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Subject: Biodiversity offsets and the Grootbos Foundations Fynbos Land Legacy Fund

Dear Michelle

The Grootbos Foundation has been driving landscape level conservation in the Walker Bay region of the Cape for over twenty years. The Foundation has supported the development of the 24 000-hectare Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy, the establishment of the 4500-hectare Walker Bay Protected Environment, securing priority sites through conservation servitudes and the proclamation of private nature reserves. Through this support and associated stewardship mechanisms approximately half of the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy (12 500ha) is now formally conserved. The Grootbos Foundation has in depth knowledge of the regions biodiversity and threats and has developed an ecological priority index to identify and prioritise ecologically valuable or threatened properties for land purchase as well as an invasive alien species clearing priority plan for the Conservancy.

The Grootbos Foundation has also raised funding and established a community focused program for the conservation management of these properties. The Foundations Green Stewards program currently provides skills training, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to twenty women from Gansbaai and Pearly Beach. These teams have been hard at work clearing invasive plants, assisting with management burns, undertaking erosion control and trail maintenance in the protected areas of the Conservancy since 2022. The Foundation has the capacity to expand this program and thereby provide more opportunities for skills development and employment and a greater impact in terms of invasive alien vegetation clearing and restoration of high priority habitat in protected areas.

The Grootbos Foundations Fynbos Land Legacy Fund provides a mechanism whereby offset funding could be channelled to support the restoration and conservation management of existing conserved high priority sites and/or the purchase of high priority land for conservation in the region.

The details for the proposed strategic offset option for the Romansbaai Abalone Farm are outlined below:

Area to be cleared – 8 hectares Agulhas Sand Fynbos (critically endangered) on Brown Dog Farm. This is a strategic priority in terms of alien invasive species control in the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy. The conservation servitude on the property provides a crucial corridor for ecological functioning in the Walker Bay Protected Environment. The property owner together with the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy and Grootbos Foundation has invested significant resources in the restoration of this site. The eight hectares earmarked for this offset funding is protected through a conservation servitude in favour of Fauna and Flora (www.fauna-flora.org) and managed by Grootbos Foundation - ensuring its long-term protection and sound management. The site was burnt in a management burn 18 months ago and it is vital that the post-fire regrowth be removed before seeding.

Costs: **R32 000 per hectare** including initial clean and two follow up sweeps through the site. Total cost of project: **R256 000**. The project will be implemented by one of the local qualified Green Stewards teams and will be administered and managed by the Grootbos Foundation.

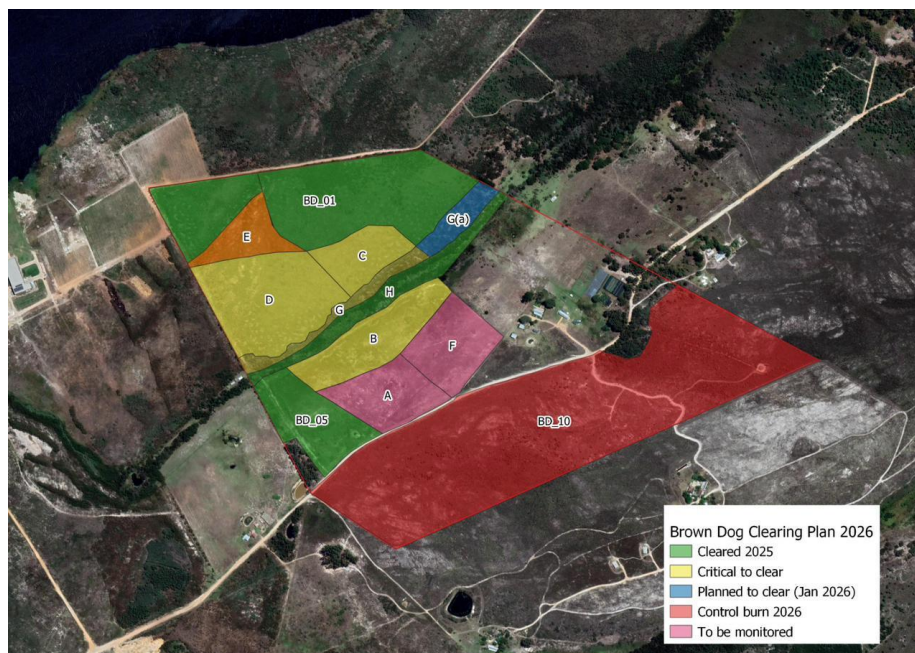


Figure 1. Proposed 8 hectares (yellow polygon D and C) on Brown Dog Farm. (Source: Conservation Management Plan for Brown Dog Farm 2025)

For more information, please contact Sean Privett (sean@privett.co.za).

Yours sincerely,



Sean Privett – Managing Director, Grootbos Foundation