



LORNAY
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

BIODIVERSITY OFFSET REPORT



Portion 57 of the Farm 633, Rocklands

August 2026

Lornay Environmental Consulting

cell: 083 245 6556 | michelle@lornay.co.za | www.lornay.co.za

Unit 5/1F, Hemel & Aarde Wine Village

Lornay Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd | Reg 2015/445417/07

DETAILS OF THE AUTHOR(S)

EAP ORGANISATION: Lornay Environmental Consulting (Pty) Ltd

AUTHOR (S): Michelle Naylor

Pr.Sci.Nat. 400327/13

EAPASA. 2019/698

Njabulo Magoswana

Cand. EAP. 2021/3178

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APPENDIX 1 – PCN Motivation Letter

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the project

Lornay Environmental Consulting has been appointed by the landowner, Mr Igno Siebert (hereafter referred to as "the applicant") to facilitate the application for the Retrospective Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998) and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended.



Figure 1: Location of the subject property.

The applicant has applied for Retrospective Environmental Authorisation for the alleged removal of vegetation and the planting of Macadamia nut trees. It is important to note that the applicant was provided erroneous information regarding the requirements for clearing and is a leading conservation champion for the area involved in both site and area wide alien vegetation clearing actions taking place.

The site was in poor condition and heavily infested since the applicant purchased the property in October 2020.

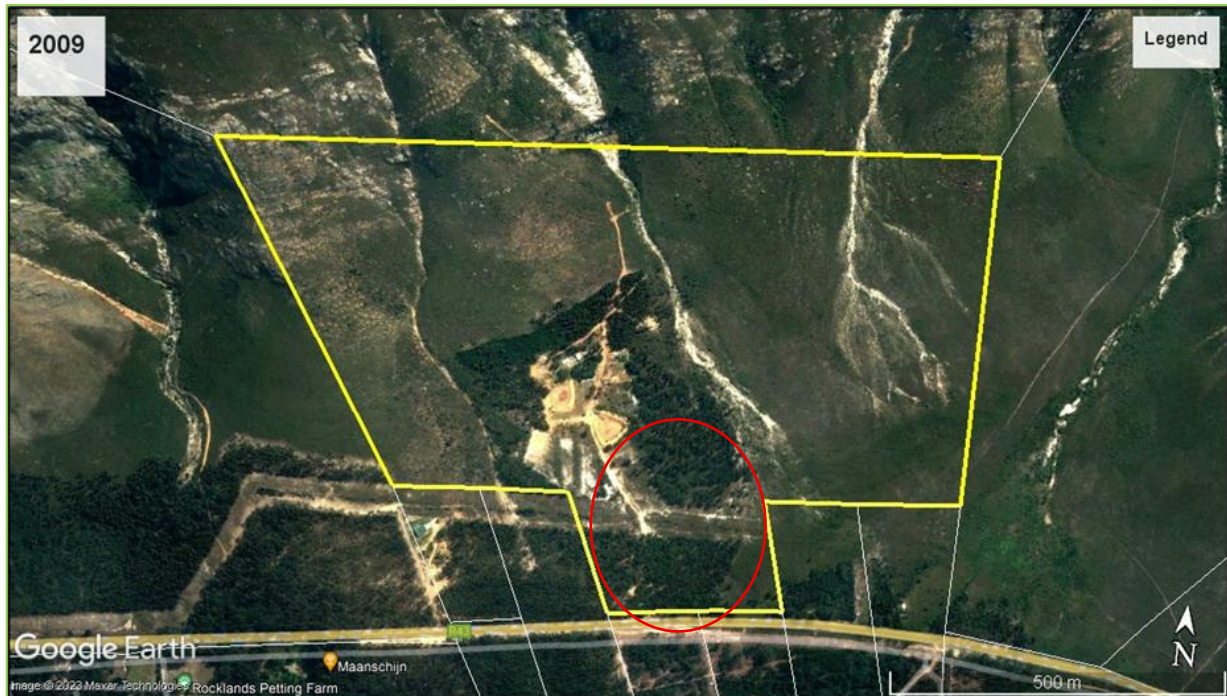


Figure 2: The aerial photo above shows the property status is **2009** – highly infested with dense blue gum stands. Red circle indicates where the planting took place.



Figure 3: Photo above of the site before planting – Photo dated **18 November 2012**. The photograph shows the impacted areas on the property. Red circle indicates impacted and transformed areas below the paddocks, dams and homestead. Internal roads already existing.



Figure 4: Aerial footage of the site **2012** – the property is extensively disturbed. Internal roads evident.



Figure 5: Aerial footage of the site **2012** – the property is extensively disturbed. Internal roads evident.



Figure 6: Aerial footage of the site **2012** – the property is extensively disturbed. Internal roads evident. Note that the applicant did not own the property at this stage and only took ownership in 2020.



Figure 7: Aerial Nov 2014 – post fire

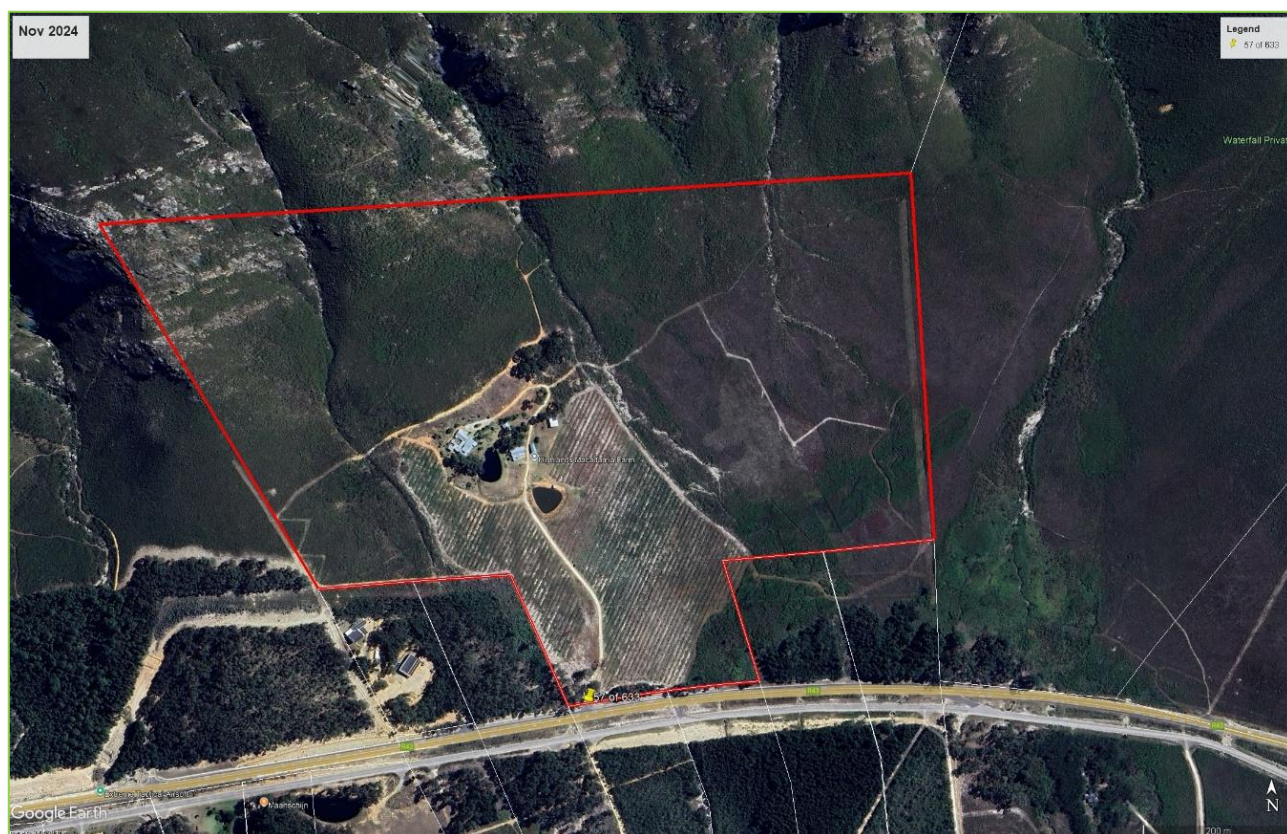


Figure 8: Aerial image from Nov 2024 - post planting.

The activities commenced in December 2020. The applicant has planted Macadamia Nut trees covering an area of approximately 9 ha, which was completed in September 2021. The site was prepared by brush cutting only. No ploughing or mechanical intervention was implemented. The trees were then planted. No chemicals have been applied, and the aim is to create a natural orchard where the fynbos thrives amongst the trees. Landbouweekblad issued an article about the mechanism of environmentally friendly and the use of the natural vegetation between the trees as a natural windbreak (Landbouweekblad, 9 Februarie 2023, Landbou.com).



Figure 9: March 2023 status of the site - Nut trees with natural vegetation between the trees circled in red



Figure 10: September 2025 status of the site – Nut trees with natural vegetation fully reestablished in its original context.



Figure 11: September 2025 status of the site – Nut trees with natural vegetation fully reestablished in its original context.

Although the area allocated for the disturbance is 9 ha, it is important to note the mechanism of vegetation clearance and type of planting undertaken and it could be argued that the long-term impact area is significantly less than 9 ha. Ploughing and full removal of the natural vegetation did not take place for preparation of the planting of the Macadamia nut trees and evidence in the current status of the subject area, the site shows successful co-use of the land and farming.

Despite this recovery, the activity has nonetheless resulted in medium residual impacts, particularly because the affected vegetation is classified as Critically Endangered. In terms of the impact assessments conducted, the residual impact of the disturbance remains Medium for terrestrial and botanical biodiversity. In accordance with the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (23 June 2023) under NEMA, a Biodiversity Offset must therefore be considered. Offsets are required only after the full application of the mitigation hierarchy avoidance, minimisation, and on-site rehabilitation has been pursued. In this case, despite mitigation and partial recovery, residual impacts persist, warranting an offset as a last resort to ensure no net loss of biodiversity.

1.2. Process status

1. The Pre-Compliance Notice was issued to the client: 13/02/2023
2. The EAP was appointed to provide responding statement to DEA&DP why the Compliance Notice and Section 24G application should not be pursued – see submission attached under **Appendix A**.

3. DEA&DP responded and confirmed that the matter must pursue Rehabilitation or Application for Retrospective EA.
4. DEA&DP issue Compliance Notice: 29/09/2023
5. Note that the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline Document was gazetted on the 23 June 2023 and therefore its applicability to this case file has come in the process.
6. Public Participation Process Phase 1: 23 May 2024 to 24 June 2024
7. Additional specialist input and inclusion of the requirements in terms of the Protocols (March 2020) and Site Sensitivity Verification Report.

Consultation with Cape Nature

1. In-person Meeting
 - 6 August 2025 (Rhett Smart and Lornay Environmental Consulting)
 - Discussion regarding the application of the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (2023) to this case.
2. On-Line Meeting
 - 27 August 2025 (Applicant, Rhett Smart and Lornay Environmental Consulting)
 - Discussion with applicant regarding the application of the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (2023) to this case and way forward.
3. Site Visit
 - 15 September 2025 (Applicant, Rhett Smart and Lornay Environmental Consulting)
 - Discussion with applicant regarding the application of the National Biodiversity Offset Guidelines (2023) to this case and way forward agreed between Applicant, EAP and Cape Nature and presented herein.
4. Email
 - 24 February 2026 (Rhett Smart and Lornay Environmental Consulting)
 - A Stewardship Review Committee Meeting was held on the 24th of February 2026 in order to discuss a suitable stewardship option for the remainder of the site. The outcome of the meeting indicated that the subject property qualifies for the Stewardship Programme at the highest level and is worthy of being declared as a Nature Reserve in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEM:PAA), based on its biodiversity value and connectivity to existing protected areas including Waterfall Nature Reserve and Maanschynkop Nature Reserve. Further negotiations are underway with the landowner regarding the formal declaration mechanism. Cape Nature confirmed that the S24g could proceed whilst the final negotiations take place.

2. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

The compilation of this Biodiversity Offset Report is based on the best available information at the time of reporting and is subject to several assumptions and limitations, which are important to acknowledge in the interpretation of the findings and recommendations presented herein:

- The baseline information used in this report is informed by available specialist studies, existing vegetation mapping and Biodiversity Spatial Plans including the South African Vegetation Map 2024 and Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan, 2017 and 2023.
- The status of the site before disturbance and the level of transformation which was already in place on site
- The report draws from the findings of various specialists (e.g. Terrestrial Biodiversity and Plant Species, Aquatic Species Assessments), and it is assumed that these specialists have applied appropriate methodologies and that their assessments are accurate within the scope of their field surveys and desktop analyses.
- This report provides guidance on potential Biodiversity Offset requirements based on the residual impacts.

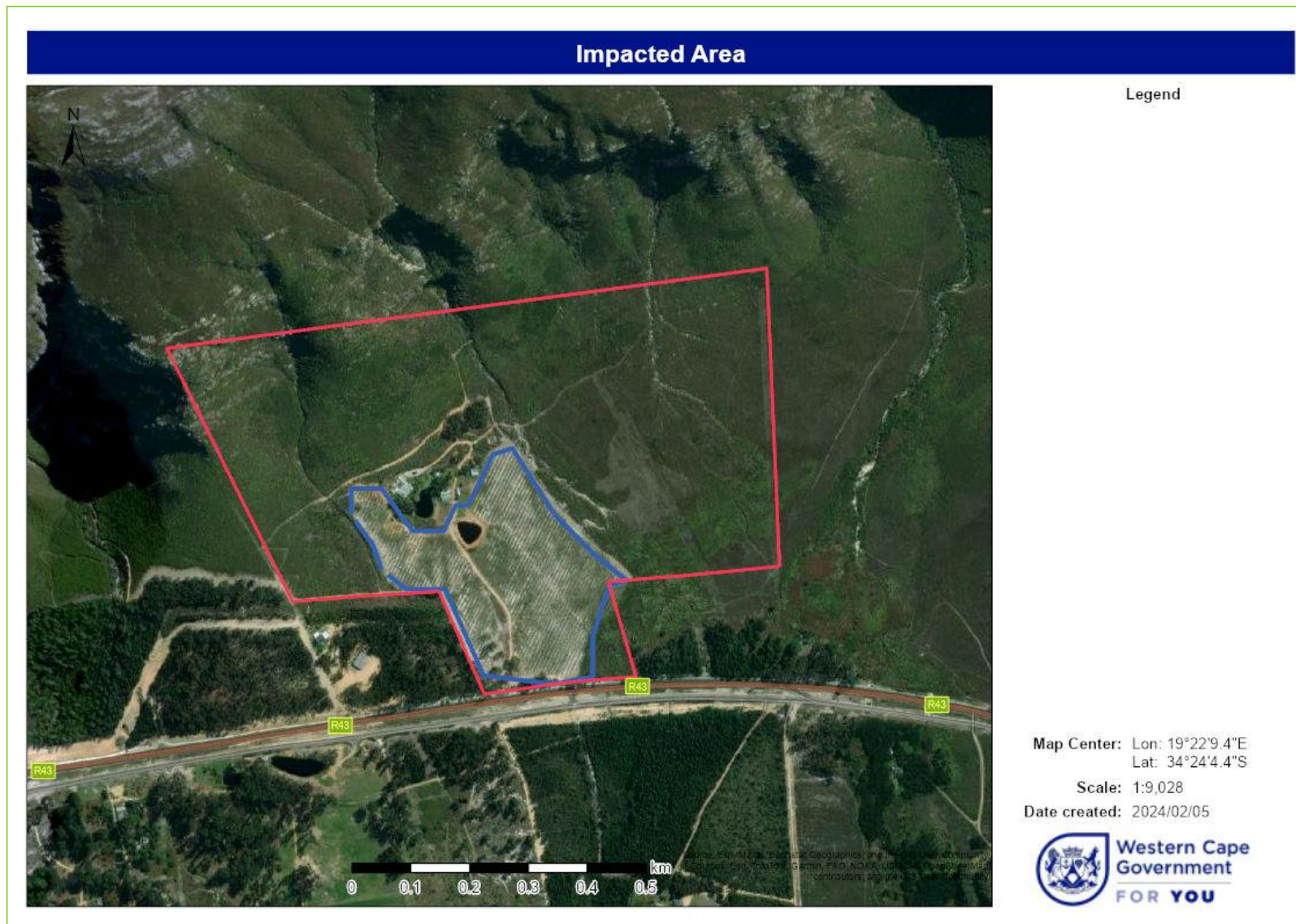


Figure 12-1. Site Development Plan showing planted area in

3. RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Vegetation type

Since the activity was undertaken prior to the updated National Vegetation Map (2024), for the basis of this application, reference to the 2018 Vegetation Map is made. It is noted that two botanical specialists were involved in this project. The original Terrestrial Plant Species Assessment was compiled by a specialist who has since relocated overseas and has been unable to be contacted for further input. Consequently, a second botanist (Crabtree, 2025) was appointed to prepare an addendum to the original specialist report. The botanist holds the requisite qualifications and experience to undertake this assessment, and his findings and revised ecosystem classification are presented in the addendum report (Crabtree, 2025) referenced throughout this document.

According to the Vegetation Map of South Africa (SANBI 2018), most of the vegetation on Portion 57 of Farm 633 (Rocklands) is characterised as Agulhas Limestone Fynbos and Elim Ferricrete Fynbos. However, the site survey conducted by the Botanist determined that most of the natural vegetation on the southern sections of the property is Agulhas Sand Fynbos, with a prominent seep wetland component in the south-eastern corner of the property. The northern portion of the property, above the firebreak, is Elim Ferricrete Fynbos while the upper reaches of the mountain are considered to be Overberg Sandstone Fynbos.

The revision of the National Vegetation Map (NVM) classification by the botanical specialist (Crabtree, 2025) is motivated on the basis of plant species composition recorded during field surveys, supplemented by consideration of substrate, soils and climatic data. Agulhas Sand Fynbos and Hangklip Sand Fynbos occur on the same or similar sandy substrates; Mucina & Rutherford note that Agulhas Sand Fynbos is more extensive than currently mapped, with inadequate field surveys to accurately capture its full extent, and records of unmapped patches extending westward to Hermanus (Rebello et al., 2006). The dominant plant species composition recorded on site supports the reclassification to Agulhas Sand Fynbos on the southern sections of the property, with Elim Ferricrete Fynbos confirmed on the northern portions above the firebreak. The revised mapping indicates approximately 80–90% of the 9-ha orchard footprint supported Agulhas Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered) and the remainder Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (Endangered). It is noted that CapeNature has requested further detail on the specialist's qualifications and accreditations; these are provided in Section 4.1 below. More detailed phytosociological survey data to further support the ecosystem classification will be provided to the competent authority on request.

- Agulhas Sand Fynbos has been classified as critically endangered B1 (iii) (No. 47526 GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 18 November 2022) - narrowly distributed with evidence of ongoing biotic disruption from invasive species as well as agricultural conversion.
- Elim Ferricrete Fynbos has been classified as endangered B1 (i) (iii) (No. 47526 GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 18 November 2022) - narrowly distributed with high rates of habitat loss in the past 28 years (1990-2018), and evidence of ongoing biotic disruption from invasive species.
- Overberg Sandstone Fynbos has been classified as endangered B1 (iii) (No. 47526 GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 18 November 2022) - narrowly distributed with evidence of ongoing biotic disruption from invasive species.

At least five species of conservation concern were recorded on the property with a high likelihood of more being present. The property includes a diversity of habitats, terrestrial and aquatic Critical Biodiversity Areas and has high local and regional conservation value.

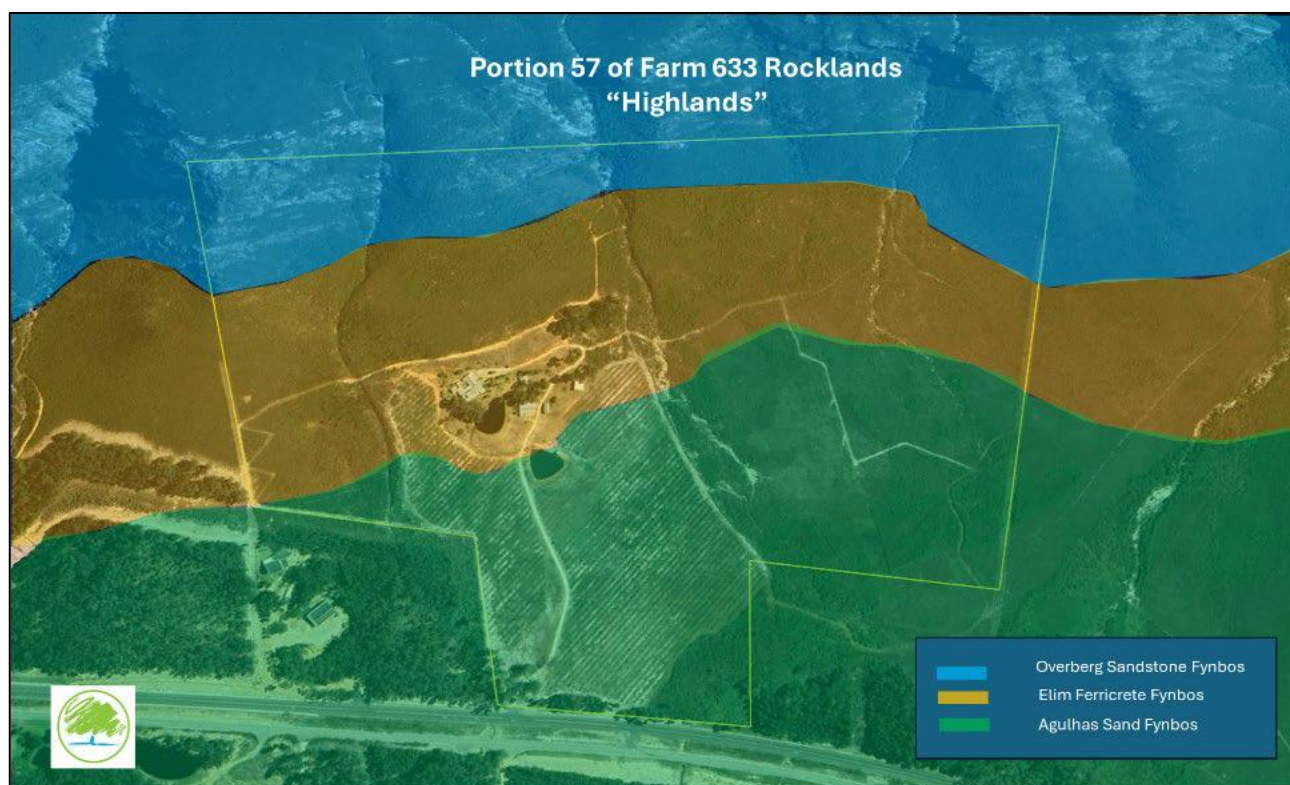


Figure 12-2: The natural vegetation on site varies in condition from highly degraded with low conservation value to near pristine areas with high conservation value. Past impacts on the natural vegetation include sandmining, conversion to grazing fields through past ploughing and regular mowing, invasion by alien invasive species, augmentation of natural fynbos with commercially valuable fynbos species and alteration of natural drainage.



Figure 12-3: Conservation status

The specialist assessment referred to the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan (WCBSP, 2017), which was applicable at the time of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment conducted by Van Rensburg (2023). As per the WCBSP (2017) the assessment confirmed that the development directly impacted several priority biodiversity features, namely CBA1: Aquatic, CBA1: Terrestrial, CBA2: Terrestrial, and ESA2 areas (see **Figure 13** below). These areas represent ecologically critical habitats that contribute significantly to biodiversity persistence, connectivity, and ecosystem functioning. The updated 2023 Biodiversity Spatial Plan (BSP) has since provided refined mapping and updated conservation priorities, but its findings reaffirm the sensitivity and ecological value of the site. Importantly, the 2023 BSP (see **Figure 14** below) does not differ significantly from the 2017 BSP, confirming that the biodiversity importance and conservation status of the affected areas remain unchanged.

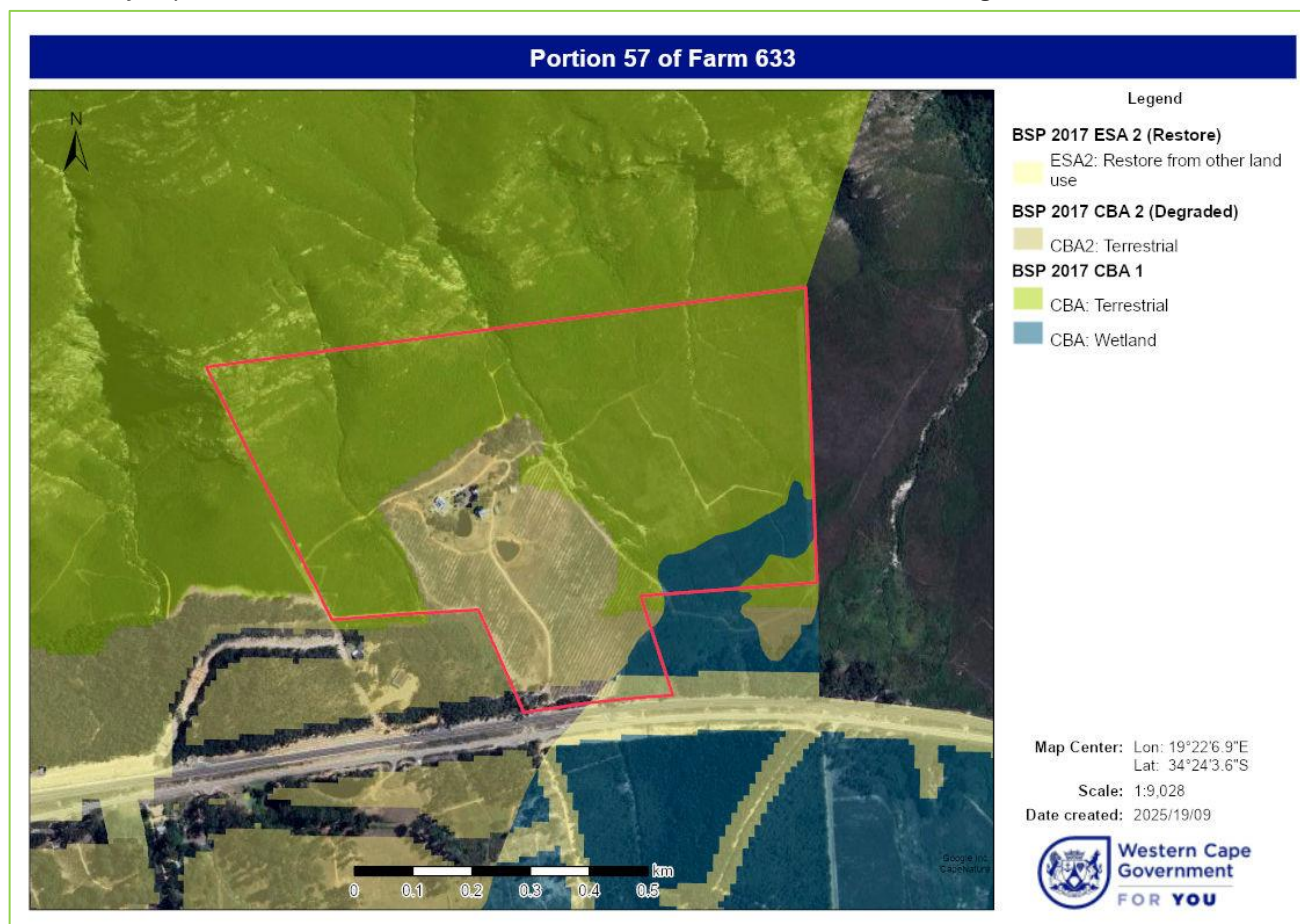


Figure 13: 2017 BSP

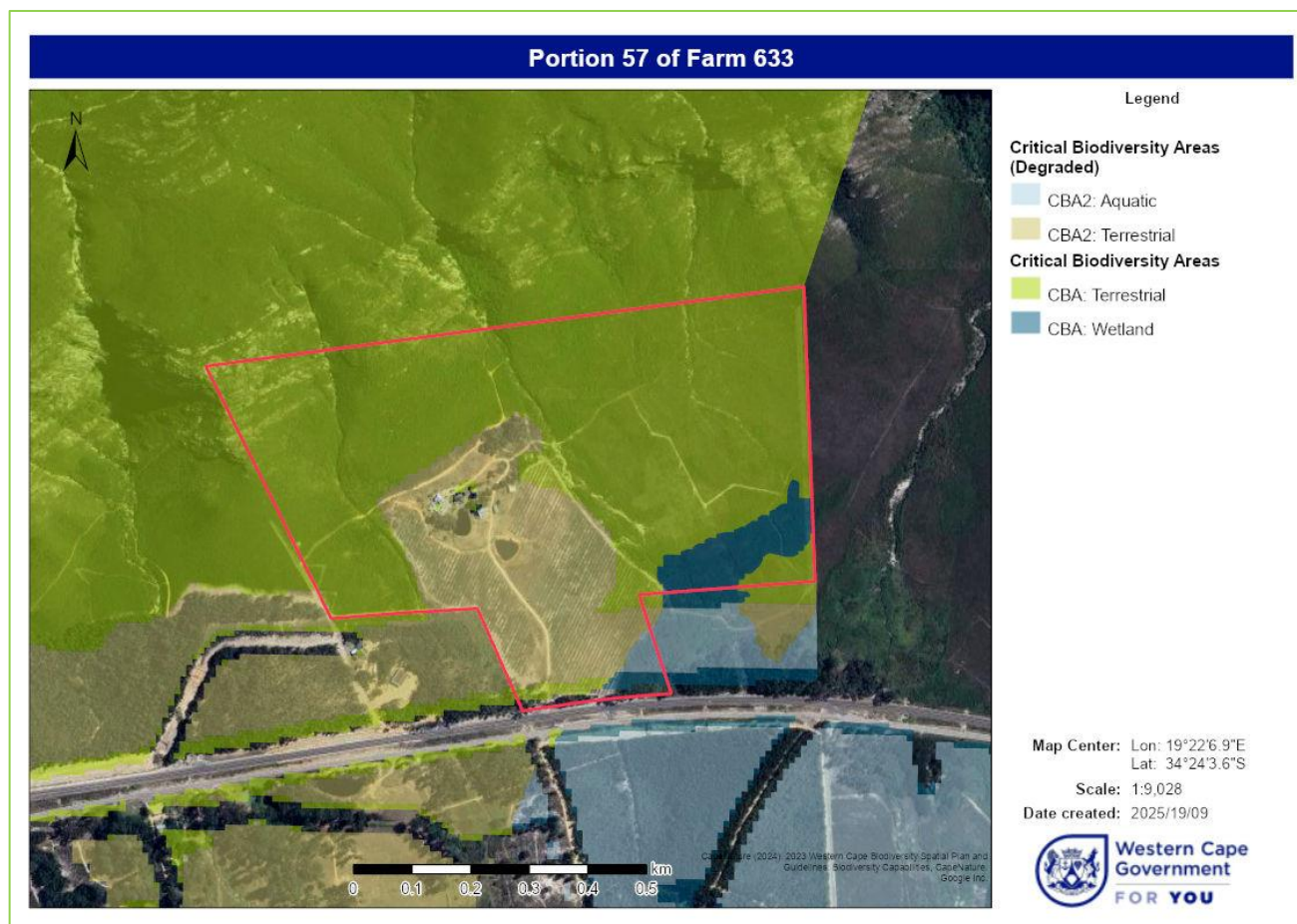


Figure 14: 2023 BSP.

4. IMPACT ANALYSIS

4.1. Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment (van Rensburg, 2023)

The specialist assessment confirms that the unauthorised clearance of approximately 9 ha of indigenous vegetation on site has resulted in the loss of Critically Endangered Elim Ferricrete Fynbos and Agulhas Limestone Fynbos both of which are listed as Critically Endangered ecosystems. As a result, the impact significance of the vegetation clearance was rated as Medium, based on the severity, extent, and irreplaceability of the affected biodiversity features. Furthermore, two Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) namely *Serruria rubricaulis* (Vulnerable) and *Leucospermum prostratum* (Near Threatened) were recorded within the surrounding intact habitats. Given the ecological continuity and shared vegetation type, it is highly likely that these SCC occurred within the impacted area prior to clearing.

The impact on ecosystem structure and functionality resulting from the unauthorised clearance of indigenous vegetation has been assessed as having a medium negative significance prior to the implementation of proposed mitigation measures. However, it is anticipated that, through the implementation of targeted rehabilitation measures and the protection of adjacent intact habitats, the structure and functionality of the local ecosystem can be substantially improved. As a result, the residual impact is expected to be reduced to a very low negative impact significance. A notable aspect of the current management approach is that the landowner has permitted the natural

regeneration of indigenous vegetation between the rows of planted macadamia nuts. These vegetated inter-row spaces act as ecological corridors, enhancing connectivity between the remaining natural habitat patches.

Mitigation measures

- Restore and rehabilitate surrounding affected habitats by replanting native vegetation and removing invasive alien species.
- Implement effective stormwater management systems to reduce runoff and prevent pollution.
- Implement erosion control measures, such as stabilizing slopes, to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation in nearby freshwater bodies.
- Ensure proper disposal of waste and hazardous materials, including recycling and safe chemical disposal to prevent environmental contamination.
- Establish a regular monitoring and reporting system to track changes in habitat conditions and any potential negative impacts. This can help with a timely response and adjustment of mitigation measures.
- Regenerative and sustainable farming practises must be implemented and strictly monitored to prevent any secondary effects and cumulative impacts on the surrounding intact habitats.
- Consider setting aside adjacent areas as protected area or conservation easements to offset any habitat loss due to the project.
- Implement habitat restoration programs to promote the recovery of the habitat surrounding the impacted area, particularly for SCC. This may include removing invasive species, planting native vegetation, and ensuring a suitable environment for these species.
- Create buffer zones around sensitive habitats to minimize the direct impacts of development activities on these areas. Restrict access to critical habitats.
- Establish ongoing monitoring programs to track the recovery and population trends of SCC. Implement adaptive management strategies to adjust mitigation efforts as needed.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Addendum Report (Crabtree, 2025)

The addendum clarified that the majority of the site supports Agulhas Sand Fynbos, a Critically Endangered ecosystem, with smaller areas of Agulhas Limestone Fynbos and Elim Ferricrete Fynbos. A seep wetland of ecological importance is located in the south-eastern corner, and at least five plant species of conservation concern were recorded on the property with a high likelihood of more being present. Despite historic disturbances such as ploughing, grazing, erosion, and alien invasion (as depicted in the images above), parts of the site remain in near-pristine condition and retain high local and regional conservation value. Approximately nine hectares of Critically Endangered fynbos were cleared, resulting in a residual loss of sensitive habitat.

The residual impacts include the loss of approximately nine (9) hectares of Critically Endangered Agulhas Sand Fynbos, which is irreversible at the site level. Risks of erosion and reinfestation by alien vegetation remain ongoing pressures that could further degrade biodiversity value if unmanaged. Overall, the clearance resulted in a medium negative residual impact.

To address these impacts, biodiversity offsets are required to compensate for the loss of Critically Endangered habitat. These offset management possibilities should involve the creation, restoration, or long-term protection of ecologically significant areas, aligned with the objectives of Critical Biodiversity Areas identified in the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan. Long-term ecological management of the property is also essential, focusing on alien invasive species eradication, fire and erosion control, protection of wetland and seep zones, and continued recovery of veld condition. The specialist emphasised that sustained implementation of conservation management plans is critical to ensure no net loss of biodiversity and to maintain the ecological improvements already achieved on the property.

5. OFFSET REQUIREMENT DETERMINATION

The Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist confirmed that the clearance of indigenous vegetation associated with the establishment of the 9-ha macadamia nut orchard on Portion 57 of Farm 633 has resulted in a Residual Medium negative impact. In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, avoidance and minimisation were no longer feasible due to the activity having already been undertaken, and rehabilitation measures alone are insufficient to address the loss of threatened vegetation. Consequently, a biodiversity offset is required to remedy the residual impact.

5.1. Extent calculation

In terms of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023), offsets are required where significant residual impacts remain after the mitigation hierarchy has been applied.

The activity resulted in the clearance of approximately 9 hectares of highly degraded, alien infested indigenous vegetation across two Critically Endangered and Endangered ecosystem types. Based on the revised vegetation mapping (Crabtree, 2025), approximately 80–90% of the orchard footprint (± 7.65 ha) supported Agulhas Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered) and the remainder (± 1.35 ha) supported Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (Endangered). Based on the standard National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023) ratios applicable to ecosystem threat status, and without consideration of site-specific modifiers, the default offset ratios are 30:1 for Critically Endangered ecosystems and 10:1 for Endangered ecosystems.

The theoretical default offset requirement, before any site-specific ratio modifications, is therefore calculated per vegetation type as follows:

Proposed development component	Offset Ratio	Size (ha)	Offset Required (ha)
Agulhas Sand Fynbos (CE) – ± 7.65 ha	30:1	± 7.65 ha	± 229.5 ha
Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (E) – ± 1.35 ha	10:1	± 1.35 ha	± 13.5 ha
TOTAL		9 ha	± 243 ha

Application of the default ratios would require approximately 243 ha of equivalent vegetation to be secured and managed in perpetuity (± 229.5 ha for Agulhas Sand Fynbos at 30:1, plus ± 13.5 ha for Elim Ferricrete Fynbos at 10:1). The national guideline acknowledges that these ratios are not binding and that competent authorities must apply their minds to each case; site-specific adjustments are considered in Section 5.2 below.

5.2. Additional considerations and modification of ratio

The following additional information should be considered and the modification of the fixed ratio above adjusted accordingly:

- The state of the site before the applicant purchased it – dense Blue Gum Stands.
- The existing disturbance over the site prior to the applicant purchasing the property
- Confusion relating to requirements for the new landowners' requirements to apply before farming – see Appendix 2 – Letter from Department of Agriculture re the planting of the Macadamia Nuts
- The type of land preparation which was undertaken to establish the Macadamia nuts

- The current status (see Sept 2025 photo) of the area where the planting took place and the re-establishment of the natural vegetation between the trees.
- The landowners' (Applicant) involvement in large scale alien clearing programmes offsite i.e Mountain Face north of the subject property – alien clearing is being facilitated by the applicant. He is also exploring the option of purchasing a portion of 17/633 at the entrance of the subject property in order to clear the existing dense Blue Gum stands on this property. As per below, with the applicant's property in the background – Alien vegetation free, dense Blue Gum Stands in front of adjacent properties.
- The applicant has voluntarily undertaken alien vegetation clearing in July 2026 on the marsh extension at the south-eastern boundary of the property, on adjacent properties (Portion 21 and 23 of Farm 633, and the Remainder of Farm 632). Although this area falls outside the applicant's title, it constitutes an extension of the marsh system associated with the subject property. This voluntary clearing effort, though undertaken on neighbouring land, directly enhances the ecological function of the marsh and reflects the applicant's broader commitment to alien vegetation management across the landscape.

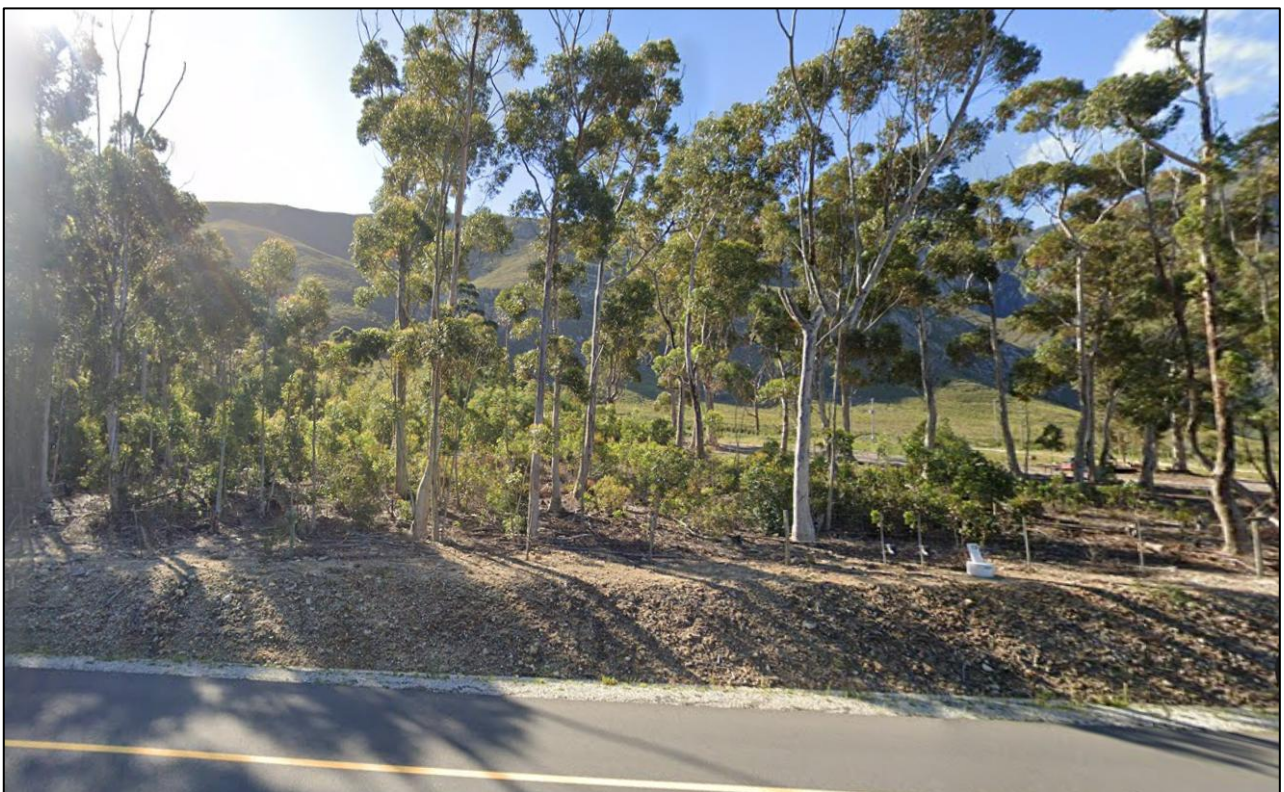


Figure 15: The image shows the alien vegetation present on the adjacent property. The applicant has already started clearing this section.

- Strategic location of the applicant property in the landscape, relative to estuary to mountain corridors, proximity to existing protected areas and Nature Reserve and other environmental considerations.



Figure 16: Alien clearing undertaken by the applicant on adjacent properties.

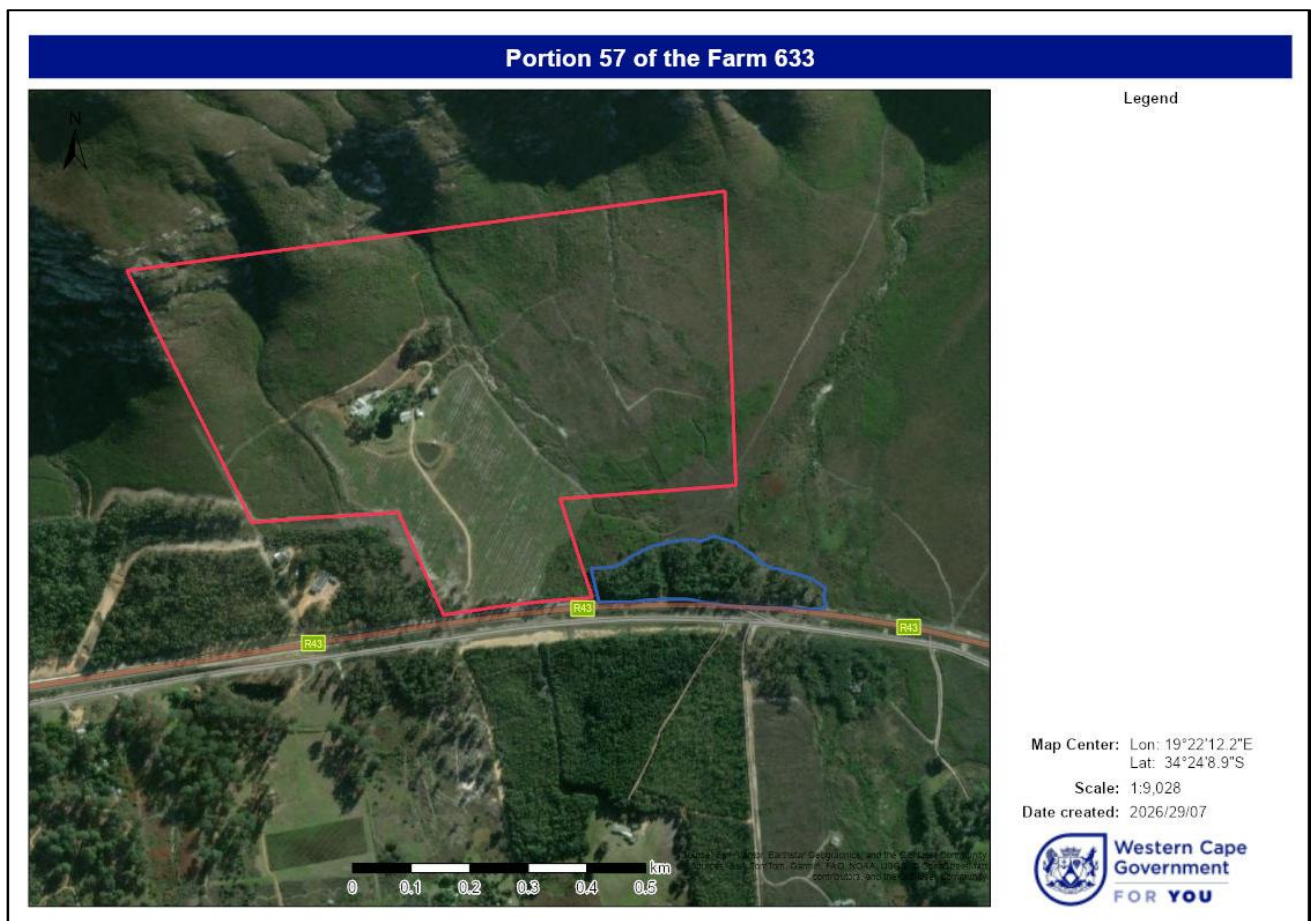


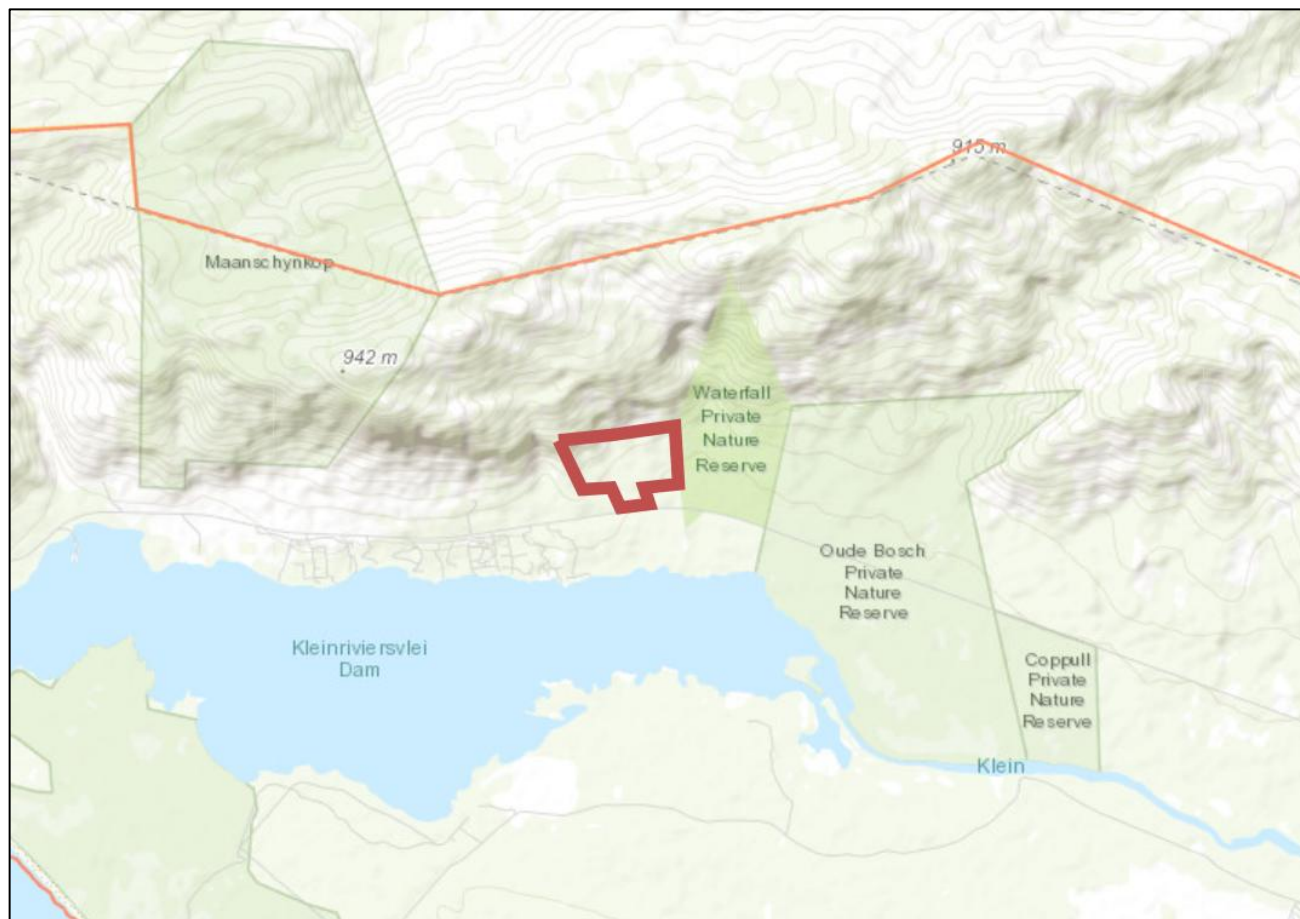
Figure 17: Shows the subject property (red) and the small sections on the east that has been cleared of alien vegetation by the applicant.



Figure 18: Image taken in July 2026 during alien clearing on the adject properties.



Figure 19: Image taken in July 2026 during alien clearing on the adjacent properties.



5.3. Modified Offset Ratio

Taking the above considerations into account, and applying the provincial guideline for biodiversity offsets (Western Cape Biodiversity Offset, 2015), the condition of the affected habitat at the time of clearing is a key modifying factor. The provincial guideline provides for a reduction in offset ratios of up to 50% where the habitat condition was degraded, in which it is the case for the affected area. Based on the available evidence including aerial photographs showing dense blue gum infestation, historic ploughing, grazing and sand-mining prior to the applicant's ownership – the impacted habitat is classified as degraded. The applicable modified ratios per vegetation type are therefore: Agulhas Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered, degraded): 15:1; Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (Endangered, degraded): 5:1. A modified offset ratio of 5:1 (blanket) was initially proposed; however, in accordance with Cape Nature's recommendation, the calculation has been refined per vegetation type as set out in the revised table below.

The national guideline confirms that the standard approach is not binding and that the competent authority must apply its mind; the specific circumstances of this case, including the minimal site preparation method (brush-cutting only, no ploughing), the re-establishment of natural fynbos vegetation between orchard rows, and the applicant's proactive involvement in alien clearing on adjacent properties, support further consideration of proportionality in the final ratio determination. These include the minimal site preparation method employed, the re-establishment of natural fynbos vegetation between orchard rows, and the applicant's proactive and voluntary involvement in alien vegetation clearing beyond the boundaries of the subject property. This offsite contribution includes facilitation of large-scale alien clearing on the Mountain Face north of the property, exploration of the acquisition of a portion of 17/633 to clear existing dense Blue Gum stands, and voluntary alien clearing undertaken on the marsh extension at the south-eastern boundary of the property, on adjacent properties (Portion 21 and 23 of Farm 633 and Remainder of the Farm 632) which lies outside the applicant's title but directly enhances the ecological function of the marsh system associated with the subject property. These actions, taken together,

demonstrate a conservation contribution materially exceeding regulatory obligation and warrant consideration in the final determination of the modified offset ratio.

The revised calculation is therefore:

Proposed development component	Offset Ratio	Size (ha)	Offset Required (ha)
Agulhas Sand Fynbos (CE, degraded) – ± 7.65 ha	15:1	± 7.65 ha	± 114.75 ha
Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (E, degraded) – ± 1.35 ha	5:1	± 1.35 ha	± 6.75 ha
TOTAL		9 ha	± 121.5 ha

The modified ratio results in an offset requirement using the identified indicators will sum up to 121.5 ha, as indicated in the table above. Additionally, the provincial guideline also provides that the reduction in offset ratio must be reduced by the specialist in collaboration with Cape Nature. It is important to note that historical aerial imagery confirms that the affected area was extensively infested with alien invasive vegetation and had been subject to fire prior to the applicant's intervention. Taking these factors into account, and in accordance with CapeNature's most recent comments dated 18 March 2026, a modified ratio of 6:1 is recommended as appropriate and proportionate for this project. When the ratio is applied against the 9-ha orchard footprint, this yields a revised offset requirement of 54 ha, which is met in full by the proposed on-site conservation under level 2 Biodiversity Agreements, which is an area approximately 54 ha comprising the remainder of the property, excluding the cultivated area, housing and existing roads. **The proposed offset satisfies the ration and modifier requirement and is supported by Cape Nature.**

5.4. Offset Implementation Mechanism

The biodiversity offset will be implemented on-site through a formal stewardship mechanism with Cape Nature via a conservation servitude, as the preferred mechanisms under Section 7.4.2 of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023).

The CapeNature Stewardship Review Committee, at its meeting of 24 February 2026, confirmed that the proposed conservation area is worthy of declaration under the Cape Nature Biodiversity Stewardship programme, based on its biodiversity value and its direct connectivity to Waterfall Nature Reserve to the east and Maanschynkop Nature Reserve to northwest. Therefore, the applicant preferred that the remaining areas can be conserved under Level 2 – Biodiversity Agreement. Negotiations between the applicant and CapeNature regarding the formal declaration mechanism are ongoing.

This mechanism will secure an area of approximately 54 ha of conservation-worthy land in perpetuity, thereby remedying the residual impacts associated with the 9 ha of vegetation clearance and contributing to regional biodiversity persistence and ecological connectivity.

6. OPTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY OFFSET

Once the extent of the Biodiversity Offset was determined and it was confirmed that a formal conservation area could be applied onsite for the remainder of the undeveloped portions on the subject property (± 53 ha). The site will be via Cape Nature Stewardship Programme (Level 2 – Biodiversity Agreement) registered over the property. This mechanism will secure the long-term protection and management of the remaining natural areas on the property. Importantly, the site is directly adjacent to existing conservation areas, namely Waterfall Private Nature Reserve

and Maanschynkop Nature Reserve, which significantly enhances the ecological viability and connectivity value of the proposed offset. The CapeNature Stewardship Review Committee confirmed on 24 February 2026 that the site qualifies for stewardship options. Therefore, the preferred option by the applicant is Level 2 – Biodiversity Agreements.

Property size	Offset Ratio	Impact area (ha)	Proposed Onsite Offset (ha)
63 ha	6:1	9 ha	~ 54 ha

7. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

As confirmed by Cape Nature in the stewardship review meeting held on the 24th of February 2026, the site qualifies for Stewardship option. Therefore, an Onsite Offset of ~ 54 ha / Remainder of the property, will be implemented via a Biodiversity Agreement with Cape Nature.

7.1.1. Offset Area Demarcation

The Offset Site will comprise of all the remaining (54 ha), undeveloped areas on the property and exclude the dwellings, internal roads and the 9 ha Orchard. Since the landowner is already implementing preferred land management practises, no major operational changes will be required other than to formalise existing practises on the site, being alien vegetation management and fire management.

8. CONCLUSION

This Biodiversity Offset Report has been prepared to support the Section 24G rectification application for the unauthorised clearing of vegetation associated with the establishment of Macadamia orchards on Portion 57 of the Farm Rockland No. 633. The applicant is a willing conservation champion in the area and has demonstrated this through active land management on site and voluntary alien clearing involvement on adjacent properties. This Biodiversity Offset Report has been revised in response to the comments of Cape Nature, and the following key points are confirmed:

(1) Vegetation mapping: The revised mapping (Crabtree, 2025) indicates that approximately 80–90% of the 9 ha orchard footprint supported Agulhas Sand Fynbos (Critically Endangered) and 10–20% Elim Ferricrete Fynbos (Endangered). The motivation for the revision from the NVM classification is set out in Section 3.1.

(2) Offset calculation: The default offset requirement, calculated per vegetation type at standard ratios (30:1 for CE and 10:1 for E), totals to approximately 243 ha. By applying the provincial guideline degraded habitat reduction (50%), the modified requirement is approximately 121.5 ha.

(3) Proposed offset: The available on-site conservation area is approximately 54 ha (remainder of the 63 ha property). This represents a ratio of approximately 6:1, as recommend by Cape Nature.

(4) Offset mechanism: The preferred mechanism is declaration of the on-site offset area as Biodiversity Agreement, as confirmed as appropriate by the CapeNature Stewardship Review Committee on 24 February 2026. The engagements between the applicant and Cape Nature are still ongoing.

(5) Broader conservation contribution and landscape context: This report has been compiled in accordance with the minimum requirements of Section 7.7 of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline (2023) and has taken into

account the comments of CapeNature. Cape Nature's right to revise its comments upon receipt of further information is noted. Beyond the property, the applicant has demonstrated a sustained and voluntary commitment to biodiversity conservation at a landscape scale, materially exceeding the applicant's regulatory obligations under this application. This includes facilitating large-scale alien vegetation clearing on the Mountain Face north of the subject property; actively exploring the acquisition of a portion of 17/633 at the property entrance specifically to clear existing dense Blue Gum stands; and voluntarily undertaking alien vegetation clearing on the marsh extension at the south-eastern boundary of the property, on adjacent properties (Portions 21 and 23 of Farm 633, and the Remainder of Farm 632) (see **Figure 16**). Although these areas fall outside the applicant's title, this clearing directly enhances the ecological function of the marsh system associated with the subject property and reflects the applicant's genuine and ongoing role as a conservation custodian in the area. This contribution is further underscored by the strategic location of the property within a mountain ecological corridor, in close proximity to existing protected areas and a formally proclaimed Nature Reserve, a landscape link which the applicant's conduct actively supports rather than undermines.

APPENDIX 1 – PCN Motivation Letter

APPENDIX 2 – DOA Macadamia Nut Report
