# TerraAfrica
## SOIL. AGRICULTURE. ENVIRONMENT.

# Agricultural Scoping Report for the Proposed Euphorbia, Hillardia and Verbena PV Facilities

**Submitted by TerraAfrica Consult cc**

Mariné Pienaar

**8 February 2022**

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Terra-Africa Consult cc was appointed by Euphorbia PV (Pty) Ltd, Hillardia PV (Pty) Ltd and Verbena PV (Pty) Ltd to conduct the Agricultural Assessment for the proposed development of three solar PV facilities near the town of Lichtenburg in North West Province. The assessment forms part of the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process required for Environmental Authorisation (EA) of the renewable energy projects. The EA process is managed by Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd. (Cape EAPrac).

The proposed three solar PV projects are collectively referred to as the Houthaalbomen North Cluster. The development area of the Houthaalbomen North Cluster is 602.4 ha that will be located on the following properties:

- Portion 2 of the Farm Houthaalbomen 31
- Portion 3 of the Farm Houthaalbomen 31
- Portion 4 of the Farm Houthaalbomen 31

The development area is located approximately 10 km north west of the town of Lichtenburg within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality within the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality of the North West Province (refer to **Figure 1**). The area is accessible via the R505, located east of the development area.

The proposed three PV facilities will be referred to as the Euphorbia PV facility, the Hillardia PV facility and the Verbena PV facility, respectively. Each of the projects are applied for by a separate applicant and within a separate assessment area. The details of each proposed project are present in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Details of the proposed three solar PV facilities within the Houthaalbomen North Cluster**

| Proposed PV facility | Applicant | Contracted capacity | Assessment area | Properties included in the assessment area |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Euphorbia PV | Euphorbia PV (Pty) Ltd | Up to 100 MW | 207 ha | - Portion 2 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31<br>- Portion 3 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31<br>- Portion 4 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 |
| Hillardia PV | Hillardia PV (Pty) Ltd | Up to 100 MW | 200 ha | - Portion 2 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31<br>- Portion 3 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31<br>- Portion 4 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 |
| Verbena PV | Verbena PV (Pty) Ltd | Up to 100 MW | 200 ha | - Portion 2 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 |

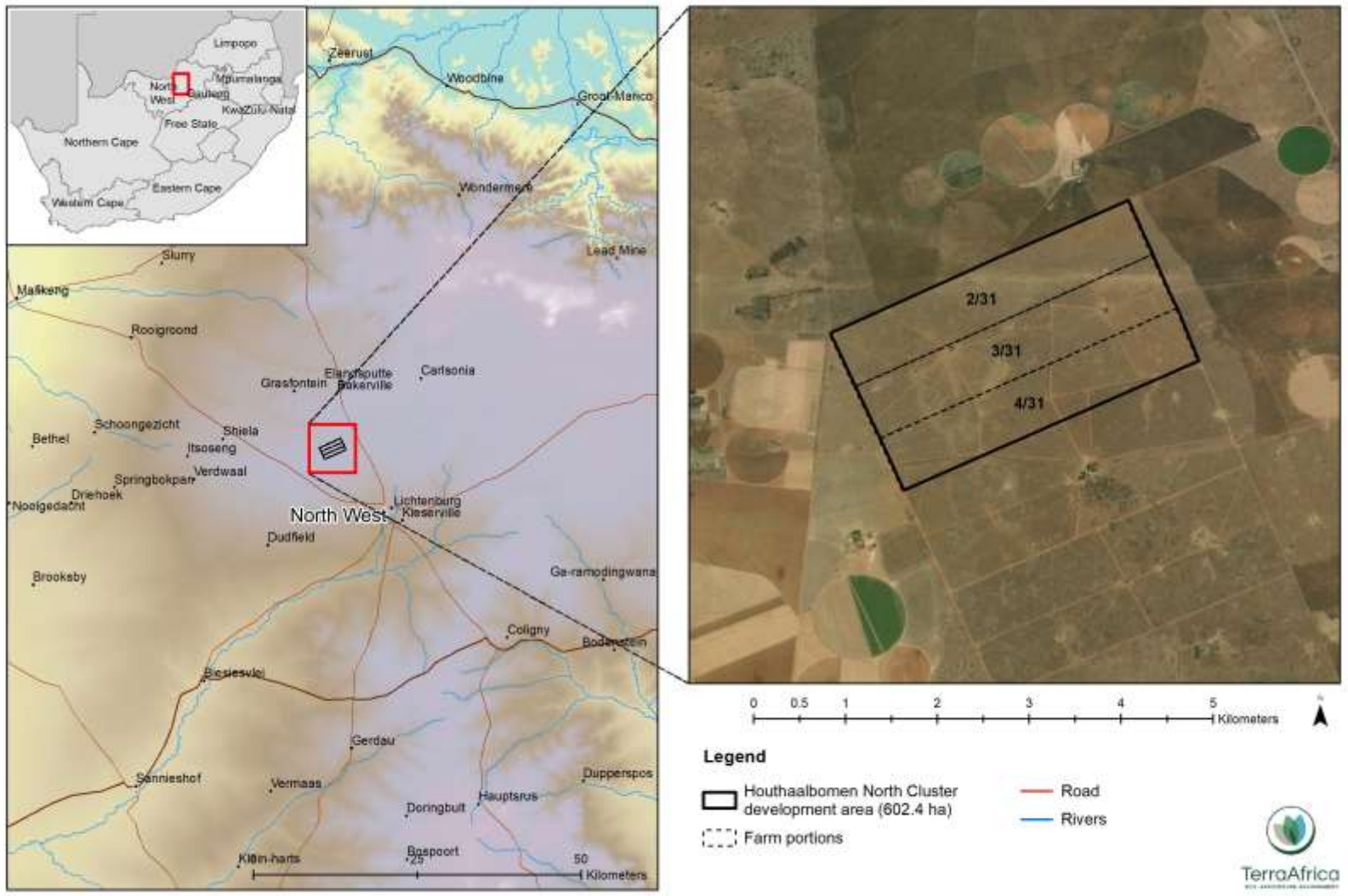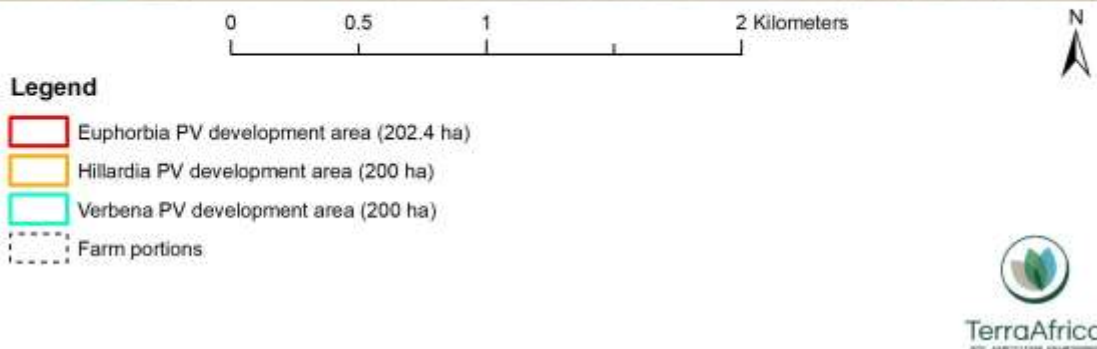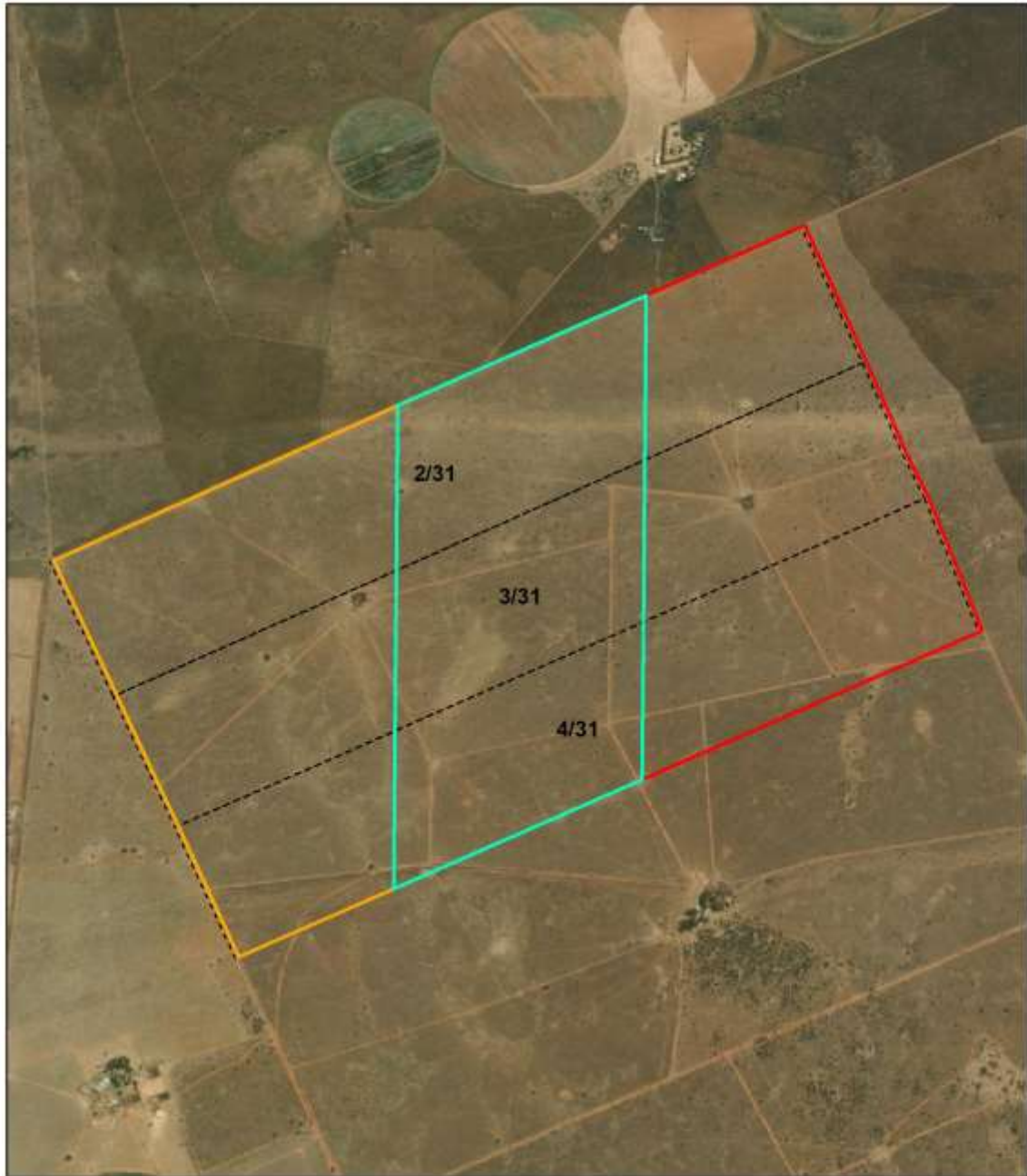| | | | | - Portion 3 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31<br>- Portion 4 of the Farm Houthaalboomen 31 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

**Figure 1: Locality of the Houthaalbomen North Cluster development area where three proposed PV projects will be developed**

**Figure 2: Footprints of the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster PV facilities within the development area**

## 2.    DETAILS OF THE SPECIALIST

The report is prepared by Mariné Pienaar of TerraAfrica Consult CC. Mariné is a scientist registered with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and is specialised in the fields of Agricultural Science and Soil Science. Her SACNASP Registration Number is 400274/10 (see Appendix 2). Mariné holds a BSc. degree in Agricultural Science (with specialisation in Plant Production) from the University of Pretoria and a MSc. Degree in Environmental Science from the University of the Witwatersrand.

The full details and contact details of the specialist is attached as Appendix B: Curriculum Vitae of Specialist.

## 3.    TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference applicable to the soil and agricultural potential scoping assessment include the following:

- Conduct a desktop assessment of the baseline soil and agricultural properties for the proposed development area and access road route
- Identify site sensitivities to the proposed project pertaining to the soil properties, associated land capabilities and the agricultural potential of the project area following the analysis of desktop data.
- Determine whether the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster development area falls within any High Potential Agricultural Areas of the North West province.
- Provide a preliminary site sensitivity rating following the data analysis and identify no-go areas for the process of micro-siting of the infrastructure associated with the proposed projects.
- Identify potential impacts that will be caused by the projects and that will have to be assessed as part of the detail study phase.
- Identify a plan of study that will include the methodology to be followed during the detailed soil and agricultural potential impact assessment that will form part of the final EIA report that will be submitted.
- Comply with the Protocol for the specialist assessment and minimum report content requirements of environmental impacts on agricultural resources by onshore wind and/or solar photovoltaic energy generation facilities where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, gazetted on 20 March 2020 in GN 320 (in terms of Sections 24(5)(A) and (H) and 44 of NEMA, 1998).

## 4.    METHODOLOGY

The proposed assessment areas of the three PV facilities were superimposed on five data sets to describe high-level baseline characteristics and to determine the anticipated sensitivities of the properties to the development. The data sets are:

The data sets are:

- Land type data for the project assessment zone was obtained from the Institute for Soil Climate and Water (ISCW) of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) (Land Type Survey Staff, 1972 – 2006). The land type data is presented at a scale of 1:250 000 and entails the division of land into land types, typical terrain cross sections for the land type and the presentation of dominant soil types for each of the identified terrain units.
- The Refined Land Capability Evaluation Raster Data for South Africa that was developed using a spatial evaluation modelling approach (DALRRD, 2016).
- The long-term grazing capacity for South Africa 2018 that present the long term grazing capacity of an area with the understanding that the veld is in a relatively good condition (South Africa, 2018).
- The North West Field Crop Boundaries show crop production areas may be present within the development area. The field crop boundaries include rainfed annual crops, non-pivot and pivot irrigated annual crops, horticulture, viticulture, old fields, small holdings and subsistence farming (DALRRD, 2019).
- The High Potential Agricultural Areas for Cultivation: North West Province, 2019 are large, relatively homogeneous areas of land within the province regarded as having high potential and capability to contribute towards food production in both the province and the country (DALRRD, 2019).

## 5.    RESULTS OF DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

## 5.1    Land type classification

The entire development areas of both the Euphorbia PV and Verbena PV projects, consist of Land Type Fa 11. A small section of the south-western corner of the Hillardia PV development area consists of Land Type Bc11 and the remaining area consists of Land Type Fa11. Each of the land types present are described below and the complete land type data sheets, are attached as Appendix C. The position of the land types for each area, is shown in **Figure 4**.

### 5.1.1   Land Type Fa11

The terrain forms of Land Type Fa11 are depicted in **Figure 3**. The crests and mid-slopes (Terrain units 1 and 3) are dominated by soil of the Glenrosa and Mispah forms. The rest of this land type consists of yellow-brown and red apedal (structureless) soil either underlain by unspecified material or by plinthic material (either soft or hard plinthite) along the toe-slopes and valley bottoms (Terrain units 4 and 5, respectively). According to the land type charts, 40 to 50% of foot slope and valley bottom positions consist of these deeper soil forms. The valley bottoms might potentially consist of a hydromorphic soil form that may have wetland potential. The slope of the terrain is very flat with Terrain unit 3 having the steepest slope (between 2% and 5%). The clay content of the topsoil horizons are estimated to range between 10% and 25% while subsoil clay content is estimated to range between 13% and 40%.
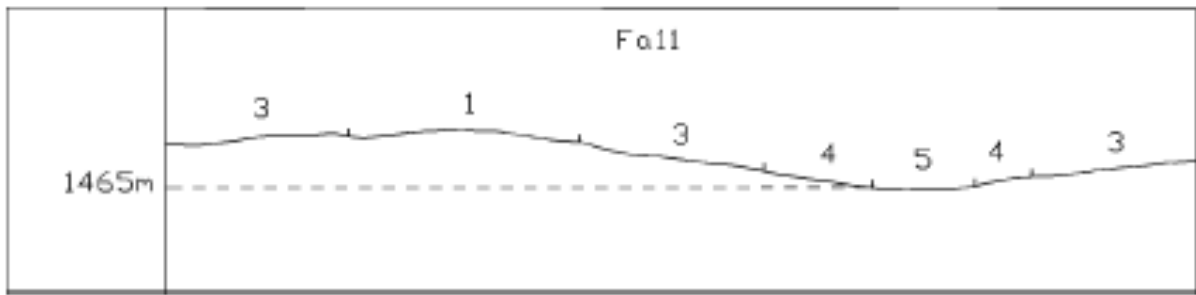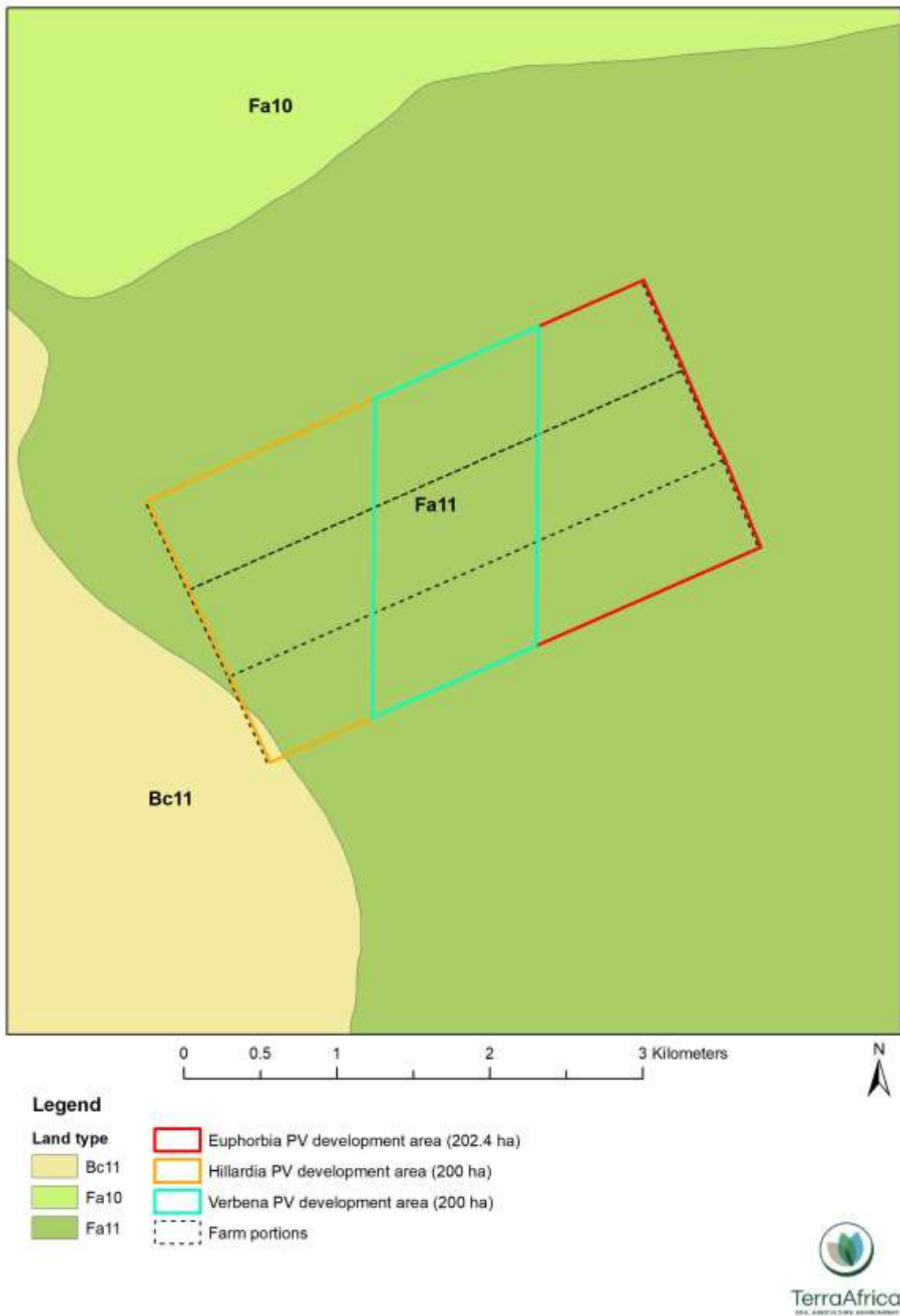
**Figure 3: Terrain form sketch of Land Type Fa11**

**Figure 4: Land type map of the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster PV facilities (Euphorbia PV, Hillardia PV and Verbena PV)**

### 5.1.2   Land Type Bc11

In comparison to Land Type Fa11, Land Type Bc11 consists only of two different terrain units that are illustrated in **Figure 5**. Of the entire land type area, 95% consists of flat toe-slopes (with slope between 0 and 2%) with slope length between 1300 and 1700m. These areas consist predominantly of Westleigh, Hutton, Avalon, Glencoe and Bainsvlei soil forms. The remaining 5% of the land type area consists of valley bottoms (Terrain unit 5). The valley bottoms have about 60% soils of the Sterkspruit form and 40% soils of the Rensburg form. The slope length of the valley bottoms are short (between 50 and 100m) and slope ranges between 0 and 1%.
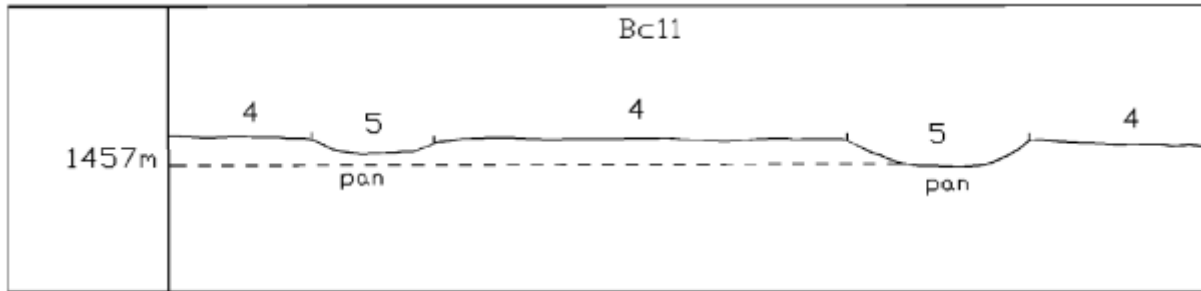


**Figure 5: Terrain form sketch of Land Type Bc11**


## 5.2    Land capability classification

The land capability classification of the three solar PV development areas according to the DALRR raster data (DALRRD, 2016), is shown in **Figure 6**.

### 5.2.1   Hillardia PV development area

The largest part of the Hillardia PV development area consists of land with Class 06 and Class 07 (Low-Moderate) land capability. The northern and southern boundaries of the area consists of small areas with higher land capability that is considered Moderate-High (Class 09). A few very small areas of Moderate (Class 08) land capability are scattered through the middle of the development area.

### 5.2.2   Verbena PV development area

Within the Verbena PV development area, about one quarter of the development area Houthaalbomen 31 consists of land with Moderate-High (Class 09) land capability. The remaining three quarters of the development area consist mainly of land with Low-Moderate (Class 06 and 07) land capability with only very small areas of land with Moderate (Class 08) and Moderate-High) (Class 09) land capability along the western boundary of the area.

### 5.2.3   Euphorbia PV development area

Within the Euphorbia PV development area, about a fifth of Portion 2 of the Farm Houthaalbomen 31 consists of land with Moderate-High (Class 09) land capability. The

remaining area of the development area, consists of a mixture of Class 06 and Class 07 (Low-Moderate) land capability and a few small areas of Class 08 (Moderate) land capability in the middle of the development area.
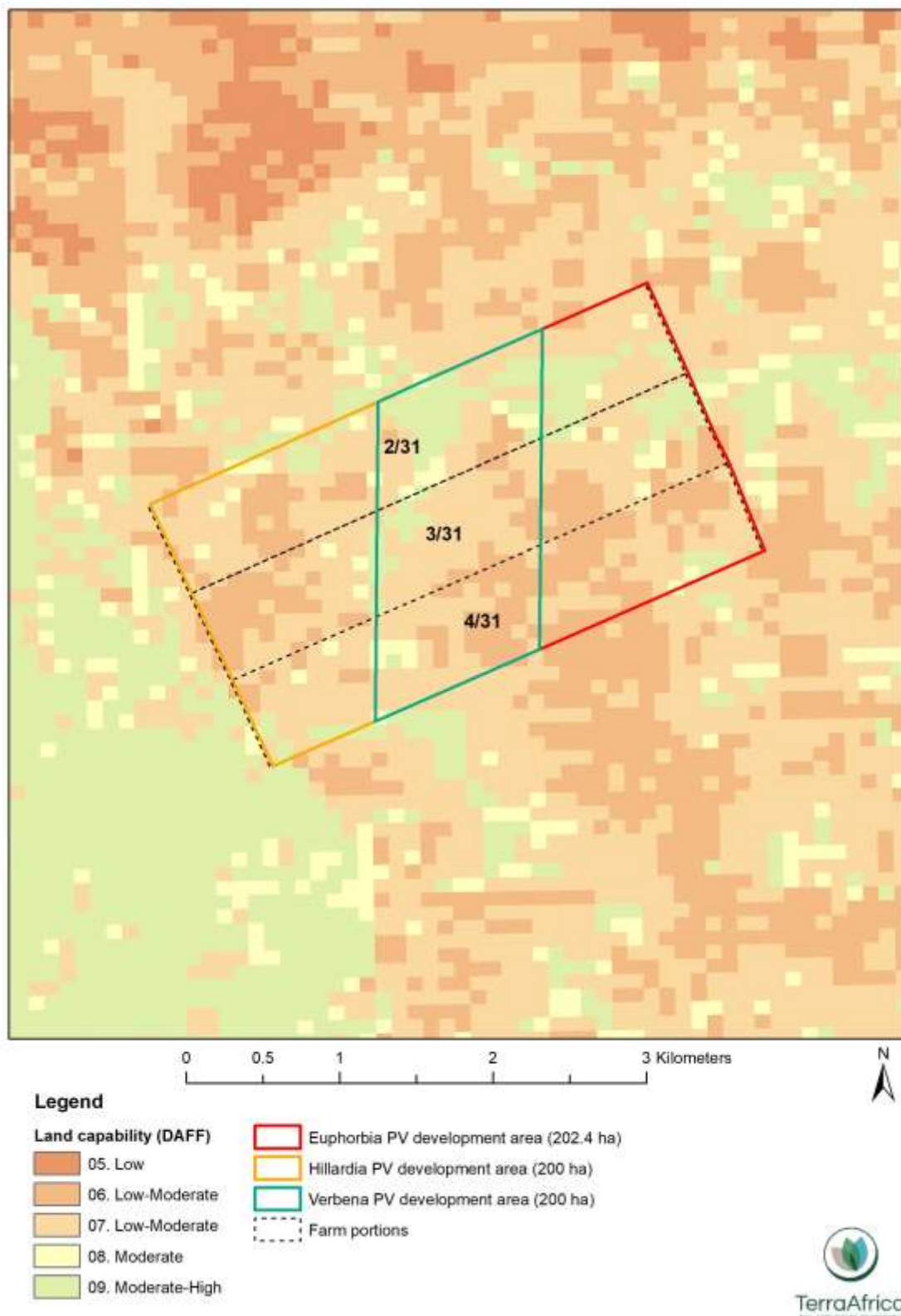


**Figure 6: Land capability map of the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster PV facilities (Euphorbia PV, Hillardia PV and Verbena PV) (data source: DALRRD, 2016)**

## 5.3    Agricultural production

The current agricultural production within the development areas of the three PV facilities were determined by using a combination of the field crop boundary data (Crop Estimates Consortium, 2019) and the long-term grazing capacity of the area (South Africa, 2018). The grazing capacity of all three the development areas is homogeneous and indicated as 8 ha/LSU (refer to **Figure 7**), which is considered to be moderate grazing potential. Following the crop field boundaries, there are no crop fields within any of the three development areas (refer to **Figure 8**). The different areas are discussed below.
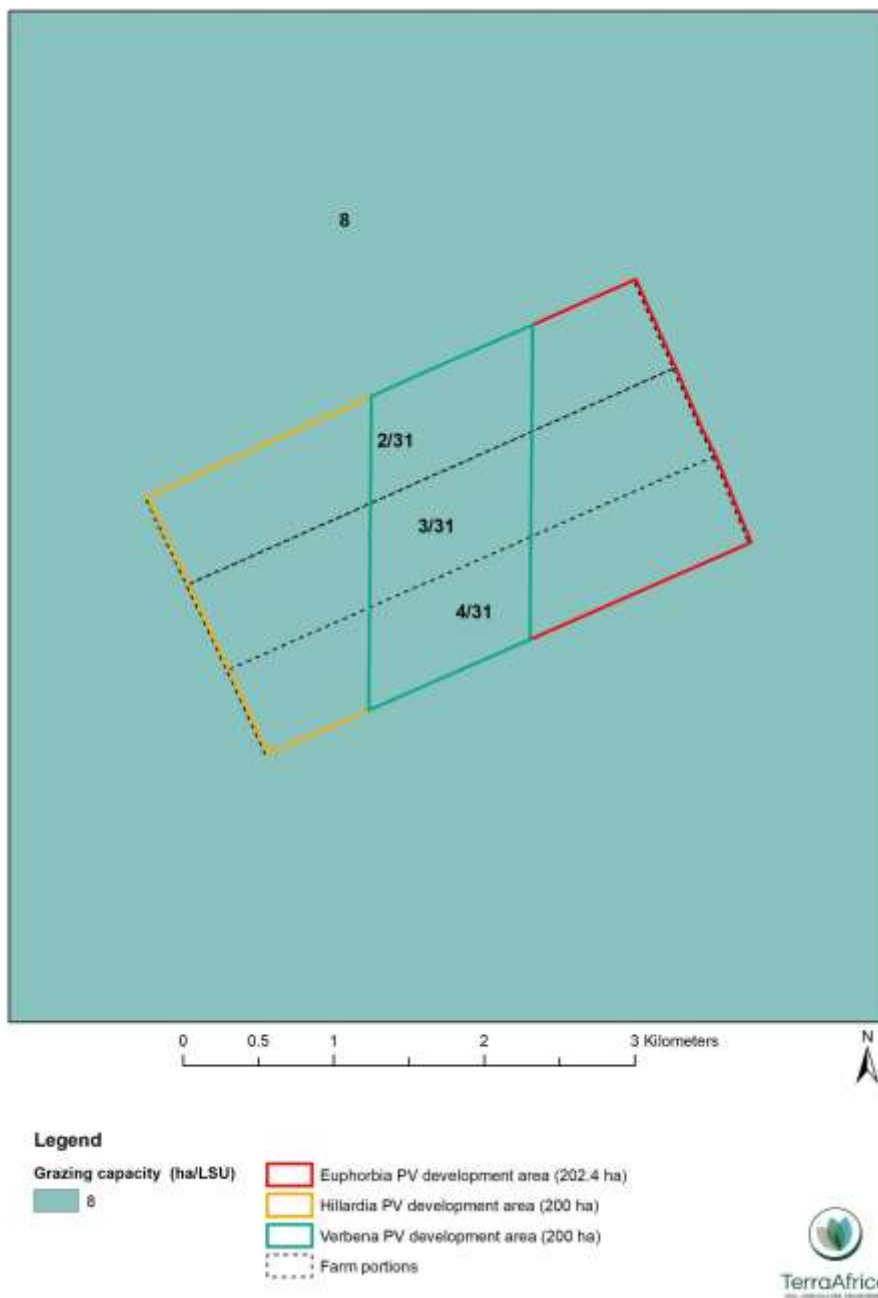


**Figure 7 Grazing capacity of the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster PV facilities (Euphorbia PV , Hillardia PV and Verbena PV) (data source: South Africa, 2018)**

**Figure 8 Field crop boundaries of of the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster PV facilities (Euphorbia PV, Hillardia PV and Verbena PV) (data source: Crop Estimates Consortium, 2019)**

### 5.3.1 Hillardia PV development area

The current land use of the Hillardia PV development area is extensive livestock farming. The grazing capacity of the development area is 8ha/LSU (**Figure 7**). The Hillardia development area of 200 ha therefore has the capacity to feed 25 head of cattle. Land with grazing capacity of 8ha/LSU is considered to have moderate grazing potential. It is lower than the wetter, eastern parts of the country such as Mpumalanga where the grazing capacity ranges from 4 to 6 ha/LSU. However, it is higher than drier areas in the western parts of South Africa, such as the Kalahari. Grazing capacity in the Kalahari ranges between 11 and 17 ha/LSU. The grazing capacity of the Karoo is much lower than that, with some areas having grazing capacity as low as 70ha/LSU.

There are no crop field boundaries within the Hillardia PV development area (see **Figure 8**). Crop fields with rainfed annual crops and planted pastures as well as centre pivot irrigation, are present directly west of the Hillardia site. More pivot irrigation is present about 1.5 km north and 4km east of the development area. A few small-holdings are located about 6 km south-east of the area.
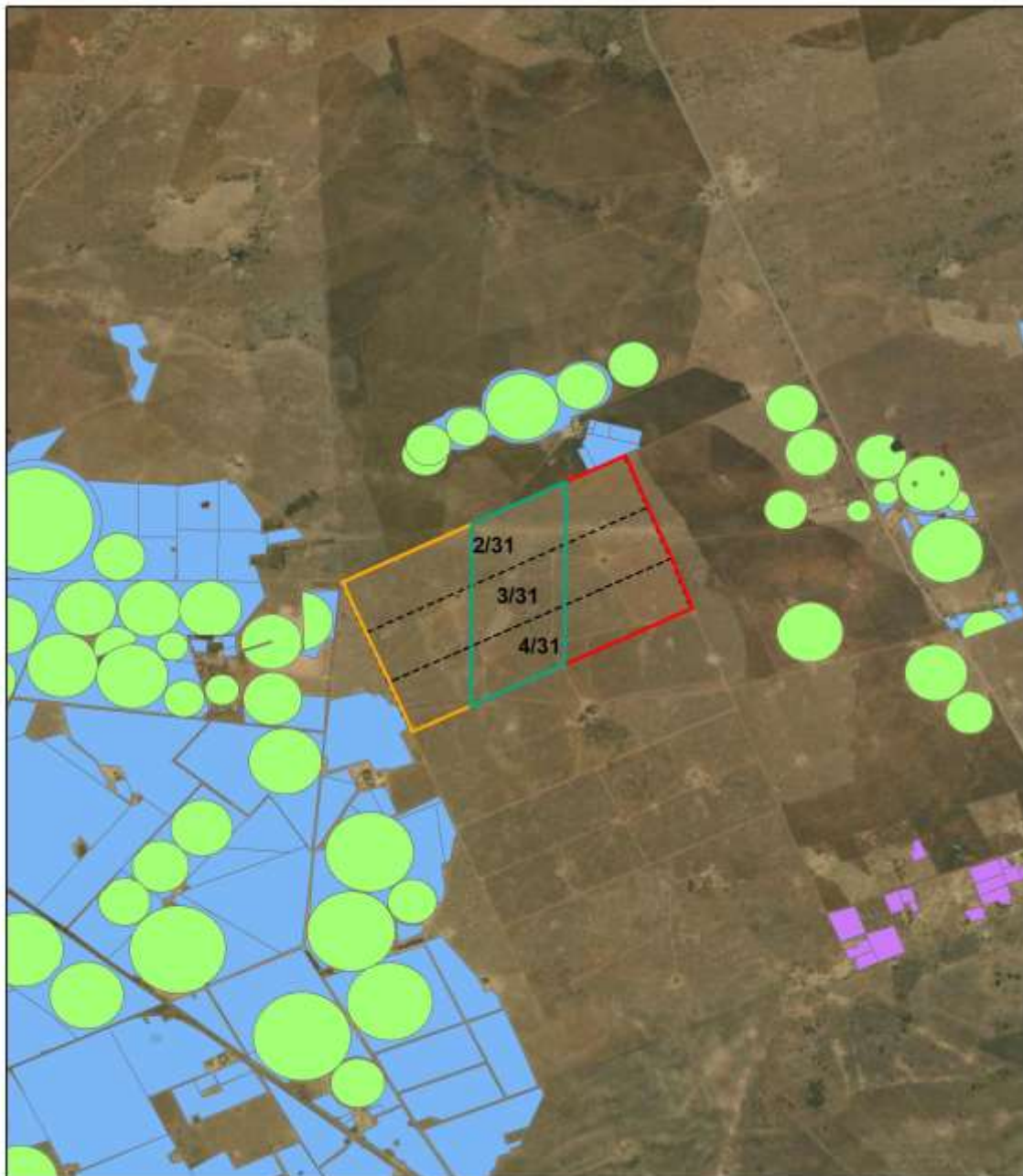
### 5.3.2 Verbena PV development area

The current land use of the Verbena PV development area is extensive livestock farming. The grazing capacity of the development area is 8ha/LSU (**Figure 7**). The Verbena development area of 200 ha therefore has the capacity to feed 25 head of cattle. Land with grazing capacity of 8ha/LSU is considered to have moderate grazing potential. It is lower than the wetter, eastern parts of the country such as Mpumalanga where the grazing capacity ranges from 4 to 6 ha/LSU. However, it is higher than drier areas in the western parts of South Africa, such as the Kalahari. Grazing capacity in the Kalahari ranges between 11 and 17 ha/LSU. The grazing capacity of the Karoo is much lower than that, with some areas having grazing capacity as low as 70ha/LSU.

There are no crop field boundaries within the Verbena PV development area (see **Figure 8**). Crop fields with rainfed annual crops and planted pastures as well as centre pivot irrigation, are located between 1.5 and 2 km west from the western boundary of the development area. More pivot irrigation is present about 1 km north and 3 km east of the eastern boundary of the development area. A few small-holdings are located about 5 km south-east of the area.

### 5.3.3 Euphorbia PV development area

The current land use of the Euphorbia PV development area is extensive livestock farming. The grazing capacity of the development area is 8ha/LSU (**Figure 7**). The Euphorbia development area of 202.4 ha therefore has the capacity to feed 25 head of cattle. Land with grazing capacity of 8ha/LSU is considered to have moderate grazing potential. It is lower than the wetter, eastern parts of the country such as Mpumalanga where the grazing capacity ranges from 4 to 6 ha/LSU. However, it is higher than drier areas in the western parts of South Africa, such as the Kalahari. Grazing capacity in the Kalahari ranges between 11 and 17 ha/LSU. The grazing capacity of the Karoo is much lower than that, with some areas having grazing capacity as low as 70ha/LSU.

There are no crop field boundaries within the Euphorbia PV development area (see **Figure 8**). Crop fields with rainfed annual crops and planted pastures are located directly north of the northern boundary of the development area and centre pivot irrigation areas are located about 1 km north of the northern boundary. More pivot irrigation areas and rainfed annual crops, are present about 3 km west of the western boundary and 2 km east of the eastern boundary. A few small-holdings are located about 4 km south of the area.

## 5.4 High Potential Agricultural Areas

To determine whether the proposed development of the three PV facilities within the Houthaalbomen North Cluster will affect any High Potential Agricultural Areas (HPAAs) delineated within the North West Province, the development areas were depicted in relation to these areas (see Figure 9). None of the three proposed facilities are part of any HPAA. The three areas border on a Category B Irrigation PAA along the western, northern and eastern boundaries of the entire Houthaalbomen North Cluster development area. Category A areas have the highest priority for conservation, followed by Category B areas and then Category C areas. Differentiation is also made between areas with irrigated and rainfed agriculture. Although large areas are delineated as HPAAs, not all within the area may be used for irrigated agriculture.

**Figure 9 The development areas of the proposed Euphorbia PV, Hillardia PV and Verbena PV in relation to High Potential Agricultural Areas (DALRRD, 2019)**

## 6. PRELIMINARY SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Considering the desktop data discussed in **Section 4** above, the site has been assigned a preliminary sensitivity rating (see **Figure 10**). In addition to the data discussed, the author's knowledge of the area around the site where soil and classification surveys have been conducted since 2018, has also informed the sensitivity rating. The assigned sensitivity rating is compared to the agricultural sensitivity as depicted in the screening tool report (refer to **Figure 11**).
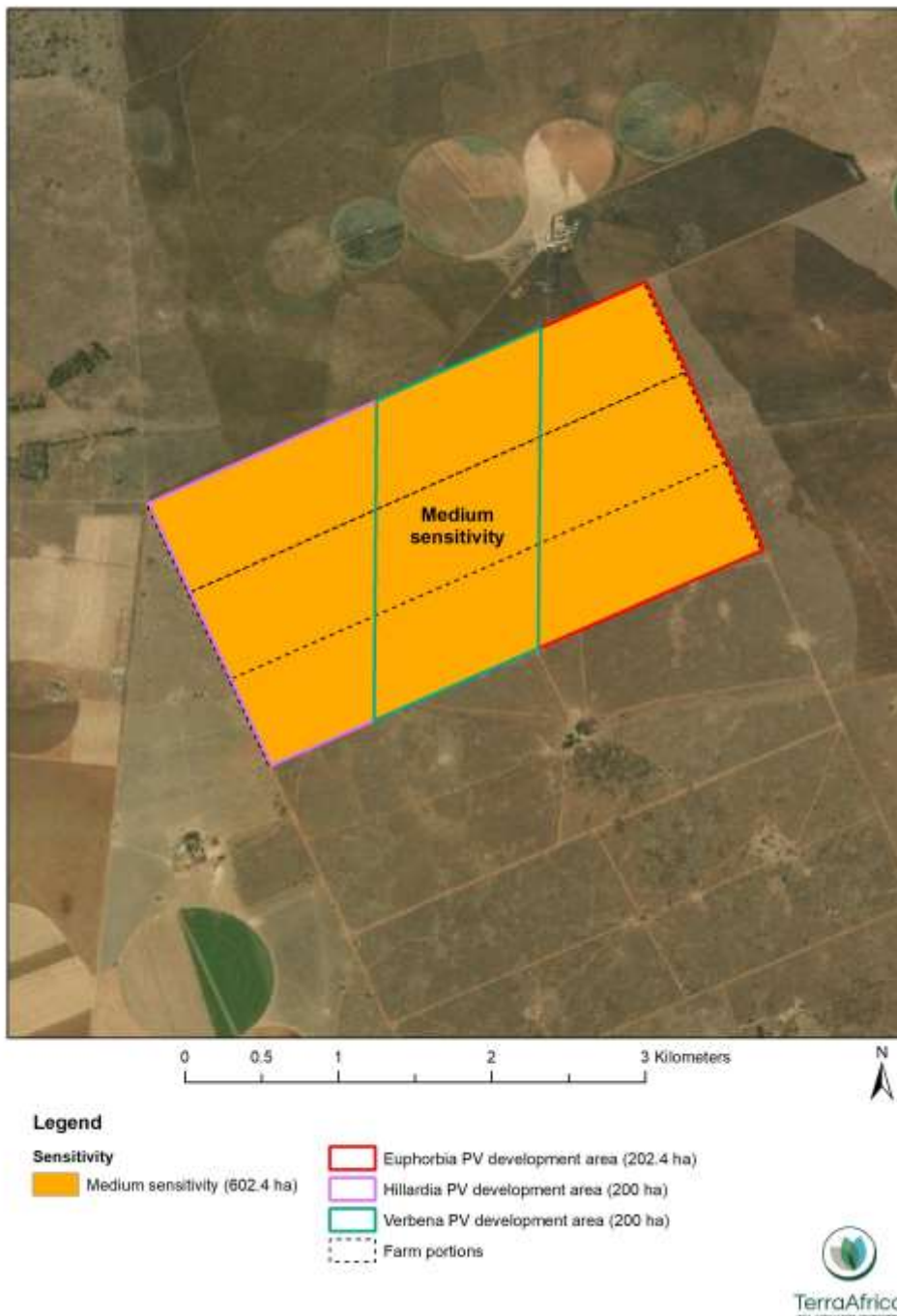


**Figure 10 Agricultural sensitivity of the proposed Houthaalbomen North Cluster PV facilities (Euphorbia PV, Hillardia PV and Verbena PV )**

**Figure 11 Agricultural combined sensitivity of the Houthaalbomen North Cluster development area and surrounding area (Screening Tool Report, 2021)**

The entire development areas of all three the proposed solar PV facilities, have Medium sensitivity to the proposed development. The sensitivity rating was assigned with the reasoning that although the site have small areas with Moderate-High and Moderate land capability that is considered suitable for rainfed crop production, all three the sites are only used for livestock grazing. Even though the area may be suitable for irrigated farming, none of the three development areas has any irrigation infrastructure. Therefore, none of the three development areas is considered to have High sensitivity to the proposed developments.

The sensitivity rating mainly agrees with the agricultural sensitivity rating of the area according to the screening tool report (see Figure 11). The report indicates that the largest part of the proposed development area (90% or more) consists of Medium agricultural sensitivity. According to this map, the area also has smaller areas of High sensitivity in the northern part as well as the south-western corner. These areas have likely been assigned higher sensitivity as a result of the Moderate-High (Class 09) land capability of these areas according to DALRRD (2016). However, these areas are not currently used for rainfed crop production and it is my professional opinion that these areas rather have Medium than High agricultural sensitivity.

During the detailed study for the EIA phase, the sensitivity rating of each facility's development area, will be refined based on the soil classification and verified land capability of the area.

## 7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 7.1 Project description

Each of the proposed solar PV facilities (Hillardia PV, Verbena PV and Euphorbia PV) will comprise several arrays of PV panels and associated infrastructure and will have a contracted capacity of up to 100 MW. Each facility will consist of a facility development area and two alternative grid connection solutions. The infrastructure associated with each 100MW PV facility includes:

- PV modules and mounting structures;
- Inverters and transformers;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
- Site and internal access roads (up to 8m wide);
- Auxiliary buildings (22kV or 33kV switch room, gate-house and security, control centre, office, warehouse, canteen & visitors centre, staff lockers etc.);
- Temporary and permanent laydown area;
- Cabling between the panels, to be laid underground where practical; and
- Grid connection solution, including:

  - Medium-voltage cabling between the project components and the facility substation; and
  - A 132kV facility substation

As included above, each facility will include grid connection infrastructure (MV cabling and facility substation) that will facilitate the connection of the project components to the Houthaalboomen North collector switching station which will be located adjacent to the Euphorbia PV facility.

The Houthaalboomen North collector switching station intends to connect the Houthaalboomen North cluster to the National Grid via the Watershed Main Transmission Substation (MTS) (approximately 5 km southeast of the facility), however, the connection infrastructure associated with this grid solution (i.e. between the facility substations and the MTS) is being assessed as part of a separate Environmental Application.

## 7.2    Potential impacts of the proposed solar PV facilities

The three sites have similar baseline conditions and the same impacts on soil and agriculture are anticipated. Below follows a description of the potential impacts.

*7.2.1 Potential impacts on agricultural production*

| *Impact* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Loss of areas of grazing areas where livestock can be produced | | | |
| **Issue** | **Nature of Impact** | **Extent of Impact** | **No-Go Areas** |
| Areas where the PV modules and other infrastructure will be constructed, will no longer be available for livestock production. | Negative | Local | None |
| **Description of expected significance of impact** | | | |
| The sites have largely Low-Moderate land capability and is used for livestock production.  The expected significance of this impact is Medium. | | | |
| **Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study** | | | |
| The final layout of the infrastructure, especially the need for additional access roads, will determine the size of the areas to be lost. Once the final layout is available, the impacts can be assessed in detail. | | | |

*7.2.2 Potential impacts on soil*

| *Impact* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Soil compaction | | | |
| **Issue** | **Nature of Impact** | **Extent of Impact** | **No-Go Areas** |
| Soil compaction will occur wherever construction vehicles and equipment will traverse the site and where the PV modules and other long-term infrastructure will be erected. | Negative | Local | None |
| **Description of expected significance of impact** | | | |
| Wherever the impact occurs (where heavy vehicles traverse) the impact is expected to be of Medium significance during the construction phase. Once construction is finalised, areas that are affected by compaction outside of the development footprint, must be rehabilitated. | | | |

Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study
The exact footprint will be determined for the EIA phase and it is recommended that existing roads be used for the transport of equipment as far as possible to limit soil compaction.

| Impact: Soil erosion | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Nature of Impact** | **Extent of Impact** | **No-Go Areas** |
| Wherever construction activities will result in bare soil surfaces, these surfaces prone to loss of soil particles as a result of wind and water movement | Negative | Local | None |
| **Description of expected significance of impact** | | | |
| The impact is expected to be of medium significance. | | | |
| **Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study** | | | |
| • Soil texture and soil organic carbon analysis results of the EIA phase will be used to calculate the erodibility of soils within the development footprint. | | | |

| Impact: Loss of soil fertility through disturbance of in situ horizon organisation | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Nature of Impact** | **Extent of Impact** | **No-Go Areas** |
| In any area where topsoil will be stripped for construction purposes, the soil horizons will be mixed and the mixture may have lower soil fertility than before it was stripped. | Negative | Local | None |
| **Description of expected significance of impact** | | | |
| Low to moderately low significance | | | |
| **Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study** | | | |
| The final results of the EIA phase soil classification survey will be used to develop guidelines for topsoil stripping and stockpile management during the construction phase. | | | |

| Impact: Soil chemical pollution | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Issue** | **Nature of Impact** | **Extent of Impact** | **No-Go Areas** |
| Oil and fuel spillages as well as waste generation during the project cycle will result in soil chemical pollution. | Negative | Local | None |
| **Description of expected significance of impact** | | | |
| The significance of this impact is moderate to high. | | | |
| **Gaps in knowledge & recommendations for further study** | | | |
| The only knowledge gap is an project description that includes detail of activities and materials that may result in soil pollution during the different project phases. | | | |

## 8.    PLAN OF STUDY

Once the infrastructure layout has gone through the final process of micro-siting based on the recommendations of this report and other reports, the site visit will be conducted for the purpose of on-site verification. The survey will include soil classification according to the Soil Classification: A Natural and Anthropogenic System for South Africa (Soil Classification Working Group, 2018).

The landowners and/or land users will be consulted individually for discussion of the productivity and employment data associated with the areas that will impacted by the proposed development. The discussion will also address the limitations and risks of livestock production in the area in order to compare it to renewable energy production. This will be used to consider the acceptability of the project.

The reports will be prepared in alignment with all the relevant NEMA regulations as well as General Notice 320 of 2020 that specifically address Agricultural Compliance reporting for the renewable energy sector. A separate report will be compiled for each proposed PV facility.

## 9.    CONCLUSION

Following the desktop analysis of available data, it is concluded that the proposed development of the Hillardia PV, Verbena PV and Euphorbia PV facilities, will affect land with Medium agricultural sensitivity. No no-go areas have been identified for the proposed project from the perspective of soil and agricultural resource conservation. None of the proposed development areas overlap with delineated High Potential Agricultural Areas within the larger area where the projects will be located.

It is anticipated that the proposed project will have limited impact on the soil properties and land capability while the land use will change from livestock farming to generation of renewable energy. The detailed assessment and subsequent reporting will provide in-depth detail on all these aspects.

## 10. LIST OF REFERENCES

Crop Estimates Consortium, 2019. *Field crop boundary data layer (NW province)*, 2019. Pretoria. Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

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Land Type Survey Staff, 1972 – 2006. *Land Types of South Africa data set*. ARC – Institute for Soil, Climate and Water. Pretoria.

South Africa (Republic), 2018. *Long-term grazing capacity for South Africa*: Data layer. Government Gazette Vol. 638, No. 41870. 31 August 2018. Regulation 10 of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA): Act 43 of 1983. Pretoria. Government Printing Works.

The Soil Classification Working Group, 2018. *Soil Classification – Taxonomic System for South Africa.* Dept. of Agric., Pretoria.

# APPENDIX A: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

## DECLARATION OF THE SPECIALIST

**Note:** Duplicate this section where there is more than one specialist.

I ...MARINÉ PIENAAR... as the appointed Specialist hereby declare/affirm the correctness of the information provided or to be provided as part of the application, and that:

- In terms of the general requirement to be independent:
  - o other than fair remuneration for work performed in terms of this application, have no business, financial, personal or other interest in the development proposal or application and that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity; or

  - o am not independent, but another specialist (the "Review Specialist") that meets the general requirements set out in Regulation 13 of the NEMA EIA Regulations has been appointed to review my work (Note: a declaration by the review specialist must be submitted);

- In terms of the remainder of the general requirements for a specialist, have throughout this EIA process met all of the requirements;

- I have disclosed to the applicant, the EAP, the Review EAP (if applicable), the Department and I&APs all material information that has or may have the potential to influence the decision of the Department or the objectivity of any Report, plan or document prepared or to be prepared as part of the application; and

- I am aware that a false declaration is an offence in terms of Regulation 48 of the EIA Regulations.

2022 - 01 - 07

Signature of the EAP: _____    Date: _____

TERRA AFRICA CONSULT CC

Name of company (if applicable): _____

# APPENDIX B: CURRICULUM VITAE OF SPECIALIST

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

+2782-828-3587

mpienaar@terraafrica.co.za

linkedin.com/in/marinepienaar

Wolmaransstad,
South Africa

## EXPERTISE

Soil Quality Assessment

Soil Policy and Guidelines

Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Assessment

Sustainable Agriculture

Data Consolidation

Land Use Planning

Soil Pollution

Hydropedology

## EDUCATION

MASTER'S DEGREE
**Environmental Science**
University of Witwatersrand
2010 – 2018

BACHELOR'S DEGREE
**Agricultural Science**
University of Pretoria
2001 – 2004

I contribute specialist knowledge on agriculture and soil management to ensure long-term sustainability of projects in Africa. For the past thirteen years, it has been my calling and I have consulted on more than 200 projects. My clients include environmental and engineering companies, mining houses, and project developers. I enjoy the multi-disciplinary nature of the projects that I work on and I am fascinated by the evolving nature of my field of practice. The next section provide examples of the range of projects completed. A comprehensive project list is available on request.

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Global Assessment on Soil Pollution
*Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN)*

Author of the regional assessment of Soil in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report is due for release in February 2021. The different sections included:

- Analysis of soil and soil-related policies and guidelines for each of the 48 regional countries
- Description of the major sources of soil pollution in the region
- The extent of soil pollution in the region and as well as the nature and extent of soil monitoring
- Case study discussions of the impacts of soil pollution on human and environmental health in the region
- Recommendations and guidelines for policy development and capacitation to address soil pollution in Sub-Saharan Africa

Data Consolidation and Amendment
*Range of projects: Mining Projects, Renewal Energy*

These projects included developments where previous agricultural and soil studies are available that are not aligned with the current legal and international best practice requirements such as the IFC Principles. Other projects are expansion projects or changes in the project infrastructure layout. Tasks on such projects include the incorporation of all relevant data, site verification, updated baseline reporting and alignment of management and monitoring measures.

Project examples:

- Northam Platinum's Booysendal Mine, South Africa
- Musonoi Mine, Kolwezi District, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Polihali Reservoir and Associated Infrastructure, Lesotho
- Kaiha 2 Hydropower Project, Liberia
- Aquarius Platinum's Kroondal and Marikana Mines

# PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP)

Soil Science Society of South Africa (SSSSA)

Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)

Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Africa (NICOLA)

# LANGUAGES

English (Fluent)

Afrikaans (Native)

French (Basic)

# PRESENTATIONS

*There is spinach in my fish pond*
**TEDx Talk**
Available on YouTube

♦

*Soil and the Extractive Industries*
**Session organiser and presenter**
Global Soil Week, Berlin (2015)

♦

*How to dismantle an atomic bomb*
**Conference presentation (2014)**
Environmental Law Association (SA)

# PROJECT EXPERIENCE (Continued)

### Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Assessments
*Range of projects: Renewable Energy, Industrial and Residential Developments, Mining, Linear Developments (railways and power lines)*

The assessments were conducted as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment processes. The assessment process includes the assessment of soil physical and chemical properties as well as other natural resources that contributes to the land capability of the area.

Project examples:

- Mocuba Solar PV Development, Mozambique
- Italthai Railway between Tete and Quelimane, Mozambique
- Lichtenburg PV Solar Developments, South Africa
- Manica Gold Mine Project, Mozambique
- Khunab Solar PV Developments near Upington, South Africa
- Bomi Hills and Mano River Mines, Liberia
- King City near Sekondi-Takoradi and Appolonia City near Accra, Ghana
- Limpopo-Lipadi Game Reserve, Botswana
- Namoya Gold Mine, Democratic Republic of Congo

### Sustainable Agriculture
*Range of projects: Policy Development for Financial Institutions, Mine Closure Planning, Agricultural Project and Business Development Planning*

Each of the projects completed had a unique scope of works and the methodology was designed to answer the questions. While global indicators of sustainable agriculture are considered, the unique challenges to viable food production in Africa, especially climate change and a lack of infrastructure, in these analyses.

Project examples:

- Measurement of sustainability of agricultural practices of South African farmers – survey design and pilot testing for the LandBank of South Africa
- Analysis of the viability of avocado and mango large-scale farming developments in Angola for McKinsey & Company
- Closure options analysis for the Tshipi Borwa Mine to increase agricultural productivity in the area, consultation to SLR Consulting
- Analysis of risks and opportunities for farm feeds and supplement suppliers of the Southern African livestock and dairy farming industries
- Sustainable agricultural options development for mine closure planning of the Camutue Diamond Mine, Angola

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Contaminated Land Management 101 Training Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Africa**
2020

**Intensive Agriculture in Arid & Semi-Arid Environments CINADCO/MASHAV R&D Course, Israel**
2015

**World Soils and their Assessment Course ISRIC – World Soil Information Centre, Netherlands**
2015

**Wetland Rehabilitation Course University of Pretoria**
2010

**Course in Advanced Modelling of Water Flow and Solute Transport in the Vadose Zone with Hydrus University of Kwazulu-Natal**
2010

**Environmental Law for Environmental Managers North-West University Centre for Environmental Management**
2009

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE (Continued)

### Soil Quality Assessments
*Range of projects: Rehabilitated Land Audits, Mine Closure Applications, Mineral and Ore Processing Facilities, Human Resettlement Plans*

The soil quality assessments included physical and chemical analysis of soil quality parameters to determine the success of land rehabilitation towards productive landscapes. The assessments are also used to understand the suitability for areas for Human Resettlement Plans

Project examples:

- Closure Planning for Yoctolux Colliery
- Soil and vegetation monitoring at Kingston Vale Waste Facility
- Exxaro Belfast Resettlement Action Plan Soil Assessment
- Soil Quality Monitoring of Wastewater Irrigated Areas around Matimba Power Station
- Keaton Vanggatfontein Colliery Bi-Annual Soil Quality Monitoring

## REFERENCES

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# APPENDIX C: LAND TYPE DATA SHEETS

**LAND TYPE /** *LANDTIPE*...................... : **Fa11**

CLIMATE ZONE / *KLIMAATSONE* ......... : 11S

Area / *Oppervlakte* ..................................... : 41880 ha

Estimated area unavailable for agriculture

*Beraamde oppervlakte onbeskikbaar vir landbou :*     1100 ha

Occurrence (maps) and areas / *Voorkoms (kaarte) en oppervlakte :*

| 2524 Mafikeng (430 ha) | 2526 Rustenburg (10140 ha) |
| 2624 Vryburg (2070 ha) | 2626 Wes-Rand (29240 ha) |

Inventory by / *Inventaris deur :*

R W Bruce

Modal Profiles / *Modale profiele :*

None / Geen

| **Terrain unit /** *Terreineenheid* ..................................... : | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| % of land type /% *van landtipe* ..................................... : | 25 | 60 | 10 | 5 |
| Area / *Oppervlakte  (ha)* ............................................. : | 10470 | 25128 | 4188 | 2094 |
| Slope / *Helling (%)* ...................................................... : | 0 - 2 | 2 - 5 | 1 - 2 | 0 - 1 |
| Slope length / *Hellingslengte (m)* ................................. : | 400 - 600 | 800 - 1200 | 400 - 600 | 40 - 60 |
| Slope shape / *Hellingsvorm* ........................................... : | Y | Z-Y | Z-X | X |
| MB0, MB1 (ha) .......................................................... : | 1256 | 11810 | 2094 | 1675 |
| MB2 - MB4 (ha) ......................................................... : | 9214 | 13318 | 2094 | 419 |

**Depth limiting material**

| Soil series or land classes *Grondseries of landklasse* | Depth *Diepte* (mm) | MB : | ha | % | ha | % | ha | % | ha | % | Total *Totaal* ha | % | Clay content % *Klei-inhoud %* A | E | B21 | Hor | Texture *Tekstuur* Class / *Klas* | *Diepte-beperkende materiaal* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Soil-rock complex* | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Grond-rotskompleks:* | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rock/Rots | 4 | : | 1675 | 16 | 1759 | 7 | 712 | 17 | 126 | 6 | 4272 | 10.2 | | | | | | |
| Mispah Ms10,  Klipfontein Ms11, | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Platt Gs14,  Glenrosa Gs15, | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trevanian Gs17 | 100-150 | 3 : | 7538 | 72 | 11559 | 46 | 1382 | 33 | 293 | 14 | 20772 | 49.6 | 10-20 | | | A | meSaLm-LmSa | so,R,hp |
| Msinga Hu26,  Clansthal Hu24, | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lichtenburg Hu23 | 250-1200+ | 0 : | 1256 | 12 | 11810 | 47 | 2094 | 50 | 838 | 40 | 15998 | 38.2 | 10-25 | | 13-30 | B | meSaLm-SaClLm | R,so |
| Devon We22,  Newport Cv27, | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Southwold Cv26,  Avalon Av26, | | : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinyika Wo21 | 250-1200+ | 0 : | | | | | | | 838 | 40 | 838 | 2.0 | 20-40 | | 20-40 | A | SaClLm-SaCl | sp |

**Terrain type /** *Terreintipe :*  A2

Terrain form sketch / *Terreinvormsketch*
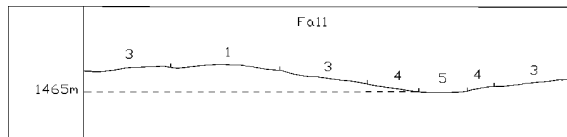


For an explanation of this table consult LAND TYPE INVENTORY (table of contents)

*Ter verduideliking van hierdie tabel kyk LANDTIPE - INVENTARIS  (inhoudsopgawe)*

Geology:   Dolomite and chert belonging to the Chuniespoort Group; chert gravels are abundant on middle and footslopes including valley bottoms.

*Geologie:*   Dolomiet en chert van die Groep Chuniespoort; chertgruise is volop op middel- en voethange, asook valleivloere.

**LAND TYPE / *LANDTIPE***...................... : **Bc11**

CLIMATE ZONE / *KLIMAATSONE* ......... : 11S

Area / *Oppervlakte* ................................... : 32540 ha

Estimated area unavailable for agriculture
*Beraamde oppervlakte onbeskikbaar vir landbou :*    1000 ha

| Terrain unit / *Terreineenheid* ...................................... : | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|
| % of land type / *% van landtipe* ..................................... : | 95 | 5 |
| Area / *Oppervlakte  (ha)* ................................................ : | 30913 | 1627 |
| Slope / *Helling (%)* ....................................................... : | 0 - 2 | 0 - 1 |
| Slope length / *Hellingslengte (m)* .................................. : | 1300 - 1700 | 50 - 100 |
| Slope shape / *Hellingsvorm* ........................................... : | Z-Y | Z-X |
| MB0, MB1 (ha) ............................................................ : | 30913 | 1627 |
| MB2 - MB4 (ha) ......................................................... : | 0 | 0 |

Occurrence (maps) and areas / *Voorkoms (kaarte) en oppervlakte :*

2524 Mafikeng (9100 ha)        2624 Vryburg (15830 ha)

2626 Wes-Rand (7610 ha)

Inventory by / *Inventaris deur :*

R W Bruce

Modal Profiles / *Modale profiele :*

P113

| Soil series or land classes *Grondseries of landklasse* | Depth *Diepte* (mm) | MB : | ha | % | ha | % | Total *Totaal* ha | % | Clay content % *Klei-inhoud %* A | E | B21 | Hor | Texture *Tekstuur* Class / *Klas* | Depth limiting material *Diepte- beperkende materiaal* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rietvlei We12, Sibasa We13 | 500-700 | 0 : | 9892 | 32 | | | 9892 | 30.4 | 15-25 | | 30-40 | B | fiSaClLm | B2gc |
| Shorrocks Hu36, Msinga Hu26 | >1200 | 0 : | 8037 | 26 | | | 8037 | 24.7 | 14-18 | | 18-25 | B | fiSaLm-SaClLm | R,so |
| Soetmelk Av36, Avalon Av26 | 900-1200 | 0 : | 5255 | 17 | | | 5255 | 16.2 | 15-18 | | 18-25 | B | fiSaLm-SaClLm | B2gc |
| Lonetree Bv26, Bainsvlei Bv36 | 900-1100 | 0 : | 4946 | 16 | | | 4946 | 15.2 | 15-18 | | 18-25 | B | fiSaLm-SaClLm | B2gc |
| Lichtenburg Hu23, Mangano Hu33 | >1200 | 0 : | 1546 | 5 | | | 1546 | 4.8 | 9-12 | | 12-15 | B | LmfiSa-SaLm | R,so |
| Leslie Gc36, Glencoe Gc26 | 500-700 | 0 : | 1237 | 4 | | | 1237 | 3.8 | 15-18 | | 18-25 | B | fiSaLm-SaClLm | hp |
| Sterkspruit Ss26 | 200-250 | 0 : | | | 976 | 60 | 976 | 3.0 | 18-25 | | 35-40 | A | fiSaLm-SaClLm | B2 |
| Rensburg Rg20 | 700-900 | 0 : | | | 651 | 40 | 651 | 2.0 | 30-50 | | | A | fiSaCl-Cl | G |

**Terrain type / *Terreintipe :***  A1

Terrain form sketch / *Terreinvormsket*



For an explanation of this table consult LAND TYPE INVENTORY (table of contents)
*Ter verduideliking van hierdie tabel kyk LANDTIPE - INVENTARIS  (inhoudsopgawe)*

Geology:    Thick aeolian sand on the Chuniespoort Group. In places calcrete underlies solums. Small pans occupy 5% of the land type.

*Geologie:*    Dik eoliese sand op die Groep Chuniespoort.Kalkreet kom soms onder solums voor.Klein panne beslaan 5% van die landtipe.