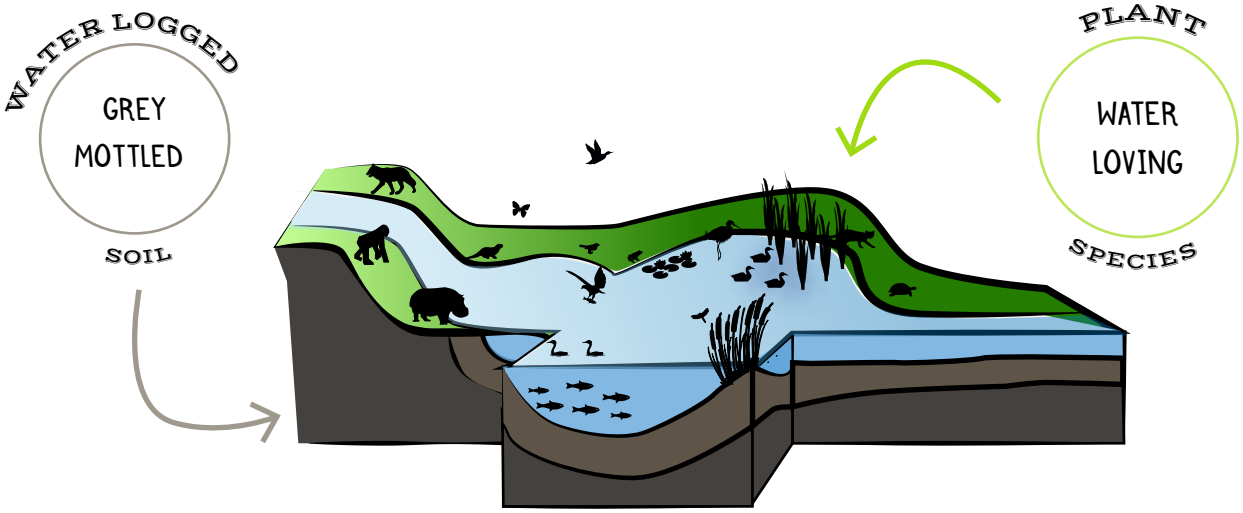
DELINEATION OF WETLANDS

Around **5%** of forestry-owned land is conserved and managed specifically for wetland ecosystems.

WETLAND IDENTIFICATION

Using two of the three wetland characteristics:



Wetland delineation is a term used for identifying the boundary of a wetland and is done using the techniques shown in diagram below.

MAP THE AREA OF THE WETLAND

1 Take a **50cm** soil sample in the dry area next to the wetlands

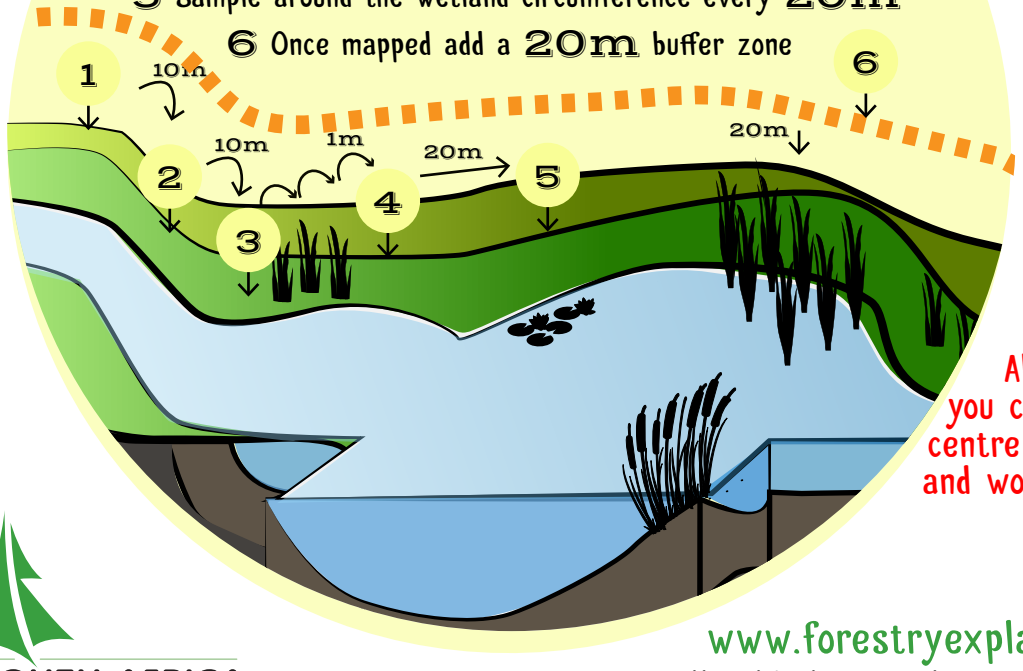
2 Move towards the wetland sampling every **10m**

3 When wetland soil is found take note of the plant species

4 Back track, sampling every **1m** until real wetland edge is found

5 Sample around the wetland circumference every **20m**

6 Once mapped add a **20m** buffer zone



Alternatively you can start in the centre of the wetland and work your way out.

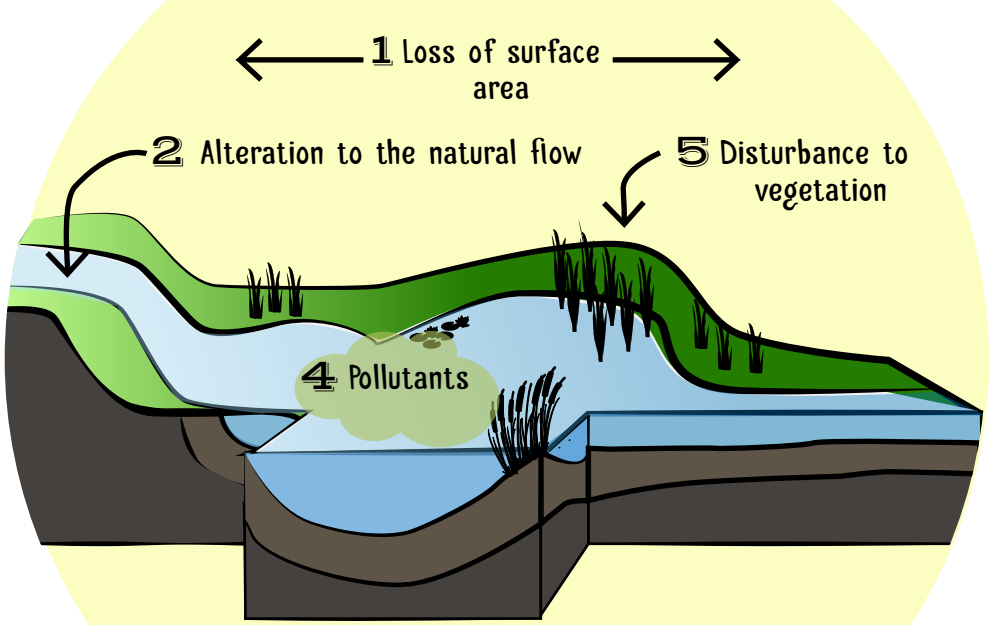
FORESTRY SOUTH AFRICA

www.forestryexplained.co.za

Additional Graphics: Vectors by Vecteezy, www.vecteezy.com.

ASSESS THE WETLAND

Looking for....



30,000 HA OF FORESTRY LAND HAS BEEN ASSESSED

Once a wetland area has been identified and delineated, the impact of human activity on the wetland can be assessed and then the rehabilitation process can begin.

REHABILITATION

There are two main steps when it comes to rehabilitating a wetland:

1 Restore processes that provide and keep water in the wetland.

2 Remove damaging disturbances.

FORESTRY SOUTH AFRICA

www.forestryexplained.co.za

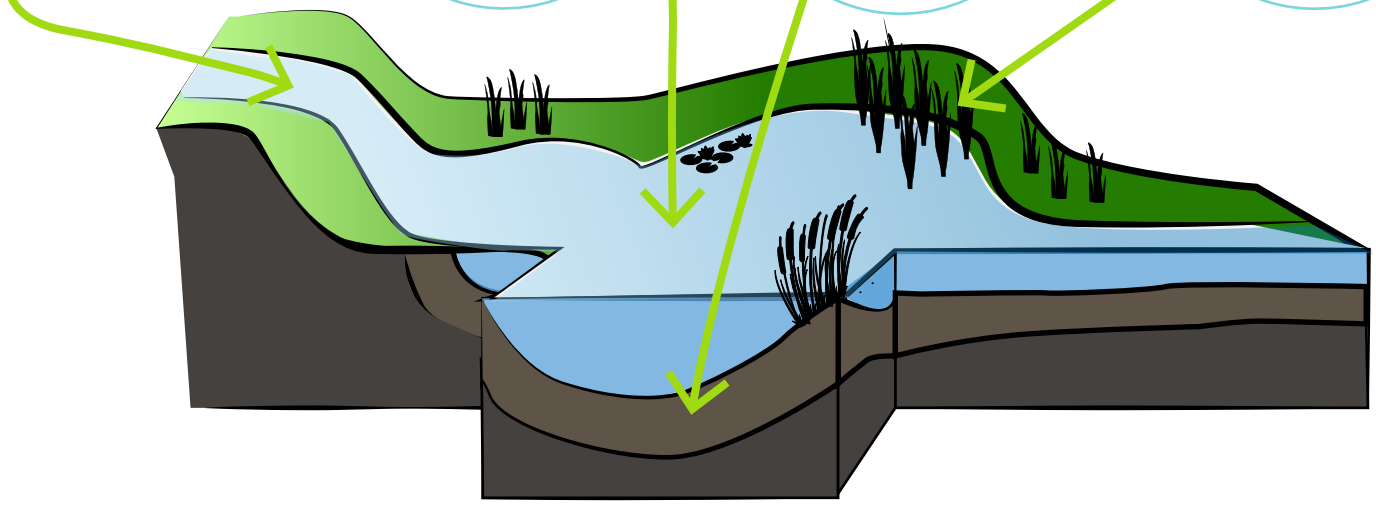
Additional Graphics: Vectors by Vecteezy, www.vecteezy.com.

WETLAND PROTECTION THROUGH SENSITIVE WETLAND MANAGEMENT

Before any action is taken **4 KEY QUESTIONS** must be asked:

WILL THE ACTIONS AFFECT ...

1. Wetlands ability to slow down water?
2. Speed of flow through the wetland?
3. Wetness of soil?
4. Plant growth?



Around **5%** of forestry-owned land has been freed up for the conservation and rehabilitation of wetlands, making a significant contribution to wetland and riparian zone conservation efforts.




The contribution to wetland and river conservation does come at a cost, but it is an ongoing investment that demonstrates our water stewardship commitments.

FORESTRY SOUTH AFRICA

www.forestryexplained.co.za