

20/07/2021

## **PAULPUTS NORTH WEF AMENDMENT APPLICATION: TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY**

### **BACKGROUND**

Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('PWEF'), a wholly owned subsidiary of WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd, was granted environmental authorisation for the 300 MW (75 Turbine) Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated 132 kV grid connection on 11 December 2019 by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) (DEFF Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1120). PWEF are proposing to give permission to Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd and Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South (RF) (Pty) Ltd to split and amend the Environmental Authorisation (EA) into three amendment applications for EA. The summary of each amendment application is defined below:

- Paulputs South Amendment: Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('Paulputs South' – The Applicant) intends to construct and operate a 150MW WEF (Paulputs South WEF) consisting of up to 35 turbines, with a hub height of up to 180m, blade length of up to 110m and a rotor diameter of up to 220m. All infrastructure is to be located on the south-east of the N14 Highway. This amendment application and report will be referred to as the 'proposed amendment.'
- Paulputs North Amendment: Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('Paulputs North') intends to construct and operate a 150MW WEF (Paulputs North WEF) consisting of up to 40 turbines, with a hub height of up to 180m, blade length of up to 110m and a rotor diameter of up to 220m. This authorisation will also include the authorised Paulputs WEF preferred on-site substation and a proposed Battery Energy Storage Facility in the area authorised for temporary laydown. All infrastructure is to be located on the north-west of the N14 Highway.
- Paulputs North Grid Connection Amendment: PWEF give permission to Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd to remove the authorised 132 kV Grid Connection (Option C) from its authorisation in favour of ownership by Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('Paulputs North') for use at the Paulputs North WEF site. The approved grid connection will be taken over by Eskom in the future and thus requires its own Environmental Authorisation. This amendment application and report will be referred to as the 'proposed amendment.'

**This Amendment Statement specifically addresses the Paulputs North WEF Amendment.**

Mr Jamie Pote (refer to Appendix A for Declaration, CV and professional profile) has been appointed to compile an Amendment Statement, on behalf of the applicant, regarding the potential implications of the proposed amendments on Terrestrial Biodiversity. 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions compiled the original Fauna & Flora Specialist Study for the Paulputs WEF EIA, which was authorised on 11 December 2019 by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF, Ref No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1120). This Amendment Statement will assess the amendment in relation to the impacts as originally undertaken by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions.

With reference to the report compiled by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions for the original EIA, dated August 2019, titled '*Fauna & Flora Specialist Study EIA Phase Impact Assessment Report: Impact Assessment for the Proposed Paulputs Wind Energy Facility and Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure near Pofadder, Northern Cape*

Province', all areas pertaining to the amendment were assessed, including the area earmarked for the Battery Energy Storage Facility (BESS), which was to be a temporary laydown area.

In order to address the impact of splitting and amending the turbine specifications of the authorised Paulputs WEF, this amendment statement provides an evaluation of the impacts on Terrestrial Biodiversity, Animal and Plant species associated with the development may have with reference to the findings made by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions. Key inclusions in this amendment statement are as follows:

1. Statement from specialists confirming whether or not the proposed amendments will change the nature or impact of any of the impacts that were assessed as part of specialist studies for the Authorised Paulputs WEF.
2. Statements from specialists to confirm whether or not the proposed amendments within the assessed footprint will result in any additional impacts.
3. Statements from specialists to confirm whether any additional management actions or mitigations, inclusive of changes to the EMP, are applicable to the proposed amendments.

### Project : Paulputs WEF and Grid Connection Layout Amendments: Paulputs North

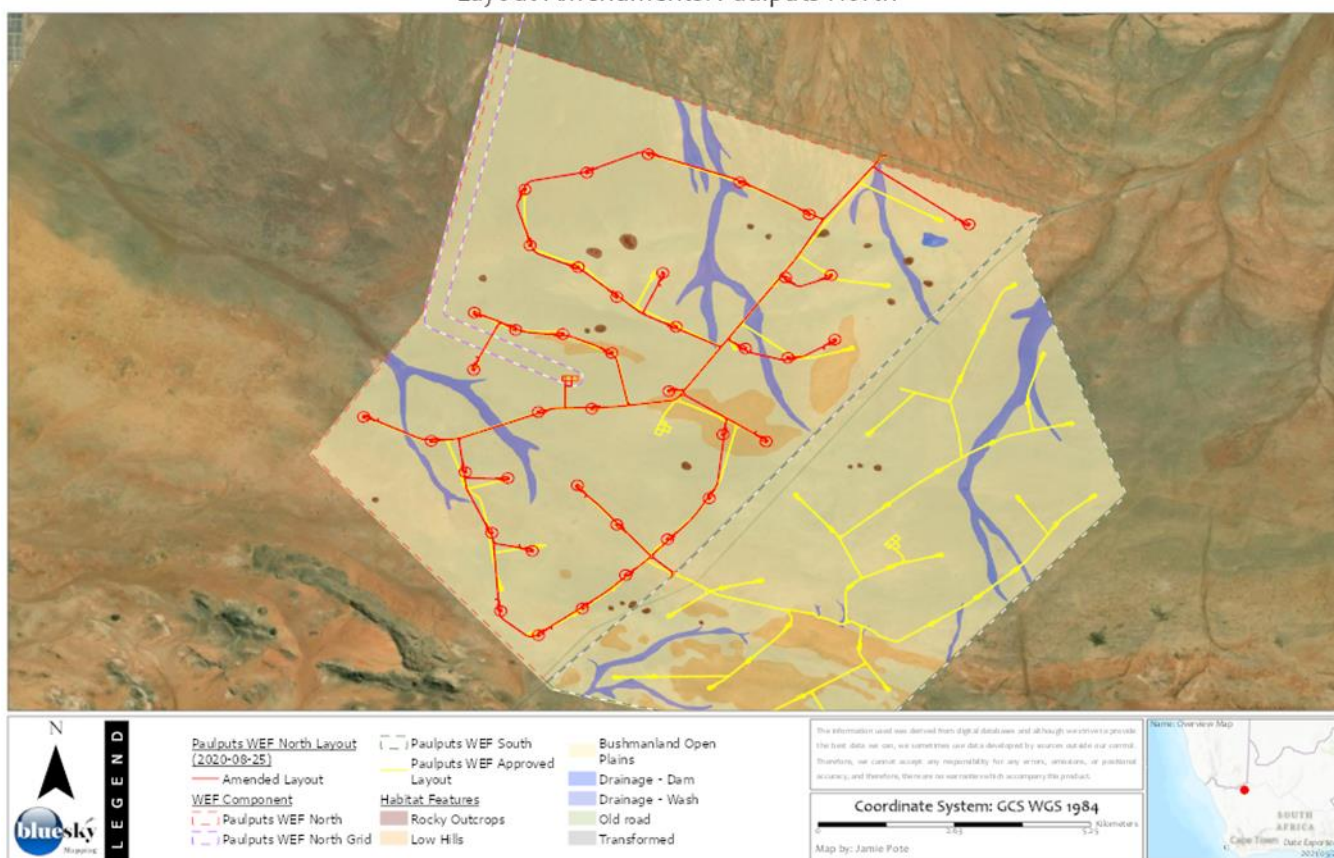


Figure 1: Habitat Mapping (as per Todd, 2019) with amended layout (Paulputs North WEF).

With reference to Figure 1 above, the following can be deduced regarding the split of the Paulputs WEF into two separate Paulputs North and Paulputs South components as well as the revised layout (red) compared to the original layout (yellow):

1. The minor road and turbine footprint alignment changes will not result in a significant change to the overall impact to terrestrial biodiversity and can be considered to be a slight improvement as it will slightly reduce the width of crossings over drainage line features.
2. The layout changes will not encroach on any areas having an elevated sensitivity, as identified, and mapped by Todd (August 2019).

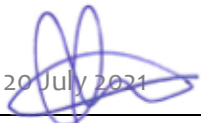
3. The inclusion of a BESS in the amended layout will have no additional terrestrial biodiversity impact, as it is sited on a temporary laydown area that was included in the original layout. The permanent change will also not be significant in terms of overall impact significance.
4. In terms of the overall impact, there are no changes in the impacts associated with the single Paulputs WEF and the impacts associated with the combined split North and South WEFs.

The changes to the specifications of the wind turbines would not be significant in terms of terrestrial ecology as this would not increase the overall footprint of the development. The amendment does not result in an overall change in the nature of impacts, nor in the significance of direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts, as assessed in for the authorised facility. No additional impacts as a result of the amendments are anticipated and the amendments are not anticipated to require any additional management actions or mitigation measures, inclusive of changes to the EMPr.

When the original project plan for the combined layout is compared to that of the project being split into two components, it can be concluded that the split, from a terrestrial biodiversity perspective, has no significant change in the terrestrial biodiversity risks from that of the original layout.

It is therefore the recommendation in terms of terrestrial biodiversity that the amendment be approved, subject to implementation of all recommendations in the original assessment inclusive of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation (EA).

Kind Regards



20 July 2021

---

Mr Jamie Pote BSc (Hons) Pr. Sci. Nat (115233)

Ref: Paulputs WEF North - Amendment Statement (Auth J Pote) 20210720\_FinalDraft.docx

# APPENDIX A: DECLARATION, PROFILE & PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	DEA/EIA/
Date Received:	

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

#### PROJECT TITLE

Paulputs Wind Energy Facility: Terrestrial Biodiversity

#### Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
5. All EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

#### Departmental Details

##### Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

##### Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:  
Email: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)

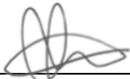
**1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION**

Specialist Company Name:	<b>None</b>			
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	<b>1</b>	Percentage Procurement recognition	<b>100 %</b>
Specialist name:	<b>Jamie Pote</b>			
Specialist Qualifications:	<b>BSc (Hons)</b>			
Professional affiliation/registration:	<b>SACNASP (115233)</b>			
Physical address:				
Postal address:	<b>Postnet Suite 13130, P.Bag X13130</b>			
Postal code:	<b>6013</b>	Cell:	<b>076 888 9890</b>	
Telephone:		Fax:		
E-mail:				

**2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST**

I, Mr Jamie Pote \_\_\_\_\_, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Company:

\_\_\_\_\_  
15 June 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, Mr Jamie Pote \_\_\_\_\_, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.



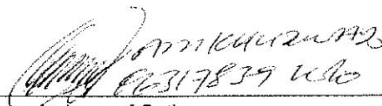
Signature of the Specialist

N/A

Name of Company

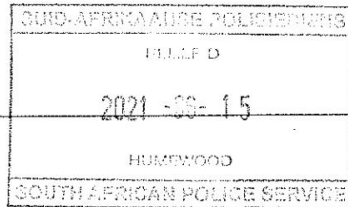
15 Jne 2021

Date



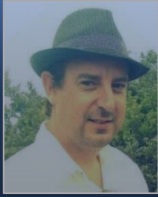
2021/06/15  
20317839 W/O

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths



2021-06-15







Date



# Jamie Pote

BIODIVERSITY ADVISOR, ECOLOGIST AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

## CONTACT

-  (+27) 76 888 9890
-  [jamiepote@live.co.za](mailto:jamiepote@live.co.za)
-  Port Elizabeth, South Africa
-  [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)
-  Jamiepote
-  [Bluesky-SA](https://bluesky.com)

## EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science  
*Rhodes University*  
2002 (Botany & Environmental Science)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours)  
*Rhodes University*  
2003 (Botany)
- Professional Natural Scientist  
*SACNASP: 2016 (Ecological Science)*

## SERVICES

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessments*
- IFC PS6 Biodiversity & Critical Habitat Assessments*
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statements*
- Geographic Information Systems*
- Environmental Management Plans & Programmes*
- Environmental Compliance & Monitoring*
- Independent Environmental & Ecological reviews*
- Bioremediation, Restoration & Rehabilitation Plans*
- Permit and License applications (Flora & Fauna)*
- Flora Search & Rescue Plans & Relocations*
- Invasive Alien Plant Control & Management Plans*
- Environmental & Mining Applications*

## ABOUT ME

*18 years broad professional experience in Biodiversity, Ecological and Vegetation Assessments on over 250 projects in southern, western and central Africa. Environmental Assessment Practitioner on over 50 projects in the mining, infrastructure, housing and agricultural sectors. Environmental monitoring and auditing on over 50 civil infrastructure and construction projects. Have managed all aspects of projects from inception through to implementation. Advanced GIS mapping tools and Analysis.*

## EXPERIENCE AND CLIENTS

### Key Sectors

- *Wind, Solar Energy Facilities*
- *Infrastructure and Housing*
- *Agriculture and Forestry*
- *Mining and Industrial*

### Key Projects

- *Over 250 independent Biodiversity/Ecological Assessments throughout southern, western and central Africa.*
- *Basic Assessments, Mining applications and compliance monitoring on over 50 projects for various clients including the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works, Department of Transport and the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) throughout the Eastern Cape, including over 300 individual borrow pits.*
- *South-End Precinct Mixed Use Development for Mandela Bay Development Agency - Environmental application, Ecological assessments and Pre-Construction compliance.*
- *Coega Development Corporation IDZ projects – Ecological assessments, Flora search & rescue and Construction monitoring.*
- *Environmental applications, construction monitoring and auditing for a wide range of projects, including infrastructure and housing clients.*
- *Various agricultural expansion and infrastructure projects.*
- *Various wind and solar energy and associated infrastructure projects.*
- *Numerous infrastructure projects including electrical, water and roads.*
- *Various Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Plans.*



**herewith certifies that**  
**Jamie Robert Claude Pote**  
Registration Number: 115233  
**is a registered scientist**

in terms of section 20(3) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003  
(Act 27 of 2003)  
in the following field(s) of practice (Schedule 1 of the Act)  
Ecological Science (Professional Natural Scientist)

Effective **20 July 2016**

Expires **31 March 2022**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Batha'.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. P. ...'.

Chief Executive Officer



To verify this certificate scan this code





# Site Verification Report

## Proposed Paulputs Amendments

Date: 20/07/2021  
Version: Draft  
Author: J. Pote

# Site Verification Report

## Proposed Paulputs Amendments

Compiled by: Jamie Pote (Pr. Sci. Nat.)

Postnet Suite 57, Private Bag X13130, Humewood, Port Elizabeth, 6013, South Africa  
[jamiepote@live.co.za](mailto:jamiepote@live.co.za) +27 (0)76 888 9890

Compiled for: CSIR

Date of report: 20/07/2021

## Draft Report

This Report has been prepared with all reasonable skill, care, and diligence within the scope of appointment by Mr Jamie Pote, with consideration to the resources devoted to it by agreement with the client, incorporating our Standard Terms and Conditions of Business. This Report is prepared exclusively for use by the client, and the author disclaims any liability in respect of its use by any party other than the client and for the purpose for which it was written. The Report is subject to all the copyright and intellectual property laws and practices of South Africa and contains intellectual property and proprietary information that is protected by such copyright in favour of the author. No person, other than the client, may reproduce, distribute to any third party, or rely on the content of any portion of this report, without the prior written consent of the author. The author accepts no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this Report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such persons or parties rely on the report at their own risk.

## Revisions

Report/Revision Version	Date:	Approved by:
First Draft	18/06/2021	Jamie Pote
Revisions/Comments	20/07/2021	Ashleigh von der Heyden
Final Draft	20/07/2021	Jamie Pote
IAP comments		
Final Version		

## Table of Contents

---

Revisions .....	ii
Table of Contents .....	i
List of Figures .....	i
List of Tables.....	i
1 Introduction & Background .....	1
1.1 Background and Project Description .....	1
1.2 Purpose of Report .....	1
1.3 Data sources and references .....	2
1.4 Site visit.....	3
1.5 Assumptions, Uncertainties and Gaps in Knowledge.....	3
2 National Environmental Screening Tool.....	3
3 Findings, Outcomes and Recommendations .....	5
3.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity .....	5
3.2 Plant Species (Flora).....	6
3.3 Animal Species (Fauna).....	6
3.4 Aquatic.....	6
4 Conclusions.....	6
5 Annexures.....	7
5.1 Annexure A: Declaration, Specialist Profile and Registration.....	7

## List of Figures

---

Figure 1:Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity. ....	3
Figure 2:Plant Species Sensitivity .....	3
Figure 3: Animal Species Sensitivity.....	4
Figure 4: Aquatic Sensitivity.....	4
Figure 5: Map indicating Northern Cape CBA areas and Rivers and Wetlands. ....	5

## List of Tables

---

Table 1: Terrestrial Biodiversity Features. ....	5
Table 2: Flora Species of Conservation Concern.....	6

# 1 Introduction & Background

## 1.1 Background and Project Description

Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('PWEF'), a wholly owned subsidiary of WKN Windcurrent SA (Pty) Ltd, was granted environmental authorisation for the 300 MW (75 Turbine) Paulputs Wind Energy Facility (WEF) and its associated 132 kV grid connection on 11 December 2019 by the Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) (Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/1120). PWEF are proposing to give permission to Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd and Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South (RF) (Pty) Ltd to split and amend the Environmental Authorisation (EA) into three amendment applications for EA. The summary of each amendment application is defined below:

- **Paulputs South Amendment:** Paulputs Wind Energy Facility South (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('Paulputs South' – The Applicant) intends to construct and operate a 150MW WEF (Paulputs South WEF) consisting of up to 35 turbines, with a hub height of up to 180m, blade length of up to 110m and a rotor diameter of up to 220m. All infrastructure is to be located on the south-east of the N14 Highway. This amendment application and report will be referred to as the 'proposed amendment'.
- **Paulputs North Amendment:** Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('Paulputs North') intends to construct and operate a 150MW WEF (Paulputs North WEF) consisting of up to 40 turbines, with a hub height of up to 180m, blade length of up to 110m and a rotor diameter of up to 220m. This authorisation will also include the authorised Paulputs WEF preferred on-site substation and a proposed Battery Energy Storage Facility in the area authorised for temporary laydown. All infrastructure is to be located on the north-west of the N14 Highway.
- **Paulputs North Grid Connection Amendment:** PWEF give permission to Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd to remove the authorised 132 kV Grid Connection (Option C) from its authorisation in favour of ownership by Paulputs Wind Energy Facility North (RF) (Pty) Ltd ('Paulputs North') for use at the Paulputs North WEF site. The approved grid connection will be taken over by Eskom in the future and thus requires its own Environmental Authorisation. This amendment application and report will be referred to as the 'proposed amendment'.

The site is situated approximately 35 km east of Pofadder, situated in the Northern Cape. The site straddles the N14 national road, with the Paulputs South site to the south-east of the N14 and the Paulputs North site to the north-west of the N14. The Paulputs North Grid Connection connects the Paulputs North site to a proposed substation approximately 5 km to the north-east of the site.

**This site verification report addresses all three components of the above amendments, namely Paulputs South Amendment, Paulputs North Amendment and Paulputs North Grid Connection Amendment.**

## 1.2 Purpose of Report

The "Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes in terms of sections 24 (5) (a) and (h) and 44 of the Act, when applying for Environmental Authorisation", as published on 20 March, 2020 in National Gazette, No. 43110 in terms of NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) sections 24(5)(a), (h) and 44, lists protocols and minimum report requirements for environmental impacts on terrestrial biodiversity and provides the criteria for the assessment and reporting of impacts on terrestrial biodiversity for activities requiring environmental authorisation. The assessment and minimum reporting requirements of this protocol are associated with a level of environmental sensitivity identified by the National web based Environmental Screening Tool. Prior to commencing with a specialist assessment, the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration, identified by the screening tool, must be confirmed by undertaking a **site sensitivity verification**, which must include the following.

1. The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken by an environmental assessment practitioner or a specialist.
2. The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken through the use of:
  - a. a desk top analysis, using satellite imagery.
  - b. a preliminary on-site inspection; and
  - c. any other available and relevant information.
3. The outcome of the site sensitivity verification must be recorded in the form of a report that:
  - a. confirms or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool.
  - b. contains a motivation and evidence of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
  - c. is submitted together with the relevant assessment report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

The National Web Based Screening Tool was used to generate the potential environmental sensitivity of the site which has then been compared to various online and other databases and information sources in order to verify and confirm the validity of the screening tool findings. This was further supported with on-site observations and analysis of most recent aerial photography.

This terrestrial biodiversity site verification has been undertaken as per the requirements of the Procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for environmental authorisation (GN 320, 20 March 2020).

### 1.3 Data sources and references

Data sources that were utilised for this report include the following:

- National (DFFE) Web Based Screening Tool – to generate the sites potential environmental sensitivity.
- National Vegetation Map 2018 (NVM, 2018), Mucina & Rutherford (2006) and National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA, 2019) – description of vegetation types, species (including endemic) and vegetation unit conservation status.
- National and Regional Legislation including Provincial Nature Conservation Ordinance (P.N.C.O). NEM:BA Threatened or Protected Species (ToPS).
- Botanical Database of Southern Africa (BODATSA) and New Plants of Southern Africa (POSA) – lists of plant species and potential species of concern found in the general area (SANBI.)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Red List of Threatened Species.
- Animal Demography Unit Virtual Museum (VM) – potential faunal species.
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) – potential faunal species.
- Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2) – for bird species records.
- National Red Books and Lists - mammals, reptiles, frogs, dragonflies & butterflies.
- National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas assessment (NFEPA, 2011) - important catchments.
- National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES, 2018) and South Africa Protected Area database (2020) – protected area information.
- Critical Biodiversity Areas of the Northern Cape (2016) – Bioregional Plan.
- Namakwa District Biodiversity Sector Plan (2008) – Bioregional Plan.
- Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Planning (SKEP, 2002).
- SANBI BGIS – All other biodiversity GIS datasets.
- Aerial Imagery – Google Earth, ESRI, Chief Surveyor General (<http://csg.dla.gov.za>).
- Cadastral and other topographical country data - Chief Surveyor General (<http://csg.dla.gov.za>).

- Other sources include peer-reviewed journals, regional and local assessments, and studies in the general location of the project and its area of influence, landscape prioritization schemes (Key Biodiversity Areas), systematic conservation planning assessments and plans (as above), and any pertinent masters and doctoral theses, among others.

## 1.4 Site visit

A site visit was conducted on 01 & 02 June 2021, during early winter months. The site falls within a summer rainfall area, which was evident during the site visit being in the dry season. However, for the purposes of this assessment it was deemed to be adequate since previous assessments and site visits had been undertaken by 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions for the EIA during the summer season

## 1.5 Assumptions, Uncertainties and Gaps in Knowledge

The findings and recommendations of this report may be susceptible to the following uncertainties and limitation:

- No assessment has been made of aquatic aspects relating to any wetlands, pans and rivers/seeps and/or estuaries outside of the scope of a terrestrial biodiversity report, and have been undertaken by an aquatic specialist.
- Aspects relating to birds have also been undertaken in a separate Avifaunal Assessment and will thus not be addressed in the terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment.
- Any flora and fauna surveys based upon a limited sampling time-period, may not reflect the actual species composition of the site due to seasonal variations in flowering times.
- As far as possible, site collected data has been supplemented with desktop and database-centred distribution data as well as previous studies undertaken in the area.

## 2 National Environmental Screening Tool

The DFFE Screening Tool indicates the following:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity is Low & Very High (Figure 1).
- Plant species sensitivity is Low & Medium (Figure 2).
- Animal Species sensitivity is Medium & High (Figure 3).
- Aquatic Sensitivity is Low & Very High (Figure 4).

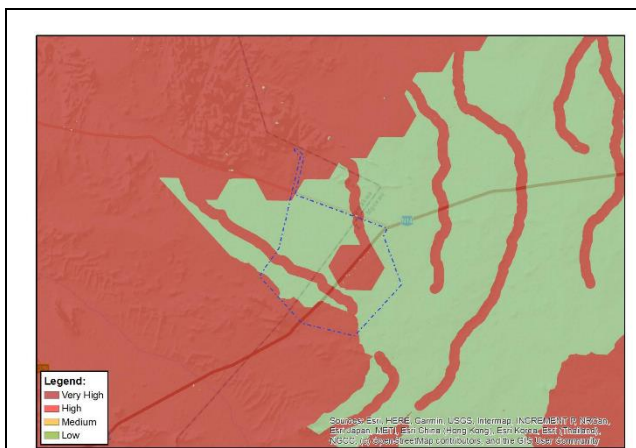


Figure 1: Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity.

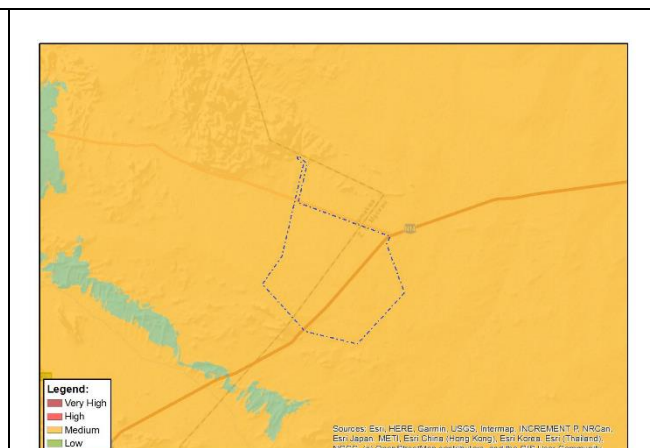


Figure 2: Plant Species Sensitivity

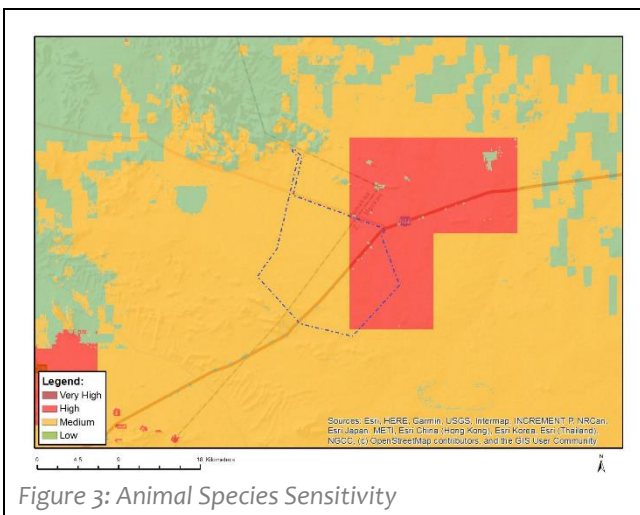


Figure 3: Animal Species Sensitivity

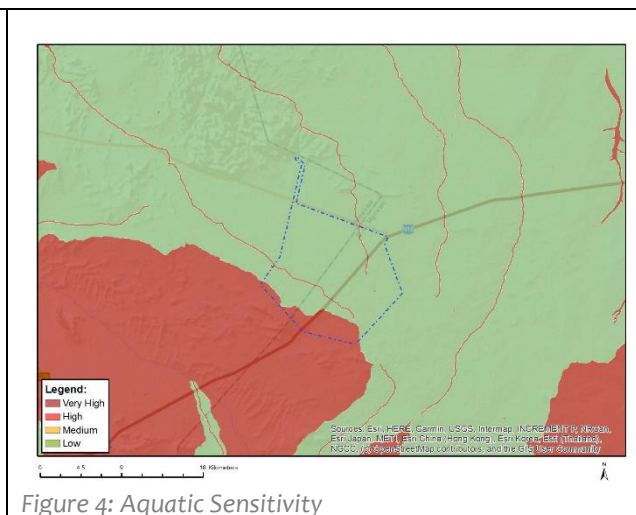


Figure 4: Aquatic Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Feature(s) in proximity
<b>Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity</b>	
Very High	Critical Biodiversity Area 1 & 2, Ecological Support Area, FEPA quinary catchments, Focus Areas for land-based protected areas expansion (NPAES).
High	None
Medium	None
Low	None
<b>Plant (Flora) Sensitivity</b>	
Very High	None
High	None
Medium	<i>Crotalaria pearsonii</i> , Sensitive species 144
Low	None
<b>Animal (Fauna) Sensitivity</b>	
Very High	None
High	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Medium	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Low	None
<b>Aquatic Sensitivity</b>	
Very High	Rivers, Wetlands, FEPA quinary catchments.
High	None
Medium	None
Low	None

The following is deduced from the DFFE National Environmental Screening Tool:

1. Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme is Very High, with Critical Biodiversity Area 1 & 2, Ecological Support Area, FEPA quinary catchments and Focus Areas for land-based protected areas expansion (NPAES) indicated as being present.
2. Plant Species Theme is Medium with two flora species conservation concern (*Crotalaria pearsonii* & sensitive species 144) indicated as possibly occurring in the vicinity of the site.
3. Animal Species Theme is Medium/High with possibly species including a single bird, *Neotis ludwigii*.
4. The Aquatic Theme indicates the possible presence of Rivers, Wetlands, FEPA quinary catchments (Very High).

**This site verification report will address the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant species aspects.** The bird species *Neotis ludwigii* is not included in the terrestrial biodiversity assessment, as it is assessed independently in the Avifaunal assessment undertaken by Dr Owen Davies. No other faunal sensitivities

are indicated. The aquatic sensitivities (Rivers, Wetlands and Estuaries, FEPA quinary catchments) are also assessed as a part of the Aquatic Assessment component undertaken by Dr Brian Colloty. These two aspects will thus not be considered further in this site verification report.

## 3 Findings, Outcomes and Recommendations

### 3.1 Terrestrial Biodiversity

Site verification of the Terrestrial Biodiversity sensitivities is summarised in Table 1 and depicted in Figure 5, where CBA 1 is dark green, CBA 2 is light green and ESA is light blue. Rivers and Wetlands also depicted.

Table 1: Terrestrial Biodiversity Features.

Feature		COMMENT
Critical Biodiversity Area 1	Present	Paulputs South component overlaps with CBA 1 area
Critical Biodiversity Area 2	Present	Paulputs North Grid Connection overlaps with CBA 2 area
Ecological Support Area	Present	Several ESA designated areas are present, associated with buffers around watercourses and drainage lines.
FEPA quinary catchments	Present	Refer to Aquatic Specialist Assessment. The site is drained by several non-perennial watercourses.
Focus Areas for land-based protected areas expansion (NPAES)	Not Present	The project footprint does not overlay directly with any NPAES areas, although several are situated in the vicinity.

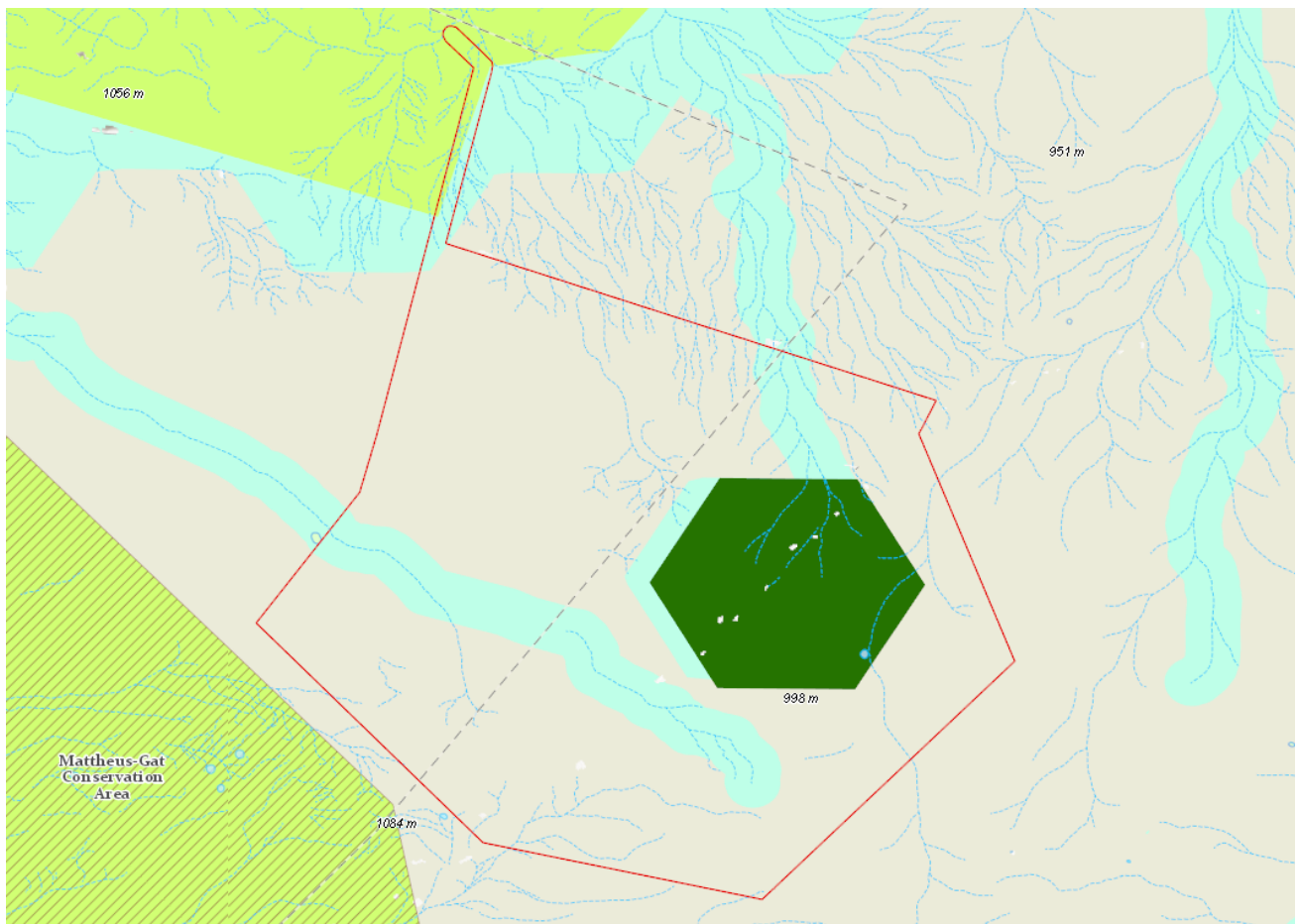


Figure 5: Map indicating Northern Cape CBA areas and Rivers and Wetlands.



## 3.2 Plant Species (Flora)

Site verification of the two species is summarised in Table 2

Table 2: Flora Species of Conservation Concern.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	FAMILY	STATUS <sup>1</sup>	COMMENT/PRESENCE
<i>Crotalaria pearsonii</i>	Fabaceae	NEST (M), VU [B1ab (iii,v)], NCA	Outside of range (Southern Richtersveld to Aggeneys and Kenhardt). Unlikely to occur, was not recorded in original Ecological Assessment, nor during site verification. Records suggest it occurs in rocky hill areas, which are generally absent on site or will be avoided.
Sensitive species 144	-	NEST (M), VU [A3ce], NCA	Widespread species, Nieuwoudtville eastwards to Olifantsfontein and northwards to the Brandberg in Namibia. Not present in abundance in the immediate site area, some individuals may be present along the Paulputs North Grid Connection. However, risk to this species is negligible, as it can be easily avoided during powerline micro-siting and construction.

The screening tool correctly identifies a single species (Sensitive species 144) as possibly being present, as it is in the general area. The likelihood of *Crotalaria pearsonii* being present is low, however, it will be investigated further in the plant species assessment.

## 3.3 Animal Species (Fauna)

No mammals, reptiles, amphibians, or invertebrate species are listed. Refer to separate Avifaunal Specialist Assessment Report for birds regarding *Neotis ludwigii*.

## 3.4 Aquatic

Wetland and River features are confirmed to be present. In general aquatic features are avoided as far as possible and are limited to road crossings where necessary. Specific aquatic sensitivities are assessed in a separate aquatic assessment.

## 4 Conclusions

The site verification thus confirms that the terrestrial biodiversity screening tool correctly identifies Critical Biodiversity Area 1 & 2 as well as Ecological Support Area as being within the project footprint. No Focus Areas for land-based protected areas expansion are directly affected, but several are located in the vicinity. The site is also drained by several non-perennial watercourses, hence would be considered to be within FEPA quinary catchments. It further confirms that Sensitive Species 144 does occur in the vicinity of the site and should be addressed in the plant species assessment. It also concludes that the likelihood of *Crotalaria pearsonii* being present is low but should none the less be confirmed during the site visit.

The original specialist assessment has correctly identified and assessed these features, and the amendment report is unlikely to identify any additional issues as raised by the screening tool.

<sup>1</sup> NEST – National Environmental Screening Tool; NCA - Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act (Act no. 9 of 2009), Schedule 1 or 2; ToPS – Threatened or Protected Species [NEM:BA]; IUCN: Least Concern (LC), Near Threatened (NT), Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU); CITIES - Conservation for International trade in Endangered Species.

## 5 Annexures

### 5.1 Annexure A: Declaration, Specialist Profile and Registration



#### environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

#### DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST, DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH

	(For official use only)
File Reference Number:	
NEAS Reference Number:	DEA/EIA/
Date Received:	

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

#### PROJECT TITLE

**Paulputs Wind Energy Facility: Terrestrial Biodiversity**

#### Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of 01 September 2018. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. A copy of this form containing original signatures must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Officer Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate.
5. All EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted, only hardcopy submissions are accepted.

#### Departmental Details

##### Postal address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

##### Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:  
Email: [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)

**1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION**

Specialist Company Name:	<b>None</b>			
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	<b>1</b>	Percentage Procurement recognition	<b>100 %</b>
Specialist name:	<b>Jamie Pote</b>			
Specialist Qualifications:	<b>BSc (Hons)</b>			
Professional affiliation/registration:	<b>SACNASP (115233)</b>			
Physical address:				
Postal address:	<b>Postnet Suite 13130, P.Bag X13130</b>			
Postal code:	<b>6013</b>	Cell:	<b>076 888 9890</b>	
Telephone:		Fax:		
E-mail:				

**2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST**

I, Mr Jamie Pote \_\_\_\_\_, declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.



Signature of the Specialist

N/A

Name of Company:

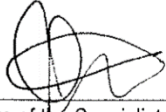
15 June 2021

Date

Details of Specialist, Declaration and Undertaking Under Oath

3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, Mr Jamie Pote \_\_\_\_\_, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.



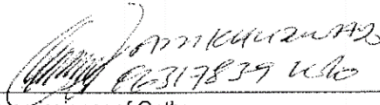
Signature of the Specialist

N/A

Name of Company

15 June 2021

Date

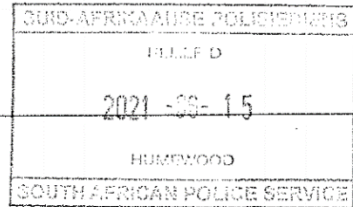


2021-06-15

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

2021-06-15

Date











## Jamie Pote

BIODIVERSITY ADVISOR, ECOLOGIST AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

### CONTACT

-  (+27) 76 888 9890
-  [jamiapote@live.co.za](mailto:jamiapote@live.co.za)
-  Port Elizabeth, South Africa
-  [Linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)
-  Jamiepote
-  [Bluesky-SA](https://bluesky.com)

### EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science  
*Rhodes University*  
2002 (Botany & Environmental Science)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours)  
*Rhodes University*  
2003 (Botany)
- Professional Natural Scientist  
*SACNASP: 2016 (Ecological Science)*

### SERVICES

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessments*
- IFC PS6 Biodiversity & Critical Habitat Assessments*
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statements*
- Geographic Information Systems*
- Environmental Management Plans & Programmes*
- Environmental Compliance & Monitoring*
- Independent Environmental & Ecological reviews*
- Bioremediation, Restoration & Rehabilitation Plans*
- Permit and License applications (Flora & Fauna)*
- Flora Search & Rescue Plans & Relocations*
- Invasive Alien Plant Control & Management Plans*
- Environmental & Mining Applications*

### ABOUT ME

*18 years broad professional experience in Biodiversity, Ecological and Vegetation Assessments on over 250 projects in southern, western and central Africa. Environmental Assessment Practitioner on over 50 projects in the mining, infrastructure, housing and agricultural sectors. Environmental monitoring and auditing on over 50 civil infrastructure and construction projects. Have managed all aspects of projects from inception through to implementation. Advanced GIS mapping tools and Analysis.*

### EXPERIENCE AND CLIENTS

#### Key Sectors

- *Wind, Solar Energy Facilities*
- *Infrastructure and Housing*
- *Agriculture and Forestry*
- *Mining and Industrial*

#### Key Projects

- *Over 250 independent Biodiversity/Ecological Assessments throughout southern, western and central Africa.*
- *Basic Assessments, Mining applications and compliance monitoring on over 50 projects for various clients including the Eastern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works, Department of Transport and the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) throughout the Eastern Cape, including over 300 individual borrow pits.*
- *South-End Precinct Mixed Use Development for Mandela Bay Development Agency - Environmental application, Ecological assessments and Pre-Construction compliance.*
- *Coega Development Corporation IDZ projects – Ecological assessments, Flora search & rescue and Construction monitoring.*
- *Environmental applications, construction monitoring and auditing for a wide range of projects, including infrastructure and housing clients.*
- *Various agricultural expansion and infrastructure projects.*
- *Various wind and solar energy and associated infrastructure projects.*
- *Numerous infrastructure projects including electrical, water and roads.*
- *Various Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Plans.*

24/03/2021



**herewith certifies that**  
**Jamie Robert Claude Pote**  
Registration Number: 115233  
**is a registered scientist**

in terms of section 20(3) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003  
(Act 27 of 2003)  
in the following field(s) of practice (Schedule 1 of the Act)  
Ecological Science (Professional Natural Scientist)

Effective **20 July 2016**

Expires **31 March 2022**



Handwritten signature of the Chairperson in black ink.

Chairperson

Handwritten signature of the Chief Executive Officer in black ink.

Chief Executive Officer



To verify this certificate scan this code

*PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK*

END