

CURRICULUM VITAE

NICHOLAS ALEXANDER HELME

Postal Address : PO Box 22652
Scarborough 7975 South Africa
Ph: 021 780 1420; Fax: 021 780 1868 cell: 082 8238 350
email: botaneek@iafrica.com

Surname : HELME
First names : NICHOLAS ALEXANDER
Date of birth : 29 January 1969

HIGHER EDUCATION

BSc (Honours) - Botany. 1990. UCT, South Africa.

Dean's Merit List & distinction – 1988; Class Medal & distinction – 1989

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Pri.Sci.Nat # 400045/08

BEE COMPLIANCE

Level Four Contributor BEE # 1915

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Since mid 1997 I have been based in Cape Town, and have been working as a botanical and ecological consultant, specialising in the diverse flora of the south-western Cape and the Greater Cape Floristic Region. Since the end of 2001 I have been independent (Sole Proprietor) and trade as Nick Helme Botanical Surveys.

My jobs have included:

- Over 1000 botanical assessments (about 20% progressing to full IA stage) of proposed development sites (golfcourses, housing estates, quarries; roads; borrow pits; pipelines, powerlines; substations, powerstations; mines; wind & solar farms) throughout the Western and parts of the Northern Cape in Strandveld, Lowland Fynbos, Mountain Fynbos, and Renosterveld localities as far afield as Plettenberg Bay, Knysna, Mossel Bay, Agulhas, Bot River, Hermanus, Stellenbosch, Hopefield, Piketberg, Saldanha, Lamberts Bay, Ceres, Clanwilliam, and Nieuwoudtville.
- Work in the Succulent Karoo includes surveys in the Laingsburg (for DWAF), Rooiberg Calitzdorp (DWAF), Worcester, Robertson, Vanrhynsdorp (DME), Vredendal (Anglo American, Bound for Gold; Eskom), Bitterfontein (DME), Alexander Bay (DME, Eskom), Garies, Springbok, and Pofadder (DME) areas. Institute for Plant Conservation's Namaqualand expedition in 2001, sponsored by the National Geographic Society

- (Knersvlakte, Kamiesberg, Richtersveld). Survey of Kamiesberg vegetation, with focus on endemics (SKEP/Conservation International, 2004-2006).
- Work in the Nama Karoo includes an assessment of a new Eskom powerline route from Victoria West to Cape Town, assessment of proposed housing estate in Sutherland, and of new road to Sutherland observatory.
 - Co-author of Fynbos chapter in Vegetation Map of South Africa (Mucina & Rutherford 2006).
 - Contributions to the Fynbos Forum Guidelines for Biodiversity Assessment in the Western Cape (De Villiers *et al* 2005).
 - Co-author of Guidelines for Biodiversity Offsets in the Western Cape (DEA & DP 2007).
 - Senior author of Red List of Threatened Plants of SA (SANBI 2009).
 - Author of Landcare Area Wide Planning document for the Slanghoek Valley (in collaboration with CapeNature and Dept. Agriculture), involving botanical survey of 35 sites in the region and design of fine scale conservation plan.
 - Fine Scale Vegetation Mapping reports (2007) for CapeNature of 4 priority areas (Bokkeveld escarpment, Sandveld, Saldanha Peninsula, and Breede River valley).
 - Over 7500 plant specimens collected; 5500 from Cape Floristic Region; of which approx. 45 were previously undescribed species. Specimens housed in following herbaria: NBG, BOL, PRE, MO, P, US, S, LPB, NY, FLA.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

A selection of previous botanical work for Eskom is as follows:

- Ecological assessment for a new Eskom transmission line and substation in the Mitchell's Plain to Philippi and Delft area, Western Cape (BKS 2011)
- Botanical assessment of proposed new De Hoek Eskom transmission line and substation, Piketberg, Western Cape (ERM 2010)
- Scoping and Impact Assessment for Eskom transmission lines: Koeberg 2 (Savannah Environmental 2009, 2010)
- Scoping Study for Eskom transmission lines: Bantamsklip (Arcus Gibb 2009)
- Basic Assessment for new Gouda substation (Eskom Distribution 2009)
- Scoping and Impact Assessment for Eskom transmission line Ankerlig – Omega (Savannah Environmental 2007, 2008)
- Scoping and Impact Assessment for Eskom Wind Energy Facility on west coast (Savannah Environmental 2006, 2007)
- Scoping and Impact assessment for proposed 400km Eskom Kudu 400kV powerline from Alexander Bay to Vredendal (SEFSA 2006)

- Assessment of new Eskom OCGT Atlantis site (Eskom 2006)
- Walkdown study for Eskom Palmiet – Stikland Tx line (Eskom Transmission 2006)
- Scoping assessment for new Briers substation (Eskom 2006)
- Scoping and Impact Assessment of new Eskom OCGT Mossel Bay site (Ninham Shand 2005)
- Assessment for new Eskom powerline Swellendam – Riviersonderend (SHE Cape 2006)
- Assessment for new Eskom powerline Bredasdorp – Struisbaai (SHE Cape 2004)
- Eskom powerline and Houhoek substation assessment Botriver – Hermanus (Eskom 2004)
- Assessment of expansion of Eskom Proteus substation (Eyethu Engineers 2004)
- Eskom powerline assessment Bredasdorp – Struisbaai (CK Environmental 2004)
- Assessment for new Eskom Omega substation (Eyethu Engineers 2004)
- Vegetation survey of Bacchus substation extension for Eskom (Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants 1999, and for Eyethu Engineers 2004)
- Vegetation survey for Eskom Cape Strengthening Program from Luckhoff to Cape Town (Doug Jeffery Environmental Consultants 2001).