



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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SPECIALIST DECLARATION FORM – AUGUST 2023

Specialist Declaration form for assessments undertaken for application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

REPORT TITLE

TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR WETLAND FUNCTIONAL AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 6KM IMPALA ZIRCON TEMPORARY BY-PASS 132KV POWERLINE WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE EXISTING IMPALA ZIRCON 132KV MAIN LINE

Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for assessment that are in support of applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting, where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This form is current as of August 2023. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. An electronic copy of the signed declaration form must be appended to all Draft and Final Reports submitted to the department for consideration.
4. The specialist must be aware of and comply with 'the Procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the act, when applying for environmental authorisation - GN 320/2020', where applicable.

1. SPECIALIST INFORMATION

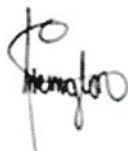
Title of Specialist Assessment	TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR WETLAND FUNCTIONAL AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 6KM IMPALA ZIRCON TEMPORARY BY-PASS 132KV POWERLINE WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE EXISTING IMPALA ZIRCON 132KV MAIN LINE
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SPECIALIST DECLARATION FORM – AUGUST 2023

2. DECLARATION BY THE SPECIALIST

I, Dr Candyce Areington declare that –

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I am aware of the procedures and requirements for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998, as amended, when applying for environmental authorisation which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols") and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020.
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing –
 - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and;
 - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the NEMA Act.



Signature of the Specialist

The Biodiversity Company

Name of Company:

02 Jul 2026

Date

SPECIALIST DECLARATION FORM – AUGUST 2023

3. UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION

I, _ Candyce Areington _____, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.



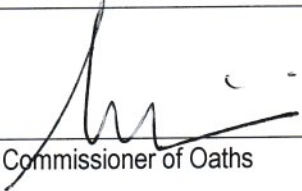
Signature of the Specialist

The Biodiversity Company

Name of Company

02/07/2026

Date

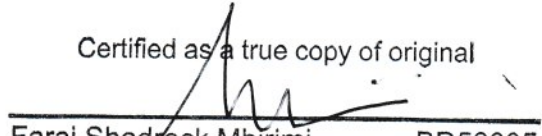


Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

02 Jul 2026

Date

Certified as a true copy of original



Farai Shadreck Mbirimi BD52805
Minister of Religion / Commissioner of Oaths
391 11th Road, Erand, Midrand 1685

Date

02/07/2026



**TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE
STATEMENT FOR WETLAND FUNCTIONAL AND
IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED
CONSTRUCTION OF THE 6KM IMPALA ZIRCON
TEMPORARY BY-PASS 132KV POWERLINE WITH
ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE
MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE
EXISTING IMPALA ZIRCON 132KV MAIN LINE**

**uMhlathuze Local Municipality, King Cetshwayo
District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province,
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01/07/2026

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Report Name	TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR WETLAND FUNCTIONAL AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 6KM IMPALA ZIRCON TEMPORARY BY-PASS 132KV POWERLINE WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE EXISTING IMPALA ZIRCON 132KV MAIN LINE	
Specialist Theme	Terrestrial Biodiversity, Plant and Animal Theme	
Project Reference	Impala Zircon	
Report Version	Draft 1 01/07/2026	
Environmental Assessment Practitioner		
Report Writer	Julia Elliott (Cand. Nat. Sci. 169961)	
Responsible Specialist	Dr Candyce Areington (Pr. Sci. Nat. 167868)	
Declaration	The Biodiversity Company and its associates operate as independent consultants under the auspices of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions. We declare that we have no affiliation with or vested financial interests in the proponent, other than for work performed under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017. We have no conflicting interests in the undertaking of this activity and have no interests in secondary developments resulting from the authorisation of this project. We have no vested interest in the project, other than to provide a professional service within the constraints of the project (timeframes and budget) based on the principles of science.	

Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Full term
AIP / AIPs	Alien Invasive Plant(s)
BA	Basic Assessment
BGIS	Biodiversity GIS (SANBI platform)
CBA	Critical Biodiversity Area
CR / EN / VU / NT / LC	Critically Endangered / Endangered / Vulnerable / Near Threatened / Least Concern
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EI	Ecological Importance
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
EO	Environmental Officer
ESA	Ecological Support Area
EOO	Extent of Occurrence
EKZNW	Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife
FEPA	Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas
FI	Functional Integrity
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
LoO	Likelihood of Occurrence
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NEMBA	National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)
NFEPA	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas
NP / WP / MP / PP	Not Protected / Well Protected / Moderately Protected / Poorly Protected
NPAES	National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy
PAOI	Project Area of Influence
RLE	Red List of Ecosystems
RR	Receptor Resilience
SACAD	South African Conservation Areas Database
SACNASP	South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SAPAD	South African Protected Areas Database
SCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SEI	Site Ecological Importance
SWSA	Strategic Water Source Area
TBC	The Biodiversity Company

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Biodiversity Company (TBC) was appointed to undertake a terrestrial biodiversity assessment for the proposed construction of the 6km Impala Zircon Temporary By-Pass 132kV Powerline with Associated Infrastructure and the Maintenance Management Plan of the existing Impala Zircon 132kV Main Line. The proposed project is located in uMhlathuze local Municipality, King Cetshwayo District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Province, South Africa

A 50-meter buffer was applied to the powerline – creating the Project Area of Influence (PAOI). A map presenting the regional context of the PAOI can be seen in Figure 1-1. Maps illustrating the PAOI in relation to the layout can be seen in Figure 1-2.

To determine the baseline ecological state of the PAOI and to present a detailed description of the receiving environment, a desktop assessment and field survey (conducted on the 07th and 08th of April 2026) were completed in tandem. The field survey occurred during the wet season (summer), which is a suitable time for data collection within this habitat in accordance with the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline (SANBI, 2020, pg. 57). Both the desktop assessment and field survey involved the detection, identification, and description of any locally relevant sensitive receptors. The potential risks that the proposed development would have on the sensitive features was also investigated.

This assessment was conducted in accordance with the amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (No. 326, 7 April 2017) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The approach has taken cognisance of Government Notice 320 in terms of NEMA dated 20 March 2020 as well as the Government Notice 1150 in terms of NEMA dated 30 October 2020: “Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation”.

The National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool has characterised the theme sensitivities of the PAOI as follows:

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme sensitivity is ‘Very High’;
- Plant Species Theme sensitivity is ‘Low’; and
- Animal Species Theme sensitivity is ‘Very High’.

The purpose of conducting the specialist study is to provide relevant input into the Environmental Authorisation application process, with a focus on the proposed activities and the impacts associated with the project. This report, after taking into consideration the findings and recommendations provided by the specialist stipulated herein, should inform, and guide the Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and regulatory authorities, enabling informed decision making as to the ecological viability of the proposed project.

Impala Zircon

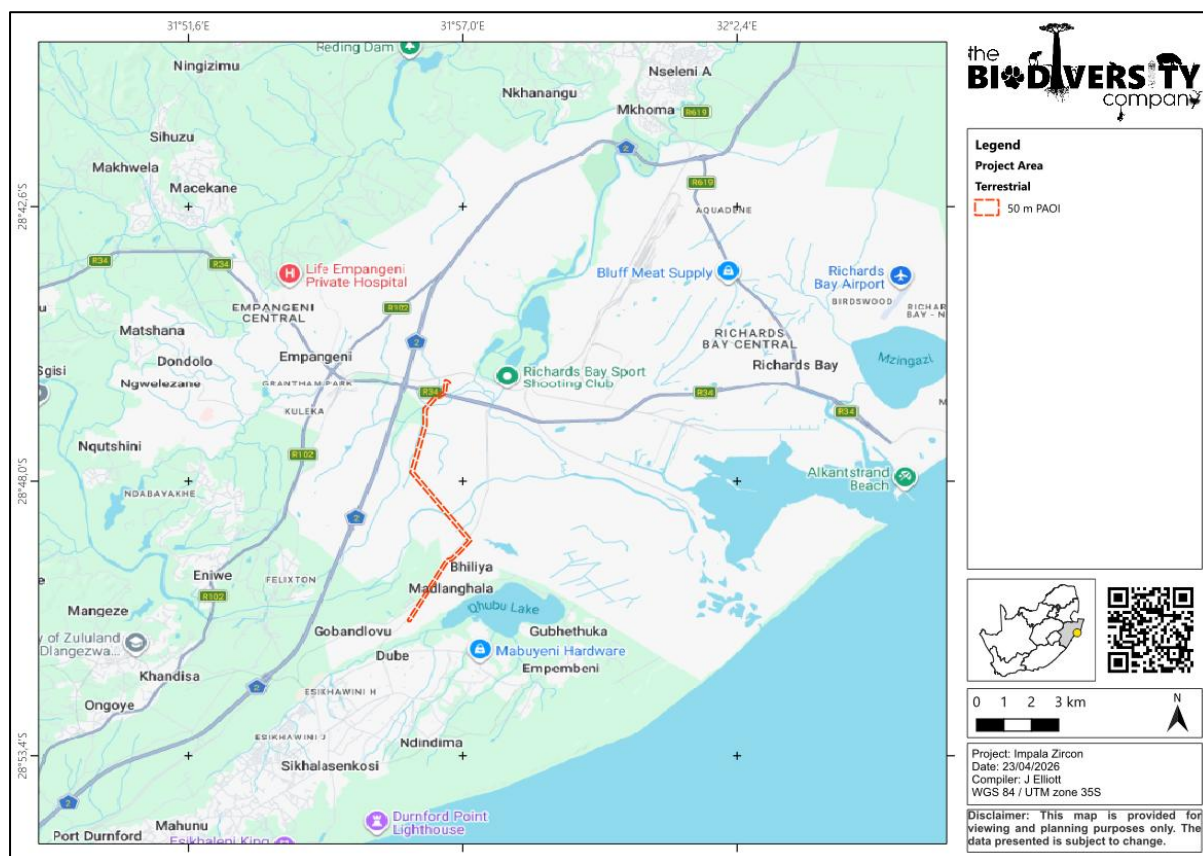


Figure 1-1 Map depicting the regional context of the Project Area of Influence (PAOI).

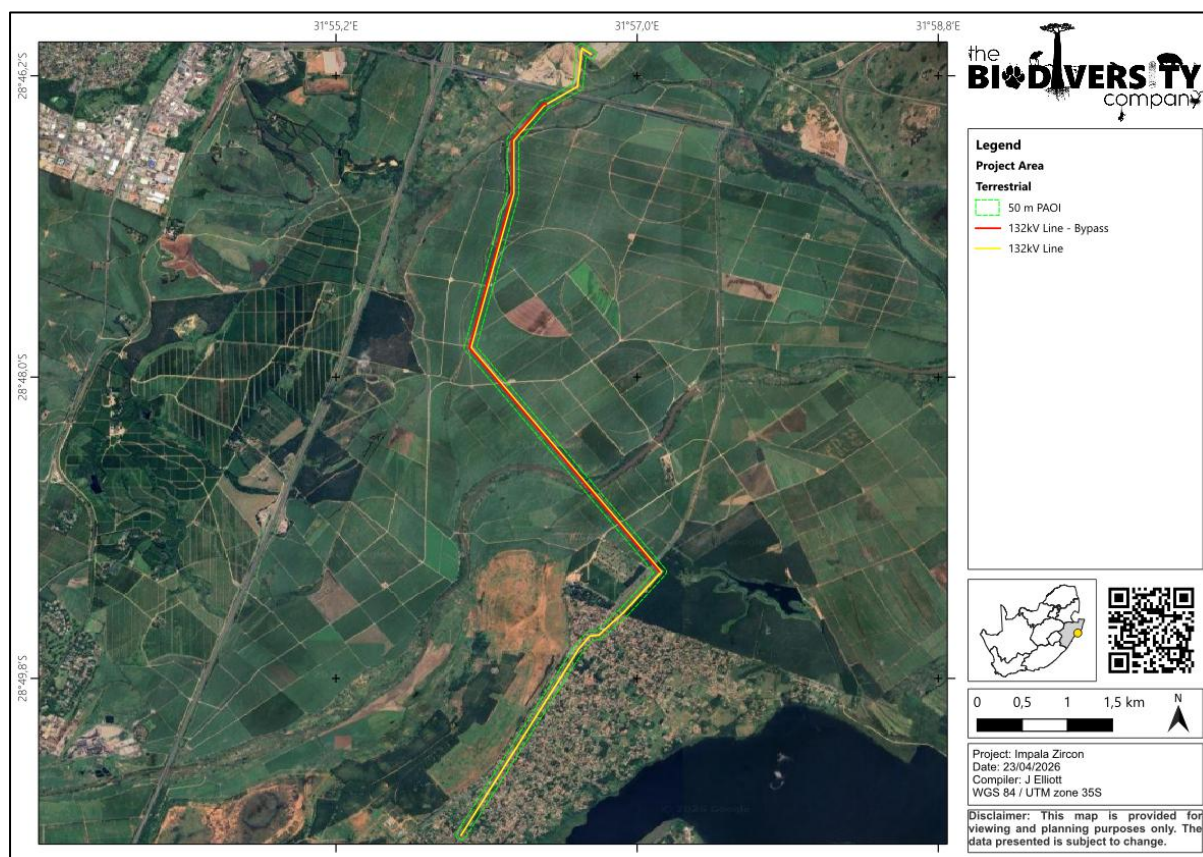


Figure 1-2 Map depicting the details of the PAOI

1.2 Project Description

The following information pertains to the project details as provided by Selahle Consultancy:

The Applicant (Eskom) intends for the Maintenance and Refurbishment of the Impala Zircon 132kV powerline located in Empangeni, under Richards Bay. The existing 1 powerline spans approximately 10,582 km in length, but Eskom is only responsible for about 7.6km of this line; the rest of the powerline belongs to the uMhlathuze Local Municipality. The Impala Zircon 132kV powerline is a radial line with no back-feeding capabilities and distributes electricity to approximately 6062 customers. It feeds Cygnus Substation, which supplies all the Esikhaweni networks, uMhlathuze Local Municipality and Lake Qube water pump (LPU).

The 10km powerline is from the North coast of KwaZulu-Natal and is exposed to both industrial and coastal pollution. Therefore, due to the proximity to the coast, this powerline is experiencing severe corrosion and deterioration on tower foundations. Therefore, a temporary bypass powerline is required in order to continue with the Maintenance of the Main powerline.

The proposed temporary 132kV bypass powerline will be approximately 6.01 km in length and will be built on wooden poles as a temporary option, which will allow the Maintenance of the Main powerline. The temporary bypass powerline will be in use for a period of 3 years. The temporary bypass 4 | P a g e powerline will run parallel (within its servitude) to the existing Main powerline (approximately 15m apart) and cross the uMhlathuze River, most of the powerline is traverses a sugarcane farm.

Selahle Consultancy and Projects (Pty) Ltd (herein referred to as SCP) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) to handle the BA, MMP and WULA processes. The team has approached this proposal with a great deal of experience in undertaking EIAs and all related Environmental Services. SCP has a team of specialists with the capacity and background to undertake the fieldwork and compile the reports within the required timeframes.

The proposed development requires authorisations under the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published under NEMA, and the Water Use License Application and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (amended) promulgated under the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) to ensure compliance with Environmental and Water legislation and regulations. The Competent Authorities that would be responsible for processing these applications are:

- Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) – for Basic Assessment Process and Maintenance Management Plan
- Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) – Water Use License Application

1.3 Scope of Work

The aim of the biodiversity assessment was to provide information to guide the risk of the proposed development on the current state of the associated ecosystems within the PAOI. This was achieved through the following:

- Desktop assessment to identify the ecologically important terrestrial features within the PAOI;
- Desktop assessment to identify possible Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) that may occur within the PAOI;
- Field survey to identify and record flora and fauna species, (especially SCC) within the PAOI;
- Determine the Site Ecological Importance (SEI), also commonly referred to as the sensitivity of the PAOI; and
- The prescription of mitigation measures for identified risks associated with the proposed development.

1.4 Assumptions and Limitations

The following assumptions and limitations are applicable for this assessment:

- It is assumed that all information received from the client and landowner is accurate;
- All datasets accessed and utilised for this assessment are representative of the most recent and suitable data for the intended purposes;
- This report was written in conjunction with a Wetlands Report (TBC, 2026) and Avifaunal Report (TBC, 2026); the three should be considered together.
- Hence, please note that this report may mention/refer to the water resources (wetlands) but the wetlands report must be consulted, especially for the water resources (wetlands) delineations and mitigations;
- A separate avifauna assessment was undertaken; thus this report does not consider avifauna, please refer to the above mentioned report for avifaunal specific mitigations;
- Invertebrates do not form part of the fieldwork scope for this assessment; however, they will be assessed at desktop level with specific reference to the Screening Tool;
- The assessment area (PAOI) was based on the footprint areas as provided for by the client, and any alterations to the area and/or missing Geographic Information System (GIS) information pertaining to the assessment area would have affected the area surveyed and hence the results of this assessment;
- A single site survey was conducted on the 7th and 8th of April 2026; therefore, this assessment does not consider temporal/seasonal trends. However, it is the option of the specialist stipulated herein that the data collected is sufficient to derive a meaningful baseline;
- Whilst every effort was made to cover as much of the PAOI as possible, representative sampling was completed. Consequently, it is possible that some fauna and flora species present within the PAOI may have not been recorded during the field survey; and
- The Global Positioning System (GPS) used in the assessment has an accuracy of 5 m and consequently any spatial features may be offset by up to 5 m.

1.5 Legislative Framework

In line with the protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements for environmental impacts on terrestrial biodiversity, as per Government Notice 320 published in terms of NEMA, dated 20 March 2020 and 30 October 2020: “Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation” – section 3, subsection 1:

- An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of the protocol, on a site identified on the screening tool as being of ‘Very High’ sensitivity for terrestrial biodiversity, must submit a Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment; however
 - Where the information gathered from the site sensitivity verification differs from the designation of ‘Very High’ terrestrial biodiversity sensitivity on the screening tool and it is found to be of a ‘Low’ sensitivity, then a Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement must be submitted;
- An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of this protocol, on a site identified by the screening tool as being of “low” sensitivity for terrestrial plant species, must submit a Terrestrial Plant Species Compliance Statement.
- An applicant intending to undertake an activity identified in the scope of this protocol, on a site identified by the screening tool as being of “very high” or “high” sensitivity for terrestrial animal species must submit a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment Report.
 - Where the information gathered from the site sensitivity verification differs from the screening tool designation of “very high” or “high”, for terrestrial animal species sensitivity and it is found to be of a “low” sensitivity, then a Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement must be submitted.

The information obtained from a site sensitivity verification, which involved both a desktop assessment as well as a field survey, confirmed that the proposed PAOI is of a ‘Very Low’ to ‘Medium’ sensitivity. The proposed development will occur to a pre-existing structure and will be linear; therefore, this report constitutes a Compliance Statement¹. The sensitivity of the water resources has been informed by the findings of the Wetland Assessment (TBC, 2026). The wetland specialist report should be consulted for a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development on the delineated wetlands and associated water resources. As per sections 2 and 3 of the protocol discussed above, a Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement must contain the information as presented in Table 1-1 below.

¹ A signed copy of the compliance statement must be appended to the Basic Assessment Report or Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Table 1-1 *Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement information requirements as per the relevant protocol, including the location of the information within this report.*

Information to be Included (as per GN 320, 20 March 2020 and GN 1150, 30 October 2020)	Report Section
Methodology used to undertake the site assessment and survey, and prepare the compliance statement, including relevant equipment and modelling used	7.1
Description of the assumptions and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data	1.4
A baseline profile description of biodiversity and ecosystems of the site	3.3, 3.4, and 3.5
Site sensitivity verification: Desktop Analysis using satellite imagery and available information	3.1
A statement on the duration, date, and season of the site inspection	3.5
Site sensitivity verification: On-site inspection, including a description of current land use and vegetation found on-site	3.5
Site sensitivity verification: Photographs/evidence of environmental sensitivity	3.3, 3.4, and 3.5
Screening tool confirmation/dispute: The assessment must verify the "Low" sensitivity of the site, in terms of plant, animal, and terrestrial biodiversity themes	3.5.2
Proposed impact management outcomes or monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr	4
Indicate whether the proposed development will have any impact on the terrestrial environment, animals and/or plants	5
A signed statement of independence by the specialist	7.5
Specialist details, including a CV	7.5

2 Fieldwork

2.1 Biodiversity Field Assessment

A field survey for the general area was undertaken on the 7th and 8th of April 2026 (late wet season survey). Effort was made to cover all the different habitat types within the PAOI, within the limits of time, access, and security (Figure 2-1).

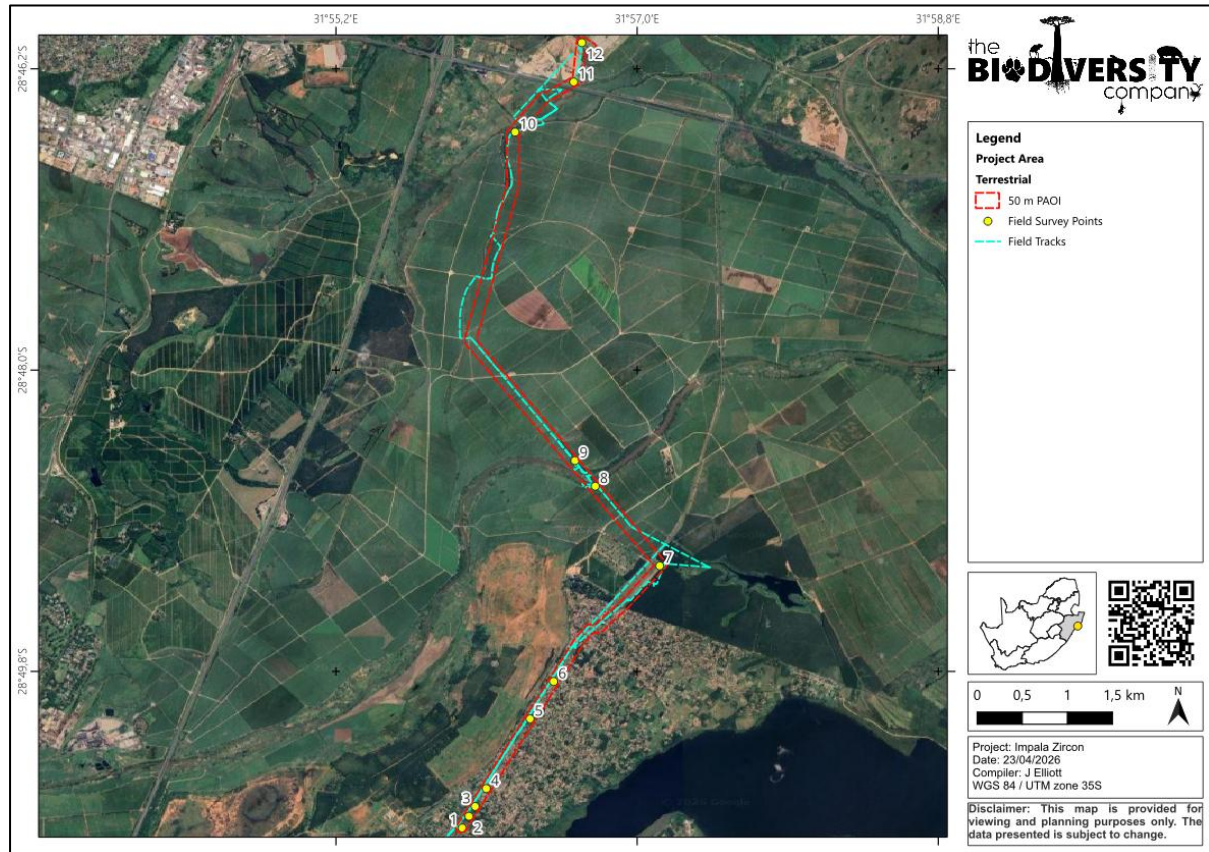


Figure 2-1 Map illustrating the field tracks and survey points within the PAOI.

3 Results & Discussion

3.1 Desktop Baseline

3.1.1 Ecologically Important Landscape Features

Table 3-1 below has been produced because of the spatial data collected and analysed (as provided by various sources such as the national and provincial environmental authorities and SANBI). It presents a summative breakdown of the ecological boundaries considered and the associated relevance that each has to the region or PAOI. Where a feature is regarded as relevant it is considered an ecologically important landscape feature and discussed further as part of the sub-sections that follow.

Table 3-1 *Summary of relevance of the proposed project to ecologically important landscape features*

Desktop Information Considered	Relevance	Reasoning
KwaZulu-Natal Biodiversity Plan (2016)	Irrelevant	The PAOI does not overlap with any Ecological Support Areas or Critical Biodiversity Areas.
Ecosystem Threat Status (RLE, 2022)	Relevant	The PAOI overlaps with a 'Least Concern' (LC) Ecosystem.
Ecosystem Protection Level (NBA, 2018)	Relevant	The PAOI overlaps with a 'Mostly Protected' (MP) and 'Well Protected' (WP) Ecosystem.
National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (2018)	Irrelevant	The PAOI does not overlap with any NPAES Areas.
South African Protected and Conservation Areas Databases (2025)	Relevant	No SACAD areas fall within 10 km, from the PAOI. The PAOI does however, fall within 405km of the Richards Bay Game Reserve and 8km from the Enseleni Nature Reserve.
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA, 2024)	Irrelevant	The PAOI does not overlap with any KBAs.
Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSA) (2021)	Relevant	The PAOI overlaps with the Zululand Coast SWSA.
South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) (2018)	Relevant	The PAOI overlaps with a 'Poorly Protected Floodplain' as well as a 'Poorly Protected River: Mhlatuze River'
National Freshwater Priority Areas (NFEPA) (2011)	Relevant	The PAOI overlaps with a NFEPA Floodplain wetland as well as a Channelled-Valley Bottom.

3.1.2 Fauna Species of Conservation Concern

The Screening Tool indicates that one (12) avifaunal, two (2) mammal species, one (1) amphibian species, three (3) Reptilia and one (1) sensitive species SCC is predicted to occur within the PAOI. Each species has an overall medium to low likelihood of occurring within the area (Table 3-2). Further, none of these listed fauna SCC below were confirmed during the site survey.

Note that the Screening Tool report includes lists of bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, butterfly, and plant species of conservation concern known or expected to occur on the proposed development footprint. Some of these SCC are sensitive to illegal harvesting. Such species have had their names obscured and are listed as sensitive plant unique number / sensitive animal unique number. In accordance with the guideline accompanying the protocol and screening tool, **the name of any sensitive species must not appear in public-domain reports**; it must be referred to as 'sensitive plant' or 'sensitive animal', with the threat status stated. It should be referred to as *sensitive plant* or *sensitive animal* and its threat status may be included, e.g. *critically endangered sensitive plant* or *endangered sensitive animal*.

Table 3-2 List of fauna SCC that are expected within the PAOI. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, LC = Least Concern, NT = Near Threatened, and VU = Vulnerable.

Family	Scientific Name	Screening Tool	SANBI (2025)	IUCN (2025)	Habitat	LoO ²	Reason
Avifauna							
Accipitridae	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	High-Medium	VU	NT	Dense primary forests, riparian woodlands, and sometimes exotic tree plantations.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Anatidae	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	High	VU	LC	Inland wetlands including slow-moving rivers, swamps, and lakes	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Laridae	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	High	VU	LC	Sheltered coastal bays, large rivers, and inland water bodies with sandy islands or beaches.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Gruidae	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	High	EN	EN	Wetlands and marshes, often foraging in adjacent cultivated fields and pastures.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Pelecanidae	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	High	VU	LC	Large inland freshwater, saline, or alkaline lakes and shallow coastal bays.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Jacaniidae	<i>Microparra capensis</i>	High	VU	LC	Shallow freshwater wetlands with floating vegetation	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or

² LoO = Likelihood of Occurrence

Family	Scientific Name	Screening Tool	SANBI (2025)	IUCN (2025)	Habitat	LoO ²	Reason
					like water lilies and dense emergent grasses.		temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Alcedinidae	<i>Halcyon senegaloides</i>	High	EN	LC	Coastal mangroves, and estuaries during winter, moving to woodland to breed.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Pelecanidae	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	High	VU	LC	Quiet, shallow backwaters, lakes, swamps, and slow-flowing rivers, often roosting in trees.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Ciconiidae	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	High	EN	LC	Shallow fresh or saltwater wetlands, including lake margins, rice fields, and marshes.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Caprimulgidae	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>	High	EN	LC	Moist or damp subtropical grasslands bordering swamps, lagoons, and floodplains.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Heliornithidae	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>	Medium	VU	LC	Quiet, shaded river channels, streams, and lakes with overhanging riparian vegetation.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Accipitridae	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>	Medium	CR	NT	Dense coastal evergreen forests and sand forests.	Low	Possible that species may fly over the PAOI or temporarily use the area. No suitable habitat within PAOI.
Mammal							
Procaviidae	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>	Medium	EN	LC	Canopy cavities and dense foliage of temperate, montane, and coastal evergreen forests.	Low	No suitable habitat present within PAOI.
Soricidae	<i>Myosorex sclateri</i>	Medium	VU	NT	They are found in damp microhabitats of moist lowland, coastal, and scarp forests.	Low	No suitable habitat present within PAOI.
-	<i>Sensitive species 13</i>	Medium	-	-	-		-
Amphibia							
Hyperoliidae	<i>Hyperolius pickersgilli</i>	Medium	EN	EN	Found in dense, perennial, and stagnant coastal	Low	No suitable habitat present within PAOI.

Family	Scientific Name	Screening Tool	SANBI (2025)	IUCN (2025)	Habitat	LoO ²	Reason
					wetland reed beds, particularly within thick sedges and saw grass.		
Reptilia							
Crocodylidae	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	Medium	VU	LC	Wide variety of tropical aquatic environments including freshwater rivers, lakes, swamps, and marshes.	Low	No suitable habitat present within PAOI.
Elapidae	<i>Dendroaspis angusticeps</i>	Medium	VU	LC	Dense coastal forests, thickets, and subtropical wooded areas, rarely venturing far from the sea.	Low	No suitable habitat present within PAOI.
Pelomedusidae	<i>Pelusios rhodesianus</i>	Medium	VU	LC	These turtles thrive in slow-moving or stagnant, weedy water bodies such as swamps, marshes, and quiet lake backwaters.	Low	No suitable habitat present within PAOI.

3.1.3 Flora Species of Conservation Concern

The Screening Tool indicates that six (6) sensitive species SCC is predicted to occur within the PAOI. Each species has an overall low likelihood of occurring within the area (Table 3-4Table 3-2). Further, none of these listed fauna SCC below were confirmed during the site survey

Table 3-3 *List of flora SCC that are expected within the PAOI. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, NT = Near Threatened, and VU = Vulnerable.*

Family	Scientific Name	Screening Tool	SANBI (2025)	IUCN (2025)	Habitat	LoO ³	Reason
Santalaceae	<i>Thesium polygaloides</i>	Medium	CR	NT	Damp coastal plain wetlands and grasslands, often near the coast.	Low	Unlikely due to anthropogenic disturbances.
Santalaceae	<i>Thesium vahrmeijeri</i>	Medium	EN	-	Sandy soils within Maputaland coastal grasslands.	Low	Unlikely due to anthropogenic disturbances.
Iridaceae	<i>Freesia laxa</i> subsp. <i>azurea</i>	Medium	VU	-	Coastal dune grasslands and shady coastal forest margins in sandy soil.	Low	Unlikely due to anthropogenic disturbances.
Asteraceae	<i>Nidorella tongensis</i>	Medium	EN	-	Damp, sandy spots in coastal dune areas and forest margins.	Low	Unlikely due to anthropogenic disturbances.
Cyperaceae	<i>Fimbristylis aphylla</i>	Medium	VU	LC	Wet, marshy areas, often on the edges of water bodies, streams, or in swampy grassland.	Low	Unlikely due to anthropogenic disturbances.
Apocynaceae	<i>Pachycarpus concolor</i> subsp. <i>arenicola</i>	Medium	VU	-	Sandy soils in grassy savanna and rocky, open woodlands.	Low	Unlikely due to anthropogenic disturbances.

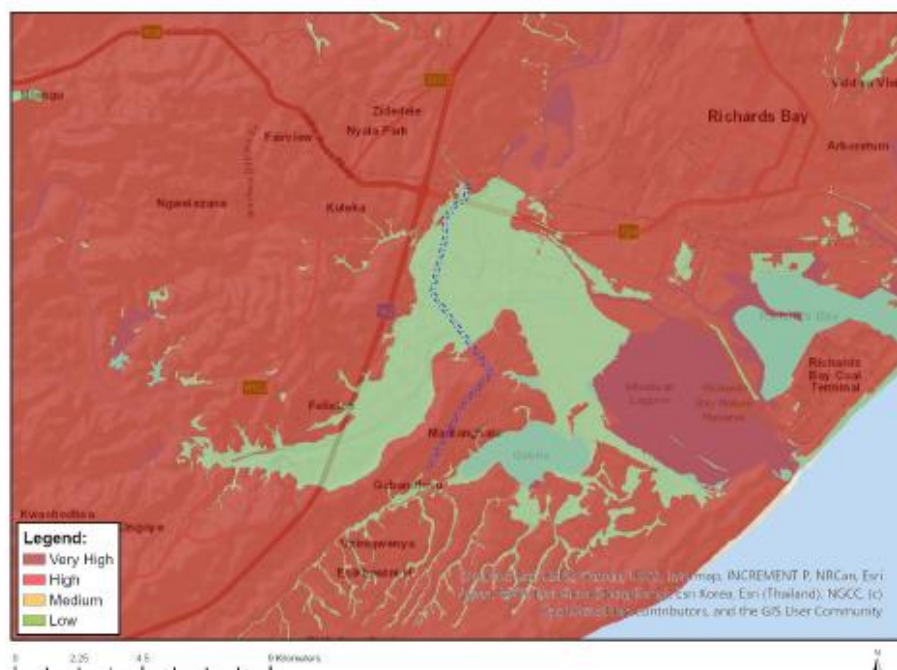
³ LoO = Likelihood of Occurrence

3.2 Desktop Ecological Sensitivity

The following is deduced from the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool Regulation 16(1)(v) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as amended):

- Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme sensitivity is 'Very High' for the PAOI due to it overlapping with the Endangered Maputaland Coastal Belt vegetation type as well as the Indigenous Northern Coastal Forest (Figure 3-1);
- Animal Species Theme sensitivity is 'Very High' for the PAOI owing to the potential occurrence of 19 SCC (Viz. 12 avifaunal, 2 mammal species, 1 amphibian species, 3 Reptilia and 1 sensitive species) having the potential occurrence within the PAOI (Figure 3-2); and
- Plant Species Theme sensitivity is 'Medium' for the proposed PAOI owing to the presence of 6 SCCs having the potential occurrence within the PAOI (Figure 3-3).

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



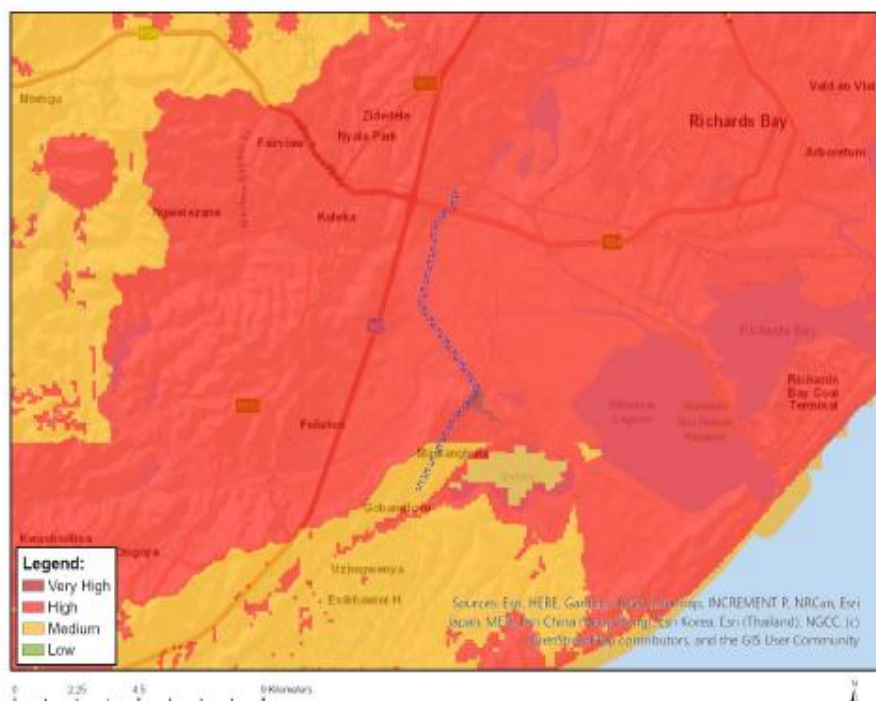
Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
x			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Very High	Indigenous forest, Northern Coastal Forest
Very High	EN, Maputaland Coastal Belt

Figure 3-1 Map depicting the relative terrestrial biodiversity theme sensitivity for the PAOI.

MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Aves-Circus ranivorus
High	Aves-Nettapus auritus
High	Aves-Hydroprogne caspia
High	Aves-Balearica regulorum
High	Aves-Pelecanus onocrotalus
High	Aves-Microparra capensis
High	Aves-Halcyon senegaloides
High	Aves-Pelecanus rufescens
High	Aves-Caprimulgus natalensis
High	Aves-Mycteria ibis
High	Actinopterygii-Marcusenius caudisquamatus
High	Odonata-Agriocnemis ruberrima
High	Odonata-Gynacantha villosa

High	Odonata-Hemicordulia africana
High	Odonata-Orthetrum robustum
High	Odonata-Parazygoptera flavicans
Medium	Amphibia-Hyperolius pickersgilli
Medium	Aves-Podica senegalensis
Medium	Aves-Circus fasciatus
Medium	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
Medium	Insecta-Deloneura millari millari
Medium	Insecta-Iolais diametra natalica
Medium	Mammalia-Dendrohyrax arboreus
Medium	Mammalia-Myosorex sclateri
Medium	Sensitive species 13
Medium	Reptilia-Crocodylus niloticus
Medium	Reptilia-Dendroaspis angusticeps
Medium	Reptilia-Pelusios rhodesianus
Medium	Invertebrate-Forest invertebrate
Medium	Invertebrate-Arythropteris basalis
Medium	Invertebrate-Pomatomota dregii
Medium	Invertebrate-Physophorina livingstonii
Medium	Actinopterygii-Ctenopoma multispine
Medium	Actinopterygii-Enteromius gurneyi
Medium	Actinopterygii-Marcusenius caudisquamatus
Very High	Arachnida-Quamtana mbaba

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Figure 3-2 Map depicting the relative animal species theme sensitivity for the PAOI.

MAP OF RELATIVE PLANT SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at eiadatarequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with their unique identifiers for which information is required. The name has been withheld as the species may be prone to illegal harvesting and must be protected. SANBI will release the actual species name after the details of the EAP or specialist have been documented.

Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity
Medium	<i>Thesium polygaloides</i>
Medium	<i>Thesium vahrmeyeri</i>
Medium	<i>Freesia laxa</i> subsp. <i>azurea</i>
Medium	<i>Nidorella tongensis</i>
Medium	<i>Fimbristylis aphylla</i>
Medium	<i>Pachycarpus concolor</i> subsp. <i>arenicola</i>

Figure 3-3 Map depicting the relative plant species theme sensitivity for the PAOI.

3.3 Biodiversity Field Survey

The following sections discuss the results from the field survey that was conducted for the proposed project, which was undertaken from the 7th & 8th of April 2026. All sample points (12 points in total) are described in Table 3-.

Table 3-4 Sensitivity summary of the survey points and habitat types delineated within the PAOI.

Survey Point	Description/Ecosystem Processes and Services	SEI
Site GPS Reference: Date: 07/04/2026 & 08/04/2026		
GPS Coordinates:		
1 28°50'44.10"S 31°55'57.28"E	Severely Modified (Urban) These areas have been modified to support urban development. High levels of anthropogenic disturbance exist in the form of roads, pylons, soccer fields and urban housing developments.	
2 28°50'39.90"S 31°55'59.66"E	This unit is largely denuded of natural vegetation and has been heavily degraded. Many AIPs were recorded in this unit, mainly on the sidewalks of the road. These AIPs include such as: <i>Tecoma stans</i> , <i>Solanum torvum</i> , <i>Solanum mauritianum</i> , <i>Cestrum laevigatum</i> and <i>Ricinus communis</i> just to name a few (Figure 3-5)	
3 28°50'36.40"S 31°56'1.90"E	No flora or fauna SCC were recorded or are expected; this habitat is too degraded and disturbed.	Very Low
4 28°50'29.98"S 31°56'5.89"E	Due to the modified and disturbed nature of the habitat, ecosystem processes and services are limited. The lack of natural vegetation, the well-used road network and built-up urban environment means that this unit will not recover without active human intervention. The ecosystem services are severely degraded, and it may not even serve as a suitable corridor for faunal SCC. This unit is no longer representative of Maputaland Coastal Belt and no Indigenous Coastal Forest remains (EN).	
5 28°50'4.98"S 31°56'21.59"E		
6 28°49'51.59"S 31°56'30.04"E		
12 28°46'2.63"S 31°56'40.15"E		



(12)



(1)

Survey Point	Description/Ecosystem Processes and Services	SEI
		
	(5)	(6)
Site GPS Reference: Date: 07/04/2026 & 08/04/2026 GPS Coordinates: 7 28°49'10.15"S 31°57'8.06"E	Severely Modified (Forestry) This unit consist of <i>Eucalyptus spp.</i> Plantations and is denude of natural vegetation. The natural vegetation has been completely cleared for active forestry work. The biggest impact in this habitat is AIPs, illegal dumping, and ingress from humans and livestock (Figure 3-6). There edge effects from the plantations have left the surrounding areas denude of natural vegetation too and it is unlikely that any flora or fauna SCC are expected to occur. No SCC or protected species were recorded during the site visit; however, the plantations may serve as ecological corridors for some fauna SCC. The ecological services provided by this unit are limited. This unit is no longer representative of the Maputaland Coastal Belt, and no Indigenous Costal Forest remains (EN). This habitat unit will not recover without active human intervention.	Very Low
		
	(7)	(7)
Site GPS Reference: Date: 07/04/2026 & 08/04/2026 GPS Coordinates: 8 28°48'41.60"S 31°56'44.96"E 9 28°48'32.41"S 31°56'37.68"E 10 28°46'34.67"S 31°56'16.22"E	Water Resources This is a non-terrestrial habitat made up of wetlands and drainage features within the PAOI. Please note that the delineations of this habitat and all inferences made about the Wetlands should be made with the accompanying Wetland/Aquatic Report (TBC, 2026). Ecosystem services for this unit include providing surface water resources within the landscape. It also aids in trapping sediment and nutrients carried by surface runoff. Corridor for fauna dispersion within the landscape and foraging and nesting habitat.	Medium (as per Wetland Report)

Survey Point	Description/Ecosystem Processes and Services	SEI
Site GPS Reference: Date: 07/04/2026 & 08/04/2026 GPS Coordinates: 11 28°46'16.72"S 31°56'37.25"E	 (9)	 (8)
	Severely Modified (Agricultural) This unit is relatively large within the PAOI. The natural vegetation has been largely cleared, and the fields serve as agricultural lands. Agricultural crops planted include <i>Saccharum officinarum</i> and <i>Musa acuminata</i>. The vegetation surrounding the agricultural fields has been negatively impacted from edge effects and AIPs dominate the vegetation. Some of the alien invasive plants (AIPs) specifically were <i>Solanum mauritianum</i>, <i>Senna didymobotrya</i>, <i>Ricinus communis</i>, <i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i> and <i>Pereskia aculeata</i>. Some natural vegetation does remain such as <i>Hibiscus surattensis</i>, <i>Dactyloctenium australe</i> and <i>Thunbergia atriplicifolia</i> No flora or fauna SCC and/or protected were recorded or are expected to occur. The ecological services provided by this habitat are not functioning at all due to the lack of natural vegetation and frequency of human ingress. The unit could act as a corridor for fauna dispersion within the landscape however, fauna will not remain here. This habitat is no longer representative of Maputaland Coastal Belt (EN) and no Indigenous Coastal Forest remains. It is highly unlikely that this habitat unit will recover without human intervention.	
	 (11)	 (11)

For fauna and flora (Indigenous and AIPs) lists please see Appendix C (Section 7.3), note that this is in no means comprehensive however it is sufficient to derive a baseline.

3.4 Habitat Assessment

Four (4) main habitat types were identified across the PAOI and include:

- Severely Modified (Urban);
- Severely Modified (Agricultural);
- Severely Modified (Forestry) and
- Water Resources.

The habitat units for the PAOI can be seen delineated in Figure 3-4, while the descriptions of the habitat units can be found in Table 3-.

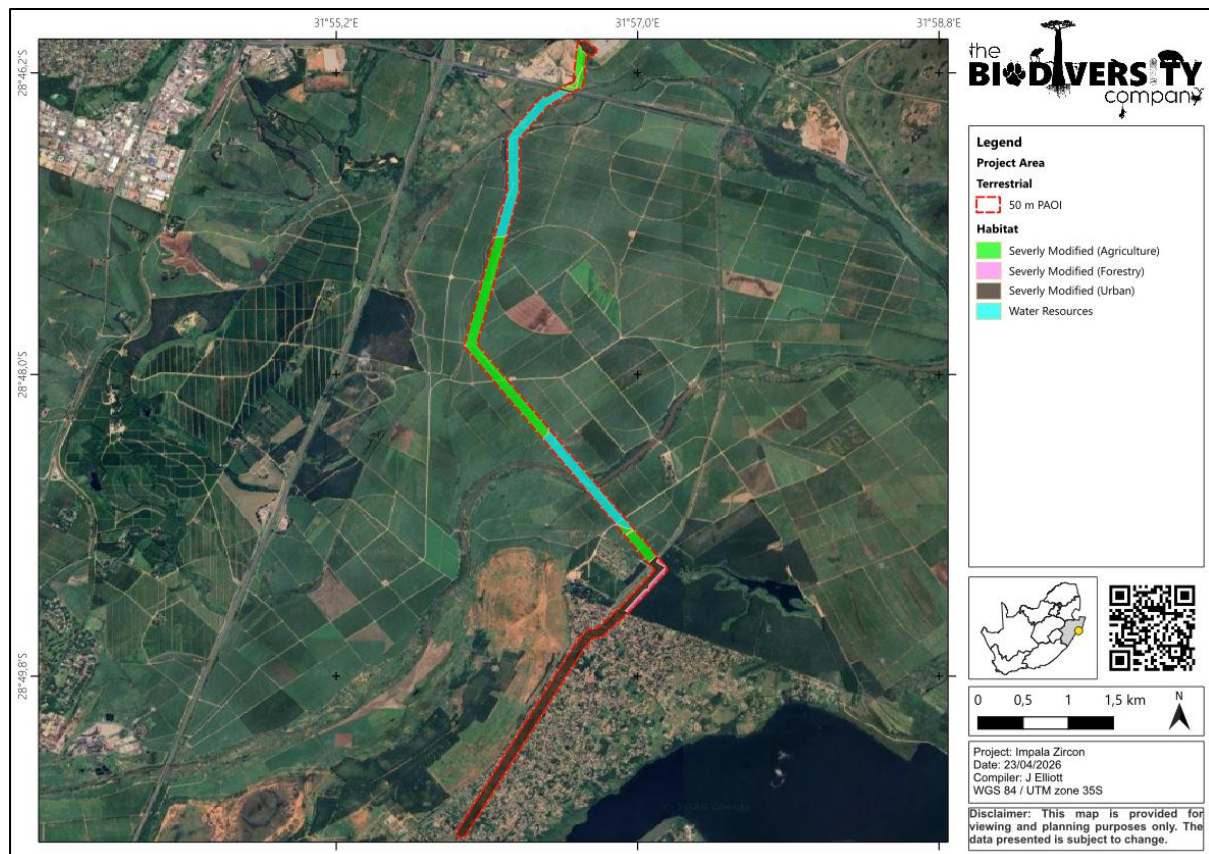


Figure 3-4 Map of the delineated habitats for the PAOI.

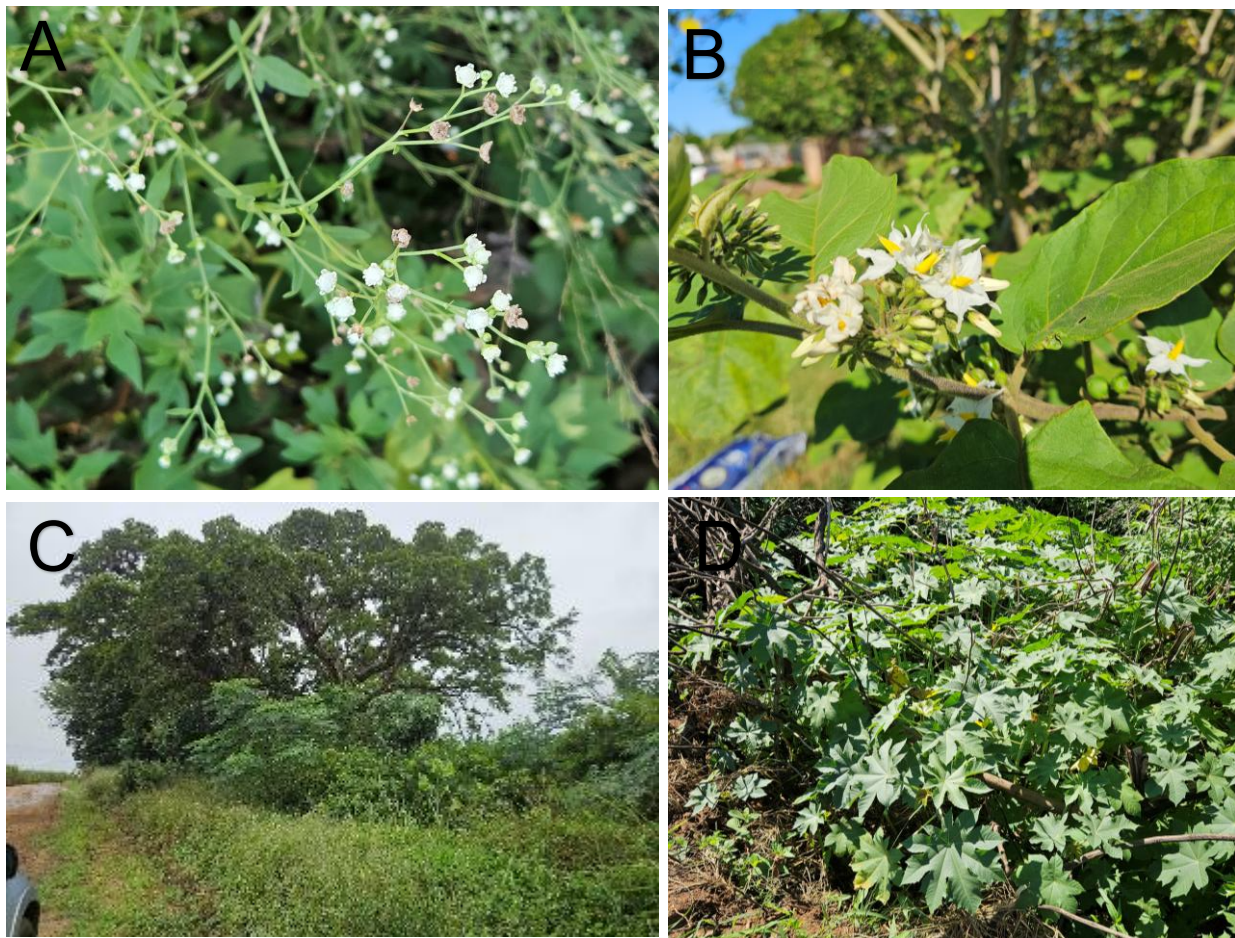


Figure 3-5 **Examples of some of the invasive alien species (NEMBA category 1b) recorded within the PAOI; *Parthenium hysterophorus* (A), *Solanum torvum* (B) *Melia azedarach* (C) and *Ricinus communis* (D)**

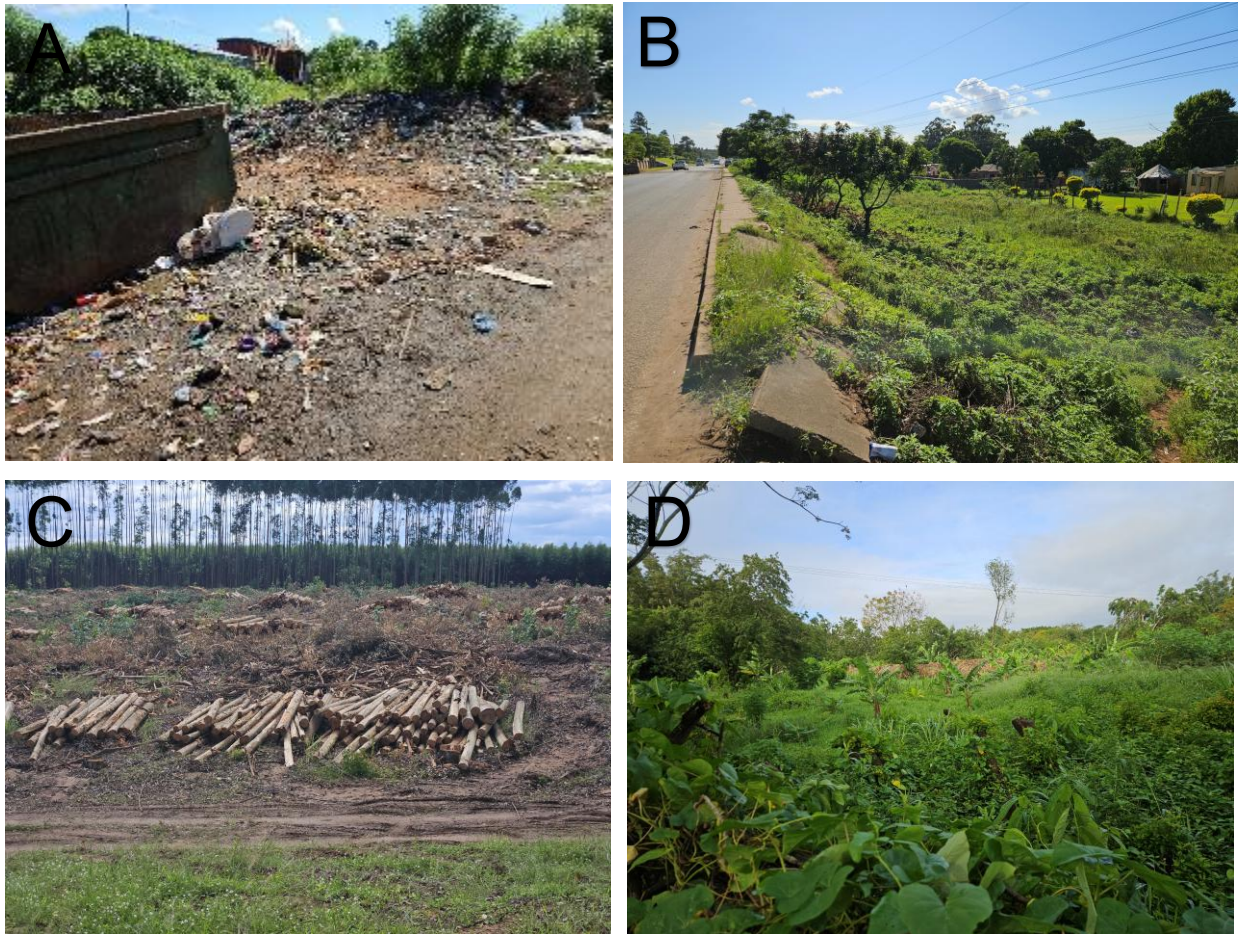


Figure 3-6 *Impacts that were observed within the PAOI: Littering and Dumping (A), Edge Effects from a well-used road network (B), Forestry Activities (C) and High invasion of AIPs (D).*

3.5 Site Sensitivity Verification

3.5.1 Habitats and Site Ecological Importance (SEI)

Based on the criteria provided in Appendix B of this report, all habitats within the PAOI were assigned a sensitivity category, i.e., a SEI category. Habitats within the PAOI varied in sensitivity from 'Very Low' to 'Medium' SEI (Table 3-3 and Figure 3-7). The findings of this assessment therefore contradict the findings set forth by the Screening Tool with regards to the combined Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity.

Table 3-3 Summary of habitat types and associated SEIs delineated within the PAOI.

Habitat Type	Conservation Importance	Functional Integrity	Biodiversity Importance	Receptor Resilience	Site Ecological Importance Guidelines
Severely Modified (Urban)	Very Low	Low	Very Low	High	Very Low Minimisation mitigation – development activities of medium to high impact acceptable and restoration activities may not be required.
	No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of SCC. No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of range-restricted species. No natural habitat remaining.	Small (> 1 ha but < 5 ha) area. Almost no habitat connectivity but migrations still possible across some modified or degraded natural habitat and a very busy used road network surrounds the area. Low rehabilitation potential. Several minor and major current negative ecological impacts.		Habitat that can recover relatively quickly (~ 5–10 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a high likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.	
Severely Modified (Agricultural)	Very Low	Low	Very Low	High	Very Low Minimisation mitigation – development activities of medium to high impact acceptable and restoration activities may not be required.
	No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of SCC. No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of range-restricted species. No natural habitat remaining.	Small (> 1 ha but < 5 ha) area. Almost no habitat connectivity but migrations still possible across some modified or degraded natural habitat and a very busy used road network surrounds the area. Low rehabilitation potential. Several minor and major current negative ecological impacts.		Habitat that can recover relatively quickly (~ 5–10 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a high likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.	
Water Resource	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium Minimisation and restoration mitigation – development activities of medium impact acceptable followed by appropriate restoration activities.
	> 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with potential to support SCC	Medium (> 5 ha but < 20 ha) semi-intact area for any conservation status of ecosystem type or > 20 ha for VU ecosystem types. Only narrow corridors of good habitat connectivity or larger areas of poor habitat connectivity and a busy used road network between intact habitat patches.		Will recover slowly (~ more than 10 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a moderate likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or	

			(ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.	
	Very Low	Low	High	
Severely Modified (Forestry)	No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of SCC. No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of range-restricted species. No natural habitat remaining.	Small (> 1 ha but < 5 ha) area. Almost no habitat connectivity but migrations still possible across some modified or degraded natural habitat and a very busy used road network surrounds the area. Low rehabilitation potential. Several minor and major current negative ecological impacts.	Habitat that can recover relatively quickly (~ 5–10 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a high likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.	Very Low Minimisation – mitigation of development activities of medium to high impact acceptable and restoration activities may not be required.
		Very Low		

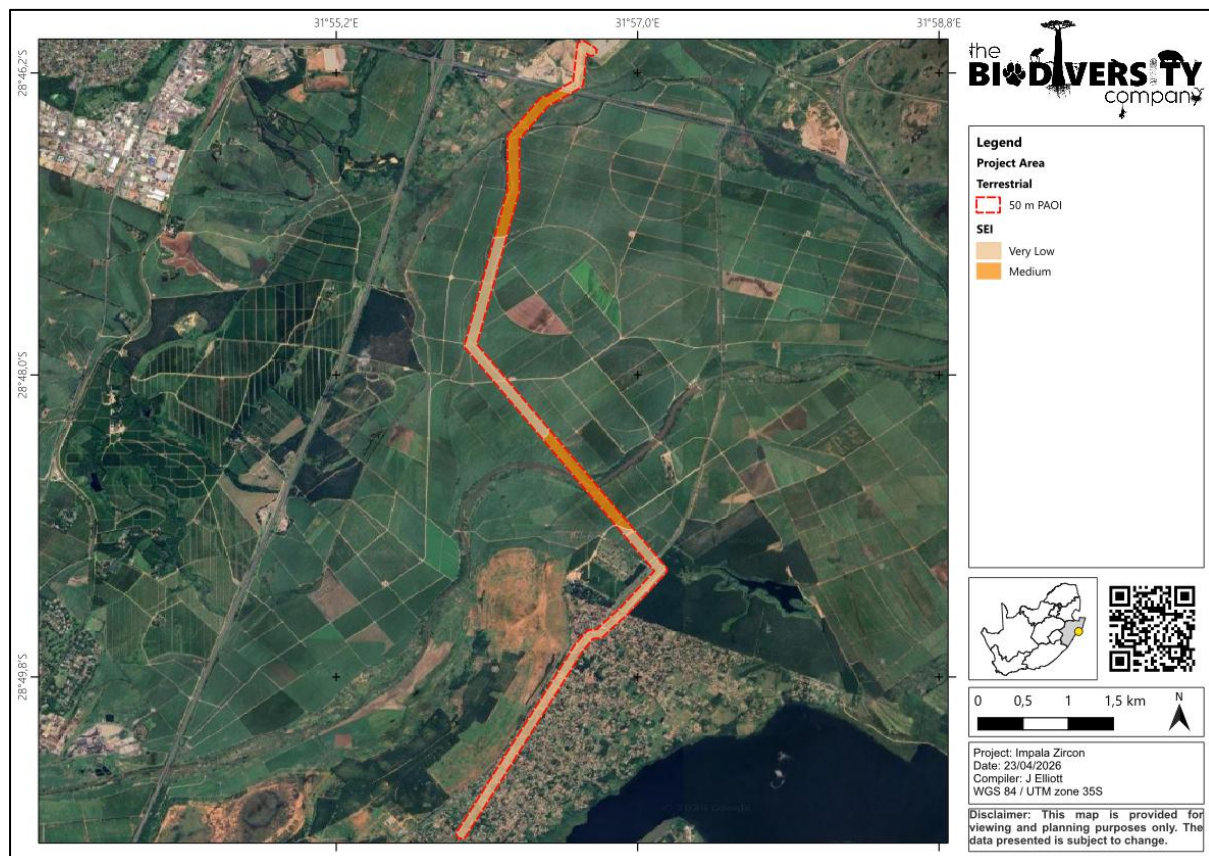


Figure 3-7 Map depicting the Site Ecological Importance (SEI) sensitivity for the PAOI.

3.5.2 Screening Tool Comparison

The allocated sensitivities for each of the relevant themes are either disputed or validated in

Table 3-4 below. A summative explanation for each result is provided as relevant. The specialist-assigned sensitivity ratings are based largely on the SEI process followed in the previous section, and consideration is given to any observed or likely presence of SCC or protected species.

Table 3-4 Summary of the screening tool vs specialist assigned sensitivities.

Screening Tool Theme	Screening Tool	Habitat	Specialist	Tool Validated or Disputed by Specialist - Reasoning
Terrestrial Theme	Very High	Severely Modified (Urban)	Very Low	Disputed – Habitat exists in a predominantly modified state with high levels of anthropogenic disturbance that has contributed to an overall loss in ecosystem functionality. Habitat will not recover without human intervention and will continue to degrade over time without rehabilitation. Habitat no longer viable constituent of an EN ecosystem.
		Severely Modified (Agricultural)	Very Low	Disputed – Habitat exists in a modified state with high levels of anthropogenic disturbance that has contributed to an overall loss in ecosystem functionality. Retaining some indigenous flora this habitat is outnumbered by the AIPs and planted agricultural crops. Habitat will not recover without human intervention and will continue to degrade over time without rehabilitation. Habitat no longer viable constituent of an EN ecosystem.
		Water Resources	Medium	Disputed – The water resources have been contaminated and have experienced an overall loss in ecosystem functionality. Refer to the wetland report (TBC, 2026) for more information.
		Severely Modified (Forestry)	Very Low	Disputed – This habitat unit is relatively large within the PAOI and has been largely cleared for forestry activities. Surrounding vegetation is heavily impacted by edge effects and is largely denude of natural species. No SCC or protected species were recorded or expected due to extensive clearing and disturbance. Ecological functioning is largely absent because of ongoing human activity. The unit may provide minimal corridor function for fauna, however sustained use by fauna is unlikely. Habitat is no longer representative of the Maputaland Coastal Belt (EN).
Animal Theme	Very High	-	Low	Disputed – The PAOI exists in a modified and disturbed state with high levels of anthropogenic disturbance. No SCC were observed, moreover, some avifauna and terrestrial fauna SCC may potentially move through the area sporadically, but it is unlikely that they will remain within the area.
Plant Theme	Medium	-	Low	Disputed – The PAOI exists in a modified and disturbed state with high levels of anthropogenic disturbance. High numbers of alien and invasive plants are present with small amounts of indigenous vegetation remaining. No SCC were observed, and none are likely within the PAOI.

4 Impact Management and Mitigation Plan

The aim of the management outcomes is to present mitigation actions in such a way that they can be incorporated into the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), and possible biodiversity management programme, for the project, which should in turn allow for a more successful implementation and auditing of the mitigations and monitoring guidelines. Table 4-1 presents the project specific, non-negotiable mitigation measures relative to the terrestrial assessment. Table 4-2 presents general mitigation measures. This mitigation table must be read in conjunction with the Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity as per No. 42323 GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 22 MARCH 2019.

The focus of mitigation measures is to reduce the significance of the likely impacts associated with the development, and thereby:

- Prevent the further loss and fragmentation of indigenous vegetation communities within the ecosystem within and around the PAOI;
- Reduce the negative fragmentation effects of the development and facilitate the safe movement of fauna species;
- Prevent the direct and indirect loss and disturbance of flora and fauna species and communities; and
- Adequately follow the guidelines for interpreting the SEI ratings assigned to the PAOI.

4.1 Project Specific Mitigation

Table 4-1 Project specific mitigation measures for the project.

Anticipated Impact	Destruction, further loss and fragmentation of the of habitats, ecosystems and vegetation community
Mitigation Objective	Avoidance / minimisation of the disturbance and degradation of vegetation and ecosystems
Mitigation: Action/control	
- Vehicles and personnel must make use of authorised access routes only. - Conduct follow-up rehabilitation and re-vegetation of any bare areas with local indigenous grasses, shrubs, and trees. - Areas of indigenous vegetation, even secondary communities outside of the direct project footprint, should under no circumstances be fragmented or disturbed further. It is recommended that areas to be developed be specifically demarcated so that during the construction phase, only the demarcated areas be impacted upon	
Anticipated Impact	Introduction of alien and invasive species, especially plants
Activity/risk source	Land clearing, fire and dust.
Mitigation Objective	Avoidance / minimisation of the disturbance and degradation of vegetation and ecosystems
Mitigation: Action/control	
- Compile and implement an alien vegetation management plan from the onset of construction. The plan must identify areas for action (if any) and prescribe the necessary removal methods and frequencies to be applied. - This plan must also include a monitoring plan and be updated as/when new data is collated. - Implement a stormwater management plan for all developable areas. - Temporary storage of domestic waste shall be in covered waste skips. - Removal of domestic waste on a regular basis, no overspill is permitted	
Anticipated Impact	Displacement of faunal community due to habitat loss, direct mortalities and disturbance (road collisions, noise, dust, vibration and poaching)
Activity/risk source	Land clearing, Fire and human presence as well as roads.
Mitigation Objective	Avoidance / minimisation of the disturbance and mortality of fauna
Mitigation: Action/control	
- Clearly mark construction zones to prevent impact on surrounding areas, using physical barriers like safety tape and signs instead of painted lines. - Schedule activities and operations during least sensitive period; - Construction and driving on roads at night close to water resources should be restricted in order to reduce or prevent wildlife road mortalities which occur more frequently during this period - Prior to vegetation clearing activities, the area to be cleared should be walked on foot by 1-2 individuals to create a disturbance in order for fauna to move off. Disturbance must occur as soon before vegetation clearing as possible and no unnecessary disturbance to the area is permitted - Any fauna threatened by the construction activities should be removed safely by an appropriately qualified environmental officer or removal specialist. - Construction should take place during the dry season (May -July) as much is feasible, especially considering the fauna and their movement. - Ensure that cables and connections are insulated successfully to reduce electrocution risk. - Limit construction vehicle speeds to 40 km/h to prevent accidents and install appropriate speed control measures and signage. - Driving on access roads at night should be restricted to maximum 20 km/h to reduce or prevent wildlife road mortalities which occur more frequently during this period. - Minimise the time between clearing an area and starting development to prevent wildlife from returning to disturbed sites. - Conduct excavations progressively and cover any open holes overnight to prevent wildlife from falling in. Inspect these areas before backfilling. - Focus work on one area at a time to reduce the extent of on-site activities, allowing wildlife to relocate as the project progresses. This helps smaller animals find refuge in nearby undisturbed areas. - Implement noise and light mitigation measures for any nighttime construction activities to minimise disturbances to nocturnal species expected in the area. - Provide all personnel and contractors to undergo Environmental Awareness Training to all personnel and contractors. A signed register of attendance must be kept for proof.	

- Training and must include awareness about not harming or collecting species.

4.2 General mitigation

Table 4-2 ***General mitigation measures for the project.***

Mitigation: Action/control
• Demarcate work areas during the construction phase to avoid affecting outside areas. Use physical barriers e.g., safety tape, painted lines, and use signage. • All activities must make use of existing roads and tracks as far as practically and feasibly possible. No new roads or servitudes should be constructed where existing infrastructure can be used. • Do not clear areas of indigenous vegetation outside of the direct project footprint. • Limit vegetation clearing to the approved construction footprint only, as demarcated on site prior to construction, under supervision of the Environmental Officer. • Rehabilitate areas as soon as they are no longer impacted by construction. ○ The rehabilitated areas must be revegetated with indigenous vegetation. • Environmental Officer (EO) to provide supervision and oversight of vegetation clearing activities. • Dust-reducing mitigation measures must be put in place and must be strictly adhered to, for all roads and bare (unvegetated) areas. ○ Reduce the dust generated by operational vehicles and earth moving machinery, through wetting the soil surface and putting up signs to enforce speed limits to enforce reduced speeds. ○ No non-environmentally friendly suppressants may be used as this could result in pollution of water sources. • Infrastructure must be consolidated where possible in order to minimise the amount of ground and air space used. • Cement must be mixed in a designated area on a liner away from water sources and buffers and that successful rehabilitation of the construction areas can take place. • Leaking equipment and vehicles must be repaired immediately or be removed from project area to facilitate repair.

4.3 Cumulative Impacts

The quantitative impact of the proposed project in isolation on terrestrial biodiversity is anticipated to be “low” due to the expected adherence to mitigation. The cumulative impact of the proposed project on habitats, plants and animals is anticipated to be “low”. The project area has undergone historic and current disturbance and is majorly transformed.

After implementation of the mitigation measures as stipulated above the integrity and functionality of the natural habitat is not expected to deteriorate further because of the proposed development and no irreplaceable loss of terrestrial biodiversity is anticipated.

Table 4-3 Cumulative Impacts associated with the proposed project

Nature of the Impact	Status	Impact Rating	Can impact be mitigated?	Is the impact acceptable?	Proposed Mitigation Measures
Vegetation clearance as part of the construction phase activities.	Impact in isolation	Negative Low	Yes	Yes	Areas of indigenous vegetation, even secondary communities outside of the direct project footprint, should under no circumstances be fragmented or disturbed further. It is recommended that areas to be developed be specifically demarcated so that during the construction phase, only the demarcated areas be impacted upon.
	Cumulative impact	Negative Low			An Alien Invasive Plant (AIP) Management Plan must be compiled and implemented. This should regularly be updated to reflect the annual changes in AIP composition.

5 Conclusion

The PAOI exists in a predominantly modified state, having been subjected to various anthropogenic impacts such as human and vehicle ingress, dumping, agricultural practices, pollution and AIP establishment. This habitat is unlikely to fully recover without human intervention and will continue to degrade without further active rehabilitation. The entire PAOI is largely modified, and very little natural vegetation would be lost for this development.

Although no flora and/or fauna SCC are predicted to occur as residents, it is possible that avifauna SCC (in particular) could occur in and around the PAOI sporadically. Some SCC species may use the Modified (Agricultural) and Modified (Forestry) as a natural corridor however, they are unlikely to remain there.

The completion of this Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement led to a dispute of the 'Very High' Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity as set out in the National Environmental Screening Tool. Instead, the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity varies from Medium [Water Resources], Very Low [Modified (Urban); Modified (Agricultural) and Modified (Forestry)]. The PAOI is no longer representative of the Maputaland Coastal Belt (EN) and no Indigenous Forest remains.

Plant Species Theme sensitivity is 'Medium' for the PAOI as allocated by the National Environmental Screening Tool, which was Disputed as 'Low'.

The Animal Species Theme sensitivity is 'Very High' for the PAOI, mainly pertaining to Avifauna species, as allocated by the National Environmental Screening Tool, which was disputed as 'Low'.

The current PAOI is inundated with AIPs and therefore there is a need for an alien management plan. Areas that are cleared for construction should also be rehabilitated post construction to avoid soil erosion. It is the opinion of the terrestrial biodiversity specialist, based on the mitigation and remedial measures, the proposed development can be returned to the current state within two years of the completion of the construction phase.

5.1 Impact Statement

The location, state and size of the ecosystem suggests that it is unlikely that any functional habitat will be lost because of the impacts arising from the proposed activities. However, these assumptions pertain to the terrestrial habitat only.

5.2 Specialist Opinion

It is the opinion of the specialist that the proposed development is favourable only if all mitigation measures provided in this and other specialist reports are implemented.

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7 Appendix Items

7.1 Appendix A – Methods

7.1.1 Desktop Dataset Assessment

7.1.1.1 Ecologically Important Landscape Features

Existing ecologically relevant data layers were incorporated into a GIS to establish how the proposed development might interact with any ecologically important entities. Emphasis was placed around the following spatial datasets:

- National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 (Skowno et al, 2019) - The purpose of the National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA) is to assess the state of South Africa's biodiversity based on best available science, with a view to understanding trends over time and informing policy and decision-making across a range of sectors. The NBA deals with all three components of biodiversity: genes, species and ecosystems; and assesses biodiversity and ecosystems across terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine environments. The two headline indicators assessed in the NBA are:
 - Ecosystem Threat Status – indicator of an ecosystem's wellbeing, based on the level of change in structure, function or composition. Ecosystem types are categorised as Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU), Near Threatened (NT) or Least Concern (LC), based on the proportion of the original extent of each ecosystem type that remains in good ecological condition. Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) 2021 – The list was first published in 2011 and has since been substantially revised by authors Dr Andrew Skowno and Mrs Maphale Monyeki (SANBI, 2022). This list is based on assessments that followed the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Ecosystems Framework (version 1.1) and covers all 456 terrestrial ecosystem types described in South Africa by Mucina and Rutherford (2006). A total of 120 of the 456 terrestrial ecosystem types assessed are categorised as threatened and together make up approximately 10% of the remaining natural habitat in the country. Of these 120 ecosystem types, 55 are Critically Endangered (CR), 51 Endangered (EN) and 14 are Vulnerable (VU). The remainder are categorised as Least Concern (LC) (SANBI, 2022; Skowno & Monyeki, 2021).
 - Ecosystem Protection Level – indicator of the extent to which ecosystems are adequately protected or under-protected. Ecosystem types are categorised as Well Protected (WP), Moderately Protected (MP), Poorly Protected (PP), or Not Protected (NP), based on the proportion of the biodiversity target for each ecosystem type that is included within one or more protected areas. Not Protected, Poorly Protected or Moderately Protected ecosystem types are collectively referred to as under-protected ecosystems.
- Protected areas:
 - South Africa Protected Areas Database (SAPAD) and South Africa Conservation Areas Database (SACAD) (DFFE, 2025a) – The South African Protected Areas Database (SAPAD) and South Africa Conservation Areas Database (SACAD) contains spatial data for the conservation of South Africa. It includes spatial and attribute information for both formally protected areas and areas that have less formal protection. The database is updated on a continuous basis and forms the basis for the Register of Protected Areas which is a legislative requirement under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, Act 57 of 2003.

- National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) (DFFE, 2022b) – The National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) provides spatial information on areas that are suitable for terrestrial ecosystem protection. These focus areas are large, intact and unfragmented and are therefore, of high importance for biodiversity, climate resilience and freshwater protection.
- Conservation/Biodiversity Sector Plans:
 - The KwaZulu-Natal Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) map accounts for terrestrial fauna and flora only. The inclusion of the aquatic component was limited to the Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (FEPA) catchments (included in the cost layer and for the identification of Ecological Support Areas (ESAs)) and wetland clusters (included in the ESAs only). The areas are subdivided as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA1), CBA2, Degraded, ESA1, ESA2, Other and Protected:
 - Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) –Areas considered critical for meeting biodiversity targets and thresholds, and which are required to ensure the persistence of viable populations of species and the functionality of ecosystems.
 - Ecological Support Areas (ESAs) - Areas are required to support and sustain the ecological functioning of Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs). For terrestrial and aquatic environments, these areas are functional but are not necessarily pristine natural areas. They are however required to ensure the persistence and maintenance of biodiversity patterns and ecological processes within the CBAs, and which also contributes significantly to the maintenance of Ecological Infrastructure.
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) (SANBI, 2024) – KBAs are identified using the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs, developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The standard involves applying five criteria to gauge an area's importance for biodiversity. These criteria consider the presence of threatened species or ecosystems, species with limited global distributions, pristine wilderness, significant biological processes, or irreplaceable biodiversity. Each criterion has specific quantitative thresholds to determine if they are met. As of 2023, over 16,000 KBAs have been identified globally, covering more than 20 million square kilometres. South Africa completed its first comprehensive national assessment in 2023, evaluating over 9,900 species or ecosystem types and identifying 260+ individual KBAs; and
- Freshwater Ecology:
 - Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) (Le Maitre et al, 2018) – SWSAs are defined as areas of land that supply a quantity of mean annual surface water runoff in relation to their size and therefore, contribute considerably to the overall water supply of the country. These are key ecological infrastructure assets and the effective protection of surface water SWSAs areas is vital for national security because a lack of water security will compromise national security and human wellbeing.
 - South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) (Van Deventer et al, 2018) – A South African Inventory of Inland Aquatic Ecosystems (SAIIAE) was established during the National Biodiversity Assessment of 2018. It is a collection of data layers that represent the extent of river and inland wetland ecosystem types as well as pressures on these systems.

- National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (NFEPA) (Nel et al., 2011) – The NFEPA database provides strategic spatial priorities for conserving the country's freshwater ecosystems and associated biodiversity as well as supporting sustainable use of water resources.

7.2 Appendix B – Terrestrial Site Ecological Importance

The different habitat types within the PAOI were delineated and identified based on observations made during the field survey, and information from available satellite imagery. These habitat types were assigned Ecological Importance (EI) categories based on their ecological integrity, conservation value, the presence of SCC and their ecosystem processes.

Site Ecological Importance (SEI) is a function of the Biodiversity Importance (BI) of the receptor (e.g., SCC, the vegetation/fauna community or habitat type present in the Project Area) and Receptor Resilience (RR) (its resilience to impacts).

BI is a function of Conservation Importance (CI) and the Functional Integrity (FI) of the receptor. The criteria for the CI and FI ratings are provided in Table 7-1 and Table 7-2 respectively.

Table 7-1 Summary of Conservation Importance (CI) criteria

Conservation Importance	Fulfilling Criteria
Very High	Confirmed or highly likely occurrence of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN), Vulnerable (VU) or Extremely Rare or CR species that have a global extent of occurrence (EOO) of < 10 km ² . Any area of natural habitat of a CR ecosystem type or large area (> 0.1% of the total ecosystem type extent) of natural habitat of an EN ecosystem type. Globally significant populations of congregatory species (> 10% of global population).
High	Confirmed or highly likely occurrence of CR, EN, VU species that have a global EOO of > 10 km ² . IUCN threatened species (CR, EN, VU) must be listed under any criterion other than A. If listed as threatened only under Criterion A, include if there are less than 10 locations or < 10 000 mature individuals remaining. Small area (> 0.01% but < 0.1% of the total ecosystem type extent) of natural habitat of EN ecosystem type or large area (> 0.1%) of natural habitat of VU ecosystem type. Presence of Rare species. Globally significant populations of congregatory species (> 1% but < 10% of global population).
Medium	Confirmed or highly likely occurrence of populations of Near Threatened (NT) species, threatened species (CR, EN, VU) listed under Criterion A only and which have more than 10 locations or more than 10 000 mature individuals. Any area of natural habitat of threatened ecosystem type with status of VU. Presence of range-restricted species. > 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with potential to support SCC.
Low	No confirmed or highly likely populations of SCC. No confirmed or highly likely populations of range-restricted species. < 50% of receptor contains natural habitat with limited potential to support SCC.
Very Low	No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of SCC. No confirmed and highly unlikely populations of range-restricted species. No natural habitat remaining.

Table 7-2 Summary of Functional Integrity (FI) criteria

Functional Integrity	Fulfilling Criteria
Very High	Very large (> 100 ha) intact area for any conservation status of ecosystem type or > 5 ha for CR ecosystem types. High habitat connectivity serving as functional ecological corridors, limited road network between intact habitat patches. No or minimal current negative ecological impacts, with no signs of major past disturbance.
High	Large (> 20 ha but < 100 ha) intact area for any conservation status of ecosystem type or > 10 ha for EN ecosystem types. Good habitat connectivity, with potentially functional ecological corridors and a regularly used road network between intact habitat patches. Only minor current negative ecological impacts, with no signs of major past disturbance and good rehabilitation potential.
Medium	Medium (> 5 ha but < 20 ha) semi-intact area for any conservation status of ecosystem type or > 20 ha for VU ecosystem types. Only narrow corridors of good habitat connectivity or larger areas of poor habitat connectivity and a busy used road network between intact habitat patches. Mostly minor current negative ecological impacts, with some major impacts and a few signs of minor past disturbance. Moderate rehabilitation potential.
Low	Small (> 1 ha but < 5 ha) area. Almost no habitat connectivity but migrations still possible across some modified or degraded natural habitat and a very busy used road network surrounds the area. Low rehabilitation potential. Several minor and major current negative ecological impacts.
Very Low	Very small (< 1 ha) area. No habitat connectivity except for flying species or flora with wind-dispersed seeds. Several major current negative ecological impacts.

BI can be derived from a simple matrix of CI and FI as provided in Table 7-3.

Table 7-3 Matrix used to derive Biodiversity Importance (BI) from Functional Integrity (FI) and Conservation Importance (CI)

Biodiversity Importance		Conservation Importance				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Functional Integrity	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	Medium	Low
	High	Very High	High	Medium	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low

The fulfilling criteria to evaluate RR are based on the estimated recovery time required to restore an appreciable portion of functionality to the receptor, as summarised in Table 7-4.

Table 7-4 Summary of Receptor Resilience (RR) criteria

Resilience	Fulfilling Criteria
Very High	Habitat that can recover rapidly (~ less than 5 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a very high likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.
High	Habitat that can recover relatively quickly (~ 5–10 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a high likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.
Medium	Will recover slowly (~ more than 10 years) to restore > 75% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a moderate likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.
Low	Habitat that is unlikely to be able to recover fully after a relatively long period: > 15 years required to restore ~ less than 50% of the original species composition and functionality of the receptor functionality, or species that have a low likelihood of: (i) remaining at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) returning to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.
Very Low	Habitat that is unable to recover from major impacts, or species that are unlikely to: (i) remain at a site even when a disturbance or impact is occurring, or (ii) return to a site once the disturbance or impact has been removed.

After the determination of BI and RR, the SEI can be ascertained using the matrix as provided in Table 7-5.

Table 7-5 Matrix used to derive Site Ecological Importance from Receptor Resilience (RR) and Biodiversity Importance (BI)

Site Ecological Importance		Biodiversity Importance				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Receptor Resilience	Very Low	Very High	Very High	High	Medium	Low
	Low	Very High	Very High	High	Medium	Very Low
	Medium	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
	High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very Low
	Very High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low

Interpretation of the SEI in the context of the proposed project is provided in Table 7-6.

Table 7-6 *Guideline for interpreting Site Ecological Importance in the context of proposed activities*

Site Ecological Importance	Interpretation in relation to proposed development activities
Very High	Avoidance mitigation – no destructive development activities should be considered. Offset mitigation not acceptable/not possible (i.e., last remaining populations of species, last remaining good condition patches of ecosystems/unique species assemblages). Destructive impacts for species/ecosystems where persistence target remains.
High	Avoidance mitigation wherever possible. Minimisation mitigation – changes to project infrastructure design to limit the amount of habitat impacted, limited development activities of low impact acceptable. Offset mitigation may be required for high impact activities.
Medium	Minimisation and restoration mitigation – development activities of medium impact acceptable followed by appropriate restoration activities.
Low	Minimisation and restoration mitigation – development activities of medium to high impact acceptable followed by appropriate restoration activities.
Very Low	Minimisation mitigation – development activities of medium to high impact acceptable and restoration activities may not be required.

The SEI evaluated for each taxon can be combined into a single multi-taxon evaluation of SEI for the assessment area. Either a combination of the maximum SEI for each receptor should be applied, or the SEI may be evaluated only once per receptor but for all necessary taxa simultaneously. For the latter, justification of the SEI for each receptor is based on the criteria that conforms to the highest CI and FI, and the lowest RR across all taxa.

7.3 Appendix C – Indigenous and AIPs flora recorded within the PAOI.

Table 7-7 Indigenous flora recorded within the PAOI. LC= Least Concern.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Red List (SANBI, 2026)	Provincially Species Ordinance, 1974)	Protected (KZN
Amaranthaceae	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i>	Forest Burr	LC	-	
Convolvulaceae	<i>Ipomoea ficifolia</i>	Figleaf Morning Glory	LC	-	
Acanthaceae	<i>Asystasia intrusa</i>	African Coromandel	LC	-	
Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus papyrus</i>	Papyrus	LC	-	
Apiaceae	<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Asian Pennywort	LC	-	
Thelypteridaceae	<i>Christella dentata</i>	Soft Fern	LC	-	
Poaceae	<i>Dactyloctenium australe</i>	Durban Grass	LC	-	
Commelinaceae	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	Benghal Dayflower	LC	-	
Acanthaceae	<i>Thunbergia atriplicifolia</i>	Natal Primrose Clockvine	LC	-	
Arecaceae	<i>Hyphaene coriacea</i>	Ilala Palm	LC	-	
Malvaceae	<i>Hibiscus surattensis</i>	Bush Sorrel	LC	-	
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum lichtensteinii</i>	Thorn Bitter Apple	LC	-	

Table 7-8 Alien Invasive Plants recorded within the PAOI.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Category (NEMBA, 2024)
Lauraceae	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Bolly Beech	Category 1b
Meliaceae	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Syringa	Category 1b
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Bugweed	Category 1b
Rubiaceae	<i>Richardia brasiliensis</i>	Tropical Mexican Clover	Not Listed (Naturalized)
Anacardiaceae	<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>	Brazilian Pepper	Category 1b
Cactaceae	<i>Pereskia aculeata</i>	Barbados Gooseberry	Category 1b
Solanaceae	<i>Cestrum laevigatum</i>	Inkberry	Category 1b
Asteraceae	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Bluemink	Category 1b
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum torvum</i>	Turkey Berry	Category 1b
Asteraceae	<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Trailing Daisy	Category 1b
Verbenaceae	<i>Stachytarpheta urticifolia</i>	Nettleleaf Velvetberry	Category 1b
Fabaceae	<i>Senna didymobotrya</i>	Peanut-Butter Cassia	Category 1b
Apocynaceae	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar Periwinkle	Category 1b
Bignoniaceae	<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Yellow Bells	Category 1b
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Bean	Category 1b
Malvaceae	<i>Sida acuta</i>	Spinyhead Sida	Category 1b
Asteraceae	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Famine Weed	Category 1b
Fabaceae	<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Coffee Senna	Category 1b

7.4 Appendix D – Specialist Declaration of Independence

I, Dr Candyce Areington, declare that:

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 71 and is punishable in terms of Section 24F of the Act.



Dr Candyce Areington

Biodiversity Specialist

The Biodiversity Company

February 2026

7.5 Appendix E – Specialist CVs

Dr Candyce Ann Areington

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Environmental Terrestrial ecologist with over three years of botanical and consulting experience, with international working experience. Specialist expertise in habitat delineation, ecological assessments, biodiversity offsets, rehabilitation and monitoring plans, across renewable energy, mining, and private development sector. Skilled in providing specialist guidance, technical support, and facilitation to ensure compliance with in-country legislative requirements. Registered as a Professional Natural Scientist (Pr Sci Nat) with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions.

PERSONAL INFO

Nationality: South African
Date of birth: 09 December 1991

EXPERIENCE

Rehabilitation Plans Development and Implementation
Biodiversity Management Plans
Monitoring programmes
Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessments
Field work and research

SKILLS

- ✓ Ecology
- ✓ Environmental Control Officer (ECO)
- ✓ Environmental Rehabilitation
- ✓ Monitoring & Management Plans
- ✓ Plant evaluations from molecular to ecological

LANGUAGES

English – Proficient
Afrikaans – Conversational



Signed: Dr Candyce Areington

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

PhD Biological Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (SA).

MSc Biological Sciences (*Cum-laude*), University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA.

BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (*Cum laude*), University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA.

BSc Environmental Science, University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

October 2023 – Present	The Biodiversity Company Terrestrial Ecologist
July 2022 – December 2023	Green Scene-Environmental Environmental and Conversation Officer
July 2016 – November 2020	University of KwaZulu-Natal AD-HOC Lecturer
June 2018 – March 2020	Plant Germplasm Conservation Research unit Senior Administrator
January 2013 – December 2013	University of KwaZulu-Natal Research Assistant

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Botswana, South Africa

