

# **SAQONDISANA INVESTMENT (PTY) LTD**

## **DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT**

**DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT (BAR) AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL IN RESPECT OF FARM LOTMGA 8761 GT, FARM KAISHA 14719 GT, FARM OSAKA 12977 GT, FARM KROMPOORT 2155 GT AND FARM RAVINE 9201 GT IN THE ESTCOURT MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.**

**FILE REFERENCE NUMBER SAMRAD: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11694 PR**

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

In terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (Act 28 of 2002 as amended), the Minister must grant a prospecting or mining right if among others the mining “will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation or damage to the environment”.

Unless an Environmental Authorisation can be granted following the evaluation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and an Environmental Management Programme report in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), it cannot be concluded that the said activities will not result in unacceptable pollution, ecological degradation, or damage to the environment.

In terms of section 16(3)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, any report submitted as part of an application must be prepared in a format that may be determined by the Competent Authority and in terms of section 17 (1) (c) the competent Authority must check whether the application has considered any minimum requirements applicable, or instructions or guidance provided by the competent authority to the submission of applications.

**It is therefore an instruction that** the prescribed reports required in respect of applications for an environmental authorisation for listed activities triggered by an application for a right or a permit are submitted in the exact format of, and provide all the information required in terms of, this template. Furthermore, please be advised that failure to submit the information required in the format provided in this template will be regarded as a failure to meet the requirements of the Regulation and will lead to the Environmental Authorisation being refused.

**It is furthermore an instruction that** the Environmental Assessment Practitioner must process and interpret his/her research and analysis and use the findings thereof to compile the information required herein. (Unprocessed supporting information may be attached as appendices). The EAP must ensure that the information required is placed correctly in the relevant sections of the Report, in the order, and under the provided headings as set out below, and ensure that the report is not cluttered with un-interpreted information and that it unambiguously represents the interpretation of the applicant.

## **OBJECTIVE OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

The objective of the basic assessment process is to, through a consultative process—

- (a) Determine the policy and legislative context within which the proposed activity is located and how the activity complies with and responds to the policy and legislative context;
- (b) Identify the alternatives considered, including the activity, location, and technology alternatives.
- (c) Describe the need and desirability of the proposed alternatives,
- (d) Through the undertaking of an impact and risk assessment process inclusive of cumulative impacts which focused on determining the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage, and cultural sensitivity of the sites and locations within sites and the risk of impact of the proposed activity and technology alternatives on these aspects to determine:
  - (i) The nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration, and probability of the impacts occurring to; and
  - (ii) The degree to which these impacts—
    - (aa) Can be reversed.
    - (bb) May cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and
    - (cc) Can be managed, avoided, or mitigated.
- (e) Through a ranking of the site sensitivities and possible impacts the activity and technology alternatives will impose on the sites and location identified through the life of the activity to—
  - (i) Identify and motivate a preferred site, activity, and technology alternative.
  - (ii) Identify suitable measures to manage, avoid or mitigate identified impacts; and
  - (iii) Identify residual risks that need to be managed and monitored

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Table 1: List of abbreviations

<b>BAR</b>	Basic Assessment Report
<b>BID</b>	Background Information Document
<b>DEA</b>	Department of Environmental Affairs
<b>DMRE</b>	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
<b>CBA</b>	Critical Biodiversity Area
<b>CARA</b>	Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act No. 43 OF 1983)
<b>CRR</b>	Comments and Responses Report
<b>DFFE</b>	Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Authorization
<b>EAP</b>	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
<b>ECA</b>	Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989)
<b>ECO</b>	Environmental Control Officer
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EMPr</b>	Environmental Management Programme
<b>ESA</b>	Ecological Support Area
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>GNR</b>	Government Notice Regulation
<b>Ha</b>	Hectares
<b>I&amp;APs</b>	Interested and Affected Parties
<b>Km</b>	Kilometer's
<b>MPRDA</b>	Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)
<b>NAAQS</b>	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
<b>NBA</b>	National Biodiversity Assessment
<b>NCR</b>	Noise Control Regulations Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989)
<b>NFEPA</b>	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority
<b>NEM: AQA</b>	National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004)
<b>NEM: BA</b>	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)

<b>NEM: WA</b>	National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008)
<b>NEMA</b>	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
<b>NFEPA</b>	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area
<b>NPA</b>	National Protected Area
<b>PPP</b>	Public Participation Process
<b>PR</b>	Prospecting Right
<b>PWP</b>	Prospecting Work Programme
<b>SAHRA</b>	South African Heritage Resources Agency
<b>SAHRIS</b>	South African Heritage Resources Information System
<b>SANS</b>	South African National Standard (SANS) 10103
<b>WMA</b>	Water Management Area

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Saqondisana Investment, hereafter referred as ‘the applicant’ or ‘Saqondisana’ has applied for a prospecting right for coal in respect of Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT in the Magisterial District of Estcourt District, KwaZulu-Natal Province, for an extent area of 2718.14 ha. The prospecting area is situated 36,63 km East south of Ladysmith town and 29,60 km East south of Umbulwana Village and access road to the farm is via the R74 road, in the Estcourt District in KwaZulu Natal Province.

The application for a prospecting right is in terms of Section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (as amended) (MPRDA), and therefore, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is required to acquire an Environmental Authorisation in terms of Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended) (NEMA). VahleNgwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd, hereafter ‘VahleNgwe’ has been appointed by Saqondisana as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to facilitate the Environmental Authorisation (EA) processes for the proposed prospecting activities. The competent authority for the environmental authorisation process is the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed on Listing Notice 1 of the NEMA, therefore a Basic Assessment in terms of NEMA Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 982 (as amended) is required. The environmental impacts of the proposed project activities were determined by first identifying the environmental baseline and then conducting an environmental risk assessment to identify the significance of the impacts. The environmental impact assessment considered all phases of the project, including the site establishment, operational, rehabilitation and closure. The rating system used is applied to the potential impact on the receiving environment and includes an objective evaluation of the mitigation of the impact.

The stakeholder engagement process, as part of the Environmental Authorisation process will be conducted in terms of NEMA (as amended), which provides clear guidelines for stakeholder engagement during an EIA. Stakeholders therefore will be afforded an opportunity to participate in the public review of the Draft BAR from 30 9+ 2024 – 28 September 2024 to ensure that the assessment of impacts and proposed management of impacts address their concerns. Comments will be received during the 30-day comment period (from the Draft BAR review) and will be incorporated into this report, to be submitted to DMR for decision-making.

## Details of the Applicant.

Table 2: Details of the applicant

<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd		
<b>Registration number (if any):</b>	2023/23084/07		
<b>Trading name (if any):</b>	Saqondisana Investment		
<b>Responsible person: (E.g., CEO, Director, etc.)</b>	Niel Van Zyl		
<b>Contact person:</b>	Niel Van Zyl		
<b>Physical address:</b>	Plot 1 AH, Sapfo Valtaki, Gauteng		
<b>Postal address:</b>	Plot 1 AH, Sapfo Valtaki, Gauteng		
<b>Postal code:</b>	1020	<b>Cellphone:</b>	+27 82 461 3787
<b>Email:</b>	vanzydp@gmail.com		

## Environmental Consultants

Vahlangwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd is the appointed independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Basic Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the EA application for the proposed prospecting project for coal in respect of Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT within the Magisterial District of Estcourt District, KwaZulu-Natal. Province.

Table 3: Details of the EAPs

<b>Company name:</b>	Vahlangwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd
<b>Contact person:</b>	Sunday M Mabaso
<b>Physical address:</b>	238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Extension 3, Johannesburg South, 2058
<b>Telephone:</b>	+2711 432 0062
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@vahlangweadvisory.co.za">info@vahlangweadvisory.co.za</a>

## Public Participation Process Methodology

A Public Participation Process (PPP) will be undertaken as required in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), promulgated under NEMA. During the undertakings of the PPP, the environmental and social impacts are investigated, and all stakeholders affected by the project are afforded an opportunity to comment, raise concerns and contribute to the assessment



to ensure that local knowledge, needs, and values are taken into consideration throughout the process.

This Draft Basic Assessment Report is made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days and all comments or concerns raised will be recorded and responded to in the Comments and Responses Report (CRR). The comment period will commence from the **30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

The following activities will be undertaken to announce the project and initiate the Basic Assessment process:

- A Background Information Document (BID) including an Interested and Affected Parties Registration Forms (IAPs) will be distributed to various stakeholders including the I&APs via email from the **20<sup>th</sup> of September 2024;**
- Newspaper advertisement was placed in the **Ladysmith Gazette Newspaper** on the **05<sup>th</sup> of September 2024;**
- Site notices will be erected at various places within the vicinity of the site on the **07<sup>th</sup> September 2024;**
- An electronic copy can be accessed and downloaded from the [www.vahleingweadvisory.co.za](http://www.vahleingweadvisory.co.za) from the **6<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**
- A stakeholder engagement meeting will be conducted to facilitate the discussion on the draft Basic Assessment Report.

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## SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT AND BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

### 1. Introduction

Saqondisana proposes to undertake coal prospecting activities in respect of Portions 1,2,4, and 5 of the Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT in the District of Estcourt District, KwaZulu-Natal Province, for an extent area of 2718.14 ha. The prospecting area is situated about 36,63 km East south of Ladysmith town and 29,60 km East south of Umbulwana Village and it can be accessed via the R74 road, in the Estcourt District in KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The proposed prospecting activities will include non-invasive and invasive techniques. The planned invasive activities will cover an area of about 0.305 ha. The project entails the drilling of at least twenty (20) boreholes to determine the mineral deposition, quantity, economic viability, and possibilities of the project leading to a viable mine. A 165mm diameter core drill will be used to drill the geological boreholes.

The prospecting activities will be undertaken in four (4) phases for a total duration of 48 month, thus five years with subject to renewal for and 3 years should the prospecting programme not be completed within the first term of granting.

### 2. Contact Person and correspondence address.

#### 2.1 Details of the EAP

Table 4: Details of the EAP

<b>Company name:</b>	VahleNGwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd
<b>Contact person:</b>	Sunday M Mabaso
<b>Physical address:</b>	238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Extension 3, Johannesburg South, 2058
<b>Telephone:</b>	+27 11 432 0062
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@vahleNGweadvisory.co.za">info@vahleNGweadvisory.co.za</a>



## 2.2. Expertise of the EAP

### 2.2.1 The qualifications of the EAP (with evidence as Appendix 1)

This section describes the EAP's qualifications and experience for the proposed Project. Appendix A contains the EAPs' curriculum vitae and degrees.

Table 5: Expertise of the EAP

<b>NAME</b>	Sunday M Mabaso
<b>QAULIFICATIONS</b>	MBA, Postgrad Certificate: Climate Change and Energy Law, Certificate: Mine Closure and Rehabilitation
<b>RESPONSIBILITY ON PROJECT</b>	Project Reviewer
<b>PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION</b>	EAPASA (Reg. No. 2022/4485)
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Sunday M. Mabaso is the Principal Consultant with more than 20 years of service at the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy of which he served seven (7) years as a Regional Manager (3 years in Northern Cape and 4 years in Gauteng). He has acquired various qualifications in mining and has recently completed an MBA with Milpark Business School and a Post Graduate Certificate in Climate Change and Energy Law with the University of the Witwatersrand, Mine Closure and Rehabilitation with the University of Pretoria. His experience includes monitoring and enforcing compliance with Social and Labour Plan and Mine Economics in terms of the MPRDA and the Mining Charter, Environmental Management and Waste Management in terms of NEMA and NEM: Waste Act.
<b>NAME</b>	Cecil Dau
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Bachelor of Earth Sciences in Mining and Environmental Geology
<b>RESPONSIBILITY ON PROJECT</b>	Report Compiler
<b>PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION</b>	EAPASA Candidate (Reg. No. 2021/4434) SACNASP Candidate (154069)
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Cecil Dau is an environmental professional who has more than three (3) years of experience working in the Environmental Management field. He has more than one (1) year working as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), two (2) years working as an Environmental Officer (Intern) at Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, where he was processing applications received in terms of Section 24G of NEMA. He also worked as a Research Assistant Graduate for Water Research Commission. He is a seasoned Environmental Assessment Practitioner with a thorough understanding of the potential environmental and social impacts of mining activities in a variety of environmental settings. In the mining and environmental sectors, he has performed environmental assessments (BAR and S&EIR), Water Use Licence Application (WULA), and environmental compliance auditing. His core competencies include research and report writing, specialist report review and environmental impact assessment.
<b>NAME</b>	Khanyile Mgiba-Mutero
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>	Higher Certificate in Life and Environmental Science



<b>RESPONSIBILITY ON PROJECT</b>	Report Compiler (TRAINEE)
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Khanyile Mgiba-Mutero is an environmental trainee who has 1 year working experience in the Environmental Management field. She has a University of South Africa Higher Certificate in Life and Environmental Science and is currently doing her BA in Environmental Management 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level at the University of South Africa.

### 3. Location of the overall Activity

Table 6: Details of the overall activity location

<b>Farm Name:</b>	Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT
<b>Application area (Ha)</b>	2718.14 ha
<b>Magisterial district:</b>	Magisterial District of Estcourt, KwaZulu Natal Province
<b>Distance and direction from nearest town</b>	The prospecting area is situated 36,63 km East south of Ladysmith town and 29,60 km East south of Umbulwana Village and access road to the farm is via the R74 road, in the Estcourt District in KwaZulu Natal Province
<b>21-digit Surveyor General Code for each farm portion</b>	NOGT00000001753800001 NOGT00000001753800002 NOGT00000001753800004 NOGT00000001753800005 NOGT00000001803400000 NOGT00000000215500000 NOGT00000000876100000 NOGT00000001471900000 NOGT00000000920100000 NOGT00000001297700000

#### 4. Locality map

Attach a locality map at a scale not smaller than 1:250000 showing the nearest town and attach as **Appendix 2**

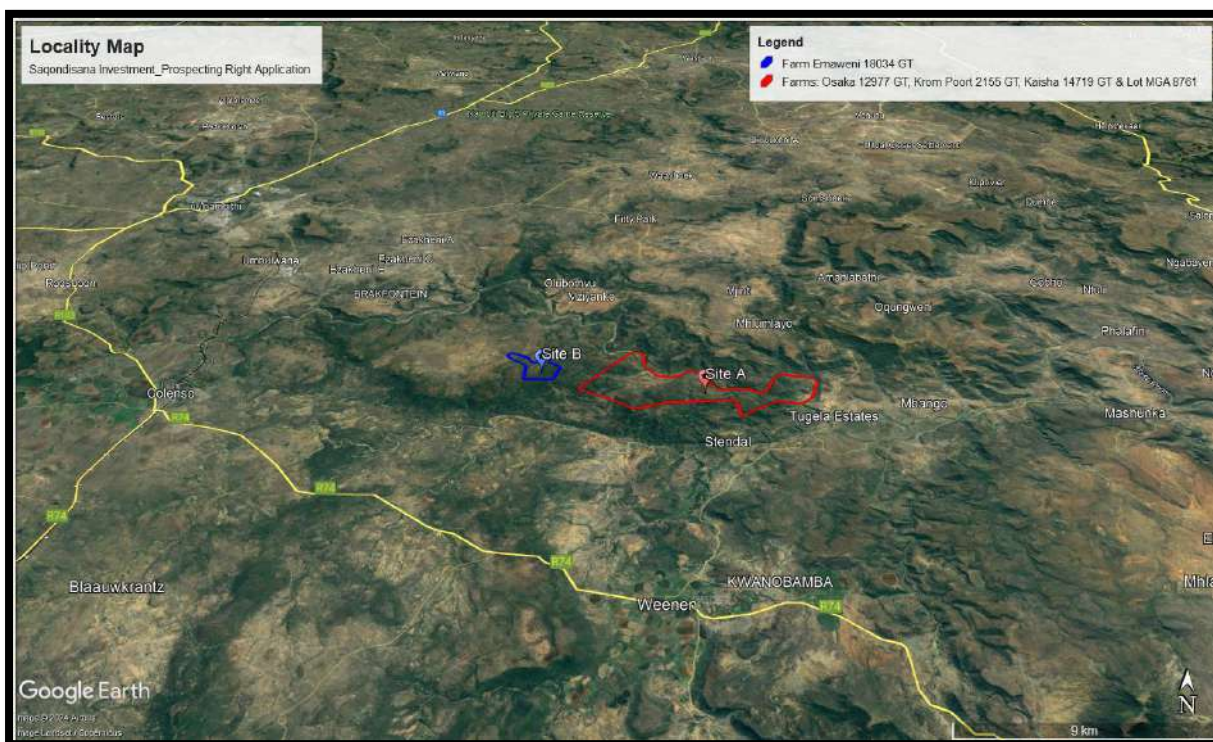


Figure 1: Locality map of the proposed area

#### 5. Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity

Attach a plan drawn to a scale acceptable to the competent authority but not less than 1: 10 000 that shows the location, and area (hectares) of all the aforesaid main and listed activities, and infrastructure to be placed on site.

Saqondisana proposes to undertake coal prospecting activities in respect of the Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT within the Magisterial District of Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal Province. The planned invasive prospecting activities will cover an area of at least 0.305 ha. The project entails the drilling of about twenty (20) boreholes to determine the mineral deposition, quantity, economic viability, and possibilities of the project leading to a viable mine. Access to the prospecting area will be through existing roads.

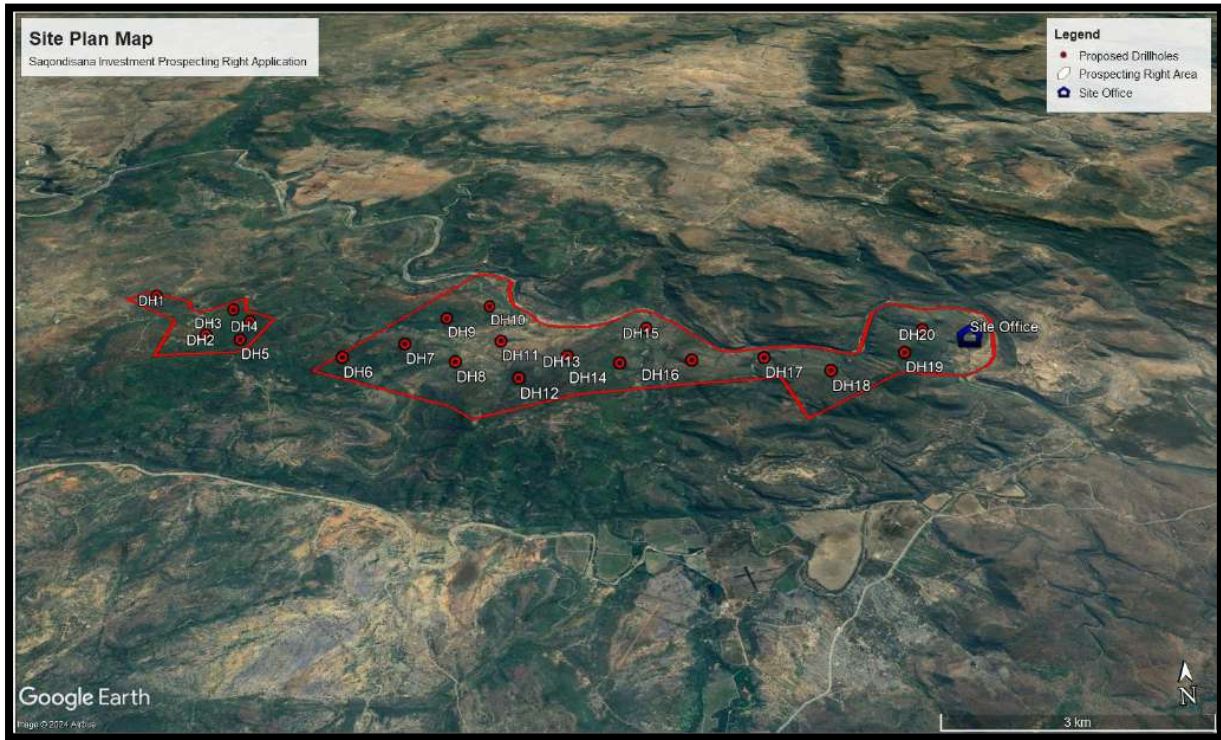


Figure 2: Site plan of the proposed area

### 5.1. Listed and specified activities

Table 7: Listed and specified activities

NAME OF ACTIVITY	AERIAL EXTENT OF THE ACTIVITY (HA OR M <sup>2</sup> )	APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE <i>GNR 983, GNR 984 or GNR 985</i>
Prospecting Right application area	2718.14 ha	GNR 984 (as amended)
Planned invasive drilling 20 boreholes at a maximum depth of 200m with each borehole sump area of 10m length x 10m breath	0.2 ha	GNR 984 (as amended)
Site clearing (30m x 30m)	0.09ha	Not Listed
Geophysical survey	2718.14 ha	Not Listed
Geological field mapping	2718.14 ha	Not Listed
Access roads (3m x 50m)	0.015ha	Not listed



## 5.2. Description of the activities to be undertaken

(Describe Methodology or technology to be employed, including the type of commodity to be prospected/mined and for a linear activity, a description of the route of the activity).

The prospecting activities will include the following activities:

- **Establishment of the office and equipment storage site:**

The site will be cleared of vegetation and levelled where the mobile site offices will be installed. No topsoil will be removed for this activity. Vegetation clearance of an extent area of 30x30m will be undertaken for the establishment of the site camp offices and auxiliary equipment for the operation.

- **Installation of mobile offices and ablutions.**

Mobile offices and portable ablutions will be installed on the established site.

- **Construction of temporal access road to the camp.**

Temporal access roads to the site camp and drill sites will be constructed within the proposed area. However existing farm roads will be utilized as far as practicable.

- **Drilling; and**

Drilling of twenty (20) boreholes will be undertaken using a grid drilling pattern to a maximum depth of 200 m with each borehole sump area of 10m length x 10m breath.

- **Rehabilitation and closure.**

Concurrent rehabilitation of the drill holes will be conducted after each drilling is completed. The drill holes will be backfilled of material in their respective manner and the drilled hole to be closed with a cap. The final rehabilitation of the site will be conducted including the rehabilitation of the office and equipment storage site footprint, drill sites and access roads. The rehabilitation plan will be included within the EMPr which forms part of this report to be submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

### Project Phases

The prospecting activities will be undertaken in four (4) phases for a total duration of about 48 month, thus five years with subject to renewal for 3 years should the prospecting programme not be completed within the first term of granting. The prospecting phases will be conducted as follows:

## Phase 1

- Desktop Studies

A desktop study will be carried out to obtain all possible geological information and historical data of the proposed prospecting area. This includes the review of published geological reports, data from the Council of Geoscience and relevant geological research within the proposed area.

- Reconnaissance Survey

A geological reconnaissance survey of the proposed area will be undertaken to assess the potential coal deposit and to comparatively evaluate the preferred deposit. This survey will generally be carried out for examination of the general geological features and characteristics of a region.

- Geological Field Mapping

A geological field mapping will be conducted to obtain information about the surface lithologies and geological features and structures hence a geological map will be the outcome of this activity.

- Geophysical Survey

Information will need to be gathered from undiscovered hidden coal deposits below the surface. A field data will be obtained based on the principles and guidelines. A GPS will be used to record the data point locations, and no access roads will be constructed for this survey.

- RC/DC Drilling

Boreholes will be drilled at pre-determined sites on the proposed area. A 165mm diameter core drill will be used to drill the geological boreholes. At least twenty (20) boreholes will be drilled using a grid drilling pattern at a maximum depth of 200 m. The exact of respective borehole positions will heavily rely on the data received from geophysical survey. The spacing between boreholes shall be decreased appropriately where significant quality changes occur in structurally complex area and along the seam sub-outcrop.

- Concurrent Rehabilitation

After each borehole is completely drilled and does not show any occurrence, it will be fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation will only be done by backfilling of material in their respective manner and closing the drilled hole with a cap.

## Phase 2

- Core Logging

All drill holes will be logged every meter containing information such as hole location, depth and other geological structures encountered within the hole. Dust samples will be taken in sealed chip trays and safeguarded for future referencing. Portions of the drill chips representing the ore will be taken and placed in bags for analysis.

- Sample Analysis

All samples obtained from the drilling programme will be taken to the accredited laboratory for analysis and quality.

## Phase 3

- Banking & Feasibility Studies

The outcome of the prospecting work will determine whether the project is viable or not. This phase will comprise of the following key aspects:

- Geological Modelling
- Mineral Resource Estimation

A mineral resource estimation will be conducted and compiled into a Mineral Resources and Reserves Statement to be signed by a competent person. The estimation will include the tonnages and quality of the mineral. Should the results prove positive, the preparations for mining right application and any other relevant applications will commence. More various technical personnel will be involved in the process. The skills cycle will include geology, mine engineering, mine surveying, metallurgy, legal and finance.

## Phase 4

- Rehabilitation and closure

Final rehabilitation of the site will be conducted as the final phase of the prospecting activities and will be undertaken upon cessation of the project

## 6. Policy and Legislative Context

Table 8: Policy and Legislative context

Applicable legislation and guidelines used to compile the report	Reference where applied
<p><b><u>The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996</u></b></p> <p>Under Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) it is clearly stated that:</p> <p>Everyone has the right to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and</li> <li>b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Prevent pollution and ecological degradation.</li> <li>(ii) Promote conservation; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.</p>	<p>Vahlengwe is undertaking an EIA process to identify and determine the potential impacts associated with the proposed prospecting activities. Mitigation measures recommended will aim to ensure that the potential impacts are managed to acceptable levels to support the rights as enshrined in the Constitution.</p>
<p><b><u>National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017)</u></b></p> <p>The Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) was set in place in accordance with Section 24 of the Constitution. Certain environmental principles under NEMA must be adhered to, to inform decision making for issues affecting the environment.</p> <p>Section 24 (1)(a) and (b) of NEMA state that:</p>	<p>Activities associated with the proposed prospecting activities are identified as Listed Activities in the Listing Notice 1, GNR 983 (as amended), Listing Activity No. 20 and therefore require Basic Environmental Impact Assessment.</p>

<p>The potential impact on the environment and socio-economic conditions of activities that require authorization or permission by law and which may significantly affect the environment, must be considered, investigated, and assessed prior to their implementation and reported to the organ of state charged by law with authorizing, permitting, or otherwise allowing the implementation of an activity.</p> <p>The EIA Regulation, 2014 was published under GN R 326 on 07 April 2017 (EIA Regulations) and came into effect on 07 April 2017. Together with the EIA Regulations, the Minister also published GN R 327 (Listing Notice No. 1), GN 325 (Listing Notice No. 2) and GN R 324 (Listing Notice No. 3) in terms of Sections 24(2) and 24D of the NEMA, as amended.</p>	
<p><b><u>Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)</u></b></p> <p>The Act makes provision for equitable access to and sustainable development of the nation’s mineral and petroleum resources; and provides for matters connected therewith.</p> <p>Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002): Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Regulations GNR 527 of 2004.</p> <p>Section 7 (1). The prospecting work programme must contain: -</p> <p>(f). a description of how the mineral resource and mineral description of the prospecting area will be determined throughout – (i) the prospecting work to be performed.</p> <p>(ii) a geological survey to be carried out; and</p> <p>(iii). A geophysical survey to be undertaken.</p> <p>(g). a description of the prospecting method or methods to be implemented that may include - (i) Any excavations, trenching, pitting, and drilling to be carried out.</p> <p>(ii) Any bulk sampling and testing to be carried out; and</p> <p>(iii) Any other prospecting methods to be applied.</p>	<p>The proposed project is applied for in terms of Section 16 of the MPRDA, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) and the planned activities are according to the scope of the PWP in terms of the Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002): Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Regulations GNR 527 of 2004.</p>



<p><b><u>National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 Of 2004)</u></b></p> <p>The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (No. 39 of 2004) (NEM: AQA) governs all aspects of air quality, including pollution prevention, national norms and standards, and the requirement for an Atmospheric Emissions Licence (AEL) for listed activities that emit pollutants into the atmosphere and have or may have a significant negative impact on the environment. Activities requiring an AEL are listed in GN No. 893 (22 November 2013), which was published in accordance with Section 21(1) ((b) of the NEM: AQA. According to Section 22 of NEM: AQA, no one may engage in a listed activity without an AEL.</p>	<p>The prospecting operation will not be conducting activities that may require the application for an AEL. Regulation 2 of NEMAQA: National Dust Control Regulations GN R827 (01 November 2013) indicates that the purpose of the Act is to prescribe general measures for the control of dust in all areas. Therefore, Saqondisana will be required in terms of Regulation 6 and 7 of the Act to implement measures for controlling dust and conducting an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring PM<sub>10</sub> respectively.</p>
<p><b><u>National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008</u></b></p> <p>The National Environmental Management: Waste Act of 2008 (No. 59 of 2008) (NEM: WA) governs all aspects of waste management, with a focus on waste avoidance and minimization. NEM: WA developed a system for categorizing and licensing waste management activities. Listed waste management activities that exceed certain thresholds are subject to an impact assessment and licensing process. Activities in Category A necessitate a Basic Assessment, whereas activities in Category B necessitate a Scoping and EIA process.</p>	<p>The prospecting activities will not be generating waste that will trigger or require the application of the Waste Management License in terms of the NEMWA. However, Saqondisana must ensure that the waste generated must be properly managed through a Waste Management Programme (WMP).</p>
<p><b><u>National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA)</u></b></p> <p>The NEM:BA governs the management and conservation of South Africa's biodiversity within the framework established by NEMA. This Act also governs the protection of species and ecosystems that require national protection, as well as the management of invasive and alien species. The following regulations have been promulgated in accordance with the NEM:BA and are also relevant:</p>	<p>A Fauna and Flora Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alien and Invasive Species Lists, 2014 published (GN R.599 in GG 37886 of 1 August 2014);</li> </ul> <p>National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004: Threatened and Protected Species Regulations;</p>	
<p><b><u>National Noise Control Regulations, R.154 of 1992 (the Noise Regulations) promulgated in terms of Section 25 of the Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989)</u></b></p> <p>The National Noise-Control Regulations (GN R154 in Government Gazette No. 13717 dated 10 January 1992) (NCRs) form part of the Environmental Conservation Act and these Regulations apply to external noise.</p> <p>The NCRs differentiates between Disturbing Noise levels (which is objective and scientifically measurable which are generally compared to existing ambient noise level) and Noise Nuisance (which is a subjective measure and is defined as noise that “<i>disturbs or impairs or may disturb or impair the convenience or peace of any person</i>”).</p> <p>Local Authorities use Controlled Areas to identify areas with high noise levels. Restrictions have been set out for development that occurs in these Controlled Areas. These regulations make provision for guidelines pertaining to noise control and measurements. The regulations make reference to the use of the South African National Standards 10103:2008 (SANS) guidelines for the Measurement and &lt;Rating of Environmental Noise with Respect to Land Use, Health, and Annoyance and to Speech Communication.</p>	<p>The EMPr will include measures to control and manage noise.</p>
<p><b><u>Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act No. 43 of 1983)</u></b></p> <p>The objects of this Act are to provide for the conservation of the natural agricultural resources of the Republic by the maintenance of the production potential of land, by the combating and prevention of erosion and weakening or destruction of the water sources, and by the protection of the vegetation and</p>	<p>The EMPr will include measures to control and manage potential impacts on the agricultural activities.</p>

the combating of weeds and invader plants.	
<p><b><u>The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA)</u></b></p> <p>The National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA) is the main piece of legislation in South Africa that protects and regulates the management of heritage resources. The Act requires Heritage Resources Agencies, in this case in the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) and the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of Gauteng (PHRA-G), to be notified of any developments that may exceed certain minimum thresholds as soon as possible.</p>	<p>A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA.</p>

## **7. Need and desirability of the proposed activities.**

(Motivate the need and desirability of the proposed development including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location).

The mining sector is very crucial to the South African economy. The success of the proposed prospecting activities and quantification of resources would lead to a potential viable economic mining activity. This will consequently boost the countries' current struggling economy, should the project advance to the mining phase. Mining will significantly contribute to local economic growth through direct job creation, future business opportunities, royalties, also contributing to the national gross domestic product and tax revenues.

It has been presumed that the proposed area may have coal reserves which is based on the available geological information. The prospecting project will be necessary to ascertain the data in relation to the nature, location, and extent of the coal within the proposed prospecting area. Prospecting will also determine whether there are any features that could affect the economic extraction of the coal, should the project advance to the mining phase. Furthermore, if the target mineral is discovered, the information obtained from the prospecting activities will be required to determine how and where the coal body will be extracted, as well as how much economically coal reserves are available within the proposed prospecting area.

Saqondisana Investment anticipates that significant benefits from the area, should minerals be discovered, will accrue to the immediate area, the sub-region, and the KwaZulu-Natal Province. These benefits must be balanced against the costs of the area, including the impacts to the landowner. There is no reason why this proposed project should not be considered at this time, given the high likelihood of a reserve as demonstrated by other resources discoveries in the area.

## **8. Motivation for the overall preferred site, activities, and technology alternative**

- **Preferred site**

The proposed prospecting project site was selected as a preferred site based on the available geological information and historical data of the site. The available geological information suggests that the preferred site may have coal reserves.

- **Activities**

The prospecting activities will be undertaken in four (4) phases for a total duration month about 48 months, thus five (5) years. The intended activities within the stipulated timeframes will be able to provide sufficient information to declare the occurrence of the targeted mineral bodies. If the intended outcome of the project is not achieved within the intended timeframes, therefore, the prospecting right

will be subjected to the renewal by extending the period up to three (3) years as required in terms of Section 18 of the MPRDA, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (as amended). The prospecting activities will include the following activities:

- **Vegetation clearance** of an extent area of 30x30m will be undertaken for the establishment of the site camp offices and auxiliary equipment for the operation.
- **Installation of mobile offices and ablutions.**
- **Construction of temporal access roads** to the site camp and drill sites will be undertaken within the proposed area. However existing farm roads will be utilized as far as practicable.
- **Drilling** of twenty (20) boreholes will be undertaken at a maximum depth of 200m with each borehole sump area of 10m length x 10m breath; and
- **Rehabilitation** of the overall site and **closure.**
- **Technology alternative**

The layout plan of the infrastructure has been planned to avoid sensitive areas as far as possible. The intended method of vegetation clearance will have minimal environmental impacts. The applicant intends to utilise a bulldozer to clear vegetation for site establishment and the construction of the access roads. A 165mm diameter core drill will be used to drill the geological boreholes at pre-determined sites on the proposed area. There are no alternative technologies identified for the proposed prospecting activities in this regard.

## **9. Full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternatives within the site.**

NB! – This section is about the determination of the specific site layout and the location of infrastructure and activities on site, having taken into consideration the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and the consideration of alternatives to the initially proposed site layout.

### **9.1. Details of the development footprint alternatives considered.**

With reference to the site plan as provided above and the location of the individual activities on site, provide details of the alternatives considered with respect to:

Saqondisana intends to conduct the prospecting of coal to determine whether the area contains this commodity and, if so, whether the coal reserves are found in quantities that are economically valuable.

According to the NEMA: EIA Regulations GNR 982(as amended), a Basic Assessment is required to identify alternatives for areas applied for, and in terms of the Regulations, an alternative to a proposed activity means a different strategy to meet the general purpose and requirements of the activity.

#### **9.1.1. The property on which or location where the activity is proposed to be undertaken;**

Prospecting sites and associated campsite location and access routes are among the location alternatives considered for the proposed area. The location alternatives were opted for based on several criteria, including environmental considerations (how sensitive the area is in terms of soils,

wetlands, groundwater, and so on), sensitive receptors (proximity to communities and farmsteads), and the area's dependence on the necessary infrastructure.

#### **9.1.2. The type of activity to be undertaken.**

Alternative drilling sites cannot be considered at this stage because exploration boreholes can only be sited after desktop assessment, field mapping, and geophysical survey have been completed. There were two alternatives considered which is constructing new roads or using existing roads and establishing tracks. The use of existing roads was preferred because of the impact on vegetation and potential erosion that the construction of new roads might have.

#### **9.1.3. The design or layout of the activity;**

Since this area will not require any complicated surface infrastructure, no design and layout alternatives for the proposed area were determined. Alternatives were considered for the location of the campsite. A static location near the entrance of the site, a mobile campsite, and an offsite campsite were among the alternatives. The alternative sites were determined based on the sensitivity of the proposed area.

#### **9.1.4. The technology to be used in the activity.**

The prospecting activities proposed in the Prospecting Works Programme is dependent on the preceding phase as previously discussed; therefore, no alternatives are indicated, but rather a phased approach of trusted prospecting techniques.

#### **9.1.5. The operational aspects of the activity; and**

- **Site Establishment**

The applicant intends to utilize a bulldozer to clear vegetation for site establishment and the construction of the access roads.

- **Access Roads**

Existing roads will be utilized as far as possible, and areas of the least sensitivity will be chosen for access roads to the drill sites establishment.

- **Drilling**

Core drilling will be undertaken to determine the occurrence and distribution of the coal body. Drilling of the geological boreholes will be conducted at pre-determined sites on the proposed area.

#### **9.1.6. The option of not implementing the activity.**

The 'No-Go' alternative is the option to not conduct prospecting activities at the proposed project site. The No-Go alternative assumes that the site would remain in its current condition. The No-Go alternative would have no impact on the social and biophysical environment.

Saqondisana intends on prospecting the proposed area to determine the availability of coal. Should

the minerals be found, the proposed prospecting project alone will result in job creation and support for local businesses.

Accordingly, the consequences of not undertaking the proposed project will diminish the potential positive impacts of this project on the workforce to be used for the prospecting project as well as on the mining project. Therefore, the No-Go alternative is considered undesirable at the local and regional level.

## **9.2. Details of the Public Participation Process Followed**

Describe the process undertaken to consult interested and affected parties including public meetings and one on one consultation. NB! The affected parties must be specifically consulted regardless of whether they attended public meetings. Information to be provided to affected parties must include sufficient detail of the intended operation to enable them to assess what impact the activities will have on them or on the use of their land.

- **Public Participation Materials**

Following the legislative requirements and good practice, it is important to develop documentation, which will be easily accessible to all stakeholders who would be affected or interested in the project. The following documents have been developed and distributed to all stakeholders including the interested and affected parties. The various PPP materials which were used as part of the EIA processes are included as appendices to this report.

### **Background Information Document (BID):**

The BID (**Appendix 3B**) aims to provide important information regarding the following:

- Project description of the proposed prospecting activities.
- The EIA and the PPP that was undertaken in support of the Prospecting activities and relevant contact details.
- Details about how stakeholders could register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and be kept informed about the Project developments; and
- The public review and comment period for the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR).
- The BIDs were hand delivered to the affected and surrounding landowners from the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.

### **I&APs Registration Form:**

A registration form was distributed to the community attached to the BID for the registration of the I&APs from the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.

### **Site notice:**

An A2 sized site notices informing I&APs about the project information as per the published newspaper advert, were developed, laminated and erected at the boundary of the proposed site as required in terms of Section 24J of NEMA read with Regulation 41 EIA regulation notices were placed within the

vicinity of the proposed project site at strategic locations where it was deemed to be visible to community on the **31<sup>st</sup> of August 2024**.

**Newspaper advertisements:**

A newspaper advertisement, informing all I&APs residing in the surrounding communities near the proposed area within the jurisdiction of the District Municipality of Estcourt was published and included the information about Saqondisana intention to conduct the prospecting activities for coal, in respect of Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT within the Magisterial District of Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal Province. The newspaper advert was published through **Ladysmith Gazette Newspaper** dated **05<sup>th</sup> September 2024**.

I&APs were informed to register any comments or concerns that they might have, regarding the proposed project by contacting the EAP, via email through the provided comments request form or request additional information via the telephone. The EAP details were included in the advert, Background Information Document (BID) and site notice.

**Public meeting:**

A stakeholder engagement meeting will be held with the state departments that administer environmental laws and municipality. The meetings will be to facilitate discussions on the Draft Basic Assessment Report to obtain comments, issues, concerns, and inputs from the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). All comments to be raised by the stakeholders will be recorded in the Comments Response Report (CRR). The minutes of these meetings and presentation will be included in the final report.



### 9.3. Summary of issues raised by I&APs

(Complete the table summarising comments and issues raised, and reaction to those responses)

Table 9: Summary of issues raised by I&APs

Interested and Affected Parties	Date Comments Received	Issues raised	EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant	Section and paragraph reference in this report where the issues and or response were incorporated.
Landowner/s Tiaan Venter				
Lawful occupier/s of the land				
Landowners or lawful occupiers on adjacent properties				
Municipal councillor				
Municipality				
Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected Roads Department, Eskom, Telkom, DWA e				
Dept. Land Affairs				
Dept. Environmental Affairs				
Other Competent Authorities affected				

**TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE DRAFT BAR REVIEW PERIOD**

#### 9.4. The Environmental attributes associated with the alternatives.

(The environmental attributed described must include socio-economic, social, heritage, cultural, geographical, physical, and biological aspects)

##### 9.4.1. Baseline Environment

##### 9.4.1.1. Type of environment affected by the proposed activity.

(its current geographical, physical, biological, socio- economic, and cultural character).

- **Regional Setting**

The proposed project area is located within the jurisdiction Uthukela District Municipality under the Alfred Duma and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipalities, Kwazulu-Natal Province. The proposed project area is located approximately 34km southeast of Umnambithi town and about 36 km the Estcourt town. The project area is accessible via the unnamed road that connects to the R74 Road in the southerly side.

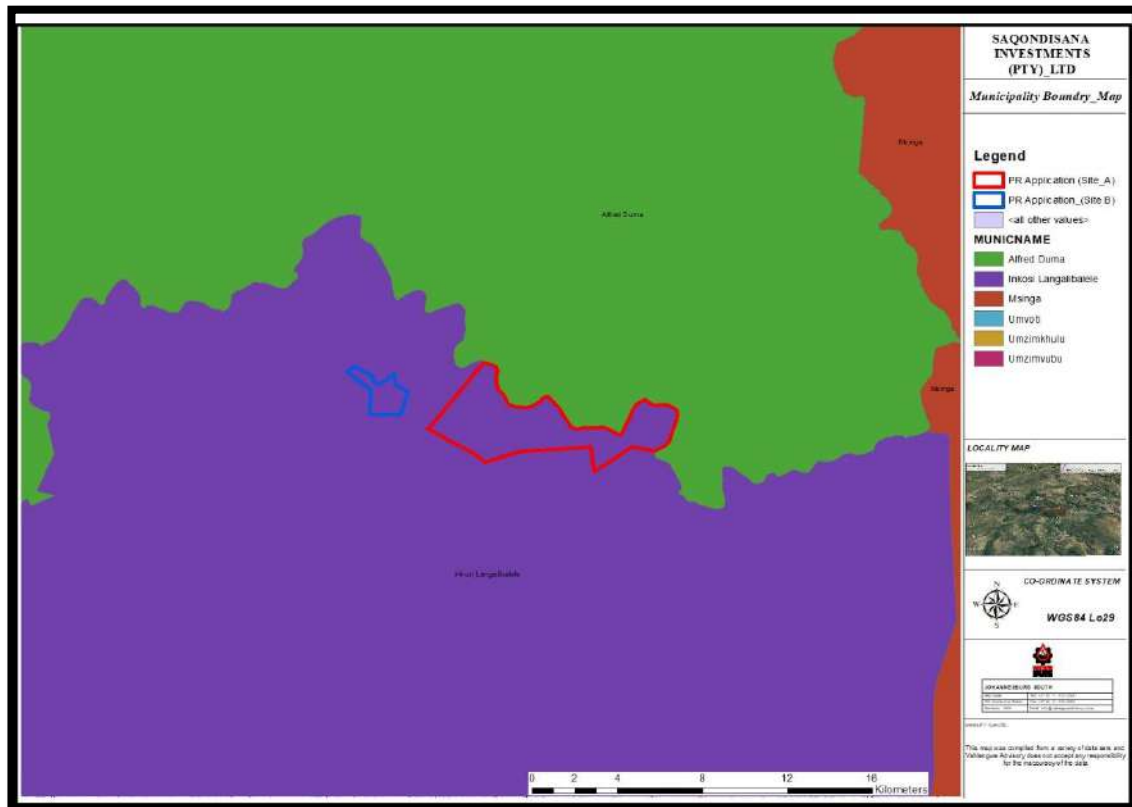


Figure 3: Municipal area

- **Climate**

The project area falls within the range of the Umnambithi (Ladysmith) weather station, which is located in the southern hemisphere. The climatic conditions in Umnambithi are categorized as warm and temperate, with summers much rainier than winters. The climate is classified as Subtropical highland climate or Monsoon-influenced temperate oceanic climate (Cwb) by the Köppen-Geiger system

(Köppen & Geiger, 1936). The average annual temperature is 17.3 °C whereas the annual precipitation is about 1057 mm. The town of Umnambithi is located in the southern hemisphere, where summer begins towards the conclusion of January and ends in December. January is the warmest month of the year with an average temperature of 21.6 °C whereas July is the coldest month with an average minimum temperature of 10.8 °C (see Figure 4). The month with the highest relative humidity is February (45.53 %) while the month with the lowest relative humidity is August (45.53 %). The month with the rainiest days is December (18.83 days) while the month with the least rainy days is July (2.47 days).

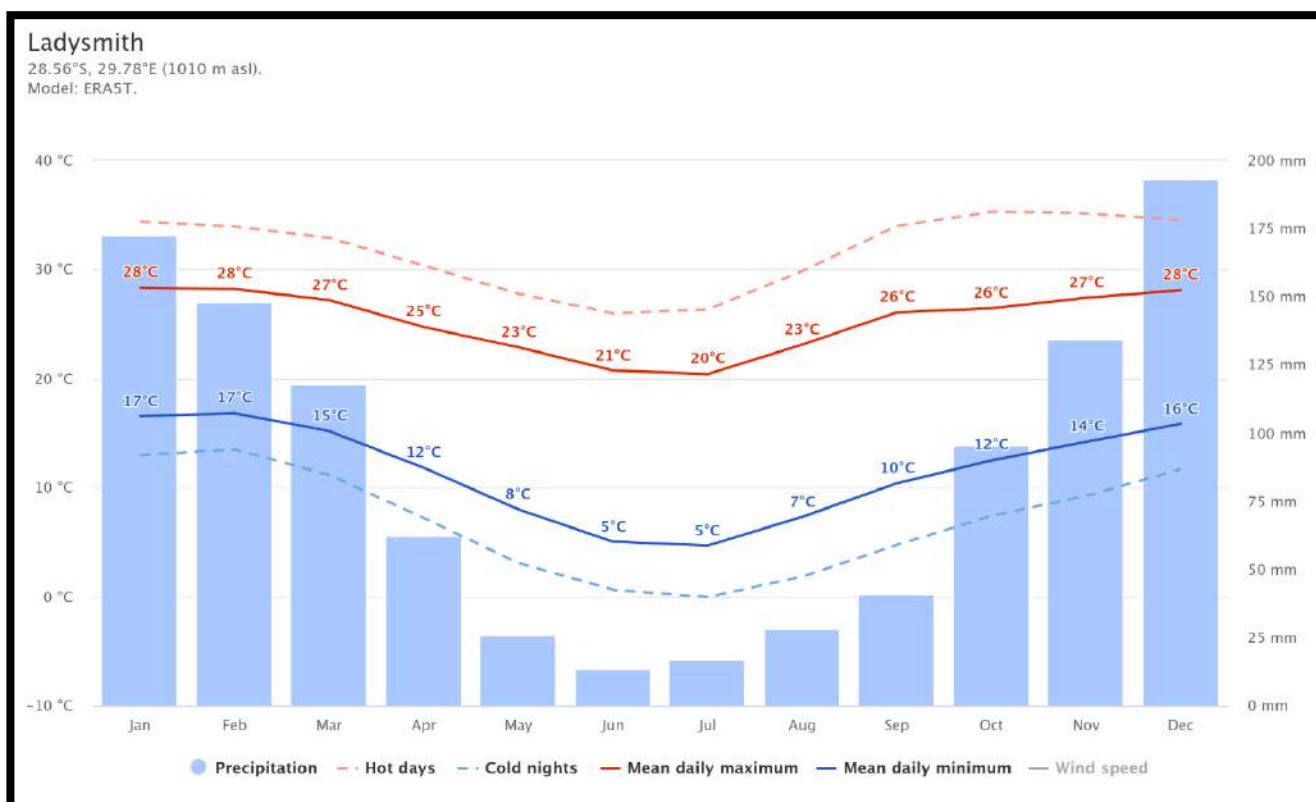


Figure 4: Average climate conditions for Ladysmith (<https://www.meteoblue.com>)

The occurrence of wind in Landysmith is high, with the strong winds blowing constantly from December to April and calm winds from June to October. The strong winds blow from the Southern to the Northern direction as shown in the wind rose below (Figure 5). Both the frequency and velocity of these winds are highest in these directions.

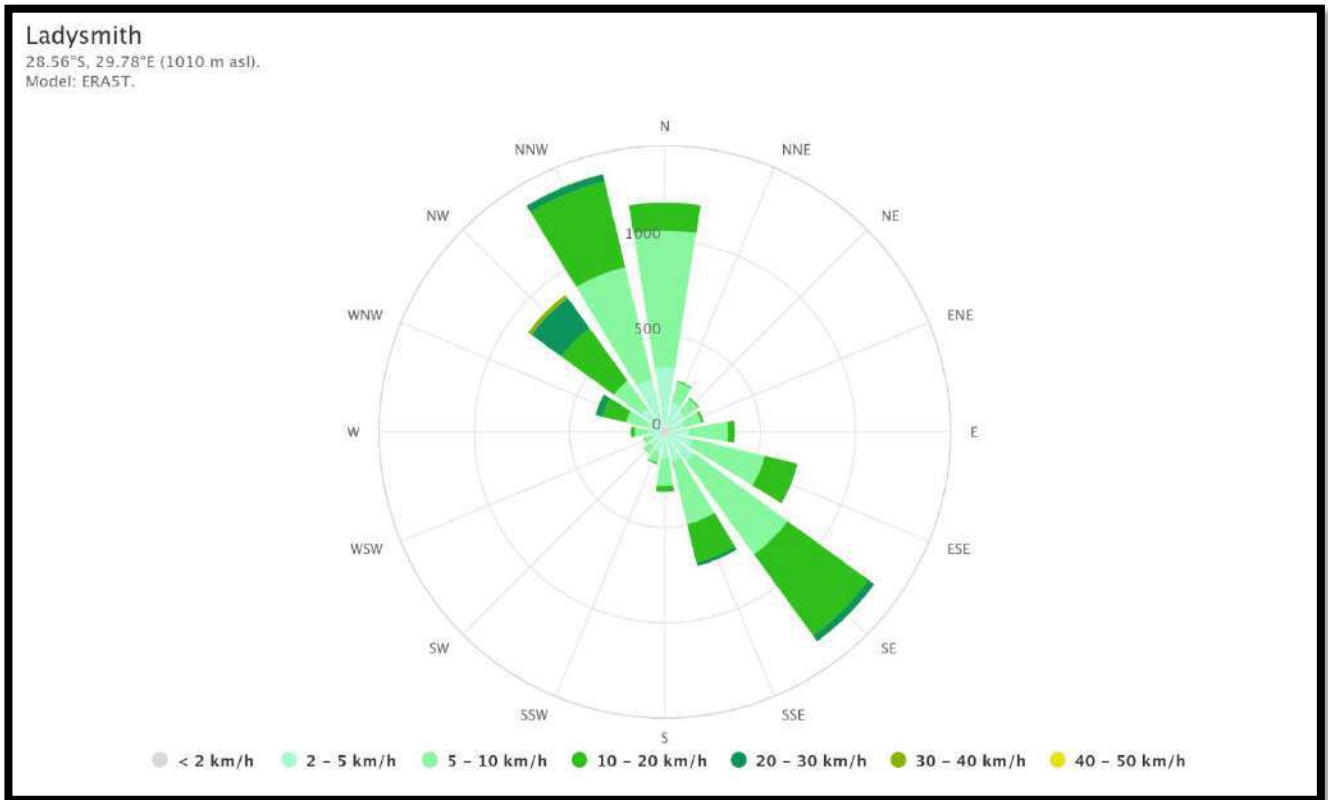


Figure 5: Wind Rose for Ladysmith (<https://www.meteoblue.com>)

- **Geology and Soils**

The proposed prospecting right area falls under the Vryheid Formation, and is part of the Ecca Group, which is one of the major subdivisions of the Karoo Supergroup (figure 6 below). The area typically features sandy soils. The Vryheid Formation is characterized by a variety of sedimentary rocks, including sandstones, siltstones, shales, and coal seams. The soils overlying this formation are diverse, reflecting the underlying lithology and the region's depositional history. Managing these soils for agriculture and mitigating the environmental impacts of mining are key considerations in the area.

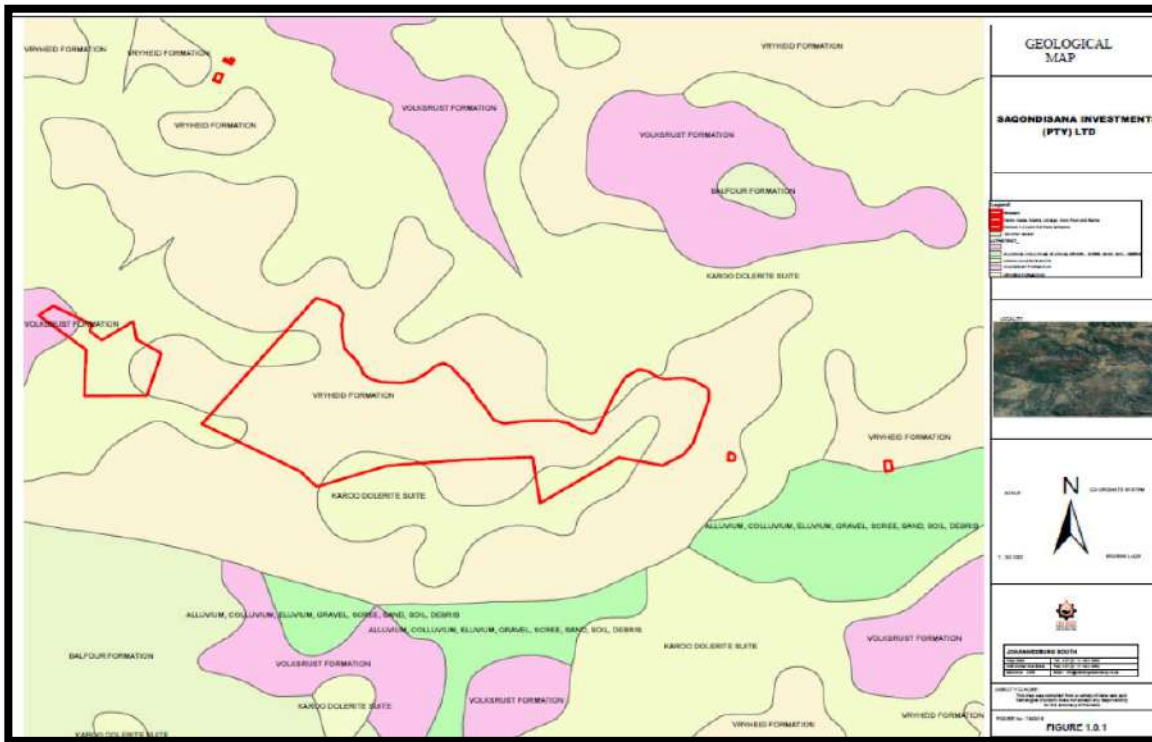


Figure 6: Geological map indicating the geological formation of the proposed prospecting area.

- **Topography and Land Capability**

Umnambithi Town and its surrounding areas in both Alfred Duma and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipalities Local exhibit diverse topography and land capability. The region's rolling hills, fertile valleys, and river systems provide a mix of opportunities for agriculture, forestry, and urban development. Sustainable land management and conservation practices are essential to maximize the land's potential while protecting environmental resources. See the figure below

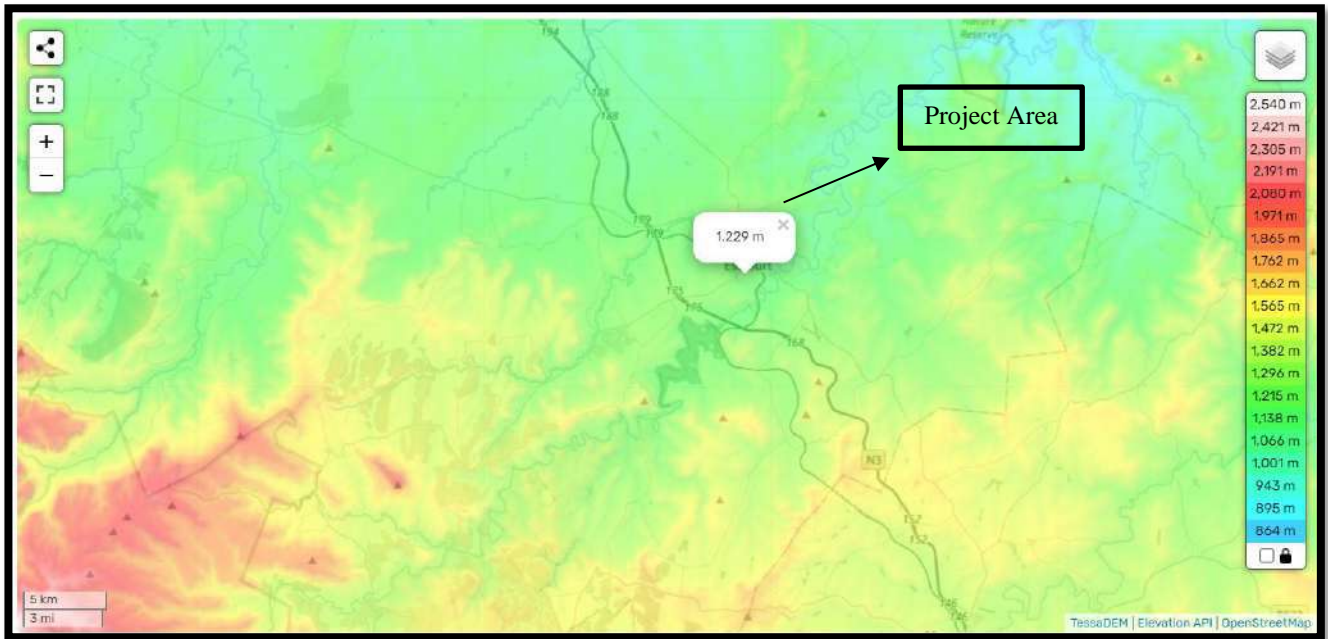


Figure 7: Topographical map of Umnambithi Town

- **Hydrology**

The hydrology of the uThukela District in KwaZulu-Natal is dominated by the uThukela River and its streams, with significant contributions from various dams and groundwater resources. These water systems are vital for agriculture, domestic use, industrial activities, and ecological health. Effective management of water resources, including flood control, water quality maintenance, and conservation of wetlands, is essential to sustain the district's hydrological health and support its diverse needs. The northeastern boundary of the proposed project is bordered by the Tugela River as depicted in Figure 8 below.



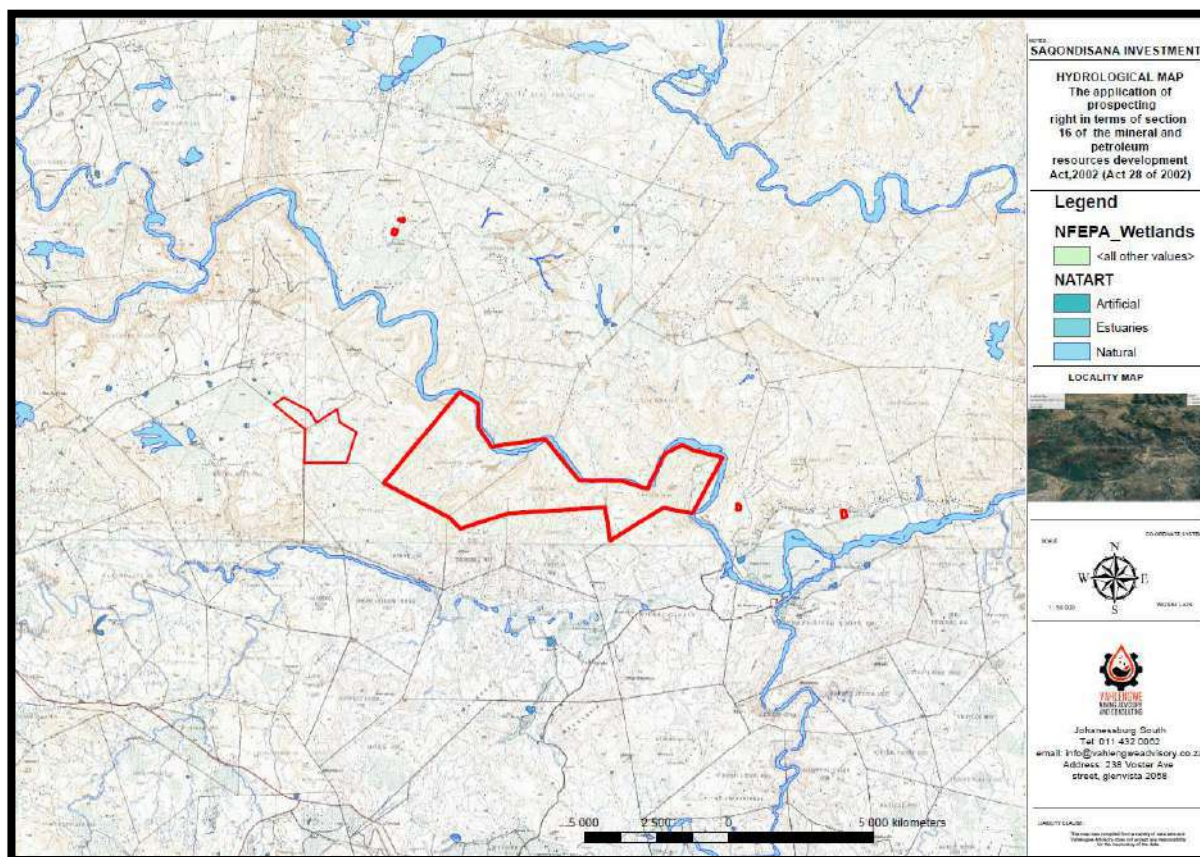


Figure 8: Hydrological Map

- **Biodiversity**
  - **Biomes**

The proposed project area is situated within the savannah Biome, the savannah biome is a distinct ecological zone characterized by a mix of open grasslands and scattered trees. This biome is prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions and is most associated with the expansive landscapes of Africa but can also be found in South America, India, and Australia. The savannah experiences warm temperatures throughout the year, typically ranging from 20°C to 30°C (68°F to 86°F). The savannah climate features a marked seasonal variation in precipitation, with a distinct wet season and a prolonged dry season. Annual rainfall ranges from about 500 to 1500 mm. The wet season lasts for approximately 6 to 8 months, providing the necessary moisture for grasses and other vegetation to thrive. The landscape is dominated by various species of grasses, such as elephant grass, Rhodes grass, and Bermuda grass, which can grow up to several meters tall. Trees in the savannah are typically drought-resistant and adapted to withstand fires. Common tree species include acacias, baobabs, and eucalyptus. These trees are widely spaced to reduce competition for water and sunlight. Many plants have developed deep root systems to access groundwater, thick bark to resist fires, and leaves that reduce water loss. The savannah supports a diverse array of large herbivores like zebras, giraffes, elephants, antelopes, and wildebeests. These animals often migrate to follow the seasonal

availability of water and fresh grazing grounds. Predatory animals such as lions, cheetahs, leopards, and hyenas are key components of the savannah ecosystem, maintaining the balance by preying on herbivores. Birds such as ostriches, secretary birds, and various raptors are common. Insects, particularly termites, play a crucial role in nutrient cycling and as a food source for other animals. Rivers, lakes, and seasonal waterholes are critical for the survival of savannah wildlife, especially during the dry season when surface water is scarce. Efforts to preserve savannah ecosystems include establishing protected areas, promoting sustainable land management practices, and restoring degraded lands. Conservation programs often focus on maintaining biodiversity, supporting local communities, and mitigating the effects of climate change. The savannah biome is a complex and dynamic environment that plays a crucial role in global biodiversity. Its unique combination of grasses and scattered trees supports a wide variety of life forms and ecological processes, making it an essential component of the Earth's natural heritage.

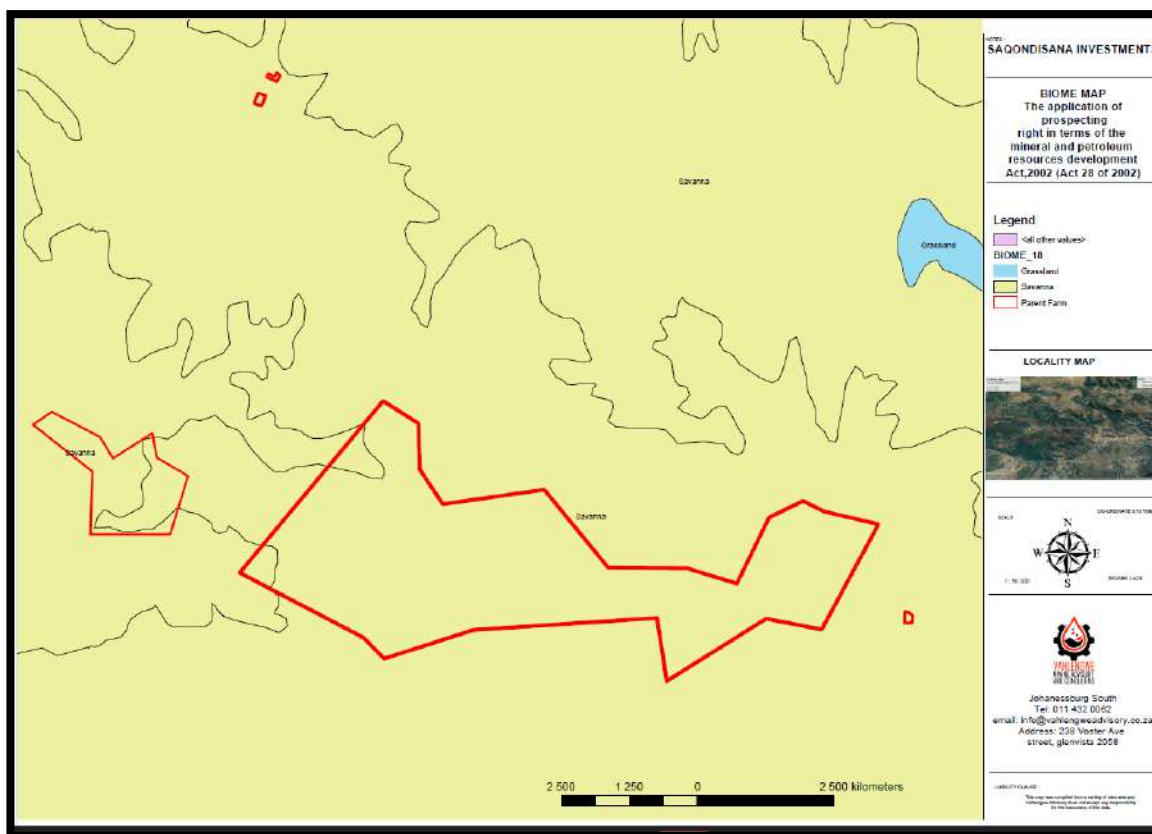


Figure 9: Biome

- **Bioregions**

Estcourt Town falls within the sub-escarpment savannah bioregion. The Sub-Escarpment Savannah bioregion is a distinct ecological area characterized by a unique combination of geographic, climatic, and biological features. This bioregion is typically located in the transitional zone between the coastal plains and the escarpment slopes. It often encompasses the lower slopes and foothills of



escarpments. It usually ranges from low to mid elevations, often below the main escarpment but above the coastal plains. The climate in this bioregion is typically tropical to subtropical. It experiences moderate to high rainfall, often with a distinct wet and dry season. The amount of rainfall can vary significantly depending on the proximity to the escarpment and the influence of orographic precipitation. Generally warm to hot, with temperatures moderated by elevation and proximity to the escarpment. The bioregion is often a hotspot for biodiversity due to its unique position and varied habitats. It provides essential ecological services such as water regulation, carbon storage, and soil fertility maintenance.

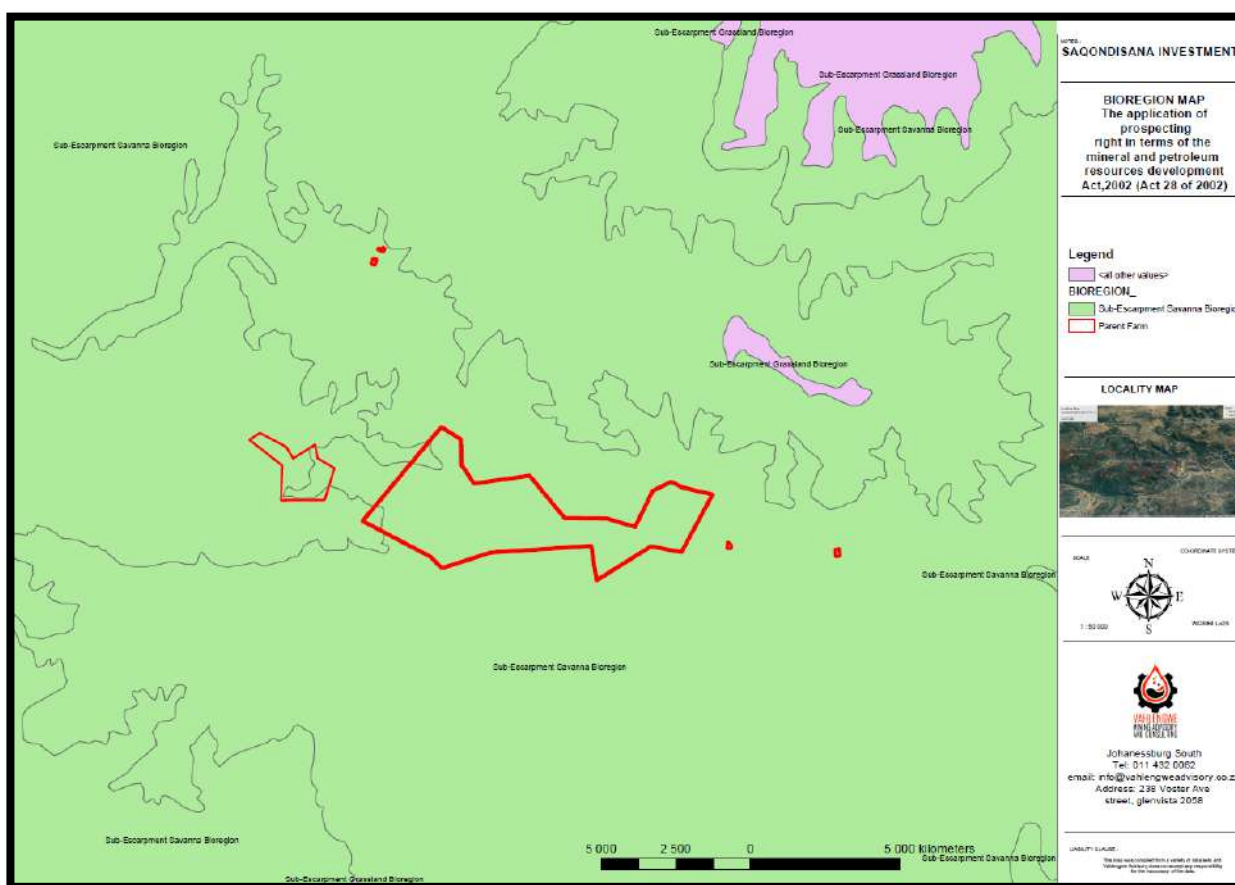


Figure 10: Bioregions

- **Vegetation Type**

The proposed prospecting area falls under Thukela valley bushveld. The Thukela Valley Bushveld is a specific vegetation type within the broader savannah and bushveld regions of South Africa, particularly associated with the Thukela River (formerly known as the Tugela River) in KwaZulu-Natal, typically found at lower to mid-elevations in the valley regions, often below 1,000 meters above sea level. The region experiences a subtropical climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. The area receives moderate rainfall, with most precipitation occurring during the summer months (November to March). Generally warm to hot, with high temperatures in the summer and mild

winters. Characterized by bushveld, which is a type of savannah with a mixture of open grassland and dense thickets of shrubs and trees. Common tree species include Acacia (now Vachellia and Senegalia) species, such as Vachellia nilotica (Scented Thorn) and Vachellia tortilis (Umbrella Thorn). Other notable species include Aloe marlothii, Euphorbia ingens, and various Combretum species.

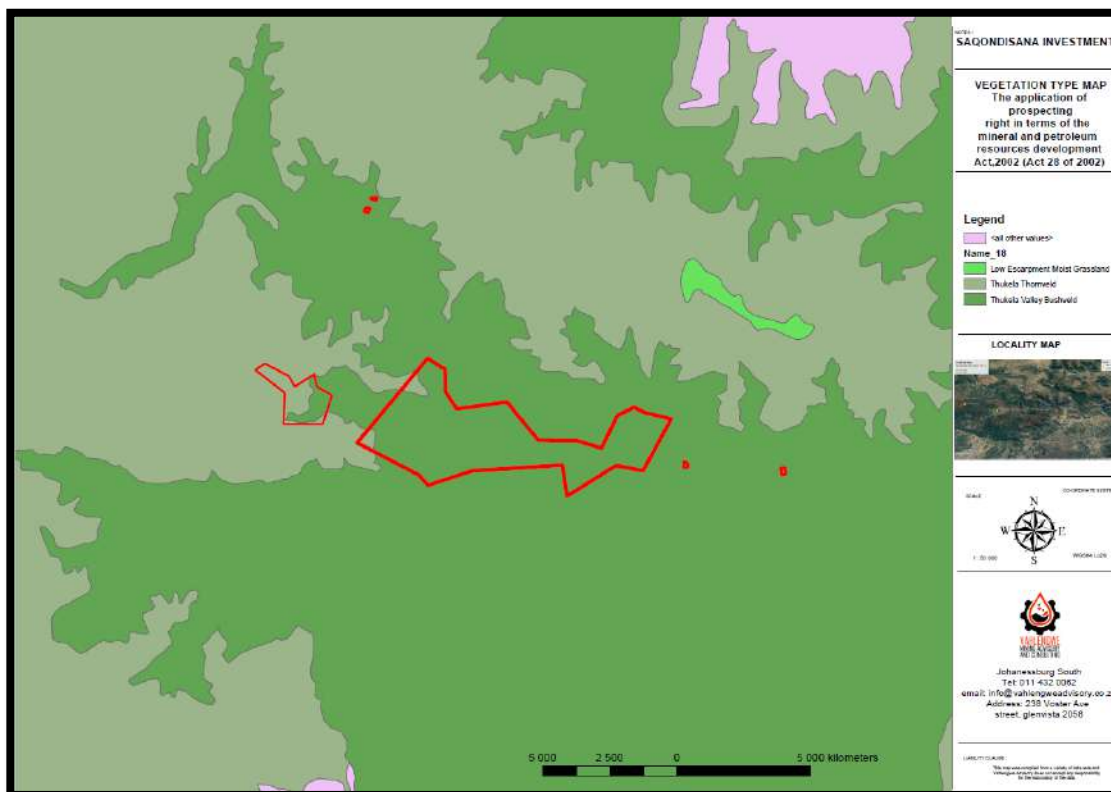


Figure 11: Vegetation type

- **Fauna**

The Thukela Valley Bushveld is rich in fauna, encompassing a diverse array of mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects adapted to its unique environment. Species such as impala (*Aepyceros melampus*), kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), and bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) are common. Phacochoerus africanus can often be seen grazing in open areas. Various species of hares, like the Cape hare (*Lepus capensis*), and small rodents. Includes species like the black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) and caracal (*Caracal caracal*). Mongooses, such as the slender mongoose (*Galerella sanguinea*), and the African civet (*Civettictis civetta*). Birds of prey such as the African fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*), martial eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*), and various hawks and kestrels. Species like the helmeted guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*) and the crested francolin (*Dendroperdix sephaena*). Includes species like the rainbow skink (*Trachylepis margaritifera*) and the giant plated lizard (*Gerrhosaurus validus*). Bees, wasps, and other pollinating insects crucial for the reproductive success of many plants. The Thukela Valley Bushveld's diverse fauna contributes to its ecological richness

and plays vital roles in maintaining the balance of this unique ecosystem. Conservation efforts are essential to ensure the long-term survival of these species and the health of their habitats.

Table 9: Common mammal species that are known to exist in the district of Estcourt, including their preferred habitat.

<b>Common mammal species</b>	<b>Preferred habitat</b>
Impala	savanna and light woodland
Blesbok	open grasslands
Warthog	open savannas and grasslands
Bushbuck	dense bush and forested areas
Vervet Monkey	woodlands, savannas, and forested areas
Rock Hyrax	rocky outcrops and cliffs

- **Conservation Plan**

KwaZulu-Natal is a province renowned for its rich biodiversity, encompassing a variety of ecosystems from coastal regions and wetlands to grasslands and forests. The Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) within KZN are regions identified for their high biodiversity value and are essential for maintaining ecological processes and conserving species. These areas are often prioritized for conservation actions to prevent biodiversity loss.

KwaZulu-Natal vegetation type data shows that the proposed prospecting area falls within the least threatened area as depicted in Figure 12 below.

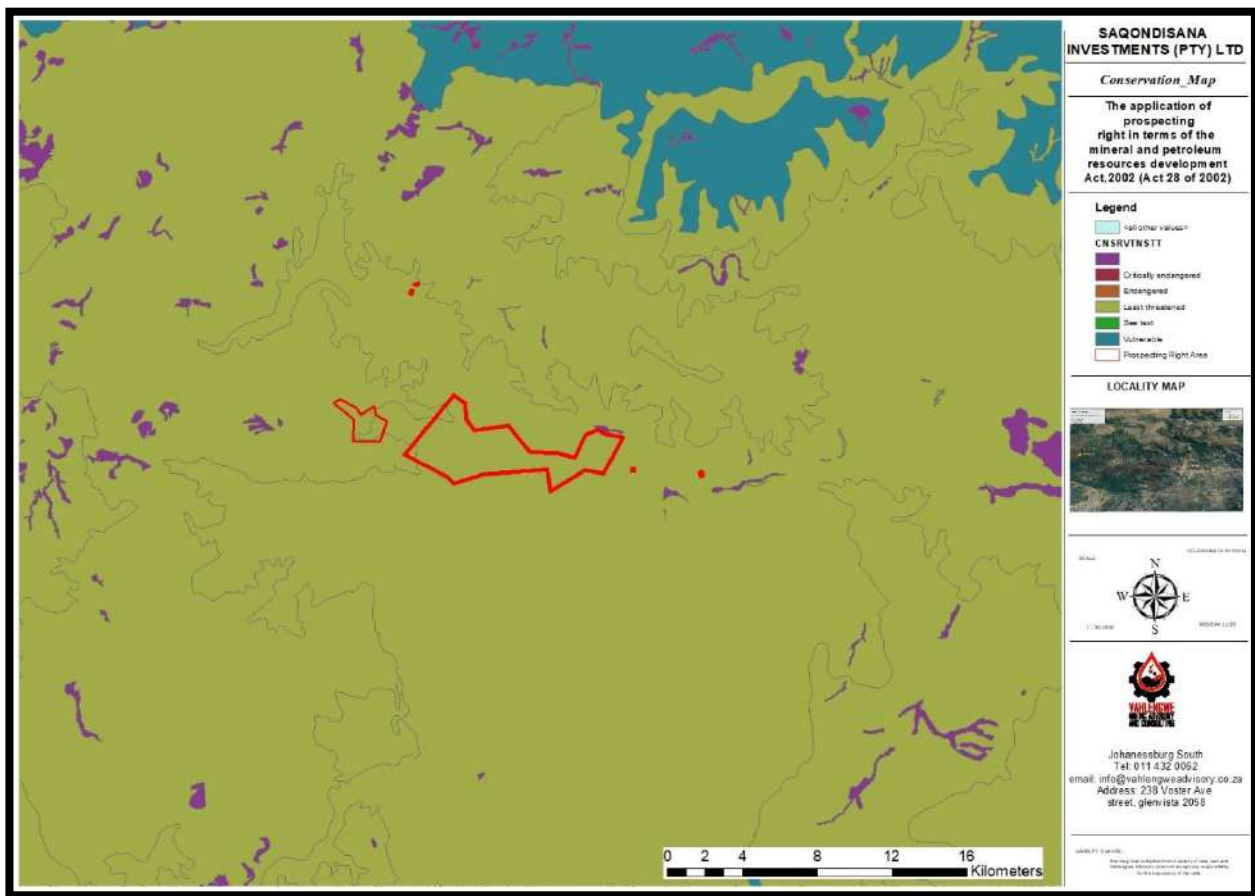


Figure 12: Areas of conservation importance

- **Socio-Economic Status**

Estcourt is a town in the uThukela District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, has a socio-economic profile that reflects both challenges and opportunities typical of many small towns in the region. This district faces a range of socio-economic challenges and opportunities that are reflective of its diverse landscape, which includes urban centers, rural areas, and significant natural attractions such as the Drakensberg Mountains. The district has a sizeable population, predominantly Zulu speaking, with a mix of urban and rural communities. uThukela District Municipality is characterized by significant challenges, including high unemployment, poverty, and disparities in access to services and opportunities. However, there are also opportunities for growth and development, particularly in agriculture, tourism, and community-driven initiatives. Efforts to improve education, healthcare, and infrastructure are ongoing, and addressing these challenges is critical for the sustainable development of the district.

- **Population profile**

Table 10: Population profile of Estcourt Town

Group	Percentage
Black African	68,8%
Coloured	4,4%
Indian/Asian	20,5%
White	5,3%
Other	1,0 %

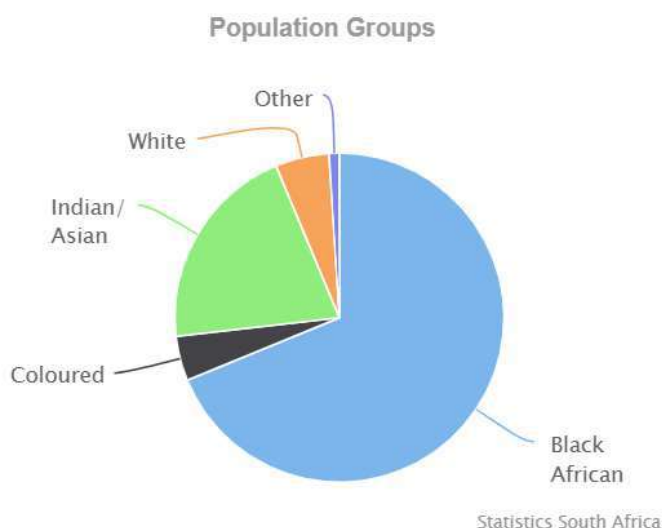


Figure 13: Population groups in Estcourt Town  
 (Source: Stats SA 2011 Census)

The Figure below depicts sex and age distribution for Alfred Duma local municipality derived from demographic breakdowns within Estcourt Town population. The population of Alfred Duma Local Municipality is relatively young, with a significant portion under the age of 20. There is also a slightly higher number of females compared to males. The working-age population constitutes the bulk of the population, which has implications for local economic development, employment, and social services.

Gender profile

The gender composition is slightly skewed towards the male. A conclusion can be drawn for Inkosi Langalibalele where both shares of migrated population and male population are lowest in the district. The figure below illustrates the information as captured above.

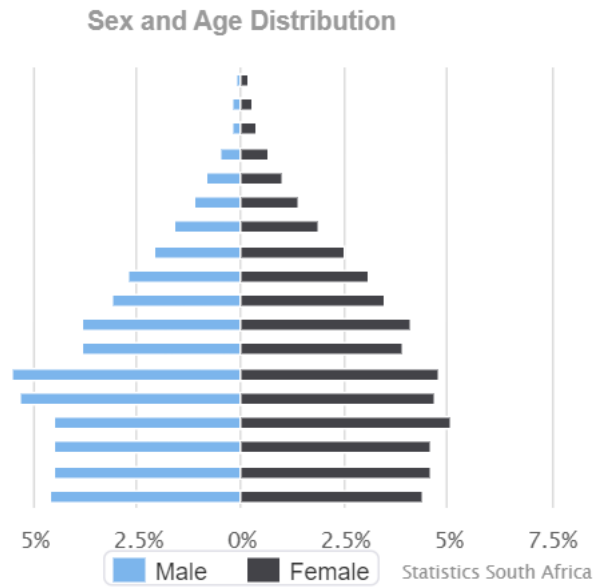


Figure 14: Sex and age Distribution of Estcourt Town (Source: Stats SA 2011 Census)

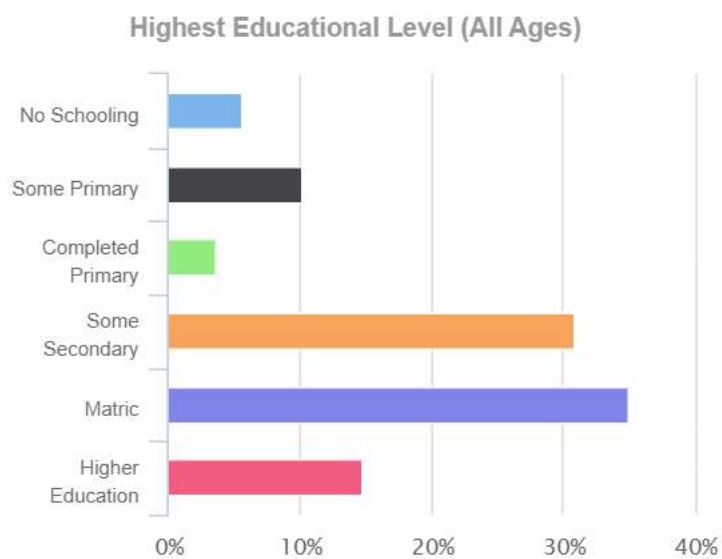


Figure 15: Education level of Estcourt Town (Source: Stats SA 2011 Census)

Between 2001 and 2011 there has been an increase in the number of households that have access to electricity, piped water and formal dwellings. The Figure below shows that majority of people in the municipality depend on the regional or local scheme water supply and the groundwater from boreholes.

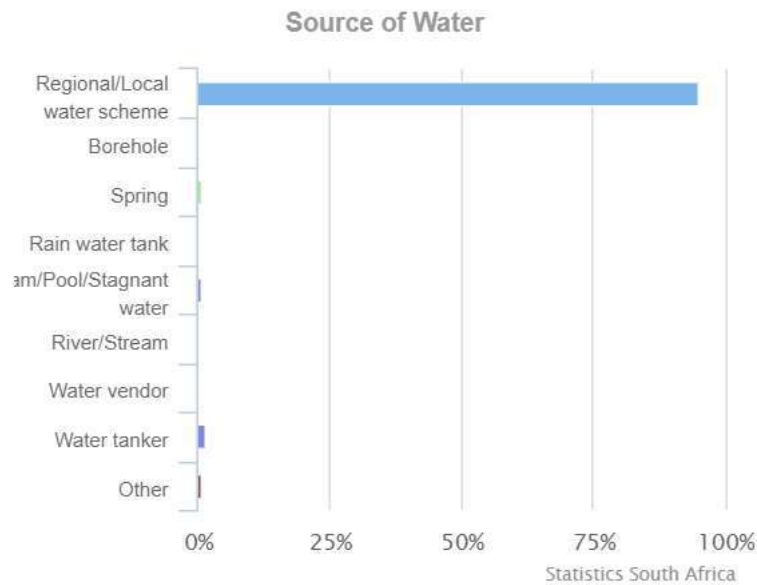


Figure 16: Sources of Water at Estcourt Town (Source: Stats SA 2011 Census)

The figure below shows the average household income in 2011. It shows that a greater number of people are earning in the R19601 to R38200 income category. This reflects inequality level which undermine efforts to address poverty levels in the municipality.



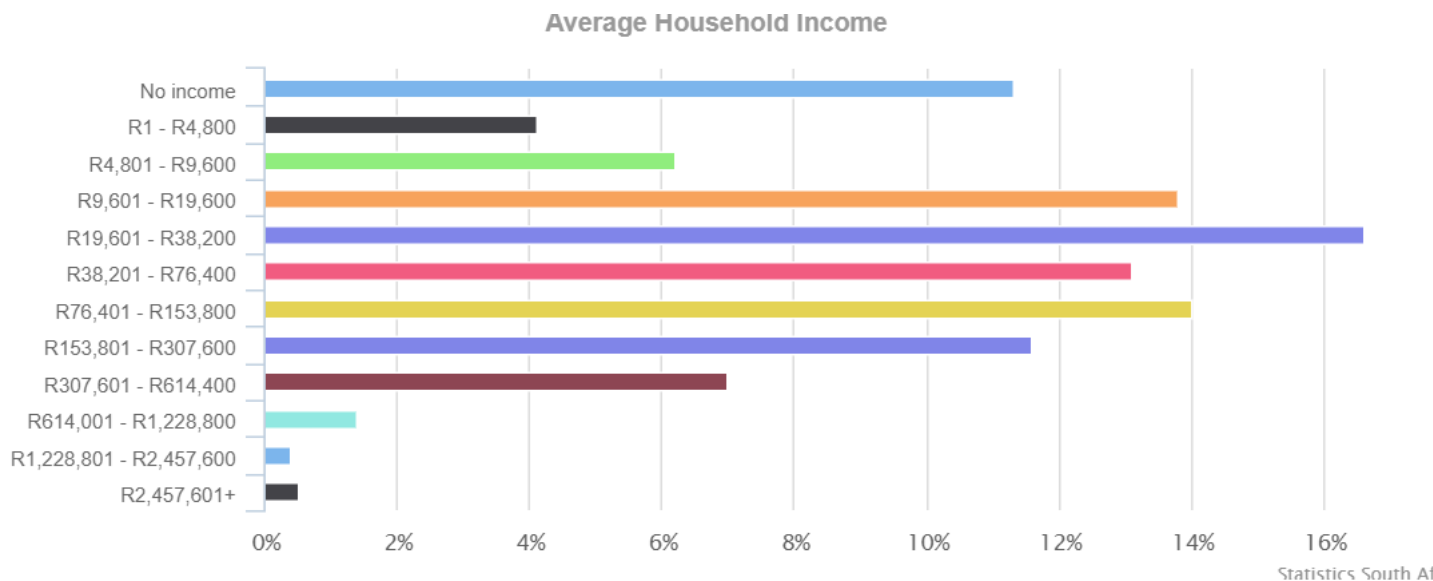


Figure 17: Estcourt Town Household Annual Income (Source: Stats SA 2011 Census)

**9.4.1.2. Description of the current land uses.**

uThukela District Municipality is characterized by its diverse landscape, rich cultural heritage, and socio-economic challenges, including high unemployment and poverty. Its economy relies heavily on agriculture and tourism, with some industrial and mining activities. Key minerals found in the district include coal, sandstone, sand and gravel, dolomite, and limestone, contributing to the local economy, particularly in construction and infrastructure development. Development initiatives aim to improve living conditions, infrastructure, and economic opportunities for the residents.

The proposed project area is characterized by residential area and agricultural area. The project area is accessible via the unnamed road that connects to the R74 Road in the southerly side.

**9.4.1.3. Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site.**

The area is an open veld with some environmental features and infrastructures on site. There are settlements within the site and several settlements occurring outside the proposed area boundaries. The northeastern boundary of the proposed project is bordered by the Tugela River. There is a river.

**9.4.1.4. Environmental and current land use map**

(Show all environmental, and current land use features).

The environmental and current land use of the proposed area is shown on the map below



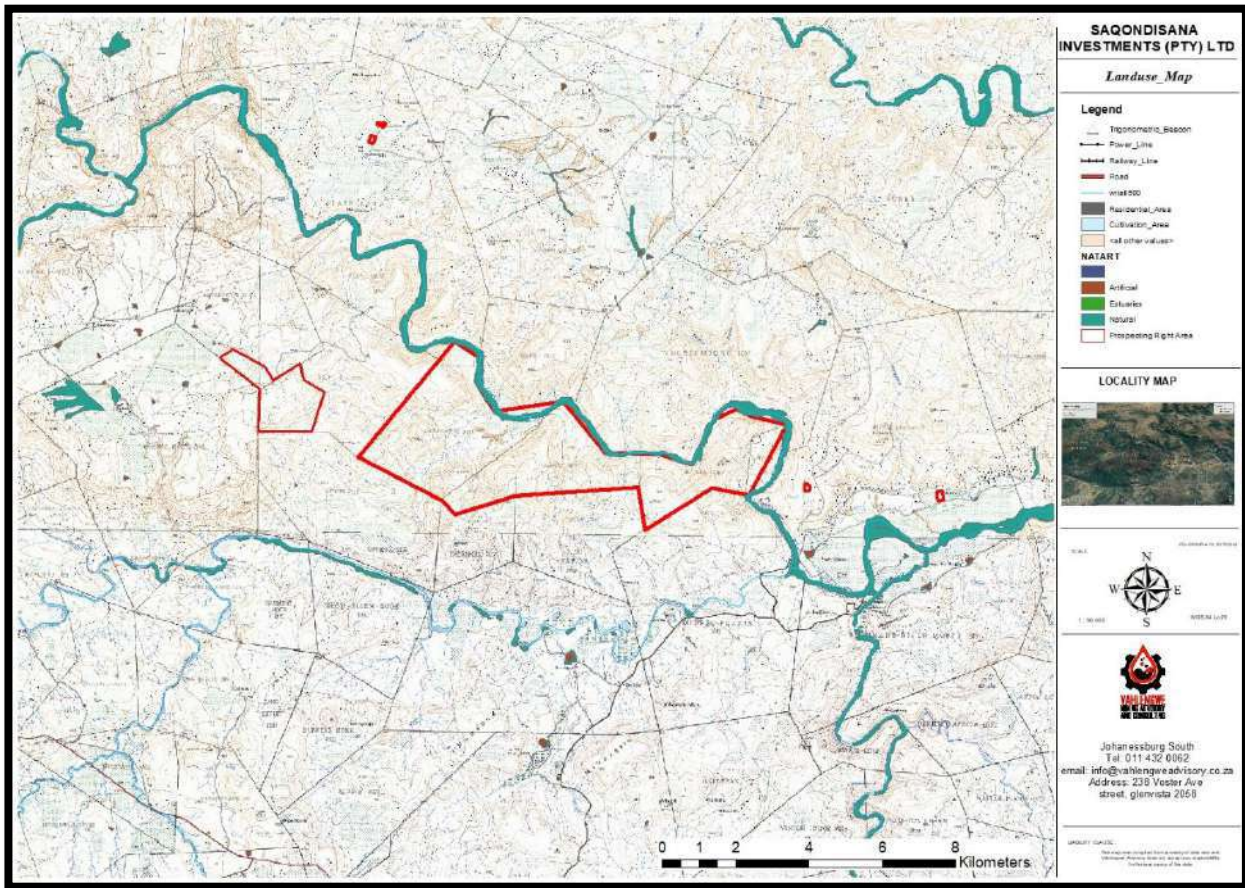


Figure 18: Environmental and Land use map

**9.4.2. Impacts and risks identified including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of the impacts, including the degree to which these impacts.**

(Provide a list of the potential impacts identified of the activities described in the initial site layout that will be undertaken, as informed by both the typical known impacts of such activities, and as informed by the consultations with affected parties together with the significance, probability, and duration of the impacts. Please indicate the extent to which they can be reversed, the extent to which they may cause irreplaceable loss of resources, and can be avoided, managed, or mitigated).

**Project activities**

The prospecting activities will include the following activities:

- Establishment of the office and equipment storage site.
- Installation of mobile offices and ablution facilities;
- Construction of temporal access road to the camp;
- Drilling; and
- Rehabilitation and closure.

### Impacts associated with the proposed project.

- Topsoil disturbance and soil erosion due to the vegetation clearance during the site establishment and drill sites establishment during the operational phase of the proposed project;
- Disturbance on the flora and fauna;
- Dust generation and noise disturbance due to the movement of the vehicles and operating equipment;
- Soil contamination and groundwater resources contamination due to the hydrocarbon spillages from the fuel storages and/or leakages from the operating vehicles;
- Impacts of socio-economic environments such as the farming and grazing lands; and
- Impacts on cultural, heritage and palaeontological resources

#### 9.4.3. Methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks.

(Describe how the significance, probability, and duration of the aforesaid identified impacts that were identified through the consultation process was determined to decide the extent to which the initial site layout needs revision).

#### Criteria to Consider when Determining Severity of impacts:

The ranking of impacts/determination of significance is estimated using two criteria, namely Consequence and Probability. These consider the contributing factors / criteria listed in the legislation. The definitions of each are provided below.

The **Consequence** of an impact resulting from an aspect is expressed as a combination of:

- **Nature** of impact: An indication of the extent of the damage (negative impacts) or benefit (positive impacts) the impact inflicts on natural, cultural, and/or social functions (environment).
- **Extent** of impact: A spatial indication of the area impacted (i.e., how far from activity the impact is realised).
- **Duration** of impact: A temporal indication of the how long the effects of the impact will persist, assuming the activity creating the impact ceases. For example, the impact of noise is short lived (impact ceases when activity ceases) whereas the impact of removing topsoil exists for a much longer period.
- **Frequency** of the impact occurring: An indication of how often an aspect, because of a particular activity, is likely to occur. Note that this does not assess how often the impact occurs. It applies only to the aspect. For example, driving takes place daily whilst other activities take place monthly while the resultant frequency of the impacts occurring will vary based on several factors.

**Magnitude/Severity** of an impact determines to what extent will the environment be destroyed or is functions be altered by the activity.

**Significance** of the impact is an indication of the importance of the impact in terms of both the physical extent and the time scale. It indicates the level of mitigation required

Table 11: Environment impact assessment criteria.

<b>CONSEQUENCE</b>	<b>Nature of Impact:</b>		
	<b>Low</b>	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural, and / or social functions and processes are not affected.	<b>1</b>
	<b>Low-Medium</b>	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural, and / or social functions and processes are affected insignificantly.	<b>2</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural, and / or social functions and processes are altered.	<b>3</b>
	<b>Medium-High</b>	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural, and / or social functions and processes are severely altered.	<b>4</b>
	<b>High</b>	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions and processes will temporarily or permanently cease.	<b>5</b>
	<b>Scale/Extent of Impact:</b>		
	<b>Local</b>	The impacted area will only extend as far as the activity being conducted, e.g., the activity footprint	<b>1</b>
	<b>Site</b>	Impact occurs within a 20km radius of the site.	<b>2</b>
	<b>Regional</b>	Impact occurs within a 100km radius of the site.	<b>3</b>
	<b>National</b>	Impact occurs within South Africa.	<b>4</b>
	<b>Duration of Impact:</b>		
	<b>Short-term</b>	The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through the natural processes in shorter time span.	<b>1</b>
	<b>Medium-term</b>	The impact will last up to the end of the project phases, where after it will be negated. The impact will cease within 5 years if the activity is stopped.	<b>3</b>
	<b>Long-term</b>	The impact will last for the entire operational phase and after the operational life of the operation but will be mitigated by direct human action or by natural processes thereafter.	<b>4</b>
	<b>Permanent</b>	Intervention will not occur in such a way or in such a time span. that the impact can be considered transient.	<b>5</b>
	<b>Frequency of the Occurrence of the Impact:</b>		
	<b>Annually or less</b>	Impact occurs at least once in a year or less frequently.	<b>1</b>
	<b>6 months</b>	Impact occurs at least once in 6 months.	<b>2</b>
	<b>Monthly</b>	Impact occurs at least once a month.	<b>3</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	Impact occurs at least once a week.	<b>4</b>	
<b>Daily</b>	Impact occurs daily.	<b>5</b>	
<b>PROBABILITY</b>	<b>Probability of the Occurrence of the impact:</b>		
	<b>Improbable</b>	The possibility of the impact materializing is very low either, because of design or historic experience.	<b>1</b>
	<b>Probable</b>	The possibility of the impact materializing will occur to the extent that provision must be made thereof.	<b>2</b>
	<b>Highly Probable</b>	It is most	<b>4</b>
	<b>Definite</b>	The impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures.	<b>5</b>
	<b>Magnitude of the impacts:</b>		

	<b>Low</b>	The impact alters the affected environment in such a way that the natural processes are not affected.	<b>2</b>
	<b>Medium</b>	The affected environment is altered; however, the functions and processes continue in a modified way.	<b>6</b>
	<b>High</b>	Function or process of the affected environment is disturbed to the extent where it temporarily or permanently ceases.	<b>8</b>
<b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>Significance of the impact: Sum (Duration, Extent, Duration) x Probability</b>		
	<b>Negligible</b>	The impact is non-existent or unsubstantial and is of no or little importance to any stakeholder and can be ignored.	<b>&lt; 20</b>
	<b>Low</b>	The impact is limited in extent, with low to medium intensity and whatever the probability of the occurrence may be, the impact will not have a material effect on the decision and is likely to require the management intervention with increased costs.	<b>&lt; 40</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	The impact is of importance to one or more stakeholders, and its intensity will be medium or high; therefore, the impact may materially affect the decision, and management intervention will be required.	<b>&lt; 60</b>
	<b>High</b>	The impact could render development options controversial or the project unacceptable if it cannot be reduced to acceptable levels; and/or the cost of management intervention will be a significant factor in mitigation	<b>&gt; 60</b>

This rating system is weighted in such a way as to set impacts that are very likely to occur, but have very little consequence, as negligible significance. Similarly, impacts with serious consequences but that are unlikely to occur are rated lower, than impacts with serious consequences that are likely to occur.



Table 12: Impacts and risks identified.

Element	Impacts	Mitigation	Post-mitigation					
			Extent	Duration	Probability	Significance	Reversibility	Replaceability
Soils and Land Capability	Soil compaction, erosion and contamination which may disrupt the land purposes for the current land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitate each site as soon as the drilling is completed.</li> <li>Conducting preventative soil erosion control measures.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Possible	Low	Reversible	Replaceable
Vegetation	<p>Loss of vegetation cover due to clearance during the site preparation.</p> <p>Vehicle movement and compaction of soil minimising plant growth of indigenous flora.</p> <p>Alteration of natural environment and habitat loss.</p> <p>Spreading of invasive alien plants. The altered environment will also favour species that are better adapted to disturbed/transformed areas.</p> <p>Exposed disturbed area with no indigenous vegetation.</p> <p>Long-term or permanent degradation and modification of the receiving environment resulting to the loss of important habitats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental awareness and training to the contractors;</li> <li>Drillers to comply with all EMP procedures.</li> <li>Drilling sites to be located in less sensitive areas as far as possible;</li> <li>Rehabilitate the disturbed areas as far as possible.</li> <li>Vehicles should only use designated roadways to access the site.</li> <li>Have a biodiversity protocol and rehabilitation plan in place that will be implemented upon closure.</li> <li>Invasive plant material should be disposed by incineration, or alternatively, composting to break down seeds. If seedbank persists, invasive alien plant management and eradication measures should be implemented.</li> <li>Implement effective rehabilitation measures upon closure.</li> <li>No fires to be made in the prospecting area.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Possible	Low	Reversible	Replaceable

Animal life	<p>Loss of priority fauna species from important habitats.</p> <p>Loss of resident fauna through increased disturbance.</p> <p>Displacement of resident fauna species through increased disturbance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing noise monitoring measures and management.</li> <li>If any animals are encountered, they must not be killed or injured, but should rather be removed or chased away from the site.</li> <li>Avoid vegetation clearance during the breeding season.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Possible	Low	Reversible	Irreplaceable
Surface Water	Surface water resources (Tugela River) contamination due to hydrocarbons spills, siltation, and disruption to natural drainage systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting concurrent rehabilitation</li> <li>Immediate cleaning after every hydrocarbon spill with a safe disposal method.</li> <li>Implementing measures to prevent hydrocarbons spills.</li> <li>Conducting prospecting activities in safe buffer zones (30m) from the water resources.</li> </ul>	Local	Medium-term	Probable	Moderate	Irreversible	Replaceable
Ground water	<p>Changes in runoff and infiltration during the operation phase leading to reduce groundwater recharge.</p> <p>Groundwater contamination from fuel &amp; hydrocarbons leakages and spillages from the storage and transporting vehicles.</p> <p>Baseflow reduction caused by proposed activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing measures to minimise the removal of vegetation and opportunities for revegetation will be maximised.</li> <li>Implement groundwater monitoring to detect groundwater contamination.</li> <li>Implementation of the mitigation measures to minimise hydrocarbon spills.</li> <li>Conducting prospecting activities in low groundwater sensitivity area.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Probable	Low	Irreversible	Replaceable
Air Quality/ Dust	Dust generation by vehicle movement on dust roads and during drilling operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement management measures to minimise the generation of dust such as dust suppression.</li> <li>Ensure compliance to speed limits.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Highly Probable	Low	Irreversible	Replaceable

Noise	Noise nuisance will be created by the drilling rig, operating equipment, and vehicle movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure vehicles and equipment is maintained;</li> <li>Silencers should be fitted on all engines.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Probable	Low	Irreversible	Replaceable
Cultural Heritage	<p>Destruction of archaeological remains.</p> <p>Disturbance of graves.</p> <p>Disturbance of buildings and structures older than 60 years old.</p> <p>Destruction public monuments and plaques.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use chance find procedure to cater for accidental finds.</li> <li>Maintaining a 100m buffer from all identified 'no-go' areas with heritage resources.</li> <li>Encountered heritage resources, including fossils, graves, or human remains must be reported to the relevant authorities.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Improbable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable
Visual	Visual disturbance of the movement of drilling equipment and other vehicles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitate drill sites and access tracks.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Probable	Low	Reversible	Irreplaceable
Socio-economic	Disruption to the economic agricultural practices and accommodation business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice concurrent rehabilitation to minimise the time and financial resources to rehabilitate the area to return to its continuous economic practices.</li> </ul>	Site	Short-term	Probable	Low	Irreversible	Replaceable
Safety	Equipment theft and property vandalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>controlled access to the site by deploying security personnel who would also conduct security patrols to monitor the perimeters of the project site.</li> <li>All project infrastructure should be contained in a safe and secured area.</li> </ul>	Local	Short-term	Probable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable
Health	Health impact due to dust inhalation, occupational injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the dust generation mitigation measures and dust monitoring measures</li> <li>Issue with instructions to wear the appropriated personal protective equipment (PPE) to the working personnel.</li> <li>Place safety signs and put barricades where there's possible danger to health and safety of the community.</li> </ul>	Local	Medium term	Probable	Moderate	Reversible	Replaceable



Waste Generation	Waste nuisance and littering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure implementation of the waste management programme with the application of waste classification and separation.</li> <li>• Proper waste collection and disposal.</li> <li>• Conduct environmental awareness training.</li> </ul>	Site	Short Term	Probable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable
Traffic and access	Prospecting activities will generate very limited additional traffic. Prospecting vehicles are to access the property via existing roads and tracks only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comply with traffic regulations.</li> <li>• Ensure compliance to speed limits.</li> </ul>	Site	Short Term	Probable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable

**9.4.4. The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity (in terms of the initial site layout) and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected.**

(Provide a discussion in terms of advantages and disadvantages of the initial site layout compared to alternative layout options to accommodate concerns raised by affected parties).

The impacts assessed has highlighted potential risks, important management strategies and control measures associated with the Project. It is considered there are opportunities to substantially enhance and improve the current and on-going impacts by undertaking a well-planned and effective prospecting operation. The project has associated positive and negative impacts and such impacts are described in the table below:

Table 13: Positive and Negative impacts

Aspect	Description
<b>Positive</b>	
Soils and Land Capability	Potential for neighbouring communities to benefit from assistance with shared land management responsibilities.
Animal Life	The opportunity of implementing processes around feral animal control.
Socio-economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for indigenous employment and economic development.</li> <li>• Requirement for the supply of the goods and services from the local businesses; and</li> <li>• Requirement for short-term accommodation and thus benefiting the house rental and accommodation sector.</li> </ul>
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting local recycling centre and local scrap metal merchant; and</li> <li>• Metals such as steel and copper wire will be collected in designated areas prior to removal from site for recycling.</li> </ul>
<b>Negative</b>	
Soils and Land Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape disturbance.</li> <li>• Soil compaction and soil erosion due to the movement of heavy vehicles in the on-site; and</li> <li>• Soil contamination due to hydrocarbon spillages from the fuel storages and vehicles.</li> </ul>
Flora and Fauna	Introduction of alien vegetation; and Loss of flora and fauna and habitat destruction
Surface water resources	Erosion and sedimentation leading to soil scouring and increased turbidity of water courses and drainage lines downstream.
Groundwater resources	Contamination of groundwater due to chemicals and hydrocarbons seepage
Noise	Noise nuisance due to moving vehicles and equipment
Air Quality/Dust	Dust creation during clearance, placement of infrastructure and the drilling operations
Visual	Increased visual intrusion due to operation infrastructure and the movement of the operating equipment and vehicles
Socio-economic	Project is unsustainable in terms of job security due to the life of project
Cultural and Heritage Resources	Indigenous resources, values, and aspirational impacts
Waste	Waste generation including the domestic, scrap and hazardous waste
Health and Safety	Inheritance of occupational health problems and exposure to occupational hazards
Traffic and Access	Addition to the existing traffic of the movement of vehicles

Table 14: Positive and negative impacts of the proposed activity.

Impact	Rating Pre-Mitigation	Construction	Operation	Decommission	Rating Post-Mitigation
<b>Positive (+)</b>	<b>Low</b>	Job creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment opportunities and job security</li> <li>• Support to local businesses</li> <li>• Income generation for accommodation business sector</li> <li>• Supporting local recycling centre and local scrap metal merchant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased employment opportunities</li> </ul>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Negative (-)</b>	<b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual nuisance</li> <li>• Health and Safety impacts</li> <li>• Surface and groundwater contamination</li> <li>• Impacts on traffic.</li> <li>• Disturbance on the landscape</li> <li>• Waste generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual nuisance</li> <li>• Health and Safety impacts</li> <li>• Surface and groundwater contamination</li> <li>• Impacts on traffic.</li> <li>• Unsustainable job security</li> <li>• Disturbance on the landscape</li> <li>• Waste generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual nuisance</li> <li>• Health and Safety impacts</li> <li>• Surface and groundwater contamination</li> <li>• Impacts on traffic.</li> <li>• Job losses</li> </ul>	<b>Low</b>
<b>Negative (-)</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat disturbance</li> <li>• Vegetation disturbances</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity</li> <li>• Soil erosion</li> <li>• Soils contamination</li> <li>• Visual nuisance to moving equipment and vehicles.</li> <li>• Noise disturbances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat disturbance</li> <li>• Vegetation disturbances</li> <li>• Loss of biodiversity</li> <li>• Alien vegetation species invasion</li> <li>• Soil erosion</li> <li>• Impacts on groundwater quality.</li> <li>• Soils contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat disturbance</li> <li>• Vegetation disturbances due to vegetation clearance</li> <li>• Alien vegetation species invasion</li> <li>• Soil erosion</li> <li>• Impacts on groundwater quality.</li> </ul>	<b>Medium</b>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visual nuisance due to moving equipment and vehicles.</li><li>• Noise disturbances</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Waste generation</li><li>• Visual nuisance due to moving equipment and vehicles</li></ul>	
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#### **9.4.5. The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk.**

(With regard to the issues and concerns raised by affected parties provide a list of the issues raised and an assessment/ discussion of the mitigations or site layout alternatives available to accommodate or address their concerns, together with an assessment of the impacts or risks associated with the mitigation or alternatives considered).

All possible mitigation measures that could be applied to risks regarding the site layout discussed and considered as part of the EIA process. The proposed mitigation measures for the assumed risks will be confirmed during the EIA process.

#### **9.4.6. Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.**

The prospecting activities are intended to be conducted in search of the coal deposits. These minerals occur in specific areas depending on the geology of the area. The historical data shows that there could be the occurrence of coal in the area, and therefore, the prospecting activities are ought to be undertaken in the proposed site. The proposed site has existing access roads that will be used during the operational phase of the project and minimal infrastructure will be established due the site location.

#### **9.4.7. Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site.**

(Provide a statement motivating the final site layout that is proposed)

Because this area will not necessitate any complex surface infrastructure, no design and layout alternatives for the proposed area have been identified. Alternatives for the camp site's location were considered. Among the options were a fixed location near the site's entrance, a mobile campsite, and an offsite campsite. The alternative sites were chosen based on the proposed area's sensitivity.

#### **9.5. Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site (In respect of the final site layout plan) through the life of the activity.**

(Including (i) a description of all environmental issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process and (ii) an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk and an indication of the extent to which the issue and risk could be avoided or addressed by the adoption of mitigation measures.)

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):**

The purpose of the EIA Phase is to investigate the potential negative and positive impacts of a proposed project activities on the environment. The potential impacts will then be quantified to assess the significance that an impact may pose on the receiving environment. The objectives of the EIA process are to:

- Ensure that the potential biophysical and socio-economic impacts of the proposed project, are taken into consideration during the decision-making process.
- Ensure that the project activities to be undertaken do not have a substantial detrimental impact on the environment by presenting management and mitigation measures that will avoid and/or reduce those impacts.

- Ensure that I&APs are informed, including the landowner, about the proposed Project and the public participation process is properly followed.
- Ensure that I&APs are given an opportunity to raise concerns, and make input to understand their needs and expectations; and
- Provide a process aimed at enabling authorities to make an informed decision, especially in respect of their obligation to take environmental and social considerations into account when making those decisions.

The EIA process will assess the overall aspects affected by the proposed project in relation to the activities to be conducted. A sensitivity report has been conducted to determine the sensitivity of the proposed area to make sound decision on the consideration and implementation of the mitigation measures of the impacts posed by the proposed activity.

Using the significance criteria, impacts can be assigned a rating of a potential risk, uncertain risk, and significant risk.

- **Extreme**

These are unacceptable risks that are primarily critical in nature in terms of the extent and long-term environmental harm, permanent sacred site damage, fatality, and massive economic impacts that are effectively regarded as a possibility to almost certain to occur. Such risks significantly exceed the risk acceptance threshold and necessitate comprehensive control measures as well as additional urgent and immediate attention to the identification and implementation of risk-reduction measures.

- **High**

Typically refer to significant to critical consequences, such as significant environmental or heritage damage, as well as significant safety, social, or economic consequences that are likely to cut across the possible to almost certain likelihood ratings. These are also likely to exceed the risk acceptance threshold, and while proactive control measures have been planned or implemented, a very close monitoring regime and additional actions to reduce risk are required.

- **Medium**

As the classification suggests, medium level risks encompass a range of risk combinations ranging from relatively low consequence / high likelihood to mid-level consequence / low likelihood scenarios across environmental, social, and economic domains. Because they are effectively positioned on the risk acceptance threshold, these risks are likely to necessitate active monitoring.

- **Low**

These risks are below the risk acceptance threshold and although they may require additional monitoring in certain cases are not considered to require active management. In general, such risks represent relatively low likelihood and low to mid-level consequence scenarios.

- **Very Low**

Impacts risks that are below the risk acceptance threshold and would at the most require additional monitoring and in many cases would not require active management. These risks can include unlikely to rare events with minor consequences and in essence relate to situations around very low probabilities of relatively minor impacts occurring.

The probability of occurrence has been categorised within the context of reasonable timeframes and frequencies given the nature of the anticipated project life. The following table defines the levels of likelihood and severity for the types of consequences that comprise the risk rating determination:

Table 15: Likelihood rating system

Rating		Likelihood	Definitions
5		Almost certain	The event is expected to occur in most circumstances (The event is likely to occur once per year).
4		Likely	The event will probably occur in most circumstances (The event is likely to occur once every 1 – 2 years).
3		Possible	The event might occur at some time (The event is likely to occur once every 2 – 5 years).
2		Unlikely	The event could occur at some time (The event is likely to occur once every 5 – 10 years).
1		Rare	The event may occur only in exceptional circumstances (The event is unlikely to occur in any 10-year period).

### Risk Analysis Matrix

The risk controls are linked to the level of risk and the opportunity for risk reduction to meet the project rehabilitation objectives and goals, which are linked to an environmentally and socially responsible operation, and these requirements are part of the regulatory obligations and impact assessment guidelines. The table below summarizes the qualitative risk matrix used, as well as the risk levels for the various consequence and likelihood combinations.



Table 16: Risk Analysis Matrix

		Severity of Consequence				
		Critical (5)	Major (4)	Significant (3)	Moderate (2)	Minor (1)
Likelihood of Consequence	Almost Certain (5)	Extreme	Extreme	High	High	Medium
	Likely (4)	Extreme	High	High	Medium	Medium
	Possible (3)	Extreme	High	Medium	Medium	Low
	Unlikely (2)	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
	Rare (1)	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low

The impact assessment will focus on the invasive activities of the project since they will have the potential to impact on the biophysical and the social environment of the proposed area. These activities include:

- Vegetation clearance for site (camp and drill sites) establishment.
- Installation of mobile offices and ablutions.
- Construction of temporal access roads to the site camp and drill sites.
- Drilling; and
- Rehabilitation of the overall site and closure.

The impact assessment is furthermore separated into three distinct phases, namely:

- Site establishment/construction phase.

The site establishment will include the clearance of vegetation to establish the camp and drill sites. Various aspects of the environment will be subjected to the disturbances due to this activity.

- Operational phase; and

The operational phase will include the drilling operation whereby the drill cores will be logged and taken to the lab for analysis.

- Decommissioning.

This phase will entail the removal of all temporal infrastructure and the rehabilitation of all the disturbed area at the prospecting site.

Table 17: Identified and assessed impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site.

Aspect	Impact	Mitigation Measures	*C	*L	*R
Vegetation	<p>Loss of vegetation cover due to clearance during the site preparation.            Vehicle movement and compaction of soil minimising plant growth of indigenous flora.            Alteration of natural environment and habitat loss.            Spreading of invasive alien plants. The altered environment will also favour species that are better adapted to disturbed/transformed areas.            Exposed disturbed area with no indigenous vegetation.            Long-term or permanent degradation and modification of the receiving environment resulting to the loss of important habitats.            Loss of vegetation cover due to clearance during the site preparation.            Vehicle movement and compaction of soil minimising plant growth of indigenous flora.            Alteration of natural environment and habitat loss.            Spreading of invasive alien plants. The altered environment will also favour species that are better adapted to disturbed/transformed areas.            Exposed disturbed area with no indigenous vegetation.            Long-term or permanent degradation and modification of the receiving environment resulting to the loss of important habitats.</p>	<p>Environmental awareness and training to the contractors;            Drilling sites to be located in less sensitive areas as far as possible;            Rehabilitate the disturbed areas as far as possible.            Vehicles should only use designated roadways to access the site.            Have a biodiversity protocol and rehabilitation plan in place that will be implemented upon closure.            Invasive plant material should be disposed by incineration, or alternatively, composting to break down seeds. If seedbank persists, invasive alien plant management and eradication measures should be implemented.            Implement effective rehabilitation measures upon closure.</p>	Pre – Mitigation		
			2	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	3	L
Animal Life	<p>Loss of priority fauna species from important habitats.            Loss of resident fauna through increased disturbance.            Displacement of resident fauna species through increased disturbance.</p>	<p>Environmental awareness and training for workers about the animal life on site.            Killing of animals on site will be strictly prohibited and animal found on site must be safely removed from the operation.            Implementing noise monitoring measures and management.            Avoid vegetation clearance during the breeding season.</p>	Pre – Mitigation		
			2	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	3	L
Soils and Land Capability	<p>The removal of vegetation associated with the prospecting activities will allow for increased surface water runoff, which may lead to change in topographical characteristics of the area.            Land clearance during establishment of infrastructure will disturb the natural sequence of soil layers thereby changing the soil and land capability.            The movement of heavy vehicles in the operation area will result in compaction of soil, water runoff and soil erosion especially during the rainy season.            The equipment and vehicles may contaminate the soil due to hydrocarbon spillages.</p>	<p>Removal of vegetation must be undertaken in a phased approach to limit the number of exposed areas at a time.            Regular roads maintenance of eroded shoulders.            A cleaned-up of any hydro-carbon spills on soil must be undertaken by trained personnel using commercially available emergency clean-up kits.</p>	Pre – Mitigation		
			3	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	3	L

Surface water resources	Contamination of water resources and deterioration of water quality; and Disturbance of free drainage and runoff.	Remediate using commercially available emergency clean up kits; and Re-profiling and rehabilitation of the disturbed landscapes. Implementing temporary erosion control measures.	Pre – Mitigation		
			4	3	H
			Post – Mitigation		
			3	3	M
Groundwater resources	Changes in runoff and infiltration during the operation phase leading to reduce groundwater recharge. Groundwater contamination from fuel & hydrocarbons leakages and spillages from the storage and transporting vehicles. Baseflow reduction caused by proposed activity.	Implementing measures to minimise the removal of vegetation and opportunities for revegetation will be maximised. Implement groundwater monitoring to detect groundwater contamination. Implementation of the mitigation measures to minimise hydrocarbon spills. Conducting prospecting activities in low groundwater sensitivity area.	2	2	L
			Pre – Mitigation		
			Post – Mitigation		
Noise	Increase in ambient noise levels during the operational phase; Disturbances to faunal species behaviour during the operational phase.	Limiting the site establishment activities working hours to daylight hours (07h00 to 17h00) and not undertaking such activities at all on Sundays and public holidays. Applying an operating buffer of a minimum 50m, but preferably 100m between drill site and any dwellings.	Pre – Mitigation		
			3	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			2	3	M
Air Quality/Dust	Possible dust generation in some areas including the drilling during operations; Heavy dust deposition can have detrimental effects on plants if the leaves are smothered to the extent where transpiration and photosynthesis are affected. Health impacts on livestock and people in proximity to the project site due to fine particulate emissions during construction and operational phases.	Conduct dust fall-out monitoring. Enforcing the speed limits to reduce dust created by moving vehicles. Haul roads in use will be subjected to dust suppression management measures. Implement concurrent rehabilitation activities to minimise the number of exposed surfaces that would result in dust generation. It must be noted that the speed limit for driving within a community and prospecting right shall be limited to 40Km/h on exposed surfaces.	Pre – Mitigation		
			2	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	3	L
Visual	Visual disturbance due to site clearance. Dust generated during site establishment. View disturbance due to the operating of the equipment	Ensure that all exposed surfaces are subjected to dust suppression. Clearing of vegetation must be undertaken within the demarcated boundaries of the designated area only.	Pre – Mitigation		
			3	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			2	2	L
Socio-economic	The effect of this prospecting activity for employment and socio-economic regime would be positive, but very limited in extent and duration. Disturbance on the current commercial activities.	Skill development and transfer. Maximise procurement of goods and services from local providers.	Pre – Mitigation		
			1	3	L
			Post – Mitigation		
			2	2	L
Cultural and Heritage Resources	Destruction of archaeological remains. Disturbance of graves. Disturbance of buildings and structures older than 60 years old. Destruction public monuments and plaques.	Use chance find procedure to cater for accidental finds. Maintaining a 100m buffer from all identified 'no-go' areas with heritage resources.	2	2	L
			Pre – Mitigation		
			Post – Mitigation		

		Encountered heritage resources, including fossils, graves, or human remains must be reported to the relevant authorities.			
Waste	Waste Generation including general, scrap and hazardous waste. If this waste is not stored correctly, can lead to environmental pollution including soil and water resources.	Classification and separation of the waste into general or hazardous must be implemented onsite into different coloured and labelled bins. Uncontrolled disposal of waste must strictly be prohibited on site	Pre – Mitigation		
			2	2	L
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	2	VL
Safety	Theft of equipment and the damage of infrastructure.	Ensure that there is a controlled access to the site by deploying security personnel who would also conduct security patrols to monitor the perimeters of the project site thereby providing an increased security presence.  Consult with the local police branch to establish standard operating procedures for the control and/or removal of loiterers.  All project infrastructure should be contained in a fenced and secured area to prevent unauthorized access and potential health and safety risks.	Pre – Mitigation		
			2	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	3	L
Health	The dust generation with potentially particulate matter, which can be inhaled, causing respiratory diseases.	All area that are sources of dust must be subjected to dust suppression.  Continuous dust monitoring should be carried out throughout the project undertakings.  All employees will be issued with and instructed to wear the appropriated personal protective equipment (PPE).	Pre – Mitigation		
			2	3	M
			Post – Mitigation		
			1	3	L
*C – Consequences *L – Likelihood of consequences *R – Residual Risks VL – Very Low L – Low M – Medium H - High					

- **Public Participation Process followed:**

The PPP will be carried out in accordance with the NEMA and in accordance with the regulatory requirements outlined in Chapter 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended). The public participation process is summarized below.

Table 18: Summary of the PPP followed.

Activity	Details
Identification of stakeholders	Lodgment of the stakeholder database which represents various sectors of society, including directly affected and adjacent landowners, in and around the proposed project area.
Distribution of BID and the I&AP registration form	Handing of BID with I&APs registration and some emailed to stakeholders on from the 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.
Placing of newspaper advertisement	A newspaper advertisement in the <b>ladysmith Gazette Newspaper</b> on the 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.
Putting up of site notices	Placing site notices at the proposed project site on 07 <sup>th</sup> September 2024. A site notice placement report and map were developed to indicate the locations of site notices in and around the project area.
Announcement of Draft BAR	The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be released electronically, and copies are available to stakeholders on the Vahlegwe Mining Advisory and Consulting website ( <a href="http://www.vahlegweadvisory.co.za">www.vahlegweadvisory.co.za</a> ) on 06 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.
Consultation with Stakeholders	Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation meeting will be facilitated to discuss the draft Basic Assessment Report will be conducted at Ladysmith Village.
Obtaining comments from stakeholders	All comments, issues of concern and suggestions from the stakeholders will be noted and a CRR will be compiled and incorporated in this Final BAR to be submitted to the DMRE for decision making.
Announcement of Final Basic Assessment Report	The final report will be made available ( <a href="http://www.vahlegweadvisory.co.za">www.vahlegweadvisory.co.za</a> ).

### 10. Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk.

(This section of the report must consider all the known typical impacts of each of the activities (including those that could or should have been identified by knowledgeable persons) and not only those that were raised by registered interested and affected parties).

Table 19: Assessment of the potentially significant impact and risk

NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE	SIGNIFICANCE	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE
-Site establishment -Construction of access roads -Prospecting activities (Drilling)	<u>Vegetation</u> Destruction Of natural vegetation Loss of threatened plant species Invasion of alien and invasive vegetation Exposure to erosion Loss of biodiversity	Vegetation (flora)	Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning	Moderate	Environmental awareness and training to the contractors. Drilling sites to be located in less sensitive areas as far as possible. Rehabilitate the disturbed areas as far as possible. Vehicles should only use designated roadways to access the site. Have a biodiversity protocol and rehabilitation plan in place that will be implemented upon closure. Invasive plant material should be disposed by incineration, or alternatively, composting to break down seeds. If seedbank persists, invasive alien plant management and eradication measures should be implemented. Implement effective rehabilitation measures upon closure.	Low
	<u>Animal Life</u> Loss of priority fauna species Loss of resident fauna through increased disturbance. Displacement of resident fauna species.	Animal life (fauna)	Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning	Moderate	Environmental awareness and training for workers about the animal life on site. Killing of animals on site will be strictly prohibited and animal found on site must be safely removed from the operation. Implementing noise monitoring measures and management.	Low



					Avoid vegetation clearance during the breeding season.	
	<p><b>Noise</b></p> <p>Noise nuisance due to the drilling activities and movement of operating equipment and vehicle</p>	<p>Air quality</p> <p>Animal life</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Conducting regular equipment maintenance to minimise noise generated by the operating equipment.</p> <p>Limiting the operation times to daylight hours (07h00 to 17h00) on Mondays to Fridays, Saturdays (07h00 to 14h00) and no activities to be conducted on Sundays and public holidays.</p> <p>Maintaining a buffer of 100m between the operation area and dwellings.</p>	<p>Low</p>
	<p><b>Visual</b></p> <p>Visual disturbance to the surrounding due to the project activities</p> <p>Visual impact on observers travelling along the roads and residents</p>	<p>Aesthetic beauty of the surrounding</p> <p>Social practices around the area</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Minimise unvegetated areas as far as possible.</p> <p>Concurrent rehabilitation of all disturbed areas.</p>	<p>Low</p>
	<p><b>Air Quality</b></p> <p>Dust generation</p>	<p>Dust fall &amp; nuisance from prospecting activities</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Implementation of the dust suppression system.</p> <p>Low vehicle speeds enforcement on unpaved surfaces.</p> <p>Maintain a buffer of 500m- 1000m between operational site and dwellings.</p>	<p>Low</p>
	<p><b>Soils and land Capability</b></p> <p>Soil Compaction leading to erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p>Destruction on current land use</p>	<p>Soil and vegetation</p> <p>Land use</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Provide adequate erosion control measures where required.</p> <p>No mixing of fertile soils with sub soils during construction.</p> <p>Implement concurrent and re-vegetate all disturbed with locally indigenous species as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Low</p>

	<p><b>Surface water</b>          Sedimentation and siltation of water courses</p> <p>Alteration of natural drainage patterns</p> <p>Contamination of water resources</p> <p>Degradation of surface quality</p>	Surface water quality	Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning	Moderate	<p>Remedy the possible effects of alteration to natural drainage lines.</p> <p>Implementing the hydrocarbon spillages management plan.</p> <p>Ensure that wastewater is appropriately managed.</p> <p>Implement the erosion control measures.</p>	Low
	<p><b>Groundwater resources</b>          Changes in runoff and infiltration          Groundwater contamination from fuel &amp; hydrocarbons leakages and spillages          Baseflow reduction</p>	Groundwater quality	Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning	Moderate	<p>Implementing measures to minimise the removal of vegetation and opportunities for revegetation will be maximised.</p> <p>Implement groundwater monitoring to detect groundwater contamination.</p> <p>Implementation of the mitigation measures to minimise hydrocarbon spills.</p> <p>Conducting prospecting activities in low groundwater sensitivity area.</p>	Low
<p>-Site establishment</p> <p>-Construction of access roads</p> <p>-Prospecting activities (Drilling)</p>	<p><b>Health and Safety</b>          Health and safety of employees and surrounding communities</p>	Human health and safe working environment	Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning	Low	<p>All employees or sub-contractors entering site must be inducted to ensure the awareness of the developed health and safety plan;</p> <p>Appoint a health and safety representatives to be appointed during operations;</p> <p>Conduct daily inspections and observations of on-site activities shall take place;</p> <p>All incidents to be reported, recorded, investigated, and mitigated.</p> <p>Employees or sub-contractors must be informed as to what required PPE is applicable in working sections, and must always be equipped with appropriate PPE;</p> <p>Safety signs to be provided in areas considered as high-risk areas;</p>	Low

					<p>Provided adequate first aid services on site; and</p> <p>Promote ongoing health and safety awareness campaigns.</p>	
<p>-Site establishment</p> <p>-Construction of access roads</p> <p>-Prospecting activities (Drilling)</p>	<p><b><u>Socio-economic</u></b>          Increased employment opportunities</p> <p>Local economic development</p>	<p>Economic activities such as the commercial farming</p> <p>Land uses</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	Moderate	<p>Conduct consultation with local communities through the appropriate channels to ensure the use of local skills and businesses where possible.</p> <p>Ensure local employment and local services providers are appointed where possible from the local area; and</p> <p>Ensure that goods and services are procured from within the local area as far as possible.</p>	Low
<p>-Site establishment</p> <p>-Construction of access roads</p> <p>-Prospecting activities (Drilling)</p>	<p><b><u>Heritage</u></b>          Destruction of archaeological remains.</p> <p>Disturbance of graves.</p> <p>Disturbance of buildings and structures older than 60 years old.</p> <p>Destruction public monuments and plaques.</p>	<p>Loss of heritage &amp; palaeontological resources</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	Low	<p>Use chance find procedure to cater for accidental finds.</p> <p>Maintaining a 100m buffer from all identified 'no-go' areas with heritage resources.</p> <p>Encountered heritage resources, including fossils, graves, or human remains must be reported to the relevant authorities.</p>	Low
<p>-Site establishment</p> <p>-Construction of access roads</p> <p>-Prospecting activities (Drilling)</p>	<p><b><u>Traffic Management</u></b>          Construction vehicles and access roads</p> <p>Operation staff transportation trips, maintenance, and delivery trips</p>	<p>Pressure on public transport infrastructure</p> <p>Socio-economic conditions</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	Low	<p>The surface quality of the road is not negatively impacted resulting from vehicle movement;</p> <p>Sections of existing road surfaces which have been impacted on by the vehicle movement and</p> <p>Existing road surfaces must be utilised and maintained within baseline levels.</p>	Low
<p>-Site establishment</p> <p>-Construction of access roads</p> <p>-Prospecting activities (Drilling)</p>	<p><b><u>Waste Management</u></b>          General waste generation and hazardous waste generation</p>	<p>Soil contamination</p> <p>Contamination of water resources</p> <p>Impacts on human health</p>	<p>Construction, Operational, and Decommissioning</p>	Low	<p>Promoting the reduction, re-use, or recycle of waste where prevention is not possible;</p> <p>Disposal of waste to local waste disposal sites;</p> <p>Littering should be strictly prohibited; and</p> <p>Implement waste classification and separation system.</p>	Low

### 11. Summary of specialist reports.

(This summary must be completed if any specialist reports informed the impact assessment and final site layout process and must be in the following tabular form):

A Screening Report for an Environmental Authorization was generated from the DFFE Web-based Environmental Screening Tool (Appendix 4). The following is a summary of the environmental sensitivities at the site where the proposed prospecting activities are to be undertaken. Consequently, the drilling activities will be undertaken on an area where there are no sensitivities.

Table 20: Environmental Sensitivity of the proposed area

#### Site A:

THEME	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	X			
Palaeontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

#### Site B:

THEME	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Palaeontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

## 12. Environmental impact statement

### 12.1. Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment.

Most of the prospecting activities are non-invasive and hence will have no environmental or social impact. The invasive activities that entail the site establishment and the drilling of approximately 20 drill holes will have a minimal environmental and social impact as the overall site establishment and the drill sites will be confined to an area of approximately 0.6 hectares and 0.9 hectares respectively.

The assessed impact ratings after implementation of the mitigation measures described above are as follows:

Table 21: Summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment

Impacts	Activity Phases	Significance	
		Pre – Mitigation	Post – Mitigation
Flora and Fauna	All phases	Moderate	Low
Noise	All phases	Low	Low
Visual	All phases	Low	Low
Air Quality/Dust	All phases	Low	Low
Soils and Land Capability	All phases	Moderate	Low
Surface and Groundwater Resources	All phases	Moderate	Low
Health and Safety	All phases	Low	Low
Socio – Economic	All phases	Moderate	Low
Cultural and Heritage Resources	All phases	Low	Low
Traffic	All phases	Low	Low
Waste	All phases	Low	Low

Most of the identified impacts will occur for a limited period and the extent of the impacts will be localised. All the identified impacts can be suitably mitigated with the residual impact ratings ranging from **moderate** to **low** significance. After drilling activities have been completed and the drill pads rehabilitated to predrilling status, the land will be returned to its pre-prospecting impacts state.

### 12.2. Final Site Map

Provide a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed overall activity and its associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers. Attach as **Appendix**.

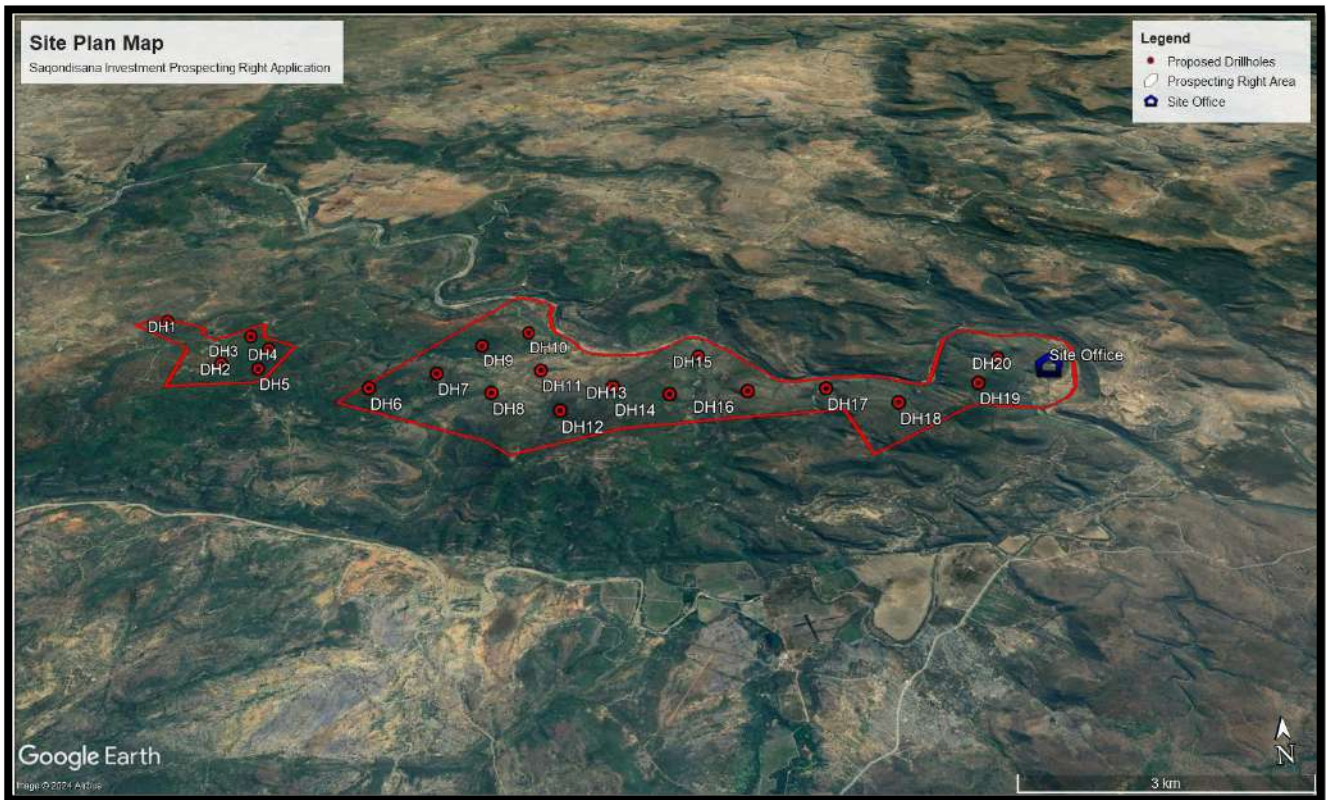


Figure 19: final site plan

### 12.3. Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives.

Table 22: Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives.

Proposed Activity	Aspects
Non – Invasive Activities	No impacts on site
Positive	
Invasive Activities: Site establishment, Operation and decommission	Potential for neighbouring communities to benefit from assistance with shared land management responsibilities.
	The opportunity of implementing processes around feral animal control.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for indigenous employment and economic development.</li> <li>• Requirement for the supply of the goods and services from the local businesses; and</li> <li>• Requirement for short-term accommodation and thus benefiting the house rental and accommodation sector.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting local recycling centre and local scrap metal merchant; and</li> <li>• Metals such as steel and copper wire will be collected in designated areas prior to removal from site for recycling.</li> </ul>
	Potential for neighbouring communities to benefit from assistance with shared land management responsibilities.
	The opportunity of implementing processes around feral animal control.



Negative	
Invasive Activities: Site establishment, Operation and decommission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil compaction and soil erosion due to the movement of heavy vehicles in the on-site; and</li> <li>• Soil contamination due to hydrocarbon spillages from the fuel storages and vehicles.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of alien vegetation; and</li> <li>• Loss of flora and fauna and habitat destruction.</li> </ul>
	Erosion and sedimentation leading to soil scouring and increased turbidity of water courses and drainage lines downstream.
	Contamination of groundwater due to chemicals and hydrocarbons seepage.
	Noise nuisance due to moving vehicles and equipment.
	Dust creation during clearance, placement of infrastructure and the drilling operations.
	Increased visual intrusion due to operation infrastructure and the movement of the operating equipment and vehicles.
	Project is unsustainable in terms of job security due to the life of project.
	Indigenous resources, values, and aspirational impacts.
	Waste generation including the domestic, scrap and hazardous waste.
	Inheritance of occupational health problems and exposure to occupational hazards.
	Addition to the existing traffic of the movement of vehicles

**12.4. Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr; Based on the assessment and where applicable the recommendations from specialist reports, the recording of proposed impact management objectives, and the impact management outcomes for the development for inclusion in the EMPr as well as for inclusion as conditions of authorisation.**

The objectives of the EMPr will be to:

- Provide sufficient information to strategically plan the prospecting activities as to avoid unnecessary social and environmental impacts.
- Ensure that the prospecting activities are conducted in a sustainable manner.
- Develop an approach that will ensure compliance with relevant legislations; and
- Provide a management plan that is effective and practical for implementation.

Through the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures it is anticipated that the identified environmental impacts can be managed and mitigated effectively.

- Heritage/cultural resources can be managed by avoidance of known resources and through consultation with landowners/stakeholders. Contractor personnel will also be briefed of these sensitivities and consequences of any damage/removal of such features; Should the exploration program advance to the drilling stage, a phase 1 heritage assessment will be

undertaken prior to identification of drill sites once areas of drilling interest have been determined.

- Noise generation can be managed through consultation and restriction of operating hours and by maintaining equipment and applying noise abatement equipment if necessary.
- Visual intrusion can be managed through consultation with landowners/stakeholders and by suitable siting of drill pads and use of screens (natural vegetation or shade cloth etc).
- Dust generation can be managed by limiting as far as possible the exposure of surfaces, application of dust suppression methods on exposed surfaces and use of water during drilling.
- Soil disturbance and clearance of vegetation at drill pad areas will be limited to the absolute minimum required and disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with locally indigenous species as soon as possible.
- Protecting biodiversity by conducting the ecological impact assessment prior to any invasive activities being conducted to ensure that impacts of protected and vulnerable species are prevented and where impacts cannot altogether be prevented minimised and mitigated.
- Manage as far as possible the soil, surface water and groundwater contamination by hydrocarbons by conducting proper vehicle maintenance, refuelling with care to minimise the chance of spillages and by having a spill kit available on each site where prospecting activities are in progress.
- Conduct an appropriate public consultation and conflict resolution during stakeholder consultation phases. All prospecting personnel will be made aware of the local conditions and sensitivities in the prospecting area and that they treat local residents with respect and courtesy at all times.

## **12.5. Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Environmental Authorisation.**

(Any aspects which must be made conditions of the Environmental Authorisation)

It is the opinion of the EAP that the following conditions should form part of the authorisation:

- Maintain a buffer of 100m from sensitive areas;
- Maintain a minimum 500m (preferably 1000m) buffer from any infrastructure or dwelling;
- Conduct a heritage survey of the identified drill sites and access routes once these are known and prior to any activities being undertaken at these sites;
- Conduct an ecology and wetland survey of any identified drill sites and access routes that may fall within any critical endangered ecosystems ; and
- Landowners and land occupiers should be engaged (re-consulted) at least 1 month prior to any site activities being undertaken once drill sites are known.

## **12.6. Description of any assumptions, uncertainties, and gaps in knowledge.**

(Which relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed)

The location of site camp and drill sites is not yet known and will be identified through the phased approach of the prospecting programme. This assessment is therefore based on a desktop approach at a broad scale and assuming that the site camping and drilling could occur anywhere within the proposed prospecting area.

Once camp and drill sites have been identified, then specific focus will be given to ecological and Heritage screening and assessment along possible access routes in order to ensure that valued ecological components, threatened species and Heritage artefacts are not inadvertently damaged. In addition, landowners will be engaged with regards to the progress of the operation and to discuss the proposed invasive prospecting activities and identified locations with the landowner at that point in time.

## **12.7. Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised.**

### **12.7.1. Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not.**

The applicant is committed to conduct the prospecting activities in a sustainable manner and to comply with the prescribed environmental legislations in order to protect the environment and manage as far as possible the impacts associated with the project. Therefore, the applicant will ensure that:

- The prospecting program will be developed in a phased manner commencing with non-invasive activities to bring refinement to understanding of the geological anomaly.
- The environmental impacts associated with the prospecting activities are deemed to be minimal provided that the proposed mitigation is implemented.
- If the success exceeds expectations/assumptions, the financial guarantee will be reviewed annually and variation in the planned work programme will be revised in line with Section 102 of the MPRDA.
- With appropriate care and consideration, the impacts resulting from the prospecting activities can be suitably avoided, minimised, or mitigated.
- With implementing the appropriate rehabilitation activities, the impacts associated with the prospecting activities can be reversed; and
- Without implementation of prospecting activities, the knowledge concerning the potential mineral resource within the prospecting right area will not be confirmed.

### **12.7.2. Conditions that must be included in the authorisation.**

The following conditions could form part of the authorisation:

- Maintain a 100m buffer from sensitive areas; • Maintain a 500m (preferably 1000m) buffer from any infrastructure or dwelling.
- Conduct a heritage survey of the identified drill sites and access routes across undisturbed land once they are known and before any activities are carried out at these sites.
- Conduct an independent ecology and wetland survey of the identified camp and drill sites, as well as access routes to be built on undeveloped land. A special emphasis should be placed on assessing any critical endangered ecosystems in the prospecting area; and
- Once the camp and drill sites have been determined, landowners and land occupiers should be consulted before any site activities begin.

### **12.8. Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required.**

The authorisation is required for the duration of the prospecting right which is an initial five (5) years plus a potential to extend the right by an additional three (3) years. Therefore, a period of approximately eight (8) years is required.

### **12.9. Undertaking:**

**Confirm that the undertaking required to meet the requirements of this section is provided at the end of the EMPr and is applicable to both the Basic Assessment Report and the Environmental Management Programme Report.**

The undertaking is provided at the end of the EMPr.

### **12.10. Financial Provision:**

**State the amount that is required to both manage and rehabilitate the environment in respect of rehabilitation.**

A financial provision of approximately **R62549.00** has been budgeted for the prospecting programme over five (5) years, for rehabilitation activities.

#### **12.10.1. Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived.**

The financial provision calculations were undertaken in terms of the guidelines provided within the “DMR Guideline Document for The Evaluation of The Quantum of Closure-Related Financial Provision Provided by a Mine” (DMR, 2005). The closure components for the prospecting activities are summarised on the table below:

Table 23: Closure components to the prospecting activities

Components	Extent	Description
1.Dismantling of processing plant and related structures	0m <sup>3</sup>	There will not be a processing of the material for this project
2(A). Demolition of steel buildings and structures	0m <sup>2</sup>	There will be no steel structures
2(B). Demolition of reinforced concrete buildings and structures	0m <sup>2</sup>	Only mobile offices and ablutions will be put on site and removed upon closure of the project
3. Rehabilitation of access roads	150m <sup>2</sup>	There are temporary access roads that will require rehabilitation
4(A). Demolition and rehabilitation of electrified railway lines	0m	There will be no electrified railway lines
4(B). Demolition and rehabilitation of non-electrified railway lines	0m	There will be no demolition and rehabilitation non-electrified railway lines
5. Demolition of housing and/or administration facilities	0m <sup>2</sup>	There is no housing that will require demolition
6. Opencast rehabilitation including final voids and ramps	0	No excavation will be required to be undertaken
7. Sealing of shafts, adits, and inclines	0m <sup>3</sup>	There are no shafts, adits nor inclines on site
8(A). Rehabilitation of overburden and spoils	0ha	The spoils from the drilling will be used to backfill the drillholes.
8(B). Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (non-polluting potential)	0ha	There will be no processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds
8(C). Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (polluting potential)	0ha	There will be no wastewater being generated on site
9. Rehabilitation of subsided areas	0ha	The prospecting activities will not be associated with subsidence
10. General surface rehabilitation	0,305ha	The area that will require rehabilitation will include the site camp, drill sites and access roads
11. River diversions	0m	The prospecting activities will not involve the river diversions.
12.Fencing	0m	Fencing would not be required
13. Water management	0ha	There will be no circulation of dams that will require to be rehabilitated
14. 2 to 3 years of maintenance and aftercare	0ha	All disturbances will be subjected to rehabilitation

**12.10.2. Confirm that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure.**

(Confirm that the amount, is anticipated to be an operating cost and is provided for as such in the Mining work programme, Financial and Technical Competence Report or Prospecting Work Programme as the case may be).

The above-mentioned amount has been provided for from operating expenditure within the Prospecting Work Programme. The amount is also reflected in the Prospecting Work Programme submitted to the DMRE.

Table 24: Cost estimate of the expenditure to be incurred for each phase of the proposed prospecting operation.

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 Expenditure (R')	YEAR 2 Expenditure (R')	YEAR 3 Expenditure (R')	YEAR 4 Expenditure (R')	YEAR 5 Expenditure (R')
<b>PHASE 1 (e.g., 12 months)</b>					
Desktop Studies and Reconnaissance	15 000.00				
Geological Field Mapping	25 000.00				
Geophysical Survey		160 000.00			
<b>PHASE 2 (e.g., 24 months)</b>					
Diamond Drilling and Core Logging			1 220 000.00		
Rehabilitation					62549 .00
Sample analysis and Geological Modelling				60 000.00	
<b>PHASE 3 (e.g., 12 months)</b>					
Environmental & Rehabilitation Studies					250 000.00
Banking & Feasibility Studies				50 000.00	
Phase 4 (e.g. 12 months)					
Rehabilitation					62549.00
<b>Annual Total</b>	40 000.00	160 000.00	1220 000.00	110 000.00	312549.00
				<b>Total Budget</b>	1 84 2549.00

**12.11. Specific Information required by the competent Authority.**



**12.11.1. Compliance with the provisions of sections 24(4) (a) and (b) read with section 24 (3) (a) and (7) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). the EIA report must include the: -**

**12.11.1.1. Impact on the socio-economic conditions of any directly affected person.**

(Provide the results of Investigation, assessment, and evaluation of the impact of the mining, bulk sampling, or alluvial diamond prospecting on any directly affected person including the landowner, lawful occupier, or, where applicable, potential beneficiaries of any land restitution claim, attach the investigation report as an **Appendix**.)

The purpose of the consultation is to provide the interested and affected persons the opportunity to raise any potential concerns. A public participation process was initiated with the intent to consult with I&APs including the landowners and the nearby communities. Concerns that will be raised during a public participation process will be captured and addressed within the public participation section of this report to inform the decision-making process.

**12.11.1.2. Impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act.**

(Provide the results of Investigation, assessment, and evaluation of the impact of the mining, bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) with the exception of the national estate contemplated in section 3(2)(j)(vi) and (vii) of that Act, attach the investigation report as **Appendix 2.19.2** and confirm that the applicable mitigation is reflected in 2.5.3; 2.11.6. and 2.12. herein).

Since the positioning of the drill sites will only be determined in phase 2 of the prospecting works programme, and in order to ensure that there is no impact on unknown heritage sites, a recommendation has been made to undertake a heritage survey of the drill sites in order to identify any cultural or heritage resources of significance. Mitigation measures proposed in this report include that no drill site will be located within 50m of any identified heritage site (which may occur during the prospecting programme).

**12.12. Other matters required in terms of sections 24(4) (a) and (b) of the Act.**

(The EAP managing the application must provide the competent authority with detailed, written proof of an investigation as required by section 24(4)(b)(i) of the Act and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives, as contemplated in sub-regulation 22(2)(h), exist. The EAP must attach such motivation as an **Appendix**.)

The proposed prospecting activities (including the drilling) requested as part of this authorisation is the viable way a mineral resource can be identified and used to generate a SAMREC compliant resource which is a minimum requirement to determine whether it is viable to invest in a future mine. Therefore, the proposed prospecting activities to be undertaken will be part of the feasibility studies to determine whether the minerals of interest will be economically viable to mine.

## PART B

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT

#### 13. Environmental Management Programme Introduction.

##### 13.1. Details of the EAP

(Confirm that the requirement for the provision of the details and expertise of the EAP are already included in PART A, section 2 herein as required).

This has already been covered. Refer to Part A, Section 2 of this document.

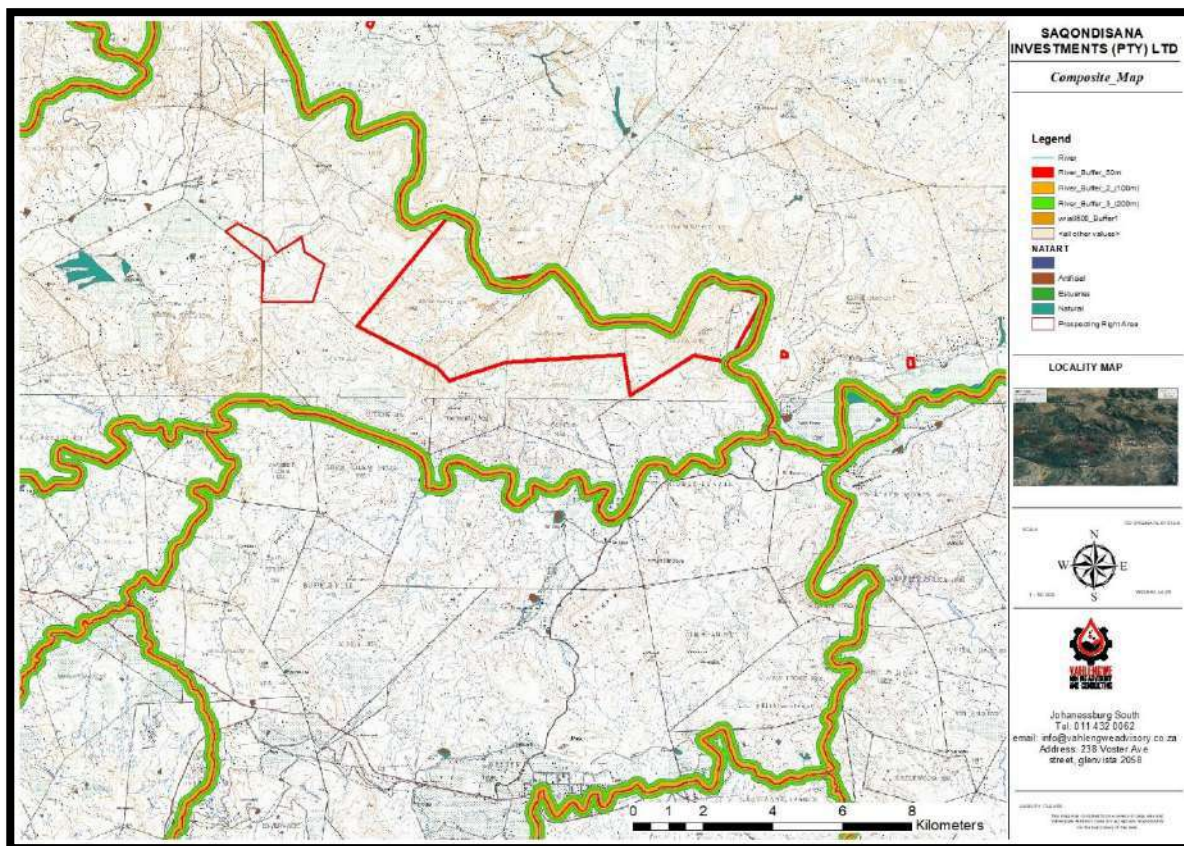
##### 13.2. Description of the Aspects of the Activity

(Confirm that the requirement to describe the aspects of the activity that are covered by the environmental management programme is already included in PART A, section (5) herein as required).

This has already been covered. Refer to Part A, Section 5 of this document.

##### 13.3. Composite Map

(Provide a map (**Attached as an Appendix**) at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity, its associated structures, and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site, indicating any areas that any areas that should be avoided, including buffers)



#### 14. Description of Impact management objectives including management statements

The proposed impact management objectives and management statements are informed by the environmental setting of the site where the proposed prospecting activities will be undertaken, and the

desired state post rehabilitation of the site.

#### **14.1. Determination of closure objectives**

The vision, and consequent objectives and targets for rehabilitation, decommissioning, and closure, are intended to reflect the local environmental and socio-economic context of the project, as well as to reflect both the corporate requirements and stakeholder expectations.

The receiving environment within which the prospecting activities will be undertaken include the following key land-uses:

- Residential areas
- Nature Conservation; and
- Agricultural activities.

The post-closure land-use will be determined by the pre-prospecting land-use applicable to the proposed area given that the exact locations of the intended prospecting activities have been identified and assessed, it can be said that the closure plan will sufficiently address the objectives for the preferred alternative. This EMPr, on the other hand, aims to address the key closure objectives, which are likely to remain consistent over most prospecting activities.

The rehabilitation plan shall outline the closure objectives, which are focused at restoring the landform, land use, and vegetation units to their pre-prospecting state, unless the landowner requests a specified, justifiable replacement land use. As a result, the disturbed prospecting areas' planned end use and closure objectives will be specified in consultation with the relevant landowner. Evidence of such consultation will be given with an application for Closure Certificate. The overall goal of the rehabilitation plan is to rehabilitate the environment to as close to its pre-prospecting condition as possible. This will be accomplished through a series of established objectives.

- Making the area safe. i.e., Decommission prospecting activities to ensure that the environment is safe for people and animals. This entails the back filling and sealing of boreholes, etc;
- Recreating a free draining landform. This entails the recreation of the topography as close as possible to its original state and to ensure a free draining landscape;
- Re-vegetation. This involves either reseeding or allowing natural succession depending on the area, climate etc;
- Verification of rehabilitation success. Entails monitoring of rehabilitation; and
- Successful closure and obtaining a closure certificate.

#### **14.2. Volumes and rate of water use required for the operation.**

The water required for prospecting activities will be obtained through an arrangement with an existing authorised water user, which might be either the landowner or the local municipality. Prior to drilling, the department responsible for water resources shall be consulted about any water-related agreement

with either the landowner or the local municipality. No water will be abstracted in terms of section 21(a) of National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

**14.3. Has a water use licence been applied for?**

None of the proposed planned prospecting activities fall under the scope of Section 21 of the National Water Act of 1998, (Act No. 36 of 1998). As a result, no water use licence application is required for the proposed prospecting activities.

**14.4. Impacts to be mitigated in their respective phases.**

Measures to rehabilitate the environment affected by the undertaking of any listed activity.

Table 25: Impacts Mitigation

Activities	Phase	Size and Scale of Disturbance	Mitigation Measures	Compliance with Standards	Time Period for Implementation
Site Clearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction</li> <li>Operation</li> </ul>	0.305 ha, short term and localized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize clearance of vegetation as much possible. In instances where it is possible, cut vegetation instead of clearing to minimize soil disturbance.</li> <li>Use of hand cutting techniques wherever possible and minimise the usage of heavy machines when clearance of vegetation is undertaken to prevent soil disturbance.</li> <li>Any larger fauna species discovered prior to and during vegetation clearance should be given the opportunity to relocate away from the machinery that will be used for construction and prospecting activities.</li> <li>Sensitive areas should be demarcated and treated as No-Go areas.</li> <li>Methods for minimizing potential harm to fauna species should be used during vegetation clearance. To maximize the potential for mobile species to move to adjacent areas, clearing must be gradual and slow, beginning from the interior of the site and continuing outwards towards the boundary.</li> <li>Indigenous vegetation, even secondary communities should not be fragmented under any circumstances or further disturbed.</li> <li>To avoid the spread of exotic or invasive species or the unlawful collection of plants, no plant species, whether indigenous or exotic, shall be brought into or taken from the proposed project area.</li> <li>Utilize local labour if possible.</li> <li>Vehicle movement should be restricted to provided access roads.</li> <li>Implement alien vegetation management.</li> <li>Implementing mitigation measure to prevent and manage hydrocarbon spills.</li> <li>Conducting water quality and quantity monitoring.</li> <li>No prospecting activities to be conducted at or near sensitive water resource areas.</li> </ul>	NEMA MPRDA NEMBA NEMAQA Dust regulations NWA	Throughout prospecting
Site Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction</li> <li>Operation</li> </ul>	Short term and localized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When on site, the Applicant and/or contractors must take into consideration not to interfere with current land uses and practices.</li> <li>All site employees and visitors must be taken through a site induction, which includes basic environmental awareness as well as site-specific environmental requirements such as site sensitivities and appropriate protocols/procedures. Wherever possible, the Contractor's Environmental Officer should present or facilitate this induction.</li> </ul>	NEMA OHS and MHSA	Throughout prospecting
Establishment Of site infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operation</li> </ul>	0.105 ha, short term and localized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicles and machinery must use existing access routes as far as possible to prevent unnecessary construction of new routes.</li> <li>Ensure proper and adequate drainage.</li> <li>Dust suppression should be undertaken when required to reduce the usage of water. Dust suppression strategies should be in accordance with applicable standards for PM<sub>10</sub> AND</li> </ul>	NEMA MPRDA NEMBA NEMAQA Dust regulations	Throughout prospecting process



			<p>PM 2.5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that prospecting is in accordance with occupational health and safety regulations.</li> <li>• All drill sites must be protected, with security access control and warning signs to ensure no person or animal can access these sites.</li> <li>• All laydown, chemical toilets should be restricted to least sensitive areas.</li> <li>• Noise must be kept to an absolute minimum during all the prospecting phases to minimize the impact of the development on the fauna that lives on the site.</li> <li>• Permanent structures should not be permitted on site. Buildings should preferably be prefabricated or constructed from reusable/recyclable materials.</li> <li>• Contractors working on the project should have spill kits available to ensure that any fuel or oil spills are cleaned up and disposed of properly.</li> </ul>	NWA	
Storage of hazardous substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Operational</li> </ul>	Short term and localized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent pollution of the environment or harm to humans or animals, all hazardous substances such as fuel, grease, oil, brake fluid, hydraulic fluid must be handled, stored, and disposed of in a safe and responsible manner. Appropriate spillage prevention measures must be implemented.</li> <li>• If there are any major spills of hazardous materials, they must be reported in accordance with Section 30 of the NEMA.</li> <li>• All chemicals and toxicants used in the construction must be stored away from sensitive areas and in a bunded area.</li> </ul>	NWA NEMWA NEMA	Throughout prospecting process
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Operation</li> </ul>	Short term and localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste generated on-site must be classified and separated using the color-coding method.</li> <li>• Waste management must be prioritized, and all waste must be properly collected and disposed of.</li> <li>• Recyclable waste must not be stored on site for extended periods to prevent risk of environmental pollution.</li> <li>• To prevent rodents and pests from entering the site, it is recommended that all waste be removed on a weekly basis.</li> <li>• A Waste Management System must be put in place, with adequate waste storage in a form of covered containers, waste separation for recycling, and frequent removal of non-recyclable waste for permanent disposal at an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility. On-site waste disposal will be prohibited.</li> </ul>	NEMWA	Throughout prospecting activities
Storage of construction vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Operation</li> </ul>	Short term and localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any equipment that may leak and is not required to be transported on a regular basis must be placed on watertight drip trays to catch any possible pollutant spills. The drip trays must be large enough to accommodate the equipment.</li> <li>• Drip trays must be cleaned on a regular basis and must not overflow. All spilled hazardous substances must be collected and disposed of properly at a properly licensed facility.</li> <li>• Soil compacting must be avoided as much as possible, and the use of heavy machinery must be restricted in areas of the intended prospecting sites.</li> <li>• Storage spaces must be located outside of the buffer zones.</li> </ul>	NWA	Throughout prospecting activities
Transportation / access to and from drill sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Operation</li> </ul>	short term and localized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drill sites should be located along existing access roads whenever possible to minimize the need for additional access roads.</li> <li>• All prospecting/operational and access must make use of the existing roads as far as</li> </ul>	NEMA NEMBA CARA	Throughout prospecting



			<p>possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under no circumstances may the contractor damage any existing structures on the where the prospecting activities are to be undertaken</li> <li>• On-site vehicles must be restricted to approved access routes and locations on the site in order to reduce excessive environmental disturbance to the soil and vegetation on site.</li> <li>• Damage to public roads caused by prospecting activities must be repaired in consultation with the appropriate municipal authorities.</li> </ul>	NEMAQA NWA Dust Regulations	
Prospecting boreholes	Operation	0.2 ha, Short term and localized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimize the period of disturbance on fauna and flora, the duration of prospecting activities should be kept as short as possible.</li> <li>• To minimize the disturbance footprint, vegetation clearance for prospecting sites should be kept to a minimum.</li> <li>• Always adhere to approved plans to avoid encroachment on the sensitive areas.</li> <li>• The recommended buffer zones must be strictly adhered to. Buffer zones must be clearly demarcated and monitored as No-Go areas.</li> <li>• Adequate sanitary ablution facilities on the servitude must be provided for all personnel throughout the project area.</li> <li>• Prepare action plans and train contractors and staff in the case of spills, leaks, or other impacts to aquatic systems.</li> <li>• To prevent soil compaction, soil compacting must be avoided as much as possible, and the use of heavy machinery must be restricted in areas outside of the intended prospecting sites.</li> <li>• Dust-reducing mitigation measures must be implemented and strictly enforced, particularly for all roads and spoils. This includes watering exposed soft soil surfaces and not conducting activities on windy days, which increase the risk of dust generation.</li> <li>• Any potentially noisy activities or work should be undertaken at suitable times of the day. These works should not be carried out at night or on weekends.</li> <li>• Noise must be kept to an absolute minimum during the evenings and at night to minimize all possible disturbances to amphibian species and nocturnal mammals.</li> <li>• Outside lights should be directed away from sensitive environments such as wetlands. Fluorescent and mercury vapor lighting should be avoided, and instead use sodium vapor (yellow) illumination whenever possible.</li> <li>• To avoid migrating, nesting, and breeding seasons, prospecting activities and operations should be scheduled during the least sensitive periods.</li> <li>• The holes need to be sealed to ensure that no fauna species can fall in the drill hole.</li> <li>• On-site vehicles must be restricted to approved access routes and areas on the site in order to reduce excessive environmental disturbance to the soil and vegetation on the site.</li> <li>• Workforce should be kept within defined boundaries and to agreed access routes.</li> <li>• No invasive prospecting activities to be undertaken within 50m of a watercourse.</li> <li>• Should any watercourse be affected, then the necessary water use licences should be obtained from the Department of Water and Sanitation</li> <li>• No ablution or site laydown areas are to be located within 150m of a watercourse.</li> </ul>	SANS 10103 Noise Regulations NEMAQA Dust Regulations NWA	Throughout prospecting and decommissioning

Borehole closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decommissioning</li> <li>Closure</li> </ul>	Short term and localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When drilling and groundwater is encountered with, all affected prospecting boreholes that will not be required for any useful purposes should be closed and sealed with cement to minimize possible cross flow and contamination between aquifers.</li> <li>Because of the very high pH of the material and the chemicals contained within cement and liquid concrete, they are hazardous to the natural environment. Consequently, the contractor must ensure that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concrete shall not be mixed directly on the ground.</li> <li>The visible residues of concrete, whether solid or from washings, must be physically removed and disposed of as waste as soon as possible.</li> <li>All excess aggregate shall also be removed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NWA NEMWA NEMA	Throughout Decommissioning and Closure
Waste removal	Decommissioning	Short term and localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excess or waste material or chemicals, including drilling muds, must be removed from the site and, if possible, recycled (for example, oil and other hydrocarbon waste products). Any waste materials or chemicals that cannot be recycled must be disposed of at a waste facility that is properly licensed.</li> </ul>	NEMWA	Decommissioning
Surface infrastructure removal	Decommissioning	Short term and localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All infrastructure, equipment, and other items erected during prospecting activities shall be removed from the site.</li> <li>Soil compaction should be avoided as much as possible. Heavy machinery use must be prohibited in areas outside of proposed prospecting sites to reduce soil compaction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MPRDA</li> <li>Rehab Plan</li> </ul>	Decommissioning
Rehabilitation	Rehabilitation	All disturbed areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Areas of indigenous vegetation, even secondary communities outside of the direct project footprint, should under no circumstances be fragmented or disturbed further.</li> <li>Clearing of vegetation should be minimized and avoided where possible.</li> <li>Maintain small patches of natural vegetation within the prospecting site to accelerate restoration and succession of cleared patches.</li> <li>Areas that are denuded during prospecting need to be re-vegetated with indigenous vegetation to prevent erosion during flood events. This will also reduce the likelihood of encroachment by alien invasive plant species.</li> <li>All structure footprints to be rehabilitated and landscaped concurrently as the prospecting activities progress is complete.</li> <li>Topsoil must also be utilised, and any disturbed area must be re-vegetated with plant and grass species which are endemic to this vegetation type.</li> <li>Progressive rehabilitation will enable topsoil to be returned more rapidly, thus ensuring more recruitment from the existing seedbank.</li> <li>Any woody material removed can be shredded and used in conjunction with the topsoil to augment soil moisture and prevent further erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEMA</li> <li>OHS and MHS</li> <li>MPRDA Rehab Plan</li> </ul>	Decommissioning
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning</li> <li>Construction</li> <li>Operation</li> </ul>	Medium term, localised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the prospecting process to ensure that the community and landowners are kept informed and could address their concerns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NEMA</li> </ul>	Throughout Planning, construction and operation

## 15. Financial Provision

### 15.1. Determination of the amount of Financial Provision

#### 15.1.1 Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they have been aligned to the baseline environment described under the Regulation.

Prospecting activities should be carried out in a manner that enables for site rehabilitation and the restoration of existing land capacities. The following are the primary objectives of rehabilitation:

- The facilitation of the re-establishment of the land use and capability to as close as reasonable to the original conditions;
- Removal of all infrastructure and material introduced to site;
- Removal of all wastes and their disposal;
- Promotion of the rapid re-establishment of the natural vegetation and the restoration of the site ecology;

The disturbed areas shall be rehabilitated to ensure that:

- The biodiversity habitat is encouraging the new land use after the prospecting activities;
- Eliminate any safety risk associated with drill holes and sumps through adequate drillhole capping and backfilling;
- Environment and resources are not subjected to physical and chemical deterioration;
- The site is reversed to almost its original state;
- The after-use of the site is beneficial and sustainable in a long term; and
- All socio-economic benefits are maximized

Removal of all generated wastes constructed infrastructure, and materials, re-vegetation of disturbed and cleared areas, rehabilitation of access roads to ensure the growth of existing grasses and plant species, and clean-up of hydrocarbon spillages form part of the rehabilitation plan.

#### 15.1.2. Confirm specifically that the environmental objectives in relation to closure have been consulted with landowner and interested and affected parties.

This Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme will be available to each registered stakeholder for review and comment. All comments will be captured in the CRR and will be included into the report.

#### 15.1.3. Provide a rehabilitation plan that describes and shows the scale and aerial extent of the main mining activities, including the anticipated mining area at the time of closure.

Because of the nature of the activities, the impacts will be confined and temporary. The management plan was created in such a manner that concurrent rehabilitation is attainable. Following the completion of planned invasive activities, Saqondisana will ensure that the site is returned to its former state by carrying out the following measures:

- Removing all infrastructures, including the drill rig, the mobile diesel tank, the mobile water tank, and the chemical toilet;
- The whole drill site will be inspected for any signs of hydrocarbon spillages. Any identified soil which has been polluted because of the drilling activities will be removed and disposed of in a registered landfill site;
- Ensure that no material (plastics, papers, pipes) is left behind on the drill site; and
- Any area compacted because of the drill rig will be ripped and any furrows created by accessing or leaving the site for the drilling activity will be filled in to ensure that no future erosion shall occur on site.

15.1.4. Explain why it can be confirmed that the rehabilitation plan is compatible with the closure objectives.

The areas where drilling will take place will be the most impacted. The activities in this instance will be transient in nature, and a detailed management plan has been developed to address any potential repercussions.

**15.1.5. Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline.**

A financial provision of approximately **R62549.00** has been budgeted for the prospecting programme over 5 years, for rehabilitation activities.

The financial provision calculations were undertaken in terms of the guidelines provided within the “DMR Guideline Document for The Evaluation of The Quantum of Closure-Related Financial Provision Provided by a Mine” (DMR, 2005). The closure components for the prospecting activities are summarised on the table.

**15.1.6. Confirm that the financial provision will be provided as determined.**

Should Prospecting Right be granted, Saqondisana will make provision for the estimated closure cost by means of a Bank Guarantee or any other means available and accepted by the Competent Authority.

**16. Mechanisms for monitoring compliance with and performance assessment against the environmental management programme and reporting thereon, including**

- 16.1. Monitoring of Impact Management Actions
- 16.2. Monitoring and reporting frequency
- 16.3. Responsible persons
- 16.4. Time period for implementing impact management actions
- 16.5. Mechanism for monitoring compliance

Table 26: Compliance Monitoring and Frequency

Source Activity	Impacts Requiring Monitoring Programmes	Functional Requirements for Monitoring	Roles and Responsibilities	Monitoring and Reporting Frequency and Time Periods for Implementation
Desktop studies and acquisition of historic data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Geological field mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Remote sensing and Geophysical Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Site establishment -Vegetation clearance -Alien vegetation removal -Vehicle and equipment movement -Placing of infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance of Flora and Fauna;</li> <li>• Impacts on soils and land capability;</li> <li>• Contamination of water resources and deterioration of water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document control;</li> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists; and</li> <li>• Report review and Development of actions plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors Environmental Representative;</li> <li>• Environmental specialist, ECO; and</li> <li>• Senior Environmental Management Officer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once-off control of documents, site visit and reporting;</li> <li>• Monthly site visits;</li> <li>• Monthly Reports; and</li> <li>• Annual Performance Assessment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater quality deterioration;</li> <li>• Noise and dust generation; and</li> <li>• Visual and topography disturbance</li> </ul>			
Target Prospecting Boreholes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alien vegetation management ;</li> <li>• Noise nuisance;</li> <li>• Air quality due to dust generation; and</li> <li>• Surface and groundwater management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists;</li> <li>• Report review and development of corrective action plans;</li> <li>• Inspection of surface water features; and</li> <li>• Survey of groundwater users and use within 5km of the invasive prospecting sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors Environmental Representative;</li> <li>• Environmental specialist;</li> <li>• ECO;</li> <li>• Senior Environmental Management; and</li> <li>• Geohydrologist (if required)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once-off control of documents site visit and reporting;</li> <li>• Monthly site visits;</li> <li>• Monthly Reports Annual Performance; and</li> <li>• Prior to invasive prospecting activities and monitoring post-prospecting.</li> </ul>
Ablutions - Chemical Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater contamination; and</li> <li>• Health impacts on workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractor Environmental Representative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily inspections and checklists</li> </ul>
Access Route (Existing roads to be utilised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dust generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors Environmental Representative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly inspections and checklists</li> </ul>
Temporary general waste storage (General/domestic waste)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual disturbances;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly inspections and checklists</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soils contamination; and</li> <li>• Surface water and Groundwater contamination</li> </ul>	checklists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Representative</li> </ul>	
Temporary hazardous waste storage (Hazardous waste – Sealed Container)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water and groundwater contamination; and</li> <li>• Soils contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors</li> <li>• Environmental Representative</li> </ul>	Weekly inspections and checklists
Undertake decommissioning and rehabilitation as per the rehabilitation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alien vegetation management;</li> <li>• Fire management plan;</li> <li>• Noise generation; and</li> <li>• Air quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists; and</li> <li>• Report review and development of corrective action plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors</li> <li>• Environmental Representative;</li> <li>• Environmental specialist, ECO;</li> <li>• Senior Environmental Management Officer; and</li> <li>• Surface water specialist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly site visits; and</li> <li>• Monthly Reports and Annual Performance Assessments</li> </ul>
Monitoring of rehabilitation efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Impacts Identified in the EMPr</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site Inspections and checklists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECO; and</li> <li>• Independent Environmental Auditor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly reports</li> </ul>



## **17. Indicate the frequency of the submission of the performance assessment/ environmental audit report.**

Annual environmental performance audit report will be undertaken alternating between internal and independent EAP after the granting of the authorisation. It requires the holder of the authorisation to ensure compliance with all the conditions of the EA and/or the EMPr, and of which the conduct of the proposed activities must be audited against these conditions. It is also recommended that an internal audit specified in the previous section be carried out on an annual basis, at least before the independent audit. This audit report must then be submitted to the competent authority. This audit report must adhere to the following conditions:

- Be prepared by an **independent** person with the relevant environmental auditing expertise.
- Provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on-
  - (i) the level of performance against and compliance of an organization or project with the provisions of the requisite environmental authorisation or EMPr and, where applicable, the closure plan; and
  - (ii) the ability of the measures contained in the EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan, to sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
- Contain the information set out in Appendix 7 of GN R. 326; and
- Be conducted and submitted to the competent authority at intervals as indicated in the environmental authorisation.

The purpose of this audit report is also defined in the regulations and is as follows:

- Determine the ability of the EMPr, and where applicable the closure plan, to sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity on an ongoing basis and to sufficiently provide for the avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the closure of the project area; and
- Determine the level of compliance with the provisions of environmental authorisation, EMPr and where applicable the closure plan.

## **18. Environmental Awareness Plan and Training**

Training and environmental awareness is an integral part of a complete EMPr. The overall aim of the training will be to ensure that all site staff are informed of their relevant requirements and obligations pertaining to the relevant authorizations, licenses, permits and the approved EMPR and protection of the environment.

The applicant and contractor must ensure that all relevant employees are trained and capable of carrying out their duties in an environmentally responsible and compliant manner and can comply with

the relevant environmental requirements. To obtain buy-in from staff, individual employees need to be involved in:

- Identifying the relevant risks;
- Understanding the nature of risks;
- Devising risk controls; and
- Given incentive to implement the controls in terms of legal obligations.

The applicant shall ensure that adequate environmental training takes place. All employees shall be given an induction presentation on environmental awareness. Where possible, the presentation needs to be conducted in the language of the employees. All training must be formally recorded, and attendance registers retained. The environmental training should, as a minimum, include the following:

- General background and definition to the environment;
- The importance of compliance with all environmental policies;
- The environmental impacts, actual or potential, of their work activities;
- Compliance with mitigation measures proposed for sensitive areas;
- The environmental benefits of improved personal performance;
- Their roles and responsibilities in achieving compliance with the environmental policy and procedures and with the requirement of the applicant's environmental management systems including emergency preparedness and response requirements;
- The potential consequences (legal and/or other) of departure from specified operating procedures;
- The mitigation measures required to be implemented when carrying out their work activities;
- Discussions are required on sensitive environmental receptors within the project area to inform contractors and site staff of the presence of Red / Orange List species, their identification, conservation status and importance, biology, habitat requirements and management requirements of the Environmental Authorisation and within the EMP; and
- All operational risks must be identified, and processes established to mitigate such risk, proactively. Thus, the applicant needs to inform the employees of any environmental risks that may result from their work, and how these risks must be dealt with to avoid pollution and/or degradation of the environment.

In the case of new staff (including contract labour) the contractor / applicant shall keep a signed register of attendance for proof and record of adequate environmental induction training.

### **18.1. Way the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work.**

Environmental awareness could be fostered by induction course for all personnel on site, before commencing site visits. Personnel should also be alerted to environmental concerns associated with their tasks for the area in which they are working. Courses must be given by suitably qualified personnel and in a language and medium understood by personnel. The environmental awareness training programme will include the following:

- Occupational Health and Safety Training (OHS)
- Environmental Awareness Training on EMPr management actions.

Environmental awareness training will focus on the following specific aspects and be undertaken in “Toolbox talk “topics prior to site access:

- Waste collection and disposal;
- Sensitive environmental receptors;
- Identification of Red/ Orange List species, conservation status and importance, biology, habitat requirements and management requirements of the environmental authorisation and EMPr; and
- EMPr management options and application.

### **18.2. Manner in which risks will be dealt with to avoid pollution or degradation.**

The broad measures to control or remedy any causes of pollution or environmental degradation because of the proposed prospecting activities taking place are provided below:

- Contain potential pollutants and contaminants (where possible) at source;
- Handling of potential pollutants and contaminants (where possible) must be conducted in bunded areas and on impermeable substrates;
- Ensure the timeous clean-up of any spills;
- Implement a waste management system for all waste stream present on site; and
- Investigate any I&AP claims of pollution or contamination because of prospecting activities

It is of critical importance that the broad measures to control or remedy any causes of pollution or environmental degradation are applied during onsite prospecting activities.

### **19. Specific information required by the Competent Authority**

(Among others, confirm that the financial provision will be reviewed annually).

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 23(3) of the EIA 2014 Regulations (as amended) the EIA should include all information required as set out in Appendix 3 and in terms of Regulation 23(4) the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) should contain all information required as set out in Appendix 4. The EIA report must include the following:

- Details of the EAP who prepared the report and the expertise of the EAP, including a

curriculum vitae;

- A plan, which locates the proposed activity or activities applied for as well as the associated structures and infrastructure at an appropriate scale;
- A description of the scope of the proposed activity;
- A description of the policy and legislative context within which the development is located and an explanation of how the proposed development complies with and responds to the legislation and policy context;
- A motivation for the need and desirability for the proposed development, including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location;
- A full public participation process including a CRR in the BAR;
- Impact Assessment, including methodology, of the necessary environmental aspects, including the nature, significance, extent, duration, and probability of the impacts occurring, positive and negative impacts, including mitigation and monitoring measures;
- An assessment of the proposed alternatives;
- A complete EMPr;
- The financial provision for the environmental liability which will be reviewed annually;
- An impact statement from the EAP, specific information the Competent Authority may require, and conditions for approval; and
- An EAP oath regarding the correctness of information provided in the report.

## 20. UNDERTAKING

The EAP herewith confirms;

- the correctness of the information provided in the reports; ☑
- the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs; ☑
- the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and
- that the information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties are correctly reflected herein ☑.



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Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

Name of company: Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting

Date: 04 September 2024

**-END-**



Appendix 1:

Appendix 1: CV for the EAP

# SUNDAY MISHACK MABASO

12 Thaxted Ave Mulbarton 2190 · 0745697312/0824614251

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## BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Sunday Mabaso is the founder and CEO of Vahleingwe Mining Advisory and Consulting. He's got extensive experience in mineral regulation gained from spending over 20 years (2000 – 2021) with the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) where he served his last seven years as Regional Manager (3 years in Northern Cape and 4 years in Gauteng) before his resignation to advance his career in business. In 2020 was nominated to the Task Team that developed the "South Africa's Exploration Implementation Plan" where he served to its completion and officially gazetted by Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy in 2022.

He holds a National Diploma in Mine Surveying and a National Higher Diploma in Mineral Resource Management from Technikon Witwatersrand in 1999 and 2000 respectively, a Graduate Diploma (GDE) in Mining Engineering from University of Witwatersrand in 2009 and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Milpark Business School in 2021. Sunday also completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Climate Change and Energy Law from University of the Witwatersrand in 2021, a Certificate in Energy Efficiency and Sustainability from the University of Cape Town (UCT) in 2022 and Certificate in Mine Closure and Land Rehabilitation from University of Pretoria (UP) in 2022.

Sunday is a registered member of the Institute of Directors of South Africa (IoDSA), the Southern Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) and is an Environmental Assessment Practitioner registered with EAPASA, also a member of the International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIASa). A committee member of the Environmental, Social and Governance (SAMESG) working group of the SAMCODES Standard Committee (SSC) responsible for developing the South African Mineral Reporting Codes. He has authored opinion and journal articles about South African mining legislation with interests focused on social and environmental impacts on mine communities affected by mining operations, past and present. Some of his articles are published in academic journals and books internationally.



## **PUBLICATIONS**

Mabaso, SM. (2023) Legacy Gold Mine Sites & Dumps in the Witwatersrand: Challenges and Required Action. *Natural Resources*, 14, 65-77. <https://doi.org/10.4236/nr.2023.145005>

Mabaso, SM. (2023). Social and Environmental Challenges caused by Legacy Gold Mining in Johannesburg: Government's Action Plan. eBook: ISBN: 978-81-19491-53-7. DOI: 10.9734/bpi/npgees/v9/10672F

Ramontja, T. and Mabaso, S. 2022. *Evolution of South Africa's Mining Regulatory Framework as it Relates to the Empowerment and Participation of Mining Communities*. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07048-8\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07048-8_6)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- EAPASA: Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) No 2022/4485
- International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIASa) No 7442
- Southern Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) No 709244
- Institute of Directors in South Africa (M.Inst.D)
- Land Rehabilitation Society of Southern Africa (LaRSSA)
- International Society for Development and Sustainability (ISDS)

## **COMMITTEES**

- South African Mineral Reporting Codes (SAMCODES) Standards Committee, 2016 to 2021
- SAMCODES-ESG Subcommittee – 2021 to date

## **EXPERIENCE**

**01 MAY 2021 – DATE**

**FOUNDER AND CEO: VAHLENGWE MINING ADVISORY AND CONSULTING**

### **CORE SERVICES**

- MPRDA and NEMA
- Mining Charter
- Environmental, Social and Governance - ESG
- Mine Closure and Rehabilitation
- Waste Management
- Carbon Tax Reporting
- Compliance Inspections
- Assistance to junior and small-scale miners

**01 AUGUST 2014 – 30 APRIL 2021**

**REGIONAL MANAGER, DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY**

**(NORTHERN CAPE –AUGUST 2014 TO APRIL 2017 AND GAUTENG – MAY 2017 TO APRIL 2021)**

- Effective implementation and administration of the MPRDA
- Implementation and administration of Environmental Management policies and regulations in terms of NEMA and NEM: Waste Act
- Implementation and administration of Social and Labour Plans in terms of MPRDA
- Evaluation of Mining and Prospecting Work Programs and monitoring compliance
- Management of Land Use in mining areas to promote development and coexistence.
- Management of community development through implementation of the Mining Charter
- Promoting participation of Historically Disadvantaged South Africans in the mining economy and the value chain
- Management of relations and conflict resolutions between mining communities and mining companies
- Management of Financial and Administrative systems and procedures in the Regional Office
- Provide support and advisory to the Deputy Director General in the department

**01 APRIL 2007 – 31 JULY 2014**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR: MINE ECONOMICS, DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES**

- Adjudication of mineral rights applications and manage sustainability of mining operations in line with the Mining/Prospecting Work programs.
- Monitor compliance through inspections and issuing of compliance directives.
- Assisting junior coal miners to access export markets through the Quattro Task team.
- Assist new entrants and junior miners in the mining industry.
- Conduct asset and mineral valuations for tax purposes and Section 11 applications

**01 DECEMBER 2000 – 31 MARCH 2007**

**INSPECTOR OF MINES, DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY**

- Monitor compliance with the Mine Health and Safety Act in the mines.
- Provide technical advice on conflict between land development and mining operations.

**25 JANUARY 2000 – 30 NOVEMBER 2000**

**MINE SURVEYOR, TAVISTOCK COLLIERIES**

**05 AUGUST 1994 – 31 DECEMBER 2000**

**LEARNER OFFICIAL AND BURSAR, TAVISTOCK COLLIERIES**

## **EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 2018 TO JULY 2021**

**MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MILPARK BUSINESS SCHOOL**

- Advanced Business Research Methodology
- Business Ethics and Corporate Governance
- Business in Emerging Markets
- Business Report Writing, Quantitative Analysis and Presentation Skills
- Dissertation
- General Management Environment

- Global Trade (Macro-economic – BRICS – Developing Markets)
- Integrated Business Strategy
- Leadership and Change Management
- Management Accounting and Finance (part 1)
- Management Accounting and Finance (part 2)
- Marketing and Sales Management
- Operations and Technology Management
- People Management
- Social Responsibility and Environmental Management

#### **JUNE 2022 TO NOVEMBER 2022**

##### **CERTIFICATE: MINE CLOSURE AND LAND REHABILITATION, UNIVERSITY OF RETORIA (UP)**

- Closure Design
- Regional Planning considerations and operational mitigation
- Land preparation and soil management
- Land cover/surface stabilization-economic value
- Maintenance and land management systems
- Identifying closure planning challenges and problem areas
- Mine closure planning consideration
- Closure document required Baseline environment and closure risks
- Closure success criteria and rehabilitation monitoring
- Financial provisioning and social planning

#### **OCTOBER 2021 TO DECEMBER 2021**

##### **CERTIFICATE: ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT)**

- Energy -importance, Strategy and Challenges
- Energy Metrics, Economics and Efficiency
- Energy-efficient and Sustainable Buildings
- Energy-efficiency management and technologies in buildings
- Energy-efficiency management and technologies in industrial sector
- Energy auditing
- Energy measurement verification and management systems

#### **MARCH 2021 TO JULY 2021**

##### **POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY LAW, UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND**

- Climate Change and Energy
- Energy Law Concepts and Economics
- Theories of Energy and Climate Regulation
- Sources of Energy: Fossil Fuels
- Sources of Energy: Petroleum Sector
- Sources of Energy: Gas Sector
- The South African Electricity Supply Industry
- Climate Change Law and Policy Framework
- Energy, Climate Change & Just Transition
- Nuclear as a Source of Electricity

- Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Management
- Regulation of Energy Procurement

**OCTOBER 2014 TO JANUARY 2015**

**CERTIFICATE IN BASIC TRAINING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MINERAL RESOURCE INSPECTORS,  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

- Constitutional Background
- NEMA and MPRDA framework legislation
- Sustainable Development
- EIA process, Scoping reports, and review of EA applications and Integrated EAs
- WASTE Act
- The Air Quality Act
- The Environmental Conservation Act
- The National Water Act
- The Integrated Coastal Management Act
- The Biodiversity Act
- The Protected Areas Act
- Administrative Law
- Criminal Enforcement
- Special forms of Liability
- Powers of Environmental Mineral Resources Inspectors-EMRI
- Ethics, Health and Safety and relevant issues
- Sampling
- Inspections
- Investigations
- Appeals
- Exemptions and exceptional circumstances

**MARCH 2006 TO NOVEMBER 2008**

**GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MINING ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF WITWATERSRAND**

- Mineral Economics
- Mineral Policy and Investment
- Compliance and Reporting Rules in the Mining Industry
- Economic Geology of South African Coal
- Coal extraction and Exploitation
- Coal and the Environment

**JULY 1999 TO JULY 2000**

**NATIONAL HIGHER DIPLOMA, MINERAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, TECHNIKON  
WITWATERSRAND**

**JULY 1996 TO MAY 1999**

**NATIONAL DIPLOMA, MINE SURVEYING, TECHNIKON WITWATERSRAND**

## SKILLS

- In-depth understanding of the mining industry and its economic value chain
- In-depth understanding of the regulatory and compliance regime in the mining industry
- In-depth understanding of the value of mining in the South African and Global economy
- Good communication skills
- Conflict resolution
- Good decision making
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Time management
- Good Leadership and management

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

I'm a male South African Tsonga speaking citizen, born on 29 November 1976 in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga Province where I started my primary schooling at Mpikaniso Primary school in 1983 and matriculated at Orhovelani High School in 1993.

I'm currently married with four children and residing in Mulbarton, Johannesburg South since June 2017 after my transfer from the Kimberly as the Regional Manager of the Northern Cape to the Johannesburg office where I also served as Regional Manager for the Gauteng Region until 30 April 2021 upon resignation.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PERSONAL HOBBIES

I'm currently involved in community development projects in Bushbuckridge through career guidance, cultural activities, and sport to guide the youth to focus on their vision and education goals as part of giving back to my community and assist the future generation. I have sponsored soccer kits, traditional dancing activities and motivational seminars in my village since 2009.

My personal hobbies include playing golf, watching, and following soccer, rugby, and other national sporting codes. Mentoring my kids through schoolwork and sport. I spend more time outside work with my family to groom my kids to become better citizens and leaders of the future generation.

## REFERENCES

Mr Mosa Mabuza  
Chief Executive Officer  
Council for Geoscience  
012 841 1911  
082449 8650  
[mmabuza@geoscience.org.za](mailto:mmabuza@geoscience.org.za)

Dr Thibedi Ramontja  
Former Director General: DMRE  
Currently Director: School of Mining  
University of Witwatersrand  
083 388 9122  
[thibedi.ramontja@wits.ac.za](mailto:thibedi.ramontja@wits.ac.za) /  
[Ramontja2@gmail.com](mailto:Ramontja2@gmail.com)

Dr Tania Marshall  
Director: School of Mining  
University of Witwatersrand  
082 611 3388  
[marshall.tania@gmail.com](mailto:marshall.tania@gmail.com)



**Environmental Assessment  
Practitioners Association  
of South Africa**



Registration No. 2022/4485

***Herewith certifies that***

**Sunday Mishack Mabaso**

***is registered as an***

**Environmental Assessment Practitioner**

***Registered in accordance with the prescribed criteria of Regulation 15. (1)  
of the Section 24H Registration Authority Regulations  
(Regulation No. 849, Gazette No. 40154 of 22 July 2016, of the  
National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998, as  
amended).***

Effective: 01 March 2024

Expires: 28 February 2025

Chairperson

Registrar





# CECIL DAU

## **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

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Cecil Dau is an **Aspiring Professional Senior Environmental Quality Consultant and an Environmental Officer** holding his **Bachelor of Earth Sciences (Honours) in Mining and Environmental Geology** from the University of Venda and currently busy with his **Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Management** at the University of South Africa. Cecil further **has more than Four (4) years' experience** working as an **Environmental Consultant, Research Assistant Graduate, and an Environmental Officer Intern**. Cecil always believes that his hands-on experience coupled with the growing knowledge he gained during his studies and during field work prepared him to make a solid contribution in any **Environmental Management related field**. **With a solid foundation in Environmental Management**, Cecil is always prepared to put his knowledge and abilities to deliver the best results in everything that he does, while gaining immeasurable experience and skills to advance in his career pursuit. Cecil is a self-motivated, goal orientated, driven and an individual who believes in lifting and empowering others through the knowledge he has acquired, and experiences gained overtime.

## **PERSONAL DETAILS**

---

Contact	:	076 267 0743
E-mail address	:	cecil.dau@gmail.com
Location	:	Johannesburg, Gauteng
Nationality	:	South African
EE	:	Black Male
Licence	:	Code 10-C1

## **CORECOMPETENCIES**

---

- **Competent in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook, and SAP.**
- Good understanding of applicable laws, standards, and specifications.
- **Excellent report writing and presentation skills.**
- **Excellent Verbal and Visual hazards communication.**
- **High levels of accuracy by keeping attention to detail and correctness.**
- **Excellent Knowledge of ArcGIS.**
- **Excellent knowledge of regulatory organizations.**
- **Always maintain a proactive approach in the working environment for ease in taking ownership and accountability.**
- **Excellent knowledge of how to pass inspections.**
- Ability to accurately track inventory and compile reports.
- **Good demonstration of the genuine concern for people.**
- Highly motivated, energetic, Sound judgement and good reasoning abilities.
- Good managerial and interpersonal skills and ability to work under pressure.
- Time management, Organizational and planning skills.
- **Great team player and can work well independently.**



## **EXPERIENCE**

**[Environmental Consultant]**

**[Vahlegwe Mining Advisory and Consulting]**

**[August 2022– Present]**

### **Duties Include:**

- Conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (BAR and S&EIR) and Environmental Management Plan/Programme for prospecting, mining rights and mining permits.
- Coordinate the project Public Participation Process
- GIS functions
- Conduct mining and environmental compliance audits and write reports thereon.
- Write the annual reports for the projects.
- To maintain a proper filing system
- To give regular updates to clients on the progress of the work being carried out on the projects.

## **PROJECTS EXPERIENCE**

### **Cradle Vision (Pty) Ltd: GP 30/5/1/2/2 (10115) MR**

Mining Right Application of sand in respect of Portion of Portion 153 of the Farm Hekpoort 504 JQ, in the Magisterial district of Krugersdorp, Gauteng Province.

### **Analiza Boerdery (Pty) Ltd. GP30/5/1/1/2 (10488) MP**

Mining Permit Application of Aggregate, Dimension Stone and Sand (General) for Analiza Boerdery (Pty) Ltd in Respect of Portion of Portion 30 of the Farm Boschoek 385 IR in the Magisterial district of Heidelberg.

### **Seriso 655 (Pty) Ltd. GP30/5/1/1/2 (10489) MP**

Mining Permit Application of Aggregate, Dimension Stone and Sand (General) for Seriso 655 (Pty) Ltd in Respect of Portion of Portion 30 of the Farm Boschoek 385 IR in the Magisterial district of Heidelberg.

### **Gomez Trading (Pty) Ltd. LP 30/5/1/1/2/ 14905 PR**

Prospecting Right Application of Antimony Ore (Sb), Emerald (Gemstone), Feldspar (Gemstone), Gemstones (except Diamonds), Gold Ore (Au) and Mica in Respect of Portion 1 and the Remainder of Mahale 718 LT and the Remainder of Paul 07 KU (Belasting 07 LU), in the Magisterial District of Mopani, Limpopo Province.

### **Aquarella Investments 389 (Pty) Ltd. LP 30/5/1/1/2/ 14906 PR**

Prospecting Right Application of Feldspar, Feldspar (Gemstone) and Mica in Respect of the Farm Eerste Geluk 790 IS, in the Magisterial District of Capricorn, Limpopo Province.

## **EXPERIENCE**

**[Research Assistant Graduate]**

**[Water Research Commission]**

**[December 2021– July 2022]**

### **Duties Include:**

- Performed Geographic Information System analysis for Bathymetric Survey research.
- Literature reviews and data mining from websites or documents from different sources.
- Contributed as an assistant in laboratorial analyses in the lab.
- Organised and processed results, report to senior researcher and any other ad-hoc duties as assigned by senior researcher.
- Participated in professional development activities i.e. attended courses such as GIS.

**[Environmental Officer Intern]  
[April 2018– March 2020]**

**[GDARD/ Enforcement S24G]**

**Duties Include:**

- Processing of applications received in terms of Section 24G NEMA.
- Issued S24G decisions in terms of S24G (2) (whether to authorise for the continuation of the listed activity, or direct to cease and rehabilitate).
- Issued Compliance Notices where there is non-compliance to the directive issued in terms of S24G (2) of NEMA.
- Reviewed and approve Environmental Rehabilitation Plans.
- Conducted Compliance Monitoring of issued Directives (S24G (1) and S24G (2))/Compliance Notices/Rehabilitation Plans.
- Referred matter to Prosecutions where there is failure to comply with any stage of the S24G process.
- Provided appeal responses to appeals lodged against Compliance Notices/Directives/Admin Fines issued by the sub-directorate.
- Responded to queries from the Public regarding the S24G process/applications.

**EDUCATION**

---

**Institution** : University of South Africa  
**Qualification** : **Bachelor of Science Honours in Environmental Management**  
**Status** : **In-Progress**

**Institution** : University of Venda  
**Qualification** : **Bachelor of Earth Sciences Honours in Mining and Environmental Geology**  
**Status** : **Completed**

**Short Courses**

**Institution** : (CEM)\_North-West University  
**Course** : **Environmental Impact Assessment for Reviews**

**Institution** : Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa  
**Course** : **Hazardous Waste Training Programme**

**Institution** : Zambezi Pride  
**Course** : **Solid Waste Management Hybrid Conference**

**Institution** : Com Consulting  
**Course** : **Social & Labour Plans (SLPs) and (IDPs)**

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

- EAPASA Candidate (Reg. No. 2021/4434)
- SACNASP Candidate (154069)

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

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- Ensure compliance monitoring and Enforcement of South African Environmental Legislations.
- Good understanding of Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, National Environmental Management Act and Strategic Environmental Management Acts, i.e. Environmental Conservation Act, Biodiversity Act, Protected Areas Act, Waste Management Act, Air Quality Act, and Water Act

- Good understanding of Environmental Impact Assessment, Waste Management and Air Quality Regulations.
- The implementation of Section 24G read with S24F and 7 of NEMA (Amendment) (Act No 8 of 2004) and Section 24G read with S24F and 12(3) of NEMA (Amendments) (Act 62 of 2008)

## **GOALS**

- **To achieving my set goals and keeping myself dynamic in the changing scenario to become a Senior Environmental Quality Consultant.**
- To become an excellent **Environmental Consultant** taking up challenging works in the Industrial structure with creative and diversified Projects and to be part of a Constructive and fast-Growing World.
- To make a position for myself in the competitive corporate world and contribute to achieving the goals on both professional and personal level.
- **To work in an environment that challenges me to improve and constantly thrive for perfection in all the tasks allotted to me so that I can be able to showcase my Environmental Management Skills.**

## **REFERENCES**

Name and Surname: Ms. Nonhlanhla Mogakane  
 Position: Senior Environmental Consultant, Vahlengwe Mining  
 Contact details: 084 649 3096/ Nonhlanhla@vahlengweadvisory.co.za  
 Availability: Monday-Friday, 9:00-15:00

Name and Surname: Dr Lindani Ncube  
 Position: Lecture: Department of Environmental Science, UNISA  
 Contact details: 082 612 1249/ Ncubel@unisa.ac.za  
 Availability: Monday-Friday, 9:00-15:00

Name and Surname: Mrs. Omolayo Ilemobade  
 Position: Assistant Director: Enforcement/ S24G, GDARD  
 Contact details: 011 240 3022/ Omolayo.Ilemobade@gauteng.gov.za  
 Availability: Monday-Friday, 9:00-15:00



**Environmental Assessment  
Practitioners Association  
of South Africa**



Registration No. 2021/4434

***Herewith certifies that***

Cecil Dau

***is registered as an***

**Candidate Environmental Assessment  
Practitioner**

***Registered in accordance with the prescribed criteria of Regulation 15. (1)  
of the Section 24H Registration Authority Regulations  
(Regulation No. 849, Gazette No. 40154 of 22 July 2016, of the  
National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act No. 107 of 1998, as  
amended).***

Effective: 01 March 2024

Expires: 28 February 2025

Chairperson

Registrar







## CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME : Brunella Khanyile Mgiba-Mutero  
DATE OF BIRTH : 07 June 1995  
PROFESSION/ SPECIALISATION : Environmental Consultant (Trainee)  
NATIONALITY : South African  
EXPERIENCE : 1 Year  
LANGUAGES : English, Xitsonga  
CIVIL STATUS : Married

### KEY QUALIFICATIONS

I hold a Higher Certificate in Life and Environmental Science from University of South Africa, and currently enrolled for Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Management with the University of South Africa. I am also enrolled with Coursera for an online short course for Impacts of the Environment on Global Public health by University of Michigan.

### EXPERIENCE

[Environmental Consultant (Trainee)] [Vahlegwe Mining Advisory and Consulting]

#### Duties Include:

- Conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (BAR and S&EIR) and Environmental Management Plan/Programme for prospecting, mining rights and mining permits.
- Collect application for Water Use License Applications.
- Conduct mining and environmental compliance audits and write reports thereon.
- Write the annual reports for the projects.
- To maintain a proper filing system
- To give regular updates to clients on the progress of the work being carried out on the projects.

### EDUCATION

Institution : University of South Africa  
Qualification : Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Management  
Status : In-Progress

Institution : University of South Africa  
Qualification : Higher Certificate in Life and Environmental Science  
Status : Completed

Appendix 2:



Appendix 2A: Locality Map and Regulation 2(2)

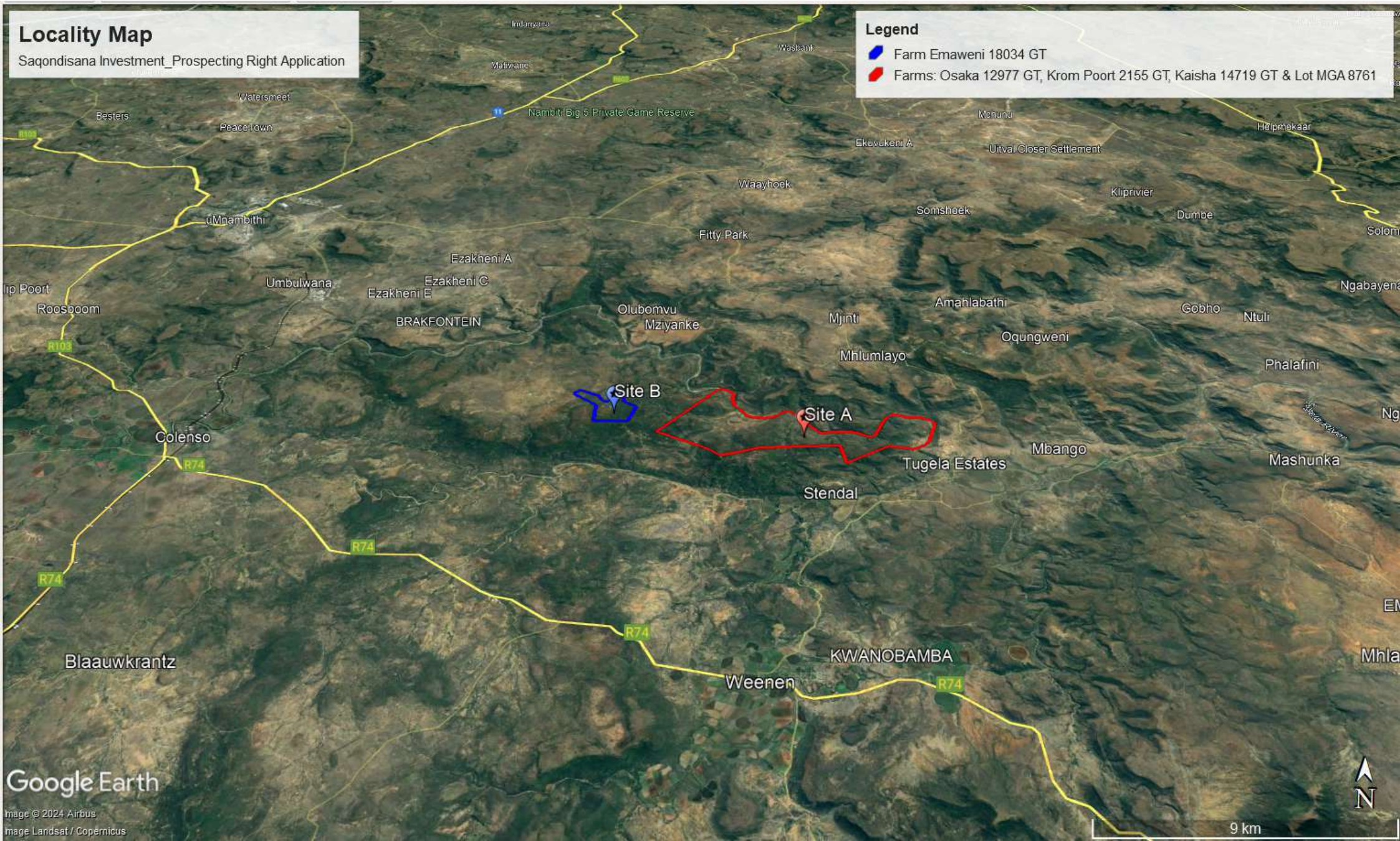


# Locality Map

Saqondisana Investment\_Prospecting Right Application

## Legend

-  Farm Emaweni 18034 GT
-  Farms: Osaka 12977 GT, Krom Poort 2155 GT, Kaisha 14719 GT & Lot MGA 8761



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus  
Image Landsat / Copernicus

9 km



FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PROSPECTING RIGHT IN TERMS OF SECTION 16 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT 28 OF 2002)

**Legend**

- Points location
- ▭ PR Application (Site\_A)
- ▭ PR Application\_(Site B)

Plan Approved

Regional Manager: Kwazulu-Natal  
Signature:.....  
Date:.....

Surveyor:  
Signature:.....  
Date:.....

Applicant:  
Signature:.....  
Date:.....

**LOCALITY MAP**



**CO-ORDINATE SYSTEM**  
**WGS84 Lo29**

**VAHLENGWE MINING ADVISORY AND CONSULTING**

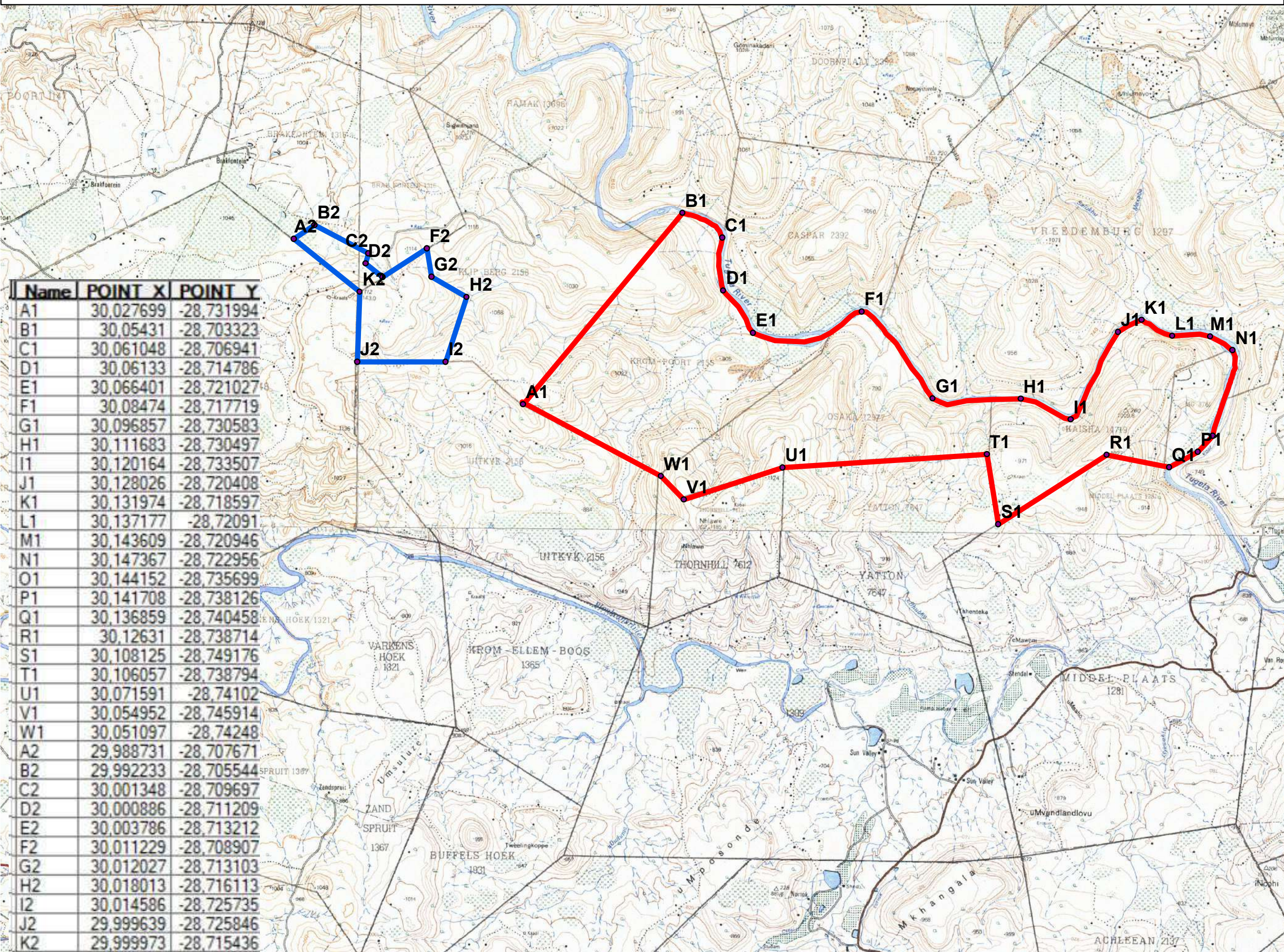
**JOHANNESBURG SOUTH**

Help Desk	Tel +27 (0) 11 432 0062
238 Vorster Ave Street	Fax +27 (0) 11 432 0062
Glenvista 2058	Email info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za

**LIABILITY CLAUSE :**  
This map was compiled from a variety of data sets and Vahlengwe Advisory does not accept any responsibility for the inaccuracy of the data.

THE FIGURE NUMBERED: A1-W1 REPRESENT SITE A OF A PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION AREA APPROXIMATELY 2405.95 HECTERS IN RESPECT OF FARM OSAKA 12977 GT, KROM POORT 2155 GT, KAISHA 1471 GT, LOT MGA 8762 GT AND RAVINE 9201 GT IN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF ESTCOURT.

THE FIGURE NUMBERED: A2-K2 REPRESENTS SITE B OF THE PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION AREA APPROXIMATELY 300.80 HECTERS IN RESPECT OF FARM EMAWENI 18034 GT WITHIN THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF ESTCOURT, KWAZULULU-NATAL PROVINCE



Name	POINT X	POINT Y
A1	30,027699	-28,731994
B1	30,05431	-28,703323
C1	30,061048	-28,706941
D1	30,06133	-28,714786
E1	30,066401	-28,721027
F1	30,08474	-28,717719
G1	30,096857	-28,730583
H1	30,111683	-28,730497
I1	30,120164	-28,733507
J1	30,128026	-28,720408
K1	30,131974	-28,718597
L1	30,137177	-28,72091
M1	30,143609	-28,720946
N1	30,147367	-28,722956
O1	30,144152	-28,735699
P1	30,141708	-28,738126
Q1	30,136859	-28,740458
R1	30,12631	-28,738714
S1	30,108125	-28,749176
T1	30,106057	-28,738794
U1	30,071591	-28,74102
V1	30,054952	-28,745914
W1	30,051097	-28,74248
A2	29,988731	-28,707671
B2	29,992233	-28,705544
C2	30,001348	-28,709697
D2	30,000886	-28,711209
E2	30,003786	-28,713212
F2	30,011229	-28,708907
G2	30,012027	-28,713103
H2	30,018013	-28,716113
I2	30,014586	-28,725735
J2	29,999639	-28,725846
K2	29,999973	-28,715436



Appendix 2:

Appendix 2B: Site plan Map

# Site Plan Map

Saqondisana Investment Prospecting Right Application

## Legend

- Proposed Drill Holes
- ▭ Prospecting Right Application Area

















Appendix 2:

Appendix 2C: Land use Map



*Landuse\_Map*

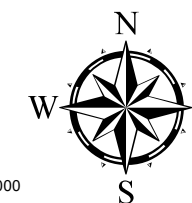
**Legend**

-  Trigonometric\_Beacon
-  Power\_Line
-  Railway\_Line
-  Road
-  wrial500
-  Residential\_Area
-  Cultivation\_Area
-  <all other values>
- NATART**
-  Artificial
-  Estuaries
-  Natural
-  Prospecting Right Area

**LOCALITY MAP**



SCALE CO-ORDINATE SYSTEM



1 : 50 000

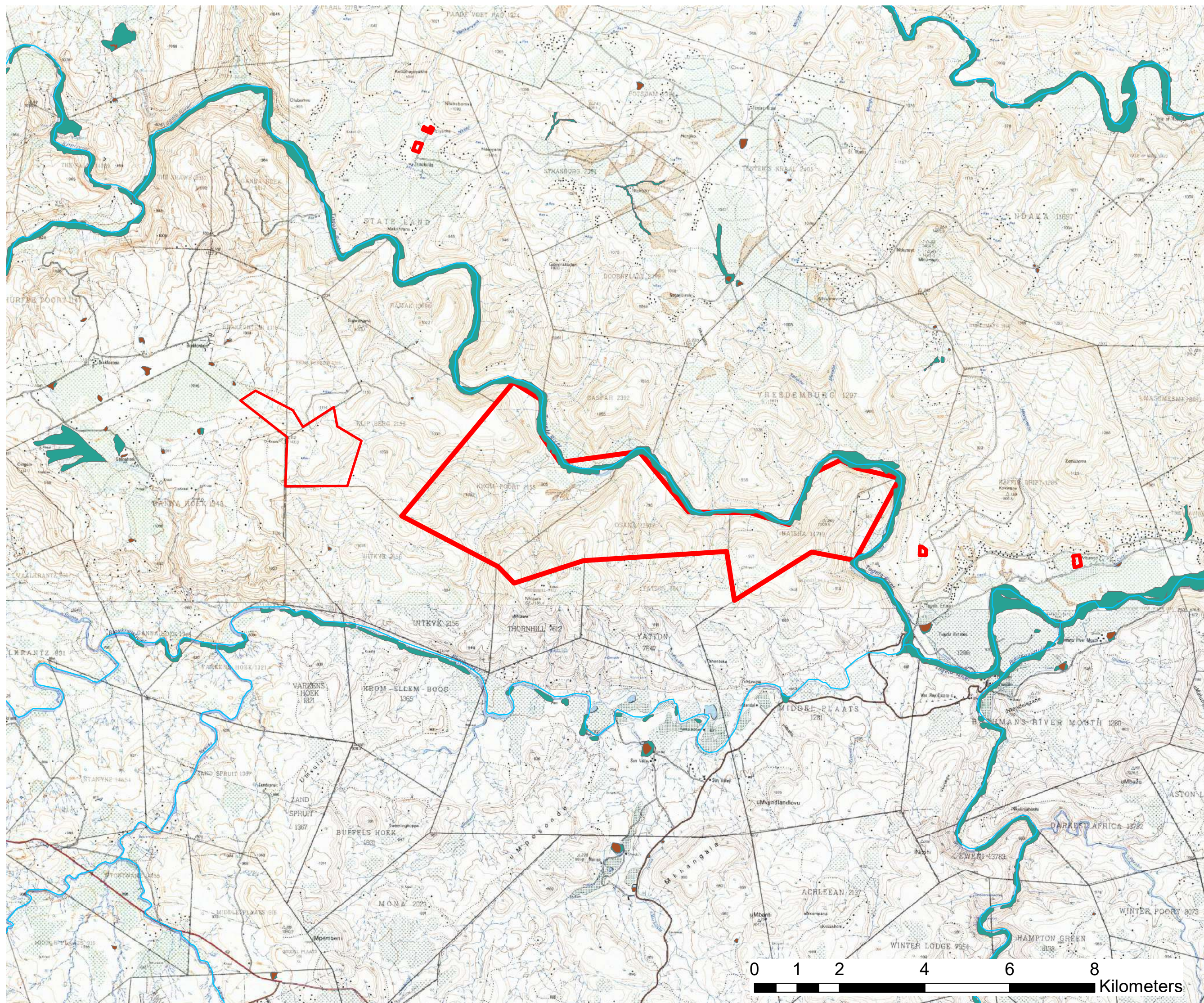
WGS84 Lo29



Johannesburg South  
 Tel: 011 432 0062  
 email: [info@vahleingweadvisory.co.za](mailto:info@vahleingweadvisory.co.za)  
 Address: 238 Voster Ave  
 street, glenvista 2058

**LIABILITY CLAUSE :**

This map was compiled from a variety of data sets and Vahleingwe Advisory does not accept any responsibility for the inaccuracy of the data.















Appendix 2D:

Appendix 2D: Composite Map



*Composite\_Map*

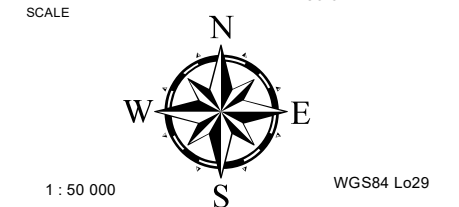
**Legend**

-  River
-  River\_Buffer\_50m
-  River\_Buffer\_2\_(100m)
-  River\_Buffer\_3\_(200m)
-  wrial500\_Buffer1
-  <all other values>
- NATART**
-  Artificial
-  Estuaries
-  Natural
-  Prospecting Right Area

**LOCALITY MAP**



SCALE CO-ORDINATE SYSTEM

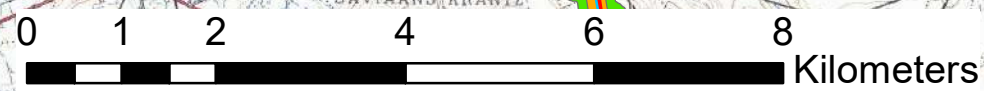
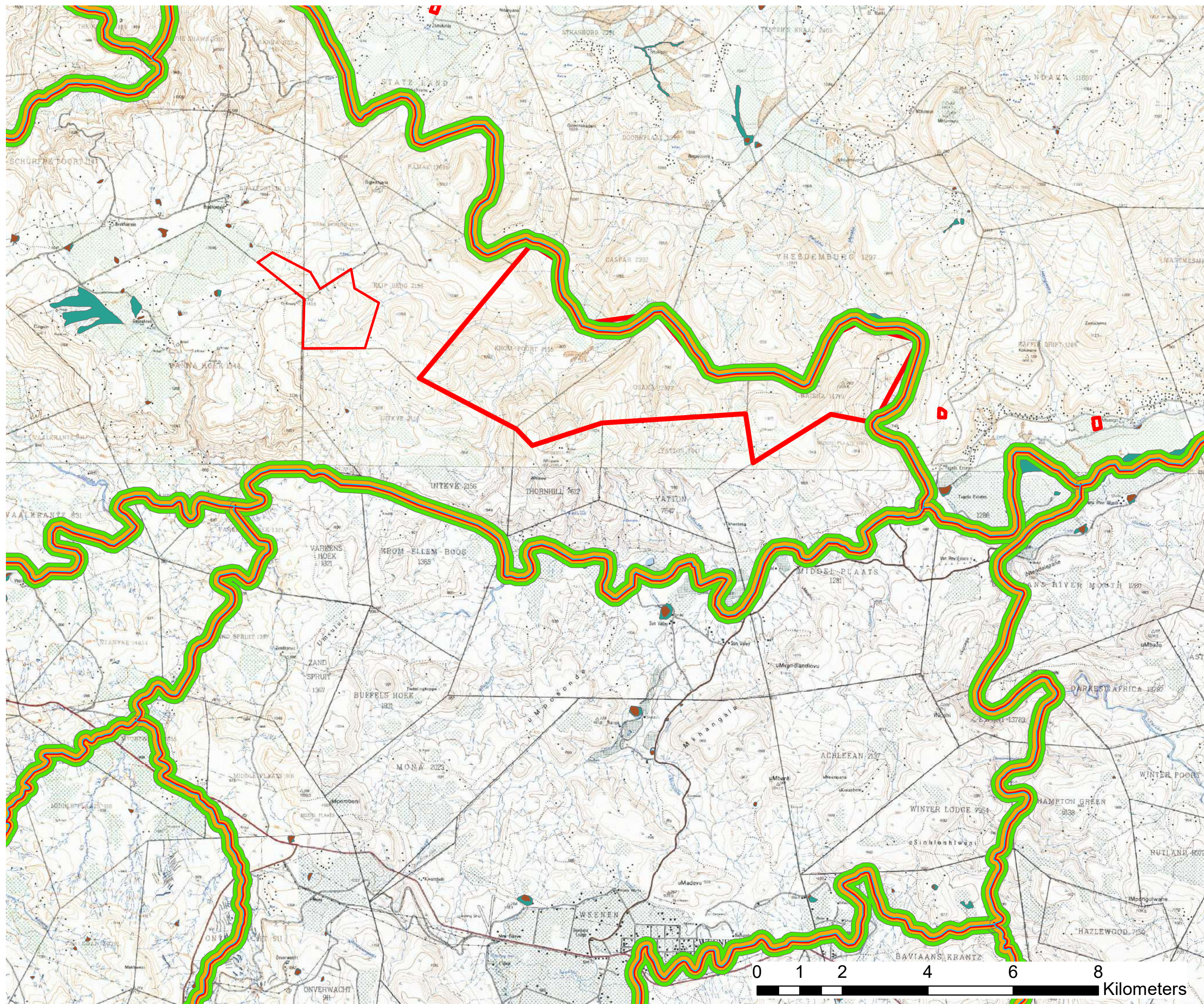


1 : 50 000 WGS84 Lo29



Johannesburg South  
Tel: 011 432 0062  
email: [info@vahleNgweadvisory.co.za](mailto:info@vahleNgweadvisory.co.za)  
Address: 238 Voster Ave  
street, glenvista 2058

LIABILITY CLAUSE :  
This map was compiled from a variety of data sets and VahleNgwe Advisory does not accept any responsibility for the inaccuracy of the data.





Appendix 3:

Appendix 3A: Proof of Newspaper Advert

# Ladysmith Gazette Classifieds

To advertise all your Classifieds, Legals and Service Guide contact 036-637-6801 or email your classifieddy@dbn.caxton.co.za

**Ladysmith Gazette**  
Call our Sales Team on 036 637 6801

**0000 NOTICES**

**0001 COMMUNITY CARE**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Meetings held at the Methodist Church (opp Magistrates Court). Every Wednesday from 19h30.

FOR MORE HELP/INFO Call 081 401 2051  
—AE002959

**Animal Anti Cruelty**

Should you know of any animals being abused or neglected by their owners, or if you have any donations.

Please contact PAULINE on 083 629 9569  
—AE002960

**Cansa**

Thank you for your continuous support.

For more info Please contact Lezani 034 315 5175 or 079 860 2522  
—AE002961

**LAFTA MEETINGS**

Held every week on Wednesdays & Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm.

All seniors interested in joining, please Contact 082 455 8548 or 036 631 3936  
—AE002962

**0085 SOCIAL**

**LADYSMITH HOSPICE ASSOCIATION**

We provide home based palliative care to persons suffering from life threatening illnesses. We also have equipment to hire eg wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds and incontinence products for sale at reasonable prices.

Contact us on 036 631 2697 or 061 930 7035, 311 Murchison Street, Ladysmith

**0300 SERVICES**

**0348 GENERAL REPAIRS**

**CHAINSAWS**  
Come and visit us for repairs, spares & sales at Livingston Lawnmower Services - 401 Murchison Street, Ladysmith  
PHONE: 0366375212  
—AE002874

**0358 LAWNMOWER SERVICES**

**LAWNMOVERS**  
Sales, Repairs & Spares. Livingston Lawnmower Services. 401 Murchison St - Ladysmith  
PHONE: 036 6375212  
—AE002873

**LOST OR DESTROYED DEED**

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 68 of the Deeds Registries Act, 1937, of the intention to apply for the issue of a certified copy of Mortgage Bond Number B593/1996 passed by FREDERICK JACOBUS KRUGER Identity number 640309 5117 08 1 and MARINA SUNEEN KRUGER Identity number 650818 0015 08 9 Married in Community of Property to each other in favour of THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

Registration Number 1962/000738/06 in respect of a certain REMAINDER OF ERF 512 LADYSMITH REGISTRATION DIVISION GS PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL IN EXTENT 1628 (ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHT) SQUARE METRES which has been lost or destroyed. All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Registrar of Deeds at PIETERMARITZBURG within 2 (two) weeks after the date of the publication of this notice. Dated at LADYSMITH this 3RD day of SEPTEMBER 2024

For APPLICANTS: Christopher, Walton & Tatham 133 Murchison Street Ladysmith, 3370 TEL: (036) 637 6741 Email: anagoor@cwt.co.za REF: IWG/AN/MAT1116713

**ESTATE NOTICE**

In the estate of the late **BHEKI RONALD WESLEY DUBE**, Masters Ref. No. 008015/2022/PMB, Identity number 5807175840084 married in community of property to NTOMBENHLE MURIEL DUBE, Identity Number 6405260707083, who died on the 18TH June 2022.

Creditors and Debtors in the above estate are hereby called to file their claims with and to pay their indebtedness to the undersigned within a period of thirty (30) days as from the date of publication hereof.

Dated at Ladysmith on this 15th day of AUGUST 2024.

MACAULAY & RIDDELL 126 MURCHISON STREET P. O. BOX 107 LADYSMITH 3370 (REF. JHM/nb/GD2063)

To Place all your Legals, Public Notices, Auctions and Tender Notices, Please Contact Angelika on: 036 637 6801



**First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the Deceased Estate lying for Inspection**

**ESTATE NUMBER: 4477/2023**

In terms of section 35(4) and (5) of Act 66 of 1965, Notice is hereby given that copies of the First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the Estate of the LATE THEMBINKOSI VINCENT THWALA, IDENTITY NUMBER 650317 5238 08 5, who died at LADYSMITH on the 05 MAY 2023 and who was married in community of property to NTOMBIZANDILE HAPPINESS THWALA, IDENTITY NUMBER 781222 0686 08 4, of 28 INHLABA STREET, LADYSMITH, 3370, will lie open for inspection for all persons with an interest therein at the Magistrates Court, Ladysmith and at the offices of the Master of the High Court, Pietermaritzburg, for a period of twenty one (21) days from the date of publication hereof.

Should no objection thereto be lodged with the Master concerned during the specified period, the executors will proceed to make payments in accordance with the accounts.

**Attorneys for Executor ATTORNEYS FAROUK KHAN 64 CONVENT ROAD P.O BOX 4111 LADYSMITH 3370 REF: MR KHAN / SHAINAZ**

**SAQONDISANA INVESTMENT (PTY) LTD NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS INVITATION TO REGISTER AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT.**

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION OF COAL IN RESPECT OF FARM LOTMGA 8761 GT, FARM KAISHA 14719 GT, FARM OSAKA 12977 GT, FARM KROM POORT 2155 GT AND FARM RAVINE 9201 GT IN THE ESTCOURT DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.**  
DMR REFERENCE NO.: KZN 30/5/11/2/ 11694 PR

Notice is hereby given in the intent to conduct Environmental Authorization process for an application of a prospecting right of coal, for Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd in terms of National Environmental Management Act - NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. Notification is hereby given to all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in terms of Section 39 to 44 of GNR 982 (as amended). The EIA process would be undertaken in terms of these guidelines and to be submitted to the Competent Authority Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

**THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES TRIGGERS: Activity 20 of GN R 983 (as amended):** Any activity including the operation of that activity which requires a prospecting right in terms of section 16 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, as well as any other applicable activity as contained in this Listing Notice or in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, required to exercise the prospecting right.

**PROPOSED SITE LOCATION.** The proposed project is situated in the Estcourt District of KwaZulu-Natal Province, 36,63 km East south of Ladysmith town and 29,60 km East south of Umbulwana Village and access road to the farm is via the R74 road.

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Public meeting will be held to facilitate discussions on the Draft Basic Assessment Report to obtain comments and inputs from the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), therefore you are requested to register your names as I&AP within 15 days, thus, on/before **20th September 2024**. You are further requested to submit your comments within 30 days from the date this notice was published. Take note that your comments must be submitted on or before the **05th of October 2024** to the details below:

Consultant : Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting  
Contact person : Sunday Mabaso  
Postal address : 238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Extension 3, Johannesburg South, 2058  
Contact : +27 11 432 0062  
E-mail : info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za  
Address: 238 Voster Avenue, Glenvista, 2058  
Tel: +27 11 432 0062  
E-mail: info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za

# SERVICE Guide

**ACCOUNTANTS**

**Lee Oosthuizen**  
Chartered Accountants (S.A.)  
REGISTERED ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS  
**Tax Specialist**  
Tel: 036 637 2161 - Fax: 036 631 1510  
Email: audit@lee-oos.co.za | tax@lee-oos.co.za  
50 Francis Road / P.O. Box 491  
Ladysmith, 3370

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M-Aud (UKZN) (PR NO: 0323551)  
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\*Newborn hearing screening \*Vertigo/ Dizziness Testing  
Suite 13, La Verna Hospital, Ladysmith - Tel: 036 631 0685  
Estcourt Medical Centre Tel: 036 352 2588  
Email: info@kpaudioinc.co.za

**ELECTRICAL SPECIALIST**

**Teshah SOLAR SYSTEMS**  
Contact: 083 631 2110

**EMBROIDERY & SAFETY WEAR**

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28b Bloukrans Road, Ladysmith



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Allan: 083 785 0405 Ladysmith

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Sandra Fourie - Cell: 083 3100 350

**KEY SHOP**

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- All Household Detergents  
Game Centre, Ladysmith, 3370  
Contact: Allan 083 785 0405  
Locksmith : 083 785 0405

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### Appendix 3:

#### Appendix 3B: Background Information Documents

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION: PROSPECTING RIGHT  
APPLICATION.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROSPECTING RIGHT  
APPLICATION OF COAL IN RESPECT OF FARM LOTMGA 8761 GT, FARM KAISHA  
14719 GT, FARM OSAKA 12977 GT, FARM KROMPOORT 2155 GT AND FARM  
RAVINE 9201 GT IN THE ESTCOURT DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE.**

**DMRE REFERENCE NO.: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/ 11694 PR**

**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This Background Information Document (BID) has been prepared as part of the notification and consultation process required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998). It describes the following:

- Background information regarding the proposed project;
- Information about the site and the proposal being considered;
- Public participation process; and
- Suggestions on how the stakeholders including the I&APs can participate on the process.

**APPOINTED OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS**

Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) will conduct Environmental Authorization process for the prospecting right application for coal prospecting activities in respect of Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT in the District of Estcourt District, KwaZulu-Natal Province, for an extent area of is 2706.75 ha

**PROJECTION LOCATION**

The prospecting area is situated approximately 34km southeast of Ladysmith (Umnambithi) town and about 36 km the Estcourt town and it can be accessed via the R74 road within the jurisdiction Uthukela District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province.

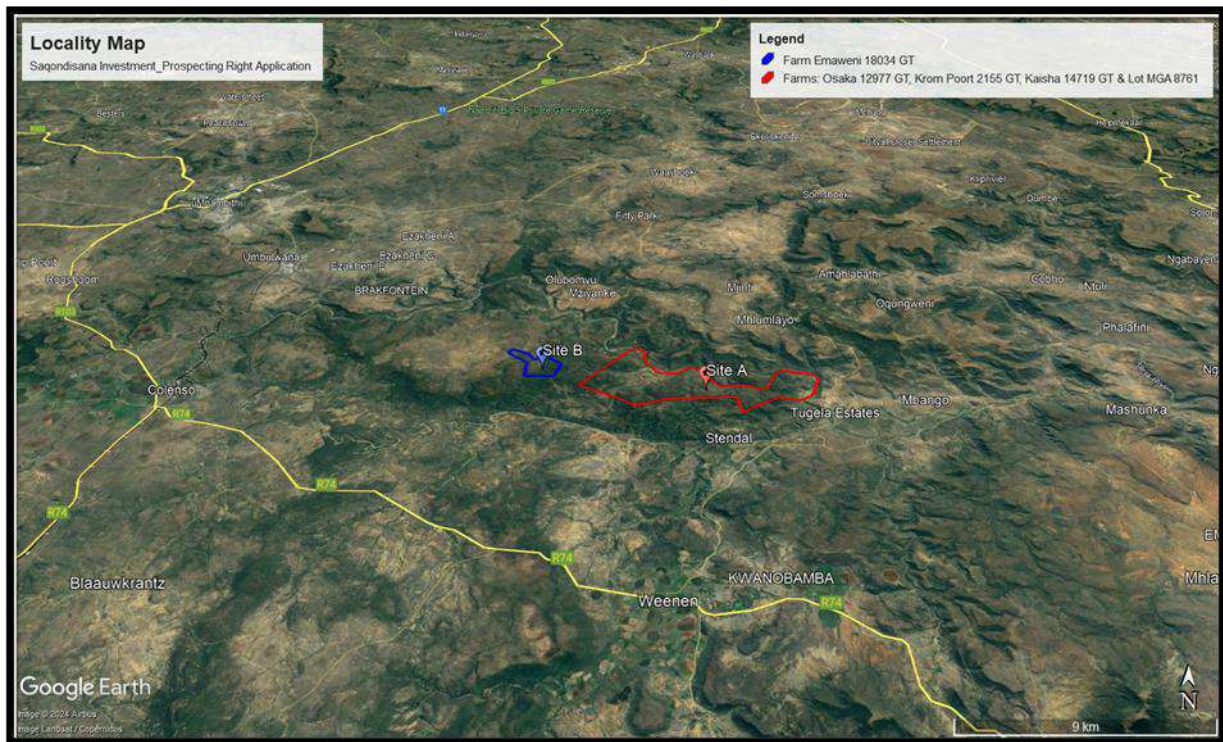


Figure 1: Locality Map of the proposed area

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Saqondisana proposes to undertake coal prospecting activities in respect of Farm Lotmga 8761 GT, Farm Kaisha 14719 GT, Farm Osaka 12977 GT, Farm Krompoort 2155 GT and Farm Ravine 9201 GT. In the District of Estcourt, KwaZulu-Natal Province. The project entails the drilling of about twenty (20) boreholes to determine the mineral deposition, quantity, economic viability, and possibilities of the project leading to a viable mine. Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd will compile the Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Programme for the Prospecting Right Application and facilitate the PPP.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.

The purpose of public consultation process is to enable landowners, lawful occupiers, directly affected individuals, and/or other Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to raise any issues, concerns and or comments regarding the prospecting activities. A proof of consultation report will be developed and submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE). The proposed project requires Environmental

Impact Assessment process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended).

**Following step will be followed while conducting public participation.**

- Issuing of notification of this project to:
  - Owners and occupiers of the farms as well as those adjacent to the site
  - Municipal Councillor
  - The municipality which has jurisdiction, and any organ of state having jurisdiction
- Placing an advert in a local newspaper
- Placing a notice on the site notice
- Meetings with landowners and key I&APs, as required
- Public review of Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public involvement is an essential component of the process. It addresses the right of Interested and affected Parties (I&APs) to be informed of the proposed activities.

All Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) are invited to submit their issues, concerns, and comments regarding the proposed prospecting activities to Saqondisana Investment via email, registered post or telephonically. The Interested and Affected parties (I&APS) Form is made available below for you to fill in your personal details and comments, kindly do so and submit it back to us.

**HOW TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION.**

Registering as I&APs will ensure that you are placed on a database to be informed of any progress regarding the project. You can do so by filling in the form below and return it to the relevant person listed below.

We encourage the I&APs to review the information presented to you in this Background Information Document (BID) and to register as an I&AP for the attached respondent sheet and return it to us.



## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION CONTACTS:**

Name: : Sunday Mabaso  
Postal address : 238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Ext 3, Glenvista, 2058  
Contact : +27 11 432 0062  
E-mail : [info@vahlegweadvisory.co.za](mailto:info@vahlegweadvisory.co.za)

## **APPLICANT CONTACTS**

Name : Niel Van Zyl  
Postal Address : Plot 1 AH, Sapfo Valtaki, Gauteng 1020  
Tel : +27 82 461 3787  
E-mail : [vanzyp@gmail.com](mailto:vanzyp@gmail.com)

# **SAQONDISANA INVESTMENTS (PTY) LTD**

## ***Interested & Affected Party Registration Form***

Project Reference No.: KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11694 PR

<b>Name and Surname</b>	
<b>Physical Address</b>	
<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Telephone No.:</b> <b>Fax No.:</b> <b>Cell No. :</b> <b>E-mail Address:</b>
<b><i>Please indicate any issues, comments and concerns with regard to the proposed project</i></b>	
<b><i>Please indicate in which aspects you would require more information</i></b>	
<b><i>Please indicate any I&amp;APs whom you think should be contacted</i></b>	
<b>To be registered as an I&amp;AP for this project mail, or e-mail the completed registration form to:</b> <b>Sunday M Mabaso</b> <b>Postal address: 238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Ext 3, Glenvista, 2058</b> <b>Contact : +27 11 432 0062</b> <b>E-mail : info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za</b>	

Appendix 4:

Appendix 4: Environmental Screening Report

**SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS  
REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY**

**EIA Reference number:** KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11694 PR

**Project name:** Prospecting Right Application

**Project title:** Saqondisana Investment Prospecting Right Application

**Date screening report generated:** 02/09/2024 10:18:30

**Applicant:** Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd

**Compiler:** Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting

**Compiler signature:**  
.....

**Application Category:** Mining|Prospecting rights

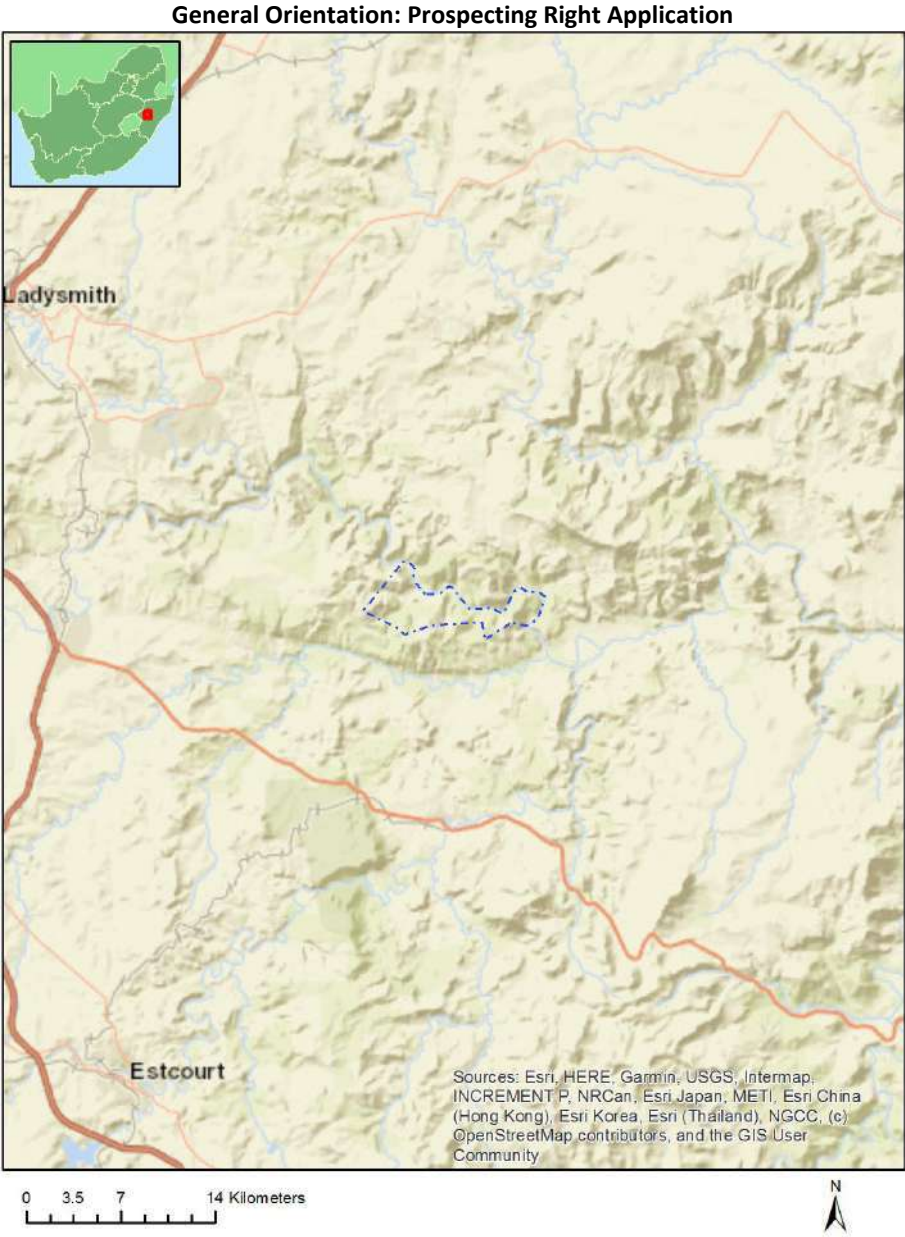


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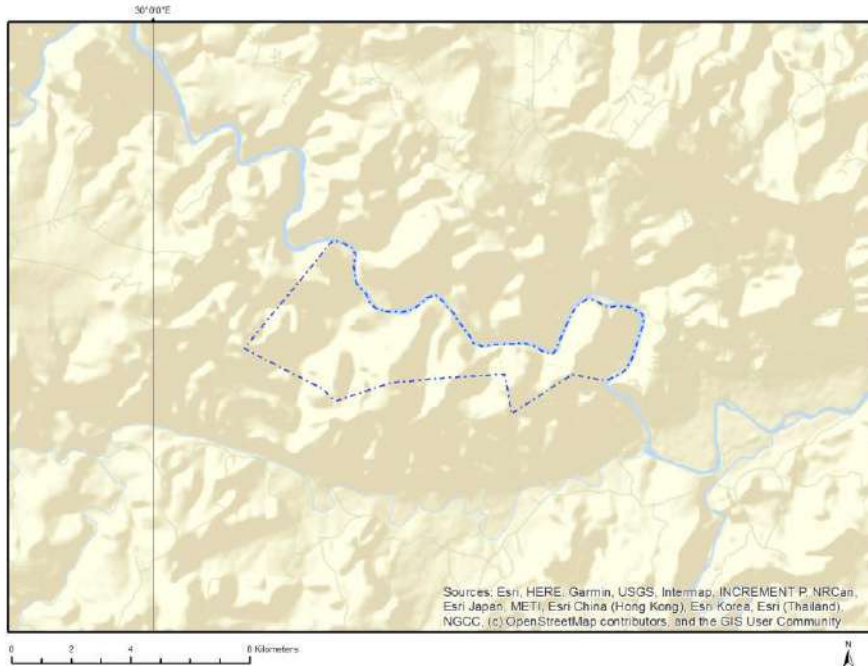
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- Map of proposed site and relevant area(s) ..... 4
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  - Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area ..... 5
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  - Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions ..... 5
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# Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location



## Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



## Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	KROM POORT	2155	0	28°43'27.05S	30°3'16.36E	Farm
2	LOT MGA	8761	0	28°43'54.03S	30°8'28.93E	Farm
3	OSAKA	12977	0	28°43'58.82S	30°5'0.44E	Farm
4	KAISHA	14719	0	28°43'58.37S	30°7'38.12E	Farm
5	MTHEMBU	17538	0	28°42'28.99S	30°7'47.39E	Farm
6	YATTON	7647	0	28°44'58.41S	30°5'8.78E	Farm
7	KAISHA	14719	0	28°43'59.22S	30°7'38.18E	Farm Portion
8	OSAKA	12977	1	28°44'5.1S	30°6'17.59E	Farm Portion
9	LOT MGA	8761	0	28°43'54.57S	30°8'28.96E	Farm Portion
10		1286	0	28°43'35.84S	30°10'57.58E	Farm Portion
11	KROM POORT	2155	0	28°43'27.61S	30°3'16.29E	Farm Portion
12	MTHEMBU	17538	0	28°42'29.71S	30°7'47.37E	Farm Portion
13	YATTON	7647	0	28°45'3.04S	30°5'8.97E	Farm Portion
14		1297	0	28°42'12.56S	30°7'39.37E	Farm Portion
15	MTHEMBU	17538	0	28°42'29.38S	30°7'47.35E	Farm Portion
16	OSAKA	12977	0	28°44'0.99S	30°4'52.36E	Farm Portion
17		1297	0	28°42'35.15S	30°7'24.23E	Farm Portion

Development footprint<sup>1</sup> vertices:  
No development footprint(s) specified.

<sup>1</sup> “development footprint”, means the area within the site on which the development will take place and includes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

## Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

No nearby wind or solar developments found.

## Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application

No intersections with EMF areas found.

## Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is:

**Mining | Prospecting rights.**

### Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

No intersection with any development zones found.

### Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme	X			
Civil Aviation Theme			X	
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

### Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the

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[Disclaimer applies](#)

02/09/2024



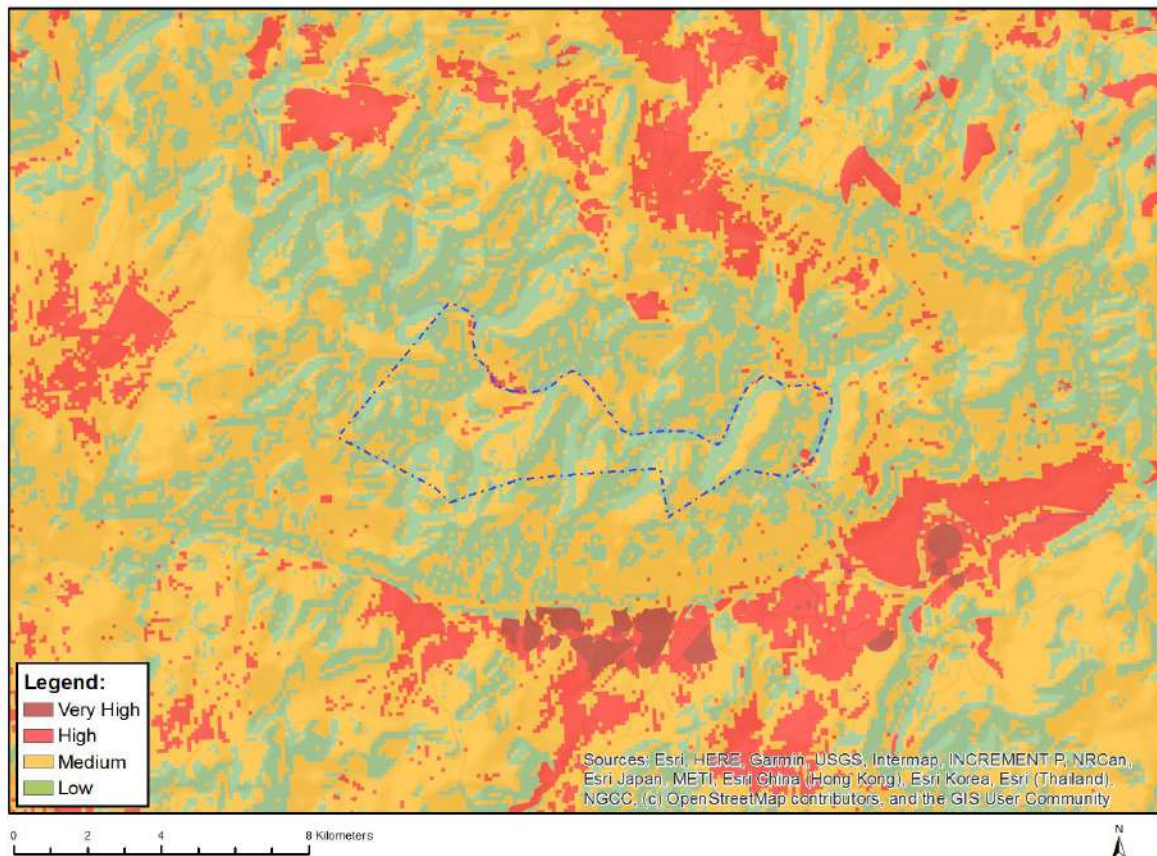
assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

No	Specialist assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
6	Noise Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
7	Radioactivity Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
8	Plant Species Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
9	Animal Species Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>

## Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

### MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

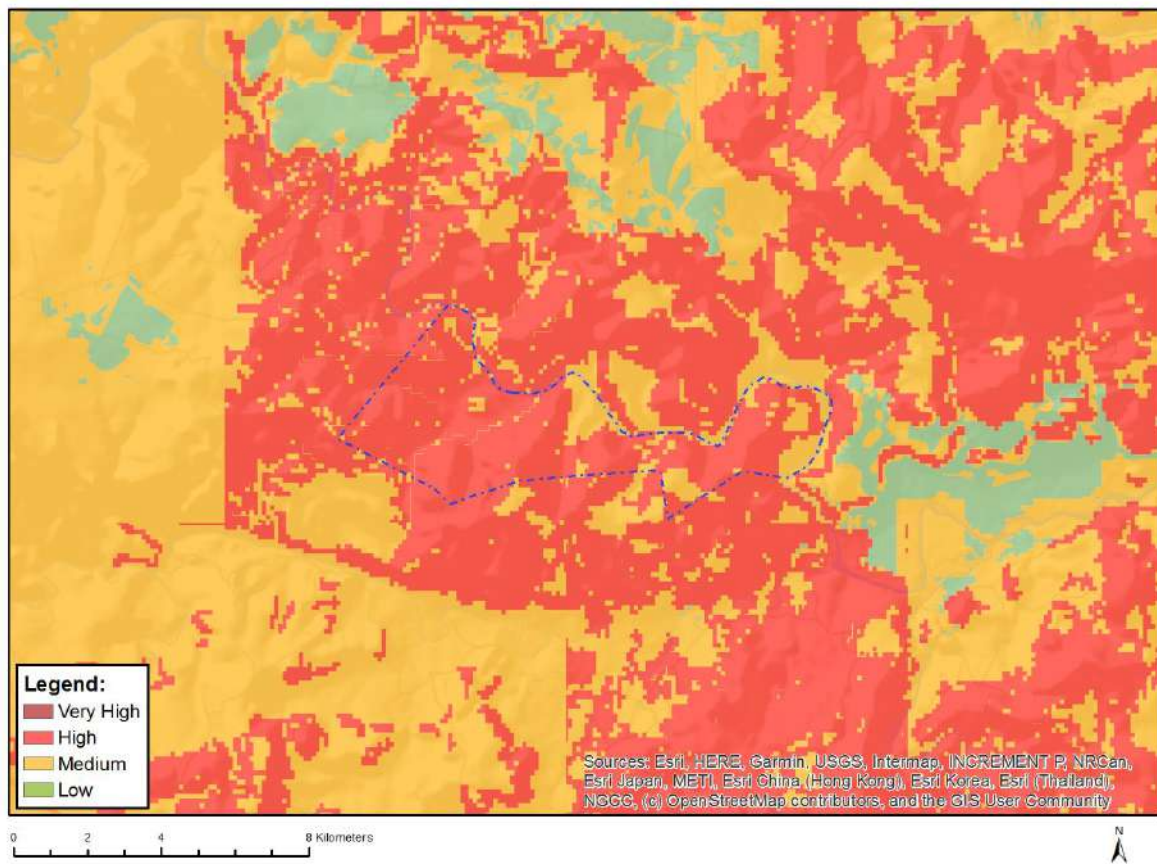


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

#### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
High	Subsistence Farming 1;Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate
High	Subsistence Farming 1;Land capability;01. Very low/02. Very low/03. Low-Very low/04. Low-Very low/05. Low
Low	Land capability;01. Very low/02. Very low/03. Low-Very low/04. Low-Very low/05. Low
Medium	Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

## MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



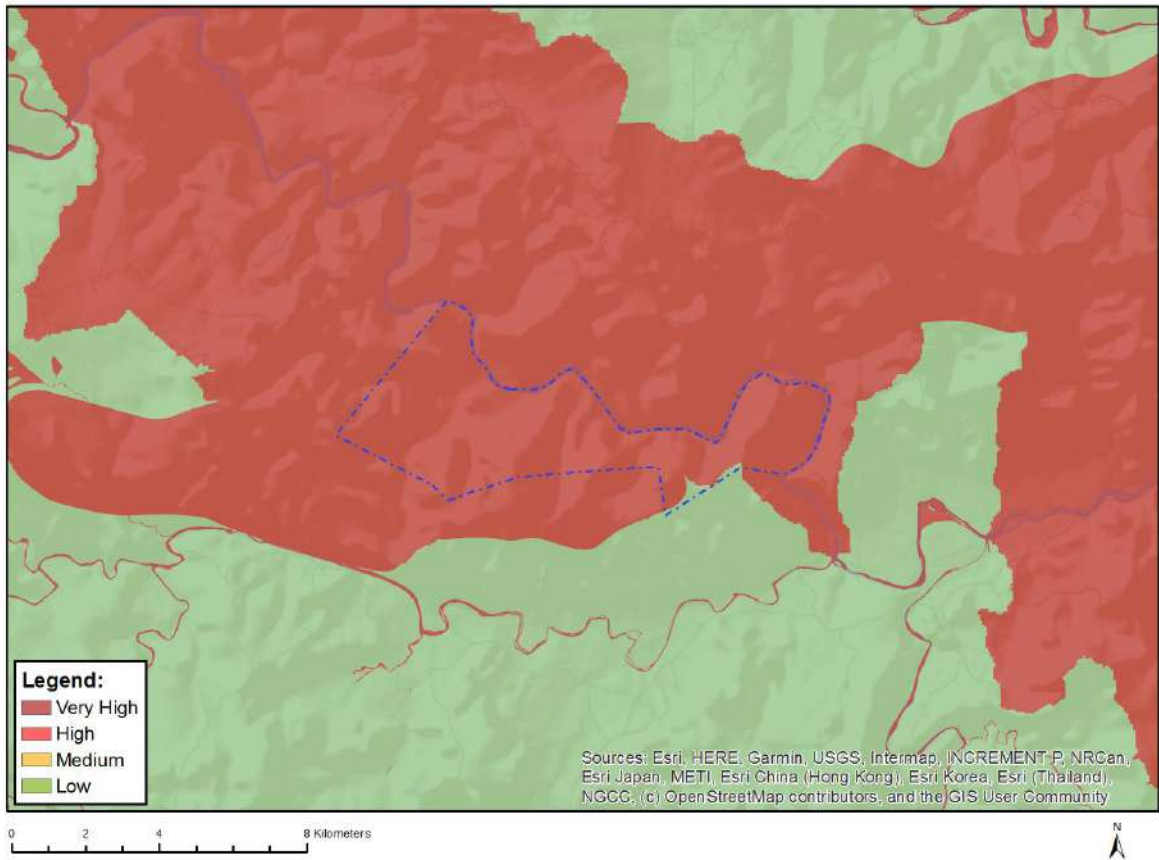
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at [eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za](mailto:eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za) listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Geronticus calvus
High	Aves-Aquila rapax
Medium	Aves-Sagittarius serpentarius
Medium	Aves-Podica senegalensis
Medium	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
Medium	Aves-Hydroprogne caspia
Medium	Aves-Aquila rapax
Medium	Aves-Eupodotis senegalensis
Medium	Sensitive species 5
Medium	Mammalia-Lycaon pictus
Medium	Mammalia-Ourebia ourebi ourebi
Medium	Sensitive species 8
Medium	Reptilia-Kinixys natalensis

## MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



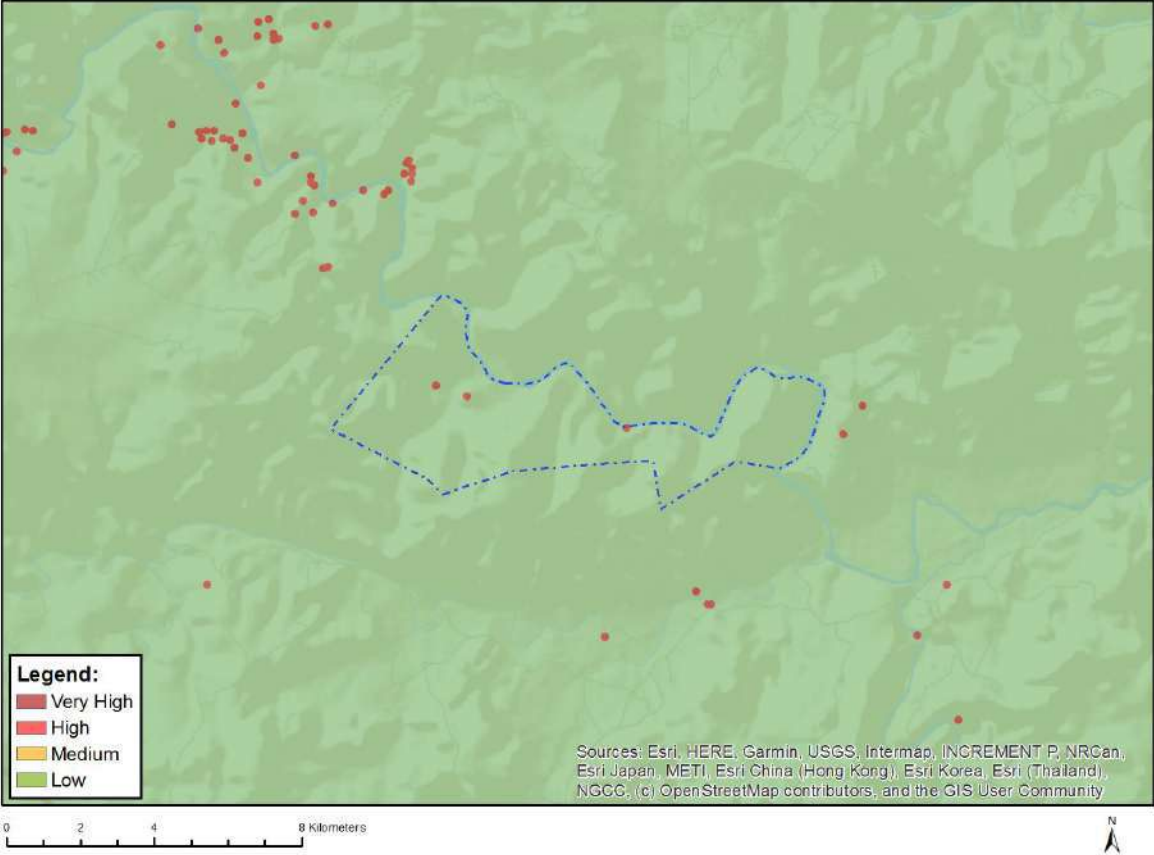
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	Rivers_B
Very High	SWSA (SW)_Northern Drakensberg
Very High	Wetlands_(River)



# MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY

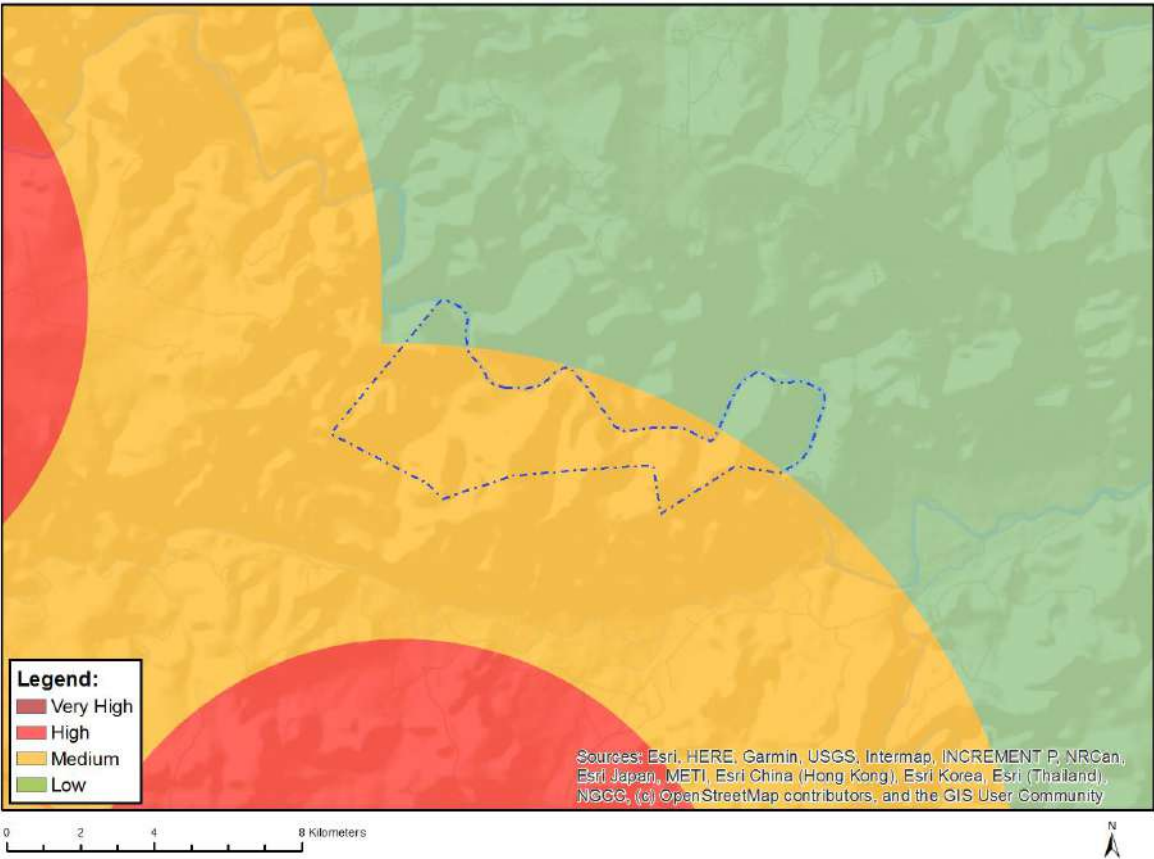


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

**Sensitivity Features:**

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity
Very High	Within 100m of an Ungraded Heritage site

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

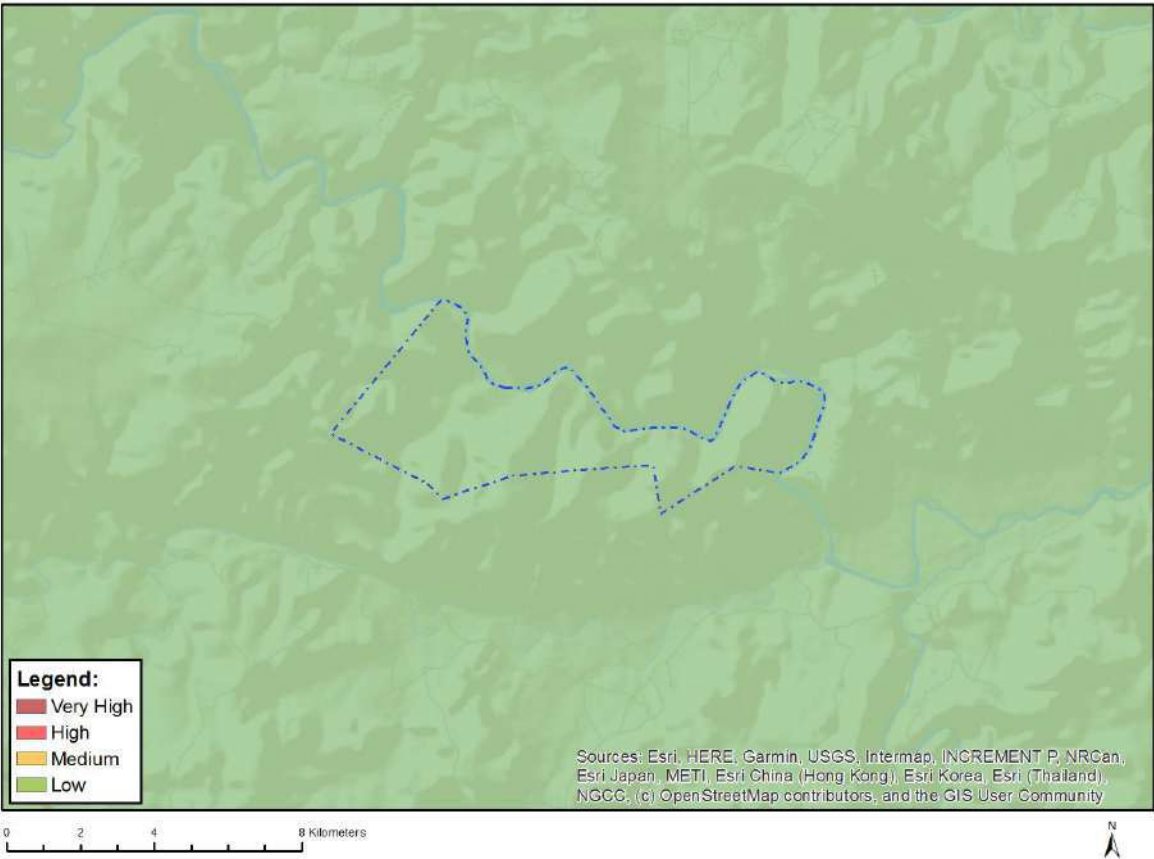


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity
Medium	Between 8 and 15 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

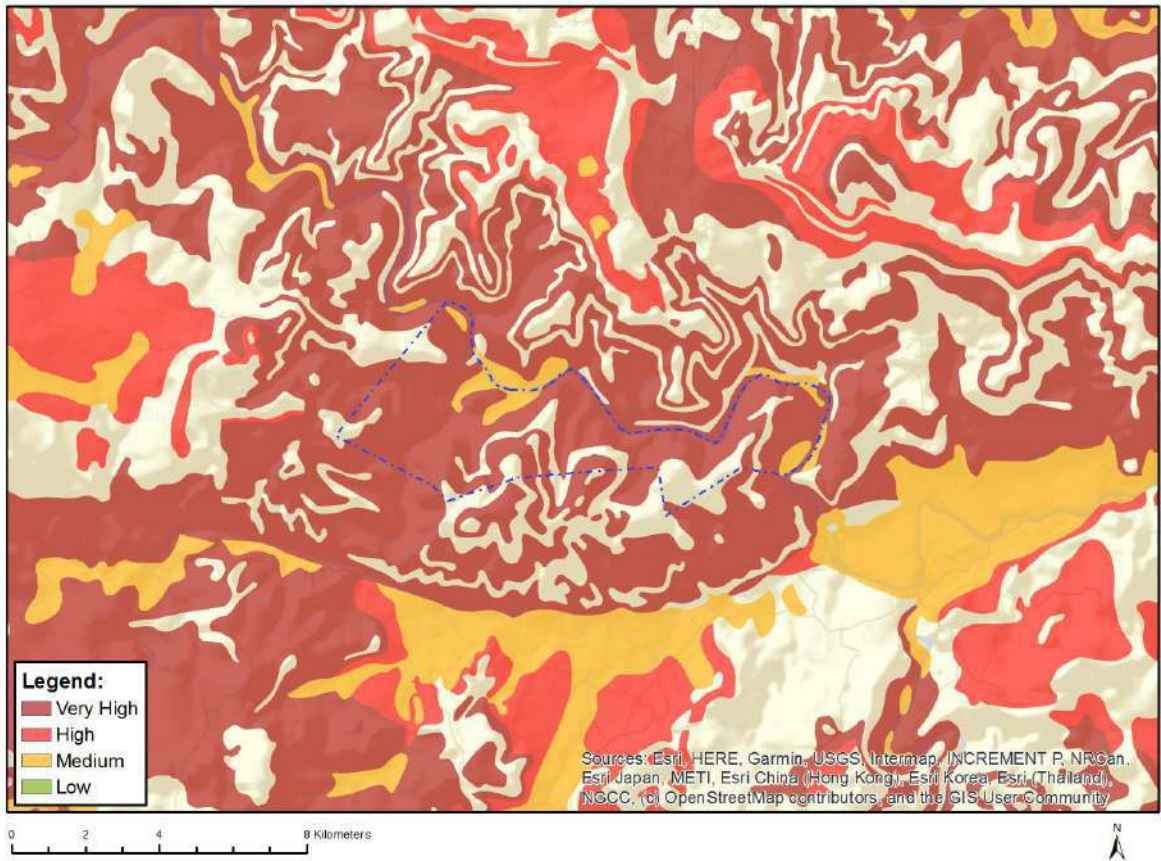


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

## MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY



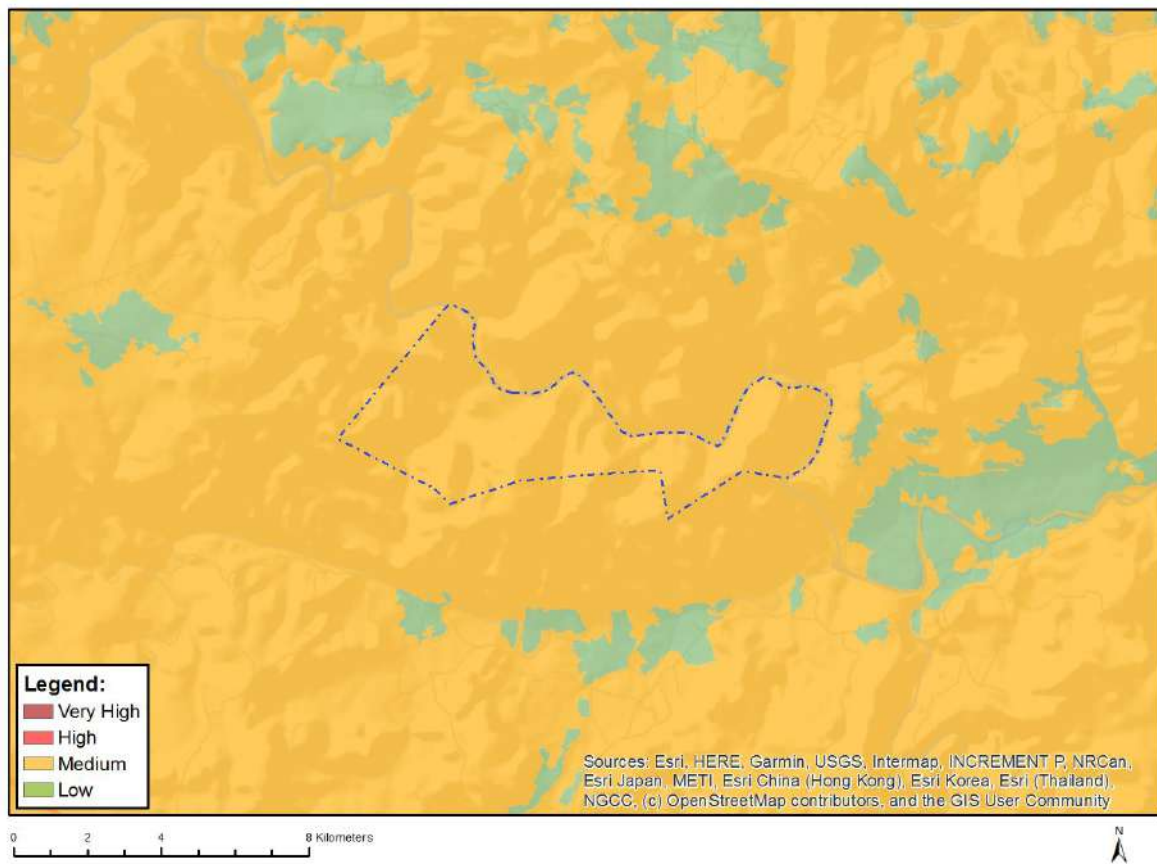
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Features with a Medium paleontological sensitivity
Very High	Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity



## MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



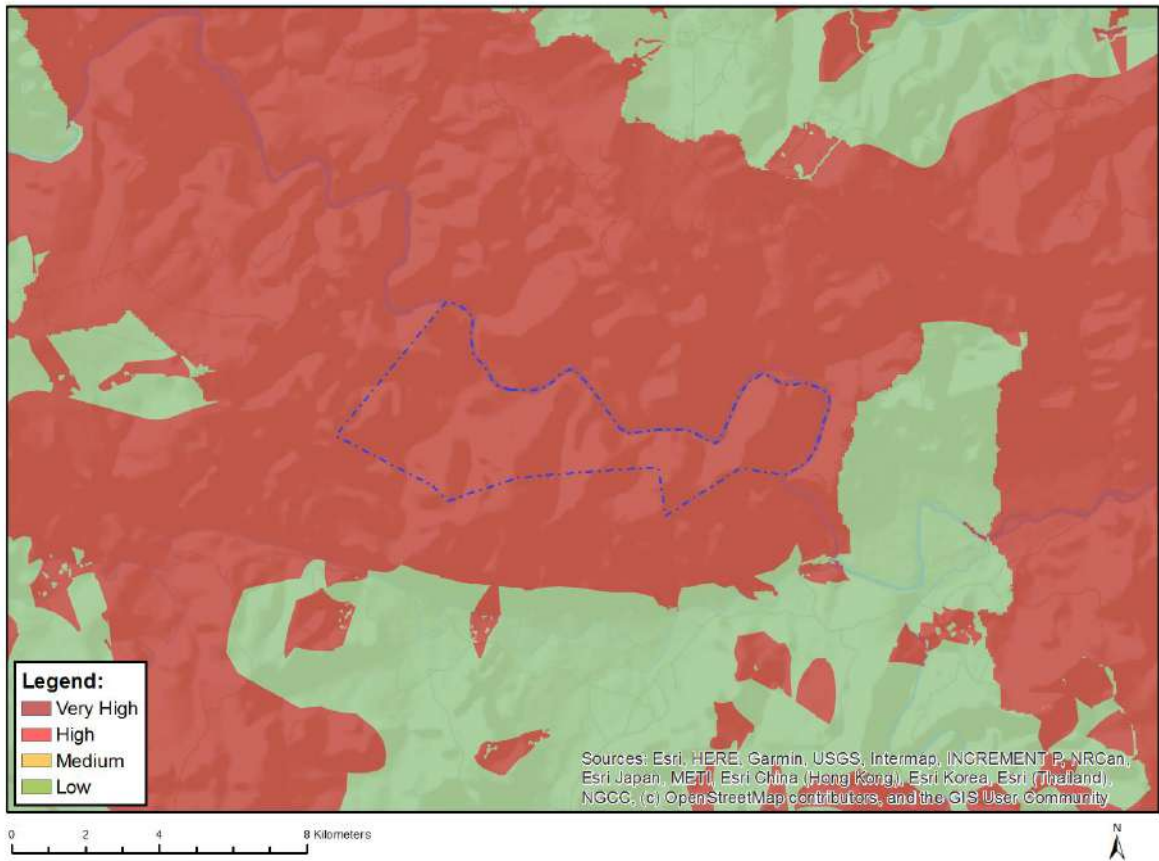
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at [eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za](mailto:eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za) listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Sensitive species 1252
Medium	Sensitive species 596
Medium	Sensitive species 1181
Medium	Vitellariopsis dispar
Medium	Thunbergia venosa

## MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	ESA
Very High	CBA: Optimal
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Northern Drakensberg

**SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS  
REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY**

**EIA Reference number:** KZN 30/5/1/1/2/11694 PR

**Project name:** Prospecting Right Application

**Project title:** Saqondisana Investment Prospecting Right Application

**Date screening report generated:** 02/09/2024 10:51:33

**Applicant:** Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd

**Compiler:** Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting

**Compiler signature:**  
.....

**Application Category:** Mining|Prospecting rights

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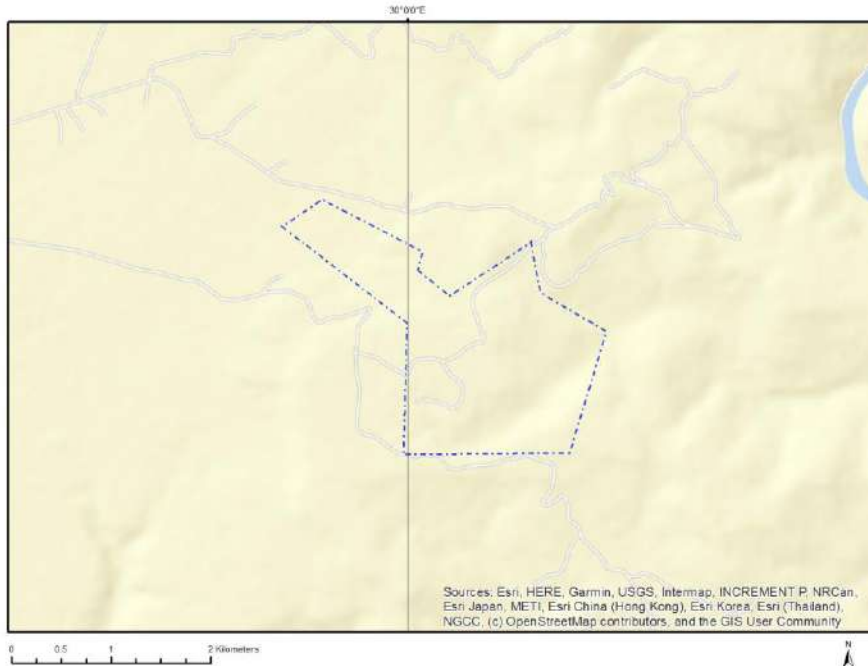


# Proposed Project Location

## Orientation map 1: General location



## Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



## Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	EMAWENI	18034	0	28°43'3.68S	30°0'23.25E	Farm
2		2158	2	28°43'6.77S	30°0'29.09E	Farm Portion
3	EMAWENI	18034	0	28°43'4.22S	30°0'23.14E	Farm Portion
4	BRAKFORTEIN	1316	1	28°42'35.83S	29°59'46.73E	Farm Portion
5		18033	0	28°42'35.72S	29°59'46.71E	Farm Portion

Development footprint<sup>1</sup> vertices:  
No development footprint(s) specified.

## Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

No	EIA Reference No	Classification	Status of application	Distance from proposed area (km)
1	12/12/20/2671	Solar PV	Approved	26.7

<sup>1</sup> “development footprint”, means the area within the site on which the development will take place and includes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

## Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application

No intersections with EMF areas found.

## Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is:

**Mining | Prospecting rights.**

### Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

No intersection with any development zones found.

### Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme			X	
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

### Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

No	Specialist assessment	Assessment Protocol
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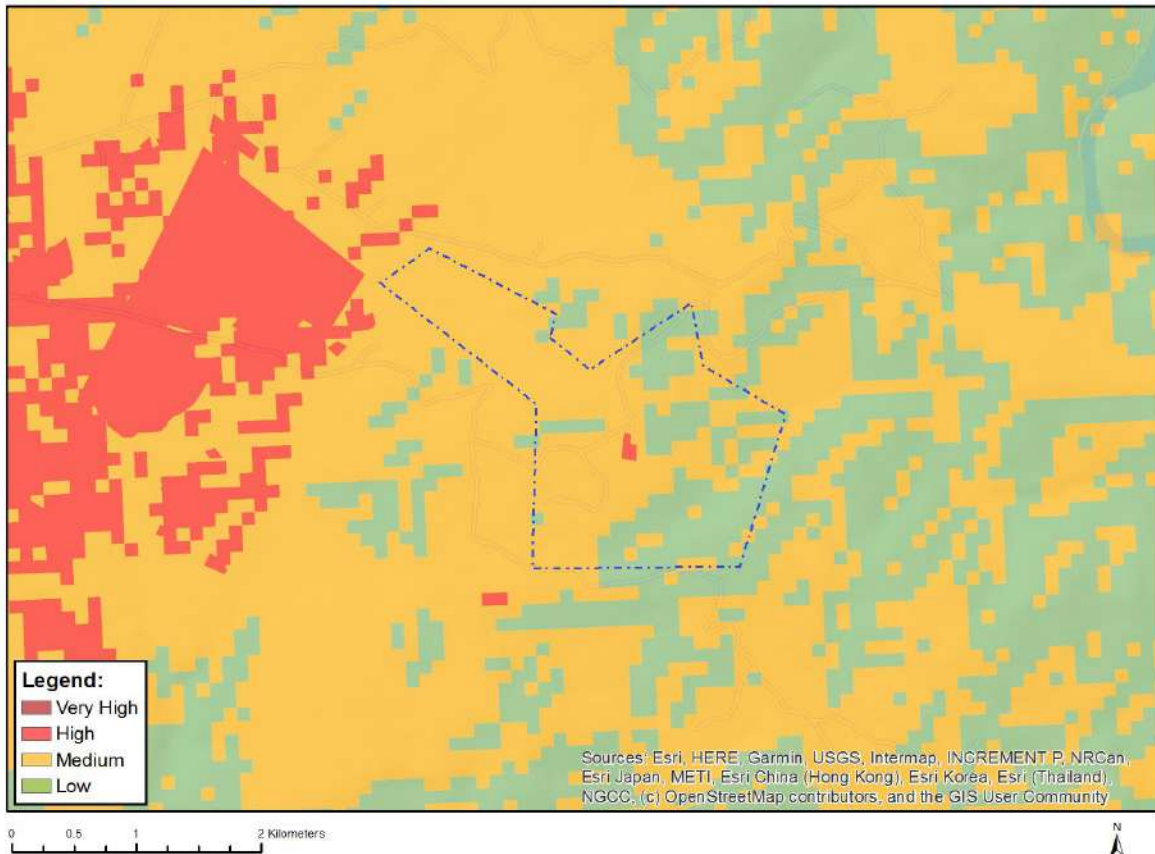
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
6	Noise Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf</a>
7	Radioactivity Impact Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
8	Plant Species Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>
9	Animal Species Assessment	<a href="https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf">https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf</a>



## Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

### MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

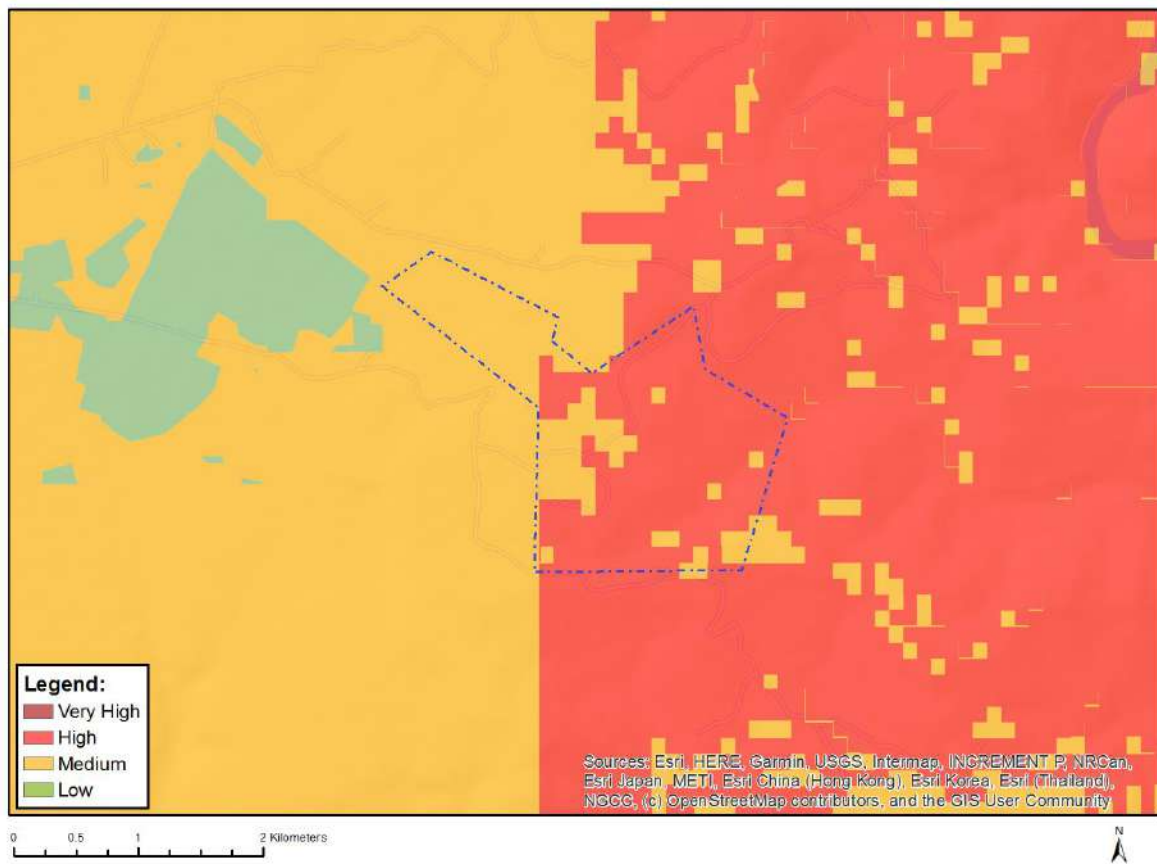


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

#### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Subsistence Farming 1; Land capability; 06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate
Low	Land capability; 01. Very low/02. Very low/03. Low-Very low/04. Low-Very low/05. Low
Medium	Land capability; 06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

## MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



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Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Geronticus calvus
High	Aves-Aquila rapax
Medium	Aves-Sagittarius serpentarius
Medium	Aves-Podica senegalensis
Medium	Aves-Geronticus calvus
Medium	Aves-Aquila rapax
Medium	Aves-Eupodotis senegalensis
Medium	Mammalia-Ourebia ourebi ourebi
Medium	Sensitive species 8
Medium	Reptilia-Kinixys natalensis

## MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

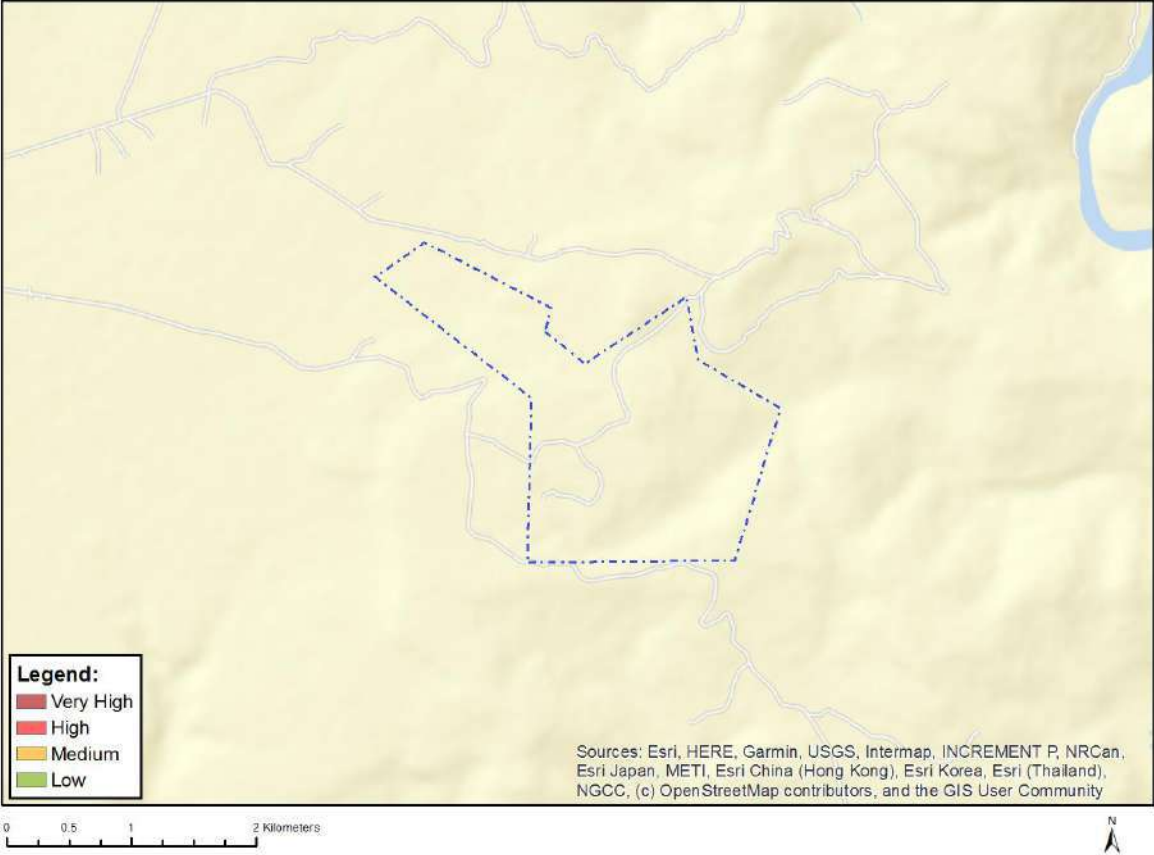


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Northern Drakensberg

# MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY



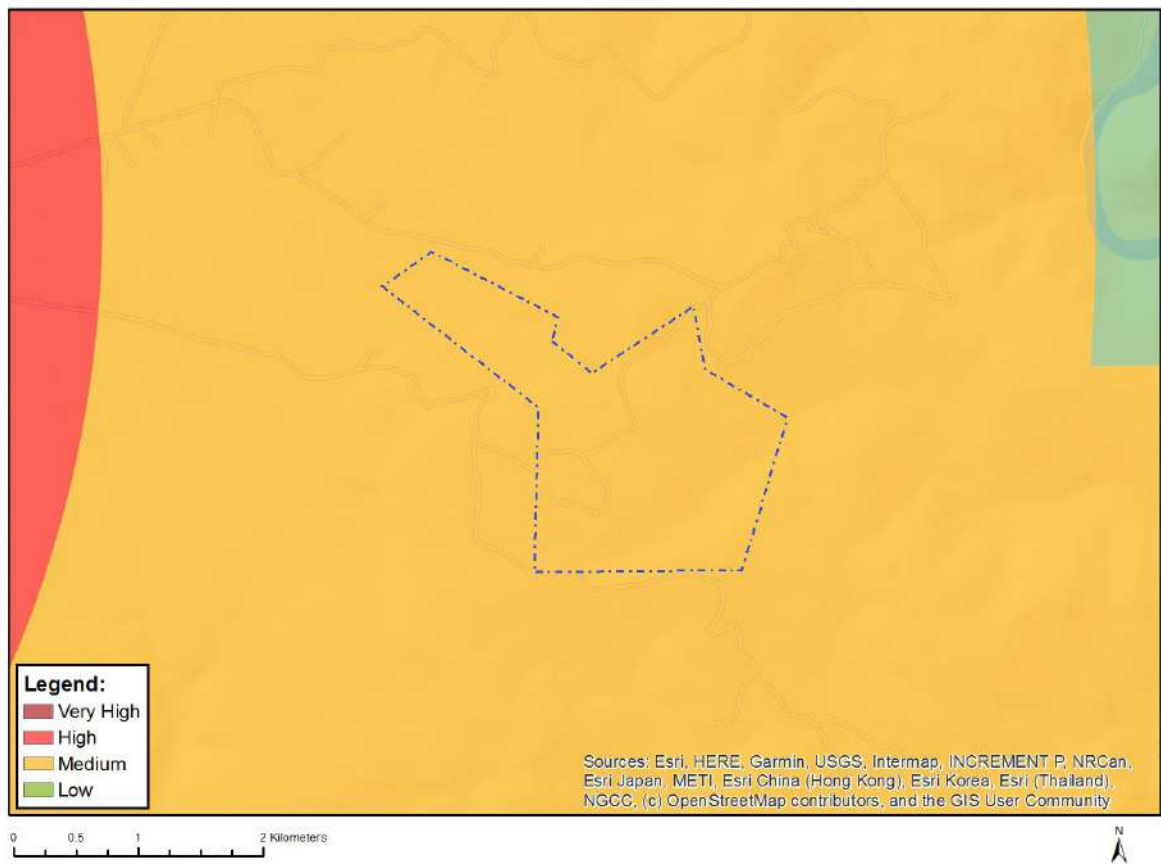
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

**Sensitivity Features:**

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity



## MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

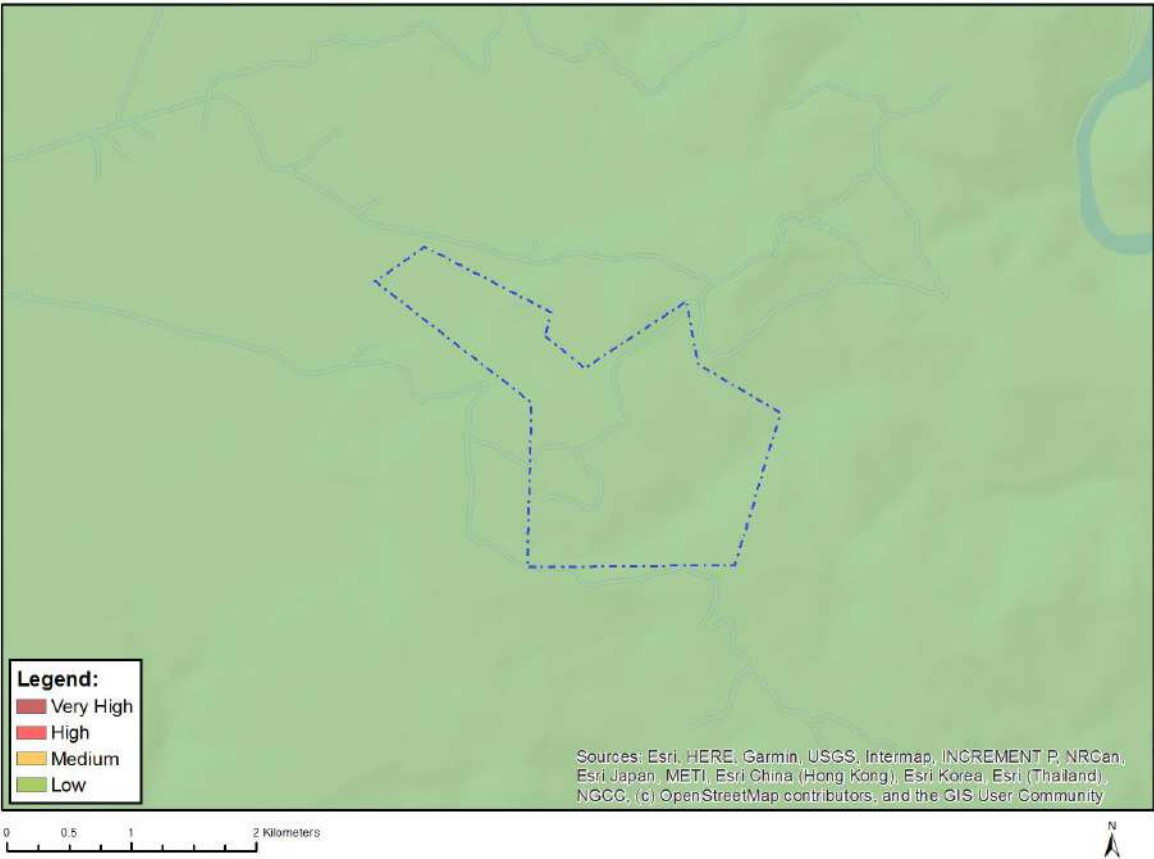


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Between 8 and 15 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

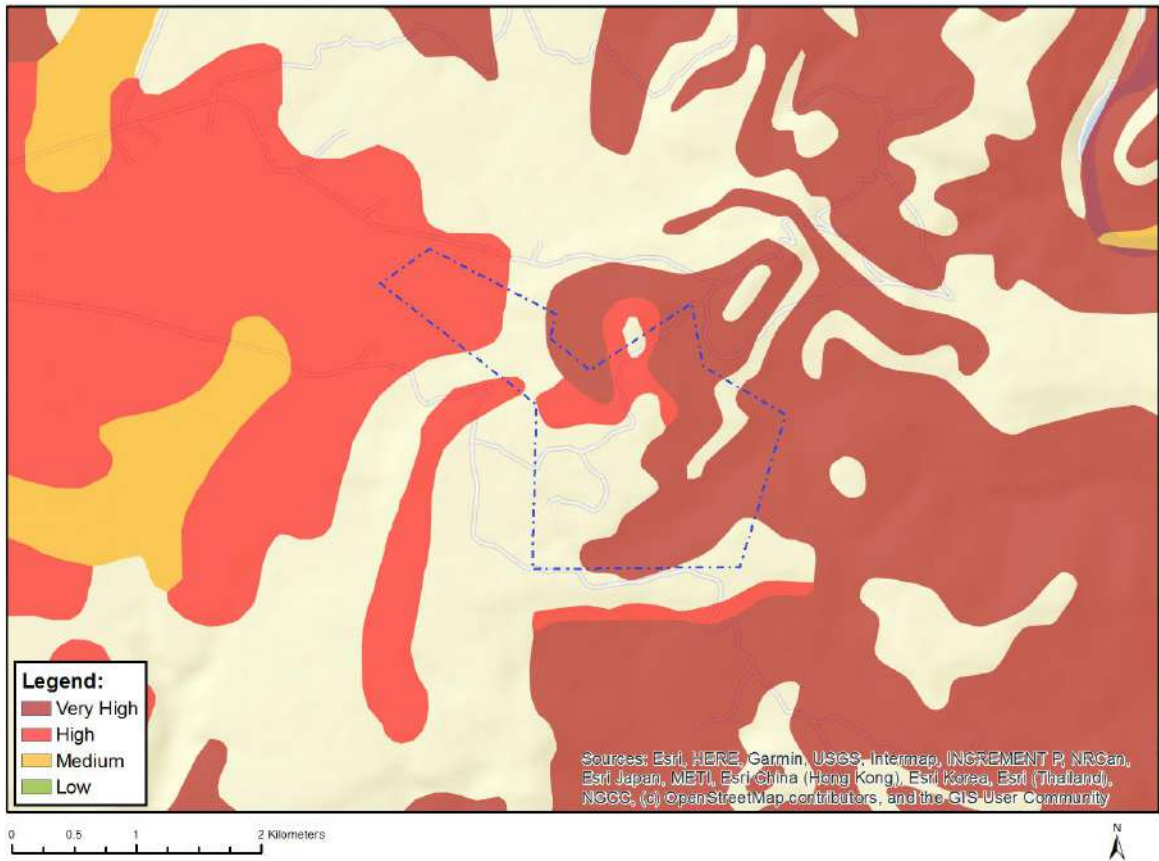


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

## MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

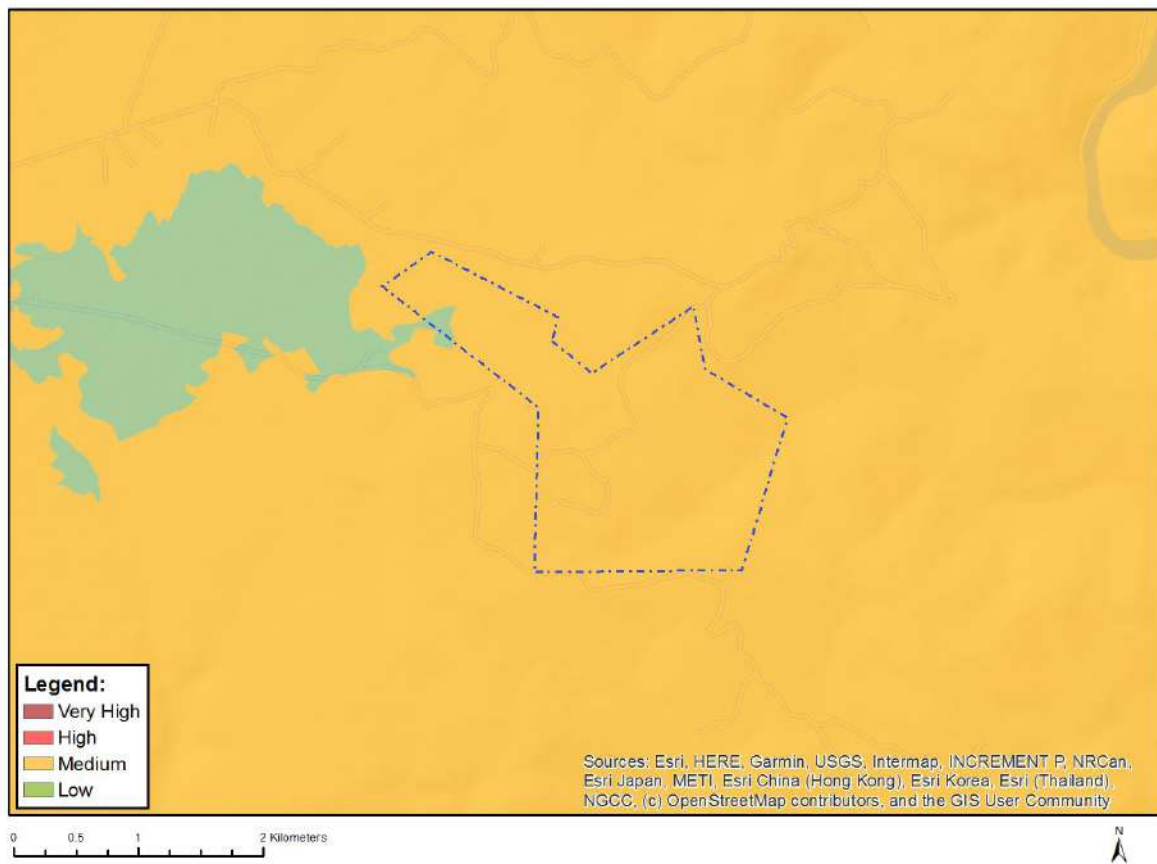


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Features with a High paleontological sensitivity
Very High	Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity

## MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



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Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Sensitive species 1252
Medium	Sensitive species 596
Medium	Sensitive species 1181
Medium	Vitellariopsis dispar
Medium	Thunbergia venosa



## MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

### Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	ESA
Very High	CBA: Optimal
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Northern Drakensberg