

A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL TREASURES OF THE  
SOUTPANSBERG AREA.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Soutpansberg area in the far northern section of Limpopo Province, offers a richness of colours, textures, a variety of landscapes, unspoilt natural beauty, more than 600 of the **estimated 1000** tree species recorded in South Africa and about 450 of the more or less 900 bird species recorded in South Africa. At least 30 tree species are endemic to the Soutpansberg.

It is therefore not surprising that such a magnificent and fertile part of Limpopo Province attracted people from the earliest times, and the prehistory, history and cultures/lifestyles of a fascinating mix of peoples (the San, VhaVenda, Shangana-Tsonga, Afrikaners) can be explored.

This publication is a synthesis of numerous studies over many years and does not pretend to be original research but aims to give a brief overview in a compact fashion students and tourists. No references appear in the text – my aim was maximum user-friendliness. The Bibliography contains all the sources used.

The Author