

**DEA SCREENING TOOL REPORT
AND SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT
FOR
PROPOSED BENTONITE AND ZEOLITE
PROSPECTING APPLICATION ON
FARM WEGWYZERSRIVIER RE/582
RIVERSDALE, WESTERN CAPE**

Originally compiled March 2024, updated July 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference

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 National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”), when applying for Environmental Authorisation” (“the Protocols”) (Government Notice No. 320 as published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020) came into effect on 9 May 2020.

This report is compiled in accordance with Section 1 Site Sensitivity Verification and Minimum Report Content Requirements:

Prior to beginning the assessment, the current use of the land and the potential environmental sensitivity of the site as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification.

The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken by an environmental assessment practitioner or a registered specialist.

The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken through the use of:

- (a) a desk top analysis, using satellite imagery;
- (b) a preliminary on-site inspection to identify; and
- (c) any other available and relevant information.

The outcome of the Site Sensitivity Verification must be recorded in the form of a report that:

- (a) confirms or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc.;
- (b) contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
- (c) is submitted together with the relevant report prepared in accordance with the requirement of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

1.2 Conditions Relating to this Report

The findings, results, observations, conclusions and recommendations given in this report are based on the author’s best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information and knowledge of the area.

This report may not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the author. This restraint also refers to electronic copies of this report which are supplied as sub portion of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements, or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must specifically refer to this report. If such comments form part of a main report for this investigation, the report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.

1.3 Site Sensitivity Verification Methods Used

The EAP made use of the following verification methods to compile the site sensitivity report:

- a desk top analysis using (amongst others) Google Earth, Cape Farm Mapper and BGIS; a site inspection conducted on 7 March 2024;
- taking into account all information as provided by the proposed developer.

2. SITE SENSITIVITY FINDINGS OF THE DEA ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING REPORT

The table below indicates the relevant environmental sensitivities that have been identified by the DEA Environmental Screening Tool and associated level of each environmental sensitivity allocated to each theme.

Table 1: Environmental Sensitivities Identified and Associated Level Thereof allocated by DEA Screening Tool

THEME	LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY
Agriculture	High
Animal Species	High
Aquatic Biodiversity	Very High
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Low
Civil Aviation	Medium
Defence	Low
Palaeontology	Very High
Plant Species	Medium
Terrestrial Biodiversity	Very High

3. EAP SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION FINDINGS AND EVIDENCE

Proposed Project Description:

Imerys Refractory Minerals South Africa (Pty) Ltd t/a Cape Bentonite Mine is an existing Bentonite and Zeolite mining company operating on various farms in close proximity to the towns of Heidelberg and Riversdale that fall within the Hessequa Local Municipality and Garden Route District Municipality in the Western Cape Province.

Cape Bentonite Mine proposes to apply for a prospecting right to prospect for bentonite and zeolite on the Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 near the town of Riversdale in the Western Cape.

The **proposed prospecting activities** will entail the following phases:

- **Phase 1 – Field Mapping and Surveying**

A qualified geologist will survey/explore the transformed cultivated areas on the proposed prospecting property by foot and map potential visible bentonite and zeolite outcrops. If such visible outcrops are found on the transformed cultivated areas of property the geologist will map these areas for potential sampling during phase 3.

- **Phase 2 – Literature Review**

A qualified geologist will research known geological literature of the property and surrounds to assist in deterprospecting approximate location of viable bentonite and zeolite deposits on the transformed cultivated areas of the property.

After the completion of phases 1 and 2 the geologist will produce potential bentonite and zeolite deposits maps for the property which will serve as guidelines for the next phase which will entail drilling and sampling.

- **Phase 3 –Drilling and Sampling**

Direct push sampler drilling and sampling – using the maps as produced by the geologist during phases 1 and 2 the geologist will determine which orebodies must be investigated further by direct push sampler drilling. This is conducted by the prospecting company itself and involves the use of a direct push sampler drill rig. The drill rig will push a stainless steel tube of 50-60cm long into the ground, once full it will bring it up and the sample will be taken out. This process will be carried out until bentonite is found or reaching the depth of around 6m. The hole will then immediately be rehabilitated by backfilling and a month later the site is revisited to determine if any the holes re-opened due to decompaction. The sampler holes will have the following maximum temporary footprints

– Diameter 60mm; depth 6m = 3.6m³ overburden material produced by drilling to be backfilled immediately after sample has been taken. Samples would be collected according to the geology. **Approximately 250 sampler holes are proposed for the property, but final proposed direct sampler holes's amount will be determined during the completion of phases 1 and 2 therefore proposed direct sampler holes amount might increase or decrease.**

Boreholes and sampling - following the results of the samples collected during the direct push sampler drilling, a qualified drilling contractor will be appointed by the prospecting company and under the guidance and supervision of the qualified geologist conduct the following drilling activities on the areas as identified by the geologist. Drilling involves using a rotary percussion drilling rig bringing samples to the surface in the form of chips. The drilled boreholes will have the following maximum temporary footprints - diameter 0.2m by 0.2m; depth 30m = 12 m³ maximum overburden material produced per borehole to be replaced immediately after sample has been taken. <1kg of sample material is collected by the geologist from each borehole for testing. The drilling samples collected are sent to the laboratory at the cape bentonite mine processing plant near Heidelberg and tested for specific properties to establish the quality of ore as well as determine approximate extension and volume of the available ore body. **Approximately 30 drilling sections/lines with 10 boreholes each are proposed for the property = approximately 300 boreholes in total for the property, but final proposed boreholes amount will be determined during the completion of phases 1 and 2 and direct push sampler drilling results and the number of proposed drilling boreholes therefore might increase or decrease.**

Rehabilitation – immediately (same day) following samples taken during drilling as described above the excavated material will be replaced and existing agricultural land contour structures will be reinstated. The disturbed prospecting areas will be monitored for signs of erosion for at least six months after sampling and erosion rectification and prevention measures will be implemented as and if required. Alien invasive and weed vegetation monitoring and removal will be undertaken for at least a year after sampling on disturbed prospecting areas or until the landowner starts with the annual cultivation activities on the affected land. This must be done by the applicant, landowner or their appointed contractor, using CapeNature approved methodology depending on the contract agreement that the applicant has with the landowner.

- **Phase 4 – Sample Analysis**

<1kg of sample material is collected by the geologist from each borehole for testing. The samples collected are sent to the laboratory at the cape bentonite mine processing plant near Heidelberg and tested for specific properties to establish the quality of ore as well as determine approximate extension and volume of the available ore body.

- **Phase 5 – Maps, Reserve and Resource Modelling**

Maps will be produced showing the location, depth and extent of physical prospecting work, together with, sampling points and the lithology, mineral content and mineral distribution identified, relative to the prospecting area. Following the results of sample analysis conducted the geological reserve modelling is done by using SURPAC geological software to determine the grades and quantities of available bentonite and zeolite resources and produce the feasibility reports for the property as investigated/surveyed.

Natural Environmental Features of the Site:

The farm is characterised by its undulating landscape with associated steep slopes, drainage lines and gorges which limits the extent of cultivation to moderate slopes and flat lying areas.

Soil: Prisma-cutanic and/or pedocutanic diagnostic horizons dominant. In addition, one or more of: vertic, melanic, red structured diagnostic horizons

Geology: Conglomerate, sandstone and mudstone of the Uitenhage Group as well as shale of the Bokkeveld Group, occasionally overlain by Tertiary silcrete.

The study area lies within the East Coast Renosterveld bioregion (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). This bioregion has a moderately distinct flora, and high numbers of plant Species of Conservation Concern, with the main pressures being extensive habitat loss, due mainly to agriculture, followed by alien invasive vegetation, quarrying and urbanisation, and habitat modification due to lack of appropriate fire regimes.

The indigenous vegetation remnants remaining on the property adjacent to the cultivated areas where prospecting is proposed within the cultivated areas east of the regional road crossing the property is part of Endangered - Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos; and the remnants mapped west of the main gravel road crossing the property where prospecting activities are not proposed is mapped as Critically Endangered - Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld and Critically Endangered - Cape Lowland Alluvial Vegetation located within and along the banks of the Kruis River tributary and its associated extended wetland area. Although cultivation and livestock grazing has impacted on

the condition of the remaining indigenous vegetation remnants on the property not part of annually cultivated land most of the remaining indigenous vegetation remnants are in a moderate to good condition as located along Kruis River tributary in the west and slopes which are too steep for cultivation in the east. The area directly east of the man-made farm dam within the eastern section of the property which is not annually cultivated contains significantly transformed mainly pioneer and weedy indigenous vegetation as associated with an area which was most likely historically ploughed and/or transformed during the construction of the farm dam and subject to ongoing livestock grazing.

According to the WCBSP 2023 mapping most of the remaining remnants of indigenous vegetation located on the property is also mapped as Terrestrial CBA and CBA 2 areas. CBA: Wetland and CBA: River areas are also mapped along the Kruis River tributary along the western border of the property. The primary reason for selection of these areas as terrestrial and/or aquatic CBAs is that it helps meet the national conservation target for threatened vegetation types, and ancillary reasons are that it offers opportunities for continuation of ecological connectivity, especially related to the hydrological connectivity of the drainage lines and associated wetland areas of the Kruis River. These areas also potentially provide habitats for indigenous plant species and animal species of which may also include Species of Conservation Concern.

It was observed that the proposed prospecting areas falls within agricultural land currently being used for annual crop cultivation and livestock grazing (sheep and cattle). Although no plant or animal species of conservation concern was recorded within the proposed prospecting areas on the property it is most likely that SCC's occur within the un-ploughed steep slopes with relatively intact remaining indigenous vegetation remnants. The remaining Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos remnants are mainly located within the eastern portion where prospecting activities are proposed within adjacent cultivated agricultural lands, but is also transformed to a certain degree due to ongoing agricultural activities such as cultivation and heavy livestock grazing also leading to alien tree and weed encroachment. The remnants of Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld and Cape Alluvial Vegetation are more along the lower lying western areas of the property and associated with the Kruisrivier tributary and its banks, however these remnants have also been significantly transformed due to cultivation, livestock grazing and alien vegetation encroachment. With implementation of proper no-go area buffers and stormwater management measures it is not expected that the prospecting activities will have any significant detrimental impacts on the indigenous vegetation remnants adjacent to the proposed prospecting areas.

The property is bordered by the Kruis River in the west with two transformed non-perennial drainage lines traversing the property and feeding into the Kruis River along the western border. The non-perennial drainage line feeding directly into the Kruis River tributary is associated with a channelled valley-bottom wetland and the Kruis River tributary is associated with an unchannelled and channelled valley-bottom wetland. The extent of Kruis River unchannelled valley-bottom wetland as mapped per the National Wetland Map (NWM5) is greater than the channelled valley-bottom wetland as mapped for the Kruis River tributary in accordance with National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (NFEPA) Map. All of the mapped natural wetland areas are located within the lower lying western section of the property outside of the proposed prospecting areas. Prospecting activities are proposed east of the regional road crossing the property within the higher lying areas which does not contain any mapped natural wetland areas, there is one mapped artificial wetland area which is a man-made farm dam which is also excluded from the proposed prospecting areas. Although not mapped as an artificial wetland there is also a smaller man-made dam/contour within the cultivated agricultural land which holds water on a seasonal basis and can therefore also be classified as an artificial wetland. As is evident from historical google earth imagery the mapped extent of the channelled and unchannelled valley bottom wetland area as associated with the Kruis Rivier tributary along the western border of the property has been impacted and transformed by annual cultivation for more than 40 years. To avoid potential impacts on the channelled and unchannelled valley bottom wetlands associated with the Kruis River tributary same day rehabilitation prospecting activities are not to take place within the lower lying cultivated agricultural land west of the regional road crossing the property where the transformed channelled and unchannelled valley bottom wetlands are located.

Within the higher lying eastern section of the property where prospecting is proposed on transformed cultivated agricultural land prospecting is not to take place within any untransformed or transformed drainage lines located within the cultivated agricultural land nor within the man-made farm dams or its associated drainage lines.

Due to the general >30m depth groundwater table average and low yields in the Heidelberg/Riversdale region groundwater is an unused resource in the region and according to the Water Research Commission, the probability of drilling a successful borehole according to accessibility is less than 40% while, such a borehole will only have a 10-20% chance of delivering 2L/s. The proposed prospecting methods is minimally invasive drilling with same day rehabilitation taking place and is therefore not expected to have any significant detrimental impacts on the geohydrological dynamics and/or groundwater quality/table of the site or surrounds. This is also supported by the findings of the geohydrological impact statement which concludes that the proposed prospecting activities are expected to have no measurable negative effects on the groundwater regime of the site or surrounds provided

that preventative management measures are implemented throughout.

No new roads would have to be constructed to provide access to the proposed prospecting areas. The prospecting area is accessed directly off existing farm roads to remain as is throughout the prospecting process.

All of the proposed same day rehabilitation prospecting activities are proposed on completely transformed cultivated agricultural lands east of the regional road crossing the property and not within any remaining natural watercourses/wetlands or indigenous vegetation areas.

It is therefore not expected that the proposed prospecting of the annually cultivated lands as surveyed by the EAP and specialists will have any significant detrimental ecological or heritage impacts should rehabilitation of the site be conducted in a successful manner by restoring the area to cultivated agricultural land after prospecting completion and all prospecting related activities stay outside of the remaining indigenous vegetation areas, drainage lines and wetlands.

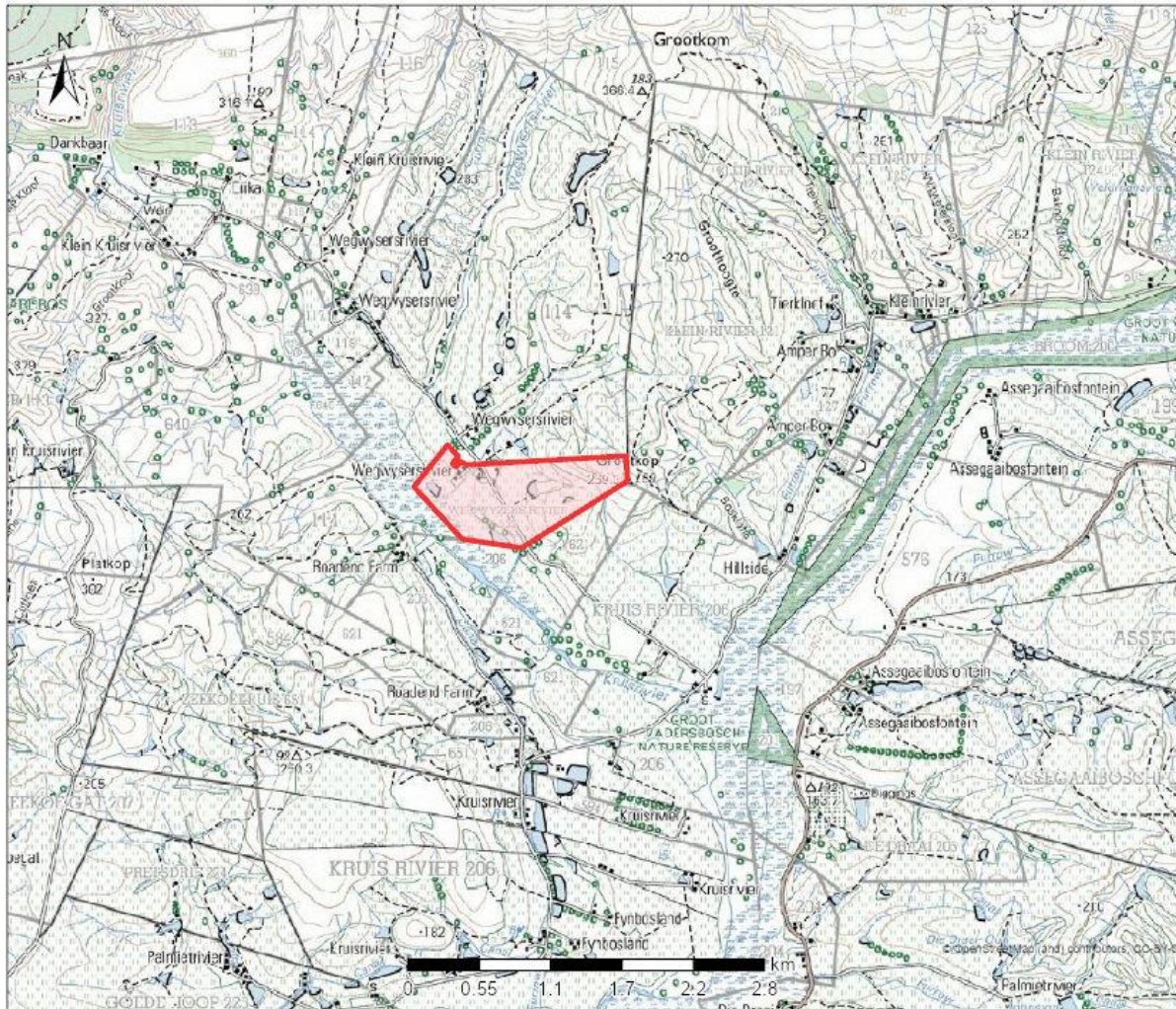


Map 1: Locality of Heidelberg and Riversdale in the Western Cape.



Map 2: Locality of Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 near Riversdale in the Western Cape.
GPS co-ordinate for “middle” of surveyed site - 34° 02' 24.61”S
21° 19' 33.67”E

1:50 000 Topographical Map



Legend

Map Center: Lon: 21°19'51.6"E
Lat: 34°2'26.6"S

Scale: 1:50,000

Date created: 2024/12/03



Map 3: The 1 in 50 000 topographical map for the study area – Farm Wegwysersriver RE/582.

Proposed prospecting areas as assessed for Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582



Map 4: Proposed prospecting areas (in yellow) as surveyed on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.



Map 5: Proposed prospecting layout map for Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.

Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 WCBSP 2023 Map, NGI Rivers and man-made contour/seasonal dam



Map 5: WCBSP 2023 CBA and ESA map for proposed prospecting activities areas (yellow) on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 as assessed.

Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 NFEPA Map, NGI and DWS Rivers and man-made contour/seasonal dam



Map 6: NFEPA Map for proposed prospecting activities areas (yellow) on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 as assessed.

Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 National Wetland Map (NWM5) and NGI and DWS Rivers Map



Map 7: National Wetland Map (NWM5) for proposed prospecting activities areas (yellow) on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 as assessed.



Site Photo 1: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of reguibak road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.



Site Photo 2: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.



Site Photo 3: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of reguibak road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.



Site Photo 4: Cultivated agricultural land west of regional road along Kruisrivier tributary land on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582, not to be prospected upon.



Site Photo 5: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land and transformed drainage line east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582. Red line indicates where drainage line was historically located, blue line indicates route along which drainage line is currently channelled. Channelled drainage line and original drainage line route not to be prospected upon.



Site Photo 6: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of regional road, channelled transformed drainage line and remaining indigenous vegetation remnants on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 to be avoided during prospecting activities.



Site Photo 7: Larger man-made farm dam on higher lying areas east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 to be avoided during prospecting activities.



Site Photo 8: Smaller man-made contour/seosanl dam and transformed drainage line feeding into the larger man-made farm dam on higher lying areas east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582 to be avoided during prospecting activities.



Site Photo 9: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.



Site Photo 10: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.



Site Photo 11: Proposed prospecting areas on transformed cultivated land east of regional road on Farm Wegwyzersrivier RE/582.

Table 2: EAP and/or specialist findings that either Confirms or Disputes the Environmental Sensitivity as Identified by the DEA Screening Tool

THEME	EAP AND/OR SPECIALIST RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY	EAP AND/OR SPECIALIST MOTIVATION	EAP EVIDENCE
Agriculture	Low	Specialist Motivation as per Agricultural Compliance Statement compiled: Environmental authorisation is being sought for proposed prospecting on the remaining portion of farm Wegwyzersriver number 582 near Riversdale, Western Cape Province. In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998 - NEMA), an	Refer to Agricultural Compliance Statement as included under Appendix E of the Basic Assessment Report.

		<p>application for environmental authorisation requires an agricultural assessment. In this case, although the site is rated as high agricultural sensitivity by the screening tool, the development has minimal agricultural impact, and the appropriate level of agricultural assessment is therefore an Agricultural Compliance Statement.</p>	
Animal Species	Medium- Low	<p>The environmental assessment practitioner and ecological specialist have provided the following reasons why the proposed development area can be classified as a Medium - Low Sensitivity Animal Species area and therefore an Animal Impact Compliance Statement will suffice:</p> <p>Most of the property is annually cultivated and all proposed prospecting activities are on previously cultivated agricultural land therefore the impacted site it is not expected to be home to animal species of conservation concern. However, due to remaining indigenous remnants throughout the property indigenous animal species may be impacted upon by the proposed development therefore an Animal Species Impact Statement is proposed and provided.</p>	Refer to Animal Compliance Statement as included under Appendix E of the Basic Assessment Report.
Aquatic Biodiversity	Low	<p>The environmental assessment practitioner and aquatic specialist disagrees with the very high aquatic sensitivity rating given to the proposed prospecting activities within cultivated agricultural land. The specialist recommends that the proposed prospecting areas falls within a low aquatic sensitivity and the following reasons are provided to support the Aquatic Impact Statement conducted:</p> <p>Aquatic features adjacent to the proposed prospecting areas are limited to non-perennial drainage lines and man-made dams, only flowing during heavy rains.</p>	Refer to Aquatic Compliance Statement as included under Appendix E of the Basic Assessment Report.

		No drainage lines or wetlands that have not been completely transformed by agricultural cultivation remains on the proposed prospecting areas. Prospecting activities are proposed on annually cultivated agricultural land however adjacent non-perennial drainage lines may be impacted if activities are not limited to cultivated land therefore an Aquatic Impact Statement is proposed and provided.	
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	Low (Agree with DEA Screening Tool Report finding)	A notice of intent to develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape who confirmed no HIA required.	Refer to HWC record of decision as attached to the Basic Assessment Report under Appendix E.
Civil Aviation	Low	The proposed prospecting activities will not pose any threat to civil aviation.	-
Defence	Low (Agree with DEA Screening Tool Report finding)	The proposed prospecting activities will not pose any threat to defence.	-
Palaeontology	Low	A notice of intent to develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape who confirmed no HIA required.	Refer to HWC record of decision as attached to the Basic Assessment Report under Appendix E.
Plant Species	Low	The Department of Environmental Affairs screening report from the national web based environmental screening tool reported a "Medium sensitivity for plant species theme". The property on which prospecting activities area proposed which mainly falls within Low Plant Species Sensitivity areas. During the site verification inspections, it was found that all proposed prospecting activities are on annually cultivated agricultural land with no indigenous vegetation species recorded on the proposed prospecting areas therefore a Low Sensitivity is proposed by the specialist. Due to remaining indigenous remnants throughout the property which may be impacted upon by the proposed prospecting activities if not contained within the cultivated agricultural land a Terrestrial	Refer to Plant Compliance Statement as included under Appendix E of the Basic Assessment Report.

		Plant Compliance Statement was proposed to be provided.	
Terrestrial Biodiversity	Low	The Department of Environmental Affairs screening report from the national web based environmental screening tool reported a "Very High sensitivity for Terrestrial Biodiversity theme". The mapping of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme however does not take into consideration nature of the proposed same day rehabilitation prospecting activities nor the location of the proposed prospecting activities that is proposed on completely transformed cultivated agricultural land. During the site verification inspections, it was found that all proposed prospecting activities are on annually cultivated agricultural land with no indigenous vegetation species recorded on the proposed prospecting areas therefore a Low Sensitivity is proposed by the specialist. Most of the property is annually cultivated and all proposed prospecting activities are on annually cultivated agricultural land. Due to remaining indigenous remnants throughout the property these areas with their associated animal habitat may be impacted upon by the proposed development if not restricted to the cultivated agricultural lands therefore a Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Statement is proposed.	Refer to Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement as included under Appendix E of the Basic Assessment Report.

4. SPECIALIST ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED VERIFICATION FINDINGS

Table 3: The table below indicates the specialist assessments identified by the screening report and reasons/motivation for the specialist assessment to be conducted or not to be conducted

Specialist Report Identified	Reason/s for the Assessment to be Conducted or Not to be Conducted (as provided by the EAP)
1. Agricultural Impact Assessment	In this case, although the site is rated as high agricultural sensitivity by the screening tool, the development has minimal

	<p>agricultural impact, and the appropriate level of agricultural assessment is therefore an Agricultural Compliance Statement.</p> <p>Agricultural Compliance Statement provided.</p>
2. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	A notice of intent to develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape who confirmed no HIA required.
3. Palaeontological Impact Assessment	A notice of intent to develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape who confirmed no HIA required.
4. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Most of the property is annually cultivated and all proposed prospecting activities are on previously cultivated agricultural land. It is therefore not expected that the proposed prospecting activities on cultivated land will have any significant impacts on terrestrial biodiversity feature, but due to remaining adjacent indigenous remnants throughout the property a Terrestrial Impact Statement is proposed.
5. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Aquatic features adjacent to the proposed prospecting areas are limited to non-perennial drainage lines and man-made dams, only flowing during heavy rains. No drainage lines or wetlands that have not been completely transformed by agricultural cultivation remains on the proposed prospecting areas. Prospecting activities are proposed on annually cultivated agricultural land however adjacent non-perennial drainage lines may be impacted if activities are not limited to cultivated land therefore an Aquatic Impact Statement is proposed and provided
6. Noise Impact Assessment	Not required – No activities that will generate noise levels above the legal limit for rural areas in terms of the Environmental Conservation Act, Western Cape Noise regulations will be conducted.
7. Radioactivity Impact Assessment	Not required – there a no radioactive resources on the property not within close proximity to the property that will be impacted upon by the proposed prospecting activities.

<p>8. Plant Species Assessment</p>	<p>During the site verification inspections, it was found that all proposed prospecting activities are on annually cultivated agricultural land with no indigenous vegetation species recorded on the proposed prospecting areas therefore a Low Sensitivity is proposed by the specialist. Due to remaining indigenous remnants throughout the property which may be impacted upon by the proposed prospecting activities if not contained within the cultivated agricultural land a Terrestrial Plant Compliance Statement was proposed to be provided.</p>
<p>9. Animal Species Assessment</p>	<p>The prospecting activities are to be restricted to completely transformed cultivated land therefore no indigenous vegetation or habitat will be disturbed during the proposed prospecting activities and the prospecting activities does not lead to significant noise disturbances therefore it is not expected that the proposed prospecting activities will lead to any significant impacts on animals found within the area therefore an Animal Species Impact Statement is proposed and provided</p>

5. DECLARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (“EAP”)

I **Johmandie Pienaar**, as the appointed EAP hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the report, and that:

- In terms of the general requirement to be independent:
 - other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or
 - ~~am not independent, but another specialist (the “Review Specialist”) that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);~~
- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for an EAP, am fully aware of and meet all of the requirements and that failure to comply with any the requirements may result in disqualification.
- I have disclosed, to the Applicant, the specialist (if any), the Competent Authority and registered interested and affected parties, all 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 prepared or to be prepared as part of this application;
- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.



Signature of the EAP:

23 July 2025

Date:

Enviro-EAP (Pty) Ltd

Name of company (if applicable):

APPENDIX A: DEA ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY SCREENING REPORT

SCREENING REPORT FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION AS REQUIRED BY THE 2014 EIA REGULATIONS – PROPOSED SITE ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY

EIA Reference number: -

Project name: Farm Wegyzersrivier RE/582 Bentonite and Zeolite Prospecting Application

Project title: -

Date screening report generated: 13/03/2024 11:58:25

Applicant: Imerys Refractory Minerals South Africa

Compiler: Johmandie Pienaar from Enviro-EAP

Compiler signature:
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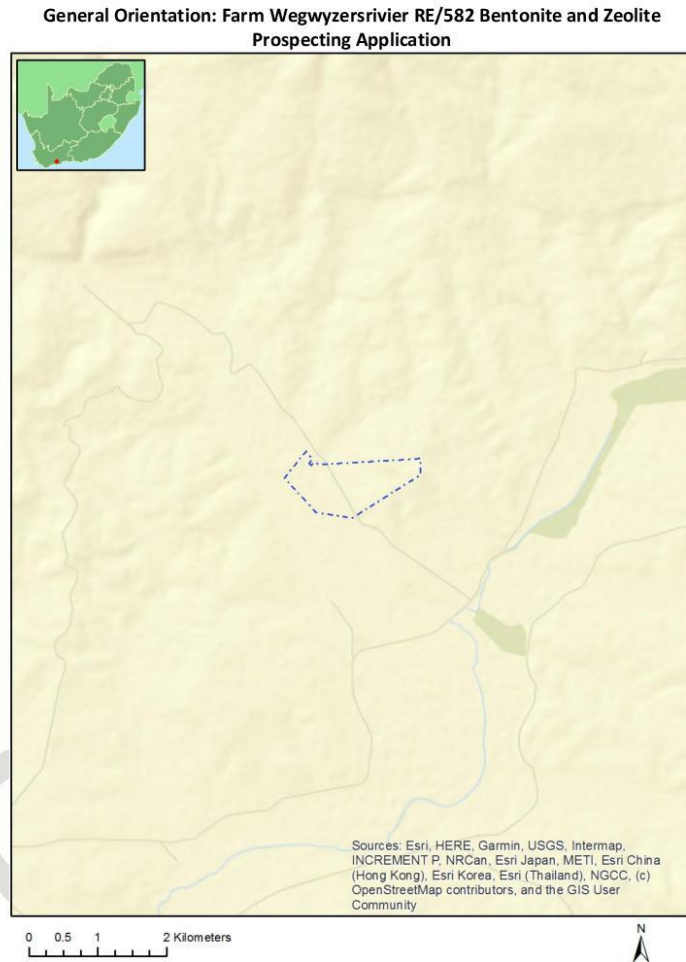
Application Category: Mining|Prospecting rights

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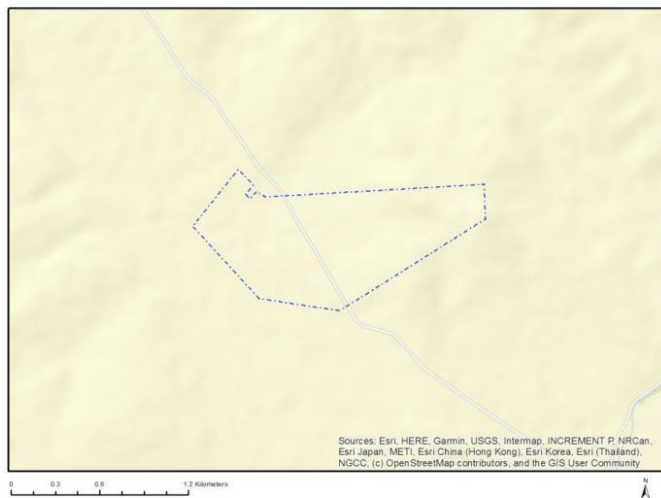
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Proposed Project Location

Orientation map 1: General location



Map of proposed site and relevant area(s)



Cadastral details of the proposed site

Property details:

No	Farm Name	Farm/ Erf No	Portion	Latitude	Longitude	Property Type
1	WEGWYZERS RIVIER	582	0	34°2'23.08S	21°19'26.64E	Farm
2	WEGWYZERS RIVIER	582	0	34°2'23.08S	21°19'26.64E	Farm Portion
3	WEGWYZERS RIVIER	582	0	34°2'23.08S	21°19'26.64E	Farm Portion

Development footprint¹ vertices:
No development footprint(s) specified.

Wind and Solar developments with an approved Environmental Authorisation or applications under consideration within 30 km of the proposed area

No nearby wind or solar developments found.

¹ “development footprint”, means the area within the site on which the development will take place and includes all ancillary developments for example roads, power lines, boundary walls, paving etc. which require vegetation clearance or which will be disturbed and for which the application has been submitted.

Environmental Management Frameworks relevant to the application

No intersections with EMF areas found.

Environmental screening results and assessment outcomes

The following sections contain a summary of any development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions that apply to the proposed development site as well as the most environmental sensitive features on the site based on the site sensitivity screening results for the application classification that was selected. The application classification selected for this report is:

Mining|Prospecting rights.

Relevant development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions

The following development incentives, restrictions, exclusions or prohibitions and their implications that apply to this site are indicated below.

Incentive, restriction or prohibition	Implication
Strategic Gas Pipeline Corridors-Phase 1a & 1b: Saldanha to Ankerlig and Saldanha to Mossel Bay	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/Combined_GAS.pdf
South African Conservation Areas	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/DevelopmentZones/SACAD_OR_2023_Q3_Metadata.pdf

Proposed Development Area Environmental Sensitivity

The following summary of the development site environmental sensitivities is identified. Only the highest environmental sensitivity is indicated. The footprint environmental sensitivities for the proposed development footprint as identified, are indicative only and must be verified on site by a suitably qualified person before the specialist assessments identified below can be confirmed.

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme			X	
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme	X			
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

Specialist assessments identified

Based on the selected classification, and the known impacts associated with the proposed development, the following list of specialist assessments have been identified for inclusion in the

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[Disclaimer applies](#)

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assessment report. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation.

No	Specialist assessment	Assessment Protocol
1	Agricultural Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted General Agriculture Assessment Protocols.pdf
2	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
3	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
4	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment Protocols.pdf
5	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment Protocols.pdf
6	Noise Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted Noise Impacts Assessment Protocol.pdf
7	Radioactivity Impact Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted General Requirement Assessment Protocols.pdf
8	Plant Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted Plant Species Assessment Protocols.pdf
9	Animal Species Assessment	https://screening.environment.gov.za/ScreeningDownloads/AssessmentProtocols/Gazetted Animal Species Assessment Protocols.pdf

Results of the environmental sensitivity of the proposed area.

The following section represents the results of the screening for environmental sensitivity of the proposed site for relevant environmental themes associated with the project classification. It is the duty of the EAP to ensure that the environmental themes provided by the screening tool are comprehensive and complete for the project. Refer to the disclaimer.

MAP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY

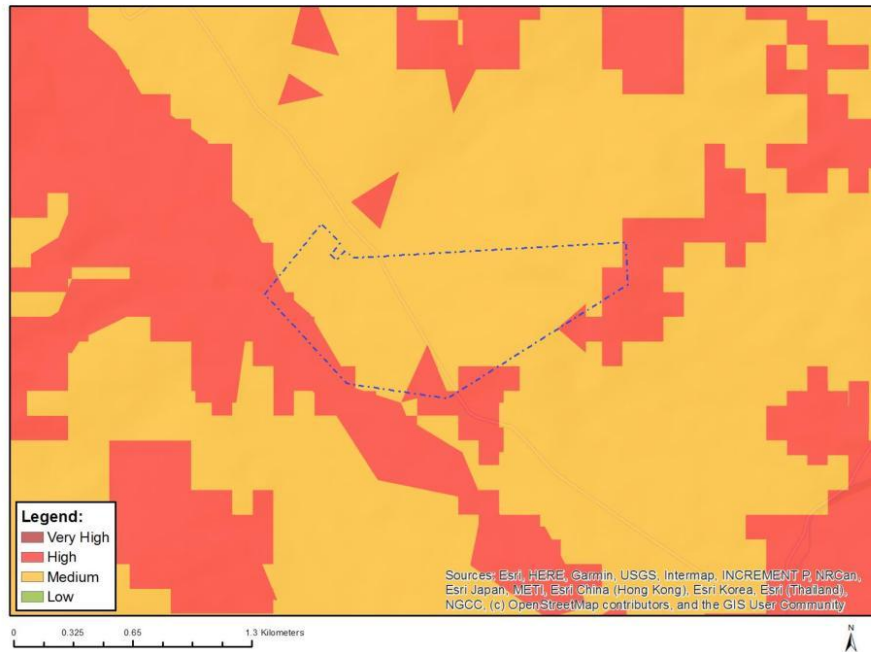


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
	X		

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
High	Annual Crop Cultivation / Planted Pastures Rotation; Land capability; 06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate
High	Annual Crop Cultivation / Planted Pastures Rotation; Land capability; 01. Very low/02. Very low/03. Low-Very low/04. Low-Very low/05. Low
Low	Land capability; 01. Very low/02. Very low/03. Low-Very low/04. Low-Very low/05. Low
Medium	Land capability; 06. Low-Moderate/07. Low-Moderate/08. Moderate

MAP OF RELATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES THEME SENSITIVITY



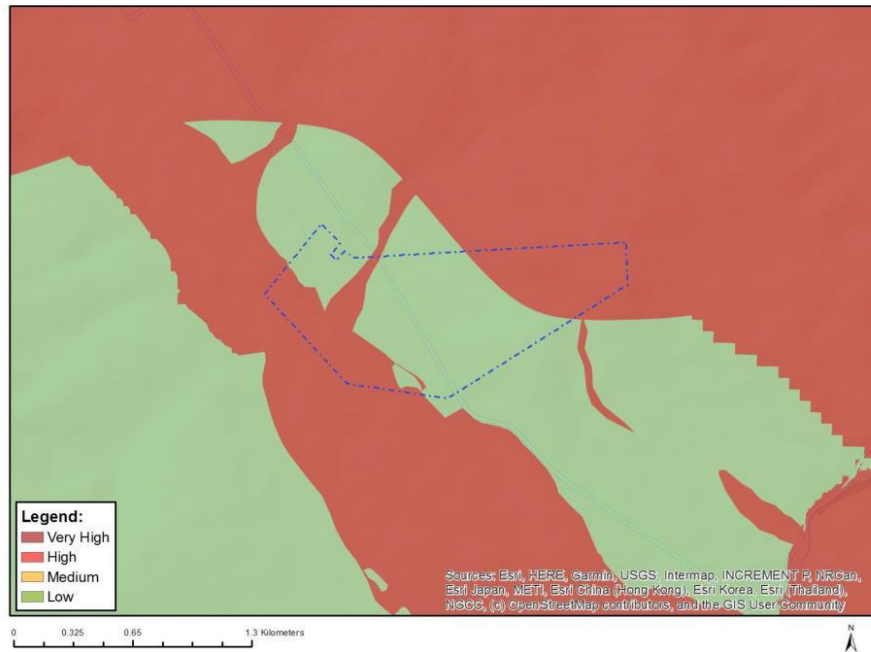
Where only a sensitive plant unique number or sensitive animal unique number is provided in the screening report and an assessment is required, the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) or specialist is required to email SANBI at ejadatarerequests@sanbi.org.za listing all sensitive species with 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-Neotis denhami
High	Aves-Bradypterus sylvaticus
Medium	Aves-Stephanoaetus coronatus
Medium	Invertebrate-Aneuryphymus montanus

MAP OF RELATIVE AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY

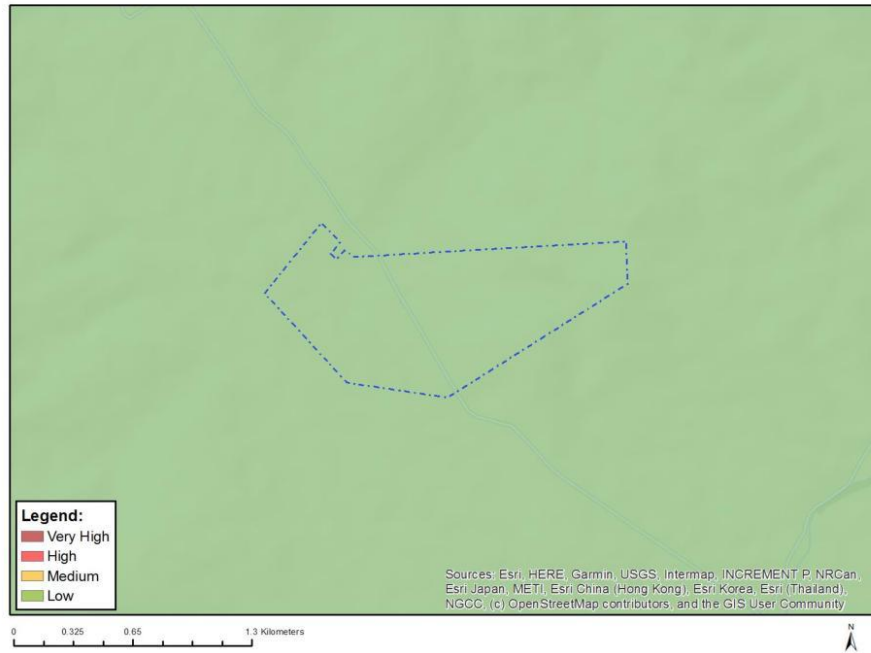


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity
Very High	CBA 1: Aquatic
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW)_Langeberg
Very High	Wetlands East Coast Renosterveld Bioregion (Valley-bottom)

MAP OF RELATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE CIVIL AVIATION THEME SENSITIVITY

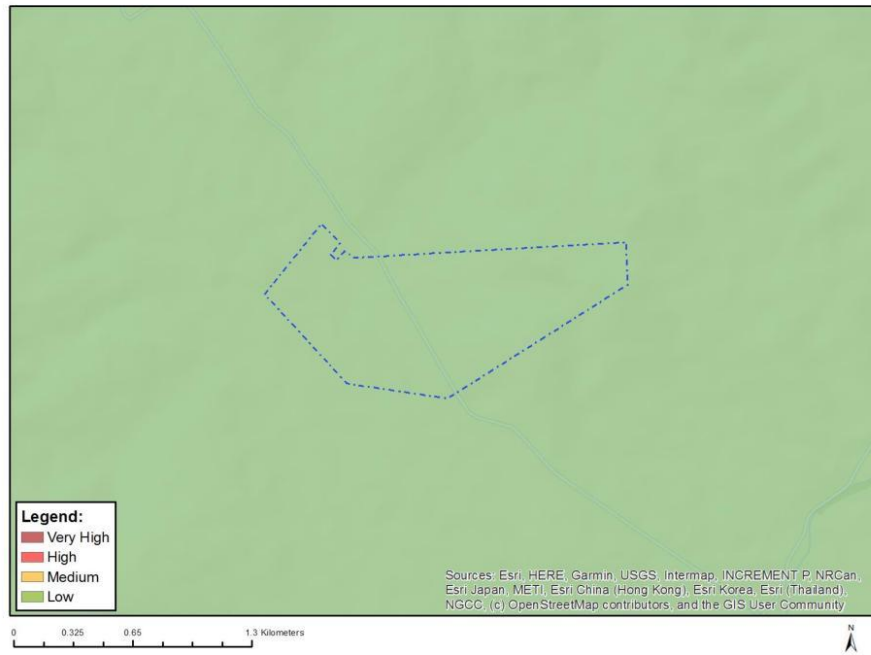


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
		X	

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Between 8 and 15 km of other civil aviation aerodrome

MAP OF RELATIVE DEFENCE THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
			X

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Low	Low Sensitivity

MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

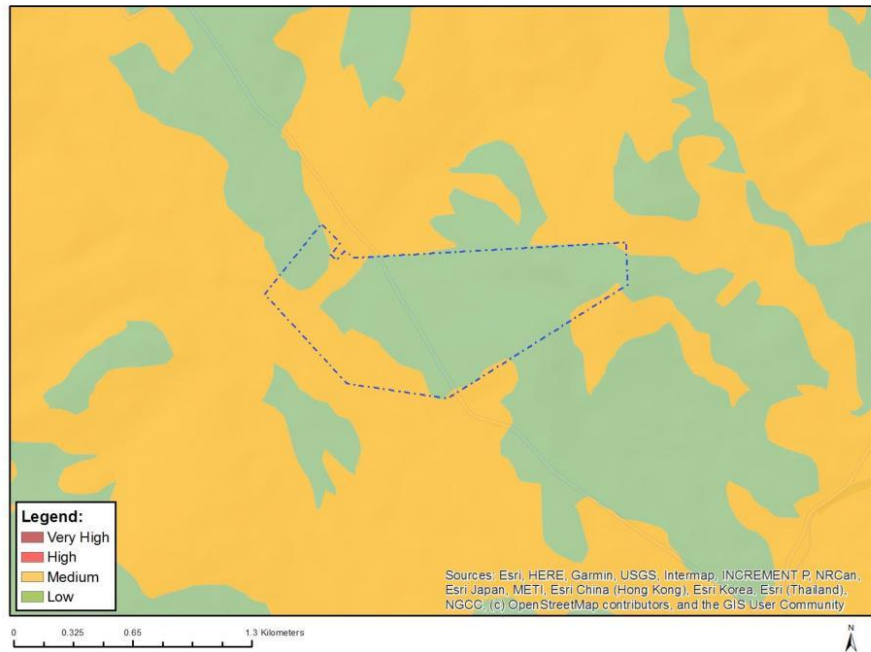


Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Medium	Features with a Medium paleontological sensitivity
Very High	Features with a Very High paleontological sensitivity

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 ejadatarerequests@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	Aspalathus campestris
Medium	Aspalathus hypnoides
Medium	Aspalathus longifolia
Medium	Aspalathus millefolia
Medium	Aspalathus steudeliana
Medium	Aspalathus zeyheri
Medium	Otholobium bowieanum
Medium	Treichelia dodii
Medium	Selago ramosissima
Medium	Hesperantha muirii
Medium	Freesia fergusoniae
Medium	Sensitive species 402

Medium	Sensitive species 700
Medium	Bobartia macrospatha subsp. anceps
Medium	Hermannia lavandulifolia
Medium	Sensitive species 1142
Medium	Sensitive species 339
Medium	Anisodonteia pseudocapensis
Medium	Sensitive species 1024
Medium	Gnidia ericoides
Medium	Stoebe rugulosa
Medium	Relhania garnotii
Medium	Diosma tenella
Medium	Acmaenia macropetala
Medium	Euchaetis longicornis
Medium	Muraltia cliffortiifolia
Medium	Polygala pubiflora
Medium	Sensitive species 980
Medium	Ruellia pilosa
Medium	Phyllica elimensis
Medium	Orthochilus litoralis
Medium	Sensitive species 800
Medium	Romulea jugicola
Medium	Sensitive species 521
Medium	Elegia squamosa
Medium	Sensitive species 763
Medium	Diosma passerinoides
Medium	Agathosma microcarpa

MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
X			

Sensitivity Features:

Sensitivity	Feature(s)
Very High	ESA 2: Restore from other land use
Very High	ESA 1
Very High	CBA 1: Terrestrial
Very High	FEPA Subcatchment
Very High	SWSA (SW) Langeberg
Very High	EN_Cape Lowland Alluvial Vegetation
Very High	EN_Swellendam Silcrete Fynbos
Very High	CR_Mossel Bay Shale Renosterveld