Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed edible oil pipeline, Savannah-Wilmar, Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal

Desktop Study

For

CTS Heritage

12 March 2019

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Expertise of Specialist

The Palaeontologist Consultant is: Prof Marion Bamford
Qualifications: PhD (Wits Univ, 1990); FRSSAf, ASSAf
Experience: 30 years research; 22 years PIA studies

Declaration of Independence

This report has been compiled by Professor Marion Bamford, of the University of the Witwatersrand, sub-contracted by CTS Heritage, Cape Town, South Africa. The views expressed in this report are entirely those of the author and no other interest was displayed during the decision making process for the Project.

Specialist: Prof Marion Bamford

Signature: 

Executive Summary

A palaeontological Impact Assessment was requested for the proposed construction of To comply with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was completed for the proposed project.

The proposed site lies on the aeolianites and sands of the Maputaland Group, most likely the Port Durnford, Berea or Bluff Formations of Pleistocene age. There is a small chance that below the surface (not on the disturbed or vegetated surface) fossils could occur. The fossils could be trace fossils, invertebrates such as shells, vertebrate bones or plant fossils such as wood or pollen. Once excavations commence a Chance Find Protocol should be followed and if any fossils are recovered then the responsible person must contact a professional palaeontologist to assess the significance of the fossils. Based on this information it is recommended that no palaeontological site visit is required and the proposed project can proceed.

Table of Contents

1. Background

A palaeontological Impact Assessment was requested for the proposed development of an edible oil pipeline for Wilmar SA (Pty) Ltd, from Berth 706 / 707 / 708 to Richards Bay IDZ, Phase 1a, Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.

Information on Project:
Wilmar Processing (Pty) Ltd (Wilmar) are proposing the development of a vegetable oil pipeline that will consist of 4 x 216mm-wide pipes that will extend for ~2.6km within the Richard's Bay Port. The proposed development will consist of four pipelines stacked vertically or in double rows, running side by side (depending on support and space restrictions) and will comprise of the following dimensions:

Width: 216mm
Total Length: ~2.6km.

Furthermore, the proposed development will include the following infrastructure:

Steel pipes;
Multiple duct access shafts;
Overhead steel bridges;
Site Offices and Maintenance Buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance;
Temporary laydown areas;
Fencing and access roads;
and Security Offices.

Property and Affected Environment:
Richards Bay Harbour area has been previously extensively developed. During the 20th Century, Richards Bay was primarily a recreational fishing destination until the establishment of a harbour and adjacent township began in the early 1970's. Inception of dredging of the Mhlatuze Estuary for the new harbour began in 1972. In 1974 a berm wall was constructed from dredge spoils to effectively separate the harbour development area from the proclaimed Richards Bay Nature Reserve, thus conserving the sensitive estuarine habitat. All dock-side infrastructure is located on reclaimed swamplands built up by harbour dredging spoils and imported fill materials.

The entire area of the Richards Bay Harbour precinct, prior to establishment, comprised extensive *Phragmites* marshlands and mangrove and swamp forests associated with the Mhlatuze estuary. This is an environment that would have been unsuitable for human settlement. Consequently no archaeological residues are anticipated. No buildings, equipment or structures of historical significance occur within the study area.

To comply with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) in terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) (NHRA), a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) was completed for the proposed project.

Table 1: Specialist report requirements in terms of Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations (2014)

A specialist report prepared in terms of the Environmental Impact Regulations of 2014 must contain:	**Relevant section in report**
Details of the specialist who prepared the report	Appendix A
The expertise of that person to compile a specialist report including a curriculum vitae	Appendix A
A declaration that the person is independent in a form as may be specified by the competent authority	Page 1
An indication of the scope of, and the purpose for which, the report was prepared	Section 1
The date and season of the site investigation and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment	N/A
A description of the methodology adopted in preparing the report or carrying out the specialised process	Section 2
The specific identified sensitivity of the site related to the activity and its associated structures and infrastructure	Section ii
An identification of any areas to be avoided, including buffers	N/A
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;	N/A
A description of any assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge;	Section 5
A description of the findings and potential implications of such findings on the impact of the proposed activity, including identified alternatives, on the environment	Section
Any mitigation measures for inclusion in the EMPr	N/A
Any conditions for inclusion in the environmental authorisation	N/A
Any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr or environmental authorisation	Section 8
A reasoned opinion as to whether the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised	N/A
If the opinion is that the proposed activity or portions thereof should be authorised, any avoidance, management and mitigation measures that should be included in the EMPr, and where applicable, the closure plan	N/A

A description of any consultation process that was undertaken during the course of carrying out the study	N/A
A summary and copies if any comments that were received during any consultation process	N/A
Any other information requested by the competent authority.	N/A

Figure 1: Google Earth map of the proposed route for the edible oil pipeline for Wilmar SA (Pty) Ltd, from Berth 706 / 707 / 708 to Richards Bay IDZ, Phase 1a, Richards Bay, KwaZulu Natal.

2. Methods and Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this study were to undertake a PIA and provide feasible management measures to comply with the requirements of SAHRA.

The methods employed to address the ToR included:

1. Consultation of geological maps, literature, palaeontological databases, published and unpublished records to determine the likelihood of fossils occurring in the affected areas. Sources included records housed at the Evolutionary Studies Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand and SAHRA databases;
2. Where necessary, site visits by a qualified palaeontologist to locate any fossils and assess their importance (*not applicable to this assessment*);
3. Where appropriate, collection of unique or rare fossils with the necessary permits for storage and curation at an appropriate facility (*not applicable to this assessment*); and
4. Determination of fossils' representivity or scientific importance to decide if the fossils can be destroyed or a representative sample collected (*not applicable to this assessment*).

3. Geology and Palaeontology

i. Project location and geological context

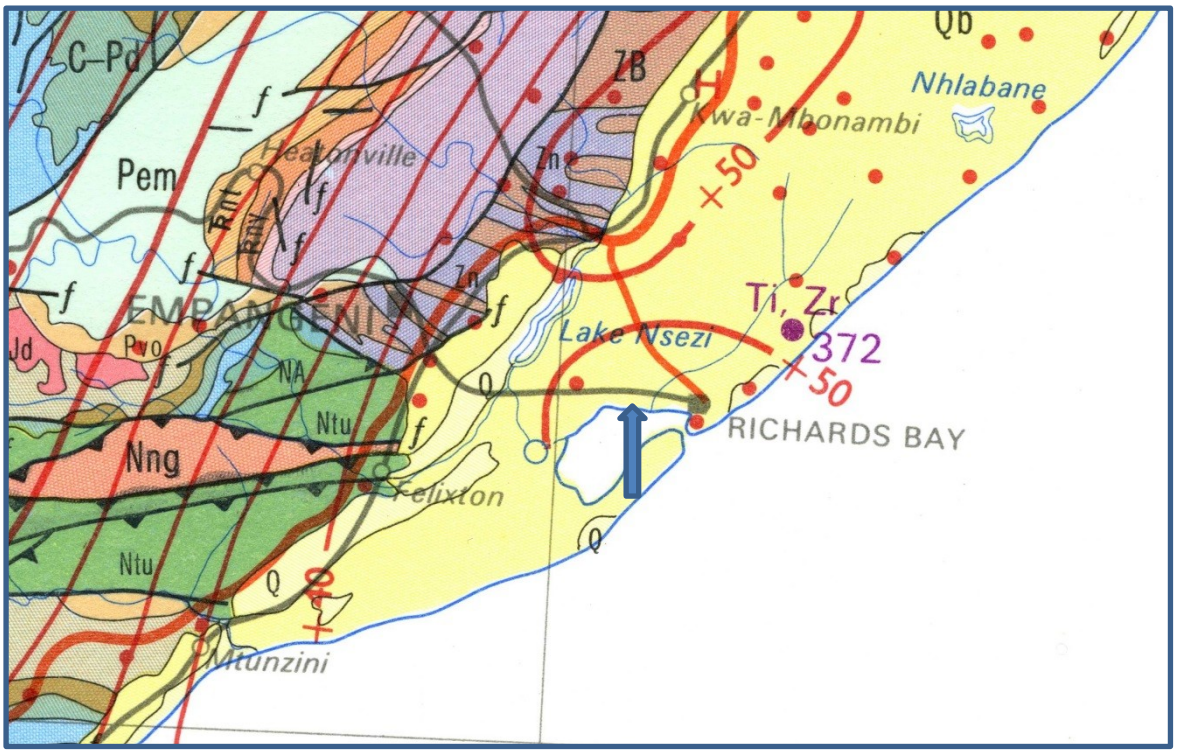

Figure 2: Geological map of the area around Richards Bay harbour. The location of the proposed project is indicated with the arrow. Abbreviations of the rock types are explained in Table 2. Map enlarged from the Geological Survey 1: 1 000 000 map 1984.

Table 2: Explanation of symbols for the geological map and approximate ages (Cornell et al., 2006. Johnson et al., 2006; Marshall, 2006; Roberts et al., 2006). SG = Supergroup; Fm = Formation.

Symbol	Group/Formation	Lithology	Approximate Age
Q	Quaternary	Alluvium, sand, calcrete	Neogene, ca 25 Ma to present
Qb	Bluff, Berea Fm, Maputaland Group, Quaternary	Aeolianite, sand, clay, limestone	Mio-Plio-Pleistocene Ca last 25 Ma
Jd	Jurassic dykes	Dolerite dykes, intrusive	Jurassic, approx. 180 Ma
Pem	Emakwazini Fm, Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup	Shales	Early Permian, Early Ecca, ca 240 Ma
C-Pd	Dwyka	Tillite, sandstone, mudstone shale	Late Carboniferous – Early Permian
Ntu	Tugela Group, Tugela Terrane	Amphibolite, gneiss, schist	Ca 1250 – 1135 Ma
ZB	Basement complex	Potassic granite, granodiorite	>3200 Ma

The oldest rocks are the basement rocks of the Barberton Greenstone Belt. Then there are ophiolites of oceanic affinity that were thrust northwards onto the southern flank of the Kaapvaal craton (Cornell et al., 2006). There are a number of plutons of the Namaqua-Natal Province along the coast from Margate to the Tugela River, for example the Tugela Group of the Tugela Terrane. These rocks are also highly metamorphosed. The Natal Group sediments were probably derived from the Pan-African orogenic belt in southern Mozambique and deposited in the Natal Trough during the Ordovician (ca 500-450 Ma ago) (Marshall, 2006). Palaeoenvironmental indications are that there were a series of cycles of uplift, erosion and uplift. Fluvial activity and debris flow processes would have been instrumental in the deposition of the various conglomerate members.

The Dwyka Group sediments unconformably overlie the Natal Group rocks (Johnson et al., 2006). This group comprises a number of different facies (massive diamictites, stratified diamictites, conglomerates, sandstones, mudrocks) and represent a series of ice formation and melts (Isbell et al,. 2012) that occurred throughout Gondwana during the Carboniferous to Early Permian when the polar ice sheets formed and melted.

Emakwazini Formation shales and mudrocks represent a fluvio-deltaic deposit formed by meandering rivers and different deltaic environments (Johnson et al., 2006; Bordy and Prevec, 2008). Coals are known to occur in this formation.

The project site lies on the youngest rocks in the area, the Quaternary aeolianites, sand, clay and limestone of the Bluff and Berea Formations of the Maputaland Group and they extend for many kilometres along the coast from Scottburgh to southern Mozambique.

ii. Palaeontological context

The palaeontological sensitivity of the area under consideration is presented in Figure 4. Tugela Terrane amphibolites, gneisses and schists are igneous and have been metamorphosed so would not preserve any fossils. Conglomerates and sands are reworked and do not contain primary fossils. Furthermore the Natal group rocks are too old for body fossils as they had not evolved by then (Plumstead, 1969). Jurassic dolerite does not preserve fossils as it is igneous in origin and would have destroyed any fossils that might have occurred in the Karoo sediments through which they intruded. The aeolianites and sands of the Berea and Bluff Quaternary sediments do sometimes preserve fossils but along the Natal coast these are restricted to the Port Durnford Formation which does not occur in this site.

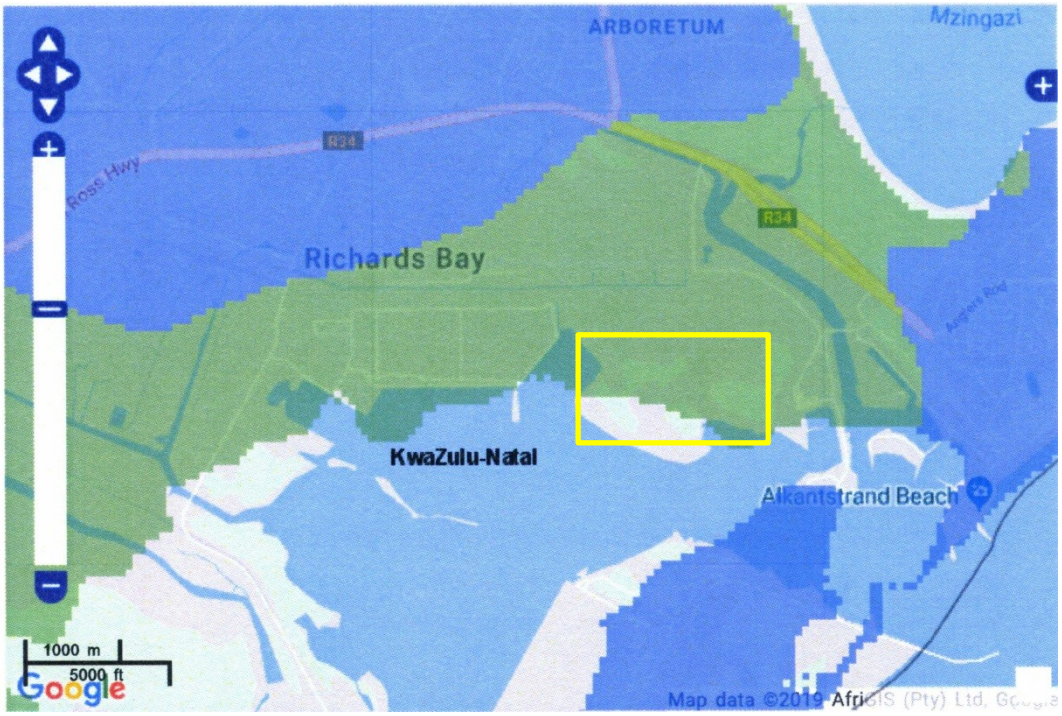

Figure 3: SAHRIS palaeosensitivity map for the proposed edible oil pipeline indicated within the yellow rectangle. Colours indicate the following degrees of sensitivity: red = very highly sensitive; orange/yellow = high; green = moderate; blue = low; grey = insignificant/zero.

The Maputuland Group occurs along the coast from Durban to Mozambique and comprises a number of Formations: according to Du Preez and Wolmarans, 1986, in Groenewald, 2012, there are five, namely the Uloa, Muzi, Port Durnford, Bluff and Berea Formations. However, according to Roberts et al. (2006, p 608) there are eight formations, also from base to top, the Uloa, Umkwelane, Berea-type red sand (informal

unit), Port Durnford, Kosi Bay, Isipingo, KwaMbonambi and Sibayi Formations. The geological map indicates that the coastal margin around Richards Bay is “Qb” or Bluff Formation so there is some confusion.

Confining the geological interpretation to the members of the Maputaland Group that occur around Richards Bay, (following Roberts et al., 2006, from older to younger) it is likely that the following fossils could occur in the footprint of the development:

Berea-type red sand informal formation (weathered calcareous deposits) – no fossils.

Port Durnford Formation (Early to Late Pleistocene; carbonaceous muds, lignites and sand) – fossil burrows; terrestrial vertebrates such as hippopotamus, buffalo, antelope, rhinoceros and elephant; marine fossils including crustaceans and fish remains, foraminifera, marine molluscs and fragments of turtle and crocodile; lignite with pollen and fossil wood.

Kosi Bay Formation (Late Pleistocene; non-calcareous uncemented dune sands) – fossil wood fragments e.g *Syzygium* sp, and pollen.

4. Impact assessment

An assessment of the potential impacts to possible palaeontological resources considers the criteria encapsulated in Table 3:

TABLE 3A: CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING IMPACTS

PART A: DEFINITION AND CRITERIA		
Criteria for ranking of the SEVERITY/NATURE of environmental impacts	**H**	Substantial deterioration (death, illness or injury). Recommended level will often be violated. Vigorous community action.
	M	Moderate/ measurable deterioration (discomfort). Recommended level will occasionally be violated. Widespread complaints.
	L	Minor deterioration (nuisance or minor deterioration). Change not measurable/ will remain in the current range. Recommended level will never be violated. Sporadic complaints.
	L+	Minor improvement. Change not measurable/ will remain in the current range. Recommended level will never be violated. Sporadic complaints.
	M+	Moderate improvement. Will be within or better than the recommended level. No observed reaction.
	H+	Substantial improvement. Will be within or better than the recommended level. Favourable publicity.
Criteria for ranking the DURATION of impacts	**L**	Quickly reversible. Less than the project life. Short term
	M	Reversible over time. Life of the project. Medium term
	H	Permanent. Beyond closure. Long term.
Criteria for ranking the SPATIAL SCALE of impacts	**L**	Localised - Within the site boundary.
	M	Fairly widespread – Beyond the site boundary. Local
	H	Widespread – Far beyond site boundary. Regional/ national
PROBABILITY	**H**	Definite/ Continuous
	M	Possible/ frequent

(of exposure to impacts)	**L**	Unlikely/ seldom

TABLE 3B: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PART B: ASSESSMENT		
SEVERITY/NATURE	**H**	-
	M	-
	L	There is a small chance that trace fossils (burrows), vertebrates, invertebrates or plants could occur in the Bluff Formation in the sands along the coast but would be difficult to find in the heavily vegetated or disturbed areas. The impact would be very unlikely.
	L+	-
	M+	-
	H+	-
DURATION	**L**	-
	M	-
	H	Where manifest, the impact will be permanent.
SPATIAL SCALE	**L**	Since the only possible fossils within the area would be trace fossils, invertebrates, vertebrates or plants buried in the sands, the spatial scale will be localised within the site boundary.
	M	-
	H	-
PROBABILITY	**H**	**-**
	M	**-**
	L	It is extremely unlikely that any trace fossils would be found intact in the vegetated site and contructed site. Other fossils may be exposed when excavations commence but would not be visible on the disturbed surface. Nonetheless a chance find protocol should be added to the eventual EMPr.

Based on the nature of the project, surface activities may impact upon the fossil heritage if preserved in the development footprint. The geological structures suggest that the rocks could possibly contain invertebrate trace fossils but these are likely to have been disturbed by the vegetation and construction of the harbour in the 1970s. This applies to all the other fossil forms. Since there is a small chance that fossils from the Maputaland Group could occur here a Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been added to this report. Taking account of the defined criteria, the potential impact to fossil heritage resources is extremely low. None has been reported from this site to date.

5. Assumptions and uncertainties

Based on the geology of the area and the palaeontological record as we know it, it can be assumed that the formation and layout of the calcareous sands, aeolianites, lignites, sandstones and sands are typical for the country and could contain trace fossils, fossil plant, insect, invertebrate and vertebrate material. As the area is heavily vegetated in parts and disturbed in other parts by urban development, construction of the

harbour and dredging of the bay to build the harbour, fossils would not be visible or well preserved on the surface. They may be present below the surface and would only become evident once excavations begin.

6. Recommendation

Based on experience and the lack of any previously recorded fossils from the area, it is extremely unlikely that any fossils would be preserved in the surface of the Bluff and Berea Formation, Maputaland Group, because they have been bioturbated in the past and recently by natural vegetation and urban development. However, there is a small chance that trace fossils may occur in the aeolianites and sands so a Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr: if fossils are found once excavations have commenced then they should be rescued and a palaeontologist called to assess and collect a representative sample.

7. References

Bordy, E.M., Prevec, R. 2008. Sedimentology, palaeontology and palaeo-environments of the Middle (?) to Upper Permian Emakwezini Formation (Karoo Supergroup, South Africa). South African Journal of Geology 111, 429-458.

Cornell, D.H., Thomas, R.J., Moen, H.F.G., Reid, D.L., Moore, J.M., Gibson, R.L., 2006. The Namaqua-Natal Province. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 325-379.

Groenewald, G. 2012. Palaeontological Technical report for KwaZulu Natal, AMAFA. 61 pages.

Johnson, M.R., van Vuuren, C.J., Visser, J.N.J., Cole, D.I., Wickens, H.deV., Christie, A.D.M., Roberts, D.L., Brandl, G., 2006. Sedimentary rocks of the Karoo Supergroup. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 461 – 499.

Marshall, G.G.A., 2006. The Natal Group. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 433-441.

Roberts, D.L., Botha, G.A., Maud, R.R., Pether, J., 2006. Coastal Cenozoic deposits. In: Johnson, M.R., Anhaeusser, C.R. and Thomas, R.J., (Eds). The

Geology of South Africa. Geological Society of South Africa, Johannesburg / Council for Geoscience, Pretoria. Pp 605-628.

8. Chance Find Protocol

Monitoring Programme for Palaeontology – to commence once the excavations begin.

1. The following procedure is only required if fossils are seen on the surface and when excavations for the pipeline commence.
2. When excavations begin the rocks must be given a cursory inspection by the environmental officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (trace fossils, burrows, tracks, bones, shells, plants) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the excavation activities will not be interrupted.
3. Photographs of similar fossils can be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing them in the shales and mudstones. This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures.
4. Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment.
5. If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer then the qualified palaeontologist sub-contracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible.
6. Any fossils that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site an AMAFA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to AMAFA as required by the relevant permits.
7. If no good fossil material is recovered then the site inspections by the palaeontologist will not be necessary. Annual reports by the palaeontologist must be sent to SAHRA.
8. If no fossils are found and the excavations have finished then no further monitoring is required.

Appendix A – Details of specialist

Curriculum vitae (short) - Marion Bamford PhD
January 2019

I) Personal details

Surname : **Bamford**
First names : **Marion Kathleen**
Present employment : Professor; Director of the Evolutionary Studies Institute.
Member Management Committee of the NRF/DST Centre of
Excellence Palaeosciences, University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa-
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ii) Academic qualifications

Tertiary Education: All at the University of the Witwatersrand:
1980-1982: BSc, majors in Botany and Microbiology. Graduated April 1983.
1983: BSc Honours, Botany and Palaeobotany. Graduated April 1984.
1984-1986: MSc in Palaeobotany. Graduated with Distinction, November 1986.
1986-1989: PhD in Palaeobotany. Graduated in June 1990.

iii) Professional qualifications

Wood Anatomy Training (overseas as nothing was available in South Africa):
1994 - Service d'Anatomie des Bois, Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium, by Roger Dechamps
1997 - Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France, by Dr Jean-Claude Koeniguer
1997 - Université Claude Bernard, Lyon, France by Prof Georges Barale, Dr Jean-Pierre Gros, and Dr Marc Philippe

iv) Membership of professional bodies/associations

Palaeontological Society of Southern Africa
Royal Society of Southern Africa - Fellow: 2006 onwards
Academy of Sciences of South Africa - Member: Oct 2014 onwards
International Association of Wood Anatomists - First enrolled: January 1991
International Organization of Palaeobotany – 1993+
Botanical Society of South Africa
South African Committee on Stratigraphy – Biostratigraphy - 1997 - 2016
SASQUA (South African Society for Quaternary Research) – 1997+
PAGES - 2008 –onwards: South African representative
ROCEEH / WAVE – 2008+
INQUA – PALCOMM – 2011+onwards

vii) Supervision of Higher Degrees

All at Wits University

Degree	Graduated/ completed	Current
Honours	6	1
Masters	8	1
PhD	10	2
Postdoctoral fellows	9	3

viii) Undergraduate teaching

Geology II – Palaeobotany GEOL2008 – average 65 students per year
Biology III – Palaeobotany APES3029 – average 25 students per year
Honours – Evolution of Terrestrial Ecosystems; African Plio-Pleistocene Palaeoecology; Micropalaeontology – average 2-8 students per year.

ix) Editing and reviewing

Editor: Palaeontologia africana: 2003 to 2013; 2014 – Assistant editor
Guest Editor: Quaternary International: 2005 volume
Member of Board of Review: Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology: 2010 –
Cretaceous Research: 2014 -

Review of manuscripts for ISI-listed journals: 25 local and international journals

x) Palaeontological Impact Assessments

Selected – list not complete:

- Thukela Biosphere Conservancy 1996; 2002 for DWAF
- Vioolsdrift 2007 for Xibula Exploration
- Rietfontein 2009 for Zitholele Consulting
- Bloeddrift-Baken 2010 for TransHex
- New Kleinfontein Gold Mine 2012 for Prime Resources (Pty) Ltd.
- Thabazimbi Iron Cave 2012 for Professional Grave Solutions (Pty)

Ltd
- Delmas 2013 for Jones and Wagener
- Klipfontein 2013 for Jones and Wagener
- Platinum mine 2013 for Lonmin
- Syferfontein 2014 for Digby Wells
- Canyon Springs 2014 for Prime Resources
- Kimberley Eskom 2014 for Landscape Dynamics
- Yzermyne 2014 for Digby Wells
- Matimba 2015 for Royal HaskoningDV
- Commissiekraal 2015 for SLR
- Harmony PV 2015 for Savannah Environmental
- Glencore-Tweefontein 2015 for Digby Wells
- Umkomazi 2015 for JLB Consulting
- Ixia coal 2016 for Digby Wells
- Lambda Eskom for Digby Wells
- Alexander Scoping for SLR
- Perseus-Kronos-Aries Eskom 2016 for NGT
- Mala Mala 2017 for Henwood
- Modimolle 2017 for Green Vision
- Klipoortjie and Finaalspan 2017 for Delta BEC
- Ledjadja borrow pits 2018 for Digby Wells
- Lungile poultry farm 2018 for CTS
- Olienhout Dam 2018 for JP Celliers
- Isondlo and Kwasobabili 2018 for GCS
- Kanakies Gypsum 2018 for Cabanga
- Nababeep Copper mine 2018
- Glencore-Mbali pipeline 2018 for Digby Wells
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xi) Research Output

Publications by M K Bamford up to June 2018 peer-reviewed journals or scholarly books: over 125 articles published; 5 submitted/in press; 8 book chapters.
Scopus h index = 26; Google scholar h index = 30;
Conferences: numerous presentations at local and international conferences.

xii) NRF Rating

NRF Rating: B-2 (2016-2020)
NRF Rating: B-3 (2010-2015)
NRF Rating: B-3 (2005-2009)
NRF Rating: C-2 (1999-2004)