The Special Elements Index is a measure of the amount of element or feature that is in a planning unit compared to the amount of the same element or feature found elsewhere in the Study Area. For this study, Special Elements Index (SEI) was calculated as follows:

$$SEI = \frac{\text{Amount (ha) of biodiversity feature in planning unit}}{\text{Total amount of special element feature in study area}}$$

The advantage of this analysis is that it clearly displays where special elements are distributed across the landscape and provides a clear framework for adding additional data. This information is also useful in describing conservation priority and provides an alternative perspective to the priorities emerging from the representation analysis. As more data is added to the analysis, the representation analysis and Special Elements Index will become more closely related to one another.