

Biodiversity Surveys

Environmental Consulting

BUTTERFLY SURVEY – GARDEN ROUTE DAM

REMAINDER OF PORTION 464A, GEORGE

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE



Spialia spio – Mountain Sandman

Prepared for:

John Sharples Sharples Environmental Services PO Box 9087 George 6530

Representing the George Municipality

Date of issue: 28 October 2019

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CREDENTIALS OF THE CONSULTANT

Contact details:

Dr David A. Edge Dave Edge & Associates 81 Tulbagh Street Brenton-onSea Knysna 6570

Tel no: 044 3810014 Cell no: 074 5807288 Email: <u>orachrysops@gmail.com</u>

Expertise

- <u>Qualifications</u>: BSc (Zoology & Botany) UNISA; BSc (Hons) (Environmental Science) North-West University; MSc (Environmental Science) North-West University; PhD (Environmental Science) North-West University.
- <u>Experience</u>: Lepidopterist and ecologist with over 60 years' experience studying butterflies. Has conducted numerous specialist butterfly surveys in terms of NEMA.
- <u>Publications/ conferences</u>: 32 scientific papers published in peer reviewed journals, and has presented papers at a number of national and international conferences.

A more detailed CV is attached as Appendix 1.

Conditions pertaining to this report

The content of this report is based on the author's best scientific and professional knowledge as well as available information. Dave Edge & Associates reserve the right to modify the report in any way deemed fit should new, relevant or previously unavailable or undisclosed information become known to the author from on-going research or further work in this field, or pertaining to this investigation, and will inform Sharples Environmental Services accordingly.

This report must not be altered or added to without the prior written consent of the author. This also refers to electronic copies of the report, which are supplied for the purposes of inclusion as part of other reports, including main reports. Similarly, any recommendations, statements or conclusions drawn from or based on this report must make reference to this report. If these form part of a main report relating to this investigation or report, this report must be included in its entirety as an appendix or separate section to the main report.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THIS REPORT

This is a 'specialist report' compiled in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

DECLARATION BY THE INDEPENDENT PERSON WHO COMPILED THIS REPORT

I, David Alan Edge, as the appointed independent specialist hereby declare that I:

- act as an independent specialist in this application;
- regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct, and do not have and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity, other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
- have and will not have any vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding;
- have disclosed, to the applicant, EAP and competent authority, any material information that have or may have the potential to influence the decision of the competent authority or the objectivity of any report, plan or document required in terms of the NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014and any specific environmental management Act;
- am fully aware of and meet the responsibilities in terms of NEMA, the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (specifically in terms of Regulation 13 and Appendix 2 of GN No. R. 982) and any specific environmental management Act, and that failure to comply with these requirements may constitute and result in disqualification;
- have ensured that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the specialist input/study was distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties was facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties were provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on the specialist input/study;
- have ensured that the comments of all interested and affected parties on the specialist input/study were considered, recorded and submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application; have ensured that the names of all interested and affected parties that participated in terms of the specialist input/study were recorded in the register of interested and affected parties who participated in the public participation process;
- have provided the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not; and am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 of GN No. R.982.

Signature of the Specialist:

David Alan Edge

Representing:

Dave Edge & Associates

1. Introduction

The George Municipality is evaluating possible development scenarios at the Garden Route Dam, remainder of Portion 464 (Portion A), George, Western Cape Province (Figure 1). The Municipality has engaged the services of Sharples Environmental Services to carry out an Environmental Scoping Study for the proposed project.

A biodiversity sensitivity analysis and was conducted by Bruce Taplin and Ken Coetzee of *Conservation Management Services* and a report was submitted in December 2018, and a report on the biodiversity impacts of the proposed development layout was submitted in August 2019.



Figure 1 – Development layout proposal with vegetation and habitat sensitivities for George Dam Portion 464A

2. Terms of reference of the Consultant

Dave Edge & Associates was appointed on 20th March 2019 by John Sharples of Sharples Environmental Services, acting on behalf of the George Municipality, to carry out a butterfly survey for the George Dam Portion 464A site, with a scope as follows:

- 1) Conduct a preliminary butterfly survey on the property during October 2019.
- 2) Prepare a report detailing the findings of the survey, with conclusions and recommendations for any further investigations at the property.

3. Methodology

- The author conducted a site visit on 22nd October 2019 investigate the occurrence of butterflies and their host plants on the site.
- Attention was paid to the development layout proposal (Fig. 1) produced as Figure 2.1 of Taplin & Coetzee (2019), and in view of the limited time available to complete the butterfly

survey, investigation was confined to the low sensitivity disturbed former plantation portion of the site.

- Butterflies were identified visually in flight, but if any doubt existed voucher specimens were taken of any unusual butterfly taxa (species or subspecies) encountered, with GPS locations. Identifications were sourced from Pringle *et al.* (1994) and Williams (2019).
- Photographs were taken of any unusual butterfly taxa either in the wild or from set specimens.
- A checklist of the butterfly taxa and their host plants occurring at the site was prepared.

4. Study Area

Refer to the biodiversity sensitivity analysis (Taplin & Coetzee, 2018) for a general description of the study area, including its geology, topography, climate and vegetation present, and to Fig. 1 for the proposed development layout.

5. Results

5.1 Weather, timing and area surveyed

The weather was warm with a gentle breeze and a clear sky – ideal for butterflies. Refer to Fig. 2, which shows the route followed by the author between 10.15 and 14.00 on 23 October 2019.



Figure 2 – Track followed by the author on 23 October 2019

5.2 Butterfly observations

The butterfly taxa actually recorded at the site during the surveys are listed in Table 1, and images are given in Figs 3–10.

5.3 Butterfly host plants

The host plants known for the butterfly species recorded are given in the last column of Table 1. Some of the commoner butterflies use many different host plants, and this is why they are so widespread.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Fig.	GPS COORDINATES		HOST PLANTS	
Cassionympha cassius	Rainforest Brown	3	33°57.907'	22°30.304'	Various Poaceae	
Cacyreus fracta fracta	Water Bronze	4	33°57.871'	22°30.463'	Pelargonium species	
Danaus chrysippus orientis	African Monarch	5	33°57.733'	22°30.159'	Asclepias physocarpa	
Papilio demodocus	Citrus Swallowtail	6	33°57.944'	22°30.585'	Vepris lanceolata	
Pieris brassicae	Cabbage White	7	33°58.077'	22°30.518'	Heliophila species	
Pontia helice	Meadow White	8	33°57.944'	22°30.585'	Heliophila species	
Spialia spio	Mountain Sandman	9	33°57.838'	22°29.995'	Hermannia species	
Vanessa cardui	Painted Lady	10	33°58.077'	22°30.518'	Various	

Table 1 - Butterflies observed at George Dam Portion 464A

5.4 Vegetation types surveyed

All observations were made in recovering fynbos where there had formerly been a plantation. Consequently most of the plants recorded were pioneering species, and agreed very well with the plant list presented by Taplin & Coetzee (2018).

6. Discussion

6.1 Vegetation of the site

The area surveyed was mapped and described in Mucina & Rutherford (2006) as Garden Route Shale Fynbos.

6.2 Potential for other butterfly species

The type of habitat found at the study site could host certain rare and endemic *Aloeides* species such as *A. pallida* subspecies, which are known to occur in the George area.

7. Conclusions

The proposed development area on George Dam Portion 464A does not appear on the basis of this survey to contain any rare or endangered butterflies, and the eight butterflies recorded are reasonably common and widespread. The author will make another visit to the site in the second half of November to be certain that there are no rare *Aloeides* species on the site.

8. References

Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds). The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. 2006. *Strelitzia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institution, Pretoria.

Pringle, E.L., Henning, G.A. & Ball, J.B. 1994. *Pennington's Butterflies of southern Africa*. Struik Winchester, Cape Town.

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D.A. Edge Dave Edge & Associates





Figure 3 – Cassionympha cassius







Figure 5 – Danaus chrysippus



Figure 6 – Papilio demodocus



Figure 7 – Pierus brassicae



Figure 8 – Pontia helice



Figure 9 – Spialia spio



Figure 10 – Vanessa cardui



CURRICULUM VITAE

DAVID ALAN EDGE

Date of birth:22nd August 1943Place of birth:Ormskirk, Lancs., UKResidence:Brenton-on-Sea, Knysna, Western Cape

QUALIFICATIONS

- **1965** MA (Cantab) Mechanical Engineering
- 2001 BSc (cum laude) Zoology & Botany (UNISA)
- 2002 BSc (Hons) (cum laude) Environmental Science (Potchefstroom University)
- Specialising in Biodiversity and Conservation biology
- 2006 PhD in Environmental Sciences North-West University. Thesis entitled "The ecology and conservation of the Brenton Blue"

ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT CAREER

1965 – 1993	Nchanga Consolidated Cpper Mines, Zambia
	Assistant Divisional Engineer
	Maintenance engineering and management
1973-1979	Palabora Mining Company
	Assistant General Manager
	Operations and maintenance management, mechanical engineering and extractive metallurgy,
	general management
1979-1993	LTA Process Engineering
	Managing Director
	General management, marketing, project engineering and management, design engineering,
	procurement and construction management.

LEPIDOPTERISTS'S SOCIETY OF AFRICA (LEPSOC AFRICA)

- 1983 Founder member
- 1984–1986 Council member
- **1993–2016** Representative Southern Cape
- 2008–2011 Treasurer
- 2011–2018 Editor *Metamorphosis,* a scientific journal dedicated to the study of African Lepidoptera

CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

- **1993–1996** Leading role-player in the campaign to save Brenton Blue
- 1995–2018 Brenton Blue Management Committee member and leader of research programme
- 1999–2018 Knysna Environmental Forum Co-chairman
- 2005–2018 Brenton Blue Trust Trustee
- 2008–2013 South African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA)
 - Digitised own collection of over 8000 specimens of South African butterflies. Project leader for the southern Cape an area of 60 000 sq. km, supervising three other field workers. Field surveys yielded over 2500 new species–QDGS records. Editor of South African Butterfly Atlas, lead author for Chapters 3 and 4 (see publications below). Authored over 100 species accounts (out of 800)
- 2011–2018 Leader of the Conservation of Rare and Endangered Lepidoptera (COREL) programme for South Africa, including being "Custodian" for six species.
- 2015-2018 Project Director for the South African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA) project carried out for the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- 2015-2018 Taxon Lead Butterflies for the BioGaps project to establish the biological diversity of the 'Shale Gas Fracking' area of the Karoo
- 2015-2018 Project Coordinator of the "Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity" project to obtain DNA samples for all c. 800 South African butterfly species

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Dave Edge & Associates Environmental Consulting

Sparrebosch, Knysna	
Roodefontein, Plettenberg Bay	I
Pezula Estate, Knysna	l
	Sparrebosch, Knysna Roodefontein, Plettenberg Bay Pezula Estate, Knysna

Detailed butterfly surveys for EIA and monitoring Butterfly surveys for scoping report and EIA Preliminary assessment of butterfly potential

2004 - 2006Paradise Coast, Mossel BayButt2004 - 2005Pezula@Hunters, KnysnaButt2004 - 2006Uitzicht 216-176, KnysnaButt2004 - 2008Pierpoint Nature Estate, KnysnaButt2005 - 2006Erf 4016 Eastford, KnysnaButt2006 - 2007Stilbaai Farm 485/51Butt2006 - 2008Destiny Africa, GeorgeButt2008Escom, Nuclear Power StationsPrel2009Pierpoint Nature Estate, KnysnaRes2009Destiny Africa, GeorgeButt2011 - 2012Uitzicht 216-77, BrentonBiod2012Green View Estate, Mossel BayButt2015Zeelandsnek, OudtshoornButt2016 - 2019Entabeni Estate, KnysnaMar2016 - 2019Uitzicht 216-71 & 72, BrentonButt2016 - 2019Uitzicht 216-71 & 72, BrentonButt2017 - 2019HartenbosheuwelsButt2019Abalone Hatchery, GouritsmondDes2019Uitlage-on-Sea, Mossel BayButt2019Village-on-Sea, Mossel BayButt2019Village-on-Sea, Mossel BayButt	tterfly survey for scoping report and EIA tterfly survey for scoping report and EIA tterfly survey for scoping report tterfly survey for scoping report eliminary assessment of butterfly potential search programme to establish ecology of <i>A. almeida</i> tailed butterfly surveys (3 power station sites) odiversity survey for scoping report tterfly survey for scoping report angement plan for butterfly reserve A for development proposal tterfly survey sk top study – butterflies tterfly survey tterfly survey tterfly survey tterfly survey
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ACADEMIC CAREER

2009-2014

North-West University (Potchefstroom)

Senior Lecturer

Developed new post graduate teaching module for "Conservation Ecology" Lectured to postgraduate (honours and masters) students on Conservation Ecology; including setting and marking assignments and examination papers.

AWARDS

- **1998** The Habitat Council "for outstanding achievements in the field of environmental conservation and management for his role in helping to secure the habitat of the endangered Brenton Blue butterfly"
- 2003 LepSoc Africa June 2003 Chairman's Award "for the most significant contribution to African Lepidoptera conservation for the period July 2002 June 2003"
- **2013** LepSoc Africa October 2013 President's Award "for his passion and commitment leading the development and completion of the new e-*Metamorphosis* web journal.
- **2015** LepSoc Africa August 2015 Honorary Life Membership.
- **2018** LepSoc Africa September 2018 President's Award "in acknowledgement of his tireless work and commitment to the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa".

PUBLICATIONS IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

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(Trimen) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae). *Metamorphosis* 7(3): 109–120

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