

# ENDEMIC PLANTS OF THE SPERRGEBIET

## OUR LIVING DIAMONDS

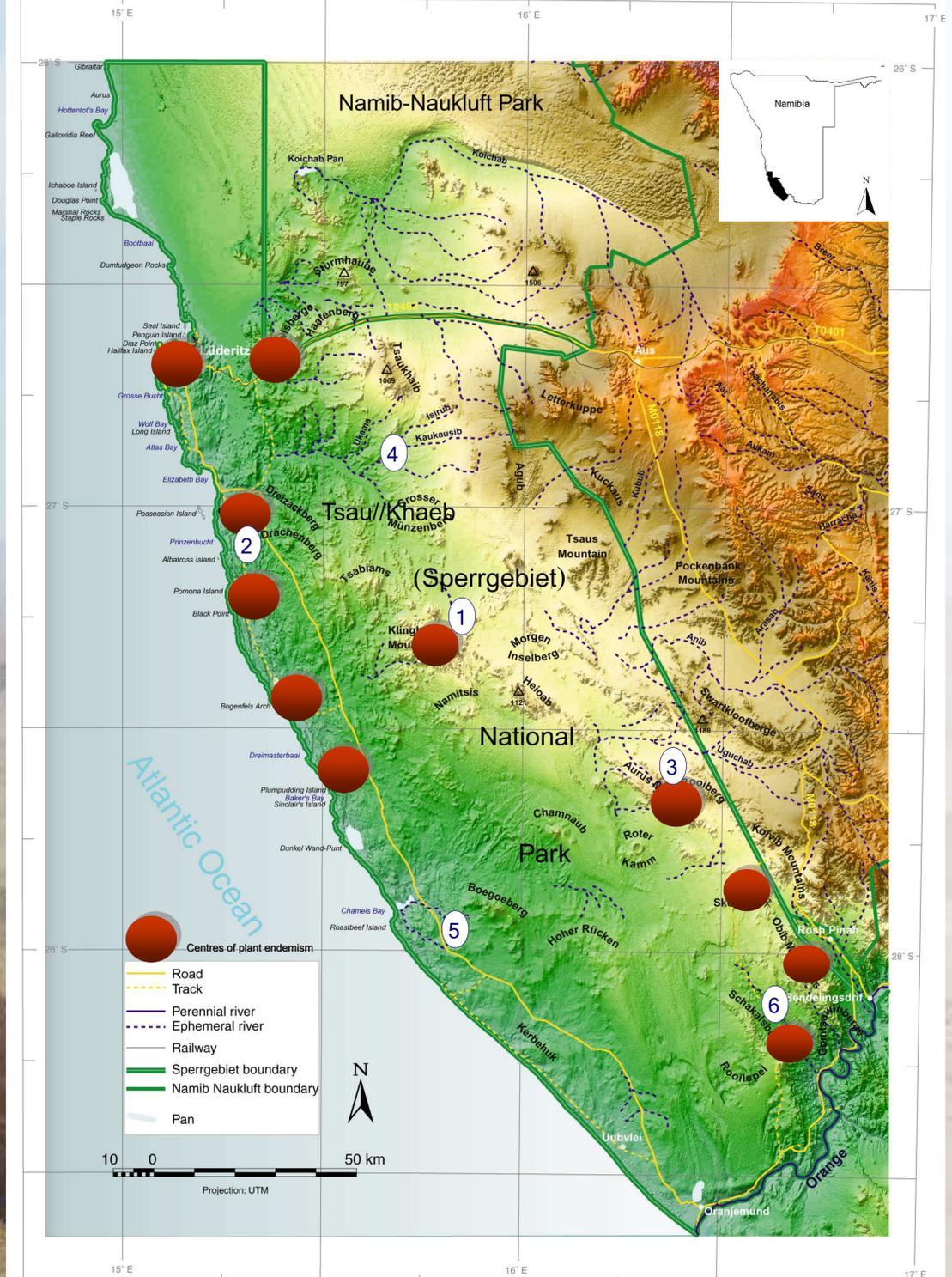
### WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

The Succulent Karoo Biome is internationally recognised as a global hotspot of biodiversity based on its high proportion of endemic plants, and because of the threats to it. The Tsau //Khaeb (Sperrgebiet) National Park is the northern tip of the Succulent Karoo Biome and is thus an extremely important area for biodiversity in Namibia.

Understanding where endemic plants grow, what different types there are and why there are so many in the Sperrgebiet is crucial to protecting this area's unique biodiversity, and to guiding mining and tourism developments.

### WHERE ARE THEY?

Plant endemics occur in almost habitats in the park, but the highest numbers are found along the coast and on inselbergs and mountains.



1 Inselbergs (isolated mountains) such as the Klinghardt Mountains support many endemics; some restricted to these inselbergs.



2 Often difficult to see, low rises in the coastal strip receive moisture from fog more regularly and support many plant endemics.



3 Mountains, such as Aurus, Obib and Schakals offer a multitude of niches for endemic plants.



4 Plains and low ridges near the Kaukausib valley provide habitat for the endemic shrub *Polemanniopsis namibensis*.



5 An abundance of lichens at the low rise west of Boegoeberg indicates that it receives fog regularly; this habitat also supports many plants, including endemics.



6 In a good season, the northern Schakalsberge support lush vegetation, including endemics, hidden between rocks and boulders.