## 6.6 Fauna

**Status Quo**

In December 2008 EnviRoss CC undertook a faunal assessment of the three alternative sites. A summary of the findings of the assessment can be found in **Section 7** and a copy of the specialist report is attached in **Appendix B**.

The area the alternatives sites are in is known to be historically rich in mammalian diversity. There are 109 mammalian species that have a historical range that incorporates the site alternatives and the surrounding area.

The area is also relatively rich in avifaunal diversity; 390 species have a historical distribution recorded for that area.

Sixty-six reptile species have a distribution range correlated to the alternative sites and the surrounding area.

Twenty-one amphibian species have been recorded in the surrounding area.

**Potential Impact**

**Construction**
- Wilful damage to fauna;
- Storing domestic waste could lead to pest occurrence (flies, rodents, etc.);
- Disturbance to domestic animals, including livestock; and
- Disturbance to nests when the vegetation is removed.

**Operation**
- Livestock could wander through open servitude gates.

## 6.7 Flora

**Status Quo**

In December 2008 EnviRoss CC undertook a flora assessment of the three alternative sites. A summary of the findings of the assessment can be found in **Section 7** and a copy of the specialist report is attached in **Appendix B**.

According to Low and Rebelo (1998) the study sites fall within the savanna biome and the vegetation type is mixed bushveld. Mixed bushveld is also known as Sourish Mixed Bushveld and Broad – orthophyll Plains Bushveld. This vegetation type covers 66 647km$^2$, of which approximately 60% is transformed and 3.05% is conserved (van Rooyen and Bredenkamp, 1998).

The vegetation descriptions by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) are more recent and were used by the flora specialist to assess the vegetation types. According to Mucina and Rutherford (2006) the dominant vegetation type in

the area is the Dwaalboom Thornveld. The three sites however fall within a transitional zone between the Dwaalboom Thornveld and the Madikwe Dolomite Bushveld.

The Dwaalboom Thornveld includes plains with a layer of scattered, low to medium high, deciduous microphyllous trees and shrubs with a few broad – leaved species. The Madikwe Dolomite Bushveld includes gentle ridges and low hills, the tree and shrub layers of this vegetation type are not clearly distinct (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006).

The flora assessment identified two protected tree species. These tree species occur on all three sites and are well represented in the area. **Figures 5, 6** and **7** show the location of the protected species. In order to illustrate the impact of the switching station's footprint on the protected trees, a 300m radius from each site's centre point has been shown. No Red Data List fauna or flora species were noted at any of the proposed localities during the field assessment. Refer to the summery of the flora and fauna assessment in **Section 7** and the copy of the Flora and Fauna report in **Appendix B**.

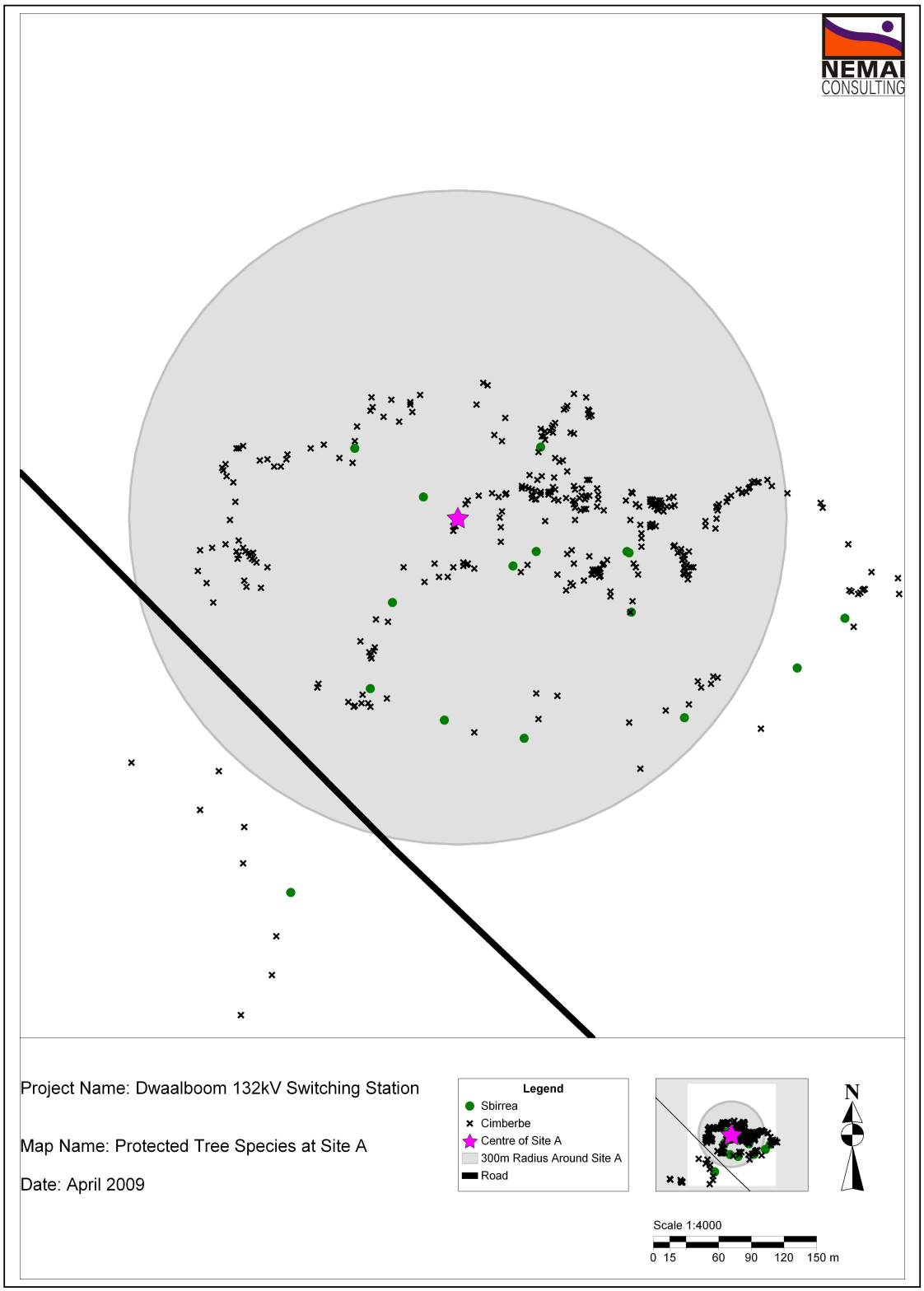


**Figure 5: Protected Tree Species at Site A (*C. imberbe* and *S. birrea*)**

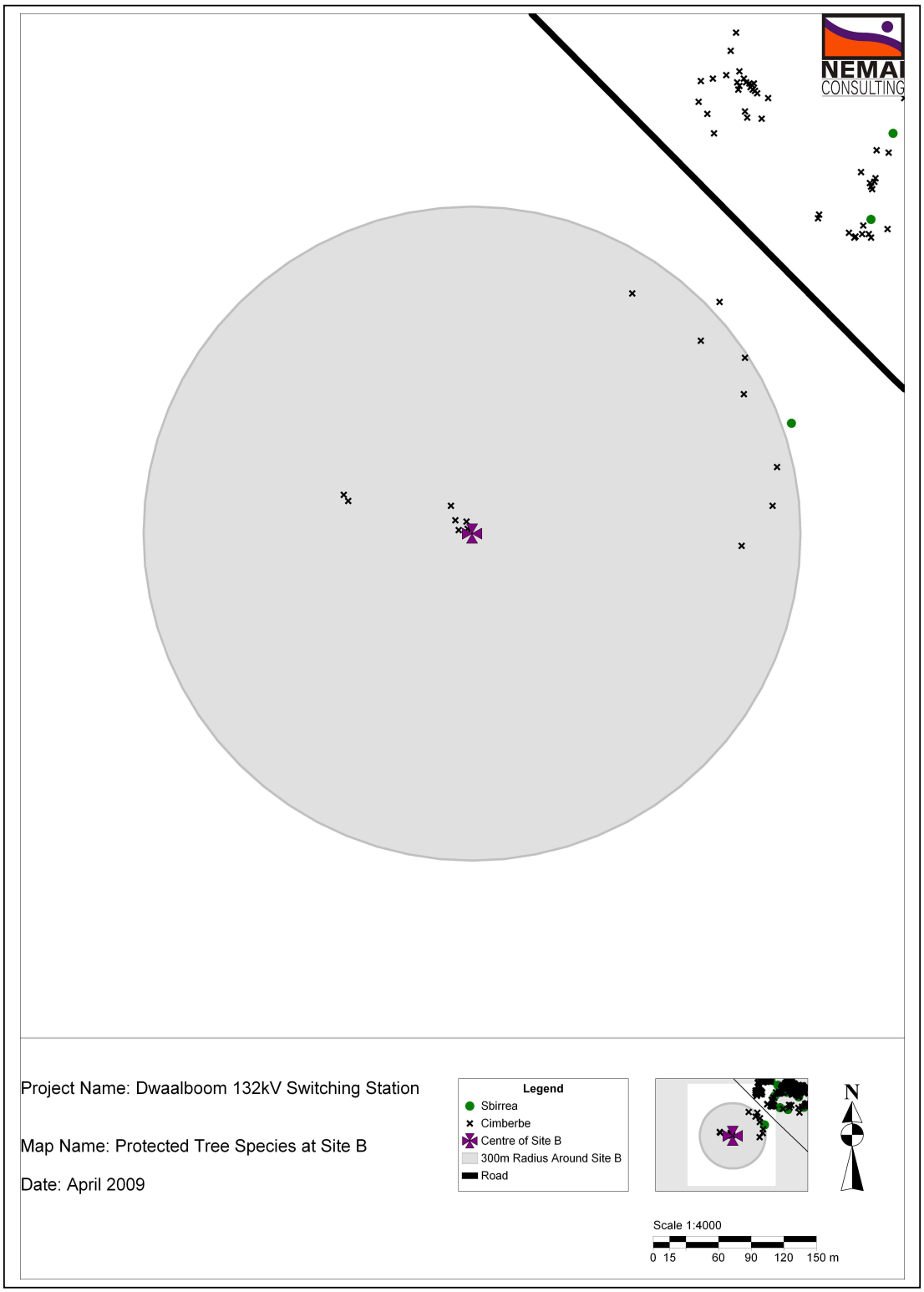


**Figure 6: Protected Tree Species at Site B (*C. imberbe* and *S. birrea*)**