



GREEN360
Environmental

2021

SITE SENSITIVITY
VERIFICATION REPORT:
(SSVR)

PORTION 39 (A PORTION OF PORTION 6) OF
THE FARM RIETVALLEI NR 115 - ROBERTSON
WESTERN-CAPE
2021

APPLICANT:

GOEDEMOED AGRI (EDMS) BPK

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Details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

Renier van Schalkwyk – Senior Environmental Scientist

Renier van Schalkwyk is an environmental scientist with 10 years' experience in the environmental management field. He holds a BA Honour's degree in Environmental Management from the University of Potchefstroom. His professional affiliations include the membership as a registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner Association of South Africa (EAPASA).

His work experience has exposed him to a range of projects across various businesses such as agriculture and construction, as well as the public sector. He has experience engaging with private landowners, communities, government officials, scientists, and business owners.

Initial Site Sensitivity Verification Report contents

The contents of this Initial Site Sensitivity Verification report comply with the legislated requirements as described in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998) Regulations of 2020 (as amended) (GN R. 320 of 2020).

1. INTRODUCTION

Green360 (PTY) Ltd has been appointed by GOEDEMOED AGRI (EDMS) BPK as the independent environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) to coordinate, facilitate and undertake the environmental assessment process for the proposed establishment of 19.8 hectares of vineyard infrastructure on portion 39 (a portion of portion 6) of the farm Rietvallei 115 near Robertson in the Western Cape.

The immediate and surrounding area is dominated by various vineyard farms as the area is known as one of the most important wine, table grape, and fruit producing areas in South Africa. Access roads to the farms are in place and the property is supplied with Eskom Electricity. The property consists of a single housing arrangement situated in the most eastern point of the site next to the existing tar road where access to the property is gained.

An application will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEADP) and a WULA Application to the Department of Water and Affairs (DWA). The Application will be compiled in line with the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations GNR 324, 325, 326 & 327 as published on 07th April 2017 and the DWA Regulations.

1.1 AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The following objectives were considered:

- Desktop analysis using google earth satellite imagery; and
- An on-site inspection to identify if there are any discrepancies with the current use of land and environmental status quo versus the environmental sensitivity as identified on the national web-based environmental screening tool, such as new developments, infrastructure, indigenous/pristine vegetation.

This report sets out the results from a desktop analysis, as well as a site visit constituting the Initial Site Sensitivity Verifications, conducted on the 25th of August 2021. The purpose of this SSVR is to provide an overview of the site sensitivity where site conditions are evaluated in relation to the Site Screening Tool Report findings.

1.2 LIMITATIONS

It is evident from this Initial Site Sensitivity Verification Report, that the output generated by the web-based (computer generated) screening tool is mostly accurate when ground-truthed (compared with) the actual conditions on this specific site.

- The findings, recommendations and conclusions provided in this report are therefore based on the authors' best scientific and professional knowledge and information available at the time of compilation.
- Overall, the findings of this report were determined by a combination of desktop assessments of existing information for the proposed site, as well as by a site visit.

1.3 USE OF THIS REPORT

This report reflects the professional judgement of its author, and, as such the full and unedited contents of this should be presented in any application to relevant authorities. Any summary of the findings should only be produced with the approval of the author.

2. NATIONAL WEB-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TOOL RESULTS

The following section describes the national web-based environmental screening tool results in relation to this project (Please refer to the Rietvallei 115 Screening Report, 2021).

2.1 Proposed Development Area - Environmental Sensitivity

The following specialist studies were identified as per the computer-generated Screening Report, 2021 and a summary of the environmental sensitivity ratings are identified in the table 1 below for the proposed identified development area.

1. Agricultural Impact Assessment.
2. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment.
3. Palaeontology Impact Assessment.
4. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment.
5. Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment.
6. Civil Aviation Assessment.
7. Defence Assessment.
8. Plant Species Impact Assessment.
9. Animal Species Impact Assessment.
10. Landscape / visual Assessment
11. Avian Impact Assessment
12. Socio-Economic Assessment

Table: 1

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			X	
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme				X
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme				X
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

3. RESULTS: ON-SITE INSPECTION

For the purposes of this Initial Site Sensitivity Verification report, the site was walked and assessed in terms of the current use of land and environmental status quo versus the environmental sensitivity as identified on the national web based environmental screening tool, on the 25th of August 2021.

3.1 Site Location Alternative 1

The only available subject Property is situated 7 km east of the town Robertson and is located in the Langeberg Local Municipal area that forms part of the Cape Winelands District Municipality in the Western Cape province

of South Africa. The site locality alternative is located on portion 39 (a portion of portion 6) of the farm Rietvallei Number 115 near Robertson in the Western Cape.

Table: 2

SG Digit code(s) of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:	C06500000000011500000		
Coordinates of the proposed site(s) for all alternatives:			
Latitude (S)	33°	48′	36.32″S
Longitude (E)	19°	58′	6.53″E

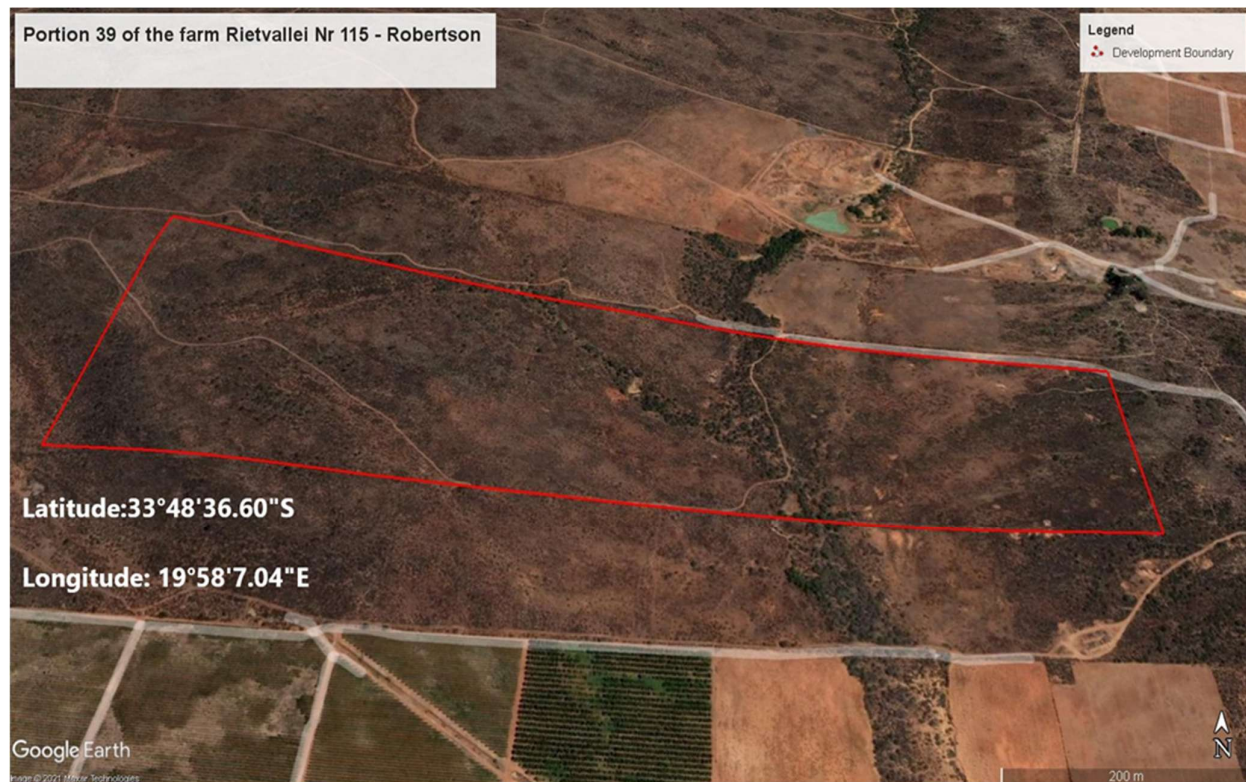


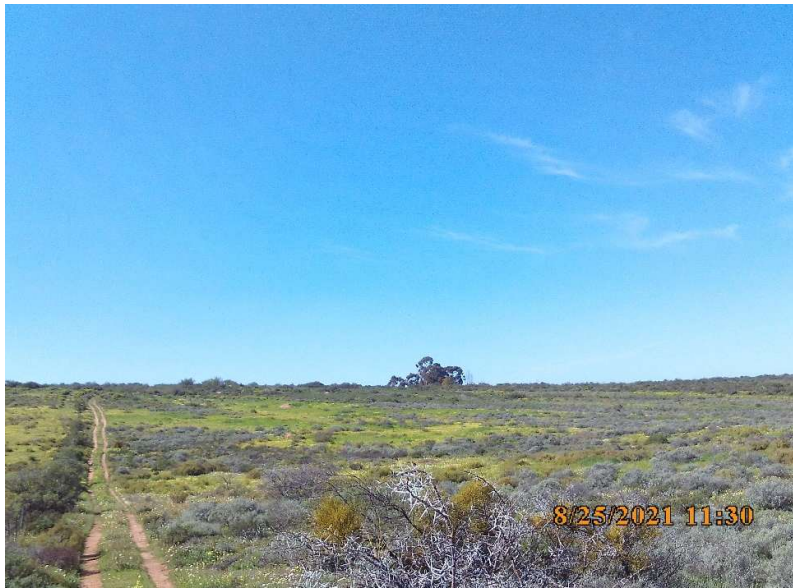
FIGURE 1: Locality Map

3.2 Current Activities on Site

The Subject Property comprises as an irrigation farm and farming activities comprise in the area comprise of vineyards. This is a "bona fide" farm property that will intensively be farmed as a vineyard farm. The involved land for this project is uniquely situated. The land is rich in quality agricultural soil which is greatly suitable for the establishment of grape vineyards.

The immediate and surrounding area is dominated by various vineyard farms as the area is known as one of the most important wine, table grape, and fruit producing areas in South Africa. Access roads to the farms are in place and the property is supplied with Eskom Electricity. The property consists of a single housing arrangement situated in the most eastern point of the site next to the existing tar road where access to the property is gained.

The following pictures from the site illustrate the current environmental status quo of the proposed area:



4. PROFESSIONAL OPINION ON SITE SPECIFIC FINDINGS

This report summarizes the following:

- Desktop analysis using google earth satellite imagery; and
- An on-site inspection to identify if there are any discrepancies with the current use of land and environmental status quo versus the environmental sensitivity as identified on the national web-based environmental screening tool, such as new developments, infrastructure, indigenous/pristine vegetation, etc.

Based on the desktop assessment and on-site site inspection, the following was found for the proposed Site Alternative i.e., Portion 39 (portion of portion 6) of the farm Rietvallei nr 115.

Specialist Assessment		Does an Assessment Protocol Exist?	Motivation for including the Specialist Assessment in this BA Process
1.	Agricultural Impact Assessment	Yes	The application area is mapped in the Screening Tool Report as being of a “Medium” sensitivity which is classified as a moderate land capability. An Agricultural Assessment will be done by a relevant Specialist to identify suitable potential agricultural areas on the property.
2.	Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	No	The whole of Rietvallei Farm is mapped in the DFFE Screening Tool Report as having low archaeological or cultural sensitivity. A Heritage Screening Report and Notice of Intent was prepared and submitted to HWC. HWC confirmed that since there is no reason to believe that the proposed clearance of vegetation will impact archaeological or cultural resources. No further action under Section 38 of the NHRA is required.
3.	Palaeontology Impact Assessment	No	The whole of Rietvallei Farm is mapped in the DFFE Screening Tool Report as having low palaeontological sensitivity. A Heritage Screening Report and Notice of Intent was prepared and submitted to HWC. HWC confirmed that since there is no reason to believe that the proposed clearance of vegetation will impact palaeontological resources. No further action under Section 38 of the NHRA is required.
4.	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Yes	The application area is mapped in the Screening Tool Report as being of a “very high” sensitivity in a small section of the site area around the water drainage lines in the area (Will be buffered out) and with a “Low” sensitivity for the larger part of the rest of the site area. Terrestrial sensitivity will be assessed as part of the Freshwater and Biodiversity Assessment by specialists.

5.	Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Yes	A Freshwater Report will be performed, and the Aquatic Biodiversity will be assessed as part of the study.
6.	Civil Aviation Assessment	No	The proposed development of agricultural activities and the impacts thereof will be in line with the surrounding land uses in the area and would therefore not have an impact on civil aviation in the area. A Civil Aviation Impact Assessment can therefore not be justified to be assessed as part of this BA process and will not be conducted.
7.	Defence Assessment	No	The proposed development of agricultural activities and the impacts thereof will be in line with the surrounding land uses in the area and would therefore not have an impact on Défense in the area. A Défense Impact Assessment can therefore not be justified to be assessed as part of this BA process and will not be conducted.
8.	Plant Species Impact Assessment	Yes	The application area is mapped in the Screening Tool Report as being of a “Medium” sensitivity. A Biodiversity Sensitivity Assessment will be done by a relevant Specialist.
9.	Animal Species Impact Assessment	Yes	The application area is mapped in the Screening Tool Report as being of a “High” sensitivity in a small section of the property with a “Low” sensitivity for the larger part of the rest of the site area. A Biodiversity Sensitivity Assessment will be done by a relevant Specialist.
10.	Landscape / Visual Assessment	No	The proposed expansion of agricultural activities in an existing agricultural area will be in line with the surrounding land uses in the area and would therefore have a very limited visual impact. A Visual Impact Assessment can therefore not be justified as part of this BA process and will not be conducted.
11.	Avian Impact Assessment	No	A biodiversity assessment on sensitive animal featuring in the area were already conducted and a not any sensitive Avian species are found in the area of the proposed site. A further avian assessment will therefore not be undertaken.
12.	Socio-Economic Assessment	No	Given the need for economic opportunities and job creation in general and in the area, the proposed agricultural development can be viewed as being the “best practicable environmental option” for the site in terms of socioeconomic considerations. The project’s socio-economic aspects will be sufficiently addressed in the BA Report, and a specialist socioeconomic assessment is not deemed necessary for this project.

5. SUMMARY

In the professional opinion of the EAP, all the required specialist assessments were identified to be able to assess and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project on the natural environment and to ensure overall sustainability. No further specialist input will be advised.