SITE VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENT FOR PORTION 1 OF FARM 331 AND PORTION 4 OF FARM RHEEBOKSFONTEIN 142, MID-BRAK, WESTERN CAPE

Animal Species

Date:	30 DECEMBER 2025
Version:	Draft
Author:	JA van der Walt (Pr. Sci. Nat: 116549)
EAP:	Sharples Environmental Services
Applicant:	De Jager Brothers

ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VEGETATION UNITS	**Hartenbos Dune Thicket**: This is the only vegetation mapped on the property (Vegmap 2024). The conservation status of this vegetation unit is **Endangered.**
VEGETATION CONDITION	The vegetation on the property is degraded due to invasive alien vegetation, historical sandmining, and 4x4 vehicle tracks.
VEGETATION SIZE	The property is 15,24 ha in size, and the proposed development intends to clear 9,47 ha of natural vegetation on the property.
LANDUSE PLANNING	Approximately 95% of the property is regarded as Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA1 and CBA2). The remaining 5% is roads.
CONNECTIVITY	The property is situated between major roads, agricultural areas, and urban development.
ANIMAL SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN	No animal SOCC were recorded during the two-day field survey, and it is highly unlikely that any of the SOCC recorded for the larger Reebok area on iNaturalist, SABAP2, and the Virtual Museum will ever utilize the habitat on the property for feeding or breeding.
MAIN CONCLUSIONS	The property has been assessed as having **Low** sensitivity from an animal species perspective, contrary to the **High** rating assigned in the Environmental Screening Tool. This determination is supported by information gathered during a desktop and field survey of the property. The specialist sees no need for a specialist animal assessment and is confident in the findings captured in this report. The management focus for the property should be the removal of alien vegetation to preserve the natural vegetation for the native fauna in the proposed open spaces.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 5 OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (NEMA), ACT 107 OF 1998:

I, Johannes Adriaan van der Walt, ID: 6706225172085, declare that:

• I act as the independent environmental specialist in this report.

• I will perform the work relating to the report objectively, 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 environmental impact assessments and specialist reports, 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 do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal, or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST:

Johannes Adriaan van der Walt

Tel: +27 (82) 305 8945

Email: admin@aecorp.co.za

Signature **Date:** 30 December 2025

Abridged Curriculum Vitae – Johannes Adriaan van der Walt

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Professional Natural Scientist: South African Council for Natural Science Professionals (SACNASP) nr116549

QUALIFICATIONS

MTech Nature Conservation (cum laude) 2014, CPUT

BTech Nature Conservation (cum laude) 2012, CPUT

NDip Nature Conservation (cum laude) 1994, CPUT

LANGUAGES

English – fluent
Afrikaans – fluent

EXPERIENCE

37 years of biodiversity conservation and botanical experience in the Fynbos and Succulent Karoo Biomes

EMPLOYMENT

1988 – 2006 CapeNature

2007 – 2010 Botanical Insight cc

2010 - 2017 CapeNature

2017 – present: Director at Advanced Environmental Corporation (Pty) Ltd and Fynbos Fish Trust Trustee

BOTANICAL, ANIMAL, AND BIODIVERSITY EXPERTISE WAS GAINED THROUGH:

- Employment as a nature conservationist with CapeNature for 25 years;
- biodiversity assessments (including botanical, animal species, and biodiversity) since 1994;
- participating as a SANBI-CREW volunteer for botanical assessments for threatened plants;
- participating in the Protea Atlas project as a volunteer;
- contributing as a Red-list assessor for a selection of Fynbos species;
- conservation initiatives for threatened flora with CapeNature;
- compliance monitoring of wildflower shows (Clanwilliam, Leipoldtville, Porterville, Tulbagh, and Darling) between 1994 and 2006;
- compilation of species lists for protected areas;
- compilation of specialist botanical assessments for DEA&DP and private landowners since 2017;
- discovering five new plant species in the CFR since 2019;
- keeping up to date with new plant descriptions and taxonomic revisions in the CFR and
- keeping an extensive private collection of applicable literature, including field guides and other botanical reference books.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Author and co-author of 14 biodiversity conservation and botanical scientific papers

CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Portion 1 of farm 331 and portion 4 of farm Rheeboksfontein 142, is a 15,24-ha undeveloped linear property between the N1 National Road and the R102 Provincial Road next to Reebok in the Southern Cape. The owners intend to divide the property into approximately 154 erven as part of a residential development. The proposed development triggers environmental regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and requires environmental authorization. The owners of the property have appointed Sharples Environmental Services cc to undertake the environmental aspects of the development. Sharples Environmental Services cc appointed Riaan van der Walt, an independent environmental scientist, to conduct the specialist reports (plants, animals, and terrestrial biodiversity) that are required as part of the environmental authorisation process.

1.2 Environmental Screening Tool Report

Regulation 16(1)(b)(v) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations requires that an applicant for an Environmental Authorisation submit a report generated by the Environmental Screening Tool as part of their application. This tool, developed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE), became operational on July 5, 2019, as announced in the Government Gazette. The screening tool report will identify the environmental sensitivities that intersect with the proposed development footprint as defined by the applicant, as well as the relevant protocols that the applicant would need to follow. The screening tool is accessible at https://screening.environment.gov.za.

An environmental screening tool report for the proposed development was completed on the 20th of August 2025. A **"High"** environmental sensitivity rating was indicated for the Animal Species theme. As per the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes (Animal Species) in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation (October 2020), "*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 "**high sensitivity**" for animal species, must submit either a Animal Species Specialist Assessment Report or an Animal Species Compliance Statement, depending on the outcome of a site inspection/site sensitivity verification undertaken*".

The site sensitivity verification was conducted on 26 October 2025 and 30 November 2025, and the outcome, as reported in **Section 7** of this report, indicated a **low sensitivity** towards Animal Species and therefore a compliance statement was compiled and included in this report.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 Site verification

-The assessment must contextualize the study area to provide a baseline description of the ecological system; the terrestrial plant biodiversity and any significant terrestrial features must be provided.

-The assessment must identify the following:

- Terrestrial critical biodiversity areas (CBAs)
- Terrestrial ecological support areas (ESAs)
- Protected areas as defined by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2004
- Priority areas for protected area expansion
- Strategic water source areas (SWSAs)
- Freshwater ecosystem priority area (FEPA) sub catchments
- Indigenous forests

-Undertake a site visit and ground-truth biodiversity information. Where required, undertake baseline surveys and/or studies to supplement the information base and inform the assessment. The site inspection to determine the presence or likely presence of SCC must be undertaken in accordance with the Species Environmental Assessment Guidelines.

-Estimate the trajectory of change in the context of the 'No-Go' Alternative due to existing impacts.

-Assessment criteria to be aligned with the promulgated Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes (October 2020).

Following the site verification visit, in which the Specialist confirms the presence, likely presence, or confirmed absence of an SCC identified within the site identified as "high" sensitivity by the screening tool, the Specialist is to confirm the need for a Compliance Statement or a Terrestrial Animal Species Assessment and undertake this report/statement following the Gazetted Protocol (October 2020).

2.2 Compliance Statement requirements

The Compliance Statement must:

- apply to the study area;
- confirm that the study area is of "low" sensitivity for terrestrial animal species; and
- Indicate whether or not the proposed development will have any impact on SCC.

Minimum requirements include:

- contact details and relevant experience as well as the SACNASP registration number of the specialist preparing the compliance statement, including a curriculum vitae;
- a signed statement of independence by the specialist;
- a statement on the duration, date, and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment;
- a description of the methodology used to undertake the site survey and prepare the compliance statement, including equipment and modelling used where relevant;
- the mean density of observations/ number of sample sites per unit area.
- where required, proposed impact management actions and outcomes or any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr (if none are required, this should be stated);
- a description of the assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data; and
- any conditions to which the compliance statement is subjected

2.3. Legal requirements applicable to the specialists conducting assessments

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations that were published on 4 December 2014 and amended on 7 April 2017, state that:

(1) an EAP and a specialist, appointed in terms of regulation 12(1) or 12(2), must-

(a) be independent;

(b) have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments or undertaking specialist work as required, including knowledge of the Act, these Regulations, and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;

(c) ensure compliance with these Regulations;

(d) perform the work relating to the application objectively, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the application;

(e) take into account, to the extent possible, the matters referred to in regulation 18 when preparing the application and any report, plan, or document relating to the application; and

(f) disclose to the proponent or applicant, registered interested and affected parties and the competent authority all material information in the possession of the EAP and, where applicable, the specialist, that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing-

(i) any decision to be taken concerning the application by the competent authority in terms of these Regulations; or

(ii) the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by the EAP or specialist, in terms of these Regulations for submission to the competent authority; unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case it must be indicated that such protected information exists and is only provided to the competent authority.

(2) In the event where the EAP or specialist does not comply with sub-regulation (1)(a), the proponent or applicant must, before conducting public participation as contemplated in chapter 5 of these Regulations, appoint another EAP or specialist to externally review all work undertaken by the EAP or specialist, at the applicant's cost.

(3) An EAP or specialist appointed to externally review the work of an EAP or specialist as contemplated in sub-regulation (2) must comply with sub-regulation (1).

2.4 Report Content Requirements

The following legislation and guideline documents are applicable and were adhered to in compiling this report:

2.4.1 Guidelines documents

a) Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guidelines for Involving Biodiversity Specialists in the EIA Process (Brownlie 2005).

b) Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessments in the Western Cape (Cadman 2016).

c) The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbook (Pool-Stanvliet *et al*. 2017)

d) South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), 2020. Species Environmental Assessment Guideline. Guidelines for the implementation of the Terrestrial Fauna and Terrestrial Flora Species Protocols for environmental impact assessments in South Africa. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria. Version 3.1. 2022.

2.4.2 Legal documents

a) 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") (GN No. 320 as published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020) came into effect on 09 May 2020 the Protocol.

b) Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations (National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

3. LIMITATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The field surveys for this report were conducted on October 26 and November 30, 2025. This timing is ideal for animal species assessments, unlike botanical assessments. The property's size and topography also allowed for a thorough assessment over two days. The specialist is confident in the findings of this report.

4. STUDY AREA

4.1 Location

The study area, comprising Portion 1 of Farm 331 and Portion 4 of Farm Rheeboksfontein 142, is situated to the north of Reebok, between the Klein Brak River and Groot Brak River, as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

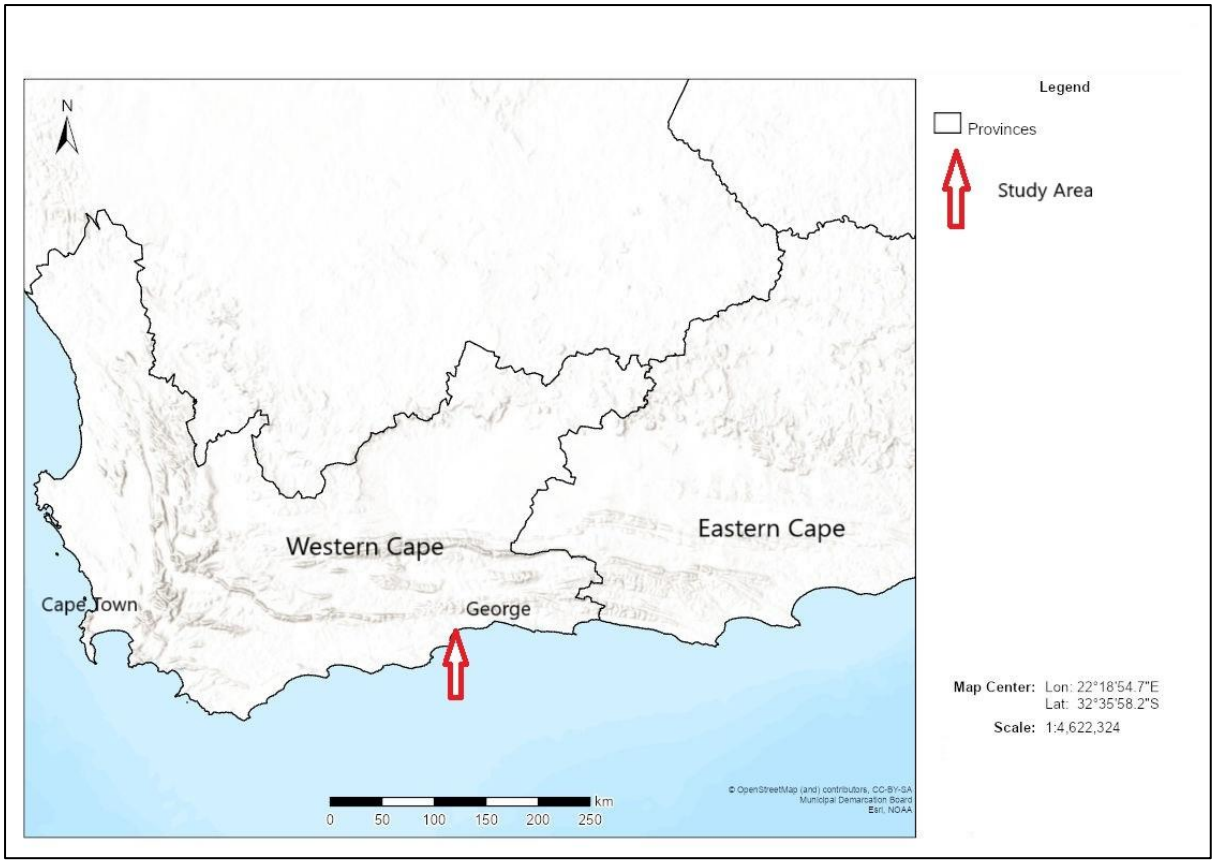

Figure 1. Map showing the location of the study area.

The study area (Portion 1 of farm 331 and Portion 4 of farm Rheeboksfontein 142) covers 15.24 hectares, and the boundary is shown in **Figure 2** below. The linear property is situated between the N2 (National Road) and the R102 (Provincial Road). About 95% of the land is covered by natural vegetation. Transformed areas consist of roads, 4x4 tracks, and stormwater drainage infrastructure.

North of the study area features varied agriculture, including crops, livestock, and horticulture. South of the site is a densely built residential area with a few open spaces containing natural vegetation. **Figure 3** is a photo of the central study area that indicates the natural vegetation and the cultivated agricultural areas north of the property.

Figure 2. Map showing the boundary of the study area north of Reebok

Figure 3: General photo of the property with the agricultural areas in the background

4.2 Proposed Development Footprint (PDI) and Project Area of Influence (PAOI)

The owners intend to develop the property for residential housing. The different categories of development planned for the property are displayed in **Table 1** and **Figure 4**.

Table 1: Proposed development categories for the property

Area and description	**Size in Ha**
General residential erven x 143	4,61
Utility Zones x 3 (pumpstation, electrical sub-station, refuse collection)	0,1
Open space 2	2,06
Open space 3 (conservation)	3,71
Transport zones (roads)	4,76
Total Ha of property/study area	**15,24**

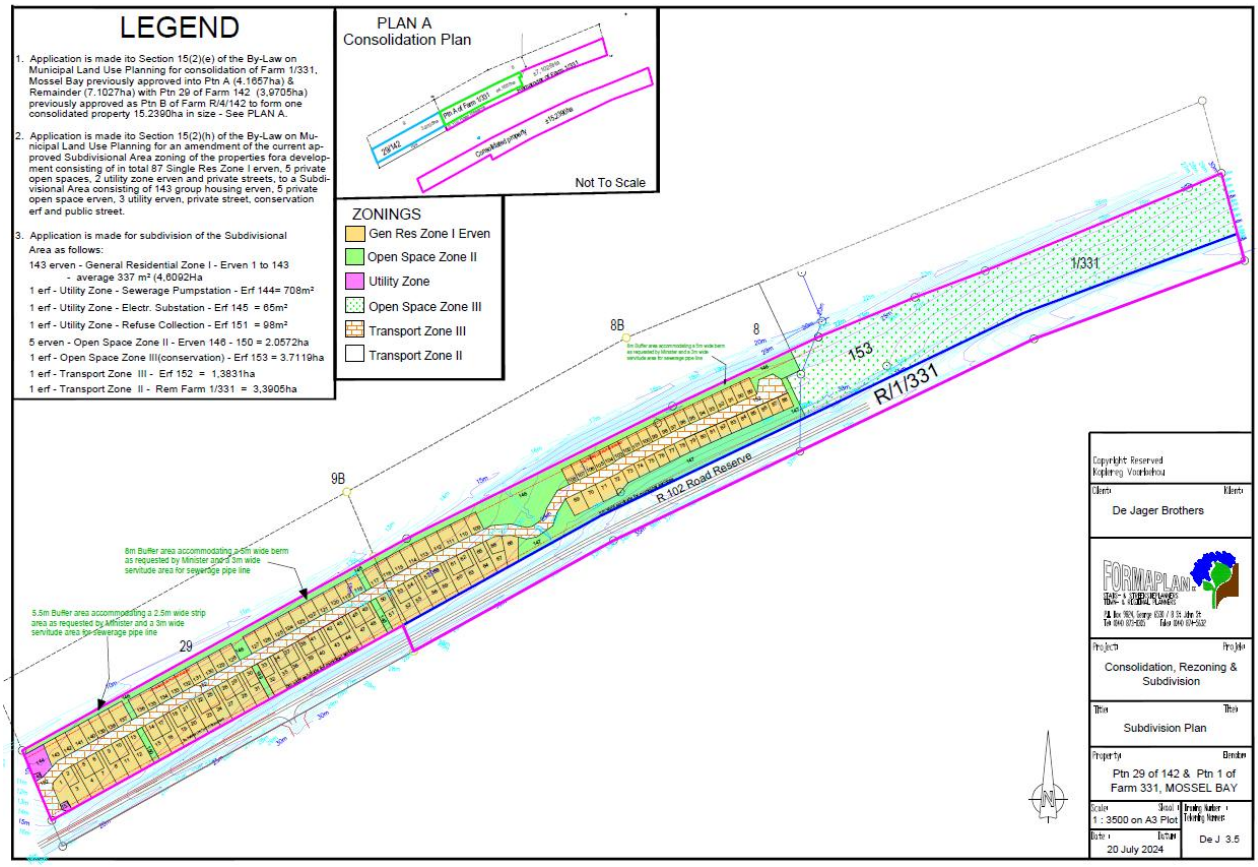

Figure 4: Development plan for the property/study area. (Orange= 143 general residential erven, pink= utility zones, Green= open spaces, White= transport zones)

The development proposal will effectively clear 9,47 ha of natural vegetation if approved.

5. METHODOLOGY

The specialist used various sources of information to assess the sensitivity of the animal species on the property

5.1.1 **The Environmental Screening Tool Report**: The environmental screening tool report indicates the sensitivity of the animal theme across the property and also lists threatened and sensitive animal species that could potentially occur on the property and the general area.

5.1.2 **CapeFarmMapper 3**: The following spatial data were obtained from CapeFarmMapper 3 (CFM 3). CMF 3 is GIS software provided by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, available at https://gis.elsenburg.com/apps/cfm/.

- Vegetation units
- Vegetation unit threat status
- Spatial planning data: Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas.

5.1.3 **iNaturalist**: iNaturalist is a crowdsourced species identification system and an organism occurrence recording tool. Sightings are graded, and only research-grade sighting is used in specialist assessments.

5.1.4 **Google Earth**: Google Earth is a web and computer program created by Google that renders a 3D representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery but also on street-level views. This imagery is useful when historical aerial imagery is needed for a proposed development footprint. It also gives a good perspective of the level of transformation before a field assessment is undertaken.

5.1.5. **South African Bird Atlas Project** (SABAP2) for pentad 3400_2210.

5.1.6 **Virtual Museum** for Invertebrate and Mammal Species of Conservation Concern

5.2 Field Assessment

The field assessment was undertaken across two days, specifically on October 26 and November 30, 2025. During these assessments, the specialist systematically surveyed the study area by traversing the area in a grid pattern. Data collection was meticulously carried out throughout this process. All animal species were noted, photographed, and identified on-site if possible. Animals and animal tracks that could not be identified during the field survey were later identified using available literature and taxonomic experts.

6. CLIMATE, TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY, AND SOILS

6.1 Climate

The Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP) for the Reebok area is approximately 450mm, with approximately 40% of the rain falling in summer (October–March) and 60% in winter (April–September). Mean daily maximum and minimum temperatures are 26.8°C and 7.7°C for February and July, respectively (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).

6.2 Topography, geology, and soils

The study area is located inland of the coastal dunes at Reebok. The area is generally flat with a slight north-to-south aspect, as indicated in **Figure 5**. The highest elevation on the property is at 33 metres above sea level (MASL), while the lowest point is at 8 MASL. The study area is covered by deep sand with no exposed bedrock.

Figure 5: Map indicating the aspect and 5 m contours on the study area.

7. RESULTS: DESKTOP ASSESSMENT: ANIMAL SPECIES

7.1 Environmental Screening Tool Results

Regulation 16(1)(b)(v) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations requires an applicant for an Environmental Authorisation to submit a report generated by the Environmental Screening Tool as part of their application. This tool became operational on 5 July 2019, as announced in the Government Gazette. The screening tool report will identify the environmental sensitivities that intersect with the proposed development footprint, as defined by the applicant, as well as the relevant protocols that the applicant must follow. The screening tool is accessible at https://screening.environment.gov.za. The Environmental Screening Tool Report for the property rated the animal species theme as **High** sensitivity. The image from the Environmental Screening Tool Report is displayed in **Figure 6.**

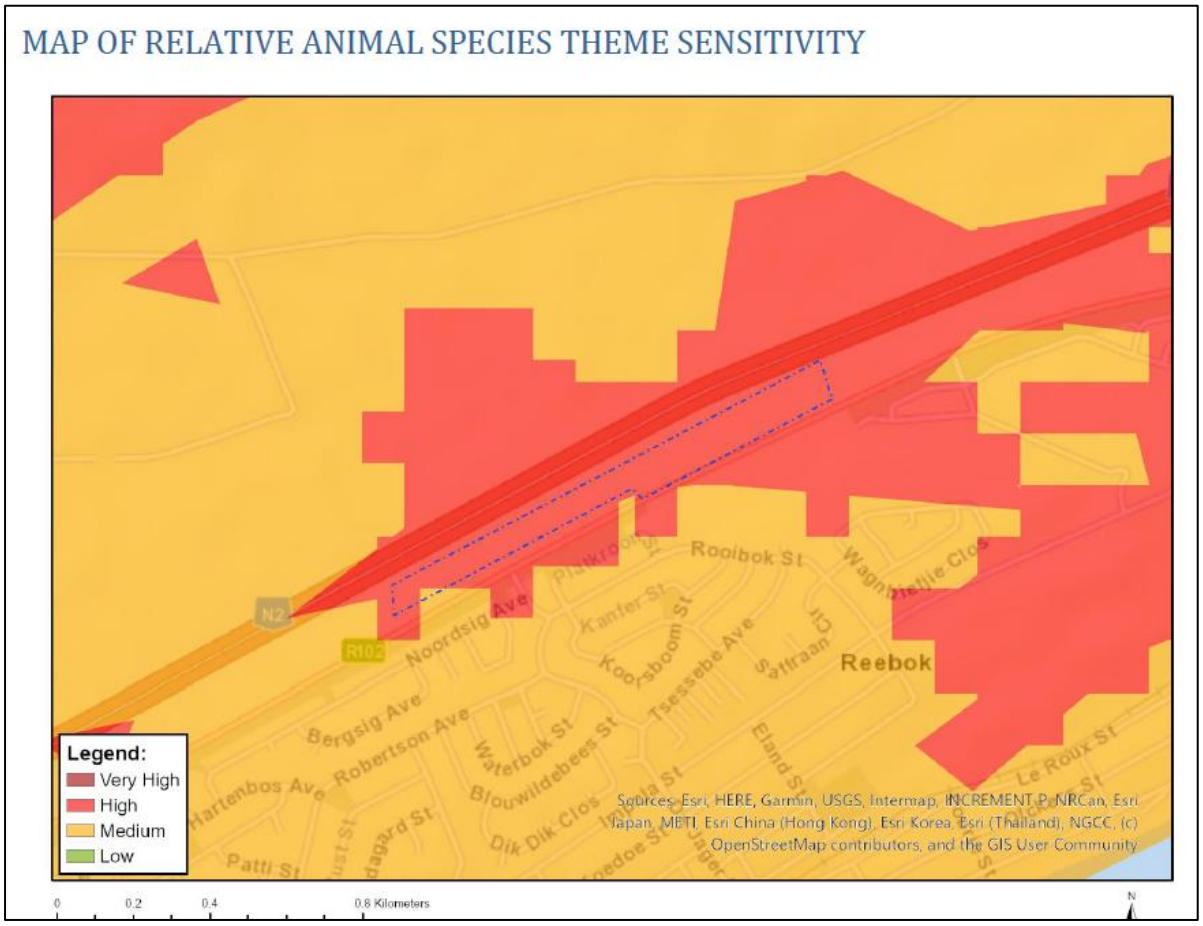

Figure 6: Map indicating the animal species theme sensitivity rating of the property

The Environmental Screening Tool report also lists the features that are responsible for the rating, and these are displayed in **Table 2**. These features and ratings will be reported on in **Section 7** of this report.

Table 2: List of animal species and their sensitivity ratings as recorded in the Environmental Screening Tool report

Sensitivity	Animal group	Species	Red List Status	iNat sightings
High	Aves	*Circus ranivorus* African marsh harrier	EN	No
High	Aves	*Hydroprogne caspia* Caspian Tern	VU	No
High	Aves	*Neotis denhami* Denham's Bustard	VU	No
High	Aves	*Bradypterus sylvaticus* Knysna Warbler	NT	No
High	Aves	*Polemaetus bellicosus* Martial Eagle	EN	No
Medium	Insecta	*Aloeides thyra orientis* Brenton Red Copper	EN	No
Medium	Sensitive species	NA	VU	No
Medium	Sensitive species	NA	VU	No
Medium	Invertebrate	*Aneuryphymus montanus* Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper	VU	No

6.5.2 iNaturalist sightings

None of the nine SOCC animal species listed in the environmental screening tool report (**Table 2**) was recorded on iNaturalist on the property. There were three research-grade iNaturalist SOCC animal sightings (**Table 3**) within a 500 m radius of the property.

Table 3: Research-grade animal SOCC observations from iNaturalist within 10km of Erf 4799

Animal Group	Species	Common name	Red List Status
Aves	*Phalacrocorax capensis*	Cape Cormorant	EN
Aves	*Falco biarmicus*	Lanner Falcon	VU
Aves	*Grus paradiseus*	Blue Crane	NT

6.5.3 South African Bird Atlas Project

Table4 presents the SOCC from the South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2) for pentads 3400_2210 and 3400_2205, covering Reebok. It also shows each bird's conservation status.

Table 4: Species of Conservation Concern (Birds) recorded for pentads 3400_2210 and 3400_2205 in SABAP2

Scientific Name	Common name	Red List Status
Alcedo semitorquata	Half-collared Kingfisher	NT
Aquila verreauxii	Verreaux's Eagle	VU

Bradypterus sylvaticus	Knysna Warbler	VU
Buteo trizonatus	Forest Buzard	NT
Campethera notata	Knysna Woodpecker	NT
Certhilauda brevirostris	Agullas Long-billed Lark	NT
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	VU
Circus Maurus	Black Harrier	EN
Circus ranivorus	African Marsh Harrier	EN
Coracias garrulus	European Roller	NT
Falco biamicus	Lanner Falcon	VU
Grus paradisea	Blue Crane	NT
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian tern	VU
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit	NT
Morus capensis	Cape Gannet	VU
Neotis denhami	Denhams Bustard	NT
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	NT
Phalacrocorax capensis	Cape Cormarant	EN
Phoeniconaias minor	Lesser Flamingo	NT
Phoeniconaias roseus	Greater Flamingo	NT
Polemaetus bellicosus	Martial Eagle	VN
Procellaria aequinoctialis	White chinned Petrel	VN
Sagittarius serpentarius	Secretarybird	VU
Stercorarius antarcticus	Brown Skua	EN

6.5.4 Virtual Museum

The Virtual Museum has been used to obtain terrestrial invertebrate and mammal species listed as SOCC for the general area near the property. These species and their current Red List status are displayed in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Species of Conservation Concern from the Virtual Museum for the general Area around Reebok

Scientific Name	Common name	Red List Status
Invertebrates		
Aloeides pallida ittoralis	Knysna Pale Copper	NT
Aloeides trimeni souteyae	Trimen's copper	EN
Ceratogomphus triceraticus	Cape Thorntail Dragonfly	NT
Circelliun bacchus	Flightless Dung Beetle	VU
Lepidochrysops littoralis	Coastal Nimble Blue	EN
Mammals		
Damaliscus pygargus pygargus	Bontebok	VU
Poecilogale albinucha	African Striped Weasel	NT

7. RESULTS: FIELD ASSESSMENT

7.1 Species of Conservation Concern listed in the Environmental Screening Tool report

The specialist did not observe any of the nine SOCC listed in the Environmental Screening Tool report during the two-day field survey. **Table 7** lists these species and also indicates habitat availability and the degree of potential occurrence.

Table 7: SOCC listed in the Environmental Screening Tool report

Sensitivity	Animal group	Species	Red List Status	Sightings	Habitat and likelihood of occurrence
High	Aves	*Circus ranivorus* African marsh harrier	EN	No	Limited habitat, very low
High	Aves	*Hydroprogne caspia* Caspian Tern	VU	No	No habitat, extremely low
High	Aves	*Neotis denhami* Denham's Bustard	VU	No	No habitat, very low
High	Aves	*Bradypterus sylvaticus* Knysna Warbler	NT	No	No habitat, extremely low
High	Aves	*Polemaetus bellicosus* Martial Eagle	EN	No	No habitat, extremely low
Medium	Insecta	*Aloeides thyra orientis* Brenton Red Copper	EN	No	No habitat, extremely low
Medium	Sensitive species	NA	VU	No	No habitat, extremely low
Medium	Sensitive species	NA	VU	No	No habitat, extremely low
Medium	Invertebrate	*Aneuryphymus montanus* Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper	VU	No	No habitat, extremely low

7.2 iNaturalist Species of Conservation Concern sightings

The specialist did not observe any of the three animal SOCC sightings that were recorded on iNaturalist within a 500 m radius of the property during the two-day field survey. **Table 8** lists these species and also indicates habitat availability and the degree of potential occurrence.

Table 8: Research-grade animal SOCC observations from iNaturalist within 500 m of the property

Animal Group	Species	Common name	Red List Status	Sightings during field surveys	Habitat and likelihood of occurrence
Aves	*Phalacrocorax capensis*	Cape Cormorant	EN	No	No habitat on property, extremely low
Aves	*Falco biarmicus*	Lanner Falcon	VU	No	Limited prey habitat and no breeding habitat, very low
Aves	*Grus paradiseus*	Blue Crane	NT	No	No habitat on property, iNat sightings are from open agricultural areas north of the N1 road.

7.3 Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 of Conservation Concern sightings

The specialist did not observe any of the 25 animal SOCC sightings that were recorded on SABAP2 for pentads 3400_2210 and 3400_2205 during the two-day field survey. **Table 9** lists these species and also indicates habitat availability and the degree of potential occurrence.

Table 9: Bird Species of Conservation Concern (Birds) recorded for pentads 3400_2210 and 3400_2205 in SABAP2

Scientific Name	Common name	Sightings	Red List Status	Habitat and likelihood of occurrence
Alcedo semitorquata	Half-collared Kingfisher	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Aquila verreauxii	Verreaux's Eagle	No	VU	No habitat Extremely low
Bradypterus sylvaticus	Knysna Warbler	No	VU	No habitat Extremely low
Buteo trizonatus	Forest Buzard	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Campethera notata	Knysna Woodpecker	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Certhilauda brevirostris	Agulhas Long-billed Lark	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	No	VU	No habitat Extremely low
Circus Maurus	Black Harrier	No	EN	Limited habitat Low
Circus ranivorus	African Marsh Harrier	No	EN	No habitat Low
Coracias garrulus	European Roller	No	NT	No habitat

				Low
Falco biamicus	Lanner Falcon	No	VU	No habitat Very low
Grus paradisea	Blue Crane	No	NT	No habitat Low
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian tern	No	VU	No habitat Extremely low
Limosa lapponica	Bar-tailed Godwit	No	NT	No habitat Low
Morus capensis	Cape Gannet	No	VU	No habitat Extremely low
Neotis denhami	Denham's Bustard	No	NT	No habitat Very low
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Phalacrocorax capensis	Cape Cormarant	No	EN	No habitat Extremely low
Phoeniconaias minor	Lesser Flamingo	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Phoeniconaias roseus	Greater Flamingo	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Polemaetus bellicosus	Martial Eagle	No	VN	No habitat Extremely low
Procellaria aequinoctialis	White-chinned Petrel	No	VN	No habitat Extremely low
Sagittarius serpentarius	Secretary bird	No	VU	Limited habitat Very low
Stercorarius antarcticus	Brown Skua	No	EN	No habitat Extremely low

7.4 Virtual Museum SOCC

The Virtual Museum has been used to obtain terrestrial invertebrate and mammal species listed as SOCC for the Quarter Degree Square 3422AA. **Table 10** lists these species and also indicates if these species were observed during the field survey. The habitat availability and likelihood of occurrence are also indicated in the table.

Table 10: Species of Conservation Concern listed in the Virtual Museum for the

Scientific Name	Common name	Sightings	Status	Habitat and likelihood of occurrence
Invertebrates				
Aloeides pallida ittoralis	Knysna Pale Copper	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low
Aloeides trimeni souteyae	Trimen's copper	No	EN	No habitat Extremely low
Ceratogomphus triceraticus	Cape Thorntail Dragonfly	No	NT	No habitat Extremely low

Circelliun bacchus	Flightless Dung Beetle	No	VU	No habitat Extremely low
Lepidochrysops littoralis	Coastal Nimble Blue		EN	Limited habitat Extremely low
Mammals				
Damaliscus pygargus pygargus	Bontebok		VU	The limited habitat and size of the area are not adequate
Poecilogale albinucha	African Striped Weasel		NT	Limited habitat Low

7.5 Observations by the specialist during the field surveys.

The specialist did not observe an animal SOCC on the property. The largest animal observed was the Cape grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*). Currently, the property provides habitat for a variety of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects on 15.25 ha.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The site sensitivity is verified to be **Low** from an animal species perspective and not **High** as rated in the Environmental Screening Tool report. This finding is based on:

- The animal SOCC listed in the environmental screening tool report does not occur on or near the property. The habitat is not available on the property and is outside their natural distribution range. The property is also relatively small and isolated between major roads and urban areas.
- No animal SOCC observed and listed on all the other platforms (iNaturalist, SABAP2, VM) has been recorded on the property, and in all cases, the habitat is not suited for these species.
- The specialist did not observe any animal SOCC (sightings, spoor, droppings) during the two-day field survey.
- The animal diversity will decline on the property due to the ongoing invasion of alien vegetation.
- The total removal of the alien vegetation should be incorporated into the Environmental Management Plan (EMPr). An alien vegetation control plan should form part of the EMPr.

9. PROPOSED IMPACT MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES OR ANY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

- Alien vegetation control plan that should be compiled by an experienced specialist and incorporated into the EMPr

REFERENCES

Brownlie, S. 2006. Guideline for involving biodiversity specialists in EIA processes: Edition 1. CSIR Report No ENV-S-C 2005 053 C. Republic of South Africa, Provincial Government of the Western Cape, Department of Environmental Affairs & Development Planning, Cape Town.

Cadman, M. (ed.) 2016. Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape, Edition 2. Fynbos Forum, Cape Town.

DEA 2022. Revised National List of Ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection. Government Gazette No. 47526. Government Printer, Pretoria.

Lee ATK, Rose S, Banda S, Bezeng SB, Maphalala MI, Maphisa DH, Smit-Robinson HA (eds), The 2025 Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini. Johannesburg, South Africa: BirdLife South Africa.

Mercenero, S., Ball, J.B., Edge, D.A., Hamer, M., Henning, G., Kruger, M. and Williams, M.C., 2013. Conservation Assessment of Butterflies of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland: Red List and atlas S. Mercenero, JB Ball, DA Edge, M. Hamer, G. Henning, M. Kruger, & MC Williams (Eds.)(1st edn). Saftronics & Animal Demography Unit, University of Cape Town.

Pence, G. 2017. Western Cape Spatial Biodiversity Plan. CapeNature, Cape Town, South Africa.

Pool-Stanvliet, R., Duffell-Canham, A., Pence, G. & Smart, R. 2017. The Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan Handbook. Stellenbosch: CapeNature.

Rutherford, M.C. and Mucina, L. 2006. Introduction. In: Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds), The vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland: 3-10. SANBI, Pretoria.

SANBI 2018, Vegetation Map of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland [vector geospatial dataset] 2018. website http://bgis.sanbi.org/

SANBI. 2018. Using CBA Maps to support land-use planning and decision-making. SANBI Factsheet Series. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

SANBI 2021 South Africa's Terrestrial Red List of Ecosystems (RLE): Technical report on the revision of the "List of terrestrial ecosystems that are threatened and in need of protection". Report 7639. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria, South Africa. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/7639.

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). 2019. National Biodiversity Assessment 2018: The status of South Africa's ecosystems and biodiversity. Synthesis Report. South African National Biodiversity Institute, an entity of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Pretoria. http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12143/6362

Turner, A.A. (ed) 2017. Western Cape Province State of Biodiversity 2017. CapeNature Scientific Services, Stellenbosch.

Venter, J., Seydack, A., Ehlers-Smith, Y., Uys, R. & Child, M.F. 2016. A conservation assessment of Philantomba monticola. The Red List of Mammals of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho. South African National Biodiversity Institute and Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa.