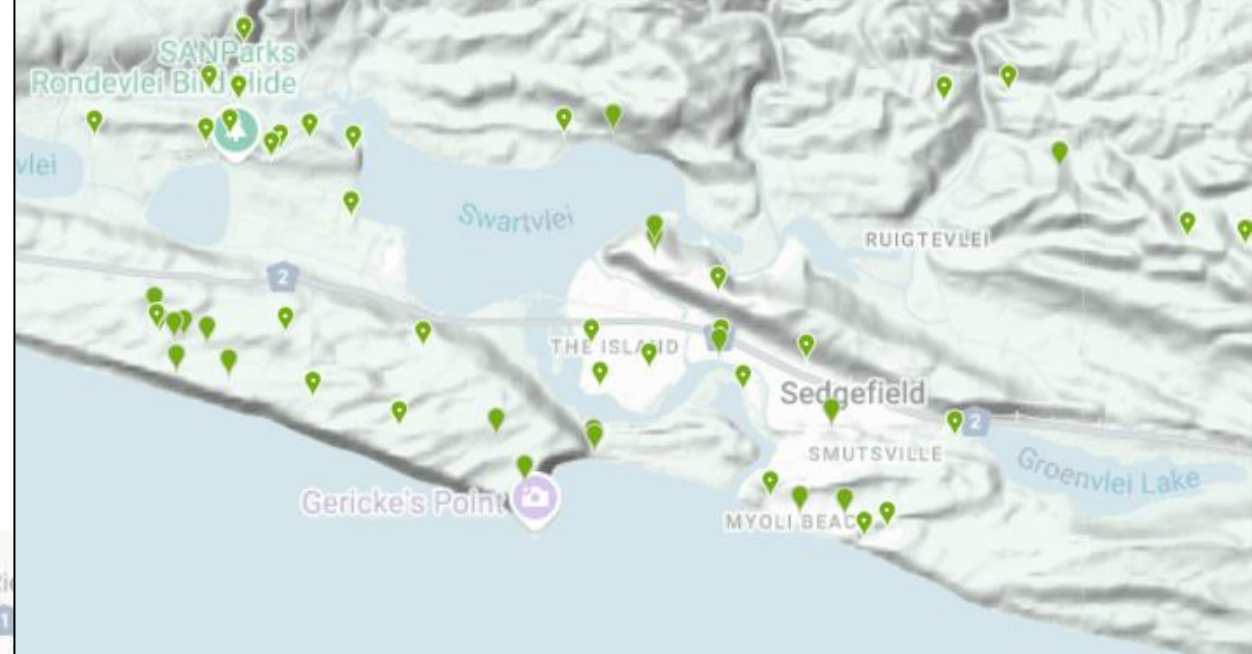
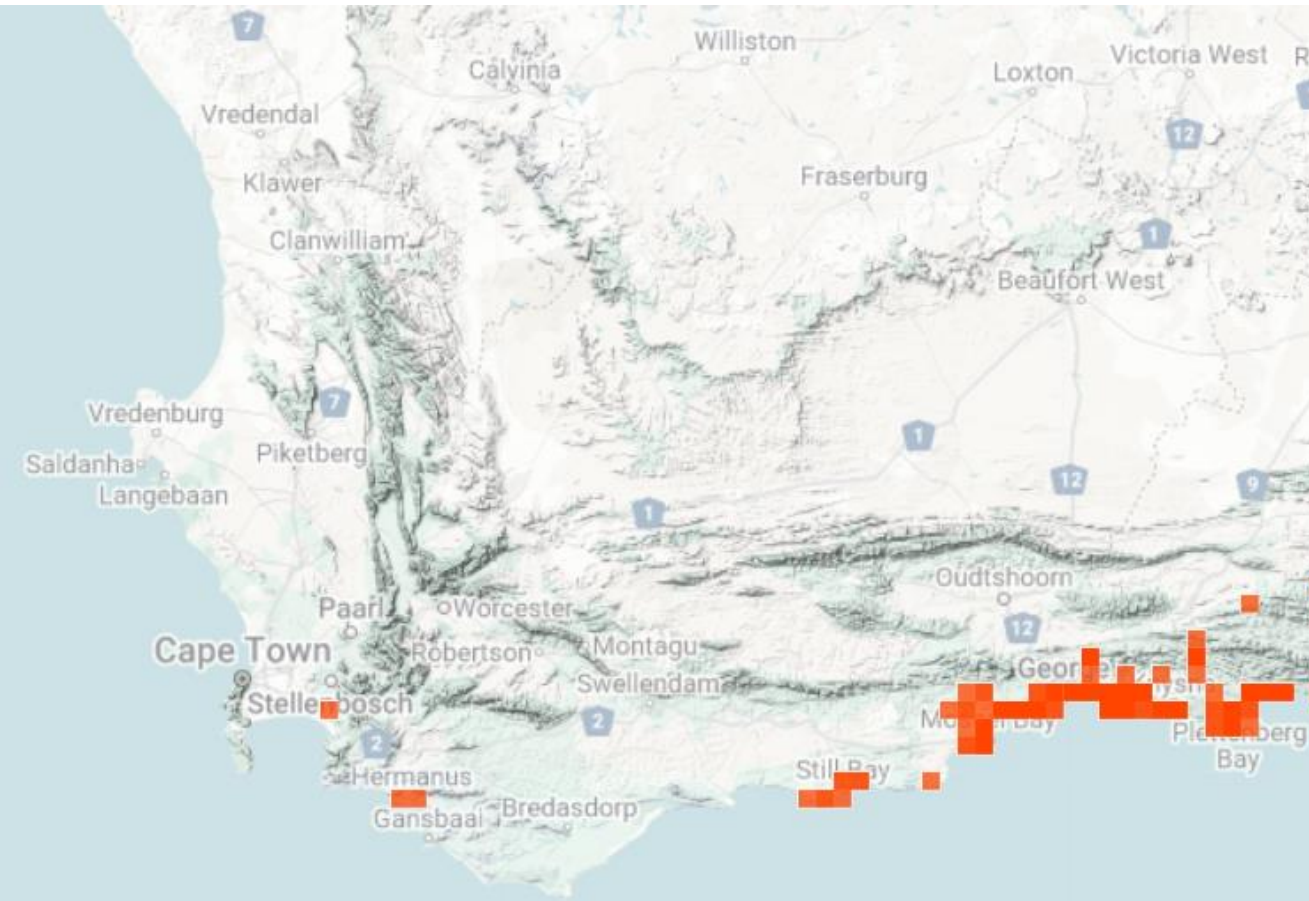




# ***Carpobrotus deliciosus*, Delicious Sourfig**

Sprawling plant with large succulent leaves that form a mat over the ground. Flowers pink or purple, sometimes white. Flowers June – Oct.

Afrikaans name – Suurvly

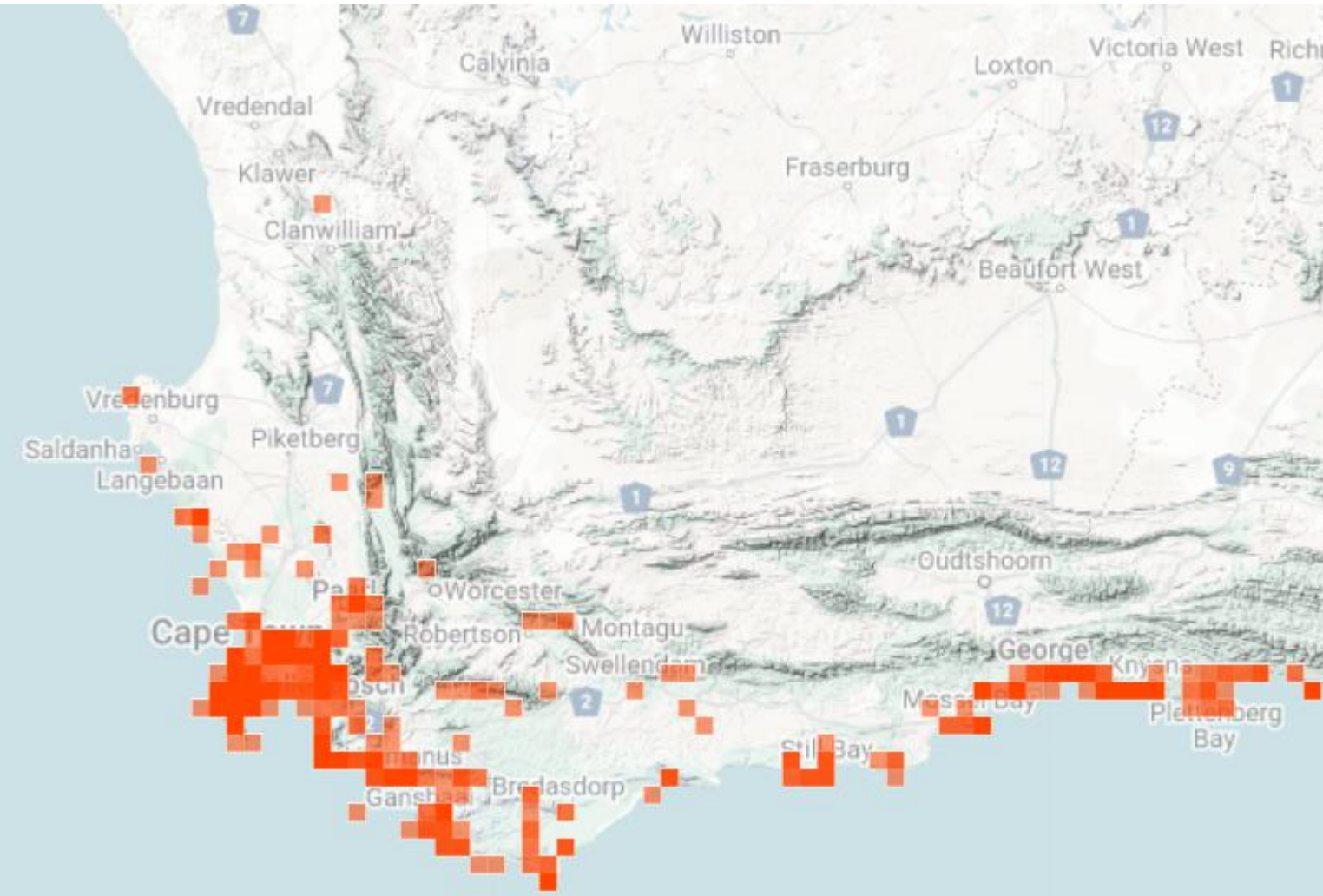




# Chasmanthe aethiopica, Cobra Lily

Terrestrial plant that can grow up to 70cm tall. Pale green leaves resemble a flat, upside down triangle. Medium sized, deep orange to red flower quite long. Flowers April – June.

Afrikaans name – suurkanolpypie

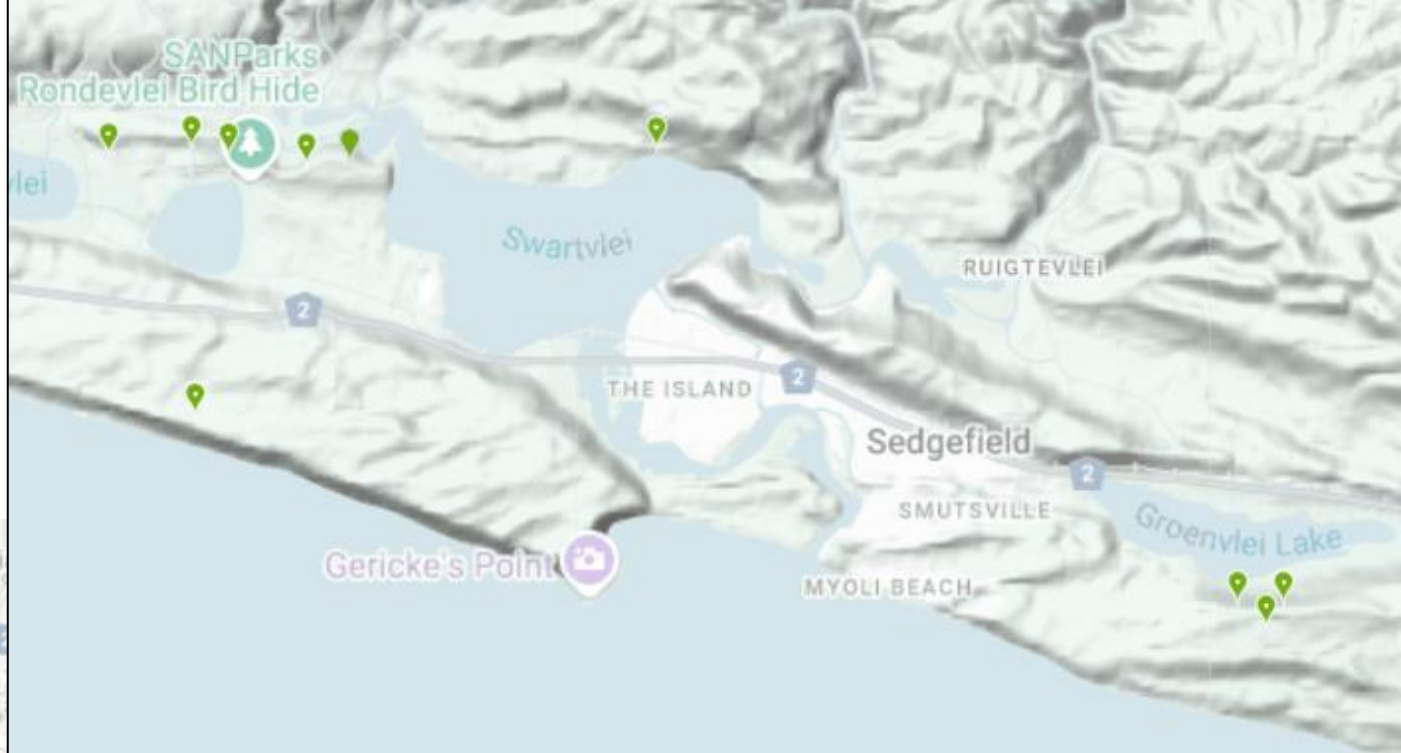
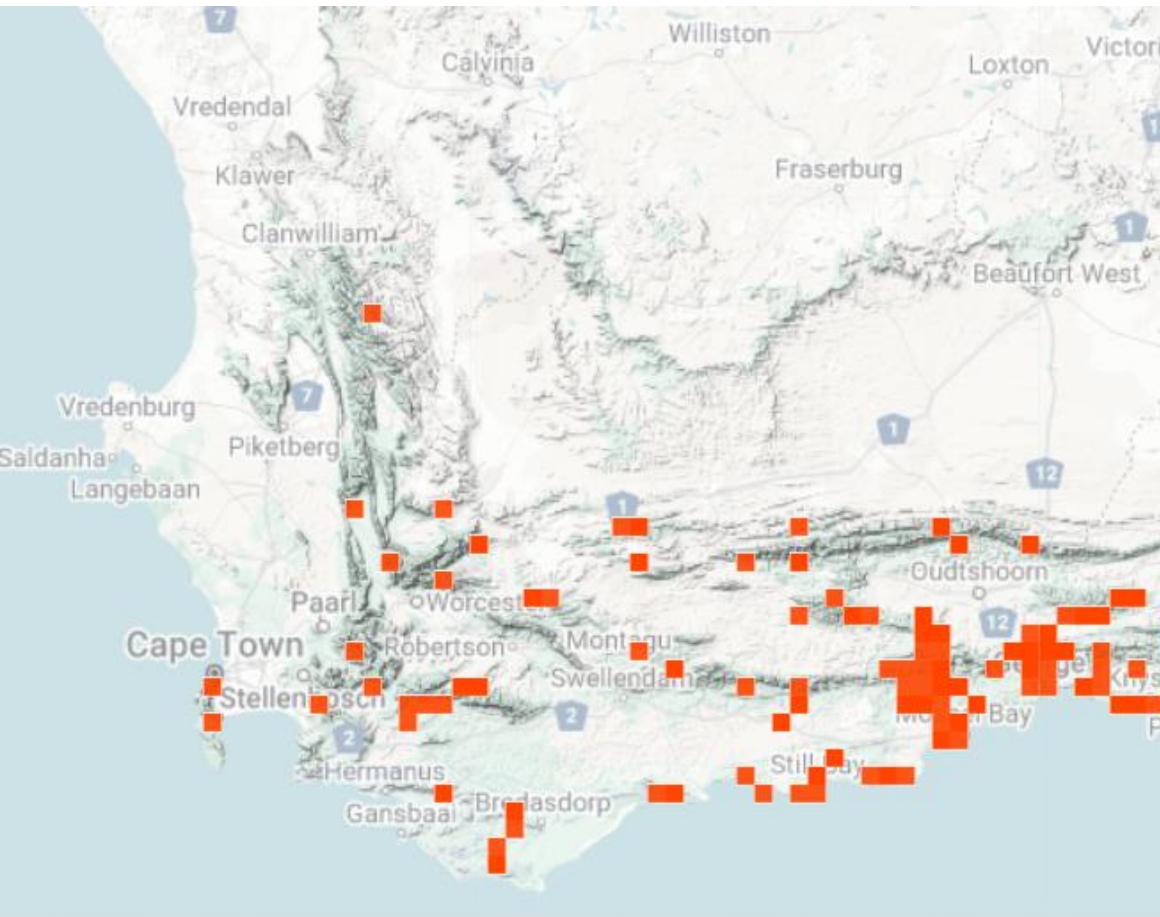




# Clutia laxa, Twiggy Clut

Terrestrial, twiggy shrub up to 1m tall. Pale, almost teal green leaves neat and oval shaped, with a tiny pointed tip. Round flowers small and cream colored, in ground of 1 – 3. Flowers year round, peaking Aug – Sept.

Afrikaans name – none

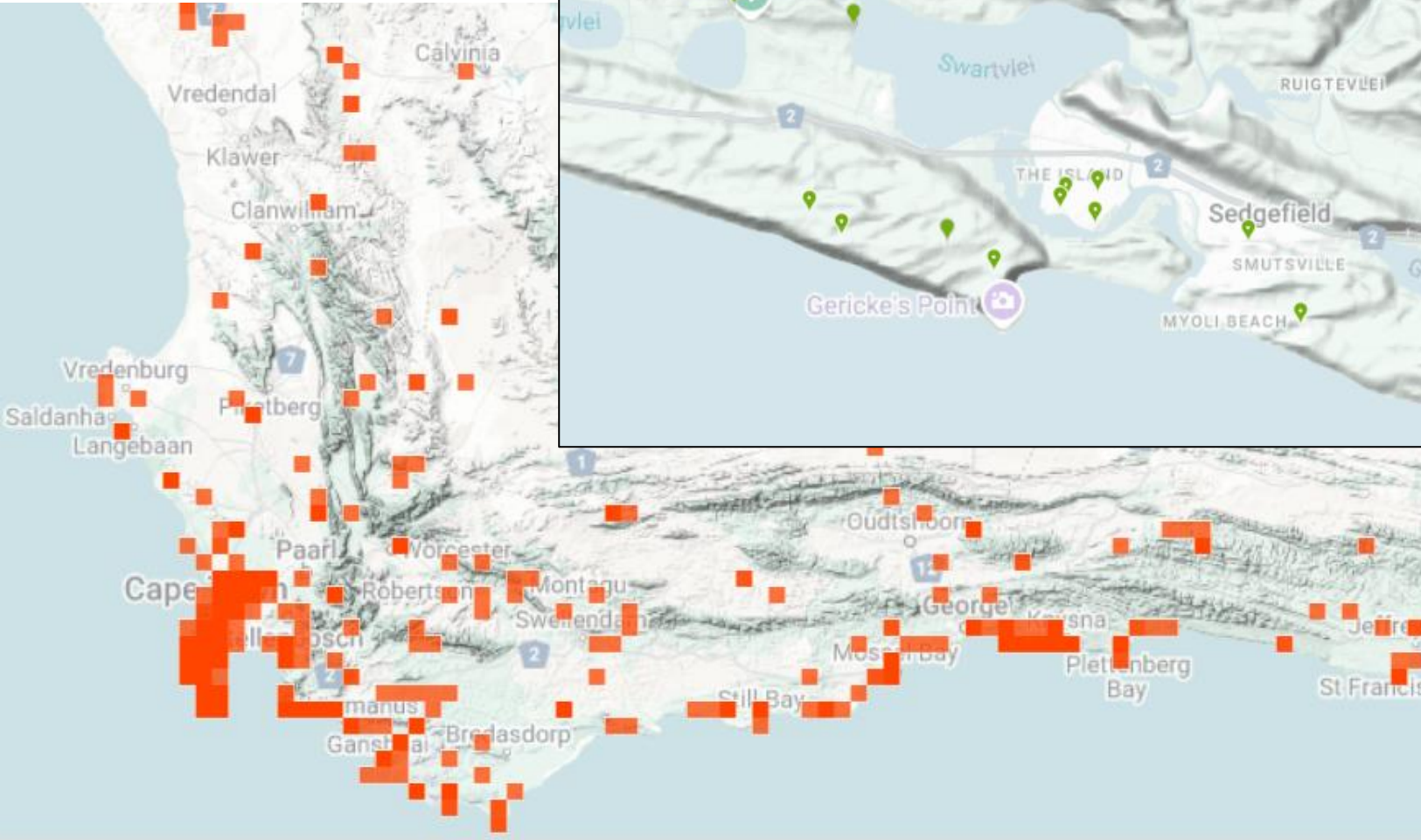




# Colchicum eucomoides, Green Men-in-a-boat

Small, terrestrial plant that grows up to 15cm long, in the shape of a boat. Flowers shaped in a circle, quite messy and usually hidden by two smaller leaves. Flowers June – Oct.

Afrikaans name – Patrysblom

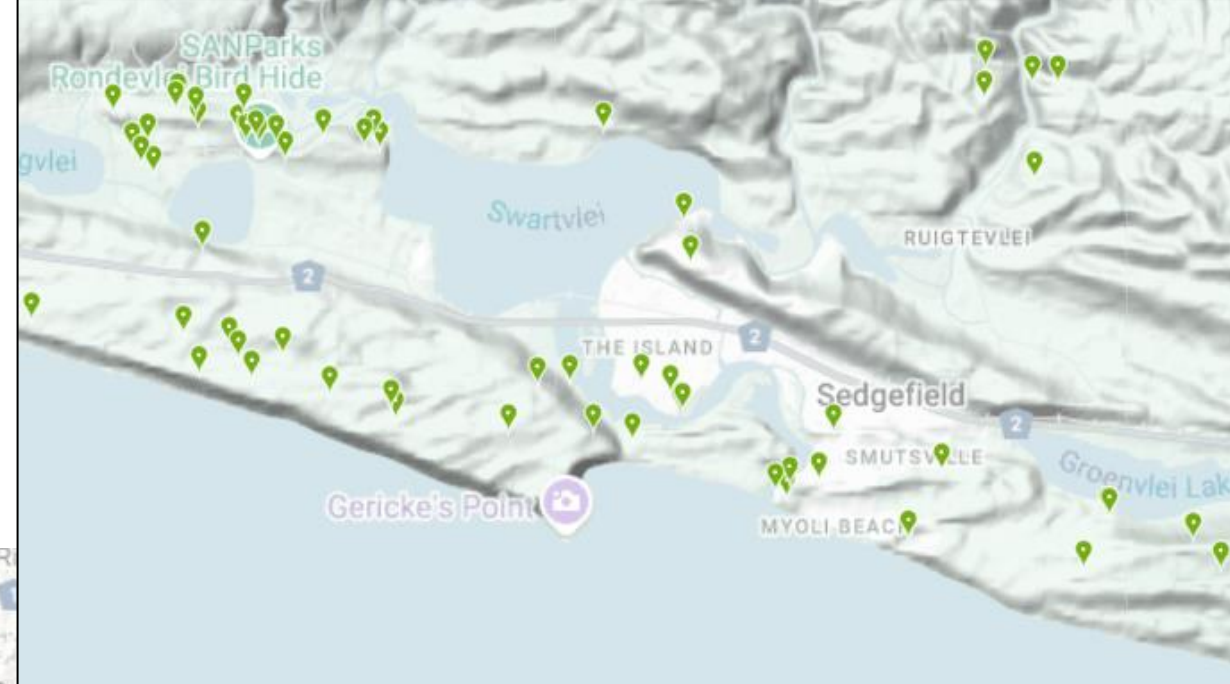
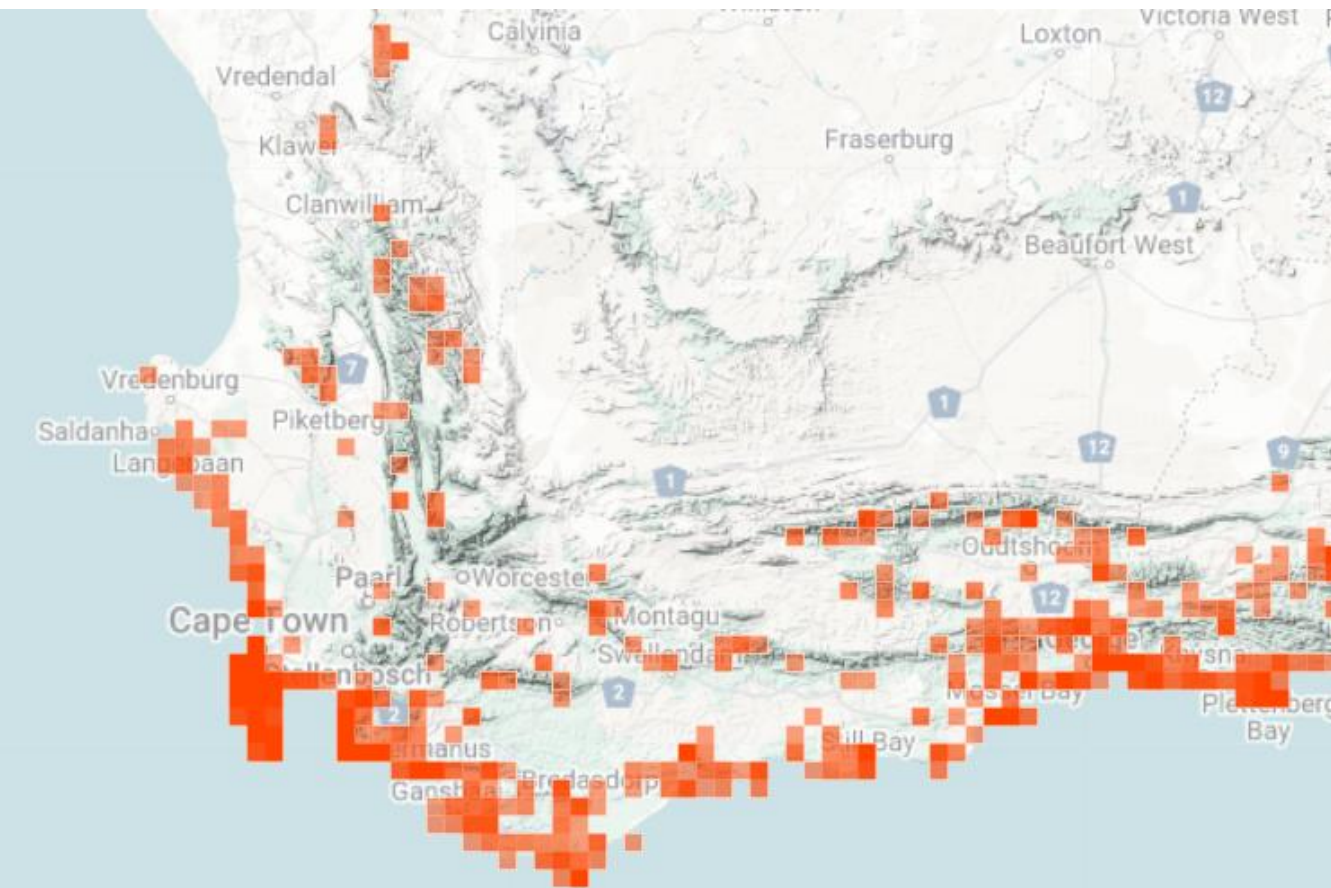




# Colpoon compressum, Cape Sumach

Bushy shrub that can grow into a tree of up to 5m tall. Smooth, greyish bark, leaves are opposite, stiff, blueish green, and crowded up the stem. Small yellowish green flowers inconspicuous. Fruit is a large, fleshy berry that goes from red to black. Flowers year round.

Afrikaans name – wildepruim



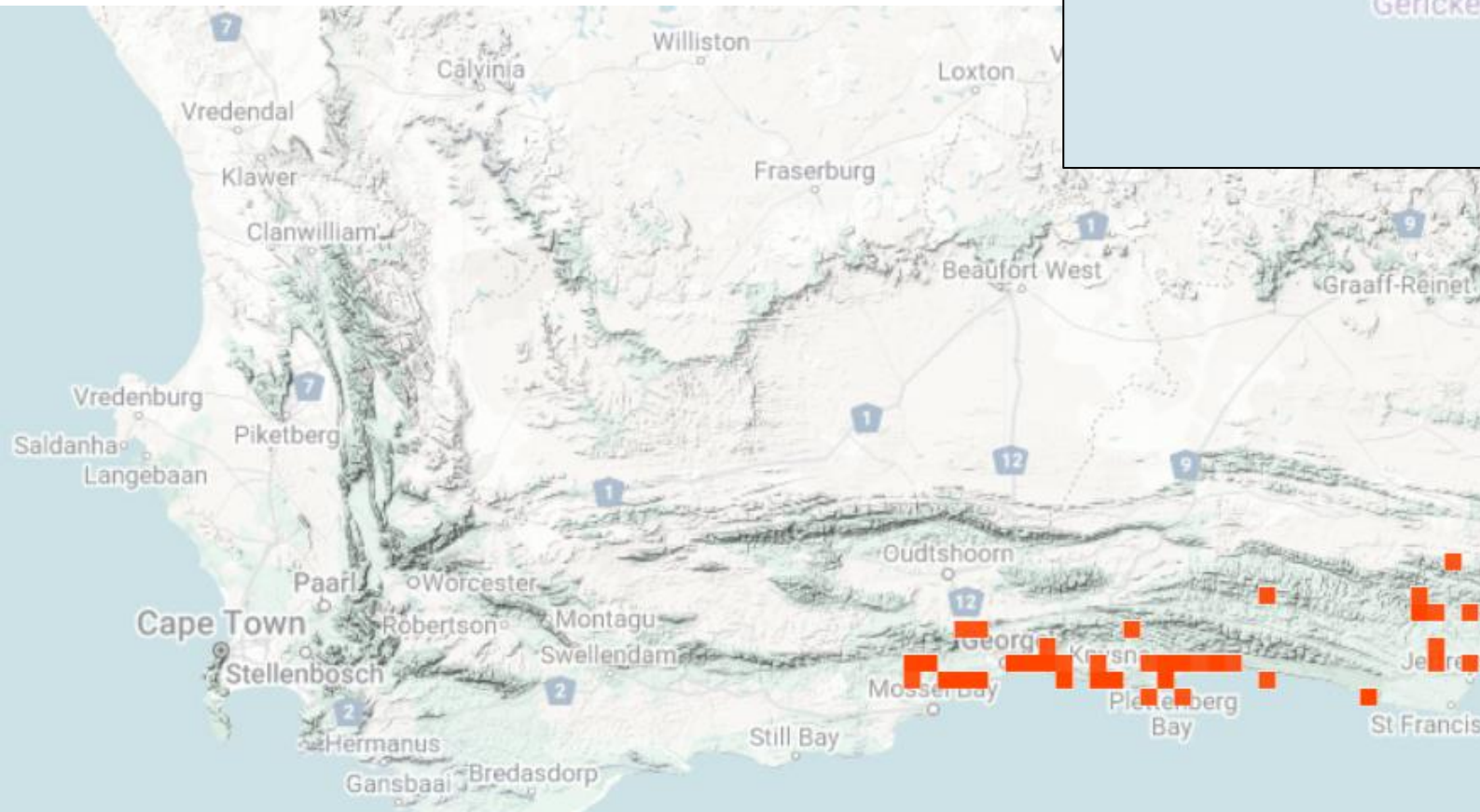


# Cynanchum ellipticum, Monkeyrope

## Buckthorn

Climbing plant coming from a wiry stem. Large green leaves neat and almost heart shaped. Flowers tiny and tubular shaped, produced in clusters. Flowers May – Oct.

Afrikaans name – Bobbejaantou

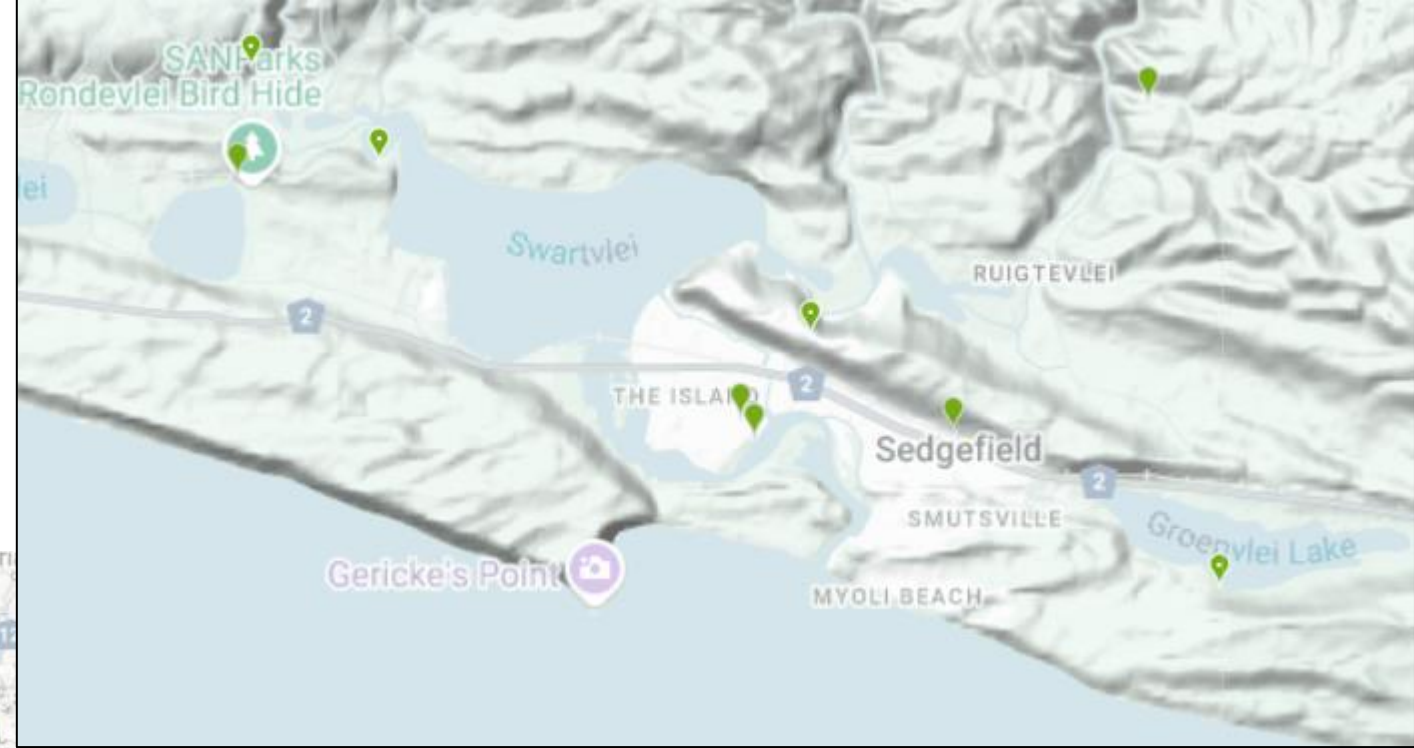
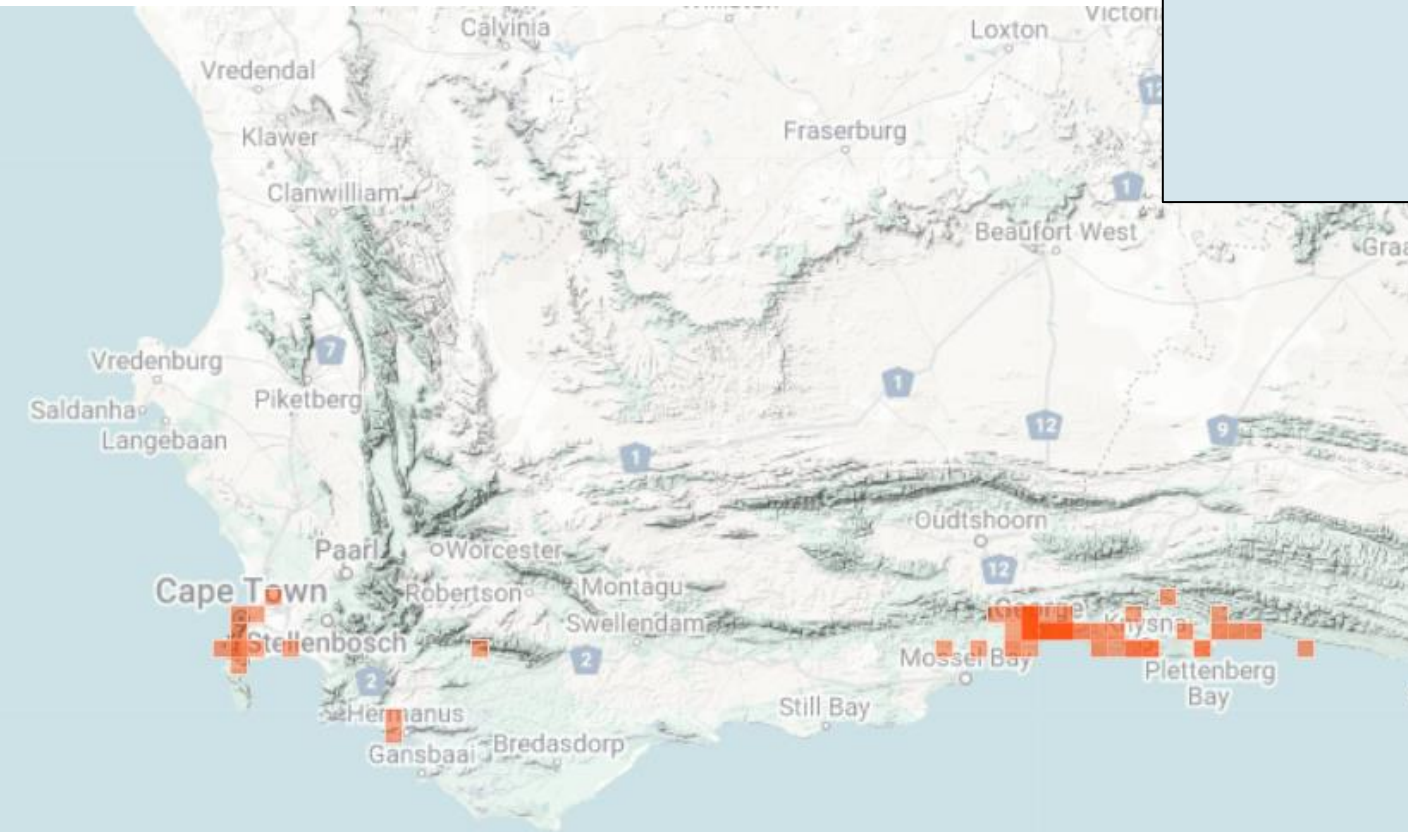




# ***Delairea odorata*, Cape Ivy**

Climbing plant with a long wiry stem. Leaves large and light green, typically ivy shaped. Medium sized tubular yellow flowers that seem to lack petals. Flowers in winter and early Spring.

Afrikaans name – none

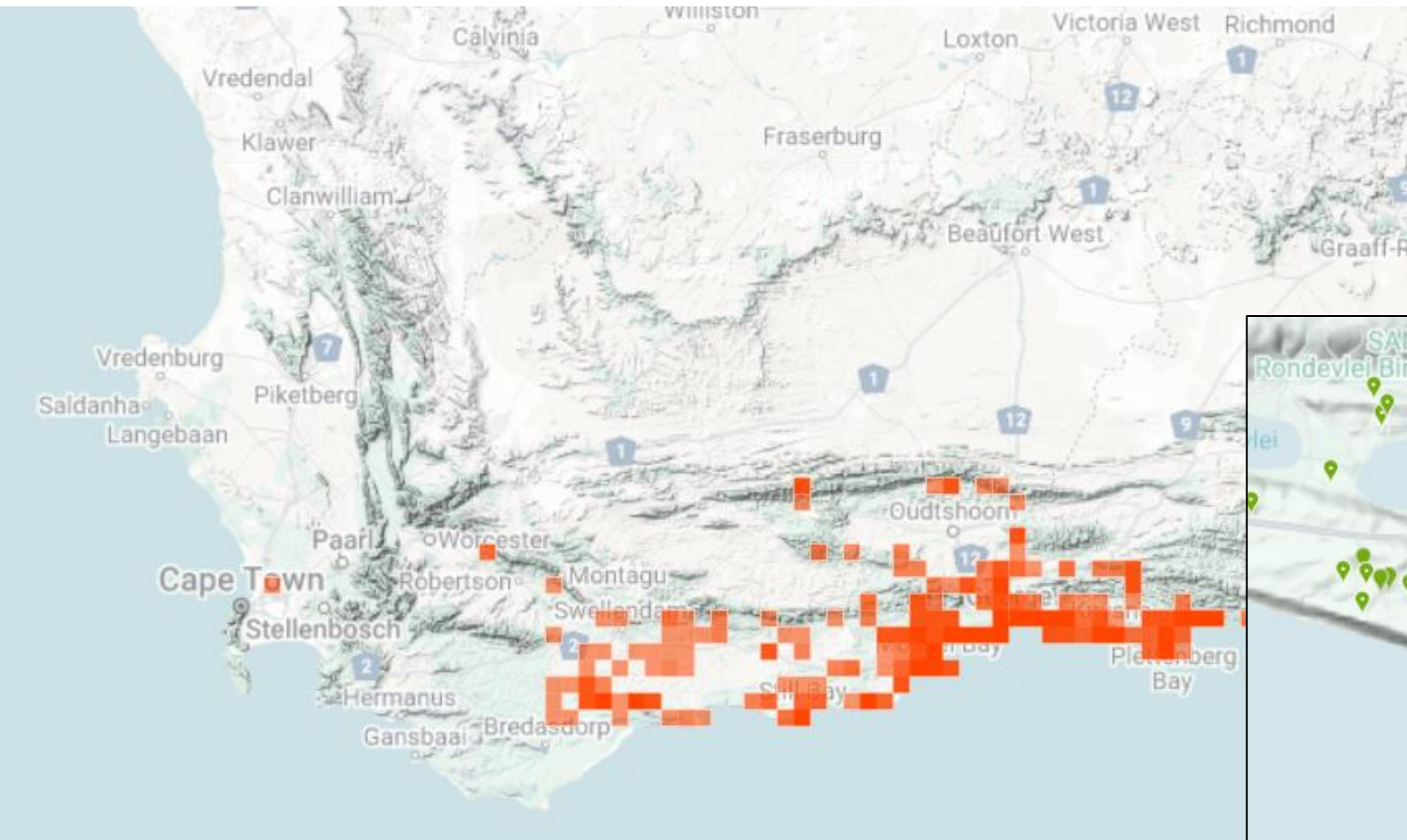




# **Diospyros dichrophylla, Poison Starapple**

Shrub or tree, usually 2 – 3m but can reach up to 13m. Bark is grey to brown, smooth or slightly wrinkled. Leaves simple and narrowly oblong, egg-shaped or oval with bluntly pointed or rounded tips, dark green and hairless above and pale green with few hairs below. Fruit round and somewhat large, with leaves forming a 'star' at the stem. Flowers Nov – March.

Afrikaans name – gifsterappel

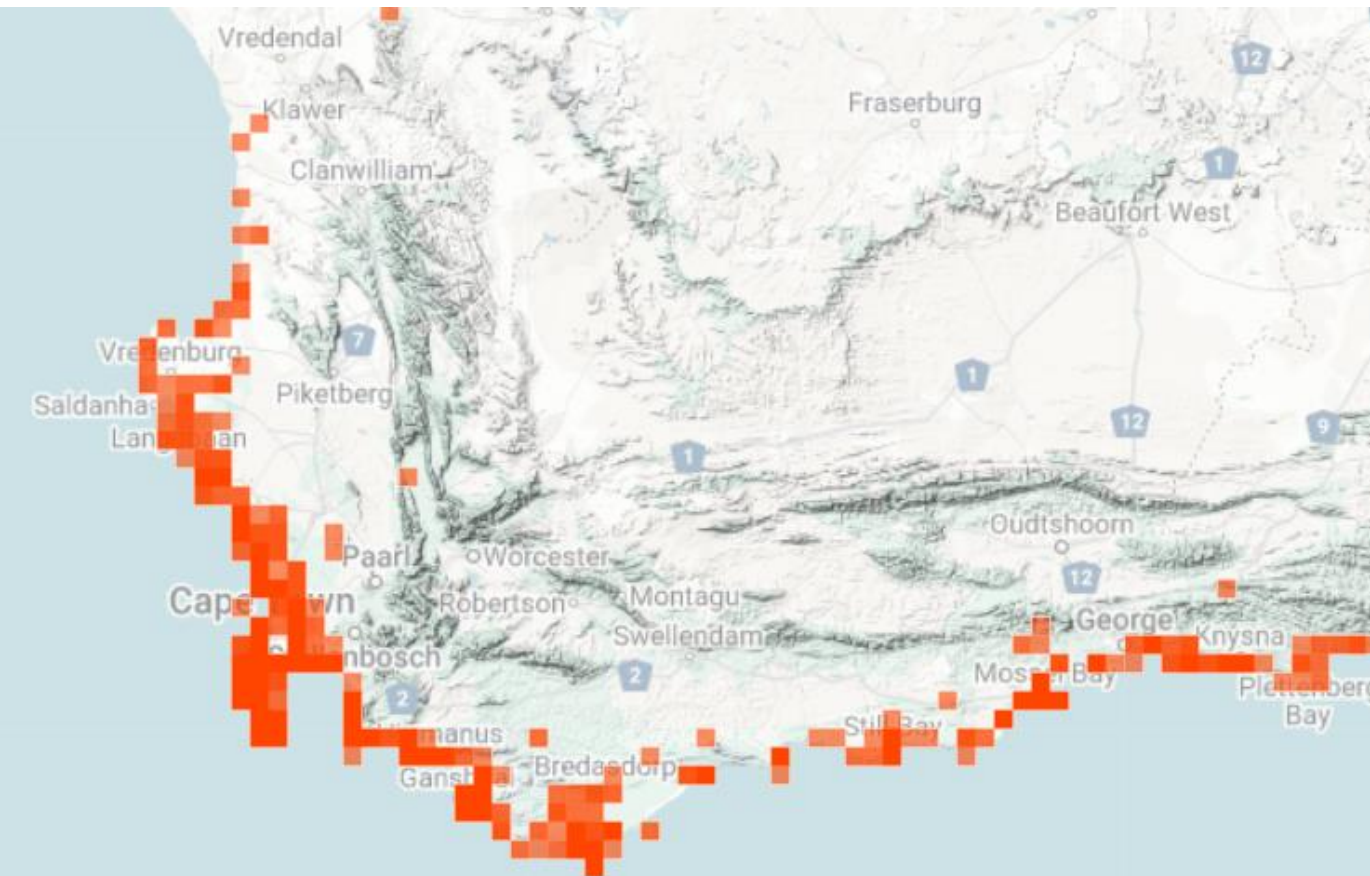




# **Euclea racemosa, Dune Guarri**

Multi-stemmed shrub or tree usually around 2m, but can reach up to 6m. Leaves oval, paler green below and darker above with characteristic reddish leaf stalks. Small creamy-white flowers, in drooping spikes up to 4cm long. Flowers Dec – June.

Afrikaans name – Seagarri

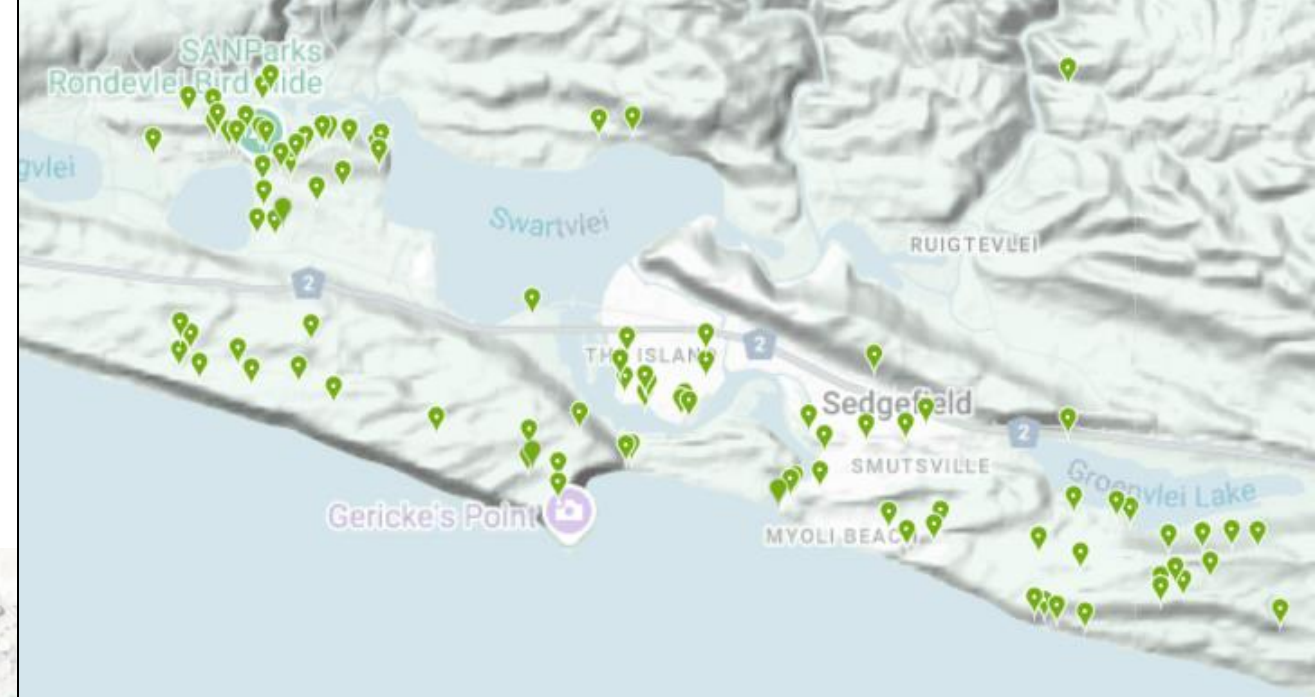
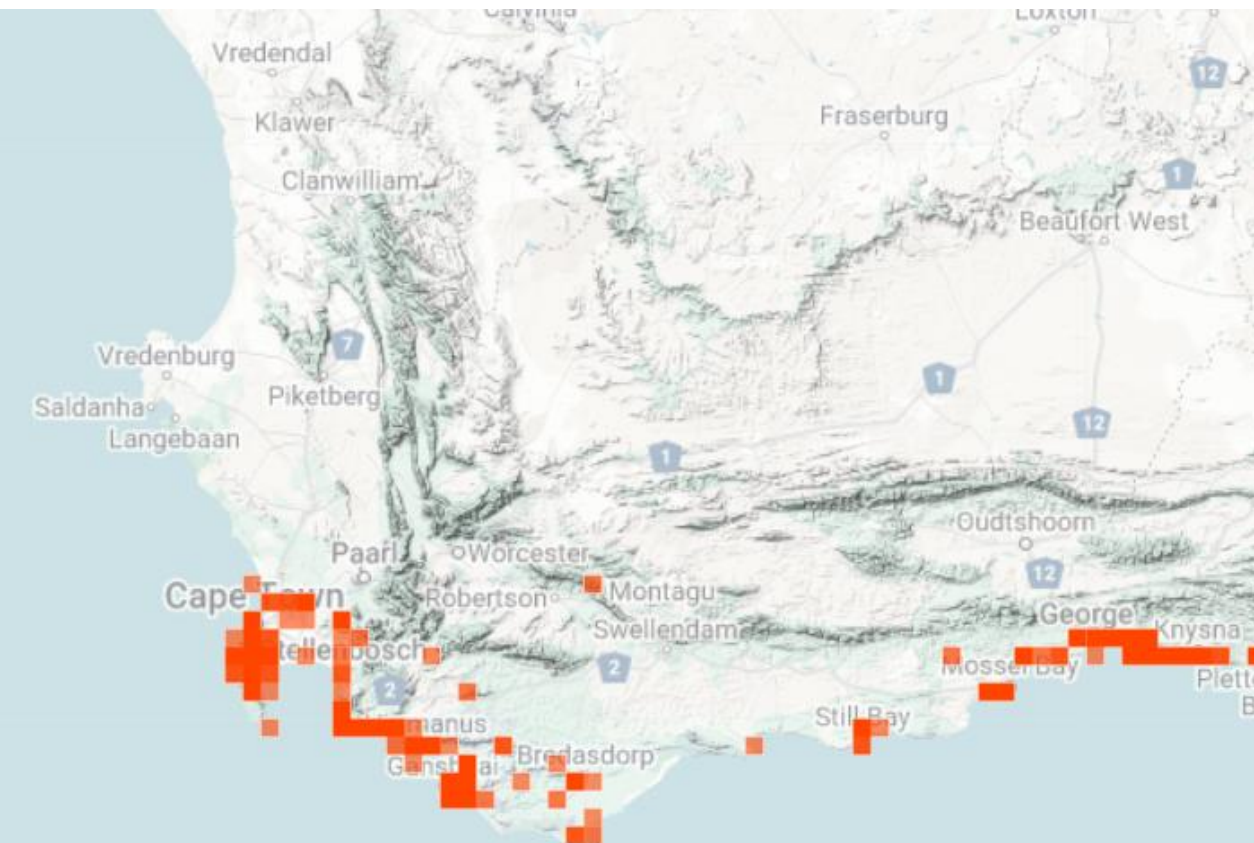




# Felecia enchinata, Dune Felicia

Terrestrial plant up to 60cm tall. Stiff dark green leaves cover tall stem, sticking outward. Daisy-like flowers purple with yellow center. Flowers throughout the year, with peaks in spring.

Afrikaans name – bloublommetjie

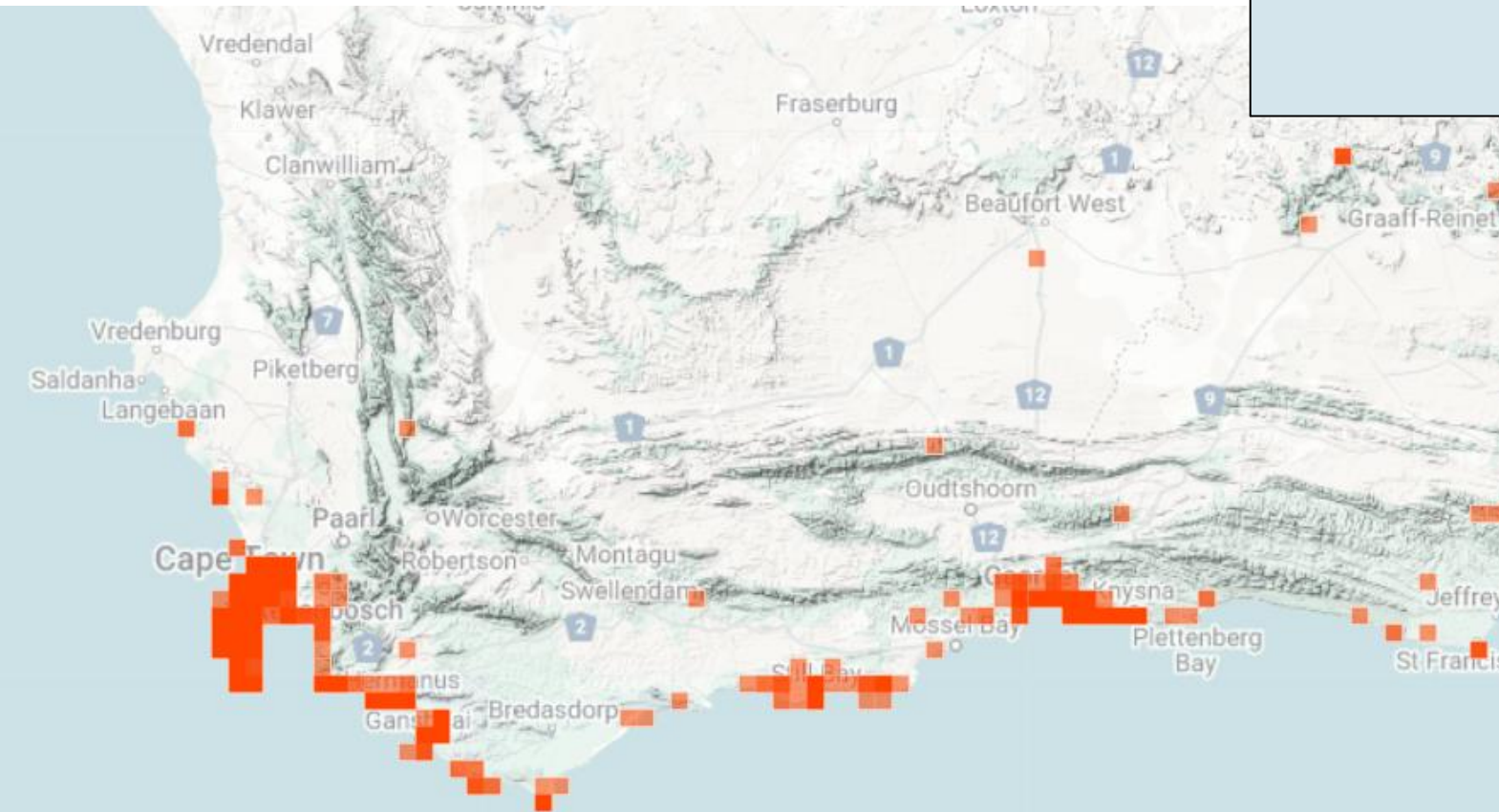
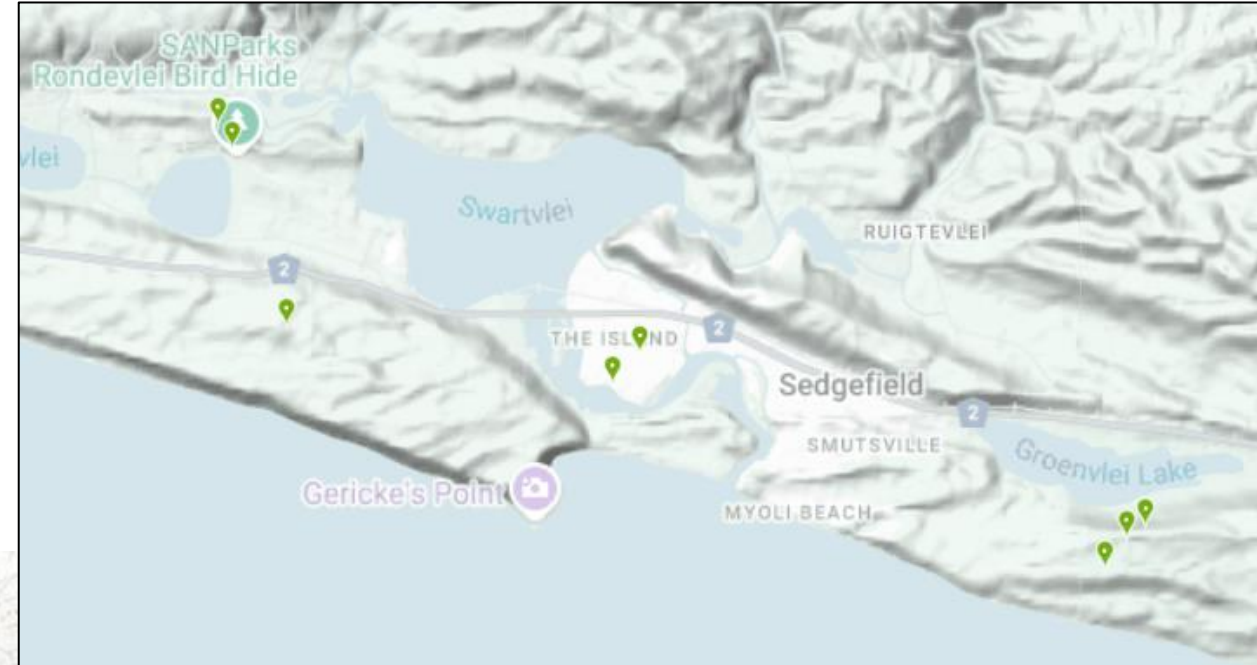




# Geranium incanum multifidum, Carpet Crane's Bill

Terrestrial flower not reaching higher than 45cm. Leaves finely divided and thin. Flower roundish and flat, purple with usually 5 identical petals. Flowers Aug – Dec.

Afrikaans name – Horlosies

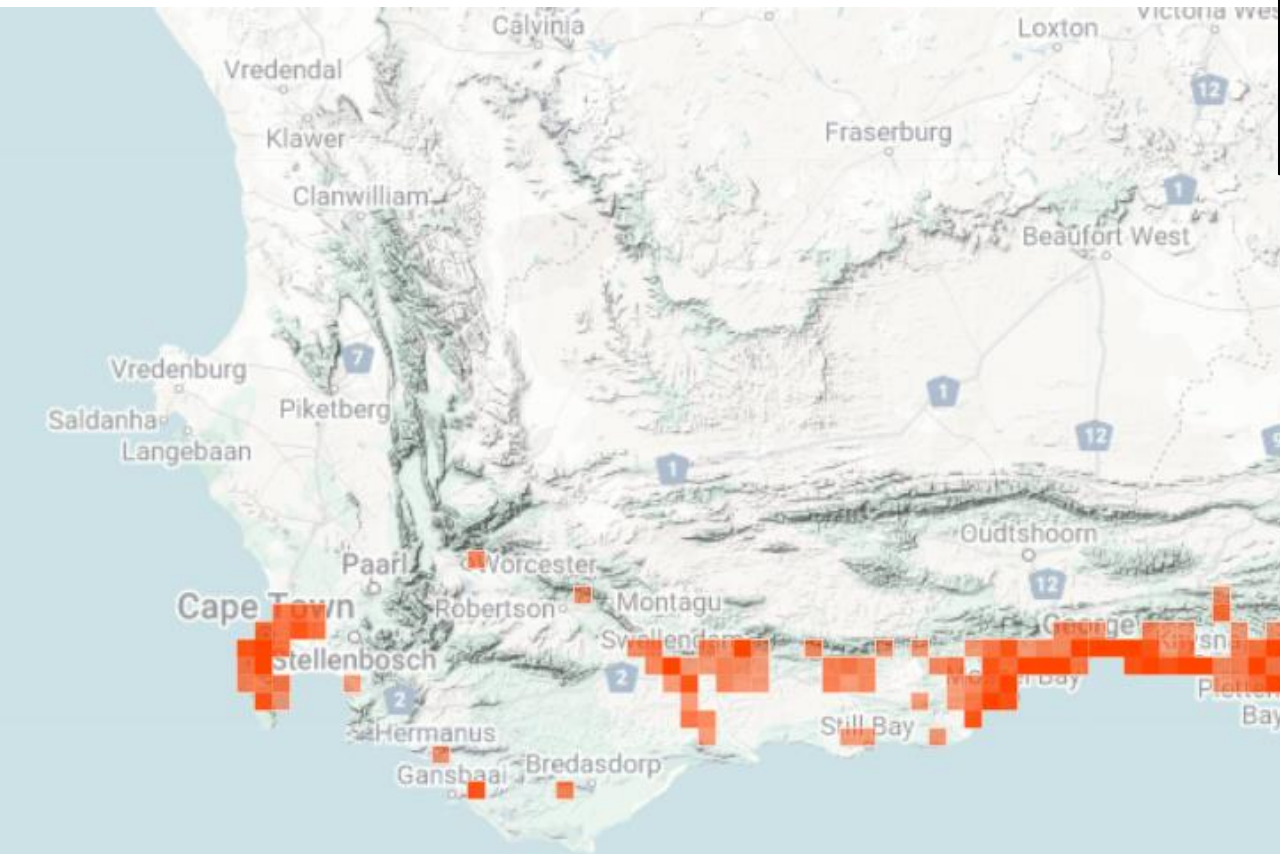




# Grewia occidentalis, Common Crossberry

Scrambling shrub or tree up to 4m tall. Shiny deep green leaves alternate with veins at the base. Purple star shaped flowers up to 4cm across. Fruit is a four lobed berry. Flowers Spring – summer.

Afrikaans name – kruisbessie

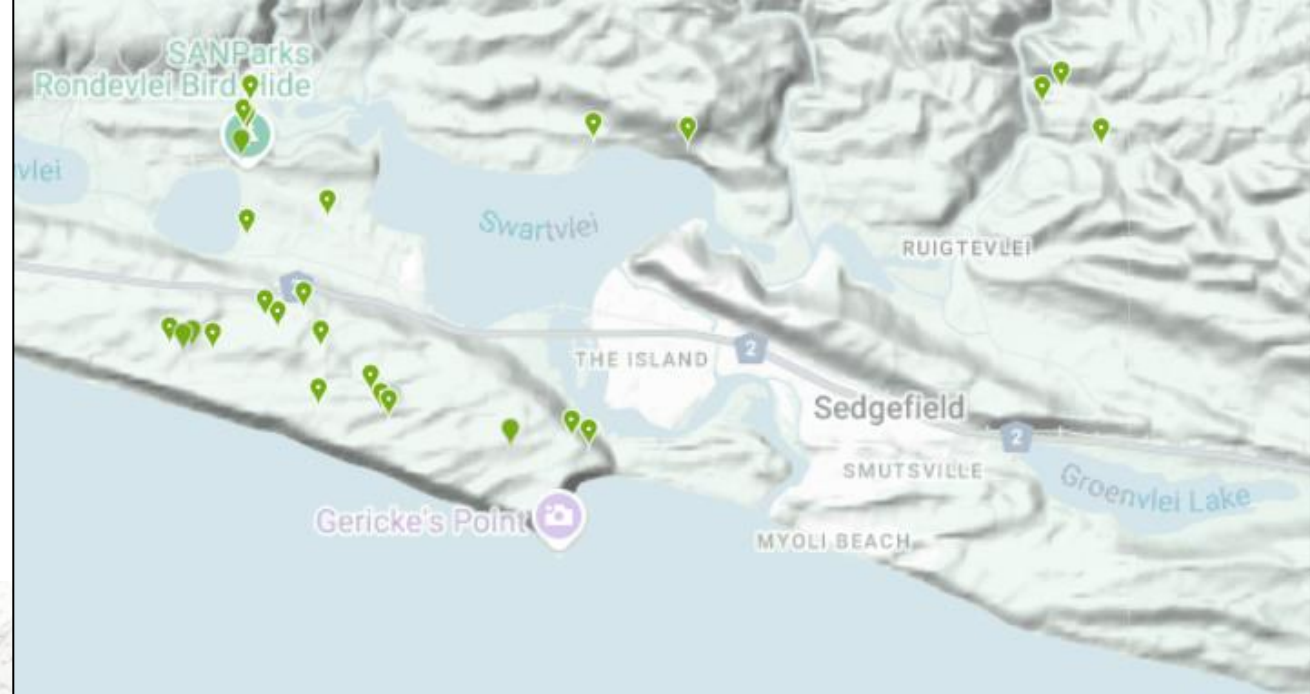
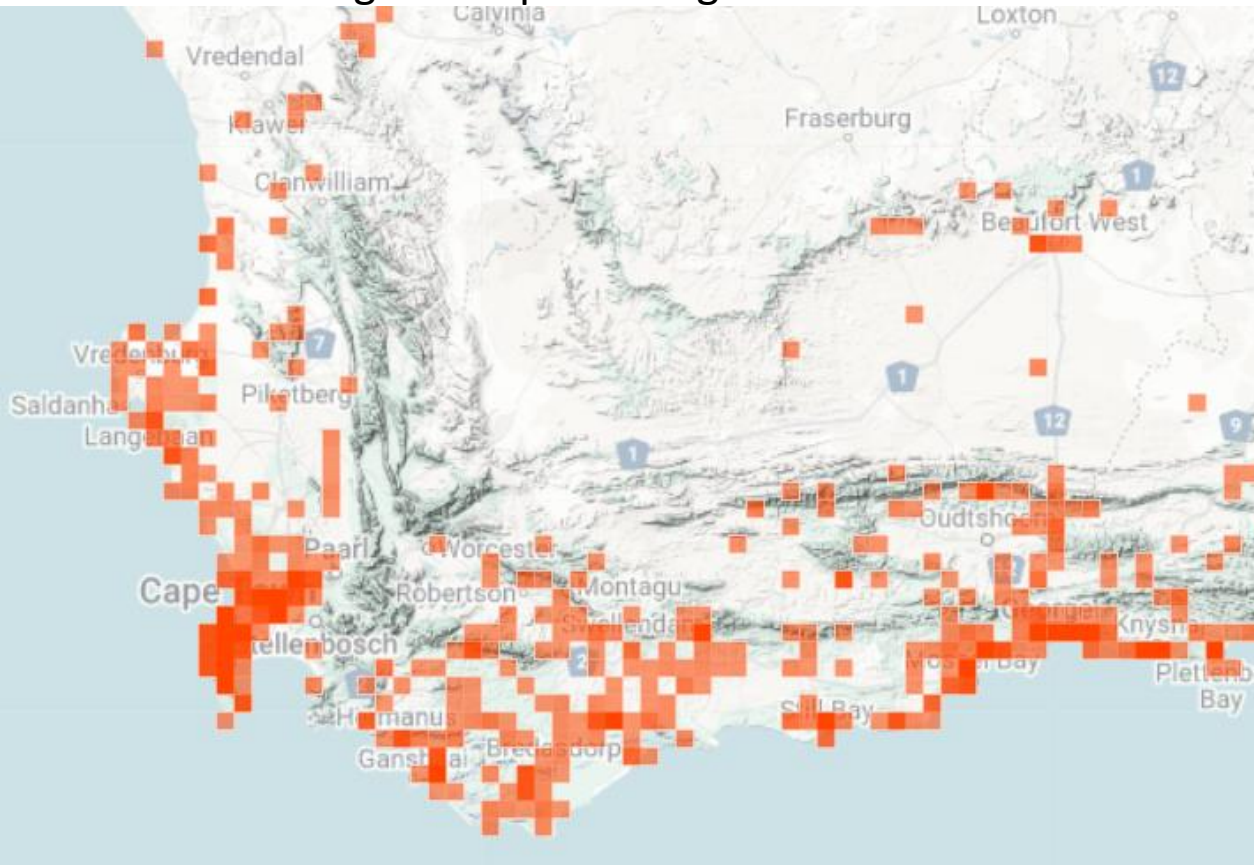




# Gymnosporia buxifolia, Common Spikethorn

Shrub or tree usually around 3m tall, but getting up to 7m. Leaves oval shaped in clusters, sometimes with a notch at the top of the leaf. Long brown thorns form on the branches. Small white flowers appear in clusters along the branches. Flowers year round, peaking Aug – Nov.

Afrikaans name - gewone pendoring

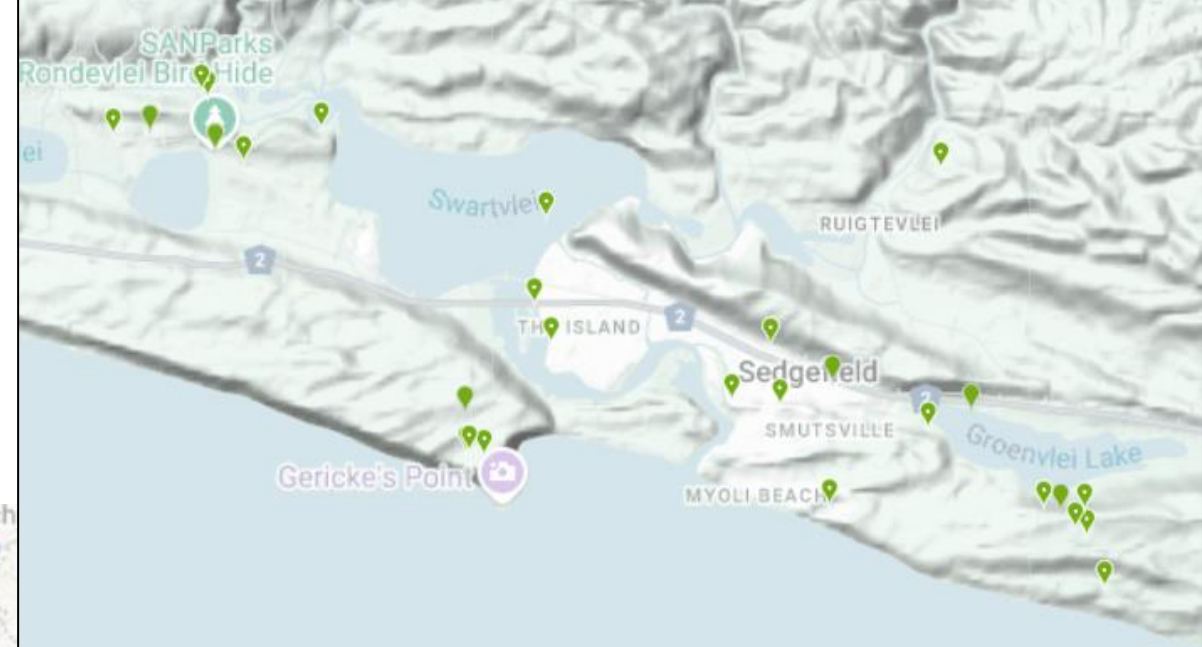
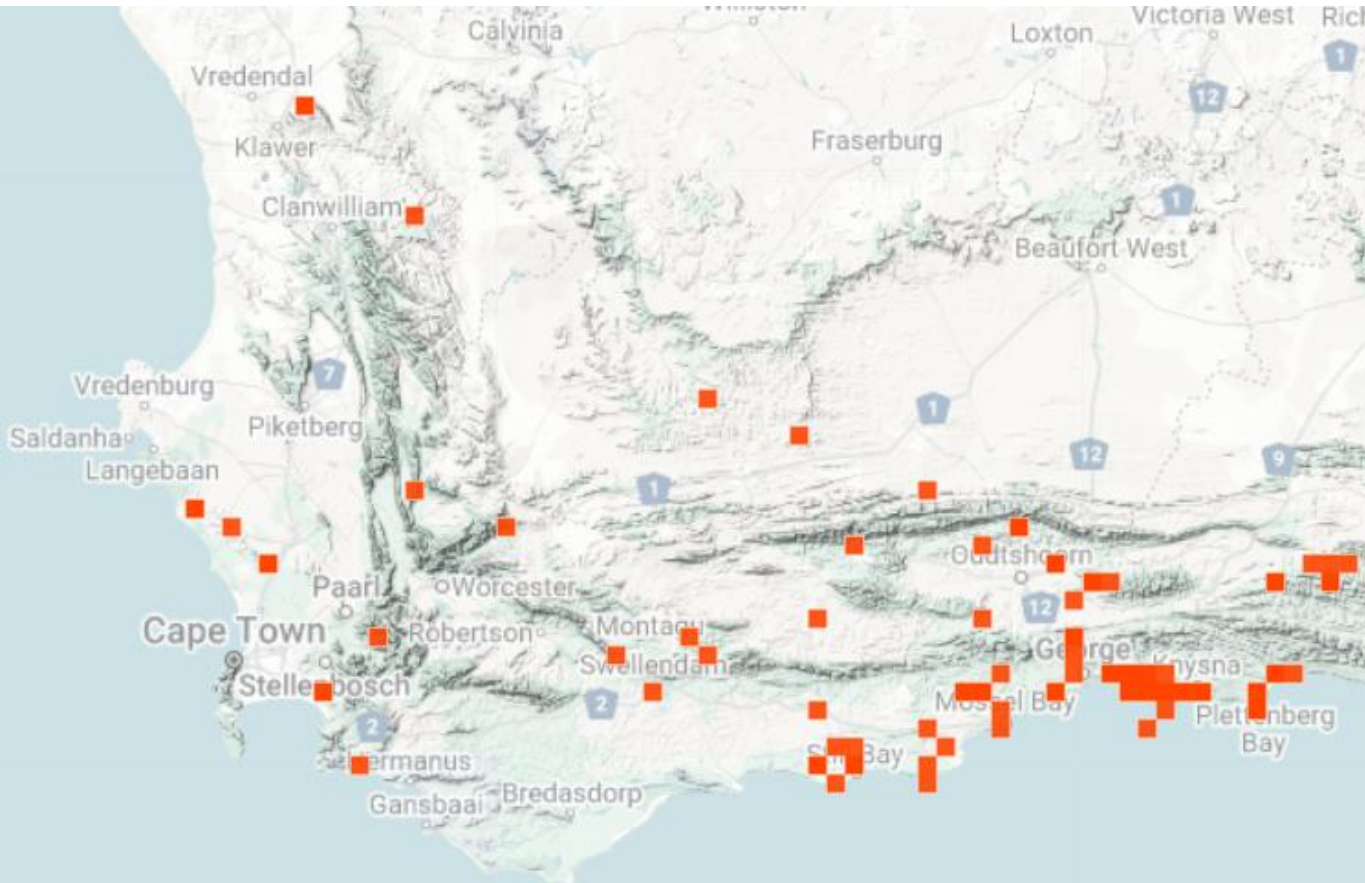




# Hebenstretia integrifolia, Summer Slugwort

Terrestrial plant growing up to 60cm tall. Leaves thin and alternately arranged, bright green on multiple stems. Flowering head a bunch of small white flowers, with orange in the center. Flowers spring – autumn.

Afrikaans name – none

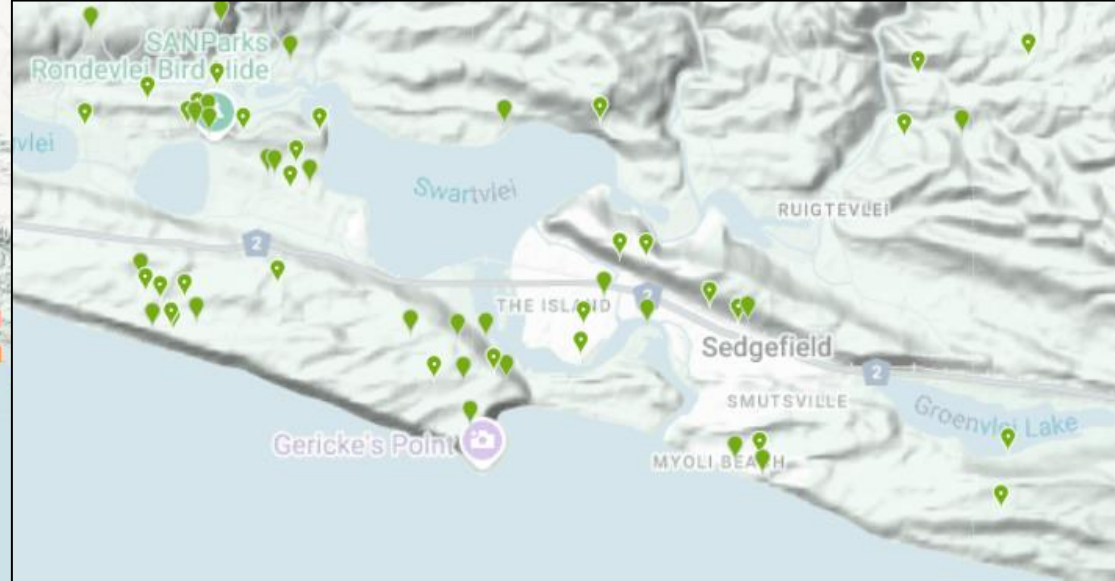
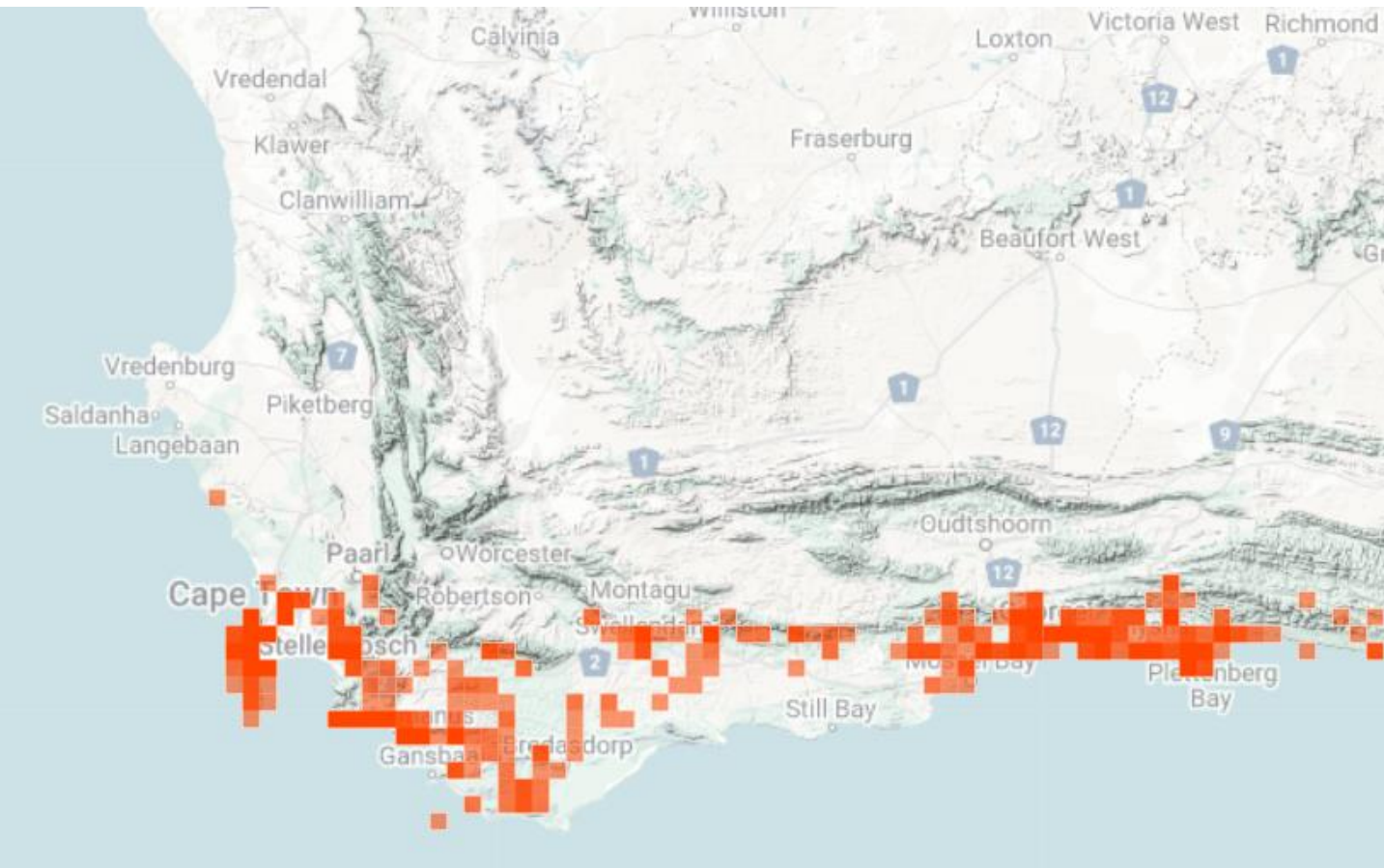




# Helichrysum cymosum, Fume Everlasting

Terrestrial, ground covering plant that can reach up to 1m tall. Greyish white, wooly branches, leaves silvery becoming greener, smaller and more sparse as it nears the flowering head. Flowers bright yellow flattop flower heads of up to 20 tubular flowers close together. Flowers summer – autumn.

Afrikaans name - goue tapyt

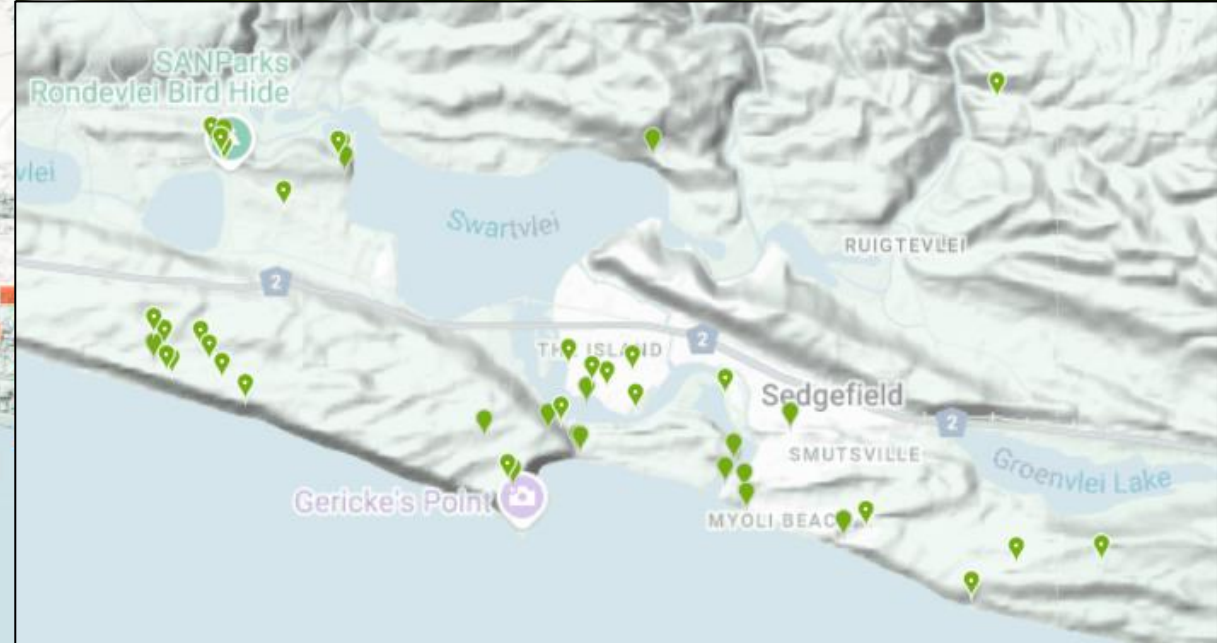
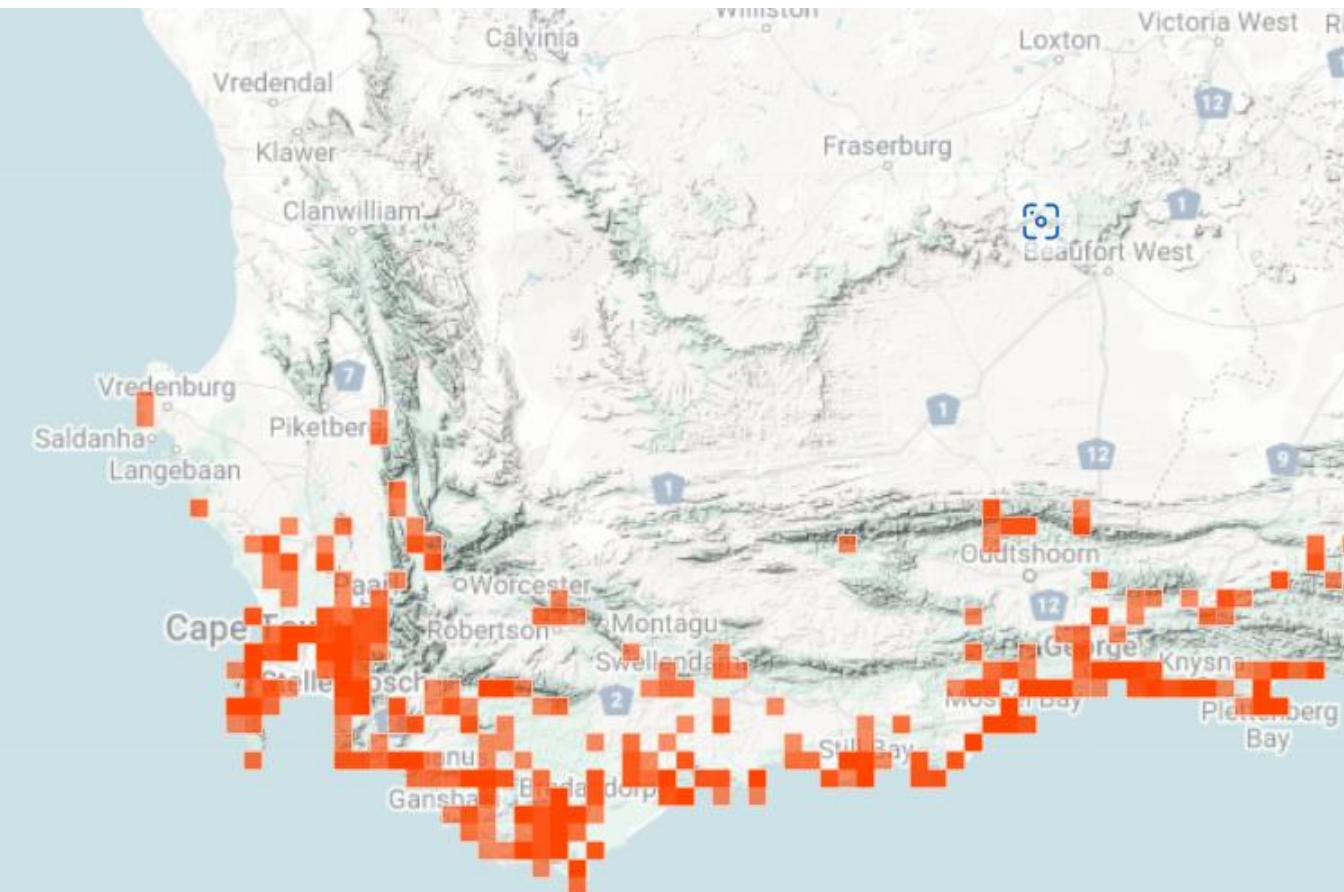




# Helichrysum teretifolium, Needle Everlasting

Terrestrial plant growing up to 60cm tall. Skinny stems with sharp, thin, dark green leaves. Flowering head a cluster of round white flowers, some with yellow centers. Flowers June – Dec.

Afrikaans name – none

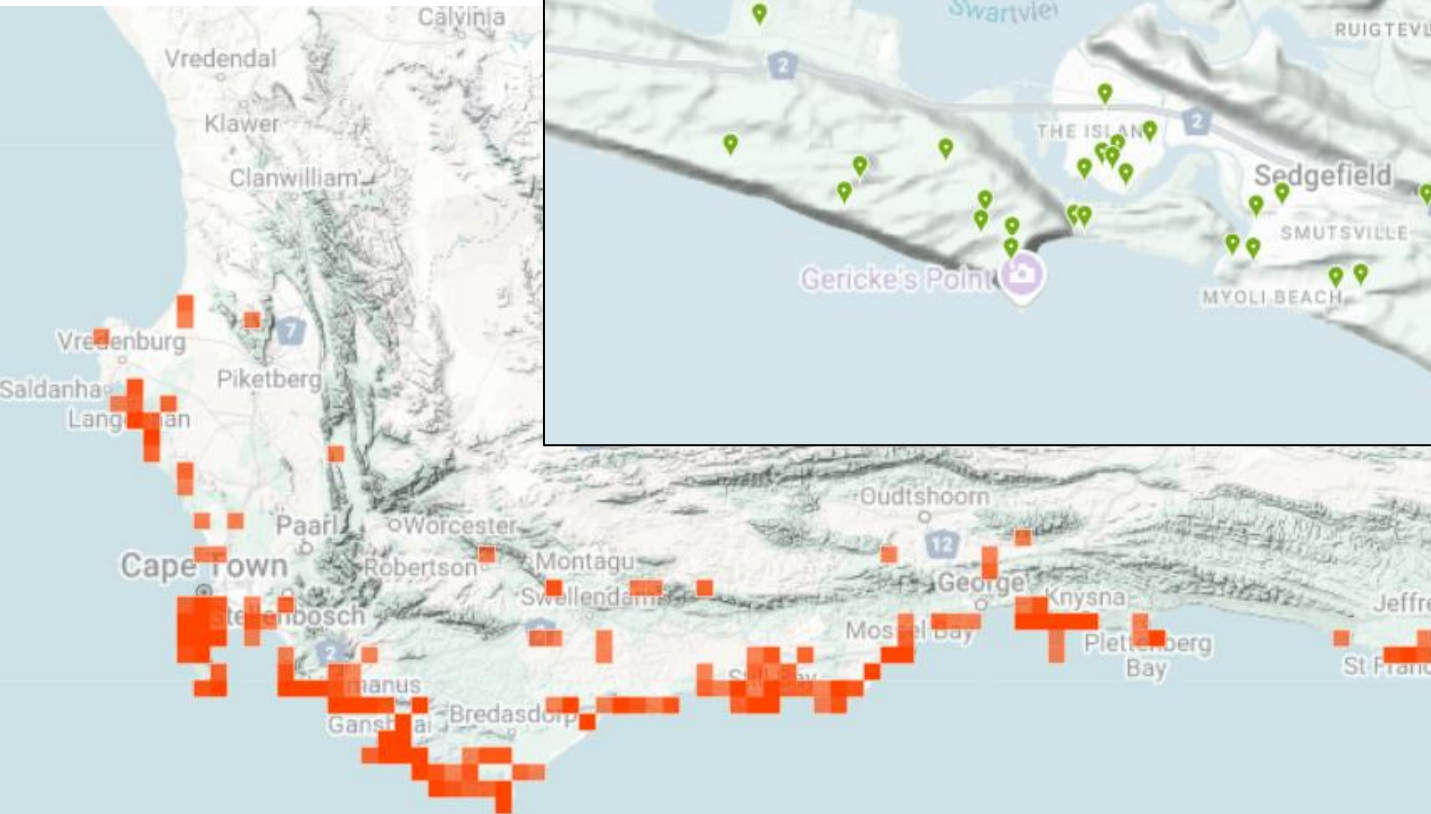




# ***Heliophila linearis*, Needle Sunspurge**

Terrestrial flower growing off of a very thin, mostly bare stalk. Leaves thin and green, somewhat inconspicuous. Flowers four lobed and purple with a green cross in the center. Flowers usually only open when it's sunny. Flowers spring and summer.

Afrikaans name – Sporrie

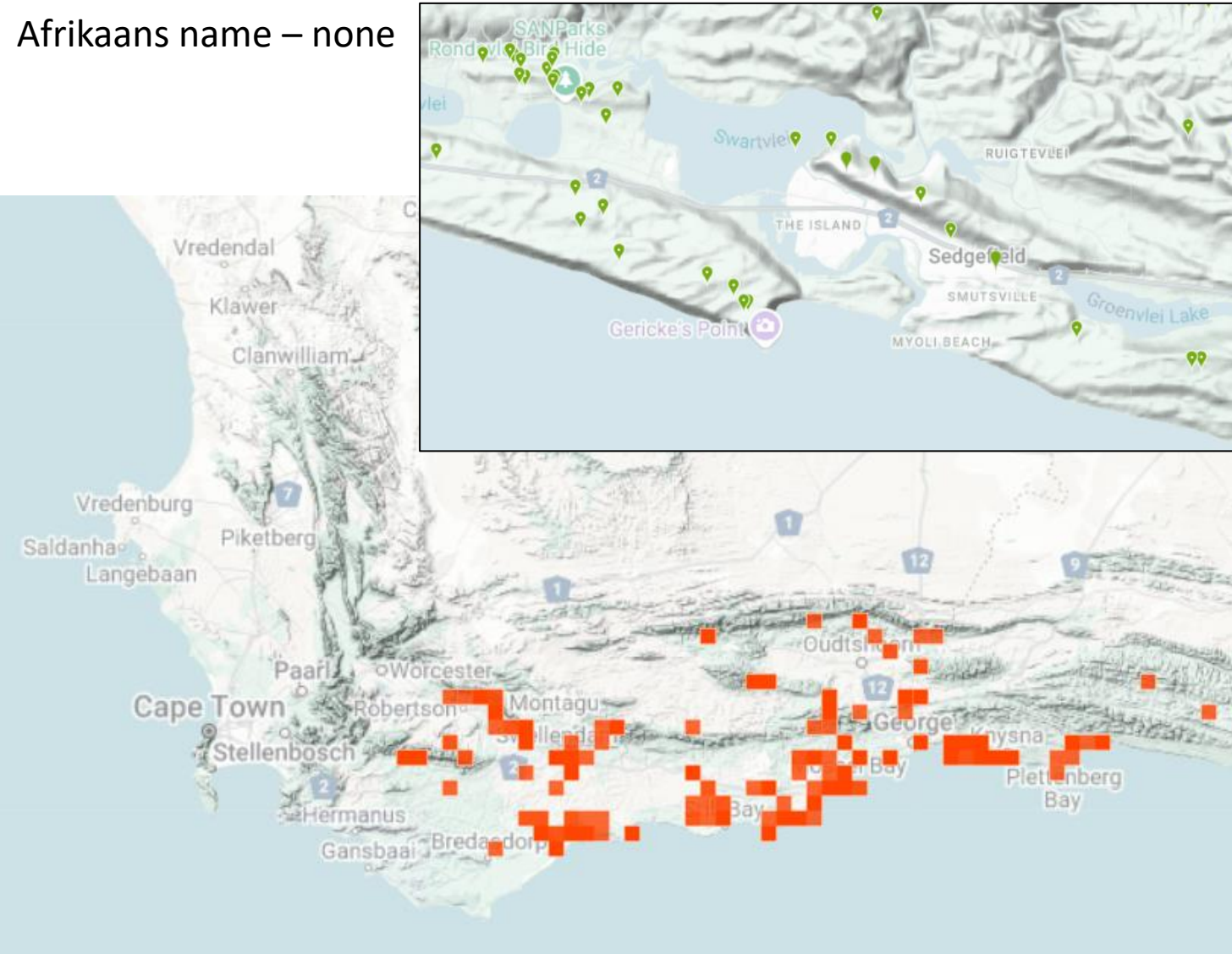




# Indigofera priorii, Squashed Indigo

Terrestrial plant with brownish red, hairy stalks. Leaves three lobed and clover shaped, usually a dull green. Small pink – red flowers. Flowers year round, with a peak in April.

Afrikaans name – none

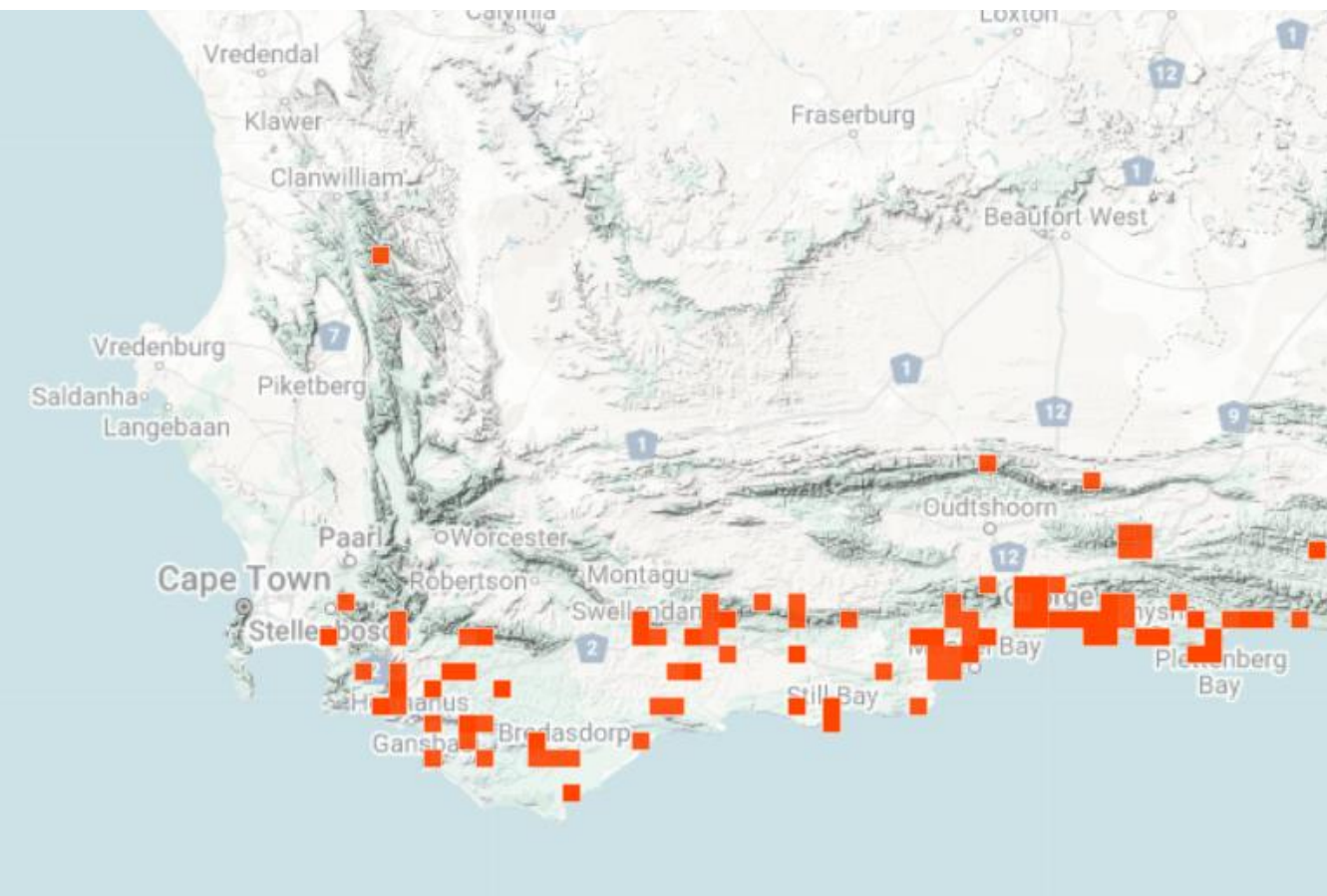
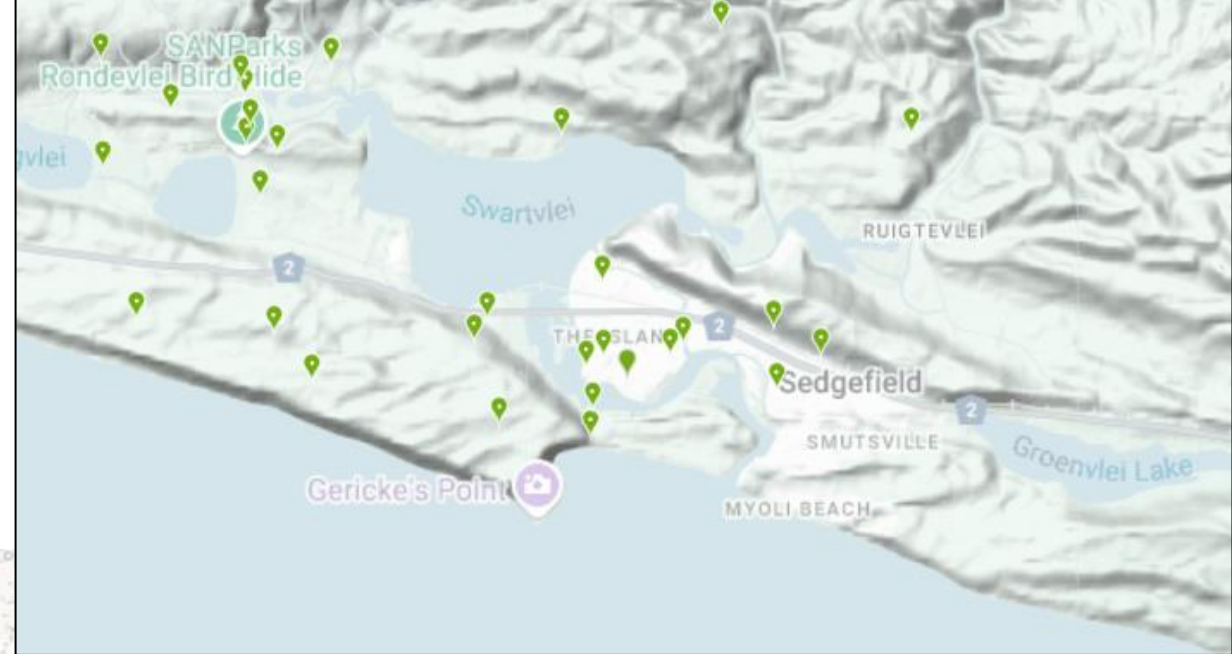




# ***Ixia orientalis*, Eastern Kalossie**

Terrestrial flower that grows from one or two long, green leaves. Stalk thin, with a medium sized white – pale purple flower, usually with 6 petals and forming a small cup. Flowers Aug – Nov.

Afrikaans name - Kalossie

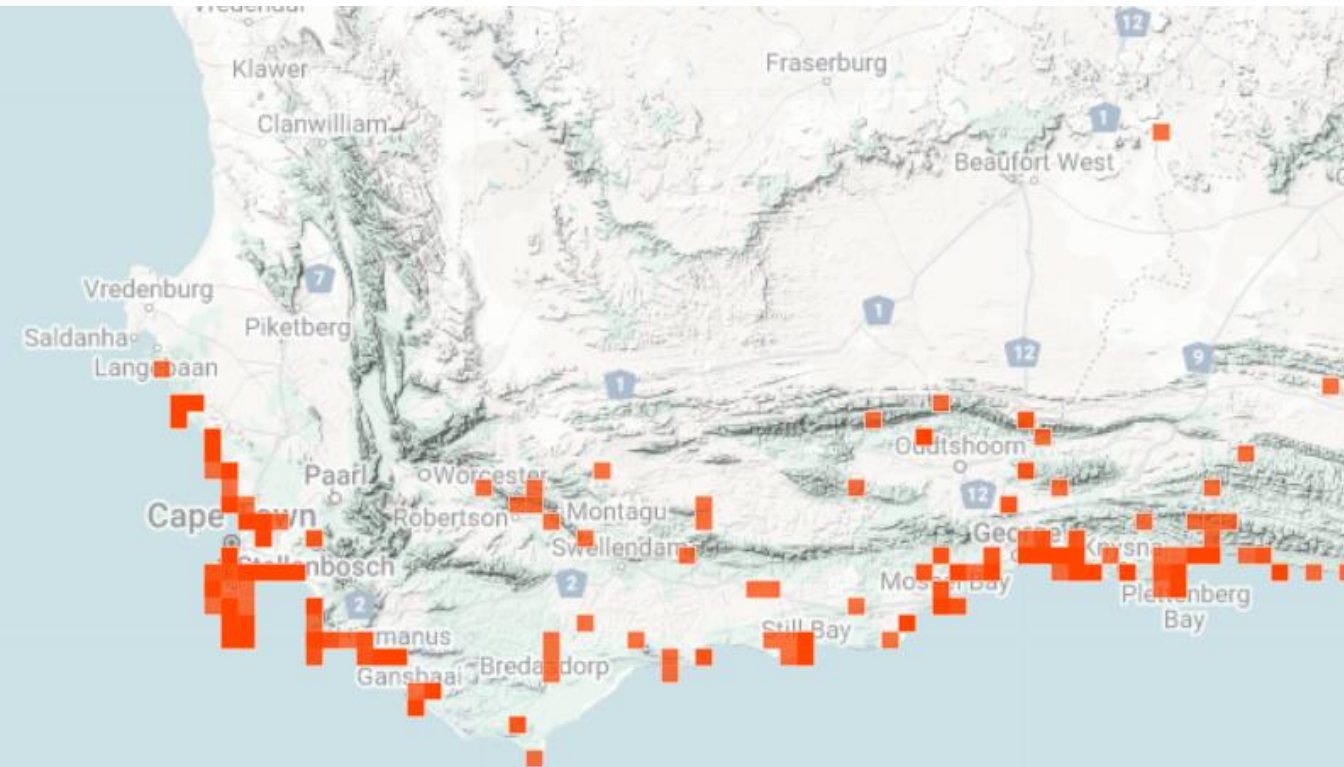




# Kedrostis nana, Porcupine Potato

Climbing plant with wiry stems up to 2m long. Leaves heart-shaped, shiny-green with prominent veins. Small flowers are pale yellow and cup shaped. Fruit is a bright orange pepper-shaped berry. Flowers Feb – March.

Afrikaans name – Ystervarkpatat

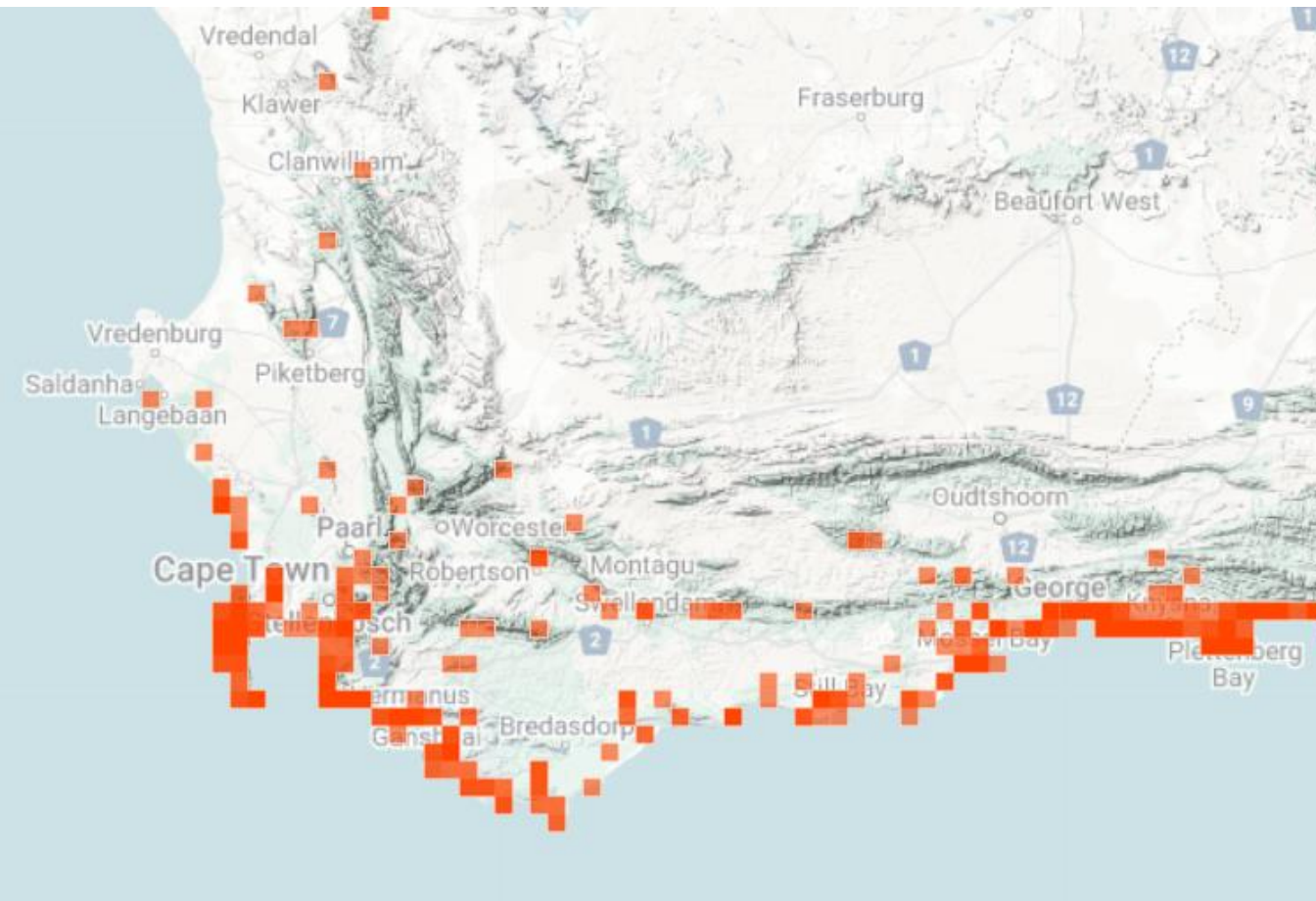




# **Knowltonia vesicatoria, Common Burnleaf**

Terrestrial plant reaching up to 1.2m tall. Large dark green leaves divided into three leaflets. Medium sized yellowish green or white flowers daisy-like, on top of the plant. Flowers year round.

Afrikaans name – brandblaar

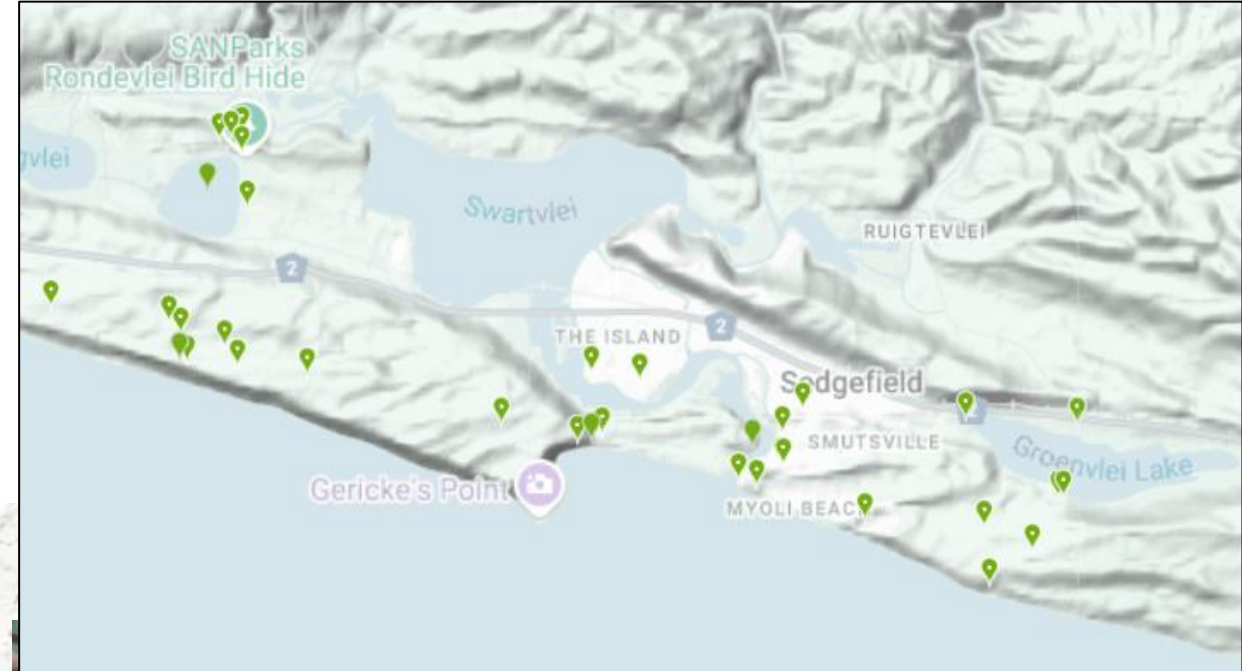
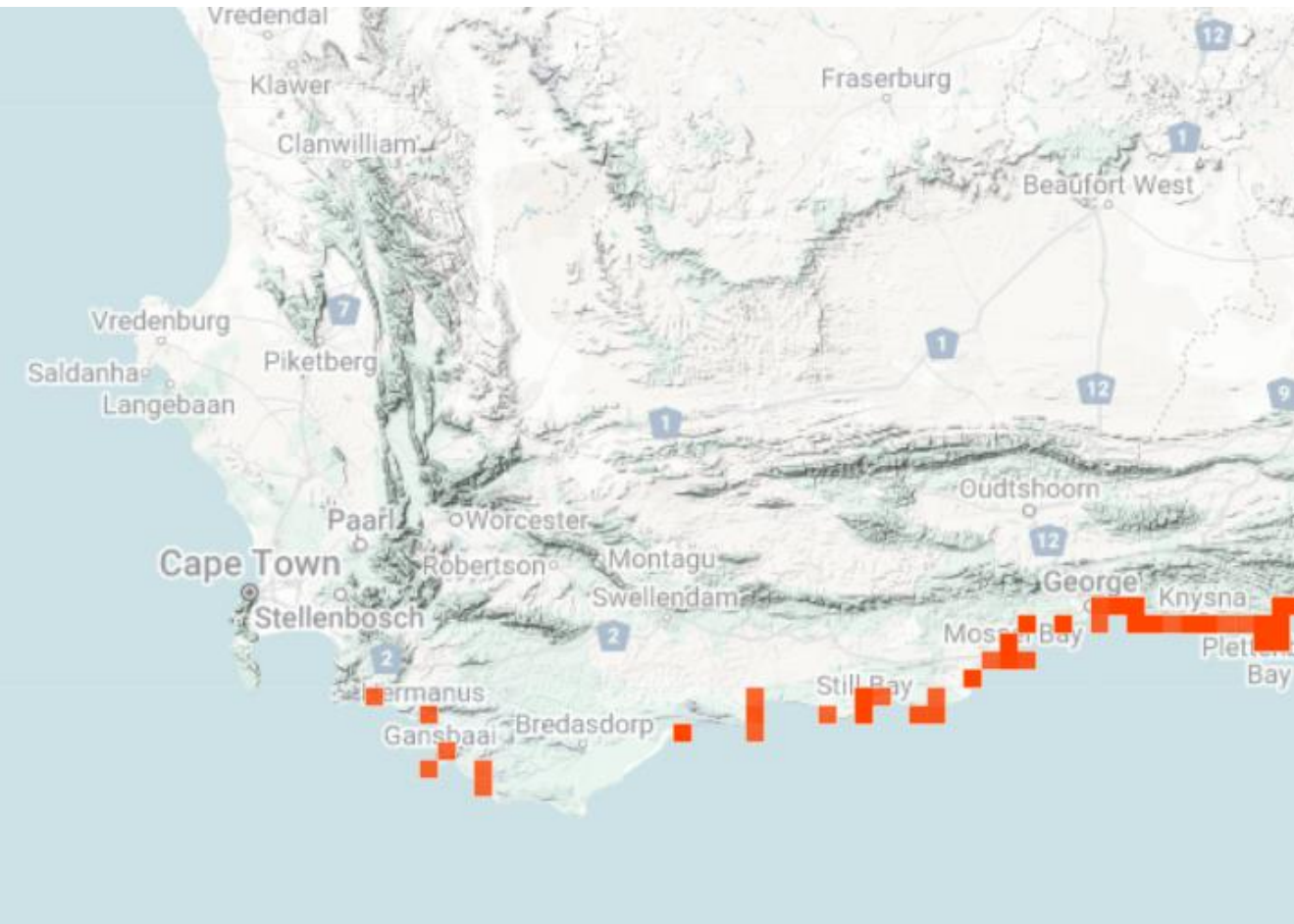




# Maytenus procumbens, Dune Kokotree

Scrambling shrub or tree, usually 2m tall but up to 6m. Bark pale yellowish brown. Leathery leaves pale green and alternate with 3 to 5, shallow, spine-tipped teeth, bent backwards. Greenish white flowers small and in short clusters. Fruit a bright orange berry outside of a wooden capsule. Flowers in winter.

Afrikaans name - duinekokoboom

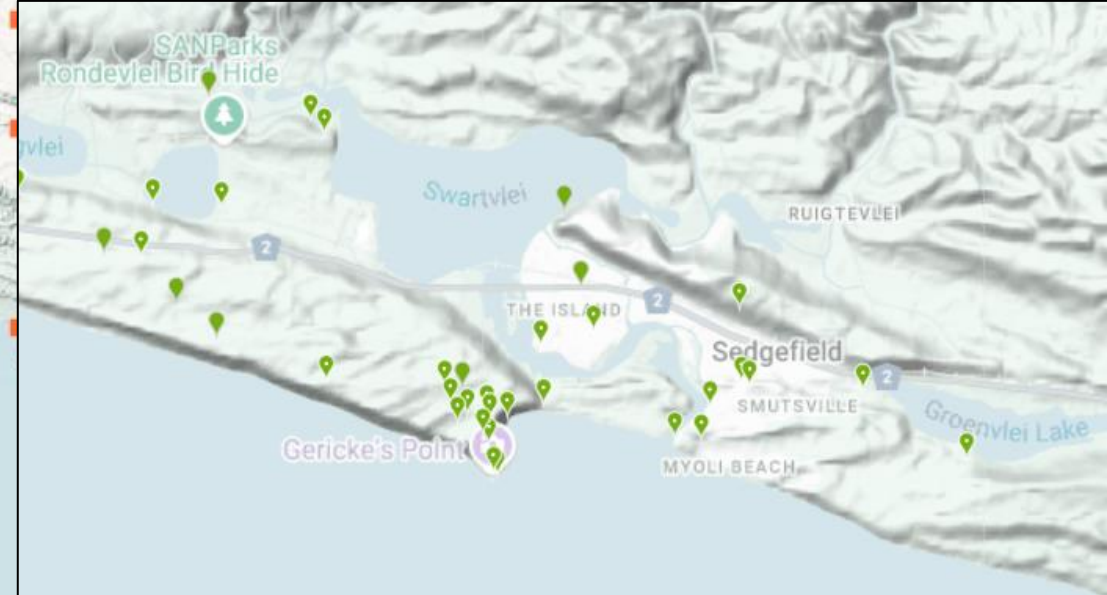
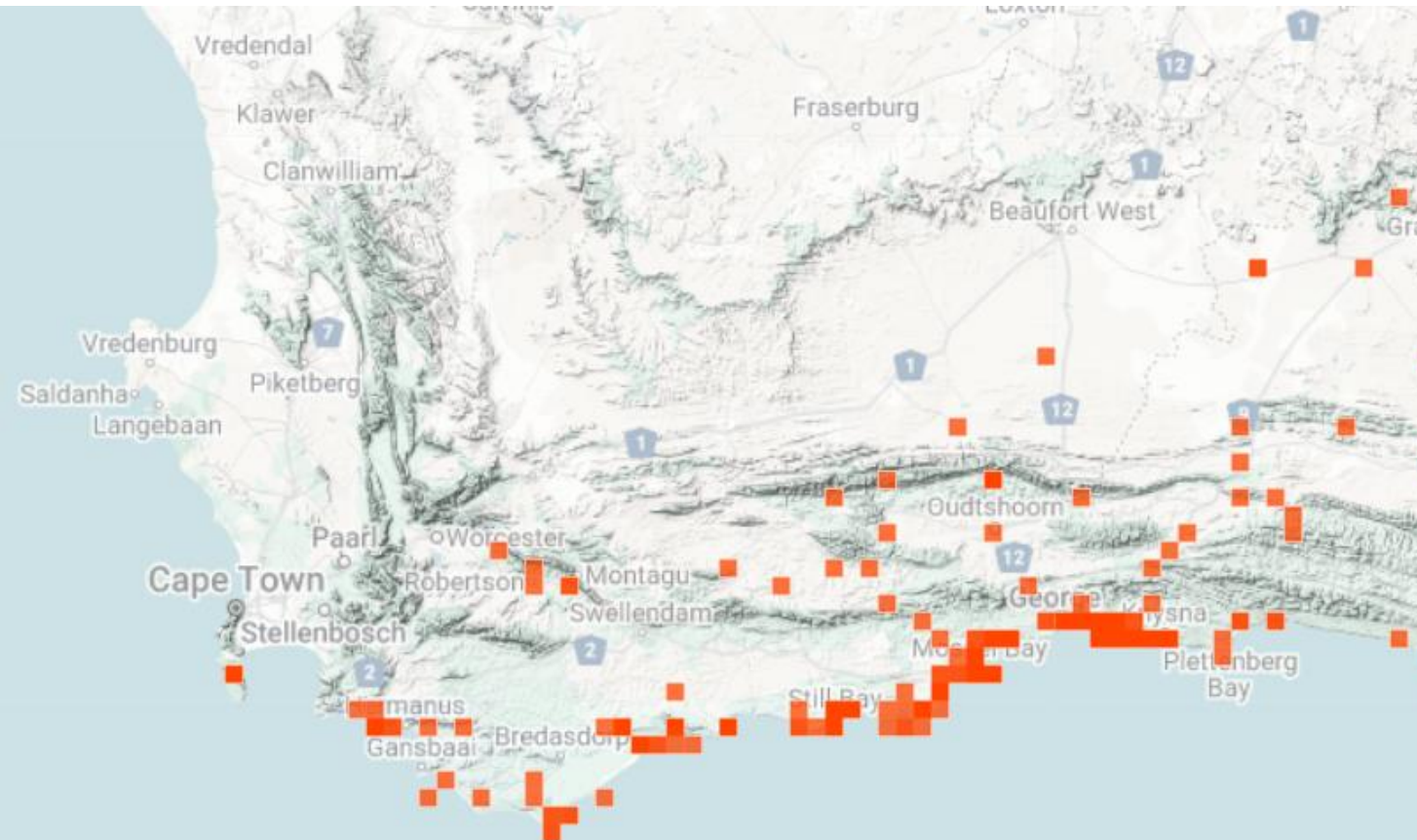




# Mesembryanthemum aitonis, Coast Solfig

Terrestrial, ground covering succulent plant. Leaves are fleshy, red and green. White Flowers daisy-like, 1-5cm in diameter, with a slightly yellow center. Flowers year round, with peaks in April and October.

Afrikaans name – Brakslaai

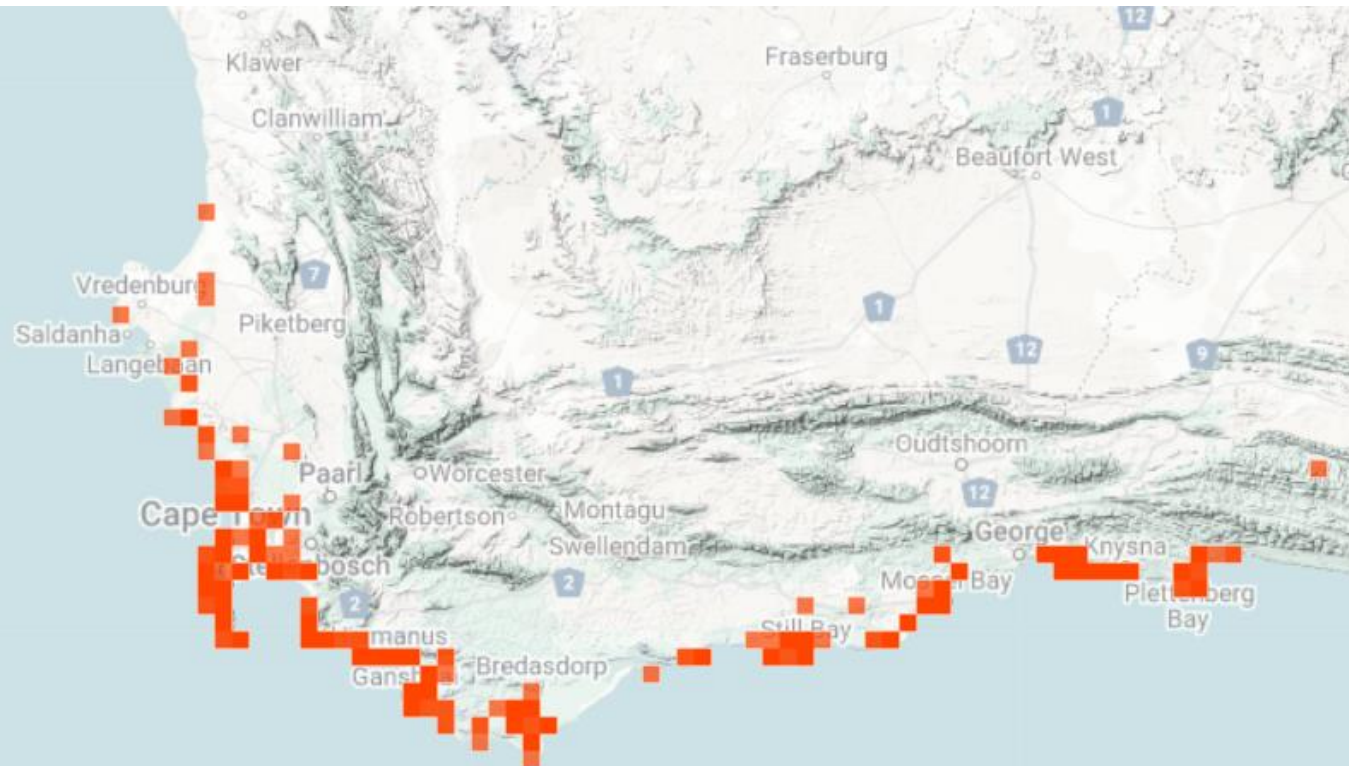
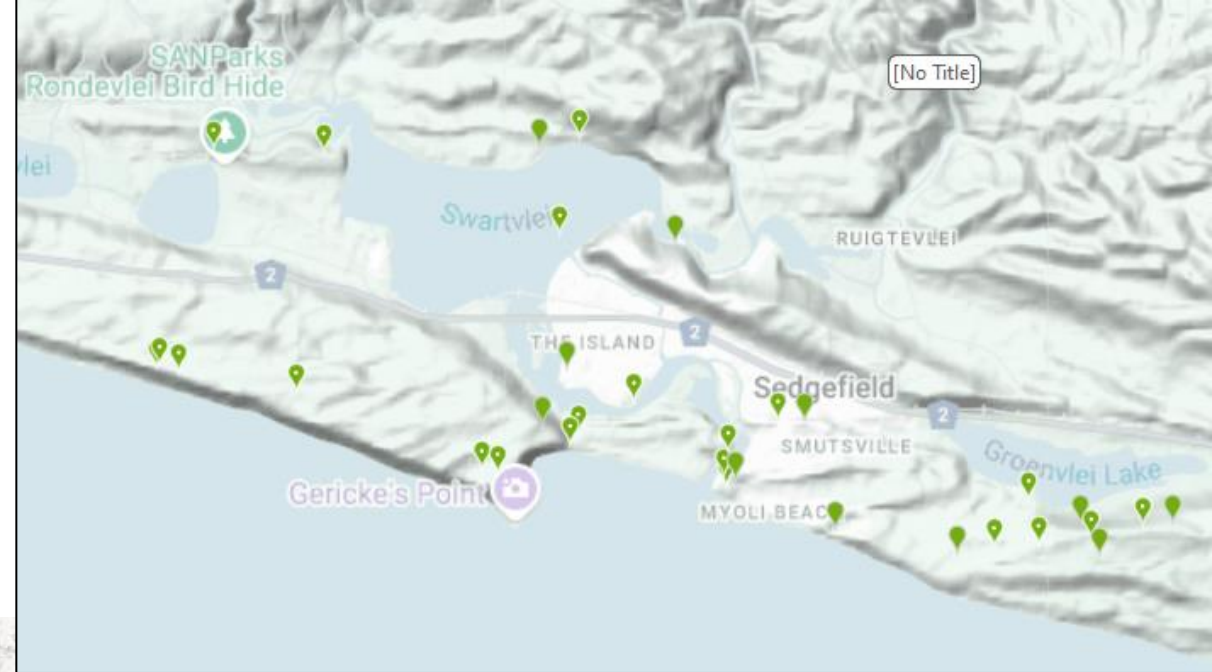




# ***Olea exasperata*, Dune Olive**

Shrub or tree, growing between 2m and 7m with a rounded crown. Leaves opposite and linear, dark green above and pale green below. Bark greyish brown with yellow branches. Flowers small and white with yellow centers, growing in clusters. Fruit green to purplish black berries. Flowers Aug – Oct.

Afrikaans name – duineolien

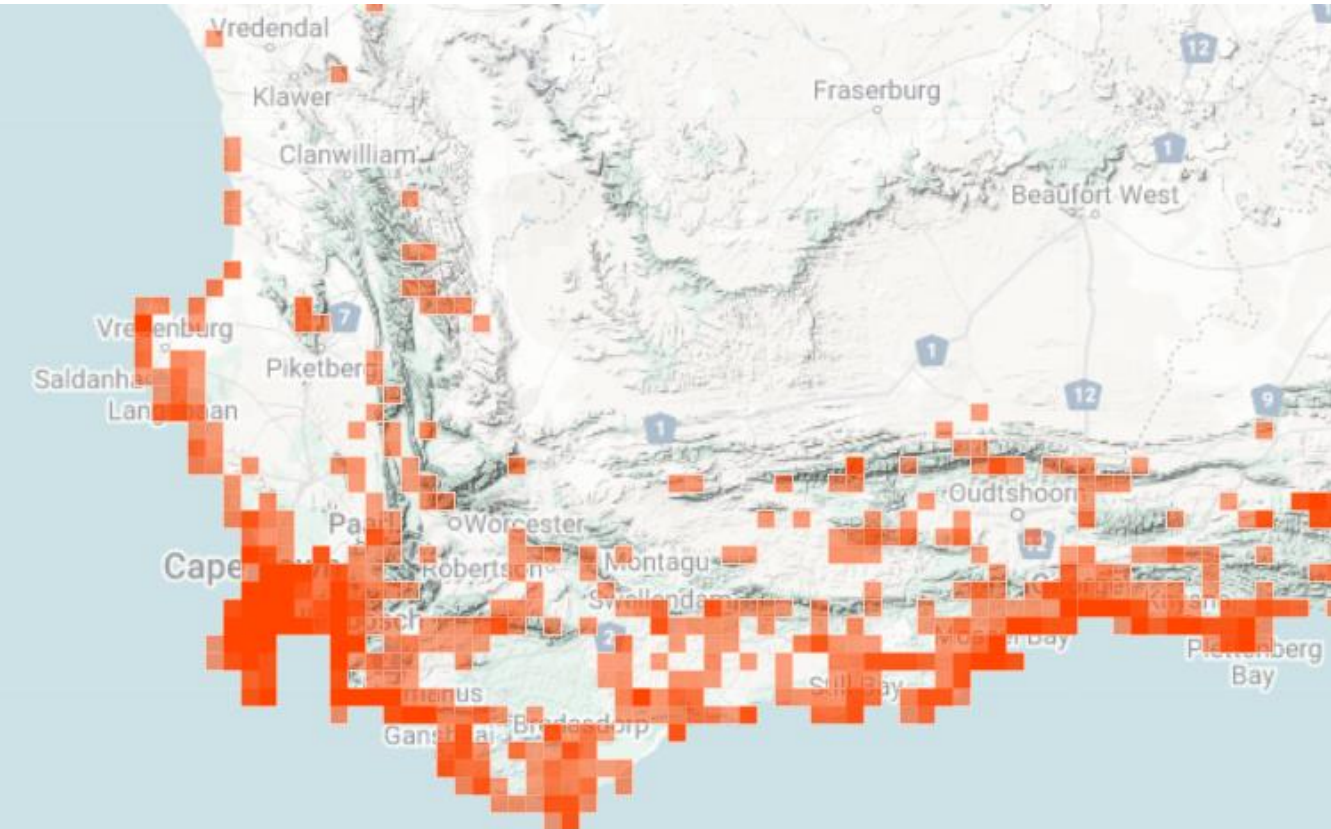




# **Osteospermum moniliferum, Bietou**

Semi-succulent shrub, that can grow up to 3m tall. Leaves alternately arranged, normally slightly oval shaped and fleshy, with cobweb like hairs. Medium sized flowers bright yellow daisy-like often covering the plant. Flowers mostly in winter.

Afrikaans name – Bietou

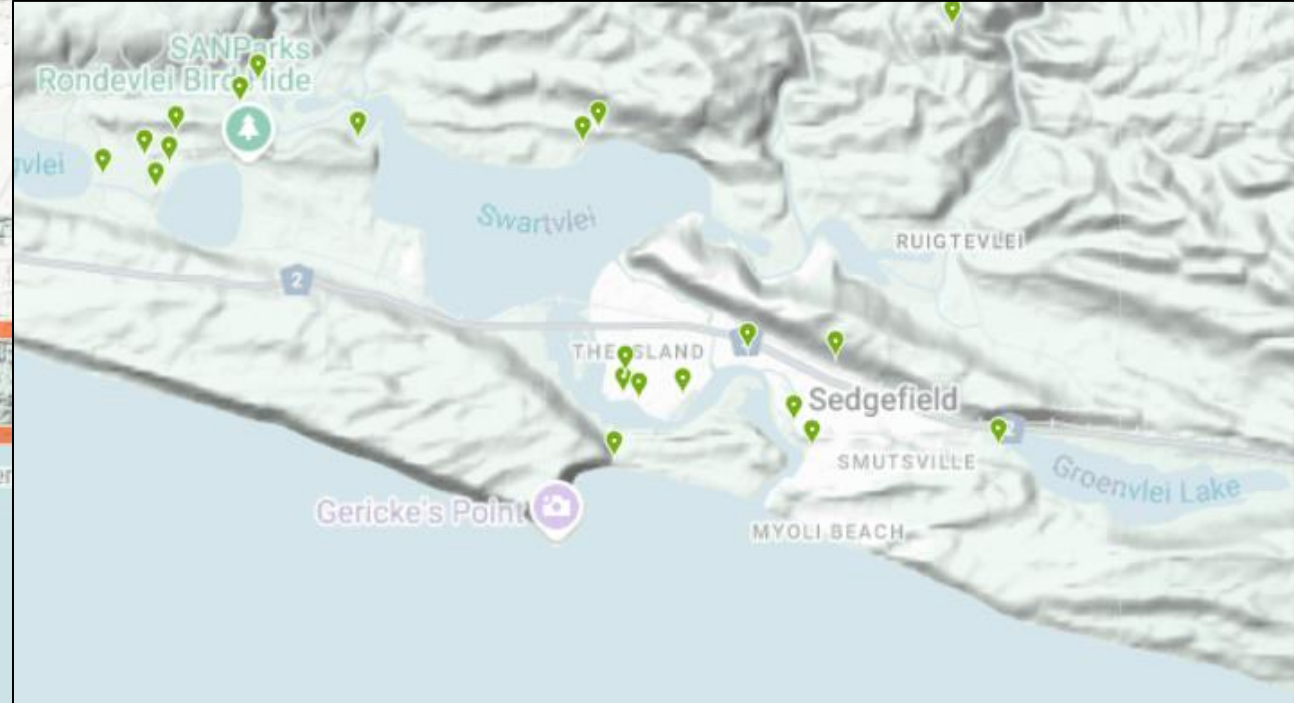
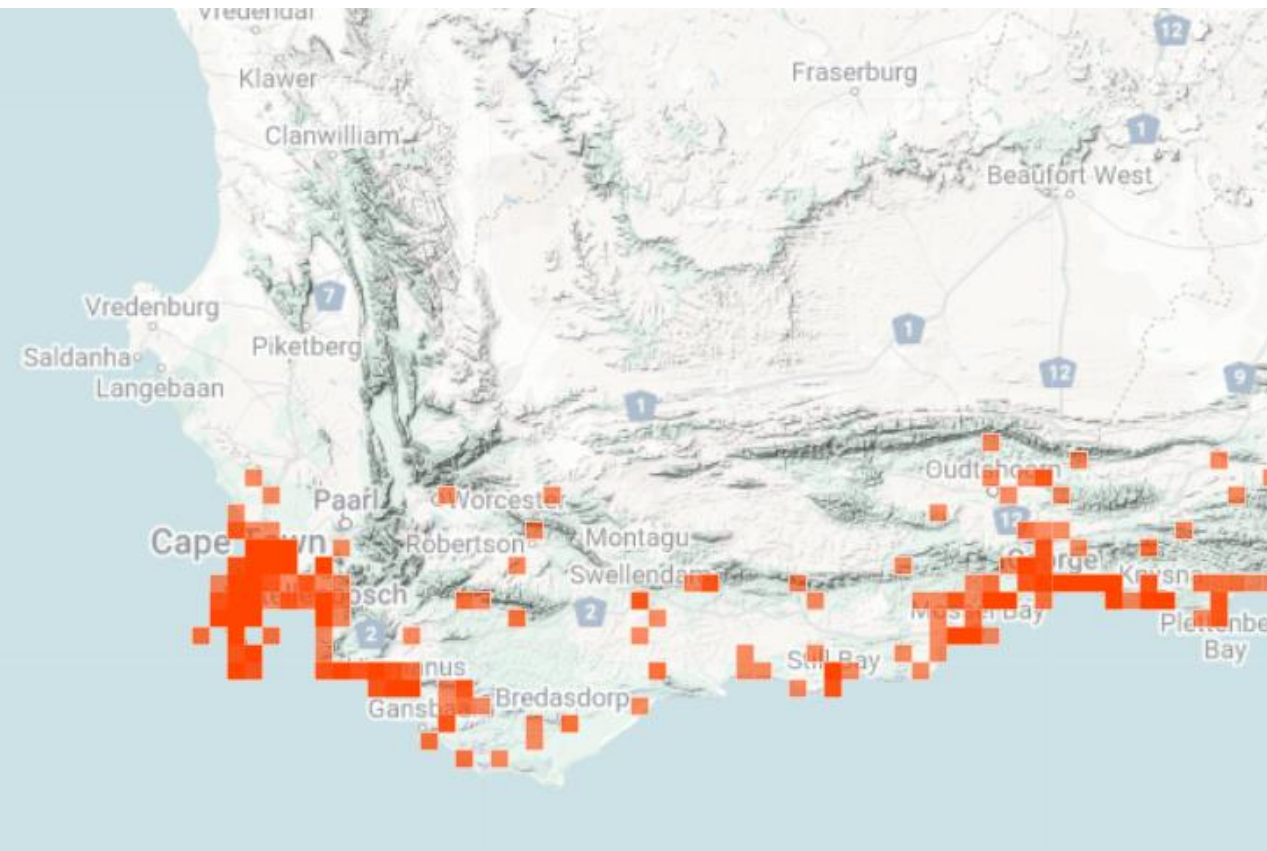




# ***Oxalis caprina*, Goat Sorrel**

Small terrestrial plant that grows low to the ground. Trifoliate leaves are heart shaped and cloverlike, green to yellowish green. Flowers white to pinkish purple, with a yellow center. Flowers march – June.

Afrikaans name – Bokspootjie

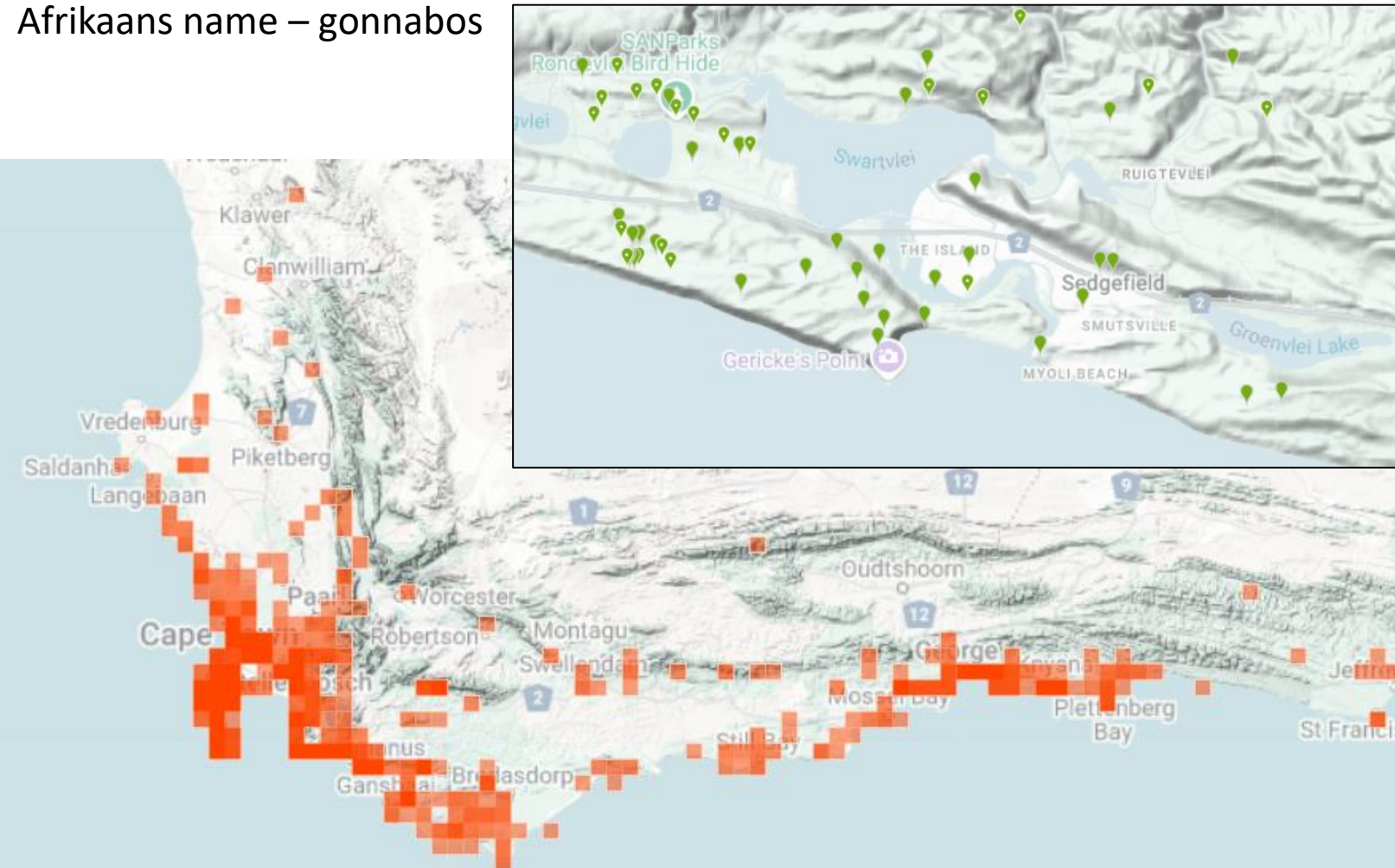




# ***Passerina corymbosa*, Common Gonna**

Terrestrial plant growing up to 3m tall, but usually 1.5m. Erica like in appearance, with tiny linear green leaves. Flowers small but over to top of the plant at times, varying in color from green to white to red. Flowers Aug – Nov.

Afrikaans name – gonnabos



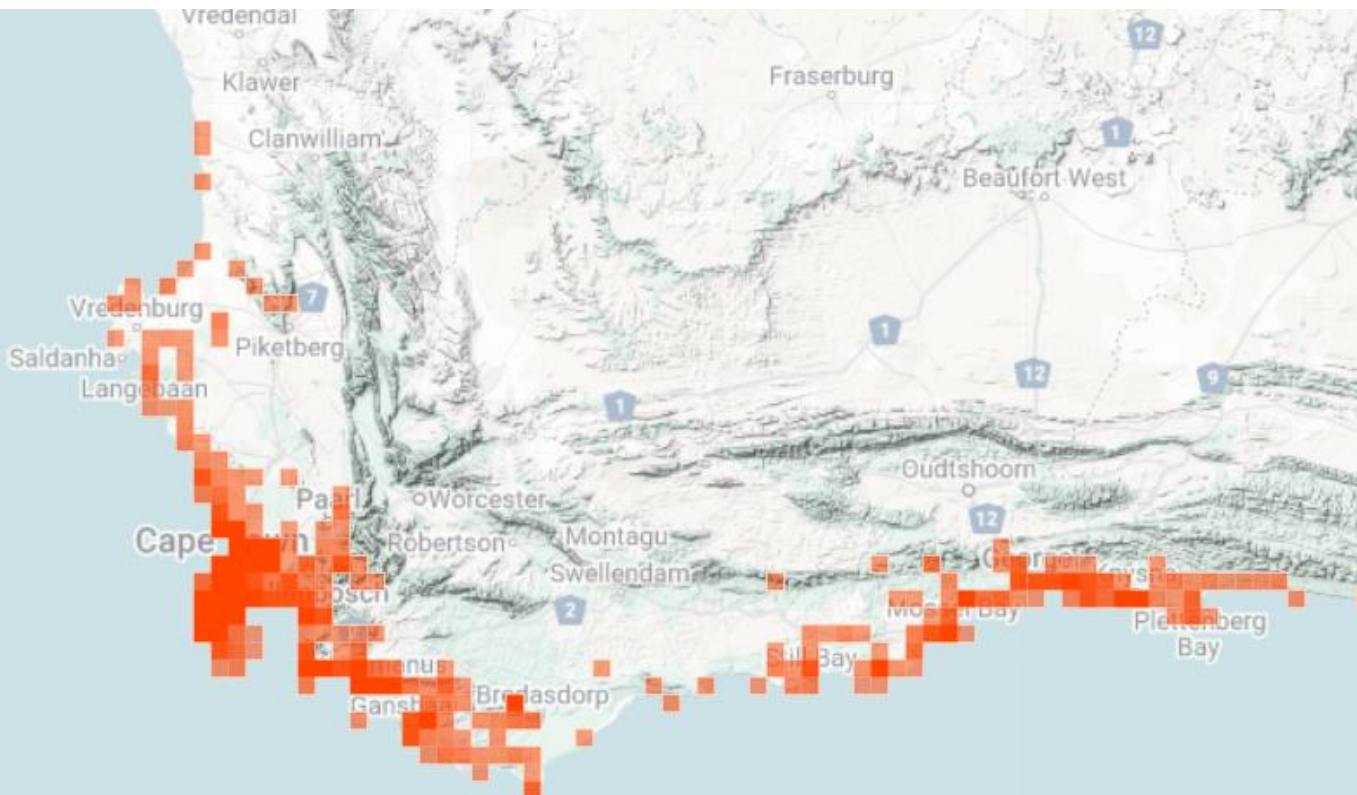
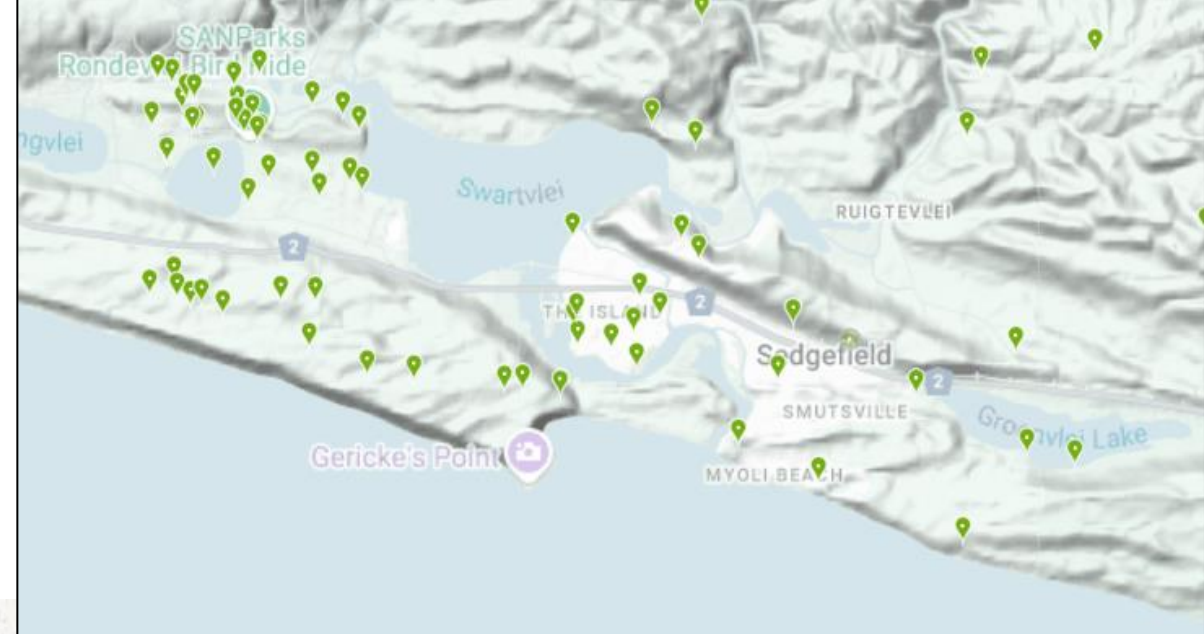


# ***Pelargonium capitatum*, Common Storksbill**

Terrestrial plant with lobed and crisped leaves, which can reach up to 1.5 meters in length, and usually around 50cm tall.

Produces a medium sized pink flower year-round, but peaks Mar – Apr and Aug – Oct. Found in sunny areas with low bush or grass.

Afrikaans name – Kusmalva

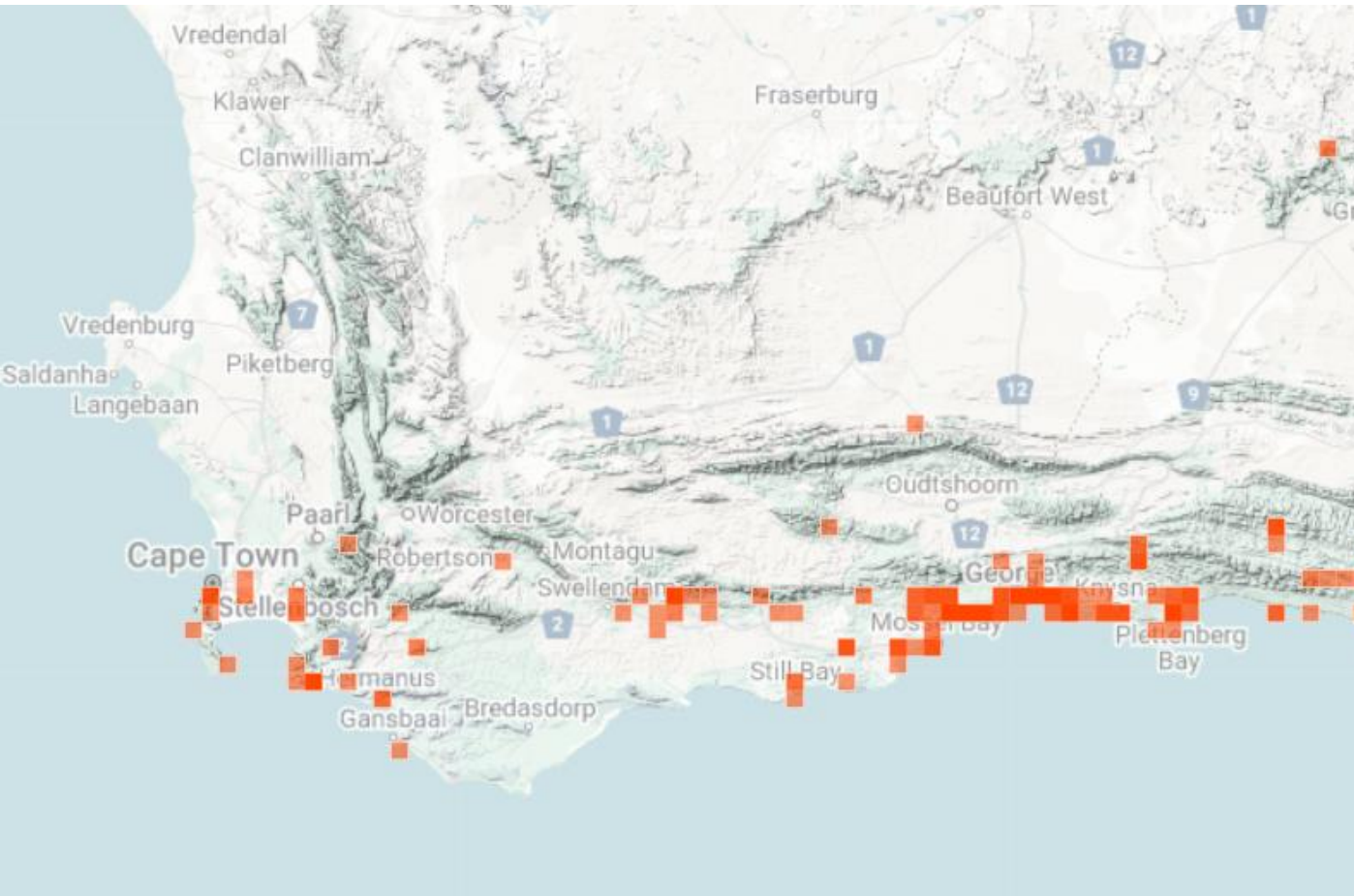




# **Pittosporum viridiflorum, Cheesewood**

Shrub or tree usually around 4m tall but getting up to 30m.  
Bark pale brown to greyish with white spots. Leaves dark green and glossy. Small flowers greyish white. Yellow brown seed capsules open to bright orange seeds. Flowers Nov -Dec.

Afrikaans name – Kasuurboom

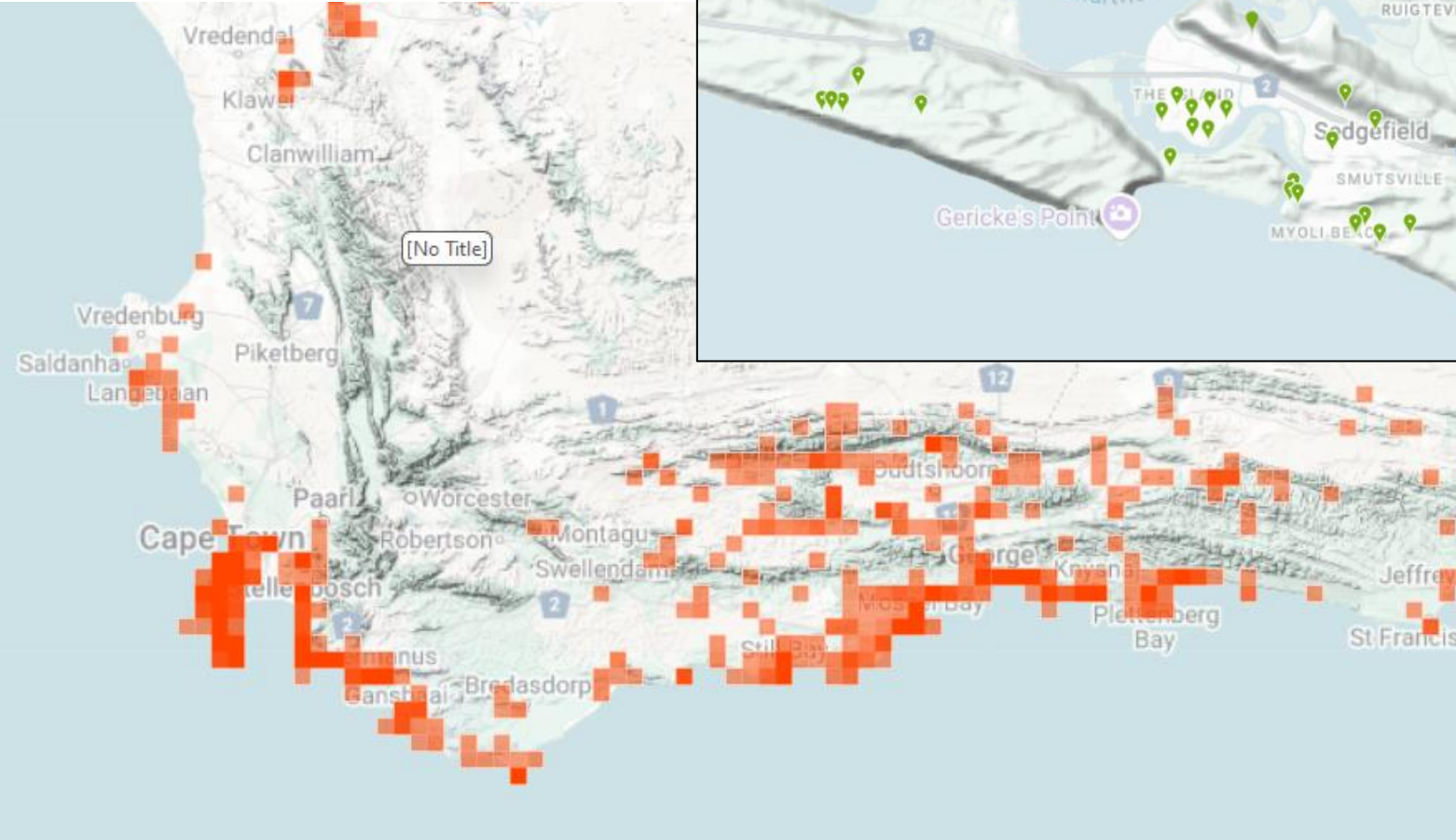




# ***Polygala myrtifolia*, September Falsepea**

Terrestrial plant with a treelike appearance, between 1m and 4m tall. Oval shaped light green to grey leaves. Medium sized purple flowers have 'wings', and a fluffy white 'tongue'. Flowers Aug – Oct.

Afrikaans name – septemberbossie

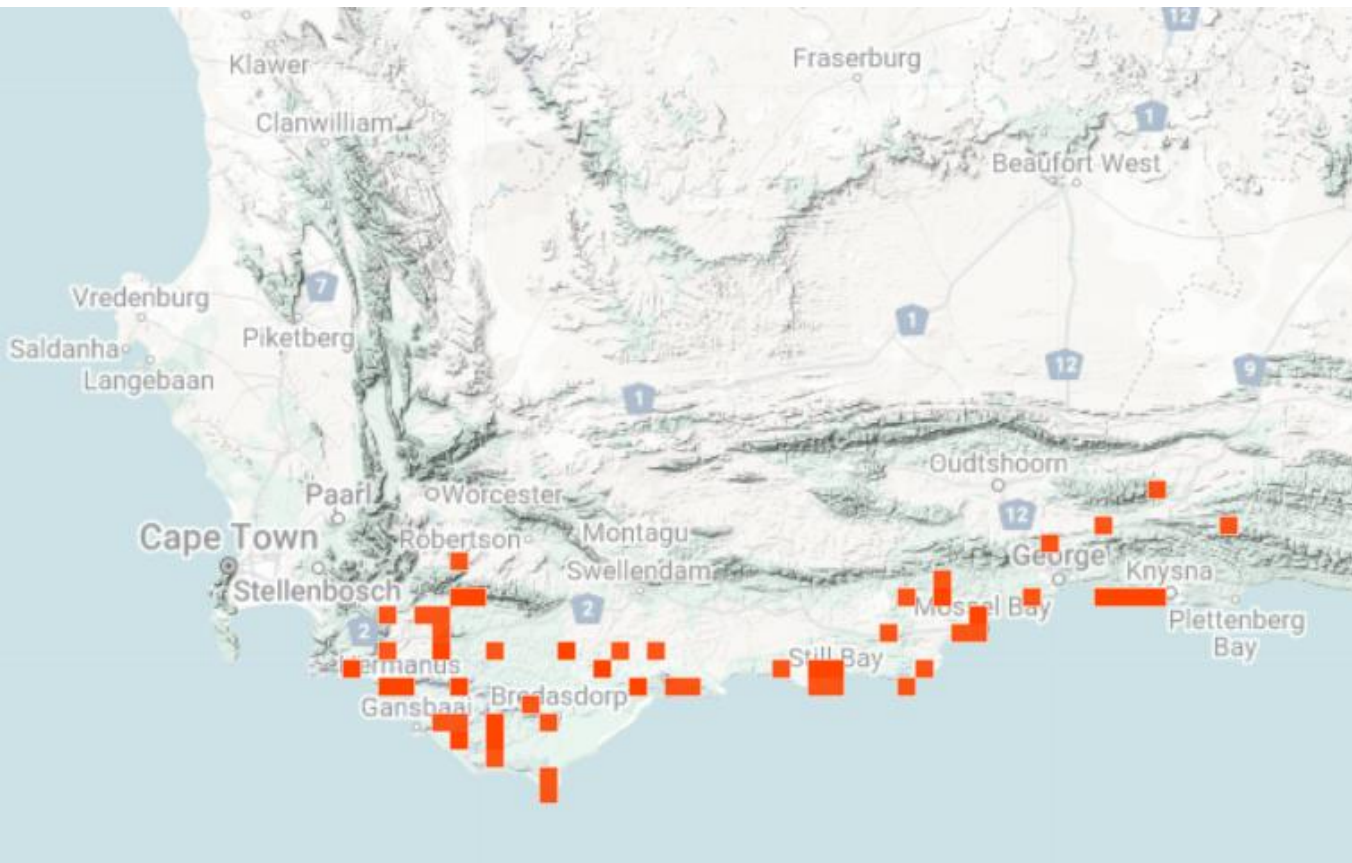




# ***Polygala umbellata*, Umbel Falsepea**

Terrestrial somewhat sprawling plant up to 40cm tall with green, needle like leaves. Pink – purple smallish flowers grow in clusters on top of the stem and have ‘wings.’ Flowers Aug – Nov.

Afrikaans name – Ertjieblom

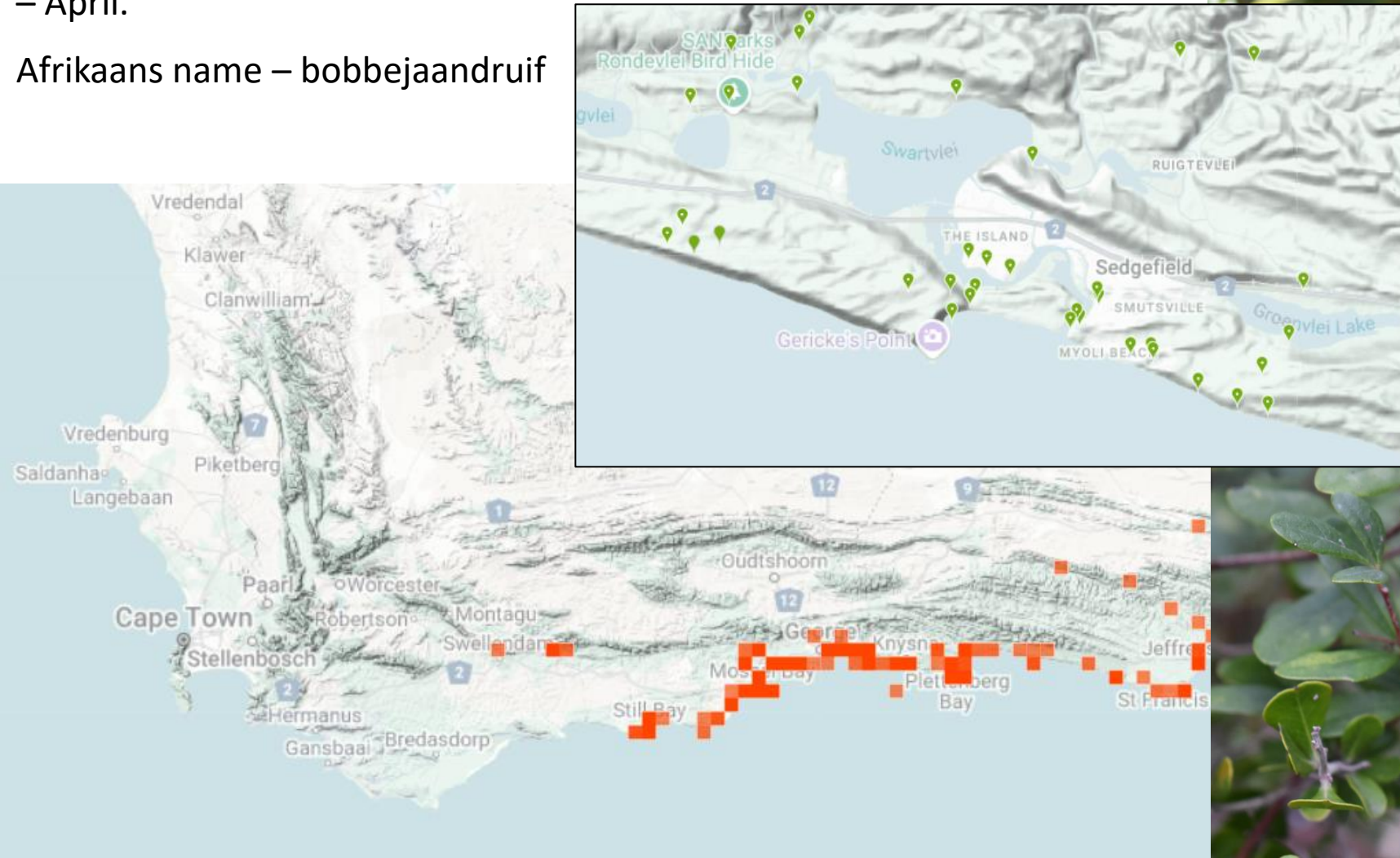




# Rhoicissus digitata, Baboon Grape

Climbing plant with a spread of up to 15m. Stem covered in russet orange hairs. New leaves can be rust red, older leaves shiny dark green. Small yellowish green flowers in cluster but inconspicuous. Fruit is a red-brown to purple berry. Flowers Jan – April.

Afrikaans name – bobbejaandruif

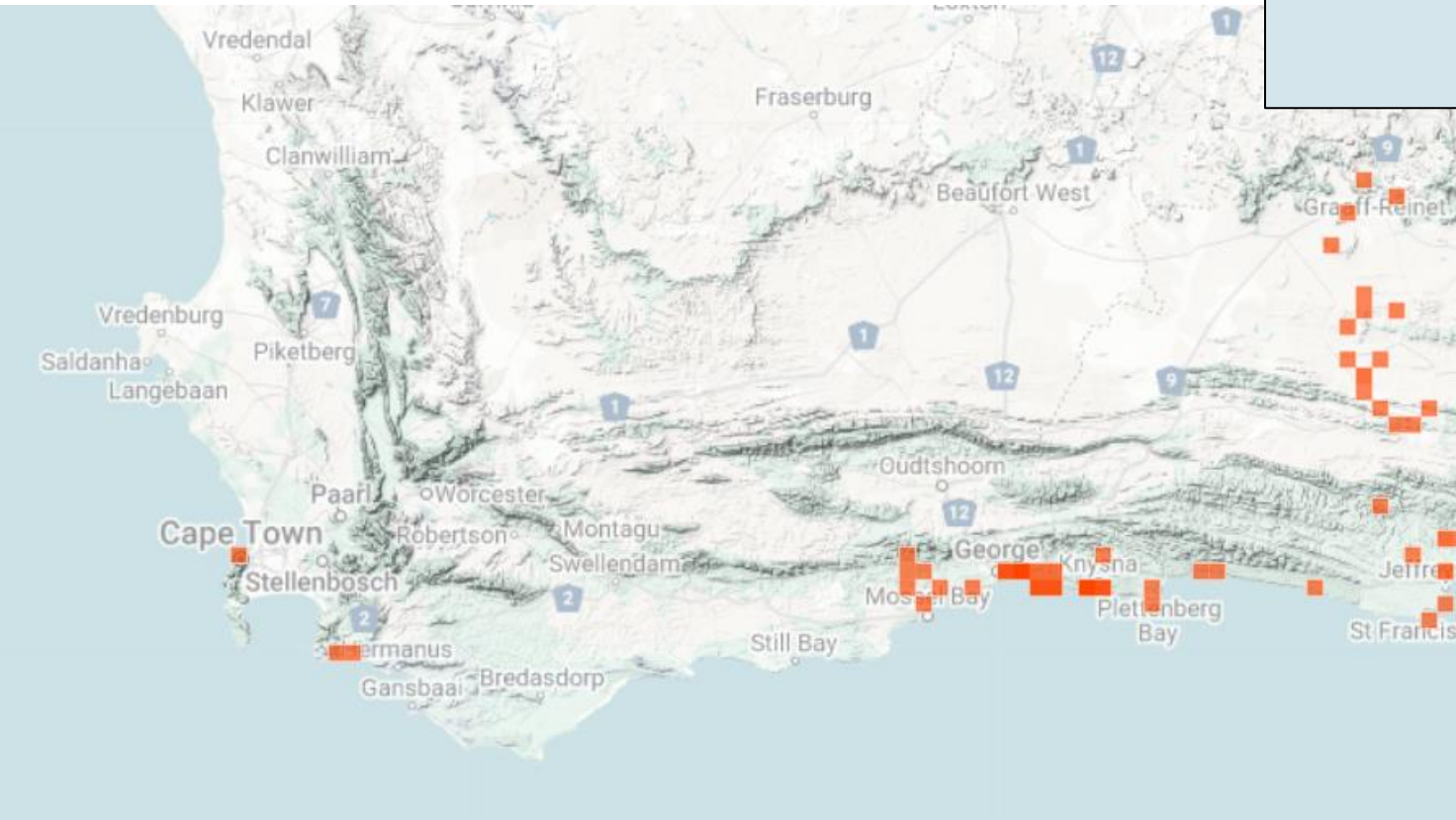




# ***Rhoicissus tridentata*, Bushman Grape**

Shrubby creeping plant growing up to 3m tall. Trifoliate leaves look like ivy, are shiny green at first becoming a darkish blueish green. Small flowers greenish yellow in clusters. Fruit is a cluster of redish black grape like berry. Flowers in spring, summer and sometimes autumn.

Afrikaans name – bitterdruif

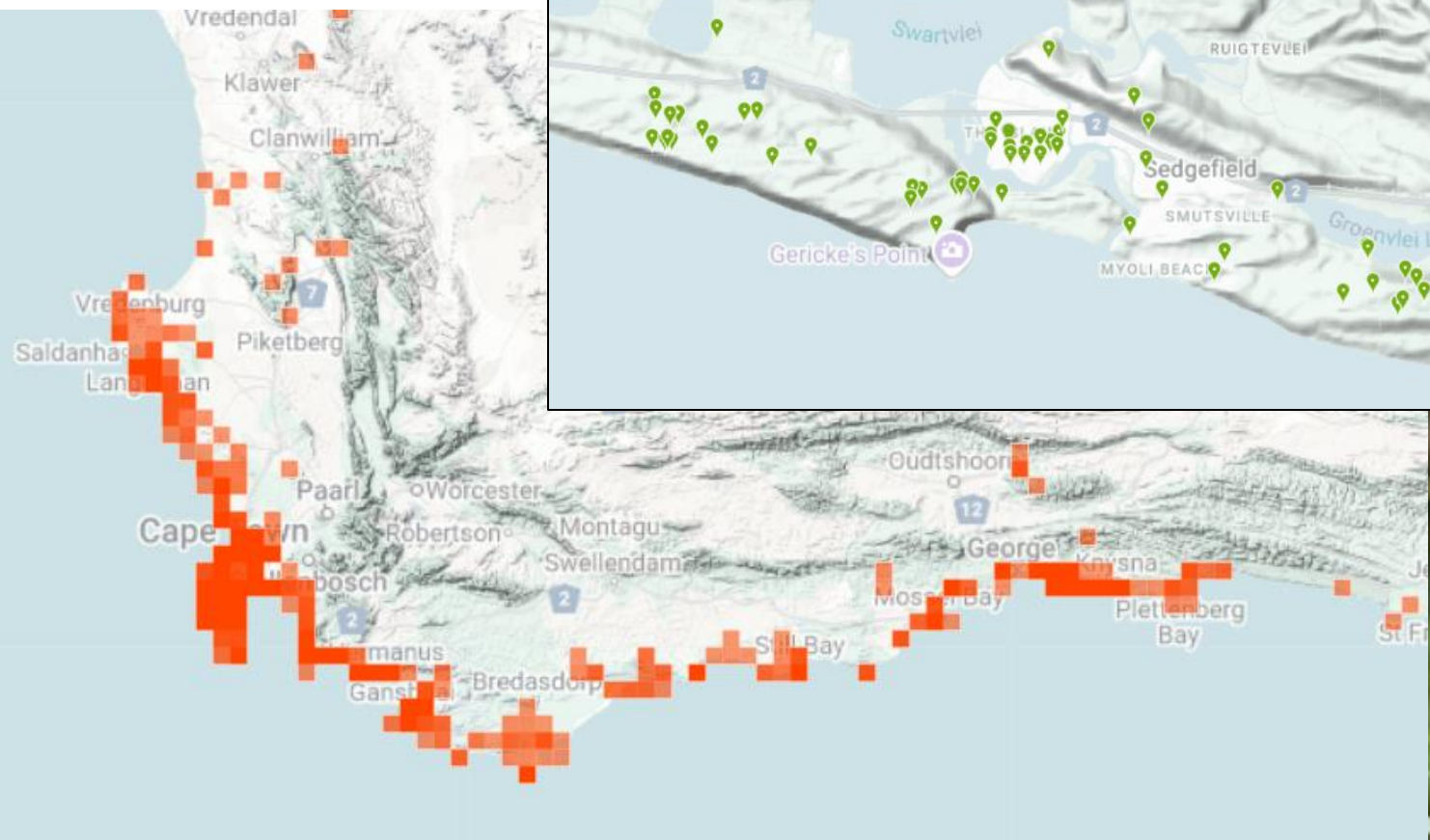




# Salvia aurea, Brown Sage

Bushy shrub that can grow up to 3m tall sometimes. The stems are almost white, with the leaves been a whitish green to green color. The flowers all grow on the flowering head and has a long 'hood'. Flowers start off yellow, but soon fade to a rusty orange – redish brown, almost looking withered. Flowers year round, peaking in spring.

Afrikaans name – bruinsalie

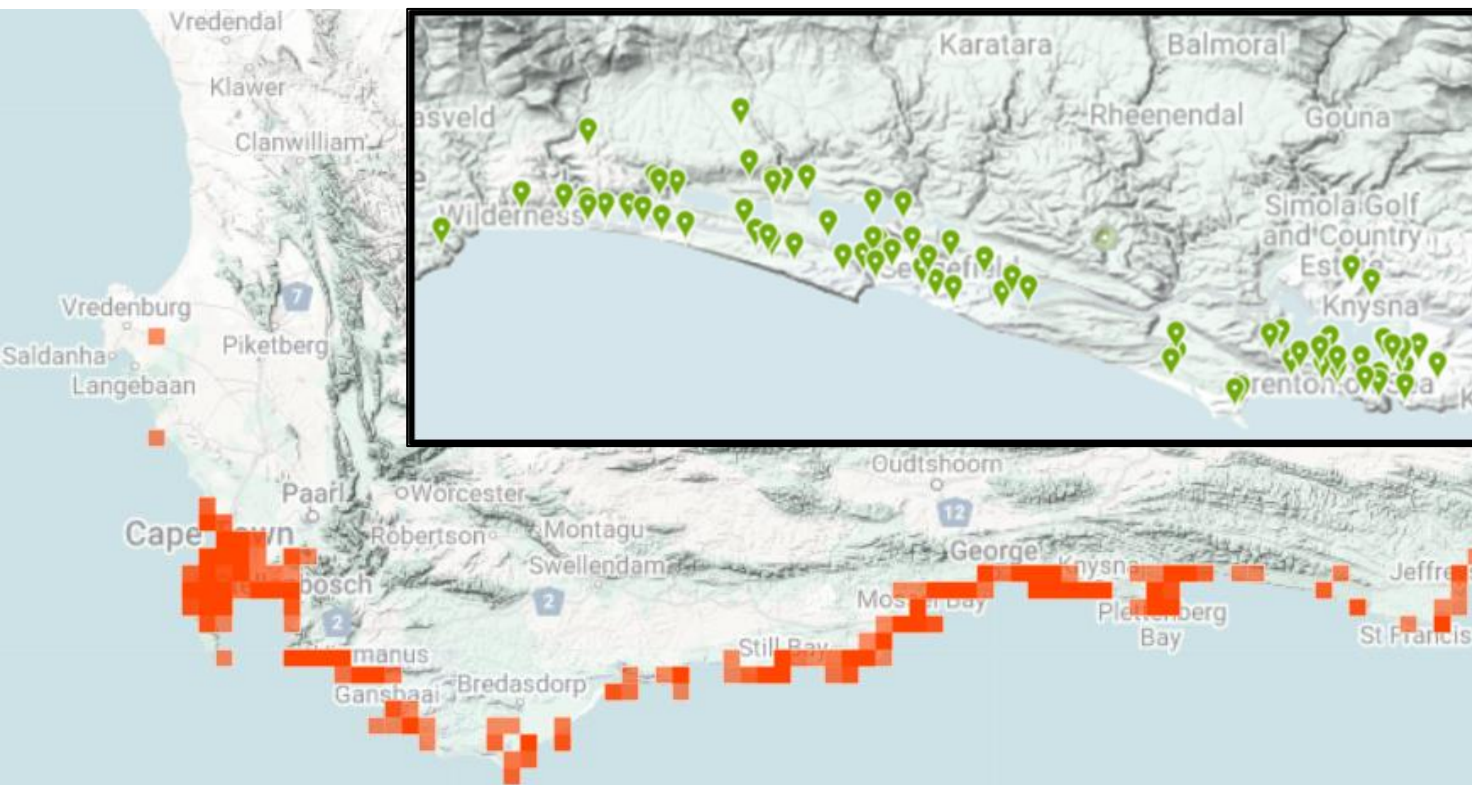




# **Searsia crenata, Dune Crow-berry**

Shrub or tree that can take up a lot of space in its habitat, growing up to 5m tall. Dark leaves are trifoliate (in groups of three), narrow at the base and becoming rounder and wider at the top. Leaves have small notches on the edges. Creamy white flowers inconspicuous on the tip of the branches. Fruit a small red-brown to black berry. Flowers Feb – April.

Afrikaans name – duinekraaibessie

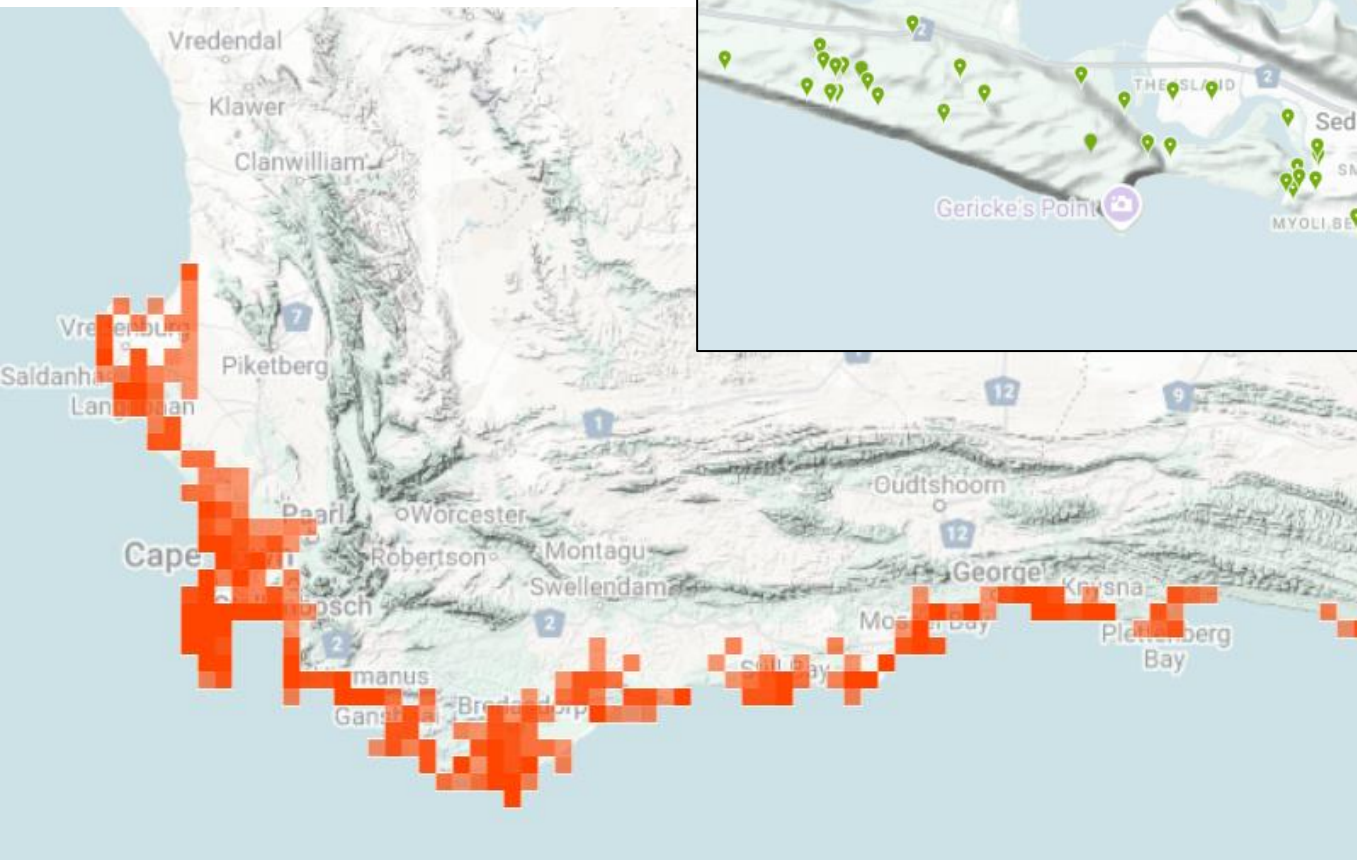




# **Searsia glauca, Blue Kunirhus**

Tree or shrub that can reach up to 4m tall. Grey green to light green leaves trifoliate with prominent veins, and have smooth margins. Flowers greenish white to pale yellow in clusters at the end of the branch. Flowers late winter to early summer.

Afrikaans name – bloukoeniebos

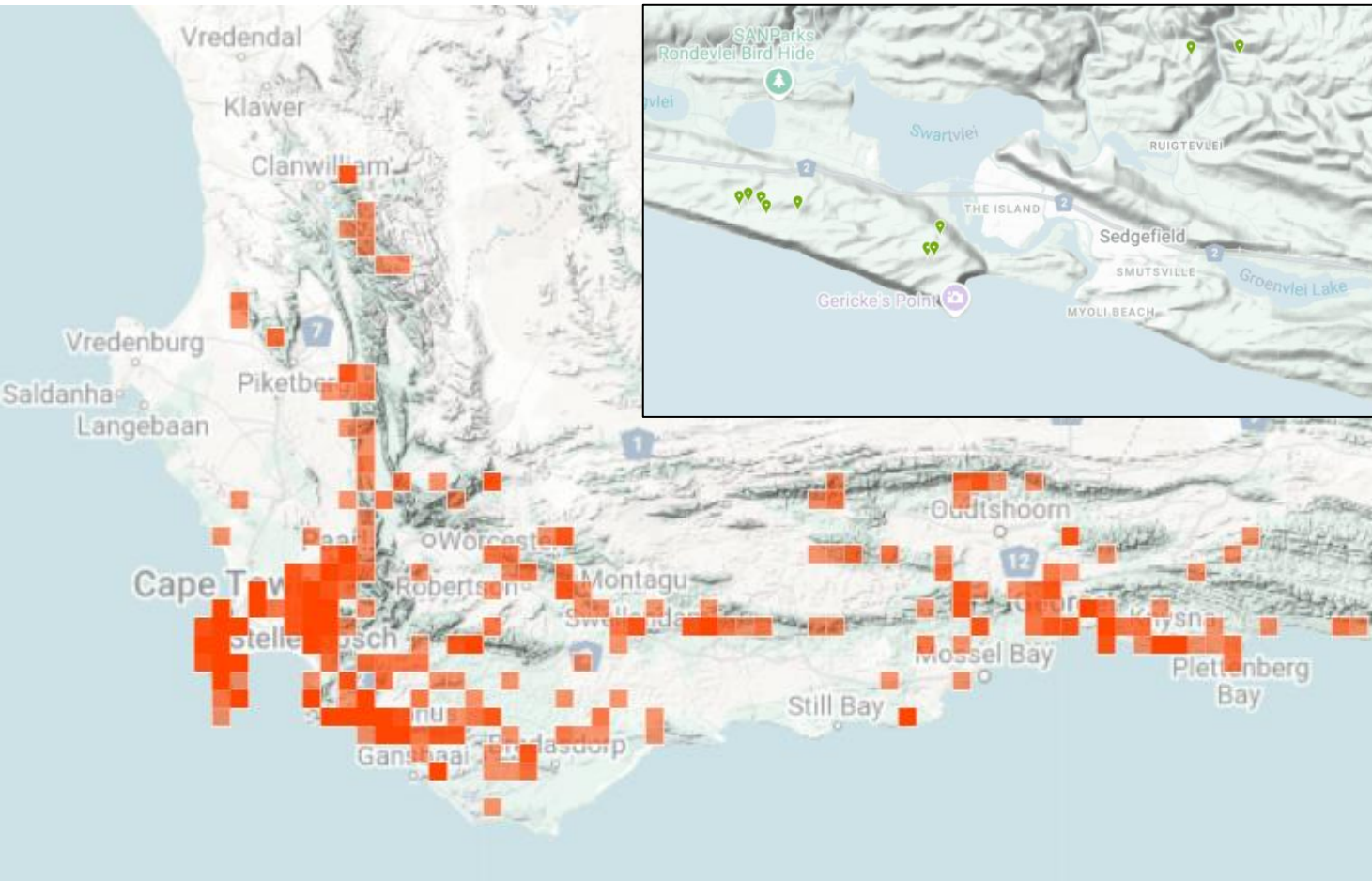




# **Searsia tomentosa, Bicolour Currantrhus**

Shrub or tree that can reach up to 6m tall. Trifoliate leaves can be a reddish green when young, turning into a pale green or greyish green. Leaves and stem are usually quite hairy. Flowers small and yellowish clustered at the tip of the branches. Fruit is a creamy white to grey berry. Fowers June – Nov.

Afrikaans name – korentebos

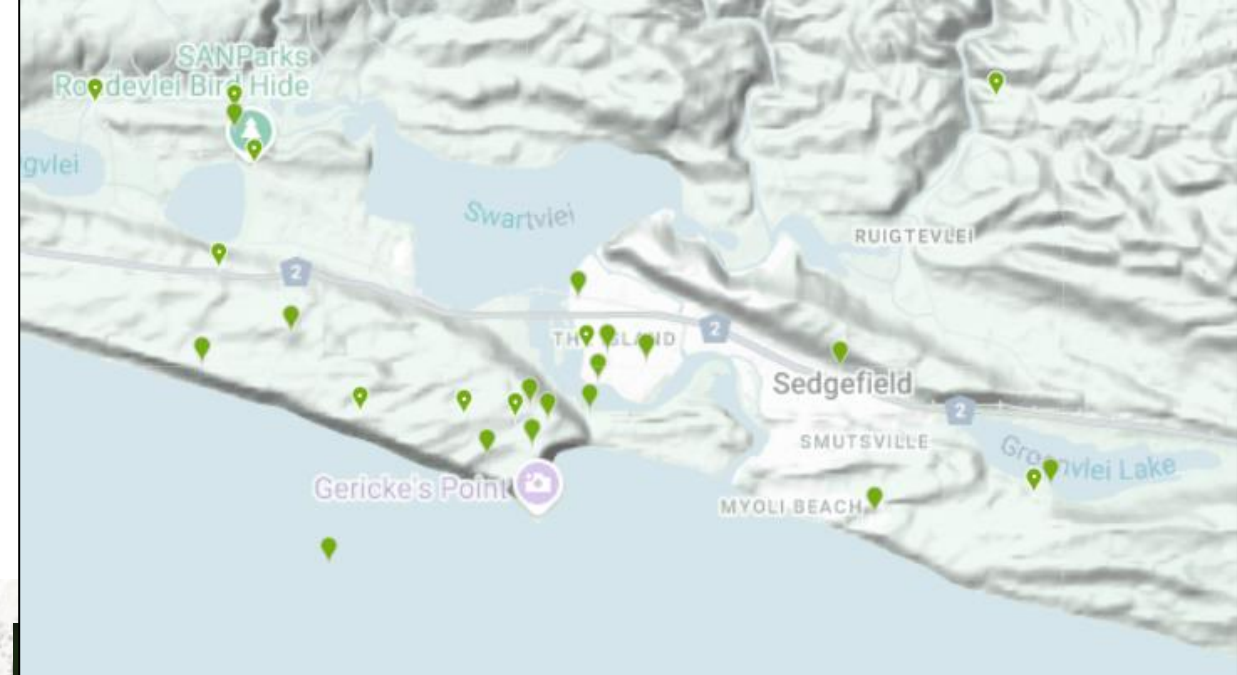
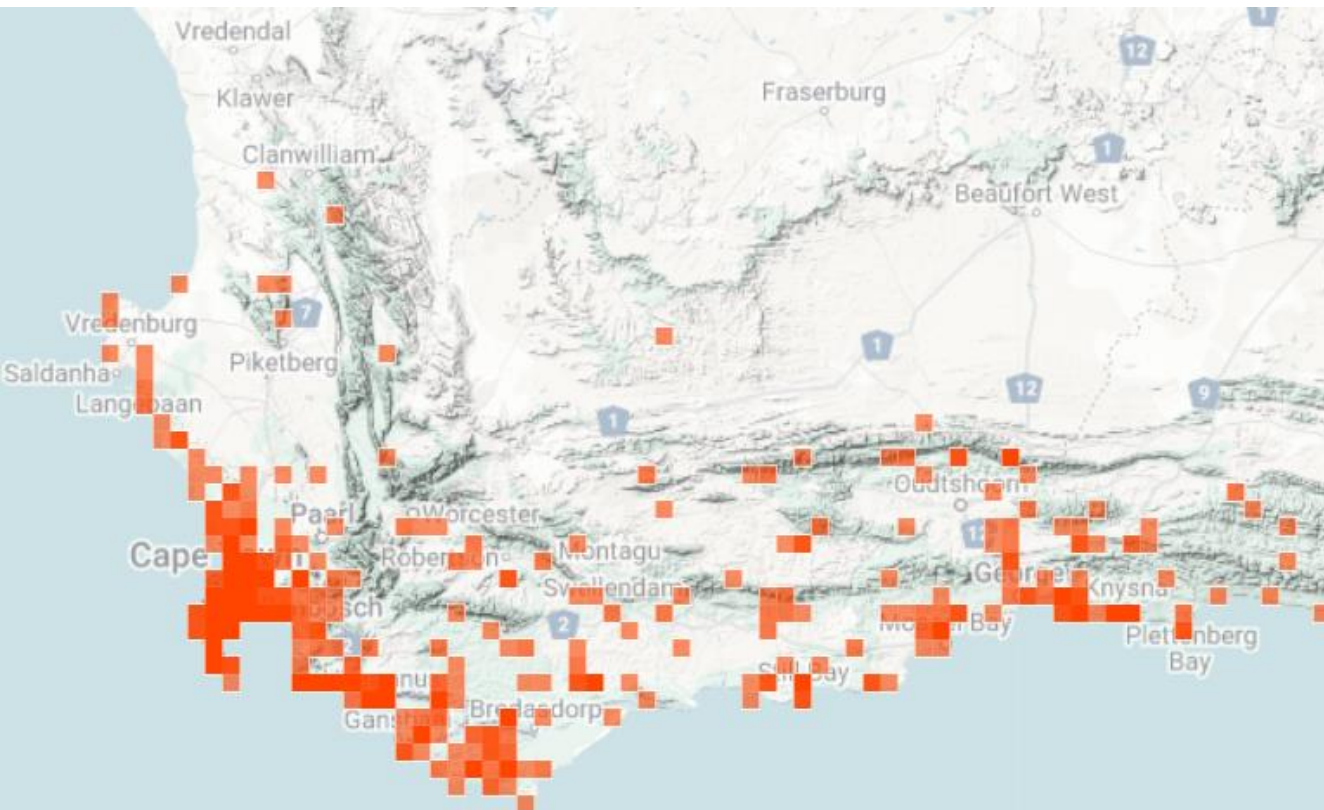




# Senecio burchellii, Kill Ragwort

Terrestrial plant that grows up to 50cm tall. Green leaves long and linear on the bottom half of the stalk. Stem bare and smooth, leading to groups of yellow daisy-like flowers. Flowers year round, peaking in autumn.

Afrikaans name – Geelgifbos

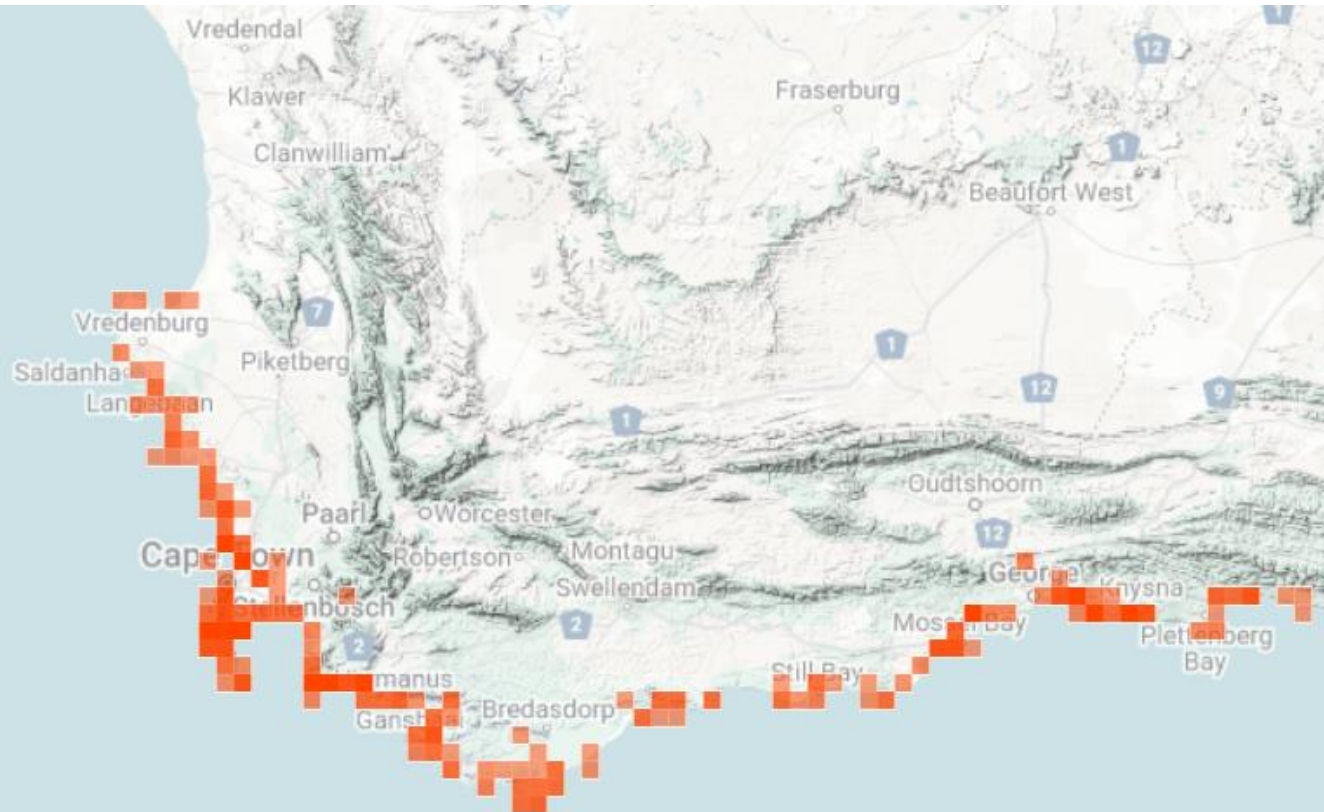
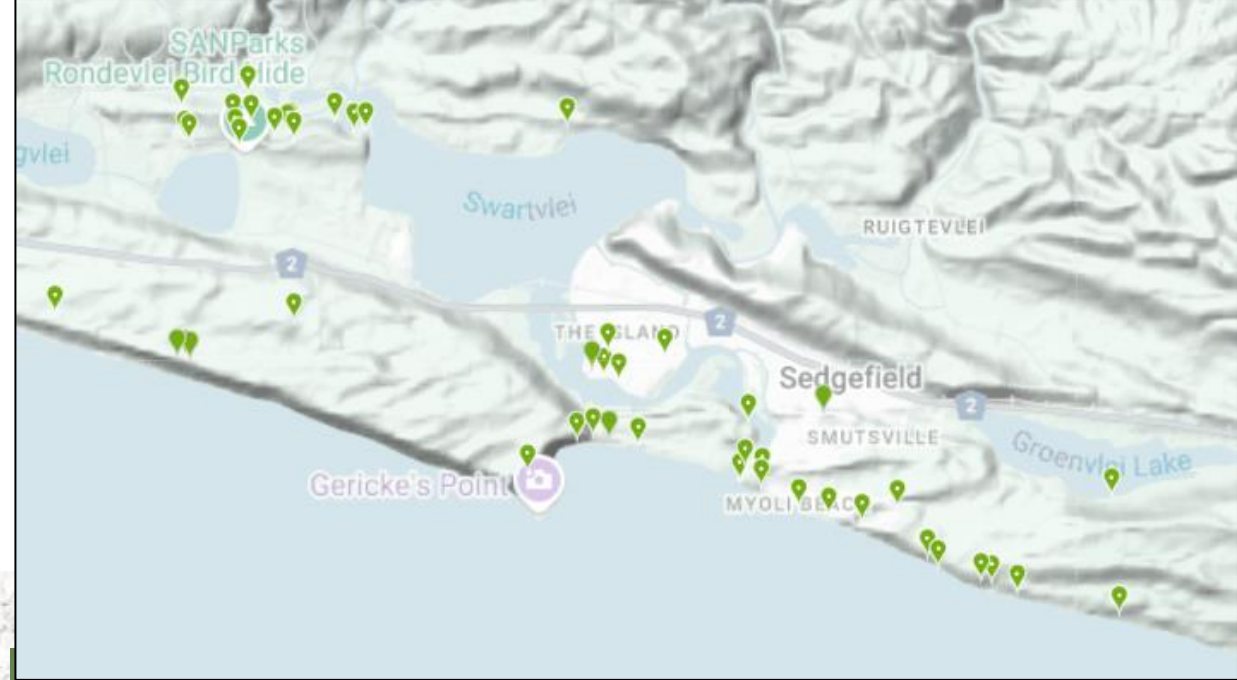




# Senecio elegans, Red-purple Ragwort

Terrestrial plant getting up to 1m tall sometimes. Stem is hairy, and dark greenish yellow leaves are deeply divided. The stalk is bare leading a cluster of daisy-like purple flowers. Flowers year round, peaking in Spring.

Afrikaans name – strandblommetjie

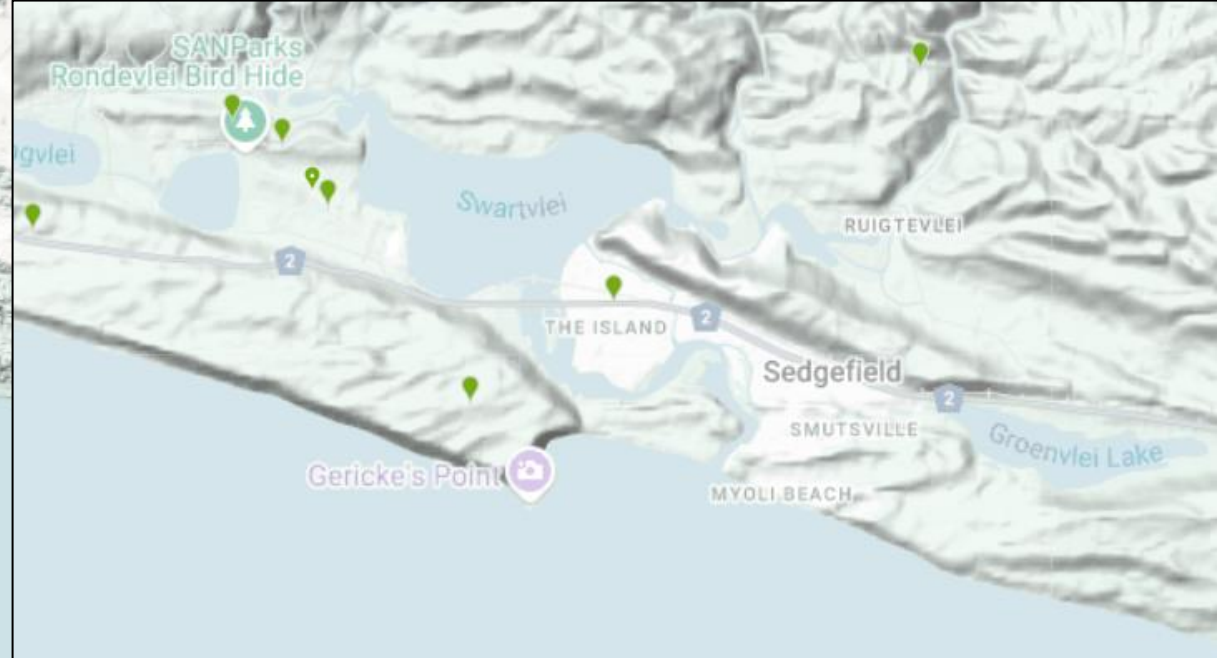
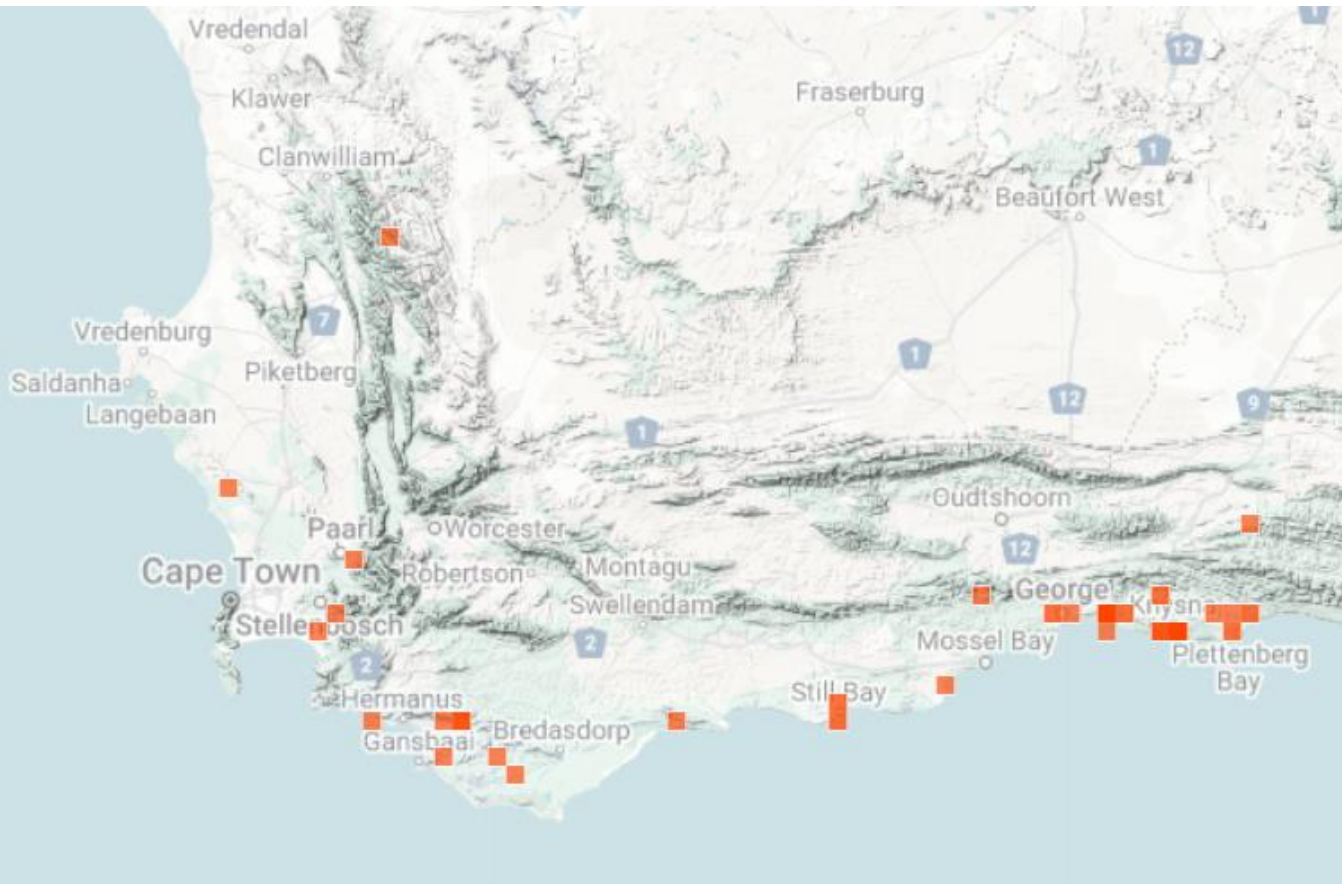




# **Setaria sphacelata, African Bristlegrass**

Tall grass growing up to 1m tall. Leaves are long and thin at the base of the stalk. Stem is thin and wispy, leading to a dense clump of bushy seed heads.

Afrikaans name – none

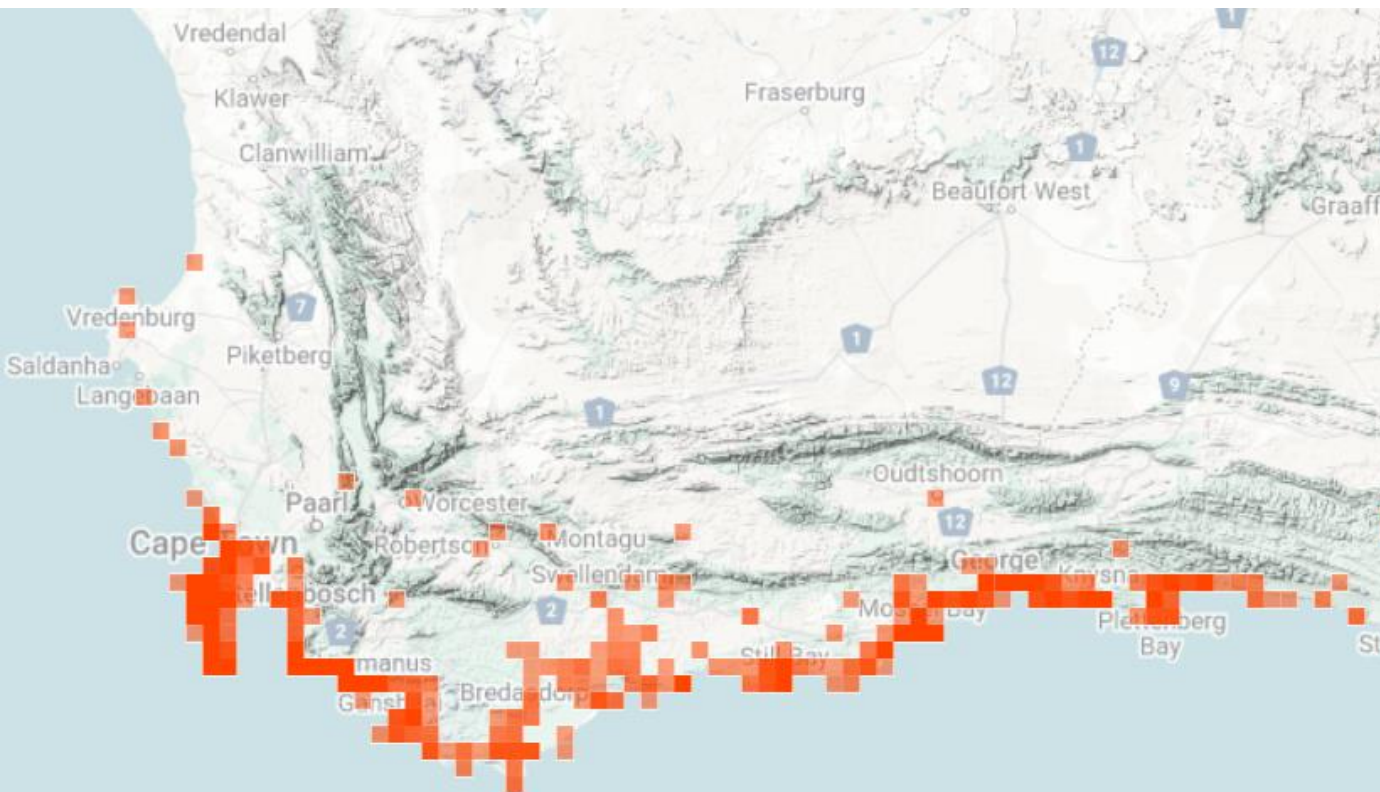
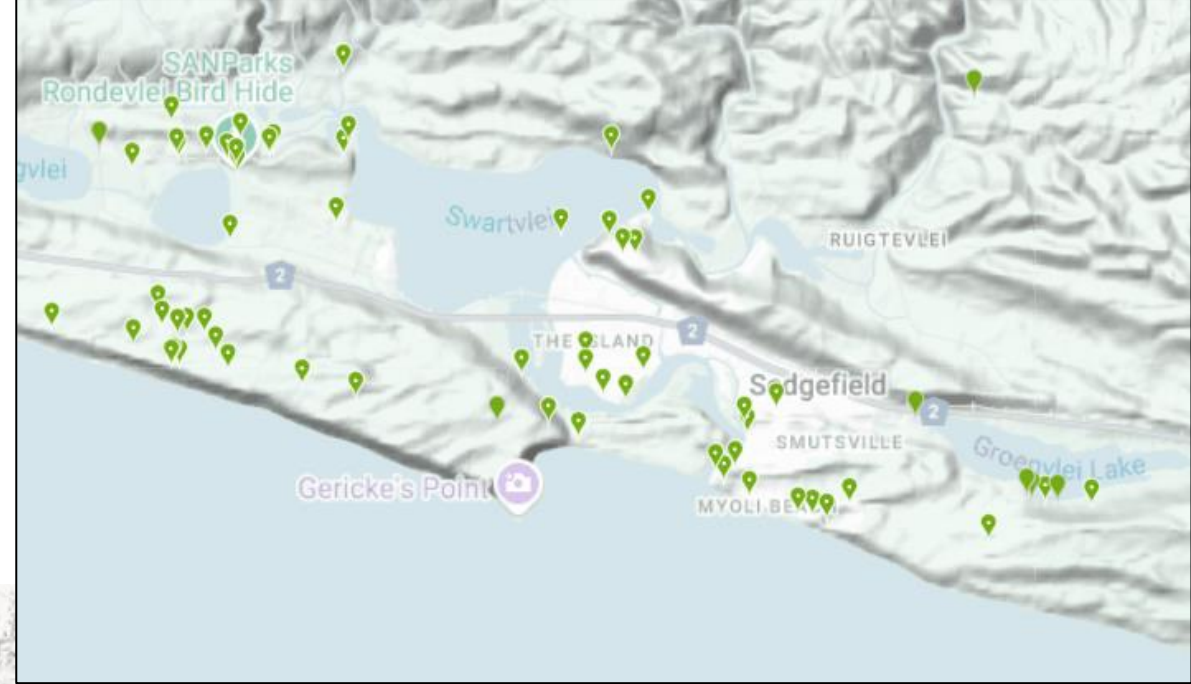




# **Sideroxylon inerme, White Milkwood**

Small to large tree that usually grows around 7m but can get up to 20m tall. Leaves are leathery and spirally arranged, dark green above and dull beneath. Produces small greenish flowers, which become a small purplish black berry. Leaves and fruit contain a white milky latex, giving it the English name. Flowers in summer and autumn.

Afrikaans name – witmelkhout

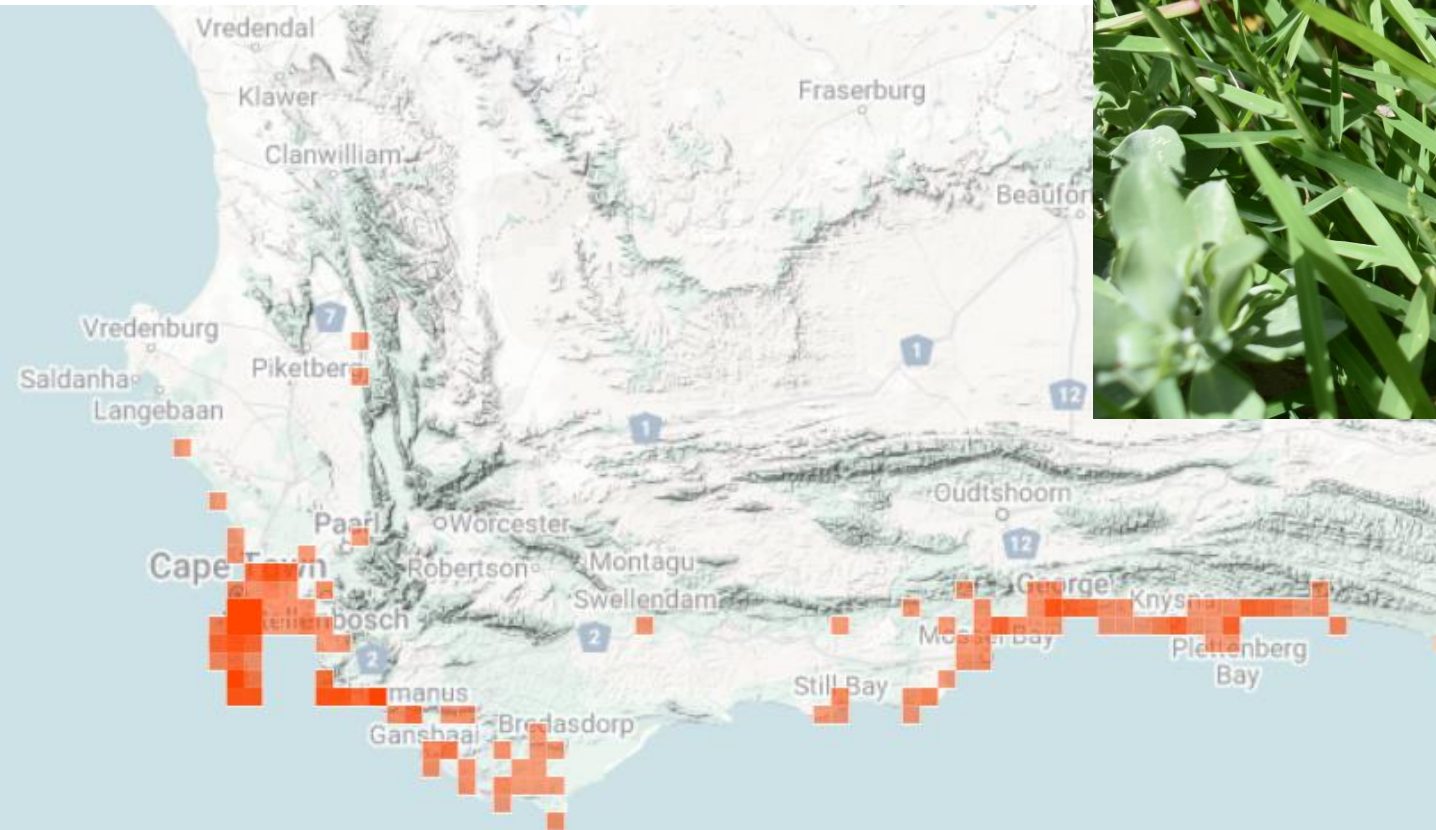




# Stenotaphrum secundatum, Buffalo Grass

Green grass with a reddish stalk that take up a lot of open ground. Leaves linear with a point tip. Flowers a flattish green head, with brown flower spikelet's. Flowers Jan – April.

Afrikaans name – Beeskweek

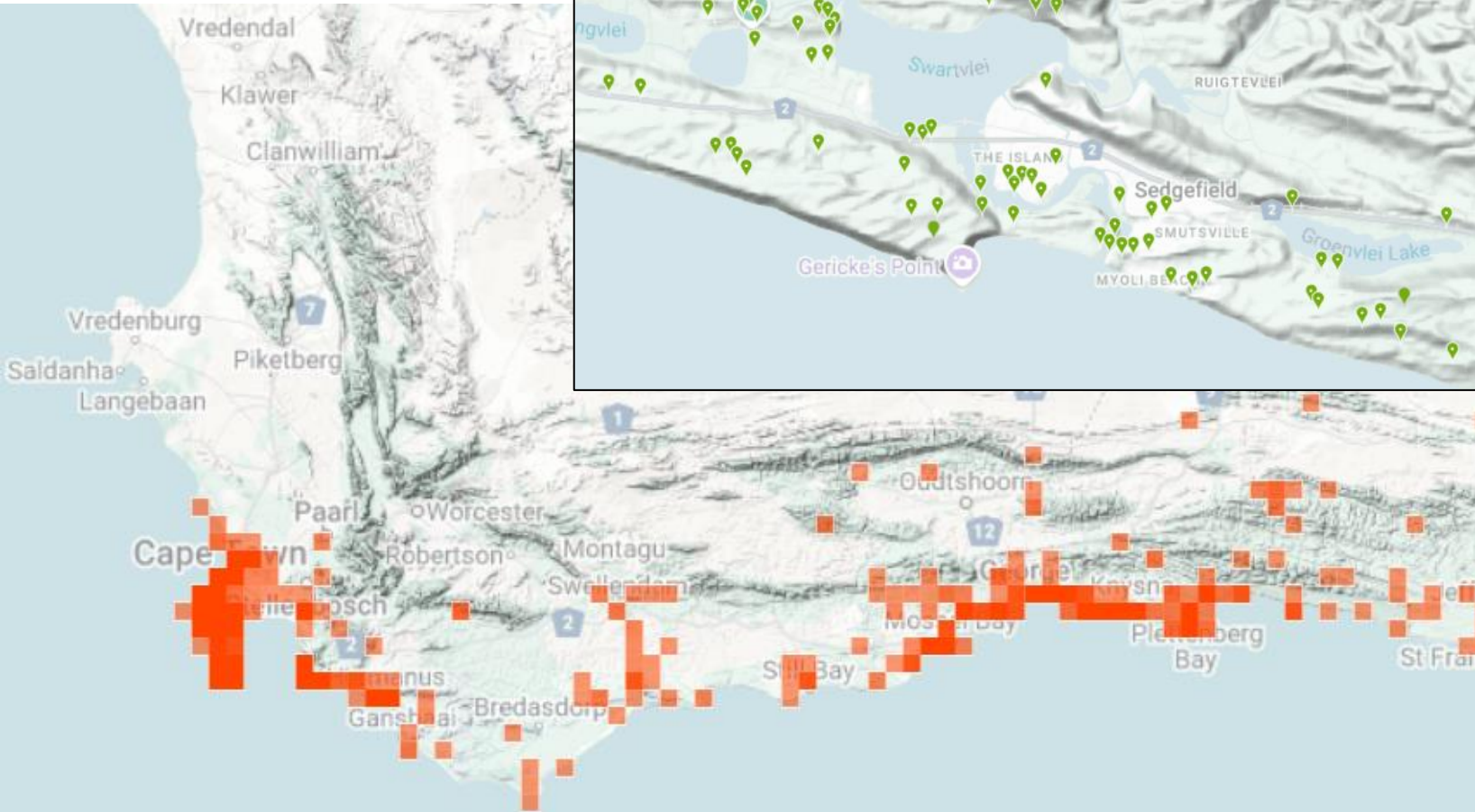




# Tarchonanthus littoralis, Coastal Camphorbush

Large bushy shrub or small tree, reaching up to 8m tall. Bark is cracked, flaking off in narrow strips. Leaves are leathery, distinctly green on top, while hairy and white underneath. Flowers cream to white in dense clumps on the tips of the branches, becoming a cotton ball like bundle with the seeds inside. Flowers Dec – March.

Afrikaans name – kuskanferbos





# Trachyandra cilliata, Common Capespinach

Sprawling terrestrial plant that can get up to 50cm tall. Leaves long and succulent, flowers coming off a long stalk. Flowers round with six thin petals, white with a purple line up the center of each petal. Flowers Aug – Oct.

Afrikaans name – veldkool

