3. Environmental context

3.1 Conservancies and protected areas

This map below shows the existing nature reserves and conservation areas especially the Cradle of Human kind to the north of the municipality. Conservation areas are priority areas and are strictly protected from most activities in terms of NEMA.

The conservation areas and nature reserves are important in deciding on long term development proposals and strategies for the municipal area.

Protected areas and conservancies are strictly not physical attributes but have strong physical links and is a primary determinant of future development and development potential in the municipal area. As one extends the impact of environment issues, it is clear that the impact of ecological issues goes way beyond the demarcated areas and key environmental features.
3.2 Tourism

Eco-tourism is the next logical step in utilising protected areas and conservancies. Data on the extent of tourism and tourism related activities in the local economy was sourced through Tracks4Africa’s maps. These maps are compiled based on GPS recordings made by tourists when travelling. It therefore reflects all the points of interests logged by tourists as well as the routes travelled. Map 11 shows these recorded points in the municipal area.

Tourism activities are focussed on very specific areas and are mostly linked to outdoor adventure and recreation. Some of the most notable areas are:

- The Protea Safari 4x4 playground (Opposite The Noord Heuwel Shopping Centre).
- The Paragliding launch area off the ridge to the south of the N14 – R28 crossing.
- Krugersdorp Golf and Squash Clubs.
- The Krugersdorp Nature Reserve with the Protea Safari Eco Trail and 4x4 routes.
- The Koi Empire Fishing Area in the Muldersdrift area.
- The Rhinoceros and Lion Park in the Cradle of Humankind area.
- The whole Magaliesburg area.
- The Magalies Mountain Bike Trail (Hekpoort).

Map 11: Tourism points and routes in WDM