

## BOTANICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the specialist botanical assessment are as follows:

1. Take cognizance of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline for Involving Biodiversity Specialists in the EIA Process and the requirements of the Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc) in developing an approach to the botanical investigation;
2. Delineate the vegetation communities and sensitive areas from a floristic perspective using GPS to fix locations, and overlay onto aerial photography and /or site map (i.e. create a vegetation sensitivity map of the project area);
3. Assess the local and regional importance of the vegetation communities and plant species within the affected areas based on the relevant biodiversity plans, bioregional planning documents and Environmental Management Frameworks etc;
4. Identify the ecosystem status and conservation value of the vegetation communities, including whether the areas to be developed comprise critically endangered or endangered ecosystem(s) listed in terms of Section 52 of the NEMBA;
5. Identify any rare or endangered species encountered or likely to be present;
6. A description of the direct, indirect and cumulative botanical impacts (both before and after mitigation) and an assessment of the significance of the impacts
7. A description of the measures to mitigate any impacts, and an indication of whether or not the measures (if implemented) would change the significance of the impact, for the construction and operational phases of the project.