

RESCUE AND RELOCATION PLAN FOR PROTECTED PLANT SPECIES

Mmakau Coal: Schurvekop Colliery

A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment was carried out on the Project Site by The Biodiversity Company.

None of the tree species protected under the National Forests Act have been previously recorded in the area in which the site is located.

No restricted activity may be carried out in terms of any flora protected under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004) (as updated in R. 1187, 14 December 2007) (NEMBA) without the necessary permits in terms of Section 7 of NEMBA.

There are a number of species recorded on site that are protected under the Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act No. 10 of 1998 (MNCA). It is a legal requirement to obtain a permit from the provincial authorities for the destruction of any of these species.

A final walk down survey of the proposed footprint area is required (during the detailed design and planning phase) to compile a complete list of these protected species, and obtain the necessary permits for their translocation, or destruction where species translocation is known to be ineffective.

The following methodology to identify and conserve plants that are situated within the proposed Project footprint and those likely to be impacted on by edge effects is proposed:

1. Final walk down to identify species:

- a) A final walk down must be undertaken on the infrastructure and Adit footprint, including all areas where vegetation removal is to take place, and all areas within a 100m buffer of areas scheduled for vegetation clearance.
- b) The walk-down must be undertaken immediately ahead of vegetation clearance.
- c) The walk-down must be undertaken by a qualified ecologist, with knowledge of the identification of protected species potentially occurring in the area.
- d) The walk-down must be undertaken in the correct season.
- e) Protected species identified on the site must be demarcated (demarcate an area around the species or grouping of species with danger tape or similar) to prevent accidental damage to these plants until they can be relocated.

2. Permit Application for identified species:

- a) Prior to any disturbance of a protected species, apply for a permit from the MPTA. By following the procedure stipulated in the MNCA.
- b) The Permit Application(s) can be undertaken by a suitably experienced specialist, or by the Mine's Environmental Control Officer (ECO).

3. Relocation:

- a) Alternative suitable habitats exist on the development area that are not directly affected by the Project infrastructure footprint. These include areas of rocky outcrops, intact grassland and wetland areas. Suitable habitat (per species) must be identified for translocation of protected species.

- b) The Land Owner of the land where the species will be removed from, and the land owner of the land where each species will be transplanted to, must be notified and consulted throughout the process.
- c) Ideally, protected species should be removed when dormant (usually in the winter months in this area). However, as the plants are dormant, they may be difficult to observe. The timing of relocation should thus be stipulated by the MTPA in the relevant permit(s) for different species.

4. Monitoring

- a) Survival of relocated plants must be monitored for success of establishment, so that corrective action can be taken if necessary.
- b) Monitoring must be undertaken by a suitably experienced and knowledgeable person, familiar with the species.
- c) Monitoring must be undertaken for the first two growing seasons after relocation.
- d) Monitoring results must be submitted, in the form of a report, to the MTPA.
 - I. If, after the first two growing seasons, monitoring results indicate the successful establishment of relocated species, monitoring need not continue.
 - II. If, after the first two growing seasons, monitoring results indicate the decline of relocated species, interventions to promote the successful establishment of the species, and continued monitoring requirements, must be agreed to between the ECO and specialist.