BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR PROPOSED TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 3 OF THE FARM NABOOMSPRUIT 348 KR, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MORA Ecological Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed to conduct a biodiversity impact assessment for the proposed township development in Mookgophong Town within Mogalakwena Local Municipality, Limpopo Province. The site was investigated to determine the potential impacts on the immediate natural environment.

Below are some of the potential impacts that have been identified.

- (i) Local loss of protected and local plant species
- (ii) Loss of micro habitat
- (iii) Introduction of alien invasive plant species

Floral species of conservation concern (SCC) which were observed along the project site footprint site include individuals of Marula. These species are to be avoided throughout all the phases of the project. Where avoidance is inevitable, the applicant must apply for a permit.

The proposed development and associated activities are likely to cause minimal vegetation disturbance as majority of the habitats have already been disturbed as a result of subsistence farming, illegal dumping and settlement nearby.

In terms of fauna, the project site has a low mammal and reptile diversity. This may be due to the clearance of vegetation. Furthermore, no amphibians were observed during the field surveys. Their absence may be due to no availability of perennial standing water.

The impacts associated with the township establishment are likely to be from Moderate to Low after implementation of mitigation measures.

It is therefore the opinion of the specialist that the proposed township development be considered. However, it is important that the mitigations and recommendations provided by this study are adhered to in order to reduce the impacts.

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DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, Mokgatla Molepo, in my capacity as a lead specialist consultant, hereby declare that I:

- Act/acted as an independent specialist to Real Development Planning Company for this project.
- Do not have any personal, business or financial interest in the project expect for financial remuneration for specialist investigations completed in a professional capacity as specified by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017.
- Will not be affected by the outcome of the environmental process, of which this report forms part of.
- Do not have any influence over the decisions made by the governing authorities.
- Do not object to or endorse the proposed developments but aim to present facts and my best scientific and professional opinion regarding the impacts of the development.
- Undertake to disclose to the relevant authorities any information that has or may have the potential to influence its decision or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017.

INDEMNITY

- This report is based on survey and assessment techniques which are limited by time and budgetary constraints relevant to the type and level of investigation undertaken.
- This report is based on a desktop investigation using available information and data related to the site to be affected, *in situ* fieldwork, surveys and assessments and the specialists best scientific and professional knowledge.
- The Precautionary Principle has been applied throughout this investigation.
- The findings, results, observations, conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based
 on the specialist's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as information available at the
 time of study.
- Additional information may become known or available during a later stage of the process for which
 no allowance could have been made at the time of this report.
- The specialist reserves the right to modify this report, recommendations and conclusions at any stage should additional information become available.
- Information and recommendations in this report cannot be applied to any other area without proper investigation.
- This report, in its entirety or any portion thereof, may not be altered in any manner or form or for any purpose without the specific and written consent of the specialist as specified above.
- Acceptance of this report, in any physical or digital form, serves to confirm acknowledgement of these terms and liabilities.

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Mokgatla Molepo Pr. Nat. Sci (009509)

06 May 2022

Project Team

Table 1: Project Team

Project Role	Name	Qualifications
Ecologist & Floral Specialist	Ramokone Mothwa	BSc. Botany & Microbiology (University of Venda), BSc. Hons. Botany (University of Limpopo) MSc. Botany (University of Pretoria – Current)
Ecologist & Faunal Specialist	Mokgatla Molepo	BSc. Botany & Zoology (University of Venda), BSc. Hons. Zoology (University of Limpopo) MSc. Zoology (Nelson Mandela University)
Junior Ecologist	Dineo Makhubela	NDip. Environmental Science (Tshwane of Technology)

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Humans alter their environment to suit their needs, to improve their quality of life, and to encourage economic growth. Generally, it is now accepted that development should be planned to make the best possible use of natural resources and to avoid degradation of the environment. Hence the need to pay explicit attention to environmental factors in the decision-making process. This should entail an accurate prediction and assessment of the impact of any development on the environment. It is essential for such assessment procedures to be developed alongside development planning, with the necessary mitigation that could inform development projects to conserve the natural environment.

MORA Ecological Services (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as independent specialists to undertake a biodiversity impact assessment for the proposed township establishment on Remainder of Portion 3 of the Farm Naboomspruit 348 KR, in Limpopo Province. The proposed development site is located between Mookgophong Town and the Township. The site is located roughly at the following GPS coordinates: 28°43'01.59"E; 24°31' 25.52"S as shown in Figure 1.

The ecological sensitivity of the entire study area was assessed, however, during the field survey, the ecological impacts from the proposed development were narrowed down to the receiving environment.

The proposed development entails the following:

- 85 Residential 1 (dwelling house)
- 2 Institutional (orphanage and early childhood development centre)
- 1 Business 1 (shops and other business related uses)
- 1 Place of Public Worship
- 1 Municipal (municipal commonage)
- 1 Government (social services offices)



Figure 1: Location of the study site.

TERMS OF REFERENCES

It is required that the assessment provides technical advice on the following information, applicable to the proposed project on the site: a brief discussion on the vegetation types in which the study area is situated using available literature in order to place the study in context was summarized as follows:

- A broad-scale map of the vegetation of the proposed site.
- A description of the dominant and characteristic species within the broad-scale plant communities;
- A list of Red Data plant and animal species previously recorded within the site which the study area is situated, obtained from the relevant authorities and literature reviews;
- Identification of sensitive habitats and plant communities;
- Preliminary investigation of the impacts of the project and the provision of recommended mitigation measures;
- Identify and assess any cumulative impacts arising from the project where there
 is major uncertainty, low levels of confidence in predictions and poor data or
 information. Recommend practicable mitigation measures to minimize or
 eliminate negative impacts and or enhance potential project benefits; and
- Recommend appropriate monitoring measures.

ASSUMPTIONS, LIMITATIONS, UNCERTAINTIES, AND GAP ANALYSIS

The findings, results, observations, conclusions, and recommendations provided in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information regarding the perceived impacts on terrestrial environment.

A description of vegetation was based on the physical field surveys and site walkthrough and investigations as performed on site. Limited time and access to other private properties was a constraint during field surveys.

The site assessment did not include the adjacent properties.

Results presented in this report are based on a snapshot investigation of the study site and not on detailed and long-term investigations of all environmental attributes and the varying degrees of biological diversity that may be present in the study site.

Once-off assessments such as this may potentially miss certain ecological information, thus limiting accuracy, detail and confidence.

The assessment of impacts and recommendation of mitigation measures were informed by the site-specific ecological issues arising from the field survey and based on the assessor's working knowledge and experience with similar projects.

SURVEY METHODS AND REPORTING

General

The report relies on aerial images and ortho photos to gather background information on a variety of features and vegetation communities occurring on the study site. On site data was collected through walkthrough transects in April 2021 that covered the whole study site. All literature used in this study is listed in the reference section.

Climate

The area is influenced by the local steppe climate. In Mookgophong, there is little rainfall throughout the year. The average temperature in Mookgophong is 19.5 °C. Precipitation here is about 599 mm per year.

According to Köppen -Geiger system (Kottek *et al.* 2006), the study site falls within the BSh (Local steppe) climatic region (Fig. 3).

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Avg. Temperature °C (°F)	22.9 °C (73.3) °F	23.1 °C (73.6) °F	21.8 °C (71.3) °F	19 °C (66.2) °F	16.2 °C (61.2) °F	13.5 °C (56.3) °F	13.2 °C (55.7) °F	16.4 °C (61.6) °F	20.1 °C (68.2) °F	22 °C (71.6) °F	22.3 °C (72.1) °F	22.8 °C (73) °F
Min. Temperature °C (°F)	17.7 °C (63.8) °F	17.7 °C (63.9) °F	16.4 °C (61.5) °F	13.2 °C (55.8) °F	9.7 °C (49.4) °F	6.7 °C (44) °F	6 °C (42.8) °F	8.6 °C (47.5) °F	12.1 °C (53.8) °F	14.6 °C (58.3) °F	16.1 °C (61) °F	17.4 °C (63.4) °F
Max. Temperature °C (°F)	28.2 °C (82.8) °F	28.5 °C (83.4) °F	27.4 °C (81.4) °F	24.9 °C (76.9) °F	23.1 °C (73.6) °F	20.7 °C (69.3) °F	°C	24.3 °C (75.8) °F	28 °C (82.4) °F	29.3 °C (84.8) °F	28.6 °C (83.4) °F	28.3 °C (82.9) °F
Precipitation / Rainfall mm (in)	112 (4.4)	78 (3.1)	73 (2.9)	41 (1.6)	13 (0.5)	4 (0.2)	3 (0.1)	4 (0.2)	14 (0.6)	47 (1.9)	96 (3.8)	114 (4.5)
Humidity(%)	63%	60%	60%	61%	52%	51%	45%	38%	36%	43%	54%	63%
Rainy days (d)	10	7	7	4	2	1	0	1	2	5	9	11
avg. Sun hours (hours)	9.6	9.5	9.0	8.5	9.1	8.9	9.0	9.6	9.8	10.1	9.8	9.7

Figure 2: Climatic figures of the study area.

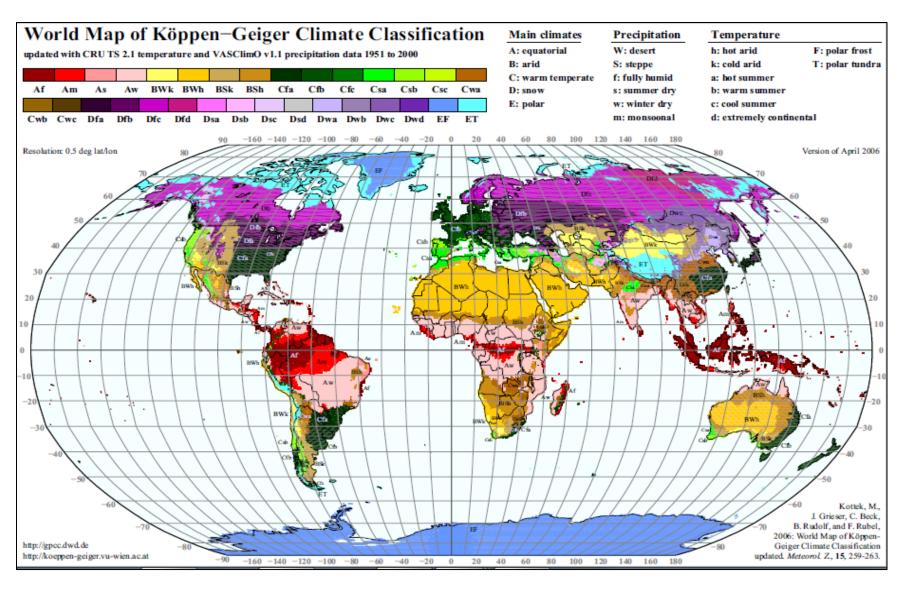


Figure 3: World map of Köppen -Geiger Climate Classification.

Methodology Floral Assessment

Prior to site visit, a list of species that could potentially occur at the site was downloaded from "New Plants of Southern Africa" (POSA) on the South African Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) website at http://posa.sanbi.org. This list is provided at the quarter degree square (QDS) level of accuracy for the QDS 2330 BA.

A visual reconnaissance of the study area was done before the survey commenced. Different homogenous vegetation units were identified and subsequently surveyed on foot and by vehicle in order to determine the floristic composition of each.

A plotless sampling method was used to record data. Plant species observed in the study area during the time of the study were recorded and included in the plant species lists. Other specialists were consulted in order to assist in plant species identification. No formal consultation process was conducted as part of this floristic study as it was not deemed necessary at the time of the study.

Faunal Assessment

Prior to the initial visit, satellite images (Google Earth) of the site were studied and the different habitat types identified (uniform features from an aerial perspective). The sites were then ground-truthed upon arrival.

No formal consultation process was conducted as part of this faunal study as it was not deemed necessary at the time of the study.

Vegetation of the study site

The vegetation units of Mucina and Rutherford (2006) were used as references but where necessary communities are named according to the recommendations of a standardised South African Syntaxonomic nomenclature system. By combining the available literature with the survey results, stratification of vegetation communities was possible.

The aim was to identify distinct vegetation types and to establish their integrity and representation in the study area. The veld types are described on a local level.

Vegetation types and biophysical descriptions

Vegetation units are broadly classed and may include several distinct vegetation communities within a unit. The dominant vegetation type found on the study site is Springbokvlakte Thornveld (Fig. 4).

Springbokvlakte Thornveld

Vegetation & Landscape Features

Open to dense, low thorn savanna dominated by Acacia species or shrubby grassland with a very low shrub layer. Occurs on flat to slightly undulating plains.

Geology & Soils

The geology and soils are described according to DWAF (2003). Rocks are part of the volcano-sedimentary Karoo Supergroup. Most abundant in the area are the mafic volcanics (tholeitic and olivine basalts and nephelinites) of the Letaba Formation, then the mudstones of the Irrigasie Formation and the shale, with sandstone units, of the Ecca Group. Soils are red-yellow apedal, freely drained with high base status and self-mulching, black, vertic clays. The vertic soils, with a fluctuating water table, experience prolonged periods of swelling and shrinking during wet and dry periods, considerable soil cracking when dry, a loose soil surface, high calcium carbonate content and gilgai microrelief. Land types mainly Ae and Ea. (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).

Distribution

This vegetation type is found in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North-West and Gauteng Provinces: Flats from Zebediela in the northeast to Hammanskraal and Assen in the southwest as well as from Bela-Bela and Mookgophong in the northwest to Marble Hall and Rust de Winter in the southeast. It occurs on a varying altitude ranging between 900–1 200 m (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).

Occurrence of important flora

<u>Small Trees</u>: Vachellia karroo (d), V. luederitzii var. retinens (d), V. mellifera subsp. detinens (d), V. nilotica (d), Ziziphus mucronata (d), V. tortilis subsp. heteracantha, Boscia foetida subsp. rehmanniana.

<u>Tall Shrubs</u>: Euclea undulata (d), Rhus engleri (d), Dichrostachys cinerea, Diospyros lycioides subsp. lycioides, Grewia flava, Tarchonanthus camphoratus.

Low Shrubs: Vachellia tenuispina (d), Ptycholobium plicatum.

Succulent Shrub: Kleinia longiflora.

<u>Herbaceous Climbers:</u> *Momordica balsamina, Rhynchosia minima. Graminoids: Aristida bipartita (d), Dichanthium annulatum var. papillosum (d), Ischaemum afrum (d), Setaria incrassata (d), Aristida canescens, Brachiaria eruciformis.*

<u>Herbs:</u> Aspilia mossambicensis, Indigastrum parviflorum, Nidorella hottentotica, Orthosiphon suffrutescens, Senecio apiifolius.

Conservation

This vegetation type is Endangered. Conservation Target is 19% but only 1% is statutorily conserved, mainly in the Mkombo Nature Reserve. Roughly three times this area is conserved in several other reserves. At least 49% transformed, including about 45% cultivated and 3% urban and built-up. Dense rural populations in parts of the southern and eastern side of the unit. Very scattered alien plants over wide areas include *Cereus jamacaru*, *Eucalyptus species*, *Lantana camara*, *Melia azedarach*, *Opuntia ficus-indica* and *Sesbania punicea*. Erosion is very low to moderate

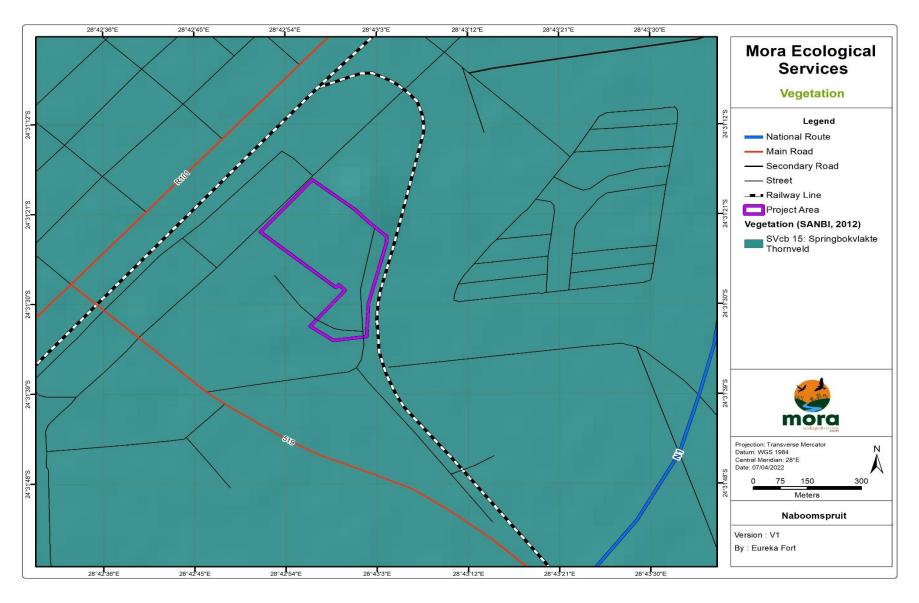


Figure 4: Vegetation map of the study site.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act (Act No. 108 of 1996) - Section 24.

The Constitution is South Africa's overarching law. It prescribes minimum standards with which existing and new laws must comply. Chapter 2 of the Constitution contains the Bill of Rights in which basic human rights are enshrined. Government's commitment to give effect to the environmental rights enshrined in the Constitution is evident from the enactment of various pieces of environmental legislation since 1996, including the National Water Act, the National Environmental Management Act, etc.

National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended.

NEMA replaces a number of the provisions of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989). The Act provides for cooperative environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote cooperative governance and procedures for coordinating environmental functions. The principles enshrined in NEMA guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of the Act with regards to the protection and / or management of the environment. These principles serve as a framework within which environmental management must be formulated. Section 2(4) specifies that "sustainable development requires the consideration of all relevant factors including aspects specifically relevant to biodiversity":

National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA).

NEMBA provides for the management and conservation of biological diversity and components thereof; the use of indigenous biological resources in a sustainable manner; the fair and equitable sharing of benefits rising from bio-prospecting of biological resources; and cooperative governance in biodiversity management and conservation within the framework of NEMA.

National Forests Act (No. 84 of 1998):

The National Forests Act provides for the protection of forests as well as specific tree species, quoting directly from the Act: "no person may cut, disturb, damage or destroy any protected tree or possess, collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree or any forest product derived from a protected tree, except under a licence or exemption granted by the Minister to an applicant and subject to such period and conditions as may be stipulated".

Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act 43 of 1983):

The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act provides for the regulation of control over the utilisation of the natural agricultural resources in order to promote the conservation of soil, water and vegetation and provides for combating weeds and invader plant species. The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act defines different categories of alien plants and those listed under Category 1 are prohibited and must be controlled while those listed under Category 2 must be grown within a demarcated area under permit. Category 3 includes ornamental plants that may no longer be planted but existing plants may remain provided that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spreading thereof, except within the floodline of water courses and wetlands.

Provincial legislation

In addition to national legislation, some of South Africa's nine provinces have their own provincial biodiversity legislation, as nature conservation is a concurrent function of national and provincial government in terms of the Constitution (Act 108 of 1996).

Limpopo Conservation Plan

Limpopo Conservation Plan was initiated by Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism. This Conservation Plan v3.3 delineates on a map, commonly known as a Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA), biodiversity priority areas called Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas and Protected Areas. These areas are the portfolio of sites that are required to meet the region's biodiversity targets and need to be maintained in the appropriate condition for their category. It is highly recommended that this Conservation Plan be a primary biodiversity consideration in Environmental Impact Assessments.

Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) are terrestrial and aquatic areas of the landscape that need to be maintained in a natural or near-natural state in order to ensure the continued existence and functioning of species and ecosystems and the delivery of ecosystem services. In other words, if these areas are not maintained in a natural or near-natural state then biodiversity targets cannot be met. Maintaining an area in a natural state can include a variety of biodiversity compatible land uses and resource uses.

Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) are terrestrial and aquatic areas that are not essential for meeting biodiversity representation targets (thresholds), but which nevertheless play an important role in supporting the ecological functioning of critical biodiversity areas and/or in delivering ecosystem services that support socio-economic development, such as water provision, flood mitigation or carbon sequestration. The degree or extent of

restriction on land use and resource use in these areas may be lower than that recommended for CBAs.

In terms of Limpopo Conservation Plan, the proposed project falls within Ecological Support Area 1 and 2 (see Fig. 5).

During the fieldwork, the study site was assessed in terms of its sensitivity, and the level of sensitivity was mapped.

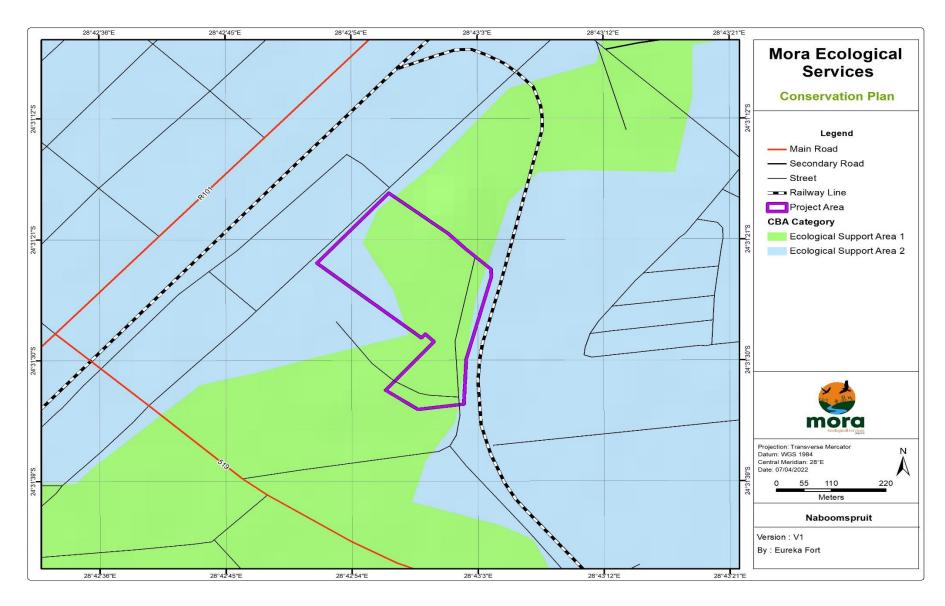


Figure 5: Conservation Plan of the study site.

Red Data Analysis and Floral Assessment

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) RedList website was used to determine the conservation status of the species. This is done in order to conserve sensitive species and their immediate environment. The status is determined in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Red Data Status definitions (SANBI, 2010).

p- protecte	ed Species	
M- Medicir	nal species	
EX	Extinct	A taxon is Extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. Taxa should be listed as extinct only once exhaustive surveys throughout the historic range have failed to record an individual.
EW	Extinct in the Wild	A taxon is Extinct in the Wild when it is known to survive only in cultivation or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range.
CR PE	Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct	Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) taxa are those that are, on the balance of evidence, likely to be extinct, but for which there is a small chance that they may be extant. Hence, they should not be listed as Extinct until adequate surveys have failed to record the taxon.
CR	Critically Endangered	A taxon is Critically Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the five IUCN criteria for Critically Endangered and is therefore facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
EN	Endangered	A taxon is Endangered when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the five IUCN criteria for Endangered and is therefore facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
VU	Vulnerable	A taxon is Vulnerable when the best available evidence indicates that it meets any of the five IUCN criteria for Vulnerable and is therefore facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
NT	Near Threatened	A taxon is Near Threatened when available evidence indicates that it nearly meets any of the five IUCN criteria for Vulnerable and is therefore likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.
CRITICALI	LY RARE	A taxon is Critically Rare when it is known to occur only at a single site but is not exposed to any direct or plausible potential threat and does not qualify for a category of threat according to the five IUCN criteria.
RARE		A taxon is Rare when it meets any of the four South African criteria for rarity but is not exposed to any direct or plausible potential threat and does not qualify for a category of threat according to the five IUCN criteria.

DECLINING		A taxon is Declining when it does not meet any of the five IUCN criteria and does not qualify for the categories Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened, but there are threatening processes causing a continuing decline in the population.
DDD	Data Deficient— Insufficient Information	A taxon is DDD when there is inadequate information to make an assessment of its risk of extinction, but the taxon is well defined. Data Deficient is not a category of threat. However, listing of taxa in this category indicates that more information is required, and that future research could show that a threatened classification is appropriate.
LC	Least Concern	A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the five IUCN criteria and does not qualify for the categories Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened, and it is not rare, and the population is not declining.

Ecological function

Ecological function relates to the degree of ecological connectivity between systems within a landscape matrix. Therefore, systems with a high degree of landscape connectivity amongst one another are perceived to be more sensitive and will be those contributing to ecosystem service (for example wetlands) or overall preservation of biodiversity. Conservation importance relates to species diversity, endemism (unique species or unique processes) and the high occurrence of threatened and protected species or ecosystems protected by legislation.

Sensitivity scale

- High ecological function: Sensitive ecosystems with either low inherent resistance or resilience towards disturbance factors or highly dynamic systems considered to be stable and important for the maintenance of ecosystems integrity for example pristine grasslands, pristine wetlands and pristine ridges.
- Medium ecological function: Relatively important ecosystems at gradients of intermediate disturbances. An area may be considered of medium ecological function if it is directly adjacent to sensitive/pristine ecosystem.
- Low ecological function: Degraded and highly disturbed systems with little or no ecological function.
- No Go Areas: Areas that have irreplaceable biodiversity or important ecosystem function values which may be lost permanently if these ecosystems are transformed, with a high potential of also affecting adjacent and/or downstream ecosystems negatively

Conservation status of the vegetation

- **High conservation importance**: Ecosystems with high species richness which usually provide suitable habitat for several threatened species. Usually termed 'nogo' areas and unsuitable for development and should be conserved.
- Medium conservation importance: Ecosystems with intermediate levels of species diversity without any threatened species. Low-density development may be accommodated, provided the current species diversity is conserved.
- **Low conservation importance**: Areas with little or no conservation potential and usually species poor (most species are usually exotic).

Cognizance was taken of the following environmental attributes and general information:

- Regional and local vegetation
- Current status of habitats
- Red Data habitat suitability, and
- Digital photographs

Phytosociological data accumulated include the following:

- Plant species and growth forms
- Dominant plant species
- Cover abundance values, and
- Samples or digital images of unidentified plant species

The system ecological function is **Low**.

RESULTS

Biological diversity everywhere is at great risk as a direct result of an ever-expanding human population and its associated needs for energy, water, food and minerals. Landscape transformation that is needed to accommodate these activities inevitably leads to habitat loss and habitat fragmentation, resulting in the mosaical appearance of undisturbed habitat within a matrix of transformed areas. These remaining areas of natural habitat are frequently too small to support the biodiversity that previously occupied the area, and the region loses its ecological integrity (Kamffer 2004).

Majority of habitats within the proposed project site have been disturbed, as a result they are categorized under **Low Sensitivity** and **Low Ecological Function** (Fig. 6).



Figure 6: Site sensitivity of the area.

Below are tables containing species recorded on site during the survey.

Plants

Majority of the natural vegetation has been removed for small subsistence farming purposes.

Table 3: Plant species observed at the study area.

Species	Common Name	Growth Form	IUCN Conservation Status	
Vachellia karoo	Sweet thorn	Tree	LC	
Sclerocarya birrea subsp. Caffra p	Marula	Tree	LC (Protected)	
Terminalia sericea	Silver Cluster Leaf	Tree	LC	
Ziziphus mucronata	Buffalo Thorn	Tree	LC	
Dichrostachys cinerea	Sickle Bush	Shrub	LC	
Urochloa mosambicensis	Bushveld Signal Grass	Grass	LC	
Panicum schinzii	Sweet Grass	Grass	LC	
Aristida congesta subsp. Congesta	Tassel Three-awn	Grass	LC	
Hyparrhenia hirta	Common Thatching Grass	Grass	LC	

Invasive alien plants are known to threaten three main components of the landscape: agricultural potential of the land, biodiversity value of the land, and water quality and quantity. Alien invasive plants impact water resources negatively by reducing surface water flow. Several studies have investigated the impact of these plants on water resources (see Blignaut et al. 2007). These studies concurred that invasive alien plants including forest plantations have a significant negative impact on stream flow. Le Maitre et al. (2016) reported that species such as *Acacia mearnsii* account for more than 30% of the total flow reductions, followed by pines (18.9%) and eucalyptus (15.0%).

Table 4: Weeds and invasive plant species observed at the study area.

Species	Common Name	Growth Form	Category (NEMBA)
Lantana camara	Lantana	Shrub	(Declared Category 1b)
Melia azedarach	Syringa	Tree	(Declared Category 2)
Amaranthus spp	Pigweed	Herb	Weed

Reptiles

Herpetofauna are specialized in habitat requirements, are sensitive to habitat modification and face global extinction crises. While herpetofauna are important components of ecosystems they are little studied especially in human-modified landscapes. Herpetofauna do occur in human modified landscapes, so encouraging appropriate matrix land uses could contribute to their conservation. No reptiles were observed during the survey, but they are likely to be encountered during the excavations and construction activities. List of reptile species that may be found at the study area have been listed in the appendix.

Birds

Birds are regarded as one of the most useful bioindicators, and they have been used extensively as models to determine ecosystem function (see review Koskimies 1989; Potts et al. 2014; Bregman et al. 2016). High levels of human disturbance as well as habitat transformation and degradation on the study site and adjacent areas would result in the disappearance of the more elusive bird species.

Table 5: List of bird species recorded at the study site.

Species	Common Name	IUCN Conservation Status
Motacilla aguimp	African Wagtail	LC
Pycnonotus tricolor	Dark capped Bulbul	LC
Vanellus armatus	Blacksmith Lapwing	LC
Cisticola fulvicapilla	Neddicky	LC
Apalis thoracica	Bar-throated Apalis	LC
Quelea quelea	Red-billed Quelea	LC
Crithagra mozambicus	Yellow-fronted Canary	LC

Bostrychia hagedash	Hadeda Ibis	LC
Ardea melanocephala	Black-headed Heron	LC
Spilopelia senegalensis	Laughing Dove	LC
Ploceus cucullatus	Village Weaver	LC
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	LC
Passer melanurus	Cape Sparrow	LC
Vidua macroura	Pin-tailed Whydah	LC
Turtur chalcospilos	Emerald Dove	LC
Prionops plumatus	White-crested Helmeted Shrike	LC
Corvus albus	Pied Crow	LC
Charadrius tricollaris	Three-banded Plover	LC
Lamprotornis bicolor	Pied Starling	LC
Scopus umbrette	Hamerkop	LC
Uraeginthus angolensis	Blue Waxbill	LC
Lamprotornis nitens	Cape Glossy Starling	LC

Mammals

Local mammalian communities in Africa present the highest species richness in the world, only paralleled by some communities in the Oriental biogeographic region. South Africa contains the majority of southern Africa's endemic mammals and hence is an important area for mammal conservation (Gelderblom & Bronner 1995). The majority of larger mammal species are likely to have been displaced or have moved away from the area due to daily human presence.

The main impacts

- Local loss of plant species
- Loss of micro habitat
- Further introduction of alien species

Impact Assessment and Mitigations

Impact Phase: Construction

Potential impact description: Impacts on vegetation

The major impact during this phase will result from vegetation clearance for infrastructure and internal roads.

	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Status	Significance	Probability	Confidence
Without	М	М	М	Negative	М	Н	Н
Mitigation							
With	L	L	L	Negative	М	M	Н
Mitigation							
Can the im	pact be	No, once ve	egetation is o	leared, it wo	uld be possible	to return it to i	ts previous
reversed?		state.					
Will impact	cause	Yes. Specie	es of Conser	vation Conc	ern are likely to	be impacted by	y the
irreplaceab	le	developme	nt.				
loss or reso	ources?						
Can impact	t be	Partly. Altho	ough mitigati	ons will be p	rovided, vegeta	tion loss would	d be
avoided,		inevitable.					
managed o	r						
mitigated?							

Mitigation measures:

- Marula should not be removed. Where avoidance is impossible, Tree permit will need to be applied for.
- Sparsely vegetated areas should be cleared first, with densely vegetated areas being cleared last
- All vegetation not required to be removed should be protected against damage.

Impact Phase: Construction

Potential impact description: Introduction of alien invasive plants

Cleared areas which are not rehabilitated are likely to be invaded by aliens and pioneer plants.

	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Status	Significance	Probability	Confidence	
Without	М	Н	М	Negative	М	Н	Н	
Mitigation								
With	L	L	L	Negative	L	L	Н	
Mitigation								
Can the im	pact be	This impact can be prevented through appropriate mitigation measures.						
reversed?								
Will impact cause		No. If this impact is correctly addressed, then no loss of resources will occur.						
irreplaceable								
loss or resources?								
Can impact be		Yes. This impact can be avoided if appropriate mitigation measures are						
avoided,		followed.						
managed or								
mitigated?								

Mitigation measures:

- Any extensive cleared areas that are no longer or not required for construction activities should be re-seeded with locally sourced seed of suitable species. Bare areas can also be packed with brush removed from other parts of the site to encourage natural vegetation regeneration and limit erosion.
- Alien management plan to be implemented during the operational phase of the development, which makes provision for regular alien clearing and monitoring.

Impact Phase: Construction

Potential impact description: Direct and indirect and faunal Impacts

Slow-moving species such as the tortoises are likely to be killed by construction machinery.

	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Status	Significance	Probability	Confidence		
Without	L	L	М	Negative	M	Н	Н		
Mitigation									
With	L	L	M	Negative	M	M	Н		
Mitigation									
Can the impact be		Yes, Construction phase disturbance is short term.							
reversed?	reversed?								
Will impact	Will impact cause		No. No Species of Conservation Concern are likely to be impacted by the						
irreplaceable		development.							
loss or resources?									
Can impact be		Yes. Contractors should be informed about slow moving species that are likely							
avoided,		to be crushed by construction vehicles.							
managed or									
mitigated?									

Mitigation measures:

- No animal may be hunted, trapped, snared or captured for any purpose whatsoever.
- Speed of vehicles should be limited to allow for sufficient safety margins.

Table 6: General impacts and mitigations for the entire site.

Impact Description	Impact significance before mitigations	Recommendations and mitigations	Impact(s) significance after mitigations	Score
Vegetation clearance	High	Marula trees should be avoided as far as possible. Where avoidance is inevitable, a permit to disturb should be applied. Sparsely vegetated areas should be cleared first, with densely vegetated areas being cleared last. All vegetation not required to be removed should be protected against damage.	Medium	4
Animals and birds displacement	Medium	No animal may be hunted, trapped, snared or captured for any purpose whatsoever. Watercourse and associated vegetation should be avoided. Speed of vehicles should be limited to allow for sufficient safety margins.	Low	2
Possible introduction of alien species due to increased human related activities	High	Avoid translocating stockpiles of topsoil from one place to another in order to avoid translocating soil seed banks of alien species. Any extensive cleared areas that are no longer or not required for construction activities should be re-seeded with locally sourced seed of suitable species. Bare areas can also be packed with brush removed from other parts of the site to encourage natural vegetation regeneration and limit erosion. Invasive Alien Plant eradication and control program should be developed.	Medium	4
Total				10

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The proposed township development will result in severe vegetation clearance. Possible impacts to the receiving environment have been identified as being medium-high.

Recommendations below will further help to lower the said impacts. *Recommendations*:

- No collection of firewood, protected species or medicinal floral species must be allowed by construction personnel.
- No painting or marking of vegetation to identify locality or other information shall be allowed, as it will disfigure the natural setting. Marking shall be done by steel stakes with tags, if required.
- Avoid translocating topsoil stockpiles from one place to another or importing topsoil from other sources that may contain alien plant propagules.
- Only necessary damage must be caused: for example, unnecessary driving around in the veld should not take place.
- It is imperative that the mitigation measures outlined in this report are implemented during construction and operational phases.

REHABILITATION

The traditional definition of rehabilitation aims at returning the land in a given area to some degree of its former state after a particular process has resulted in its damage.

Rehabilitation requires that there is an attempt to imitate natural processes and reinstate natural ecological driving forces in such a way that it aids the recovery (or maintenance) of dynamic systems so that, although they are unlikely to be identical to their natural counterparts, they will be comparable in critical ways so as to function similarly (Jordan et al.1987).

Rehabilitation should be based on an understanding of both the ecological starting point and on a defined goal endpoint and should accept that it is not possible to predict exactly how the environment is likely to respond to the rehabilitation interventions. A rehabilitation plan should be compiled and implemented. This should be done using indigenous vegetation.

CONCLUSION

The biodiversity assessment revealed that the proposed township establishment will be located on moderate-severely disturbed areas. As a result, the ecological integrity of the site is in a poor condition, and it cannot maintain the ecological processes.

In terms of fauna, the project site has a low mammal and reptile diversity. Furthermore, no amphibians were observed during the field surveys. Their absence may be due to no availability of perennial standing water.

The impacts associated with the project are likely to be from Moderate to Low after implementation of mitigation measures.

It is therefore the opinion of the specialist that the proposed township establishment be considered. However, it is important that the mitigations and recommendations provided by this study are adhered to.

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APPENDIX

Appendix A: Site photos

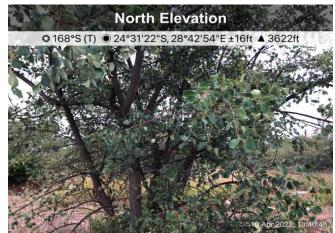
Patches of disturbed ares within the site



Seringa seedling (alien)



Marula tree



Wild medlar



Appendix B: Historical mammal species records from the broader study area

NO.	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Red list category	Last recorded
1	Bovidae	Aepyceros melampus	Impala	Least Concern	2015-07-27
2	Bovidae	Connochaetes taurinus	Blue Wildebeest	Least Concern (ver 3.1, 2017)	2018-06-18
3	Bovidae	Connochaetes taurinus		Least Concern (2016)	2016-11-26
		taurinus			
4	Bovidae	Damaliscus lunatus lunatus	(Southern African)	Vulnerable (2016)	2021-03-21
			Tsessebe		
5	Bovidae	Hippotragus equinus	Roan Antelope	Endangered (2016)	2019-09-13
6	Bovidae	Kobus ellipsiprymnus	Waterbuck	Least Concern (ver 3.1, 2016)	2019-09-13
7	Bovidae	Kobus ellipsiprymnus		Least Concern (2016)	
		ellipsiprymnus			
8	Bovidae	Oreotragus oreotragus	Klipspringer	Least Concern (2016)	2016-09-03
9	Bovidae	Raphicerus campestris	Steenbok	Least Concern (2016)	2019-09-13
10	Bovidae	Redunca sp.	Reedbucks		
11	Bovidae	Redunca arundinum	Southern Reedbuck	Least Concern (2016)	2008-11-15
12	Bovidae	Sylvicapra grimmia	Bush Duiker	Least Concern (2016)	
13	Bovidae	Taurotragus oryx	Common Eland	Least Concern (2016)	
14	Bovidae	Tragelaphus angasii	Nyala	Least Concern (2016)	2012-11-12
15	Bovidae	Tragelaphus scriptus	Bushbuck	Least Concern	
16	Bovidae	Tragelaphus strepsiceros	Greater Kudu	Least Concern (2016)	2015-12-05
17	Canidae	Canis sp.	Jackals and Wolves		
18	Canidae	Canis mesomelas	Black-backed Jackal	Least Concern (2016)	
19	Emballonurid	Taphozous (Taphozous)	Mauritian Tomb Bat	Least Concern	2010-02-19
	ae	mauritianus			
20	Equidae	Equus quagga	Plains Zebra	Least Concern (2016)	2018-03-21
21	Felidae	Acinonyx jubatus	Cheetah	Vulnerable (2016)	

22	Felidae	Felis silvestris	Wildcat	Least Concern (2016)	2015-07-20
23	Felidae	Panthera pardus	Leopard	Vulnerable (2016)	
24	Galagidae	Galago sp.	Lesser Galagos		2005-07-14
25	Giraffidae	Giraffa giraffa	South African Giraffe	Least Concern (2016)	2019-08-09
26	Gliridae	Graphiurus (Graphiurus)	Forest African	Least Concern	1987-03-18
		murinus	Dormouse		
27	Herpestidae	Atilax paludinosus	Marsh Mongoose	Least Concern (2016)	1979-10-28
28	Herpestidae	Mungos mungo	Banded Mongoose	Least Concern (2016)	2015-12-05
29	Hyaenidae	Hyaena brunnea	Brown Hyena	Near Threatened (2015)	2011-10-20
30	Hyaenidae	Proteles cristata	Aardwolf	Least Concern (2016)	1980-11-14
31	Hystricidae	Hystrix africaeaustralis	Cape Porcupine	Least Concern	2017-05-20
32	Leporidae	Lepus saxatilis	Scrub Hare	Least Concern	2020-10-03
33	Macroscelidi	Elephantulus brachyrhynchus	Short-snouted	Least Concern (2016)	1986-07-13
	dae		Elephant Shrew		
34	Muridae	Aethomys ineptus	Tete Veld Aethomys	Least Concern (2016)	1993-10-20
35	Muridae	Gerbilliscus brantsii	Highveld Gerbil	Least Concern (2016)	1966-03-28
36	Muridae	Gerbilliscus leucogaster	Bushveld Gerbil	Least Concern (2016)	1993-10-20
37	Muridae	Gerbilliscus paeba	Paeba Hairy-footed Gerbil	Least Concern (2016)	1966-04-15
38	Muridae	Mastomys natalensis	Natal Mastomys	Least Concern (2016)	1993-10-20
39	Muridae	Mus (Nannomys) minutoides	Southern African	Least Concern	1987-03-13
			Pygmy Mouse		
40	Muridae	Otomys angoniensis	Angoni Vlei Rat	Least Concern (2016)	1975-06-25
41	Muridae	Rhabdomys pumilio	Xeric Four-striped	Least Concern (2016)	1957-10-30
			Grass Rat		
42	Nesomyidae	Dendromus melanotis	Gray African Climbing	Least Concern (2016)	1987-03-14
			Mouse		

43	Nesomyidae	Saccostomus campestris	Southern African	Least Concern (2016)	1987-02-20
			Pouched Mouse		
44	Nesomyidae	Steatomys pratensis	Common African Fat	Least Concern (2016)	1987-12-03
			Mouse		
45	Nycteridae	Nycteris thebaica	Egyptian Slit-faced	Least Concern (2016)	1989-11-28
			Bat		
46	Pedetidae	Pedetes capensis	South African Spring	Least Concern (2016)	1994-01-10
			Hare		
47	Sciuridae	Paraxerus cepapi	Smith's Bush Squirrel	Least Concern (2016)	2017-09-30
48	Soricidae	Crocidura hirta	Lesser Red Musk	Least Concern (2016)	1986-02-23
			Shrew		
49	Soricidae	Crocidura mariquensis	Swamp Musk Shrew	Near Threatened (2016)	1975-06-25
50	Soricidae	Suncus lixus	Greater Dwarf Shrew	Least Concern (2016)	
51	Suidae	Phacochoerus africanus	Common Warthog	Least Concern (2016)	2019-08-09
52	Thryonomyid	Thryonomys swinderianus	Greater Cane Rat	Least Concern (2016)	
	ae				
53	Vespertilioni	Neoromicia capensis	Cape Serotine	Least Concern (2016)	1987-09-03
	dae				
54	Vespertilioni	Pipistrellus (Pipistrellus)	Rusty Pipistrelle	Near Threatened	1975-06-25
	dae	rusticus			
55	Vespertilioni	Scotophilus dinganii	Yellow-bellied House	Least Concern (2016)	2012-11-09
	dae		Bat		
56	Viverridae	Genetta genetta	Common Genet	Least Concern (2016)	2014-08-12
57	Viverridae	Genetta tigrina	Cape Genet (Cape	Least Concern (2016)	1986-07-25
			Large-spotted Genet)		
					1989-11-28*
					1975-06-25**

Appendix C: Historical reptile species records from the broader study area

NO.	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Red list category	Last recorded
1	Agamidae	Acanthocercus atricollis	Southern Tree Agama	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2022-02-26
2	Agamidae	Agama aculeata distanti	Distant's Ground Agama	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1978-11-28
3	Amphisbaenidae	Monopeltis infuscata	Dusky Worm Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
4	Chamaeleonidae	Chamaeleo dilepis	Common Flap-neck Chameleon	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2006-12-01
5	Colubridae	Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia	Red-lipped Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
6	Colubridae	Dasypeltis scabra	Rhombic Egg-eater	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2017-03-04
7	Colubridae	Dispholidus typus viridis	Northern Boomslang	Not evaluated	2022-01-08
8	Colubridae	Philothamnus hoplogaster	South Eastern Green Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-07-22
9	Colubridae	Philothamnus occidentalis	Western Natal Green Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
10	Colubridae	Philothamnus semivariegatus	Spotted Bush Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1980-03-25
11	Colubridae	Telescopus semiannulatus semiannulatus	Eastern Tiger Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-03-28
12	Colubridae	Thelotornis capensis capensis	Southern Twig Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-03-28
13	Cordylidae	Cordylus vittifer	Common Girdled Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1982-03-25
14	Cordylidae	Platysaurus minor	Waterberg Flat Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
15	Elapidae	Aspidelaps scutatus scutatus	Speckled Shield Cobra	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15

16	Elapidae	Dendroaspis polylepis	Black Mamba	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1977-03-23
17	Elapidae	Naja annulifera	Snouted Cobra	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2016-11-26
18	Elapidae	Naja mossambica	Mozambique Spitting	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-04-20
			Cobra		
19	Gekkonidae	Chondrodactylus turneri	Turner's Gecko	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2017-03-04
20	Gekkonidae	Hemidactylus mabouia	Common Tropical	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2015-10-24
			House Gecko		
21	Gekkonidae	Homopholis wahlbergii	Wahlberg's Velvet	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1973-08-31
			Gecko		
22	Gekkonidae	Lygodactylus capensis	Common Dwarf Gecko	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2022-02-26
23	Gekkonidae	Pachydactylus affinis	Transvaal Gecko	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
24	Gekkonidae	Pachydactylus capensis	Cape Gecko	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1923-11-03
25	Gerrhosauridae	Gerrhosaurus	Yellow-throated Plated	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-11-25
		flavigularis	Lizard		
26	Gerrhosauridae	Matobosaurus validus	Common Giant Plated	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1976-06-15
			Lizard		
27	Lacertidae	Ichnotropis capensis	Ornate Rough-scaled	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2016-11-15
			Lizard		
28	Lacertidae	Meroles squamulosus	Common Rough-scaled	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
			Lizard		
29	Lacertidae	Nucras holubi	Holub's Sandveld Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2014-11-15
30	Lacertidae	Nucras intertexta	Spotted Sandveld Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1924-08-26
31	Lacertidae	Pedioplanis	Spotted Sand Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1974-08-29
		lineoocellata			
		lineoocellata			
32	Lacertidae	Pedioplanis	Common Sand Lizard	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1986-09-20
		lineoocellata pulchella			

33	Lamprophiidae	Amblyodipsas polylepis	Common Purple-	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1981-02-02
		polylepis	glossed Snake		
34	Lamprophiidae	Aparallactus capensis	Black-headed	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1905-04-09
			Centipede-eater		
35	Lamprophiidae	Atractaspis bibronii	Bibron's Stiletto Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1980-03-25
36	Lamprophiidae	Atractaspis duerdeni	Duerden's Stiletto	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
			Snake		
37	Lamprophiidae	Boaedon capensis	Brown House Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2016-12-23
38	Lamprophiidae	Gracililima nyassae	Black File Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-11-11
39	Lamprophiidae	Limaformosa capensis	Common File Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1980-01-21
40	Lamprophiidae	Lycodonomorphus	Olive House Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
		inornatus			
41	Lamprophiidae	Lycophidion capense	Cape Wolf Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2017-11-14
		capense			
42	Lamprophiidae	Prosymna bivittata	Two-striped Shovel-	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1946-10-20
			snout		
43	Lamprophiidae	Prosymna sundevallii	Sundevall's Shovel-	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
			snout		
44	Lamprophiidae	Psammophis angolensis	Dwarf Sand Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
45	Lamprophiidae	Psammophis	Short-snouted Grass	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2016-12-20
		brevirostris	Snake		
46	Lamprophiidae	Psammophis jallae	Jalla's Sand Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1975-07-07
47	Lamprophiidae	Psammophylax	Spotted Grass Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
		rhombeatus			
48	Lamprophiidae	Psammophylax	Striped Grass Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2016-11-11
		tritaeniatus			
49	Lamprophiidae	Pseudaspis cana	Mole Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15

50	Lamprophiidae	Xenocalamus bicolor	Waterberg Quill-snouted	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
		australis	Snake		
51	Leptotyphlopidae	Leptotyphlops distanti	Distant's Thread Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1976-08-30
52	Pelomedusidae	Pelomedusa galeata	South African Marsh	Not evaluated	2018-04-07
			Terrapin		
53	Pelomedusidae	Pelusios sinuatus	Serrated Hinged	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2022-02-26
			Terrapin		
54	Pythonidae	Python natalensis	Southern African Python	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2018-02-17
55	Scincidae	Acontias occidentalis	Western Legless Skink	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1942-08-26
56	Scincidae	Mochlus sundevallii	Sundevall's Writhing	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1977-08-21
			Skink		
57	Scincidae	Panaspis wahlbergii	Wahlberg's Snake-eyed	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
			Skink		
58	Scincidae	Trachylepis damarana	Damara Variable Skink		2007-10-14
59	Scincidae	Trachylepis	Speckled Rock Skink	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2022-02-26
		punctatissima			
60	Scincidae	Trachylepis sp.	Skink sp. 1		1900-06-15
		(Transvaal varia)			
61	Scincidae	Trachylepis varia sensu	Common Variable Skink	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2018-02-17
		lato	Complex		
62	Testudinidae	Kinixys lobatsiana	Lobatse Hinged Tortoise	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
63	Testudinidae	Psammobates oculifer	Serrated Tent Tortoise	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2006-11-02
64	Testudinidae	Stigmochelys pardalis	Leopard Tortoise	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2022-01-09
65	Typhlopidae	Afrotyphlops bibronii	Bibron's Blind Snake	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
66	Typhlopidae	Afrotyphlops schlegelii	Schlegel's Beaked Blind	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15
			Snake		

67	Typhlopidae	Rhinotyphlops lalandei	Delalande's Beaked	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2018-12-07
			Blind Snake		
68	Varanidae	Varanus albigularis	Rock Monitor	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2018-12-18
		albigularis			
69	Varanidae	Varanus niloticus	Water Monitor	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2022-02-26
70	Viperidae	Bitis arietans arietans	Puff Adder	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2016-10-08
71	Viperidae	Causus defilippii	Snouted Night Adder	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	2007-02-03
72	Viperidae	Causus rhombeatus	Rhombic Night Adder	Least Concern (SARCA 2014)	1900-06-15

Appendix D: Historical frog species records from the broader study area

NO.	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Red list category	Last recorded
1	Brevicepitidae	Breviceps adspersus	Bushveld Rain Frog	Least Concern	2014-11-15
2	Bufonidae	Poyntonophrynus	Northern Pygmy Toad	Least Concern	1974-03-29
		fenoulheti			
3	Bufonidae	Schismaderma carens	Red Toad	Least Concern	2022-01-08
4	Bufonidae	Sclerophrys sp.			2008-03-13
5	Bufonidae	Sclerophrys garmani	Olive Toad	Least Concern	2017-03-04
				(IUCN, 2016)	
6	Bufonidae	Sclerophrys gutturalis	Guttural Toad	Least Concern	2011-12-16
				(IUCN, 2016)	
7	Bufonidae	Sclerophrys pusilla	Flatbacked Toad	Least Concern	1996-12-06
				(IUCN, 2016)	
8	Hyperoliidae	Hyperolius marmoratus	Painted Reed Frog	Least Concern	2017-03-04
				(IUCN ver 3.1,	
				2013)	

9	Hyperoliidae	Kassina senegalensis	Bubbling Kassina	Least Concern	2017-03-04
10	Microhylidae	Phrynomantis bifasciatus	Banded Rubber Frog	Least Concern	2018-12-08
11	Phrynobatrachidae	Phrynobatrachus	Dwarf Puddle Frog	Least Concern	1979-12-16
		mababiensis		(IUCN, 2014)	
12	Phrynobatrachidae	Phrynobatrachus	Snoring Puddle Frog	Least Concern	1996-12-06
		natalensis		(IUCN, 2013)	
13	Pipidae	Xenopus laevis	Common Platanna	Least Concern	2017-03-04
14	Ptychadenidae	Ptychadena anchietae	Plain Grass Frog	Least Concern	2017-03-04
15	Ptychadenidae	Ptychadena mossambica	Broadbanded Grass	Least Concern	2011-12-16
			Frog		
16	Pyxicephalidae	Amietia delalandii	Delalande's River Frog	Least Concern	2017-03-04
				(2017)	
17	Pyxicephalidae	Cacosternum boettgeri	Common Caco	Least Concern	2022-03-05
				(2013)	
18	Pyxicephalidae	Pyxicephalus adspersus	Giant Bull Frog	Near Threatened	2021-02-13
19	Pyxicephalidae	Pyxicephalus edulis	African Bull Frog	Least Concern	2022-03-05
20	Pyxicephalidae	Strongylopus fasciatus	Striped Stream Frog	Least Concern	
21	Pyxicephalidae	Tomopterna sp.			2017-03-04
22	Pyxicephalidae	Tomopterna cryptotis	Tremelo Sand Frog	Least Concern	2011-12-16
23	Pyxicephalidae	Tomopterna krugerensis	Knocking Sand Frog	Least Concern	1976-01-16
24	Pyxicephalidae	Tomopterna natalensis	Natal Sand Frog	Least Concern	1999-01-30

Appendix E: SABAP 2 bird list of the area.

NO.	Common group	Common species	Genus	Species
1		Brubru	Nilaus	afer
2		Hamerkop	Scopus	umbretta
3		Neddicky	Cisticola	fulvicapilla
4		Quailfinch	Ortygospiza	atricollis
5		Secretarybird	Sagittarius	serpentarius
6		Shikra	Accipiter	badius
7	Babbler	Arrow-marked	Turdoides	jardineii
8	Barbet	Acacia Pied	Tricholaema	leucomelas
9	Barbet	Black-collared	Lybius	torquatus
10	Barbet	Crested	Trachyphonus	vaillantii
11	Batis	Chinspot	Batis	molitor
12	Bee-eater	European	Merops	apiaster
13	Bee-eater	Little	Merops	pusillus
14	Bee-eater	White-fronted	Merops	bullockoides
15	Bishop	Southern Red	Euplectes	orix
16	Bishop	Yellow-crowned	Euplectes	afer
17	Bittern	Dwarf	Ixobrychus	sturmii
18	Bittern	Little	Ixobrychus	minutus
19	Boubou	Southern	Laniarius	ferrugineus
20	Bulbul	Dark-capped	Pycnonotus	tricolor
21	Bunting	Cinnamon-	Emberiza	tahapisi
		breasted		
22	Bunting	Golden-breasted	Emberiza	flaviventris
23	Bushshrike	Grey-headed	Malaconotus	blanchoti
24	Bushshrike	Orange-breasted	Chlorophoneus	sulfureopectus
25	Buzzard	Common	Buteo	buteo
26	Camaroptera	Grey-backed	Camaroptera	brevicaudata
27	Canary	Black-throated	Crithagra	atrogularis
28	Canary	Yellow-fronted	Crithagra	mozambica
29	Cisticola	Levaillant's	Cisticola	tinniens
30	Cisticola	Rattling	Cisticola	chiniana
31	Cisticola	Zitting	Cisticola	juncidis
32	Coot	Red-knobbed	Fulica	cristata
33	Cormorant	Reed	Microcarbo	africanus
34	Cormorant	White-breasted	Phalacrocorax	lucidus
35	Coucal	Burchell's	Centropus	burchellii

36	Crake	African	Crecopsis	egregia
37	Crake	Black	Zapornia	flavirostra
38	Crane	Grey Crowned	Balearica	regulorum
39	Crombec	Long-billed	Sylvietta	rufescens
40	Crow	Pied	Corvus	albus
41	Cuckoo	African	Cuculus	gularis
42	Cuckoo	Black	Cuculus	clamosus
43	Cuckoo	Diederik	Chrysococcyx	caprius
44	Cuckoo	Jacobin	Clamator	jacobinus
45	Cuckoo	Klaas's	Chrysococcyx	klaas
46	Cuckoo	Levaillant's	Clamator	levaillantii
47	Cuckoo	Red-chested	Cuculus	solitarius
48	Darter	African	Anhinga	rufa
49	Dove	Cape Turtle	Streptopelia	capicola
50	Dove	Emerald-spotted Wood	Turtur	chalcospilos
51	Dove	Laughing	Spilopelia	senegalensis
52	Dove	Namaqua	Oena	capensis
53	Dove	Red-eyed	Streptopelia	semitorquata
54	Dove	Rock	Columba	livia
55	Drongo	Fork-tailed	Dicrurus	adsimilis
56	Duck	African Black	Anas	sparsa
57	Duck	Fulvous Whistling	Dendrocygna	bicolor
58	Duck	Knob-billed	Sarkidiornis	melanotos
59	Duck	Maccoa	Oxyura	тассоа
60	Duck	White-backed	Thalassornis	leuconotus
61	Duck	White-faced Whistling	Dendrocygna	viduata
62	Duck	Yellow-billed	Anas	undulata
63	Eagle	African Fish	Haliaeetus	vocifer
64	Eagle	Black-chested	Circaetus	pectoralis
		Snake		
65	Eagle	Brown Snake	Circaetus	cinereus
66	Eagle	Tawny	Aquila	rapax
67	Eagle-Owl	Spotted	Bubo	africanus
68	Egret	Great	Ardea	alba
69	Egret	Intermediate	Ardea	intermedia

70	Egret	Little	Egretta	garzetta
71	Egret	Western Cattle	Bubulcus	ibis
72	Eremomela	Burnt-necked	Eremomela	usticollis
73	Falcon	Amur	Falco	amurensis
74	Finch	Cut-throat	Amadina	fasciata
75	Finch	Red-headed	Amadina	erythrocephala
76	Firefinch	African	Lagonosticta	rubricata
77	Firefinch	Jameson's	Lagonosticta	rhodopareia
78	Firefinch	Red-billed	Lagonosticta	senegala
79	Fiscal	Southern	Lanius	collaris
80	Flycatcher	African Paradise	Terpsiphone	viridis
81	Flycatcher	Fiscal	Melaenornis	silens
82	Flycatcher	Marico	Melaenornis	mariquensis
83	Flycatcher	Pale	Melaenornis	pallidus
84	Flycatcher	Southern Black	Melaenornis	pammelaina
85	Flycatcher	Spotted	Muscicapa	striata
86	Francolin	Coqui	Peliperdix	coqui
87	Francolin	Crested	Dendroperdix	sephaena
88	Gallinule	Allen's	Porphyrio	alleni
89	Go-away-bird	Grey	Crinifer	concolor
90	Goose	Egyptian	Alopochen	aegyptiaca
91	Goose	Spur-winged	Plectropterus	gambensis
92	Goshawk	Pale Chanting	Melierax	canorus
93	Grebe	Great Crested	Podiceps	cristatus
94	Grebe	Little	Tachybaptus	ruficollis
95	Greenbul	Yellow-bellied	Chlorocichla	flaviventris
96	Greenshank	Common	Tringa	nebularia
97	Guineafowl	Helmeted	Numida	meleagris
98	Harrier	African Marsh	Circus	ranivorus
99	Harrier-Hawk	African	Polyboroides	typus
100	Heron	Black	Egretta	ardesiaca
101	Heron	Black-crowned	Nycticorax	nycticorax
		Night		
102	Heron	Black-headed	Ardea	melanocephala
103	Heron	Grey	Ardea	cinerea
104	Heron	Purple	Ardea	purpurea
105	Heron	Squacco	Ardeola	ralloides
106	Heron	Striated	Butorides	striata

107	Honeyguide	Greater	Indicator	indicator
108	Honeyguide	Lesser	Indicator	minor
109	Ноорое	African	<i>Upupa</i>	africana
110	Hornbill	African Grey	Lophoceros	nasutus
111	Hornbill	Southern Red-	Tockus	rufirostris
110		billed	- ·	,
112	Hornbill	Southern Yellow- billed	Tockus	leucomelas
113	Ibis	African Sacred	Threskiornis	aethiopicus
114	Ibis	Glossy	Plegadis	falcinellus
115	Ibis	Hadada	Bostrychia	hagedash
116	Indigobird	Dusky	Vidua	funerea
117	Indigobird	Purple	Vidua	purpurascens
118	Indigobird	Village	Vidua	chalybeata
119	Jacana	African	Actophilornis	africanus
120	Kestrel	Lesser	Falco	naumanni
121	Kingfisher	African Pygmy	Ispidina	picta
122	Kingfisher	Brown-hooded	Halcyon	albiventris
123	Kingfisher	Pied	Ceryle	rudis
124	Kingfisher	Woodland	Halcyon	senegalensis
125	Kite	Black	Milvus	migrans
126	Kite	Black-winged	Elanus	caeruleus
127	Kite	Yellow-billed	Milvus	aegyptius
128	Korhaan	Northern Black	Afrotis	afraoides
129	Korhaan	Red-crested	Lophotis	ruficrista
130	Lapwing	African Wattled	Vanellus	senegallus
131	Lapwing	Blacksmith	Vanellus	armatus
132	Lapwing	Crowned	Vanellus	coronatus
133	Lark	Flappet	Mirafra	rufocinnamomea
134	Lark	Rufous-naped	Mirafra	africana
135	Lark	Sabota	Calendulauda	sabota
136	Longclaw	Cape	Macronyx	capensis
137	Mannikin	Bronze	Spermestes	cucullata
138	Martin	Brown-throated	Riparia	paludicola
139	Martin	Rock	Ptyonoprogne	fuligula
140	Masked- weaver	Lesser	Ploceus	intermedius
141	Moorhen	Common	Gallinula	chloropus
141	MOOTHEIL	Common	Gaiiii iuia	Gilloropus

142	Moorhen	Lesser	Paragallinula	angulata
143	Mousebird	Red-faced	Urocolius	indicus
144	Mousebird	Speckled	Colius	striatus
145	Myna	Common	Acridotheres	tristis
146	Oriole	Black-headed	Oriolus	larvatus
147	Ostrich	Common	Struthio	camelus
148	Owl	Marsh	Asio	capensis
149	Owl	Western Barn	Tyto	alba
150	Owlet	Pearl-spotted	Glaucidium	perlatum
151	Oxpecker	Red-billed	Buphagus	erythrorynchus
152	Pigeon	African Green	Treron	calvus
153	Pigeon	Speckled	Columba	guinea
154	Pipit	African	Anthus	cinnamomeus
155	Plover	Three-banded	Charadrius	tricollaris
156	Pochard	Southern	Netta	erythrophthalma
157	Pratincole	Black-winged	Glareola	nordmanni
158	Prinia	Black-chested	Prinia	flavicans
159	Prinia	Tawny-flanked	Prinia	subflava
160	Puffback	Black-backed	Dryoscopus	cubla
161	Pytilia	Green-winged	Pytilia	melba
162	Quelea	Red-billed	Quelea	quelea
163	Rail	African	Rallus	caerulescens
164	Robin-Chat	Cape	Cossypha	caffra
165	Robin-Chat	White-throated	Cossypha	humeralis
166	Roller	Lilac-breasted	Coracias	caudatus
167	Roller	Purple	Coracias	naevius
168	Sandpiper	Wood	Tringa	glareola
169	Scrub Robin	White-browed	Cercotrichas	leucophrys
170	Seedeater	Streaky-headed	Crithagra	gularis
171	Shoveler	Cape	Spatula	smithii
172	Shrike	Crimson-	Laniarius	atrococcineus
		breasted		
173	Shrike	Magpie	Urolestes	melanoleucus
174	Shrike	Red-backed	Lanius	collurio
175	Shrike	Southern White-	Eurocephalus	anguitimens
		crowned		
176	Snipe	African	Gallinago	nigripennis
177	Sparrow	Cape	Passer	melanurus

178	Sparrow	House	Passer	domesticus
179	Sparrow	Southern Grey- headed	Passer	diffusus
180	Sparrow- Weaver	White-browed	Plocepasser	mahali
181	Sparrowhawk	Little	Accipiter	minullus
182	Sparrowhawk	Ovambo	Accipiter	ovampensis
183	Spoonbill	African	Platalea	alba
184	Spurfowl	Natal	Pternistis	natalensis
185	Spurfowl	Swainson's	Pternistis	swainsonii
186	Starling	Burchell's	Lamprotornis	australis
187	Starling	Cape	Lamprotornis	nitens
188	Starling	Red-winged	Onychognathus	morio
189	Starling	Violet-backed	Cinnyricinclus	leucogaster
190	Starling	Wattled	Creatophora	cinerea
191	Stilt	Black-winged	Himantopus	himantopus
192	Stonechat	African	Saxicola	torquatus
193	Stork	Abdim's	Ciconia	abdimii
194	Stork	Black	Ciconia	nigra
195	Stork	Marabou	Leptoptilos	crumenifer
196	Stork	White	Ciconia	ciconia
197	Stork	Yellow-billed	Mycteria	ibis
198	Sunbird	Amethyst	Chalcomitra	amethystina
199	Sunbird	Marico	Cinnyris	mariquensis
200	Sunbird	White-bellied	Cinnyris	talatala
201	Swallow	Barn	Hirundo	rustica
202	Swallow	Greater Striped	Cecropis	cucullata
203	Swallow	Lesser Striped	Cecropis	abyssinica
204	Swallow	Pearl-breasted	Hirundo	dimidiata
205	Swallow	Red-breasted	Cecropis	semirufa
206	Swallow	White-throated	Hirundo	albigularis
207	Swamphen	African	Porphyrio	madagascariensis
208	Swift	African Black	Apus	barbatus
209	Swift	African Palm	Cypsiurus	parvus
210	Swift	Alpine	Tachymarptis	melba
211	Swift	Common	Apus	apus
212	Swift	Little	Apus	affinis
213	Swift	White-rumped	Apus	caffer

214	Tchagra	Black-crowned	Tchagra	senegalus
215	Tchagra	Brown-crowned	Tchagra	australis
216	Teal	Blue-billed	Spatula	hottentota
217	Teal	Red-billed	Anas	erythrorhyncha
218	Tern	Whiskered	Chlidonias	hybrida
219	Thick-knee	Spotted	Burhinus	capensis
220	Thrush	Groundscraper	Turdus	litsitsirupa
221	Thrush	Karoo	Turdus	smithi
222	Thrush	Kurrichane	Turdus	libonyana
223	Tinkerbird	Yellow-fronted	Pogoniulus	chrysoconus
224	Tit	Southern Black	Melaniparus	niger
225	Vulture	Cape	Gyps	coprotheres
226	Wagtail	African Pied	Motacilla	aguimp
227	Wagtail	Cape	Motacilla	capensis
228	Warbler	African Reed	Acrocephalus	baeticatus
229	Warbler	Chestnut-vented	Curruca	subcoerulea
230	Warbler	Garden	Sylvia	borin
231	Warbler	Lesser Swamp	Acrocephalus	gracilirostris
232	Warbler	Little Rush	Bradypterus	baboecala
233	Warbler	Marsh	Acrocephalus	palustris
234	Warbler	Sedge	Acrocephalus	schoenobaenus
235	Warbler	Willow	Phylloscopus	trochilus
236	Waxbill	Black-faced	Brunhilda	erythronotos
237	Waxbill	Blue	Uraeginthus	angolensis
238	Waxbill	Common	Estrilda	astrild
239	Waxbill	Orange-breasted	Amandava	subflava
240	Waxbill	Violet-eared	Granatina	granatina
241	Weaver	Cape	Ploceus	capensis
242	Weaver	Red-headed	Anaplectes	rubriceps
243	Weaver	Scaly-feathered	Sporopipes	squamifrons
244	Weaver	Southern	Ploceus	velatus
		Masked		
245	Weaver	Thick-billed	Amblyospiza	albifrons
246	Weaver	Village	Ploceus	cucullatus
247	Wheatear	Capped	Oenanthe	pileata
248	White-eye	Cape	Zosterops	virens
249	Whydah	Long-tailed	Vidua	paradisaea
		Paradise		

250	Whydah	Pin-tailed	Vidua	macroura
251	Widowbird	Long-tailed	Euplectes	progne
252	Widowbird	White-winged	Euplectes	albonotatus
253	Wood Hoopoe	Green	Phoeniculus	purpureus
254	Woodpecker	Bearded	Chloropicus	namaquus
255	Woodpecker	Bennett's	Campethera	bennettii
256	Woodpecker	Cardinal	Dendropicos	fuscescens
257	Woodpecker	Golden-tailed	Campethera	abingoni
258	Wren-Warbler	Barred	Calamonastes	fasciolatus