Current progress of the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage Site Project in terms of national declaration process

31 August 2017
The national declaration process steps to proclaim the World Heritage Site includes the following:

1. Before nominating the site UNESCO requires a nominated site to be protected into national legislation. In the case of BMML this is achieved through the following legislation:
   a. Those areas that fall within existing Protected Areas are protected under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003. That applies to all the areas marked in “green” on the below map.
   b. The specific geosites to be included in the WHS, which fall outside of existing Protected Areas, are protected under National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999. These sites, being 51 in total, have been graded by South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) as category one sites. This applies to all black and red dots falling within the “pink” areas on the below map.

2. Upon inscription of the site by UNESCO, they advise state agency responsible (Dept of Environmental Affairs) and the national declaration process completes any remaining steps.

3. The national process includes proclamation into the World Heritage Convention Act 49 of 1999, including the following steps:
   a. DEA consults with all relevant state parties.
   b. Minister of DEA signifies intention to proclaim the site through notice in the government gazette, including calling for comments.
   c. Consultation with interested and affected parties.
   d. Final proclamation in the government gazette.

The tentatively listed Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage Site (BMM WHS) is now between steps 1. and 2. above meaning that we await evaluation of the Nomination Dossier and inscription by UNESCO.