PALAEONTOLOGICAL FIELD ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADE OF THE KOLOMELA MINING OPERATIONS, TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITTY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, NORTHERN CAPE

Issue Date: **13 September 2019**

Revision No.: v0.1

Client:

PGS Project No:

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Declaration of Independence

I, Elize Butler, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent palaeontological specialist in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favorable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting palaeontological impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in section 38 of the NHRA when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favorable to the applicant or not
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- I will perform all other obligations as expected a palaeontological specialist in terms of the Act and the constitutions of my affiliated professional bodies; and
- I realize that a false declaration is an offense in terms of regulation 71 of the Regulations and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA.

Disclosure of Vested Interest

I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations;

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SIGNATURE: 

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

Report Title	**Palaeontological Field Assessment for the proposed upgrade of the Kolomela Mining Operations, Tsantsabane Local Municipality, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, Northern Cape**		
Control	**Name**	**Signature**	**Designation**
Author	Elize Butler		Palaeontologist
Reviewed			Principal Heritage Specialist
Client			

CLIENT: .

CONTACT PERSON:

The heritage impact assessment report has been compiled taking into account the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (NEMA) and Environmental Impact Regulations 2014 as amended, requirements for specialist reports, Appendix 6, as indicated in the table below.

NEMA Regs (2014) - Appendix 6	**Relevant section in report**
1. (1) A specialist report prepared in terms of these Regulations must contain-	
a) details of-	Page ii of Report – Contact details and company and Appendix B
i. the specialist who prepared the report; and	
ii. the expertise of that specialist to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae;	
b) a declaration that the specialist is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority;	Page ii
c) an indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared;	Section 4 – Objective
(cA) an indication of the quality and age of base data used for the specialist report;	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history
(B) a description of existing impacts on the site, cumulative impacts of the proposed development and levels of acceptable change;	Section 9
d) the date, duration and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;	N/A Desktop Study
e) a description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialized process inclusive of equipment and modeling used;	Section 7 Approach and Methodology
f) details of an assessment of the specifically identified sensitivity of the site related to the proposed activity or activities and its associated structures and infrastructure, inclusive of a site plan identifying site alternatives;	Section 1 and 9
g) an identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Not identified, Section 9
h) a map superimposing the activity including the associated structures and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the site including areas to be avoided, including buffers;	Section 5 – Geological and Palaeontological history

NEMA Regs (2014) - Appendix 6	Relevant section in report
i) a description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 7.1 – Assumptions and Limitation
j) a description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives on the environment or activities;	Section 10
k) any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr;	Section 11
l) any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorization;	N/A
m) any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorization;	N/A
n) a reasoned opinion- i. as to whether the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorized; (iA) regarding the acceptability of the proposed activity or activities; and ii. if the opinion is that the proposed activity, activities or portions thereof should be authorized, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan;	Section 10
o) a description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of preparing the specialist report;	Not applicable.
p) a summary and copies of any comments received during any consultation process and where applicable all responses thereto; and	Not applicable.
q) any other information requested by the competent authority.	Not applicable.
2) Where a government notice *gazetted* by the Minister provides for any protocol or minimum information requirement to be applied to a specialist report, the requirements as indicated in such notice will apply.	Section 3 compliance with SAHRA guidelines

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Banzai Environmental was appointed by PGS Heritage (Pty) Ltd to conduct the **Phase 1 Palaeontological Assessment** (PIA) to assess the impacts of proposed developments within the expanded footprints at Kolomela Mine. The National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999, section 38) (NHRA), states that a Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is key to detect the presence of fossil material within the planned development footprint. This PIA is thus necessary to evaluate the effect of the construction on the palaeontological resources.

Kolomela Mine is located in the Griqualand West Basin near Postmasburg in the Northern Cape. The Mine is primarily underlain by the Quaternary aged sediments of the Kalahari Group as well as surface limestone and alluvium. The Vaalian age Ghaap Group, Koegas Subgroup, Postmasburg and Olifantshoek Groups (Transvaal Supergroup) are also represented in the northern and western areas of the development footprint.

A Very High palaeontological sensitivity has been allocated to the Ghaap Group, while important early Hominin remains could also occur in carbonaceous breccias. The highly sensitive dolomites are overlain by surface limestones, which are known to contain important Quaternary plant and animal fossils. Sediments of the Ghaap Group are known for the presence of stromatolites. A Moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity has been allocated to sediments of the Koegas Subgroup, Postmasburg, Olifantshoek and Kalahari Groups, as well as the alluvium deposits (Groenewald *et a*l, 2014).

A 2-day site specific field survey of the development footprint were conducted on foot and by motor vehicle on 5 and 6 September 2019. No visible evidence of fossiliferous outcrops was found. For this reason, an overall low palaeontological sensitivity is allocated to the development footprint. The scarcity of fossil heritage at the proposed development footprint indicates that the impact of Kolomela mining upgrade will be of a low significance in palaeontological terms. It is therefore considered that the proposed development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. Thus, the construction of the development may be authorised in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.

If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected (if possible, *in situ*) and the ECO must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that suitable mitigation (*e.g.* recording and collection) can be carry out by a paleontologist.

Preceding any collection of fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an accredited collection (museum or university collection), while all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies suggested by SAHRA.

Recommendations:

- The EAP and ECO for this project must be informed that the Ghaap Group sediments and surface limestone comprises of important fossil remains, for example stromatolites and micro-fossil assemblages in the dolomite of the Ghaap Group as well as vertebrate remains in the surface limestone.
- Fossils may also be present in the Postmasburg, Olifantshoek, and Kalahari Groups, as well as Koegas Subgroup and alluvial deposits. If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by new excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be secured (if possible, *in situ*) and the ECO ought to alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation (documented and collection) can be undertaken by a palaeontologist.
- These recommendations must form part of the Heritage Management Plan for Kolomela.

TABLE OF CONTENT

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background to the project 1

2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR 1

3 LEGISLATION 3

3.1 National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999) 3

4 OBJECTIVE 3

5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY 4

5.1 Ghaap Group 10

5.2 Koegas Subgroup 11

5.3 Postmasburg Group 11

5.4 Olifantshoek Group 11

5.5 Kalahari Group 11

5.6 Surface Limestones 12

5.7 Cenozoic Cave Breccias 12

5.8 Alluvium 12

6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE 13

7 METHODS 13

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations 13

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSULTED 13

9 SITE VISTIT 14

10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY 14

10.1 Methodology for Impact Assessment 22

10.2 Significance Assessment 23

10.3 Spatial Scale 24

10.4 Temporal/Duration Scale 24

10.5 Degree of Probability 24

10.6 Degree of Certainty 25

10.7 Quantitative Description of Impacts 25

10.8 Summary of Impact Tables 26

11 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 27

12 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL 29

12.1 Legislation 29

12.2 Background 29
12.3 Introduction 29
12.4 Chance Find Procedure 29
13 REFERENCES 30

List of Figures

Figure 1: Map indicating the authorised extension disturbance footprints areas at Kolomela Mine. 2
Figure 2: Extract of the 1: 250 000 Geological map 2822 Postmasburg (Council for Geoscience, Pretoria) indicating the approved layout for the Kolomela Mine extension. Map drawn by EXM 10.10.2019. 6
Figure 3: Surface geology of the approved Kolomela Mine extension. The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Asbestos Hills and Campbell Rand and Koegas Subgroups towards the west and the Kalahari Group in the North, central and eastern areas. Map drawn by EXM 10.10.2019 8
Figure 4: Stratigraphy of the Transvaal Supergroup of the Ghaap Plateau Basin. The middle column shows the rock units represented in the proposed site (Eriksson, et al. 2006). 9
Figure 5: Example of a well-preserved stromatolite from the Archaean Era. 10
Figure 6: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences). Approximate location of the proposed development is indicated in blue 12
Figure 7: Kolomela mining Pit. GPS Coordinates 28°22'56.81"S 22°59'11.55"E 14
Figure 8: Sediments on Ploegfontein consists of the Kalahari sands of the Gordonia Formation. No fossils were found on the low-lying topography. GPS coordinates 28°21'7.11"S 22°59'43.94"E 15
Figure 9: Pan on Leeuwfontein. Short grass with no outcrops. 16
Figure 10: Unfossiliferous sediments: GPS coordinates 28°22'33.82"S 22°53'22.55"E 17
Figure 11: Unfossiliferous conglomerate. GPS coordinates 28°22'34.05"S 22°53'22.70"E .. 18
Figure 12: Unfossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°24'31"S 22°53'35"E 19
Figure 13: Low vegetation without a fossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°24'8.73"S 22°52'53.57" 20
Figure 14: Low vegetation without a fossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°24'8.73"S 22°52'53.57" 21
Figure 15: No fossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°23'28.00"S 22°56'42.00"E" 22

List of Tables

Table 1: Quantitative rating and equivalent descriptors for the impact assessment criteria ... 22
Table 2: Description of the significance rating scale 23
Table 3: Description of the Spatial significance rating scale 24
Table 4: Description of the temporal rating scale 24

Table 5:Description of the degree of probability of an impact occurring 24
Table 6: Description of the degree of certainty rating scale 25
Table 7: Example of Rating Scale 25
Table 8: Impact Risk Classes 26

Appendix A: CV

TERMINOLOGY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeological resources

This includes:

- material remains resulting from human activity which are in a state of disuse and are in or on land and which are older than 100 years including artifacts, human and hominid remains, and artificial features and structures;
- rock art is any form of painting, engraving or other graphic representation on a fixed rock surface or loose rock or stone, which was executed by human agency and which is older than 100 years, including any area within 10m of such representation;
- wrecks, being any vessel or aircraft, or any part thereof, which was wrecked in South Africa, whether on land, in the internal waters, the territorial waters or in the maritime culture zone of the Republic as defined in the Maritimes Zones Act, and any cargo, debris or artefacts found or associated therewith, which is older than 60 years or which SAHRA considers to be worthy of conservation;
- features, structures, and artifacts associated with a military history which are older than 75 years and the site on which they are found.

Cultural significance

This means aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, social, spiritual, linguistic or technological value or significance

Development

This means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place or influences its stability and future well-being, including:

- construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change in use of a place or a structure at a place;
- carrying out any works on or over or under a place;
- subdivision or consolidation of land comprising a place, including the structures or airspace of a place;
- constructing or putting up for display signs or boards;
- any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land; and
- any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil

Fossil

Mineralized bones of animals, shellfish, plants, and marine animals. A trace fossil is the track or footprint of a fossil animal that is preserved in stone or consolidated sediment.

Heritage

That which is inherited and forms part of the National Estate (historical places, objects, fossils as defined by the National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999).

Heritage resources

This means any place or object of cultural significance and can include (but not limited to) as stated under Section 3 of the NHRA,

- places, buildings, structures, and equipment of cultural significance;
- places to which oral traditions are attached or which are associated with living heritage;
- historical settlements and townscapes;
- landscapes and natural features of cultural significance;
- geological sites of scientific or cultural importance;
- archaeological and palaeontological sites;
- graves and burial grounds, and
- sites of significance relating to the history of slavery in South Africa;

Holocene

The most recent geological time period which commenced 10 000 years ago.

Palaeontology

Any fossilised remains or fossil trace of animals or plants which lived in the geological past, other than fossil fuels or fossiliferous rock intended for industrial use, and any site which contains such fossilised remains or trace.

Abbreviations	**Description**
ASAP	Association of South African Professional Archaeologists
CRM	Cultural Resource Management
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DIA	Desktop Impact Assessment
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA practitioner	Environmental Impact Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Early Stone Age
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
I&AP	Interested & Affected Party
LSA	Late Stone Age
LIA	Late Iron Age

Abbreviations	Description
LOM	Life of Mine
MSA	Middle Stone Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act
PIA	Palaeontological Impact Assessment
PHRA	Provincial Heritage Resources Authority
PSSA	Palaeontological Society of South Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd (part of Kumba Iron Ore) operates Kolomela Mine near Postmasburg in the Northern Cape Province. Kolomela Mine mines from the Leeuwfontein, Klipbankfontein and Kapstevel Pits and has enlarged its design output from the 9 Mtpa levels to ~ 13.5 Mtpa over the past years. The Kapstevel South resource was included in the LOM plan and reserve statements in 2015 to sustain production at ~14 Mtpa Ex pit ore until 2031.

Sishen Iron Ore proposes to commence activities at Kapstevel South in 2020. An At Pit facility which includes a haul truck parking area, refuelling areas and workshops will be constructed closer to the Kapstevel mining areas. As part of the existing environmental authorisation future mining activities on the farm Ploegfontein are also approved. Mining in these areas are currently in the initial planning stages. The enlarged mining activities will result in the extension of existing waste rock dumps.

2 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR

The author (Elize Butler) has an MSc in Palaeontology from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa. She has been working in Palaeontology for more than twenty-four years. She has extensive experience in locating, collecting and curating fossils, including exploration field trips in search of new localities in the Karoo Basin. She has been a member of the Palaeontological Society of South Africa for 12 years. She has been conducting PIAs since 2014.

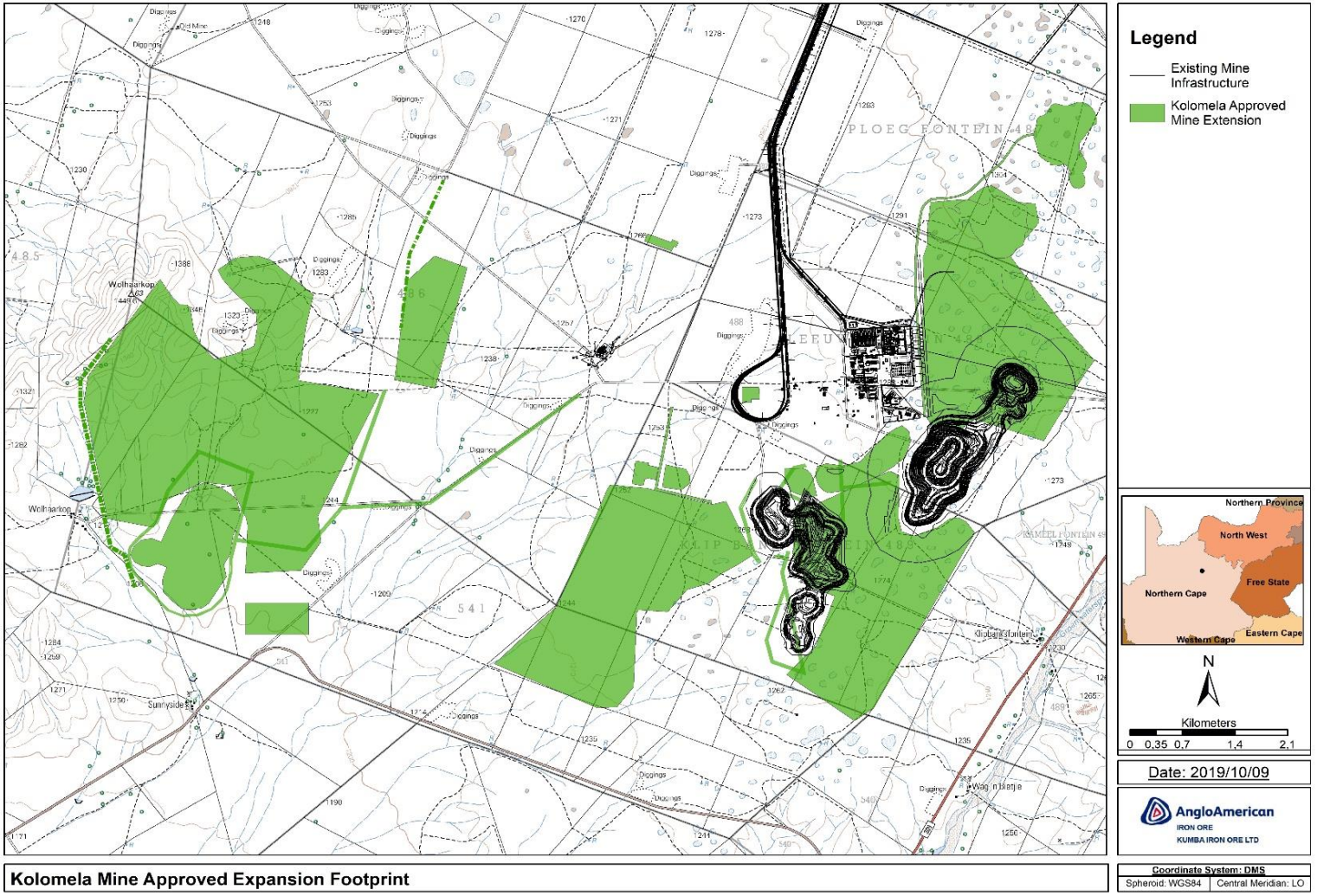

Figure 1: Map indicating the authorised extension disturbance footprints areas at Kolomela Mine.

Map drawn by EXM 10.10.2019

3 LEGISLATION

3.1 National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999)

Cultural Heritage in South Africa, includes all heritage resources, is protected by the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA). Heritage resources as defined in Section 3 of the Act include **"all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens**".

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA. Palaeontological resources may not be unearthed, broken moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

This DIA forms part of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and adhere to the conditions of the Act. According to **Section 38 (1)**, an HIA is required to assess any potential impacts to palaeontological heritage within the development footprint where:

- the construction of a road, wall, power line, pipeline, canal or other similar form of linear development or barrier exceeding 300 m in length;
- the construction of a bridge or similar structure exceeding 50 m in length;
- any development or other activity which will change the character of a site—
- (exceeding 5 000 m^2 in extent; or
- involving three or more existing erven or subdivisions thereof; or
- involving three or more erven or divisions thereof which have been consolidated within the past five years; or
- the costs of which will exceed a sum set in terms of regulations by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority
- the re-zoning of a site exceeding 10 000 m^2 in extent;
- or any other category of development provided for in regulations by SAHRA or a Provincial heritage resources authority.

4 OBJECTIVE

The objective of a DPIA is to determine the impact of the development on potential palaeontological material at the site.

According to the "SAHRA APM Guidelines: Minimum Standards for the Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports" the aims of the PIA are: 1) to

identify the palaeontological status of the exposed as well as rock formations just below the surface in the development footprint 2) to estimate the **palaeontological importance** of the formations 3) to determine the **impact** on fossil heritage; and 4) to recommend how the developer ought to protect or mitigate damage to fossil heritage.

The terms of reference of a DPIA are as follows:

General Requirements:

- Adherence to the content requirements for specialist reports in accordance with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended;
- Adherence to all applicable best practice recommendations, appropriate legislation and authority requirements;
- Submit a comprehensive overview of all appropriate legislation, guidelines;
- Description of the proposed project and provide information regarding the developer and consultant who commissioned the study,
- Description and location of the proposed development and provide geological and topographical maps
- Provide Palaeontological and geological history of the affected area.
- Identification sensitive areas to be avoided (providing shapefiles/kmls) in the proposed development;
- Evaluation of the significance of the planned development during the Pre-construction, Construction, Operation, Decommissioning Phases and Cumulative impacts. Potential impacts should be rated in terms of the direct, indirect and cumulative:
    a. **Direct impacts** are impacts that are caused directly by the activity and generally occur at the same time and at the place of the activity.
    b. **Indirect impacts** of an activity are indirect or induced changes that may occur as a result of the activity.
    c. Cumulative impacts are impacts that result from the incremental impact of the proposed activity on a common resource when added to the impacts of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable future activities.
- Fair assessment of alternatives (infrastructure alternatives have been provided):
- Recommend mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the proposed development; and
- Implications of specialist findings for the proposed development (such as permits, licenses etc).

5 GEOLOGICAL AND PALAEONTOLOGICAL HISTORY

The geology of the proposed development is indicated on the 1: 250 000 2822 Postmasburg Map (Council of Geoscience). The proposed Kolomela mining upgrade is in the Griqualand West Basin

and is largely underlain by the Cretaceous to Tertiary Kalahari Group (Gordonia Formation; Qs in Figure 2-3) as well as surface limestone and alluvium. The Vaalian age Ghaap Group, Koegas Subgroup, Postmasburg and Olifantshoek Groups (Transvaal Supergroup) are also represented in the northern and western areas in the development footprint. Dolomite deposits of the Ghaap Group are associated with café breccias. The raster geological map (2822 Postmasburg, Figure 2) and shapefile map (Figure 3) is provided in the report. Both maps and information are provided by the Council of Geoscience. Old terminology used in the legend of the 2822 Postmasburg map is upgraded to modern geological terms in the report.

A Very High palaeontological sensitivity has been allocated to the Ghaap Group, while important early Hominin remains could also occur in carbonaceous breccias. The highly sensitive dolomites are overlain by surface limestones, which are known to contain important Quaternary plant and animal fossils. Sediments of the Ghaap Group are known for the presence of stromatolites. A Moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity has been allocated to sediments of the Koegas Subgroup, Postmasburg, Olifantshoek and Kalahari Groups, as well as the alluvium deposits (Groenewald *et al*, 2014).

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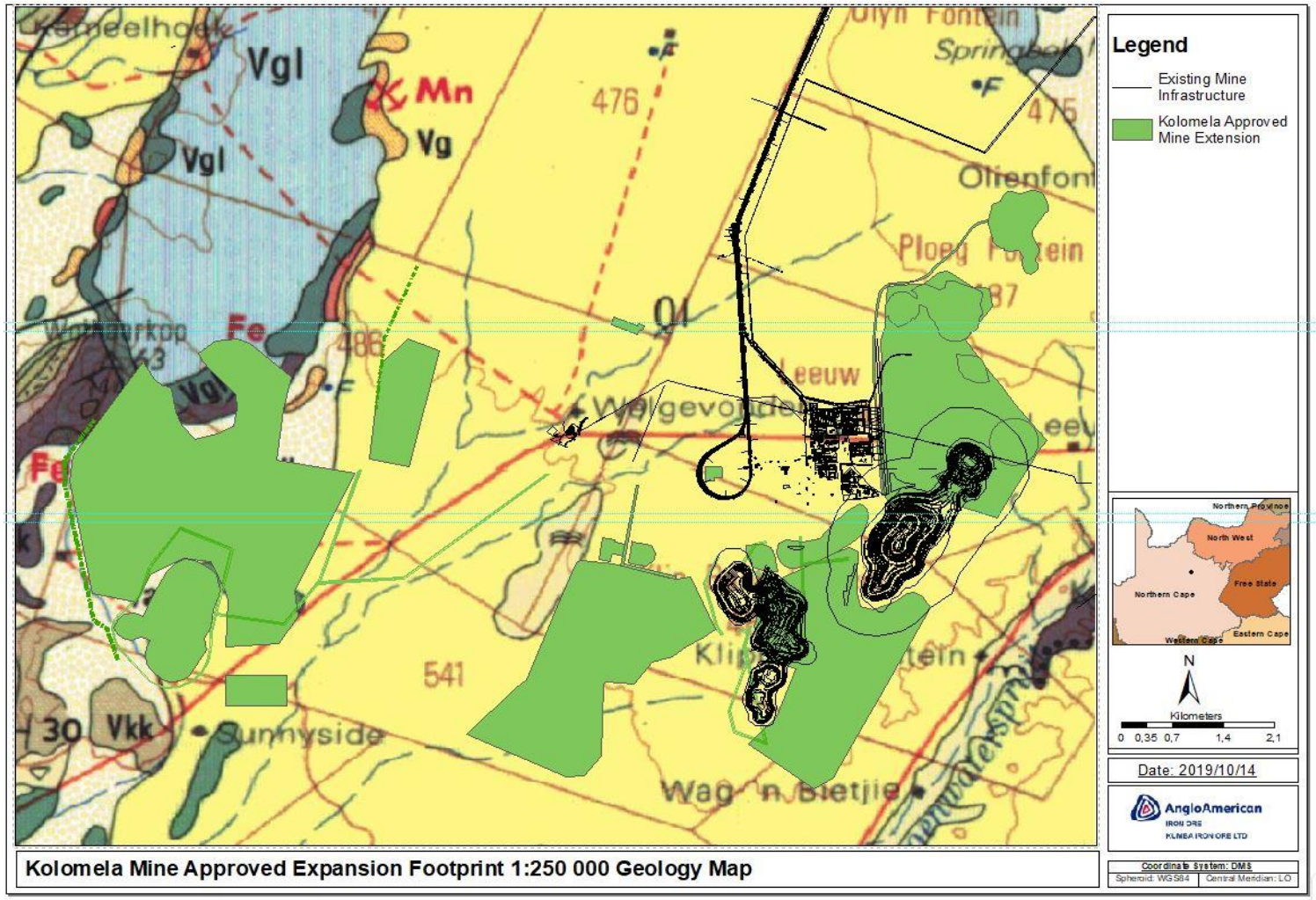
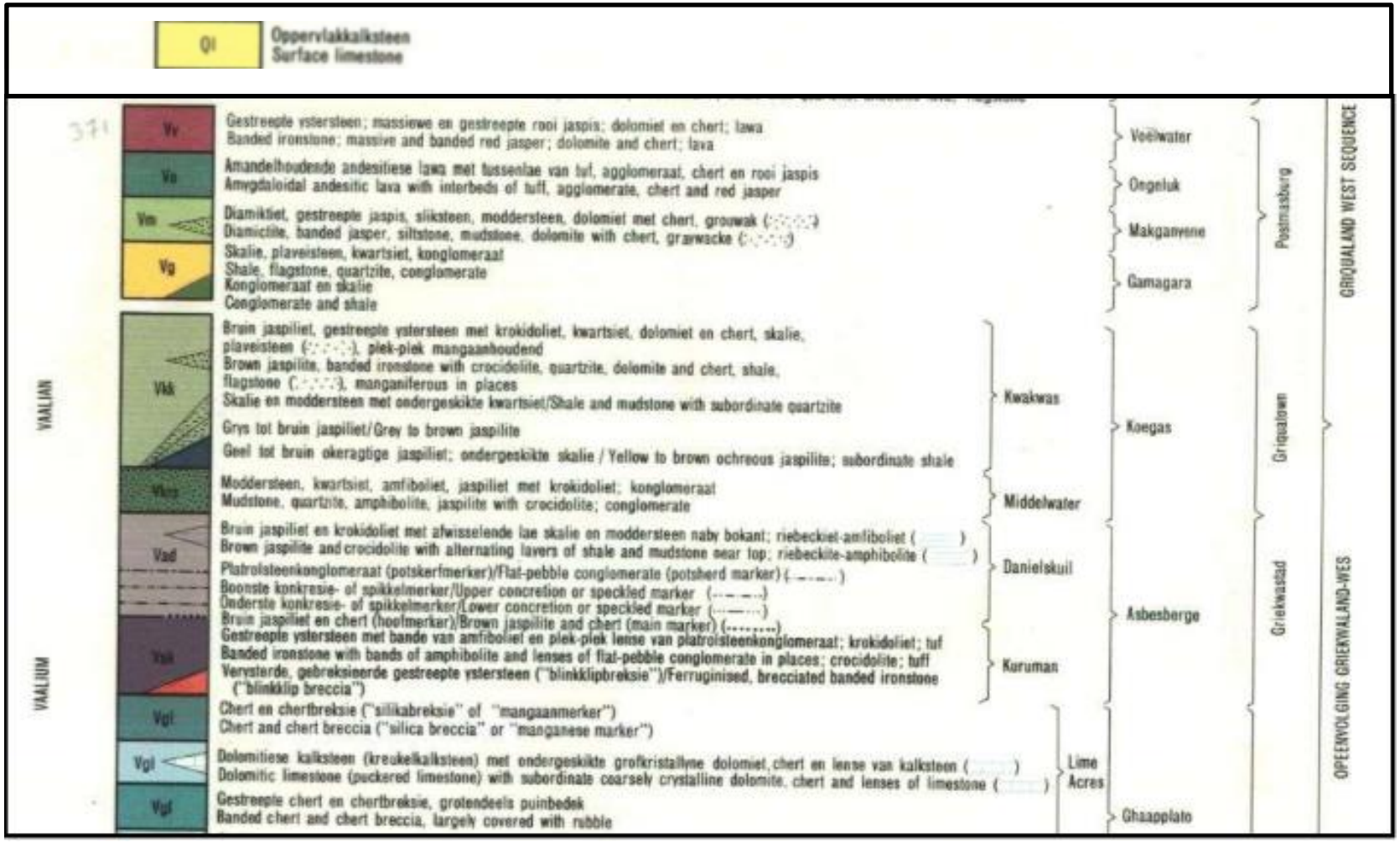


Figure 2: Extract of the 1: 250 000 Geological map 2822 Postmasburg (Council for Geoscience, Pretoria) indicating the approved layout for the Kolomela Mine extension. Map drawn by EXM 10.10.2019.

Map Legend Clarification



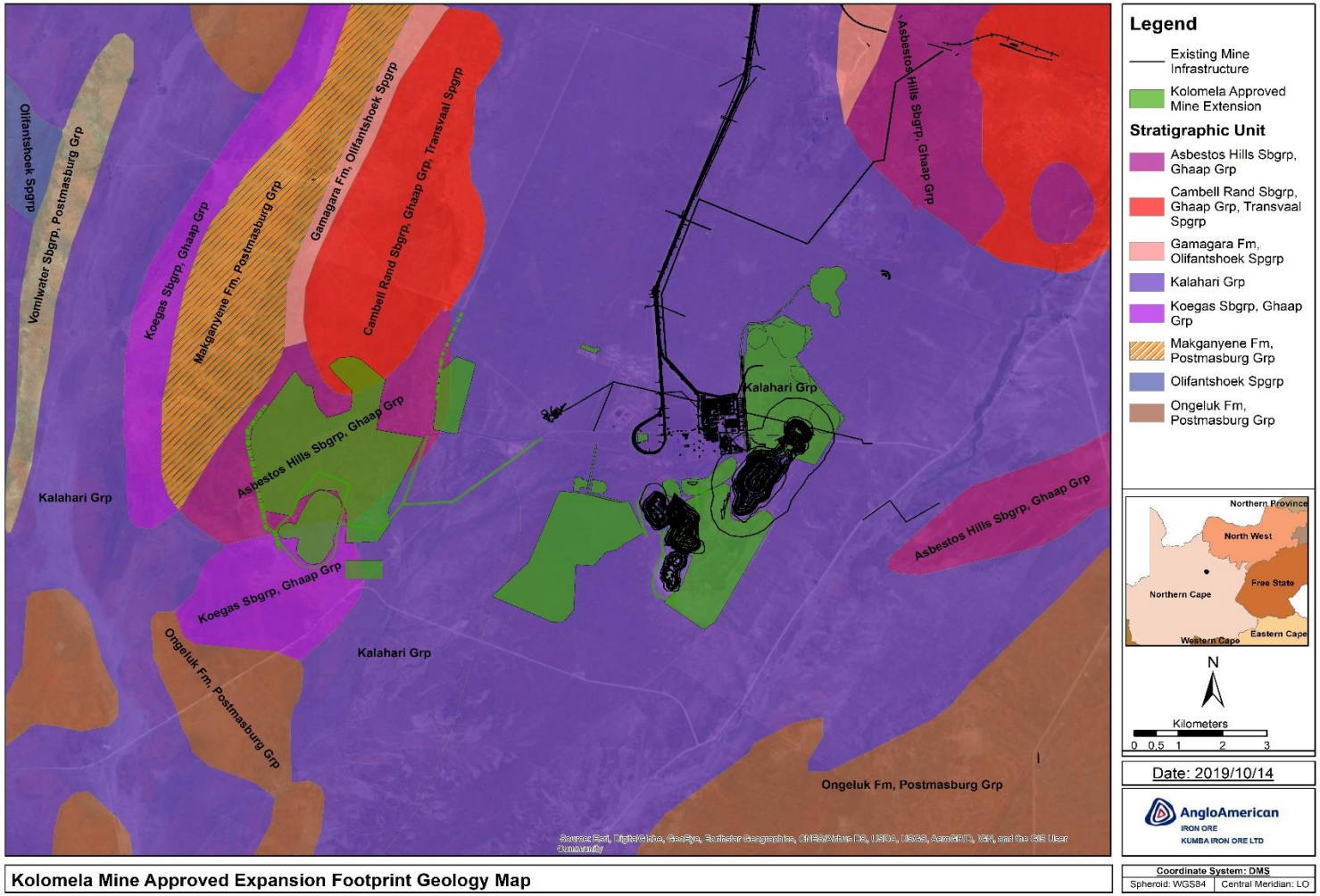


Figure 3: Surface geology of the approved Kolomela Mine extension. The proposed development footprint is underlain by the Asbestos Hills and Campbell Rand and Koegas Subgroups towards the west and the Kalahari Group in the North, central and eastern areas. Map drawn by EXM 10.10.2019

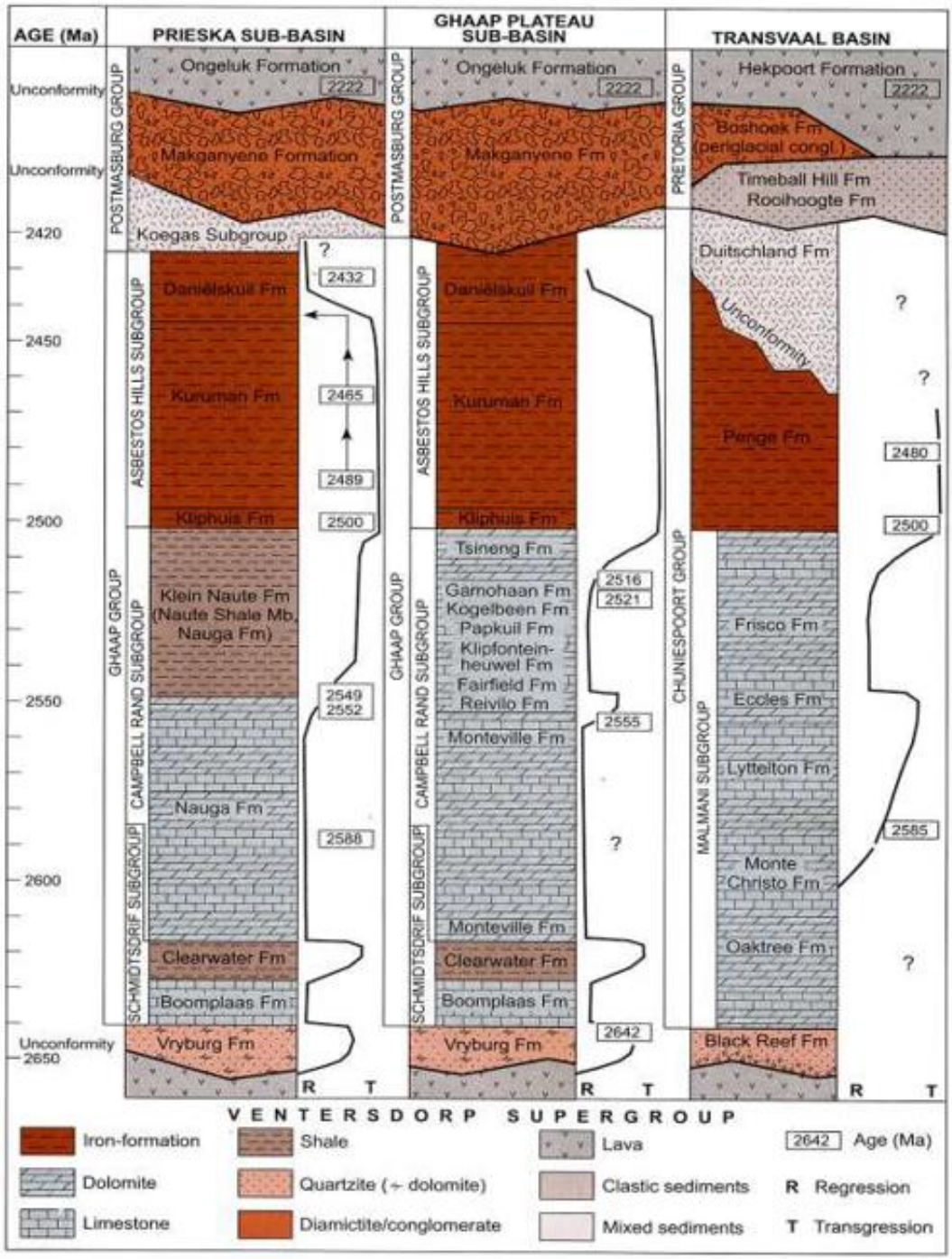


Figure 4: Stratigraphy of the Transvaal Supergroup of the Ghaap Plateau Basin. The middle column shows the rock units represented in the proposed site (Eriksson, *et al.* 2006).

5.1 Ghaap Group

The Vaalian Ghaap Group consists of the Schmidsdrift, Campbell Rand and Asbestos Hills Subgroups (Figure 2-4). The proposed development falls mainly in the lower Ghaap Group, which is undifferentiated in the development footprint, with mainly the Kuruman and Danielskuil Formations mapped. Prominent brown jaspilite and chert forms the upper marker for the Kuruman Fm which is represented by banded ironstone with bands of amphibolite and lenses of flat pebble conglomerates and crocidolite. The upper part of the Danielskuil formation is represented by mudstone and shale layers. This formation mainly contains brown jaspilite and crocidolite with several prominent concretion markers (1986; Eriksson, 2006).

The Ghaap Group is known for its shallow marine and lacustrine stromatolites which may vary in size, pisolites in carbonates, oolites, organic walled microfossils (cyanobacteria) in siliciclastics/ carbonates and cherts of banded iron formations (BIF) have been described.

Algal growth structures, also known as “Stromatolites”, are fossil structures described from the dolomites of the Transvaal Supergroup (Figure 5). Stromatolites are layered mounds, columns and sheet-like sedimentary rocks. These structures were originally formed by the growth of layer upon layer of cyanobacteria, a single-celled photosynthesizing microbe. Cyanobacteria are prokaryotic cells (simplest form of modern carbon-bases life). Stromatolites are first found in Precambrian rocks and are known as the earliest known fossils. The oxygen atmosphere that we depend on was generated by numerous cyanobacteria photosynthesizing during the Archaean and Proterozoic Era.

Figure 5: Example of a well-preserved stromatolite from the Archaean Era.

5.2 Koegas Subgroup

The Koegas Subgroup (Figure 2-4) is present in the southern portion of the proposed development footprint. This subgroup consists grey to brown jaspilite, iron formation, mudrock, quartzite, and dolomite. Less well-preserved stromatolites are preserved in this subgroup.

5.3 Postmasburg Group

The Vaalian aged Postmasburg Group is divided into the Gamagara Fm, Makganyene Fm and Ongeluks Fm. The latter is present in the development footprint (Figure 2-4) and consists of andestic and basaltic lava with abundant pillows and some jaspilite. It is unlikely that this Fm will comprise fossil remains.

5.4 Olifantshoek Group

The Vaalian aged Olifantshoek Group is represented by the Lucknow Fm in the study area which consist of quartzite with subordinate flagstone and dolomitic limestone as well as conglomerate. The dolomitic limestone is associated with stromatolites (Alterman, 1995, 1998; Beukes, 1986; Eriksson, 2006).

5.5 Kalahari Group

The **Kalahari deposits** is approximately Ca 65 – 2.5 million years old (Ma).
The Cenozoic Kalahari Group is the most widespread body of terrestrial sediments in southern Africa. The Cenozoic sands and calcretes of the Kalahari Group range in thickness from a few metres to more than 180m (Partridge et al., 2006). The youngest formation of the Kalahari group is the Gordonia Formation which is generally termed Kalahari sand and comprises of red aeolian sands that covers most of the Kalahari Group sediments. The pan sediments of the area originated from the Gordonia Formation and contains white to brown fine-grained silts, sands and clays. Some of the pans consist of clayey material mixed with evaporates that shows seasonal effects of shallow saline groundwaters. Quaternary alluvium, aolian sands, surface limestone, silcrete, and terrace gravels are also included in the Kalahari Group (Kent 1980).

The fossil assemblages of the Kalahari are generally very low in diversity and occur over a wide range and thus the palaeontological diversity of this Group is low. These fossils represent terrestrial plants and animals with a close resemblance to living forms. Fossil assemblages include bivalves, diatoms, gastropod shells, ostracods and trace fossils. Late Cenozoic calcrete may comprise of bones, horn corns as well as mammalian teeth. Tortoise remains have also been uncovered as well as trace fossils which includes termite and insect's burrows and mammalian trackways. Amphibian and crocodile remains have been uncovered where the depositional settings in the past were wetter. Fossils are mostly associated with ancient lakes, pans and river systems.

5.6 Surface Limestones

This include Quaternary to recent aeolian sand, alluvium, colluvium, spring tufa (calcareous) and sinter (siliceous) lake deposits, peats, pedocretes or duricrusts (clacrete and ferricrete), soils and gravel (diamondiferous in places. These limestones contain similar fossils to the Kalahari Group although fossil remains are usually very scarce.

5.7 Cenozoic Cave Breccias

The Cave Breccias is underlain by Ghaap Group dolomites which has a very high possibility of Cenozoic aged carbonaceous cave breccias. Cave deposits [Late Pliocene to Late Pleistocene and Holocene (<3 Ma)] can be associated with the dolomite karst topography. This bone bearing breccias include calcareous tufa (spelothems, flowstones), colluvial and alluvial gravels.

5.8 Alluvium

Alluvium consists of clayey and sandy deposits along water courses. Various fossils can be present and include ostrich eggshells, tortoise remains, mammalian bones and teeth, and casts of roots. These deposits are associated with recent water courses of rivers and streams.

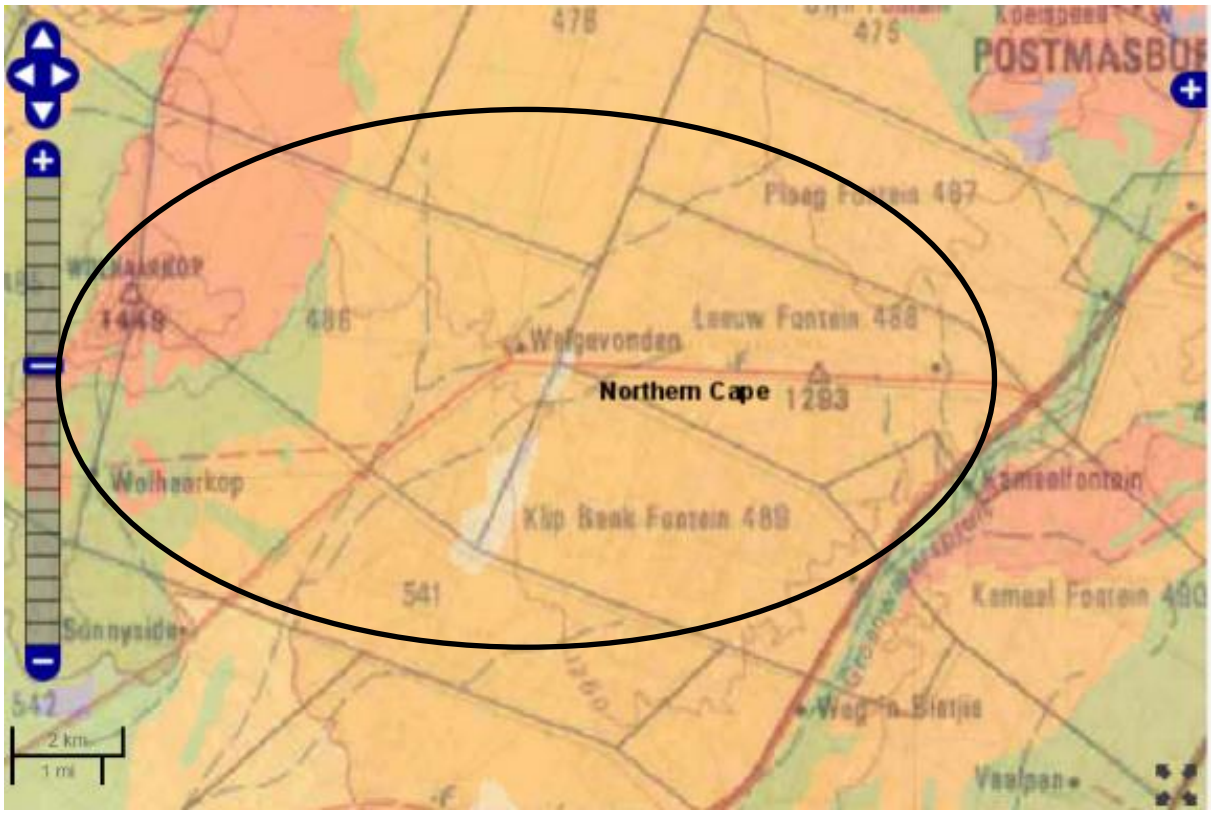


Figure 6: Extract of the 1 in 250 000 SAHRIS PalaeoMap map (Council of Geosciences). Approximate location of the proposed development is indicated in blue

According to the SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map (Figure 6) there is a low to very high chance of finding fossils in this area.

6 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE SITE

The Kolomella mine is located approximately 15 km on the R309 west of the town of Postmasburg in the Northern Cape province.

7 METHODS

A desktop study was assembled to evaluate the possible risk to palaeontological heritage (this includes fossils as well as trace fossils) in the proposed development area. In compiling the desktop report aerial photos, Google Earth 2018, topographical and geological maps and other reports from the same area as well as the author's experience were used to assess the proposed development footprint.

7.1 Assumptions and Limitations

The accuracy of DIA is reduced by several factors which may include the following: the databases of institutions are not always up to date and relevant locality and geological information were not accurately documented in the past. Various remote areas of South Africa have not been assessed by palaeontologists and data is based on aerial photographs alone. Geological maps concentre on the geology of an area and the sheet explanations were never intended to focus on palaeontological heritage.

Similar Assemblage Zones, but in different areas is used to provide information on the presence of fossil heritage in an unmapped area. Desktop studies of similar geological formations and Assemblage Zones generally **assume** that exposed fossil heritage is present within the development area. The accuracy of the Palaeontological Impact Assessment is thus improved considerably by conducting a field-assessment.

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONSULTED

In compiling this report the following sources were consulted:

- The Palaeosensitivity Map from the SAHRIS website.
- 2822 BD Topographical map
- Geological map 1:100 000, Geology of the Republic of South Africa (Visser 1984)
- Geological Map 1: 250 000 2822 Postmasburg (Moen 1979).
- A Google Earth map with polygons of the proposed development was obtained from *PGS*.
- Previous Palaeontological Impact Assessments conducted in the area were found on the internet and include Almond, 2014; Groenewald 2015, These articles are listed in the references.

9 SITE VISTIT

The following photographs were taken during the site visit to the proposed project site of the Kolomela Mine near Postmasburg in the Northern Cape Province. No fossiliferous outcrop was identified during the site investigation.

10 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

An assessment of the impact significance of the proposed Kolomela upgrade on local fossil heritage is presented here:

Figure 7: Kolomela mining Pit. GPS Coordinates 28°22'56.81"S 22°59'11.55"E

Figure 8: Sediments on Ploegfontein consists of the Kalahari sands of the Gordonia Formation. No fossils were found on the low-lying topography. GPS coordinates 28°21'7.11"S 22°59'43.94"E

Figure 9: Pan on Leeuwfontein. Short grass with no outcrops.

GPS Coordinates: 28°22'3.21"S 22°58'50.94"E

Figure 10: Unfossiliferous sediments: GPS coordinates 28°22'33.82"S 22°53'22.55"E

Figure 11: Unfossiliferous conglomerate. GPS coordinates 28°22'34.05"S 22°53'22.70"E

Figure 12: Unfossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°24'31"S 22°53'35"E

Figure 13: Low vegetation without a fossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°24'8.73"S 22°52'53.57"

Figure 14: Low vegetation without a fossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°24'8.73"S 22°52'53.57"

Figure 15: No fossiliferous outcrop. GPS coordinates 28°23'28.00"S 22°56'42.00"E"

10.1 Methodology for Impact Assessment

In order to ensure uniformity, a standard impact assessment methodology has been utilised so that a wide range of impacts can be compared. The impact assessment methodology makes provision for the assessment of impacts against the following criteria:

- Significance;
- Spatial scale;
- Temporal scale;
- Probability; and
- Degree of certainty.

A combined quantitative and qualitative methodology was used to describe impacts for each of the aforementioned assessment criteria. A summary of each of the qualitative descriptors, along with the equivalent quantitative rating scale for each of the aforementioned criteria, is given in **Table** 1: **.**

Table 1: Quantitative rating and equivalent descriptors for the impact assessment criteria

RATING	SIGNIFICANCE	EXTENT SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE
1	VERY LOW	*Isolated site/ proposed corridor*	Incidental

2	LOW	*Study area*	Short-term
3	MODERATE	*Local*	Medium-term
4	HIGH	*Regional / Provincial*	Long-term
5	VERY HIGH	*Global / National*	Permanent

A more detailed description of each of the assessment criteria is given in the following sections.

10.2 Significance Assessment

The Significance rating (importance) of the associated impacts embraces the notion of extent and magnitude, but does not always clearly define these, since their importance in the rating scale is very relative. For example, the magnitude (i.e. the size) of an area affected by atmospheric pollution may be extremely large (1000 km^2) but the significance of this effect is dependent on the concentration or level of pollution. If the concentration is great, the significance of the impact would be HIGH or VERY HIGH, but if it is diluted it would be VERY LOW or LOW. Similarly, if 60 ha of a grassland type are destroyed, the impact would be VERY HIGH if only 100 ha of that grassland type were known. The impact would be VERY LOW if the grassland type was common.

A more detailed description of the impact significance rating scale is given in **Table** 2: below.

Table 2: Description of the significance rating scale

RATING		DESCRIPTION
5	VERY HIGH	Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: there is no possible mitigation and/or remedial activity which could offset the impact. In the case of beneficial impacts, there is no real alternative to achieving this benefit.
4	HIGH	Impact is of substantial order within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity is feasible but difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these. In the case of beneficial impacts, other means of achieving this benefit are feasible but they are more difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these.
3	MODERATE	Impact is real but not substantial in relation to other impacts, which might take effect within the bounds of those which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity are both feasible and fairly easily possible. In the case of beneficial impacts: other means of achieving this benefit are about equal in time, cost, effort, etc.
2	LOW	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. In the case of adverse impacts: mitigation and/or remedial activity is either easily achieved or little will be required, or both. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means for achieving this benefit are likely to be easier, cheaper, more effective, less time consuming, or some combination of these.
1	VERY LOW	Impact is negligible within the bounds of impacts which could occur. In the case of adverse impacts, almost no mitigation and/or remedial activity are needed, and any minor steps which might be needed are easy, cheap, and simple. In the case of beneficial impacts, alternative means are almost all likely to be better, in one or a number of ways, than this means of achieving the benefit. Three additional categories must also be used where relevant. They are in addition to the category represented on the scale, and if used, will replace the scale.

RATING		DESCRIPTION
0	NO IMPACT	There is no impact at all - not even a very low impact on a party or system.

10.3 Spatial Scale

The spatial scale refers to the extent of the impact i.e. will the impact be felt at the local, regional, or global scale. The spatial assessment scale is described in more detail in the table below.

Table 3: Description of the Spatial significance rating scale

RATING		DESCRIPTION
5	Global/National	The maximum extent of any impact.
4	Regional/Provincial	The spatial scale is moderate within the bounds of possible impacts, and will be felt at a regional scale (District Municipality to Provincial Level). The impact will affect an area up to 50 km from the proposed site.
3	Local	The impact will affect an area up to 5 km from the proposed site.
2	Study Area	The impact will affect an area not exceeding the boundary of the study area.
1	Isolated Sites / proposed site	The impact will affect an area no bigger than the site.

10.4 Temporal/Duration Scale

In order to accurately describe the impact, it is necessary to understand the duration and persistence of an impact in the environment. The temporal or duration scale is rated according to criteria set out in Error! Reference source not found..

Table 4: Description of the temporal rating scale

RATING		DESCRIPTION
1	Incidental	The impact will be limited to isolated incidences that are expected to occur very sporadically.
2	Short-term	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of the construction phase or a period of less than 5 years, whichever is the greater.
3	Medium-term	The environmental impact identified will operate for the duration of life of the project.
4	Long-term	The environmental impact identified will operate beyond the life of operation of the project.
5	Permanent	The environmental impact will be permanent.

10.5 Degree of Probability

The probability, or likelihood, of an impact occurring will be described as shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** below.

Table 5:Description of the degree of probability of an impact occurring

RATING	DESCRIPTION
1	Practically impossible
2	Unlikely
3	Could happen
4	Very likely
5	It's going to happen / has occurred

10.6 Degree of Certainty

As with all studies, it is not possible to be 100% certain of all facts, and for this reason a standard "degree of certainty" scale is used, as discussed in **Table** 6: **T**he level of detail for specialist studies is determined according to the degree of certainty required for decision-making. The impacts are discussed in terms of affected parties or environmental components.

Table 6: Description of the degree of certainty rating scale

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Definite	More than 90% sure of a particular fact.
Probable	Between 70 and 90% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of that impact occurring.
Possible	Between 40 and 70% sure of a particular fact, or of the likelihood of an impact occurring.
Unsure	Less than 40% sure of a particular fact or the likelihood of an impact occurring.
Can't know	The consultant believes an assessment is not possible even with additional research.

10.7 Quantitative Description of Impacts

To allow for impacts to be described in a quantitative manner, in addition to the qualitative description given above, a rating scale of between 1 and 5 was used for each of the assessment criteria. Thus the total value of the impact is described as the function of significance, spatial and temporal scale, as described below:

$$\textit{Impact Risk} = \frac{(\text{SIGNIFICANCE (5)} + \textit{Spatial (2)} + \text{Temporal (5)})}{3} \times \frac{\text{Probability (2)}}{5}$$

An example of how this rating scale is applied is shown below:

Table 7: Example of Rating Scale

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE	SPATIAL SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE	PROBABILITY	RATING
	Very High	Study area	Permanent	Could Happen	**LOW**

IMPACT	SIGNIFICANCE	SPATIAL SCALE	TEMPORAL SCALE	PROBABILITY	RATING
Impact on heritage sites	5	2	5	2	1.6

Note: The significance, spatial and temporal scales are added to give a total of 12, which is divided by 3 to give a criterion rating of 4. The probability (2) is divided by 5 to give a probability rating of 0.4. The criteria rating of 4 is then multiplied by the probability rating (0,4) to give the final rating of 1,3.

The impact risk is classified according to 5 classes as described in the table below.

Table 8: Impact Risk Classes

RATING	IMPACT CLASS	DESCRIPTION
0.1 – 1.0	1	Very Low
1.1 – 2.0	2	Low
2.1 – 3.0	3	Moderate
3.1 – 4.0	4	High
4.1 – 5.0	5	Very High

An impact rating of 1.6 will fall in the Impact Class 2, which will be considered to be a low impact.

10.8 Summary of Impact Tables

Very High palaeontological sensitivity has been allocated to the Ghaap Group while a Moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity has been allocated to sediments of the Koegas Subgroup, Postmasburg, Olifantshoek and Kalahari Groups, as well as the alluvium deposits. The expected duration of the impact is assessed as potentially permanent to long term. In the absence of mitigation procedures (should fossil material be present within the affected area) the damage or destruction of any palaeontological materials will be **permanent**. Impacts on palaeontological heritage during the construction phase could potentially occur but are regarded as having a moderate possibility.

The significance, spatial and temporal scales are added to give a total of 12, which is divided by 3 to give a criterion rating of 4. The probability (2) is divided by 5 to give a probability rating of 0.4. The criteria rating of 4 is then multiplied by the probability rating (0,4) to give the final rating of 1,6 and falls Impact Class 2.

11 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Very High palaeontological sensitivity has been allocated to the Ghaap Group, while important early Hominin remains could also occur in carbonaceous breccias. The highly sensitive dolomites are overlain by surface limestones, which are known to contain important Quaternary plant and animal fossils. Sediments of the Ghaap Group are known for the presence of stromatolites. A Moderate Palaeontological Sensitivity has been allocated to sediments of the Koegas Subgroup, Postmasburg, Olifantshoek and Kalahari Groups, as well as the alluvium deposits.

A 2-day site specific field survey of the development footprint were conducted on foot and by motor vehicle on 5 and 6 September 2019. No visible evidence of fossiliferous outcrops was found. For this reason, an overall low palaeontological sensitivity is allocated to the development footprint. The scarcity of fossil heritage at the proposed development footprint indicates that the impact of Kolomela upgrade project will be of a low significance in palaeontological terms. It is therefore considered that the proposed development is deemed appropriate and feasible and will not lead to detrimental impacts on the palaeontological resources of the area. Thus, the construction of the development may be authorised in its whole extent, as the development footprint is not considered sensitive in terms of palaeontological resources.

If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by fresh excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO in charge of these developments. These discoveries ought to be protected (if possible *in situ*) and the ECO must report to SAHRA (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za) so that correct mitigation (*e.g.* recording and collection) can be carry out by a paleontologist.

Preceding any collection of fossil material, the specialist would need to apply for a collection permit from SAHRA. Fossil material must be curated in an accredited collection (museum or university collection), while all fieldwork and reports should meet the minimum standards for palaeontological impact studies suggested by SAHRA.

Recommendations:

- The EAP and ECO for this project must be informed that the Ghaap Group sediments and surface limestone comprises of important fossil remains, for example stromatolites and micro-fossil assemblages in the dolomite of the Ghaap Group as well as vertebrate remains in the surface limestone.
- Fossils may also be present in the Postmasburg, Olifantshoek, and Kalahari Groups, as well as Koegas Subgroup and alluvial deposits. If fossil remains are discovered during any phase of construction, either on the surface or exposed by new excavations the **Chance Find Protocol** must be implemented by the ECO in charge of these developments. These

discoveries ought to be secured (if possible *in situ*) and the ECO ought to alert SAHRA so that appropriate mitigation (documented and collection) can be undertaken by a palaeontologist.

- These recommendations must form part of the Heritage Management Plan for Kolomenla.

12 CHANCE FINDS PROTOCOL

A following procedure will only be followed if fossils are uncovered during excavation.

12.1 Legislation

Cultural Heritage in South Africa (includes all heritage resources) is protected by the **National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) (NHRA).** According to Section 3 of the Act, all Heritage resources include **"all objects recovered from the soil or waters of South Africa, including archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, meteorites and rare geological specimens**".

Palaeontological heritage is unique and non-renewable and is protected by the NHRA and are the property of the State. It is thus the responsibility of the State to manage and conserve fossils on behalf of the citizens of South Africa. Palaeontological resources may not be excavated, broken, moved, or destroyed by any development without prior assessment and without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority as per section 35 of the NHRA.

12.2 Background

A fossil is the naturally preserved remains (or traces) of plants or animals embedded in rock. These plants and animals lived in the geologic past millions of years ago. Fossils are extremely rare and irreplaceable. By studying fossils it is possible to determine the environmental conditions that existed in a specific geographical area millions of years ago.

12.3 Introduction

This informational document is intended for workmen and foremen on construction sites. It describes the actions to be taken when mining or construction activities accidentally uncovers fossil material.

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Control Officer (ECO) of the project to train the workmen and foremen in the procedure to follow when a fossil is accidentally uncovered. In the absence of the ECO, a member of the staff must be appointed to be responsible for the proper implementation of the chance find protocol as not to compromise the conservation of fossil material.

12.4 Chance Find Procedure

- If a chance find is made the person responsible for the find must immediately **stop working** and all work must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find.

- The person who made the find must immediately **report** the find to his/her direct supervisor which in turn must report the find to his/her manager and the ECO or site manager. The ECO must report the find to the relevant Heritage Agency (South African Heritage Research Agency, SAHRA). (Contact details: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town. PO Box 4637, Cape Town 8000, South Africa. Tel: 021 462 4502. Fax: +27 (0)21 462 4509. Web: www.sahra.org.za). The information to the Heritage Agency must include photographs of the find, from various angles, as well as the GPS co-ordinates.
- A preliminary report must be submitted to the Heritage Agency within **24 hours** of the find and must include the following: 1) date of the find; 2) a description of the discovery and a 3) description of the fossil and its context (depth and position of the fossil), GPS co-ordinates.
- Photographs (the more the better) of the discovery must be of high quality, in focus, accompanied by a scale. It is also important to have photographs of the vertical section (side) where the fossil was found.

Upon receipt of the preliminary report, the Heritage Agency will inform the ECO (site manager) whether a rescue excavation or rescue collection by a palaeontologist is necessary.

- The site must be secured to protect it from any further damage. **No attempt** should be made to remove material from their environment. The exposed finds must be stabilized and covered by a plastic sheet or sand bags. The Heritage agency will also be able to advise on the most suitable method of protection of the find.
- In the event that the fossil cannot be stabilized the fossil may be collected with extreme care by the ECO (site manager). Fossils finds must be stored in tissue paper and in an appropriate box while due care must be taken to remove all fossil material from the rescue site.
- Once Heritage Agency has issued the written authorization, the developer may continue with the development.

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Appendix A – Elize Butler CV

CURRICULUM VITAE

ELIZE BUTLER

PROFESSION: Palaeontologist

YEARS' EXPERIENCE: 26 years in Palaeontology

EDUCATION: B.Sc Botany and Zoology, 1988
University of the Orange Free State

B.Sc (Hons) Zoology, 1991
University of the Orange Free State

Management Course, 1991
University of the Orange Free State

M. Sc. *Cum laude* (Zoology), 2009
University of the Free State

Dissertation title: The postcranial skeleton of the Early Triassic non-mammalian Cynodont *Galesaurus planiceps*: implications for biology and lifestyle

Registered as a PhD fellow at the Zoology Department of the UFS
2013 to current

Dissertation title: A new gorgonopsian from the uppermost D*aptocephalus Assemblage Zone*, in the Karoo Basin of South Africa

MEMBERSHIP

Palaeontological Society of South Africa (PSSA) 2006-currently

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Part-time Laboratory assistant	Department of Zoology & Entomology University of the Free State Zoology 1989-1992
Part-time laboratory assistant	Department of Virology University of the Free State Zoology 1992
Research Assistant	National Museum, Bloemfontein 1993 – 1997

Principal Research Assistant	National Museum, Bloemfontein
and Collection Manager	1998–currently

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