

Ref: LUA 16/1900
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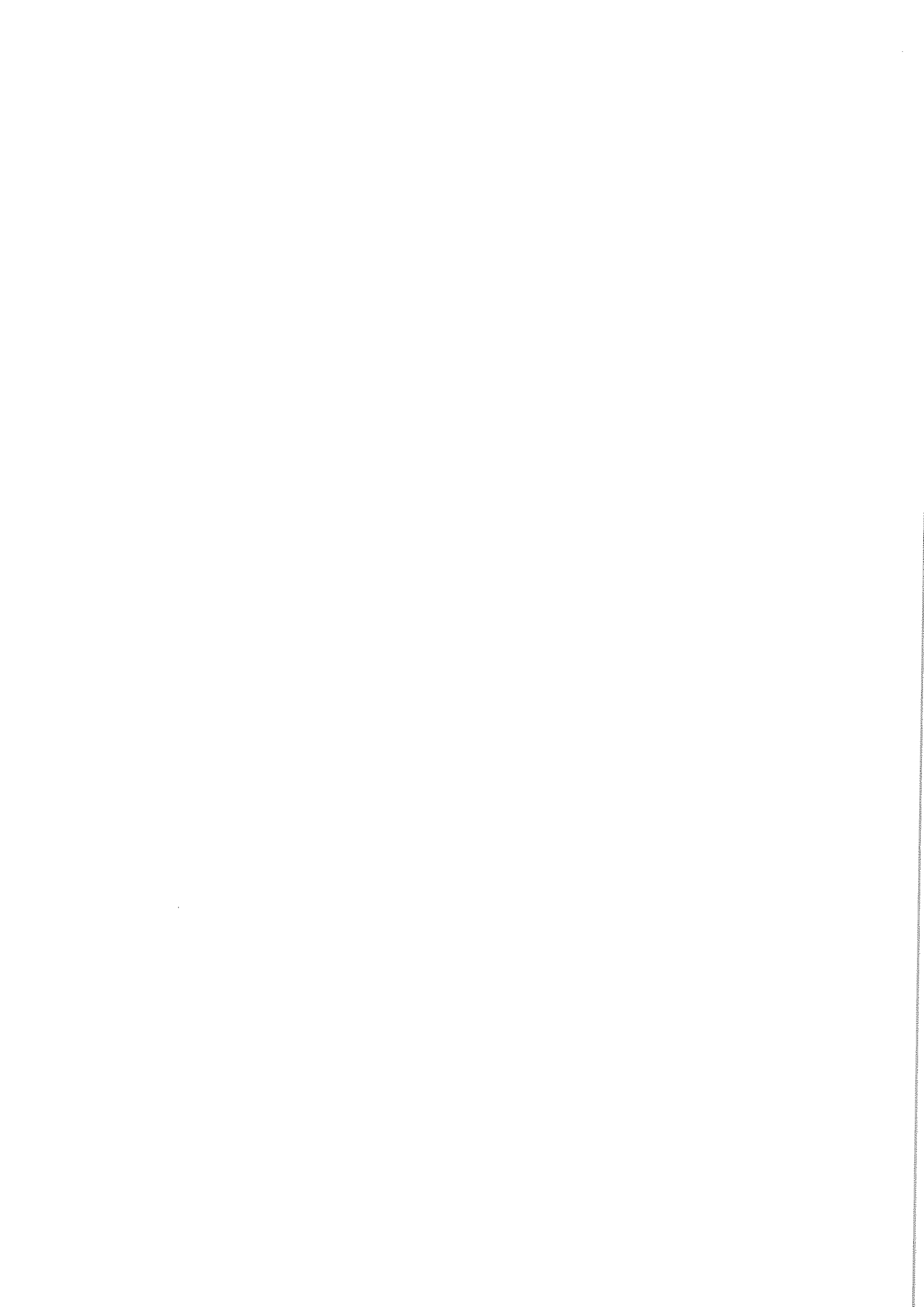
Dear Mr. Mochesane

SUBJECT: MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE MIX USE HUMAN TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON THE RE OF PORTION 11 OF THE FARM AMSTERDAM 408 IT, LOCATED IN THE MKONDO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE.

With reference to your correspondence: reference: 16018 –PRO-HIS of 15 June 2016 our comments:

MTPA has no **objection** to the proposed residential development but is concerned about the site indicated as Site Alternative 1 (Fig,3 p 13) in that it lie in an ecological sensitive area which according to the MBSP land use –guidelines will compromise the biodiversity objectives and are not permissible.

The attached Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan maps, figure 1 and 2 indicates the terrestrial biodiversity and freshwater biodiversity assessments of the two alternative sites. The terrestrial biodiversity status indicates that your preferred alternative site 1 marked X on the MBSP map figure 1 lie greatly in a CBA optimal area where no residential development may take place. The high biodiversity grasslands forms part of the KaNgwane Montane Grassland veldtype that has a vulnerable status and is protected by NEM:BA. The freshwater assessment of the same site indicates that it lie in an Ecological Support Area (ESA) for important sub catchments and ESA fish support areas, whilst the assessments of alternative site 2 marked Y, indicates that the area has been transformed by afforestation and should be the preferred site.



The MTPA recommends that a thorough groundtruthing of the sites is done , which apart from a PES also includes a geological and soil study to determine if the sites are technical suitable for this kind of development.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Kind Regards



MR. J.J. EKSTEEN

MANAGER SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

DATE: 22 July 2016

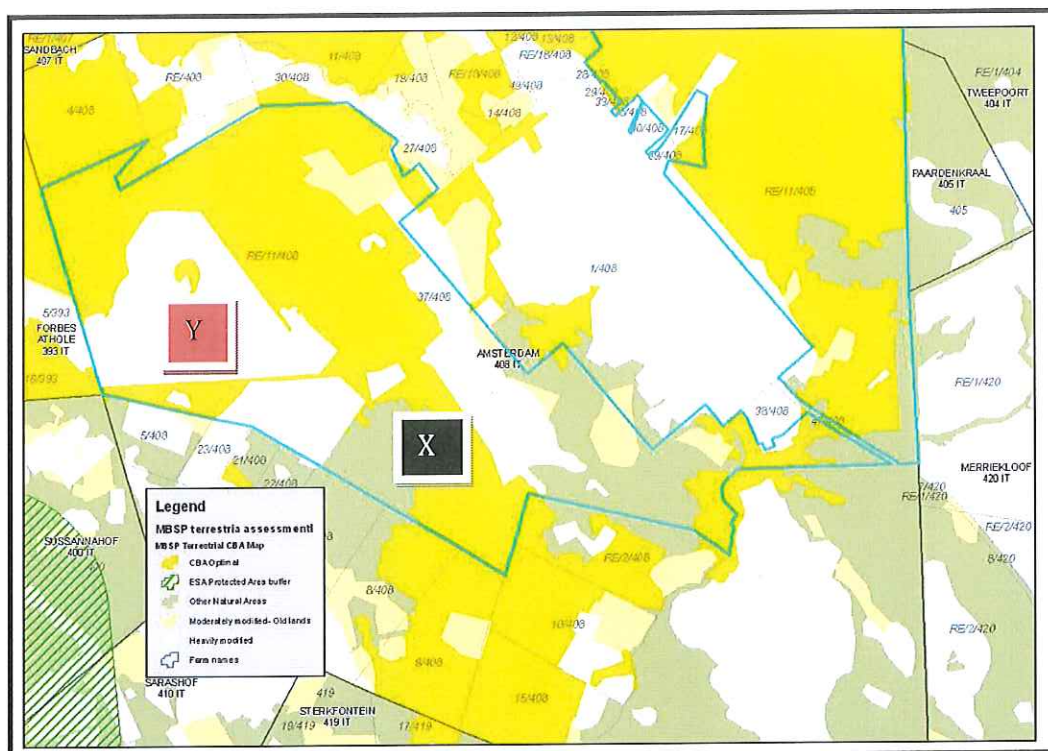




Fig.1. MBSP map of the Conservation status, site X (CBA optimal and other natural area) compared to alternative site Y (Transformed with exotic forest).

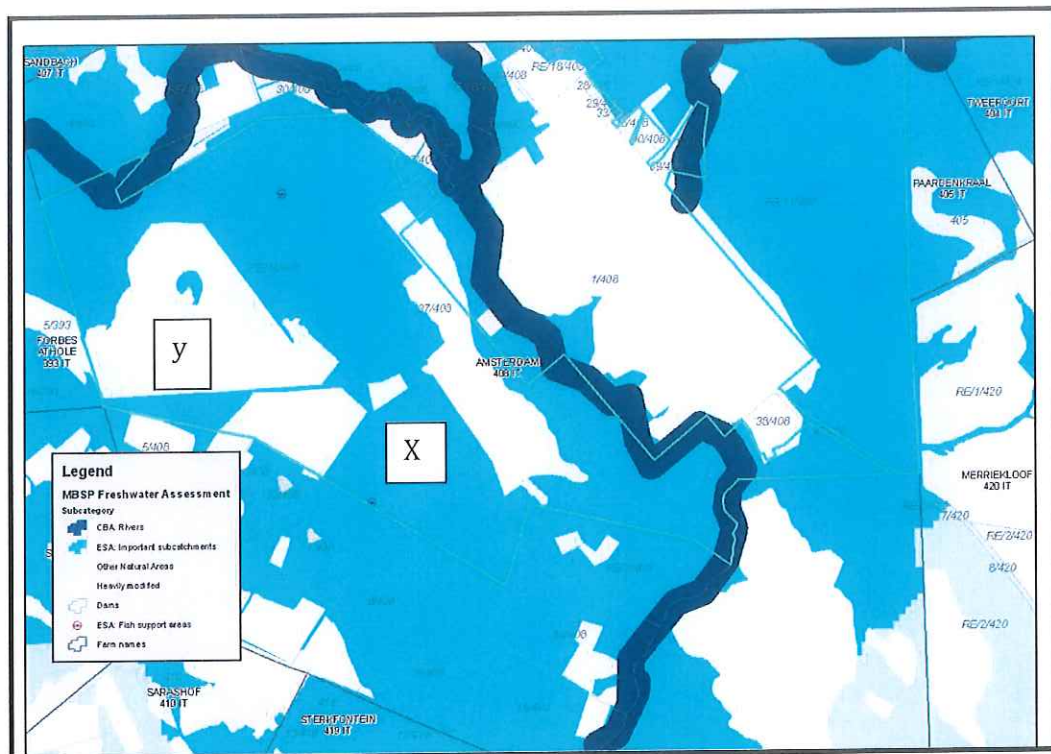


Figure 2. Freshwater assessment (ESA important sub catchments and fish support areas.)

