

- Standard application of EIA and other planning procedures are required; and
- These areas might serve as preferred sites for all forms of urban and industrial development (Land-Use Types 10 – 15).

8.5.2 *Development Restrictions in Terms of the MBCP*

The MBCP suggests that 'Irreplaceable', 'Highly Significant' areas should remain unaltered and be managed for biodiversity by various means. Other categories incorporate increasing options for different types of land use that should be decided by the application of EIA procedures and negotiation between stakeholders. The MBCP also identifies that 35.8% of the Province is included in the category of 'No natural habitat remaining', which has very little biodiversity value.

The proposed development relates to 'Major Development Projects' (Land Use Type 15 – Surface Mining⁴, Dumping & Dredging) and is included in the category 'Urban Industrial Land Uses' with the other development types of Urban & Business Development, Major Development Projects, Linear Engineering Structures and Water Projects & Transfers. These six land uses cause the greatest environmental impact and are almost completely destructive of natural vegetation and natural biodiversity. Where biodiversity persists, it is artificially maintained, generally supporting only opportunistic assemblages of plants and animals. Ecosystem processes are completely disrupted, heavily impacted or artificially maintained at high cost. These land uses not only produce the highest local impacts but also dominate the dispersed and cumulative impacts. They are the most destructive and wide-ranging, often spreading hundreds of kilometres from their source, especially along river systems. These land-use types also require special provision in land-use planning, impact assessment and mitigation.

Restrictions in terms of major developments according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan (MBCP) are illustrated in Figure 8. Limitations in terms of the proposed surface mining development comprise the 'Permitted' and 'Restricted' categories.

Extensive parts of the study area are situated within areas where major developments are restricted according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Conservation Plan (MBCP). This does not necessarily imply that any development will be denied, but rather that specialist studies clearly need to indicate that the proposed development will not adversely affect any sensitive floristic or faunal attributes that occur, or potentially could occur, within the study area or on a local and regional scale (refer Footnote 3). Specialist studies are furthermore required to show that the proposed development will not add to existing cumulative impacts, regional degradation and habitat transformation and the loss of biodiversity on a local or regional scale.

⁴ Includes all strip and opencast mining excavations or quarrying, plus the visual, physical and chemical impacts of these activities, particularly on ground water reserves as well as all mine waste

Figure 7: Terrestrial and Biodiversity Conservation categories of the study area

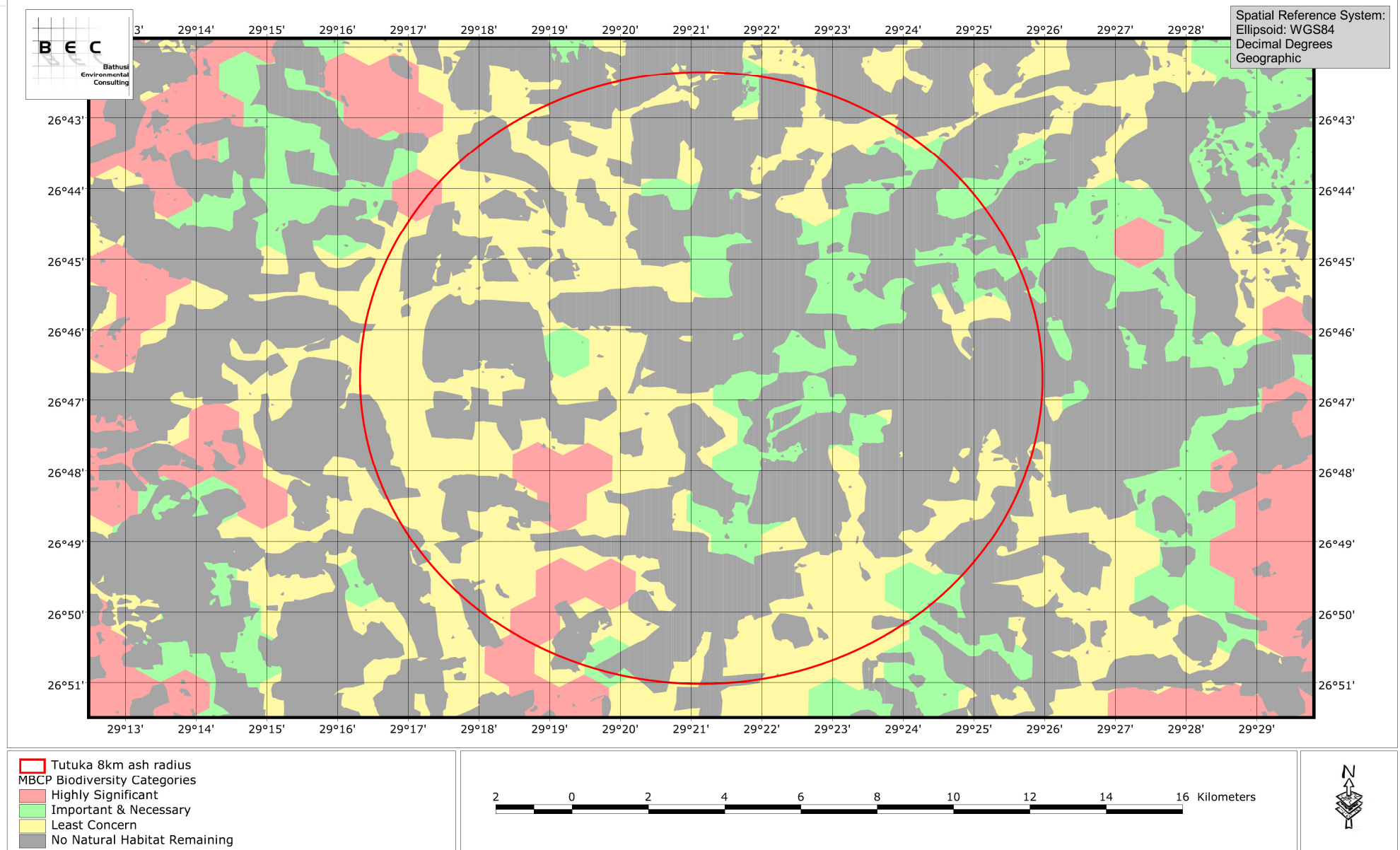
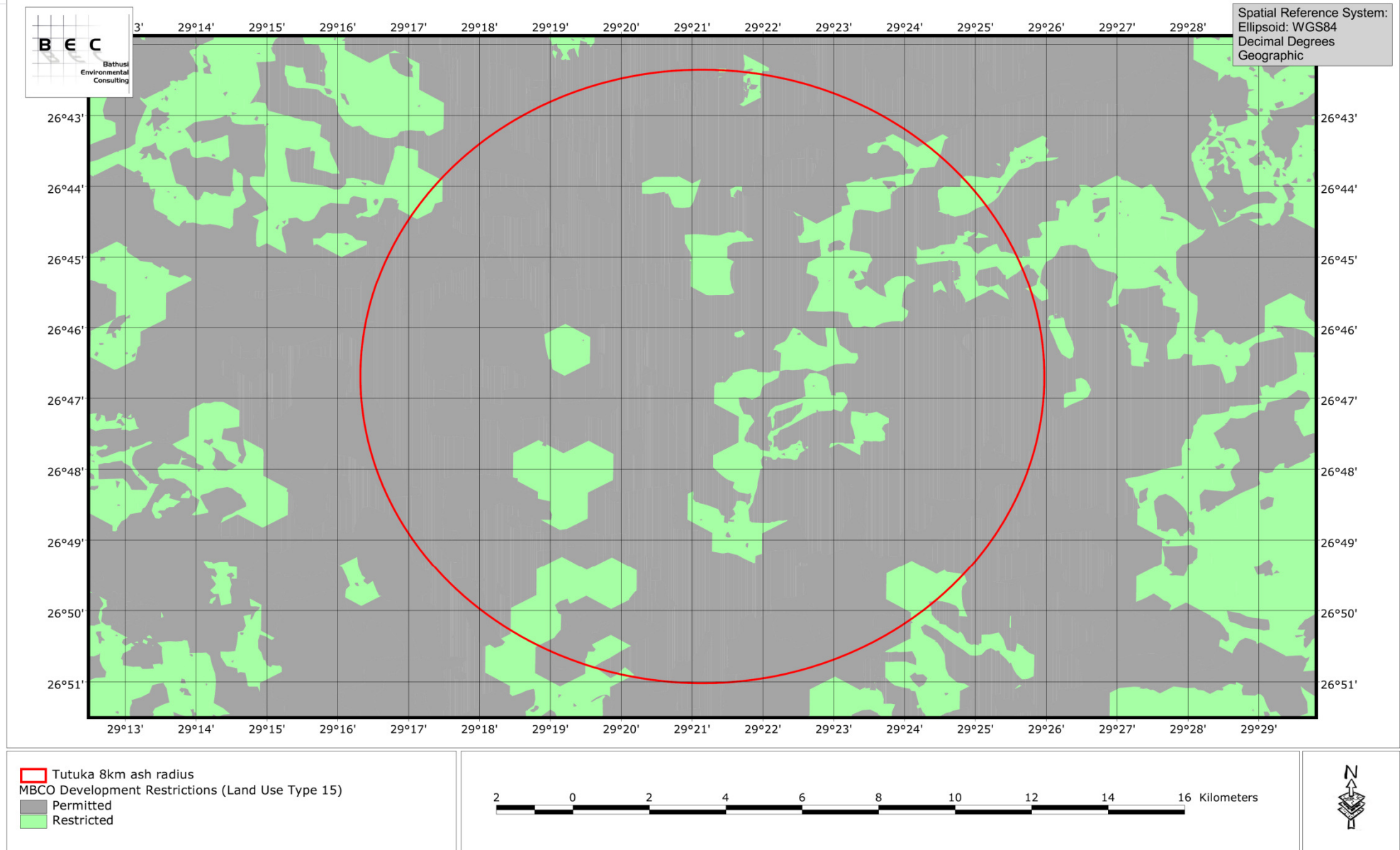
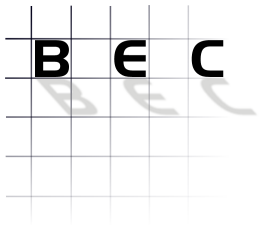


Figure 8: Development limitations for the study area in terms of the MBCP (Underground Mining)





Biodiversity Scoping Assessment
Tutuka Power Station Continuous Ash Disposal Facility

