

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Cube Octhahedron Diamonds (Pty) Ltd

Olievenput Diamond Prospecting Operation



Address: PostNet Suite #194 Private Bag X2 Diamond 8305

Tel: 082 992 1261 Email: BosciaEcology@gmail.com

Cube Octhahedron Diamonds (Pty) Ltd

The Farm Doornbult 209

The Farm Atbara 452

The Farm Klippan 768

Portion 1 of the Farm De Hoop 767

The Farm Graspan 772

The Farm Spyker 779

Remaining Extent of the Farm Armenia 804

The Farm Vaaldam 1132

The Farm Witput 1134

Remaining Extent of Portion 1, Portion 2, Portion 3, Portion 8 (a portion of Portion 3) and Portion 10 of the Farm Olievenput 1594
The Farm 1730

District of Boshof

Free State Province

Ecological Assessment Report in application for Environmental Authorisation related to a Prospecting Right Application (FS 30/5/1/1/2/10564 PR) that was lodged with the Department of Mineral Resources

March 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cube Octhahedron Diamonds (Pty) Ltd is proposing the prospecting of diamonds on the Farm Doornbult 209, the Farm Atbara 452, the Farm Klippan 768, Portion 1 of the Farm De Hoop 767, the Farm Graspan 772, the Farm Spyker 779, Remaining Extent of the Farm Armenia 804, the Farm Vaaldam 1132, the Farm Witput 1134, Remaining Extent of Portion 1, Portion 2, Portion 3, Portion 8 (a portion of Portion 3) and Portion 10 of the Farm Olievenput 1594 and the Farm 1730. The prospecting right area is located within the Boshof District of the Free State Province. Cube Octhahedron Diamonds has submitted a Prospecting Right application, which triggers the requirement to apply for Environmental Authorisation. An ecological assessment is required in order to consider the impacts that the proposed activities might have on the ecological integrity of the property. This terrestrial ecological assessment report describes the ecological characteristics and biodiversity of the proposed prospecting area, identifies the source of impacts from the operation, and assesses these impacts, as well as the residual impacts after closure.

A desktop study was performed to obtain ecological and biodiversity information for the proposed study area and identify the ecological characteristics and sensitivity of the site. Four potential plant communities were identified on site of which the ephemeral drainage lines and ephemeral pans are considered to be of very high sensitivity. The grassland vegetation unit in the northern half of the study area is considered to be of high sensitivity, while the thornveld vegetation unit in the south is considered to be of medium sensitivity. The area transformed by historic mining is considered to be of low sensitivity. The most profound impacts are expected to be related to the loss of plant species of conservation concern as well as the disruption of ecological corridors and the hydrological regime if the ephemeral pans and ephemeral drainage lines are modified through road creation or drill pad establishment.

A high number of provincially protected plant species are likely to occur on site, but nationally red listed species include *Galenia pallens, Brachystelma dimorphum* subsp. *dimorphum* and *Drimia sanguinea*. Permit applications regarding protected flora need to be lodged with the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs three months prior to any clearance of vegetation. Similarly, if any *Vachellia erioloba* trees are to be affected, a licence application regarding protected trees should be lodged with Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries three months prior to any potential disturbances to these trees. Authorisation for the proposed operation can be granted, if the applicant commits to the adhere to the effective avoidance, management, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background information

Cube Octhahedron Diamonds (Pty) Ltd is proposing the prospecting of diamonds on the Farm Doornbult 209, the Farm Atbara 452, the Farm Klippan 768, Portion 1 of the Farm De Hoop 767, the Farm Graspan 772, the Farm Spyker 779, Remaining Extent of the Farm Armenia 804, the Farm Vaaldam 1132, the Farm Witput 1134, Remaining Extent of Portion 1, Portion 2, Portion 3, Portion 8 (a portion of Portion 3) and Portion 10 of the Farm Olievenput 1594 and the Farm 1730. This application area is situated in the Boshof District of the Free State Province (Figure 1) and will from hereon be referred to as Olievenput. It lies 26 km West of Boshof and 30 km north of Kimberley on a public gravel road (commonly referred to as the Samaria Road) that turns from the R64 to connect Kimberley with Boshof. The total extent of the prospecting right area is \pm 8 029 ha.

Cube Octhahedron Diamonds has submitted a Prospecting Right application, which triggers an application for Environmental Authorisation. An ecological assessment is required in order to consider the impacts that the proposed activities might have on the ecological integrity of the property and therefore Boscia Ecological Consulting has been appointed by the applicant to conduct a desktop assessment and provide an ecological assessment report.

This assessment report describes the characteristics of habitats in the proposed prospecting area, identifies the biodiversity and species of conservation concern, identifies invasive and encroaching species and their distribution, indicates the source of impacts from the prospecting operation and assesses these impacts as well as the residual impacts after closure. A variety of avoidance and mitigation measures associated with each identified impact are recommended to reduce the likely impact of the operation. Ecological responsibilities pertaining to relevant conservation legislation are also indicated. These should all be included in the EMP.

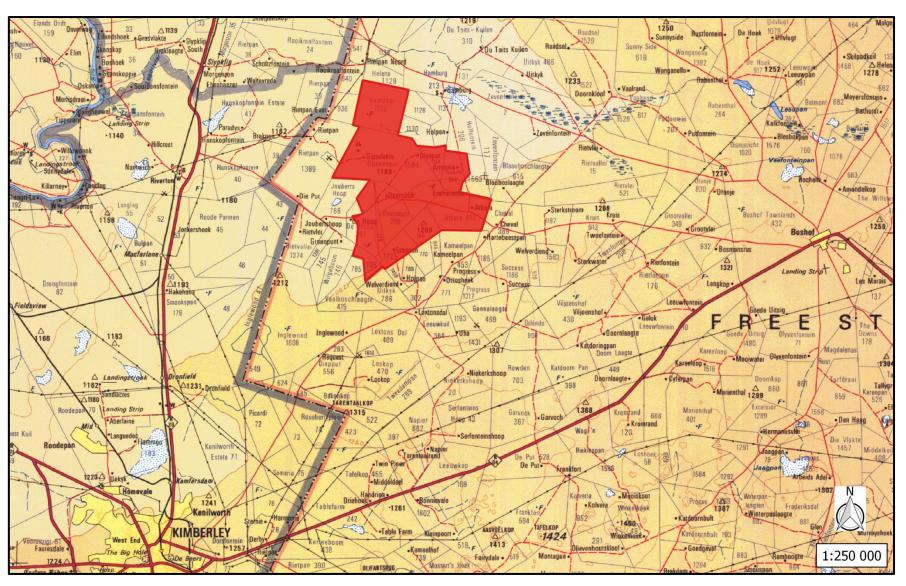


Figure 1. The location of the Olievenput prospecting area is indicated in red.

1.2. Scope of study

The specific terms of reference for the study include the following:

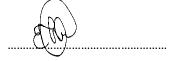
- conduct a desktop study in order to identify and describe different ecological habitats and provide an inventory of biodiversity, i.e. communities/species/taxa and associated species of conservation concern within the environment that may be affected by the proposed activity;
- identify the relative ecological sensitivity of the project area;
- produce an assessment report that:
 - indicates identified habitats and fauna and flora species,
 - indicates the ecological sensitivity of habitats and conservation values of species,
 - determines the potential impacts of the project on the ecological integrity,
 - provides mitigation measures and recommendations to limit project impacts,
 - indicate ecological responsibilities pertaining to relevant conservation legislation.

1.3. Details of the specialist consultant

Company Name	Boscia Ecological Consulting cc	Registration no:	2011/048041/23
Address	PostNet Suite #194 Private Bag X2 Diamond 8305		
Contact Person	Dr Elizabeth (Betsie) Milne		
Contact Details	Cell: 082 992 1261	Email: BosciaEcolo	ogy@gmail.com
Qualifications	PhD Botany (Nelson Mandela Metropolit Masters Environmental Management (U BTech Nature Conservation (Tshwane Ur	niversity of the Free	**

Declaration of independence

- I, Elizabeth (Betsie) Milne, owner of Boscia Ecological Consulting, declare that I:
 - act as the independent specialist in this application;
 - regard the information contained in this report as it relates to my specialist input/study to be true and correct;
 - do not have, and will not have any financial interest in the undertaking of the activity; other than the remuneration of work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
 - have and will not have any vested interest in the activity proceedings;
 - have no, and will not engage in conflicting interest in the undertaking of the activities;
 - undertake to disclose to the component 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 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 and any specific environmental management Act;
 - will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the study.



1.4. Description of the proposed activity

The prospecting operation is primarily based on diamondiferous Kimberlite and potential Lamproite associated with the Olievenput diamond-bearing pipe anomaly which is mainly expected to be found in the south-east of the property (Figure 2). The presence of diamondiferous deposits on Olievenput will be evaluated by means of a standard phased approach. Initially, non-invasive desktop studies will be conducted to delineate and define areas underlain by Kimberlite or Lamproite. Thereafter, ground-truthing geophysical surveys and loam sampling will be conducted to confirm the presence of Kimberlite Indicator Minerals. A total of 20 L of soil from the top 20 cm will be sampled.



Figure 2. The proposed core footprint of prospecting activities on Olievenput is indicated in white.

If indicator minerals are detected from the loam sampling and geophysical surveys, a percussion drilling programme will be performed over anomalous target areas using predefined grids. At least 40 holes of \pm 60 m in depth are expected to be drilled over 5 years.

Prospecting activities will primarily make use of existing roads where possible, but reconnaissance tracks will be created in order to access the drilling grid. Minor bush clearing will also be done to sample soils and to establish the drill pads. A mobile container office with mobile toilets might be positioned in the vicinity of the drill grid, but no permanent infrastructure will be established on site.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Data collection

The study comprised an extensive desktop survey for data collection on fauna and flora in order to obtain a relatively comprehensive data set for the assessment. Most data was obtained from the quarter degree squares that include the study area, i.e. 2824BD and 2824DB as well as other reports from the surrounding area.

2.1.1. Flora

For the floral component, the South African National Vegetation Map (Mucina and Rutherford 2006) was used to obtain data on broad-scale vegetation types, associated species and their conservation status. This information was then extrapolated to satellite images where homogenous vegetation units within the proposed prospecting area were identified to infer possible fine-scale communities on site. The South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) BGIS database was also consulted to obtain information on biodiversity information for the Tokologo (FS182) Local Municipality, in which the study area falls.

Further searches were undertaken specifically for Red List plant species within the current study area. Historical occurrences of Red List plant species were obtained from the SANBI: POSA database for the in the broad geographical area that includes the study site. The IUCN conservation status of plants in the species list was also extracted from the SANBI database and is based on the Threatened Species Programme (SANBI 2017).

2.1.2. Fauna

For the faunal component, a lists of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and arthropods which are likely to occur in the study area were derived based on distribution records from the literature, including Friedmann and Daly (2004) and Stuart and Stuart (2015) for mammals, Alexander and Marais (2007) and Bates et al. (2014) for reptiles, Du Preez and Carruthers (2009) for amphibians, Gibbon (2006) for birds, Kleynhans (2007) for fish and Thirion (2007) for arthropods.

Additional information on faunal distribution was extracted from the various databases hosted by the ADU web portal, http://adu.org.za. A map of important bird areas (BirdLifeSA 2015) was also consulted. The faunal species lists provided are based on species which are known to occur in the broad geographical area.

The likelihood of Red Data species occurring on site has been determined using the distribution maps in the Red Data reference books (Friedmann and Daly 2004; Minter et al. 2004; Bates et al. 2014; Taylor et al. 2015; ADU 2016) and comparing their habitat preferences with the habitats identified from satellite images. The conservation status of each species is also listed, based on the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria (IUCN 2019) and/or the various red data books for the respective taxa.

2.2. Assumptions and limitations

Due to the nature of a desktop survey and the lack of ground-truth information, the species list reflected in this report cannot be regarded as entirely accurate or comprehensive. Ideally, a site should be visited at least once to compare desktop information with information on site as well as to ensure actual habitats and associated species present on site are recorded.

However, an extensive desktop review was conducted to ensure a fairly accurate representation of the study area. This is assumed to be sufficient to support this environmental authorisation application, because the proposed operation is primarily non-invasive with a likelihood of minor disturbances produced by the drilling operation.

2.3. Sensitivity mapping and assessment

An ecological sensitivity map of the site was produced by integrating the available ecological and biodiversity information available in the literature and various spatial databases. The sensitivity mapping entails delineating different habitat units identified on the satellite images and assigning likely sensitivity values to the units based on their ecological properties, conservation value and the potential presence of species of conservation concern, as well as their probability of being affected by proposed activities.

The sensitivity of the different units identified in the mapping procedure increased with probability and was rated according to the following scale:

Low:

Areas of natural or transformed habitat with a low sensitivity where there is likely to be a negligible impact on ecological processes and biodiversity. Most types of activities can proceed within these areas with little ecological impact.

Medium:

Areas of natural or previously transformed land where the impacts are likely to be largely local and the risk of secondary impact such as erosion low. Activities within these areas can proceed with relatively little ecological impact provided that appropriate mitigation measures are taken.

High:

Areas of natural or transformed land where a high impact is anticipated due to the high biodiversity value, sensitivity or important ecological role of the area. These areas may contain or be important habitat for faunal species or provide important ecological services such as water flow regulation or forage provision. Activities within these areas are undesirable and should only proceed with caution as it may not be possible to mitigate all impacts appropriately.

Very High: Critical and unique habitats that serve as habitat for species of conservation concern, or perform critical ecological roles. These areas are essentially no-go areas for activities and should be avoided as much as possible.

2.4. Impact assessment and mitigation

The criteria used to assess the significance of the impacts are shown in Table 1. The different project activities and associated infrastructure were identified and considered in order to identify and analyse the various possible impacts. The limits were defined in relation to project characteristics. Those for severity, extent, duration and probability are subjective, based on rule-of-thumb and experience.

Natural and existing mitigation measures were considered. These natural mitigation measures were defined as natural conditions, conditions inherent in the project design and existing management measures, which alleviate impacts.

The Consequence value of the impacts was calculated by using the following formula:

CONSEQUENCE X PROBABILITY

(Severity + Spatial Scope + Duration) X (Frequency of activity + Frequency of impact)

Consequence of impacts is defined as follows:

Very Low: Impact would be negligible. Almost no mitigation and/or remedial activity

would be needed, and any minor steps which might be needed would be

easy, cheap and simple.

Low: Impact would have little real effect. Mitigation and/or remedial activity

would be either easily achieved or little would be required or both.

Low – Medium: Impact would be real but not substantial within the bounds of those

which could occur. Mitigation and/or remedial activity would be both

feasible and fairly easily possible.

Medium - High: Impact would be real and rather substantial within the bounds of those

which could occur. Mitigation and/or remedial activity would be feasible,

but not necessarily possible without difficulty.

High: Impacts of substantial order. Mitigation and/or remedial activity would

be feasible but difficult, expensive, time consuming or some combination

of these.

Very High: Of the highest order possible within the bounds of impacts which could

occur. There would be no possible mitigation and/or remedial activity to

offset the impact at the spatial or time scale for which was predicted.

Table 1. Criteria used to assess the significance of the impacts.

Weig	jht	Sev	erity/	,			Spat	ial so	ope (Ex	tent)				Dur	ation			
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4		Cat	astro	phic / m	ajor		Natio	onal /	Severe	environi	ment	tal c	lamage	Res	idual			
3		Hig	h/ Cri	tical / S	erious		Regi	onal e	effect					Dec	ommiss	ioning		
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		HIG	Н			101	– 125		Improve	current	mar	nage	ement	Ma	aintain c	urrent n	nanager	ment
		MED	DIUM	– HIGH		76 -	- 100		Improve	current	mar	nage	ement	Ma	aintain c	urrent n	nanagei	ment
		LOV	V – M	EDIUM		51	– 75		Improve	current	mar	nage	ement	Ma	aintain c	urrent n	nanager	ment
		LOV	V			26	- 50		Improve	current	mar	nage	ement	Ma	aintain c	urrent n	nanager	ment
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3. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Current and historic land use

Currently, the major land uses in the area are mining and agriculture. According to DAFFARCGIS, the land capability for the study site is non-arable with potential for grazing land and wildlife, with a grazing capacity of 10 - 11 ha/LSU. The agricultural region is demarcated for grains, with the study area categorised to have suitability for the crop production of maize (0 - 1 ton/ha) and wheat (0 - 0.5 ton/ha).

It is expected that the majority of Olievenput is currently being used as grazing pastures, but evidence of old fields are present. The northern half of the study area comprises Gypsum deposits and a portion in the north-west has already been mined extensively in the past. Existing infrastructure include a number of farmsteads, staff quarters, farm dams as well as farm roads and tracks (Figure 3).

3.2. Geology, soils and topography

According to Bosch and Visser (1993) the geological features on Olievenput comprise Quaternary, Jurassic, and Permian deposits (Figure 4). The northern half of Olievenput comprises Prins Albert shales of the Ecca Group (Karoo Sequence), while the south is primarily underlain by dolerite. Here, a dolerite dyke is also present in the far south of the property. Calcrete and surface limestone is present in the south-east and south-west, with a small portion of Tierberg shales (Ecca Group, Karoo Sequence) also occurring in the south. Diamondiferous deposits in the region are mainly expected to be associated with dolerite emplacement structures (Figure 4).

The study area is primarily characterised by level plains in the north and level plains with open low hills or ridges in the south. Altitude ranges from 1 160 m above sea level in the north to 1 200 m in the south. The terrain is indicated by a very gentle slope of <2 %.

Landtypes found on the property include Db2a and Ae45a (Figure 5). The northern half of Olievenput is characterised by soils with a marked clay accumulation, strongly structured and a non-reddish colour. They may occur associated with one or more of vertic, melanic and plinthic soils. These soils are typically associated with the Db2 landtype and are moderately susceptible to wind erosion due to the presence of loamy sands.

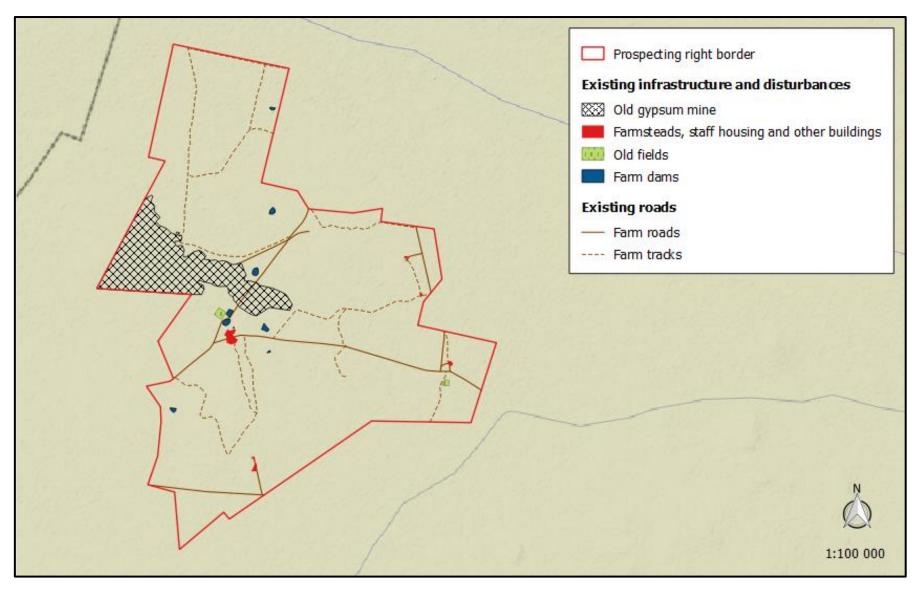


Figure 3. Evidence of existing infrastructure and land use disturbances in the study area.

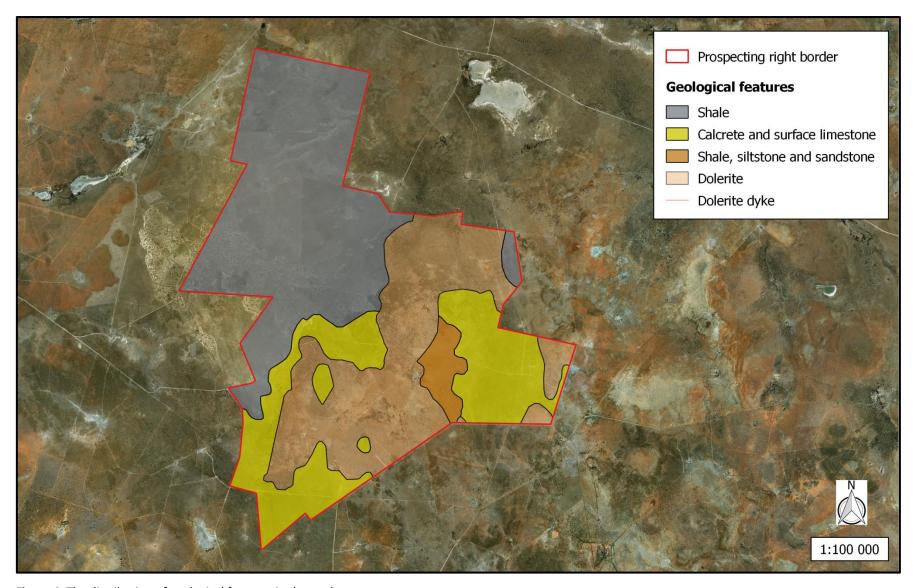


Figure 4. The distribution of geological features in the study area.

The southern half of the study area is characterised by red soils with high base status. These soils are typically associated with the Ae45 landtypes and are susceptible to wind erosion due to the fact that sand is sub-dominant. All soils of the study area have low to moderate water erosion risks due to the level to gently sloping land, but if badly eroded the potential for soil regeneration is low.

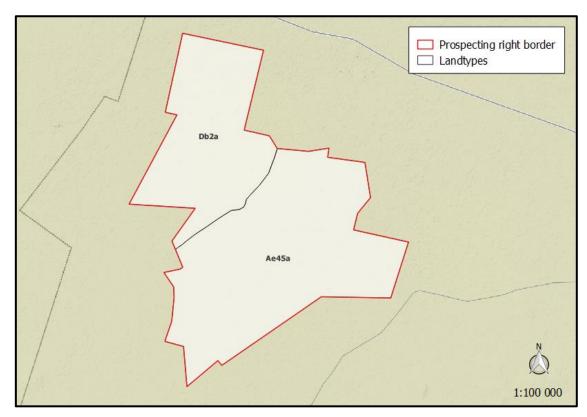


Figure 5. The distribution of landtypes in the study area.

3.3. Vegetation

3.3.1. Broad-scale vegetation patterns

According to the vegetation map of Mucina and Rutherford (2012), the site falls within the savanna biome and comprises one broad-scale vegetation unit; i.e. Kimberley Thornveld (Figure 6).

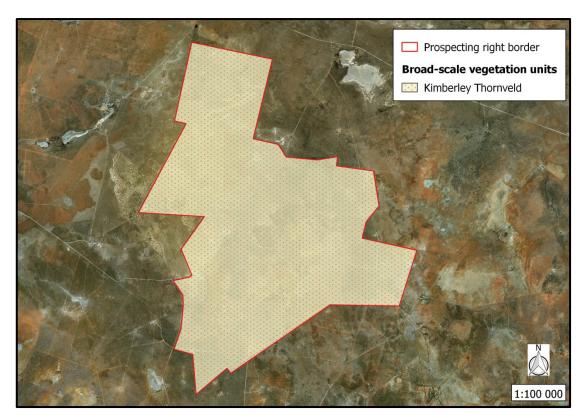


Figure 6. The broad-scale vegetation unit (Mucina and Rutherford 2012) present in the study area.

Kimberley Thornveld is distributed in the North-West, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces at altitudes between 1 050 and 1 400 m. It is found in the Kimberley, Hartswater, Bloemhof and Hoopstad Districts, but is also within the Warrenton, Christiana, Taung, Boshof and Barkly West Districts. The unit is typically presented as slightly undulating sandy plains with a well-developed tree and shrub layer and an open grass layer. Andesitic lavas of the Allanridge Formation occur in the north and west, while fine-grained sediments of the Karoo Supergroup are found in the south and east. Soils are deep, sandy to loamy, and of the Hutton form. The most common land types are Ae and Ah. The unit is classified as being least threatened, but 18 % has already been transformed, predominantly by cultivation. Only 2 % is currently conserved in statutory reserves and no endemic species are known from this unit. It is specifically prone to *Senegalia mellifera* encroachment following overgrazing, but the occurrence and risk of erosion is very low.

3.3.2. Desktop habitat delineation and possible species occurrences

Plant communities are usually delineated according to plant species correspondences, change in soil structure, topographical changes and disturbance regimes. They are then described according to unique characteristics and the dominant species found in each unit. However, it is not possible to provide accurate fine-scale community descriptions without conducting a field survey. Therefore, for the purpose of this assessment desktop-based recognizable habitat delineations were done, which is presented in Figure 7, but most likely resemble the same communities defined by Mucina and Rutherford (2012). A complete list of species that have been recorded in the region in the past is listed in Appendix 1.

i) Grassland

This unit occupies the northern half of the study area (Figure 7). It most likely resembles the Western Free State Clay Grassland described by Mucina and Rutherford (2012) due to its association with clayey soils and the absence of trees, which is evident on the satellite images. Therefore it is believed to be distinct from the thornveld in the south. It is expected to host a very well developed graminoid layer with grasses including *Aristida adscensionis*, *A. bipartita*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eragrostis chloromelas*, *E. lehmanniana*, *Panicum coloratum* and *Themeda triandra* as the dominant species. Possible herbs include *Berkheya pinnatifida*, *Euphorbia inaequilatera*, *Gnaphalium confine*, *Indigofera alternans*, *Kohautia cynanchica* and *Salvia disermas*. Shrubs like *Hertia pallens*, *Lycium cinereum*, *Pentzia globosa*, *Amphiglossa triflora*, *Aptosimum elongatum* and *Felicia filifolia* could also be present here.

ii) Thornveld

This unit constitute the southern half of Olievenput (Figure 7) and most likely resembles Kimberley Thornveld (Mucina and Rutherford 2012). It is expected to have a well-developed tree layer with *Vachellia erioloba* being conspicuous. Bush clumps could also be common, where species like *Searsia lancea, Ziziphus mucronata, Lycium hirsutum* and *Asparagus burchellii* are dominant. Dense stands of *Tarchonanthus camphoratus* and *Senegalia mellifera* may also be present. Other trees and shrubs could include *Grewia flava, Vachellia tortilis, V. hebeclada* and *Diospyros austro-africana*.

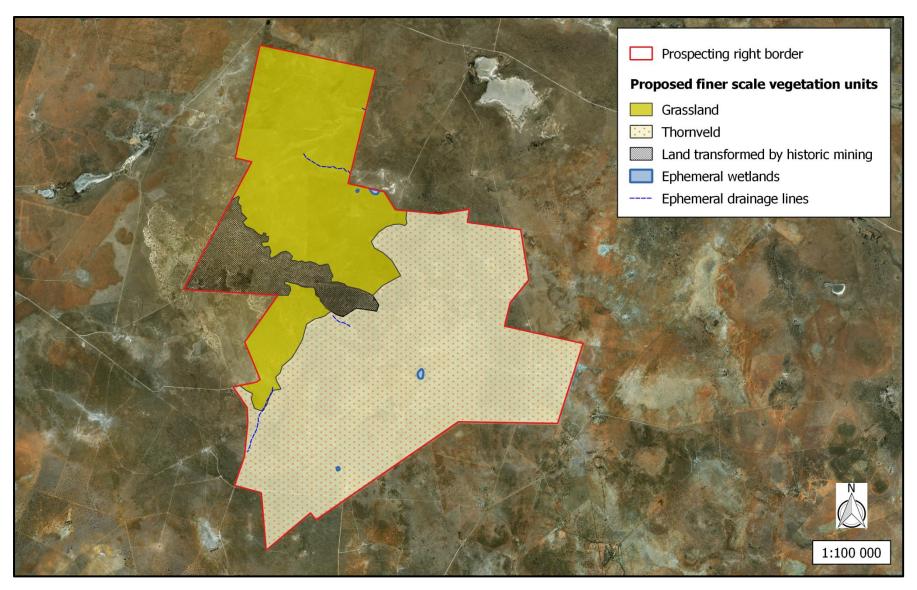


Figure 7. The distribution of fine-scale plant communities in the study area.

The grass layer is expected to be well developed with grasses like *Schmidtia* pappophoroides, Aristida congesta subsp. congesta, Eragrostis lehmanniana, Pogonarthria squarrosa and Themeda triandra dominating. Other grass species, including Eragrostis rotifer, Stipagrostis uniplumis, Enneapogon cenchroides, Brachiaria marlothii and Heteropogon contortus are also expected to be common. Species such as Elephantorrhiza elephantina, Drimia sanguinea, Amphiglossa triflora, Boophone disticha, Gnidia polycephala, Chrysocoma obtusata, Gomphocarpus fruticosus subsp. fruticosus and Viscum rotundifolium could also occur here.

iii) Ephemeral pans

At least four pans occur in the study area (Figure 7). These pans are expected to host vegetation that resemble the Highveld Salt Pans described by Mucina and Rutherford (2012). The plant communities are likely to be presented as shrubby grassland where shrubs affiliated with the terrestrial matrix, e.g. *Pentzia incana*, *P. globosa* and *Felicia filifolia* migrate into the pans and are found scattered in a grassy matrix, where species such as *Chloris virgata*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Leptochloa fusca*, *Eragrostis echinochloidea*, *E. bicolor*, *E. chloromelas*, *Panicum coloratum* and *Cyperus* spp. can be found. *Atriplex* and *Salsola* shrubs are also usually commonly found in these pans.

iv) Ephemeral drainage lines

Only a few natural drainage lines (excluding artificial furrows) are associated with the site (Figure 7). These drainage lines are not expected to host a unique plant community, because they are not always well defined. In the grassland they are expected to differ from the terrestrial matrix by hosting a higher density of grasses typically associated with wetter areas, such as *Chloris virgata*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Eragrostis echinochloidea*, *E. bicolor* and *E. chloromelas*. In the thornveld they might be distinguishable from the terrestrial matrix by a higher density of woody riparian canopies that form along the channels. It is very likely that species of conservation concern, like *Vachellia erioloba* and *Olea europaea* subsp. *africana* have pronounced occurrences here. Other trees and shrubs include those found in the matrix, such as *V. tortilis*, *Senegalia mellifera*, *Searsia lancea*, *Lycium hirsutum* and *Ziziphus mucronata* subsp. *mucronata*.

3.3.3. Population of sensitive, threatened and protected plant species

The SANBI Red List provides information on the national conservation status of South Africa's indigenous plants, while the National Forests Act (No. 84 of 1998) (NFA) and Chapter IV of the Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance (Act No. 8 of 1969) (FSNCO) restricts activities regarding sensitive plant species. All red listed plant species are protected in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity (NEMBA) Act 10 of 2004 (Notice 256 of 2015) and therefore a permit is required from the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs for any restricted activity listed in the act. Section 15 of the NFA prevents any person to cut, disturb, damage, destroy or remove any protected tree; or collect, remove, transport, export, purchase, sell, donate or in any other manner acquire or dispose of any protected tree, except under a licence granted by the Minister. Section 30 of the FSNCO prohibits anyone to pick any protected (Schedule 6) plants, except under the authority of a permit, while Section 31 prevents a person to pick any indigenous plant on land of which he/she is not the owner, without written permission of the owner.

Most species previously recorded in the region are classified as least concern; a category which includes widespread and abundant taxa. However, three species, i.e. Galenia pallens (Data Deficient - Taxonomically Problematic), Drimia sanguinea (Near Threatened) and Brachystelma dimorphum subsp. dimorphum (Vulnerable) is listed under the National Environmental: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) (Table 2). The Drimia sanguinea population has declined by 20 - 25% in the last 60 years due to harvesting for the medicinal plant trade. Declines are expected to continue and the species should be reevaluated in the future. It is typically found in open veld and scrubby woodland in a variety of soil types, and therefore it is expected to primarily occur in the southern half of the study area. Brachystelma dimorphum subsp. dimorphum is known from only five collections and was last recorded in 1971. It is threatened by ongoing habitat loss and degradation, particularly agricultural expansion on alluvial soils, as well as spreading settlements, mining, alien invasive plants and degradation due to overgrazing. It prefers alluvial soils and large, shallow pans in grassland. Therefore, if it occurs on site, it is expected to be restricted to the ephemeral pans in the north of the study area. Not much is known about the distribution of Galenia pallens. Taxonomic problems hinder the distribution range and habitat from being well defined.

Table 2. Plant species found in the region that are of conservation concern.

FAMILY	Scientific name	Status	NFA	FSNCO
AIZOACEAE	Galenia pallens	DDT		
	Titanopsis calcarea	LC		X
AMARYLLIDACEAE	Ammocharis coranica	LC		X
	Boophone disticha	LC		X
	Crinum bulbispermum	LC		X
	Crinum lugardiae	LC		X
	Gethyllis transkarooica	LC		X
	Haemanthus humilis subsp. humilis Brachystelma dimorphum subsp.	LC		X
APOCYNACEAE	dimorphum	VU		
ASPHODELACEAE	Aloe grandidentata	LC		X
	Aloe maculata	LC		X
ASTERACEAE	Helichrysum arenicola	LC		X
	Helichrysum argyrosphaerum	LC		X
	Helichrysum cerastioides var. cerastioides	LC		X
	Helichrysum dregeanum	LC		X
	Helichrysum lineare	LC		X
	Helichrysum lucilioides	LC		X
	Helichrysum zeyheri	LC		X
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbia crassipes	LC		X
	Euphorbia davyi	LC		X
	Euphorbia duseimata	LC		X
	Euphorbia glanduligera	LC		X
	Euphorbia inaequilatera	LC		X
	Euphorbia juttae	LC		X
	Euphorbia spartaria	LC		X
FABACEAE	Erythrina zeyheri	LC		X
	Vachellia erioloba	LC	X	
HYACINTHACEAE	Drimia sanguinea	NT		
	Eucomis autumnalis	LC		X
IRIDACEAE	Gladiolus orchidiflorus	LC		X
	Gladiolus permeabilis subsp. edulis	LC		X
OLEACEAE	Olea europaea subsp. africana	LC		X

Species likely to occur on site that are protected in terms of the National Forests (NFA) Act No 84 of 1998 (Table 2) include *Vachellia erioloba*. This species is expected to occur in the thornveld habitat in the southern half of the property. In order to damage or remove any protected trees (seedlings to adults) an application must be submitted to the Free State Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and a licence obtained from DAFF at least three months prior to such activities. Protected species in terms of Schedule 6 of Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance (Act No. 8 of 1969) that have previously been recorded in the region are also listed in Table 2.

3.3.4. Weeds and invader plant species

Weeds and invasive species are controlled in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity (NEMBA) Act 10 of 2004 and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources (CARA) Act 43 of 1993. These are species that do not naturally occur in a given area and exhibit tendencies to invade that area, and others; at the cost of locally indigenous species. To govern the control of such species, NEMBA and CARA have divided weeds and invader species into categories (see Table 3). All declared weeds and invasive species known from the region are listed in Table 4, along with their categories according to CARA and NEMBA.

Table 3. The categorisation of weeds and invader plant species, according to NEMBA and CARA.

	NEMBA		CARA
1a	Listed invasive species that must be combatted or eradicated.	1	Plant species that must be removed and destroyed immediately. These plants serve no economic purpose and possess characteristics that are harmful to humans, animals and the environment.
1b	Listed invasive species that must be controlled.	2	Plant species that may be grown under controlled conditions. These plants have certain useful qualities and are allowed in demarcated areas. In other areas they must be eradicated and controlled.
2	Listed invasive species that require a permit to carry out a restricted activity within an area.	3	Plant species that may no longer be planted. These are alien plants that have escaped from, or are growing in gardens and are proven to be invaders. No further planting is allowed. Existing plants may remain (except those within the flood line, 30 m from a watercourse, or in a wetland) and must be prevented from spreading.
3	Listed invasive species that are subject to exemptions and prohibitions		

Table 4. A list of declared weeds and invasive species likely to occur in the study area.

Scientific name	Common name	CARA	NEMBA
Achyranthes aspera var. aspera	Burweed	1	-
Argemone ochroleuca subsp. ochroleuca	White-flowered Mexican poppy	1	1b
Atriplex lindleyi subsp. inflata	Sponge - fruit saltbush	3	-
Datura stramonium	Common thorn apple	1	1b
Nicotiana glauca	Wild tobacco	1	1b
Prosopis glandulosa var. glandulosa	Honey mesquite	2	1b
Prosopis velutina	Velvet mesquite	2	1b
Salsola kali	Tumbleweed	-	1b
Sorghum halepense	Aleppo grass	2	2
Tamarix ramosissima	Pink tamarisk	3	1b
Xanthium spinosum	Spiny cocklebur	1	1b
Xanthium strumarium	Large cocklebur	1	1b

3.3.5. Indicators of bush encroachment

Bush encroacher species are controlled in terms of Regulation 16 of CARA; where land users of an area in which natural vegetation occurs and that contains communities of encroacher indicator plants are required to follow sound practices to prevent the deterioration of natural resources and to combat bush encroachment where it occurs. Declared indicators of bush encroachment in the Free State, which are most likely to occur on site, are listed in Table 5.

Table 5. A list of declared indicators of bush encroachment in the Free State most likely to occur in the study area.

Scientific name	Common name
Asparagus bechuanicus	Wild asparagus
Asparagus burchellii	Wild asparagus
Asparagus cooperi	Wild asparagus
Asparagus glaucus	Wild asparagus
Asparagus laricinus	Wild asparagus
Asparagus suaveolens	Wild asparagus
Asparagus virgatus	Wild asparagus
Euclea crispa subsp. ovata	Blue guarri
Senegalia mellifera subsp. detinens	Black thorn
Vachellia hebeclada subsp. hebeclada	Candle thorn
Vachellia karroo	Sweet thorn
Vachellia tortilis subsp. heteracantha	Umbrella thorn

3.4. Faunal communities

All red listed fauna species are protected in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity (NEMBA) Act 10 of 2004 (Notice 256 of 2015). No person may carry out any restricted activity involving listed, threatened or protected species without a permit from the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. Section 2 of the FSNCO prohibits anyone to hunt any protected (Schedule 1) wildlife, except under the authority of a permit, while Section 5 prevents a person to hunt any ordinary game without a licence and without written permission of the owner. Section 14 further prevents any person to hold any live wild animal in captivity, except under authority of a permit. The landscape features on Olievenput does not provide particularly diverse habitat opportunities to faunal communities. Animals likely to be found in the study area are discussed in their respective faunal groups below.

3.4.1. Mammals

As many as 55 terrestrial mammals and seven bat species have been recorded in the region (see Appendix 2); of which 15 species are of conservation concern (Table 6).

Table 6. Mammal species of conservation concern that are likely to occur in the region. Conservation values are indicated in terms of the international (IUCN) Red List, the South African Red Data Book (SA RDB) and Schedule 1 of the Free State Nature Conservation Ordinance (FSNCO).

Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	SA RDB	FSNCO
Eidolon helvum	African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat	NT		
Rhinolophus clivosus	Geoffroy's Horseshoe Bat		NT	
Rhinolophus denti	Dent's Horseshoe Bat		NT	
Chlorotalpa sclateri	Sclater's Golden Mole		DD	
Orycteropus afer	Aardvark			Χ
Gerbilliscus leucogaster	Bushveld Gerbil		DD	
Smutsia temminckii	Ground Pangolin	VU	VU	Χ
Suncus varilla	Lesser Dwarf Shrew		DD	
Atelerix frontalis	South African Hedgehog		NT	Χ
Felis nigripes	Black-footed cat	VU		
Aonyx capensis	Cape Clawless Otter	NT		
Hydrictis maculicollis	Spotted-necked Otter	NT	NT	
Hyaena brunnea	Brown Hyena	NT	NT	
Otocyon megalotis	Bat-eared Fox			Χ
Poecilogale albinucha	African Striped Weasel		DD	
Mellivora capensis	Honey Badger		NT	

The listed bat species, along with terrestrial mammals such as Aardvark, Bat-eared Fox and Honey Badger have a wide habitat tolerance and therefor have a high chance to occur on site. Smaller species like the Bushveld Gerbil and African Striped Weasel could potentially occur in the grassland in the northern half of the study area, due to their preference for grassy habitats. Ground Pangolin, South African Hedgehog, Black-footed cat and Brown Hyaena are not likely to occur on site, because they are rather skittish and land use history in the region has probably excluded them many year ago already. The Cape Clawless Otter and Spotted-necked Otter are also not expected to occur on site due to their preference for perennial aquatic habitats.

3.4.2. Reptiles

The Olievenput prospecting area lies within the distribution range of at least 36 reptile species (see Appendix 2). None of these species are red listed, but four species; i.e. Southern Karusa Lizard, Greater Dwarf Tortoise, Serrated Tent Tortoise and Leopard Tortoise are protected according to Schedule 1 of the FSNCO. Furthermore, the Eastern Ground Agama, Aurora Snake and Peters' Thread Snake are endemic to South Africa. The habitat diversity for reptiles in the study area is moderate, with the grassland and thornveld proving equally important habitat opportunities. The ephemeral pans and farm dams could potentially provide a special habitat for the marsh terrapin.

3.4.3. Amphibians

Fourteen amphibian species are known from the region (Appendix 2), indicating that the site potentially have a rather diverse frog community. It is not clear if any natural permanent water occurs on site that would represent suitable breeding habitats for most of these species, but the ephemeral pans and farm dams will be important during periods of inundation. As a result, only those species which are relatively independent of water are likely to occur regularly in the terrestrial habitats. The Giant Bull Frog (*Pyxicephalus adspersus*), listed as Near Threatened according to Minter et al. (2004). They prefer seasonal shallow grassy pans, vleis and other rain-filled depressions in open flat areas of grassland or savanna, but mainly remain buried up to 1 m underground until conditions become favourable. The site lies within the known distribution of this species and the ephemeral pans and farm dams could therefore potentially provide the ideal habitat for it.

3.4.4. Avifauna

The study site does not fall within any of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) defined by Birdlife South Africa, but it is located near (< 50 km) three IBA, i.e. Dronfield, Kamfersdam and Benfontein (Figure 8).

Dronfield lies 3 km south-west of Olievenput and supports large numbers of breeding White-backed Vulture, which comprises 41 % of the breeding pairs in the Kimberley region. These birds forage over wide areas and a pair was encountered soaring over the study area during the site visit. The use of poisons in farming areas to combat mammalian predators still poses a threat to scavenging raptors, and hundreds of vultures can be killed in a single poisoning incident. Collisions with transmission power lines and electrocutions on reticulation and distribution power lines also pose an ongoing threat to vultures and other trigger species.

Kamfersdam lies 19 km south-west of Olievenput and is an endorheic pan that has been transformed into a permanent wetland over the past decade due to an increase in sewage effluent inflow. Hence, it has become an important habitat for birds, especially the Greater- and Lesser Flamingos. The dam supports the largest permanent population of Lesser Flamingos in southern Africa. The most significant threats to Kamfersdam are poor water quality, flooding and expansion of urban development, while threats to the bird population include illegal hunting of water birds and the collisions and mortality of flamingos and other water birds caused by power lines and the electrical transmission lines along the railway.

Benfontein is a Nature Reserve owned by De Beers Consolidated Mines since 1891 and there has been significant investment by research groups over the years. It lies 32 km south-west of Olievenput and supports small numbers of breeding White-backed Vulture, Blue Crane and Blue Korhaan. Benfontein also holds several biome-restricted assemblage species and congregatory species, including Lesser Flamingo. More than 1 700 water birds from 65 species have been recorded during years of high rainfall on the ephemeral pan. There are presently few threats to this IBA as it is being well conserved. The invasive *Prosopis glandulosa* in the north-eastern, spreading along the N8 on the eastern boundary, could become a significant threat if not controlled. Collisions with the power line transecting the eastern side of Benfontein are a threat to the White-backed Vultures and large terrestrial birds such as Blue Crane and Ludwig's Bustard.

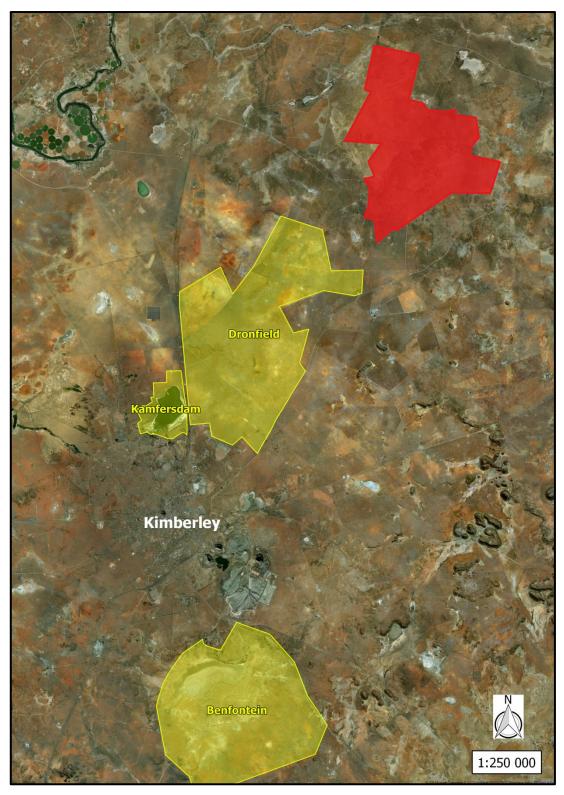


Figure 8. A map indicating the Important Bird Area (in yellow) near the study area (in red).

A total number of 301 bird species have been recorded from the region. Virtually all of these species are protected according to Schedule 1 of the FSNCO (see Appendix 2) and as many as 30 listed bird species are known from the region, all of which are classified as Vulnerable, Near Threatened, Endangered or Critically Endangered (Table 7).

Plants in general, from grass tufts to shrubs and tall trees provide important micro-habitats to birds and therefore the entire study area is expected to host a diverse avifauna community. The ephemeral pans could potentially attract protected water birds, such as Chestnut-banded Plover, Maccoa Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Greater Flamingo and Greater Painted-snipe when inundated, while the remaining species could occur in the terrestrial areas by occasionally passing over, foraging or nesting.

Table 7. Bird of conservation concern that are likely to occur on site. Species are indicated in terms of the IUCN Red List and SA Bird Atlas.

Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	SA Bird Atlas
Anthropoides paradisea	Blue Crane	NT	NT
Anthus crenatus	African Rock Pipit	NT	NT
Aquila rapax	Tawny Eagle	VU	EN
Ardeotis kori	Kori Bustard	NT	NT
Certhilauda chuana	Short-clawed Lark		NT
Charadrius pallidus	Chestnut-banded Plover	NT	NT
Ciconia abdimii	Abdim's Stork		NT
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork		VU
Circus macrourus	Pallid Harrier	NT	NT
Circus ranivorus	African Marsh-Harrier	EN	EN
Coracias garrulus	European Roller		NT
Cursorius rufus	Burchell's Courser		VU
Eupodotis caerulescens	Blue Korhaan	NT	
Falco biarmicus	Lanner Falcon	VU	VU
Glareola nordmanni	Black-winged Pratincole	NT	NT
Gyps africanus	White-backed Vulture	CR	CR
Gyps coprotheres	Cape Vulture	EN	EN
Leptoptilos crumeniferus	Marabou Stork		NT
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	NT	
Mycteria ibis	Yellow-billed Stork		EN
Neotis ludwigii	Ludwig's Bustard	EN	EN
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	NT	NT
Oxyura maccoa	Maccoa Duck	NT	NT
Pelecanus rufescens	Pink-backed Pelican		VU
Phoenicopterus minor	Lesser Flamingo	NT	NT
Phoenicopterus ruber	Greater Flamingo	NT	NT
Polemaetus bellicosus	Martial Eagle	EN	EN
Rostratula benghalensis	Greater Painted-snipe		NT
Sagittarius serpentarius	Secretarybird	VU	VU
Torgos tracheliotus	Lappet-faced Vulture	EN	EN

3.4.5. Invertebrates

Invertebrates dominate inland habitats and play a significant role in the overall function of the ecosystem (Kremen et al. 1993; Weisser and Siemann 2004). Their immense species diversity makes it almost impossible to list all species that may possibly occur on site. Nevertheless, key morphospecies as well as species of conservation concern are discussed here. Eight invertebrate species of the Free State appear on the IUCN Red Data list of threatened species (Table 8), but the geographic ranges for most of these species exclude the study area. The distribution for the butterfly *Aloeides dentatis* (Vulnerable) has however not been mapped. It prefers grassland habitat and therefore could potentially be found in the grassland habitat of the study area.

Table 8. Invertebrate species found in the Free State that are listed on the IUCN Red Data list.

CLASS	ORDER	Scientific Name	Common name	Status
INSECTA	Lepidoptera	Aloeides dentatis	-	VU
	Orthoptera	Conocephalus zlobini	Zlobin's Meadow Katydid	VU
		Thoracistus arboreus	Arboreal Seedpod Shieldback	CR
		Paracilacris lateralis	Drakensberg Grass False Shieldback	VU
		Conchotopoda parva	Highveld Dimorphic Leaf Katydid	DD
		Paracilacris mordax	Golden Gate Grass False Shieldback	VU
		Clonia lalandei	Lalande's Black-winged Clonia	VU
	Spirostreptida	Doratogonus liberates	-	DD

Two major habitats delimit possible invertebrate communities on site, i.e. the temporary waterbodies and a variety of terrestrial habitats collectively classified as Grassland vegetation for insect preference, according to Picker et al. (2004).

i. Grassland vegetation

Invertebrate communities associated with the grassland vegetation have distinct insects, including many grass mimics. Various termite species also dominate this habitat type. Insects are widely distributed and extremely diverse. It is therefore impossible to list species occurrences without a dedicated study. However, the one species of conservation already mentioned above are most likely to be associated with this invertebrate habitat.

ii. Temporary waterbodies

Temporary waterbodies like ephemeral pans and farm dams host species specifically adapted to ephemerality. Crustaceans in particular are specialist invertebrates that dominate these systems. Their eggs lie dormant in the soil until the waterbodies are inundated. They then hatch and rapidly mature and reproduce to ensure continued persistence. Not much is known about the species distribution or conservation status of species in the Free State, but typical taxa to be expected in the temporary waterbodies on Olievenput include Notostraca, Anostraca, Spinicaudata, Cladocera, Ostracoda and Copepoda. Within a few days after the waterbodies are inundated these species will attract a number of wetland birds. Therefore, these systems also act as important breeding and feeding links to birds in terms of connectivity, by providing stepping-stone corridors in an arid landscape. Any disturbances or destruction of these waterbodies will not only impact the specialised invertebrate communities locally, but will also have a regional and landscape-level effect.

3.5. Critical biodiversity areas and broad-scale processes

The proposed prospecting site falls within ecological support areas (Figure 9), defined by the Free State Province Biodiversity Plan (Collins 2019). These areas are important in supporting the ecological functioning of a protected area or critical biodiversity areas, or in delivering ecosystem services. In most cases ecological support areas (ESAs) are currently in at least fair ecological condition, and should remain in an at least fair functioning state. The ESA1 are areas with minimal degradation, while ESA2 have suffered some degradation. Conversely, according to the Mining and Biodiversity Guidelines (DENC et al. 2013) no areas on the study site have recognisable biodiversity importance. These guidelines were developed to identify and categorize biodiversity priority areas sensitive to the impacts of mining in order to support mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in decision making in the mining sector of South Africa.

Olievenput does not fall within any formally protected area or within a National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Focus Area (NPAES). It does however fall in close proximity to the Free State Highveld Grassland focus area (NPAES #12) (Figure 10). This focus area includes some of the last remaining opportunities for relatively large protected areas in the highly threatened Grassland Biome. Options for meeting protected area targets are retreating rapidly in this area, making protected area expansion urgent. Although the grassland in the north of Olievenput is not formally included in this Focus Area, its associated grassland habitat remains vulnerable to degradation on a cumulative scale.

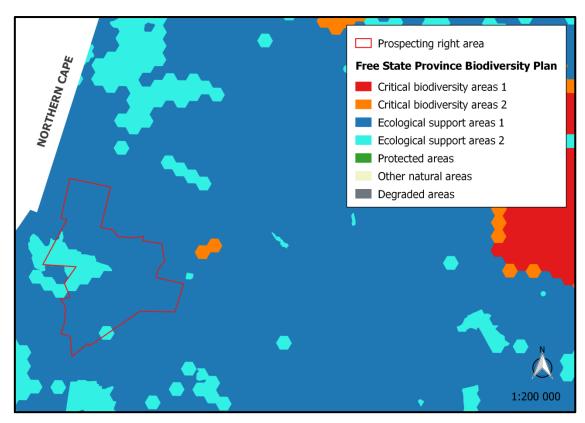


Figure 9. The study area in relation to the Free State Province Biodiversity Plan.

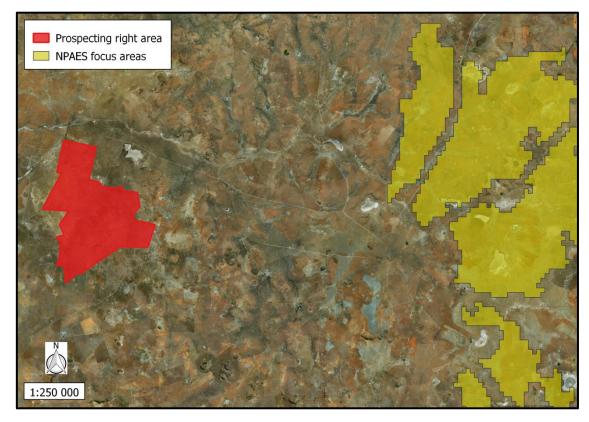


Figure 10. The study area in relation to adjacent National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Focus areas.

According to the National Biodiversity Assessment project, all of the ephemeral pans in the study area of Least Concern, but poorly protected. They have also been classified with a Present Ecological State of A/B, which means that they are in a *Natural* or *Good Condition*. None of the wetlands have been identified as significant wetlands in terms of Ramsar sites, IUCN Frog localities, threatened water bird localities or Crane breeding grounds. Nevertheless, the Tokologo 4th generation Integrated Development Plan 2017/18, regards wetlands as core ecological corridors that need to be protected by a setback line of at least 32 m, from the banks of all water bodies. The ephemeral pans on site are therefore regarded as sensitive and important systems. Ephemeral pans are also unique habitats protected in terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998).

3.6. Site sensitivity

The sensitivity map for the Olievenput prospecting operation is illustrated in Figure 11. The ephemeral pans and drainage lines are considered to be of very high sensitivity due to their vital ecological and hydrological functionality and significance. All natural watercourses in the study area are also unique habitats protected in terms of the National Water Act (Act No 36 of 1998). These units are essentially no-go areas.

The grassland habitat in the northern half of the study area is considered to be of high sensitivity, on account of the vulnerability of grasslands to degradation. This unit is not regarded as a no-go area, but activities should only proceed with caution as it may not be possible to mitigate all impacts appropriately.

The thornveld in the south is considered to be of **medium** sensitivity. Although it is expected to be affected by the prospecting operation, the nature of the impacts is likely to be largely local and the risk of secondary impact such as erosion is low. Activities within these areas can proceed with relatively little ecological impact provided that appropriate mitigation measures are taken.

The transformed areas are considered to be of **low** ecological sensitivity on account of the transformation of natural habitats that has already occurred here.

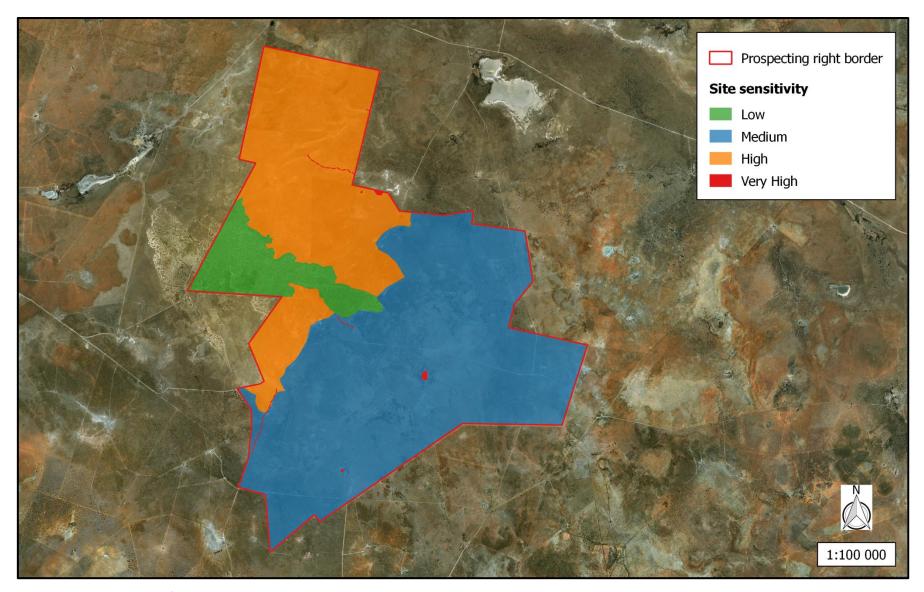


Figure 11. A sensitivity map for the Olievenput prospecting area.

4. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In this section, the potential impacts and associated risk factors that may be generated by the Olievenput prospecting operation are identified and described. A detailed analysis of each impact is provided in Table 9. The impacts are assessed in terms of the relevant ecological aspects and each impact is associated with an outline of specific mitigation measures, which with proper implementation, monitoring and auditing, will serve to reduce the significance of the impact. In order to ensure that the impacts identified are broadly applicable and inclusive, all the likely or potential impacts that may be associated with the prospecting activities are listed.

4.1. Topography, soil erosion and associated degradation of landscapes

4.1.1. Loss of soil fertility

Source of the impact

The removal of any topsoil during the construction of roads and drill pads.

Description of the impact

Improper stockpiling and soil compaction can result in soil sterilisation. Leaching can also occur, resulting in the loss of nutrients.

- If any topsoil is removed during creation of roads or drill pads then these stockpiles
 must be kept as small as possible in order to prevent compaction and the formation
 of anaerobic conditions.
- Topsoil must be stockpiled for the shortest possible timeframes in order to ensure that the quality of the topsoil is not impaired.
- Topsoil must not be handled when the moisture content exceeds 12 %.
- Topsoil stockpiles must be kept separate from sub-soils.
- The topsoil should be replaced as soon as possible on to the disturbed areas, thereby allowing for the re-growth of the seed bank contained within the topsoil.

Table 9. A detailed analysis of ecological impacts identified for the Olievenput prospecting operation.

	IMPACT		Phase	;	Extent	Duration	Sovority	Drobobility	Significance	Significance after
	IIVIPACI	С	0	D	extent	Duration	Severity	Probability	Significance	Mitigation
cape	Loss of soil fertility	✓	✓	✓	Local (2)	Residual (4)	High (3)	Rare and infrequent (5)	Low (45)	Very low
Landscape	Increase in soil erosion	✓	✓	✓	Local (2)	Decommissioning (3)	High (3)	Possible but infrequently (7)	Low - Medium (56)	Low
	Loss of indigenous vegetation	✓	✓	✓	On-site (1)	Short term (1)	Minimal (1)	Possible but infrequent (7)	Very low (21)	Very low
Flora	Loss of Red data and/or protected floral species	✓	✓		Local (2)	Residual (4)	High (3)	Possible but infrequent (7)	Low - Medium (63)	Low
H	Introduction or spread of alien species	✓	✓	✓	Regional (4)	Residual (4)	High (3)	Rare and infrequent (5)	Low-Medium (55)	Low
	Bush encroachment			✓	Local (2)	Residual (4)	Medium (2)	Rare and infrequent (5)	Low (40)	Very low

	IMPACT		Phase	•	Evtont	Duration	Soverity	Probability	Significance	Significance after
	IIVIPACI	IMPACT Extent Duration		Duration	Severity	Probability	Significance	Mitigation		
na	Habitat fragmentation	✓	✓	✓	Local (2)	Decommissioning (3)	Medium (2)	Possible but infrequent (7)	Low (49)	Very low
Fauna	Disturbance, displacement and killing of fauna	✓	✓		Regional (3)	Decommissioning (3)	Medium (2)	Possible for life of operation (9)	Low-Medium (72)	Low
Ecological Processes	Compromise of ecological processes	√	✓		Regional (3)	Residual (4)	High (3)	Highly unlikely and infrequent (4)	Low (40)	Very low

4.1.2. Soil erosion

Source of the impact

Clearing of vegetation and disturbance during the construction of roads and drill pads; alterations to pans and and drainage line characteristics.

Description of the impact

Vegetation will be stripped for construction of new roads and drill pads and these areas will be bare and susceptible to erosion. Any topsoil and overburden that is stripped and piled on surrounding areas can be eroded by wind, rain and flooding. The soil/sediments will be carried away during runoff. The affected areas should be rehabilitated, but full restoration might only occur over a number of years, subsequent to the re-establishment of vegetation and hydrologic regime.

- Re-establishment of plant cover on disturbed areas must take place as soon as possible, once activities in the area have ceased.
- Any road construction over drainage lines or pan catchments should be done to allow continuance of the natural hydrological regime.
- Ground exposure should be minimised in terms of the surface area and duration.
- Disturbances during the rainy season (November to March) should be monitored and controlled.
- Run-off from exposed ground should be controlled with flow retarding barriers.
- Regular monitoring carried out to identify areas where erosion is occurring; followed by appropriate remedial actions.

4.2. Vegetation and floristics

4.2.1. Loss of indigenous vegetation

Source of the impact

Construction of roads and drill pads; vehicular movement.

Description of the impact

The construction of roads and drill pads will damage or destroy natural vegetation. It is expected that trampled vegetation will not be significantly affected and any destruction to natural vegetation will be at a very small scale, based on the low invasive nature of drilling activities. It is likely that areas of high ecological function will rehabilitate following such disturbance events. Vehicle traffic generates lots of dust which can reduce the growth success and seed dispersal of many small plant species; however traffic volumes associated with drilling activities are very low.

- Minimise the footprint of transformation, by keeping to existing roads where possible.
- Ensure measures for the adherence to the speed limit to minimise dust plumes.
- Encourage the growth of natural plant species by sowing indigenous seeds or by planting seedlings where major vegetation clearance has taken place.

4.2.2. Loss of Red data and/or protected floral species

Source of the impact

Removal of listed or protected plant species during the construction of roads and drill pads and/or illegal harvesting.

Description of the impact

It is possible that prospecting activities will destroy protected species and other species of conservation concern through construction of drill pads and roads, vehicular movement and if any illegal harvesting occurs.

- All footprint areas of the prospecting activities must be scanned for Red Listed and protected plant species prior to any destructive activities.
- It is recommended that these plants are identified and marked prior to intended activity.
- These plants should, where possible, be incorporated into the activity layout and left in situ.
- However, if threatened by destruction, these plants should be removed (with the relevant permits) and relocated if possible.
- A management plan should be implemented to ensure proper establishment of ex situ individuals, and should include a monitoring programme for at least two years after re-establishment in order to ensure successful translocation.
- The appointment of an Environmental Control Officer must render guidance to the staff and contractors with respect to suitable areas for all related disturbance, and must ensure that all contractors and workers undergo Environmental Induction prior to commencing with work on site. The environmental induction should occur in the appropriate languages for the workers who may require translation.
- All those working on site must be educated about the conservation importance of the flora occurring on site.
- Employ measures to ensure that no illegal harvesting takes place.

4.2.3. Introduction or spread of alien species

Source of the impact

Clearing of vegetation and disturbance during the construction of roads and drill pads.

Description of the impact

The extent of alien invasive species in the study area is unknown. However, general clearing of vegetation destroy natural vegetation, wherafter invasive plants can increase due to their opportunistic nature in disturbed areas. If invasive plants establish in disturbed areas, it may cause an impact beyond the boundaries of the prospecting site. These alien invasive species are thus a threat to surrounding natural vegetation and can result in the decrease of biodiversity and ecological value of the area. Therefore, if alien invasive species are not controlled and managed, their propagation into new areas could have a high impact on the surrounding natural vegetation in the long term. With proper mitigation, the impacts can be substantially reduced. However, based on the low invasive nature of drilling activities, this impact is not likely to occur during the proposed operation.

- Minimise the footprint of transformation.
- Encourage the growth of natural plant species.
- Mechanical methods of control to be implemented if needed.
- Annual follow-up operations to be implemented.

4.2.4. Encouraging bush encroachment

Source of the impact

Clearing of vegetation and disturbance during the construction of roads and drill pads.

Description of the impact

The potential extent of bush encroaching species on site is unknown. While general clearing of the area and prospecting activities destroy natural vegetation, bush encroaching plants can increase due to their opportunistic nature in disturbed areas. If encroaching plants establish in disturbed areas, it may the lower potential for future land use and decrease biodiversity. With proper mitigation, the impacts can be substantially reduced and if any such species are removed during prospecting activities the prospecting operation can have a positive effect by reducing bush encroachment. Based on the low invasive nature of drilling activities, this impact is expected to be insignificant.

- Minimise the footprint of transformation.
- Encourage the growth of natural plant species.
- Mechanical methods of control to be implemented if needed.
- Annual follow-up operations to be implemented.

4.3. Fauna

4.3.1. Habitat fragmentation

Source of the impact

Clearing of vegetation and disturbance during the construction of roads and drill pads.

Description of the impact

Prospecting activities could result in the loss of connectivity and fragmentation of natural habitat, which generally leads to the loss of migration corridors, in turn resulting in degeneration of the affected population's genetic make-up. This impact will be most profound if characteristics of the natural watercourses are altered. However, due to the low invasive nature of drilling activities this impact is not expected to be significant.

- All activities associated with the prospecting operation must be planned, where
 possible in order to encourage faunal dispersal and should minimise dissection or
 fragmentation of any important faunal habitat type.
- No activities should take place in the ephemeral wetlands.
- The extent of the earmarked area should be demarcated on site layout plans. No staff, contractors or vehicles may leave the demarcated area except those authorised to do so.
- Those pristine areas surrounding the earmarked area that are not part of the demarcated area should be considered as a no go zone for employees, machinery or even visitors.
- Employ sound rehabilitation measures to restore the characteristics and habitat functionality of any affected areas.

4.3.2. Disturbance, displacement and killing of fauna

Source of the impact

Vegetation clearing; increase in noise and vibration; human and vehicular movement on site resulting from prospecting activities.

Description of the impact

The transformation of natural habitats will result in the loss of micro habitats, affecting individual species and ecological processes. This will result in the displacement of faunal species that depend on such habitats, e.g. birds that nest in trees or animals residing in holes in the ground. Increased noise and vibration will disturb and possibly displace wildlife. Fast moving vehicles cause road kills of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and a large number of invertebrates. Intentional killing of snakes, reptiles, vultures and owls will negatively affect the local populations.

- Careful planning of the operation is needed in order to avoid the destruction of pristine habitats and minimise the overall disturbance footprint.
- The extent of the prospecting activities should be demarcated on site layout plans, and no personnel or vehicles may leave the demarcated area except if authorised to do so. Areas surrounding the earmarked site that are not part of the demarcated area should be considered as a no go zone.
- However, if any of the protected species are threatened by destruction, the relevant permits should be obtained followed by the relevant mitigation procedures stipulated in the permits.
- An Environmental Control Officer must render guidance to the staff and contractors with respect to suitable areas for all related disturbance.
- Everyone on site must undergo environmental induction for awareness on not harming or collecting species that are often persecuted out of superstition and to be educated about the conservation importance of the fauna occurring on site.
- Reptiles and amphibians that are exposed during the clearing operations should be captured for later release or translocation by a qualified expert.
- Employ measures that ensure adherence to the speed limit to lower the risk of animals being killed on the roads.

4.4. Broad-scale ecological processes

Source of the impact

Clearing of vegetation and disturbance during the construction of roads and drill pads; alterations to pan- and drainage line characteristics.

Description of the impact

Transformation of intact habitat on a cumulative basis would contribute to the fragmentation of the landscape and would potentially disrupt the connectivity of the landscape for fauna and flora and impair their ability to respond to environmental fluctuations. The grassland habitat is the most vulnerable terrestrial habitat on site in terms of cumulative disturbances. With regards to aquatic communities, the fragmentation of ephemeral drainage ways and pans will destroy connectivity of vital ecological corridors and it will disrupt the hydrological regime on a landscape level. However, due to the low invasive nature of the proposed activity the potential for cumulative impacts is not significant during the proposed prospecting operation.

- Minimise the footprint of transformation.
- Encourage proper rehabilitation of affected areas.
- Encourage the growth of natural plant species.
- Encourage the preservation of ecological corridors.
- Employ sound rehabilitation measures to restore the characteristics of any affected watercourses.

5. CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPINION REGARDING AUTHORISATION

Four potential plant communities were identified on site of which the ephemeral drainage lines and ephemeral pans are considered to be of very high sensitivity. The grassland vegetation unit in the northern half of the study area is considered to be of high sensitivity, while the thornveld vegetation unit in the south is considered to be of medium sensitivity. The area transformed by historic mining is considered to be of low sensitivity. The most profound impacts are expected to be related to the loss of plant species of conservation concern as well as the disruption of ecological corridors and the hydrological regime if the ephemeral pans and ephemeral drainage lines are modified through road creation or drill pad establishment.

A high number of provincially protected plant species are likely to occur on site, but nationally red listed species include *Galenia pallens*, *Brachystelma dimorphum* subsp. *dimorphum* and *Drimia sanguinea*. Permit applications regarding protected flora need to be lodged with the Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs three months prior to any clearance of vegetation.

Similarly, if any *Vachellia erioloba* trees are to be affected, a licence application regarding protected trees should be lodged with Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries three months prior to any potential disturbances to these trees.

To conclude, disturbances to the natural habitat and associated fauna within the study area are likely. However, the significance of the impacts is low due to the low invasive nature of drilling activities. Nevertheless, any significance of the impacts will be affected by the success of the mitigation measures implemented and the rehabilitation programme for the prospecting area. In my opinion, authorisation for the proposed operation can be granted. However, the applicant should still commit to the adherence of effective avoidance, management, mitigation and rehabilitation measures.

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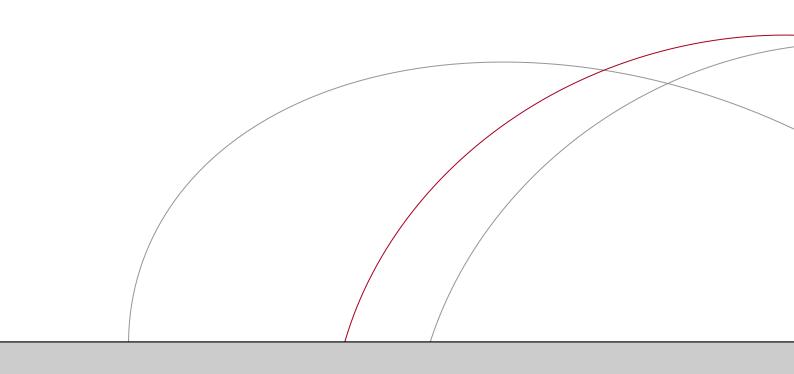
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Plant species list

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
ACANTHACEAE	Barleria rigida	LC		
	Blepharis integrifolia var. integrifolia	LC		
	Dicliptera leistneri	LC		
	Justicia orchioides subsp. glabrata	LC		
AGAVACEAE	Chlorophytum fasciculatum	LC		
AIZOACEAE	Aloinopsis rubrolineata	LC		
	Galenia pallens	DDT		
	Galenia portulacacea	LC		
	Galenia procumbens	LC		
	Galenia prostrata	LC		
	Galenia pubescens	LC		
	Mesembryanthemum articulatum	LC		
	Mesembryanthemum cordifolium	LC		
	Mesembryanthemum coriarium	LC		
	Mesembryanthemum granulicaule	LC		
	Mestoklema arboriforme	LC		
	Plinthus karooicus	LC		
	Plinthus sericeus	LC		
	Titanopsis calcarea	LC		X
	Trianthema parvifolia var. parvifolia	LC		
	Trichodiadema pomeridianum	LC		
ALLIACEAE	Nothoscordum gracile	Nat. Exotic		
/ LEI/ CE/ LE	Tulbaghia leucantha	LC		
AMARANTHACEAE	Achyranthes aspera var. aspera	Alien Inv		
7 (IVI) (IV (IVIII) (CE) (E	Aerva leucura	LC		
	Alternanthera pungens	Nat. Exotic		
	Amaranthus deflexus	Nat. Exotic		
	Amaranthus dinteri subsp. dinteri	-		
	Amaranthus praetermissus	LC		
	Amaranthus schinzianus	LC		
	Amaranthus thunbergii	LC		
	Amaranthus viridis	Nat. Exotic		
	Atriplex erosa	LC	_	
	Atriplex lindleyi subsp. inflata	Alien Inv		
	Atriplex rosea	Nat. Exotic		
	Atriplex semibaccata	Nat. Exotic		
	Atriplex suberecta	Nat. Exotic		
	Atriplex vestita var. appendiculata	LC		
	Chenopodium giganteum	Nat. Exotic		
	Chenopodium glaucum	Nat. Exotic		
	Chenopodium murale var. murale	Nat. Exotic		
	Chenopodium opulifolium var. opulifolium	Nat. Exotic		
	Chenopodium schraderianum	Nat. Exotic		
	Dysphania carinata	Nat. Exotic		
	Dysphania cristata	Nat. Exotic		
	Dysphania multifida	Nat. Exotic		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
AMARANTHACEAE	Gomphrena celosioides	Nat. Exotic		
	Hermbstaedtia odorata var. odorata	-		
	Kyphocarpa angustifolia	LC		
	Pupalia lappacea var. lappacea	LC		
	Salsola aphylla	LC		
	Salsola calluna	LC		
	Salsola denudata	LC		
	Salsola exalata	LC		
	Salsola geminiflora	LC		
	Salsola glabrescens	LC	_	
	Salsola kali	Alien Inv		
	Salsola rabieana	LC		
	Sericorema remotiflora	LC		
	Suaeda fruticosa	LC		
AMARYLLIDACEAE	Ammocharis coranica	LC		X
	Boophone disticha	LC		X
	Crinum bulbispermum	LC		X
	Crinum lugardiae	LC		X
	Gethyllis transkarooica	LC		X
	Haemanthus humilis subsp. humilis	LC		X
	Scadoxus puniceus	LC		
ANACARDIACEAE	Schinus molle	Nat. Exotic		
	Searsia ciliata	LC		
	Searsia lancea	LC		
	Searsia pyroides var. pyroides	LC		
	Searsia tridactyla	LC		
APIACEAE	Choritaenia capensis	LC		
	Deverra burchellii	LC		
APOCYNACEAE	Aspidoglossum interruptum	LC		
	Brachystelma dimorphum subsp. dimorphum	VU		
	Cynanchum orangeanum	LC		
	Cynanchum virens	LC		
	Gomphocarpus fruticosus subsp. fruticosus	LC		
	Gomphocarpus tomentosus	LC		
	Microloma armatum var. armatum	LC		
	Microloma armatum var. burchellii	LC		
	Orbea lutea subsp. lutea	LC		
	Orbea verrucosa	LC		
	Orthanthera jasminiflora	LC		
	Pentarrhinum insipidum	LC		
	Piaranthus decipiens	LC		
	Raphionacme velutina	LC		
	Riocreuxia polyantha	LC		
	Stapelia gettliffei	LC		
	Stapelia gigantea	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
APOCYNACEAE	Stapelia leendertziae	LC		
	Stenostelma capense	LC		
	Tridentea gemmiflora	LC		
ASPARAGACEAE	Asparagus bechuanicus	Bush Encr		
	Asparagus burchellii	Bush Encr		
	Asparagus cooperi	Bush Encr		
	Asparagus glaucus	Bush Encr		
	Asparagus laricinus	Bush Encr		
	Asparagus suaveolens	Bush Encr		
	Asparagus virgatus	Bush Encr		
ASPHODELACEAE	Aloe grandidentata	LC		X
	Aloe maculata	LC		X
	Bulbine abyssinica	LC		
	Bulbine asphodeloides	LC		
	Trachyandra burkei	LC		
	Trachyandra laxa var. rigida	LC		
	Trachyandra saltii var. saltii	LC		
ASPLENIACEAE	Asplenium cordatum	LC		
ASTERACEAE	Amellus strigosus subsp. strigosus	LC		
	Amellus tridactylus subsp. tridactylus	LC		
	Amphiglossa triflora	LC		
	Anthemis cotula	Nat. Exotic		
	Arctotheca calendula	LC		
	Arctotis venusta	LC		
	Berkheya pinnatifida subsp. pinnatifida	LC		
	Bidens biternata	Nat. Exotic		
	Chrysocoma ciliata	LC		
	Chrysocoma obtusata	LC		
	Cineraria aspera	LC		
	Cineraria lyratiformis	LC		
	Conyza scabrida	LC		
	Cotula anthemoides	LC		
	Crassothonna cylindrica	LC		
	Denekia capensis	LC		
	Dicoma capensis	LC		
	Dicoma macrocephala	LC		
	Dicoma schinzii	LC		
	Erigeron bonariensis	Nat. Exotic		
	Eriocephalus ambiguus	LC		
	Eriocephalus karooicus	LC		
	Euryops asparagoides	LC		
	Euryops subcarnosus subsp. vulgaris	LC		
	Felicia fascicularis	LC		
	Felicia filifolia subsp. filifolia	LC		
	Felicia muricata subsp. muricata	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCC
ASTERACEAE	Foveolina burchellii	LC		
	Galeomma stenolepis	LC		
	Gazania jurineifolia subsp. jurineifolia	LC		
	Gazania krebsiana subsp. arctotoides	LC		
	Geigeria burkei	LC		
	Geigeria filifolia	LC		
	Geigeria ornativa subsp. ornativa	LC		
	Gnaphalium confine	LC		
	Helichrysum arenicola	LC		X
	Helichrysum argyrosphaerum	LC		X
	Helichrysum cerastioides var. cerastioides	LC		X
	Helichrysum dregeanum	LC		X
	Helichrysum lineare	LC		X
	Helichrysum lucilioides	LC		X
	Helichrysum zeyheri	LC		X
	Hertia pallens	LC		
	Hirpicium echinus	LC		
	Kleinia longiflora	LC		
	Lactuca inermis	LC		
	Laggera decurrens	LC		
	Lasiopogon glomerulatus	LC		
	Lasiospermum bipinnatum	LC		
	Litogyne gariepina	LC		
	Mesogramma apiifolium	LC		
	Nidorella resedifolia subsp. resedifolia	LC		
	Nolletia ciliaris	LC		
	Oedera humilis	LC		
	Osteospermum leptolobum	LC		
	Osteospermum muricatum subsp. muricatum	LC		
	Osteospermum scariosum var. scariosum	-		
	Osteospermum spinescens	LC		
	Othonna auriculifolia	LC		
	Pegolettia retrofracta	LC		
	Pentzia calcarea	LC		
	Pentzia globosa	LC		
	Pentzia lanata	LC		
	Pentzia quinquefida	LC		
	Pentzia yamquejida Pentzia viridis	LC		
	Schkuhria pinnata	Nat. Exotic		
	Senecio burchellii	LC		
		LC		
	Senecio consanguineus	LC		
	Senecio glutinosus	LC		
	Senecio inaequidens	LC		
	Senecio reptans Senecio windhoekensis	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
ASTERACEAE	Sonchus oleraceus	Nat. Exotic		
	Symphyotrichum squamatum	Nat. Exotic		
	Tarchonanthus camphoratus	LC		
	Tarchonanthus obovatus	LC		
	Tragopogon dubius	Nat. Exotic		
	Troglophyton capillaceum subsp. capillaceum	LC	_	
	Xanthium spinosum	Alien Inv		
	Xanthium strumarium	Alien Inv		
BIGNONIACEAE	Rhigozum obovatum	LC		
	Rhigozum trichotomum	LC		
BORAGINACEAE	Anchusa riparia	LC		
	Buglossoides arvensis	Nat. Exotic		
	Ehretia alba	LC		
	Heliotropium ciliatum	LC		
	Heliotropium curassavicum	Nat. Exotic		
	Heliotropium lineare	LC		
	Heliotropium nelsonii	LC		
	Lappula heteracantha	Nat. Exotic		
	Lithospermum cinereum	LC		
	Trichodesma angustifolium	LC		
BRASSICACEAE	Erucastrum griquense	LC		
	Heliophila minima	LC		
	Lepidium africanum subsp. divaricatum	LC		
	Rapistrum rugosum	Nat. Exotic		
	Rorippa fluviatilis var. caledonica	LC		
	Sisymbrium burchellii var. burchellii	LC		
CAMPANULACEAE	Wahlenbergia androsacea	LC		
	Wahlenbergia denticulata var. denticulata	LC		
	Wahlenbergia denticulata var. transvaalensis	LC		
	Wahlenbergia meyeri	LC		
	Wahlenbergia nodosa	LC		
CARYOPHYLLACEAE	Cerastium capense	LC		
	Corrigiola litoralis subsp. litoralis	-		
	Dianthus micropetalus	LC		
	Herniaria erckertii subsp. erckertii	LC		
	Pollichia campestris	LC		
	Spergularia rubra	Nat. Exotic		
CELASTRACEAE	Gymnosporia buxifolia	LC		
	Putterlickia pyracantha	LC		
	Putterlickia saxatilis	LC		
CLEOMACEAE	Cleome angustifolia subsp. diandra	LC		
	Cleome gynandra	LC		
	Cleome monophylla	LC		
	Cleome rubella	LC		
COLCHICACEAE	Colchicum burkei	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
COLCHICACEAE	Colchicum melanthoides subsp. melanthoides	LC		
	Ornithoglossum dinteri	LC		
COMMELINACEAE	Commelina africana var. africana	LC		
	Commelina africana var. barberae	LC		
	Commelina benghalensis	LC		
	Commelina livingstonii	LC		
CONVOLVULACEAE	Convolvulus boedeckerianus	LC		
	Convolvulus multifidus	LC		
	Convolvulus ocellatus var. ocellatus	LC		
	Convolvulus sagittatus	LC		
	Cuscuta appendiculata	LC		
	Falkia oblonga	LC		
	Ipomoea bolusiana	LC		
	Ipomoea oenotheroides	LC		
	Merremia verecunda	LC		
CORBICHONIACEAE	Corbichonia decumbens	LC		
CRASSULACEAE	Crassula capitella subsp. nodulosa	LC		
0	Kalanchoe paniculata	LC		
CUCURBITACEAE	Acanthosicyos naudinianus	LC		
COCONDITION	Coccinia rehmannii	LC		
	Coccinia sessilifolia	LC		
	Cucumis heptadactylus	LC		
	Cucumis myriocarpus subsp. leptodermis	LC		
	Cucumis myriocarpus subsp. myriocarpus	LC		
	Cucumis zeyheri	LC		
	Kedrostis africana	LC		
	Momordica balsamina	LC		
	Trochomeria debilis	LC		
CYPERACEAE	Bulbostylis hispidula subsp. pyriformis	LC		
CITENACEAE	Cyperus capensis	LC		
	Cyperus decurvatus	LC		
	Cyperus decui vatus Cyperus fastigiatus	LC		
	Cyperus Justigiatus Cyperus laevigatus	LC		
	Cyperus margaritaceus var. margaritaceus	LC		
	Cyperus marlothii	LC		
	Cyperus manotini Cyperus usitatus	LC		
	Eleocharis dregeana	LC		
		LC		
	Isolepis sepulcralis	LC		
	Kyllinga alba			
	Pseudoschoenus inanis	LC LC		
DIPSACACEAE	Scabiosa columbaria			
EBENACEAE	Diospyros austro-africana var. microphylla	LC		
	Diospyros lycioides subsp. lycioides	LC		
	Euclea crispa subsp. ovata	Bush Encr		
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbia crassipes	LC		Х

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
EUPHORBIACEAE	Euphorbia davyi	LC		Х
	Euphorbia duseimata	LC		X
	Euphorbia glanduligera	LC		X
	Euphorbia inaequilatera	LC		X
	Euphorbia juttae	LC		X
	Euphorbia spartaria	LC		X
	Seidelia triandra	LC		
FABACEAE	Bolusanthus speciosus	LC		
	Chamaecrista biensis	LC		
	Chamaecrista capensis	LC		
	Crotalaria griquensis	LC		
	Crotalaria lotoides	LC		
	Crotalaria sphaerocarpa subsp. sphaerocarpa	LC		
	Cullen tomentosum	LC		
	Dichilus gracilis	LC		
	Elephantorrhiza elephantina	LC		
	Erythrina zeyheri	LC		X
	Indigofera alternans var. alternans	LC		
	Indigofera arrecta	LC		
	Indigofera daleoides var. daleoides	-		
	Indigofera filipes	LC		
	Indigofera rhytidocarpa subsp. rhytidocarpa	LC		
	Indigofera vicioides var. vicioides	LC		
	Lessertia affinis	LC		
	Lessertia depressa	LC		
	Lessertia frutescens subsp. frutescens	LC		
	Lessertia pauciflora var. pauciflora	LC		
	Listia heterophylla	LC		
	Listia marlothii	LC		
	Medicago laciniata var. laciniata	Nat. Exotic		
	Medicago polymorpha	Nat. Exotic		
	Melolobium calycinum	LC		
	Melolobium candicans	LC		
	Melolobium canescens	LC		
	Melolobium microphyllum	LC		
	Otoptera burchellii	LC	_	
	Prosopis glandulosa var. glandulosa	Alien Inv		
	Prosopis pubescens	Nat. Exotic	_	
	Prosopis velutina	Alien Inv		
	Rhynchosia confusa	LC		
	Rhynchosia holosericea	LC		
	Rhynchosia totta var. totta	LC		
	Senegalia mellifera subsp. detinens	Bush Encr		
	Senna italica subsp. arachoides	LC		
	Sesbania notialis	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
FABACEAE	Tephrosia burchellii	LC		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Vachellia erioloba	LC	X	
	Vachellia grandicornuta	LC		
	Vachellia hebeclada subsp. hebeclada	Bush Encr		
	Vachellia karroo	Bush Encr		
	Vachellia tortilis subsp. heteracantha	Bush Encr		
FRANKENIACEAE	Frankenia pulverulenta	LC		
GENTIANACEAE	Sebaea exigua	LC		
	Sebaea pentandra var. pentandra	LC		
GERANIACEAE	Monsonia angustifolia	LC		
	Monsonia burkeana	LC		
	Pelargonium nanum	LC		
GISEKIACEAE	Gisekia africana var. decagyna	LC		
	Gisekia pharnaceoides var. pharnaceoides	LC		
HYACINTHACEAE	Albuca dyeri	LC		
	Albuca prasina	LC		
	Albuca virens subsp. arida	LC		
	Daubenya comata	LC		
	Dipcadi gracillimum	LC		
	Dipcadi marlothii	LC		
	Dipcadi viride	LC		
	Drimia intricata	LC		
	Drimia sanguinea	NT		
	Eucomis autumnalis	LC		X
	Ledebouria marginata	LC		
	Ledebouria undulata	LC		
	Massonia jasminiflora	LC		
	Ornithogalum flexuosum	LC		
	Schizocarphus nervosus	LC		
IRIDACEAE	Babiana hypogaea	LC		
MIDACLAL	Duthieastrum linifolium	LC		
	Gladiolus orchidiflorus	LC		X
	Gladiolus permeabilis subsp. edulis	LC		X
	Moraea pallida	LC		^
	Moraea polystachya	LC		
JUNCACEAE	Juncus exsertus	LC		
JONCACLAL		LC		
KEWACEAE	Juncus rigidus Kewa salsoloides	LC		
		LC		
LAMIACEAE	Acrotome inflata	LC		
	Leonotis pentadentata	LC		
	Mentha longifolia subsp. capensis	LC		
	Ocimum americanum var. americanum			
	Salvia disermas	LC		
	Salvia verbenaca Stachys hyssopoides	Nat. Exotic LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
LAMIACEAE	Stachys spathulata	LC		
LIMEACEAE	Limeum aethiopicum var. aethiopicum	LC		
	Limeum arenicolum	LC		
	Limeum argute-carinatum	LC		
	Limeum fenestratum var. fenestratum	LC		
	Limeum pterocarpum	LC		
	Limeum sulcatum var. sulcatum	LC		
LOBELIACEAE	Cyphia stenopetala	LC		
	Lobelia dregeana	LC		
	Lobelia thermalis	LC		
LOPHIOCARPACEAE	Lophiocarpus polystachyus	LC		
MALVACEAE	Corchorus asplenifolius	LC		
	Grewia flava	LC		
	Hermannia bicolor	LC		
	Hermannia comosa	LC		
	Hermannia erodioides	LC		
	Hermannia linearifolia	LC		
	Hermannia modesta	LC		
	Hermannia tomentosa	LC		
	Hibiscus marlothianus	LC		
	Hibiscus pusillus	LC		
	Malva parviflora var. parviflora	Nat. Exotic		
	Melhania prostrata	LC		
	Pavonia burchellii	LC		
	Sphaeralcea bonariensis	Nat. Exotic		
MARTYNIACEAE	Ibicella lutea	Nat. Exotic		
MELIANTHACEAE	Greyia sutherlandii	LC		
MENISPERMACEAE	Antizoma angustifolia	LC		
NEURADACEAE	Grielum humifusum var. humifusum	LC		
	Neuradopsis bechuanensis	LC		
NYCTAGINACEAE	Boerhavia cordobensis	Nat. Exotic		
	Commicarpus pentandrus	LC		
OLEACEAE	Jasminum angulare	LC		
	Menodora africana	LC		
	Olea europaea subsp. africana	LC		X
ONAGRACEAE	Oenothera indecora	Nat. Exotic		
OXALIDACEAE	Oxalis corniculata	Nat. Exotic		
	Oxalis depressa	LC		
	Oxalis pes-caprae var. pes-caprae	LC	_	
PAPAVERACEAE	Argemone ochroleuca subsp. ochroleuca	Alien Inv		
PEDALIACEAE	Harpagophytum procumbens	LC		
	Pterodiscus speciosus	LC		
	Sesamum capense	LC		
PHRYMACEAE	Mimulus gracilis	LC		
PHYLLANTHACEAE	Phyllanthus maderaspatensis	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNC
PHYLLANTHACEAE	Phyllanthus parvulus var. parvulus	LC		
POACEAE	Anthephora pubescens	LC		
	Aristida adscensionis	LC		
	Aristida bipartita	LC		
	Aristida congesta subsp. barbicollis	LC		
	Aristida congesta subsp. congesta	LC		
	Aristida meridionalis	LC		
	Aristida mollissima subsp. mollissima	LC		
	Aristida scabrivalvis subsp. scabrivalvis	LC		
	Aristida stipitata subsp. graciliflora	LC		
	Aristida stipitata subsp. spicata	LC		
	Aristida vestita	LC		
	Brachiaria marlothii	LC		
	Cenchrus ciliaris	LC		
	Cenchrus incertus	Nat. Exotic		
	Chloris virgata	LC		
	Cymbopogon caesius	LC		
	Cymbopogon nardus	LC		
	Cymbopogon pospischilii	Nat. Exotic		
	Cynodon dactylon	LC		
	Cynodon incompletus	LC		
	Diandrochloa pusilla	LC		
	Dichanthium annulatum var. papillosum	LC		
	Digitaria eriantha	LC		
	Digitaria sanguinalis	Nat. Exotic		
	Echinochloa colona	LC		
	Echinochloa crus-galli	LC		
	Echinochloa holubii	LC		
	Ehrharta calycina	LC		
	Eleusine coracana subsp. africana	LC		
	Elionurus muticus	LC		
	Enneapogon cenchroides	LC		
	Enneapogon scoparius	LC		
	Eragrostis barrelieri	Nat. Exotic		
	Eragrostis bicolor	LC		
	Eragrostis biflora	LC		
	Eragrostis chloromelas	LC		
	Eragrostis cilianensis	LC		
	Eragrostis curvula	LC		
	Eragrostis echinochloidea	LC		
	Eragrostis gummiflua	LC		
	Eragrostis gammijaa Eragrostis homomalla	LC		
	Eragrostis homomana Eragrostis lehmanniana var. lehmanniana	LC		
	Eragrostis mexicana subsp. virescens	Nat. Exotic		
	Eragrostis nindensis	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
POACEAE	Eragrostis obtusa	LC		
	Eragrostis pallens	LC		
	Eragrostis pilosa	LC		
	Eragrostis porosa	LC		
	Eragrostis procumbens	LC		
	Eragrostis pseudobtusa	LC		
	Eragrostis rotifer	LC		
	Eragrostis superba	LC		
	Eragrostis tef	Nat. Exotic		
	Eragrostis trichophora	LC		
	Eragrostis truncata	LC		
	Fingerhuthia africana	LC		
	Hemarthria altissima	LC		
	Heteropogon contortus	LC		
	Leptochloa fusca	LC		
	Melinis repens subsp. grandiflora	LC		
	Melinis repens subsp. repens	LC		
	Microchloa kunthii	LC		
	Oropetium capense	LC		
	Panicum coloratum	LC		
	Panicum stapfianum	LC		
	Phalaris minor	Nat. Exotic		
	Phragmites australis	LC		
	Poa annua	Nat. Exotic		
	Pogonarthria squarrosa	LC		
	Polypogon monspeliensis	Nat. Exotic		
	Puccinellia acroxantha	LC		
	Schismus barbatus	LC		
	Schmidtia kalahariensis	LC		
	Schmidtia pappophoroides	LC		
	Setaria pumila	LC		
	Setaria verticillata	LC		
	Sorghum halepense	Alien Inv		
	Sporobolus albicans	LC		
	Sporobolus coromandelianus	LC		
	Sporobolus discosporus	LC		
	Sporobolus fimbriatus	LC		
	Sporobolus ludwigii	LC		
	Stipagrostis brevifolia	LC		
	Stipagrostis namaquensis	LC		
	Stipagrostis obtusa	LC		
	Stipagrostis uniplumis var. neesii	LC		
	Stipagrostis uniplumis var. uniplumis	LC		
	Themeda triandra	LC		
	Tragus berteronianus	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
POACEAE	Tragus koelerioides	LC		
	Tragus racemosus	LC		
	Tricholaena monachne	LC		
	Trichoneura grandiglumis	LC		
	Triraphis purpurea	LC		
	Urochloa panicoides	LC		
POLYGALACEAE	Polygala hottentotta	LC		
	Polygala leptophylla var. leptophylla	LC		
	Polygala seminuda	LC		
POLYGONACEAE	Fallopia convolvulus	Nat. Exotic		
	Oxygonum alatum var. alatum	LC		
	Persicaria hystricula	LC		
	Polygonum aviculare	Nat. Exotic		
	Polygonum plebeium	LC		
PORTULACACEAE	Portulaca kermesina	LC		
	Portulaca quadrifida	LC		
POTAMOGETONACEAE	Potamogeton crispus	LC		
	Potamogeton pectinatus	LC		
	Zannichellia palustris	LC		
PTERIDACEAE	Cheilanthes eckloniana	LC		
	Cheilanthes hirta var. brevipilosa	LC		
	Pellaea calomelanos var. calomelanos	LC		
RANUNCULACEAE	Clematis brachiata	LC		
	Ranunculus multifidus	LC		
	Ranunculus trichophyllus	LC		
	Thalictrum minus	LC		
RESEDACEAE	Oligomeris dipetala var. dipetala	LC		
RHAMNACEAE	Ziziphus mucronata subsp. mucronata	LC		
ROSACEAE	Alchemilla elongata	LC		
RUBIACEAE	Kohautia cynanchica	LC		
RUSCACEAE	Eriospermum porphyrium	LC		
SALICACEAE	Salix mucronata subsp. mucronata	LC		
SANTALACEAE	Thesium hystricoides	LC		
	Thesium hystrix	LC		
	Thesium resedoides	LC		
	Viscum rotundifolium	LC		
SCROPHULARIACEAE	Aptosimum elongatum	LC		
	Aptosimum indivisum	LC		
	Aptosimum marlothii	LC		
	Buddleja saligna	LC		
	Chaenostoma halimifolium	LC		
	Chaenostoma patrioticum	LC		
	Diclis petiolaris	LC		
	Gomphostigma virgatum	LC		
	Hebenstretia integrifolia	LC		

FAMILY	SPECIES	STATUS	NFA	FSNCO
SCROPHULARIACEAE	Jamesbrittenia albiflora	LC		
	Jamesbrittenia atropurpurea	LC		
	Limosella maior	LC		
	Nemesia fruticans	LC		
	Nemesia lilacina	LC		
	Peliostomum leucorrhizum	LC		
	Peliostomum origanoides	LC		
	Selago densiflora	LC		
	Selago geniculata	LC		
	Selago mixta	LC		
	Selago welwitschii var. australis	LC		
	Zaluzianskya venusta	LC		
SOLANACEAE	Datura stramonium	Alien Inv		
	Lycium arenicola	LC	•	
	Lycium cinereum	LC		
	Lycium ferocissimum	LC		
	Lycium hirsutum	LC		
	Lycium horridum	LC		
	Lycium pilifolium	LC		
	Lycium pumilum	LC		
	Lycium villosum	LC		
	Nicotiana glauca	Alien Inv		
	Solanum capense	LC		
	Solanum lichtensteinii	LC		
	Solanum tomentosum	LC		
STILBACEAE	Nuxia gracilis	LC		
TALINACEAE	Talinum arnotii	LC		
TAMARICACEAE	Tamarix ramosissima	Alien Inv.		
TECOPHILAEACEAE	Cyanella lutea	LC		
THYMELAEACEAE	Lasiosiphon polycephalus	LC		
VAHLIACEAE	Vahlia capensis subsp. capensis	LC		
	Vahlia capensis subsp. vulgaris	LC		
VERBENACEAE	Chascanum hederaceum var. hederaceum	LC		
	Chascanum pinnatifidum	LC		
	Lantana rugosa	LC		
	Verbena officinalis	Nat. Exotic		
VITACEAE	Cyphostemma hereroense	LC		
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	Roepera incrustata	LC		
	Roepera pubescens	LC		
	Tetraena microcarpa	LC		
	Tetraena simplex	LC		
	Tribulus terrestris	LC		
	Tribulus zeyheri subsp. zeyheri	LC		

APPENDIX 2

Fauna species list

LIST OF MAMMALS

Mammals protected according to FSNCO are indicated with their respective Schedule no. in superscript

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	Eidolon helvum	African Straw-coloured Fruit-bat	NT	Not listed	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Neoromicia capensis	Cape Bat	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance, but often found in arid areas, grassland, bushveld and <i>Acacia</i> woodland. Animals roost under the bark of trees and similar vegetation.	High
4	Miniopterus natalensis	Natal Long-fingered Bat	LC	Not listed	Mainly roosts in caves or mine shafts, but also in crevices and holes in trees.	High
CHIROPTERA	Nycteris thebaica	Common Slit-faced Bat	LC	LC	Savanna species with wide habitat tolerance. Roosts in caves, mine adits, aardvark holes, rock crevices and hollow trees in open savanna woodland.	High
	Pipistrellus hesperidus	Dusk Pipistrelle	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance, but close proximity to open water may be a limiting factor.	Low
	Rhinolophus clivosus	Geoffroy's Horseshoe Bat	LC	NT	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Tadarida aegyptiaca	Egyptian Free-tailed Bat	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
CHRYSOCHLORIDAE	Chlorotalpa sclateri	Sclater's Golden Mole	LC	DD	Restricted to high-altitude grasslands, scrub and forested kloofs in the Nama Karoo and Grassland biomes of South Africa.	Low
MACROSCELIDIDAE	Elephantulus myurus	Eastern Rock Sengi	LC	LC	Rocky environments.	Low
TUBULENTATA	¹ Orycteropus afer	Aardvark	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance, being found in open woodland, scrub and grassland, especially associated with sandy soil.	High
HYRACOIDEA	Procavia capensis	Rock Hyrax	LC	LC	Outcrops of rocks, especially granite formations and dolomite intrusions in the Karoo. Also erosion gullies.	Low

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	² Lepus capensis	Cape Hare	LC	LC	Dry, open regions, with palatable bush and grass.	High
LAGOMORPHA	² Lepus saxatilis	Scrub Hare	LC	LC	Common in agriculturally developed areas, especially in crop-growing areas or in fallow lands where there is some bush development.	Moderate
LAG	Pronolagus rupestris	Smith's Red Rock Rabbit	LC	LC	Rocky habitats, from isolated outcrops to mountain ranges; in high and low rainfall areas, but absent from true desert.	Low
	Hystrix africaeaustralis	Cape Porcupine	LC	LC	Catholic in habitat requirements.	High
Ą.	Xerus inauris	South African Ground Squirrel	LC	LC	Open terrain with a sparse bush cover and hard substrate.	High
RODENTIA	Pedetes capensis	Springhare	LC	LC	Occurs widespread: open sandy ground, sandy scrub, overgrazed grassland, edges of vleis and dry river beds.	High
	Graphiurus ocularis	Spectacled Dormouse	LC	LC	Rocky habitats, but also trees.	Moderate

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	Saccostomus campestris	Pouched Mouse	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance but prefers soft, particularly sandy soils; can be found in open and dense vegetation and in rocky areas; annual rainfall of 250 - 1 200 mm.	High
	Malacothrix typica	Large-eared (Gerbil) Mouse	LC	LC	Short grass habitats over hard soil.	Moderate
TIA	Rhabdomys pumilio	Four-striped Grass Mouse	LC	LC	Essentially a grassland species; occurs in wide variety of habitats where there is good grass cover.	High
RODENTIA	Mus minutoides	Pygmy Mouse	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
8	Mus musculus	House Mouse	LC	Not listed	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Mastomys natalensis	Natal Multimammate Mouse	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Mastomys coucha	Southern Multimammate Mouse	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Micaelamys namaquensis	Namaqua Rock Mouse	LC	LC	Catholic habitat requirements, but prefer rocky hills, outcrops or boulder-strewn hillsides.	Low
	Rattus rattus	House Rat	LC	LC	Primarily commensal, but also found in a variety of natural and seminatural habitats.	High

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	Otomys irroratus	Southern African Vlei Rat	LC	LC	Known from grassland and marshes in areas of dense vegetation cover and higher moisture content. It also occurs in pine plantations.	Moderate
ΠΑ	Desmodillus auricularis	Cape Short-tailed Gerbil	LC	LC	Tend to occur on hard ground, unlike other gerbil species, with some cover of grass or karroid bush.	Moderate
RODENTIA	Gerbillurus paeba	Pygmy Hairy-footed Gerbil	LC	LC	Associated with Nama and Succulent Karoo preferring sandy soil or sandy alluvium with a grass, scrub or light woodland cover.	Moderate
	Gerbilliscus leucogaster	Bushveld Gerbil	LC	DD	Sandy soils; wooded and more open grassland; areas of cultivation.	High
	Gerbilliscus brantsii	Highveld Gerbil	LC	LC	Sandy soils; wooded and more open grassland; areas of cultivation.	High
PRIMATES	Papio ursinus	Chacma Baboon	LC	LC	Can exploit fynbos, montane grasslands, riverine courses in deserts, and simply need water and access to refuges.	Low
PR	Chlorocebus pygerythrus	Vervet Monkey	LC	LC	Woodland savanna, riverine woodland, isolated stands of trees along river courses.	Moderate

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
PHOLIDOTA	¹ Smutsia temminckii	Ground Pangolin	VU	VU	Low to high rainfall areas, including open grassland, woodland and rocky hills, but excluding forest and true desert; nevertheless present throughout the Kalahari sand country.	Low
РНГА	Crocidura cyanea	Reddish-Grey Musk Shrew	LC	DD	Occurs in relatively dry terrain, with a mean annual rainfall of less than 500 mm. Occur in karroid scrub and in fynbos often in association with rocks.	Low
EULIPOTYPHLA	Suncus varilla	Lesser Dwarf Shrew	LC	DD	Generally associated with termite mounds, grassland habitat.	High
	¹ Atelerix frontalis	South African Hedgehog	LC	NT	Generally found in semi-arid and subtemperate environments with ample ground cover.	Moderate

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	Proteles cristata	Aardwolf	LC	LC	Common in the 100-600mm rainfall range of country, Nama-Karoo, Succulent Karoo Grassland and Savanna biomes.	High
	Caracal caracal	Caracal	LC	LC	Caracals tolerate arid regions, occur in semi-desert and karroid conditions.	High
ORA	Felis silvestris	African Wild Cat	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
CARNIVORA	Felis nigripes	Black-footed cat	VU	LC	Associated with arid country, particularly areas with open habitat that provides some cover in the form of tall stands of grass or scrub.	Low
	Genetta genetta	Common (Small-spotted) Genet	LC	LC	Occur in open arid habitats.	Moderate
	Suricata suricatta	Suricate	LC	LC	Open arid country with hard and stony substrate. Occur in Nama- and Succulent Karoo but also fynbos.	High

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	Cynictis penicillata	Yellow Mongoose	LC	LC	Semi-arid country on a sandy substrate.	High
	Galerella pulverulenta	Cape (Small) Grey Mongoose	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Herpestes sanguineus	Slender Mongoose	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance, but areas with adequate cover.	High
CARNIVORA	Atilax paludinosus	Water (Marsh) Mongoose	LC	LC	Associated with well-watered areas, along rivers and streams, around dams, lakes, estuaries and swamps wherever there is cover.	Very low
3	Vulpes chama	Cape Fox	LC	LC	Associated with open country, open grassland, grassland with scattered thickets and coastal or semi-desert scrub.	High
	Canis mesomelas	Black-backed Jackal	LC	LC	Wide habitat tolerance.	High
	Aonyx capensis	Cape Clawless Otter	NT	LC	Rivers, marshes, dams and lakes; dry stream beds if pools of water exist.	Very low

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	Hydrictis maculicollis	Spotted-necked Otter	NT	NT	Larger rivers or rivers with permanent pools; lakes, dams and well-watered swamps.	Very low
JRA	Hyaena brunnea	Brown Hyena	NT	NT	Found in dry areas, generally with annual rainfall of 100 - 700 mm, particularly along the coast, semidesert, open scrub and open woodland savanna.	Low
CARNIVORA	¹ Otocyon megalotis	Bat-eared Fox	LC	LC	Open country with mean annual rainfall of 100-600 mm.	High
	Poecilogale albinucha	African Striped Weasel	LC	DD	Wide habitat tolerance, but most common in grassland areas.	High
	Ictonyx striatus	Striped Polecat	LC	LC	Widely distributed throughout the sub-region.	High
	Mellivora capensis	Honey Badger	LC	NT	Wide habitat tolerance.	High

	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	RDB	Habitat	Potential occurrence
	² Oryx gazella	Gemsbok	LC	LC	Semi-arid and arid bushland and grassland of the Kalahari and Karoo and adjoining regions of Southern Africa.	Low
YLA	² Connochaetes gnou	Black Wildebeest	LC	LC	Open plains grasslands and karoo shrublands of South Africa and Lesotho.	Low
CETARTIODACTYLA	² Connochaetes taurinus	Blue Wildebeest	LC	LC	Open savanna woodland and open grassland with access to drinking water.	Low
СЕТА	² Alcelaphus caama	Red Hartebeest	LC	LC	Open savanna country and open woodland.	Low
	² Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi	Blesbok	LC	LC	Open grassland with water.	Low
	² Antidorcas marsupialis	Springbok	LC	LC	Open arid plains with short vegetation	Low
	² Raphicerus campestris	Steenbok	LC	LC	Inhabits open country.	High
	Sylvicapra grimmia	Common Duiker	LC	LC	Presence of bushes are important.	High

LIST OF REPTILES

Family	Scientific name	Common name	pyxIUCN status
AGAMIDAE	Agama aculeata aculeata	Western Ground Agama	LC
	Agama aculeata distanti	Eastern Ground Agama	LC
	Agama atra	Soutern Rock Agama	LC
COLUBRIDAE	Dasypeltis scabra	Rhombic Egg-eater	LC
CORDYLIDAE	¹ Karusasaurus polyzonus	Southern Karusa Lizard	LC
ELAPIDAE	Naja nivea	Cape Cobra	LC
GEKKONIDAE	Chondrodactylus bibronii	Bibron's Gecko	LC
	Pachydactylus capensis	Cape Gecko	LC
LACERTIDAE	Nucras holubi	Holub's Sandveld Lizard	LC
	Nucras intertexta	Spotted Sandveld Lizard	LC
	Pedioplanis lineoocellata lineoocellata	Spotted Sand Lizard	LC
LAMPROPHIIDAE	Aparallatus capensis	Black-headed Centipede-eater	LC
	Boaedon capensis	Common House Snake	LC
	Lamprophis aurora	Aurora Snake	LC
	Lycophidion capense capense	Cape Wolf Snake	LC
	Psammophis notostictus	Karoo Sand Snake	LC
	Psammophis trinasalis	Fork-marked Sand Snake	LC
	Psammophis tritaeniatus	Striped Grass Snake	LC
	Prosymna bivittata	Two-striped Shovel-snout	LC
	Pseudaspis cana	Mole Snake	LC
LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE	Leptotyphlops scutifrons scutifrons	Peters' Thread Snake	LC
	Atractaspis bibronii	Bibron's Stiletto Snake	LC
PELOMEDUSIDAE	Pelomedusa subrufa	Marsh Terrapin	LC
SCINCIDAE	Acontias gracilicauda	Thin-tailed Legless Skink	LC
	Trachylepis capensis	Cape Skink	LC
	Trachylepis punctatissima	Speckled Rock Skink	LC
	Trachylepis punctulata	Speckled Sand Skink	LC
	Trachylepis sulcata sulcata	Western Rock Skink	LC
	Trachylepis varia	Variable Skink	LC
	Trachylepis variegata	Variegated Skink	LC
TESTUDINIDAE	¹ Homopus femoralis	Greater Dwarf Tortoise	LC
	¹ Psammobates oculifer	Serrated Tent Tortoise	LC
	¹ Stigmochelys pardalis	Leopard Tortoise	LC
TYPHLOPIDAE	Rhinotyphlops lalandei	Delalande's Beaked Blind Snake	LC
VARANIDAE	Varanus albigularis albigularis	Southern Rock Monitor	LC
VIPERIDAE	Bitis arietans arietans	Puff Adder	LC

LIST OF AMPHIBIANS

Family	Scientific name	Common name	Frog Atlas
BUFONIDAE	Amietophrynus gutturalis	Guttural Toad	LC
	Amietophrynus poweri	Western Olive Toad	LC
	Amietophrynus rangeri	Raucous Toad	LC
	Poyntonophrynus vertebralis	Southern Pygmy Toad	LC
HYPEROLIIDAE	Kassina senegalensis	Bubbling Kassina	LC
PHRYNOBATRACHIDAE	Phrynobatrachus natalensis	Snoring Puddle Frog	LC
PIPIDAE	Xenopus laevis	Common Platanna	LC
PYXICEPHALIDAE	Amietia poyntoni	Poynton's River Frog	LC
	Amietia fuscigula	Cape River Frog	LC
	Amietia quecketti	Common River Frog	LC
	Cacosternum boettgeri	Boettger's Caco	LC
	Pyxicephalus adspersus	Giant Bullfrog	NT
	Tomopterna cryptotis	Tremolo Sand Frog	LC
	Tomopterna tandyi	Tandy's Sand Frog	LC

cientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDE
Accipiter melanoleucus	Black Sparrowhawk	LC	LC
Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Great Reed-Warbler	LC	LC
Acrocephalus baeticatus	African Reed-Warbler	LC	LC
Acrocephalus gracilirostris	Lesser Swamp-Warbler	LC	LC
Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler	LC	LC
Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper	LC	LC
Actophilornis africanus	African Jacana	LC	LC
Alcedo cristata	Malachite Kingfisher	LC	LC
Alopochen aegyptiacus	Egyptian Goose	LC	LC
Amadina erythrocephala	Red-headed Finch	LC	LC
Amaurornis flavirostris	Black Crake	LC	LC
Anas capensis	Cape Teal	LC	LC
Anas erythrorhyncha	Red-billed Teal	LC	LC
Anas hottentota	Hottentot Teal	LC	LC
Anas smithii	Cape Shoveler	LC	LC
Anas sparsa	African Black Duck	LC	LC
Anas undulata	Yellow-billed Duck	LC	LC
Anhinga rufa	African Darter	LC	LC
Anthoscopus minutus	Cape Penduline-Tit	LC	LC
Anthropoides paradisea	Blue Crane	NT	NT
Anthus cinnamomeus	African Pipit	LC	LC
Anthus crenatus	African Rock Pipit	NT	NT
Anthus leucophrys	Plain-backed Pipit	LC	LC
Anthus similis	Long-billed Pipit	LC	LC
Anthus vaalensis	Buffy Pipit	LC	LC
Apus affinis	Little Swift	LC	LC
Apus apus	Common Swift	LC	LC
Apus barbatus	African Black Swift	LC	LC
Apus bradfieldi	Bradfield's Swift	LC	LC
Apus caffer	White-rumped Swift	LC	LC
Apus horus	Horus Swift	LC	LC
Aquila rapax	Tawny Eagle	VU	EN
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	LC	LC
Ardea goliath	Goliath Heron	LC	LC
Ardea melanocephala	Black-headed Heron	LC	LC
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	LC	LC
Ardeola ralloides	Squacco Heron	LC	LC
Ardeotis kori	Kori Bustard	NT	NT
Asio capensis	Marsh Owl	LC	LC
Batis pririt	Pririt Batis	LC	LC

cientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDE
Bostrychia hagedash	Hadeda Ibis	LC	LC
Bradornis infuscatus	Chat Flycatcher	LC	LC
Bradornis mariquensis	Marico Flycatcher	LC	LC
Bubo africanus	Spotted Eagle-Owl	LC	LC
Bubo lacteus	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	LC	LC
Bubulcus ibis	Cattle Egret	LC	LC
Burhinus capensis	Spotted Thick-knee	LC	LC
Buteo rufofuscus	Jackal Buzzard	LC	LC
Buteo vulpinus	Steppe Buzzard	LC	LC
Butorides striatus	Green-backed Heron	LC	LC
Calandrella cinerea	Red-capped Lark	LC	LC
Calendulauda africanoides	Fawn-coloured Lark	LC	LC
Calendulauda sabota	Sabota Lark	LC	LC
Calidris alba	Sanderling	LC	LC
Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper	LC	LC
Calidris minuta	Little Stint	LC	LC
Campethera abingoni	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	LC	LC
Caprimulgus europaeus	European Nightjar	LC	LC
Caprimulgus pectoralis	Fiery-necked Nightjar	LC	LC
Caprimulgus rufigena	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	LC	LC
Cercomela familiaris	Familiar Chat	LC	LC
Cercomela schlegelii	Karoo Chat	LC	LC
Cercomela sinuata	Sickle-winged Chat	LC	LC
Cercotrichas coryphoeus	Karoo Scrub-Robin	LC	LC
Cercotrichas paena	Kalahari Scrub-Robin	LC	LC
Certhilauda chuana	Short-clawed Lark	LC	NT
Ceryle rudis	Pied Kingfisher	LC	LC
Charadrius asiaticus	Caspian Plover	LC	LC
Charadrius hiaticula	Common Ringed Plover	LC	LC
Charadrius pallidus	Chestnut-banded Plover	NT	NT
Charadrius pecuarius	Kittlitz's Plover	LC	LC
Charadrius tricollaris	Three-banded Plover	LC	LC
Chersomanes albofasciata	Spike-heeled Lark	LC	LC
Chlidonias hybridus	Whiskered Tern	LC	LC
Chlidonias leucopterus	White-winged Tern	LC	LC
Chrysococcyx caprius	Diderick Cuckoo	LC	LC
Ciconia abdimii	Abdim's Stork	LC	NT
Ciconia ciconia	White Stork	LC	LC
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	LC	VU

cientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDI
Cinnyris fusca	Dusky Sunbird	LC	LC
Cinnyris talatala	White-bellied Sunbird	LC	LC
Circaetus pectoralis	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	LC	LC
Circus aeruginosus	Western Marsh-Harrier	LC	LC
Circus macrourus	Pallid Harrier	NT	NT
Circus maurus	Black Harrier	VU	LC
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	LC	LC
Circus ranivorus	African Marsh-Harrier	EN	EN
Cisticola aridulus	Desert Cisticola	LC	LC
Cisticola fulvicapillus	Neddicky	LC	LC
Cisticola juncidis	Zitting Cisticola	LC	LC
Cisticola textrix	Cloud Cisticola	LC	LC
Cisticola tinniens	Levaillant's Cisticola	LC	LC
Clamator glandarius	Great Spotted Cuckoo	LC	LC
Clamator jacobinus	Jacobin Cuckoo	LC	LC
Colius colius	White-backed Mousebird	LC	LC
Columba guinea	Speckled Pigeon	LC	LC
Columba livia	Rock Dove	LC	LC
Coracias caudata	Lilac-breasted Roller	LC	LC
Coracias garrulus	European Roller	LC	NT
Corvus albus	Pied Crow	LC	LC
Corvus capensis	Cape Crow	LC	LC
Cossypha caffra	Cape Robin-Chat	LC	LC
Coturnix coturnix	Common Quail	LC	LC
Creatophora cinerea	Wattled Starling	LC	LC
Cuculus solitarius	Red-chested Cuckoo	LC	LC
Cursorius rufus	Burchell's Courser	LC	VU
Cursorius temminckii	Temminck's Courser	LC	LC
Cypsiurus parvus	African Palm-Swift	LC	LC
Delichon urbica	Common House-Martin	LC	LC
Dendrocygna bicolor	Fulvous Duck	LC	LC
Dendrocygna viduata	White-faced Duck	LC	LC
Dendropicos fuscescens	Cardinal Woodpecker	LC	LC
Dicrurus adsimilis	Fork-tailed Drongo	LC	LC
Egretta alba	Great Egret	LC	LC
Egretta ardesiaca	Black Heron	LC	LC
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	LC	LC
Egretta intermedia	Yellow-billed Egret	LC	LC
Elanus caeruleus	Black-shouldered Kite	LC	LC

scientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDB
Emberiza capensis	Cape Bunting	LC	LC
Emberiza flaviventris	Golden-breasted Bunting	LC	LC
Emberiza impetuani	Lark-like Bunting	LC	LC
Emberiza tahapisi	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	LC	LC
Eremomela icteropygialis	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	LC	LC
Eremopterix leucotis	Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark	LC	LC
Eremopterix verticalis	Grey-backed Sparrowlark	LC	LC
Estrilda astrild	Common Waxbill	LC	LC
Estrilda erythronotos	Black-faced Waxbill	LC	LC
Euplectes afer	Yellow-crowned Bishop	LC	LC
Euplectes orix	Southern Red Bishop	LC	LC
Euplectes progne	Long-tailed Widowbird	LC	LC
Eupodotis afraoides	Northern Black Korhaan	LC	LC
Eupodotis caerulescens	Blue Korhaan	NT	LC
Eupodotis ruficrista	Red-crested Korhaan	LC	LC
Falco amurensis	Amur Falcon	LC	LC
Falco biarmicus	Lanner Falcon	VU	VU
Falco naumanni	Lesser Kestrel	LC	LC
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	LC	LC
Falco rupicolis	Rock Kestrel	LC	LC
Falco rupicoloides	Greater Kestrel	LC	LC
Fulica cristata	Red-knobbed Coot	LC	LC
Galerida magnirostris	Large-billed Lark	LC	LC
Gallinago nigripennis	African Snipe	LC	LC
Gallinula chloropus	Common Moorhen	LC	LC
Glareola nordmanni	Black-winged Pratincole	NT	NT
Granatina granatina	Violet-eared Waxbill	LC	LC
Gyps africanus	White-backed Vulture	CR	CR
Gyps coprotheres	Cape Vulture	EN	EN
Halcyon albiventris	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	LC	LC
Haliaeetus vocifer	African Fish-Eagle	LC	LC
Hieraaetus pennatus	Booted Eagle	LC	LC
Himantopus himantopus	Black-winged Stilt	LC	LC
Hippolais icterina	Icterine Warbler	LC	LC
Hirundo albigularis	White-throated Swallow	LC	LC
Hirundo cucullata	Greater Striped Swallow	LC	LC
Hirundo dimidiata	Pearl-breasted Swallow	LC	LC
Hirundo fuligula	Rock Martin	LC	LC
Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow	LC	LC
Hirundo semirufa	Red-breasted Swallow	LC	LC

cientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDB
Hirundo spilodera	South African Cliff-Swallow	LC	LC
Indicator indicator	Greater Honeyguide	LC	LC
Indicator minor	Lesser Honeyguide	LC	LC
Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern	LC	LC
Lagonosticta senegala	Red-billed Firefinch	LC	LC
Lamprotornis nitens	Cape Glossy Starling	LC	LC
Laniarius atrococcineus	Crimson-breasted Shrike	LC	LC
Lanius collaris	Common Fiscal	LC	LC
Lanius collurio	Red-backed Shrike	LC	LC
Lanius minor	Lesser Grey Shrike	LC	LC
Larus cirrocephalus	Grey-headed Gull	LC	LC
Leptoptilos crumeniferus	Marabou Stork	LC	NT
Limosa limosa	Black-tailed Godwit	NT	LC
Macronyx capensis	Cape Longclaw	LC	LC
Malcorus pectoralis	Rufous-eared Warbler	LC	LC
Megaceryle maxima	Giant Kingfisher	LC	LC
Melierax canorus	Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	LC	LC
Melierax gabar	Gabar Goshawk	LC	LC
Merops apiaster	European Bee-eater	LC	LC
Merops bullockoides	White-fronted Bee-eater	LC	LC
Merops hirundineus	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	LC	LC
Merops persicus	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	LC	LC
Milvus aegyptius	Yellow-billed Kite	-	LC
Milvus migrans	Black Kite	LC	LC
Mirafra africana	Rufous-naped Lark	LC	LC
Mirafra cheniana	Melodious Lark	LC	LC
Mirafra fasciolata	Eastern Clapper Lark	LC	LC
Monticola brevipes	Short-toed Rock-Thrush	LC	LC
Motacilla aguimp	African Pied Wagtail	LC	LC
Motacilla capensis	Cape Wagtail	LC	LC
Motacilla flava	Yellow Wagtail	LC	LC
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher	LC	LC
Mycteria ibis	Yellow-billed Stork	LC	EN
Myrmecocichla formicivora	Anteating Chat	LC	LC
Neotis ludwigii	Ludwig's Bustard	EN	EN
Netta erythrophthalma	Southern Pochard	LC	LC
Nilaus afer	Brubru	LC	LC
Numenius arquata	Eurasian Curlew	NT	NT
Numenius phaeopus	Common Whimbrel	LC	LC
Numida meleagris	Helmeted Guineafowl	LC	LC

Scientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDB
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned Night-Heron	LC	LC
Oena capensis	Namaqua Dove	LC	LC
Oenanthe monticola	Mountain Wheatear	LC	LC
Oenanthe pileata	Capped Wheatear	LC	LC
Oriolus oriolus	Eurasian Golden Oriole	LC	LC
Ortygospiza atricollis	African Quailfinch	LC	LC
Oxyura maccoa	Maccoa Duck	NT	NT
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey	LC	LC
Parisoma layardi	Layard's Tit-Babbler	-	LC
Parisoma subcaeruleum	Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler	LC	LC
Parus cinerascens	Ashy Tit	LC	LC
Passer diffusus	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	LC	LC
Passer domesticus	House Sparrow	LC	LC
Passer melanurus	Cape Sparrow	LC	LC
Passer motitensis	Great Sparrow	LC	LC
Pelecanus rufescens	Pink-backed Pelican	LC	VU
Phalacrocorax africanus	Reed Cormorant	LC	LC
Phalacrocorax lucidus	White-breasted Cormorant	LC	LC
Philetairus socius	Sociable Weaver	LC	LC
Philomachus pugnax	Ruff	LC	LC
Phoenicopterus minor	Lesser Flamingo	NT	NT
Phoenicopterus ruber	Greater Flamingo	NT	NT
Phragmacia substriata	Namaqua Warbler	LC	LC
Phylloscopus trochilus	Willow Warbler	LC	LC
Platalea alba	African Spoonbill	LC	LC
Plectropterus gambensis	Spur-winged Goose	LC	LC
Plegadis falcinellus	Glossy Ibis	LC	LC
Plocepasser mahali	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	LC	LC
Ploceus velatus	Southern Masked-Weaver	LC	LC
Podiceps cristatus	Great Crested Grebe	LC	LC
Podiceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe	LC	LC
Polemaetus bellicosus	Martial Eagle	EN	EN
Polihierax semitorquatus	Pygmy Falcon	LC	LC
Polyboroides typus	African Harrier-Hawk	LC	LC
Porphyrio madagascariensis	African Purple Swamphen	LC	LC
Porzana pusilla	Baillon's Crake	LC	LC
Prinia flavicans	Black-chested Prinia	LC	LC
Psophocichla litsipsirupa	Groundscraper Thrush	LC	LC
Pternistis natalensis	Natal Francolin	LC	LC
Pternistis swainsonii	Swainson's Spurfowl	LC	LC

cientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDE
Pterocles namaqua	Namaqua Sandgrouse	LC	LC
Ptilopsus granti	Southern White-faced Scops-Owl	LC	LC
Pycnonotus nigricans	African Red-eyed Bulbul	LC	LC
Pytilia melba	Green-winged Pytilia	LC	LC
Quelea quelea	Red-billed Quelea	LC	LC
Rallus caerulescens	African Rail	LC	LC
Recurvirostra avosetta	Pied Avocet	LC	LC
Rhinopomastus cyanomelas	Common Scimitarbill	LC	LC
Rhinoptilus africanus	Double-banded Courser	LC	LC
Riparia cincta	Banded Martin	LC	LC
Riparia paludicola	Brown-throated Martin	LC	LC
Riparia riparia	Sand Martin	LC	LC
Rostratula benghalensis	Greater Painted-snipe	LC	NT
Sagittarius serpentarius	Secretarybird	VU	VU
Sarkidiornis melanotos	Comb Duck	LC	LC
Saxicola torquata	African Stonechat	LC	LC
Scleroptila levaillantoides	Orange River Francolin	LC	LC
Scopus umbretta	Hamerkop	LC	LC
Serinus albogularis	White-throated Canary	LC	LC
Serinus atrogularis	Black-throated Canary	LC	LC
Serinus canicollis	Cape Canary	LC	LC
Serinus flaviventris	Yellow Canary	LC	LC
Sigelus silens	Fiscal Flycatcher	LC	LC
Spizocorys conirostris	Pink-billed Lark	LC	LC
Sporopipes squamifrons	Scaly-feathered Finch	LC	LC
Spreo bicolor	Pied Starling	LC	LC
Stenostira scita	Fairy Flycatcher	LC	LC
Sterna caspia	Caspian Tern	LC	LC
Streptopelia capicola	Cape Turtle-Dove	LC	LC
Streptopelia semitorquata	Red-eyed Dove	LC	LC
Streptopelia senegalensis	Laughing Dove	LC	LC
Struthio camelus	Common Ostrich	LC	LC
Sylvia borin	Garden Warbler	LC	LC
Sylvietta rufescens	Long-billed Crombec	LC	LC
Tachybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe	LC	LC
Tachymarptis melba	Alpine Swift	LC	LC
Tadorna cana	South African Shelduck	LC	LC
Tchagra australis	Brown-crowned Tchagra	LC	LC
Telophorus zeylonus	Bokmakierie	LC	LC
Terpsiphone viridis	African Paradise-Flycatcher	LC	LC

cientific name	Common name	IUCN status	SA RDB
Thalassornis leuconotus	White-backed Duck	LC	LC
Threskiornis aethiopicus	African Sacred Ibis	LC	LC
Tockus leucomelas	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	LC	LC
Tockus nasutus	African Grey Hornbill	LC	LC
Torgos tracheliotus	Lappet-faced Vulture	EN	EN
Trachyphonus vaillantii	Crested Barbet	LC	LC
Tricholaema leucomelas	Acacia Pied Barbet	LC	LC
Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper	LC	LC
Tringa nebularia	Common Greenshank	LC	LC
Tringa stagnatilis	Marsh Sandpiper	LC	LC
Turdus smithi	Karoo Thrush	-	LC
Turnix sylvatica	Small Buttonquail	LC	LC
Tyto alba	Barn Owl	LC	LC
Upupa africana	African Hoopoe	LC	LC
Uraeginthus angolensis	Blue Waxbill	LC	LC
Urocolius indicus	Red-faced Mousebird	LC	LC
Vanellus armatus	Blacksmith Lapwing	LC	LC
Vanellus coronatus	Crowned Lapwing	LC	LC
Vidua chalybeata	Village Indigobird	LC	LC
Vidua macroura	Pin-tailed Whydah	LC	LC
Vidua paradisaea	Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah	LC	LC
Vidua regia	Shaft-tailed Whydah	LC	LC
Zosterops pallidus	Orange River White-eye	LC	LC