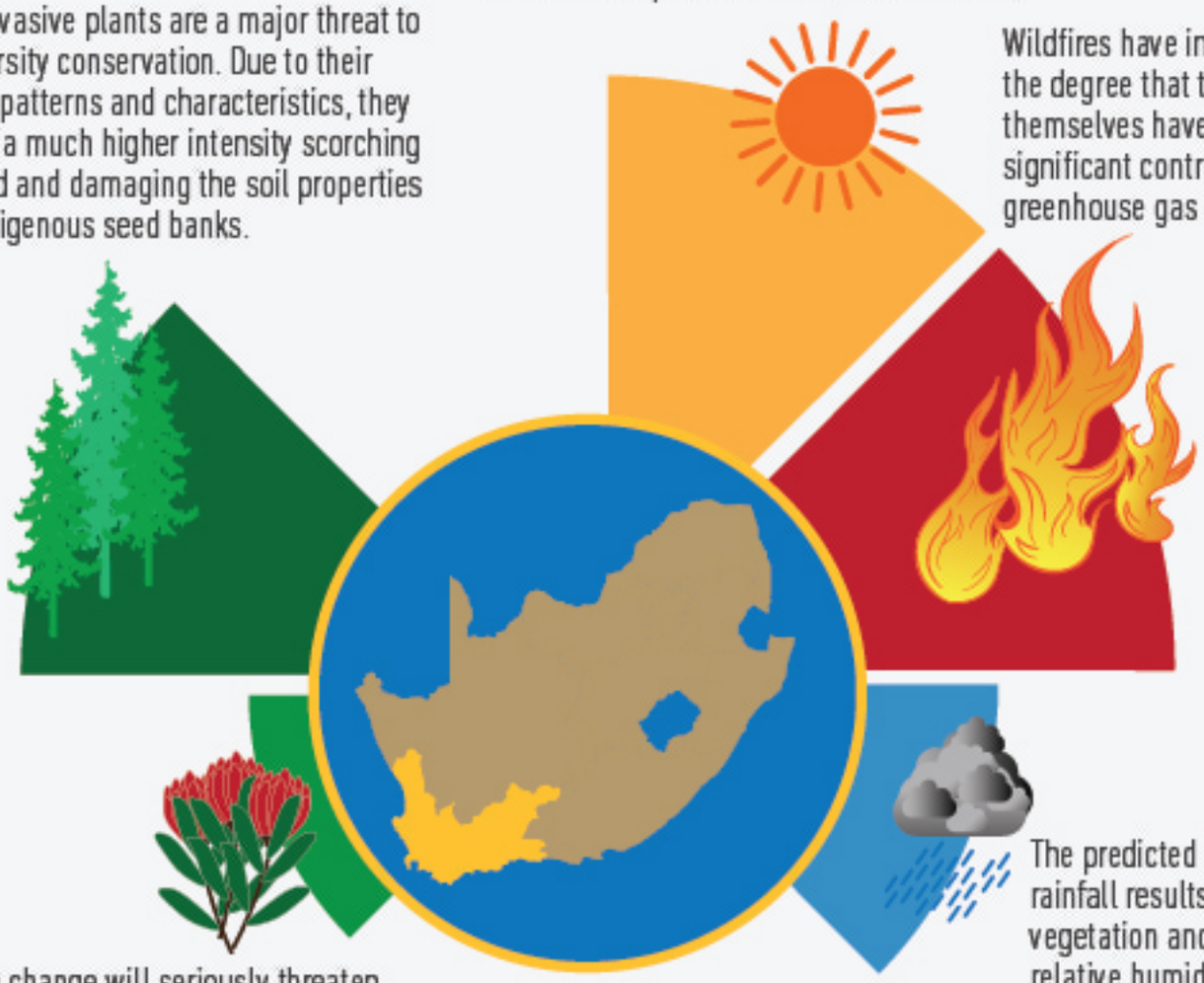
WILDFIRE READY: CLIMATE CHANGE

Our world is changing around us. Global climate change is a reality that we have to face; it will affect every aspect of our lives as extreme weather incidents increase. How does climate change affect wildfires?

Local research shows that the frequency of wildfires is likely to increase substantially in the hotter, drier conditions expected over much of the Western Cape. High fire risk conditions are expected to increase by 40% in the West and almost triple in the East of the Province.*

Alien invasive plants are a major threat to biodiversity conservation. Due to their growth patterns and characteristics, they burn at a much higher intensity scorching the land and damaging the soil properties and indigenous seed banks.

Wildfires have increased to the degree that they themselves have become significant contributors of greenhouse gas emissions.



Climate change will seriously threaten the Fynbos biome and this may even be reduced two thirds, with over half the endemic species becoming extinct.

The predicted decrease in rainfall results in drier vegetation and lower relative humidity, resulting in quicker and more aggressive wildfires.

* Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation by Stephen Midgley UCT 13 March 2017

The Amount and Intensity of Wildfires will Increase.

#WILDFIRE READY

Wildfire is Coming
Are you #WildfireReady?