SAQONDISANA INVESTMENT (PTY) LTD

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (SR) FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING RIGHT (BULK SAMPLING) AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF PORTIONS 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 AND 8 OF THE FARM RESERVE NO.11 15831 GUI IN THE KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE.

FILE REFERENCE NUMBER SAMRAD: KZN 30/5/1/1/3/2/1(11859) PR

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Sunday M Mabaso	Project Manager/Reviewer		March 2025

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 for applications for environmental authorization for listed activities triggered by an application for a right or a permit are submitted in the exact format of this template and provide all the information required in terms of this template. Furthermore, please be advised that failure to submit the required information 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 SCOPINING

The objective of the scoping 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 the 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd, hereafter referred to as 'the applicant' or 'Saqondisana' has applied for a prospecting right for Chrome, Manganese, Coal and Gold in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the Farm Reserve No. 11 15831 GU; situated 20.74 km Northeast of Melmoth town and 28.30 km Southeast of Ulundi town, using the following access roads from Ulundi is P701and R34 roads via Melmoth, in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa.

The application for a prospecting right is in terms of Section 16 and the removal and disposal of the mineral in terms of Section 20 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (as amended) (MPRDA). 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 authorization process is the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMPR), KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The proposed prospecting project triggers activities listed on Listing Notice 2: Activity 19 of the NEMA; therefore, a Scoping & EIA in terms of NEMA Government Notice Regulation (GNR) 983 (as amended by GNR 325 of 7 April 2017) is required. The environmental impacts of the proposed project activities were determined by identifying the environmental baseline and then conducting an environmental risk assessment to identify the significant effects/impacts. Specialist studies conducted include geophysical studies using desktop studies to obtain all possible geological information and historical data on the proposed prospecting area. These include the review of published geological reports, data from the Council for Geoscience, and relevant geological research within the proposed location. As well as a screening tool from the Department of Environmental Forestry & Fisheries (DFFE).
The screening tool: A indicates that Aquatic, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage sensitivities and Terrestrial Biodiversity Themes are extremely high. The Agriculture, Animal Species, and Civil Aviation Themes are high. Palaeontology Theme, and Plant Species Themes are medium. The Defence Theme is low in terms of sensitivity. Thus, leaving on site low.

The screening tool: B indicates that Agriculture, Aquatic, Palaeontology Theme and Terrestrial Biodiversity Themes are very high. The Animal Species and Civil Aviation Themes are both high.

Plant Species Themes are medium. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage sensitivities and Defence Theme is low in terms of sensitivity. Thus, leaving on site low.

The environmental impact assessment considered all phases of the project, including the site establishment, operation, 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.

Prospecting activities will be divided into non-invasive activities and invasive activities, and the assessed impact ratings after implementation of the mitigation measures are described in this report.

Non-invasive activities include:

- Desktop studies,
- Aeromagnetic survey,
- Geological mapping,
- Geophysical survey,
- Environmental and Rehabilitation studies, and
- Banking and feasibility studies

Invasive activities include:

- Site establishment – vegetation clearance of an extent area of 30m x 30m for the installation of mobile ablution facilities and mobile site office.
- Construction of temporary access roads
- Trenching– Five (5) Trenches with dimensions of 50m x 20m x 30m will be excavated.
- Processing operation – for processing of coal-bearing material
- Rehabilitation – drilling holes will be closed with steel caps one meter below ground level in their respective manner, and the trenches will be closed with a cap, and the rehabilitation of the office and equipment storage site, trenching sites, and access roads.

The stakeholder engagement process, as part of the Environmental Authorisation process, was conducted in terms of NEMA (as amended), which provides clear guidelines for stakeholder engagement during an EIA. Stakeholders will therefore be allowed to participate in the public review of the Draft Scoping Report from **28th March 2025** to ensure that the assessment of impacts and proposed management of impacts address their concerns. A public participation meeting will occur before the end of **12th April 2025** at a local meeting place where I&Ap's will be informed of the project and given a platform to present comments on it. Comments received

during the 30-day comment period (from the Draft Scoping Report review) will be incorporated into the final Scoping Report as well as the minutes of the public participation meeting, to be submitted to DMPR for decision-making.

Details of the Applicant

Table 1: Showing details of the Applicant

Name of Applicant:	Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd		
Registration number (if any):	2023/23084/07		
Trading name (if any):	Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd		
Responsible person: (E.g., CEO, Director, etc.)	Niel Van Zyl		
Contact person:	Niel Van Zyl		
Physical address:	Plot 1 AH, Sapfo Valtaki, Gauteng		
Postal address:	Plot 1 AH, Sapfo Valtaki, Gauteng		
Postal code:	1870	**Cellphone:**	+27 82 461 3787
Email:	neil@exicon.co.za		

Environmental Consultants

Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd is the appointed independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Scoping Report for the EA application for the proposed prospecting project for Coal, Manganese, Chrome, and Gold in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the Farm Reserve No. 11 15831 GU; situated 20.74 km Northeast of Melmoth town and 28.30 km Southeast of Ulundi town, using P701 and R34 roads for access, in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa. The area covers an extent area of 61,307 ha.

Table 2: Showing details of the EAP

Company name:	Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Contact person:	Sunday Mabaso
Physical address:	238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Extension 3, Johannesburg South, 2190
Telephone:	+2711 432 0062 / 074 569 7312
Email:	info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za

Public Participation Process Methodology

A Public Participation Process (PPP) will be undertaken as required in terms of Regulation 41 of NEMA: EIA Regulations, 2017 (as amended). During the undertakings of the PPP, the environmental and social impacts will be investigated, and all stakeholders affected by the project are allowed to comment, raise concerns, and contribute to the assessment to ensure that local knowledge, needs, and values are taken into consideration throughout the process.

The Draft Scoping Report will be made available for public review and comments 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 following processes will be followed to undertake the PPP:

- A Background Information Document (BID) including Interested and Affected Parties Registration Forms (IAPs) will be distributed to various stakeholders, including the I&APs, via email and hand delivery.
- A newspaper advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper.
- Site notices will be erected at various places within the vicinity of the site**;**
- A public meeting with the local community will be held; and

An electronic copy could be accessed and downloaded from www.vahlengweadvisory.co.za.

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1. Introduction

Saqondisana proposes to undertake prospecting for coal, manganese, chrome, and gold in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the farm Reserve No.11 15831 GU in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu Natal Province. This covers an extent of 61,307 ha. The prospecting area is situated 20.74 km Northeast of Melmoth town and 28.30 km Southeast of Ulundi town, using P701 and R34 roads for access, in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa. However, the proposed prospecting activities will include non-invasive and invasive techniques. The project entails the excavation of five (5) Trenches with dimensions of 50m x 20m x 30m. The principal or principle of sampling is to determine the quality and grade of the chrome, manganese, coal, and gold. Bulk sampling will be done by using machinery as well as labour. Drill rigs will be used to remove core logs, and an excavator will be used for creating trenches for topsoil and overburden removal, as well as for taking bulk samples of the coal seam for laboratory and metallurgical tests.

The prospecting activities will be undertaken in four (4) phases for a total duration of 60 months, thus five (5) years. Should the prospecting program not be completed within the first term of granting, the prospecting right will be subject to renewal for another three (3) years.

2. Contact Person and correspondence address.

2.1. Details of the EAP

Table 3 showing details of the EAP

Company name:	Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd
Contact person:	Sunday Mabaso
Physical address:	238 Vorster Ave, Glenvista Extension 3, Johannesburg South, 2190
Telephone:	+27 11 432 0062 / 074 569 7312
Email:	info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za

2.2. Expertise of the EAP

2.2.1. The qualifications of the EAP (with evidence as **Appendix**)

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

Table 4 Expertise of the EAPs

NAME	Sunday Mabaso
QUALIFICATIONS	Graduate Diploma in Engineering (GDE): Mining, Postgrad Certificate: Climate Change and Energy Law, Certificate: Mine Closure and Rehabilitation.
RESPONSIBILITY ON PROJECT	Project Leader and Reviewer
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	EAPASA (Reg. No. 2022/4485)
EXPERIENCE	Sunday Mabaso is the Principal Consultant at Vahlengwe since 2021. Sunday has plus 30 years of experience in the mining industry with 20 years spent at the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy wherein for seven (7) years as a Regional Manager (3 years in Northern Cape and 4 years in Gauteng). He has acquired various qualifications in mining Graduate Diploma in Engineering: Mining, Post Graduate Certificate in Climate Change and Energy Law from the University of the Witwatersrand and Certificate in Mine Closure and Rehabilitation with the University of Pretoria. His areas of expertise in Environmental Management, Mining

	Legislation, Mine Economics, and Social and Labour Plans. Sunday has published several academic papers, including “Legacy Gold Mine Sites & Dumps in the Witwatersrand: Challenges and Required Action” in the Journal of Natural Resources, Vol 14, 2023. https://doi.org/10.4236/nr.2023.145005.
NAME	Lusizo Nqasha
QUALIFICATIONS	Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Management Bachelor of Arts Honours in Geography Master of Science Candidate in Geography
RESPONSIBILITY ON PROJECT	Report compiler
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	EAPASA Candidate (Reg. No. 2024/9364)
EXPERIENCE	Lusizo is a junior environmental consultant with five months of experience in Environmental Management. He holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental management from Walter Sisulu University and an Honours degree in Geography from Wits University and is currently in his final year of a Master of Science in Geography at the University of the Witwatersrand.

3. Location of the overall Activity

Table 5 Details of the overall activity location

Farm Name:	Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 in respect of the farm Reserve No.11 15831 GU.
Application area (Ha)	61 307 ha
Magisterial district:	District Municipal of UThungulu]
Distance and direction from the nearest town	The prospecting area is situated 20.74 km Northeast of Melmoth town and 28.30 km Southeast of Ulundi town, using P701 and R34 roads for access, in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa
21-digit Surveyor General Code for each farm portion	N0GU00000001583100000 N0GU00000001583100002 N0GU00000001583100003 N0GU00000001583100004 N0GU00000001583100006 N0GU00000001583100007 N0GU00000001583100008

CADASTRAL MAP

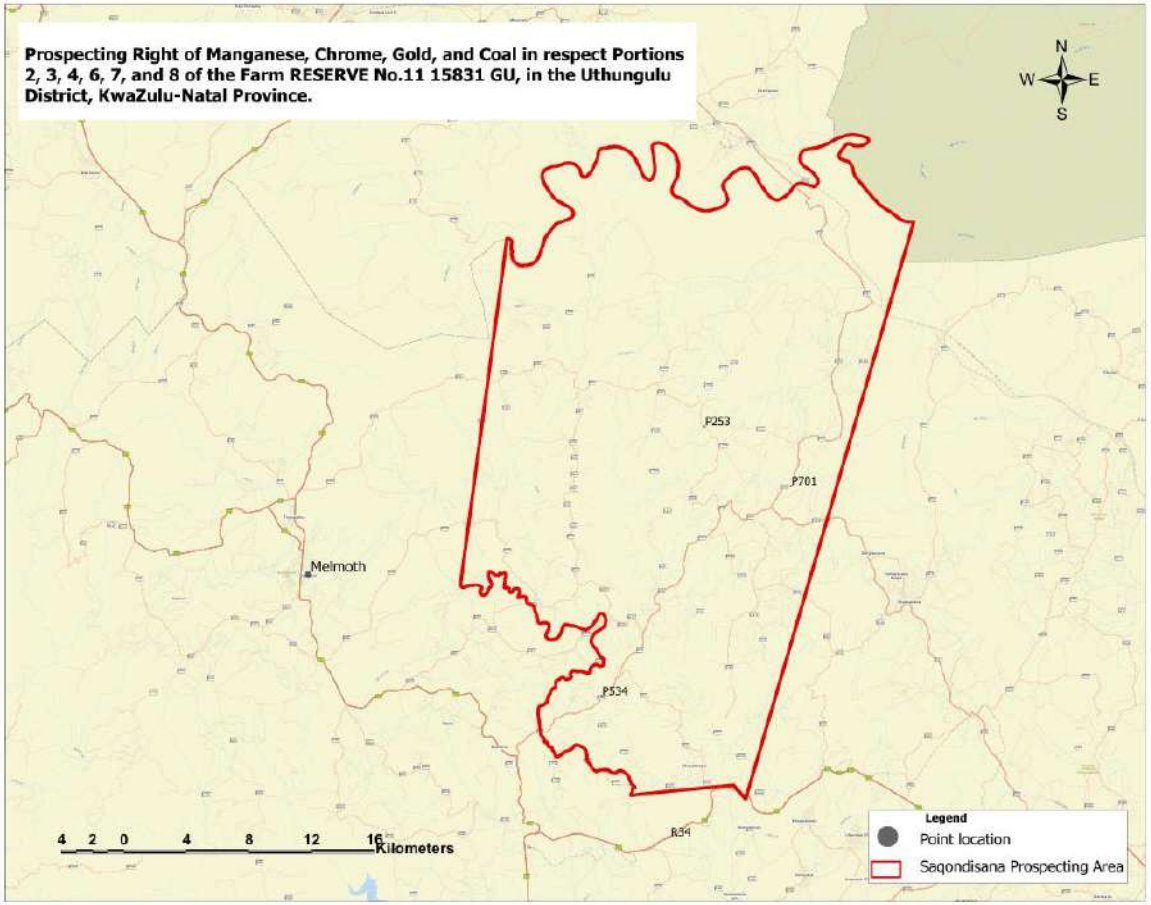


Figure 1: Locality Map of the proposed area

4. 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.

The proposed prospecting right application is for the prospecting of chrome, manganese, coal, and gold in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the farm Reserve No.11 15831 GU in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu Natal Province, covering an area extent of 61 307 ha. The prospecting area is situated 20.74 km Northeast of Melmoth town and 28.30 km Southeast of Ulundi town, using the following access roads from Ulundi is P701and R34 roads via Melmoth, in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa. The proposed activities on site are as follows:

- **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 drilling and trenching sites.

Operating Method

- **Power supply**

Diesel powered vehicles and machinery will be used for the proposed project.

- **Water Supply**

Water is anticipated to be trucked to the designated drilling and trenching sites and taken onto the property. As needed, water bowsers will be sent to the locations.

- **Waste management**

The waste will be generated from the operation includes general, scrap, and hazardous waste. The waste is intended to be handled, separated, stored, and disposed of accordingly.

The following waste types are generated at the operation:

General waste will include;

- Domestic Waste;
- Paper;
- Plastic;
- Cardboards;
- Tins; and
- Glass.

Hazardous waste includes oil spills from vehicles and equipment that must be properly cleaned up and disposed of. All hazardous waste will be disposed of by a hazardous waste contractor who will issue a Hazardous Waste Safe Disposal Certificate as proof of safe disposal. The scrap metal generated consists of scrap metal. The scrap metal waste will also be collected by a contractor who disposes of the waste at the appropriate scrap metal facilities and provides certificate of collection and disposal. General waste will be collected by the municipality and disposed of at the municipal landfill site.

4.1. Project Activities

- **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 drilling and trenching sites.

- **Borehole drilling**

Larger diameter borehole core drilling will enable the evaluation of both the physical continuity and the quality continuity of the gold ore deposits. The borehole core data will be used for structural evaluation, quality analyses, and geotechnical evaluation. For reliable resource evaluation, the core recovery shall be more than 95% within the mineral deposits, and all core recovery information shall be properly documented. The spacing of about 76 -110 mm diameter borehole core holes for geological studies depends on the mineral deposits. The spacing between boreholes shall be decreased appropriately where significant quality changes occur in structurally complex areas and along the gold ore deposits. Drilling will be undertaken to a sufficient depth to intersect the Natal and DWYKA formations, which may require boreholes exceeding 200 meters in depth in certain areas.

- **Bulk sampling**

Bulk sampling provision has been made to excavate between two and five trenches, each with dimensions of 20 meters by 10 meters at a depth of 10 - 50 meters, depending on the borehole results. The principle of sampling is to determine the quality and grade of chrome, manganese, coal, and gold, as well as the depth and extent at which the minerals are found. Bulk sampling will be done by using machinery as well as labour. Excavators and rigid haul trucks will be used to remove the topsoil, which then goes through a scrubber and is stockpiled.

- **Sample Analysis**

The core logs will be sent to a laboratory for a detailed analysis of the mineral composition of the core samples. The statistical methods will be employed to evaluate gold grade distribution and variability within the core samples. determine their physical, chemical, and mineralogical properties. Additionally, the bulk samples will be transported to an offsite laboratory, where they will be analysed to understand the distribution of gold grades within the bulk sample.

- **Rehabilitation**

The concurrent rehabilitation will be conducted as far as possible in areas where trenching is complete. The final rehabilitation operation will include the following:

- Backfilling of the trenches with the materials that will be excavated;
- Revegetation of the disturbed vegetation;
- Contouring the land to restore the natural drainage system;
- Rehabilitation of access roads;
- Rehabilitation of overburden and spoils; and
- General surface rehabilitation.

Decommissioning.

The decommissioning phase will involve the following:

- Removal of the mobile containers and portable ablution facilities;
- Final rehabilitation of the prospecting area footprint and all disturbed areas; and
- The general clean-up of all the redundant infrastructure.

4.2. Listed and Specified Activities

The proposed prospecting, with bulk sampling activity, triggers activities listed in NEMA Listing Notice 1 and 2. Table 6 presents a summary of the NEMA-listed activities triggered by the proposed prospecting project.

Table 6: Listed Activities

NAME OF ACTIVITY	AERIAL EXTENT OF THE ACTIVITY (HA OR M²)	APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE *GNR 983, GNR 984 or GNR 985*
Prospecting Right application area	61 307]	GNR 325 (Listing Notice 2); Activity 19
Planned invasive of 5 trenches at 50m length, 25m Breadth and 30m Depth.	61 307]	GNR 327 (Listing Notice 1) Activity 20
Geophysical survey		Not Listed
Geological field mapping		Not Listed
Access roads (3m x 50m)	61 307]	GNR 327 – Listing Notice 1, Activity 20
Installation of mobile offices and ablutions	61 307]	GNR 327- Listing Notice 1, Activity 20

5. Policy and Legislative Context

Table 7: Policy and Legislative Context

Applicable legislation and guidelines used to compile the report	Reference where applied
The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 Under Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), it is clearly stated that: Everyone has the right to a) an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and b) to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that - (i) Prevent pollution and ecological degradation; (ii) Promote conservation; and Secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.	Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting 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.
National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017) 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.	Activities associated with the proposed prospecting activities are identified as in the Listed Activities in the Listing Notices 1 and 2 of the NEMA Regulations GN R983 and GN R984 (as amended).

Section 24 (1)(a) and (b) of NEMA state that: 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. 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.	
Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) The Act makes provision for equitable access to and sustainable development of the nation's mineral and petroleum resources; and provide for matters connected therewith. Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002): Mineral and Petroleum Resource Development Regulations GNR 527 of 2004; Section 7 (1). The prospecting work programme must contain:- (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; (ii) a geological survey to be carried out; and (iii) A geophysical survey to be undertaken.	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 Resources Development Regulations GNR 527 of 2004.

(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; (ii) Any bulk sampling and testing to be carried out; and (iii) Any other prospecting methods to be applied.	
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act 39 Of 2004) 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 theatmosphere and have or may have a significant negative impact on the environment. Activities requiringan 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 activitywithout an AEL	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 PM10, respectively. As part of the EIA Phase, an Air Quality Impact Assessment will be conducted, and the Project's activities will be guided by the NEM: AQA and the NAAQ standards. The required mitigation will be included in the EMPr.
National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) The NWA ensures that water resources are used and protected in a sustainable and equitable manner. It is based on the principle that the National Government has overall responsibility and	The proposed prospecting project requires a WULA in terms of Section 21 of the NWA. All water management infrastructure will be designed to

authority over water resource management, including the equitable allocation and beneficial use of water in the public interest, and that a person can only be entitled to use water if the use is permitted by the NWA. GN R 704 was published in June 1999 and aims to regulate the use of water for mining and related activities for the protection of water resources and states the following: • Regulation 4: No residue deposit, reservoir or dam may be located within the 1:100-year flood line, or less than a horizontal distance of 100 m from the nearest watercourse. Furthermore, person(s) may not dispose of any substance that may cause water pollution; • Regulation 5: No person(s) may use substances for the construction of a dam or impoundment ifthat substance will cause water pollution; • Regulation 6 is concerned with the capacity requirements of clean and dirty water systems, and Regulation 7 details the requirements necessary for the protection of water resources.	withstand a 24-hour rainfall event that occurs once every 1,000 years. A WULA will be compiled and submitted to DWS as the decision-making authority under Section 21 of the NWA. The EIA process will assess the potential impacts of prospecting activities on groundwater resources.
National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 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 managementactivities 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.	It is expected that activities listed in GNR921 (Category B) will be triggered by the proposed Saqondisa Prospecting project and will require a waste management license. Table 5-1 provides a list of GNR921 activities triggered by the project.

National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEM:BA) 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: • Alien and Invasive Species Lists, 2014 published (GN R.599 in GG 37886 of 1 August 2014); National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004: Threatened and Protected Species Regulations; and	A Fauna and Flora Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA Phase.
National Noise Control Regulations, R.154 of 1992 (the Noise Regulations) promulgated in termsof Section 25 of the Environmental Conservation Act, 1989 (Act 73 of 1989) The National Noise-Control Regulations (GN R154 in Government Gazette No. 13717 dated 10 January1992) (NCRs) form part of the Environmental Conservation Act and these Regulations apply to externalnoise. 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 (whichis a subjective measure and is defined as noise that "*disturbs or impairs or may disturb or impair the convenience or peace of any person*"). 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 ofthe South African National Standards 10103:2008 (SANS) guidelines for the Measurement and Ratingof Environmental Noise with Respect to Land Use, Health, and Annoyance and to Speech Communication. As such, a Noise Impact Assessment in accordance with the NCRs must be undertaken for submission to determine the potential disturbing and nuisance noise levels associated with a	A Noise Impact Assessment, including modelling, impacts and proposed mitigation measures will be undertaken for the EIA Phase.

particular development.	

6. 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 potentially viable economic mining activity. This will consequently boost the countries' currently 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, and royalties, also contributing to the gross domestic product and tax revenues.

Prospecting activities for coal, manganese, chrome, and gold can be beneficial for several reasons, which include the following:

- Understanding mineralisation: Should the economic deposits prove economically viable, this will attract investments for mining in the area and, by extension, the region, thereby accruing economic benefits.
- Optimal utilisation of mineral resources: Prospecting can enhance the knowledge of mineralisation, promote optimal exploitation of natural resources, and understanding the environmental impact of mining.
- Increased resource efficiency: Prospecting of the minerals can help exploit minerals that would otherwise be lost, increasing resource efficiency.

Desirability factors:

- Economic feasibility: The cost of prospecting should be lower than the value of sterilising resources.
- Technical feasibility: The prospecting process should be technically viable and not harm the environment.
- Environmental and social acceptance: The activity should not harm the environment or local communities for sustainable development.
- Regulatory framework: A supportive regulatory framework is currently in place to facilitate the prospecting activity.

KwaZulu-Natal Province is renowned for its remarkable mineral wealth, boasting an impressive array of valuable deposits. Kwazulu-Natal is known for its abundant mineral resources, including chrome, manganese, coal, and gold. The province is home to significant coal reserves, with major coalfields

located in the north and northwest regions. Chrome and manganese occurrences are also suspected, with the province being a major producer of several strategic minerals. The province has an established mining industry, making it easier to access resources, expertise, and transportation networks. Furthermore, KwaZulu-Natal has a long history of coal mining, with numerous coal fields scattered throughout the province. Furthermore, if the target minerals are discovered, the information obtained from the prospecting activities will be required to determine how and where the minerals of interest will be extracted, as well as how much economic reserves are available within the proposed prospecting area. Saqondisana anticipates the significant economic benefits from the area, should minerals be discovered, and will accrue to the immediate area, the sub-region, and the KZN Province. These benefits must be balanced against the cost, including the impacts on 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 resource discoveries in the area. The rich mineral endowment of KwaZulu-Natal has made it an important contributor to South Africa's mining sector, with the province offering substantial opportunities for economic growth and development.

7. Period for which the Environmental Authorization is Required 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 chrome, manganese, coal, and gold reserves. Therefore, no other alternatives were considered.

- **Activities**

The prospecting activities will be undertaken in four (4) phases for a total duration of 60 months and, 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 ore bodies. If the project does not achieve its intended outcome within the designated timeframe, the prospecting right may be renewed by extending the period by up to three (3) years, as stipulated in Section 18 of the MPRDA, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) (as amended). The prospective 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 Mobile 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.

- **Excavation** of five (5) Trenches with dimensions of 50m x 20m x 30m.
- **Rehabilitation** of the overall site and **closure**.
- **Technology alternative**

The layout plan of the infrastructure has been planned to avoid sensitive areas as much as possible. The intended method of vegetation clearance will have minimal environmental impacts. The applicant intends to utilize a bulldozer to clear vegetation for site establishment and the construction of the access roads. There are no alternative technologies identified for the proposed prospecting activities in this regard.

8. 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.

8.1. 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:

Saqondisa intends to conduct the prospecting activity of chrome, manganese, coal, and gold to determine whether the area contains these commodities and, if so, whether the reserves are found in economically viable quantities. According to the NEMA: EIA Regulations GNR 325 of 2017, a Scoping Report 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.

Alternatives were chosen based on the consideration of both geological attributes and site environmental sensitivity. Geological attributes were determined using geological maps. Also, the local geology determines the type of technology to be used, such as Geological core drilling and pitting or trenching with back tractors. A comparison of cost-benefit of alternatives chosen was done to choose the most cost-effective methods that are environmentally sound. Areas that need protection would be excluded from the targeted sites in the demarcation process. Existing infrastructure that could be of use was also considered, such as farm roads, to ensure minimal impact on the environment.

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

Prospecting sites, associated campsite locations, and access routes are among the location alternatives considered for the proposed area. The proposed site was selected based on geological data, which indicates the potential presence of mineral resources such as chrome, manganese, coal, and gold. Within the proposed area, there are existing human settlements and a private game reserve. This situation could lead to social impacts if resettlement becomes necessary.

8.1.2. The type of activity to be undertaken;

Alternative trenching sites cannot be considered at this stage because the prospecting trenches 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 on the environment.

8.1.3. 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.

8.1.4. The technology to be used in the activity;

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

8.1.5. The operational aspects of the activity; and

- **Site Establishment**

The applicant intends to utilize a bulldozer to clear vegetation for site establishment.

- **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 trenching sites establishment.

- **Borehole drilling**

Small-diameter borehole core drilling will enable the evaluation of both the physical continuity and the quality continuity of the mineral deposits. The borehole core data will be used for structural evaluation, quality analyses, and geotechnical evaluation. For reliable resource evaluation, the core recovery shall be more than 95% within the chrome, manganese, coal, and gold. All core recovery information shall be properly documented. The spacing of about 110 mm diameter borehole core holes for geological studies depends on the gold ore deposits. The spacing between boreholes shall be decreased appropriately where significant quality changes occur in structurally complex areas and along the mineral deposits.

- **Bulk sampling**

Five (5) Trenches with dimensions of 50m x 20m x 30m will be excavated. The principle of sampling is to determine the quality and grade of the minerals as well as the depth and extent at which the minerals are found. Overburden thickness is expected to be 30m (i.e, 30 0000m^3). Bulk sampling is done by using machinery as well as labour. Excavators and rigid haul trucks are used to remove the topsoil and overburden as well as possible mineral deposit, which then goes through a scrubber and is stockpiled. The technology used in this activity will be open pit mining using trenching through the employment of Excavators to make the excavation and a Front-End Loader that will load the material onto Dump Trucks for transportation to stockpiles. The topsoil and overburden will be removed where necessary and stored near the excavation for easier rehabilitation activities. This activity is the most critical part of the proposed prospecting activities; therefore, the option of not implementing the activity cannot be considered.

- **Sample Analysis**

The core logs will be sent to a laboratory for detailed analysis to determine their physical, chemical, and mineralogical properties. Additionally, the bulk samples will be transported to an offsite processing facility, where they will be analyzed.

8.1.6. The option of not implementing the activity.

The option of not implementing the activity, also referred to as a “No-Go” option, ensures that the current status quo remains. Mineral resources prospecting aims to establish the presence, extent, and grade of chrome, manganese, coal, and gold resources on site, and should the activity be not implemented, this information will remain unknown. There is high potential for chrome, manganese, coal, and gold reserves in the proposed site, and should the project not be authorized, the potential

socioeconomic benefits associated with mining will not be realized. The local economy is supported by very few economic activities and, therefore, has very limited job opportunities. The success of prospecting activities will boost the local economy not only through job creation but demand for secondary services as well such as food supply boosting local SMMEs.

8.2. 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 legislative requirements and best practices, it is critical to create documentation that is easily accessible to all stakeholders affected or interested in the project. The documents listed below have been created and distributed to all stakeholders. The materials used for public participation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process are included as appendices to this report.

Background Information Document (BID):

The BID aims to provide important information regarding the following:

- Project description of the proposed prospecting activities;
- The SR and the PPP that will be 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 Scoping Report (BAR).
- The BIDs were hand-delivered & emailed to I & APs and the landowner from **24 February 2025.**

I&APs Registration Form:

A registration form was distributed to I&APs attached to the BID for the registration of the I&APs from **24 February 2025** (Table 9).

Site notice:

An A3-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 the community on **24 February 2025.**

Newspaper advertisements:

A newspaper advertisement, informing all I&APs residing in the surrounding communities near the proposed area within the District of UThungulu, KZN Province will be published and include information about Saqondisana's intention to conduct the prospecting activities for chrome, manganese, coal, and gold in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 of the farm Reserve No.11 15831 GUI in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu Natal Province. The newspaper advert will be published in the local newspaper**.**

I&APs are 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 requesting additional information via telephone. The EAP details were included in the advert, Background Information Document (BID), and site notice.

Draft Scoping Report Commenting Period

A draft Scoping Report will be made available via the Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting website (www.vahlengweadvisory.co.za). Printed copies will also be made available for viewing at the locations deemed accessible to the community.

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

Public meeting:

A Public Participation meeting will be conducted at a local place accessible by community members around March 2025. The meeting was conducted to facilitate discussions on the Draft Scoping Report as well as obtain comments, issues, concerns, and inputs from the Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs). All comments raised by the stakeholders will be recorded in the Comments Response Report (CRR). The minutes of these meetings and presentations will be included in the final report.

8.3. Summary of issues raised by I&APs

Table 8: 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					

TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE DRAFT SCOPING REVIEW PERIOD

Dept. Land Affairs					
Dept. Environmental Affairs					
Other Competent Authorities affected					

8.4. The Environmental attributes associated with the alternatives.
(The environmental attributed described must include socio-economic, social, heritage, cultural, geographical, physical, and biological aspects)

8.4 . 1 Baseline Environment

8.4.1.1 Type of environment affected by the proposed activity.
(its current geographical, physical, biological, socio- economic, and cultural character).

- **Climate**

The project area falls within the range of the Melmoth weather station, which is located on the eastern side of SA. The climate in the application area is subtropical, with mild winters and hot summers. Thus, the mean daily maximum (solid red line) shows the maximum temperature of an average day for every month for Melmoth. Likewise, the mean daily minimum (solid blue line) shows the average minimum temperature. Hot days and cold nights (dashed red and blue lines) show the average of the hottest day and coldest night of each month. The average annual temperature is 35°C, with low to moderate rainfall, typically between 800 mm per year, with most rainfall occurring during the summer months (October to March). January is the warmest month with an average high of 28°C and low of 23°C, whereas July is the coldest month with an average low of 10°C and high of 19°C. The month with the highest relative humidity is February, while the month with the lowest relative humidity is July. The month with the rainiest days is January, with an average of 14-16 rainy days, and the least rainy month is June, with an average rainfall of 20 mm.

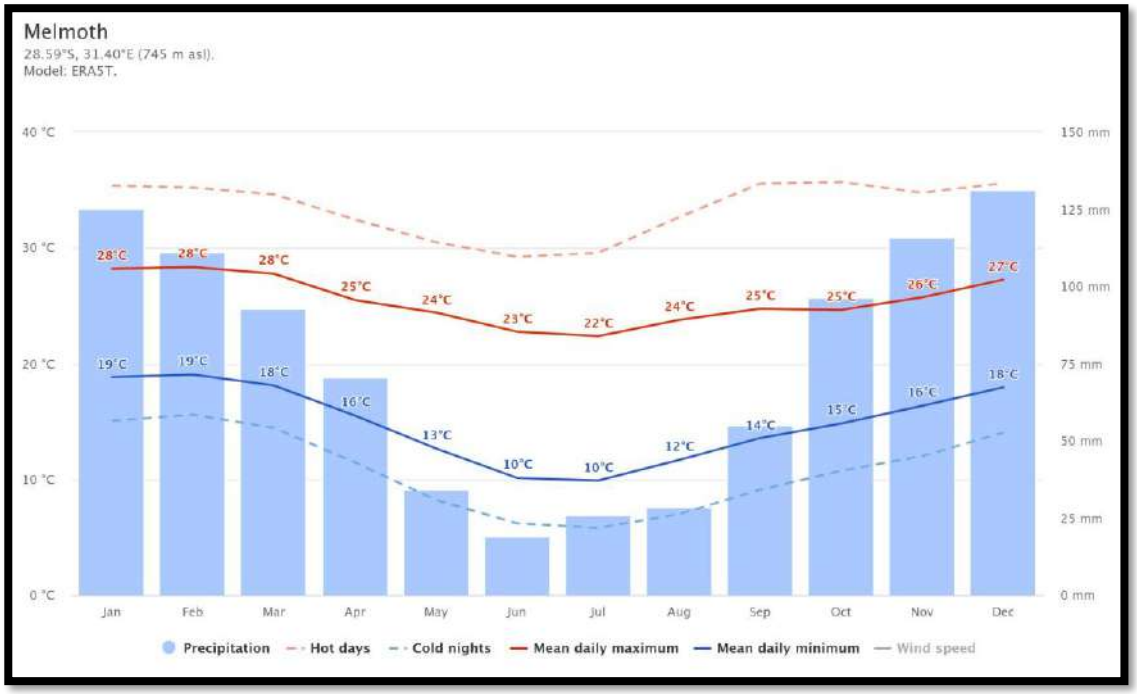


Figure 2: Average annual climatic conditions (https://www.meteoblue.com)

- **Wind**

The average hourly wind speed in Melmoth experiences moderate seasonal variation with varying wind patterns over the year. The windiest month in Melmoth is June, with an average wind speed of 17 kilometers per hour. The calmest month of the year is February, with an average wind speed of 11 kilometers per hour. The average wind speed is around 11-20 kilometers per hour, with gentle breezes prevailing throughout the year. The prevailing wind direction in Melmoth is from the Northern Hemisphere via the eastern side to the Southern Hemisphere, especially during the summer months.

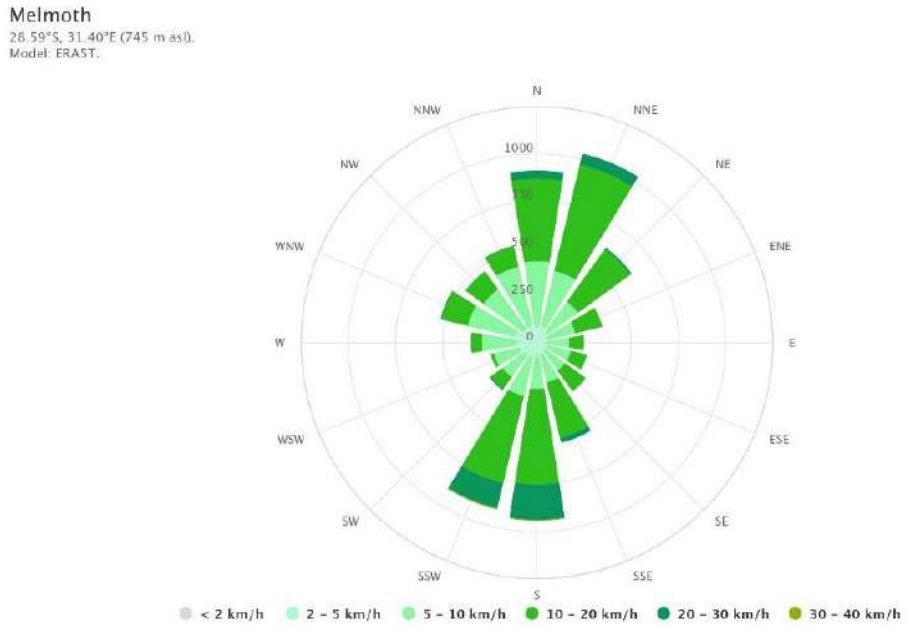


Figure 3: Annual Windrose (https://www.meteoblue.com)

- **Geology and Soils**

Mineral formation in the Natal Group is characterized by sedimentary rocks such as conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones, and shales. These minerals, including quartz and feldspar, are typically derived from the erosion of older rocks and deposited by fluvial processes in a foreland basin. The DWYKA Group, known for its glacial origins, contains diamictites, tillites, and mudstones. Minerals in this formation, such as quartz and clay, are often associated with glacial deposits. The Beaufort Group features mudstones, siltstones, and sandstones deposited in a fluvial environment. Minerals here include clay minerals, quartz, and feldspar, often influenced by volcanic activity during the deposition period. However, the economic importance of minerals derives primarily from the fact that the mines are major producers of antimony and by-product gold. Although the norm of the mineralization lends itself to several different interpretations, most researchers seem to agree that it was multiphase and

most probably structurally controlled (Van Eeden et al., 1939; Cilliers, 1975; Viljoen and Muff, 1975; Coetzee, 1976; Viljoen et al., 1978).

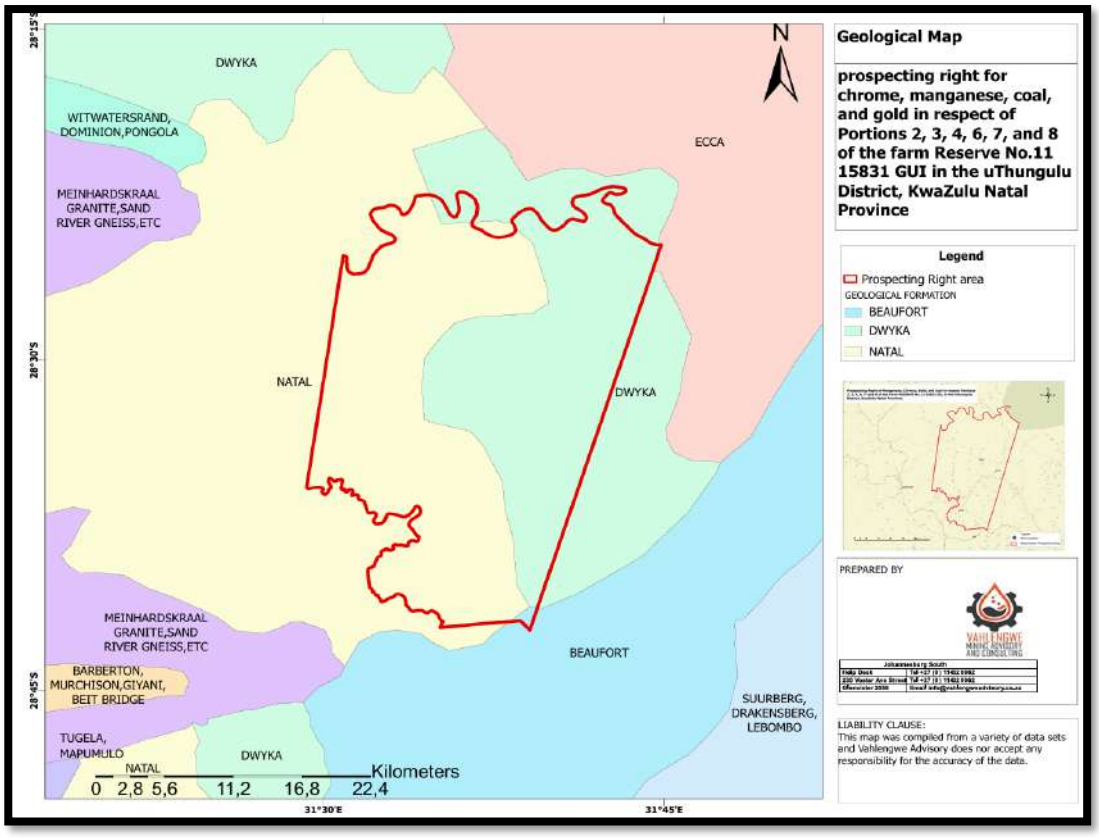


Figure 4: Geology of the application area

- **Topography and Land Capability**

Land capability is the ability of land to support a given land use without causing damage. Land capability class definitions area as follows:

- **Class I** contains soils having few limitations for cultivation.
- **Class II** contains soils having some limitations for cultivation.
- **Class III** contains soils having severe limitations for cultivation.
- **Class IV** contains soils having very severe limitations for cultivation.

The study area is Class IV. Class IV contains soils having very severe limitations for cultivation

Topography

The application area is set in a landscape characterized by rolling hills: Gentle slopes and undulating hills are common in the area. The surrounding landscape features rolling hills and plains, with an average elevation of around 900 meters (2,953 feet) above sea level. The prospecting area lies next to Melmoth Valley, which is a fertile basin surrounded by mountains. The area is characterized by

bushveld vegetation with a mix of grasslands, shrubs, and trees. Several land types are occurring within the area. Much of the study area consists of.

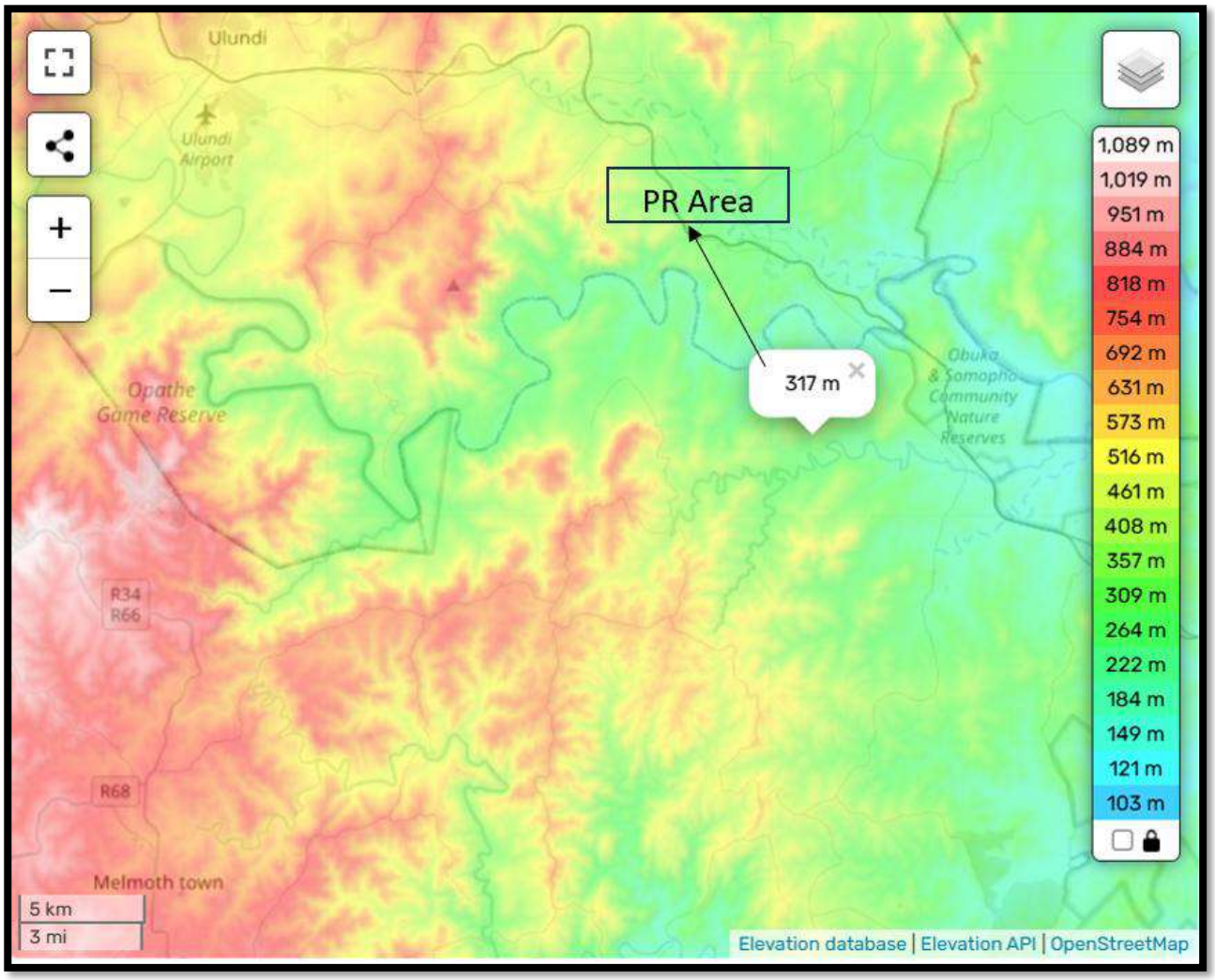


Figure 5: Topographical map of the application area

- **Hydrology**

The project area has a river passing across it called the Wit-Mfolozi River. The Wit-Mfolozi River, also known as the White Umfolozi River, is part of the larger Umfolozi River system in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The catchment area of the Umfolozi River, which includes the White Umfolozi, is approximately 11,068 square kilometers. The White Umfolozi River originates just west of Vryheid and joins the Black Umfolozi River to form the Umfolozi River, which flows eastward towards the Indian Ocean. The catchment area includes several protected regions, including parts of the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park sections. Crocodile River Catchment is a significant river system in SA, covering an extent of approximately 29,572 square kilometers. The

catchment experiences a summer rainfall season, with most rainfall occurring between October and March. The area encompasses urban centres (e.g., Melmoth and Ulundi), agricultural lands, and natural habitats like grasslands and savannas. The catchment faces environmental pressures like pollution, habitat destruction, and water scarcity due to urbanization and agricultural activities.

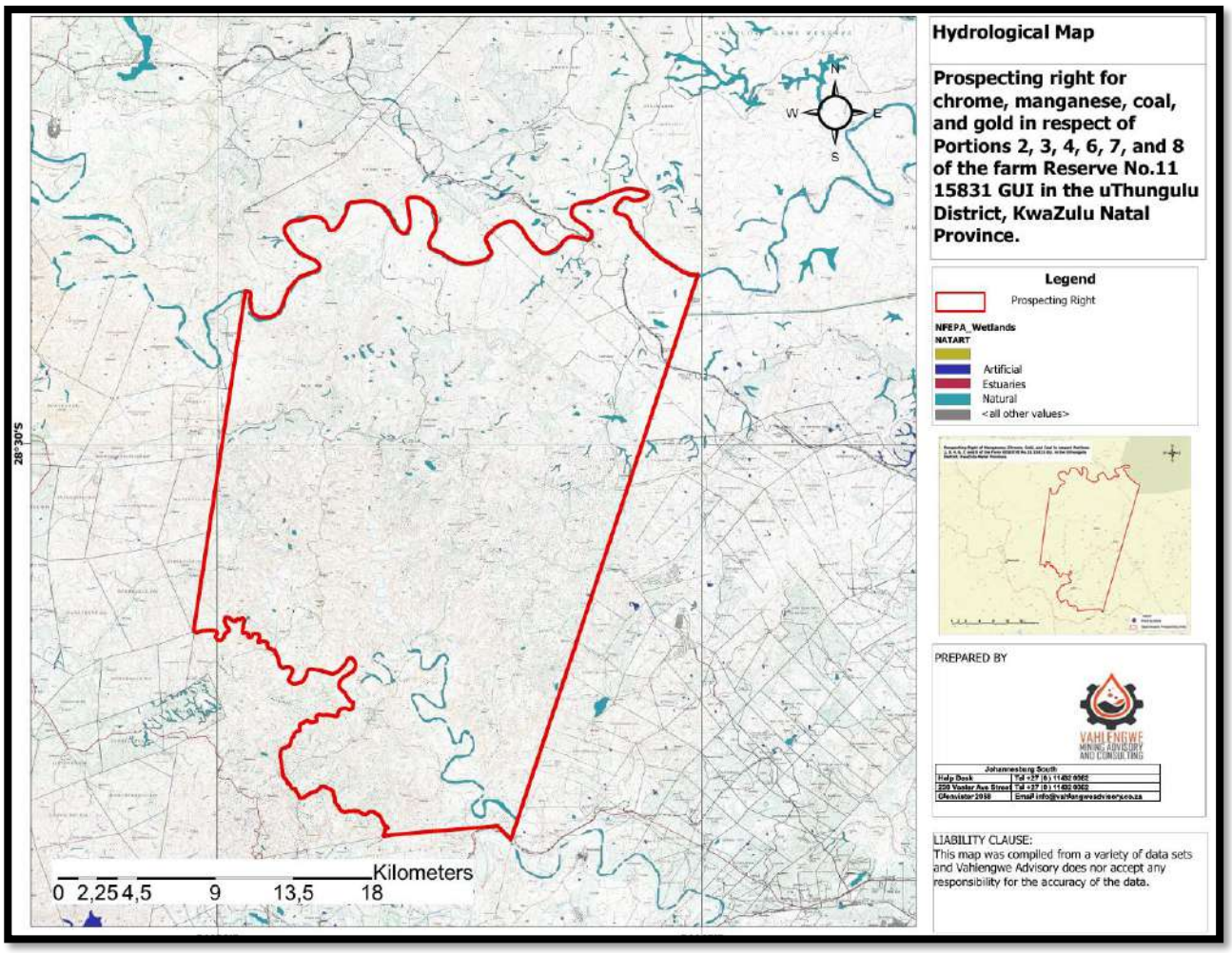


Figure 6: Hydrological map of the application area

- **Fauna and Flora**

The study area is distinguished by a variety of major vegetation types. The project area is dominated by the Zululand Lowveld and Moist Cost Hailand Grassland, with both vegetation types covering 100% of the study area (Figure 8). Savanna, often referred to as tropical grassland, is a grassland biome characterized by widely spaced trees with an open canopy covering approximately 20% of the earth's surface area. Vegetation occurs on slightly to moderately undulating plains sloping generally down to the north with some hills. Important Flora includes:

Grasses;

- *Bermuda Grass*
- *Elephant Grass and;*
- *Red Oat Grass*

Tree/ Shrub;

- *Camel thorn (Acacia erioloba)*
- *Gnoibos (Acacia mellifera)*
- *Rosyntjiebos (Grewia flava)*
- *Elandsboontjie (Elephantorrhiza elephantina)*
- *Tandpynbossie (Berula erecta)*
- *Dawidjiewortel (Cissampelos capensis)*

Important Fauna includes:

Mammals;

- Kudu (*tragelaphus strepsiceros*)
- Aardvark (*orycteropus afer*)
- Lion (*panther leo*)

Birds;

- Red-billed Hornbill (*tockus erythrorhynchus*)
- Lappet faced vulture (*aegypius tracheliotus*)
- Greater Honeyguide (*Indicator indicator*)

Invertebrates;

- Bushman arrow-poison beetle (*Diamphidia Nigro-ornata*)
- Rhus flea beetles (*blepharida*)
- African honeybee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*)

Reptiles;

- African rock python (*Python natalensis*)
- Leopard tortoise (*Geochelone pardalis*)
- Black mamba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*)

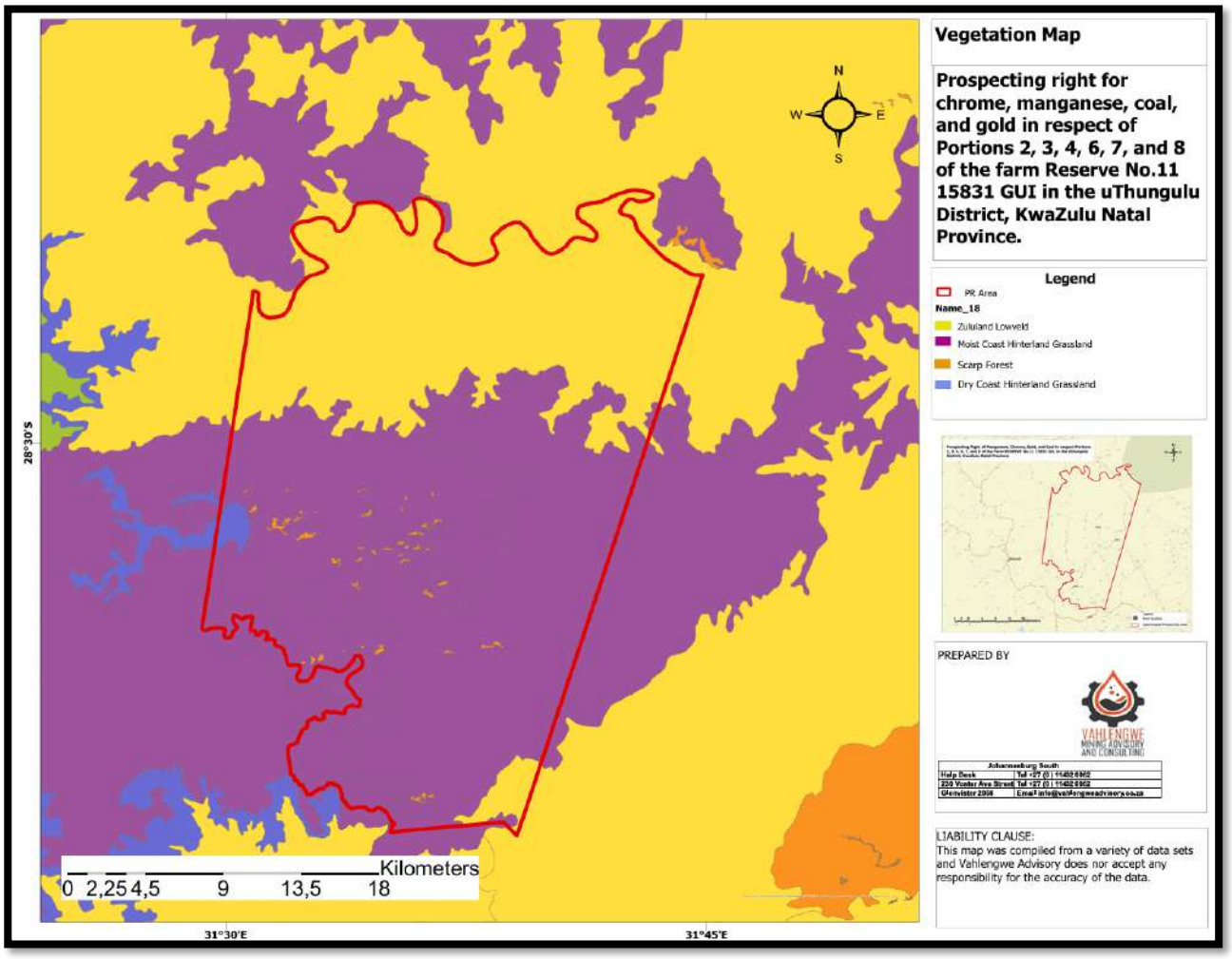


Figure 7: Vegetation map of the application area

- **Sensitivity**

The proposed project area falls within the Vulnerable, less threatened, and high conservation biodiversity as depicted in the conservation area map below (Figure 9). Vulnerable areas are the areas with essential resources and ecosystems that are easily disrupted or damaged by human activities. Critical biodiversity areas (CBAs) are terrestrial and aquatic areas of the landscape that need to be maintained in a natural or near-natural state to ensure the continued existence and functioning of species and ecosystems and the delivery of ecosystem services. In other words, biodiversity targets cannot be met if these areas are not maintained in a natural or near-natural state. Maintaining an area in a natural state can include a variety of biodiversity-compatible land uses and resource uses and can include one or more of the following: threatened ecosystems, special and important habitats, areas of high irreplaceability, ecological/biodiversity corridors, and existing or proposed protected areas and protected area development nodes. The management of the CBA-type areas is described in the KZN Biodiversity Sector Plan (2015) as follows:

Critical Biodiversity Area Type 1

Maintain in a natural or near-natural state that maximizes the retention of biodiversity patterns and ecological processes:

• Ecosystems and species are fully or largely intact and undisturbed.

• These areas have high irreplaceability or low flexibility in meeting biodiversity pattern targets. If the biodiversity features targeted in these areas are lost, then targets will not be met.

• These are biodiversity features that are at or beyond their limits of acceptable change

Critical Biodiversity Area Type 2

Maintain in a natural or near-natural state that maximizes the retention of biodiversity patterns and ecological processes:

- Ecosystems and species are fully or largely intact and undisturbed.
- Areas with intermediate irreplaceability or some flexibility in terms of meeting biodiversity targets. There are options for the loss of some components of biodiversity in these landscapes without compromising the ability to achieve biodiversity targets, although the loss of these sites would require alternative sites to be added to the portfolio of CBAs.
- These are biodiversity features that are approaching but have not passed their limits of acceptable change.

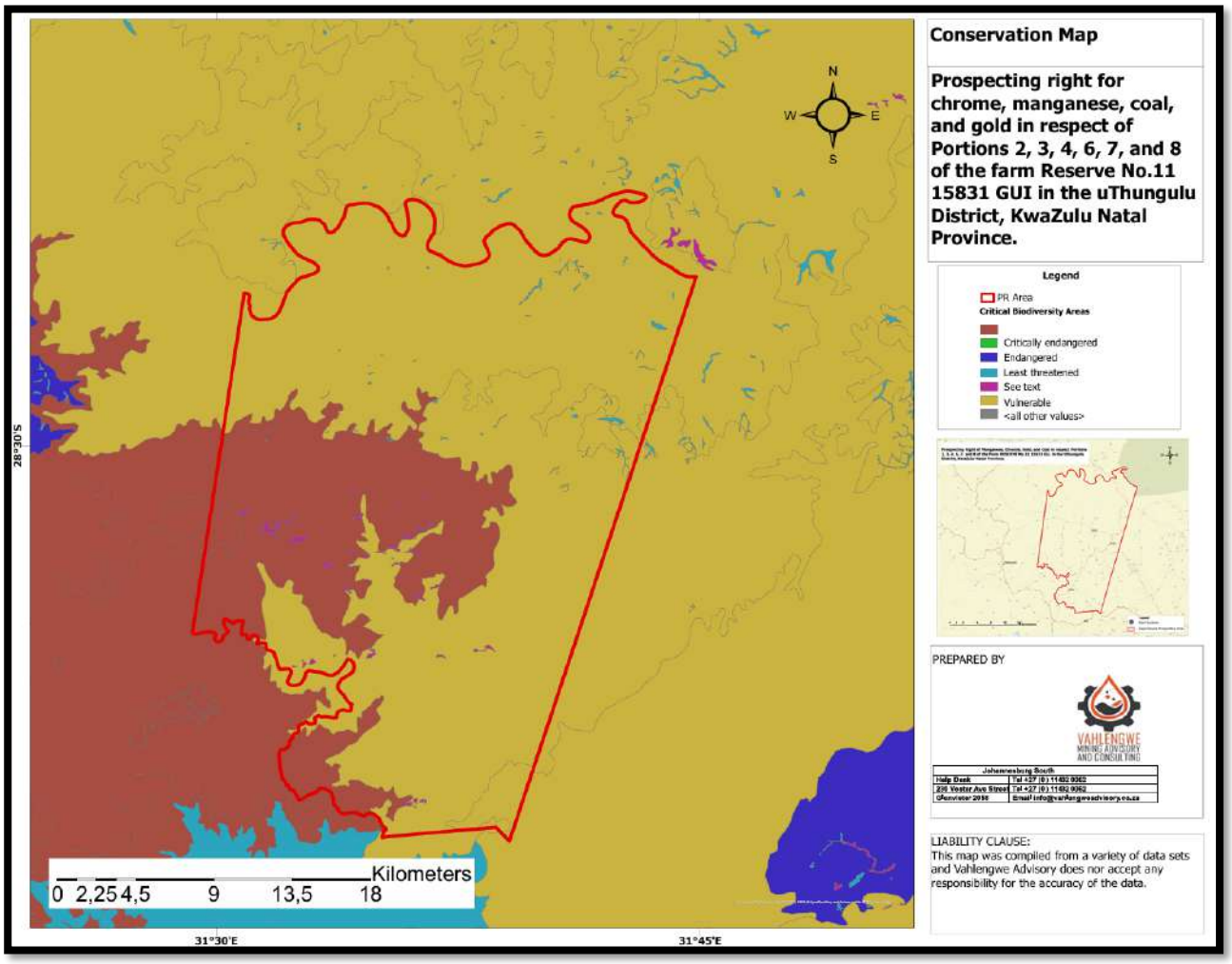


Figure 8: Conservation map of application area

- **Socio-Economic Status**

The project area falls within King Cetshwayo District Municipality Municipality, located in KwaZulu-Natal Province. The prospecting area is situated 20.74 km Northeast of Melmoth town and 28.30 km Southeast of Ulundi town, using P701 and R34 roads for access, in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, South Africa. In 2023, the Municipality reported a population of 478,254 (see the figure below).

In 1887, when the British government annexed Zululand, they established several magisterial districts. One district was Mthonjaneni, and the centre of the district was what is known today as Melmoth, named after Sir Melmoth Osborn, the first British Chief Native Commissioner for Zululand. Melmoth was essentially a ‘gold rush town’. At the turn of the century, gold was mined at the Melmoth Gold Fields, five kilometers out of town, but this was a short-term venture. Deserted diggings can still be found in some areas

Table 8: Demographic Information of Mthonjaneni Local Municipality

Population	**2011**
People	47 818
Age Group: Young Working age Elderly	 (0-14) 26.6 % (15-64) 68.4%
Language: IsiZulu English	 93.8% 1.7%

The municipality has a population density of 47,818. The area is made up of a majority Black African population group (96,4%), followed by White (3%), Indian/Asian, and others, respectively.

Group	Percentage
Black African	98,5%
Coloured	0,4%
Indian/Asian	0,2%
White	0,7%
Other	0,2%

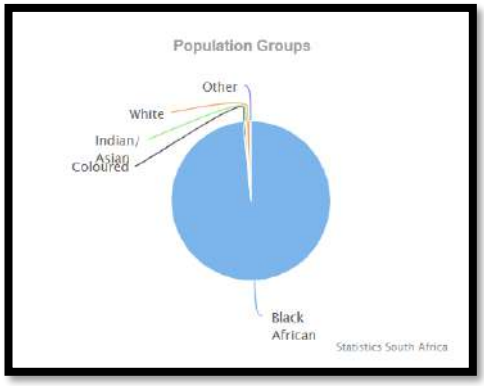


Figure 9: Population group distribution of Mthonjaneni Municipality

Age	Males	Females
0-4	7%	7%
5-9	6,2%	6%
10-14	6,3%	6%
15-19	5,8%	5,8%
20-24	4,6%	5,3%
25-29	3,6%	4,6%
30-34	2,6%	3,3%
35-39	2%	2,7%
40-44	1,7%	2,4%
45-49	1,6%	1,6%
50-54	1,4%	2%
55-59	1,1%	1,6%
60-64	0,9%	1,3%
65-69	0,5%	0,8%
70-74	0,4%	0,9%
75-79	0,2%	0,6%
80-84	0,2%	0,5%
85+	0,2%	0,4%

Figure 10: Age distribution of Mthonjaneni Municipality

According to Figure 11, this is the smallest municipality in the district, with only 47,818 community members distributed in six wards. The dominant race group is black African, constituting 47,089, followed by 320 whites, 214 coloureds, 114 Indians or Asians, and others. 94% of the total population are Zulu speaking.

Language	Percentage
Afrikaans	0,7%
English	1,7%
IsiNdebele	1,5%
IsiXhosa	0,1%
IsiZulu	93,8%
Sepedi	0,2%
Sesotho	0,1%
Setswana	0,7%
Sign Language	0,5%
SISwati	0,1%
Tshivenda	0%
Xitsonga	0,1%
Other	0.3%
Not Applicable	0%

Figure 11: Mthonjaneni local Municipality language distribution

According to Census 2011 results, the primary education enrollment for the population aged 6–13 was sitting at 88,9%. This is an indication that not all children of school-going age are attending school. 23,2% of the municipality's population aged 20 and above have no formal education. 220 people have a matric degree, 199 have a bachelor's degree, 52 have an honours degree, and 41 have a master's/Phd (See Figure 12)

Group	Percentage
No Schooling	4,4%
Some Primary	48,5%
Completed Primary	6,7%
Some Secondary	29,5%
Completed Secondary	10,3%
Higher Education	0,6%
Not Applicable	0%

Figure 12: Education level

Figure 15 shows that there are 10,433 households in the municipality, and the average household size is 4,6. Of these households, 37,1% own their houses. A total of 54% of community members live in formal dwellings, 42% in traditional dwellings, and 3% in informal dwellings.
68,9% of the community uses electricity for lighting, while 45,2% use pit toilets, and 24,45% have water inside their dwellings.

Source of water	Percentage
Regional/Local water scheme (operated by municipality or other water services provider)	52,1%
Borehole	11%
Spring	2,1%
Rain water tank	0,6%
Dam/Pool/Stagnant water	2,6%
River/Stream	26,3%
Water vendor	0,4%
Water tanker	3,8%
Other	1,1%

Figure 15: Source of water of Melmoth

Toilet Facility	Percentage
None	10,7%
Flush toilet (connected to sewerage system)	25,2%
Flush toilet (with septic tank)	4,2%
Chemical toilet	9,9%
Pit toilet with ventilation	11,7%
Pit toilet without ventilation	30,1%
Bucket toilet	0,5%
Other	7,7%

Figure 14: Toilet facility services of Mthonjaneni Local Municipality

Energy Source	Cooking	Heating	Lighting
Electricity	48,4%	26,5%	68,9%
Gas	4,7%	1,9%	0,3%
Paraffin	7%	1,1%	0,8%
Solar	0,2%	0,1%	0,3%
Candles	0%	0%	28,8%
Wood	38,9%	45,7%	0%
Coal	0,2%	0,8%	0%
Animal Dung	0,1%	0,1%	0%
Other	0,1%	0%	0%
None	0,4%	20,9%	0,9%

Figure 13: Energy Source used by Mthonjaneni Municipality households

According to Figure 16, there are 10,433 households in the municipality, and the average household size is 4,6. Of these households, 37,1% own their houses. A total of 54% of community members live in formal dwellings, 42% in traditional dwellings, and 3% in informal dwellings. However, 68,9% of the community uses electricity for lighting, while 45,2% use pit toilets, and 24,45% have water inside their dwellings

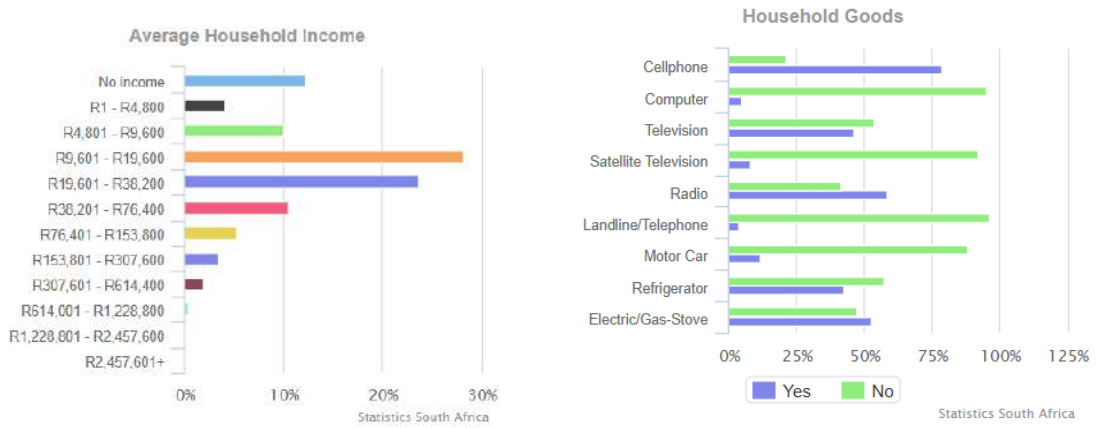


Figure 16: Annual household income & household goods (source: 2022 Census)

9.4.1.1. Description of the current land uses.

Agricultural activities are being undertaken around the project area because of its fertile soil and subtropical climate. The main crops include avocados, mangoes, bananas, citrus fruits, and nuts. Commercial and subsistence farming includes irrigation schemes dominating the landscape. Notably, within the PR area, there is Mfulawazo Wilderness Private Game Reserve, which contributes to tourism activity. Ulundi and Melmoth Towns are commercial and administrative centre with residential areas, shopping centres, and infrastructure. Traditional villages, including Debe and Lumbi, often subsistence farming and livestock, are scattered throughout the municipality.

9.4.1.2. Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site.

The project area is accessible via R34 to Melmoth and P701 from ULundi. In terms of sensitivity, the area falls within the Vulnerable and Less Threatened Biodiversity Areas, with the latter covering the least surface area (see Figure 8). The Wit-Mfolozi River is on the Northern side of the application area and serves as a boundary on the Northern hemisphere of the Game reserve. There are several wetlands on the site where the proposed project will be undertaken. The area is an open veld wherein farm dwellings and cultivation activities are undertaken. The project area is accessible via R34 to Melmoth and P700 and P701 from Ulundi

9.4.1.3. 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).

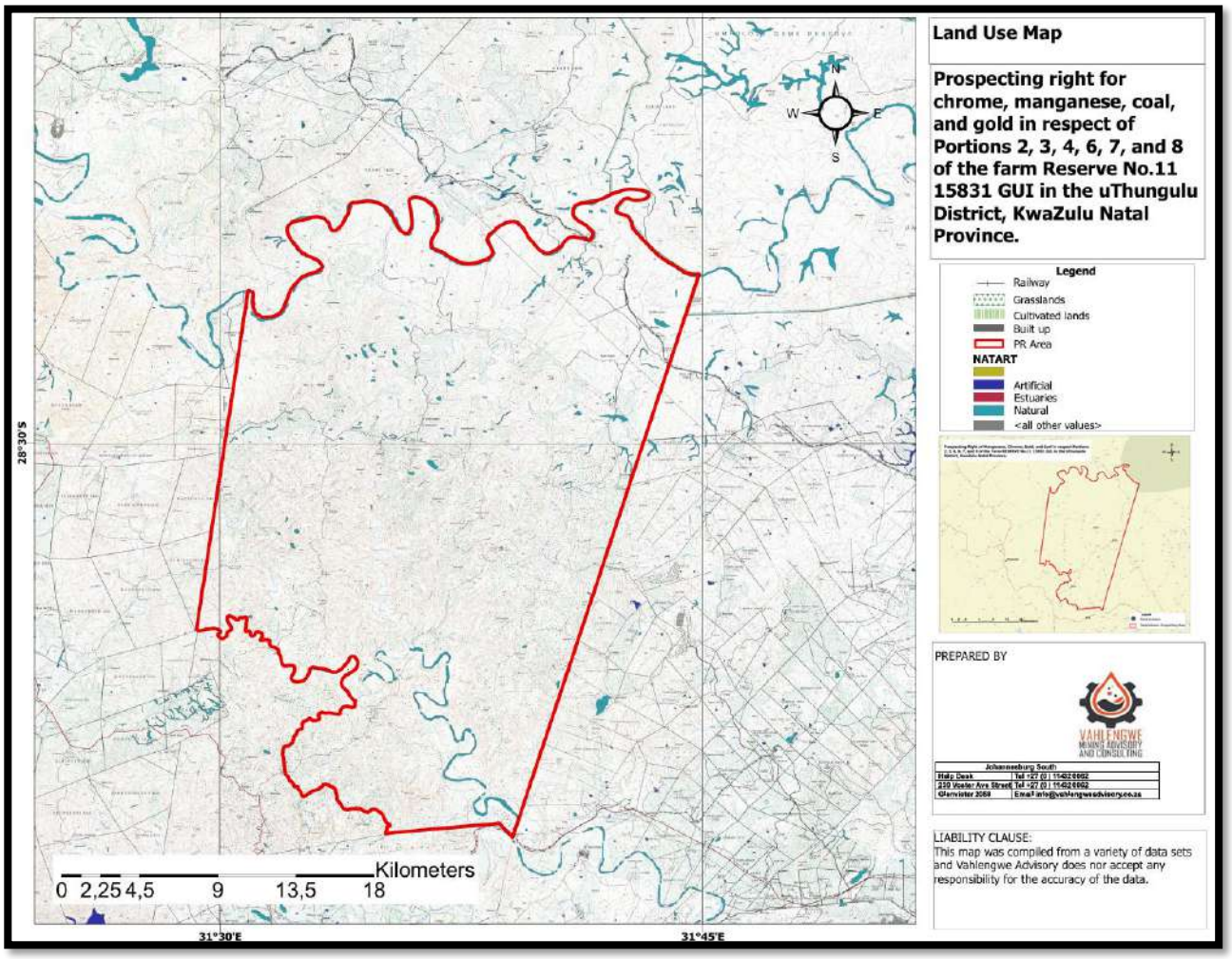


Figure 17: Land use map of the application area

9.5.1 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

- **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 trenching sites.

- **Borehole drilling**

Small diameter borehole core drilling will enable the evaluation of both the physical continuity and the quality continuity of the mineral deposits. The borehole core data will be used for structural evaluation, quality analyses and geotechnical evaluation. For reliable resource evaluation the core recovery shall be more than 95% within the mineral deposits and all core recovery information shall be properly documented. The spacing of about 110 mm diameter borehole core holes for geological studies depends on the gold ore deposits. The spacing between boreholes shall be decreased appropriately where significant quality changes occur in structurally complex areas and along the mineral deposits.

- **Bulk sampling**

Bulk sampling provision has been made to excavate about five trenches, each with dimensions of 50 meters by 20 meters at a depth of 100 - 150 meters depending on the borehole results. The principle of sampling is to determine the quality and grade of mineral deposits as well as the depth and extent at which the gold ore is found. Bulk sampling will be done by using machinery as well as labour. Excavators and rigid haul trucks will be used to remove the topsoil where it then goes through a scrubber and is stockpiled.

- **Rehabilitation**

The rehabilitation of the disturbed area will involve backfilling of trenches with the originally excavated materials, and disturbed vegetation will be revegetated. Additionally, the land will be contoured to restore the natural drainage system, and access roads will be rehabilitated. Overburden and spoils will also be rehabilitated, alongside general surface rehabilitation to ensure the restoration of the area to its natural state.

Various phases of the prospecting related activities from the site establishment, decommission and rehabilitation are associated with environmental impacts that may be major positive, negative and cumulative. The potential impacts are discussed per environmental features/ aspect below.

- **Visual**

Dust generation and creation of visual disturbance may occur from presence of machinery, site clearance and establishment of the infrastructure.

- **Vegetation clearance**

The vegetation clearance due to the associated prospecting operations will allow for increased surface water runoff, which may lead to soil erosion and loss of topsoil.

- **Soils**

The removal of the topsoil may result in loss of topsoil life and nutrition and may disturb the natural sequence of soil layers thereby changing the soil and land capability. A change in soil capability will in consequently affect the end land use if not properly mitigated. The movement of heavy vehicles in the construction area will result in soil compaction, water runoff and soil erosion especially during the rainy season. Temporary storage of hazardous products may result in soil contamination through hydrocarbon spillages.

- **Surface Water**

The National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) project has identified Wit - Mfolozi River which passes on top of the project area. The proposed prospecting activities have the potential to cause contamination of water resources and deterioration of water quality as a result of soil erosion from wind and water on the exposed surfaces. Consequently, the soil erosion may increase turbidity and sedimentation of the nearby watercourses.

- **Groundwater**

The excavations of trenches can result in groundwater contamination if the operation reaches a water table. Groundwater may also be subjected to contamination due to hydrocarbon spillages and seepage into the ground.

- **Socio-Economic**

This project will create job opportunities for the local community members which will alleviate unemployment within the host community. Local businesses will also benefit from the procurement of goods and services that will sustain the project for the proposed period of the project. Project related employment has the potential to considerably improve the livelihoods and income stability of employees and their dependents.

- **Safety**

Prospecting equipment such as dust suppression equipment, sprayers, equipment and vehicles could be stolen. These issues pose a security risk to law enforcement, affected landowners and neighbouring communities. The prospecting site could be subject to vandalism as criminals search for valuable items from the operation. Workers may be injured in connection with the operation and handling of the material.

- **Health**

The proposed project is associated with the dust generation that contains fine particulate matter of which if inhaled may cause respiratory diseases to the workers.

- **Noise**

Noise disturbance to surrounding communities are expected to occur during prospecting operations due to the operating equipment and vehicles.

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

10.1. 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 of time.
- **Frequency** of the impact occurring: An indication of how often an aspect, as a result 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 a number of 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 9: Consequences and Significance Rating

	Nature of Impact:		
CONSEQUENCE	**Low**	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions and processes are not affected.	**1**
	Low-Medium	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions and processes are affected insignificantly.	**2**
	Medium	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions and processes are altered.	**3**
	Medium-High	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions and processes are severely altered.	**4**
	High	Impacts affect the environment in such a way that natural, cultural and / or social functions and processes will temporarily or permanently cease.	**5**
	Scale/Extent of Impact:		
	Local	The impacted area will only extend as far as the activity being conducted, e.g., the activity footprint	**1**
	site	Impact occurs within a 20km radius of the site.	**2**
	Regional	Impact occurs within a 100km radius of the site.	**3**
	National	Impact occurs within South Africa.	**4**
	Duration of Impact:		
	Short-term	The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through the natural processes in shorter time span.	**1**
	Medium-term	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.	**3**
	Long-term	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.	**4**
	Permanent	Intervention will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient.	**5**
	Frequency of the Occurrence of the Impact:		
	Annually or less	Impact occurs at least once in a year or less frequently.	**1**
	6 months	Impact occurs at least once in 6 months.	**2**
	Monthly	Impact occurs at least once a month.	**3**
	Weekly	Impact occurs at least once a week.	**4**
	Daily	Impact occurs daily.	**5**
PROBABILITY	**Probability of the Occurrence of the impact:**		
	Improbable	The possibility of the impact materializing is very low either because of design or historic experience.	**1**
	Probable	The possibility of the impact materializing will occur to the extent that provision must be made thereof.	**2**

	Highly Probable	It is most	**4**
	Definite	The impact will occur regardless of any prevention measures.	**5**
	Magnitude of the impacts:		
	Low	The impact alters the affected environment in such a way that the natural processes are not affected.	**2**
	Medium	The affected environment is altered; however, the functions and processes continue in a modified way.	**6**
	High	Function or process of the affected environment is disturbed to the extent where it temporarily or permanently ceases.	**8**
SIGNIFICANCE	**Significance of the impact: Sum (Duration, Extent, Magnitude) x Probability**		
	Negligible	The impact is non-existent or unsubstantial and is of no or little importance to any stakeholder and can be ignored.	**< 20**
	Low	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.	**< 40**
	Moderate	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.	**< 60**
	High	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	**> 60**

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 Low 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 10: Impacts and Significance.

Aspect	Impacts	Extent	Duration	Magnitude	Probability	Significance	Reversibility	Replaceability
Soils and Land Capability	There will be a disturbance on the soil and erosion at the proposed prospecting area due to the vegetation clearance and the removal of the topsoil.	Local	Medium - Term	Medium	Highly Probable	Moderate	Irreversible	Irreplaceable
Vegetation	The potential impact of the proposed prospecting on the vegetation would occur at the prospecting area which result in loss of diversity, habitat and indigenous vegetation.	Local	Medium - Term	High	Definite	High	Irreversible	Replaceable
Animal life	• Animal life will be affected in the immediate vicinity of the operation. • It is anticipated that the noise and general activity will keep the animal life away from the site while the prospecting is ongoing.	Site	Medium - Term	Medium	Definite	Moderate	Irreversible	Irreplaceable
Surface Water	There is a Wit - Mfolozi River which traverses the project area.	Local	Medium-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Reversible	Irreplaceable
Ground water	Groundwater contamination due to hydrocarbons seepages, boreholes drilling and trenching.	Site	Medium-term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Irreversible	irreplaceable
Air Quality/ Dust	Dust generation by vehicle movement on dust roads, processing of the material and during the trenching operations.	Site	Medium-Term	Medium	Highly Probable	Moderate	Reversible	Replaceable
Noise	Noise nuisance will be created by the excavation, operating processing plant and vehicle movement.	Site	Medium - Term	Medium	Probable	Low	Irreversible	Replaceable
Cultural Heritage	Impacts on cultural and heritage resources if any exists.	Local	Short - Term	Low	Improbable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable

Visual	The prospecting activities will change the visual character of the property.	Site	Medium - Term	High	Definite	High	Irreversible	Replaceable
Socio-economic	The effect of this prospecting activity for employment and socio-economic regime would be positive.	Regional	Medium-Term	Medium	Probable	Moderate (positive)	Reversible	Replaceable
Safety	Equipment theft and property vandalism	Local	Medium-Term	Medium	Probable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable
Health	Health impact due to dust inhalation, occupational injuries.	Local	Medium-Term	Medium	Probable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable
Waste Generation	Waste nuisance and littering	Site	Medium-Term	Medium	Probable	Moderate	Reversible	Replaceable
Traffic and access	Prospecting activities generates additional traffic on the existing number of the moving vehicle going in and out of the site.	Regional	Medium-Term	Medium	Probable	Low	Reversible	Replaceable

10.1.1. The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected

The impacts assessed has highlighted potential risks, important management strategies and control measures associated with the Project. It is considered that there are opportunities to substantially mitigate the potential impacts by undertaking a well-planned and effective operation. The project has associated positive and negative impacts. Such impacts are described in Table 11.

Table 11: Positive and negative impacts of the proposed activity.

Impact	Rating Pre-Mitigation	Construction	Operation	Decommission	Rating Post-Mitigation
Positive (+)	Medium	• Employment opportunities • Support to local businesses and SMME's • Income generation for accommodation business sector • Contributing to the national's economy	• Employment opportunities • Support to local businesses and SMME's • Income generation for accommodation business sector • Contributing to the national's economy	• Employment opportunities • Land and soils capability restoration • Re-vegetation and regeneration of the indigenous vegetation	Low
Negative (-)	Moderate	• Visual nuisance • Health and Safety impacts • Surface and groundwater contamination • Impacts on traffic • Unsustainable job security • Disturbance on the landscape • Waste generation • Alien vegetation species invasion	• Visual nuisance • Health and Safety impacts • Surface and groundwater contamination • Impacts on traffic • Unsustainable job security • Disturbance on the landscape • Waste generation • Alien vegetation species invasion • Noise disturbances	• Visual nuisance • Health and Safety impacts • Surface and groundwater contamination • Impacts on traffic • Job losses	Low

		• Noise disturbances			
Negative (-)	High	• Habitat disturbance • Vegetation disturbances • Loss of biodiversity • Soil erosion • Soils contamination • Visual nuisance to moving equipment and vehicles	• Habitat disturbance • Vegetation disturbances • Loss of biodiversity • Soil erosion • Soils contamination • Visual nuisance to moving equipment and vehicles	• Habitat disturbance • Vegetation disturbances due to vegetation clearance • Alien vegetation species invasion • Soil erosion • Impacts on groundwater quality • Waste generation • Visual nuisance to moving equipment and vehicles	Medium

10.1.2. The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk.

As part of the EIA process, all potential mitigation measures for risks related to site layout will be discussed and considered. This will also take into account the comments made by I&APs during the public participation process. During the EIA process, the proposed mitigation measures for the assumed risks will be confirmed.

10.1.3. Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.

Considering that the minerals are site-specific, alternative sites were not selected for this project. Furthermore, other sites may already have an existing prospecting or mining right, limiting the applicant's options to consider other alternative sites. If the proposed prospecting activities do not indicate the desired mineral, alternative sites will be considered. All sensitive aspects have been considered and will be excluded from the prospecting activities.

10.1.4. Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site.

The prospecting phase is dependent on the results of the preceding phase. The location and layout of the prospecting trenches that will be excavated will be determined based on information derived from the non-invasive desktop study and geophysical surveys. Proposed trenches sites will be selected to avoid known heritage sites, watercourses, dwellings, infrastructure, and any other sensitive areas where possible.

10.1.5. Description of aspects to be assessed as part of the EIA process

The EIA Phase will assess the overall environmental aspects affected by the proposed project in relation to listed project activities. The identified listed and specified activities for the project are the prospecting activities which include the following:

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

10.1.6. Aspects to be assessed by specialists

The following Specialist Impact Assessments will be undertaken as part of the EIA Phase:

- Heritage Impact Assessment;
- Fauna and Flora Impact Assessment; and
- Wetland Impact Assessment
- Hydrological Investigations (including Flood line delineation)

The specialist reports will be included as part of the Draft EIA and will be made available for public review before submission to the decision-making authorities.

10.2. Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site

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 the EIA Phase investigates the potential negative and positive environmental impacts of proposed project activities. The potential impacts will then be quantified to determine the significance of an impact on the receiving environment. The goals of the EIA process are to:
- Ensure that the potential biophysical and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed Project are considered during the decision-making process;
- Ensure that the project activities will not have a significant negative impact on the environment by presenting management and mitigation measures that will avoid and/or reduce those impacts;
- Ensure that I&APs are informed about the project;
- Ensure that I&APs are given an opportunity to raise concerns, and make input in order to understand their needs and expectations; and

- Establish a process to enable authorities to make informed decisions, particularly in light of their obligation to consider environmental and social factors when making those decisions.

The EIA process will evaluate the overall aspects of the proposed project in relation to the activities to be carried out. A sensitivity report was created to determine the sensitivity of the proposed area in order to make informed decisions about the consideration and implementation of mitigation measures for the impacts posed by the proposed activity.

- **Extreme**

These are unacceptable risks primarily critical in nature in terms of consequences in terms of the extensiveness and long-term environmental harm, permanent sacred site damage, fatality, and massive economic impacts that are effectively considered a possibility to almost certain to occur. Such risks significantly exceed the risk acceptance threshold and require comprehensive control measures, and additional urgent and immediate attention towards the identification and implementation of measures necessary to reduce the level of risk.

- **High**

Typically relate to significant to critical consequences including a major amount of environmental or heritage damage, and considerable safety, social or economic impacts that are inclined to cut across the possible to almost certain likelihood ratings. These are also likely to exceed the risk acceptance threshold and although proactive control measures have been planned or implemented, a very close monitoring regime and additional actions towards achieving further risk reduction is required.

- **Medium**

As suggested by the classification, medium level risks span a group of risk combinations varying from relatively low consequence / high likelihood to mid-level consequence / likelihood to relatively high consequence / low likelihood scenarios across environmental, social, and economic areas. These risks are likely to require active monitoring as they are effectively positioned on the risk acceptance threshold.

- **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.

Likelihoods have been categorised around the probability of occurrence within the context of reasonable timeframes and frequencies given the nature of the anticipated project life. Levels of likelihood and the severity for the types of consequences that make up the risk rating determination are defined in the Table below:

Table 12: 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 opportunity for reduction to meet the project rehabilitation objectives and goals linked to an environmentally and socially responsible operation, and those requirements are part of the regulatory obligations and impact assessment guidelines. The table below provides a summary of the qualitative risk matrix adopted and the levels of risk for the various consequence and likelihood combinations.

Table 13: Risk Analysis Matrix.

		Severity of Consequence				
Likelihood of Consequence		Critical (5)	Major (4)	Significant (3)	Moderate (2)	Minor (1)
	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:

- Establishment of the office and equipment storage site;
- Installation of mobile offices and ablution facilities;
- Construction of a temporal access road to the camp;
- Excavation of Trenches and Bulk Sampling; and
- Rehabilitation and closure

10.3. Description of proposed method of assessing duration and significance

The duration of impact is a temporal indication of how long the effects of the impact will last if the activity that caused the impact stops. For example, the impact of noise is transient (it goes away when the activity stops), whereas the impact of removing topsoil lasts much longer.

Duration of Impact is identified in terms of the following:

- Short-term – The impact will either disappear with mitigation or will be mitigated through the natural processes in shorter time span.
- Medium-term – 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.
- Long-term – 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.
- Permanent – Intervention will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient.

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. Impacts can be assigned a rating of a potential risk, uncertain risk and significant risk.

Potential Significant Risk

Impact will be of potential significant risk if any of the following applies:

- The extent is national to international;
- The duration is long term to permanent;
- The magnitude will be high and above the acceptable standard; and
- Requires extensive intervention to mitigate the impacts.

Uncertain Risk

Impact will be of moderate significant risk if any of the following applies:

- The extent is local to regional;
- The duration is medium to long term;
- The magnitude is above the acceptable standard; and
- The environmental impacts are uncertain and may require some interventions to limit the impacts in the future.

Insignificant Risk

Impact will be of low significant risk if any of the following applies:

- The extent is site-specific;
- The duration is temporary;
- The magnitude is within the acceptable standard; and
- The environment is ecologically and physically stable, and no further interventions will be required in the future.

10.4. An indication of the stages at which the competent authority will be consulted.

The DMRE is the project's competent authority, and it will be kept informed throughout the Environmental Authorisation Application process. The DMRE has also been designated as a Key Stakeholder and will receive all notifications sent to I&APS throughout the process. The DMRE will also be invited to any/all public engagements and site inspections.

The following proposed Project dates apply to the Project Schedule:

- Submission of the Application Form: December 2024
- Submission of the Draft Scoping Report for Public Review: 25 April 2025.

10.5. Details of the Public Participation Process to be followed during the EIA process

In accordance with the NEMA, the public participation process will be aligned with the regulatory requirements outlined in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Stakeholder feedback gathered during the Scoping Phase, as well as the outcomes of public meetings, will be carefully considered for future Public Participation activities and inclusion in specialist studies (where applicable). The primary focus of stakeholder meetings during this phase will be to share the results of the completed specialist impact studies, as well as the associated suggested mitigation measures and recommendations.

It is expected that the Stakeholder Engagement process for the EIA Phase will be similar to the process used for the Scoping Phase. The premise of activities is to follow a single, integrated process while adhering to various legislative requirements for Public Participation. This will reduce stakeholder fatigue and provide stakeholders with a unified view of the Project. During the EIA Phase, a public meeting will be held to present the EIA process's findings.

10.6. EIA process

The following tasks will be undertaken during the EIA Phase:

- Further define the Project activities;
- Further assess the Project alternatives based on technical, economic, social and environmental criteria;
- Supplement the legal review of the Project;
- Undertake detailed specialist investigations and impact assessment;
- Confirm water requirements for the different phases of the prospecting and water resource;
- Identification of possible fatal flaws;
- Assess potential impacts using the methodology provided herein;
- Provide detailed and feasible mitigation and management measures in an EMPr; and
- Public participation activities, including public and key stakeholder meetings.

10.7. Measures to avoid, reverse, mitigate, or manage identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

Table 14: Determination of the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored

POTENTIAL IMPACT	ASPECTS AFFECTED	SIGNIFICANCE	MITIGATION TYPE	Residual Risk
Vegetation Destruction of natural vegetation Loss of threatened plant species Invasion of alien and invasive vegetation Exposure to erosion Loss of biodiversity	Vegetation (flora) Animal life (fauna) Soil and land capability	Moderate	Minimise site clearance to areas as per the approved site layout plan; Avoid and protect sensitive or protected flora; Implementation of the alien species eradication plan; and Avoid loss of Fauna through conservation.	Low
Noise Noise Generation	Noise pollution	Moderate	Conducting regular equipment maintenance to minimise noise generated by the operating equipment; 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; and Maintaining a buffer of 500m between the operation area and dwellings.	Low
Visual The visual impact of project activities on residents, including	Topography and Visual Environment	Moderate	Minimise unvegetated areas as far as possible; Conduct concurrent rehabilitation of all disturbed areas.	Moderate

those from nearby communities and farmsteads.				
Air Quality Dust generation	Dust fall & nuisance from activities	Moderate	Implementation of the dust suppression system; Dust monitoring should be implemented; Low vehicle speed enforcement on unpaved surfaces; and Maintain a buffer of 500m- 1000m between the operational site and dwellings.	Low
Soils and land Capability Soil Compaction leading to erosion and sedimentation	Soil and vegetation disturbance	Moderate	No informal soil, additional or random routes should be developed in the vicinity of the prospecting area; Overburdened material may not be dumped in a random manner. Specific sites must be agreed upon and adhered to so as to allow the use of the overburden in landscaping or fill where required; All vehicles should be inspected for leaks to prevent unnecessary spillages of diesel and oil on site that may lead to soil contamination. Provide adequate erosion control measures where required; No mixing of fertile soils with sub soils during the operation; and Implement concurrent rehabilitation and re-vegetate all disturbed with locally indigenous species as soon as possible.	Low

<u>Surface water and groundwater resources</u> Sedimentation and siltation of water courses Alteration of natural drainage patterns Contamination of water resources Degradation of surface and groundwater quality	Surface water quality Groundwater quality	Moderate	Remedy the possible effects of alteration to natural drainage lines; Implementing the hydrocarbon spillages management plan; Ensure that wastewater is appropriately managed; and Implement the erosion control measures.	Low
<u>Health and Safety</u> Health and safety of employees and surrounding communities	Human health and safe working environment	Moderate	All employees or sub-contractors entering site must be inducted to ensure the awareness of the developed health and safety plan; Appoint a health and safety representatives to be appointed during operations; Conduct daily inspections and observations of on-site activities shall take place; All incidents to be reported, recorded, investigated, and mitigated. Employees and subcontractors must be clearly informed about the required personal protective equipment (PPE) for their specific work areas. It is essential that they are consistently equipped with the appropriate PPE to ensure their safety Safety signs to be provided in areas considered as high-risk areas;	Low

			Provided adequate first aid services on site; and Promote ongoing health and safety awareness campaigns.	
Socio-economic Employment opportunities Local economic development	Socio-economic conditions	Moderate	Conduct consultation with local communities through the appropriate channels to ensure the use of local skills and businesses where possible; Ensure local employment and local services providers are appointed where possible from the local area; and ensure that goods and services are procured from within the local area as far as possible.	Medium
Heritage Degradation of cultural significance heritage site	Loss of heritage & palaeontological resources	Low	Conduct Identification of all possible sites of archaeological value prior to the commencement of authorised work; and Identified sites must be clearly demarcated as no-go areas.	Low
Traffic Management Operating vehicles and access roads	Pressure on public transport infrastructure Socio-economic conditions	Moderate	The surface quality of the road might be negatively impacted resulting from vehicle movement; Sections of existing road surfaces which have been impacted on by the vehicle movement and Existing road surfaces must be utilised and maintained within baseline levels.	Low
Waste Management General waste generation and hazardous waste generation	Soil contamination Contamination of water resources Impacts on human health	Moderate	Waste skips should be provided on site and must be removed from the site once their full capacity has been reached. The waste skips will typically contain domestic waste. No liquid waste will be placed in these skips; Promoting the reduction, re-use, or recycle of waste where prevention is not possible;	Low

			Disposal of waste to local waste disposal sites. There must be a service agreement for disposal of waste from the municipality for disposal of domestic waste; Littering should be strictly prohibited and waste generated by the workers that reside on site must be properly stored awaiting collection and proper disposal; and Implement waste classification and separation system.	

11. Other information required by the competent authority

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 Competent Authority has not requested any other information. 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 EIA report;
- 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;
- 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.

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

A description of the baseline socio-economic environment likely to be affected by the proposed project in the study area with a detailed assessment of the identified potential impacts and confirmation of their

significance will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase.

11.2. Impact on any national estate referred to in section 3(2) of the national heritage resources act

A detailed assessment of the identified potential impacts and confirmation of their significance (with input from the specialist investigations) will be undertaken as part of the EIA phase.

12. 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 ☒.

Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner:

Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting

Name of company:

March 2025

Date:

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: CV of the EAP

SUNDAY MISHACK MABASO

12 Thaxted Ave Mulbarton 2190 · 0745697312/0824614251
Email - sunday@vahlengweadvisory.co.za · LinkedIn Profile - Sunday Mabaso ·Twitter @Sun.dayMabaso

BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Sunday Mabaso is the founder and CEO of Vahlengwe 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 current "South Africa's Exploration Implementation Plan" where he served to its completion and the plan was 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, a member of the International Association of Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIAsa), member of the International Society for Development and Sustainability (ISDS). 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

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
88 9122
mmabuza@geoscience.org.za

Dr Thibedi Ramontja
Former Director General: DMRE
Currently Director: School of Mining
University of Witwatersrand
083 3

thibedi.ramontja@wits.ac.za /
Ramontja2@gmail.com

Dr Tania Marshall
Director: School of Mining
University of Witwatersrand
082 611 3388
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

SAQA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Nqasha Lusizo

Johannesburg, Gauteng Province 2001
0639688778/0725046088 nqashalusizo@gmail.com

LINKS

- linkedin.com/in/lusizo-nqasha-a745092b8

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a dedicated geoscientist in Environmental Management with extensive experience in waste and water management, GIS, and Remote Sensing Technologies. Possesses a strong environmental science and sustainability background and excels in leveraging spatial data analysis to inform strategic decision-making processes. Skilled in utilizing GIS tools to map, monitor and analyze environmental trends, adept at applying remote sensing techniques to assess land use change, monitor ecological dynamics, and evaluate natural resource management strategies and sustainability development. With a proven track record of implementing innovative remediations for environmental challenges, committed in driving sustainable practices and mitigating ecological impact through integrating technology and comprehensive management strategies.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Environmental Specialist in waste and water management - Geographic Information System
- Remote Sensing Analyst - Environmental Impact Analysis - Environmental Change and Policy - Disaster Management

SKILLS

- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environmental Management
- Natural Resource Management
- Communication
- Microsoft Office Package
- Scientific Writing
- Sampling
- Geographic Information Systems
- Remote Sensing Techniques
- Geospatial programming using Machine Learning (GEE)
- Geospatial Visualization
- Data Collection
- Remote Sensing Image Processing
- Database Management Systems and Statistic analysis

EDUCATION

University of The Witwatersrand - Gauteng Province | Master of Science in Geography
Environmental Management in Mining and Remote Sensing, 2024

- Dissertation in Geography, Environmental Science. Geographic Information System and Remote Sensing

University of Witwatersrand - Gauteng Province | Bachelor of Art Honours in Geography
Environmental Geography, and Remote Sensing, 2023

Walter Sisulu University - Eastern Cape Province | Bachelor of Arts
Environment Management, GIS And Remote Sensing, 2022

Daluhlanga Senior Secondary School - Eastern Cape Province | Matric Grade 12, 2018

WORK HISTORY

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICALS | 02/2023 to 09/2023

University Of The Witwatersrand - Gauteng Province

- Conducted water parameter testing on water samples to assess water quality and identify potential environmental challenges.
- Utilized GIS and Remote Sensing to create maps and thematic maps, validating environmental impacts and aiding in decision-making processes.
- Applied analytical practices and evaluation techniques in Environmental Impact Assessment to assess the potential consequences of proposed projects on the environment.
- Generated reports summarizing findings from water parameter testing, GIS mapping, and EIA evaluations to communicate results effectively to stakeholders.
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to analyze and interpret data, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of environmental challenges and potential solutions.
- Employed statistical analysis techniques to analyze large datasets, providing valuable insights into trends and patterns related to water quality and environmental impacts.
- Conducted field surveys and site visits to gather primary data and verify findings, enhancing the accuracy and reliability of assessments.
- Developed strategies for mitigating environmental risks and promoting sustainability in water management practices, incorporating findings from research and analysis.

TUTOR - GIS | 03/2022 to 10/2022

Walter Sisulu University - Eastern Cape Province

- Designed and executed mapping projects to enhance spatial data analysis, facilitating informed decision-making.
- Developed custom applications to optimize workflow efficiency and accuracy in data processing.
- Conducted comprehensive spatial data analysis to identify patterns and trends, aiding in strategic planning and resource allocation.
- Provided technical expertise and training to staff members, empowering them to utilize tools effectively in their roles.
- Managed GIS databases and ensured data integrity through regular maintenance and quality assurance procedures.

PACKING OPERATOR | 04/2019 to 12/2019

C-Pack Corrugated - Western Cape Province

- Managed packing and stripping of cardboard materials concurrently, optimizing efficiency in the packaging process.
- Oversaw the simultaneous packing and stripping of cardboard, streamlining operations to meet production targets effectively.
- Coordinated the packing and stripping of cardboard materials, ensuring seamless transitions between tasks to minimize downtime.
- Executed packing and stripping procedures for cardboard products, maintaining a consistent workflow to support manufacturing timelines.
- Implemented strategies for packing and stripping cardboard efficiently, enhancing productivity and reducing material waste.

REFERENCES

- C - Pack Manager - Mr. C Williamson - 0835630317
- Geographic Information System - Lecturer - Mr. N Nkohla 0787246753
- RRM Lecture - Mrs. S Dlepu - 0630856314

Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa

Registration No. 2024/9364

Herewith certifies that

LUSIZO NQASHA

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 2025

Expires: 31 March 2026

Chairperson

Registrar

SAQA
SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Appendix 2:

Maps

Appendix 2A:

Locality and Regulation 2 (2)

Prospecting Right of Manganese, Chrome, Gold, and Coal in respect Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the Farm RESERVE No.11 15831 GU, in the Uthungulu District, KwaZulu-Natal Province.

N
W E
S

P253

P701

P534

R34

Melmoth

Makhosini

Thybalethu

Osborn

Nduro

Ndundulu

Ncemaneni

Sangweyana

Sangweyana Estate

Bhukhanana

Efuyeni

Emasangweni

Mngampondo

Ntshentshelu SP2

Ntshentshelu SP1

Nomyaca

Ufasimba SP

Matshana

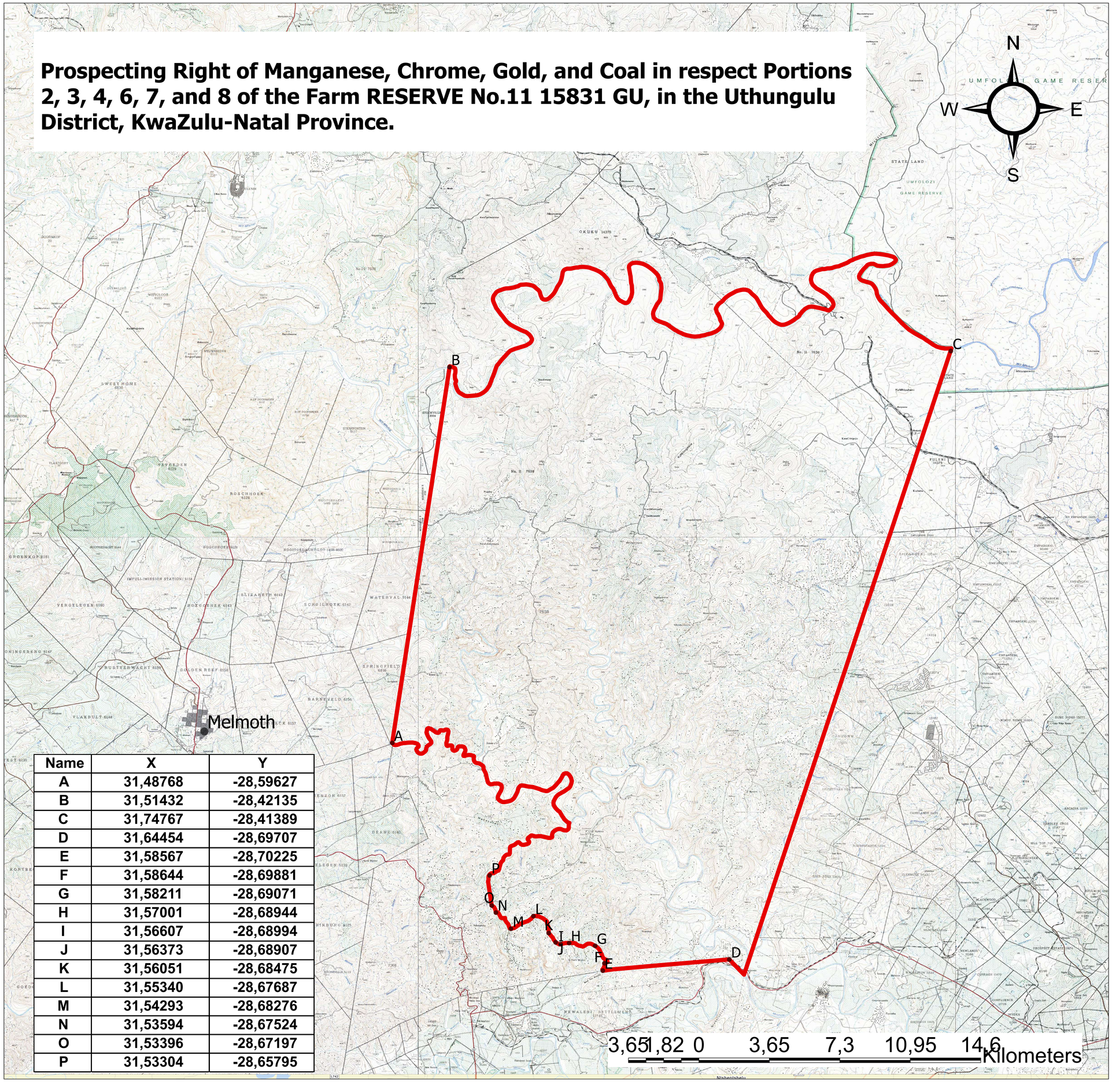
4 2 0 4 8 12 16 Kilometers

Legend

Point location

Saqondisana Prospecting Area

Prospecting Right of Manganese, Chrome, Gold, and Coal in respect Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the Farm RESERVE No.11 15831 GU, in the Uthungulu District, KwaZulu-Natal Province.



Name	X	Y
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B	31,51432	-28,42135
C	31,74767	-28,41389
D	31,64454	-28,69707
E	31,58567	-28,70225
F	31,58644	-28,69881
G	31,58211	-28,69071
H	31,57001	-28,68944
I	31,56607	-28,68994
J	31,56373	-28,68907
K	31,56051	-28,68475
L	31,55340	-28,67687
M	31,54293	-28,68276
N	31,53594	-28,67524
O	31,53396	-28,67197
P	31,53304	-28,65795

Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd

REGULATION 2(2)
THE APPLICATION OF THE PROSPECTING RIGHT IN TERMS OF SECTION 16 OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT ACT, 2002 (ACT 28 OF 2002)

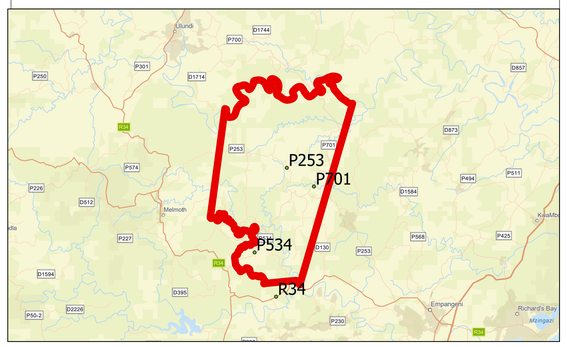
Area Extent: 61 307 ha

Legend

Point locations

Saqondisana Prospecting Area

Plan Approval
Applicant
Signature:.....
Date:.....
Surveyor
Signature:.....
Date:.....
Regional Manager
Signature:.....
Date:.....



PREPARED BY

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Glenvister 2058	Email info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za

Coordinate System: WGS 84

Appendix 2B:

Land use map

Land Use Map

Prospecting right for chrome, manganese, coal, and gold in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the farm Reserve No.11 15831 GUI in the uThungulu District, KwaZulu Natal Province.

28°30'S

31°30'E

31°45'E

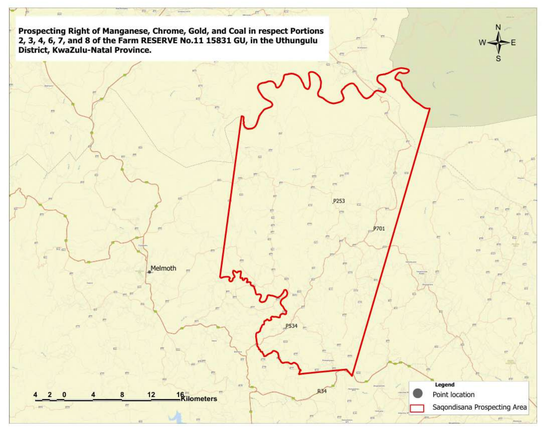
0 2,25 4,5 9 13,5 18 Kilometers

Legend

- Railway
- Grasslands
- Cultivated lands
- Built up
- PR Area

NATART

- Artificial
- Estuaries
- Natural
- <all other values>



PREPARED BY

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Appendix 3:

Public Participation Process

Appendix 3A:

Background Information Document
Interested and Affected Parties Registration Form

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION: PROSPECTING REPORT APPLICATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR PROSPECTING RIGHT APPLICATION FOR COAL, MANGANESE, CHROME, AND GOLD IN RESPECT OF PORTIONS 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 AND 8 OF THE FARM RESERVE NO.11 15831 GUI IN THE KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE.

DMRE REFERENCE NO: KZN 30/5/1/1/3/2/1(11859) 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 in the process.

APPOINTED OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONERS

Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting, as an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), will conduct the Environmental Authorization process for the prospecting application in respect of Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 of the farm reserve no.11 15831 GU in the Uthungulu District, Kwazulu Natal Province, for the extent area of 61 307 ha.

PROJECTION LOCATION

The proposed prospecting right will take place on Portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the farm reserve no.11 15831 GU in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Kwazulu Natal Province.

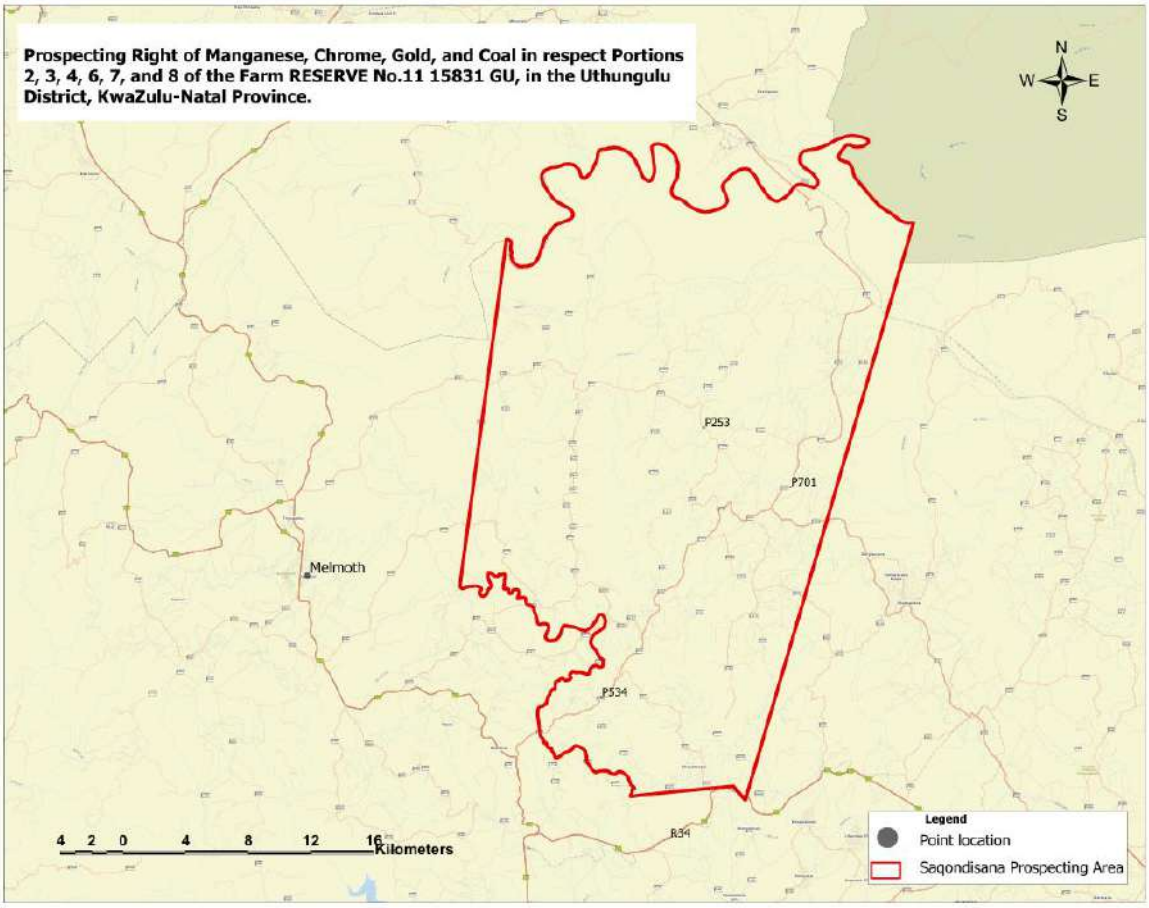

Figure 1: Locality Map of the proposed prospecting area

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Saqondisana Investment (Pty) Ltd proposes to undertake the prospecting activities for Coal, Manganese, Chrome, and Gold in respect of portions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of the Farm Reserve no.11 15831 GU in the King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal province. The project entails the proposed prospecting right application for the prospecting of manganese and iron ore. Vahlengwe Mining Advisory and Consulting (Pty) Ltd will compile the Basic Assessment and Environmental Management Program for prospecting the right application and facilitate the Public Participation Process (PPP).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS.

The public consultation process aims 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 an Environmental Impact Assessment process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (as amended).

The following steps 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 the 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 (Pty) Ltd 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 returning 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/ 074 569 7312
E-mail : info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za

APPLICANT CONTACTS

Name : Niel Van Zyl
Postal Address : Plot 1 AH, Sapfo Valtaki, Gauteng 1870
Tel : +27 82 461 3787
E-mail : neil@exicon.co.za

SAQONDISANA INVESTMENT (PTY) LTD

Interested & Affected Party Registration Form

Project Reference No.: KZN 30/5/1/1/3/2/1(11859) PR

Name and Surname	
Physical Address	
Contact Details	***Telephone No.:*** ***Fax No.:*** ***Cell No.:*** ***E-mail Address:***
Please indicate any issues, comments, and concerns regarding the proposed project.	
Please indicate in which aspects you would require more information.	
Please indicate any I&APs whom you think should be contacted.	
To be registered as an I&AP for this project mail, or e-mail the completed registration form to: **Sunday M Mabaso** **Postal address: 238 Voster Ave, Glenvista Ext 3, Glenvista, 2058** **Contact: +27 11 432 0062 / 074 569 7312** **E-mail: info@vahlengweadvisory.co.za**	

VAHLENGWE MINING ADVISORY AND CONSULTING

Appendix 4:

Environmental Sensitivity Screening Report

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

EIA Reference number: KZN 30/5/1/1/3/2/1(11859) PR

Project name: Saqondisana Prospecting Right Application

Project title: Prospecting Right

Date screening report generated: 14/02/2025 09:17:46

Applicant: Saqondisana (Pty) Ltd

Compiler: Vahlengwe Advisory and Consulting

Compiler signature: .....

Application Category: Mining|Prospecting rights

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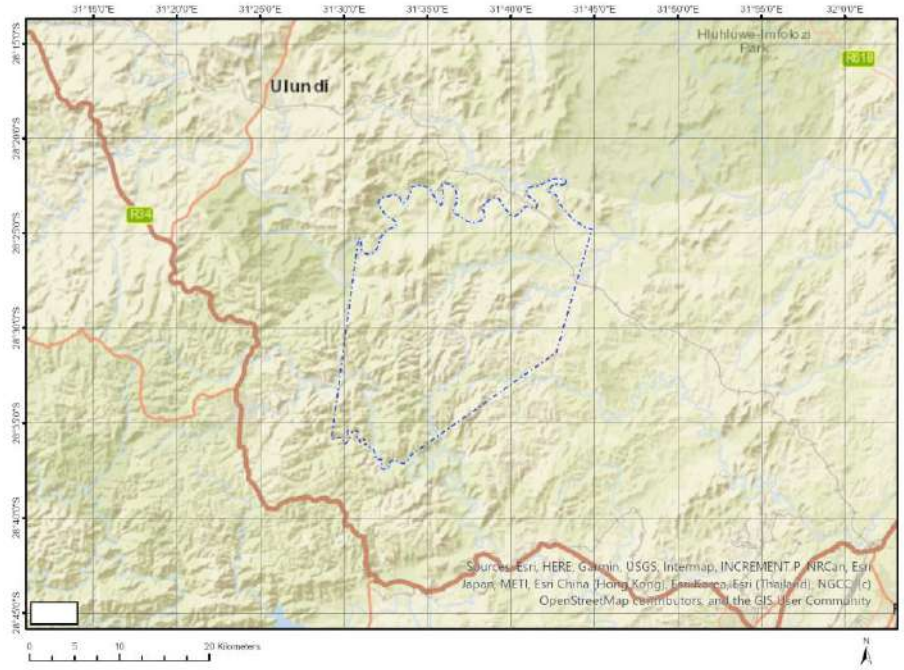
Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location

General Orientation: Saqondisana Prospecting Right Application

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	RESERVE 11	15831	0	28°31'59.08S	31°37'36.63E	Farm
2	GAME RESERVE	17434	0	28°13'23.55S	31°56'48.62E	Farm
3	WATERVAL	9144	0	28°31'45.76S	31°29'10.98E	Farm
4	NTEMBENI	16921	0	28°40'57.24S	31°31'3.51E	Farm
5	MORGENZON A	6126	0	28°29'55.14S	31°29'34.83E	Farm
6	MORGENZON A	6126	1	28°29'48.79S	31°29'54.01E	Farm Portion
7	WATERVAL	9144	1	28°31'27.51S	31°29'12.92E	Farm Portion
8	RESERVE 11	15831	2	28°29'30.53S	31°33'8.69E	Farm Portion
9	RESERVE 11	15831	3	28°28'14.58S	31°32'15.19E	Farm Portion
10	RESERVE 11	15831	7	28°25'40.77S	31°42'38.65E	Farm Portion
11	RESERVE 11	15831	4	28°31'59.47S	31°37'36.63E	Farm Portion
12	RESERVE 11	15831	8	28°23'52.59S	31°41'47.64E	Farm Portion
13	RESERVE 11	15831	6	28°23'43.26S	31°41'33.13E	Farm Portion
14	NTEMBENI	16921	0	28°40'54.47S	31°31'3.13E	Farm Portion
15	GAME RESERVE	17434	0	28°14'3.61S	31°56'4.87E	Farm Portion
16	GAME RESERVE	17434	10	28°21'6.1S	31°46'3.35E	Farm Portion
17		17439	0	28°14'14.79S	31°55'20.77E	Farm Portion

Development footprint[1] vertices:
No development footprint(s) specified.

[1] "development footprint", means the area within the site on which the development will take place and incudes 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	EIA Reference No	Classification	Status of application	Distance from proposed area (km)
1	12/12/20/2387/AM1	Wind	Approved	26.5

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.

Incentive, restriction or prohibition	Implication
Strategic Transmission Corridor-Expanded Eastern Corridor	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_EGI.pdf
Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors-Phase 7: Coega to Richards Bay	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_GAS.pdf
Main Electricity Distribution Substation	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Distribution_Transmission.pdf
South African Protected Areas	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/SAPAD_OR_2024_Q3_Metadata.pdf
South African Conservation Areas	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/SACAD_OR_2024_Q3_Metadata.pdf

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

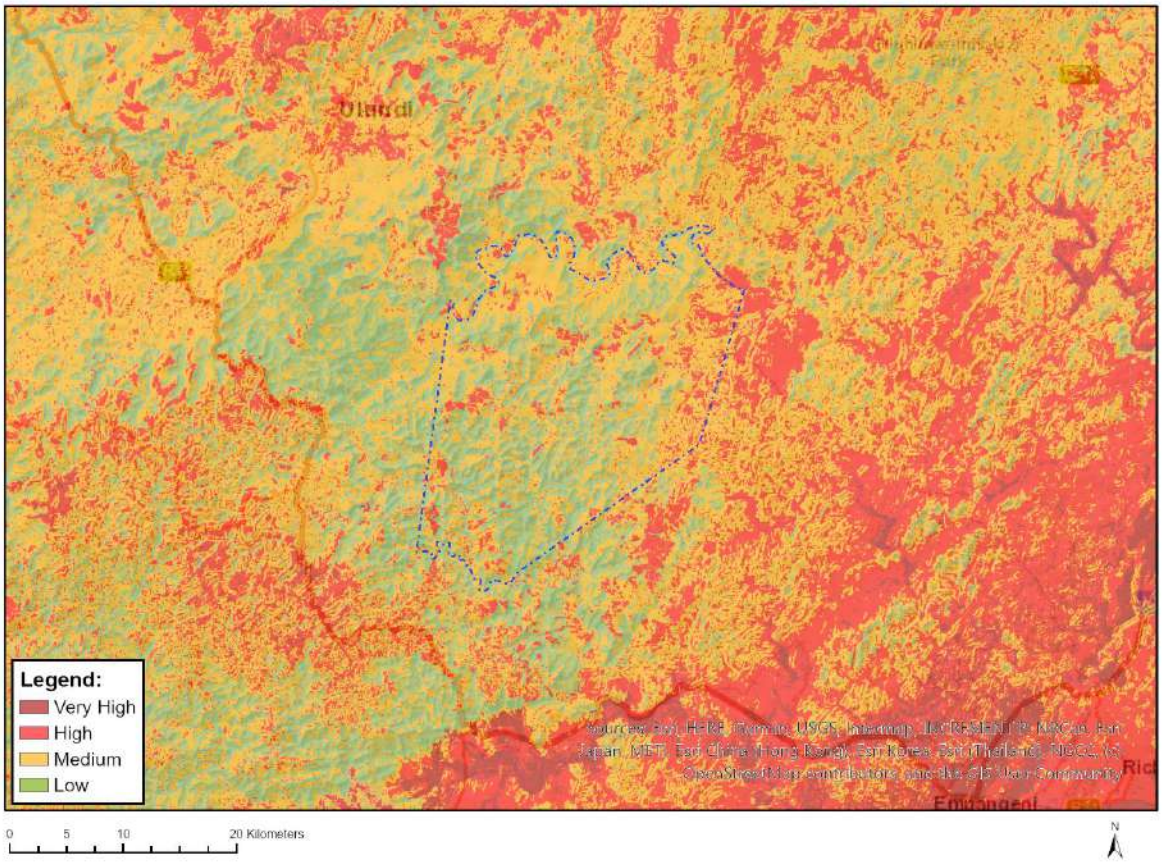
Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, 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
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
6	Noise Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf
7	Radioactivity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
8	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
9	Animal Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

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

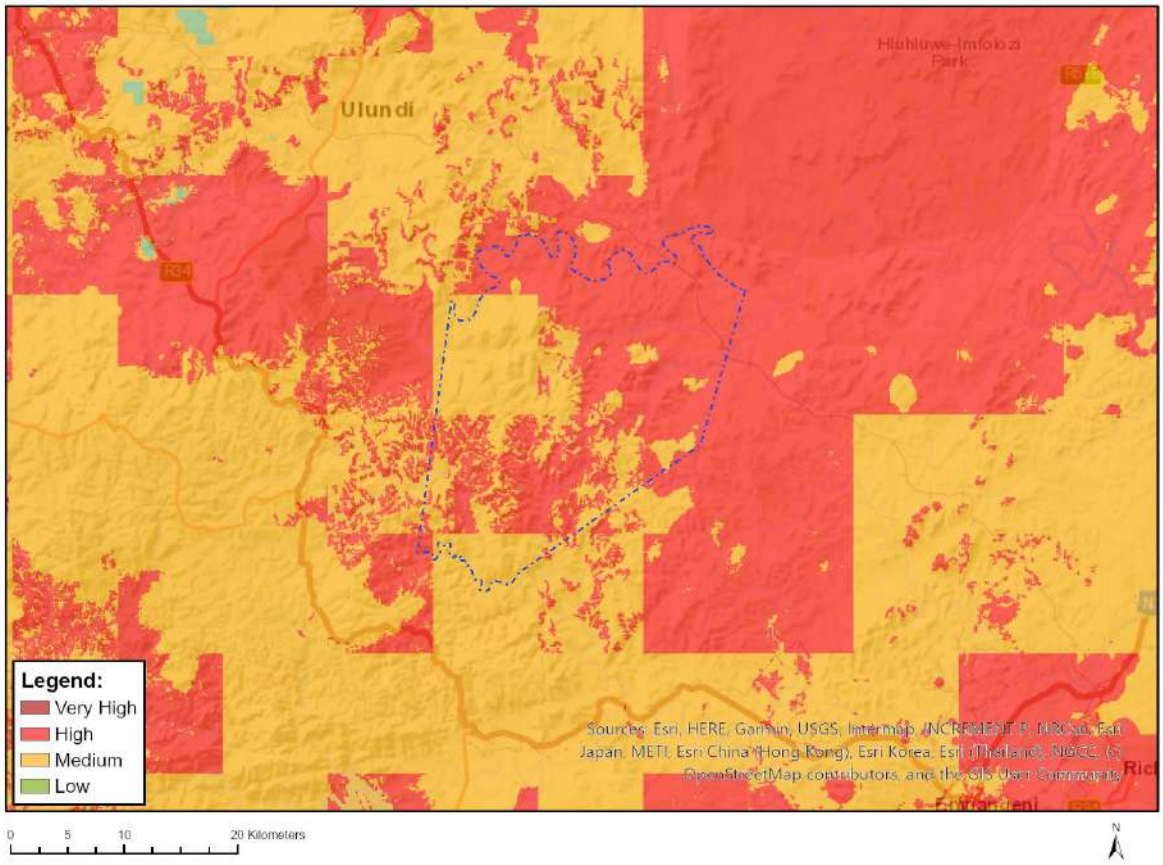


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
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 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.

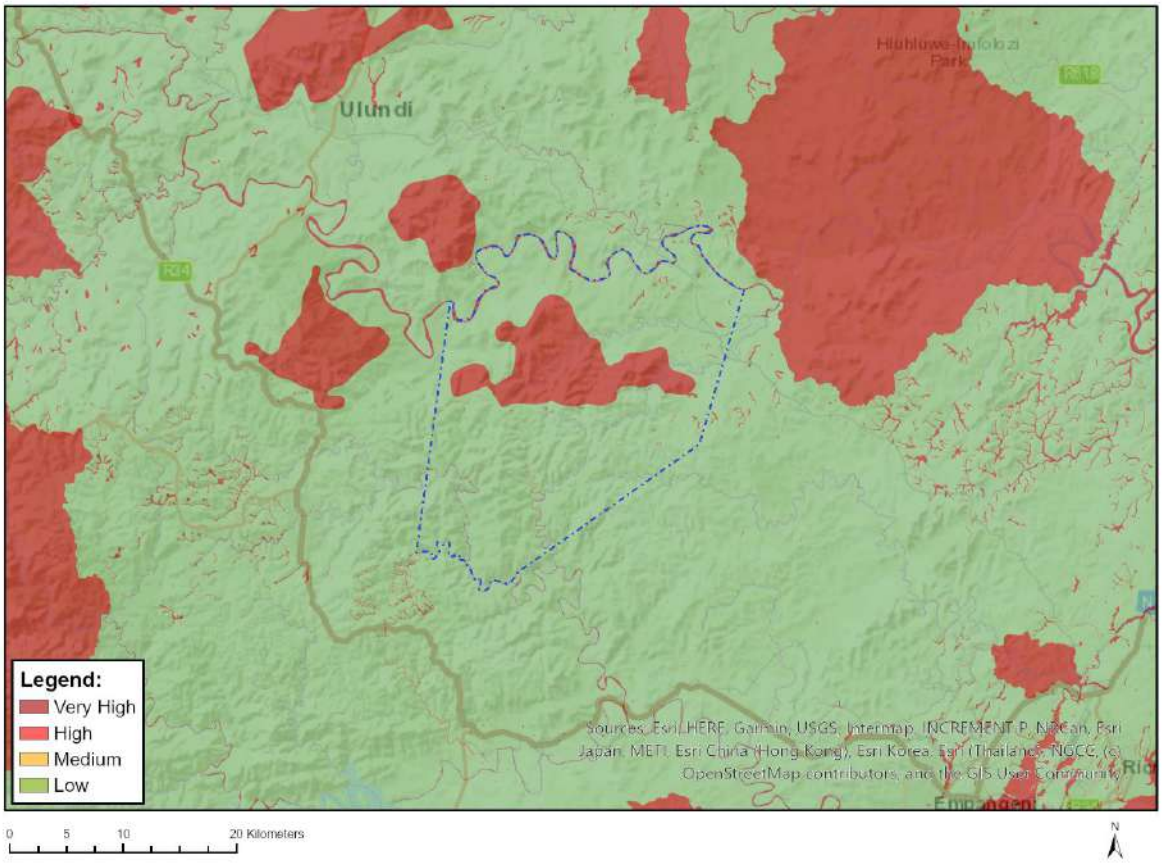
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Torgos tracheliotos
High	Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus
High	Aves-Terathopius ecaudatus
High	Aves-Aquila rapax
High	Aves-Falco biarmicus
High	Aves-Geronticus calvus
High	Aves-Bucorvus leadbeateri
High	Aves-Gyps africanus
High	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
High	Mammalia-Lycaon pictus
High	Mammalia-Loxodonta africana
High	Mammalia-Panthera leo
High	Reptilia-Crocodylus niloticus

Medium	Aves-Podica senegalensis
Medium	Aves-Terathopius ecaudatus
Medium	Aves-Hydroprogne caspia
Medium	Aves-Aquila rapax
Medium	Aves-Circus ranivorus
Medium	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
Medium	Aves-Geronticus calvus
Medium	Aves-Gyps africanus
Medium	Insecta-Deloneura millari millari
Medium	Insecta-Iolaus diametra natalica
Medium	Sensitive species 5
Medium	Mammalia-Crocidura maquassiensis
Medium	Mammalia-Dendrohyrax arboreus
Medium	Mammalia-Lycaon pictus
Medium	Sensitive species 8
Medium	Reptilia-Crocodylus niloticus
Medium	Reptilia-Kinixys natalensis
Medium	Invertebrate-Forest invertebrate
Medium	Invertebrate-Anonychonitis freyi
Medium	Invertebrate-Physophorina livingstonii
Medium	Arachnida-Icius nigricaudus
Medium	Arachnida-Massagris natalensis

MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

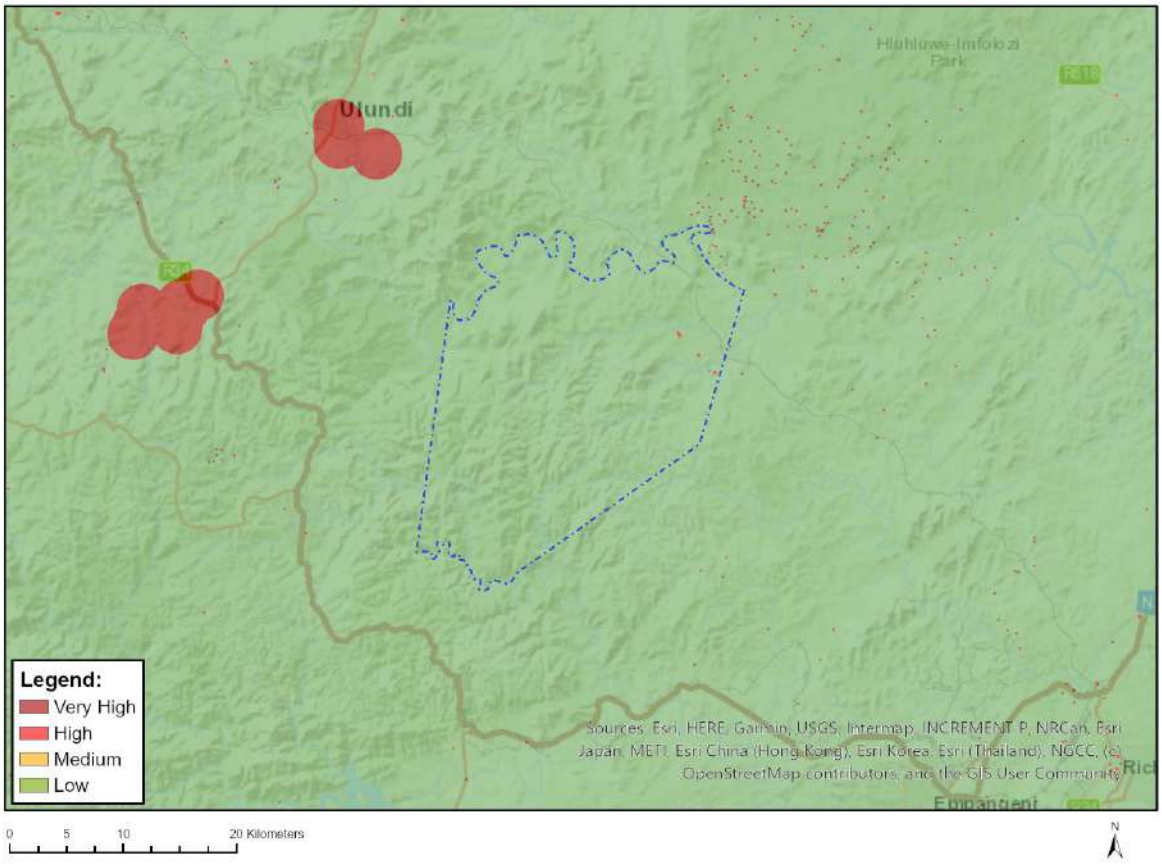


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity
Very High	Rivers_A
Very High	Rivers_AB
Very High	Rivers_B
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Mfolozi Headwaters
Very High	Wetlands_(River)
Very High	Wetlands_Lowveld Bioregion (Depression)
Very High	Wetlands_Lowveld Bioregion (Seep)
Very High	Wetlands_Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion (Seep)
Very High	Wetlands_Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion (Valley-bottom)

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY



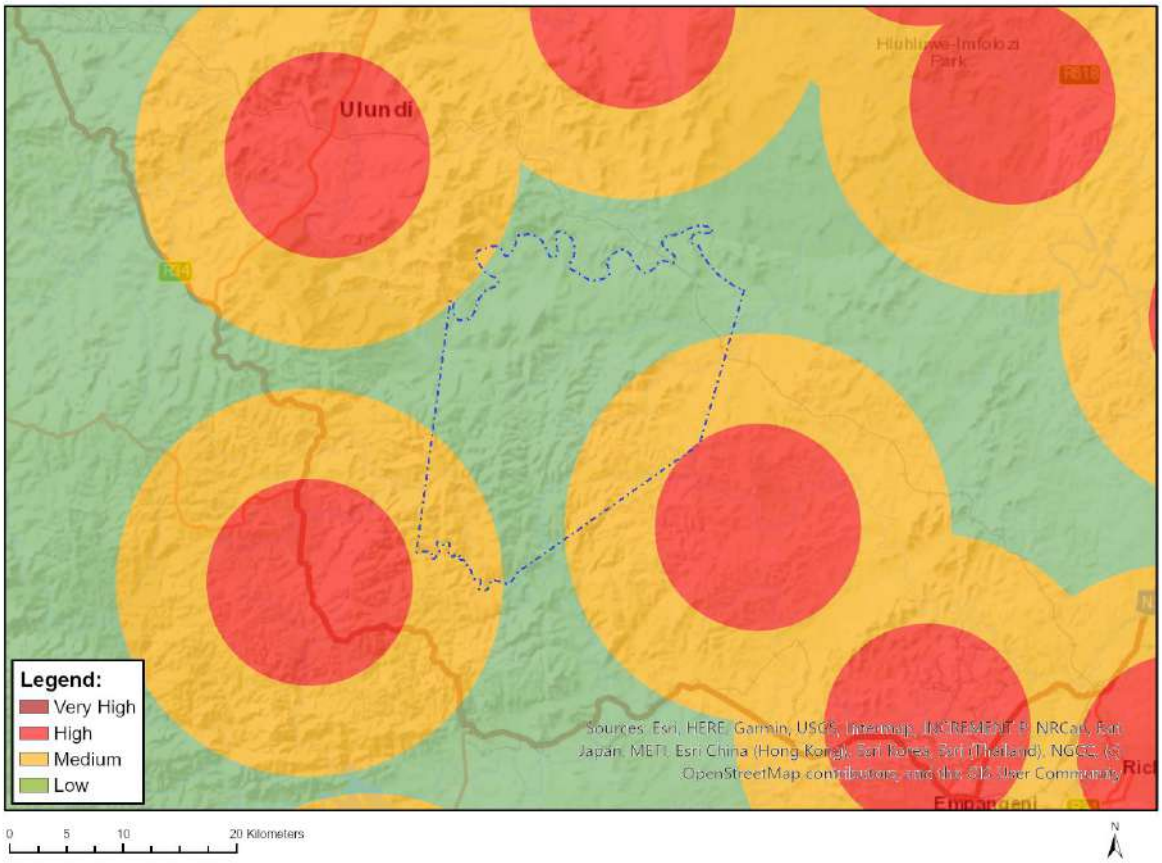
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Within 150m of a Grade IIIa Heritage site

High	Within 50m of a Grade IIIc Heritage site
Low	Low sensitivity
Very High	Within 100m of an Ungraded Heritage site

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

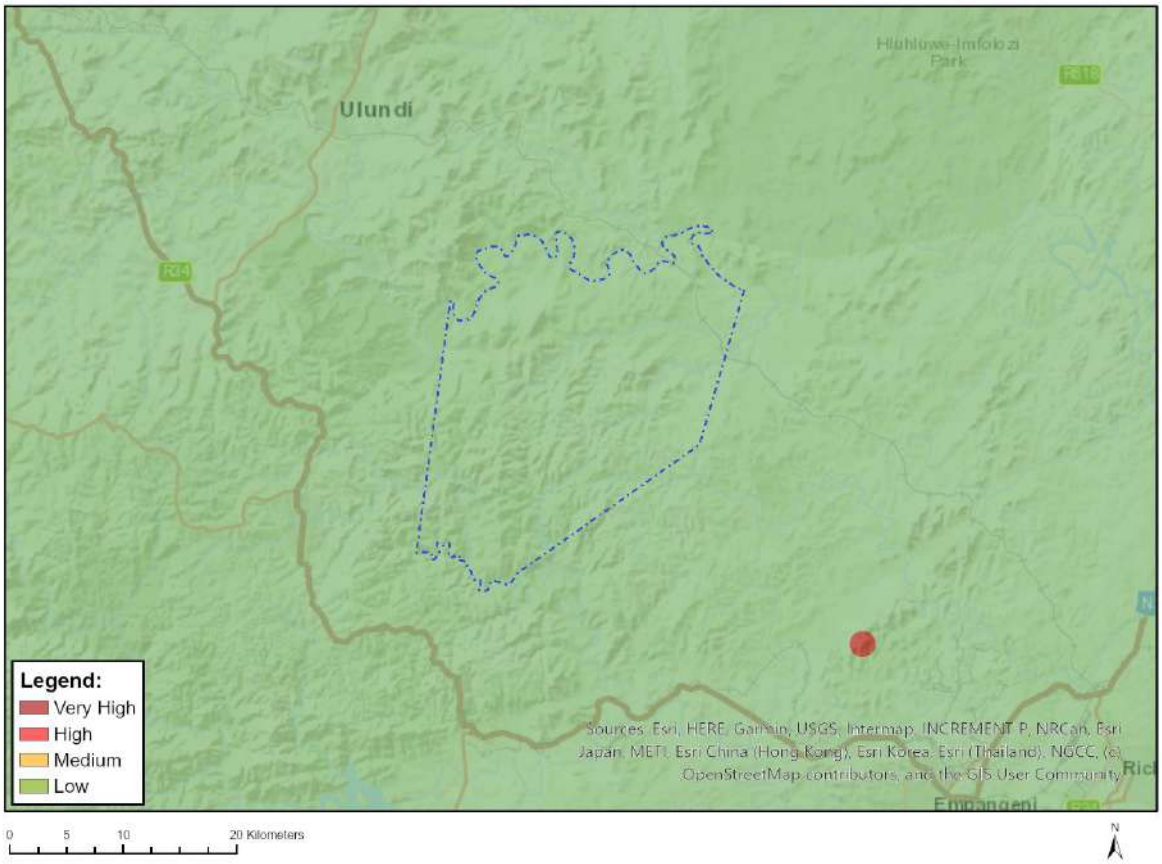


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

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

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

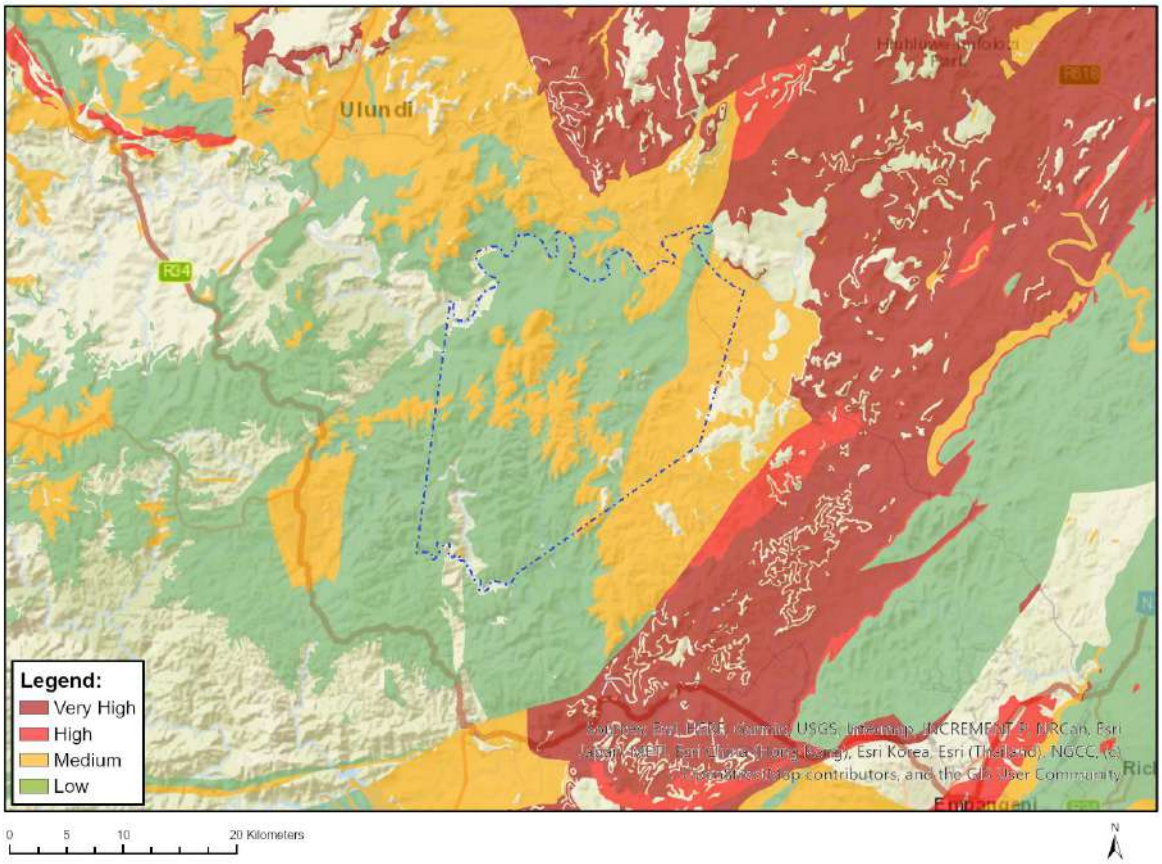


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

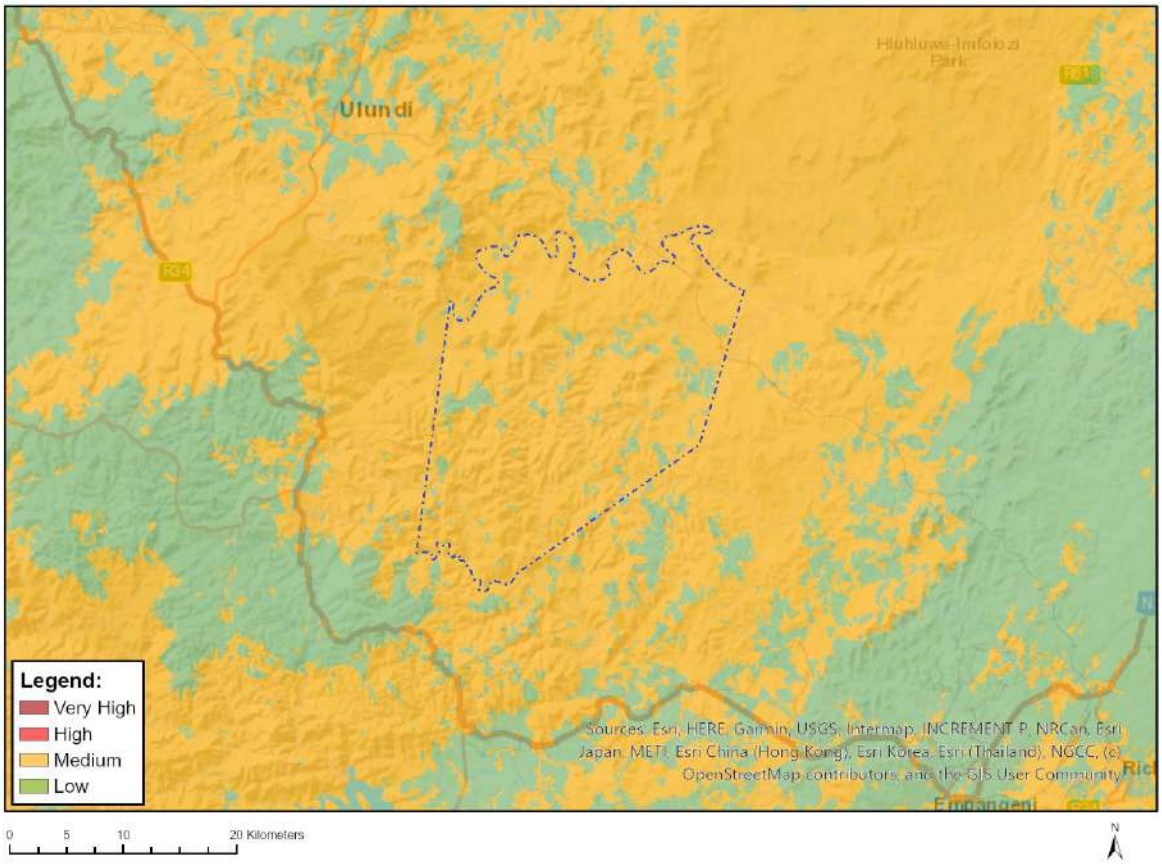


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Features with a Low paleontological sensitivity
Medium	Features with a Medium 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 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.

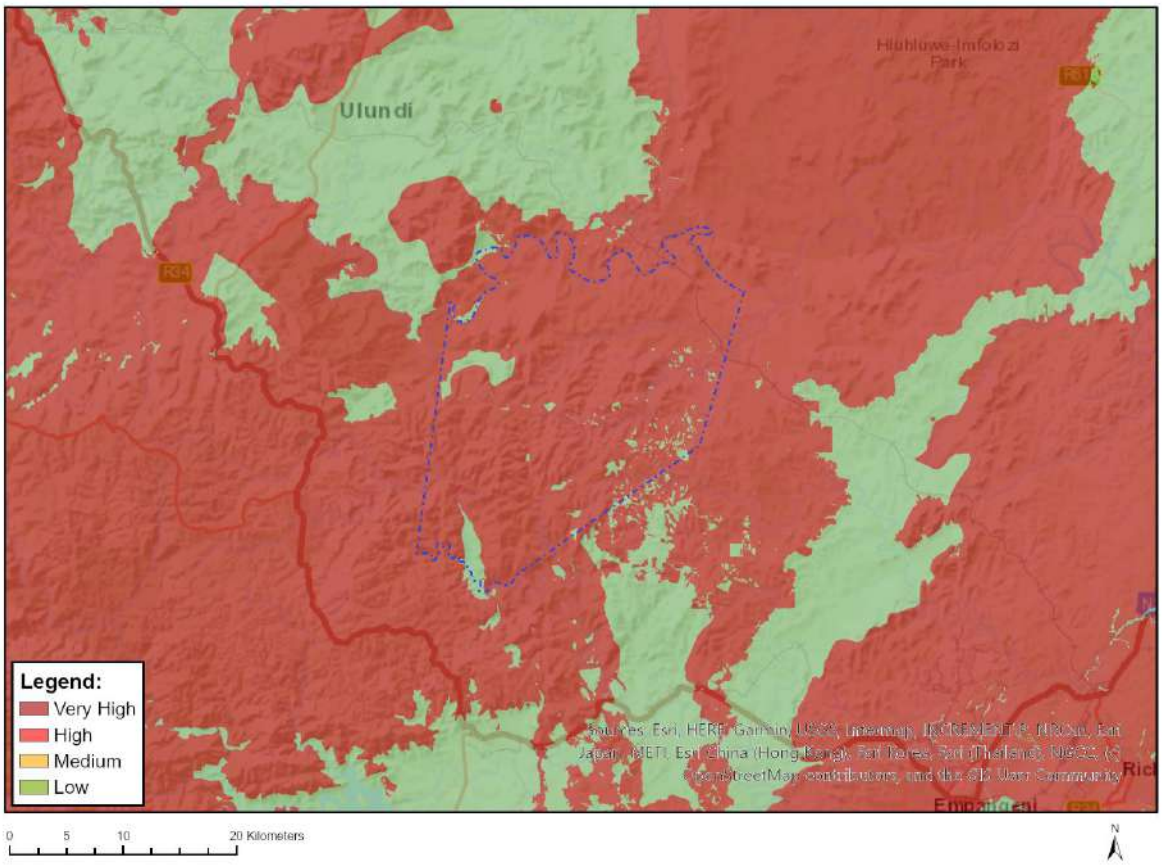
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Faurea macnaughtonii
Medium	Sensitive species 1252
Medium	Sensitive species 809
Medium	Sensitive species 89
Medium	Selago zuluensis
Medium	Emplectanthus cordatus
Medium	Salpinctium natalense
Medium	Sensitive species 1076
Medium	Cassipourea gummiflua var. verticillata
Medium	Sensitive species 1168
Medium	Sensitive species 1083
Medium	Sensitive species 814

Medium	Sensitive species 1176
Medium	Oxygonum dregeanum subsp. streyi
Medium	Mystacidium aliceae
Medium	Sensitive species 401
Medium	Disperis woodii
Medium	Sensitive species 191
Medium	Prunus africana

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Very High	Ophathe Game Reserve
Very High	Emakhosini Ophathe Heritage Park
Very High	Obuka Community Nature Reserve
Very High	Somopho Community Nature Reserve
Very High	Umfolozi Game Reserve
Very High	Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park
Very High	ESA
Very High	ESA: Species
Very High	CBA: Optimal

Very High	CBA: Irreplaceable
Very High	Indigenous Forest (VegMap_2018)_Scarp Forest
Very High	SWSA (SW) _Mfolozi Headwaters
Very High	National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES)
Very High	VU_Dry Coast Hinterland Grassland
Very High	VU_Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland

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

EIA Reference number: KZN 30/5/1/1/3/2/1(11859) PR

Project name: Saqondisana Prospecting Right Application

Project title: Prospecting Right

Date screening report generated: 14/02/2025 09:36:03

Applicant: Saqondisana (Pty) Ltd

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Application Category: Mining|Prospecting rights

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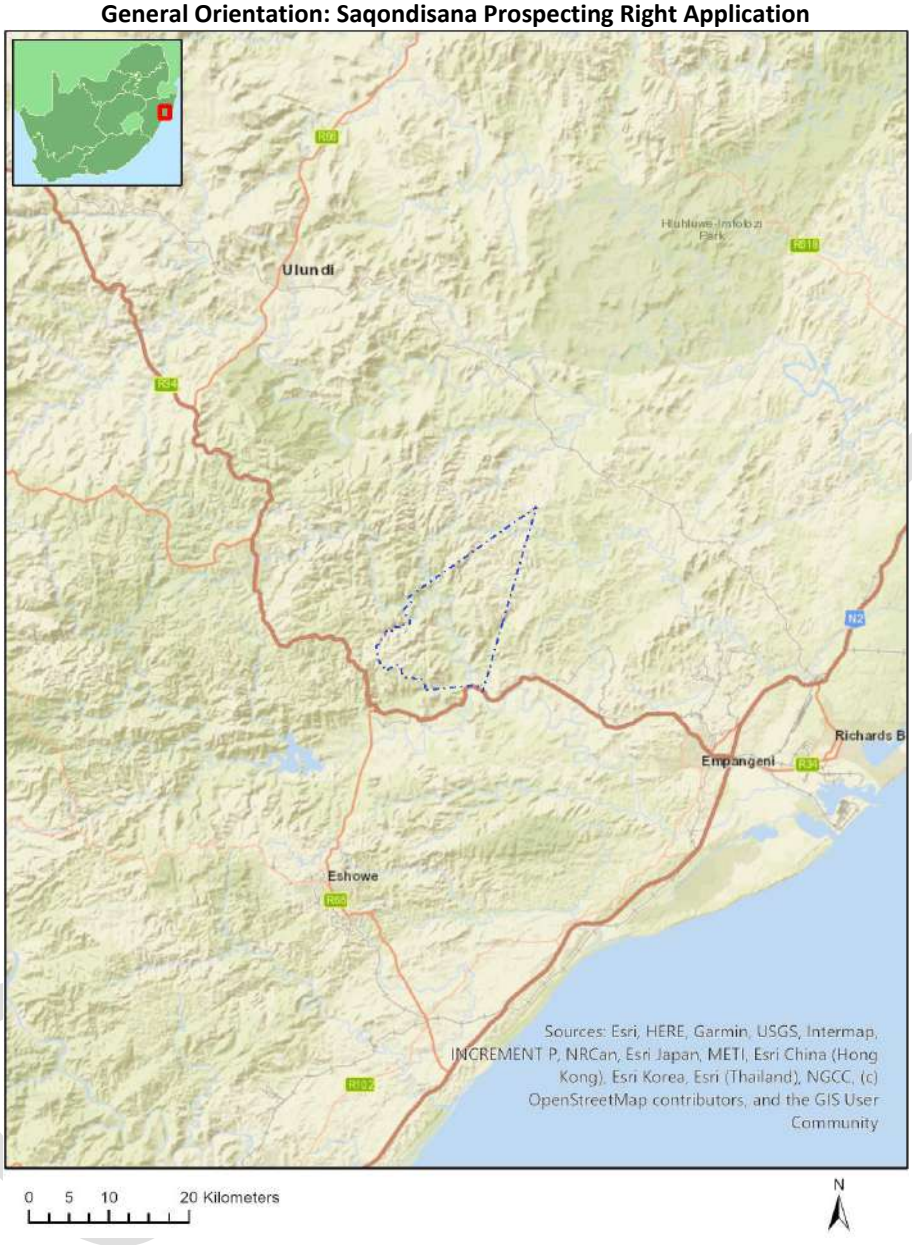
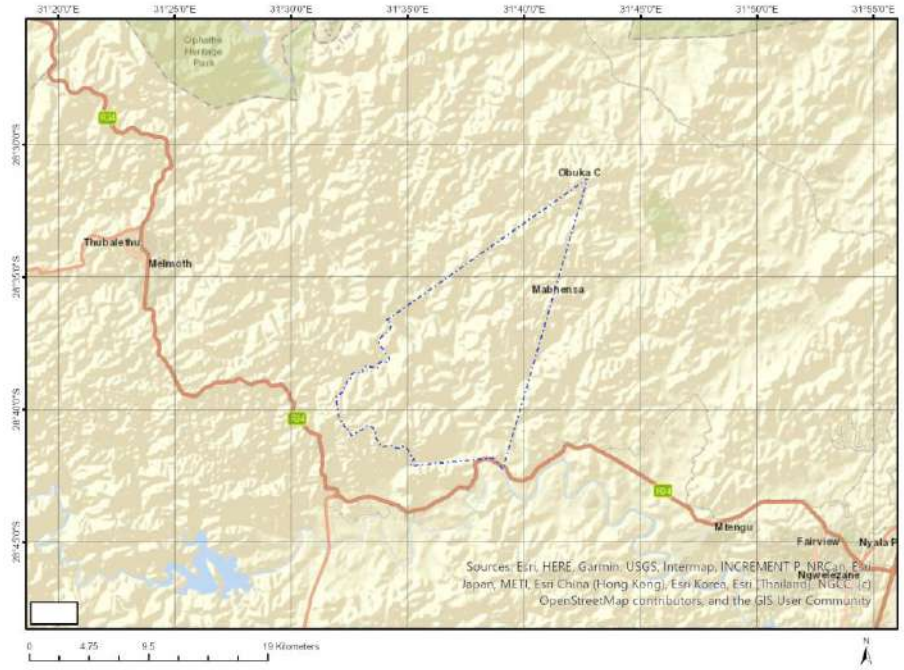
Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location

General Orientation: Saqondisana Prospecting Right Application



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	RESERVE 11	15831	0	28°31'59.08S	31°37'36.63E	Farm
2	NTEMBENI	16921	0	28°40'57.24S	31°31'3.51E	Farm
3	RESERVE 11	15831	4	28°31'59.47S	31°37'36.63E	Farm Portion
4	RESERVE 11	15831	4	28°42'6.64S	31°39'0.36E	Farm Portion
5	RESERVE 11	15831	1	28°42'2.57S	31°38'59.2E	Farm Portion
6	NTEMBENI	16921	0	28°40'54.47S	31°31'3.13E	Farm Portion

Development footprint[1] 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	14/12/16/3/3/1/462	Solar PV	Approved	16.2
2	12/12/20/2387/AM1	Wind	Approved	22.3

[1] "development footprint", means the area within the site on which the development will take place and incudes 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.

Incentive, restriction or prohibition	Implication
Strategic Transmission Corridor-Expanded Eastern Corridor	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_EGI.pdf
Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors-Phase 7: Coega to Richards Bay	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_GAS.pdf

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

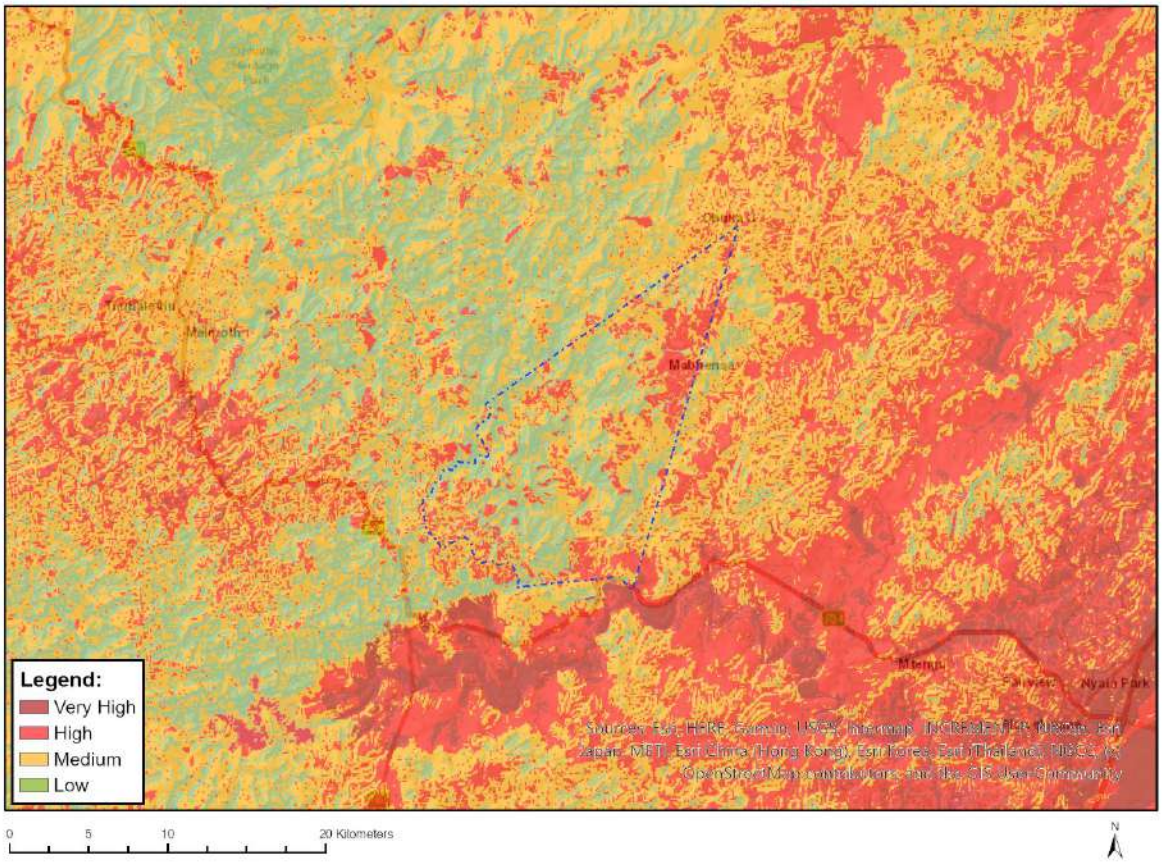
Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, 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
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Agriculture_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Terrestrial_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Aquatic_Biodiversity_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
6	Noise Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Noise_Impacts_Assessment_Protocol.pdf
7	Radioactivity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_General_Requirement_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
8	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Plant_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf
9	Animal Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted_Animal_Species_Assessment_Protocols.pdf

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



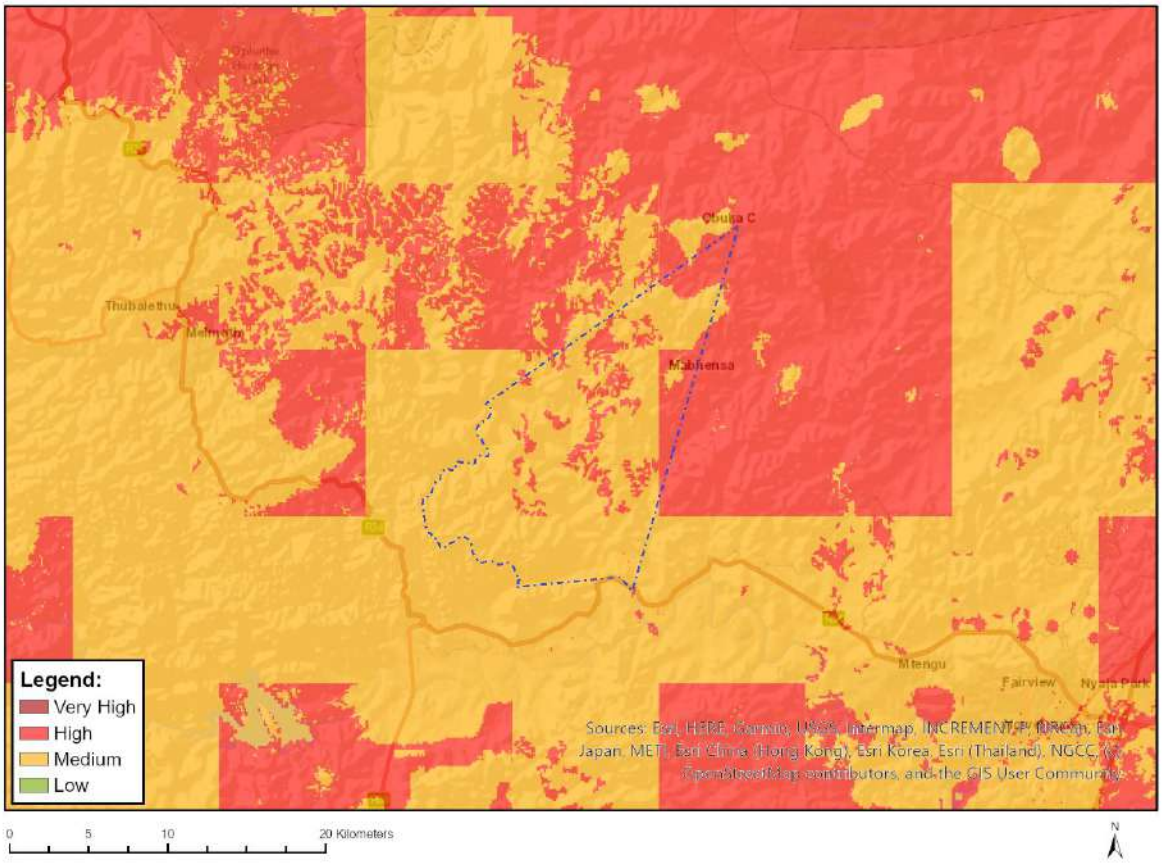
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
High	Annual Crop Cultivation / Planted Pastures Rotation;Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
High	Annual Crop Cultivation / Planted Pastures Rotation;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
High	Subsistence Farming 1;Land capability;06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate
High	Subsistence Farming 1;Land capability;09. Moderate-High/10. Moderate-High
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
Very High	Land capability;11. High/12. High-Very high/13. High-Very high/14. Very high/15. Very high
Very High	Horticulture / Viticulture;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 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.

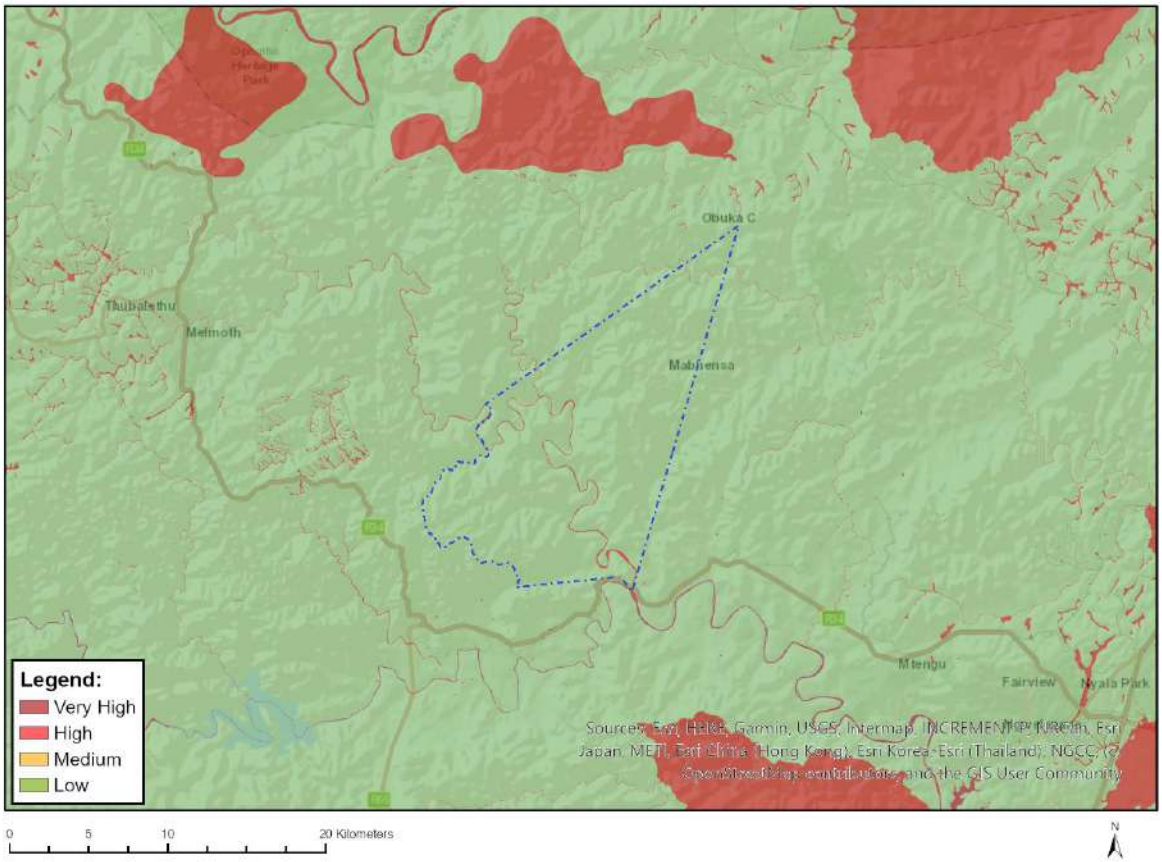
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Terathopius ecaudatus
High	Aves-Polemaetus bellicosus
High	Aves-Gyps africanus
High	Aves-Circus ranivorus
High	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
High	Aves-Falco biarmicus
High	Aves-Torgos tracheliotos
High	Aves-Geronticus calvus
High	Aves-Aquila rapax

High	Aves-Mycteria ibis
Medium	Aves-Aquila rapax
Medium	Aves-Podica senegalensis
Medium	Aves-Circus ranivorus
Medium	Aves-Terathopius ecaudatus
Medium	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
Medium	Aves-Hydroprogne caspia
Medium	Aves-Geronticus calvus
Medium	Aves-Gyps africanus
Medium	Insecta-Deloneura millari millari
Medium	Insecta-Iolaus diametra natalica
Medium	Sensitive species 5
Medium	Mammalia-Cercopithecus albogularis labiatus
Medium	Mammalia-Dendrohyrax arboreus
Medium	Sensitive species 8
Medium	Reptilia-Crocodylus niloticus
Medium	Reptilia-Kinixys natalensis
Medium	Invertebrate-Forest invertebrate
Medium	Invertebrate-Physophorina livingstonii

MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

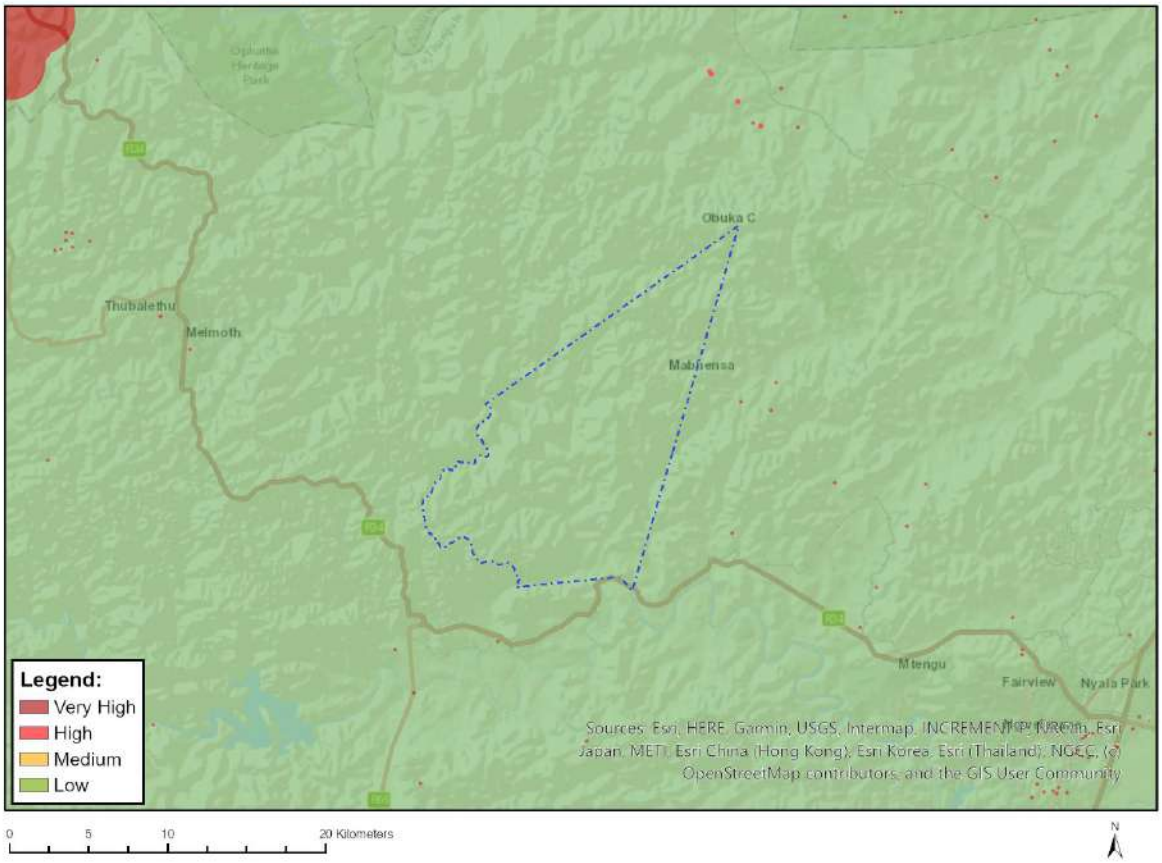


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity
Very High	Rivers_A
Very High	Rivers_AB
Very High	Rivers_C
Very High	Wetlands_(River)

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY

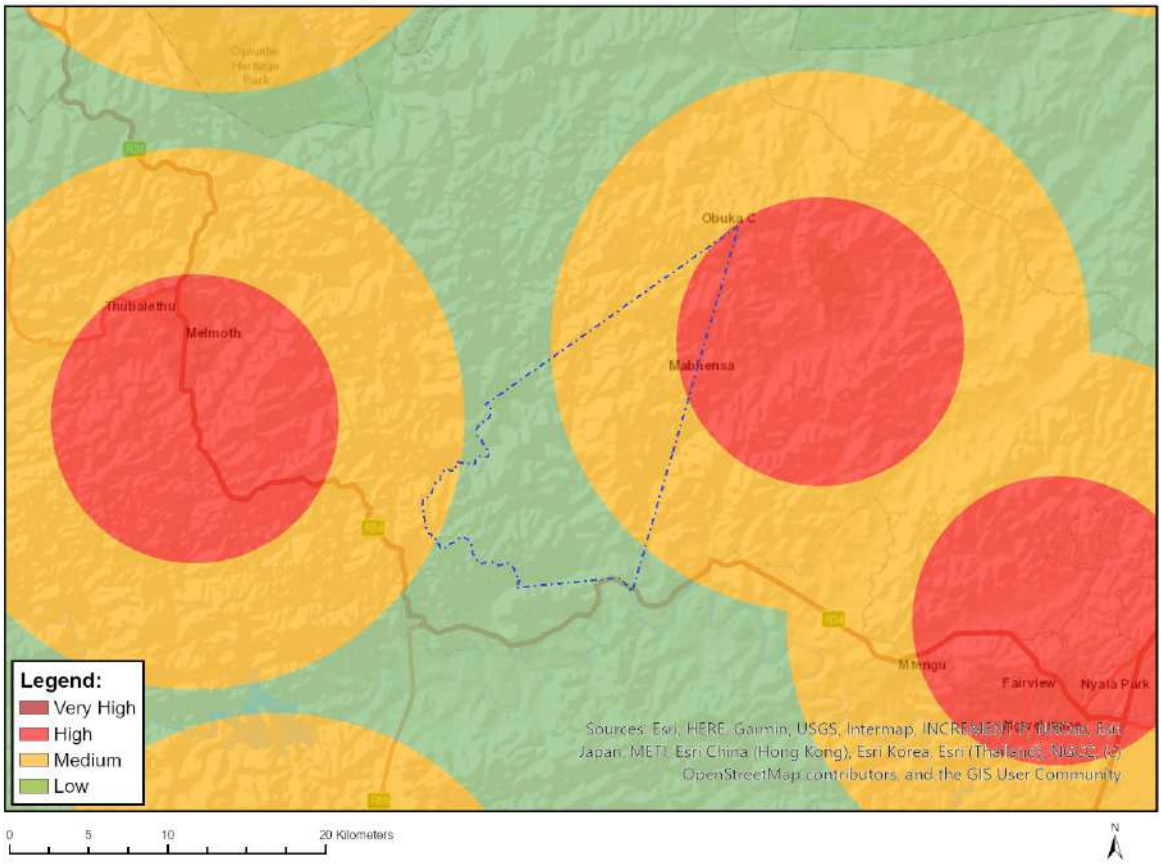


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

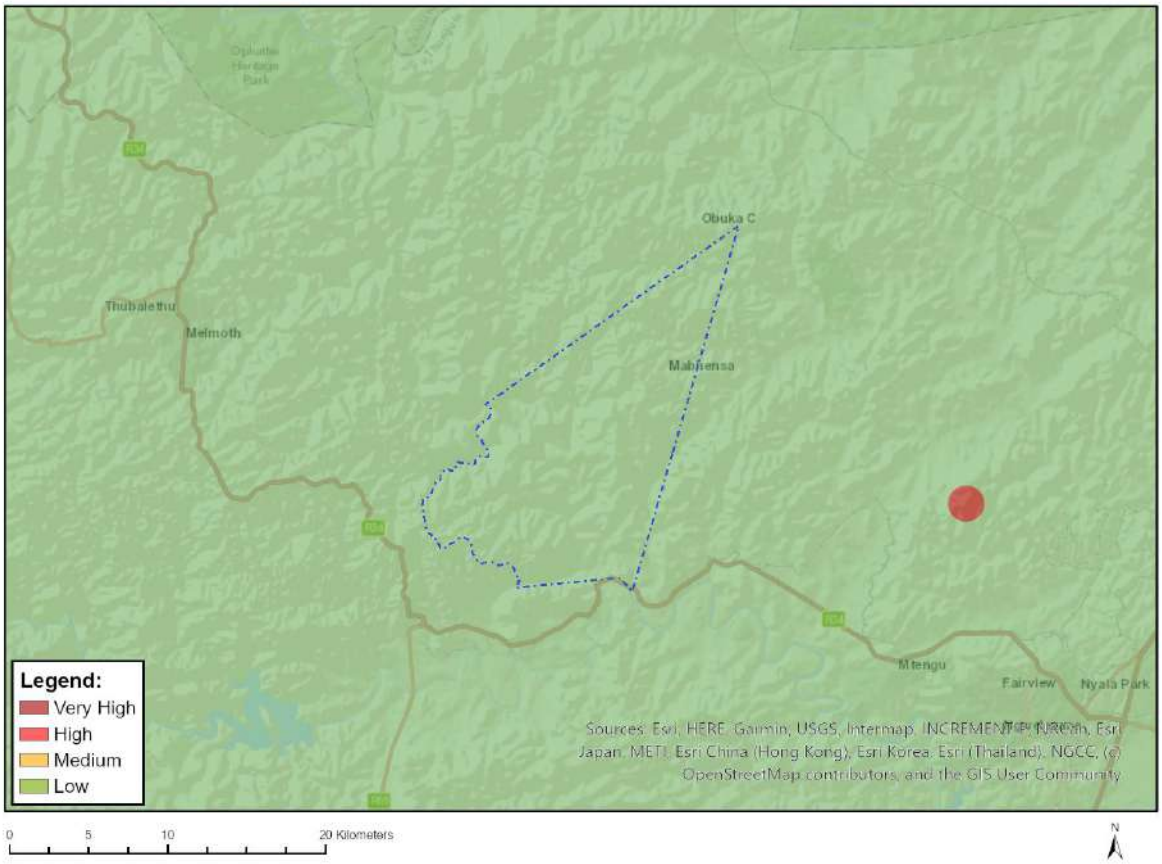


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

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

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY

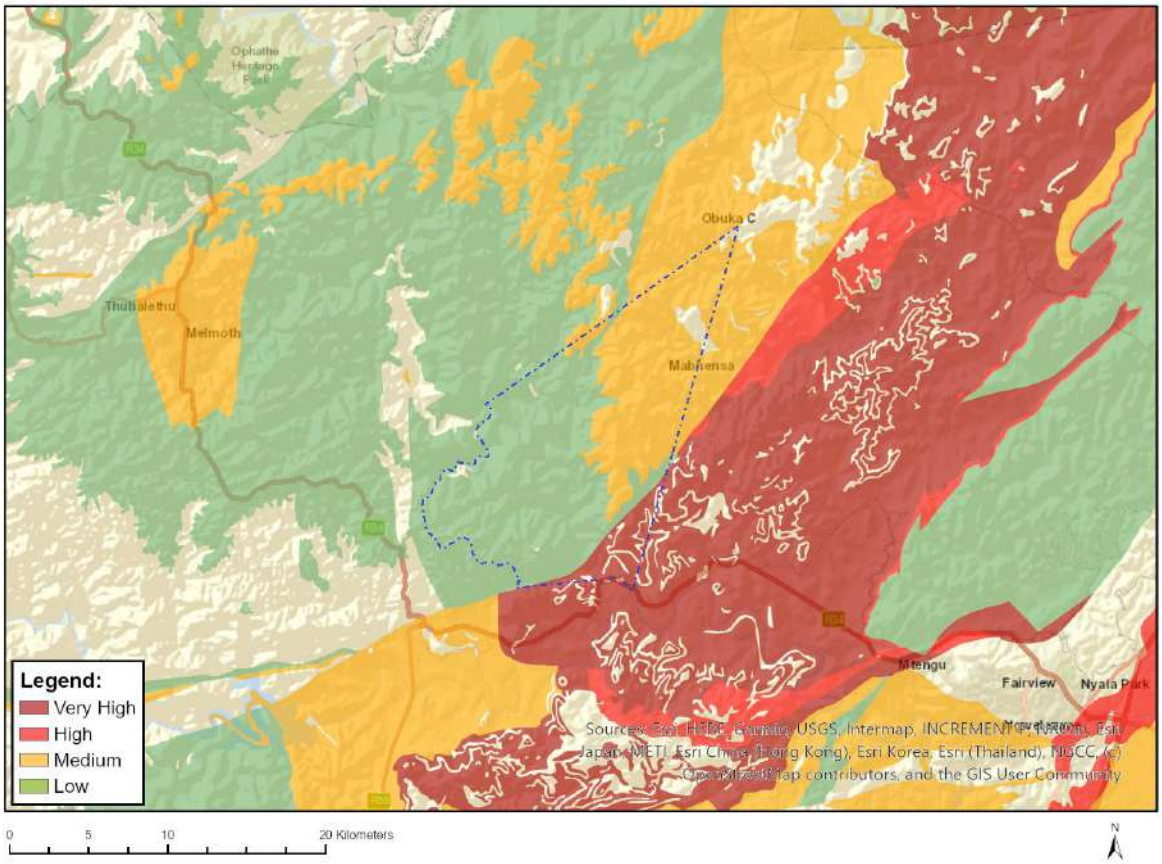


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

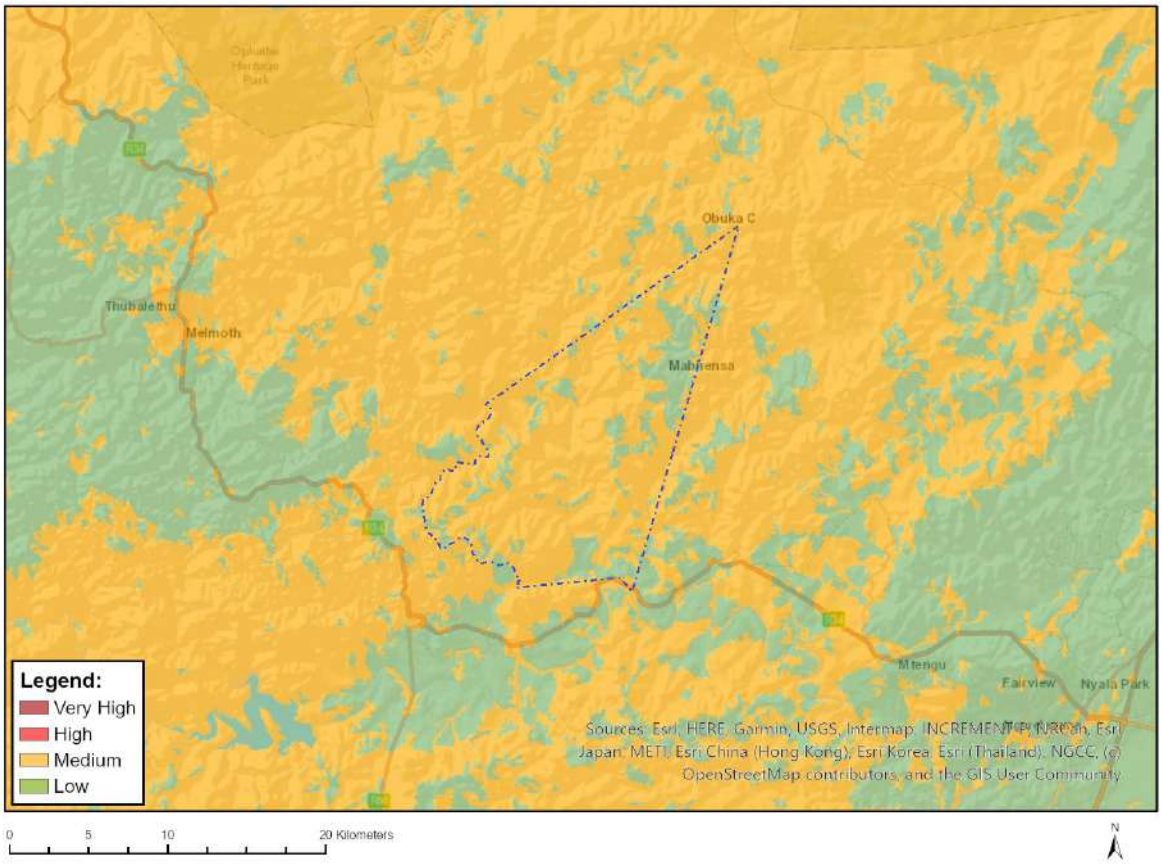


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

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

MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



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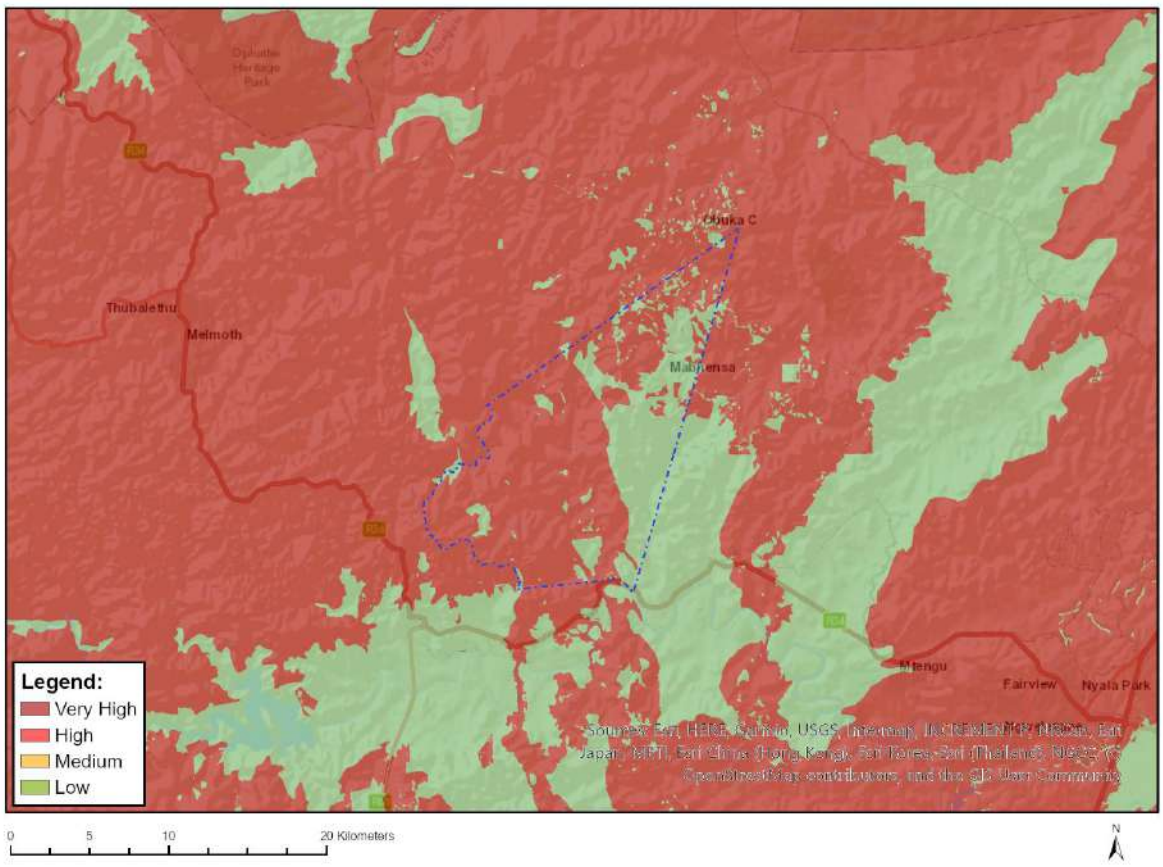
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	Faurea macnaughtonii
Medium	Sensitive species 1252
Medium	Sensitive species 809
Medium	Sensitive species 89
Medium	Selago zuluensis
Medium	Emplectanthus cordatus
Medium	Salpinctium natalense
Medium	Sensitive species 1076
Medium	Cassipourea gummiflua var. verticillata
Medium	Sensitive species 1083
Medium	Sensitive species 814
Medium	Sensitive species 1176

Medium	Oxygonum dregeanum subsp. streyi
Medium	Mystacidium aliceae
Medium	Sensitive species 401
Medium	Disperis woodii
Medium	Sensitive species 191
Medium	Prunus africana

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Very High	ESA
Very High	CBA: Optimal
Very High	CBA: Irreplaceable
Very High	Indigenous Forest (VegMap_2018)_Scarp Forest
Very High	National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES)
Very High	VU_Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland