

**BOTANICAL SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION
AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN AGRI-
PROCESSING FACILITY ON PORTIONS 64 OF
VAAL KOPPIES NO 40, KENHARDT,
DAWID KRUIPER MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN
CAPE PROVINCE**



CAPENSIS

GREG NICOLSON

DECEMBER 2022

REPORT PREPARED FOR
THE ECO BALANCE

NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THIS REPORT

The new Protocols of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) prescribe general requirements for undertaking an initial site sensitivity verification and for protocols for the assessment and minimum reporting requirements of environmental impacts. Schedule 3(a) provides the Protocol for the assessment and reporting of environmental impacts on terrestrial biodiversity and must be applied when undertaking a botanical assessment.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIALIST

Capensis Ecological Consulting (Pty) Ltd t/a Capensis was appointed by The Eco Balance to provide specialist botanical consulting services for the proposed agri-processing facility at Carpe Diem, (Portion 64 of Vaal Koppies No 40), near Upington in the Dawid Kruiper Municipality, Northern Cape.

CONDITIONS RELATING TO THIS REPORT

The content of this report is based on the authors' best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information. Capensis reserves the right to modify the report in any way deemed fit should new, relevant or previously unavailable or undisclosed information become known to the author from on-going research or further work in this field, or pertaining to this investigation.

This report must not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the authors. This also refers to electronic copies of the report which are supplied for the purposes of inclusion as part of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must make reference to this report. If these form part of a main report relating to this investigation or report, this report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.

DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST

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Expertise

- Qualifications: BSc. Hons. (Environmental Science), MSc (Botany)
- Botanist with 8 years' experience in the field of botanical surveys
- Has experience in botanical exploration in South Africa and Namibia

- Has conducted over 200 botanical assessments for the EIA process.

THE SPECIALIST

I, Gregory Alexander Nicolson, as the appointed specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that I:

- in terms of the general requirement to be independent:
- other than fair remuneration for work performed/to be performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the activity or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
- in terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification;
- have disclosed/will disclose, to the applicant all material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application;
- have ensured/will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application was/will be distributed or was/will be made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties was/will be facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were/will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments;
- have ensured/will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties were/will be considered, recorded and submitted to the Department in respect of the application;
- have ensured/will ensure the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports in respect of the application, where relevant;
- have kept/will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participate/d in the public participation process; and
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations.

Note: The terms of reference of the review specialist must be attached.

Signature of the specialist:



Name of company: Capensis Ecological Consulting (Pty) Ltd

Date: 04 December 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

An application is underway for Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the development of an agri-processing plant for the Pecan Nut industry at the farm Carpe Diem near Upington in the Dawid Kruiper Municipality. Capensis Ecological Consulting Pty (Ltd) (Capensis) was appointed by The Eco Balance to undertake a botanical assessment of the site to provide a Botanical Site sensitivity verification and compliance statement, including a plant species protocol compliance statement to inform the EA.

2. PROTOCOL FOR DETERMINING LEVEL OF REPORTING

The new Protocols of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA) prescribe general requirements for undertaking an initial site sensitivity verification and the protocols for the assessment and minimum reporting requirements of environmental impacts (Government Gazette 2020a). The sensitivity of the site was predetermined using the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) screening tool (<https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool/>). The entire site has been classified as “Very high” sensitivity from a terrestrial biodiversity perspective (Figure 1). This level of sensitivity requires a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment to be submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation (EA), if required, unless the on-site sensitivity can be shown to be Low. In this case, the Very High terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity rating is disputed, and this report provides the site sensitivity verification and a compliance statement.

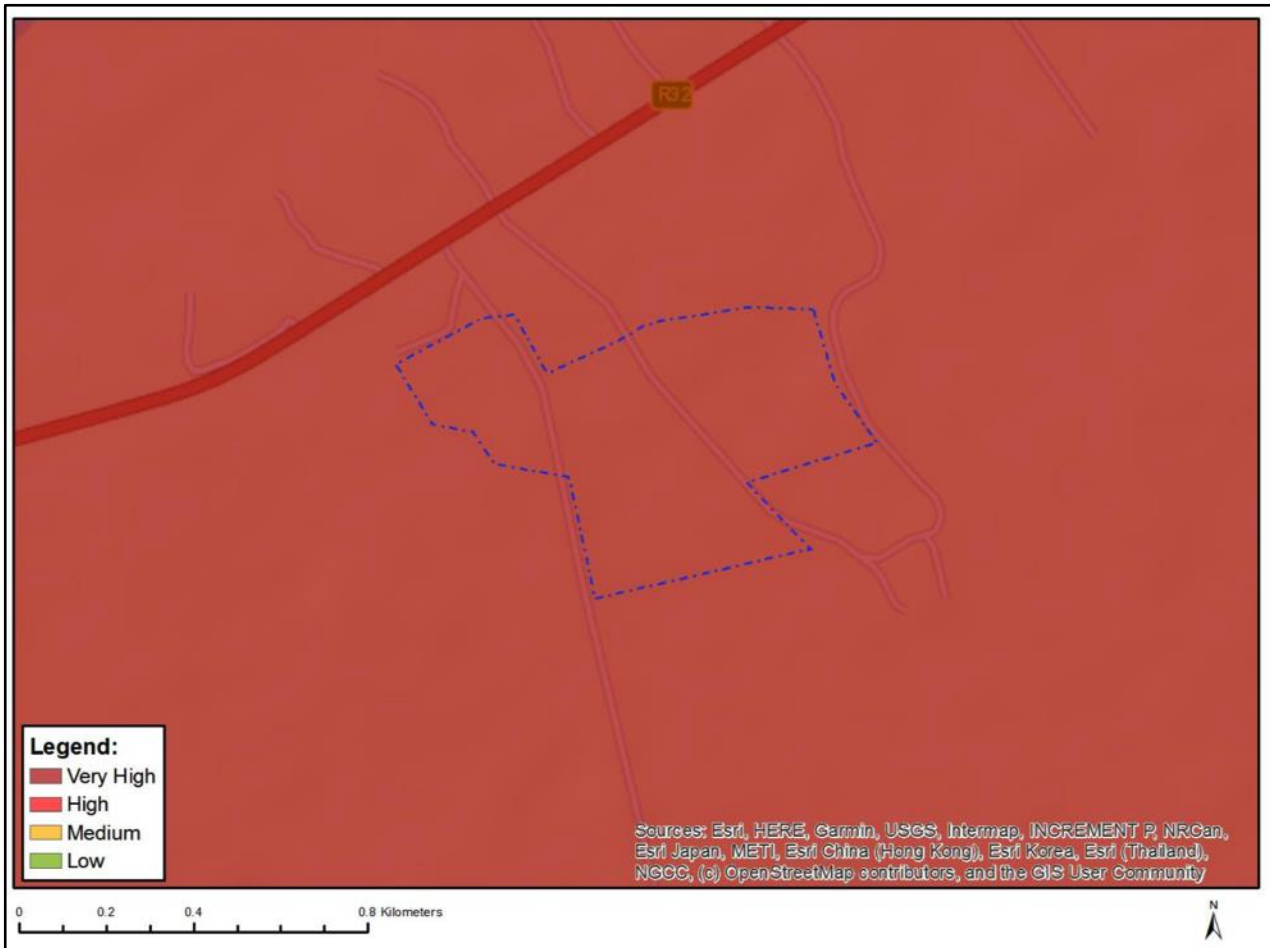


Figure 1. The map of Terrestrial Biodiversity Sensitivity based on the national screening tool (accessed from <https://screening.environment.gov.za/>).

The relative plant species theme sensitivity for the site is rated 'Low'. "An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of this protocol, on a site identified by the screening tool as being of "Low sensitivity" for terrestrial plant species, must submit a **Terrestrial Plant Species Compliance Statement**, depending on the outcome of a site inspection undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4" (Government Gazette 2020b). No plants listed as Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) have been identified at this site and therefore a **Terrestrial Plant Species Compliance Statement** is included in Appendix 2 of this report.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

3.1. GENERAL

Botanical assessments must follow guidelines set out in the following documents:

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guidelines for Involving Biodiversity Specialists in the EIA Process (Brownlie, 2005);
- Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape (Cadman et al.,

2016);

- The requirements of CapeNature for providing comments on agricultural, environmental, mine planning and water-use related applications (Turner, 2013); and
- Protocol for the assessment and reporting of environmental impacts on terrestrial biodiversity (Government Gazette, 2020a and 2020b).

3.2. SPECIFIC

The specific terms of reference followed for this assessment are as follows:

- The national web based environmental screening tool must be confirmed by undertaking an initial Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV).
- The Initial SSV must be undertaken through the use of:
 - A desk top analysis, using satellite imagery; and
 - A preliminary on-site inspection to identify if there are any discrepancies with the current use of land and environmental status quo versus the environmental sensitivity as identified on the national web based environmental screening tool, such as new developments, infrastructure, indigenous/pristine vegetation.
- The outcome of the Initial SSV must be recorded in the form of a report that:
 - Confirms or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool;
 - Contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the confirmation or dispute of the environmental sensitivity.

4. METHODOLOGY, LIMITATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The study area was visited on the 8th of November 2022 and surveyed on foot. Sample waypoint positions were obtained using a Garmin GPS map 62. Photographs were taken and georeferenced using an Olympus TG-5 Camera with built-in GPS.

The following sources have been used to inform this study:

- *Site boundaries*: The property boundaries have been downloaded from the Cape Farm Mapper Website (<https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/>).
- *Vegetation Types*: Based on *The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland* (VEGMAP)(Mucina & Rutherford, 2006). The South African National Biodiversity Institute

(SANBI) has updated the mapping for the VEGMAP (2018) and these shapefiles have been used.

- *Ecosystem threat status:* Informed by (1) The National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (Government Gazette, 2022) and (2) The National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 (SANBI, 2019).
- *Biodiversity planning:* The Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Areas Map (Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, 2016) is important for determining the conservation importance of the designated habitat. Ground-truthing is an essential component in terms of determining the habitat condition.
- *Important species:* The presence or absence of threatened (i.e. species of conservation concern) and ecologically important species informs the ecological condition and sensitivity of the site. The latest conservation status of species is checked on the Red List of South African Plants (Raimondo *et al.* 2009) via the website (www.redlist.sanbi.org).
- *Previous studies:* Previous botanical studies in the region of the study area provide additional information that can support the findings of the once-off nature of a typical impact assessment report.

The site visit was carried out in early November, before the peak flowering period (this is near the end of the summer rains when most species are in flower). The timing of the study is therefore regarded as suboptimal. However, a number of species were still in flower and the overall condition of the site can be determined. No other limitations apply and the overall condition of the site was possible to determine and the confidence in the findings is high.

5. STUDY AREA

5.1. LOCALITY

The study area (or site) falls within the Dawid Kruiper Municipality, approximately 6 km to the south-east of Upington (Figure 2). The closest major roads are the N10, N14 and R359. Kleinbegin Road bisects the study area. The Orange River lies to the north of the site and a number of very small drainage lines occur within the site (Figure 3). The study area comprises both Portion 64 and Portion 67 of Farm 40, however, only Portion 64 is proposed for the development footprint. The site is currently being used for agriculture in parts of the subject property. The study area is currently undeveloped (Figure 4A). Based on the sensitivity mapping provided by the author, the layout within the study area has been proposed by the applicant. The mapped drainage lines and buffer can be seen along with the proposed layout (Figure 4B).

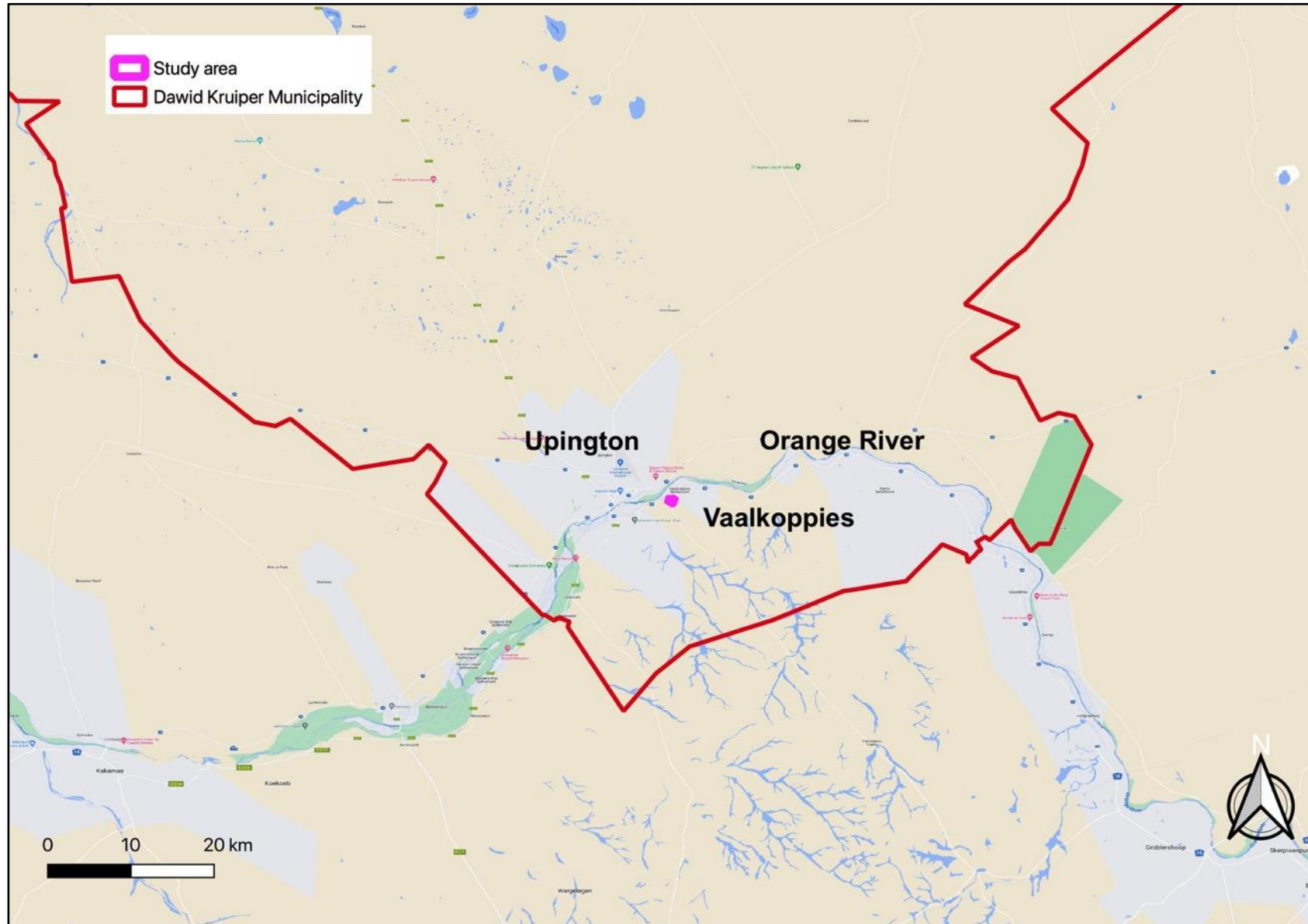


Figure 2. The study area in relation to the Dawid Kruiper municipal boundary and the closest towns overlaid on a Google Maps™ image.

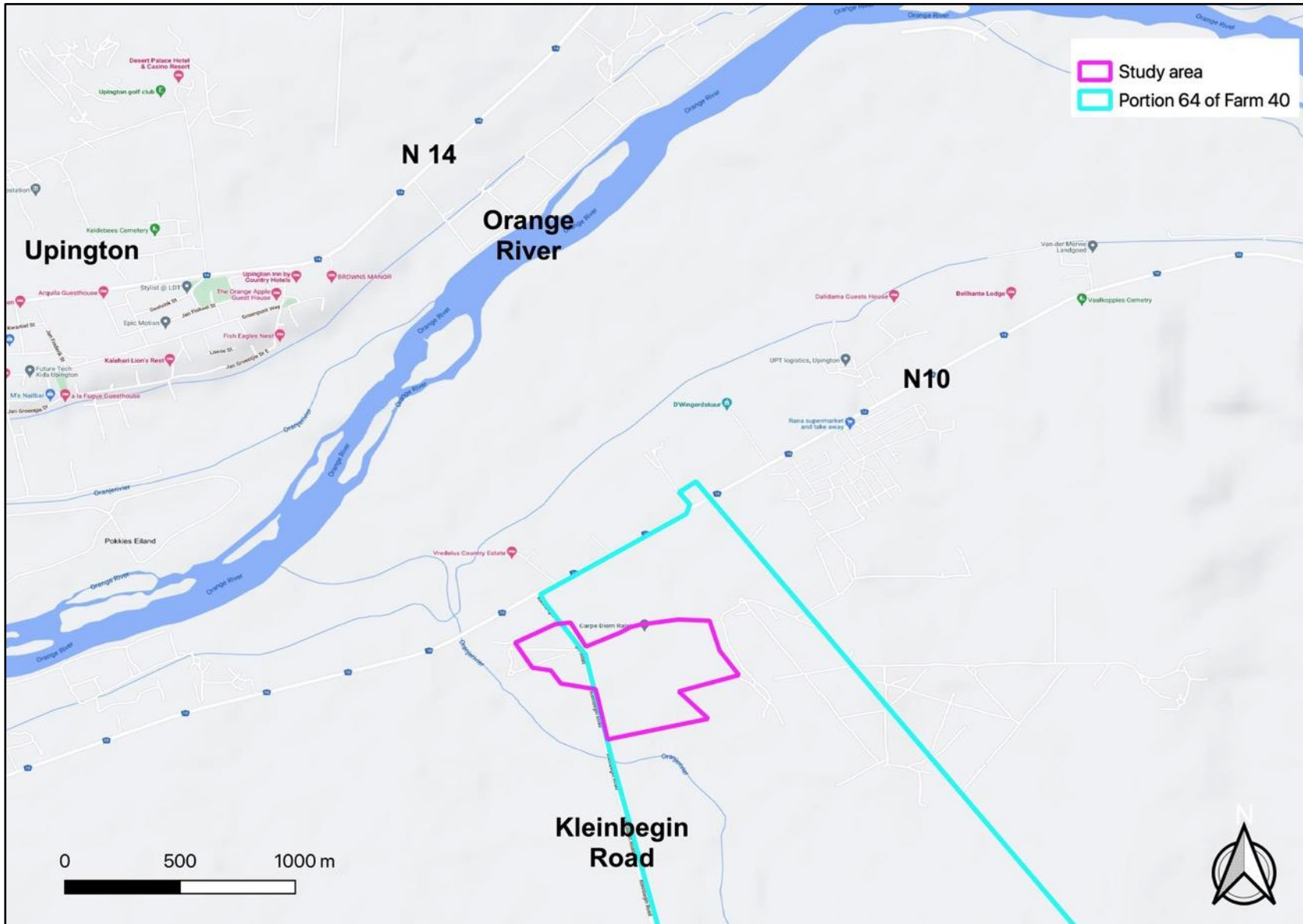


Figure 3. The study area in relation to the surrounding major roads, rivers and other features overlaid over a Google Earth™ aerial image.

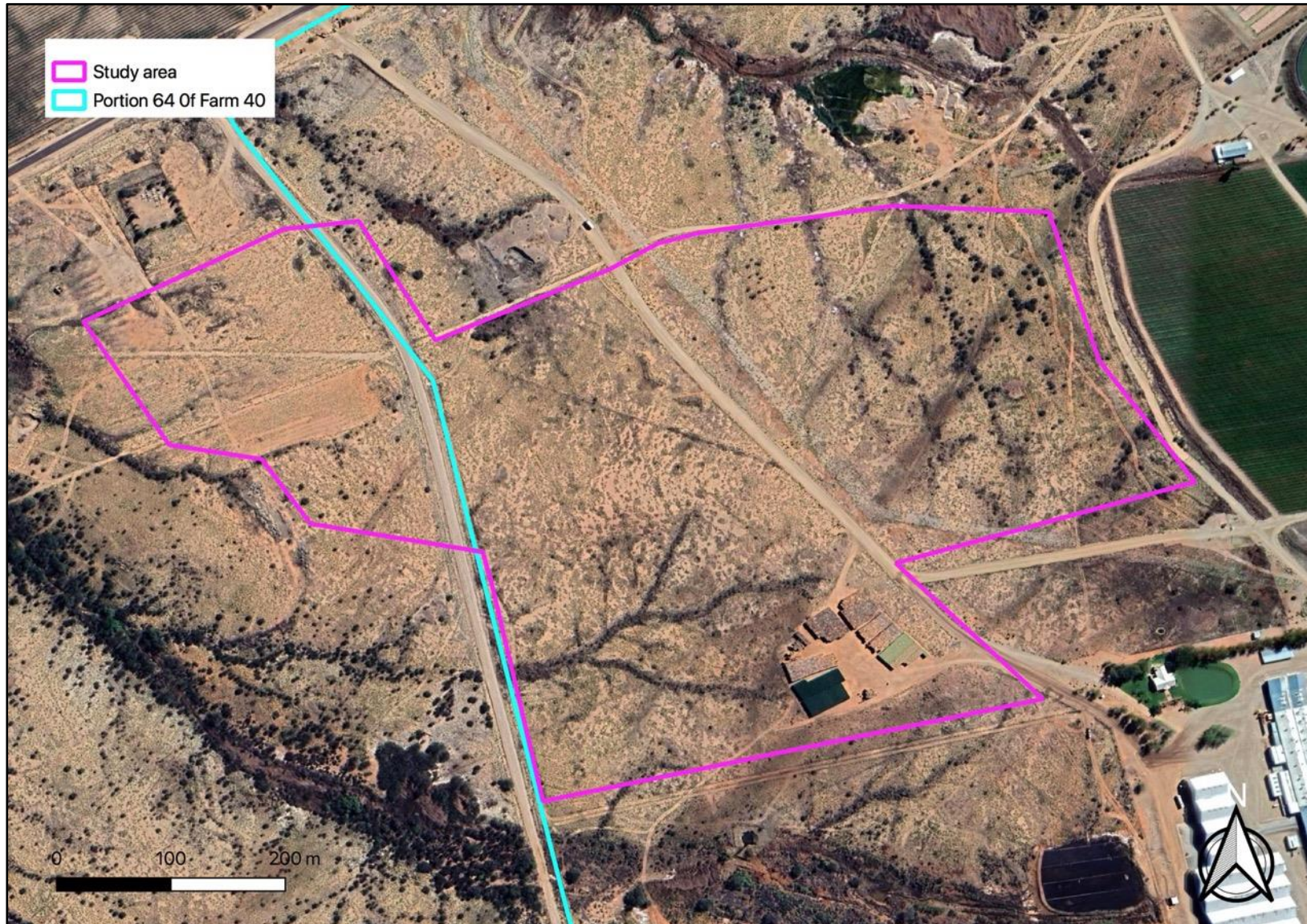


Figure 4A. The Study area showing the proposed development area, overlaid over a Google Earth™ aerial image.



Figure 4B. The proposed development layout based on the sensitivity mapping of the author (Image provided by The Eco Balance)

5.2. LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

The study area supports Bushmanland Arid Grassland and the geology is described as: “A third of the area is covered by recent (Quaternary) alluvium and calcrete. Superficial deposits of the Kalahari Group are also present in the east. The extensive Palaeozoic diamictites of the Dwyka Group also outcrop in the area as do gneisses and metasediments of Mokolian age. The soils of most of the area are red-yellow apedal soils, freely drained, with a high base status and <300 mm deep, with about one fifth of the area deeper than 300 mm, typical of Ag and Ae land types” (Mucina et al. in Mucina and Rutherford, 2006).

6. SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

6.1 DESKTOP ANALYSIS

The historical aerial imagery for the study area shows that the greater part of the site was in a near natural or intact state up until 2016 when an area was cleared for storage crates. Between 2019 and 2020 an area in the north-west of the site was cleared (see Figure 5).

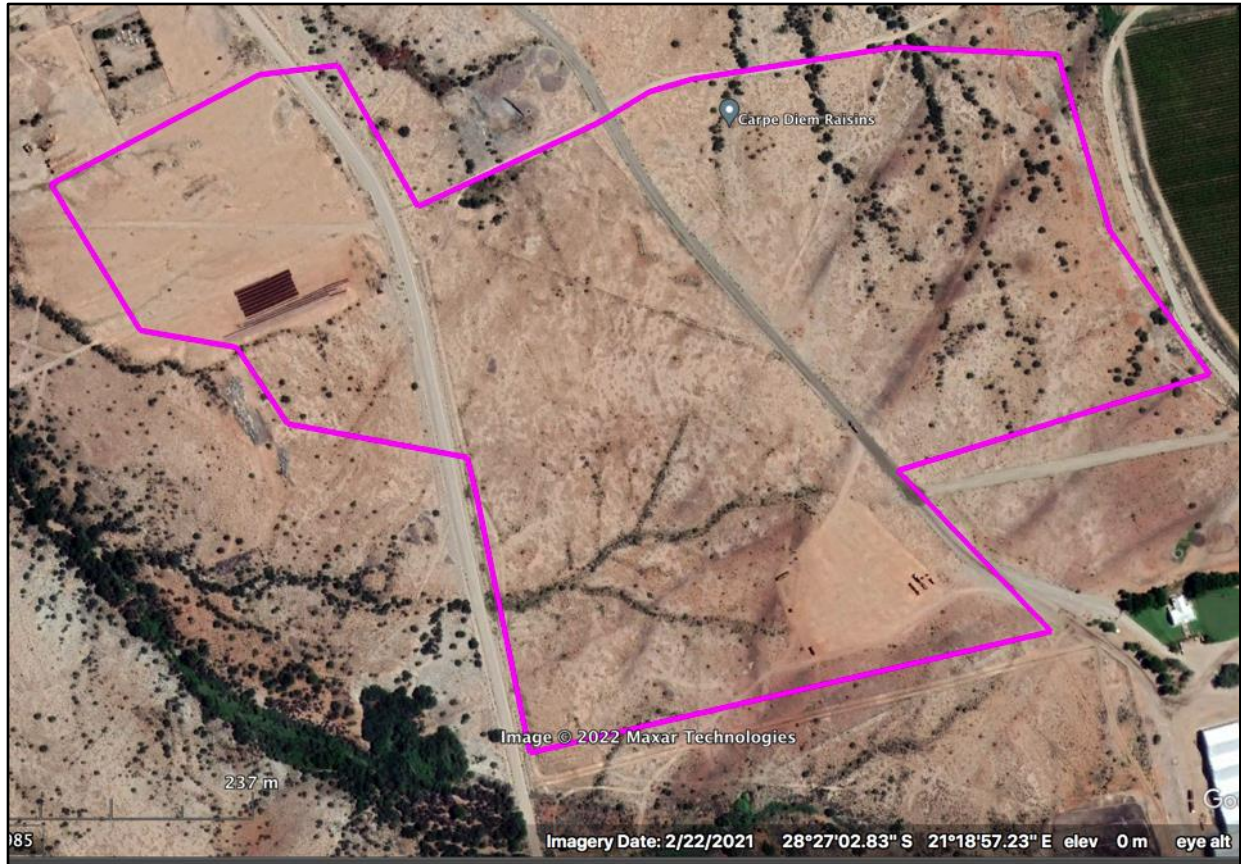


Figure 5. Google Earth™ aerial image from 2021 showing the Study area (pink polygon) and the areas that have been disturbed.

6.2. NATIONAL VEGETATION TYPE

According to the Vegetation Map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland (SANBI, 2018) (VEGMAP), the vegetation type occurring in the study area is Bushmanland Arid Grassland. No vegetation map is provided since the entire study area and surrounds are the same vegetation unit.

The landscape and vegetation of the Western Little Karoo ecosystem is described by Mucina et al. (in Mucina and Rutherford, 2006):

“Extensive to irregular plains on a slightly sloping plateau sparsely vegetated by grassland dominated by white grasses (Stipagrostis species) giving this vegetation type the character of semidesert ‘steppe’. In places low shrubs of Salsola change

the vegetation structure. In years of abundant rainfall rich displays of annual herbs can be expected”.

Ecological drivers

The key ecological drivers in **Nama Karoo** ecosystems according to Cadman et al. (2016) include (1) latitude and longitude, (2) altitude, (3) aspect (4) substrate, (5) drainage, (6) inclination, (7) rainfall, (8) drought, (9) fire, (10) hail, (11) browsing and grazing, (12) ecosystem engineers and (13) seed dispersers.

6.3. ECOSYSTEM THREAT STATUS

Ecosystem threat status is derived from two sources. These include the following:

1. The National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (Government Gazette, 2022).
2. The National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 (NBA) (SANBI 2019).

Bushmanland Arid Grassland is listed as **Least Concern** in The National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection. It is noted that: “Bushmanland Arid Grassland has experienced low rates of natural habitat loss and biotic disruptions, placing this ecosystem at low risk of collapse” (<http://bgis.sanbi.org/Ecosystems/home/Detail/299>). The ecosystem is listed as **Least Concern** in the NBA with 99.4% still intact.

Table 1. Ecosystem threat status derived from available information sources

Ecosystem threat status	The National List of Threatened Terrestrial Ecosystems	The National Biodiversity Assessment
Bushmanland Arid Grassland	LEAST CONCERN	LEAST CONCERN
Reason	N/A	N/A
Remaining % of ecosystem	99%	99.4%
Conservation target	21%	21%
Species of special concern	N/A	N/A

6.4 BIODIVERSITY PLANS

The conservation importance of all areas within the Northern Cape have been mapped in the Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) Map (Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, 2016). The CBA map units are selected for conserving important habitats and biodiversity processes. The habitat categories are selected for various reasons and may include degraded or low quality vegetation, since they may serve as important biodiversity corridors between ecologically intact habitats. It is therefore important to ground-truth these areas and interpret the findings in relation to the objectives of the CBA Map. In this instance the study area is classified as CBA 2 (north-west corner) and ESA (greater part of the site)(Table 2; Figure 6).

Table 2. The CBA categories and associated features of the Northern Cape CBA map (2016).

	Features associated with planning unit (hexagon)
Critical Biodiversity Area 2	Bushmanland Arid Grassland, Lower Gariep Alluvial Vegetation, Namakwa cba2 and associated, All natural wetlands, All Rivers, NPAES PA and Focus, Landscape structural elements
Ecological Support Area	Bushmanland Arid Grassland, Kalahari Karroid Shrubland, NPAES PA and Focus, Landscape structural elements

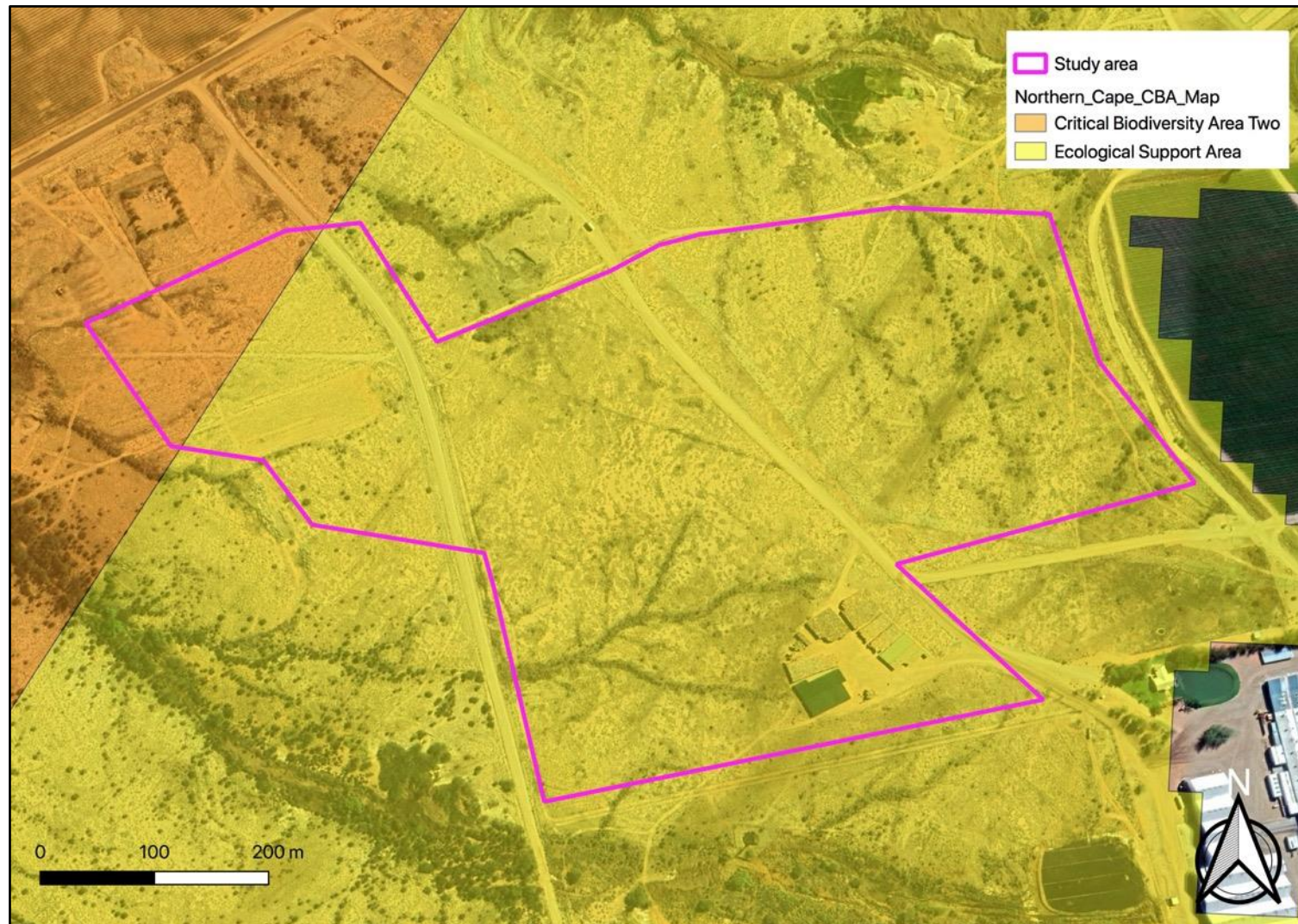


Figure 6. CONSERVATION PLANNING MAP: The study area in relation to the Northern Cape CBA Map (Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, 2016) overlaid on a Google Maps image.

7. SITE INSPECTION

The vegetation within the study area has been classified into different habitats, these are described below in section 7.1. A description of the various habitat condition classes appears in Table 3 and a habitat map appears in Figure 7.

Table 2. The habitat condition descriptions used for the vegetation on the site.

Habitat condition	Description
Intact vegetation	A true representation of the original vegetation type in terms of structure and species makeup. Minimal soil disturbance. Unlikely to have ever been ploughed. Disturbance may be evident.
Semi-intact	Closely resembles the original vegetation type in terms of structure and species makeup but has undergone some form of current or historical disturbance. Restoration potential is high.
Degraded	Only a few species representative of the original vegetation type are present. The vegetation has undergone heavy disturbance. Restoration potential is either low or moderate.
Highly degraded	The original vegetation is usually absent and has been removed in the past. Only a few remnant or pioneer species are present. Soils usually ploughed in the past. Restoration potential is very low.
Transformed	No remnant species exist anymore. The landscape is altered irreversibly with no restoration potential. Examples include cultivated farmland and the built environment.

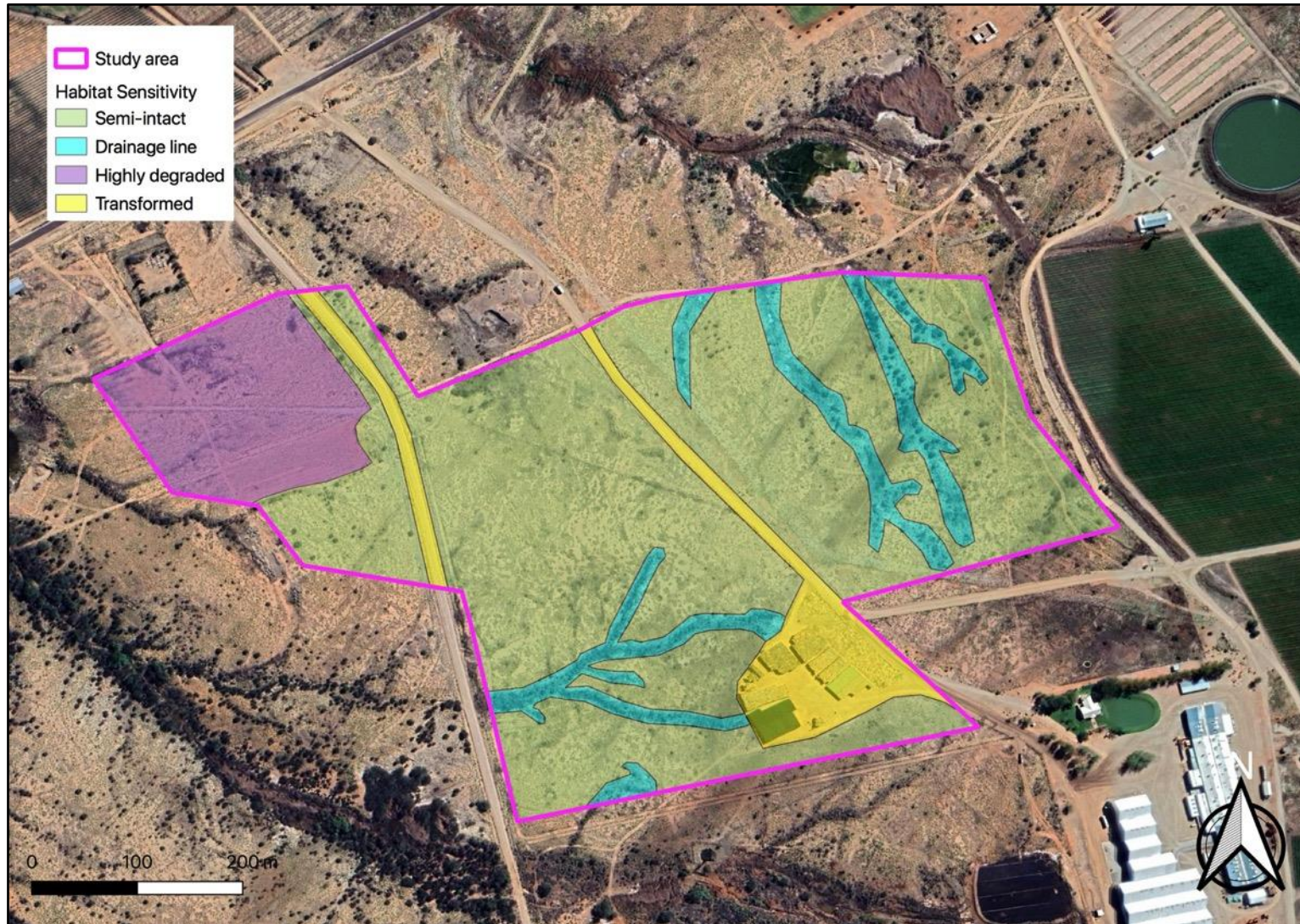


Figure 7. HABITAT MAP. The habitats mapped at the site by the author, overlaid on a Google Earth™ aerial image.

7.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

The vegetation within the study area is mapped as Bushmanland Arid Grassland and this is supported based on the site visit. The landscape is relatively flat and dominated by grasses with seasonal drainage lines are common features and distinguished by the presence of shrubland communities. Exposed granite occurs sporadically within the study area and hosts some succulent flora.

Various habitats have been mapped and include: a) Semi-intact (dominant), (b) Drainage lines (in a Semi-intact or Degraded condition) (c) Highly degraded and (d) Transformed.

Semi-intact

This habitat is typical Bushmanland Arid Grassland and is dominated by the tall bushman grass (*Stipagrostis ciliata*) and other grasses. Other species found within this are include: grey twin leaf (*Roepera lichtensteiniana*), simple leaved bean caper (*Tetraena simplex*), *Tetraena decumbens*, devil thorn (*Tribulus* sp.), fine vomit daisy (*Geigeria filifolia*), river ganna (*Caroxylon aphylla*) and a gumbush (*Pteronia* sp.)(Figure 8).



Figure 8. The typical sparse habitat of Bushmanland Arid Grassland dominated by low shrubs and grasses.

The areas that contain exposed granite host a number of other species dominated by the succulent kraal aloe (*Aloe claviflora*)(Figure 9). Other species noted include bitter kambro (*Adenium oleifolium*)(Figure 10), *Boschia foetida* and paintbrush flower (*Kleinia longiflora*).



Figure 9. The exposed rocky areas host some succulents (see Aloe in the right side of the image) and medium sized shrubs (blackthorn).



Figure 10. *Adenium oleifolium* was found in the rocky areas.

Some parts of this habitat have been landscaped using rocks and succulents. One of the plants found here is a listed species of conservation concern (SCC), the VULNERABLE quiver tree (*Aloidendron dichotomum*)(Figure 11). However, this species has been planted on the site and it is therefore not considered as a natural population. It is also likely that these plants will remain in place and not be removed due to the proposed development.



Figure 11. *Aloidendron dichotomum* has been planted within the study area within landscaped areas close to the road to the farm buildings.

One nationally protected species, the caper bush (*Boscia albitunca*) was found in close proximity to the Study area but not within the area proposed for development (see Figure 16 for location and Figure 12 below of the plant).



Figure 12. *Boscia albitrunca* is a protected tree species and is found within the subject property but not within the proposed development footprint.

Drainage lines

The drainage lines are seasonal and evident by dominance of medium sized shrubs. The dominant species is the blackthorn (*Senegalia mellifera*) (Figure 13). Other species of shrub found on the site and most commonly within this habitat include trithorn (*Rhigozum trichotomum*), karee (*Searsia lancea*) and namnambush (*Tapinanthus oleifolius*). Some parts of this habitat have been disturbed by agricultural activities and some blackthorn individuals have been felled in the draiange lines, and some fires have also occurred in this habitat (Figure 14).



Figure 13. Typical vegetation found along the drainage lines dominated by the black thorn (*Senegali mellifera*).



Figure 14. The drainage lines on the north-eastern part of the site have been degraded and a number of black thorn individuals have been felled.

Highly degraded

The north-west part of the site has been cleared of all vegetation by mechanical means during the past two years. Some vegetation has established here, however, the condition is still very poor (Figure 15). Pioneer species such as grasses and annuals are dominant including the tall bushman grass (*Stipagrostis ciliata*), simple leaved bean caper (*Tetraena simplex*), *Tetraena decumbens*, devil thorn (*Tribulus* sp.), fine vomit daisy (*Geigeria filifolia*) and wild everlasting (*Helichrysum argyrosphaerum*).



Figure 15. The previously cleared area has been recolonized by pioneer indigenous species.

Transformed

This area has been cleared for storage of packing crates and does not contain any indigenous vegetation.

8. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The study area has been identified as a site of Very high sensitivity under the terrestrial biodiversity category in the Screening Tool. This sensitivity rating has been assessed through a desktop study and site visit described above. The findings of the site visit are that the site is in a Semi-intact to Transformed condition from a botanical perspective.

The site has been included in the Northern Cape CBA Map in two categories. The north-western corner of the site is classified as a CBA 2 site and the remainder of the site is classified as an ESA. The CBA 2 area has been recently cleared and is Highly degraded, with a low conservation value. The remainder of the site is a valid ESA area with moderate conservation value.

The entire Study area falls within a Priority focus area for the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy. This focus area extends along the entire width of the Orange River and far to the east and west. Whereas this focus area is supported for future conservation, the loss of this small area in an already partially developed area will not impact the ecological functioning of the area.

The vegetation type present, Bushmanland Arid Grassland is a Least Concern vegetation type with over 94% of the original area still intact. Apart from the drainage lines, the site sensitivity is rated as Low or Very low from a botanical perspective due to the large areas of natural vegetation that remain on the subject property, surrounding areas and the ecosystem as a whole. A buffer of 30 m was placed over the drainage lines and this area is of Medium sensitivity (Figure 16) and should not be developed. The applicant has agreed to exclude these Medium sensitivity areas from the development footprint. The proposed development of 10 ha will fit within the remaining Low or Very low sensitivity areas.

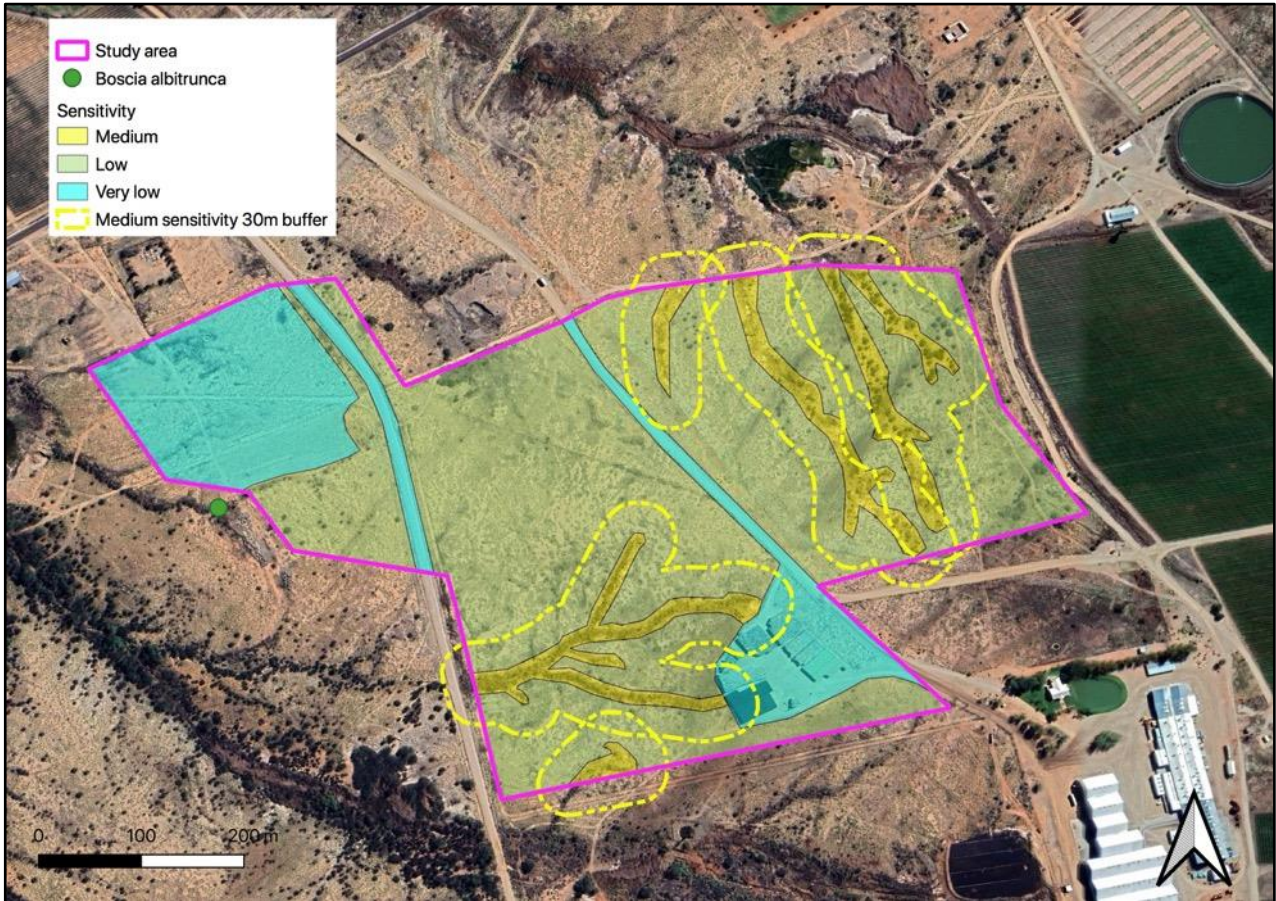


Figure 16. SENSITIVITY MAP: Google Maps™ image showing the sensitivities mapped within the Study area.

The Very High Sensitivity rating applied by the Screening Tool is therefore disputed. The proposed agricultural processing plant of 10 ha will not have a significant impact on the ecological functionality of the site or surrounding area and can be supported from a botanical perspective as the Medium sensitivity areas are avoided (Figure 4B). The potentially developable areas are shown in Figure 17.

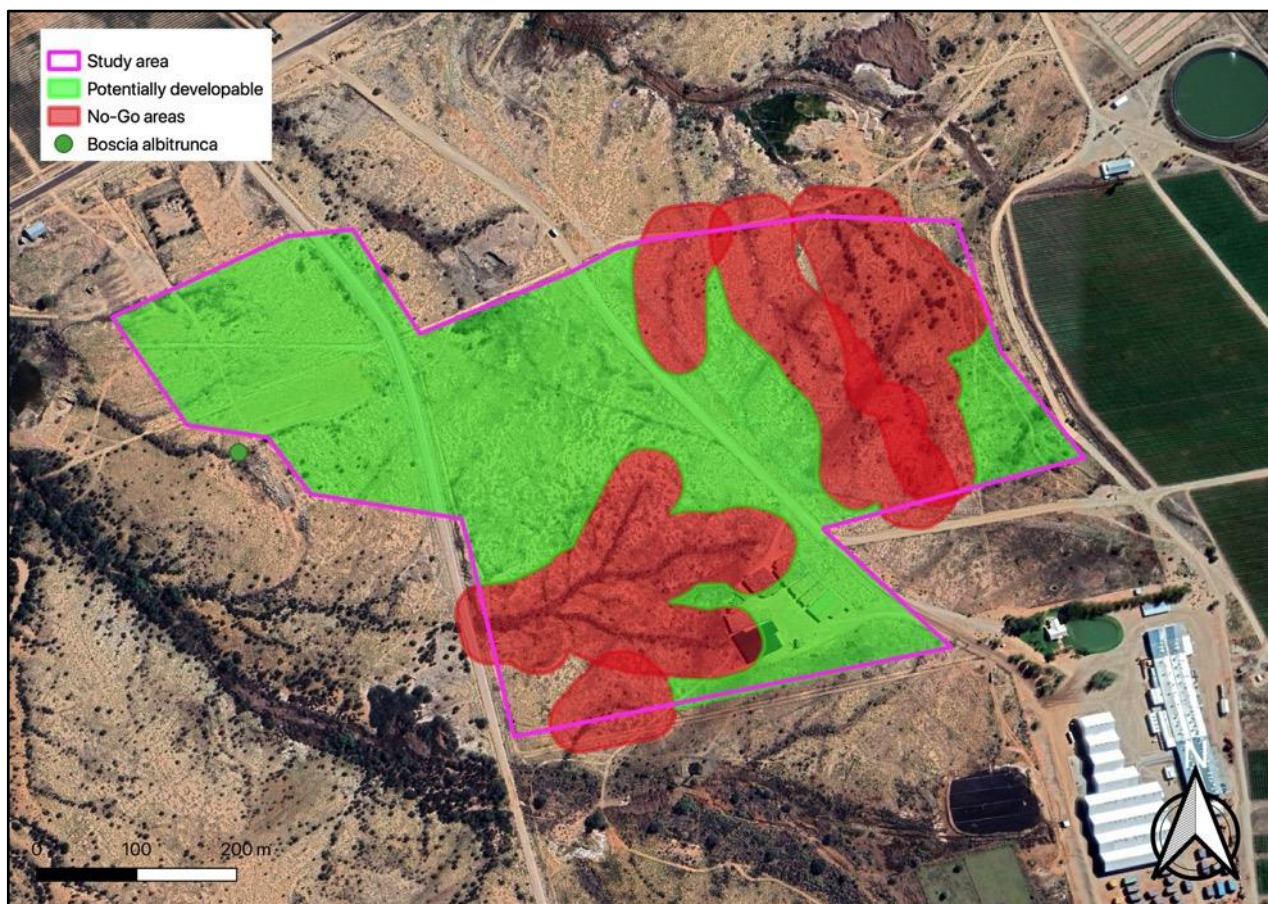


Figure 17. **CONSTRAINTS MAP:** Google Maps™ image showing the Potentially developable and No-Go areas mapped within the Study area. The small areas between the site boundary and the No-Go areas should be avoided.

The study area has been identified as a site of Low sensitivity under the relative plants species theme sensitivity. No naturally occurring species of conservation concern (SCC) were found within the development footprint. One SCC has been planted in landscaped areas, however, due to the fact that it is not a natural population, it is not assessed as an SCC. One protected tree species was found within the subject property, but will not be disturbed for the proposed development. The Low sensitivity plants species theme rating is correct. A **Terrestrial Plant Species Compliance Statement** SEPH is included as Appendix 2 to this report.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE: GREG NICOLSON

Experience

- Expertise in field work in the CFR – vegetation surveys, plant identification, plant collection, ecological monitoring

- Data management and analysis
- Basic skills in GIS programs
- Vegetation and species mapping
- MSc thesis entitled “ *Road reserves as conservation assets: exploring the species of conservation concern and the ecological condition of the N7 road reserve*”. Graduation date: December 2010
- Experience leading teams of field assistants in remote mountainous areas
- Completed over 100 botanical survey/assessment reports

Career History

- 2019 – present: Co-founder and independent botanist at Capensis Ecological Surveys
- March 2013 – Dec 2018: independent botanical specialist and associate of Bergwind Botanical Surveys & Tours CC
- March 2011 – December 2012: conducted a comprehensive post fire survey of the Paardeberg (Paardeberg Sustainability Institute)

Education and qualifications

- Pr. Nat. Sci. (116488)
- MSc (Botany) – University of Cape Town (2010).
- BSc: Hons (Env. Science) – University of Cape Town (2005)
- BSc: Environmental and Geographical Science - University of Cape Town (2002 – 2004)

Personal Details

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- Date of birth – 26/08/1981
- Marital status – Single
- Dependents – 3

APPENDIX 2: TERRESTRIAL PLANT SPECIES COMPLIANCE STATEMENT.

Introduction

The requirement for assessment and reporting of impacts on terrestrial plant species is in accordance with new procedures for reporting on identified environmental themes published in October 2020 (Government Gazette No. 43844, 2020). The Screening Tool used to derive the plant sensitivity (<https://screening.environment.gov.za>) assigned a Low sensitivity theme for the Study area (Figure 1). Note that based on the site verification no Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) or Sensitive Species were found.



Figure 1. Map of relative plant species theme sensitivity.

Findings and Conclusions

No natural populations of Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) were found within the proposed development footprint and there would be no significant impact on any SCC should any development be given the go-ahead.

Additional information required for this report is provided below (The methodology used to compile this compliance statement is provided in the main body of this report).

Table 3. List of requirements for minimum reporting of Terrestrial Plant Species Compliance Statement

Protocol ref	Terrestrial Plant Species Compliance Statement	Section / Page
5.1.	The compliance statement must be prepared by a SACNASP registered specialist under one of the two fields of practice (Zoological Science or Ecological Science).	Page ii in main body of report

Botanical compliance statement, Carpe Diem, Dawid Kruiper Municipality

5.2.	The compliance statement must:	
5.2.1.	be applicable to the study area;	Section 7
5.2.2.	confirm that the study area is of “low” sensitivity for terrestrial plant species; and	Section 7
5.5	The compliance statement must contain, as a minimum, the following information:	
5.3.1.	contact details and relevant experience as well as the SACNASP registration number of the specialist preparing the compliance statement including a curriculum vitae;	Pages ii & iii in main body of report
5.3.2.	a signed statement of independence by the specialist;	Page iv;
5.3.3.	a statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;	Section 4
5.3.4.	a description of the methodology used to undertake the site survey and prepare the compliance statement, including equipment and modelling used where relevant;	Section 4;
5.3.5.	where required, proposed impact management actions and outcomes or any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr;	N/A
5.3.6.	a description of the assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data;	Section 4
5.3.7.	the mean density of observations/ number of samples sites per unit area; and	N/A
5.3.8.	any conditions to which the compliance statement is subjected	N/A

7. Content of report requirement and relevant sections

		Section or page of report
2.1	The assessment must be undertaken by a specialist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP), within a field of practice relevant to the taxonomic groups (“taxa”) for which the assessment is being undertaken. ^[1] _[SEP]	Page ii and Appendix 3
2.2	The assessment must be undertaken within the study area. ^[1] _[SEP]	It was
2.3	The assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the <i>Species Environmental Assessment Guideline</i> ²³ and must:	
2.3.1	Identify the SCC which were found, observed or are likely to occur within the study area; ^[1] _[SEP]	Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix 4
2.3.2	provide evidence (photographs) of each SCC found or observed within the study area, which must be disseminated by the specialist to a recognized online database facility ²⁴ immediately after the site inspection has been performed (prior to preparing the report contemplated in paragraph 3); ^[1] _[SEP]	Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix 4
2.3.3	identify the distribution, location, viability ²⁵ and detailed description of population size of the SCC identified within the study area; ^[1] _[SEP]	Table 2 and 3 in Appendix 4
2.3.4	identify the nature and the extent of the potential impact of the ^[1] _[SEP] proposed development to the population of the SCC located within ^[1] _[SEP] the study area; ^[1] _[SEP]	Section 9
2.3.5	determine the importance of the conservation of the population of the ^[1] _[SEP] SCC identified within the study area, based on information available in national and international databases including the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, South African Red List of Species, and/or other relevant databases; ^[1] _[SEP]	Table 3 in Appendix 4
2.3.6	determine the potential impact of the proposed development on the habitat of the SCC located within the study area; ^[1] _[SEP]	Table 3 in Appendix 4
2.3.7	include a review of relevant literature on the population size of the SCC, the conservation interventions as well as any national or provincial species management plans for the SCC. This review must provide information on the need to conserve the SCC and indicate whether the development is compliant with the applicable species management plans and if not, a motivation for the deviation; ^[1] _[SEP]	Table 3 in Appendix 4
2.3.8	identify any dynamic ecological processes occurring within the broader landscape, that might be disrupted by the development and result in negative impact on the identified SCC, for example, fires in fire-prone systems; ^[1] _[SEP]	N/A
2.3.9	identify any potential impact on ecological connectivity within the broader landscape, and resulting impacts on the identified SCC and its long term viability; ^[1] _[SEP]	N/A
2.3.10	determine buffer distances as per the <i>Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines</i> used for the population of each SCC; and ^[1] _[SEP]	Section 4 of Appendix 4
2.3.11	discuss the presence or likelihood of additional SCC including threatened species not identified by the screening tool, <i>Data Deficient or Near Threatened Species</i> , as well as any <i>undescribed species</i> ²⁶ ; and	Table 1 of Appendix 4.
2.3.12	identify any alternative development footprints within the preferred development site which would be of “low” sensitivity” or “medium” sensitivity as identified by the screening tool and verified through the site sensitivity verification.	N/A

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3.	Terrestrial Plant Species Specialist Assessment Report²⁷	Section/Page
3.1	This report must include as a minimum the following information:	
3.1.1	contact details and relevant experience as well as the SACNASP registration number of the specialist preparing the assessment including a curriculum vitae;	See above
3.1.2	a signed statement of independence by the specialist;	Page iii
3.1.3	a statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;	Section 4
3.1.4	a description of the methodology used to undertake the site sensitivity verification and impact assessment and site inspection, including equipment and modelling used where relevant;	Section 4
3.1.5	a description of the assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data;	Section 4
3.1.6	a description of the mean density of observations/number of samples/sites per unit area ²⁸ of site inspection observations;	Figure 2 of Appendix 4.
3.1.7	details of all SCC found or suspected to occur on site, ensuring sensitive species are appropriately reported;	See above
3.1.8	the online database name, hyperlink and record accession numbers for disseminated evidence of SCC found within the study area;	Table 2 of Appendix 4
3.1.9	the location of areas not suitable for development and to be avoided during construction where relevant;	N/A
3.1.10	a discussion on the cumulative impacts;	Section 9
3.1.11	impact management actions and impact management outcomes proposed by the specialist for inclusion in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr);	Section 9
3.1.12	a reasoned opinion, based on the findings of the specialist assessment, regarding the acceptability or not, of the development related to the specific theme considered, and if the development should receive approval or not, related to the specific theme being considered, and any conditions to which the opinion is subjected if relevant; and	Section 10
3.1.13	a motivation must be provided if there were any development footprints identified as per paragraph 2.3.12 above that were identified as having "low" or "medium" terrestrial plant species sensitivity and were not considered appropriate	N/A
3.2	A signed copy of the assessment must be appended to the Basic Assessment Report or Environmental Impact Assessment Report	