ERF 134, CAPE INFANTA: Faunal Site Sensitivity Verification and Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement

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A view of the existing residence on the relevant portion of Erf 134, as per July 2023.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AOO	Area of Occupancy
CI	Conservation Importance
DJEC	Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EN	Endangered
EOO	Extent of Occurrence
FI	Functional Integrity
IBA	Important Bird Area
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NT	Near Threatened
RR	Receptor Resilience
SEI	Site Ecological Importance
SACNASP	South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions
SANBI	South African National Biodiversity Institute
SCC	Species of Conservation Concern
SEI	Site Ecological Importance
SSV	Site Sensitivity Verification
STR	Screening Tool Report
TASCS	Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement
TASSA	Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment
VU	Vulnerable

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL SPECIES COMPLIANCE STATEMENT CHECKLIST

The contents of this Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement (TASCS) are as per the legislated requirements as described in Section 5 of the Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Animal Species (GN R. 1150 of 2020).

SPECIALIST REPORT REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO GN R. 1150			SECTION OF REPORT
5.3	In terms of Section 5 of the Protocol for the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Terrestrial Animal Species, a compliance statement must contain, as a minimum, the following information:		
	5.3.1	Contact details and relevant experience as well as the SACNASP registration number of the specialist preparing the compliance statement including a curriculum vitae.	Section 9
	5.3.2	A signed statement of independence by the specialist.	Section 9
	5.3.3	A statement on the duration, date and season of the site inspection and the relevance of the season to the outcome of the assessment.	Section 4.2
	5.3.4	A description of the methodology used to undertake the site survey and prepare the compliance statement, including equipment and modelling used where relevant.	Sections 4 & 5
	5.3.5	The mean density of observations/number of samples sites per unit area.	Section 6
	5.3.6	Where required, proposed impact management actions and outcomes or any monitoring requirements for inclusion in the EMPr.	NA
	5.3.7	A description of the assumptions made and any uncertainties or gaps in knowledge or data.	6.3
	5.3.8	Any conditions to which the compliance statement is subjected.	Section 7
6	A signed copy of the Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statement must be appended to the Basic Assessment Report or the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.		

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The general intention is to rezone and subdivide a 3.04 ha portion of Erf 134 (Cape Infanta), for the purposes of a residential development. The following is a summary of previous and current faunal assessment components in the context of the Cape Infanta Erf 134 development project:

- **2010–2011**: *Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants* (DJEC) commissioned a faunal specialist (M. Burger, at the time trading as *Sungazer*) to conduct a faunal baseline assessment (= Basic Assessment) of the north-eastern Portion of Erf 134 (Cape Infanta), with the intent of changing from an agricultural zoning status to that suited for a residential development. A site visit/survey was conducted during July 2010, where after a faunal BA report was compiled (Burger 2011).
- **2013**: A faunal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report (Burger 2013) was subsequently compiled, based on the BA (Burger 2013) results.
- **2016–2017**: Amendments were later made to the sub-division plan, and the faunal specialist was tasked to assess the significance of these changes in relation to the original faunal EIA report. A letter was drafted (Burger, 6 June 2017) stating that: "*This new layout shares similarities with some of the previous development designs (especially Alternative 4), and the overall scale of this new layout does not influence/alter the faunal impact assessment results. I am thus satisfied that this adjusted layout can be considered as an acceptable development option for this particular site. The faunal considerations and recommended mitigation measures remain as per the faunal scoping and impact assessment reports*".
- **2019**: With the passing of several years since the original assessments were conducted, it became necessary to conduct a re-assessment of this project. The same faunal specialist (M. Burger, by then trading as *Sungazer Faunal Surveys*) was reappointed to update the faunal components of this particular project (see Burger 2019).
- **2023–2024**: Once again, with the passing of more years and with additional layout adjustments, a revised faunal assessment needed to be compiled for this project. This faunal assessment revision would have to be in line with the new guidelines (SANBI 2020) and in accordance with GN 320 and GN 1150 (20 March 2020) of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 (as amended).

1.2 Scope of work for the 2023/24 Assessment

The SANBI (2020) guidelines require that a site sensitivity verification (SSV) process must be undertaken prior to commencing with a specialist assessment to confirm the current land use and environmental sensitivity of the proposed project areas as identified by the Screening Tool Report (STR). The general terms of reference for this assessment were:

- Revisit the study area for the purpose of SSV for the various species listed in the STR (**Table 1**).
- Present the various SSV outcomes for the respective species as per the STR.
- Depending on the various findings, compile Terrestrial Animal Species Compliance Statements (TASCS) and/or Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment (TASSA) reports for the respective STR species.
- Indicate whether the proposed development will have any impact on identified faunal sensitivities.
- If any of the STR species require TASSAs, then it would also be necessary to compile a faunal impact assessment component as per the various development alternatives provided.

Table 1: A list of vertebrate and invertebrate fauna species that were flagged by the STR.

Sensitivity	Group	Taxon
HIGH/MEDIUM	Aves (birds)	*Neotis denhami* – Denham's Bustard
HIGH	Aves (birds)	*Circus maurus* – Black Harrier
MEDIUM	Aves (birds)	*Circus ranivorus* – African Marsh Harrier
MEDIUM	Aves (birds)	*Bradypterus sylvaticus* – Knysna Warbler
MEDIUM	Aves (birds)	*Turnix hottentottus* – Fynbos Buttonquail
MEDIUM	Insecta (insects)	*Aneuryphymus montanus* – Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper
MEDIUM	Insecta (insects)	*Chrysoritis brooksi tearei* – Brook's opal
MEDIUM	Insecta (insects)	*Trimenia malagrida maryae* – Scarce Mountain Copper
MEDIUM	Insecta (insects)	Sensitive species 4*

*Note that the actual identity of 'Sensitive species 4' will be obscured in the report, as per the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline (SANBI 2020). It will be referred to as a sensitive invertebrate species or as Sensitive species 4.

2 STUDY AREA

The general study area is situated on the outskirts of Cape Infanta settlement within the Overberg District Municipality, Western Cape Province. The full extent of Erf 134 is shown in the STR map of relative animal species theme sensitivity (**Figure 1**) which was produced for this development application. The actual study area is a small subsection of about 3.04 ha in the north-eastern reaches of Erf 134 (see **Figure 2**). The remainder of Erf 134 (about 81.9 ha) that occurs to the west of the Infanta Main Road, will not be rezoned and will remain zoned for agriculture. This section does not form part of this application. The site is located within the demarcated urban edge of Infanta and has been earmarked for urban expansion, residential development in particular.

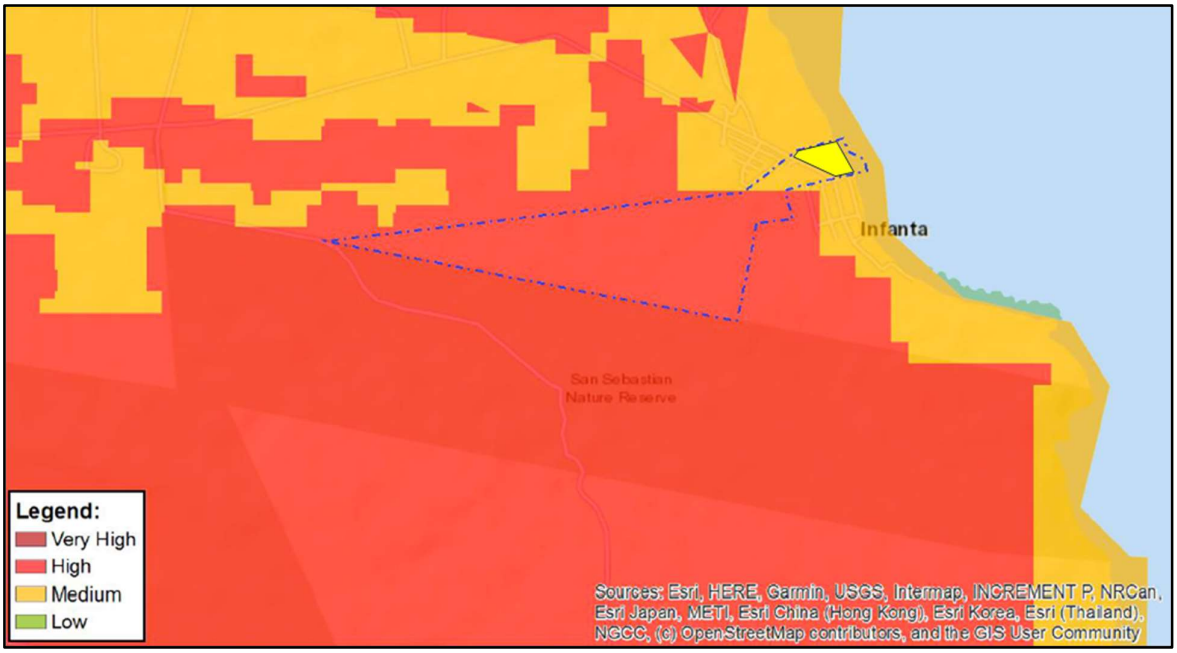

Figure 1: A map of relative animal species theme sensitivity as per the STR for the environmental authorization of this development project. The actual study area (yellow polygon) constitutes a small portion of Erf 134 (stippled blue lines). It is situated in the category of MEDIUM sensitivity, whereas much of Erf 134 also overlaps with areas of HIGH sensitivity.

Figure 2: The study area (yellow polygon) in relation to the existing Infanta residential setting.

3 DEVELOPMENT LAYOUT

Various iterations of development layouts have been proposed for this project since the first assessments were conducted in 2010, e.g. Burger 2011, 2013, 2017, 2019. The most recent/current layout, referred to as Alternative 3, is presented in **Figure 3**. It comprises of 21 erven. The existing house is to remain as is and is incorporated into the development as a separate erf. Approximately 45% of the site will be developed, with 15 units being single storey and five double storey units. This alternative also makes provision for a 40 m ecological corridor catering for the watercourse and surrounding Overberg Dune Strandveld. It also accommodates the 'limestone conservation area' in the northwest part of the site. The 8 m landscaped strip, as proposed by the heritage specialist, is accommodated in this layout as is the updated coastal setback line as proposed by the coastal consultant. The following key amendments have been made to the development proposal:

- The main vehicular entrance to the majority of the units (16) has been repositioned to the existing access point and follows the existing access route.
- The lower vehicular access point to the remainder of the 5 units is now indicated as two possible options. Either option is acceptable from a traffic engineering perspective. The final option will rely on whether the existing unmade road is formalised as a road or not.
- The configuration of the erven and the road layout has been revised to address urban design and geometric layout issues.
- All the residential erven have been moved entirely out of the 40 m wide ecological corridor. This 40-metre-wide corridor will now be open common ownership space dedicated as an open space system.
- This amendment means that the area to be rezoned as 'Open Space' has increase in size, compared to previous layout alternatives.
- All proposed building footprints have been revised to ensure compliance with the erosion setback line as identified by the coastal consultant.
- A pedestrian footpath has been added to provide pedestrian access from the 16-unit side of the development to the coastline.

- The Open Space component of the proposal has been increased by 5% from 50% to 55% of the entire property.

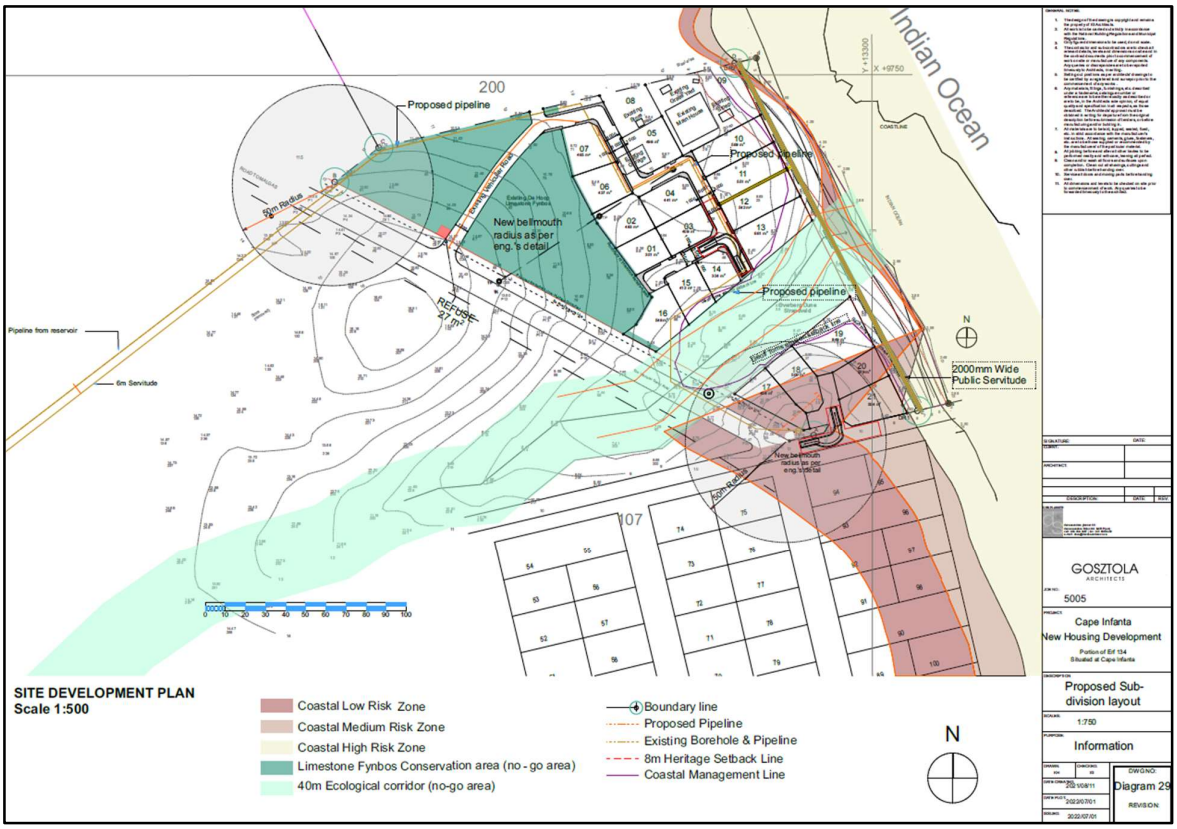

Figure 3: The layout of development Alt. 3.

4 SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment was conducted to contextualise the study area in the current landscape and to gather information regarding the animal species that might utilise the site. This was done by assessing the existing habitat of the greater study area by means of satellite imagery and relevant spatial databases. Lists of bird and invertebrate species known or expected to occur within the project area were also compiled.

The following databases were used to assess habitat types:

- National Vegetation Map (SANBI 2006-2018)
- IBA (2015)

The following sources were consulted to compile lists of faunal species with distribution ranges that coincide with the study area:

- STR for this development application
- SABAP2 (https://sabap2.birdmap.africa/)
- iNaturalist (https://www.inaturalist.org/)
- Roberts Bird Guide 2 (Chittenden et al., 2016)

To establish which of those species identified in the desktop assessment are Species of Conservation Concern (SCC), the following sources were consulted:

- Red List of South African Species (http://speciesstatus.sanbi.org/)
- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (https://www.iucnredlist.org/)

The likelihood of occurrence in the study area for each SCC was assessed in **Table 2** and **Table 3**.

4.2 Field Surveys

In addition to the July 2010 site visit that was conducted for the faunal baseline assessment (Burger 2011), the study area was again visited in July 2023 to assess the site in the context of the SCC that were flagged by the STR (**Table 1**). These were both winter-season surveys of about half a day each. The site surveys served to search for direct evidence of SCC, and also to determine if suitable habitat may be present for the potential occurrence of the respective SCC.

4.3 Evaluation of Site Ecological Importance

In cases where TASSAs are required, the Species Environmental Assessment Guideline (SANBI 2020) must be applied to determine the Site Ecological Importance (SEI) of the study area. The Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) and associated habitat/s in the study area would have to be assessed based on their conservation importance (CI), functional integrity (FI), and receptor resilience (RR). The combination of these would provide a rating of SEI and interpretation of mitigation requirements based on the ratings. Note however that in the case of this particular project, no SCC were assessed as having a high likelihood of occurrence within the study area and thus it was not necessary to apply the SEI rating.

5 FAUNA DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT COMPONENTS

5.1 Important Bird Areas (IBA)

The study area falls entirely within the Overberg Wheatbelt IBA (SA 115), wherein lies the De Hoop Nature Reserve IBA (SA 119). More than 95% of the natural vegetation in the Overberg Wheatbelt (which comprised mostly of Renosterveld vegetation and patches of Lowland Fynbos) has been transformed to agriculture. The vegetation in the proposed development property area has also been partially transformed by the existing dwelling on the site. Given the nature and small scale of the development footprint (< 1 ha), the proposed development is not expected to have a notable impact on this IBA.

5.2 Protected Areas

Nearby protected areas include the Witsand Nature Reserve and De Hoop Nature Reserve which are located approximately 3 km and 30 km from the study area, respectively. The San Sebastian Private Nature Reserve, Infanta, is adjacent south of the study area. Given the nature and relatively small scale of the development footprint (< 1 ha), as well as the distance from these nature reserves, the proposed project is not expected to have any impact on protected areas.

5.3 Faunal Habitat in the Study Area

The study area falls within the Fynbos Biome. The remnant natural vegetation of the site is predominantly De Hoop Limestone Fynbos (McDonald 2021).

6 RESULTS OF SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

6.1 Birds

A total of 297 bird species are expected to occur in the general region of the study area, with 157 species confirmed in the same pentad (3425_2050) as the study area (SABAP2). Of the bird species recorded in pentad 3425_2050, 17 species are considered species of conservation concern (SCC). These include seven Near Threatened (NT) species, five Vulnerable (VU) species, and five Endangered (EN) species (**Table 2**). None of these SCC were observed during the July 2010/23 site surveys.

The seven NT species are *Thalassarche cauta* (Shy Albatross), *Microcarbo coronatus* (Crowned Cormorant), *Grus paradisea* (Blue Crane), *Phoenicopterus roseus* (Greater Flamingo), *Certhilauda brevirostris* (Agulhas Long-billed Lark), *Ardenna grisea* (Sooty Shearwater), and *Campethera notata* (Knysna Woodpecker). The five VU species are *Neotis denhami* (Denham's Bustard), *Morus capensis* (Cape Gannet), *Afrotis afra* (Southern Black Korhaan), Procellaria aequinoctialis (White-chinned Petrel), and *Hydroprogne caspia* (Caspian Tern). The five EN species are *Phalacrocorax neglectus* (Bank Cormorant), *Phalacrocorax capensis* (Cape Cormorant), *Circus maurus* (Black Harrier), *Spheniscus demersus* (African Penguin), and *Stercorarius antarcticus* (Brown Skua). The STR listed an additional two bird SCC, namely *Circus ranivorus* (African Marsh Harrier – EN) and *Bradypterus sylvaticus* (Knysna Warbler – VU).

Most of the bird SCC are seabirds or waterbirds. Such birds include the albatross, petrel, skua, shearwater, penguin, cormorant, tern, and flamingo. While individuals of these birds may be observed flying over the study area or close to shore, they will not utilise the study area for foraging or breeding purposes due to lack of suitable habitat. As such, they were assessed as having a zero likelihood of occurrence on site, whereas the remainder of SCC were assessed as having a low to moderate chance of occurrence (**Table 2**).

6.2 Invertebrates

Due to the vast diversity of invertebrates, it was not feasible to compile a complete list of invertebrates on site. The species list presented in this assessment is therefore limited to four insect SCC that were identified by the STR (**Table 1**), namely *Aneuryphymus montanus* (Yellow-winged Agile Grasshopper – VU), *Chrysoritis brooksi tearei* (Riversdal Opal – EN), *Trimenia malagrida maryae* – Scarce Mountain Copper (EN), and Sensitive Species 4. None of these SCC were observed during the July 2010/23 site surveys.

6.3 Confidence of SSV

Although the two short site visits were both conducted during the winter season, the property is very small and it was thus feasible to obtain a reasonably good impression of the habitats present so that inferences can be made in terms of the potential occurrence or absence of specific SCC. When such species were not detected during the site visits, it should not be an absolute assured conclusion that these species are definitely absent from the site. However, their actual occurrence can be projected with moderate to high conference when their respective habitat requirements and lifestyle habits are considered in the context of the site's habitat diversity. In this particular case no SCC were encountered and it is predicted (with moderate to high confidence) that none of the STR SCC utilise this site to any meaningful extent.

Table 2: Bird SCC with a distribution that includes the study area and the likelihood of occurrence within the study area. The first five species were those flagged by the STR. The remainder are other bird SCC that occur in the general region.

Species	Status	Habitat	Known Occurrence	Likelihood of Occurrence
Neotis denhami	VU	Occurs in mosaic of agricultural landscapes and natural vegetation such as fynbos and renosterveld (Taylor et al. 2015).	Stronghold of 1 000 birds in Western Cape (Taylor et al. 2015).	Low
Circus maurus	EN	Utilises transformed landscape of the Overberg region but requires intact renosterveld or fynbos vegetation to breed.	Core of its range located in the Fynbos Biome (Taylor et al. 2015).	Low
Circus ranivorus	EN	Dependent on permanent wetlands, both inland and coastal, for breeding, feeding and roosting (Taylor et al. 2015).	Not recorded in site pentad.	Low
Bradypterus sylvaticus	VU	Occurs along the edges of Afrotemperate forests and in thicket along watercourses or drainage lines in forest patches in the Fynbos Biome (Taylor et al. 2015).	An inland population occurs on the slopes of Langeberg, near Swellendam, including Grootvadersbosch Forest (Taylor et al. 2015).	Low
Turnix hottentottus	EN	Occurs in restio-dominated Fynbos, in both coastal and mountain localities, on flat to steeply sloping ground, reaching its highest densities in short (20-40 cm high) Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos. Known to utilise old farmlands adjacent to Fynbos. Occurs sparsely in coastal Renosterveld and Strandveld along the West Coast (Taylor et al. 2015).	Closest known record is from Grootvadersbosch farm, Heidelberg (~ 40 km from project area). Not recorded in site pentad.	Low
Thalassarche cauta	NT	Common non-breeding visitor to South African waters around shelf-edge; often forages close to land (Taylor et al. 2015).	In South African waters, newly fledged juvenile birds arrive off Western Cape from late August to September. Juveniles and non-breeding adults are thought to range throughout the waters of South Africa (Taylor et al. 2015).	Low
Phalacrocorax neglectus	EN	Depends on the inshore zone and forests of kelp beds to forage and breeds mainly on islands (Taylor et al. 2015).	Colonies present at five IBAs in the region, namely Dassen Island, Dyer Island Nature Reserve, Overstrand, Robben Island National	Low

Species	Status	Habitat	Known Occurrence	Likelihood of Occurrence
			Heritage Monument, West Coast National Park and Saldanha Bay Islands (Taylor et al. 2015.	
Phalacrocorax capensis	EN	Found on the coast and at sea mainly in inshore waters, but also offshore (<50 km from the coast). It breeds mainly on islands and islets, but also on rocky outcrops of the mainland, including cliffs or boulders (Taylor et al. 2015).	Some 36 000 pairs breed at eight major localities in the Western Cape, of which Dyer Island alone supports about 65% of the population (Taylor et al. 2015).	Zero
Grus paradisea	NT	In the Overberg, cranes avoid natural fynbos vegetation, preferring to inhabit agricultural landscapes.	Overberg, Swartland population comprises about 12 100 birds (Taylor et al. 2015).	Low
Phoenicopterus roseus	NT	Common along the West Coast where it is frequently recorded at estuaries and other coastal wetlands (Taylor et al. 2015).	Main breeding sites outside of South Africa, but has bred at De Hoop Vlei, Western Cape (Taylor et al. 2015).	Zero
Morus capensis	VU	Nest in large colonies on flat or gently sloping coastal islands, where they can forage up to 130 km from colony. Out of the breeding season, they can travel further but usually stay within 500-600 km of their breeding colony (Taylor et al. 2015).	Confined to three breeding colonies in South Africa: Bird Island, Lambert's Bay, Western Cape; Malgas Island, Saldanha Bay, Western Cape; Bird Island, Algoa Bay,Eastern Cape (Taylor et al. 2015).	Zero
Afrotis afra	VU	Occurs in the Fynbos Biome, mainly in Renosterveld and Strandveld vegetation, preferring natural habitats over transformed land, and avoids very dense vegetation (Taylor et al. 2015).	Overberg region lies in core distribution (Taylor et al. 2015).	Low
Certhilauda brevirostris	NT	Select habitat with low overall plant cover, favouring open habitats with scattered bush cover and low, structurally diverse, species rich vegetation. Also occur in sparse Renosterbos *Dicerothamnus rhinocerotis* shrubland. Less common in Coastal Fynbos and Sand Plains Fynbos, favouring sandy areas (Taylor et al. 2015).	Known distribution on Agulhas Plain.	Medium
Spheniscus demersus	EN	Forage for small pelagic fish in inshore waters, usually within 15 km of the coast and can travel up	11 breeding colonies in Western Cape (Taylor et al. 2015).	Zero

Species	Status	Habitat	Known Occurrence	Likelihood of Occurrence
		to 50 km from colonies while breeding. Outside of the breeding season, they can move further offshore, especially when foraging on the Agulhas Bank off the south coast of South Africa (Taylor et al. 2015).		
Procellaria aequinoctialis	VU	Forages in South Atlantic Ocean (Taylor et al. 2015).	Breeds singly or in loose colonies on the plateau of Inaccessible Island (Taylor et al. 2015).	Zero
Ardenna grisea	NT	Non-breeding visitor to South African waters (Taylor et al. 2015).	Breeds on islands off South America, the Falklands, Tristan da Cunha, south-east Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand (Robertson et al. 2003: in Taylor et al. 2015).	Zero
Stercorarius antarcticus	EN	Occurs in South African waters year-round (Taylor et al. 2015)	Breeds on various subantarctic islands including Marion Island.	Zero
Hydroprogne caspia	VU	Breeding habitat along the coast is largely offshore islands, whereas inland breeding takes place on small, low islets in pans and dams (Taylor et al. 2015).	Project area falls within breeding sites and regularly occupied non-breeding sites of Caspian Tern (based on SABAP2 data; 2007–2014).	Zero
Campethera notata	NT	Coastal, riparian and montane forest	Pentad 3420_2040.	Low

Table 3: Invertebrate SCC that were flagged by the STR.

Species	Status	Habitat	Known Occurrence	Likelihood of Occurrence
Aneuryphymus montanus	VU	Found in fynbos habitat with evergreens such as *Sclerophyll* in partly burnt and rocky habitat (Brown 1960). It prefers the cool, south-facing slopes (Kinvig 2005).	Only known from six locations in the Cape. Its estimated EOO is approximately 170 000 km², while its AOO is probably between 100 – 1 000 km².	Low
Chrysoritis brooksi tearei	EN	Found on sandy, low hills, sparsely covered by shrubs.	Western Cape endemic occurring in six sperate locations, stretching from Bredasdorp to Stilbaai. Largest location close to Riversdale.	Low
Trimenia malagrida maryae	EN	Rocky limestone ridges with short fynbos vegetation, at low altitudes.	Western Cape endemic known from only three locations, namely Struisbaai, De Hoop Nature Reserve and Vermaaklikheid, but has not been recorded at Struisbaai or De Hoop for at least 10 years.	Low
Sensitive Species 4	-	-	The only two known remaining populations are from near Witsand, east of De Hoop Nature Reserve.	Low

7 CONCLUSIONS OF THE SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

As per the above SSV assessment, it is concluded that the site of the proposed development is unlikely to support any of the bird and invertebrate SCC that were flagged by the STR, nor any of the additional bird SCC that are known from the general region. The site is too small to be of any significant value to any of these bird SCC, and these all have low probabilities of utilising this site. Although the size of the site may be somewhat better suited to accommodate invertebrate (insect) SCC, the species flagged by the STR are unlikely to occur at or sporadically utilise this property. The STR Animal Species Theme rating of MEDIUM sensitivity for this area (for is thus not appropriate and should instead be considered as being of LOW sensitivity in the context of these SCC. As such, it is not necessary to compile TASSAs for this proposed development, and thus this TASCS should suffice for the basic assessment process. Likewise, these results also negate the need for an impact assessment component.

In summary, this faunal assessment concludes that none of the bird and invertebrate SCC that were flagged by the STR are of significance to the proposed development – and thus they do not present any constraints in the context of the proposed development. The current layout (Alt. 3) makes provision for units of undeveloped terrain (eco-zones), which to some degree will allow for ecological functioning to be maintained. Additionally, the general habitat management recommendations and mitigation measures as per the botanical assessment (McDonald 2021) must be complied with.

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9 SPECIALIST CONSULTANTS' DECLARATIONS OF INDEPENDENCE

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

I, **Marius Burger**, hereby declare that I have no conflicts of interest related to the work of this report. Specifically, I declare that I have no personal financial interests in the property and/or development being assessed in this report, and that I have no personal or financial connections to the relevant property owners, developers, planners, financiers or consultants of the development, other than fair remuneration. I declare that the opinions expressed in this report are my own and a true reflection of my professional expertise.

ABRIDGED CURRICULUM VITAE

Marius Burger holds a National Diploma in Nature Conservation with Cape Technicon (aka Cape Peninsula University of Technology). He worked as a research assistant with Eastern Cape Nature Conservation (1987-1997), and subsequently took up employment with the Animal Demography Unit (University of Cape Town) as National Coordinator of the Southern African Frog Atlas Project (1997-2003) and as Project Herpetologist of the Southern African Reptile Conservation Assessment (2005-2009). Burger's EIA activities as a faunal specialist started in 1996. He established a sole-proprietor business *Sungazer Faunal Surveys* in 1998 and has since participated in about 140 different projects in collaboration with a variety of EIA consultancies. His experience and achievements as a faunal specialist are summarised below:

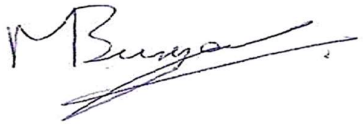
- Registered with SACNASP as a Professional Natural Scientist for the fields of Ecological Science and Zoological Science (Reg. no. 130600) – see certificate below.
- Member of IUCN SSC Snake and Lizard Red List Authority 2017-2020: 2017 – present.
- Member of IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group: Sub-Saharan Africa (2009 – present).
- Member of Herpetological Association of Africa: 1988 – present.
- Extraordinary Lecturer with the Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, North-West University: 2015 – present.
- Associate consultant with FLORA FAUNA & MAN, Ecological Services Ltd.: 2011 – present.
- Research collaborator with the Smithsonian Institute: 2002 – 2004.
- Research collaborator with the South African Museum: 2000 – 2002.
- Country liaison for the journal *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*: 2000 – 2004.
- Chairman of the Port Elizabeth Herpetological Club: 1992 – 1996.
- Compiled about 195 specialists and EIA reports for various consultancies and projects.
- Published about 120 scientific, semi-scientific and popular articles, and authored/edited four books and 53 chapters/accounts in books.
- Presented 56 papers/posters at national/international symposia.

WORK EXPERIENCE IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Biodiversity surveys & environmental assessments: Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Republic of the Congo, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia.

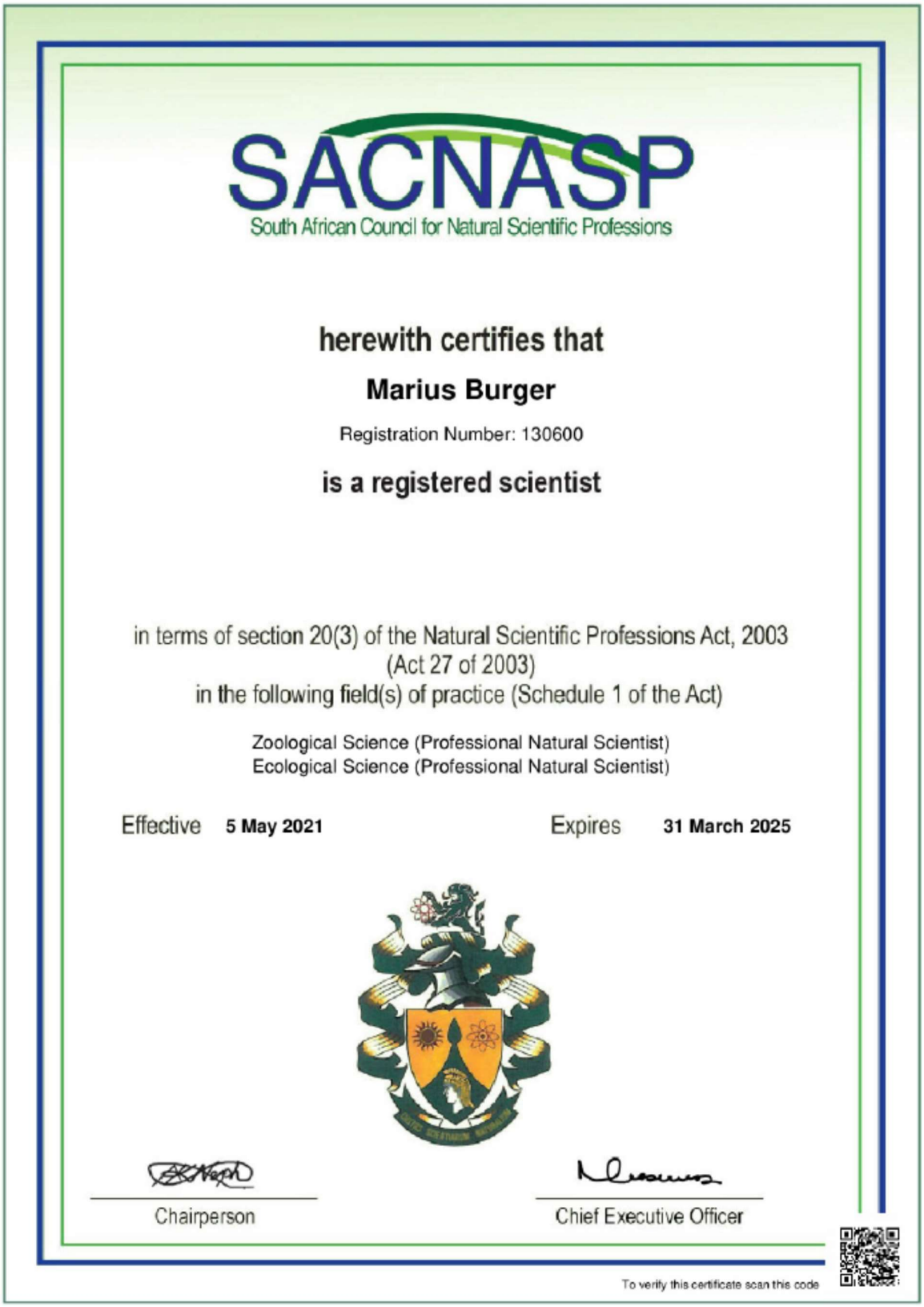
PREVIOUS REPORTS FOR THIS PROJECT

Four faunal reports (2011–2019) were previously prepared for this project (see References section).



Marius Burger – trading as *Sungazer Faunal Surveys* – October 2024

Registered with SACNASP as a Professional Natural Scientist for the fields of Ecological Science and Zoological Science (Reg. no. 130600)



SACNASP

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

herewith certifies that

Marius Burger

Registration Number: 130600

is a registered scientist

in terms of section 20(3) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003
(Act 27 of 2003)
in the following field(s) of practice (Schedule 1 of the Act)

Zoological Science (Professional Natural Scientist)
Ecological Science (Professional Natural Scientist)

Effective **5 May 2021** Expires **31 March 2025**

Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer

To verify this certificate scan this code

SACNASP certificate for Marius Burger, valid until 31 March 2025.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

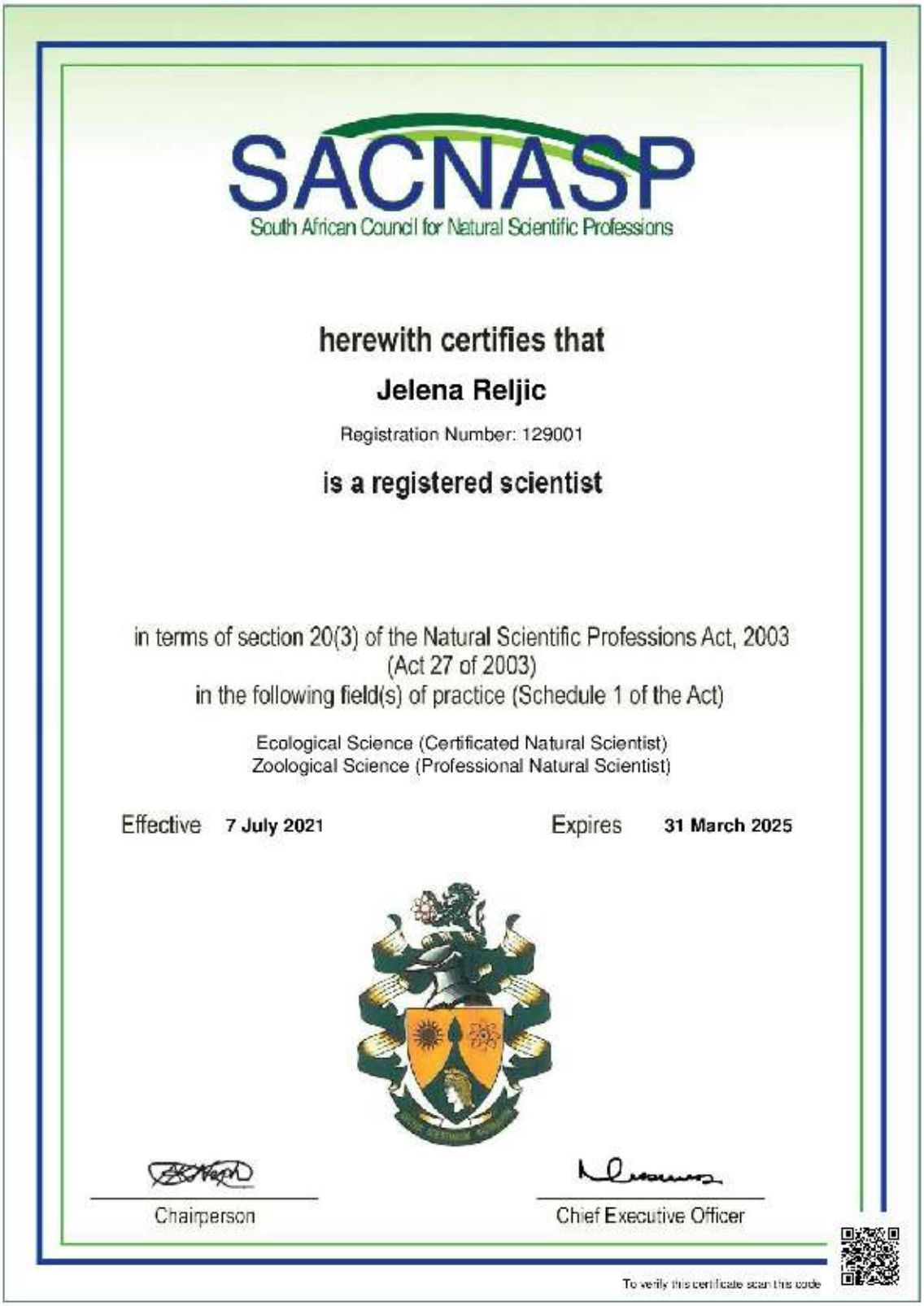
I, **Elena Reljic**, hereby declare that I have no conflicts of interest related to the work of this report. Specifically, I declare that I have no personal financial interests in the property and/or development being assessed in this report, and that I have no personal or financial connections to the relevant property owners, developers, planners, financiers or consultants of the development, other than fair remuneration. I declare that the opinions expressed in this report are my own and a true reflection of my professional expertise.

ABRIDGED CURRICULUM VITAE

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE	➢ August 2022 – March 2024: Senior Ecologist (CES, Cape Town, South Africa) ➢ July 2021 – August 2022: Environmental Consultant (CES, Port Elizabeth, South Africa) ➢ January 2021 – April 2021: Research Assistant (Succulent Karoo Research Station, Northern Cape, South Africa) ➢ October 2020 – November 2020: Research Assistant (University of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa) ➢ April 2019 – May 2020: Field Biologist (Department of Environmental Affairs, Western Cape, South Africa) ➢ November 2018 – January 2019: Research Assistant (South African National Biodiversity Institute, Gauteng, South Africa) ➢ January 2018 – October 2018: Graduate Researcher (University of Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa). ➢ March 2017 – April 2017: Field Assistant (University of Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa)
ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS	➢ M.Sc. (Zoology) Cum Laude University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2018 ➢ B.Sc. Honours (Geography and Environmental Science) University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2016 ➢ B.Sc. (Geography) University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2014
VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE	➢ November – December 2018: Blue Ventures, Madagascar
TRAINING COURSES	➢ Ectothermic Vertebrates Handling and Ethics course at North-West university (NWU), 2024 ➢ Master Herpetologist Program, Amphibian Foundation's Online Learning Institute, 2023 ➢ Celebrating raptors: A bird of prey identification and appreciation course, Ulrich Oberprieler, 2023 ➢ Veld Restoration Workshop, Africa Land-Use Training (ALUT),2022 ➢ LBJ Identification Course, Cape Bird Club, 2022 ➢ LBJ Identification Course, BirdLife Eastern Cape (BLEC), 2021 ➢ Snake Awareness, First Aid and Handling Course, African Snakebite Institute (ASI), 2020

Jelena Reljic – preferred name Elena Reljic

Registered with SACNASP as a Professional Natural Scientist for the fields of Zoological Science (Reg. no. 129001)



SACNASP

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

herewith certifies that

Jelena Reljic

Registration Number: 129001

is a registered scientist

in terms of section 20(3) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003
(Act 27 of 2003)
in the following field(s) of practice (Schedule 1 of the Act)

Ecological Science (Certificated Natural Scientist)
Zoological Science (Professional Natural Scientist)

Effective **7 July 2021** Expires **31 March 2025**

Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer

To verify this certificate scan this code

SACNASP certificate for Elena Reljic, valid until 31 March 2025.