



PACHNODA
CONSULTING

88 Rubida Street
Murrayfield X1
Pretoria

P.O. Box 72847
Lynwood Ridge
Pretoria
0040

Cell: 083 978 0817

Fax: 012 365 3217

E-mail: lukas@pachnoda.co.za

CK 2007/043724/23
VAT No. 4690249976

27 August 2009

Dear Gesan
Envirovolution Consulting

Matimba Rock Dump – Current Ecological Status

The Matimba Rock Dump is located within the site boundary of the existing Matimba power station, approximately 15 km west of the town of Lephalale, Limpopo Province.

Since the rock dump was formerly associated with a landfill site, the composition and distribution of the current vegetation were a consequence of past disturbances as well as previous rehabilitation efforts. Therefore, based on a former analysis of plot-derived sampling techniques and cluster analyses, the vegetation on the rock dump can be described as one of two major plant communities identified from the region: 'Rehabilitated vegetation associated with an old landfill site dominated by the grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*'.

This community is fundamentally located along the slopes of the old landfill site and attributes to a monospecific grassland layer dominated by *Cenchrus ciliaris*. The latter was artificially planted during the rehabilitation phase of the landfill site. Apart from the occurrence of a dense secondary basal layer, the central section of the rock dump showed a pronounced infestation of the exotic invader *Nicotiana glauca*.

However, it is possible that the perimeter could host scattered individuals of *Sclerocarya birrea* (Marula) and *Acacia erioloba* (Camel Thorn) trees – both listed as protected trees under National Forests Act, 1998 (No 84 of 1998). Therefore, a permit is required to remove or disturb any specimen pertaining to these species. In fact, these species occur widely throughout the immediate area and is by no means restricted in range. In addition, these species are not threatened (not Red Data listed), but should be considered based on their legal status if threatened by destruction for any other reason.



PACHNODA
CONSULTING

88 Rubida Street
Murrayfield X1
Pretoria

P.O. Box 72847
Lynwood Ridge
Pretoria
0040

Cell: 083 978 0817

Fax: 012 365 3217

E-mail: lukas@pachnoda.co.za

CK 2007/043724/23
VAT No. 4690249976

Hence, the area was declared to be of low ecological importance based on prior disturbances regimes and is unlikely to sustain any plant/vertebrate/invertebrate species of special conservation concern.

Regards

Lukas Niemand (Pri Sci Nat)
Pachnoda Consulting