



**Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Site Sensitivity
Verification Report for the proposed Tharisa
Minerals (Pty) Ltd Battery Energy Storage System
(BESS) Development Project**

**Rustenburg Local Municipality, Bojanala Platinum
District Municipality, North West Province, South
Africa**

24 June 2026

Prepared by:





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Report Name	Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Site Sensitivity Verification Report for the proposed Tharisa Minerals (Pty) Ltd Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Development Project	
Specialist Theme	Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	
Project Reference	SSVR – Tharisa BESS	
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Environmental Assessment Practitioner		
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Declaration	<p>The Biodiversity Company and its associates operate as independent consultants under the auspice of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP). We declare that we have no affiliation with or vested financial interests in the proponent, other than for work performed under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended (NEMA). We have no conflicting interests in the undertaking of this activity and have no interests in secondary developments resulting from the authorisation of this project. We have no vested interest in the project, other than to provide a professional service within the constraints of the project (timing, time and budget) based on the principles of science.</p>	

¹ All work undertaken was conducted under the supervision of a registered professional (Namitha Singh (Pr. Sci. Nat. 157927))

Executive Summary

Tharisa Minerals (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Tharisa Mine in Rustenburg Local Municipality, North West Province. This aquatic biodiversity site sensitivity verification was undertaken to confirm whether any wetlands, watercourses or other freshwater features occur within the development footprint or within the applicable 32 m Project Area of Influence (PAOI). The 32 m area of influence has been applied in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) EIA Regulations, which defines the regulated area of a watercourse as extending 32 metres from the edge of the watercourse.

The site inspection confirmed that no natural wetlands or watercourses occur within the proposed development footprint or within 32 m of the site boundary. An off-channel process water Pollution Control Dam (PCD) occurs within the broader project area of influence, but it is not intersected by the proposed works and is associated with the mine's process water management. The aquatic biodiversity sensitivity of the site is therefore confirmed as 'Low'.

From an aquatic biodiversity perspective, the proposed BESS development is not expected to result in significant impacts on freshwater ecosystems, provided that standard environmental controls are implemented during construction and operation. These controls should include effective stormwater management, spill prevention and response, bunded storage of hazardous substances, appropriate waste handling, and rehabilitation of disturbed areas. The project can therefore be supported from an aquatic biodiversity perspective, subject to compliance with the applicable exclusion norm and other relevant legal requirements.

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Table of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full term
AC	Alternating Current
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DC	Direct Current
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Fe-Cr	Iron Chromium
GN	Government Notice
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCl	Hydrochloric Acid
IBCs	Intermediate Bulk Containers
MC	Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd
NaOH	Sodium Hydroxide
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NRS	National Rationalised Specifications
PAOI	Project Area of Influence
PCS	Power Conversion System
PV	Photovoltaic
RFB	Redox Flow Battery
SACNASP	South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions
SANS	South African National Standards
SSV	Site Sensitivity Verification
SSVR	Site Sensitivity Verification Report
kW	kilowatt
kWh	kilowatt-hour
ppm	parts per million

1 Introduction

The Biodiversity Company was commissioned by Manyabe Consultancy (Pty) Ltd (MC) to compile an aquatic biodiversity Site Sensitivity Verification Report (SSVR) in support of the environmental authorisation process for the proposed Tharisa Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Development project’s registration process. The project is located in Rustenburg Local Municipality, Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, North West Province, South Africa (Figure 1-1).

The approach undertaken in this report has taken cognisance of the recently published Government Notices (GN) 320 (20 March 2020) and GN 1150 (30 October 2020) in terms of NEMA, dated 20 March and 30 October 2020: “Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on Identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation” (Reporting Criteria). A 32 m buffer was applied in accordance with the NEMA EIA Listing Notices (GNR 938 of 20 July 2023), which use 32 metres from the edge of a watercourse as the default regulatory threshold where no development setback has been adopted. This buffer was accordingly used as the Project Area of Influence (PAOI) for assessing whether the proposed activity may trigger listed activities and may result in direct or indirect impacts on wetland functioning and aquatic biodiversity.

This report, after taking into consideration the findings and recommendation provided by the specialist herein, should inform and guide the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and regulatory authorities, enabling informed decision making with regards to the ecological viability of the proposed development and related activities.

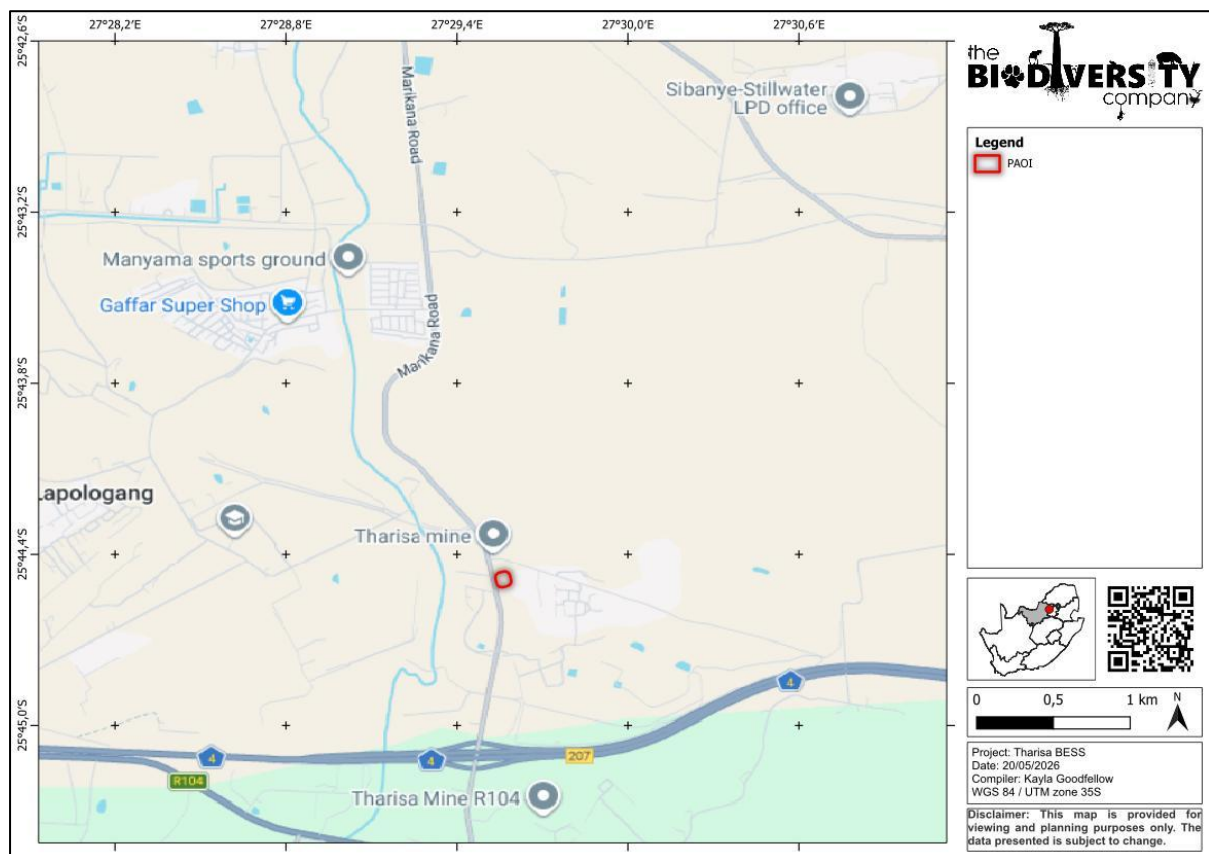


Figure 1-1 Location of the proposed project

1.1 Legislative Framework

This report is compiled in consideration of the Exclusion Norm Gazetted on 27 March 2024 (no. 4557). The adoption of the Norm is “for the exclusion of identified activities associated with the development and expansion of battery storage facilities in areas of low or medium environmental sensitivity” from the requirement to obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA).

This Norm has been prepared to provide rules under which activities associated with the development and expansion of battery storage facilities, identified in terms of section 24(2)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1, 2 or 3 of 2014, promulgated under section 24(5) of the NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998), are excluded from the requirement to obtain an environmental authorisation prior to commencement, while meeting the objectives of the NEMA (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The SSV must be undertaken:

- For the footprint on which the proposed activities are proposed to take place;
- By specialists, registered in the field for which they are undertaking the site sensitivity verification and where relevant, with demonstrated experience in the taxonomic group of the species being considered;
- Within the season which would be most relevant to identify the specific species or vegetation of interest; and
- For a period of time as necessitated by the sensitivity of the proposed site and size of the proposed facility.

In accordance with GN 320 of Government Gazette 43110 (20 March 2020) the minimum reporting requirements for a site sensitivity verification is presented in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1 Aquatic Biodiversity site sensitivity verification information requirements as per the relevant protocol, including the location of the information within this report

Information to be Included (as per GN 320, 20 March 2020)	Report Section
The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken by an environmental assessment practitioner or a specialist.	7.2
The site sensitivity verification must be undertaken through the use of: (a) a desktop analysis, using satellite imagery; (b) a preliminary on-site inspection; and (c) any other available and relevant information	3
The outcome of the site sensitivity verification must be recorded in the form of a report that: (a) confirms or disputes the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool, such as new developments or infrastructure, the change in vegetation cover or status etc; and (b) contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity.	3.2.2

The SSV must be submitted together with the relevant assessment report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

1.2 Project Description

The following information pertaining to the project was provided by Manyabe Consultancy:

Tharisa Minerals (Pty) Ltd (hereunder referred to as Tharisa), a subsidiary of Tharisa Public Limited Company (Tharisa plc) who operates Tharisa Mine, is pursuing initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint associated with its mining activities in support of Tharisa plc broader commitments to sustainability and operational decarbonisation.

As part of this strategy, Tharisa Minerals (the Applicant) is implementing a photovoltaic (PV) solar power system to supply clean energy to the Administration and Training Centre facilities at the Tharisa Mine. To maximise the benefits of this renewable energy investment and to ensure reliable power availability during morning and evening peak loads, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capable of storing excess solar generation is required. The BESS is designed to store electricity and provide immediate power when needed. This improves grid stability, supports renewable energy integration, offers ancillary services, helps manage network constraints, and aids in meeting peak demand.

Redox One, a developer and manufacturer of Iron Chromium (Fe Cr) flow batteries for industrial scale energy storage, is uniquely positioned to support this requirement. Arxo Metals (Pty) Ltd (hereunder referred to as Arxo Metals) currently manufactures the Fe-Cr electrolyte used in these batteries; utilising materials sourced from the Tharisa Mine. Redox One proposes to implement a demonstration project by installing its RFB 625 BESS, enabling a micro grid solution that delivers clean, reliable energy to the Administration and Training Centre facilities, while showcasing the performance of Fe-Cr flow battery technology.

1.2.1 Location of the Proposed Development

The proposed BESS Facility will be located within the Tharisa Mine, situated in both the Rustenburg Local Municipality, forming part of the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality, North West Province.

The installation site is positioned on Portion 317 of Farm K Kraal 342 JQ, a property owned by Tharisa. The BESS Facility will be deployed behind the Administration and Training Centre facilities, entirely within the existing mine boundary, on previously modified/disturbed land, thereby minimising additional land transformation.

The proposed project area is indicated in Figure 1-2.



Figure 1-3 Location of the proposed BESS Facility and associated infrastructure

The Selected Battery System

A Redox One RFB 625 Iron Chromium (Fe Cr) flow battery system is proposed for installation, selected for its suitability to the required load profile, its 150 kW power rating, and 500 kWh(AC) storage capacity. The system will be containerised and will include electrolyte storage tanks with a combined capacity of 86 m³ (Fe Cr/HCl electrolyte). These tanks will be housed within containers, with the electrochemical stacks installed above them, and a dedicated Rebalancer Unit positioned adjacent to the system (refer to Figure 1-4).

The Rebalancer Unit electrochemically maintains the capacity of the battery by reducing built-up ferric chloride [FeCl₃(Aq)] in the positive electrolyte to ferrous chloride [FeCl₂(Aq)]. The rebalancer requires chemicals with a total volume of 12 m³, comprising 5 m³ hydrochloric acid (HCl), 5 m³ sodium hydroxide (NaOH, 50%), and 2 m³ Fe Cr/HCl electrolyte. Intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) located in front of the rebalancer store process liquids will require regular replacement.

During operation, the rebalancer produces chlorine gas, which will be captured using a caustic scrubber, which will be safely vented to the atmosphere after scrubbing. Expected chlorine vent concentrations range from approximately 0.3 3 parts per million (ppm), with annual emissions estimated between 0.5 to 10 kg Cl₂, depending on operating conditions. Electrochemical sensors will be installed to monitor gas releases, with an automated system shutdown triggered if threshold limits are exceeded.

To operate the battery with high efficiency, it is necessary to raise the temperature of the electrolyte. This task is performed by an external unit. The heating and cooling unit is a device designed to bring the battery's electrolyte to a temperature of 45 to 50°C and maintain it at this level, as the system's efficiency is optimal at this temperature.

To store energy in the battery and retrieve it when needed, an external converter is required. This function is performed by a Power Converting System from WindSun. It consists of an inverter equipped with a transformer and a grid connection.

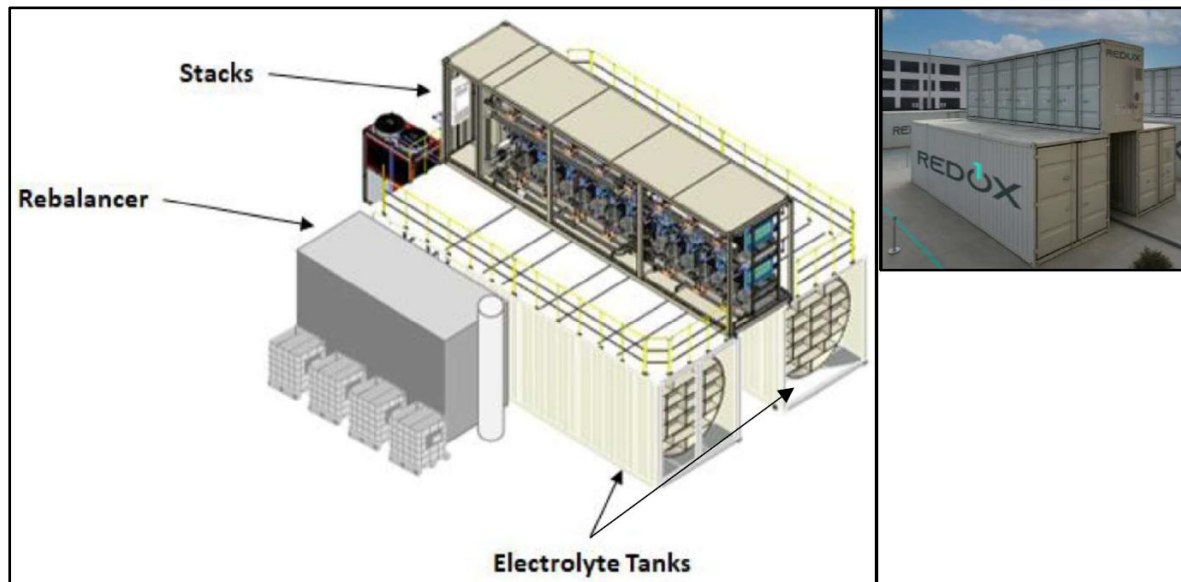


Figure 1-4 Schematic View of the Battery with the Rebalancer within containers

Hazardous Chemicals and Waste Management

The electrolytes and rebalancer chemicals used in the system are classified as hazardous substances. All reagent and electrolyte storage tanks will be housed within a single bunded containment area designed to provide 110% secondary containment capacity, ensuring full compliance with applicable chemical storage and safety requirements.

The primary waste stream will be generated by the rebalancer scrubber system, which produces a mixture of sodium hypochlorite and sodium chloride. A 30 m³ dedicated waste storage tank will be required to accommodate this waste prior to removal and disposal by a licensed waste management contractor.

Additionally, a bunded leakage sump with a volume of approximately 39 m³ will be provided to safely collect and manage any spilled or leaked electrolyte. Small leaks and drips will be appropriately contained and disposed of. Waste collected in the sump will be disposed of at a licensed waste disposal facility. In the unlikely event of a large electrolyte spill, the electrolyte will be recovered and reused where feasible.

Stormwater Management

A stormwater channel will be constructed around the plant to collect runoff and connect it to the existing mine stormwater management system. Any contaminated stormwater within the facility will be directed to the sump for collection and disposal at a licensed waste disposal facility.

BESS Development Overview

The proposed BESS development will be constructed within a footprint of approximately 1 200 m² as shown in Figure 1-5. The following components (Table 1-2) are applicable to the proposed project:

Table 1-2 Summary of Tharisa BESS Project Components

Component	Description / Dimensions
BESS Development Footprint	<p>The total development footprint is approximately 1 200 m² and comprises the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A BESS facility with an approximate footprint of 400 m² comprising battery storage tanks & stacks, a PCS unit, heating and cooling unit, a rebalancer unit, a storage area for rebalancer consumables (IBCs) and a leakage sump. • An operations and maintenance facility for safety equipment and routine cleaning equipment storage. • Internal access road. • A construction laydown area. • Stormwater management channel. • Perimeter fencing.
BESS Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redox One RFB625 Iron Chromium (Fe Cr) Flow Battery System Electrolyte solution: HCl based Fe-Cr electrolyte.
Battery Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rated charge/discharged power: 150kW (16 stacks of 9 kW each in 2 strings). • DC-voltage Range: 473.6 710.4 V. • Nom. DC Current: 314A. • Response time: 100ms.
Battery Lifespan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 25 years.
Usable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500kWh (AC).
Solar System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 kW generation capacity. • 455 PV panels mounted on existing infrastructure (carports).
Electrolyte Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined tank capacity: 86 m³ (Fe-Cr/HCl electrolyte), housed within containers.
Rebalancer Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed adjacent to containers with a total chemical volume of 12 m³. • Chemical breakdown for rebalancer: 5 m³ HCl; 5 m³ NaOH (50%); 2 m³ Fe-Cr/HCl electrolyte
Heating and cooling Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit for maintaining the electrolyte at temperature. • Euroklimat/Sanhe Tongfei Refrigeration Co. Ltd, ECA- 50HR-01CSZ3-1237C. • Ancillary consumption: Maximum 120 kW (only during the heating phase).
PCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inverter system for connecting the battery to the power grid. • WindSun FGPCS-440K/0.28.
Voltage Cabling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 V cables will be installed underground, with cable racking used where technically feasible, to connect the BESS to the Eskom junction box.

Internal Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An access road will be constructed to the BESS Facility for both the construction and operational phases. The road will be approximately 135 m in length and 4 m wide, with a footprint of approximately 540 m².
Construction Laydown Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A temporary laydown area of approximately 100 m² will be required for construction.
Operations and Maintenance Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An operations and maintenance container for the storage of safety equipment and day cleaning equipment will be required, with a footprint of approximately 36 m².
Fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing will be installed around the entire BESS Facility, including the access road, to restrict unauthorised entry.

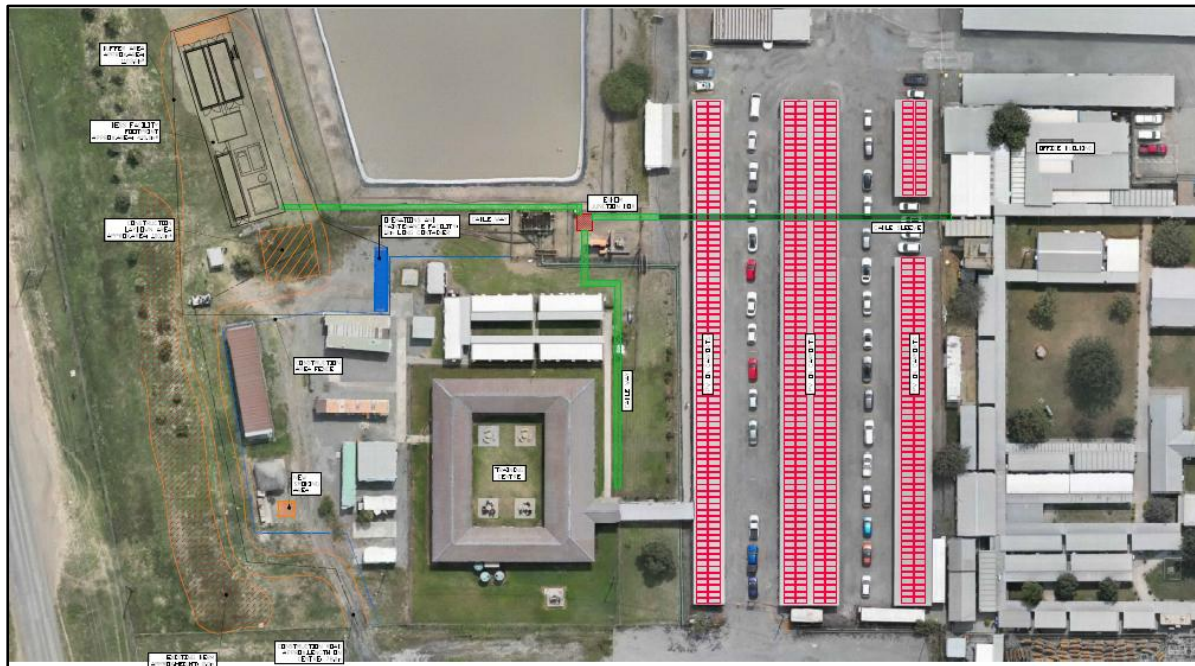


Figure 1-5 Site Layout for the proposed Tharisa BESS

1.2.2.2 Proposed Project Development Activities

Construction Phase

The construction process will follow industry standard methods and techniques. Key activities associated with the construction phase are described in Table 1-3 below.

Table 1-3 Construction Activities

Activity	Description
Establishment of a construction access road	A short internal construction access road will be required for the proposed site development. This road will provide access to the BESS facility.
Site preparation and establishment	Site establishment will include vegetation clearing, any required bulk earthworks, and the installation of access control fencing.
Establishment of a laydown area on site	Construction materials, machinery, and equipment will be stored in designated laydown and/or storage areas. The use of a centralised laydown area will reduce potential environmental impacts during the construction phase by confining activities to a single, controlled location.

Transport of components and equipment to site All construction materials, machinery, and equipment (e.g. graders, excavators, trucks, cement mixers) will be transported to the site using the national, regional, and local road network. Larger components may be classified as abnormal loads in terms of the National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act No. 93 of 1996). In such cases, the necessary permits will be obtained for the transportation of these loads on public roads.

Installation of battery system and cables Foundations will be constructed, and the BESS Facility will be installed. 400 V cables will be installed underground to connect the BESS to the Eskom junction box, with cable racking utilised where feasible. Trenching depths will range from 600 mm in pedestrian areas to 1,000 mm at road crossings, with a minimum trench width of 450 mm. Trenches will be prepared with a level, debris-free base and a 75 mm layer of sand bedding.

Cables will be laid without tension on the prepared bedding, ensuring appropriate spacing and identification. Protective measures will include sand cover, mechanical protection barriers, and warning tape installed 250 to 300mm below ground level. Backfilling will be carried out using suitable material, compacted in layers. Road crossings will be constructed using ducts or concrete encasement. Minimum separation distances between services will be maintained, and markers will be installed at regular intervals and at key points.

All installations will be tested and commissioned in accordance with relevant South African National Standards (SANS) and NRS standards, and appropriate safety controls will be implemented throughout.

Rehabilitation Once all construction is completed on site and all equipment and machinery have been removed from the site, the site will be rehabilitated.

Operational Phase

During the operational phase, key activities will include routine inspection and maintenance.

Decommissioning Phase

The decommissioning phase will include activities similar to that of the construction phase as indicated in Table 1-3.

1.3 Scope of Work

The following terms of reference are applicable in relation to the proposed project:

- Undertake a desktop and field survey to confirm the site sensitivity in relation to the aquatic biodiversity theme; and
- Provide a Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) report detailing the findings from the desktop and field survey.

In accordance with the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the NEMA, 1998, when applying for environmental authorisation the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity of the site under consideration as identified by the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool, must be confirmed by undertaking a site sensitivity verification.

The outcome of this SSV is to:

- Confirm or dispute the current use of the land and the environmental sensitivity as identified by the screening tool; and

- Motivate and provide evidence of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity of the site.

2 Approach

A field survey for the area was undertaken on the 18th May 2026, which is a late wet season survey, to confirm the presence of freshwater features (wetlands) and to verify their sensitivity as given by the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool. The seasonality is not considered to be a limiting factor to the assessment of which the results are conclusive. The coverage of the site by the specialist is provided in Figure 2-1.

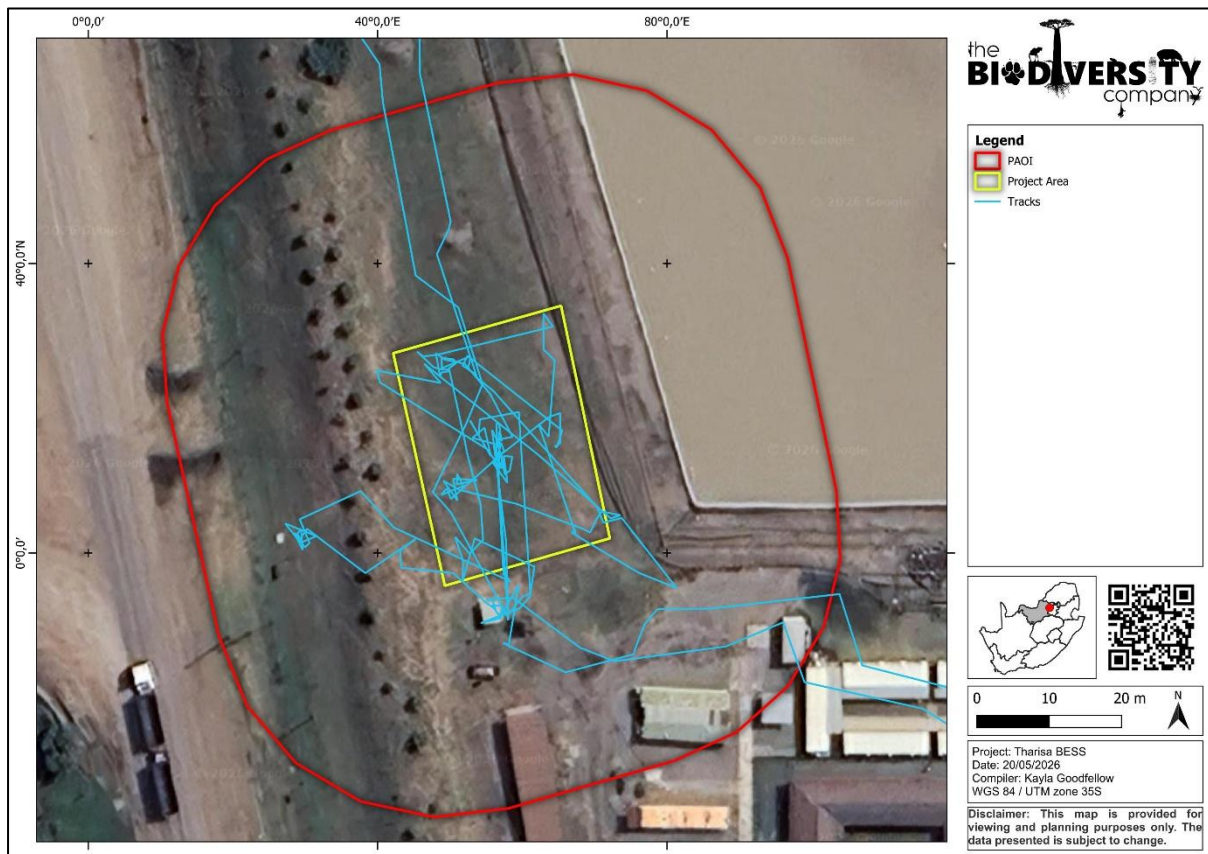


Figure 2-1 Specialist survey coverage

Specialist declarations and a Curriculum Vitae (CV) including the SACNASP registration numbers are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively. A verification report has been prepared in accordance with the Specialist Assessment and Minimum Report Content Requirements for Environmental Impacts on Aquatic Biodiversity (Government Notice 320, dated 20 March 2020).

2.1 Assumptions and Limitations

The following aspects were considered as limitations:

- It has been assumed that the extent of the project site provided to the specialist is accurate;
- No ecological assessments were conducted, as the intent of the SSV is solely to identify the presence of aquatic features (wetlands);
- The seasonality of the survey is not considered to be a limiting factor with regard to identifying and delineating wetland features; and

- The Global Positioning System (GPS) used for water resource delineations is accurate to within five metres. Therefore, the wetland delineation plotted digitally may be offset by a maximum of five metres to either side.

3 Results & Discussion

3.1 Freshwater Habitat Delineations

The following sections discuss the results from the field survey that was conducted to verify the aquatic biodiversity theme sensitivity of the site. A map indicating the identified features within the PAOI is provided in Figure 3-1 and representative survey points are provided in Table 3-1. No natural watercourses or wetlands were identified within the proposed Project Area. An off-channel processing dam is located within the 32 m PAOI and is not intersected by the proposed development and is presumed to be in use for Tharisa Mines process water management.

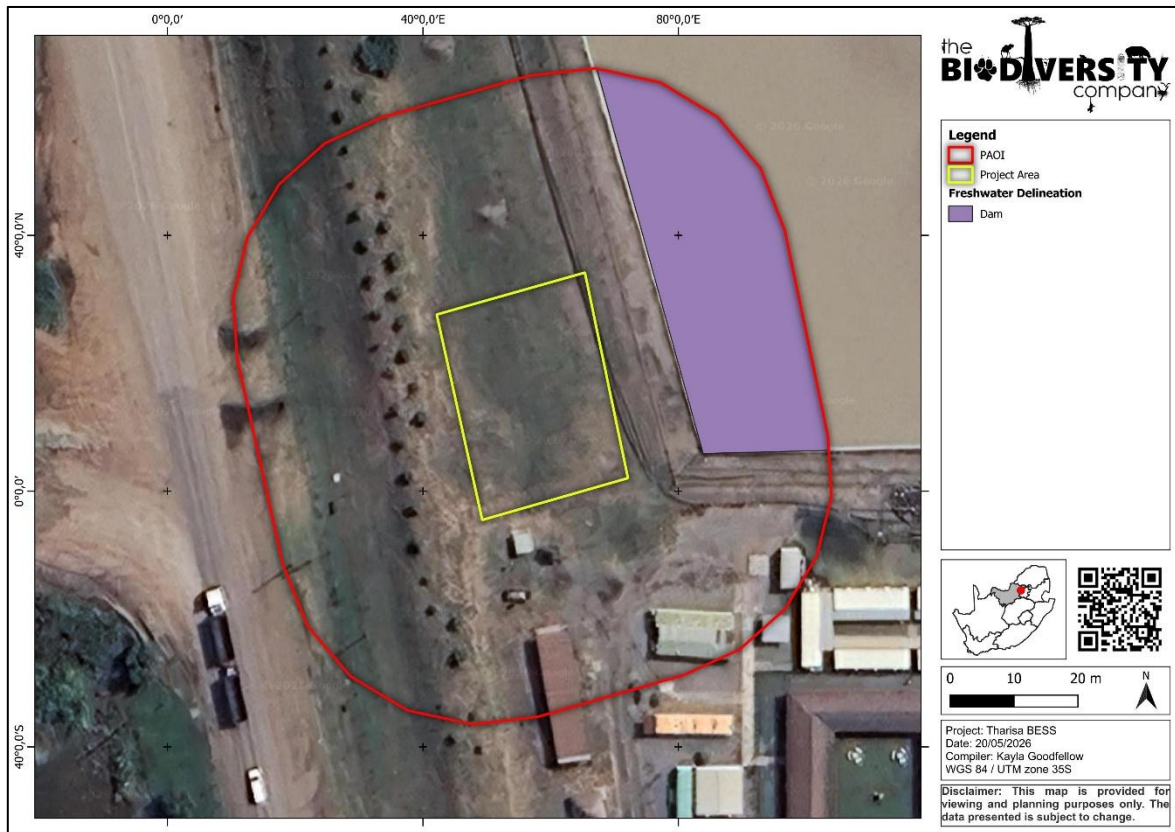


Figure 3-1 Watercourse features identified within the proposed project area

Table 3-1 **Spatially Representative survey sites**

Survey Point	Description	Photographs
<p>Site GPS Reference: 001 Date: 18/05/2026 GPS Coordinates: 25°44'28.99"S 27°29'33.42"E</p>	<p>Non-wetland</p>	
<p>Site GPS Reference: 002 Date: 18/05/2026 GPS Coordinates: 25°44'28.95"S 27°29'33.48"E</p>	<p>Non-wetland</p>	
<p>Site GPS Reference: 003 Date: 18/05/2026 GPS Coordinates: 25°44'29.21"S 27°29'33.70"E</p>	<p>Non-wetland</p>	
<p>Site GPS Reference: 004 Date: 18/05/2026 GPS Coordinates: 25°44'29.57"S 27°29'34.64"E</p>	<p>Dam</p>	

3.2 Site Sensitivity Verification

3.2.1 Desktop Ecological Sensitivity

The following is deduced from the National Web-based Environmental Screening Tool (Regulation 16(1)(v) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as amended):

- The Aquatic Biodiversity Theme sensitivity as “Low” due to the absence of natural freshwater ecosystems within the project Area (Figure 3-2).

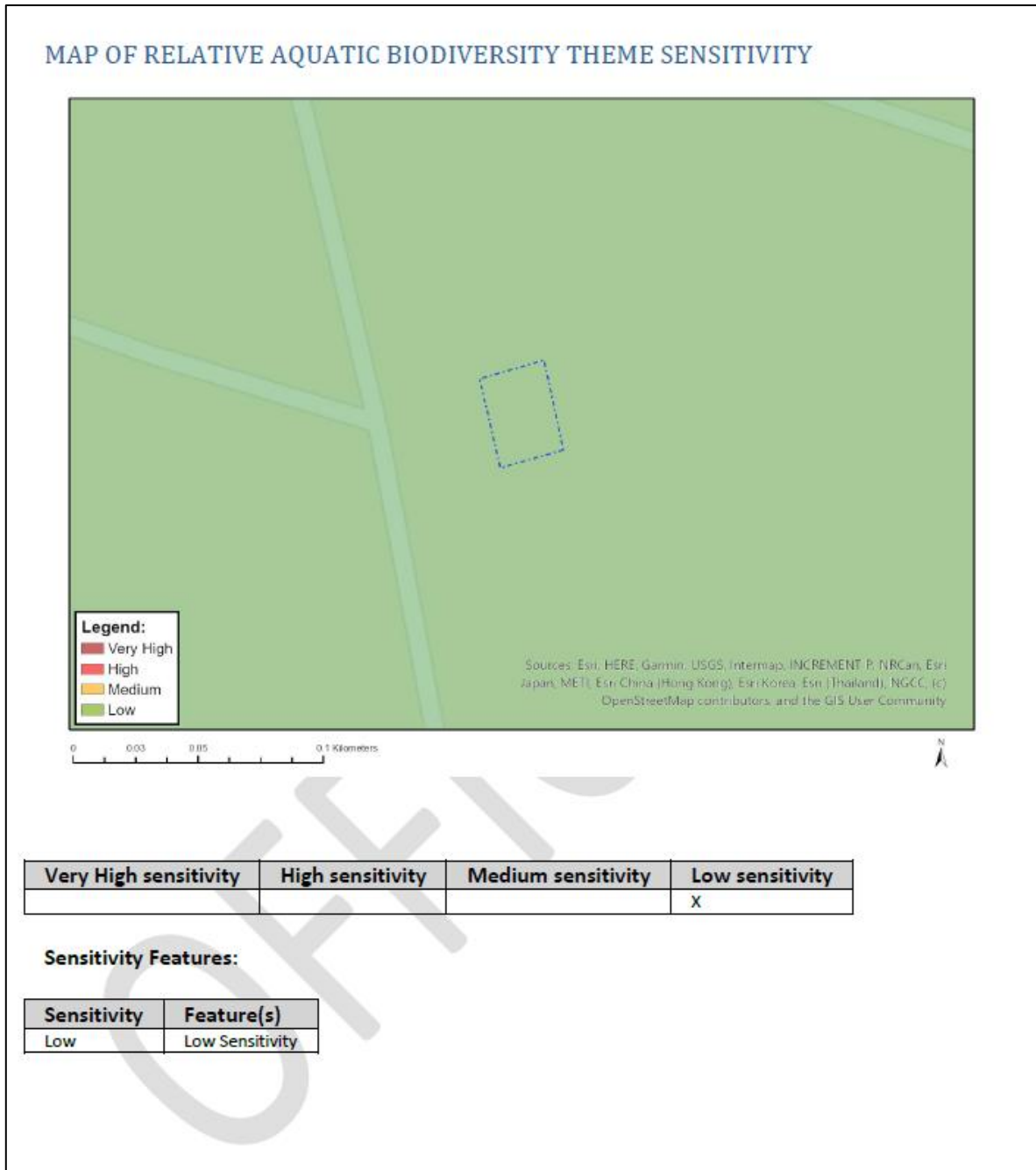


Figure 3-2 Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity for the proposed development

3.2.2 Screening Tool Comparison

The allocated sensitivities for each of the relevant themes are either disputed or validated for the areas assessed as described in Table 3-2 below.

Table 3-2 Summary of the Screening Tool and specialist assigned ecological sensitivities

Features	Screening Tool Theme	Environmental Screening Tool Sensitivity	Specialist Sensitivity	Tool Validated or Disputed by Specialist - Reasoning
Project Area and 32 m PAOI	Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	Low	Low	Validated – No natural wetlands were identified within this area.

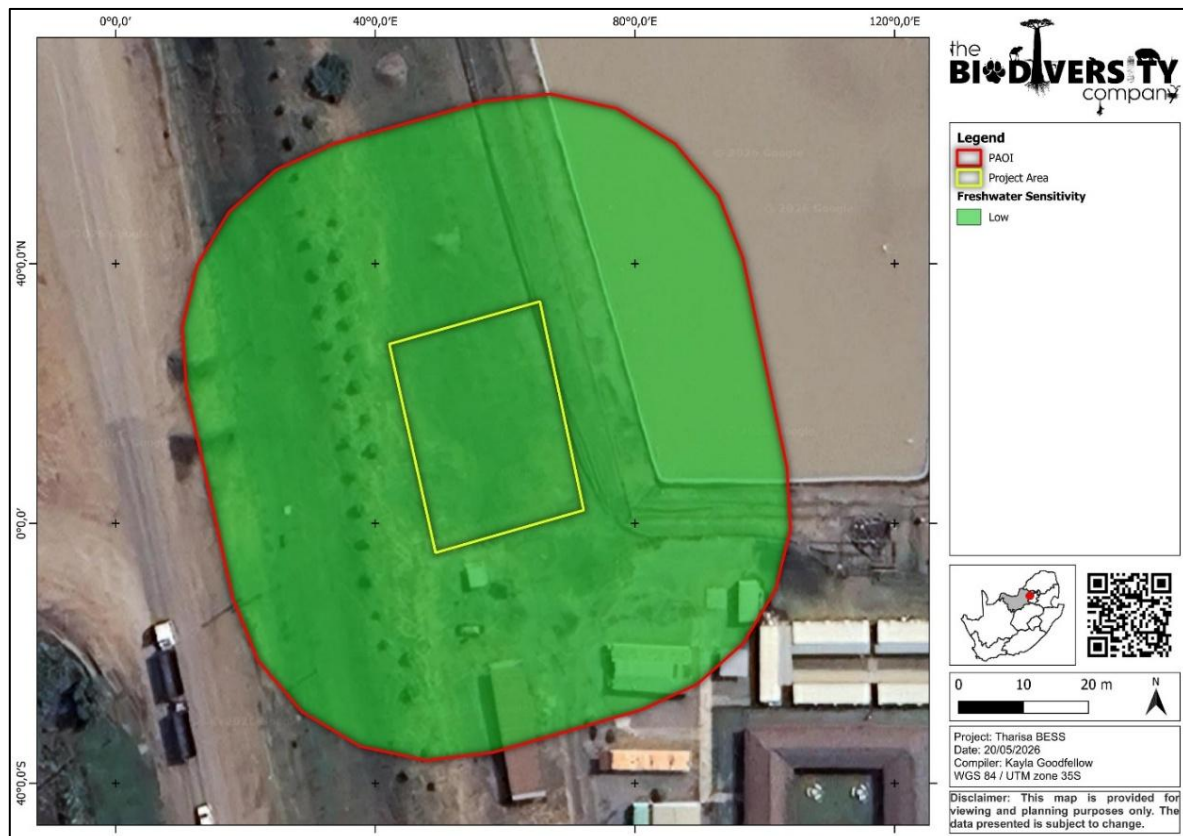


Figure 3-3 Sensitivity map for the proposed development

4 Potential Impact & Management Measures

The site visit confirmed that no wetlands are present within the Project Footprint or within 32 metres of the site boundary.

Given the absence of wetlands in proximity to the proposed development, no localised or cumulative impacts on wetland or aquatic ecosystems are anticipated as a result of the BESS project. Consequently, no site-specific wetland mitigation measures are required.

However, standard best management practices must be implemented to prevent unintended environmental impacts. These measures include but are not limited to:

- Implementing a stormwater management plan that caters for:

- The appropriate control of stormwater runoff which incorporates erosion and sediment control measures; and
 - The release of only clean water into the environment.
- The rehabilitation and stabilisation of exposed soils as soon as possible using mulch, vegetation, or erosion control blankets;
- Using phased clearance and construction where possible to minimise the area and duration of soil disturbance during construction;
- Properly store and handle hazardous materials (fuels, oils, chemicals) to prevent spills; and
- Dispose of waste materials properly and prevent littering on site.

5 Conclusion

During the field assessment that was conducted on the 18th of May 2026, no natural watercourses or wetlands were identified within the proposed BESS development area.

The aquatic biodiversity theme sensitivity for the Project Area and PAOI is characterised by:

- Areas of “Low” sensitivity attributed to the absence of natural freshwater ecosystems.

Given that no natural freshwater ecosystems were identified, the development will occur within areas of “Low” aquatic biodiversity sensitivity. No impact on freshwater biodiversity is expected, based on current information and field verification results. The Norm for the Exclusion of Identified Activities Associated with the Development and Expansion of Battery Storage Facilities, gazetted on 27 March 2024 (No. 4557) can therefore be applied for the aquatic biodiversity theme.

It is the opinion of the specialist that the project can be favourably considered and is not subject to any conditions given the absence of natural watercourses within 32 m of the Project Area.

6 References

National Environmental Screening Tool. 2025. National Environmental Screening Tool, 2026. Available from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment website: <https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool/index.html#/pages/welcome>.

7 Appendices

7.1 Appendix A – Specialist Declaration of Independence

Declaration

I, Namitha Singh, declare that:

- I act as the independent specialist in this application;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting the specialist report relevant to this application, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- All the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 71 and is punishable in terms of Section 24F of the Act.



Namitha Singh

Ecologist


The Biodiversity Company

June 2026

7.2 Appendix B – Specialist CV

Namitha Singh

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Environmental scientist and Pri Sci Nat (SACNASP 157927) with ~5+ years’ specialist consulting experience across South Africa. Specialist expertise include wetland resource delineation, management and rehabilitation, estuary and coastal management, and hydropedology. Experience spans the mining, construction, infrastructure development (industrial/residential/commercial/service) and agriculture sectors. Responsible for current oversight of the Wetland Unit at TBC. Competence in delivering field surveys and technical reporting aligned with in-country legislative requirements and international lender standards.

PERSONAL INFO

Nationality: South African
Date of birth: 26 September 1995

EXPERIENCE


Wetland and related Specialist Assessments for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Water Use Authorisations
Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr)
Project Management

SKILLS

- ✓ Wetland delineation and functional assessments
- ✓ Ecology
- ✓ Rehabilitation

LANGUAGES

English – Proficient
Afrikaans – Basic



Signed: Namitha Singh

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

University of KwaZulu-Natal (2019): BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (*Cum Laude*)
Coastal Geomorphology

University of KwaZulu-Natal (2018): BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Majors: Environmental Science and Life Science

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Oct 2022 – Present **The Biodiversity Company**
Wetland Ecologist
- Jan 2020 – Sep 2022 **Parisara Consulting**
Wetland Specialist and Consultant
- June 2019 – Nov 2019 **Parisara Consulting**
Intern

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

South Africa

