



mineral resources

Department:
Mineral Resources
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

AND

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT

SUBMITTED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, 2008 IN RESPECT OF LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY APPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (MPRDA) (AS AMENDED).



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FILE REFERENCE NUMBER SAMRAD: FS 30/5/1/3/3/2/1 (10364) EM

Contents

1. IMPORTANT NOTICE	1
2. Objective of the basic assessment process.....	2
PART A.....	3
SCOPE OF ASSSSMENT AND BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT	3
a) Details of	3
i) Details of the EAP.....	3
ii) Expertise of the EAP.....	3
b) Location of the overall Activity.	4
c) Locality map	5
d) Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity.....	6
(i) Listed and specified activities	7
(ii) Description of the activities to be undertaken	8
e) Policy and Legislative Context.....	9
f) Need and desirability of the proposed activities.....	10
g) Motivation for the overall preferred site, activities and technology alternative.	10
h) Description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred alternatives within the site.	11
i) Details of the development footprint alternatives considered.	11
ii) Details of the Public Participation Process Followed.....	12
iii) Summary of issues raised by I&Aps	13
iv) The Environmental attributes associated with the alternatives. (The environmental attributed described must include socio-economic, social, heritage, cultural, geographical, physical and biological aspects)	15
vi) Methodology used in determining and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks;	42
APPROACH TO THE BASIC ASSESSMENT	42
1. METHODOLOGY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....	42
2. SPECIALIST CRITERIA FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....	42
vii) The positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity (in terms of the initial site layout) and alternatives will have on the environment and the community that may be affected.....	46
viii) The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and the level of risk.....	47
ix) Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.....	62
x) Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site. (Provide a statement motivating the final site layout that is proposed)	62
i) Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk.....	63
j) Summary of specialist reports.	70

k) Environmental impact statement	71
(i) Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;	71
(ii) Final Site Map.....	74
(iii) Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;	74
l) Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr;.....	74
m) Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Authorisation.	75
n) Description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge.....	76
o) Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised	76
i) Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not.....	76
ii) Conditions that must be included in the authorisation	76
p) Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required.	76
q) Undertaking.....	77
r) Financial Provision	77
i) Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived.....	77
ii) Confirm that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure. (Confirm that the amount, is anticipated to be an operating cost and is provided for as such in the Mining work programme, Financial and Technical Competence Report or Prospecting Work Programme as the case may be).	77
s) Specific Information required by the competent Authority	77
i) Compliance with the provisions of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) read with section 24 (3) (a) and (7) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998). the EIA report must include the: -	77
t) Other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.	78
PART B	79
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT	79
1) Draft environmental management programme.	79
a) Details of the EAP, (Confirm that the requirement for the provision of the details and expertise of the EAP are already included in PART A, section 1(a) herein as required).	79
b) Description of the Aspects of the Activity (Confirm that the requirement to describe the aspects of the activity that are covered by the draft environmental management programme is already included in PART A, section (1)(h) herein as required).....	79
c) Composite Map	79
d) Description of Impact management objectives including management statements.....	79
e) Impact Management Outcomes	87
2) UNDERTAKING	108
Appendix A	111
EAP Curriculum Vitae	111
Appendix B	114

LOCALITY OF MINING PERMIT APPLICATION AREA	114
PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT	115

Figures

Figure 1: 1: 50 000 (2826cc florisbad) cadastral map with the proposed site.....	5
Figure 2: Proposed Site photos.....	17
Figure 3: Site Satellite Image	18
Figure 4: Regional surface elevation.....	19
Figure 5: Average Temperature graph for Soutpan.....	20
Figure 6: Average rainfall graph for Soutpan:	20
Figure 7: Surface Geology of the Karoo Supergroup.....	21
Figure 8: Soutpan Surface Geology	22
Figure 9: Regional aquifer type and yield map	23
Figure 10: Regional Groundwater Quality	24
Figure 11: Vegetation Map.....	25
Figure 12: 1: 50 000 (2826cc florisbad) cadastral map with the proposed site.....	26
Figure 13: Soutpaan Landuse Map.....	28

1. 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 taken into account any minimum requirements applicable or instructions or guidance provided by the competent authority to the submission of applications.

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

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

2. Objective of the basic assessment process

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

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

PART A

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT AND BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

3. Contact Person and correspondence address

a) Details of

i) Details of the EAP

Name of The Practitioner: Moses Malungisa Msitsini

Tel No.: 0719064780

e-mail address: malungisamoses@gmail.com / moses.msitsini@azatitrax.co.za

ii) Expertise of the EAP.

(1) **The qualifications of the EAP**

BSc Degree Geology and Geography

BSc Honours Geohydrogeology

, See appendix A

(2) **Summary of the EAP's past experience.**

(In carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure):

I have worked with the small scale miners in the region of Free State and the Northern Cape helping them with the application for Mining permit, prospecting right and comply reports with the legislation of the Department of Mineral Resource. Also worked as a Hydrogeologist at Geoss South Africa. Currently working as an exploration Geologist at Azatitrax (Pty) Ltd and consulting mining Hydrogeologist at KLM consulting services.

b) Location of the overall Activity.

Farm Name:	A portion of the Farm Vaalbank 581
Application area (Ha)	5.0 ha
Magisterial district:	Mangaung
Distance and direction from nearest town	About 45 km west of Brandfort
21-digit-Surveyor General Code for each farm portion	F0060000000058100000

c) Locality map

LOCALITY OF MINING PERMIT APPLICATION AREA

AN EXTRATC OF THE 1: 50 000 (2826CC FLORISBAD) CADASTRAL MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED MINING SITE WITHIN THE RED SHAPE

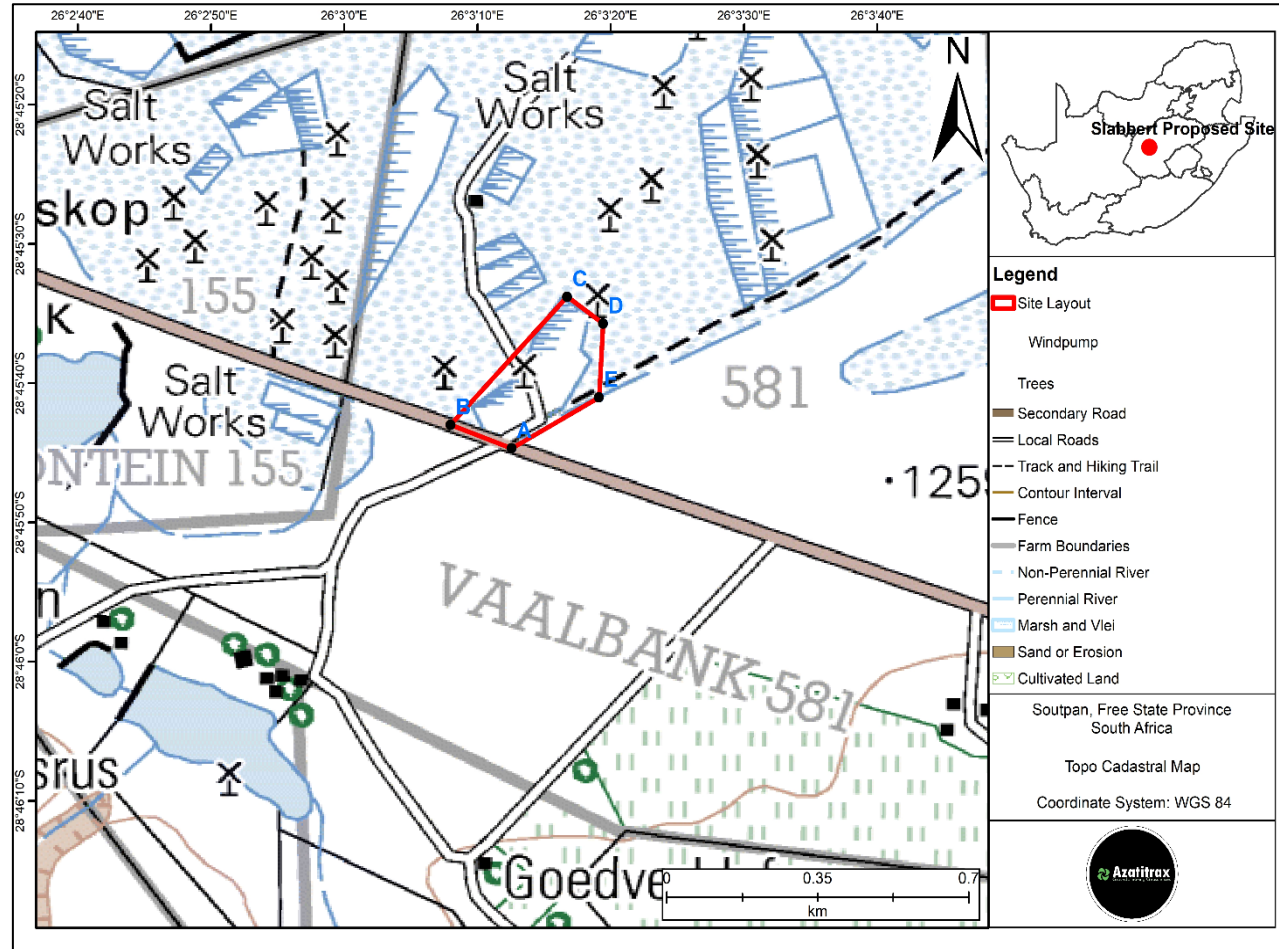


Figure 1: 1: 50 000 (2826cc florisbad) cadastral map with the proposed site

d) Description of the scope of the proposed overall activity.

Provide 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

Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert proposes to establish a small-scale salt mining operation. The total development area will be approximately 5.0 hectares, and will have a lifespan of 5 years. The process will include of salty groundwater extraction from the drilled boreholes on site. The salty water (brine) will be evaporated to create salt crystals on the existing pans or ponds. The salt crystals will be then stockpiled and packaged into 50 kg bags.

- 19 x Boreholes (pumps)
- Salt ponds/ pans
- Stockpile
- Diesel storage tank
- Storage facility
- Septic toilets

(i) Listed and specified activities

<p>NAME OF ACTIVITY</p> <p>(E.g. For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, access route etc...etc...etc</p> <p>E.g. for mining, - excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.)</p>	<p>Aerial extent of the Activity</p> <p>Ha or m²</p>	<p>LISTED ACTIVITY</p> <p>(Mark with an X where applicable or affected).</p>	<p>APPLICABLE LISTING NOTICE</p> <p>(GNR 544, GNR 545 or GNR 546)</p>	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORISATION</p> <p>(Indicate whether an authorisation is required in terms of the Waste Management Act).</p> <p>(Mark with an X)</p>
Mining Permit Activity 21 Listing Notice 1.			327 Activity 21 listing notice1	
Mining activities	5.0 Ha	X	Mining activities	
Stockpiling	2122Square Metres	X	327 Activity 21 listing notice1	
Access road	600m	X	GNR 327, Listed activity number 24	

(ii) Description of the activities to be undertaken

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

Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert plans to process salt. The salt processed will be by extracting groundwater from the drilled boreholes on site. The salty water (brine) will be evaporated to create salt crystals on the existing pans or ponds. The salt crystals will be then stockpiled and packaged into 50 kg bags.

PROJECT PHASES:

Construction Phase

The following infrastructure is already existing:

Pans or ponds

19 Boreholes and pumps

Stockpiling areas

Operational Phase

- Pumping groundwater (brine) into pans/ponds
- Evaporation of the brine water to create salty crystals.
- Storage of diesel for pumps
- Stockpiling of salt

Decommissioning Phase

- Demolition and/or removal of mobile camp site infrastructure/equipment and vehicles
- Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas

e) Policy and Legislative Context

<p>APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES USED TO COMPILE THE REPORT (a description of the policy and legislative context within which the development is proposed including an identification of all legislation, policies, plans, guidelines, spatial tools, municipal development planning frameworks and instruments that are applicable to this activity and are to be considered in the assessment process)</p>	<p>REFERENCE WHERE APPLIED</p>	<p>HOW DOES THIS DEVELOPMENT COMPLY WITH AND RESPOND TO THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT? (E.g., In terms of the National Water Act a Water Use License has/ has not been applied for)</p>
<p>The Minerals and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)</p>	<p>Mining activity</p>	<p>This BA and EMP report have been compiled in accordance with the Act.</p>
<p>National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998)</p>	<p>Mining activity</p>	<p>This BA is being undertaken in terms of NEMA in order to determine any possible impacts on the environment and to undertake mitigation measures that reduce any potential harm to the environment.</p>
<p>Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations: GNR 982 to 985 of 4 December 2014</p>	<p>Mining activity</p>	<p>Listed activities as per the NEMA EIA Regulations have been considered and authorisation is thus required with regards to the triggering activities. National</p>
<p>National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)</p>	<p>Applicable</p>	<p>An application for a water use licence is required.</p>
<p>National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999)</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Listed activities as per the 2013 NEM: WA Regulations have been considered and it has been determined that a waste licence is not required.</p>

f) 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).

For years, mining has been the driving force behind South Africa's economy and continues to make a valuable contribution to the country's economy. Salt mining makes a valuable contribution to the local economy as this salt is used in the chemical industry including uses in: the pulp and paper industry, in textiles; waste and water treatment; petroleum additives; dyes and intermediates; pharmaceuticals; de-icing; food grade salt; and animal feed. In addition, it supports Small-medium sized enterprises (SME's) and it is also one of the sectors that provide employment opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled people.

The South African mining industry has its origin in small-scale mining activities, with these operations offering much needed employment opportunities and entrepreneurship, as well as contributing to the mineral sector and local economy. Small-scale mining impact on employment is especially observed in the rural town where there are limited opportunities; providing significant livelihood for rural communities and a means of alleviating poverty. The proposed project is for a small-scale mining operation at Vaalbank located in the

Mangaung Municipality. The municipality is faced with challenges of high unemployment levels and poverty, making economic development one of the municipality's main priorities and general public needs. Economic sectors identified as important in the Mangaung municipality include agriculture and mining, with these sectors making a significant contribution to the local economy, thus necessitating the need to prioritise and support these sectors.

The municipality's objective is to also create an enabling environment for job creation and businesses to thrive, with some of its specific strategies aimed at monitoring the implementation of Social Labour Plans by mining businesses in the municipal area in this period. Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert has thus identified an opportunity as the proposed project will add great socio-economic value. It could contribute to the local economic opportunities, the business, ultimately impacting socio-economic development of the area in support of the municipality and district's development opportunities and targets/goals.

g) Motivation for the overall preferred site, activities and technology alternative.

The salt mining industry is an important industry in the country and Vaalbank 581 farm located About 45 km west of Brandfort has an abundant supply of this resource.

The proposed method of constructing salt ponds allows easy harvesting, access of vehicles to the site and does not require extensive machinery as other methods, making it feasible for small-scale miners. It reduces the overall costs associated with the mining process, thus allowing financial viability in small scale mining of deposits.

Cornelius Johannes Slabbert would contribute towards local socio-economic development, as it aims to provide employment opportunities to the local people as far as possible, thus stimulating development in the Soutpan community. The proposed project therefore is an effort to make use of available opportunities and development in the Mangaung Municipality.

h) 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.

i) Details of the development footprint alternatives considered.

With reference to the site plan provided as Appendix 4 and the location of the individual activities on site, provide details of the alternatives considered with respect to:

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

(a) The property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity:

No property alternatives have been considered as the envisaged mining operations will occur in an area of existing mining operations, and also in close proximity to the access road and community in need of such a development.

(b) The type of activity to be undertaken;

Pumping of salty groundwater into the existing pans/ponds, then evaporated to create salt crystal.

(c) The design or layout of the activity;

The site layout was determined by considering the ease of access to roads and the desired resource.

(d) The technology to be used in the activity;

No alternative technology has been considered for the proposed mining activity.

(f) The option of not implementing the activity.

The option of not implementing the activity has been considered, and assumes that should the proposed activity not proceed then the status quo would remain. This includes no clearing of land, no digging of trenches, no mining operations on site and no decommissioning at the end of the project life cycle.

The fact that this is an area of mineral potential and that the proposed mining would lead to job creation, contribution to the GDP of the municipality and the province, and be an opportunity to improve the local socio-economic situation, therefore the option of not implementing the activity will not be pursued at this stage.

ii) 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 or not 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.

A Basic Assessment is required to obtain Environmental Authorisation for Mr Slabbert's proposed small-scale salt mining operation. The Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken in terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

Notice of the Basic Assessment process has been given by:

- (1) Emailing written notice regarding the proposed development to interested and affected parties, including neighbours and community leader (representing the community in control of the farm), competent authority and other relevant Government departments;

The purpose of consultation with the landowners, key I&APs, and I&AP's is to provide them with the necessary information about the proposed project so that they can make informed decisions as to whether the project will affect them and provide the EIA team with local knowledge of the area and raise concerns relating to the biophysical, socio-economic and cultural impacts that may arise.

iii) Summary of issues raised by I&As

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

<p>Interested and Affected Parties</p> <p>List the names of persons consulted in this column, and</p> <p>Mark with an X where those who must be consulted were in fact consulted.</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Received</p>	<p>Issues raised</p>	<p>EAPs response to issues as mandated by the applicant</p>	<p>Section and paragraph reference in this report where the issues and or response were incorporated.</p>
<u>AFFECTED PARTIES</u>				
Landowner/s				
Lawful occupier/s of the land				
Landowners or lawful occupiers on adjacent properties				
Municipal councillor				
Municipality				
Mangaung District Municipality				
Organs of state (Responsible for infrastructure that may be affected Roads Department, Eskom, Telkom, DWS				

Communities					
Dept. Land Affairs					
Traditional Leaders					
Dept. Environmental Affairs					
Other Competent Authorities affected					
<u>OTHER AFFECTED PARTIES</u>					
<u>INTERESTED PARTIES</u>					

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

(2) Baseline Environment

(a) Type of environment affected by the proposed activity.

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

Site description

The proposed project site is situated in Soutpan on the Vaalbank 581 farm in the Free State Province. The area is approximately 45 km west of Brandfort local Municipality with in the Lejweleputswa magisterial district. The area is a farm with mining operations (small-scale operations). The proposed site area is located 3 km from Florisba. The site fall under the Brandfort local Municipality with in the Lejweleputswa magisterial district which fall under the Free State Province.

The 5-hector site is generally flat and has dry sandy surfaces in some areas and comprises of gravel and rock fragments in other areas. Figure 2 and 3 show the images of the activity currently taking place at the site. At the site, numerous numbers of existing pans where the processing of salt is taking place. There is gravel road leading to the site designed for motor vehicles. There is no other major infrastructure near the project site. The site is characterised by dry natural vegetation with a few trees occurring on site.

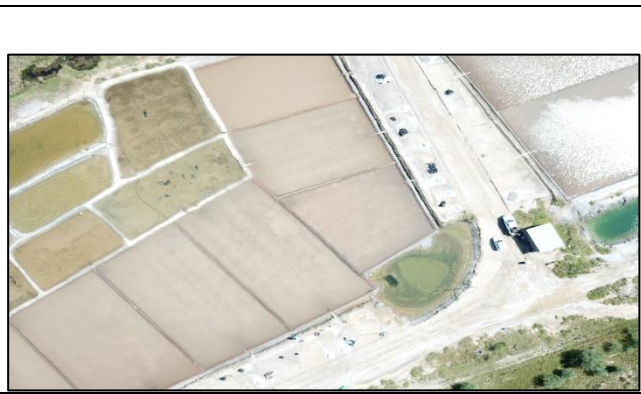
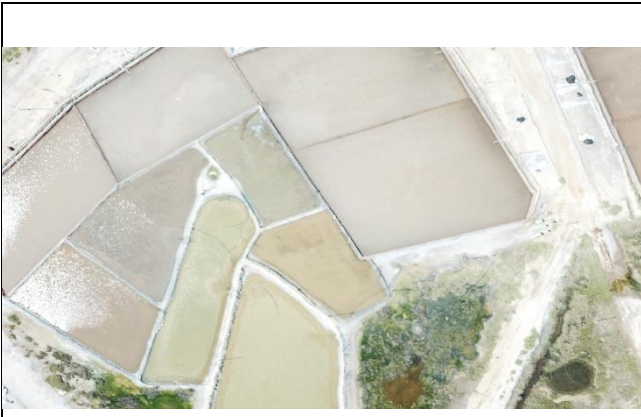




Figure 2: Proposed Site photos



Figure 3: Site Satellite Image

Topographic

The surface elevation within the area ranges from approximately 1280 mamsl to 1230 mamsl of the mining area (Figure 4) and use is dominated by agricultural activities.

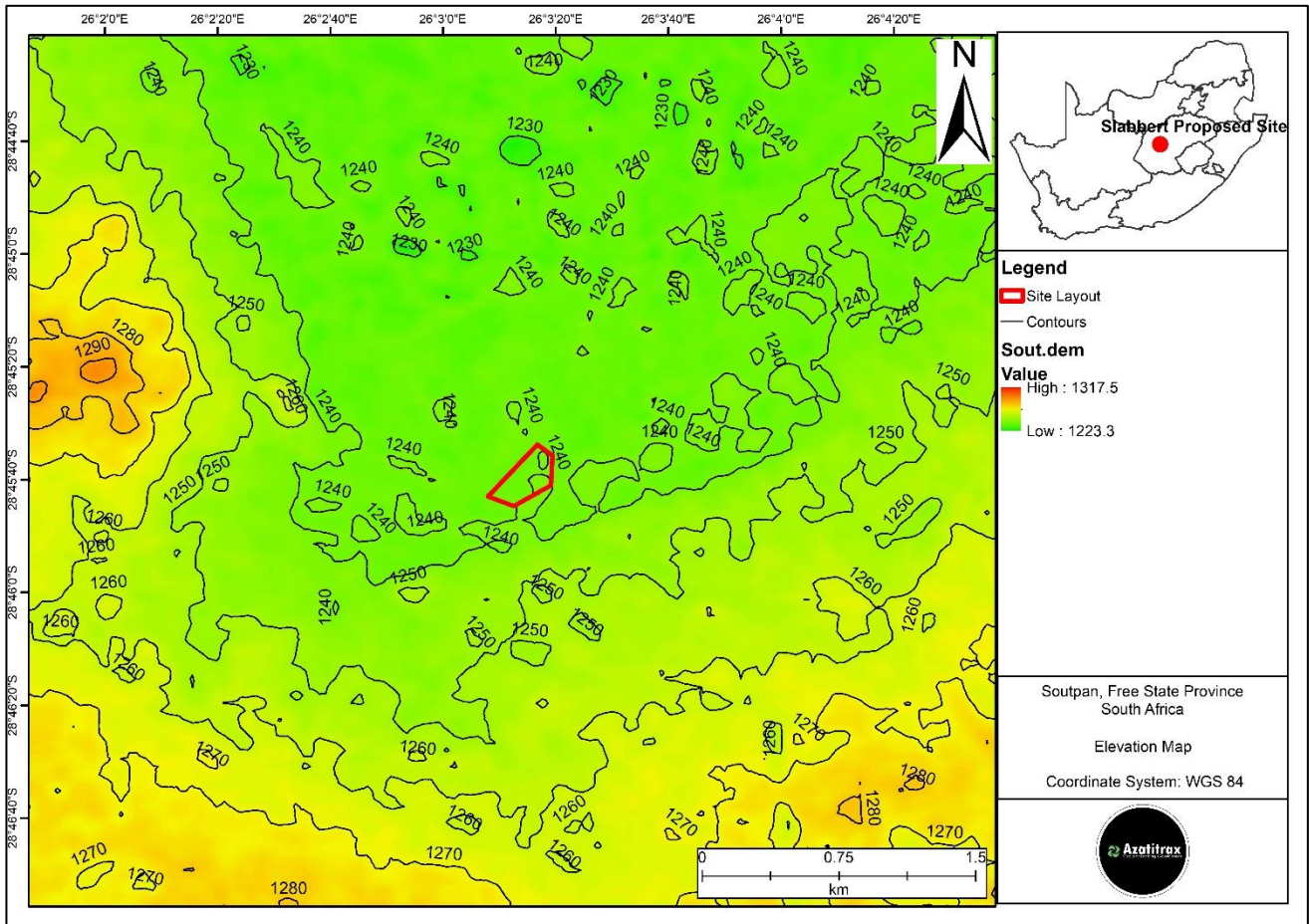


Figure 4: Regional surface elevation

Climate

The average maximum and minimum daily temperature of Soutpan ranges between 23°C and 18°C for summer months and 16°C and 4°C in the winter months. A graphical illustration to show the average annual temperature variation is show in Figure 5

Rainfall data shows that the rainfall is seasonal, summer seasons are wet and winter seasons are dry. Annual rainfall ranges between 99.8 mm in summer and 8 mm in winter (Figure 6). The site receives lowest rainfall during May to September and highest rainfall in October to January.

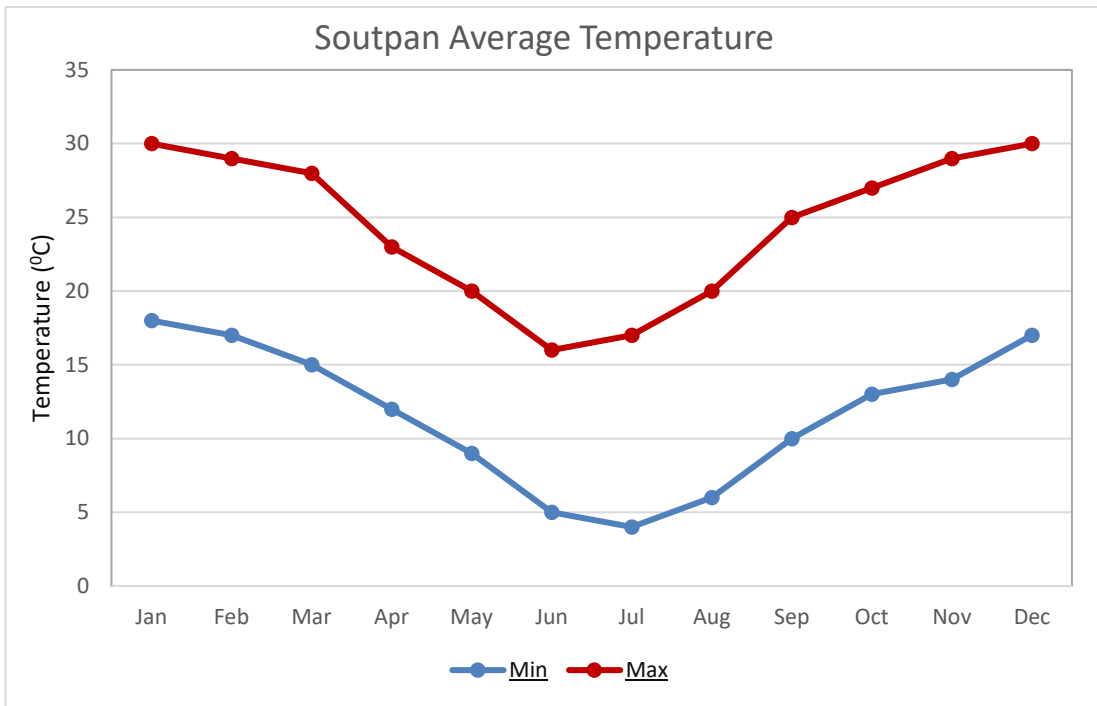


Figure 5: Average Temperature graph for Soutpan

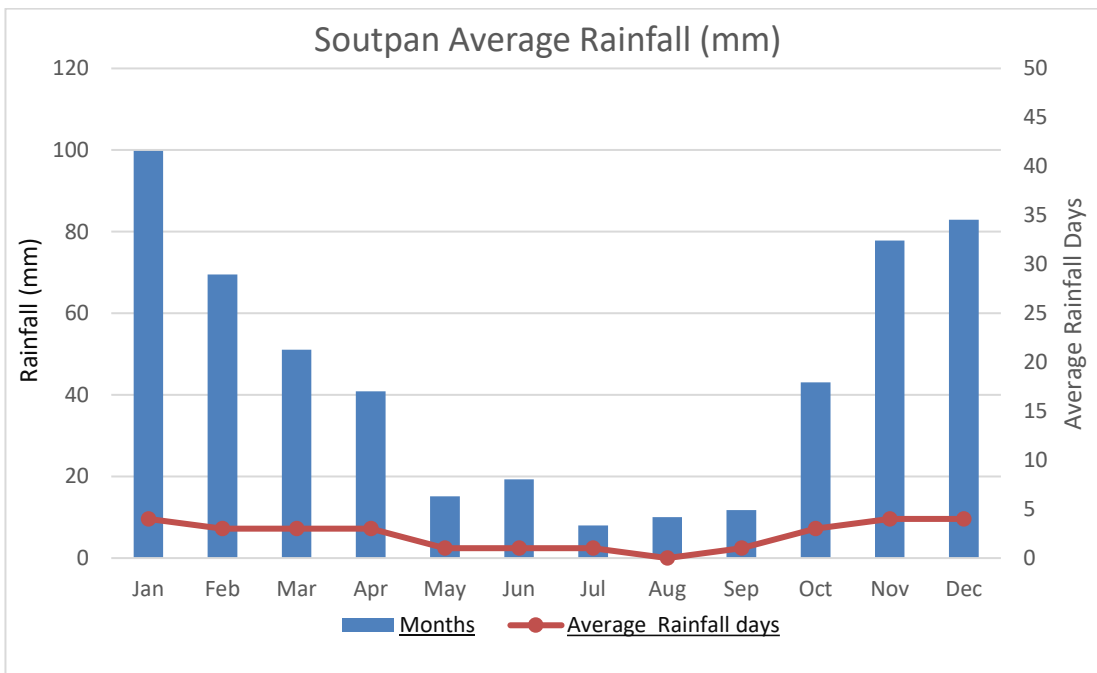


Figure 6: Average rainfall graph for Soutpan:

Geology

The geology of the area and surroundings is dominated by the Karoo Supergroup (Figure 7). According to the Council for Geoscience (CGS) has mapped the area at 1:50 000 scale (2826 Winburg), the surface geology of the site consists chiefly of sandstone and mudstone outcrops of the Beaufort group with lies in the Karoo Supergroup (Figure 8). There are also dolerite rocks scattered across the site which dolerite intrusions underlying the subsurface and also located near the north-western rim of the main Karoo basin. The area's geology is of the Beaufort Group which is similar to the Florisbad site situated three (3) km from the site. Near the Florisbad site is the occurrence of the Ecca group. Much of the dolerite found in the area is baked and suggests an intrusion event occurred nearby the mining site. Some minor amounts of mudstone were also observed in the area. The surface consisted of desiccation cracks indicative of an extremely dry climate. The most significant feature of the site was the occurrence of the desired ore mineral halite or rack salt. It is formed as a result the ponds of a saline brine which evaporated and precipitated to form beds of the evaporate mineral.

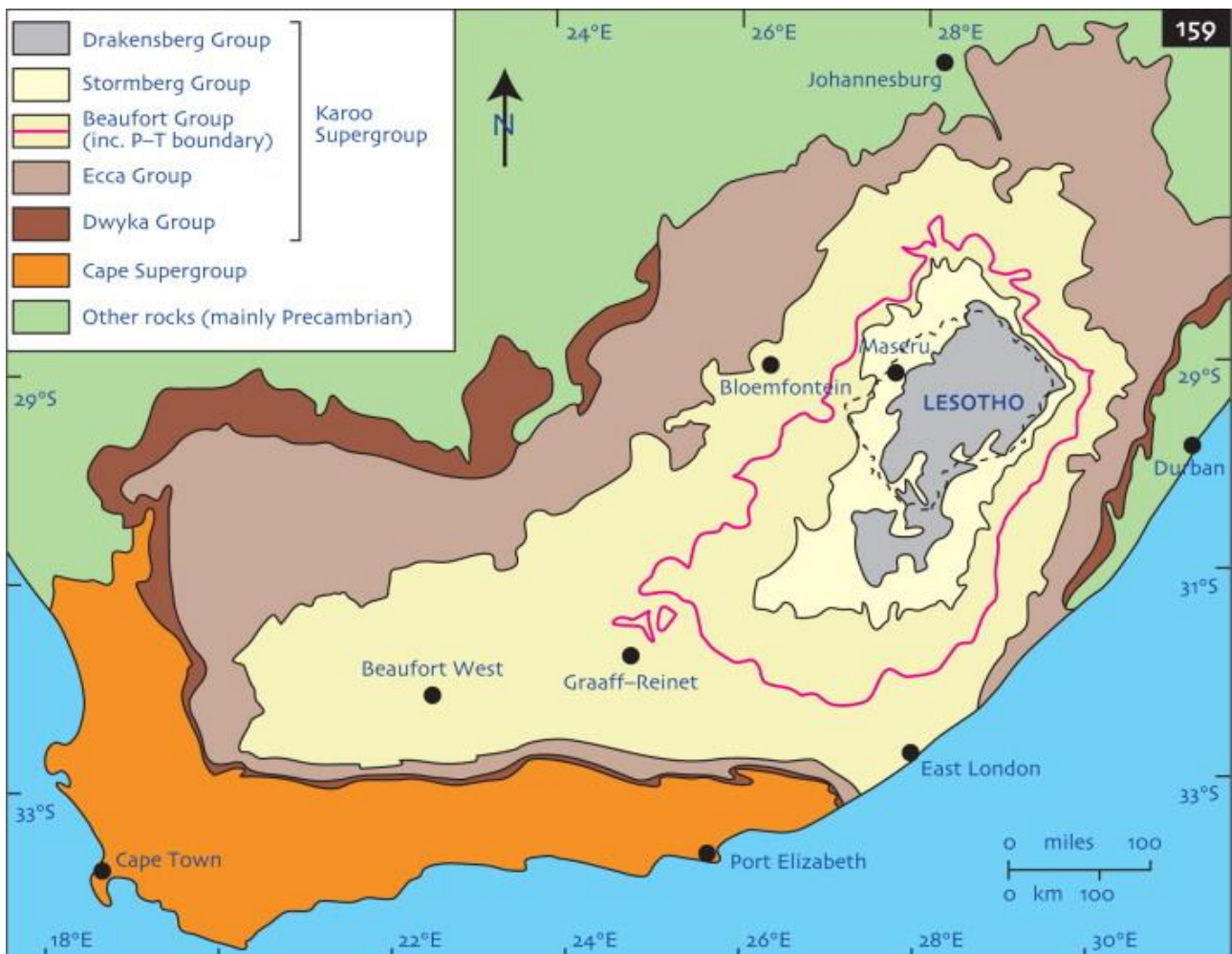


Figure 7: Surface Geology of the Karoo Supergroup

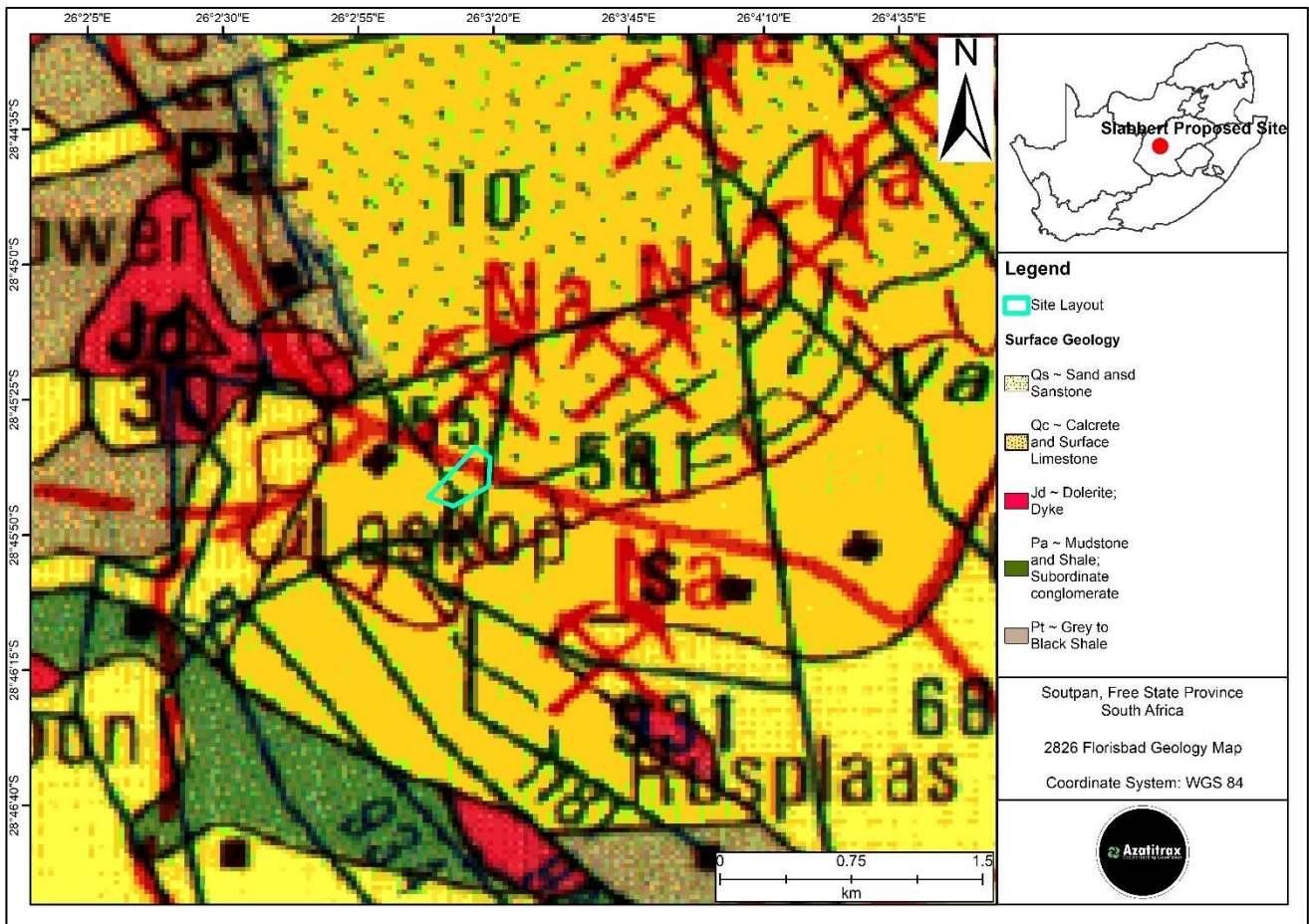


Figure 8: Soutpan Surface Geology

Soil and land capability

The soils in the proposed mining area consisted of a blocky structure. There were some clay layers in 100cm in depth. The soils are light to dark grey in colour. Soils of the general area are loamy sand and appear relatively shallow with sections of prominent surface rock (dolerite and sand stone).

Water Resources

Several boreholes situated on the farm are the source of brine extraction.

Regional Groundwater

The aquifer yield and aquifer quality classifications are based on regional datasets, and therefore, only provide an indication of conditions to be expected.

Aquifer Yield

According to the 1:1 000 000 scale groundwater map of Kroonstad (2726) the area does host an intergranular and fractured aquifer (i.e., an aquifer in which groundwater is stored within fractures

of the hard rock and water flows through open fissures and fractured within the hard rock). This secondary (fractured) aquifer has an average borehole yield of 0.1 – 0.5 L/s (Figure 9).

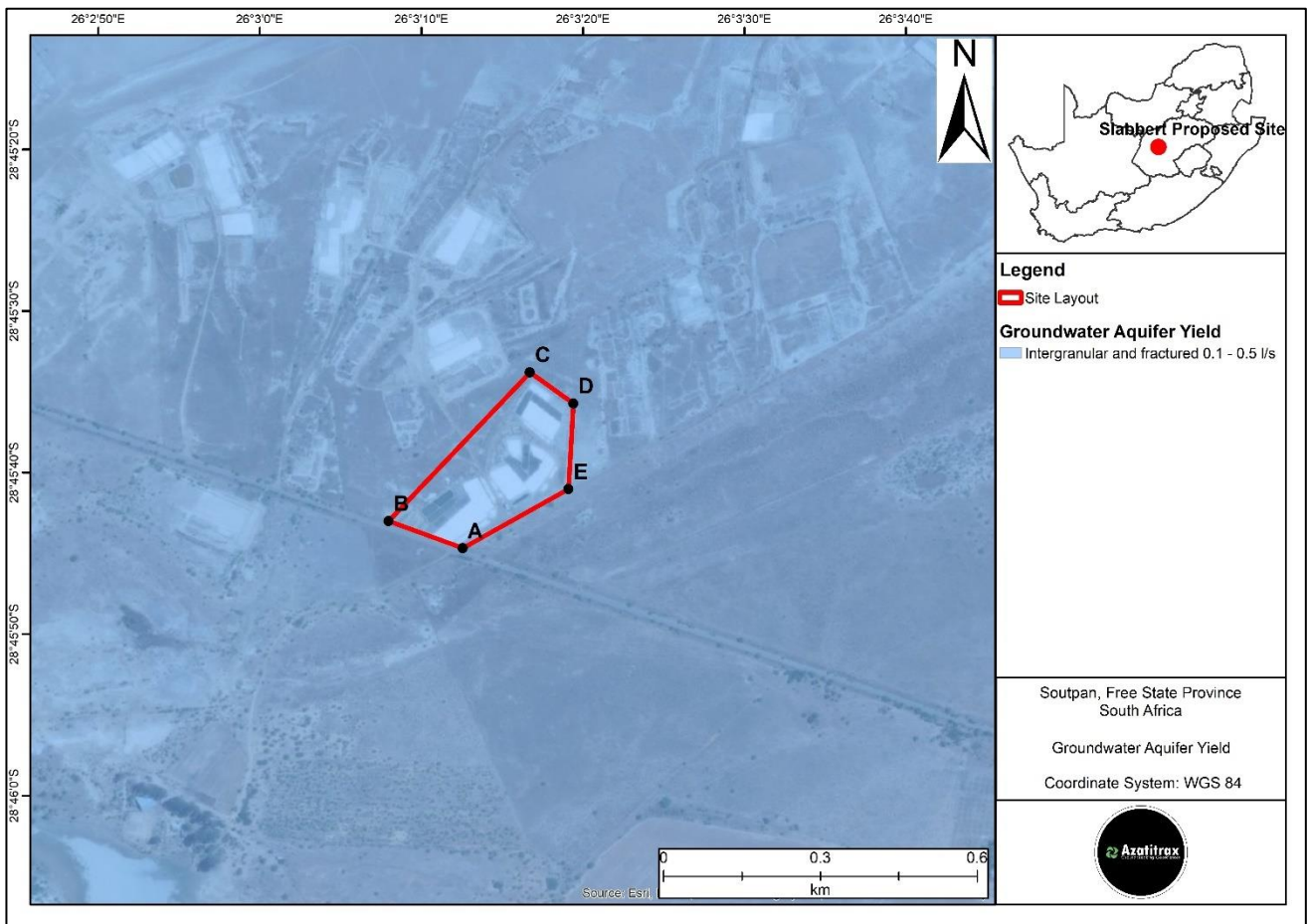


Figure 9: Regional aquifer type and yield map

Aquifer Quality

Electrical conductivity (EC) is a measure of the ability of the groundwater to conduct electricity and this is directly related to the concentration of ions in the water. This parameter is used as an indication of the quality of the groundwater. The groundwater map indicates that the aquifer has a water quality as indicated by EC in

the range of 0 – 70 mS/m (Figure 10). In terms of domestic supply this is good quality groundwater and falls within Class 0 (DWAF, 1998).

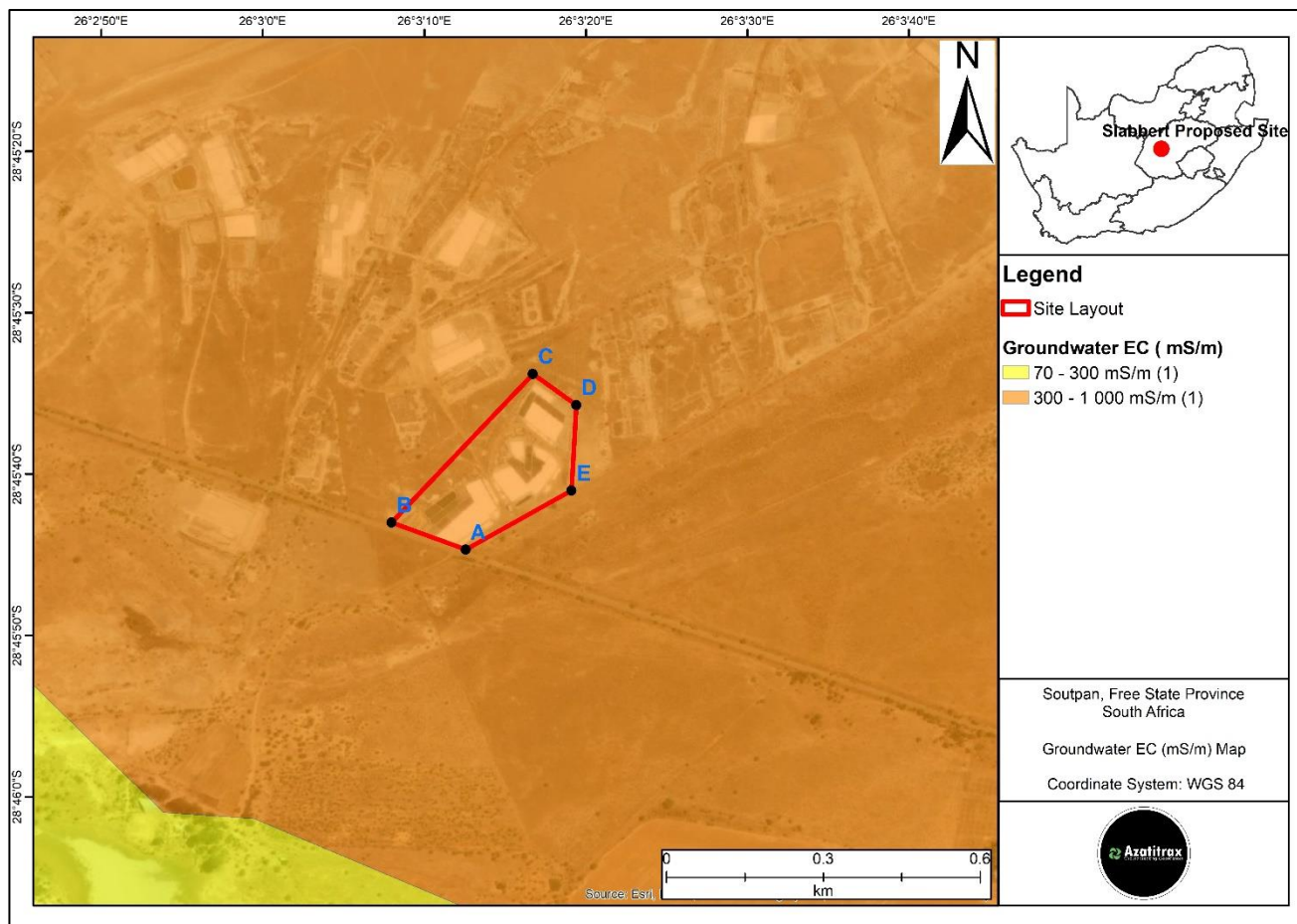


Figure 10: Regional Groundwater Quality

Vegetation and Biodiversity

According to the National Vegetation Map (2018) the project site falls within the Western Free State (AZi10 & Gh9) vegetation type (Figure 11).

A summarised description of the vegetation types, extracted from the CD accompanying Mucina & Rutherford (2006), is presented below.

According to Mucina & Rutherford (2006) the area consists of Inland Saline Vegetation (AZi10) and Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion (Gh9). The vegetation type is considered as being of Least Concern (LC) and is not currently subjected to any pronounced development pressures. The site seems to be largely natural and has not been transformed by human impacts. The vegetation structure on the site consists of a grass layer with a minor dwarf shrub component. The vegetation is dominated by grasses notably *Eragrostis lehmanniana*. Other grass species prominent on the site include *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eragrostis obtusa*, *Enneapogon desvauxii* and

Sporobolus fimbriatus. Dwarf shrubs are scattered on the site and include *Rosenia humilis*, *Salsola calluna*, *Lycium horidum*, *Pentzia incana* and *Wahlenbergia nodosa*. Several herb species were also identified on the site. These include *Hermannia depressa*, *Berkheya onoporiifolia* and *Salvia disermas*. Two dwarf succulent species were identified on the site. These are *Chasmatophyllum musculinum* and *Nananthus pole-evansii*. These species are widespread and not considered to be rare.

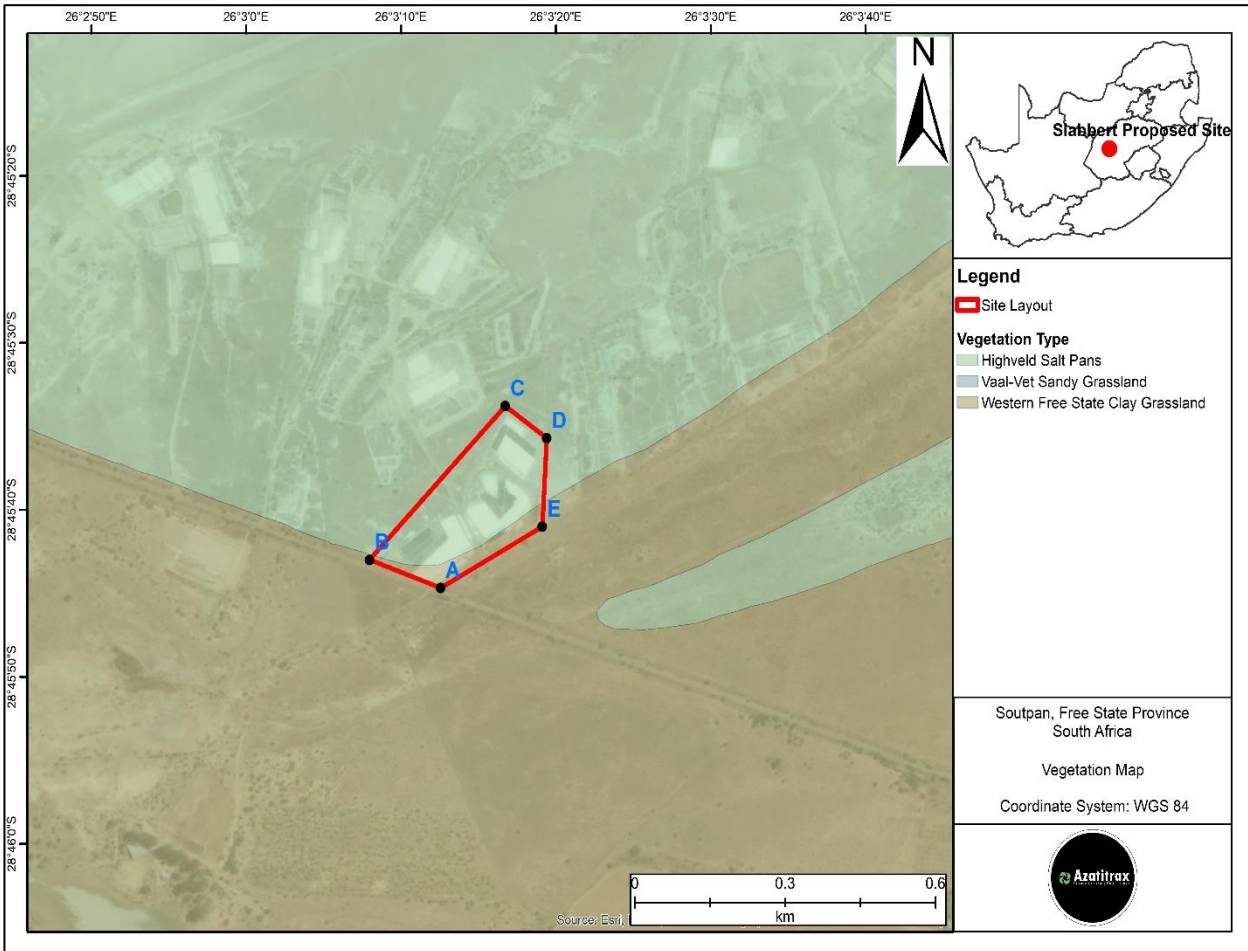


Figure 11: Vegetation Map

Socio-economic

The Soutpan falls under the Mangaung Municipality.

Agriculture is the main contributor to the local economy, of which meat production (sheep and cattle) and wool are the largest. A common occurrence in the area are salt pans which are a source of salt mining.

Vaalbank is a typical mining farm of its time and is situated approximately about 45 km Masilonyana. Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert project will contribute work opportunities during the construction phases and operation of the proposed site.

Cultural Heritage

There are no archaeological, cultural or historical materials were found on site, if any are found they will be reported to SAHRA.

(b) Description of the current land uses.

The site is covered with grass and minor dwarf shrub component. The surrounding areas are arid. The surrounding areas are used for grazing and crop farming however not within sufficient proximity to the proposed site to present environment hazards (Figure 12 and 13). Shrubs, trees and dry grass are natural vegetation to this site. There is also current evidence of mining activities in the surrounding site.

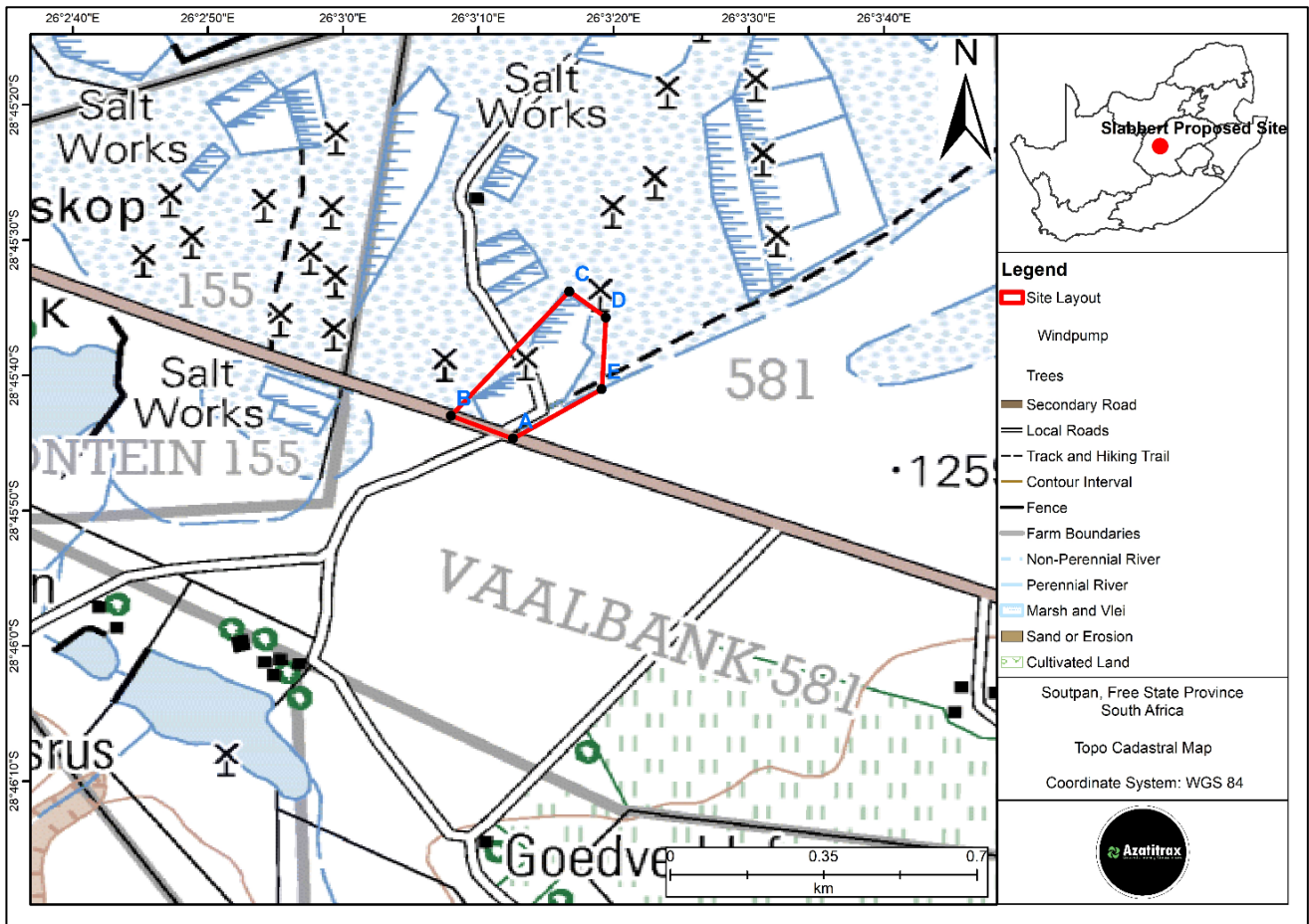


Figure 12: 1: 50 000 (2826cc florisbad) cadastral map with the proposed site

(c) Description of specific environmental features and infrastructure on the site.

There is a pathways road and, with no infrastructure occurring on site and general area. The proposed mining site is predominantly covered by mixed shrub land/grassland.

(d) Environmental and current land use map.

(Show all environmental, and current land use features)

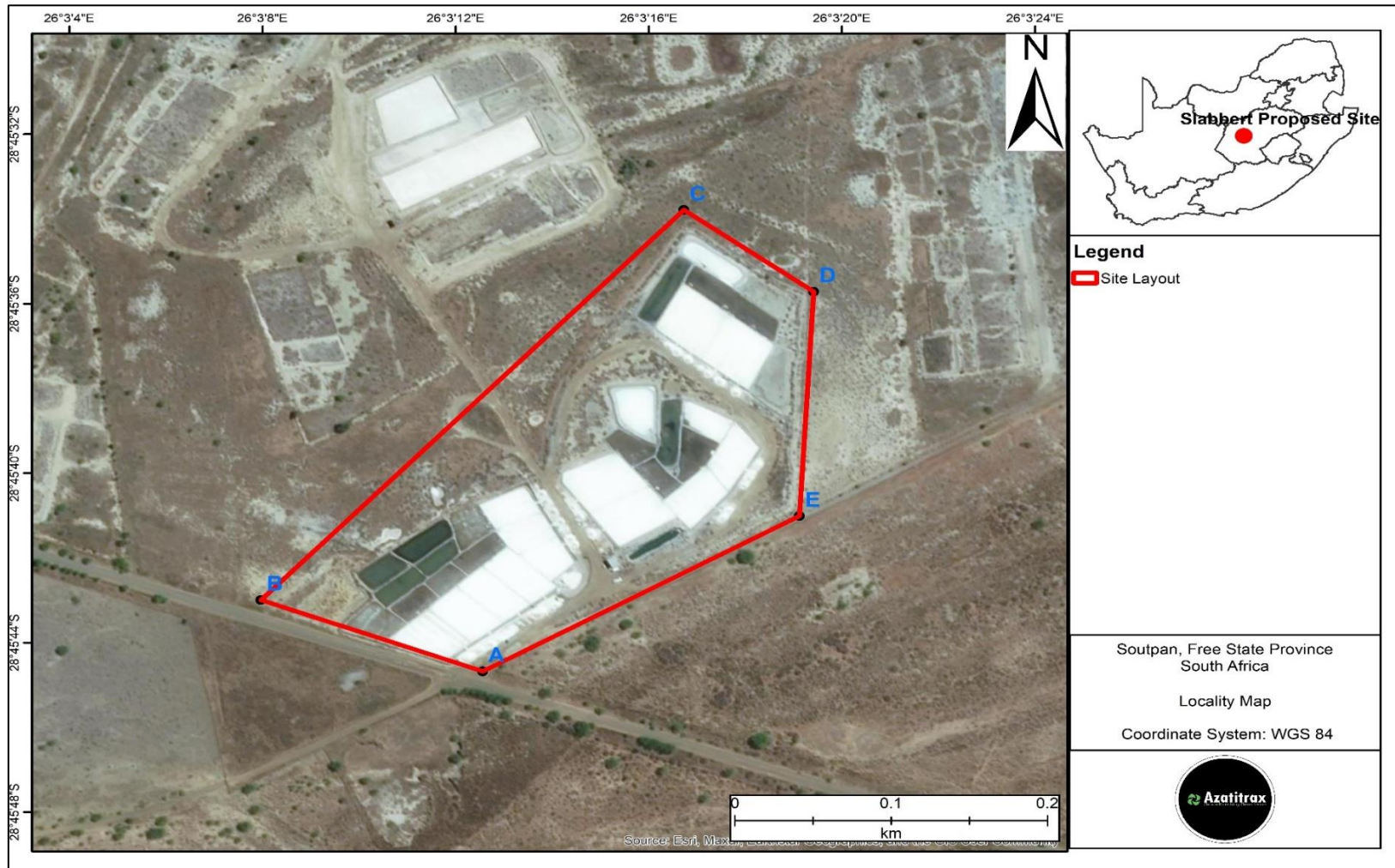


Figure 13: Soutpaan Landuse Map

(v) 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).

1. Construction Phase

1.1. Site preparation and Vehicular activities

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated
Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat	Site	Short-term	Low	Very likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Exposed soil susceptible to erosion	Site	Medium-term	Low	Likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Dust emissions	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Erosion of cultural landscape	Site	moderate-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	High (with rehabilitation)	Moderate	No	Yes
Soil and water resources contamination	Local	Medium-term	Moderate	likely	low	High (with rehabilitation)	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on health, and	Site	short-term	Low	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes

safety of workers									
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1.2 Site clearing and topsoil removal for mining operation, and construction of a mine

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Loss of vegetation and	Site	short-term	Low	Very likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation after Construction)	Low	No	Yes
Exposed soil susceptible to erosion	Site	Short-term	Low	Likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Low	No	
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non- reversible	Low	No	Yes
Dust emissions	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non- reversible	Low	No	Yes
Soil and water resources contamination	local	Short-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non- reversible	Low	No	Yes

Topography and visual alteration	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	High (rehabilitation during closure)	Low	No	Yes
Soil disturbance resulting in the spread of alien plant species	Site and Local	Long-term	Substantial	Likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Loss of Species of Special Concern	Site and Local	Long-term	Substantial	Very likely	Moderate	Low (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Disturbance of fauna	Site and Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Destruction of archaeology	Site	Permanent	Slight	Unlikely	Very low	Non-reversible	High	Yes	Yes
Destruction of palaeontology	Site	Permanent	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Non-reversible	High	No	Yes

1.3 Construction of pollution control and storm water management facilities

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat	Site	Long-term	Moderate	Very likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Exposed soil susceptible to erosion	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Dust emissions	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-	Low	No	Yes

						reversible			
Soil and water resources contamination and siltation	Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Topography and visual alteration	Site	Medium-term	Substantial	Likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation during closure)	Low	No	Yes
Soil disturbance resulting in the spread of alien plant species	Site and Local	Long-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Low (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Loss of Species of Special Concern	Site and Local	Long-term	Substantial	Very likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Disturbance of fauna	Site and Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes

1.4 Preparing an area of 5.0 ha for a portable camp site to accommodate infrastructure associated with stockpiling, and offices etc.

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat	Site	Short-term	Low	Very likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Exposed soil susceptible to erosion	Site	Short-term	Low	Likely	Low	Moderate (rehabilitation construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Soil and water resources contamination and siltation	Local	Medium-term	Low	Likely	Low	Moderately-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Topography and visual alteration	Site	Short-term	Substantial	Likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation during closure)	Low	No	Yes

Soil disturbance resulting in the spread of alien plant species	Site and Local	Long-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Low (rehabilitation after construction)	Low	No	Yes
Loss of Species of Special Concern	Site and Local	Long-term	Substantial	Unlikely	Moderate	Low (rehabilitation after construction)	Low	No	Yes
Disturbance of fauna	Site and Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Destruction of archaeology	Site	Permanent	Slight	Unlikely	Very low	Non-reversible	High	Yes	Yes
Destruction of palaeontology	Site	Permanent	Moderate	Very likely	Low	Non-reversible	High	No	Yes
Erosion of cultural landscape	Local	Long-term	Slight	Unlikely	Very low	Low (with rehabilitation)	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on health, and safety of workers	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	High	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes

2. Operation Phase

2.1 Extraction and transportation of Brine (salt)

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Impact on groundwater and aquifer	Local	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on upstream tributaries and water in the catchment	Local	Short-term	Slight	Unlikely	Very low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Long-term	Substantial	Very likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Air quality and dust emissions	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Soil and water resources contamination	Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Erosion of cultural landscape	Local	short-term	Slight	Likely	Low	Low (with rehabilitation)	Low	No	Yes
Impact on health, and safety of workers	Site	Short-term	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes

2.2 TLB activity and operation of mining equipment

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Very likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation after construction)	Moderate	No	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Dust emissions	Site	Long-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Soil and water resources contamination and siltation	Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Topography and visual alteration	Site	Medium-term	Substantial	Likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation during closure)	Low	No	Yes
Soil disturbance	Site and	Long-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Low	Moderate	No	Yes
resulting in the spread of alien plant species	Local					(rehabilitation after construction)			
Loss of Species of Special Concern	Site	Medium-term	Substantial	Very likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation	Moderate	No	Yes

						after construction)			
Disturbance of fauna	Site and Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on health, and safety of workers	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes

2.3 Storage of diesel and vehicle/machinery maintenance equipment

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Air quality	Site	Medium-term	Slight	Likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Surface water impacts	Local	Medium-term	Substantial	Likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on hydrogeology and soil contamination due to spills or seepage	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Visual impact	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	High	Low	No	Yes

2.4 Waste generation and disposal

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Air quality	Local	Medium-term	Slightly Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Surface water impacts	Local	Medium-term	Moderate		Moderate	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on hydrogeology and soil contamination due to spills, hazardous substances seepage or	Site	Short-term	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Topography and visual alteration	Site	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	High	Low	No	Yes

3. Decommissioning phase

3.1 Demolition and/or removal of mobile camp site infrastructure/equipment

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Destruction of vegetation	Site	Short-term	Substantial	Likely	Moderate	Moderate (rehabilitation post closure)	Moderate	Yes	Yes
Establishment and spread of alien plant species	Site and Local	Long-term	Substantial	Very likely	Moderate	Low (rehabilitation post closure)	Moderate	No	Yes
Impact on groundwater and aquifer	Local	Medium-term	Moderate	Likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Topography and visual impact	Site	Short-term	Moderate	Likely	Neutral	None-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Moderate	Very likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Air quality and dust emissions	Local	Short-term	Slight	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes

Impact on health, and safety of workers	Site	Short-term	Moderate	Likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
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3.2 Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas

Nature of potential Impact/risk	Extent	Duration	Consequence	Probability	Significance	Reversibility of impact	Irreplaceability of receiving environment/resource	Can impact be avoided?	Can impact be managed or mitigated?
Impact on groundwater and aquifer	Local	Long-term	Moderate	Very likely	Low	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes
Topography and visual impact	Site	Long-term	Moderate	Very likely	Low	Non-reversible	Low	Yes	Yes
Noise generation	Site	Short-term	Low	Very likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Air quality and dust emissions	Site	Short-term	Moderate	Very likely	Very low	Non-reversible	Low	No	Yes
Impact on land capability	Site	Medium-term	Substantial	Likely	Moderate	Non-reversible	Moderate	No	Yes

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

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

APPROACH TO THE BASIC ASSESSMENT

1. METHODOLOGY OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

According to the DEA IEM Series guideline on "Impact Significance" (2002), there are a number of quantitative and qualitative methods that can be used to identify the significance of impacts resulting from a development. The process of determining impact significance should ideally involve a process of determining the acceptability of a predicted impact to society. Making this process explicit and open to public comment and input would be an improvement of the EIA/BA process. The approach to determining significance is generally as follows:

- Use of expert opinion by the specialists ("professional judgement"), based on their experience, a site visit and analysis, and use of existing guidelines and strategic planning documents and conservation mapping (e.g., SANBI biodiversity databases);
- Review of specialist assessment by all stakeholders including authorities such as nature conservation officials, as part of the report review process (i.e., if a nature conservation official disagreed with the significance rating, then we could negotiate the rating); and
- Our approach is more a qualitative approach - we do not have a formal matrix calculation of significance as is sometimes done.

2. SPECIALIST CRITERIA FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Potential Impacts

The assessment of impact significance is based on the following conventions:

Nature of Impact - this review the type of effect that a proposed activity will have on the environment and should include "what will be affected and how?"

Spatial Extent - this should indicate whether the impact will be:

- Site specific;
- Local (<2 km from site);
- Regional (within 30 km of site); or
- National.

Duration - The timeframe during which (lifetime of) the impact will be experienced:

- Temporary (less than 5 year);
- Short term (1 to 4 years);
- Medium term (5 to 10 years);
- Long term (the impact will cease after the operational life of the activity); or
- Permanent (mitigation will not occur in such a way or in such a time span that the impact can be considered transient).

Intensity - it should be established whether the impact is destructive or innocuous and should be described as either:

- High (severe alteration of natural systems, patterns or processes such that they temporarily or permanently cease);
- Medium (notable alteration of natural systems, patterns or processes; where the environment continues to function but in a modified manner); or
- Low (negligible or no alteration of natural systems, patterns or processes); can be easily avoided by implementing appropriate mitigation measures, and will not have an influence on decision-making.

Probability - this considers the likelihood of the impact occurring and should be described as:

- Improbable (little or no chance of occurring);
- Probable (<50% chance of occurring);
- Highly probable (50 – 90% chance of occurring); or
- Definite (>90% chance of occurring).

Reversibility - this considers the degree to which the adverse environmental impacts are reversible or irreversible. For example, an impact will be described as low should the impact have little chance of being rectified to correct environmental impacts. On the other hand, an impact such as the nuisance factor caused by noise impacts from wind turbines can be considered to be highly reversible at the end of the project lifespan. The assessment of the reversibility of potential impacts is based on the following terms:

- High - impacts on the environment at the end of the operational life cycle are highly reversible;
- Moderate - impacts on the environment at the end of the operational life cycle are reasonably reversible;
- Low - impacts on the environment at the end of the operational life cycle are slightly reversible; or
- Non-reversible - impacts on the environment at the end of the operational life cycle are not reversible and are consequently permanent.

Irreplaceability - this review the extent to which an environmental resource is replaceable or irreplaceable. For example, if the proposed project will be undertaken on land that is already transformed and degraded, this will yield a low irreplaceability score; however, should a proposed development destroy unique wetland systems for example, these may be considered irreplaceable and thus be described as high. The assessment of the degree to which the impact causes irreplaceable loss of resources is based on the following terms:

- High irreplaceability of resources (this is the least favourable assessment for the environment);
- Moderate irreplaceability of resources;
- Low irreplaceability of resources; or
- Resources are replaceable (this is the most favourable assessment for the environment).

The status of the impacts and degree of confidence with respect to the assessment of the significance is stated as follows:

Status of the impact: A description as to whether the impact will be:

- Positive (environment overall benefits from impact);
- Negative (environment overall adversely affected); or
- Neutral (environment overall not affected).

Degree of confidence in predictions: The degree of confidence in the predictions, based on the availability of information and specialist knowledge. This should be assessed as:

- High;
- Medium; or
- Low.

Based on the above considerations, the specialist provides an overall evaluation of the significance of the potential impact, which should be described as follows:

- **Low to very low:** the impact may result in minor alterations of the environment and can be reduced or avoided by implementing the appropriate mitigation measures, and will only have an influence on the decision-making if not mitigated;
- **Medium:** the impact will result in moderate alteration of the environment and can be reduced or avoided by implementing the appropriate mitigation measures, and will only have an influence on the decision-making if not mitigated; or
- **High:** Where it could have a “no-go” implication for the project unless mitigation or re-design is practically achievable.

Furthermore, the following must be considered:

- Impacts should be described both before and after the proposed mitigation and management measures have been implemented.
- All impacts should be evaluated for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project, where relevant.
- The impact evaluation should take into consideration the cumulative effects associated with this and other facilities which are either developed or in the process of being developed in the region, if relevant.

Management Actions:

- Where negative impacts are identified, migratory measures will be identified to avoid or reduce negative impacts. Where no migratory measures are possible this will be stated.
- Where positive impacts are identified, augmentation measures will be identified to potentially enhance these.
- Quantifiable standards for measuring and monitoring migratory measures and enhancements will be set. This will include a programme for monitoring and reviewing the recommendations to ensure their ongoing effectiveness.

Monitoring:

Specialists should recommend monitoring requirements to assess the effectiveness of mitigation actions, indicating what actions are required, by whom, and the timing and frequency thereof.

Cumulative Impact: Consideration is given to the extent of any accumulative impact that may occur due to the proposed development. Such impacts are evaluated with an assessment of similar developments already in the environment. Such impacts will be either positive or negative, and will be graded as being of negligible, low, medium or high impact.

Mitigation:

The objective of mitigation is to firstly avoid and minimise impacts where possible and where these cannot be completely avoided, to compensate for the negative impacts of the development on the receiving environment and to maximise re-vegetation and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. For each impact identified, appropriate mitigation measures to reduce or otherwise avoid the potentially negative impacts are suggested. All impacts are assessed without mitigation and with the mitigation measures as suggested.

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

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

Kindly see Section (i) above; the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed site layout have been discussed in the reasons provided in this section, inclusive of the reasons for not considering alternatives.

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

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

CONSTRUCTION PHASE			
Potential impact Description	Significance Rating (positive or negative)	Proposed Mitigation	Significance Rating after Mitigation
Proposal (preferred alternative)			
Direct Impacts			
Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development planning must ensure loss of vegetation and disturbance is restricted to within the minimum and designated areas only. - Vegetate and irrigate open areas to limit erosion, but take care not to promote erosion by irrigating. - Removal of vegetation during construction and operation will be minimised to reduce the risk of excessive open areas occurring. - Adhere to existing roads, and if new roads are constructed, these must not cross sensitive areas such as the ridges or drainage lines. - Protected plant or animal species encountered must be managed in accordance with an accepted management plan for these species. 	Low
Loss of Conservation Important (CI) or medicinally important flora.	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preconstruction walk through the facility in order to locate species of conservation concern that can be translocated as well as comply with permitting conditions. - If removing CI species such as the Protected Poison bulb or Orange/Vaal River Lily then submit permits for their removal. - Prior to construction any CI and medicinally important 	Low

		floral specimens that may occur within the site layout should be collected and replanted in the surrounding areas.	
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Soil and water resources contamination	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent any spills from occurring; If a spill occurs it is to be cleaned up immediately and Reported to the appropriate authorities. - All vehicles are to be serviced in a correctly bunded area or at an off-site location. - Ensure that spillage control kits are available during transport and on storage sites in case of any accidental leakages of spillages, which can then be cleared immediately. -The temporary storage facilities of fuel, lubricants and explosives must be a hard park, roofed and bunded facility. This will prevent contamination of soils and the possibility of contamination of the surface water resources. -Machinery should be maintained properly. Diesel and other chemicals should be handled appropriately. Refuelling protocols must be followed to ensure no diesel is spilled during filling. - Clean and dirty surface water channels should be constructed to divert runoff separately to appropriate storage dams (dirty water to the PCD to avoid eroded soils entering the clean water areas). 	Low
Potential of soil erosion due to exposed soil	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removal of topsoil should be done systematically, only clearing the necessary areas at a time. - The topsoil stockpiles should be vegetated as soon as possible to prevent erosion, which might cause siltation of the water resources. - Erosion berms are to be put in. 	Very low
Noise disturbances as a result of construction activities.	Very low (Negative)	-The noise created by the proposed development is not expected to be problematic. If required, noise reduction measures will have to be implemented in compliance with Noise standards and Regulations.	Very low

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No sound amplification equipment to be used on site, except in emergency situations. - Limit vehicles travelling to and from the site to minimise traffic noise to the surrounding environment. - Limit construction activities to day time hours. - Mining related machines and vehicles to be serviced on a regular basis to ensure noise suppression mechanisms are effective. - Activities that will generate the most noise should be limited to during the day, where viable, in order to minimise disturbance. - Equipment that is not in use should be switched off. - A complaints register should be kept on site, with records of complaints received and manner in which the complaint was addressed. 	
Sensory disturbance of fauna due to noise	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit construction activities to day time hours. - Minimize or eliminate security and construction lighting, to reduce the disturbance of nocturnal fauna. - All outside lighting should be directed away from sensitive areas. 	Low
Impact on health, and safety of workers.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of workers in the correct use of the machinery and/or equipment so as to avoid incidents. - Workers to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). - Hazardous material must be correctly labelled and handled in a safe manner. 	Low
Potential deterioration of the existing gravel road due to use by heavy vehicles.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit vehicles coming to the site and limit to a temporary minimal duration. - Maintain and/or upgrade the gravel road. 	Moderate

Generation of waste	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any waste generated during construction must be stored in such a manner that it prevents pollution and amenity impacts. - Waste to be disposed of at a licenced landfill site. - Hazardous waste to be correctly stored and disposed of in terms of relevant legislation and guidelines. 	Low
Topography and visual alteration.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit the footprint area of the construction where possible. - Topsoil stockpiles should be vegetated and positioned to reduce visual disturbance where possible. 	Low
Degradation of ambient air quality as a result of dust and other emissions generated.	Very low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exposed areas should be revegetated with locally indigenous flora. If the soil is compacted, it should be ripped, and fertilised. -Implement effective and environmentally-friendly dust control measures, such as mulching or periodic wetting of the entrance road. -A complaints register should be kept on site, with records of complaints received and manner in which the complaint was addressed. 	Very low
Indirect Impacts			
Introduction and increase in alien vegetation	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keep the footprint of the disturbed area to the minimum and designated areas only. - Vegetate and irrigate open areas to limit erosion, but take care not to cause erosion by irrigating. Removal of vegetation during construction and operation will be minimised to reduce the risk of excessive open areas occurring. 	Low

		- Adhere to existing roads, and if new roads are constructed, these must not cross sensitive areas such as the ridges or drainage lines.	
The creation of new employment opportunities and skills development	Moderate (Positive)	Ensure maximisation of job creation and promote local employment and skills training.	High
NO-GO ALTERNATIVE			
<p>DIRECT IMPACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the impacts mentioned above will occur. • The site will remain with existing structures, no new clearance will occur which will result in no clearance of indigenous vegetation and no clearance of present alien species. <p>INDIRECT IMPACTS:</p> <p>☐ There are no indirect impacts during the construction phase for the No-go Option.</p> <p>If the proposed project does not proceed, increased income and economic benefits associated with the project will not be realised.</p> <p>No employment opportunities will be created.</p> <p>If the proposed project does not proceed, the potential to produce and supply minerals to industrial and commercial establishments and the subsequent contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the municipality and Province will not be realised; thus, hindering economic growth potential.</p>			

OPERATIONAL PHASE			
Potential Impact Descriptio	Significance Rating (Positive or Negative)	Proposed Mitigation	Significance Rating after Mitigation
PROPOSAL (preferred alternative)			
Direct Impacts			
Impact on aquifers and groundwater quality.	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portable toilets must be set up correctly and emptied regularly to prevent any leaks and potential contamination of the aquifer. - Fuel needs to be stored in a specified lined area to prevent any chance of contamination to the underlying soil/aquifer. - Waste generated from the operation of the mine to be stored in an appropriate and designated storage and be disposed of in a permitted designated waste disposal site. - Mining equipment is regularly maintained to prevent any fuel or oil leaks. - Correct lining of any tailings dam facilities, as well as ensuring correct dam wall heights, in order to prevent infiltration of potential contaminants and overflow respectively. - Tailings piles should be lined covered, to reduce exposure to the atmosphere and prevent infiltration of potential contaminants. - Funnelling of all drainage from mining operations to lined tailings dam facilities via lined channels with bund walls and swales, in order to reduce infiltration of potential Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) water into the aquifer. 	Low

		- Funnelling of all drainage from mining operations to lined tailings dam facilities via lined channels with bund walls and swales, in order to reduce infiltration of potential AMD water into the aquifer.	
Impact on groundwater recharge and run-off alteration	Very low (Negative)	Implement measures to collect and store clean water that falls within the Project area for use on site e.g. watering of gardens, wash bays and dust suppression. Although the hard surfaces on site will increase runoff thereby reducing recharge of the aquifer. - Monitor changes in water levels and quality around the Project area, so as to be aware of changes in groundwater conditions.	Very Low
Impact on upstream tributaries and water in catchment	Very low (Negative)	-A surface water management plan must be implemented to minimise the volume of dirty water produced thereby reducing the probability of contamination of groundwater from infiltration of dirty surface water.	Very low
Impact on ambient air quality and dust emissions	Low (Negative)	Vehicles operating on the mine must keep at minimum speed to reduce dust generation. - Vehicles that are used must be roadworthy and regularly inspected in order to prevent unwanted emissions and/or leaks. - In order to reduce emissions from stockpiles, mitigation measures such as spraying must be implemented as well as regular re-vegetation of topsoil stockpile to avoid or minimise wind erosion from exposed surfaces. - Waste management plans must be developed and implemented to reduce negative impact on the ambient air quality.	Low

Noise generation	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The noise created by the proposed development is not expected to be problematic. If required, noise reduction measures will have to be implemented in compliance with Noise Regulations. - No sound amplification equipment to be used on site, except in emergency situations. - Limit vehicles travelling to and from the site to minimise traffic noise to the surrounding environment. - Mining related machines and vehicles to be serviced on a regular basis to ensure noise suppression mechanisms are effective. - Activities that will generate the most noise should be limited to day-time hours, where viable, in order to minimise disturbance. - Equipment that is not in use should be switched off. - A complaints register should be kept on site, with records of complaints received and manner in which the complaint was addressed. 	Very low
Construction activities may disturb or destroy sites or features of heritage importance	Low – Very low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Should any features of heritage be identified on site, these should not be disturbed. They should be safeguarded, preferably in situ, and immediately reported to a Heritage specialist and/or SAHRA. 	Very low
Impact on health, and safety of workers.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of workers in the correct use of the machinery and/or equipment so as to avoid incidents. - Workers to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). - Hazardous material must be correctly labelled and handled in a safe manner. - Hazardous waste to be correctly disposed of. 	Low

Topography and visual alteration.	Low (Negative)	-Limit the footprint area where possible. -Roads used for hauling of ore should be regularly contoured.	Very low
Impact of operational activities on fauna	Moderate (Negative)	- Minimize noise to limit its impact on sensitive fauna. - Operational areas to be demarcated and workers to stay within these areas. - Create awareness on the importance of fauna and ecosystem functioning. - Workers to stay within demarcated operational areas.	Low
Possible soil and water contamination from diesel storage on site.	Low (Negative)	Appropriate storage of hazardous material such as diesel must be implemented. - The areas where hazardous substances are stored should be banded to avoid soil and water contamination. - Fuel must be stored in a secure designated room. - The ground where refuelling takes place must be protected and refuelling to be handled in a cautious manner. - In the event of spills, the area is to be cleaned immediately using bioremediation products. - Ensure that any accidental spills do not move beyond the designated storage area. - Ensure appropriate and safe disposal of hazardous chemicals. - Ensure training of staff to handle hazardous chemicals.	Low
Indirect Impacts			
Impact on vegetation and faunal habitat.	Moderate (Negative)	-Vegetation cover must be reinstated through rehabilitation.	Low

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removal of vegetation during operation will be minimised to reduce the risk of excessive open areas occurring. - Adhere to existing roads, and if new roads are constructed, these must not cross sensitive areas such as the ridges or drainage lines. - Continuously manage the establishment of alien invasive species through removal. - Protected plant or animal species encountered must be managed in accordance with an accepted management plan for these species. 	
The proposed project is a job creation initiative with the potential to create local employment and skill development.	Moderate (Positive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximise job creation and promote local employment and skills training. - Promote employment of women and youth. 	High
The proposed project will contribute to the short-term growth of the local economy.	Moderate (Positive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Explore opportunities for mineral markets. - Development of skills in mining Small-Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) as part of Municipal Local Economic Development initiatives. - Development of contractual agreements to supply local beneficiation markets. 	High
NO-GO ALTERNATIVE			
Potential Impact Description		Significance Rating (Positive or Negative)	
Direct Impacts			
DIRECT IMPACTS:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the impacts mentioned above will occur. 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The status quo of the site and area will remain with existing structures • No new clearance will occur which will result in no clearance of indigenous vegetation and no clearance of present alien species.
Indirect Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the proposed project does not proceed, increased income and economic benefits associated with the project will not be realised. • No new employment opportunities will be created.

DECOMMISSIONING			
Potential Impact Descriptio	Significance Rating (Positive or Negative)	Proposed Mitigation	Significance Rating after Mitigation
PROPOSAL (preferred alternative)			
Direct Impact			
Soil and water resources contamination.	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent any spills from occurring; If a spill occurs it is to be cleaned up immediately and reported to the appropriate authorities. - Accredited contractors must be used for disposal and transport of demolition material. 	Very low
Destruction of vegetation.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special care must be taken not to destroy rehabilitated areas. - All disturbed areas must be rehabilitated. 	Low
Impact on land capability.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topsoil replacement should be done systematically; slopes should be kept low to prevent run-off and erosion, and replaced according to the soil types. - The topsoil stockpiles should be vegetated as soon as possible to prevent erosion, which might cause siltation of the water resources. - Avoid compaction of topsoil. 	Very low

Noise disturbances as a result of decommissioning activities.	Very low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The noise created by the proposed development is not expected to be problematic. If required, noise reduction measures will have to be implemented in compliance with Noise Regulations. - No sound amplification equipment to be used on site, except in emergency situations. - Mining related machines and vehicles to be serviced on regular basis to ensure noise suppression mechanisms are effective. - Activities that will generate the most noise should be limited to during the day, where viable, in order minimise disturbance. - Equipment that is not in use should be switched off. - A complaints register should be kept on site, with records of complaints received and manner in which the complaint was addressed. 	Very low
Impact on health, and safety of workers.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of workers in the correct use of the machinery and/or equipment so as to avoid incidents. - Worker to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). - Hazardous material must be correctly labelled and handled in a safe manner. 	Low
Topography and visual alteration.	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that all infrastructure installed pre-mining is removed from the site. - Roads should be regularly maintained. - Topsoil stockpiles should be vegetated and positioned to reduce visual disturbance where possible. 	Very low
Degradation of ambient air quality as a result of dust and	Very low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demolition and removal of structures and rubble to be done cautiously. - Exposed areas should be revegetated with locally indigenous flora. If the soil is compacted, it should be ripped, and fertilised. 	Very Low

other emissions generated.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit the area of exposure to minimise wind erosion. - Implement effective and environmentally-friendly dust control measures, such as mulching or periodic wetting of the entrance road. - Vehicles must keep at minimum speed to reduce dust generation. - A complaints register should be kept on site, with records of complaints received and manner in which the complaint was addressed. 	
Indirect Impact			
Establishment and increase in alien vegetation.	Moderate (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinstate vegetation cover through rehabilitation. - Keep the footprint of the disturbed area to the minimum and designated areas only. - Adhere to existing roads, and if new routes are used, these must not cross sensitive areas such as the ridges or drainage lines. - All alien plant species should be removed, preferably as juveniles, before they become established and bear seed and flowers. - Alien plant monitoring should take place for 2-3 years. 	Very low
Restoration of water quality and quantity	Low (Negative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the site is not rehabilitated post mining operations then impacts on the water resources may occur, therefore rehabilitation will have a positive impact on the water resources. - Disturbed areas should be vegetated and contoured to allow for good drainage. - Associated potential soil erosion post rehabilitation should be mitigated. - Regular inspection and monitoring of water quality should be implemented for a period of at least 3 years post closure of the mine, in order to determine any negative residual impacts that could occur years later. 	Low (Positive)
NO-GO ALTERNATIVE			
DIRECT IMPACTS:			

-None of the impacts mentioned above will occur.

INDIRECT IMPACTS:

-There are no indirect impacts during the decommissioning phase for the No-go Option.

ix) Motivation where no alternative sites were considered.

No property alternatives have been considered as the envisaged mining operations will occur in an area of existing mining operations, and also in close proximity to the access road.

x) Statement motivating the alternative development location within the overall site.

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

The site layout was determined by considering both spatial and practical mining operation aspects. The proposed layout is more of a security measure, allowing for more effective management of mined salt.

(i) Full description of the process undertaken to identify, assess and rank the impacts and risks the activity will impose on the preferred site (In respect of the final site layout plan) through the life of the activity. (Including (i) a description of all environmental issues and risks that were identified during the environmental impact assessment process and (ii) an assessment of the significance of each issue and risk and an indication of the extent to which the issue and risk could be avoided or addressed by the adoption of mitigation measures.)

The identified risks and impacts for this study, specifically the proposed site layout, were informed by the environmental studies undertaken for this site, the socio-economic need of the surrounding area, as well as the evidence of historical salts on site and the landscape.

i) Assessment of each identified potentially significant impact and risk

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

NAME OF ACTIVITY	POTENTIAL IMPACT	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE	SIGNIFICANCE if not mitigated	MITIGATION TYPE	SIGNIFICANCE if mitigated
<p>(E.g., For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, access route etc...etc...etc</p> <p>E.g. For mining, - excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.)</p>	<p>(Including the potential impacts for cumulative impacts)</p> <p>(e.g., dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc.... etc...)</p>		<p>In which impact is anticipated (e.g., Construction, commissioning, operational Decommissioning, closure, post-closure)</p>		<p>(Modify, remedy, control, or stop) through (e.g., noise control measures, storm-water control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc. etc)</p> <p>E.g. Modify through alternative method. Control through noise control Control through management and monitoring through rehabilitation.</p>	
Vehicular activities	Dust emissions	Air Quality	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Very low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Dust	Very low (Negative)

			Decommissioning Phase		Management Plan and Measures.	
	Soil and water resources Contamination.	Surface and Groundwater	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Monitor and remedy through Emergency Response Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Noise generation.	Noise Receptors	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Manage through Noise Reduction Measures and Regular Vehicle Inspections.	Very low (Negative)
Site clearing and topsoil removal for mining operation, and construction of a mine	Soil erosion due to exposed soil.	Soils	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Low (Negative)	Manage and control through Soil Rehabilitation Plan and Stormwater Management Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat.	Fauna and Flora	Construction Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Remedy through Rehabilitation Plan, Conservation Management Plan and Alien Invasive Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Dust emissions.	Air Quality	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures.	Very low (Negative)
	Noise generation.	Noise Receptors	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Manage through Noise Reduction Measures and Regular Vehicle Inspections.	Very low (Negative)

	Soil and water resources contamination.	Surface and Groundwater	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Monitor and remedy through Emergency Response Plan and Stormwater Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Topography and visual alteration.	Topography and Visual Environment	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Minimise through Mine Design and Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Destruction of features of heritage importance.	Heritage	Construction Phase	Low – Very low (Negative)	Manage and avoid through Environmental Conservation Management Plan.	Very low (Negative)
Preparing an area of 900 m ² for a portable camp site to accommodate infrastructure associated with stockpiling, crushing, washing, sorting and offices).	Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat	Flora and Fauna	Construction Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Remedy through Rehabilitation Plan, Conservation Management Plan and Alien Invasive Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Exposed soil susceptible to erosion.	Soils	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Low (Negative)	Manage and control through Soil Rehabilitation Plan and Stormwater Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Dust emissions.	Air quality	Construction Phase	Very low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures.	Very low (Negative)
	Noise generation	Noise receptors	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Very low (Negative)	Manage through Noise Reduction Measures.	Very low (Negative)

			Decommissioning Phase			
	Soil and water resources contamination and siltation.	Surface water and Groundwater	Construction Phase	Low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Stormwater Management Plan and Groundwater Monitoring Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Topography and visual alteration.	Topography and Visual Environment	Construction Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Minimise through Mine Design and Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Soil disturbance resulting in the spread of alien plant species.	Fauna and Flora	Construction Phase	Low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Rehabilitation Plan, Conservation Management Plan and Alien Invasive Management Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Destruction of features of heritage importance.	Heritage	Construction Phase	Very low (Negative)	Manage and avoid through Environmental Conservation Management Plan.	Very low (Negative)
Extraction and transportation of salt. TLB activity and operation of mining equipment.	Noise generation.	Noise receptors	Operation Phase	Low (Negative)	Manage through Noise Reduction Measures and Regular Vehicle Inspections.	Very low (Negative)
	Air quality and dust emissions.	Air quality	Operation Phase	Low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures.	Low (Negative)

	Soil and water resources contamination	Surface water and Groundwater	Operation Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Monitor and remedy through Emergency Response Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Destruction of features of Heritage importance.	Heritage	Operation Phase	Low (Negative)	Manage and avoid through Environmental Conservation Management Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Topography and visual alteration.	Topography and Visual Environment	Operation Phase	Moderate (Negative)	N/A	N/A
	Impact on ambient air quality.	Air quality	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Manage through Regular Inspection and Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
Storage of diesel and vehicle/machinery maintenance equipment. Waste generation and disposal.	Surface water contamination.	Surface water	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Monitor and remedy through Emergency Response Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Hydrogeology and soil contamination.	Hydrogeology Soils	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Monitor and remedy through Emergency Response Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Visual impact.	Visual Environment	Construction Phase Operation Phase Decommissioning Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Manage and Minimise through Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan.	Low (Negative)

	Establishment and spread of alien plant species.	Fauna and Flora	Decommissioning Phase Post Closure	Moderate (Negative)	Manage and control through Alien Invasive Management Plan.	Low (Negative)
Demolition and/or removal of mobile camp site infrastructure/equipment	Destruction of vegetation.	Fauna and Flora	Decommissioning Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Manage and Minimise through Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan	Low (Negative)
Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas	Soil and water resources contamination.	Soils Groundwater	Decommissioning Phase	Low (Negative)	Monitor and remedy through Emergency Response Plan.	Low (Negative)
	Topography and visual alteration.	Topography and Visual Environment	Decommissioning Phase	Low (Negative)	Remedy through Rehabilitation and Closure Plan.	Very low (Negative)
	Noise generation.	Noise receptors	Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Manage through Noise Reduction Measures and Regular Vehicle Inspections.	Very low (Negative)
	Air quality and dust emissions.	Air quality	Decommissioning Phase	Very low (Negative)	Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures.	Very low (Negative)
	Land capability reduction.	Soils Vegetation	Decommissioning Phase Post Closure	Moderate (Negative)	Manage, minimise through Post-closure Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan.	Low (Negative)

	Creation of local employment and skills development.	Socio-economic	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Promote through Local Based Employment Strategy, and Women and Youth Employment Initiatives.	High (Positive)
Employment of workers, and acquiring mining vehicles, machinery, equipment and materials.	Contribution to the short-term growth of the local economy.	Socio-economic	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Promote through Local Beneficiation Markets Support to SMME Initiatives.	High (Positive)
	Impact on health and safety of workers.	Socio-economic	Construction Phase Operation Phase	Moderate (Negative)	Prevent through Awareness Campaigns and Training.	Low (Negative)

j) Summary of specialist reports.

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

There was no expert report for this review. A specialist report is not needed for this land because it is surrounded by mainly agricultural uses. The salt ponds have been used for before for mining salt and even now it in operational.

k) Environmental impact statement

(i) Summary of the key findings of the environmental impact assessment;

The mining area is divided into sub-sections of ponds. The transformed areas on site contain few or no indigenous species, whereas the excavated areas are mainly made up of indigenous species with some invasive species in disturbed areas. The main potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project include:

Noise generation

Noise generation as a result of machinery and vehicles operated on site is likely to impact on the surrounding receptors in the nearby location. All reasonable measures need to be implemented to minimise noise levels to the nearby receptors throughout the life cycle of the proposed mine. Due to the small-scale nature and size of the proposed mining activity, and therefore basic machinery and equipment, this impact is expected to be of very low significance.

Air quality and dust emission

Vehicles transporting mining material to and from the site, as well site preparation activities, excavation, processing and decommissioning activities will result in the generation of dust.

Air quality emissions will also include the evaporation of fuels stored on site. Air quality emissions will be of low to very low significance. The recommended mitigation measures in this report should reduce the potential for these impacts on the ambient air quality.

Topography and Visual Alteration

Storage of material and equipment on site, vehicular activities, stockpiling of brine (salt) and excavating will alter the visual environment in the area. The impacts will be of moderate to low significance at the different phases and activities of the project. All reasonable measures need to be implemented to minimise and limit these impacts where possible, incorporating the recommended mitigation measures of the specialists included in this report. Rehabilitation of the disturbed areas to return the site to its similar visual state prior mining will have a neutral visual impact on the area.

Soil erosion

Mining activities on site will result in exposed soil, which could result in soil erosion. Erosion can lead to destruction of natural habitats and sedimentation of the watercourse. This impact will have a low probability of occurrence with implemented mitigation measures and ultimately low impact.

Soil and water resources contamination

The potential impact of contamination will arise throughout the life cycle of the proposed site as a result of contaminants such as fuels, waste material on site, seepage of waste water, spills etc. These possible contaminants need to be managed and prevented through an effective Emergency Response Plan and Storm Water Management Plan in order to reduce the significance of these impacts.

Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat

Vegetation loss is unavoidable during the activities of the proposed mining project. The majority of the site has been transformed and is excavated; however, these excavated areas contain some indigenous vegetation thus necessitating high consideration of the vegetation on site. The developmental footprint of the proposed small-scale mining will impact on the natural vegetation and faunal habitats. Recommended mitigation measures described in the assessment must be adhered to in order to reduce the impacts from moderate to low and special care must be taken to manage any species of special concern.

Destruction of features of heritage importance

It is of the opinion of the heritage study undertaken that any heritage resources (palaeontology, possible archaeology and the cultural landscape) that are affected by the proposed development would be impacted during the construction and operation phases when the site is cleared. The impacts would be direct but because of their very low significance would not require any further studies or mitigation work prior to the commencement of development. It is recommended that the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) and mine staff should be made aware of the possibility of uncovering fossils such as wood in the gravels. With this plan in place the significance of impacts would be reduced from low to very low.

Groundwater quantity and quality

It is expected that environmental impacts on groundwater will occur as result of potential contaminants being on site. The significance is expected to be of low significance and thus low risk of groundwater contamination on a local scale; however, this impact may increase to moderate at a regional scale. Mining operations may also influence groundwater recharge as a result of excavation. Monitoring and the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures can reduce the potential hydrogeological impacts to the environment.

Surface water

Surface is running on site, and the mine operation has a potentially moderate to low significance. Monitoring and the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures can reduce the potential hydrogeological impacts to the environment.

Land capability reduction

Removal of soil for site preparation during the construction and operation phase will impact the land capability in that it will prevent the support of vegetation growth thereof. The removed soil should be stockpiled and managed correctly to minimise this impact. Soil replacement during rehabilitation has the potential to impact on the land capability as it will support the growth of vegetation, potentially returning land capability to its pre-mining state such as arable and/or grazing land.

Establishment and spread of alien plant species

Alien plant invasion is expected to occur in disturbed areas, however with the implementation of mitigation measures this impact can be reduced from moderate to low. This should be mitigated through the establishment of an alien invasive management plan to ensure the establishment of indigenous vegetation.

Socio-economic

Based on the environmental assessment presented in this report, it is the conclusion of this Basic Assessment (BA) that the proposed project will have relatively low impacts on the environment. With effective implementation management and mitigation measures, as well as recommended monitoring plans, the significance of most potential environmental impacts on site from an environmental perspective will be reduced to low-very low. There will be potential impacts on vegetation and habitat, groundwater, soil, dust, air quality and visual environment as a result of earthworks associated with the activity, influx and movement of vehicles, infrastructure, waste and waste water generated by the project as a whole. The Environmental Management Programme supporting this BA outlines adequate methods and mitigation measures that need to be implemented in order for the identified impacts to not pose any environmental flaws associated with the proposed establishment of a small-scale mining operation.

(ii) Final Site Map

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

Attached as Appendix B

(iii) Summary of the positive and negative impacts and risks of the proposed activity and identified alternatives;

The positive impacts associated with the project include:

- Employment opportunities for ±5 local residents;
- Contribution to the local economy (both directly and indirectly);
- The Applicant will be able to supply Salt around the free state.

The negative impacts associated with the project that was deemed to have a Low-Medium or Medium significance includes:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Visual intrusion associated with the sand mining activities | Low-Medium |
| • Negative impact on the vegetation | Low-Medium |
| • Dust nuisance from loading and vehicles transporting the material | Low-Medium |
| • Groundwater | Low-Medium |
| • Negative impact on the Flora fauna of the area | Low-Medium |
| • Degradation of access road | Low-Medium |
| • Overloading of trucks having an impact on the public roads | Low-Medium |

I) Proposed impact management objectives and the impact management outcomes for inclusion in the EMPr;

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

The EMPr addresses the environmental impacts associated with the project during Construction, Operation, Decommissioning and Post Closure Phases of the proposed project. The objectives of the EMPr

will be to provide detailed information that will advise the planning design for Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert mining activities in order to avoid and/or reduce impacts that may be detrimental to the environment.

The following environmental management objectives are recommended for the proposed mining development and associated infrastructure:

- Alien plants monitoring should take place after construction, throughout the lifecycle of the mine, as well as post closure of the mine.
- Development planning must restrict the area of impact to a minimum and designated areas only.
- Monitor and prevent contamination and undertake appropriate remedial actions.
- Limit the visual and noise impact on receptors.
- Avoid impact on possible heritage finds.
- Promote health and safety of workers.
- Limit dust and other emissions to within allowable limits.
- Manage soils to prevent erosion.

m) Aspects for inclusion as conditions of Authorisation.

Any aspects which must be made conditions of the Environmental Authorisation

The following aspects as recommended by the EAP, are emphasised to be included as conditions in the Environmental Authorisation:

- Since the majority of the site is of moderate ecological sensitivity, it is of the specialist's opinion should the project proceed then the ecological aspects related to the impact assessment can be managed accordingly.
- Mitigation and management measures described in the flora and fauna report should be followed.
- If any archaeological or palaeontological material or human burials are uncovered during the course of development then work in the immediate area should be halted. The find would need to be reported to the heritage authorities and may require inspection by an archaeologist or palaeontologist as appropriate. Such heritage is the property of the state and may require excavation and curation in an

approved institution. The project EMPr should make reference to this possibility so that appropriate action can be taken as and when necessary.

- Workers should be educated about the importance of wildlife and the environment.

n) Description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge.

(Which relate to the assessment and mitigation measures proposed)

Uncertainties form part of any proposed development with regards to the actual degree of impact that the development will have on the immediate environment. Any actual and/or site-specific results will only be determined once development has commenced and throughout the life cycle of the proposed project

o) Reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity should or should not be authorised

i) Reasons why the activity should be authorized or not.

Mining is the most important economic sector in the Free State and the area proposed for the project is an area of existing salt mining activities. The proposed project is thus an initiative in meeting and/or addressing this socio-economic need.

The BAR providing mitigation measures and recommendations to ensure that environmental aspects of the site and surrounding area are not impacted severely. Should the mitigation measures and monitoring programmes proposed in this document be implemented on-site, no fatal flaws could be identified that were deemed as severe as to prevent the activity continuing.

ii) Conditions that must be included in the authorisation

The EMPr of this proposed project must form part of the contractual agreement and be adhered to by both the contractors and the applicant. The applicant must also ascertain that there is representation of the applicant on site, at all times of the project, ensuring compliance with the conditions of the EMPr, and Environmental Authorisation thereof.

p) Period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required.

Mr Slabbert proposed mining project will have a Life of Mine of approximately 5 years upon commencement of operation.

q) Undertaking

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

The undertaking is provided at the end of the EMPr.

r) Financial Provision

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

i) Explain how the aforesaid amount was derived.

The amount required manage and rehabilitate the environment is R 19 921. This amount was calculated according to the guideline for the Calculation of the Quantum for rehabilitation as provided by DMR. The mining operation will entail the pumping salt water (brine) and excavation of soil in sections, where after the excavated sections will be closed/rehabilitated within the 5 hectares area. The open cast rehabilitation fee is thus calculated on a pond size of rehabilitated concurrently, camp site area.

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

Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert (the Project Applicant), has confirmed that this amount can be provided for from operating expenditure.

s) Specific Information required by the competent Authority

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

- (1) Impact on the socio-economic conditions of any directly affected person. (Provide the results of Investigation, assessment, and evaluation of the impact of the mining, bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting on any directly affected person including the landowner, lawful occupier, or, where applicable, potential**

beneficiaries of any land restitution claim, attach the investigation report as an Appendix.

No land claims on the proposed land. The proposed mining for Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert operation is proposed on property under the jurisdiction of the municipality.

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

There are no significant heritage resources present on the site and significant impacts are thus not expected.

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

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

No other matters required.

PART B

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME REPORT

1) Draft environmental management programme.

- a) **Details of the EAP, (Confirm that the requirement for the provision of the details and expertise of the EAP are already included in PART A, section 1(a) herein as required).**

The requirements for the provision of the details and expertise of the EAP are included in Part A, Section a) and as Appendix A.

- b) **Description of the Aspects of the Activity (Confirm that the requirement to describe the aspects of the activity that are covered by the draft environmental management programme is already included in PART A, section (1)(h) herein as required).**

The requirement to describe the aspects of the activity that are covered by the environmental management programme is included in PART A, Section d).

c) Composite Map

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

The composite plan is included in **Appendix B**

d) Description of Impact management objectives including management statements

The proposed impact management objectives and management statements are informed by the environmental setting of the proposed mining site, as well as the desired state during closure and post closure of the mine.

i) Determination of closure objectives.

(Ensure that the closure objectives are informed by the type of environment described)

The proposed mining area is a single section, which is transformed and degraded land, mostly as a result of alien plant species, and possible past clearing activities that have occurred in the area. The transformed areas contain few or no indigenous species, whereas the degraded areas are mainly made up of indigenous species with some invasive species in disturbed areas. The main potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project include:

- Noise generation
- Air quality and dust emission
- Topography and Visual Alteration
- Soil erosion
- Soil and water resources contamination
- Loss of vegetation and faunal habitat
- Destruction of features of heritage importance
- Groundwater quantity and quality
- Surface water
- Land capability reduction
- Establishment and spread of alien plant species
- Socio-economic

Therefore, effective and practical measures need to be implemented to prevent, reduce or control and remedy any impacts that may be detrimental to the environment, as well as to rehabilitate the site to a desired state similar to that of the pre-mining state. These measures include:

- Rehabilitate the site in accordance with a detailed closure plan and implement an alien invasive management plan to ensure the establishment of indigenous vegetation.
- Rehabilitation of the disturbed areas to return the site to its similar visual state prior mining.
- Identify and attend to possible areas of erosion.
- Implement an effective waste management plan to contain waste on site, as well as any spills that may occur.

ii) Volumes and rate of water use required for the operation.

The volumes of water required on this operation will be determined once the water use license is authorized.

iii) Has a water use licence has been applied for?

A water use license will be required for this operation. It is advised that the applicant should apply for a water use license as the operation use abstraction of groundwater by means of boreholes.

iv) Impacts to be mitigated in their respective phases

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

ACTIVITIES (E.g., For prospecting - drill site, site camp, ablution facility, accommodation, equipment storage, sample storage, site office, access route etc...etc...etc E.g. For mining, - excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc...etc.)	PHASE (of operation in which activity will take place. State; Planning and design, Pre-Construction' Construction, Operational, Rehabilitation, Closure, Post closure).	SIZE AND SCALE of Disturbance (Volumes, tonnages and hectares or m ²)	MITIGATION MEASURES (Describe how each of the recommendations in herein will remedy the cause of pollution or degradation and migration of pollutants)	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS (A description of how each of the recommendations herein will comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices that have been identified by Competent Authorities)	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION Describe the time period when the measures in the environmental management programme must be implemented Measures must be implemented when required. With regard to Rehabilitation specifically this must take place at the earliest opportunity. With regard to Rehabilitation, therefore state either: - Upon cessation of the individual activity or. Upon the cessation of mining, bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting as the case may be.
Vehicular activities.	Construction Operational Decommissioning	Site	-Adhere to existing roads, and if new roads are constructed, these must not cross sensitive areas such as the ridges or drainage lines.	-Manage and avoid through Environmental Conservation Management Plan. -Minimise through Mine Design and Management Plan.	Daily and on-going during the Life of Mine.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Limit vehicles travelling to and from the site to minimise traffic noise to the surrounding environment. -Effective signage and traffic control measures along the route. - Implement effective and environmentally-friendly dust control measures, such as mulching or periodic wetting of the entrance road. -Vehicles operating on the mine must keep at minimum speed to reduce dust generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures. - Implement noise reduction measures in compliance with Noise standards and Regulations. 	
Site clearing and topsoil removal for mining operation, and construction of a mine	Construction	Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development planning must ensure loss of vegetation and disturbance is restricted to within the minimum and designated areas only. -Revegetate exposed areas to prevent soil erosion and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Manage and avoid through Environmental Conservation Management Plan. -Implement in accordance with the rehabilitation plan and standards. -Comply with the Alien invasive Management Plan in accordance with NEM:BA. 	On-going during the construction and operational phase.

			<p>the establishment of alien invasive species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Manage any encountered protected plant or animal species. -Implement dust suppression measures. -Prevent any spillages from hauling vehicles. -Report any identified features of heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures to ensure that the acceptable standards as set out in Regulation 3 of NEMAQA National Dust Control Regulations. - Manage through Emergency Response Plan. -Manage through Best Practice Guidelines. 	
Construction of infrastructure.	Construction	Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Implement effective Storm-water Management measures. -Vegetate soil stockpiles and prevent soil erosion. -Avoid contamination and divert any dirty water to suitable storage facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Manage through Stormwater Management Plan. -Manage in accordance with the rehabilitation plan. -Manage through Stormwater Management Plan and Groundwater Monitoring Plan. 	On-going during the construction phase.
Preparing an area of the Offsite land for a portable camp site to accommodate infrastructure associated with stockpiling, and offices).	Construction	Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development planning must ensure loss of vegetation and disturbance is restricted to within the minimum and designated areas only. -All disturbed areas must be rehabilitated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minimise through Mine Design and Management Plan. -Manage in accordance with the Rehabilitation Plan. -Dust Monitoring Measures to ensure that the acceptable standards as set out in Regulation 3 of NEMAQA 	Daily during construction in accordance with the Management Plan.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation cover must be reinstated through rehabilitation. - Implement effective and environmentally-friendly dust control measures. 	National Dust Control Regulations.	
<p>Extraction and transportation of ore.</p> <p>TLB activity and operation of mining equipment.</p> <p>Stockpiling</p>	Operational	Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid contamination and divert any dirty water to suitable storage facility. -Implement noise minimisation measures. -Implement effective and environmentally-friendly dust control measures. -Undertake closure and rehabilitation of ponds when activities are completed in those ponds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Control through Stormwater Management Plan. -Regular vehicle and machinery inspection. -Implement in accordance with the rehabilitation plan and standards. -Monitor and manage through Dust Management Plan and Measures to ensure that the acceptable standards as set out in Regulation 3 of NEMAQA National Dust Control Regulations. 	Ongoing during the Life of Mine.
Waste generation and disposal.	Construction Operational Decommissioning	Municipal	-Waste must be stored in demarcated storage facilities and disposed of in terms of relevant legislation and guidelines.	-Manage in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines.	Weekly during Life of Mine.

<p>Demolition and/or removal of mobile camp site infrastructure/equipment.</p> <p>Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas.</p>	<p>Decommissioning Post Closure</p>	<p>Local Site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All disturbed areas must be rehabilitated. -Limit activity footprint and avoid disturbance of rehabilitated areas. -Implement an effective Alien Invasive Management Plan. -Demolition and removal of structures and rubble to be done cautiously. -Monitoring to be undertaken for a long enough period post closure, eg, 2-3 years 	<p>-Manage in accordance with the Rehabilitation Plan, Environmental Conservation Plan, Alien Invasive Management Plan, NEM:BA and Best Practice Guidelines</p>	<p>Ongoing during Decommissioning and Post Closure Phase.</p>
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e) Impact Management Outcomes

(A description of impact management outcomes, identifying the standard of impact management required for the aspects contemplated in paragraph ());

ACTIVITY whether listed or not listed (E.g., Excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc.)	POTENTIAL IMPACT (e.g., dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc... etc.)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated (e.g., Construction, commissioning, operational Decommissioning, closure, post-closure))	MITIGATION TYPE (Modify, remedy, control, or stop) through (e.g., noise control measures, storm-water control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc... etc.) E.g. • Modify through alternative method. • Control through noise control • Control through management and monitoring • Remedy through rehabilitation.	STANDARD TO BE ACHIEVED (Impact avoided, noise levels, dust levels, rehabilitation standards, end use objectives) etc.
Demarcation of site with visible beacons	No impact could be identified other than the beacons being outside the boundaries of the approved processing area.	N/A	Site Establishment phase	Control through management and monitoring.	Mining of salt water (brine) is only allowed within the boundaries of the approved area. • MPRDA, 2008 • NEMA, 1998
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Visual intrusion associated with the salt water (brine) mining activities	The visual impact may affect the aesthetics of the landscape.	Operational phase	<u>Control</u> : Implementation of proper housekeeping	Management of the mining activities must be in accordance with the: • MPRDA, 2008 • NEMA, 1998

WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Noise nuisance generated by removal equipment.	Should noise levels become excessive it may have an impact on surrounding landowners	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Noise control measures	Noise generation on site must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM: AQA, 2004 Regulation • 6(1) • NRTA, 1996
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Contamination of surface or groundwater with hydrocarbons or hazardous waste material.	Contamination may cause surface or ground water pollution if not addressed.	Operational phase	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Implementation of waste management	Mining related waste must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998 • NEM:WA, 2008
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Negative impact on the aquatic fauna of the area	This may have a negative impact on the biodiversity of the area.	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	Site specific fauna and flora must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:BA, 2004

ACTIVITY whether listed or not listed (E.g. Excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc..etc.)	POTENTIAL IMPACT (e.g. dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc...etc..)	ASPECTS AFFECTED	PHASE In which impact is anticipated (e.g. Construction, commissioning, operational Decommissioning, closure, post-closure))	MITIGATION TYPE (modify, remedy, control, or stop) through (e.g. noise control measures, storm-water control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc...etc..)	STANDARD TO BE ACHIEVED (Impact avoided, noise levels, dust levels, rehabilitation standards, end use objectives) etc.
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Impact on downstream water users.	This impact may lead to complaints from surrounding landowners.	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	The aquatic aspects at the site and rights of downstream users must be managed in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Negative impacts on the riparian vegetation.	This may have a negative impact on the biodiversity of the area.	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper site management.	Site specific flora must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:BA, 2004

STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Dust nuisance from loading and vehicles transporting the material.	An increase in dust levels may lead to complaints received from surrounding landowners and road users.	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Dust suppression	Dust generation on site must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:AQA, 2004 Regulation 6(1) • National Dust Control Regulations, GN No R827 • ASTM D1739 (SANS 1137:2012)
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Degradation of access road.	If the road is not maintained it will negatively affect all road users. Only the landowner.	Operational phase	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Road condition management	The access road must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRTA, 1996
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Negative impact on the fauna (aquatic and terrestrial) of the area.	This may have a negative impact on the biodiversity of the area.	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	Site specific fauna and flora must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:BA, 2004
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Contamination of area with hydrocarbons or hazardous waste material.	Contamination may cause surface or ground water pollution if not addressed.	Operational phase	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Implementation of waste management	Mining related waste must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998 • NEM:WA, 2008

STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Overloading of trucks having an impact on the public roads.	Overloading will negatively affect the roads in the vicinity of the mining area.	Operational phase	<u>Control:</u> Proper site management	Load weights must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRTA, 1996
SLOPING AND LANDSCAPING UPON CLOSURE OF THE MINING AREA	Contamination of area with hydrocarbons or hazardous waste material.	Contamination may cause surface or ground water pollution if not addressed.	Operational phase	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Implementation of waste management	Mining related waste must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ NWA, 1998 ☐ NEM:WA, 2008

f) Impact Management Actions

(A description of impact management actions, identifying the manner in which the impact management objectives and outcomes contemplated in paragraphs (c) and (d) will be achieved).

ACTIVITY whether listed or not listed (E.g., Excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc..etc.)	POTENTIAL IMPACT (e.g. dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc...etc..)	MITIGATION TYPE (Modify, remedy, control, or stop through (e.g. noise control measures, stormwater control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc... etc.) E.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify through alternative method. • Control through noise control • Control through management and monitoring • Remedy through rehabilitation. 	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION Describe the time period when the measures in the environmental management programme must be implemented Measures must be implemented when required. With regard to Rehabilitation specifically this must take place at the earliest opportunity. With regard to Rehabilitation, therefore state either: Upon cessation of the individual activity Or. Upon the cessation of mining bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting as the case may be.	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS (A description of how each of the recommendations in 2.11.6 read with 2.12 and 2.15.2 herein will comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices that have been identified by Competent Authorities)
Demarcation of site with visible beacons	No impact could be identified other than the beacons being outside the boundaries of the approved processing area.	Control through management and monitoring	Beacons need to be in place throughout the life of the mine.	Mining of salt is only allowed within the boundaries of the approved area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPRDA, 2008 • NEMA, 1998

WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Visual intrusion associated with the salt mining activities	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping	Throughout operational phase	Management of the mining activities must be in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPRDA, 2008 • NEMA, 1998
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Noise nuisance generated by removal equipment.	<u>Control:</u> Noise control measures	Throughout operational phase	Noise generation on site must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM: AQA, 2004 Regulation 6(1) • NRTA, 1996

ACTIVITY whether listed or not listed (E.g., Excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc..etc.)	POTENTIAL IMPACT (e.g. dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc... etc..)	MITIGATION TYPE (Modify, remedy, control, or stop through (e.g. noise control measures, stormwater control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc... etc.) E.g <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify through alternative method. • Control through noise control • Control through management and monitoring 	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION Describe the time period when the measures in the environmental management programme must be implemented Measures must be implemented when required. With regard to Rehabilitation specifically this must take place at the earliest opportunity. With regard to Rehabilitation, therefore state either: Upon cessation of the individual activity Or. Upon the cessation of mining bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting as the case may be.	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS (A description of how each of the recommendations in 2.11.6 read with 2.12 and 2.15.2 herein will comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices that have been identified by Competent Authorities)
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Contamination of surface or groundwater with hydrocarbons or hazardous waste material.	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Implementation of waste management	Throughout operational phase	Mining related waste must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998 • NEM: WA, 2008
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Negative impact on the aquatic fauna of the area	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	Throughout operational phase	Site specific fauna and flora must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:BA, 2004

ACTIVITY whether listed or not listed (E.g. Excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc..etc.)	POTENTIAL IMPACT (e.g. dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc...etc..)	MITIGATION TYPE (modify, remedy, control, or stop) through (e.g. noise control measures, stormwater control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc... etc.) E.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify through alternative method. • Control through noise control • Control through management and monitoring • Remedy through rehabilitation. 	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION Describe the time period when the measures in the environmental management programme must be implemented Measures must be implemented when required. With regard to Rehabilitation specifically this must take place at the earliest opportunity. With regard to Rehabilitation, therefore state either: Upon cessation of the individual activity Or. Upon the cessation of mining bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting as the case may be.	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS (A description of how each of the recommendations in 2.11.6 read with 2.12 and 2.15.2 herein will comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices that have been identified by Competent Authorities)
WINNING OF SALT WATER (BRINE)	Loss of mining equipment due to unexpected flooding.	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	Throughout operational phase	The mining area must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPRDA, 2008 • NEMA, 1998 • NWA, 1998

STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Negative impacts on the riparian vegetation.	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper site management.	Throughout operational phase	Site specific flora must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:BA, 2004
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Dust nuisance from loading and vehicles transporting the material.	<u>Control:</u> Dust suppression	Throughout operational phase	Dust generation on site must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:AQA, 2004 Regulation 6(1) • National Dust Control Regulations, GN No R827 • ASTM D1739 (SANS 1137:2012)

ACTIVITY whether listed or not listed (E.g. Excavations, blasting, stockpiles, discard dumps or dams, Loading, hauling and transport, Water supply dams and boreholes, accommodation, offices, ablution, stores, workshops, processing plant, storm water control, berms, roads, pipelines, power lines, conveyors, etc...etc..etc.)	POTENTIAL IMPACT (e.g. dust, noise, drainage surface disturbance, fly rock, surface water contamination, groundwater contamination, air pollution etc...etc..)	MITIGATION TYPE (modify, remedy, control, or stop) through (e.g. noise control measures, stormwater control, dust control, rehabilitation, design measures, blasting controls, avoidance, relocation, alternative activity etc... etc.) E.g. • Modify through alternative method. • Control through noise control • Control through management and monitoring • Remedy through rehabilitation.	TIME PERIOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION Describe the time period when the measures in the environmental management programme must be implemented Measures must be implemented when required. With regard to Rehabilitation specifically this must take place at the earliest opportunity. With regard to Rehabilitation, therefore state either: Upon cessation of the individual activity Or. Upon the cessation of mining bulk sampling or alluvial diamond prospecting as the case may be.	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS (A description of how each of the recommendations in 2.11.6 read with 2.12 and 2.15.2 herein will comply with any prescribed environmental management standards or practices that have been identified by Competent Authorities)
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Degradation of access road.	Control & Remedy: Road condition management	Throughout Operational phase	The access road must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRTA, 1996

STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Negative impact on the fauna (terrestrial) of the area.	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	Throughout Operational phase	Site specific fauna and flora must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEM:BA, 2004
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Contamination of area with hydrocarbons or hazardous waste material.	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Implementation of waste management	Throughout Operational phase	Mining related waste must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998 • NEM: WA, 2008
STOCKPILING AND TRANSPORTING MATERIAL FROM SITE	Overloading of trucks having an impact on the public roads.	<u>Control:</u> Proper site management	Throughout Operational phase	Load weights must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRTA, 1996
SLOPING AND LANDSCAPING UPON CLOSURE OF THE MINING AREA	Impact on the flow regime of the river.	<u>Control:</u> Implementation of proper housekeeping and site management.	Throughout Operational phase	The aquatic aspects at the site and rights of downstream users must be managed in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998
SLOPING AND LANDSCAPING UPON CLOSURE OF THE MINING AREA	Contamination of area with hydrocarbons or hazardous waste material.	<u>Control & Remedy:</u> Implementation of waste management	Throughout Operational phase	Mining related waste must be managed in accordance with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWA, 1998 • NEM: WA, 2008

i) Financial Provision

(1) Determination of the amount of Financial Provision.

(a) Describe the closure objectives and the extent to which they have been aligned to the baseline environment described under the Regulation.

Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert will be using a camp site for its processing activities, and therefore infrastructure associated with the camp site will require breaking down or demolishing at closure. The areas disturbed as a result of the mining operation will be rehabilitated by maintaining the general topography of the surrounding area, ensuring that there are no remnants of the structures. The closure objectives aim to return the affected area to a land use condition or desired state similar to that of the pre-mining state. Closure and rehabilitation of land will be undertaken during the operational phase when the activities are completed in that area, to achieve a desired land condition as early as possible. Post-closure monitoring will assist in determining the success of the rehabilitation and also identify whether any additional measures need to be taken to ensure the area is restored to a reasonable and acceptable condition.

Rehabilitation measures and objectives will be undertaken in compliance with legislation and policy governing the requirements for rehabilitation such as the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 and the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002.

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

This Report highlights the rehabilitation and management objectives with regards to mitigating negative environmental impacts associated with the proposed mining operation. These environmental objectives related to the closure of the mining operation contained in this report will be subjected to a 30-day review period by Interested and Affected Parties.

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

The rehabilitation plan for the proposed for Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert mining operation aims to mitigate the negative impacts associated with the mining activities, and ultimately to return the affected land to its desired land use standard. The objectives of the plan are to ensure that the condition of the site post mining operation is suitable to and in agreement with the affected neighbouring farmer and the competent authority, that there is minimal loss to the biodiversity of the area, and that rehabilitation restores the land use and capability of the area/site.

The rehabilitation process will commence during the mining operation throughout the life of mine; involving concurrent rehabilitation of distrusted land when activities are completed in that distrusted land and thereafter the final rehabilitation will be undertaken during the mine closure phase. A more detailed closure plan will be developed during the life of mine, prior to the cessation of mining activities; adapted to the developed information and environmental impact status of the project in order to achieve a site-specific closure plan.

A map showing the site layout and aerial extent of the proposed mining activities, depicting the anticipated mining permit area at the time of closure is included as Map 2 in Appendix B.

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

The closure plan will assist the proposed mining operation to achieve the following objectives:

- Comply with relevant legislation and policy requirements with regards to mine rehabilitation.
- Avoid or mitigate impacts associated with the project which may be detrimental to the environment.
- Land rehabilitation to a predetermined and agreed upon state that allows sustainable land use and capability of the site, that is to return the site to the condition that existed prior to mining or an agreed upon state.
- Cost effective and efficient closure of mining operations.
- Management and monitoring of the area post-closure.

The rehabilitation plan will thus be aligned to the closure objectives and tailored to the project to achieve these objectives. It will include information about the site prior to the mining operation and provide information on the maintenance of resources required for the rehabilitation process, as well as detail how rehabilitation will be undertaken. It will also provide information on the management and monitoring of disturbance to avoid or minimise detrimental impacts, as well as an estimate of the financial closure provision. It will also include information associated with post-closure environmental monitoring of the site to ensure that the rehabilitation plan is followed and its objectives are achieved.

(e) Calculate and state the quantum of the financial provision required to manage and rehabilitate the environment in accordance with the applicable guideline.

This amount was calculated according to the guideline for the Calculation of the Quantum for rehabilitation as provided by DMR. The mining operation will entail of abstracting salty groundwater (brine) and evaporate it on the existing pans/ponds to form salt crystal. The operation's rehabilitation fee is thus calculated on a general surface. General surface rehabilitation and grassing at R 19 921 for 5 hectares.

Refer to the table below for the Calculated Quantum Rehabilitation Financial Provision.

Table 1: Calculation of the financial provision required for the proposed mine for Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert

CALCULATION OF THE QUANTUM (REAL RATES)							
Applicant: CORNELIUS JOHANNES SLABBERT		Ref No.:		FS 30/5/1/3/3/2/1 (10364) EM			
Evaluators:		Date:		Mar-23			
No.	Description	Unit	A Quantity	B Master Rate	C Multiplication factor	D Weighting factor 1	E=A*B*C*D Amount (Rands)
1	Dismantling of processing plant and related structures (including overland conveyors and powerlines)	m3	0	20.63	1	1	0
2 (A)	Demolition of steel buildings and structures	m2	0	287.43	1	1	0
2(B)	Demolition of reinforced concrete buildings and structures	m2	0	423.58	1	1	0
3	Rehabilitation of access roads	m2	0	51.44	1	1	0
4 (A)	Demolition and rehabilitation of electrified railway lines	m	0	499.22	1	1	0
4 (A)	Demolition and rehabilitation of non-electrified railway lines	m	0	272.30	1	1	0
5	Demolition of housing and/or administration facilities	m2	0	574.86	1	1	0
6	Opencast rehabilitation including final voids and ramps	ha	0	292,575.47	1	1	0
7	Sealing of shafts adits and inclines	m3	0	154.31	1	1	0
8 (A)	Rehabilitation of overburden and spoils	ha	0	200,899.81	1	1	0
8 (B)	Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (non-polluting potential)	ha	0	250217.079	1	1	0
8 (C)	Rehabilitation of processing waste deposits and evaporation ponds (polluting potential)	ha	0	726,749.00	1	1	0
9	Rehabilitation of subsided areas	ha	0	168,223.33	1	1	0
10	General surface rehabilitation	ha	0.09	159,146.53	1	1	14323.19
11	River diversions	ha	0	159,146.53	1	1	0
12	Fencing	m	0	181.54	1	1	0
13	Water management	ha	0	60,511.99	1	1	0
14	2 to 3 years of maintenance and aftercare	ha	0	21,179.20	1	1	0
15 (A)	Specialist study	Sum	0	0	1	1	0
15 (B)	Specialist study	Sum	0	0	1	1	0
						Sub Total 1	14323.18804
1	Preliminary and General	1718.782565		weighting factor 2		1718.782565	
2	Contingencies	1432.318804		1		1432.318804	
						Subtotal 2	17474.29
						VAT (15%)	2446.40
						Grand Total	19921

(f) Confirm that the financial provision will be provided as determined.

Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert confirms that the financial provision will be provided as determined.

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

- (g) Monitoring of Impact Management Actions**
- (h) Monitoring and reporting frequency**
- (i) Responsible persons**
- (j) Time period for implementing impact management actions**
- (k) Mechanism for monitoring compliance**

SOURCE ACTIVITY	IMPACTS REQUIRING MONITORING PROGRAMMES	FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MONITORING	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MONITORING PROGRAMMES)	MONITORING AND REPORTING FREQUENCY and TIME PERIODS FOR IMPLEMENTING IMPACT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
Site clearing and topsoil removal.	Air quality.	Set up PM ¹⁰ Monitoring sites in the area to monitor dust-fall, using method ASTM D1739: 1970 (or equivalent).	Environmental Control Officer Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert Management	Ongoing during the Life of Mine. Compile monthly reports.
Construction of infrastructure (Offices and storage)	Soil	Management and monitoring of soil stockpiles. Soils must be stored properly and	Environmental Control Officer	Monitor and inspect on a daily basis. Compile monthly reports.

TLB activity and operation of mining equipment.		revegetated to prevent erosion and to enable re-use during rehabilitation.	Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert Management	
Demolition and/or removal of mobile camp site infrastructure /equipment.	Surface water.	Monitor and manage through Stormwater Management Plan	Environmental Control Officer Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert Management	Ongoing during the Life of Mine, as well as for at least a year post mine closure.
Rehabilitation and restoration of disturbed areas.	Establishment and spread of alien plant species.	Alien invasive vegetation monitoring and control through Alien Invasive Management Plan	Environmental Control Officer	Ongoing during the Life of Mine. Monitor and control on a monthly basis.

(l) Indicate the frequency of the submission of the performance assessment/ environmental audit report.

The Environmental Control Officer will undertake audits in compliance with the provided EMP contents and guidelines and will compile audit reports, which will ultimately be submitted to the DMR every year.

(m) Environmental Awareness Plan

(1) Manner in which the applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk which may result from their work.

Mr Cornelius Johannes Slabbert Management has to appoint an independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) whose duty is to also implement an effective environmental awareness plan aimed to educate workers and contractors in terms of the biodiversity on site, environmental risks associated with the proposed development and land management of the site. Training and/or awareness should be raised and effectively communicated prior to the commencement of the construction phase. Training sessions should incorporate the management plans addressed in this EMP as well as any new information and documentation provided by the ECO, as well as that of the Environmental Health & Safety Officer. The ECO would be the most suitable person to conduct these training sessions, identifying sensitive environments as well as all the risks and impacts associated with the mining operation and the methods in which to deal with the impacts in order to avoid environmental degradation. Training sessions can be monitored by providing an attendance register indicating the workers that received training as well as evidence of the training and/or awareness received. These sessions would also need to be carried out throughout the Life of Mine, at least once a year, or as new information becomes available.

(2) Manner in which risks will be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment.

Kindly refer to the table of possible mitigation measures that could be applied in **section (viii) of Part A** for an indication of the manner in which risks will be dealt with

(n) Specific information required by the Competent Authority

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

No specific information requirements have been made by the competent authority at this stage.

2) UNDERTAKING

The EAP herewith confirms

- a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports
- b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
- c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant;
and
- d) 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:

Azatitrax (Pty) Ltd

Name of company:

26/03/2023

Date:

-END-

References

- DWAF, 1998. Quality of domestic water supplies, Volume 1: Assessment guide. Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Department of Health, Water Research Commission, 1998.
- DWAF, 1998. The National Water Act, No 36. Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. Pretoria.
- DWAF, 2005. Groundwater Resource Assessment II – Groundwater Planning Potential. Technical Report No. 2C, Project No. 2003-150. DWAF, Pretoria, South Africa.
- DWS, 2011. The Groundwater Dictionary, A Comprehensive Reference of Groundwater Related Terminology, Second Edition.

http://www.dwa.gov.za/Groundwater/Groundwater_Dictionary/index.html?credits_references.htm

APPENDICES

Appendix A	CV of the EAs
Appendix B	Locality map, Site Layout Plan, land Use Map
Appendix C	Consultation Report

Appendix A

EAP Curriculum Vitae

CURRICULUM VITAE - MOSES MALUNGISA MSITSINI

GENERAL

Nationality: South African

Profession: Hydrogeologist / Geologist

Specialization: Mineral Exploration, Geological Mapping, Groundwater Exploration, Groundwater Monitoring and contamination

Driver licence: Code C1

PERSONAL DETAILS

Date of Birth: 15/02/1994

ID Number: 9402155510083

Gender: Male

Marital Status: Single

Language skills: English, Siswati, Zulu

Address: PO BOX 289 Ekulindeni 1301

Stand no 424 Ekulindeni 1301

Contact Details: 0719064780

Email Address: Malungisamoses@gmail.com

KEY SKILLS

- Mineral exploration (geophysical survey)
- Groundwater exploration - aerial photo interpretation, resistivity, magnetic and EM34 geophysical surveys for borehole siting purposes, geological conceptualization.
- Groundwater monitoring, (profiling and sampling) - development and analysis of groundwater level and quality data.
- Groundwater contamination assessments.
- Groundwater development - pumping test and analysis.

- Drilling supervision (core logging)
- Geotechnical assessments
- Borehole camera logging
- Geological mapping
- WISH, MICROSOFT (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access), ArcGIS, Python, QGIS, Surfer, Modflow, ModelMuse, ColeDraw, Feflow, HEC-RAS, PIX4mapper, Drone-deployed, Phreeqc, RES2DINV.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Qualifications

2019	B.Sc. (Hons) Geohydrology	University of the Free State
2018	B.Sc. (Degree) Geology and Geography	University of the Free State

Matric

2013 Highveld Secondary School

Memberships

- Groundwater Division of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA)
- South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)- Member No. (Candidate Natural Scientist-124966)

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

October 2022 to Present	Azatitrax (Pty) Ltd, Ekulindeni Exploration Geologist
October 2022 to Present	KLM Consulting Services, Lanseria Mining Consulting Hydrogeologist
August 2020 to October 2022	GEOSS South Africa (Pty) Ltd, Stellenbosch Hydrogeologist
November 2019 – March 2020	MDBS Trading (Pty) Ltd, Northern Cape Geologist (Contract)
December 2018 – February 2019	Merabe the Firm (Pty) Ltd, Hobhouse, Free State Environmental Geologist (Intern)
January 2018 – June 2018	DOBX Mineral Resources (Pty) Ltd, Kuruman Geologist (Intern)

June 2017 – August 2017

Jagersfontein Diamond Dealer, Jagersfontein

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (Student)

February 2016 – October 2018

University of the Free State

Computer Lab Student assistant

REFERENCE

Kamielah Wedel – “Geoss South Africa”

Health and Safety Executive

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0638149209

Letlhogonolo Christopher Makgoe – “LM Attorneys & Partners”

Director

Makgoe@lmattorneysprs.co.za

063 423 4764

Mr Lebohang Sitase - "Department of Mineral Resources "

Official

Lebo.sitase@dmr.gov.za

0732679541

Mr Sello Wilfred Thabana - "Noma-Thabana General Trading"

Director

Thabanasw@gmail.com

0735705651

Mr Duduza Ntombela - "MDBS Trading "

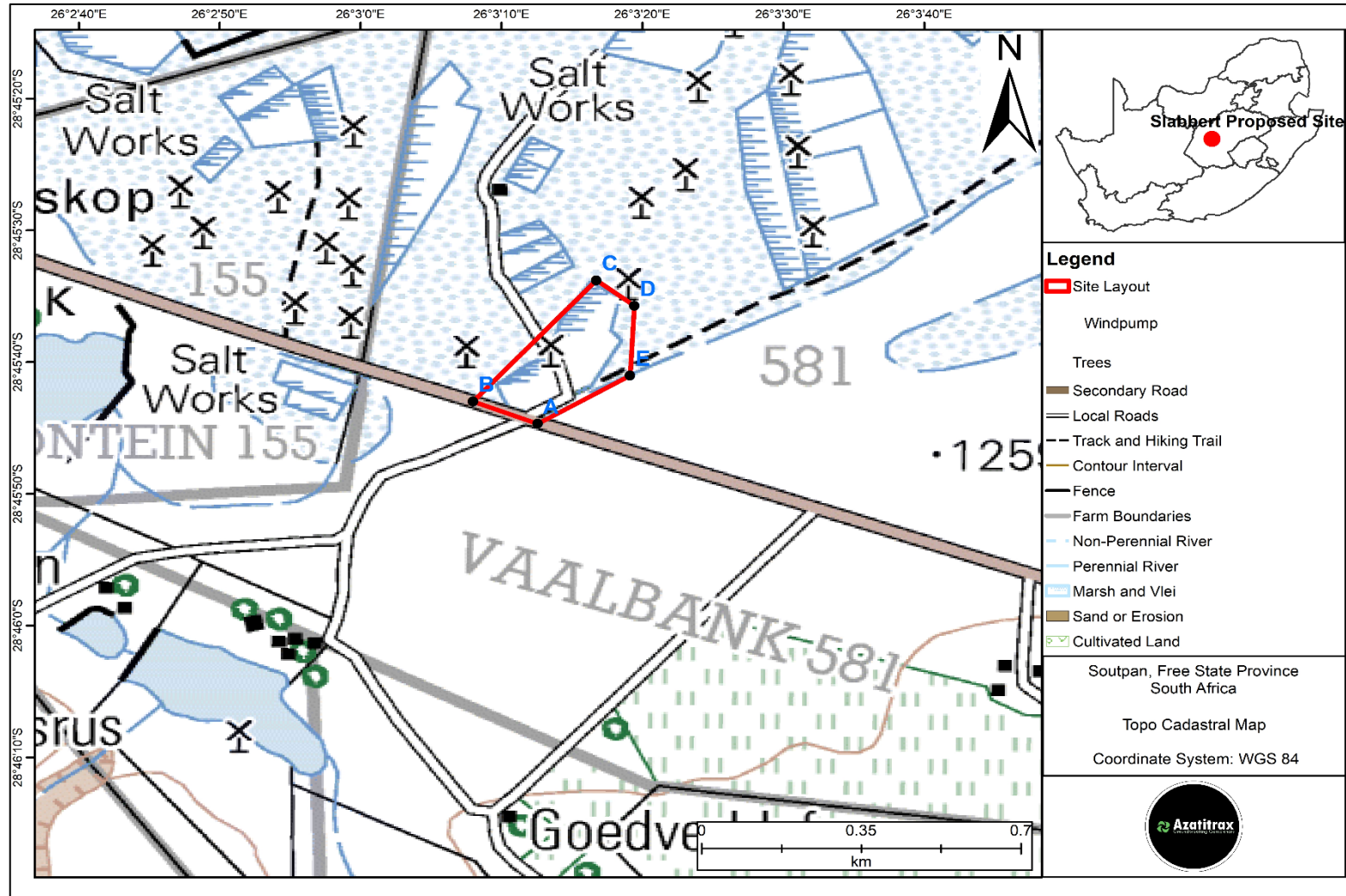
Director

Duduza.ntombela@gmail.com

0782251127

Appendix B

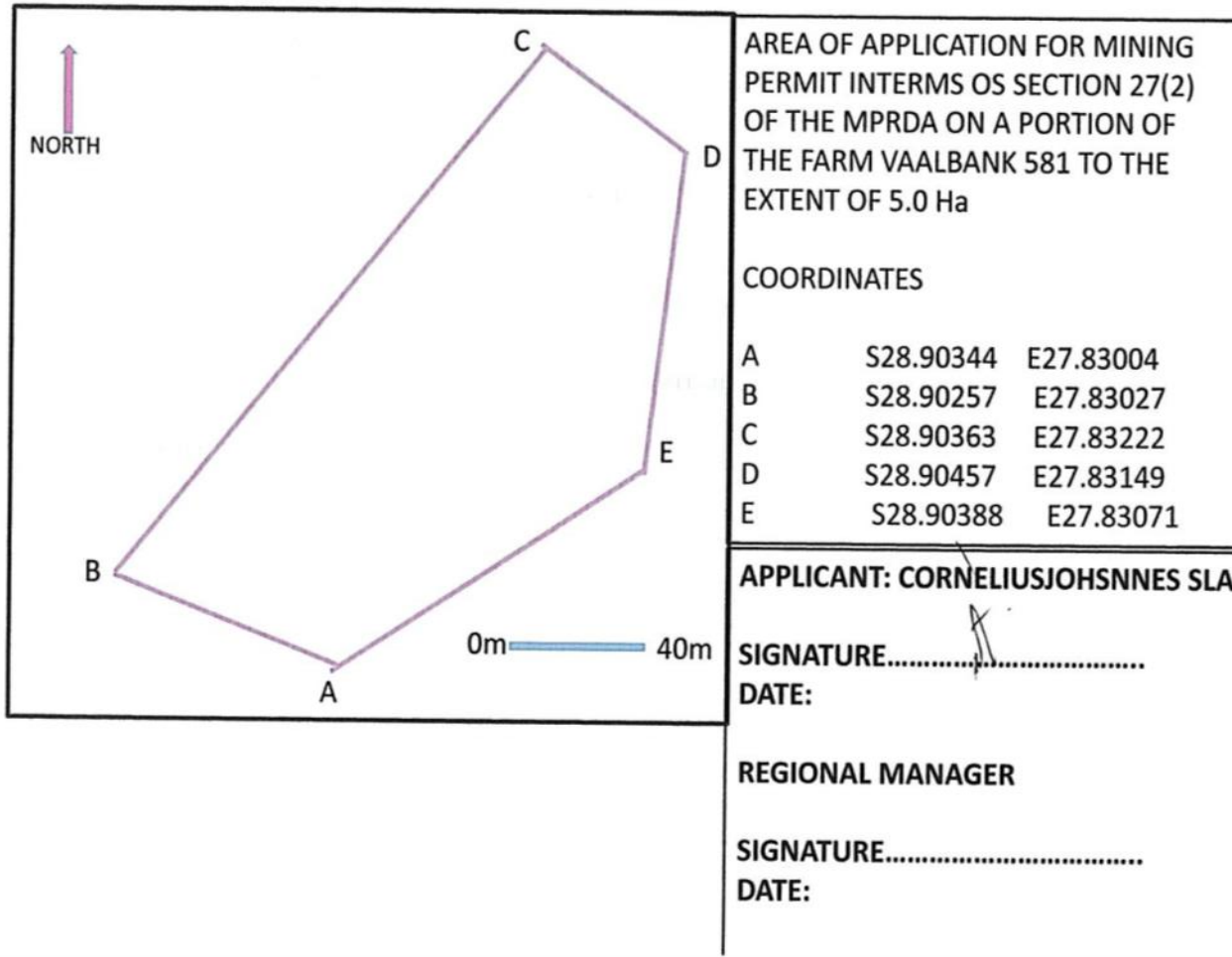
LOCALITY OF MINING PERMIT APPLICATION AREA



MAP INDICATING
LOCALITY WHERE
MINING PERMIT IS
APPLIED FOR
HIGHLIGHTED WITH
RED SHAPE

APPLICANT: Mr
Cornelius J. Slabbert

PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT



CURRENT LAND USE

