

# **BOTANICAL SCAN & TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

## **PABALLELO JUPITER CEMETERY**

**THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE PABALLELO JUPITER CEMETERY ON ERVEN 553  
UPINGTON (PABALLELO)  
DAWID KRUIPER MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**



**PREPARED FOR:**  
ENVIROAFRICA

**PREPARED BY:**  
PJJ BOTES (PRI. SCI. NAT.)

**25 March 2023**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dawid Kruiper Municipality (Northern Cape Province) needs to expand various cemeteries within their Municipal area. This includes the proposed extension of the cemetery at Paballelo. The existing cemetery at Paballelo is about 7.5 ha in size, located on Erf 553, to the north of Venus Street and adjacent to the existing Paballelo cemetery. The proposed extension will enlarge the cemetery by about 2.5 – 3 ha in size. The portion of Erf 553, on which the proposed cemetery extension will be located, falls within the Upington urban edge, but is still covered with indigenous vegetation. The proposed footprint will impact on remaining natural veld (which will have to be cleared for the development), currently used extensively as a short-cut between built-up areas and for grazing by livestock (constant human activity). A desktop study and field investigation were performed to assess the terrestrial biodiversity within the proposed study area and to identify the ecological characteristics and sensitivity of the site.

<b>VEGETATION TYPE &amp; STATUS</b>	According to the South African vegetation map (2018) (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006), the study area would originally have been covered by Kalahari Karroid Shrubland (Figure 5). Kalahari Karroid Shrubland are classified as “ <b>Least Threatened</b> ” in terms of the “ <i>Revised List of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection</i> ” (GN 47526 of 18 November 2022).
<b>HABITAT CONDITIONS AND DIVERSITY</b>	The proposed development footprint will result in a long term or permanent impact on a relatively small area of natural veld, located within the urban edge of Upington. The landscape is very homogenous with little variation over the site itself, and does not contain any rocky outcrop, watercourses or any other biophysical feature that might have resulted in special habitats for fauna or flora.
<b>LAND-USE</b>	Apart from being used as a short-cut access route between built-up areas, the site is also used for domestic livestock grazing by the local community. The enlargement of the cemetery is a communal need and the extension of the site into disturbed veld adjacent to the existing cemetery is the most logical option. It is also <b>highly unlikely to have any significant impact on the current land-use</b> .
<b>VEGETATION ENCOUNTERED</b>	Kalahari Karroid Shrubland are classified as “ <b>Least Threatened</b> ” in terms of the “ <i>Revised List of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection</i> ” (GN 47526 of 18 November 2022). The vegetation is described as a disturbed to very disturbed version of Karroid Shrubland. The vegetation cover had been reduced to sparse, almost single layer low weedy grassy shrubland (Photo 1-4), because of anthropogenic impacts and constant grazing by livestock. In terms of botanical significance, it was only the presence of some of the NCNCA protected plant species within the site that was of any potential significance (Refer to Table 3).  <u>The proposed development will not contribute significantly to the loss of vegetation type or associated habitat.</u>
<b>THREATENED AND PROTECTED PLANT SPECIES</b>	No red-data or nationally protected plant species were observed within the proposed footprint. However, several species, protected in terms of the NCNCA was observed within the footprint (Refer to Table 3). Some of these plants, most notably the <i>Adenium oleifolium</i> individuals are considered of conservation value and it is recommended that they should be transplanted (through search & rescue program). One small multi-stemmed <i>Boscia foetida</i> (Photo 6) was also observed. Because of its deep and extensive root system search & rescue is not a viable mitigation option (plants rarely survive replanting – Personal observations).  <u>According to the DEA Screening tool report, the relative <u>plant species theme sensitivity is considered of low sensitivity</u>, which is supported by the findings of this assessment.</u>
<b>FAUNA &amp; AVI-FAUNA</b>	No evidence in the form of tracks, faeces or even burrows of any other indigenous fauna (e.g., small game) were observed within the footprint area, although it is expected that reptile’s (like gecko’s, agama’s, skinks, and snakes) and some of the smaller mammals might still occur in the larger area. The veld was very homogeneous and habitat variety or diversity within the footprint area is low to very low. The lack of rocky hills or outcrops within the development area would preclude a variety of species from the site. There

are also no suitable habitats for amphibian species within the footprint area (Refer to Heading 4.5.1).

The **animal species theme sensitivity** is considered **medium sensitive** because the site falls within the potential distribution range of **Ludwig's Bustard** (*Neotis ludwigii*), however, according to distribution data of SABAP 2 Ludwig's Bustard had not been observed in this area. The bird may potentially feed and nest in the surrounding area, but it is highly unlikely that it will venture so close to the urban edge (Refer to Table 4)

With regards to this project the sensitivity rating should be **low sensitive**.

#### CONSERVATION PRIORITY AREAS

According to the Northern Cape critical biodiversity areas maps, the proposed cemetery expansion area will NOT overlap any critical biodiversity area (CBA 2) as identified within the 2016 Northern Cape CBA maps (Figure 6).

#### WATER COURSES AND WETLANDS

There are no watercourses or wetlands identified within the study area.

#### MAIN CONCLUSION

According to the **NEMA EIA Sensitivity** scan for the site generated on 15/02/2023 by PB Consult the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity is **low sensitive** and does not overlap any CBA or ESA. The Terrestrial biodiversity assessment (Table 11) aims to take all the discussion under Section 4 into account, including the small scale of the proposed project, the fact that the vegetation is not vulnerable or endangered as well as all the other reasons discussed throughout this document.

According, Table 11, the main impacts associated with the proposed development will be:

- A Low impact on a remaining natural veld; and
- A Low impact on NCNCA protected plant species.

Because of the small scale of the activity even the cumulative impact given in Table 11 remains Low.

**It is thus considered highly unlikely that the development will contribute significantly to any of the following:**

- Significant loss of vegetation type and associated habitat.
- Loss of ecological processes (e.g., migration patterns, pollinators, river function etc.) due to construction and operational activities.
- Loss of local biodiversity and threatened plant species.
- Loss of ecosystem connectivity.

According to the DEA Screening tool report, the relative **terrestrial biodiversity theme sensitivity is considered of low sensitivity**, which is supported by the findings of this assessment.

**WITH THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROJECT BE APPROVED.**

---

## ***DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR***

---

This is a specialist report compiled by Peet Botes from PB Consult.

**COMPANY NAME:** PB Consult Sole Proprietor  
**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:** 22 Buitekant Street, Bredasdorp, 7280  
**CELL PHONE:** +27 (82) 921 5949  
**EMAIL:** [peet@pbconsult.co.za](mailto:peet@pbconsult.co.za)  
**FAX:** 086 – 611 0726

---

## ***INDEPENDENCE & CONDITIONS***

---

PB Consult is an independent entity with no interest in the activity other than fair remuneration for services rendered. Remunerations for services are not linked to approval by decision making authorities and the company have no interest in secondary or downstream development because of the authorization of this project. There are no circumstances that compromise the objectivity of this report. The findings, results, observations and recommendations given in this report are based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge and available information. The author reserves the right to modify aspects of this report, including the recommendations if new information become available which may have a significant impact on the findings of this report.

---

## ***RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR***

---

Mr. Peet Botes holds a BSc. (Hons.) degree in Plant Ecology from the University of Stellenbosch (Nature Conservation III & IV as extra subjects). Since qualifying with his degree, he had worked for more than 20 years in the environmental management field, first at the Overberg Test Range (a Division of Denel) managing the environmental department of OTR and being responsible for developing and implementing an ISO14001 environmental management system, ensuring environmental compliance, performing environmental risk assessments with regards to missile tests and planning the management of the 26 000 ha of natural veld, working closely with CapeNature (De Hoop Nature Reserve).

In 2005 he joined Enviroscientific, an independent environmental consultancy specializing in wastewater management, botanical and biodiversity assessments, developing environmental management plans and strategies, environmental control work as well as doing environmental compliance audits and was also responsible for helping develop the biodiversity part of the Farming for the Future audit system implemented by Woolworths. During his time with Enviroscientific he performed more than 400 biodiversity and environmental legal compliance audits.

During 2010 he joined EnviroAfrica in order to move back to the biodiversity aspects of environmental management. Experience with EnviroAfrica includes NEMA EIA applications, environmental management plans for various industries, environmental compliance audits, environmental control work as well as more than 70 biodiversity & botanical specialist studies.

Towards the end of 2017, Mr Botes started his own small environmental consulting business focusing on biodiversity & botanical assessments, biodiversity management plans and environmental compliance audits.

Mr. Botes is a registered Professional Botanical, Environmental and Ecological Scientists at SACNASP (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions) as required in terms of Section 18(1)(a) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003, since 2005.

---

## **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

---

### **THE INDEPENDENT PERSON WHO COMPILED A SPECIALIST REPORT OR UNDERTOOK A SPECIALIST PROCESS**

I Petrus, Jacobus, Johannes Botes, as the appointed independent specialist hereby declare that I:

- act/ed as the independent specialist in this application;
- regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct, and
- do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and any specific environmental management Act;
- have and will not have no vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- am fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (specifically in terms of regulation 13 of GN No. R. 326) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the specialist input/study was distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties was facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on the specialist input/study;
- have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties on the specialist input/study were considered, recorded and submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application;
- have ensured that the names of all interested and affected parties that participated in terms of the specialist input/study were recorded in the register of interested and affected parties who participated in the public participation process;
- have provided the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not; and
- am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 13 of GN No. R. 326.

**Note:** The terms of reference must be attached.



---

Signature of the specialist:

PB Consult (Sole Proprietor)

---

Name of company:

29 March 2023

---

Date:

**CONTENTS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... I**

**DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR ..... III**

**INDEPENDENCE & CONDITIONS..... III**

**RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE OF THE AUTHOR ..... III**

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ..... IV**

**1. INTRODUCTION..... 8**

    1.1. Legislation governing this report ..... 8

    1.2. Terms of reference ..... 9

    1.3. Activity description ..... 9

**2. STUDY AREA & APPROACH.....10**

    2.1. Location & Layout ..... 10

    2.2. Climate ..... 11

    2.3. Topography..... 11

    2.4. Geology & soils ..... 12

    2.5. Approach & methodology..... 12

        2.5.1. Assumptions and uncertainties ..... 13

**3. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT .....13**

    3.1. Broad-scale vegetation expected..... 13

    3.2. Ecological drivers & functioning ..... 14

    3.3. Critical biodiversity areas & ecological corridors ..... 15

    3.4. Potential impact on centers of endemism ..... 16

    3.5. National landuse and cover ..... 16

**4. SITE SENSITIVITY EVALUATION .....17**

    4.1. Significant landscape features ..... 17

    4.2. Vegetation encountered ..... 17

    4.3. Flora encountered ..... 20

    4.4. Threatened and protected plant species ..... 21

    4.5. Fauna and Avi-fauna ..... 23

        4.5.1. Mammals ..... 23

        4.5.2. Reptiles..... 23

        4.5.3. Amphibians ..... 24

        4.5.4. Avi-fauna ..... 24

**5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHOD .....25**

    5.1. Determining significance ..... 25

        5.1.1. Criteria used ..... 25

    5.2. Significance categories ..... 27

**6. SITE SENSITIVITY DISCUSSION .....28**

    6.1. Terrestrial biodiversity impact assessment..... 29

    6.2. Terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity map ..... 31

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS.....32**

<b>8. REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: CURRICULUM VITAE – P.J.J. BOTES.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: DEA SCREENING REPORT.....</b>	<b>40</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: A map showing the location of the proposed cemetery extension (Blue) in relation to the town of Upington .....	10
Figure 2: Google image showing the existing Paballelo Jupiter Cemetery (purple) and the proposed new extension (red) in Paballelo. ....	11
Figure 3: Average temperature and rainfall for Paballelo ( <a href="https://www.besttimetovisit.co.za/south-africa/Paballelo-3498186/">https://www.besttimetovisit.co.za/south-africa/Paballelo-3498186/</a> ) .....	11
Figure 4: Google overview, showing the study area (expansion) and the routes walked during the site visit. ....	12
Figure 5: Vegetation map of South Africa (2012), showing the expected vegetation type (SANBI BGIS) .....	13
Figure 6: Northern Cape CBA map (2016) showing the study area and associated critical biodiversity areas. ....	15

## LIST OF PHOTOS

Photo 1: Typical vegetation encountered towards the north of the site. Note the disturbed nature of the veld and the sparse weedy vegetation cover. The arrow indicates the location of the one <i>Boscia foetida</i> observed within the site (also refer to Photo 6, for a picture of the plant). ....	18
Photo 2: Looking from the middle of the site southwards towards the bottom of the site (Venus Street). Note the sparse disturbed remaining vegetation on site .....	18
<b>Photo 3:</b> This picture shows the quarzitic rocky outcrop to the left in picture, which was encountered on the southwest corner of the site (mostly outside of the proposed footprint). ....	18
<b>Photo 4:</b> Some of the vegetation associated with the quarzitic outcrop, with <i>Justicia austrialis</i> prominent to the right in the foreground <i>Phaeoptilum spinosum</i> the bigger plant in front. ....	19
<b>Photo 5:</b> The bitterkambroo ( <i>Adenium oleifolium</i> ) was relatively common throughout the site.....	19
<b>Photo 6:</b> A picture of the one <i>Boscia foetida</i> individual observed within the footprint. To the southwest, a few more individuals were observed, but they were well away from the proposed footprint area. ....	19

**ABBREVIATIONS**

---

BAR	Basic Assessment Report
CBA	Critical biodiversity area (in terms of the 2017 City of Cape Town Biodiversity Network)
DENC	Department of Environment and Nature Conservation
EA	Environmental Authorization (Record of Decision)
EAP	Environmental assessment practitioner
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan or Program
EMS	Environmental management system
EN	Endangered
ESA	Ecological support area (in terms of the 2017 City of Cape Town Biodiversity Network)
LT	Least Threatened
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act no. 107 of 1998)
VU	Vulnerable



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Dawid Kruiper Municipality (Northern Cape Province) needs to expand various cemeteries within their Municipal area. This includes the proposed extension of the cemetery at Paballelo (Upington). The existing cemetery at Paballelo is about 7.5 ha in size, located on Erf 553, to the north of Venus Street and adjacent to the existing Paballelo cemetery. The proposed extension will enlarge the cemetery by about 2.5 – 3 ha in size. The portion of Erf 553, on which the proposed cemetery extension will be located, falls within the Upington urban edge, but portions there-off is still covered with indigenous vegetation.

The proposed footprint will impact on remaining natural veld (which will have to be cleared for the development). According to the vegetation map of South Africa (2012), only one vegetation type will be impacted, namely Kalahari Karroid Shrubland, a vegetation type that is considered “Least Threatened” in terms of the revised national list of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection (2022). The proposed cemetery extension will not impact on an ecological support areas or a critical biodiversity areas (CBA 2) as delineated in the 2016 Northern Cape critical biodiversity areas maps (Holness & Oosthuysen, 2016).

The DEA Screening tool report, identified various areas of potential environmental sensitivity, of which the following will be discussed in this report:

- The relative Animal species theme sensitivity is considered of **medium sensitivity**;
- The relative Plant species theme sensitivity is considered of low sensitivity;
- The relative Terrestrial Biodiversity theme sensitivity is considered of low sensitivity.

The relative Archaeological and cultural heritage theme (**VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY**) and Palaeontology theme (Medium sensitivity) are not discussed in this report.

The vegetation in the Northern Cape is just starting to recover from the recent drought period (which lasted more than 7 years), while remaining veld near towns and small settlements in the Northern Cape are almost always degraded to some extent because of grazing pressures and other anthropogenic impacts. The proposed footprint area was no different, and the remaining vegetation could only be described as a disturbed to very disturbed version of Karroid Shrubland. The vegetation cover had been reduced to a sparse, almost single layer low weedy grassy shrubland (Photo 1-4). Of the expected shrub layer only unpalatable and tuberous species remained.

### 1.1. LEGISLATION GOVERNING THIS REPORT

EnviroAfrica was appointed the Dawid Kruiper Municipality to facilitate the NEMA EIA application for the proposed project. PB Consult was appointed by EnviroAfrica to conduct a terrestrial biodiversity scan of the proposed footprint area.

This is a ‘specialist report’, compiled in terms of:

- The National Environmental Management Act, Act. 107 of 1998 (NEMA);

- The “Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum report content requirements for environmental impacts on terrestrial biodiversity” in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the NEMA (Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020).
- The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, Act 10 of 2004, which allows for the conservation of endangered ecosystems and restriction of activities according to the status of the ecosystem;
- The National Forest Act, Act 84 of 1998, which provide a list of protected trees species in SA;
- The Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, Act 9 of 2009, which provide extensive lists of protected fauna & flora species in the Northern Cape.

## **1.2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for this appointment were to:

- Evaluate the proposed site(s) to determine whether any significant botanical or other terrestrial biodiversity features will be impacted because of the proposed development.
- Determine and record the position of any plant species of special significance (e.g., protected tree species, or rare or endangered plant species) that should be avoided or that may require “search & rescue” intervention.
- Locate and record sensitive areas from a terrestrial biodiversity perspective within the proposed development footprint that may be interpreted as obstacles to the proposed development.
- Make recommendations on impact minimization should it be required
- Consider short- to long-term implications of impacts on biodiversity and highlight irreversible impacts or irreplaceable loss of species.

## **1.3. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

The Dawid Kruijer need to enlarge the existing Paballelo Jupiter Cemetery and would like to extend the cemetery eastwards. The existing cemetery is about 7.5 ha in size. The extension enlarges the size of the cemetery by an additional 2.5 – 3 ha.

The activity will lead to the transformation of about 2.5 – 3 ha of land covered by Kalahari Karroid Shrubland (a vegetation type not considered vulnerable or endangered). The extension will impact on Municipal property (a portion of Erf 553).

## 2. STUDY AREA & APPROACH

### 2.1. LOCATION & LAYOUT

Upington is the main town within the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality of the Northern Cape province of South Africa. It is located on the N14 about 40km east of Keimoes. Paballelo is one of the town extensions to the northwest of the main town of Upington (Figure 1).

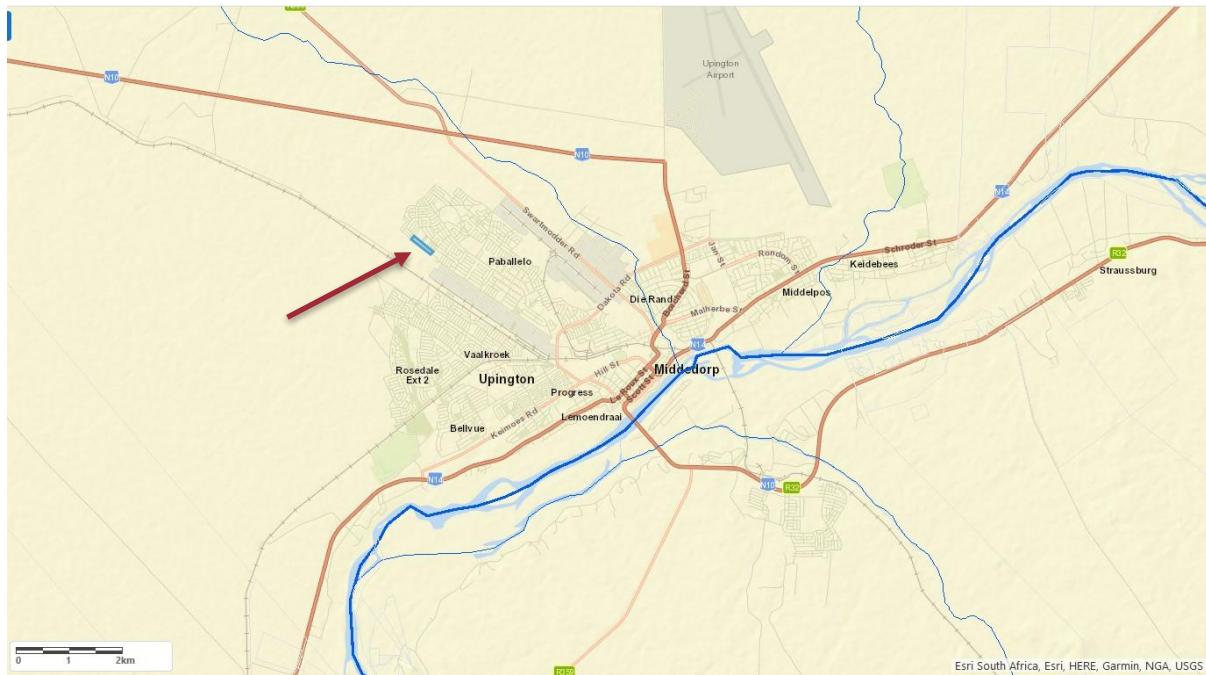


Figure 1: A map showing the location of the proposed cemetery extension (Blue) in relation to the town of Upington.

The proposed cemetery extension will be located on a 2.5 – 3 ha portion of Erf 533 (Upington), next to the existing cemetery (to the southwest) at Paballelo (Figure 2). The new cemetery extension will be located within the urban edge of the Paballelo to the northwest of Venus Street and will border on the town to the northwest and southeast and onto the existing cemetery to the northeast. To the southwest the property still connects with natural vegetation (Figure 2).

Table 1: Approximate co-ordinates for the corners of the proposed extension (WGS 84 format)

DESCRIPTION	CO-ORDINATE
Northwest corner	S28° 26' 02.7" E21° 11' 57.6"
Southwest corner	S28° 26' 11.7" E21° 12' 10.8"
Southeast corner	S28° 26' 10.1" E21° 12' 12.4"
Northeast corner	S28° 26' 00.8" E21° 11' 59.3"



**Figure 2: Google image showing the existing Paballelo Jupiter Cemetery (purple) and the proposed new extension (red) in Paballelo.**

## 2.2. CLIMATE

Climate in this part of the Kalahari is essentially continental with almost no effect of the ameliorating influences from the oceans. Rainfall is low and unreliable, peaking in December to March. Droughts are unpredictable and often prolonged. Summers are hot during the day and cold during the night, while winters are cold with temperature extremes ranging from -5°C in winter to 43°C in summer. However, rainfall intensity can be high (e.g., episodic thunderstorm storm events). Uppington has a desert climate, with hardly any rains. The average rainfall is given as 86 mm per year with and it is dry for more than 311 days a year (<https://www.besttimetovisit.co.za/south-africa/Paballelo-3498186/>).

**Figure 3: Average temperature and rainfall for Paballelo (<https://www.besttimetovisit.co.za/south-africa/Paballelo-3498186/>)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature (°C)	35	34	32	27	24	19	19	22	26	30	32	34
Precipitation (mm)	16	17	12	11	4	2	2	1	4	3	3	11

## 2.3. TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed footprint is relatively small and located on an almost level plain with a slight slope from northwest to southwest, at about 835m above mean sea level. Topography and slope are not expected to have any significant effect on fauna and flora species encountered.

## 2.4. GEOLOGY & SOILS

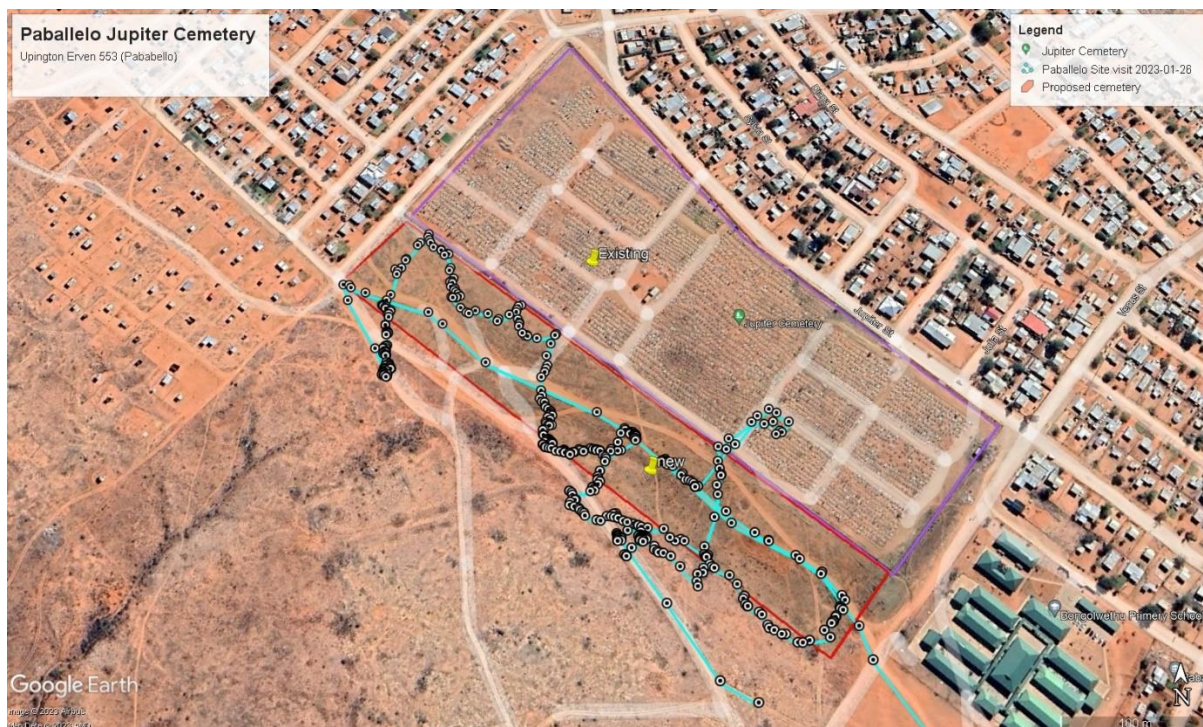
According to Mucina and Rutherford (2006) and the SANBI Biodiversity Geographical Information System, the geology and soils for this area is described as Cenozoic Kalahari Group sands and small patches also on calcrete outcrops and scree on scarps of intermittent rivers (mekgacha). Dwyka Group tillites outcrops found in places. The soils are deep, red-yellow, apedal, freely drained, with a high base status, typical of Ae land type.

The soils on site were for the most part shallow sandy soils with outcrops of quartz to the southwest of the site. The vegetation varied slightly between the two soil types.

## 2.5. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The first step of the study was to conduct a desktop study of the study area and its immediate surroundings. Spatial information from online databases such as SANBI BGIS and Google Earth were used to evaluate the site in terms of vegetation, obvious differences in landscape (e.g., variations in soil type, rocky outcrops etc.) or vegetation densities, which might indicate differences in plant community or species composition, critical biodiversity areas and other terrestrial biodiversity features as identified in the DEA screening tool. This information was used to prepare a study area map, which is used as a reference during the physical site visit.

Plant species lists (of the expected plant species for this vegetation type) were prepared and species of special significance were flagged (for the site visit).



**Figure 4:** Google overview, showing the study area (expansion) and the routes walked during the site visit.

A one day site visit was performed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. The site assessment survey was conducted by walking the site and sampling the vegetation, using a modified approach, based on the Braun-Blanquet vegetation survey method (Werger, 1974). During the site visit terrestrial features and plants of specific significance was, marked, and photographed (Figure 4). A hand-held Garmin

GPSMAP 62s was used to track the sampling route and for recording waypoints of locations of specific importance. During the survey notes, and photographic records were collected. The author endeavoured to identify and locate all significant botanical features, including special plant species and or specific soil conditions which might indicate special botanical features (e.g., rocky outcrops or heuweltjies) and watercourses.

### 2.5.1. ASSUMPTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The findings are based on a one-day site visit (not long-term repetitive sampling), which means that it is likely that some plant species might have been missed (not visible or in flower). The timing of the site visit was reasonable (within the summer rainfall period) and both geophytes and herbaceous plants were visible. Essentially all perennial plants were identifiable and a good understanding of the status of the vegetation and plant species in the study areas were obtained and confidence in the findings are high. There should be no limiting factors which could significantly alter the outcome of this study. It is unlikely that a full botanical assessment will result in any additional findings that would have a significant impact on the outcome.

## 3. DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

### 3.1. BROAD-SCALE VEGETATION EXPECTED

According to the South African vegetation map (2018) (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006), the proposed footprint enlargement will only impact on one vegetation type, namely Kalahari Karroid Shrubland (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Vegetation map of South Africa (2012), showing the expected vegetation type (SANBI BGIS)

Mucina & Rutherford (2006) describe this vegetation as occurring in the Northern Cape Province, typically forming belts alternating with *Gordonia* Duneveld on the plains northwest of Upington, through Lutzputs and Noenieput to the Paballelo/Mier area. It is described as a low karroid shrubland on flat, gravel plains, where Karoo-related elements (shrubs) meet with northern floristic elements, indicating a transition to the Kalahari region and sandy soils.

Kalahari Karroid Shrubland has been classified as “**Least Threatened**” in terms of the “*Revised List of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection*” (GN 47526 of 18 November 2022), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, Act 10 of 2004. However, very little of this vegetation type is statutorily conserved (apart from a small portion within the Augrabies Falls National Park). Very little of this vegetation had been transformed, but these belts were often the preferred route for early roads, which promoted the introduction of alien invasive species.

### 3.2. **ECOLOGICAL DRIVERS & FUNCTIONING**

Kalahari Karroid Shrubland is part of the Nama-Karoo Biome, which is a large arid landlocked region on the central plateau of the western half of South Africa, extending into Namibia. It is flanked by the Succulent Karoo to the west and south, desert to the northwest, arid Kalahari Savanna to the north, Grassland to the northeast, Albany Thicket to the southeast and small parts of Fynbos to the south. In South Africa, only the Desert Biome has a higher variability in annual rainfall and only the Kalahari Savanna greater extremes in temperature. The Nama-Karoo receives most of its rainfall in summer, especially in late summer (Mucina *et. al.*, 2006).

Climate is essentially continental and with almost no effect of the ameliorating influences of the oceans. Rainfall is low and unreliable, peaking in March. Droughts are unpredictable and often prolonged. Summers are hot and winters cold with temperature extremes ranging from -5°C in winter to 43°C in summer. However, rainfall intensity can be high (e.g., episodic thunderstorm and hail storm events). This coupled with the generally low vegetation cover associated with aridity and grazing pressure by domestic stock over the last two centuries, raises the potential for soil erosion. In semi-arid environments such as the Nama-Karoo, nutrients are generally located near the soil surface, making it vulnerable to sheet erosion (Mucina *et. al.*, 2006).

In contrast with the Succulent Karoo, the Nama-Karoo is not particularly rich in plant species and does not contain any centre of endemism. Local endemism is very low, which might indicate a relative youthful biome linked to the remarkable geological and environmental homogeneity of the Nama-Karoo. Rainfall seasonality and frequency are too unpredictable and winter temperatures too low to enable leaf succulent dominance (as in the Succulent Karoo). It is also too dry in summer for dominance by perennial grasses alone and the soils generally to shallow and rainfall too low for dominance by trees. But soil type, soil depth and local differences in moisture availability can cause abrupt changes in vegetation structure and composition (e.g., small drainage lines support more plant species than surrounding plains) (Mucina *et. al.*, 2006).

In terms of status, very little of the Nama-Karoo has been transformed and the dominant land use is farming with small stock, cattle, and game. Farms are fenced, but generally large (because of the low carrying capacity). The **biggest threat to this vegetation remains domestic livestock grazing pressure**. Grazing by livestock, particularly during the summer growing season, reduces the perennial grass

component, while prolonged droughts kill a high proportion of perennial plants, rapidly changing vegetation composition in favour of short-lived species with soil stored seed banks. Overgrazing after drought periods can delay vegetation recovery, which will worsen the effect of subsequent droughts.

### 3.3. CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS & ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

The Northern Cape CBA Map (2016) identifies biodiversity priority areas, called Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) and Ecological Support Areas (ESAs), which, together with protected areas, are important for the persistence of a viable representative sample of all ecosystem types and species as well as the long-term ecological functioning of the landscape (Holness & Oosthuysen, 2016). The 2016 Northern Cape Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) Map updates, revises and replaces all older systematic biodiversity plans and associated products for the province (including the Namakwa District Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2008). Priorities from existing plans such as the Namakwa District Biodiversity Plan, the Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Plan, National Estuary Priorities, and the National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas were incorporated. Targets for terrestrial ecosystems were based on established national targets, while targets used for other features were aligned with those used in other provincial planning processes.

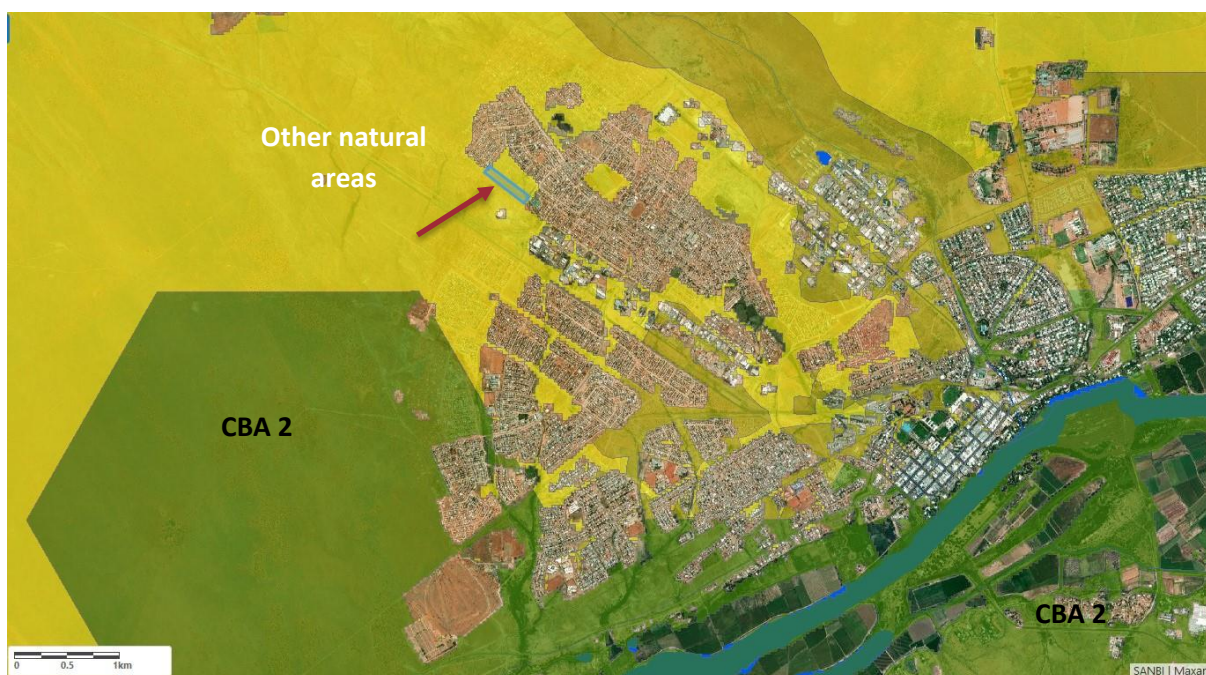


Figure 6: Northern Cape CBA map (2016) showing the study area and associated critical biodiversity areas.

Critical biodiversity areas (CBA's) are terrestrial and aquatic features in the landscape that are critical for retaining biodiversity and supporting continued ecosystem functioning and services (SANBI 2007). The primary purpose of CBA's is to inform land-use planning to promote sustainable development and protection of important natural habitat and landscapes. CBA's can also be used to inform protected area expansion and development plans.



- **Critical biodiversity areas (CBA's)** are areas of the landscape that need to be maintained in a natural or near-natural state 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 conservation 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 (ESA's)** are 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 of restriction on land use and resource use in these areas may be lower than that recommended for critical biodiversity areas.

According to the Northern Cape critical biodiversity areas maps, the proposed cemetery expansion area will NOT overlap any critical biodiversity area (CBA 2) as identified within the 2016 Northern Cape CBA maps (Figure 6).

#### **3.4. POTENTIAL IMPACT ON CENTERS OF ENDEMISM**

According to Van Wyk & Smith (2001) the proposed development will not impact on any recognised centre of endemism. The Gariiep Centre is located to the west, associated with Augrabies, Pella and Onseepkans along the border of South Africa and Namibia, while the Griqualand West Centre of Endemism starts to the east of Upington in the Northern Cape Province.

#### **3.5. NATIONAL LANDUSE AND COVER**

According to the 2014 National Land Cover Map of South Africa, the proposed cemetery will impact on remaining natural veld. The biodiversity summary for the Mier Municipality (which includes Paballelo) states that 99.6% of the Mier Municipal area is still covered by remaining natural veld, none of which are vulnerable or endangered (<http://bgis.sanbi.org/LUDS/Home/Municipality/214>).

The proposed cemetery extension is located within the urban edge of Upington (Paballelo). It is not used for any specific purpose at the moment, although the local community is likely to use the veld for grazing by livestock and harvesting of wild plants.

## 4. SITE SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Because of its aridity and unpredictable rainfall patterns, the Nama-Karoo region would have favoured free moving herbivores such as gemsbok, ostrich and springbok, nomadic birds and invertebrates with variable dormancy cued by rain. Plant defence against herbivores and seed adaption for dispersal by mammals are relatively uncommon, except along rivers and seasonal pans, suggesting the transient nature of herbivores, except near water where they would have lingered longer. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the vast herds of migratory ungulates indigenous to this biome have been replaced (almost completely) by domestic stock. Once farmers started fencing their properties into camps (following the Fencing Act of 1912), stock numbers were dramatically increased with dire consequences to plant diversity. Grazing during and immediately after droughts periods is regarded as a major cause of detrimental change in vegetation composition and were ultimately responsible for the decline of large numbers of palatable plants (Mucina *et. al.*, 2006).

The following sensitivity evaluation is based on expected terrestrial features of significance identified through the desktop studies and personal observation made during the physical site visit.

### 4.1. SIGNIFICANT LANDSCAPE FEATURES

The proposed development footprint will result in a long term or permanent impact on a relatively small area of natural veld, located within the urban edge of Upington. . The landscape is very homogenous with little variation over the site itself, and does not contain any rocky outcrop, watercourses or any other biophysical feature that might have resulted in special habitats for fauna or flora.

### 4.2. VEGETATION ENCOUNTERED

The vegetation encountered can be described as a disturbed to very disturbed version of Karroid Shrubland. The vegetation cover had been reduced to sparse, almost single layer low weedy grassy shrubland (Photo 1-4), because of anthropogenic impacts and constant grazing by livestock. Of the expected shrub layer only unpalatable and tuberous species, like *Adenium oleifolium* (bitterkambro) (Photo 5) remained, scattered throughout the site. The soils were for the most part shallow to slightly deeper sandy soils over a calcrete layer, but towards the southwestern corner of the site scattered quartzitic rocks was scattered within the topsoil layer. The species composition of the vegetation changed slightly between these two areas.

On the sandy soils (Photo 1 & 2) the veld was mostly dominated by grasses and weedy species such as *Salsola kali*, *Tribulus cristatus* and *Galenia africana*. Scattered throughout the site individuals of the following species were observed (usually with a low density cover) namely: *Adenium oleifolium* (bitterkambro), *Aptosimum lineare*, *Aizoon canariense* (galsiekslaai), *Asparagus cf. capensis*, *Geigeria ornativa* (vermeerbos), *Giseka cf. pharnaceoides* (volstruisdruwe), *Hermannia spinosa*, *Justicia australis* (perdebos), *Tetragonia reduplicate*, *Tetraena decumbens* and *Tetraena simplex*. Almost all these plants are unpalatable or pioneer species. One small *Boscia foetida* (Photo 6) was observed within the footprint area (Refer to Photo 1 for its location), but even this plant had been reduced to a small multi-stemmed shrub through constant grazing.



**Photo 1:** Typical vegetation encountered towards the north of the site. Note the disturbed nature of the veld and the sparse weedy vegetation cover. The arrow indicates the location of the one *Boscia foetida* observed within the site (also refer to Photo 6, for a picture of the plant).



**Photo 2:** Looking from the middle of the site southwards towards the bottom of the site (Venus Street). Note the sparse disturbed remaining vegetation on site.



**Photo 3:** This picture shows the quarzitic rocky outcrop to the left in picture, which was encountered on the southwest corner of the site (mostly outside of the proposed footprint).

The quarzitic rocks were associated with a slightly elevated rocky area just touching on the southwestern corner of the proposed footprint (Photo 3). Along the bottom of this elevated area, slightly deeper soils were found supporting a slightly larger shrub layer (Photo 4) with scattered individuals of *Phaeoptilum spinosum*, *Rhigozum trichotomum* (three-thorn) and *Senegalia mellifera*. But for the most part this area was dominated by *Justicia australis*. A few additional species were observed within this area, which included species like *Aizoon burchellii*, *Barleria lichtensteiniana* (rolvarkie), *Blepharis mitrata* (klapperbossie), *Geigeria pectidea* (riviervermeerbos), *Hertia pallens*

(springbokbos), *Justicia incana* (blouganna), *Kleinia longiflora*, *Kewia salsoloides* (haassuring), *Tetraena* cf. *rigida* (no flowers) and even the dried out stem of a “boesmanskers” *Monsonia* species. Again, these are mostly unpalatable species or weedy pioneer species.



**Photo 4:** Some of the vegetation associated with the quartzitic outcrop, with *Justicia austalis* prominent to the right in the foreground *Phaeoptilum spinosum* the bigger plant in front.



**Photo 5:** The bitterkambro (*Adenium oleifolium*) was relatively common throughout the site.



**Photo 6:** A picture of the one *Boscia foetida* individual observed within the footprint. To the southwest, a few more individuals were observed, but they were well away from the proposed footprint area.

### 4.3. FLORA ENCOUNTERED

Table 2 gives a list of the plant species encountered during this study. It is important to note that the species list is only based on a one-day site visit. It is likely that some species (especially annuals and geophytes) might have been missed. However, the author is confident that a good understanding of the vegetation was achieved and confidence in the findings is high. No red-listed plant species was observed, but four (4) species protected in terms of the NCNCA was observed.

**Table 2: List of plant species observed within the proposed development footprint.**

NO.	SPECIES NAME	FAMILY	STATUS	LOCATION
1.	<i>Adenium oleifolium</i>	APOCYNACEAE	LC Protected in terms of schedule 2 of the NCNCA	A beautiful tuberous plant, relatively common throughout.
2.	<i>Aizoon burchellii</i>	AIZOACEAE	NE; SA Endemic Protected in terms of schedule 2 of the NCNCA	Dwarf shrub, occasionally observed.
3.	<i>Aizoon canariense</i>	AIZOACEAE	LC Protected in terms of schedule 2 of the NCNCA	Prostrate succulent herb, occasionally observed.
4.	<i>Aptosimum spinescens</i>	SCROPHULARIACEAE	LC	Occasionally observed in the grassy bottom layer.
5.	<i>Aristida adscensionis</i>	POACEAE	LC	Small grass
6.	<i>Aristida congesta</i>	POACEAE	LC	Small grass
7.	<i>Asparagus cf. capensis</i>	ASPARAGACEAE	LC	A very thorny straggling shrub, only one or two individuals encountered.
8.	<i>Barleria lichtensteiniana</i>	ACANTHACEAE	LC	A prostrate herb associated with the quarzitic outcrop.
9.	<i>Blepharis mitrata</i>	ACANTHACEAE	LC	A spiny, dwarf shrub, only observed near the quarzitic outcrop.
10.	<i>Boscia foetida</i>	BRASSICACEAE (CAPPARACEAE)	LC All <i>Boscia</i> species protected in terms of Schedule 2 of NCNCA	Only 1 scruffy multi-stemmed shrubs observed within the footprint.
11.	<i>Enneapogon desvauxii</i>	POACEAE	LC	Small short perennial grass.
12.	<i>Euphorbia braunsii</i>	EUPHORBIACEAE	LC	A dwarf succulent occasionally seen within the quarzitic outcrops.
13.	<i>Geigeria ornativa</i>	ASTERACEAE	LC	Dwarf shrub occasionally seen throughout.
14.	<i>Geigeria pectidea</i>	ASTERACEAE	LC	Dwarf spreading shrub only observed within the quarzitic outcrop.
15.	<i>Giseka cf. pharnaceoides</i>	GISEKIACEAE	LC	Prostrate annual herb, occasionally observed.
16.	<i>Hermannia spinosa</i>	MALVACEAE	LC	Dwarf shrub occasionally observed (4 – 5 individuals).
17.	<i>Hertia pallens</i>	ASTERRACEAE	LC	A dwarf shrub, which can become abundant in degraded and overgrazed veld.
18.	<i>Justicia austalis</i>	ACANTHACEAE	LC	Common throughout.
19.	<i>Justicia incana</i>	ACANTHACEAE	LC	A rigid, dwarf shrub occasionally observed in the quarzitic area.

NO.	SPECIES NAME	FAMILY	STATUS	LOCATION
20.	<i>Kewa salsoloides</i>	KEWACEAE	LC	Dwarf shrub commonly observed on the quarzitic outcrop.
21.	<i>Kleinia longiflora</i>	ASTERACEAE	LC	A medium succulent observed in deeper sandy areas.
22.	<i>Limeum aethiopicum</i>	LIMEACEAE	LC	A dwarf shrub, observed in the quarzitic outcrop.
23.	<i>Mesembryanthemum tetragonum</i>	AIZOACEAE	LC Protected in terms of schedule 2 of the NCNCA	An erect succulent occasionally observed.
24.	<i>Monsonia species (most likely crassicaulis)</i>	GERANIACEAE	LC	Only the dried-out stem encountered on site.
25.	<i>Phaeoptilum spinosum</i>	NYCTAGINACEAE	LC	Occasionally observed in deeper sandy areas.
26.	<i>Prosopis species</i>	FABACEAE	<b>Alien invasive plant species</b>	Occasionally observed.
27.	<i>Rhigozum trichotomum</i>	BIGNONIACEAE	LC	Occasionally observed in deeper sandy areas.
28.	<i>Salsola cf. zeyheri</i>	AMARANTHACEAE	LC	Witkoolganna, occasionally observed.
29.	<i>Salsola kali</i>	AMARANTHACEAE	Weed	A spiny annual weed common in physically disturbed areas.
30.	<i>Senegalia mellifera</i>	FABACEAE	LC	A very thorny shrub, occasionally observed in deeper sandy areas.
31.	<i>Stipagrostis uniplumis</i>	POACEAE	LC	Medium sized grass – common throughout
32.	<i>Tetraena cf. rigida</i>	ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	LC	A dwarf shrub occasionally seen in the quarzitic outcrop.
33.	<i>Tetraena decumbens</i>	ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	LC	A spreading shrub, occasionally observed.
34.	<i>Tetraena simplex</i>	ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	LC	A mat-forming succulent annual plant, occasionally observed.
35.	<i>Tetragonia reduplicata</i>	AIZOACEAE	LC	A succulent spreading plant – occasionally observed.
36.	<i>Tribulus cristatus</i>	ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	LC Weedy species	A prostrate weedy species, very common throughout.

#### 4.4. THREATENED AND PROTECTED PLANT SPECIES

South Africa has become the first country to fully assess the status of its entire flora. Major threats to the South African flora are identified in terms of the number of plant taxa Red-Listed as threatened with extinction as a result of threats like, habitat loss (e.g. infrastructure development, urban expansion, crop cultivation and mines), invasive alien plant infestation (e.g. outcompeting indigenous plant species), habitat degradation (e.g. overgrazing, inappropriate fire management etc.), unsustainable harvesting, demographic factors, pollution, loss of pollinators or dispersers, climate change and natural disasters (e.g. such as droughts and floods). South Africa uses the internationally endorsed IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria in the Red List of South African plants. However, due to its strong focus on determining risk of extinction, the IUCN system does not highlight species that are at low risk of extinction but may nonetheless be of high conservation importance. As a result, SANBI uses an amended system of categories to highlight species that may be of low risk of extinction but are still of conservation concern (SANBI, 2015).

**Red list of South African plant species:** The Red List of South African Plants online provides up to date information on the national conservation status of South Africa’s indigenous plants (SANBI, 2020).

- No red-listed species was observed during the study.

**NEM:BA protected plant species:** The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, Act 10 of 2004, provides for the protection of species through the “Lists of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and protected species” (GN. R. 152 of 23 February 2007).

- No species protected in terms of NEM: BA was observed.

**NFA Protected plant species:** The National Forests Act (NFA) of 1998 (Act 84 of 1998) provides for the protection of forests as well as specific tree species (as updated).

- No species protected in terms of the NFA was observed.

**NCNCA Protected plant species:** The Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act 9 of 2009 (NCNCA) came into effect on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2011, and provides for the sustainable utilization of wild animals, aquatic biota, and plants. Schedule 1 and 2 of the act give extensive lists of specially protected and protected fauna and flora species in accordance with this act. NB. Please note that all indigenous plant species are protected in terms of Schedule 3 of this act (e.g., any work within a road reserve).

- **Four (4) species protected in terms of the NCNCA was observed (Refer to Table 2).** Recommendations on impact minimisation are given in Table 3.

**Table 3: Plant species protected in terms of the NCNCA encountered within the study area.**

NO.	SPECIES NAME	COMMENTS	I
1.	<i>Adenium oleifolium</i> <b>Schedule 2 protected</b>	A beautiful tuberous plant with many medicinal uses. Often observed within the footprint.	<b>Search &amp; Rescue</b> An effort should be made to transplant as many of these individuals as possible into the neighbouring indigenous veld to the southwest of the cemetery. Care must be taken to remove the whole tuber with the plant.
2.	<i>Aizoon burchellii</i> <b>Schedule 2 protected</b>	Only a few individuals were observed (within the quarry footprint), but it is likely that more of these plants may be impacted.	This plant is not vulnerable or endangered and is unlikely to transplant successfully (because of their woody rootstock). Protection through topsoil removal and management.
3.	<i>Aizoon canariense</i> <b>Schedule 2 protected</b>	Again only a few individuals were observed (within the quarry footprint), but it is likely that more of these plants may be impacted.	This plant is not vulnerable or endangered. Protection through topsoil removal and management.
4.	<i>Boscia foetida</i> <b>Schedule 2 protected</b>	Only one small multi-stemmed individual was observed within the footprint.	Mature individuals seldom transplant successfully, because of their extensive and deep root system (one individual will be lost). A NCNCA Permit application must be submitted for the removal of this plant.
5.	<i>Mesembryanthemum tetragonum</i> <b>Schedule 2 protected</b>	A few plants were observed in slightly deeper soils.	This plant is not vulnerable or endangered. Protection through topsoil removal and management.

#### 4.5. FAUNA AND AVI-FAUNA

No fauna or avi-fauna screening was done as part of this study, but observations were made during the site visit. The proposed footprint area falls within the Upington urban edge, almost surrounded by built-up areas and is subject to almost constant human activity. The vegetation itself has been severely disturbed over time and apart from insects and a few smaller reptile species, the site itself is not expected to support any significant remaining fauna or even avi-fauna (smaller birds might still pass through this area, but it is highly unlikely that even they will nest within the site due to the lack of protective habitat).

According to the **NEMA EIA Sensitivity** scan for the site generated by PB Consult on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 the following sensitivity ratings may be applicable:

- Animal Species Theme Sensitivity is **MEDIUM SENSITIVE** because of the potential presence of one bird species (Ludwig's Bustard) discussed under Heading 4.5.4;
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity is low sensitive because of it being located within a CBA 2. The CBA is discussed under Heading 3.3.

##### 4.5.1. MAMMALS

The nearby Kalahari is well-known for its small and large herbivores such as blue wildebeest, springbok, eland, and red hartebeest. However, as mentioned above, because of its location (almost surrounded by urban development), the continuous presence of humans, the lack of protective habitat and the poor status of the remaining vegetation it is highly unlikely that any significant fauna or avi-fauna will frequent the site. Most mammals, reptiles, and avi-fauna (except those that has adapted to built-up areas) would have been displaced or moved away over time. No evidence in the form of tracks, faeces or even burrows of any other indigenous fauna (e.g., small game) were observed within the footprint area. Three listed terrestrial mammals may occur in the area namely the Honey Badger, *Mellivora capensis* (Endangered), the Brown Hyaena, *Hyaena brunnea* (Near Threatened) and the Black-footed cat, *Felis nigripes* (Vulnerable). While it is possible that all the Honey Badger and the Black-footed cat may still occur in the surrounding areas, it is highly unlikely that the Brown Hyaena is still present in the near vicinity of Upington as this species is often purposely or inadvertently persecuted. All these species have a wide national distribution, and the development footprint will not result in a significant extent of habitat loss for these species.

##### 4.5.2. REPTILES

According to the SARCA database, 39 reptile species are known from the larger, which suggests that reptile diversity is likely to be moderate to low. As there are no rocky outcrops or trees at the site, only species associated with sandy substrates is likely to be present. A relatively wide variety of reptile species can be expected to occur in the surrounding area (outside of the urban edge), including various skinks, agamas and barking geckos (although none was observed during the site visit). No RDB-listed reptile species are known from the area and there do not appear to be any broad habitats at the site which would be of high significance for reptiles.

Because of the disturbed nature of the site and its proximity to the urban edge it is highly unlikely that



the proposed development will result in any significant additional impact in terms of habitat loss (especially since there are no listed or range-restricted reptiles expected in this area).

#### 4.5.3. AMPHIBIANS

The site lies within the distribution range of 10 amphibian species. The only listed species which may occur at the site is the Giant Bullfrog, *Pyxicephalus adspersus*, which is listed as Near Threatened. This species is however associated with pans or wetland areas. The aridity of the site and the lack of natural pans or other water sources reduces and almost eliminates any natural habitat for most amphibian species. As a result, impacts on amphibians are likely to be local in extent and of low significance.

#### 4.5.4. AVI-FAUNA

According to the Southern Africa Bird Atlas Project (SABAP 2) data sets, 140 bird species are known from the broad area surrounding the site (<https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/>). This includes 1 IUCN listed species, the Lanner Falcon, (*Falco biarmicus*). The animal species theme sensitivity is considered medium sensitive because the site falls within the potential distribution range of **Ludwig's Bustard** (*Neotis ludwigii*), however, according to distribution data of SABAP 2 Ludwig's Bustard had not been observed in this area.

**Table 4: Animal species theme according to the NEMA EIA Sensitivity Scan results.**

SENSITIVITY	FEATURES	MOTIVATION
Medium	<i>Aves – Neotis ludwigii</i>	<p>Ludwig's Bustard is a near endemic and classified as endangered because of a projected rapid population decline. It has a large range centred on the dry biomes of the Karoo and Namib in southern Africa, being found in the extreme south-west of <b>Angola</b>, western <b>Namibia</b> and in much of <b>South Africa</b> (Del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> 1996, Anderson 2000). Today it occurs predominantly in the dry Karoo region of South Africa (Herold, 1988), but historically its distribution is believed to have extended to the eastern and north-eastern portions of the Grassland Biome (Brooke, 1984).</p> <p>This species inhabits open lowland and upland plains with grass and light thornbush, sandy open shrub veld and semi-desert in the arid and semi-arid Namib and Karoo biomes. The breeding season spans from August-December, with the species nesting on bare ground with a clutch of 2-3 eggs (Del Hoyo <i>et al.</i> 1996, Jenkins &amp; Smallie 2009)</p> <p>The bird may potentially feed and nest in the surrounding area, but it is highly unlikely that it will venture so close to the urban edge.</p> <p>With regards to the project the sensitivity rating is considered to be <b>low sensitive</b>.</p>

## 5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHOD

The concept of environmental impact assessment in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was developed to identify and evaluate the nature of potential impact to determine whether an activity is likely to cause significant environmental impact on the environment. The concept of significance is at the core of impact identification, evaluation and decision making, but despite this the concept of significance and the method used for determining significance remains largely undefined and open to interpretation (DEAT, 2002).

The objective of this study was to evaluate the remaining biodiversity of the study area to identify significant environmental features which might have been impacted because of the development. The Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment (De Villiers *et. al.*, 2005), were used to evaluate the botanical significance of the property with emphasis on:

- Significant ecosystems
  - Threatened or protected ecosystems
  - Special habitats
  - Corridors and or conservancy networks
- Significant species
  - Threatened or endangered species
  - Protected species.

### 5.1. DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

Determining impact significance from predictions of the nature of the impact has been a source of debate and will remain a source of debate. The author used a combination of scaling and weighting methods to determine significance based on a simple formula. The formula used is based on the method proposed by Edwards (2011). However, the criteria used were adjusted to suite its use for botanical assessment. In this document significance rating was evaluated using the following criteria.

$$\text{Significance} = \text{Conservation Value} \times (\text{Likelihood} + \text{Duration} + \text{Extent} + \text{Severity}) \text{ (Edwards 2011)}$$

#### 5.1.1. CRITERIA USED

**Conservation value:** Conservation value refers to the intrinsic value of an attribute (e.g. an ecosystem, a vegetation type, a natural feature or a species) or its relative importance towards the conservation of an ecosystem or species or even natural aesthetics. Conservation status is based on habitat function, its vulnerability to loss and fragmentation or its value in terms of the protection of habitat or species (Refer to Table 5 for categories used).

**Likelihood** refers to the probability of the specific impact occurring because of the proposed activity (Refer to Table 6, for categories used).

**Duration** refers to the length in time during which the activity is expected to impact on the environment (Refer to Table 7).

**Extent** refers to the spatial area that is likely to be impacted or over which the impact will have

influence, should it occur (Refer to Table 8).

**Severity** refers to the direct physical or biophysical impact of the activity on the surrounding environment should it occur (Refer to Table 9).

**Table 5: Categories used for evaluating conservation status.**

CONSERVATION VALUE	
Low (1)	The attribute is transformed, degraded not sensitive (e.g., Least threatened), with unlikely possibility of species loss.
Medium/low (2)	The attribute is in good condition but not sensitive (e.g., Least threatened), with unlikely possibility of species loss.
Medium (3)	The attribute is in good condition, considered vulnerable (threatened), or falls within an ecological support area or a critical biodiversity area, but with unlikely possibility of species loss.
Medium/high (4)	The attribute is considered endangered or, falls within an ecological support area or a critical biodiversity area, or provides core habitat for endemic or rare & endangered species.
High (5)	The attribute is considered critically endangered or is part of a proclaimed provincial or national protected area.

**Table 6: Categories used for evaluating likelihood.**

LIKELIHOOD	
Highly Unlikely (1)	Under normal circumstances it is almost certain that the impact will not occur.
Unlikely (2)	The possibility of the impact occurring is very low, but there is a small likelihood under normal circumstances.
Possible (3)	The likelihood of the impact occurring, under normal circumstances is 50/50, it may, or it may not occur.
Probable (4)	It is very likely that the impact will occur under normal circumstances.
Certain (5)	The proposed activity is of such a nature that it is certain that the impact will occur under normal circumstances.

**Table 7: Categories used for evaluating duration.**

DURATION	
Short (1)	Impact is temporary and easily reversible through natural process or with mitigation. Rehabilitation time is expected to be short (1-2 years).
Medium/short (2)	Impact is temporary and reversible through natural process or with mitigation. Rehabilitation time is expected to be relative short (2-5 years).
Medium (3)	Impact is medium-term and reversible with mitigation but will last for some time after construction and may require ongoing mitigation. Rehabilitation time is expected to be longer (5-15 years).
Long (4)	Impact is long-term and reversible but only with long term mitigation. It will last for a long time after construction and is likely to require ongoing mitigation. Rehabilitation time is expected to be longer (15-50 years).
Permanent (5)	The impact is expected to be permanent.

**Table 8: Categories used for evaluating extent.**

EXTENT	
Site (1)	Under normal circumstances the impact will be contained within the construction footprint.
Property (2)	Under normal circumstances the impact might extent outside of the construction site (e.g., within a 2 km radius), but will not affect surrounding properties.
Surrounding properties (3)	Under normal circumstances the impact might extent outside of the property boundaries and will affect surrounding landowners or –users, but still within the local area (e.g., within a 50 km radius).
Regional (4)	Under normal circumstances the impact might extent to the surrounding region (e.g., within a 200 km radius), and will impact on landowners in the larger region (not only surrounding the site).
Provincial (5)	Under normal circumstances the effects of the impact might extent to a large geographical area (>200 km radius).

**Table 9: Categories used for evaluating severity.**

SEVERITY	
Low (1)	It is expected that the impact will have little or no affect (barely perceptible) on the integrity of the surrounding environment. Rehabilitation not needed or easily achieved.
Medium/low (2)	It is expected that the impact will have a perceptible impact on the surrounding environment, but it will maintain its function, even if slightly modified (overall integrity not compromised). Rehabilitation easily achieved.
Medium (3)	It is expected that the impact will have an impact on the surrounding environment, but it will maintain its function, even if moderately modified (overall integrity not compromised). Rehabilitation easily achieved.
Medium/high (4)	It is expected that the impact will have a severe impact on the surrounding environment. Functioning may be severely impaired and may temporarily cease. Rehabilitation will be needed to restore system integrity.
High (5)	It is expected that the impact will have a very severe to permanent impact on the surrounding environment. Functioning irreversibly impaired. Rehabilitation often impossible or unfeasible due to cost.

## 5.2. SIGNIFICANCE CATEGORIES

The formal NEMA EIA application process was developed to assess the significance of impacts on the surrounding environment (including socio-economic factors), associated with any specific development proposal to allow the competent authority to make informed decisions. Specialist studies must advise the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) on the significance of impacts in his field of specialty. To do this, the specialist must identify all potentially significant environmental impacts, predict the nature of the impact, and evaluate the significance of that impact should it occur.

Potential significant impacts are evaluated, using the method described above, to determine its potential significance. The potential significance is then described in terms of the categories given in Table 10. Mitigation options are evaluated, and comparison is then made (using the same method) of potential significance before mitigation and potential significance after mitigation (to advise the EAP).

**Table 10: Categories used to describe significance rating (adjusted from DEAT, 2002)**

SIGNIFICANCE	DESCRIPTION
Insignificant or Positive (4-22)	There is no impact, or the impact is insignificant in scale or magnitude because of low sensitivity to change or low intrinsic value of the site, or the impact may be positive.
Low (23-36)	An impact barely noticeable in scale or magnitude because of low sensitivity to change or low intrinsic value of the site or will be of very short-term or is unlikely to occur. Impact is unlikely to have any real effect and no or little mitigation is required.
Medium Low (37-45)	Impact is of a low order and therefore likely to have little real effect. Mitigation is easily achieved. Social, cultural, and economic activities can continue unchanged, or impacts may have medium to short term effects on the social and/or natural environment within site boundaries.
Medium (46-55)	Impact is real, but not substantial. Mitigation is both feasible and easily possible but may require modification of the project design or layout. Social, cultural, and economic activities of communities may be impacted, but can continue (albeit in a different form). These impacts will usually result in medium to long term effect on the social and/or natural environment, within site boundary.
Medium high (56-63)	Impact is real, substantial, and undesirable, but mitigation is feasible. Modification of the project design or layout may be required. Social, cultural, and economic activities may be impacted, but can continue (albeit in a different form). These impacts will usually result in medium to long-term effect on the social and/or natural environment, beyond site boundary within local area.
High (64-79)	An impact of high order. Mitigation is difficult, expensive, time-consuming or some combination of these. Social, cultural, and economic activities of communities are disrupted and may come to a halt. These impacts will usually result in long-term change to the social and/or natural environment, beyond site boundaries, regional or widespread.
Unacceptable (80-100)	An impact of the highest order possible. There is no possible mitigation that could offset the impact. Social, cultural, and economic activities of communities are disrupted to such an extent that these come to a halt. The impact will result in permanent change. Very often these impacts are un-mitigatable and usually result in very severe effects, beyond site boundaries, national or international.

## 6. SITE SENSITIVITY DISCUSSION

The proposed development footprint will result in a long term or permanent impact on a relatively small area (2 – 3 ha) of disturbed natural veld, within the Upington urban edge. The new cemetery will link with the existing Paballelo Jupiter Cemetery.

**HABITAT CONDITIONS AND DIVERSITY:** The proposed development footprint will result in a long term or permanent impact on a relatively small area of natural veld, located within the urban edge of Upington. The landscape is very homogenous with little variation over the site itself, and does not contain any rocky outcrop, watercourses or any other biophysical feature that might have resulted in special habitats for fauna or flora.

**LAND-USE:** The proposed development will impact on a small area of disturbed natural veld used for informal livestock grazing and as a short -cut between the various housing developments. The enlargement of the cemetery is a communal need and the extension of the site into disturbed veld adjacent to the existing cemetery is the most logical option. It is also **highly unlikely to have any significant impact on the current land-use.**

**VEGETATION:** Kalahari Karroid Shrubland are classified as “Least Threatened” in terms of the “Revised List of ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection” (GN 47526 of 18 November 2022). The vegetation is described as a disturbed to very disturbed version of Karroid Shrubland. The vegetation cover had been reduced to sparse, almost single layer low weedy grassy shrubland (Photo 1-4), because of anthropogenic impacts and constant grazing by livestock. In terms of botanical significance, it was only the presence of some of the NCNCA protected plant species within the site that was of any potential significance (Refer to Table 3).

In terms of vegetation, it is considered **highly unlikely that the proposed development will contribute significantly to the loss of vegetation type or associated habitat.**

**THREATENED AND PROTECTED PLANT SPECIES:** No red-data or nationally protected plant species were observed within the proposed footprint. However, several species, protected in terms of the NCNCA was observed within the footprint (Refer to Table 3). Some of these plants, most notably the *Adenium oleifolium* individuals are considered of conservation value and it is recommended that they should be transplanted (through search & rescue program). One small multi-stemmed *Boscia foetida* (Photo 6) was also observed. Because of its deep and extensive root system search & rescue is not a viable mitigation option (plants rarely survive replanting – Personal observations).

According to the DEA Screening tool report, the relative **plant species theme sensitivity** is considered of **low sensitivity**, which is supported by the findings of this assessment.

**FAUNA AND AVI-FAUNA:** No evidence in the form of tracks, faeces or even burrows of any other indigenous fauna (e.g., small game) were observed within the footprint area, although it is expected that reptile's (like gecko's, agama's, skinks, and snakes) and some of the smaller mammals might still occur in the larger area. The veld was very homogeneous and habitat variety or diversity within the footprint area is low to very low. The lack of rocky hills or outcrops within the development area would preclude a variety of species from the site. There are also no suitable habitats for amphibian species within the footprint area (Refer to Heading 4.5.1).

The animal species theme sensitivity is considered medium sensitive because the site falls within the potential distribution range of **Ludwig's Bustard** (*Neotis ludwigii*), however, according to distribution data of SABAP 2 Ludwig's Bustard had not been observed in this area. The bird may potentially feed and nest in the surrounding area, but it is highly unlikely that it will venture so close to the urban edge (Refer to Table 4)

With regards to this project the **sensitivity rating should be low sensitive**.

**CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS:** According to the Northern Cape critical biodiversity areas maps, the proposed cemetery expansion area will NOT overlap any critical biodiversity area (CBA 2) as identified within the 2016 Northern Cape CBA maps (Figure 6).

According to the DEA Screening tool report, the relative **terrestrial biodiversity theme sensitivity** is considered of **low sensitivity**, which is supported by the findings of this assessment (Refer to Table 11).

## 6.1. TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following table rates the significance of environmental impacts associated with the proposed development. It also evaluates the expected accumulative effect of the proposed development as well as the No-Go option.

**Table 11: Terrestrial biodiversity impact associated with the proposed development**

Impact assessment								
Aspect	Mitigation	CV	Lik	Dur	Ext	Sev	Significance	Short discussion
<b>Geology &amp; soils:</b> Potential impact on special habitats (e.g., true quartz or "heuweltjies")	Without mitigation	1	1	4	1	1	7	No special habitats observed.
	With mitigation	1	1	4	1	1	7	N/a
<b>Landuse and cover:</b> Potential impact on socio-economic activities.	Without mitigation	2	3	5	1	1	20	Permanent transformation of approximately 3ha of disturbed indigenous vegetation, within the urban edge (subject to constant anthropogenic impacts).
	With mitigation	2	2	5	1	1	18	Search & Rescue NCNCA protected species as described in Table 3.
<b>Vegetation status:</b> Loss of vulnerable	Without mitigation	2	5	5	1	1	24	Permanent transformation of approximately 3ha of disturbed indigenous vegetation (least threatened), within the urban edge.

or endangered vegetation and associated habitat.	With mitigation	2	2	5	1	1	18	Search & Rescue NCNCA protected species as described in Table 3.
<b>Conservation priority:</b> Potential impact on protected areas, CBA's, ESA's, or Centre's of Endemism.	Without mitigation	2	3	5	1	1	20	Permanent transformation of approximately 3ha of land of disturbed indigenous vegetation not overlapping a CBA or ESA.
	With mitigation	2	2	5	1	1	18	Search & Rescue NCNCA protected species as described in Table 3.
<b>Connectivity:</b> Potential loss of ecological migration corridors.	Without mitigation	2	3	5	1	1	20	Permanent transformation of approximately 3ha of land of disturbed indigenous vegetation not overlapping a CBA or ESA.
	With mitigation	2	2	5	1	1	18	Search & Rescue NCNCA protected species as described in Table 3.
<b>Protected &amp; endangered plant species:</b> Potential impact on threatened or protected plant species.	Without mitigation	2	5	5	1	1	24	Several NCNCA protected species was observed within the property, including one <i>Boscia foetida</i> and several <i>Adenium oleifolius</i> plants.
	With mitigation	2	3	5	1	1	20	Search & Rescue NCNCA protected species as described in Table 3.
<b>Cumulative impacts:</b> Cumulative impact associated with proposed activity.	Without mitigation	2	5	5	1	1	24	Permanent transformation of approximately 3ha of land, covered with indigenous vegetation (not threatened), within a CBA 2.
	With mitigation	2	3	5	1	1	20	Search & Rescue NCNCA protected species as described in Table 3.
<b>The "No-Go" option:</b> Potential impact associated with the No-Go alternative.	Without mitigation	2	4	4	1	1	20	The property will continue to be degrade because of livestock grazing and constant human activity (access routes, wild plant harvesting etc).
	With mitigation						0	

According to the **NEMA EIA Sensitivity** scan for the site generated on 15/02/2023 by PB Consult the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity is **low sensitive** and does not overlap any CBA or ESA.

The Terrestrial biodiversity assessment (Table 11) aims to take all the discussion under Section 4 into account, including the small scale of the proposed project, the fact that the vegetation is not vulnerable or endangered as well as all the other reasons discussed throughout this document.

According, Table 11, the main impacts associated with the proposed development will be:

- A Low impact on a remaining natural veld; and
- A Low impact on NCNCA protected plant species.

Because of the small scale of the activity even the cumulative impact given in Table 11 remains Low.

**It is thus considered highly unlikely that the development will contribute significantly to any of the following:**

- Significant loss of vegetation type and associated habitat.
- Loss of ecological processes (e.g., migration patterns, pollinators, river function etc.) due to construction and operational activities.
- Loss of local biodiversity and threatened plant species.
- Loss of ecosystem connectivity.

According to the DEA Screening tool report, the relative terrestrial biodiversity theme sensitivity is considered of low sensitivity, which is supported by the findings of this assessment.

## **6.2. TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY SENSITIVITY MAP**

The proposed site is very homogenous in vegetation cover and landscape. No specific sensitive area had been identified, which should be protected, mitigated, or regarded as a no-go area. As a result, no sensitivity map is included.



## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development site is not considered sensitive in terms of terrestrial biodiversity. As a result, impact minimisation should focus on mitigation measures during construction (and operational) phases, of which the overriding goal should be to clearly define the final layout and to minimise the disturbance footprint.

- All construction must be done in accordance with an approved construction and operational phase Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which must be developed by a suitably experienced Environmental Assessment Practitioner.
- A suitably qualified Environmental Control Officer must be appointed to monitor the construction phase in terms of the EMP and any other conditions pertaining to specialist studies.
- Before any work is done the footprint must be clearly demarcated. The demarcation must aim at minimum footprint and minimisation of disturbance.
- **A Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act permit** must be **obtained for impact on the protected species listed** in Table 3 species on site.
- **Search & rescue** of as many of the *Adenium oleifolium* plants is recommended. Although not a threatened plant species they are of significant medicinal value. Rescued plants should be replanted in similar vegetation to the west or northwest of the site (away from the urban edge and its associated impact area).
- All alien invasive species within the footprint and or within 10 m of the footprint must be removed responsibly.
  - Care must be taken with the eradication method to ensure that the removal does not impact or lead to additional impacts (e.g., spreading of the AIP due to incorrect eradication methods);
  - Care must be taken to dispose of alien plant material responsibly.
- Indiscriminate clearing of any area outside of these footprints may not be allowed.
- An integrated waste management approach must be implemented during construction.
  - Construction related general and hazardous waste may only be disposed of at approved waste disposal sites.
  - All rubble and rubbish should be collected and removed from the site to a Municipal approved waste disposal site.

## 8. REFERENCES

- Acocks, J.P.H. 1953.** Veld types of South Africa. *Mem. Bot. Surv. S. Afr.* No. 28: 1-192.
- Anon, 2008.** Guideline regarding the determination of bioregions and the preparation and publication of Bioregional Plans. April 2008. Government Notice No. 291 of 16 March 2009.
- BirdLife International. 2023.** IUCN Red List for birds. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 30/03/2023
- Brooke R K. 1984.** *South African Red Data Book–Birds*, Foundation for Research Development: CSIR, 1984.
- De Villiers C.C., Driver, A., Brownlie, S., Clark, B., Day, E.G., Euston-Brown, D.I.W., Helme, N.A., Holmes, P.M., Job, N. & Rebelo, A.B. 2005.** Fynbos Forum Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape. Fynbos Forum, c/o Botanical Society of South Africa: Conservation Unit, Kirstenbosch, Cape Town.
- DEAT, 2002.** Impact significance. Integrated Environmental Management, Information series 5. Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT). Pretoria.
- Del Hoyo, J.; Elliott, A.; Sargatal, J. 1996.** *Handbook of the Birds of the World, vol. 3: Hoatzin to Auks*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona, Spain. In BirdLife International (2022) Species factsheet: *Neotis ludwigii*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 07/09/2022.
- Edwards, R. 2011.** Environmental impact assessment method. Unpublished report for SiVest (Pty) Ltd. Environmental division. 9 May 2011.
- Herholdt J.J. 1988.** The distribution of Stanley’s and Ludwig’s Bustards in southern Africa: A review. *Ostrich*, 59(1): 8-13. In BirdLife International (2022) Species factsheet: *Neotis ludwigii*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 07/09/2022.
- Holness, S. & Oosthuysen, E. 2016.** Critical Biodiversity Areas of the Northern Cape: Technical Report. Available from the Biodiversity GIS website at <http://bgis.sanbi.org/project.asp>
- Jenkins, A. & Smallie, J. 2009.** Terminal velocity: end of the line for Ludwig’s Bustard? *Africa – Birds & Birding* 14(2): 34-39. In BirdLife International (2022) Species factsheet: *Neotis ludwigii*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 07/09/2022.
- Le Roux, A. 2015.** Wild flowers of Namaqualand. A botanical society guide. Fourth revised edition. Struik Nature. Cape Town.
- Low, A.B. & Rebelo, A.(T.)G. (eds.) 1996.** *Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland*. Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pretoria.
- Mannheimer, C., Maggs-Kölling, G., Kolberg, H. & Rügheimer, S. 2008.** Wildflowers of the southern Namib. National Botanical Research Institute. Shumani Mills Communications. Cape Town.
- Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds.) 2006.** The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Strelitzia 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.
- Mucina, L., Rutherford, M.C., Palmer, A.R., Milton, S.J., Scott, L., Lloyd, J.W., Van der Merwe, B., Hoare, D.B., Bezuidenhout, H., Vlok, J.H.J., Euston-Brown, D.I.W., Powrie, L.W. and Dold, A.P. 2006.** Nama-Karoo Biome. In Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. 2006. (Eds.). The Vegetation of South Africa. Lesotho & Swaziland. Strelitzia 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. Pp. 325 – 347.
- Simmons, R.E. (2005).** In *Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus*, Edited by Hockey, P A R and Dean, W R J and Ryan, P G, The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund: 498-500.
- Skowno, A.L., Matlata, M., Slingsby, J., Kirkwood, D., Raimondo, D.C., Von Staden, L., Holness,**

- S.D., Lotter, M., Pence, G Daniels, F., Driver, A., Desmet, P.G., Dayaram, A. 2019b.** Terrestrial ecosystem threat status assessment 2018 – comparison with 2011 assessment for provincial agencies. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 Technical Report. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.
- Skowno, A.L., Raimondo, D.C., Poole, C.J., Fizzotti, B. & Slingsby, J.A. (eds.). 2019a.** South African National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 Technical Report Volume 1: Terrestrial Realm. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6370>
- South African National Biodiversity Institute. 2016.** Botanical Database of Southern Africa (BODATSA) [dataset]. Doi: to be assigned
- South African National Biodiversity Institute. 2018.** Vegetation map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland [vector geospatial dataset] 2018.
- South African National Biodiversity Institute. 2020.** Statistics: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Downloaded from Redlist.sanbi.org on 2023/01/17
- Taylor, M.R. 2015.** *Terathopius ecaudatus*. In: The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Taylor, MR, Peacock F, Wanless RW (eds). BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Van Rooyen, N., & Van Rooyen G. 2019.** Flowering plants of the southern Kalahari. First edition. Novus Print, a division of Novus Holdings. Somerset West.
- Van Wyk, A.E., & Smith, G.F. 2001.** Regions of floristic endemism in South Africa. A review with emphasis on succulents. Umdaus press. Hatfield.
- Werger, M.J.A. 1974.** On concepts and techniques applied in the Zürich-Montpellier method of vegetation survey. *Bothalia* 11, 3: 309-323.

---

*APPENDIX 1: CURRICULUM VITAE – P.J.J. BOTES*

---

## Curriculum Vitae: Peet JJ Botes

---

**Address:** 22 Buitekant Street, Bredasdorp, 7280; **Cell:** 082 921 5949

<b>Nationality:</b>	South African
<b>ID No.:</b>	670329 5028 081
<b>Language:</b>	Afrikaans / English
<b>Profession:</b>	Environmental Consultant & Auditing
<b>Specializations:</b>	Botanical & Biodiversity Impact Assessments Environmental Compliance Audits Environmental Impact Assessment Environmental Management Systems
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>BSc</b> (Botany & Zoology), with Nature Conservation III & IV as extra subjects; Dept. of Natural Sciences, Stellenbosch University 1989. <b>Hons. BSc</b> (Plant Ecology), Stellenbosch University, 1989 More than 20 years of experience in the Environmental Management Field (Since 1997 to present).
<b>Professional affiliation:</b>	Registered Professional <u>Botanical, Environmental and Ecological Scientist</u> at SACNASP (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions) since 2005.
<b>SACNAP Reg. No.:</b>	400184/05

### **BRIEF RESUME OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

---

**1997-2005:** Employed by the Overberg Test Range (a Division of Denel), responsible for managing the environmental department of OTB, developing and implementing an ISO14001 environmental management system, ensuring environmental compliance, performing environmental risk assessments with regards to missile tests and planning the management of the 26 000 ha of natural veld, working closely with CapeNature (De Hoop Nature Reserve).

**2005-2010:** Joined Enviroscientific, as an independent environmental consultant specializing in wastewater management, botanical and biodiversity assessments, developing environmental management plans and strategies, environmental control work as well as doing environmental compliance audits and was also responsible for helping develop the biodiversity part of the Farming for the Future audit system implemented by Woolworths. During his time with Enviroscientific he performed more than 400 biodiversity and environmental legal compliance audits.

**2010-2017:** Joined EnviroAfrica, as an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner and Biodiversity Specialist, responsible for Environmental Impact Assessments, Biodiversity & Botanical specialist reports and Environmental Compliance Audits. During this time Mr Botes compiled more than 70 specialist Biodiversity & Botanical impact assessment reports ranging from agricultural-, infrastructure pipelines- and solar developments.

**2017-Present:** Establish a small independent consultancy (PB Consult) specialising in Environmental Audits, Biodiversity and Botanical specialist studies as well as Environmental Impact Assessment.

#### LIST OF MOST RELEVANT BOTANICAL & BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

- Botes, P. 2007: Botanical assessment. Schaapkraal, Erf 644, Mitchell's Plain. A preliminary assessment of the vegetation in terms of the Fynbos Forum: Ecosystem guidelines. 13 November 2007.
- Botes, P. 2008: Botanical assessment. Schaapkraal Erf 1129, Cape Town. A preliminary assessment of the vegetation using the Fynbos Forum Terms of Reference: Ecosystem guidelines for environmental Assessment in the Northern Cape. 20 July 2008.
- Botes, P. 2010(a): Botanical assessment. Proposed subdivision of Erf 902, 34 Eskom Street, Napier. A Botanical scan and an assessment of the natural vegetation of the site to assess to what degree the site contributes towards conservation targets for the ecosystem. 15 September 2010.
- Botes, P. 2010(b): Botanical assessment. Proposed Loeriesfontein low cost housing project. A preliminary Botanical Assessment of the natural veld with regards to the proposed low cost housing project in/adjacent to Loeriesfontein, taking into consideration the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 10 August 2010.
- Botes, P. 2010(c): Botanical assessment: Proposed Sparrenberg dam, on Sparrenberg Farm, Ceres. . A Botanical scan and an assessment of the natural vegetation of the site. 15 September 2010.
- Botes, P. 2011: Botanical scan. Proposed Cathbert development on the Farm Wolfe Kloof, Paarl (Revised). A botanical scan of Portion 2 of the Farm Wolfe Kloof No. 966 (Cathbert) with regards to the proposed Cathbert Development, taking into consideration the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 28 September 2011.
- Botes, P. 2012(a): Proposed Danielskuil Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Erf 753, Danielskuil. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 17 March 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(b): Proposed Disselfontein Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Farm Disselfontein no. 77, Hopetown. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 28 March 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(c): Proposed Kakamas Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Remainder of the Farm 666, Kakamas. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 13 March 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(d): Proposed Keimoes Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility at Keimoes. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 9 March 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(e): Proposed Leeu-Gamka Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Portion 40 of the Farm Kruidfontein no. 33, Prince Albert. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 27 March 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(f): Proposed Mount Roper Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Farm 321, Kuruman. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 28 March 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(g): Proposed Whitebank Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Farm no. 379, Kuruman. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 27 March 2012.

- Botes, P. 2012(h): Proposed Vanrhynsdorp Keren Energy Holdings Solar Facility on Farm Duinen Farm no. 258, Vanrhynsdorp. A Biodiversity Assessment (with botanical input) taking into consideration the findings of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of South Africa. 13 April 2012.
- Botes, P. 2012(i): Askham (Kameelduin) proposed low cost housing, Mier Municipality Residential Project, Northern Cape. A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). 1 November 2012.
- Botes, P. 2013(a): Groot Mier proposed low cost housing, Mier Municipality Residential Project, Northern Cape. A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). January 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(b): Loubos proposed low cost housing, Mier Municipality Residential Project, Northern Cape. A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). January 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(c): Noenieput proposed low cost housing, Mier Municipality Residential Project, Northern Cape. A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). January 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(d): Paballelo proposed low cost housing, Mier Municipality Residential Project, Northern Cape. A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). January 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(e): Welkom proposed low cost housing, Mier Municipality Residential Project, Northern Cape. A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). January 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(f): Zyperfontein Dam Biodiversity & Botanical Scan. Proposed construction of a new irrigation dam on Portions 1, 3, 5 & 6 of the Farm Zyperfontein No. 66, Vanrhynsdorp (Northern Cape) and a scan of the proposed associated agricultural enlargement. September 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(g): Onseepkans Canal: Repair and upgrade of the Onseepkans Water Supply and Flood Protection Infrastructure, Northern Cape. A Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). August 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(h): Biodiversity scoping assessment with regards to a Jetty Construction on Erf 327, Malagas (Matjiespoort). 24 October 2013.
- Botes, P. 2013(i): Jacobsbaai pump station and rising main (Saldanha Bay Municipality). A Botanical Scan of the area that will be impacted by the proposed Jacobsbaai pump station and rising main. 30 October 2013.
- Botes, P. 2014(a): Brandvlei Bulk Water Supply: Proposed construction of a 51 km new bulk water supply pipeline (replacing the existing pipeline) from Romanskolk Reservoir to the Brandvlei Reservoir, Brandvlei (Northern Cape Province). A preliminary Biodiversity & Botanical scan in order to identify significant environmental features (and to identify the need for additional studies if required). 24 February 2014.
- Botes, P. & McDonald Dr. D. 2014: Loeriesfontein Bulk Water Supply: Proposed construction of a new bulk water supply pipeline and associated infrastructure from the farm Rheeboksfontein to Loeriesfontein Reservoir, Loeriesfontein. Botanical scan of the proposed route to determine the possible impact on vegetation and plant species. 30 May 2014.
- Botes, P. 2014(b): Kalahari-East Water Supply Scheme Extension: Phase 1. Proposed extension of the Kalahari-East Water Supply Scheme and associated infrastructure to the Mier Municipality, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Mier Local Municipality (Northern Cape Province). Biodiversity & Botanical scan of the proposed route to determine the possible impact on biodiversity with emphasis on vegetation and plant species. 1 July 2014.
- Botes, P. 2014(c): The proposed Freudenberg Farm Homestead, Farm no. 419/0, Tulbagh (Wolseley Area). A Botanical scan of possible remaining natural veld on the property. 26 August 2014.
- Botes, P. 2014(d): Postmasburg WWTW: Proposed relocation of the Postmasburg wastewater treatment works and associated infrastructure, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Tsantsabane Local Municipality (Northern Cape Province). Biodiversity and botanical scan of the proposed pipeline route and WWTW site. 30 October 2014.
- Botes, P. 2015(a): Jacobsbaai pump station and rising main (Saldanha Bay Municipality) (Revision). A Botanical Scan of the area that will be impacted by the proposed Jacobsbaai pump station and rising main. 21 January 2015.
- Botes, P. 2015(b): Steenkampspan proving ground. Proposed establishment of a high speed proving (& associated infrastructure) on the farm Steenkampspan (No. 419/6), Upington, ZF Mgcawu (Siyanda) District

- Municipality, Northern Cape Province. Biodiversity and Botanical Scan of the proposed footprint. 20 February 2015.
- Botes, P. 2015(c): Proposed Bredasdorp Feedlot, Portion 10 of Farm 159, Bredasdorp, Cape Agulhas Municipality, Northern Cape Province. A Botanical scan of the area that will be impacted. 28 July 2015.
- Botes, P. 2016(a): OWK Raisin processing facility, Upington, Erf 151, Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province. A Botanical scan of the proposed footprint. 26 May 2016.
- Botes, P. 2016(b): Onseepkans Agricultural development. The proposed development of ±250 ha of new agricultural land at Onseepkans, Northern Cape Province. Biodiversity and Botanical Scan. January 2016.
- Botes, P. 2016(c): Henkries Mega-Agripark development. The proposed development of ±150 ha of high potential agricultural land at Henkries, Northern Cape Province. Biodiversity and Botanical Scan of the proposed footprint. 28 February 2016.
- Botes, P. 2016(d): Proposed Namaqualand Regional Water Supply Scheme high priority bulk water supply infrastructure upgrades from Okiep to Concordia and Corolusberg. Biodiversity Assessment of the proposed footprint. March 2016.
- Botes, P. 2017: The proposed new Namaqua N7 Truck Stop on Portion 62 of the Farm Biesjesfontein No. 218, Springbok, Northern Cape Province. Botanical scan of the proposed footprint. 10 July 2017.
- Botes, P. 2018(a): Kamiesberg Bulk Water Supply – Ground water desalination, borehole- and reservoir development, Kamiesberg, Northern Cape Province. Botanical scan of the proposed footprint. 20 February 2018
- Botes, P. 2018(b): Rooifontein Bulk Water Supply – Ground water desalination, borehole- and reservoir development, Rooifontein, Northern Cape Province. Botanical scan of the proposed footprint. 23 February 2018
- Botes, P. 2018(c): Paulshoek Bulk Water Supply – Ground water desalination, borehole- and reservoir development, Paulshoek, Northern Cape Province. Botanical scan of the proposed footprint. 27 March 2018.
- Botes, P. 2018(d): Kakamas Wastewater Treatment Works Upgrade – Construction of a new WWTW and rising main, Khai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint. 1 August 2018.
- Botes, P. 2018(e): Kakamas Bulk Water Supply – New bulk water supply line for Kakamas, Lutzburg & Cillie, Khai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint. 4 August 2018.
- Botes, P. 2018(f): Wagenboom Weir & Pipeline – Construction of a new pipeline and weir with the Snel River, Breede River Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint. 7 August 2018.
- Botes, P. 2018(g): Steynville (Hopetown) outfall sewer pipeline – Proposed development of a new sewer outfall pipeline, Hopetown, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint. 8 October 2018.
- Botes, P. 2018(h): Tripple D farm agricultural development – Development of a further 60 ha of vineyards, Erf 1178, Kakamas, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint. 8 October 2018.
- Botes, P. 2018(i): Steynville (Hopetown) outfall sewer pipeline – Proposed development of a new sewer outfall pipeline, Hopetown, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint. 8 October 2018.
- Botes, P. 2019(a): Lethabo Park Extension – Proposed extension of Lethabo Park (Housing Development) on the remainder of the Farm Roodepan No. 70, Erf 17725 and Erf 15089, Roodepan Kimberley. Sol Plaaitye Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. Botanical assessment of the proposed footprint (with biodiversity inputs). 15 May 2019.
- Botes, P. 2019(b): Verneukpan Trust agricultural development – The proposed development of an additional ±250 ha of agricultural land on Farms 1763, 2372 & 2363, Kakamas, Northern Cape Province. 27 June 2019.
- Botes, P. 2020(a): Gamakor & Noodkamp Low cost housing – Botanical Assessment of the proposed formalization of the Gamakor and Noodkamp housing development on the remainder and portion 128 of the Farm Kousas No. 459 and Ervin 1470, 1474 and 1480, Gordonia road, Keimoes. Kai !Gariiep Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 6 February 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(b): Feldspar Prospecting & Mining, Farm Rozynen Bosch 104, Kakamas. Botanical assessment of the proposed prospecting and mining activities on Portion 5 of The Farm Rozynen Bosch No. 104, Kakamas, Khai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 12 February 2020.

- Botes, P. 2020(c): Boegoeberg housing project – Botanical assessment of the proposed formalization and development of 550 new erven on the remainders of farms 142 & 144 and Plot 1890, Boegoeberg settlement, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 1 July 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(d): Komaggas Bulk Water supply upgrade – Botanical assessment of the proposed upgrade of the existing Buffelsrivier to Komaggas BWS system, Rem. of Farm 200, Nama Khoi Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 8 July 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(e): Grootdrink housing project – Botanical assessment of the proposed formalization and development of 370 new erven on Erf 131, Grootdrink and Plot 2627, Boegoeberg Settlement, next to Grootdrink, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 14 July 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(f): Opwag housing project – Botanical assessment of the proposed formalization and development of 730 new erven on Plot 2642, Boegoeberg Settlement and Farm Boegoeberg Settlement NO.48/16, Opwag, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 16 July 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(g): Wegdraai housing project – Botanical assessment of the Proposed formalization and development of 360 new erven on Erven 1, 45 & 47, Wegdraai, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 17 July 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(h): Topline (Saalskop) housing project – Botanical assessment of the pproposed formalization and development of 248 new erven on Erven 1, 16, 87, Saalskop & Plot 2777, Boegoeberg Settlement, Topline, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 18 July 2020.
- Botes, P. 2020(i): Gariep housing project – Botanical assessment of the proposed formalization and development of 135 new erven on Plot 113, Gariep Settlement, !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province. 20 July 2020.



## ***APPENDIX 2: DEA SCREENING REPORT***

---