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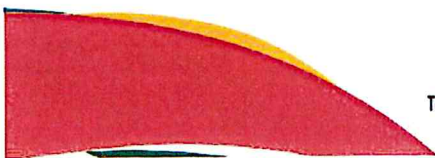
Dear Ms. Maleka

SUBJECT: MTPA COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING EIA AND IWULA APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIX USE HUMAN TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT ON THE PORTION 3 OF THE FARM SCHOONDERZIGHT 68 IT, DIRKIESDORP, 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 an **objection** to the site of the proposed residential development. The MBSP terrestrial assessment figure 1 indicates that this proposed development lie in a Critical Biodiversity Area irreplaceable. This area is 80 to 100 % irreplaceable for meeting biodiversity conservation targets, or critical linkages. There is therefore no flexibility in land uses and it is recommended that an alternative site is found. Residential developments will compromise the biodiversity objectives and are not permissible.

The attached Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan maps, figure 1, 2 and 3 indicates the terrestrial biodiversity and freshwater biodiversity assessments as well as the transformed land cover areas on this farm. 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 , in close proximity to a CBA river that must be delineated with a 1km buffer and CBA wetland with a required 100 m buffer . Figure 3 indicates the areas of this farm that has been transformed by agricultural activities where an alternative development site can be found.



The MTPA recommends that a thorough groundtruthing and biophysical study of the proposed CBA irreplaceable site on portion 3 and alternatives 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. Attached is a MTPA minimum requirements document that can be used for the studies.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Kind Regards



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MR. J.J. EKSTEEN

MANAGER SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

DATE: 22 July 2016