

**APPENDIX D9: Site Sensitivity Verification Report**

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# LOWER UMKHOMAZI BULK WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE:

PROPOSED DESIGN CHANGES TO NGWADINI SYSTEM (UMDONI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY AND UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AS WELL AS ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY) AND GOODENOUGH SYSTEM (ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY), KWAZULU-NATAL

## SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION REPORT

JULY 2024



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# Title and Approval Page

Project Name:	Lower uMkhomazi Bulk Water Supply Scheme and Associated Infrastructure: Proposed Design Changes to Ngwadini System (Umdoni Local Municipality and Ugu District Municipality as well as eThekweni Municipality) and Goodenough System (eThekweni Municipality), KwaZulu-Natal
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## 1 BACKGROUND

In 2018, the former Umgeni Water (now known as uMngeni-uThukela Water) received the following Environmental Authorisations in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for the components of the Lower uMkhomazi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (LUBWSS):

- ❑ LUBWSS - Goodenough weir, abstraction works and associated infrastructure within the eThekweni Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) (reference no.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1030); and
- ❑ LUBWSS - Ngwadini weir, abstraction works and pipeline within the Umdoni Local Municipality and Ugu District Municipality, as well as the eThekweni Municipality, KZN (reference no.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1884).

Post authorisation, during the detail design phase of the Ngwadini and Goodenough Systems (hereafter referred to as the “2023 detailed design”), changes were required to various components of the proposed infrastructure. To accommodate these changes, uMngeni-uThukela Water (the “Applicant”) initially intended to seek an amendment to the existing Environmental Authorisations, however, after engagements with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) it was concluded that the existing authorisations would remain in place, but that the following two processes would need to be undertaken to address the changes to the layouts:

- a) A new application for Environmental Authorisation would be made to cover the majority of the infrastructure changes to the Ngwadini pipeline as well as the Goodenough weir, abstraction works, pipelines and reservoirs, as these changes would themselves trigger listed activities. A Basic Assessment (BA) process would be followed for this application.
- b) An amendment application would be made specifically for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), as the proposed changes to the WTP would not trigger any listed activities.

Nemai Consulting (Pty) Ltd was appointed by the Applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the BA Process for those components described under point (a) above. The BA Process is being undertaken according to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014, as amended, to apply for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

## 2 INTRODUCTION

The Protocols for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes (“the Protocols”) were published in Government Gazette No. 43110 on 20 March 2020 and Government Gazette No. 43855 on 30 October 2020, in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the NEMA.

After 9 May 2020, compliance to the Protocols became mandatory for every new application for Environmental Authorisation submitted. According to the Protocols, the EAP must verify the current

use of the site in question and potential environmental sensitivity, as identified by the National Web-Based Environmental Screening Tool (“Screening Tool”) to determine the need for specialist inputs in relation to the themes included in the Protocols.

This document serves as the Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) Report for the proposed project. It aims to comply with the SSV section within the Protocols. The Screening Report generated by the Screening Tool is appended to the Application Form.

### 3 FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING TOOL

Separate Screening Reports were generated by the Screening Tool to cover the following components of the project:

1. Ngwadini System – pipeline;
2. Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works; and
3. Goodenough System – pipelines.

Table 1 to Table 3 below list the sensitivities for the various environmental themes relevant to the LUBWSS project components, as determined by the Screening Tool. Only the highest environmental sensitivities are indicated.

**Table 1: Sensitivities for environmental themes (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline**

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme			X	
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme				X
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme				X
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

**Table 2: Sensitivities for environmental themes (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works**

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme			X	
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme			X	
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			



**Table 3: Sensitivities for environmental themes (Screening Tool) for- Goodenough System – pipelines**

Theme	Very High sensitivity	High sensitivity	Medium sensitivity	Low sensitivity
Agriculture Theme		X		
Animal Species Theme		X		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	X			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				X
Civil Aviation Theme		X		
Defence Theme				X
Paleontology Theme			X	
Plant Species Theme			X	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	X			

The verification of the site sensitivity of the Screening Tool's themes is provided in the section to follow.

The specialist studies identified by the Screening Tool as well as the relevance of these studies to the Project following SSV are captured in Table 4 below. The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) contains further information pertaining to the environmental themes.

## 4 SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

### 4.1 Agriculture Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Agricultural Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- Ngwadini System – pipeline: high sensitivity in two areas, based on the land capability (Figure 1).
- Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: medium sensitivity in central and northern parts of the footprint, based on the land capability. (Figure 2).
- Goodenough System – pipelines: high sensitivity in various areas, based on the land capability and subsistence farming (Figure 3).

uMngeni-uThukela Water's policy covers both compensation for crops and for land. The servitude has been acquired for most of the pipeline route, apart from a small section near the WTP. It is further noted that the impact to agricultural activities will be temporary during the construction period. Thereafter, agricultural activities can continue (subject to servitude conditions). It is also noted that a section of the Ngwadini pipeline route that falls within a high sensitivity area will be pipe-jacked (refer to BAR for further details).

The Agricultural Specialist noted the following in terms of the sensitivity of the project components from an agricultural perspective:

- Ngwadini System – pipeline -

- The development site according to the Screening Tool is on mostly low and medium sensitive land, with small parts indicated as high potential land.
  - It is assumed that arable land would have been cultivated if soil conditions allowed it.
  - The site verification indicates steep slopes that are potentially highly erodible that is not arable; it is not medium or high sensitivity land.
  - The site verification found that the information by the Screening Tool is incorrect because it did not consider the slopes.
  - The pipeline is a linear feature that will only have an impact on farming for the duration of construction. The climate is favourable and it is expected that disturbances of the soil and vegetation will recover within one or two rainy seasons.
- ☐ Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works -
- The development site according to the Screening Tool is on low/medium sensitive land.
  - The site verification found that the information by the Screening Tool is incorrect because it did not consider the site is a river and that it has a low sensitivity from an agricultural perspective.
- ☐ Goodenough System – pipelines -
- The development site according to the Screening Tool is on mostly high and medium sensitive land.
  - It is assumed that the arable land would have been cultivated if soil conditions allowed it.
  - The site verification indicates steep slopes that are potentially highly erodible that is not arable; it is not high sensitivity land.
  - The site verification found that the information by the Screening Tool is incorrect because it did not consider the slopes and watercourse.
  - The pipeline is a linear structure that will only have an impact on farming for the duration of construction. The climate is favourable and it is expected that disturbances of the soil and vegetation will recover within one or two rainy seasons.

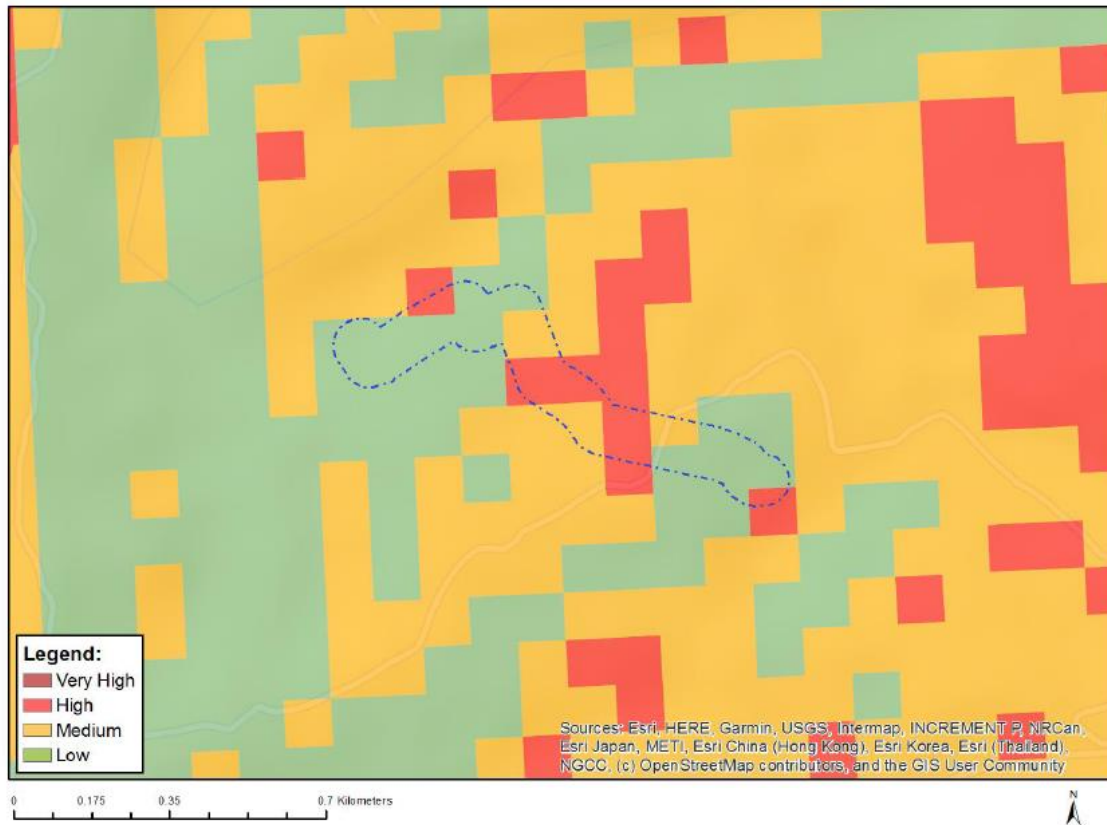
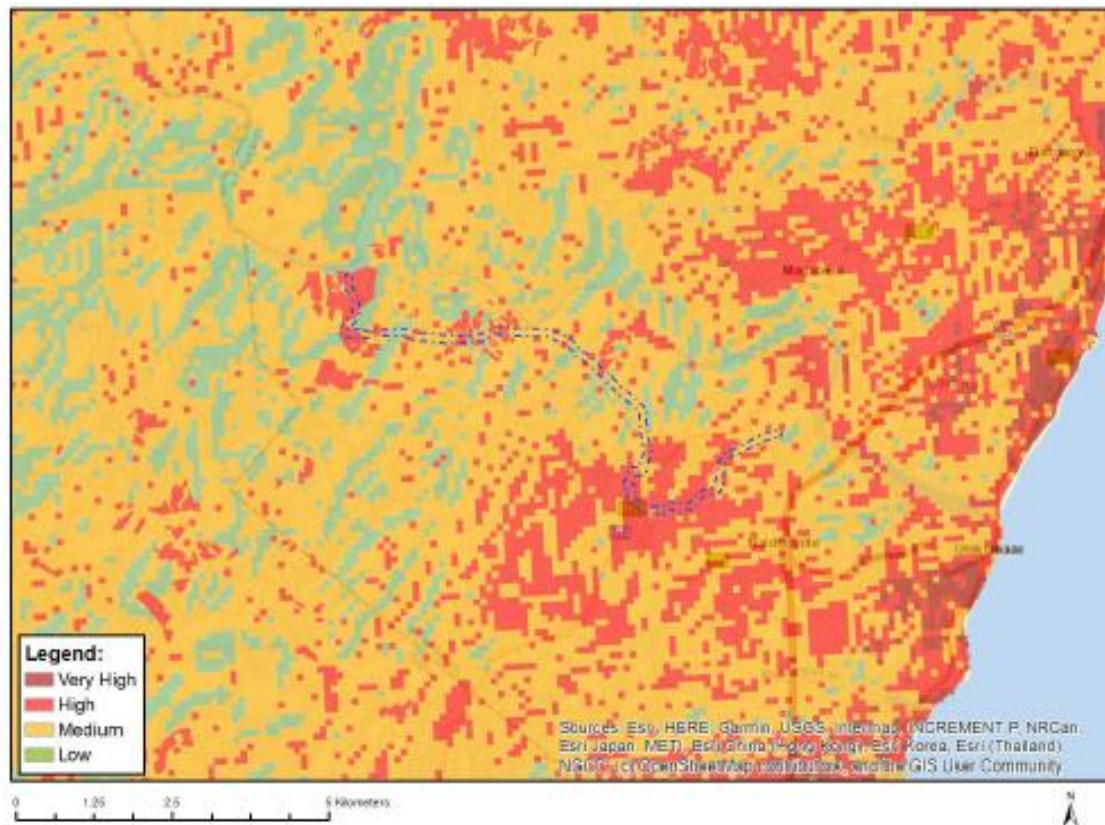


Figure 1: Relative Agriculture Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline



Figure 2: Relative Agriculture Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works



**Figure 3: Relative Agriculture Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines**

## 4.2 Animal Species Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Animal Species Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- ❑ Ngwadini System – pipeline: medium sensitivity, based on possible occurrence of various animal species (Figure 4).
- ❑ Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: high sensitivity, based on possible occurrence of sensitive bird species (Figure 5).
- ❑ Goodenough System – pipelines: high sensitivity near Goodenough Reservoir, last section of the gravity main to the WTP and the western section of the gravity main to Quarry Reservoir based on possible occurrence of sensitive bird species (Figure 6).

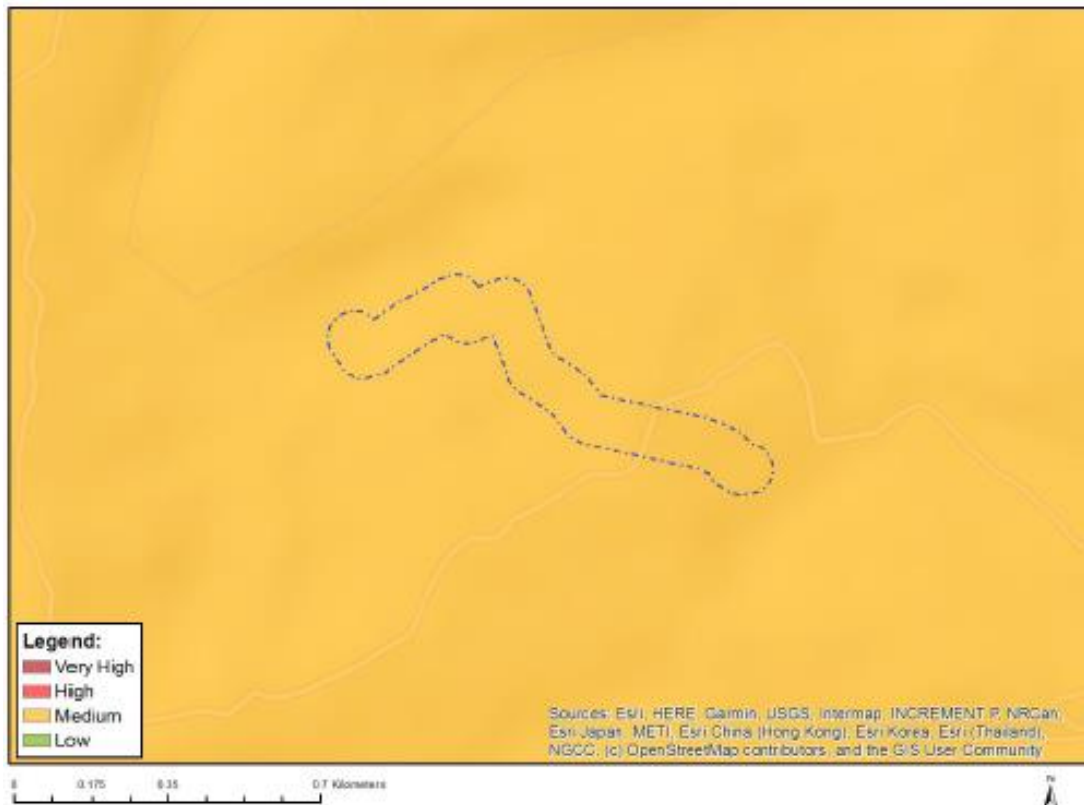


Figure 4: Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline

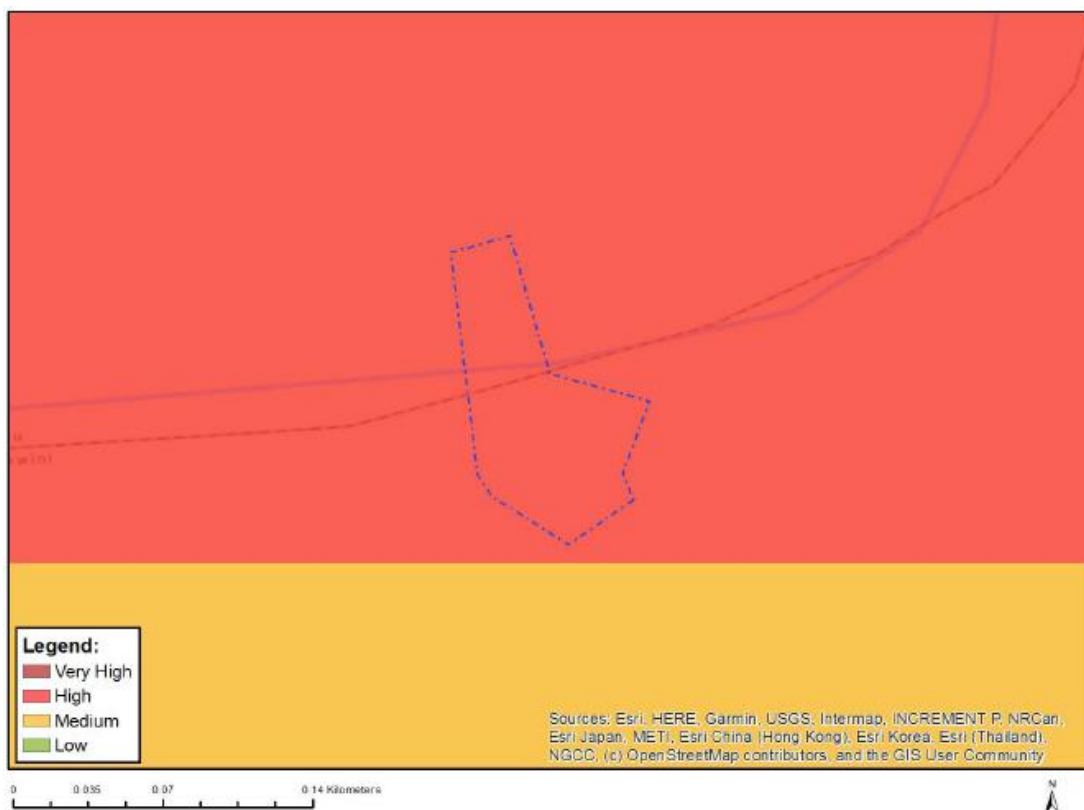
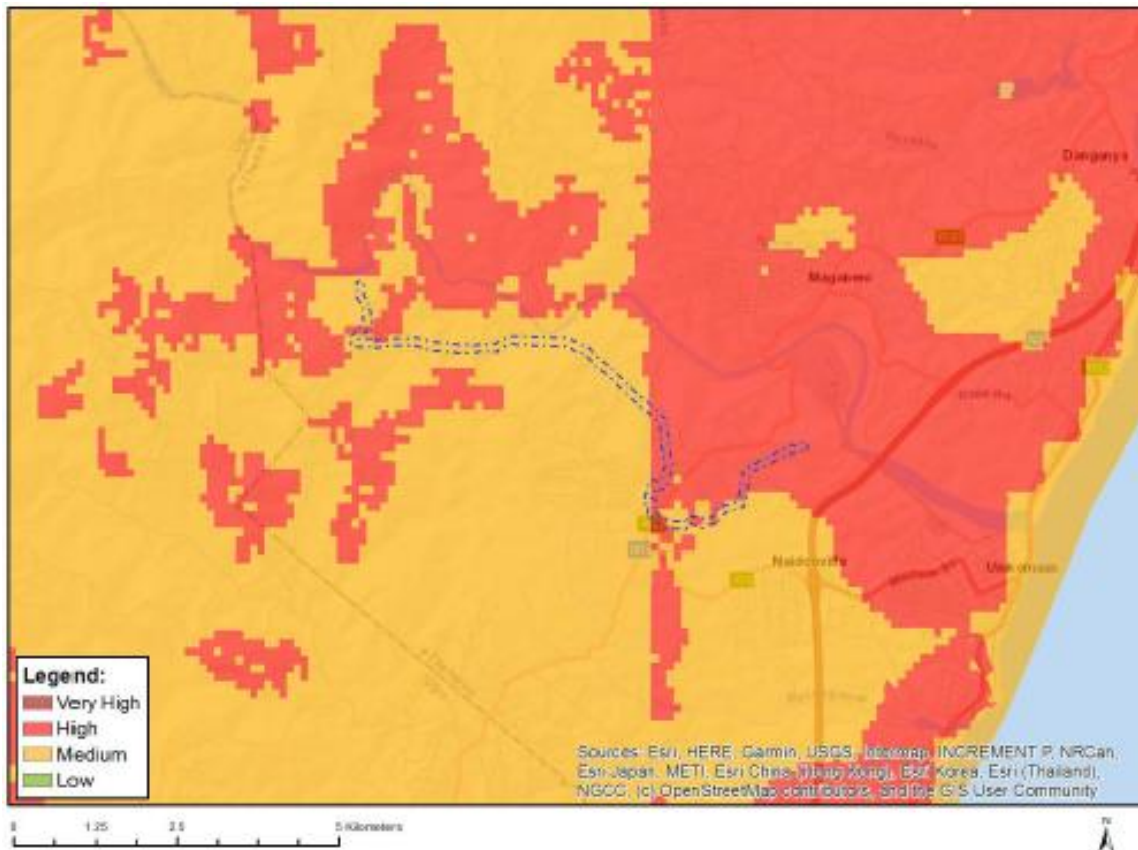


Figure 5: Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works



**Figure 6: Relative Animal Species Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines**

The following was noted by the Terrestrial Ecologist regarding the fauna where the layout has changed:

- Ngwadini pipeline –
  - The area has the potential to provide a breeding and forage site for avifauna species through the riparian corridor (north-western edge of pipeline route).
- Goodenough Weir to Goodenough Reservoir -
  - The area has the potential to provide a breeding and forage site for avifauna species through the riparian corridor.
- Pipeline from Goodenough Weir to WTP -
  - Wildlife refugia are abundant within the assessment area as it has vast tracts of undeveloped natural systems that are ideal for small mammals and avifauna with large foraging ranges.
- Pipeline from WTP to Quarry Reservoir -
  - The area has the potential to provide breeding and forage sites for avifauna species.
  - The open grasslands with rocky outcrops indicate a suitable site for herpetofauna and wildlife refugia for other faunal species.

The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are thus supported. A Terrestrial Ecological Survey was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.

### 4.3 Plant Species Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Plant Species Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- ❑ Ngwadini System – pipeline: medium sensitivity, based on possible occurrence of various plant species (Figure 7).
- ❑ Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: medium sensitivity in central and northern parts of footprint, based on possible occurrence of various plant species (Figure 8).
- ❑ Goodenough System – pipelines: medium sensitivity along various sections of the pipeline route, based on possible occurrence of various plant species (Figure 9).

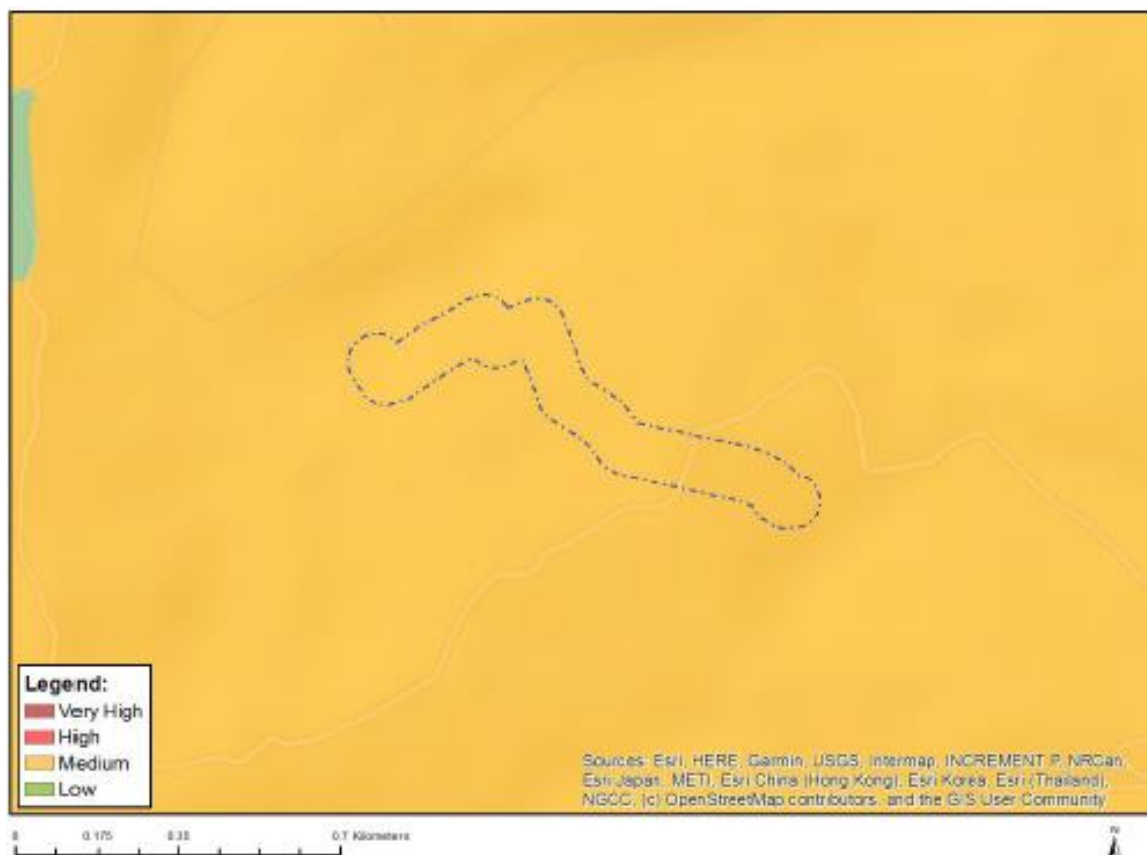


Figure 7: Relative Plant Species Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline

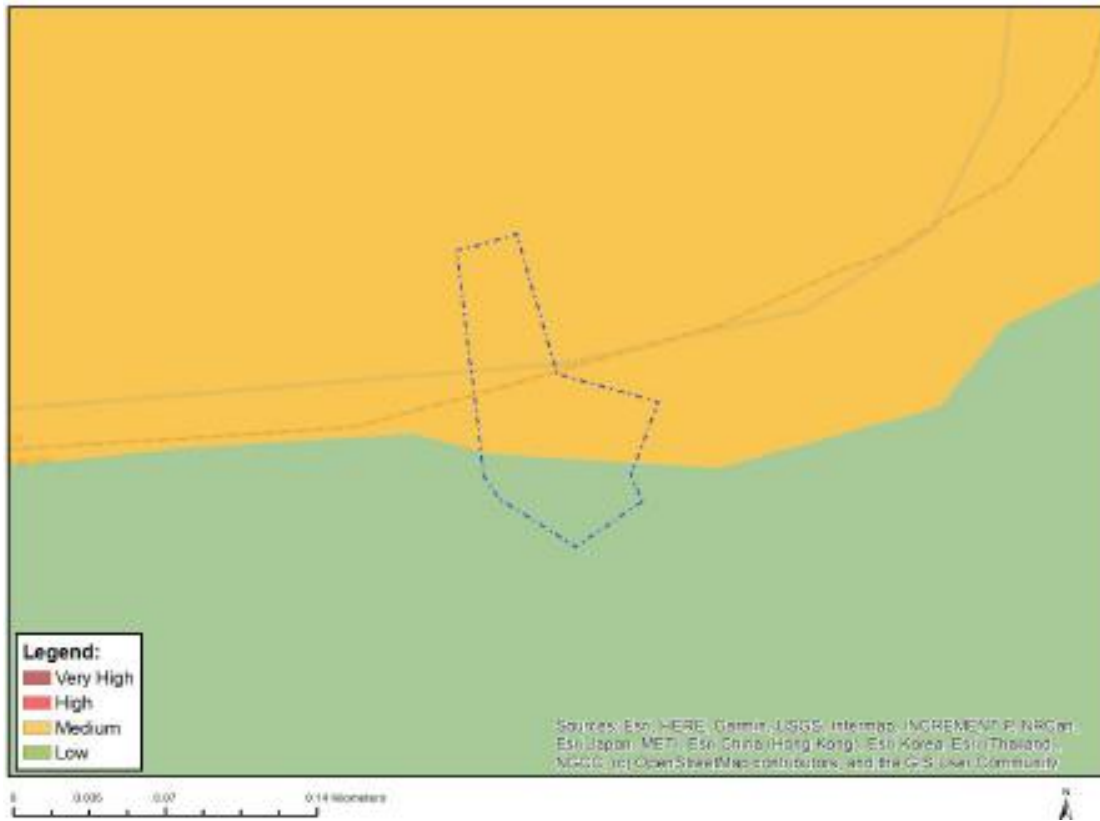


Figure 8: Relative Plant Species Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works

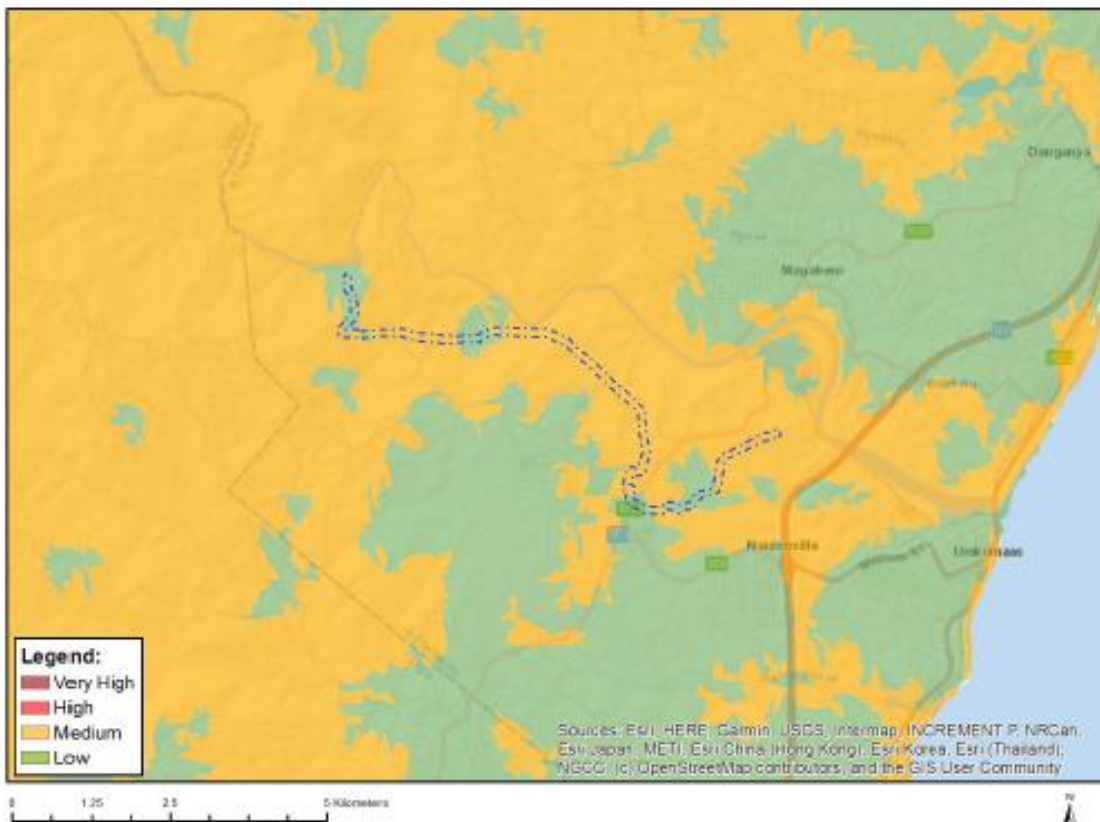


Figure 9: Relative Plant Species Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines



The following was noted by the Terrestrial Ecologist regarding the flora where the layout has changed:

- ❑ Ngwadini pipeline –
  - The area is dominated by subsistence and subsistence farming and rural dwellings. The area contains some areas of ecological significance such as open grasslands and forest patches confined to drainage lines. The north-western edge of pipeline route is the uMkhomazi River.
- ❑ Goodenough Weir to Goodenough Reservoir -
  - The area contains some areas of ecological significance such as open grasslands and forest patches confined to drainage lines.
  - The northern boundary of the assessment area is the uMkhomazi River. The riparian zone is heavily transformed with crop farming activities on the riverbanks.
  - The grassland areas are mainly secondary grasslands with high altitude areas containing primary grasslands resembling the original vegetation characteristic.
  - The forest areas have been significantly reduced by suspected increased burning and replaced with crops and mango plantations. The remaining forests are limited in extent and species richness.
- ❑ Pipeline from Goodenough Weir -
  - The area is mostly open grassland, pockets of forests confined to drainage lines, subsistence and commercial farming and associated farm housing and infrastructure. The grassland areas are in healthy condition and are dominated by a good mix of grass species.
  - The forest areas are in good condition and need to be protected.
- ❑ Pipeline from WTP to Quarry Reservoir -
  - The area is deemed medium to low sensitivity with a major stream running on the southern border of the assessment area. The area is bordered by gardens with banana and small mango plots associated with a small township.
  - The area adjacent to the SAPPI Skills Centre is characterized by patches of healthy grassland vegetation and forest pockets along the drainage lines.
  - The site has a number of invasive alien plant species.

The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are thus supported. A Terrestrial Ecological Survey was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.

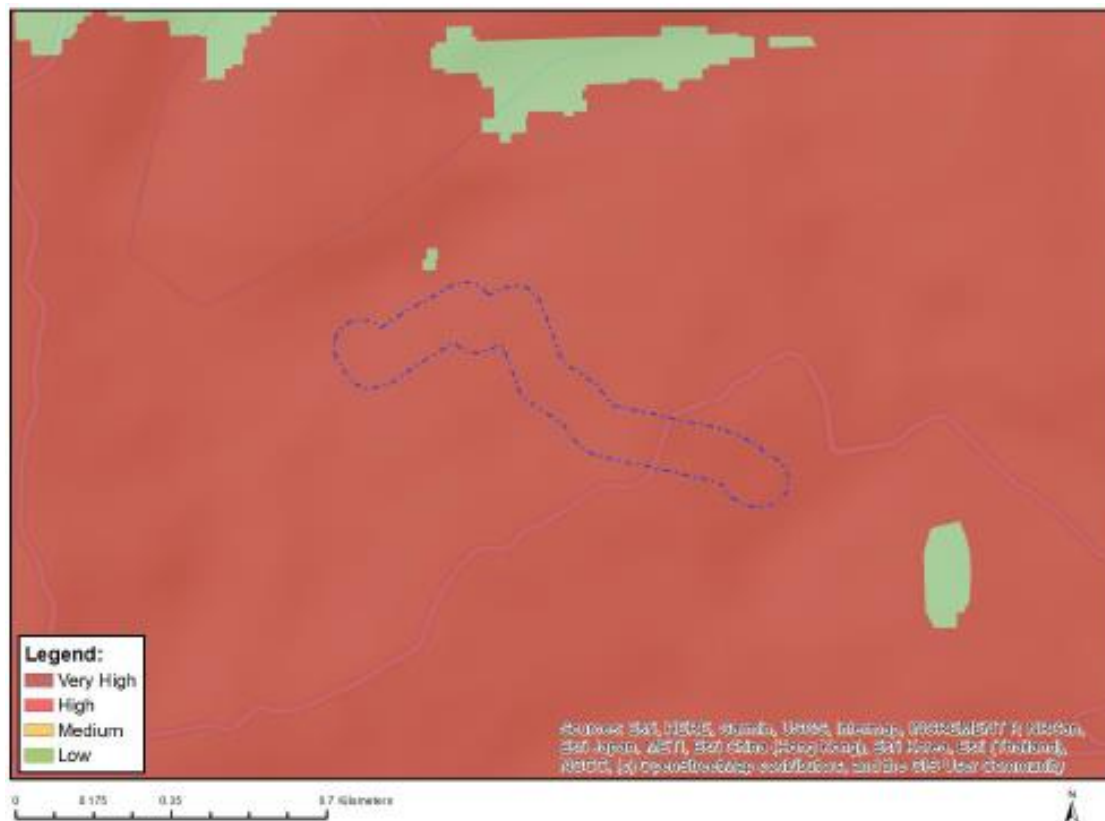
#### 4.4 Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme

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The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- ❑ Ngwadini System – pipeline: very high sensitivity, based on the location of the footprint within an Ecological Support Area (ESA) and the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) (Figure 10).

- ❑ Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: very high sensitivity, based on the location of the footprint within the NPAES and KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Thornveld (Endangered) (Figure 11).
- ❑ Goodenough System – pipelines: very high sensitivity, based on the location of the footprint within the NPAES, Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) Irreplaceable, ESA, KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland (Endangered), and KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Thornveld (Endangered) (Figure 12).



**Figure 10: Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline**

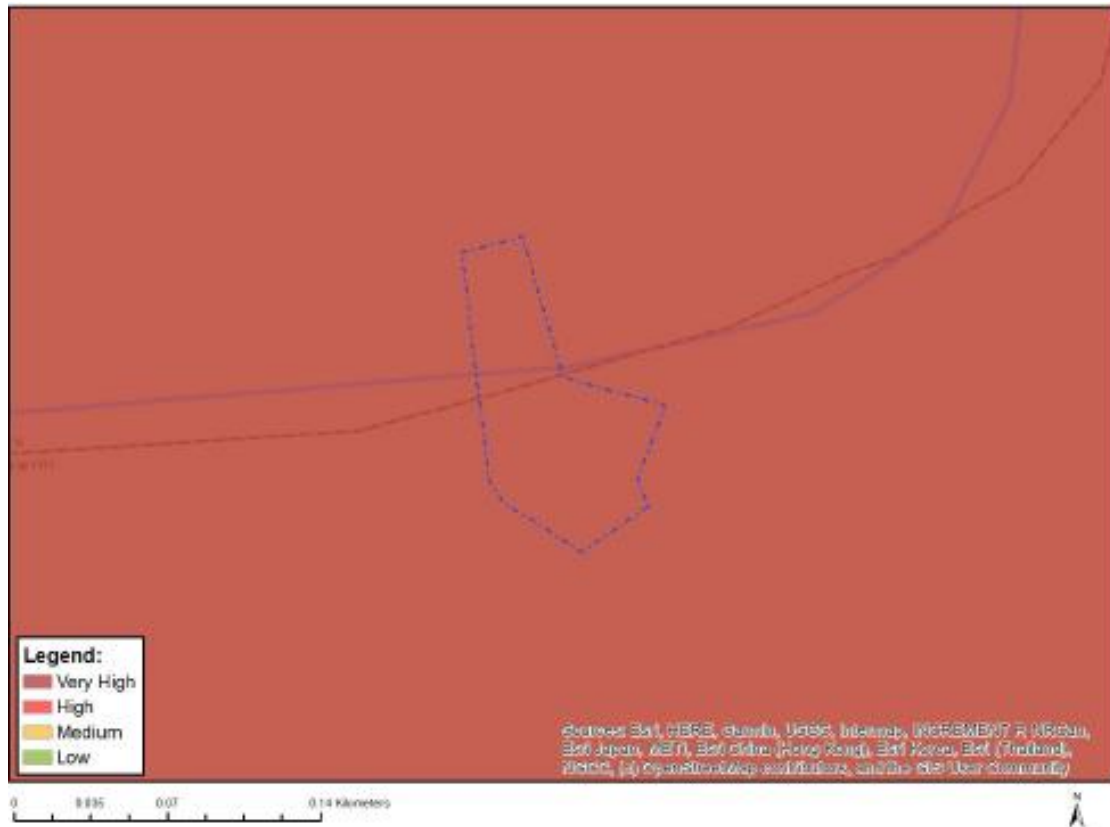


Figure 11: Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works

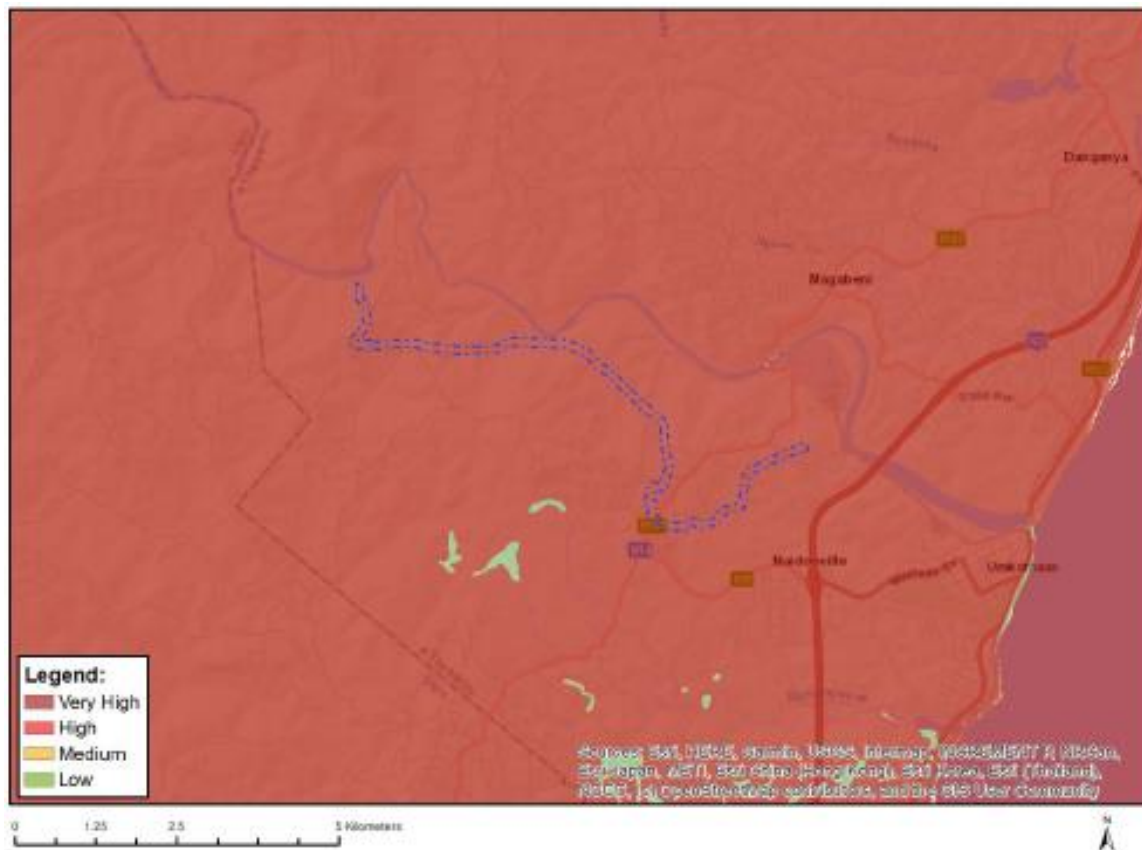


Figure 12: Relative Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines

The following was noted by the Terrestrial Ecologist for the project area:

- ❑ Ngwadini pipeline –
  - The area is dominated by subsistence and subsistence farming and rural dwellings. The area contains some areas of ecological significance such as open grasslands and forest patches confined to drainage lines. The north-western edge of pipeline route is the uMkhomazi River.
- ❑ Quarry Pipeline Route (eastern section) -
  - The new route is more ecologically desirable as it avoids crossing the high sensitivity area (riparian zone) on the southern border of the assessment area. The route thus results in a reduction of biodiversity risk.
- ❑ Quarry Pipeline Route (western section) -
  - The area is located within an ecologically sensitive zone. The area had previously been associated with Species of Conservation Concern.
- ❑ Gravity Main to WTP -
  - The new pipeline route has not increased the footprint of the vegetation loss and faunal habitat loss. However, the shift of the pipeline route towards more sensitive riparian habitats has implications for more sensitive species such as amphibians, snakes and avifauna breeding site. Thus, the net effect of this change will be negative on the ecological risk associated with the project.
- ❑ Goodenough Weir and Rising Main -
  - A large portion of the area consists of transformed agricultural lands and road network. The road layout follows the route of existing informal road networks linked to the surrounding farms. The net impact of the changes associated with the layout will be negligible with the exception of the selection of Goodenough Weir changes. The anticipated increase in the footprint of the weir will have negative impacts at a local sensitivity level and implications for landscape level downstream systems. Thus making the changes within the study area increase the ecological risk of the new layout.

The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are thus supported. A Terrestrial Ecological Survey was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.

#### **4.5 Aquatic Biodiversity Theme**

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The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- ❑ Ngwadini System – pipeline: very high sensitivity for only a small section of the pipeline route near the uMkhomazi River (Figure 13).
- ❑ Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: very high sensitivity as the footprint falls within the uMkhomazi River (Figure 14).
- ❑ Goodenough System – pipelines: very high sensitivity for only a small section of the pipeline route that traverses a wetland near the WTP site (Figure 15).

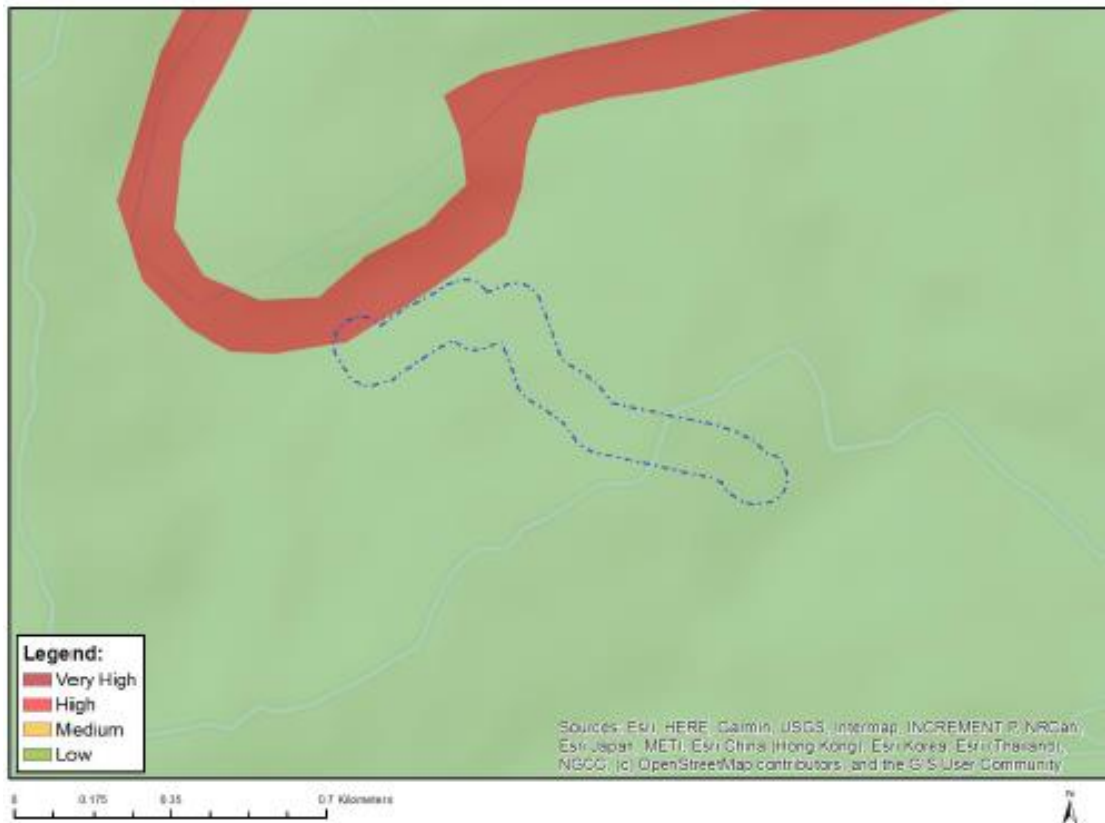
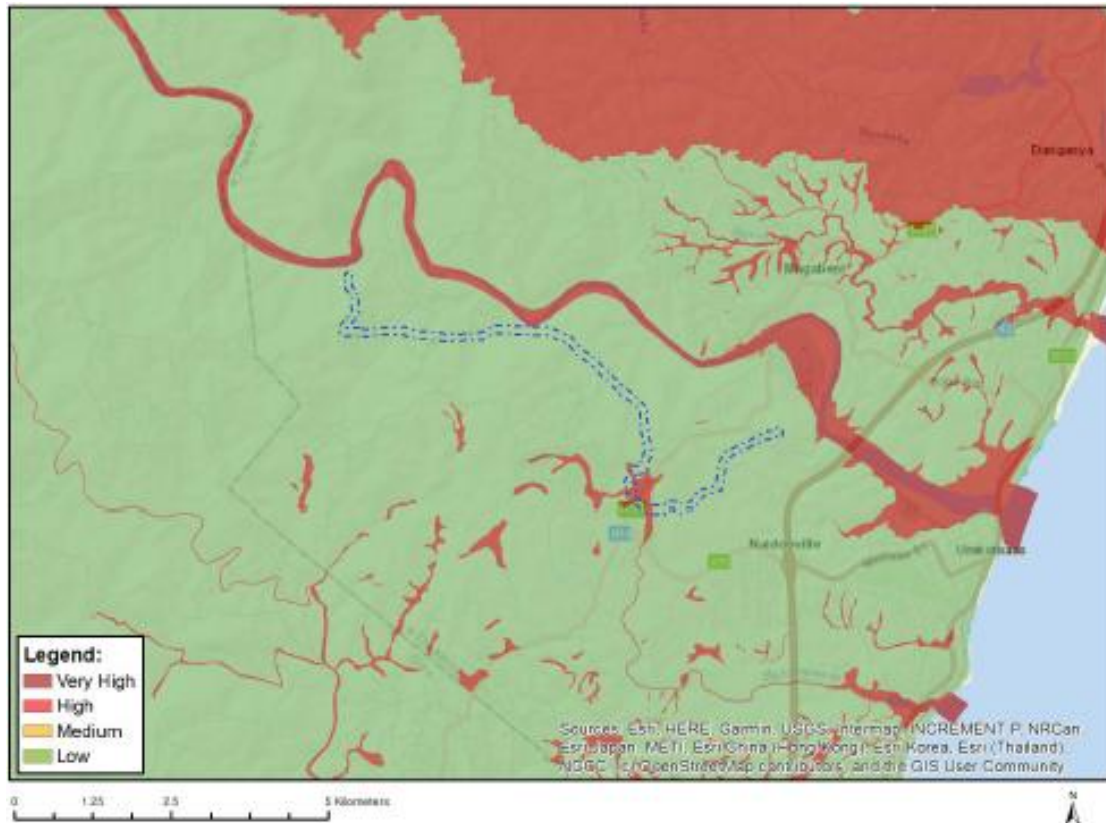


Figure 13: Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline



Figure 14: Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works



**Figure 15: Relative Aquatic Biodiversity Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines**

A section of the Ngwadini pipeline and the Goodenough weir and abstraction works are located within the uMkhomazi River. In addition, according to the Aquatic Ecologist, one Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (FEPA) wetland and various hydro geomorphic (HGM) types are located within 500m of the Goodenough project area. The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are thus supported. An Aquatic and Wetland Baseline and Impact Assessment was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.

#### 4.6 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- Ngwadini System – pipeline: low sensitivity (Figure 16).
- Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: low sensitivity (Figure 17).
- Goodenough System – pipelines: low sensitivity (Figure 18).



Figure 16: Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline

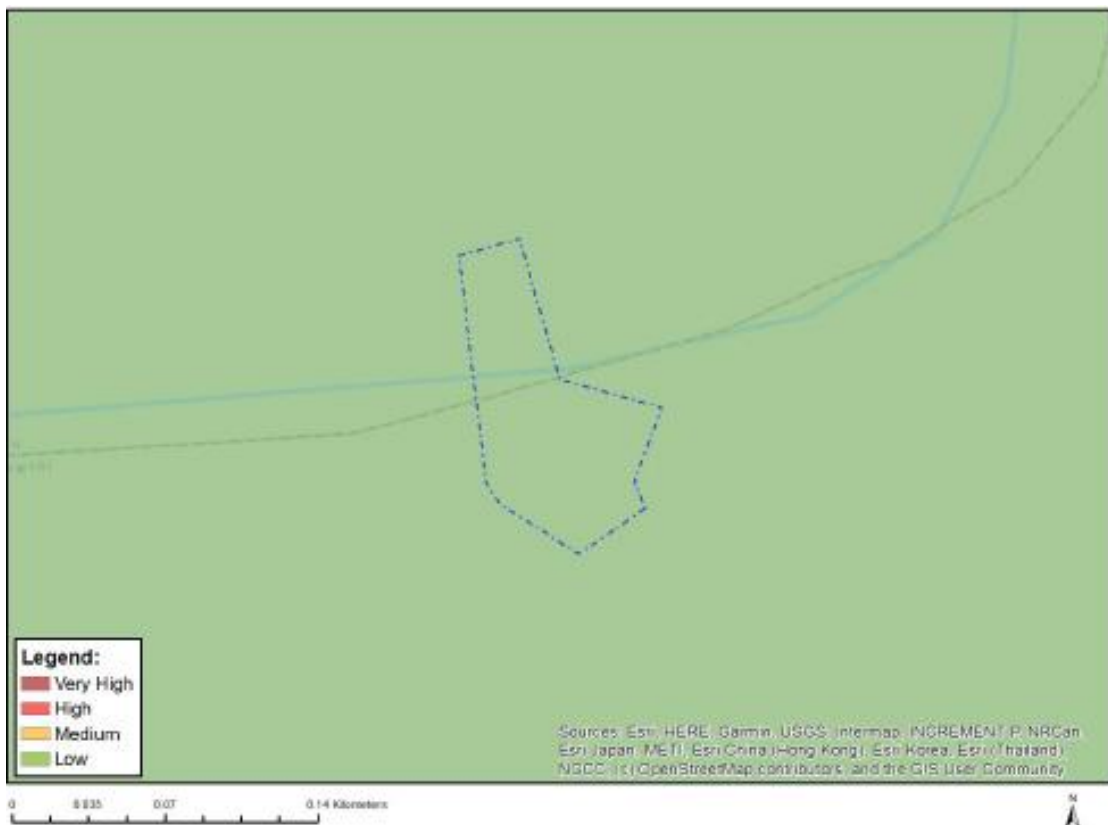
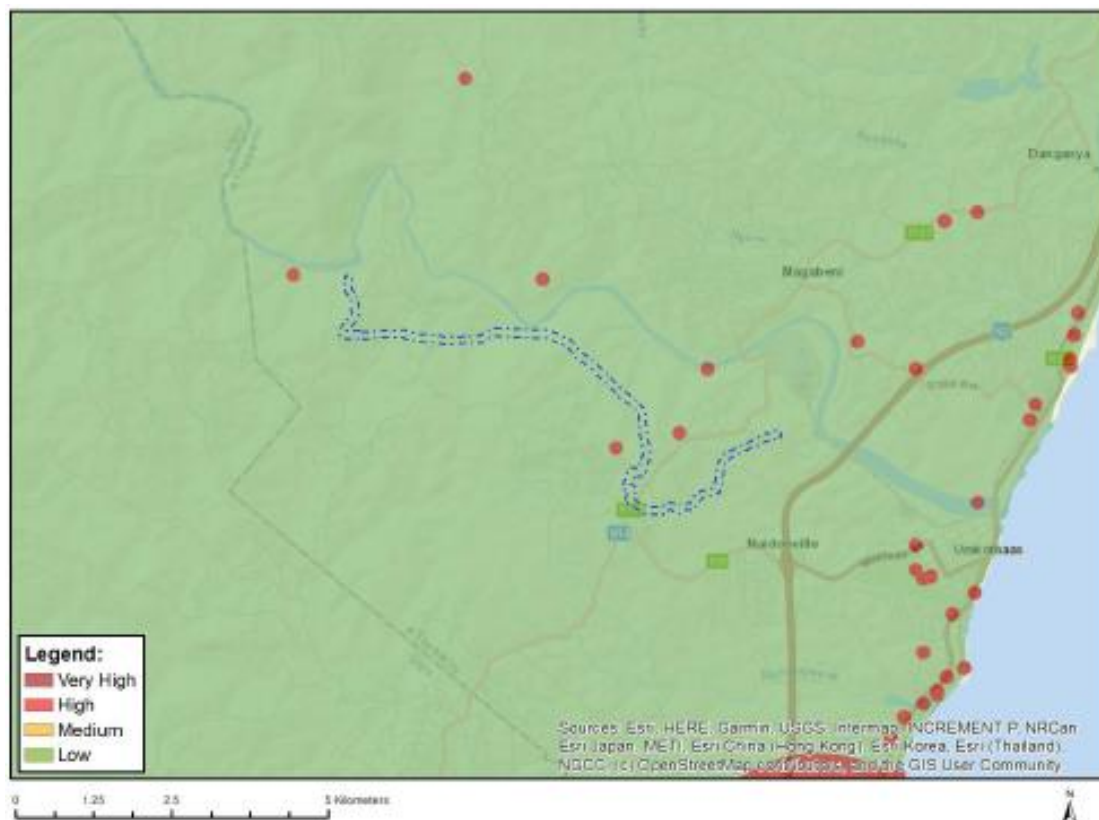


Figure 17: Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works



**Figure 18: Relative Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines**

According to the Heritage Specialist, no heritage resources of significance occur within the direct footprint of the proposed Goodenough project area. Nonetheless, a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken for the project in accordance with Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Provision is made in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for a chance finds protocol for heritage resources.

#### 4.7 Palaeontology Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Palaeontology Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- Ngwadini System – pipeline: low sensitivity for south-eastern part of pipeline route (Figure 19).
- Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: medium sensitivity (Figure 20).
- Goodenough System – pipelines: medium sensitivity for most of the pipeline route (Figure 21).

Provision is made in the EMPr for a chance finds protocol for fossils.



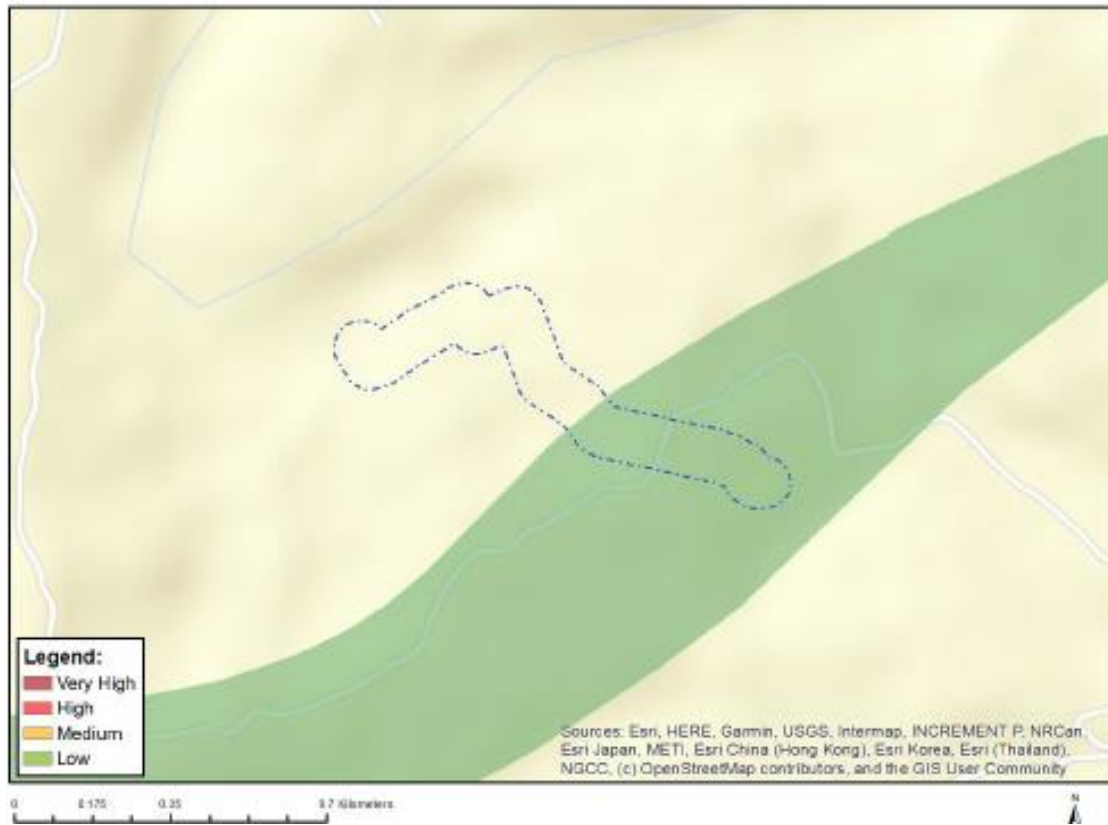


Figure 19: Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline

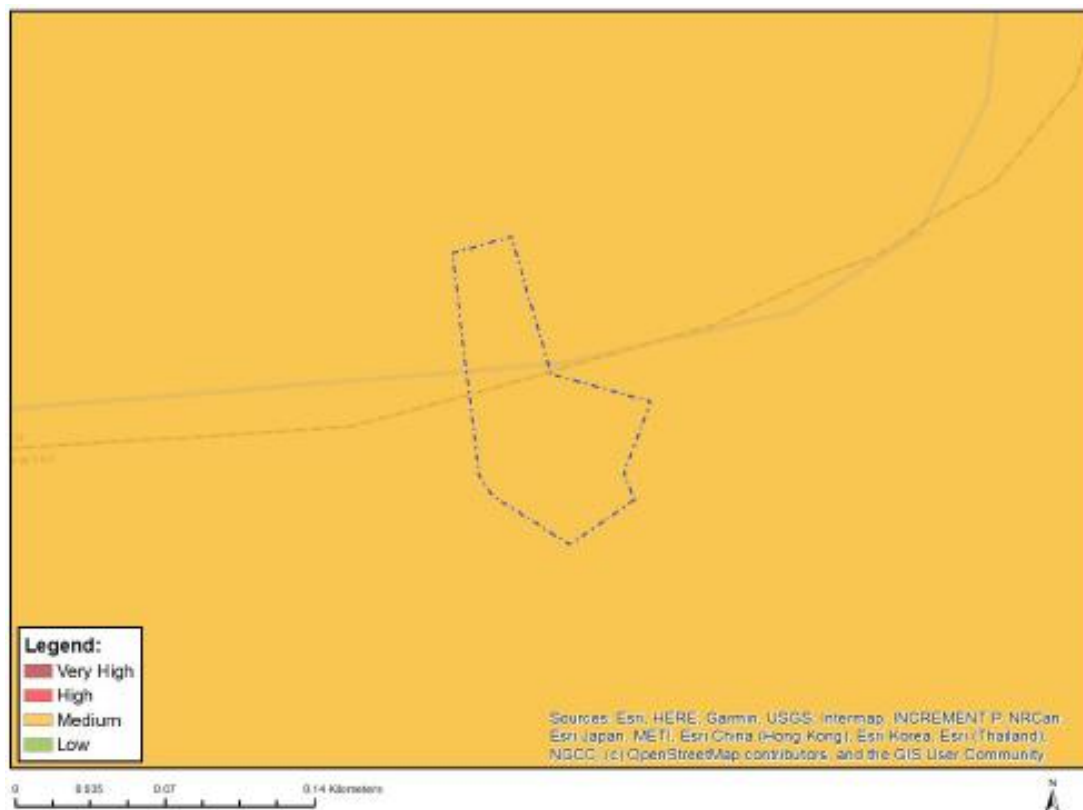
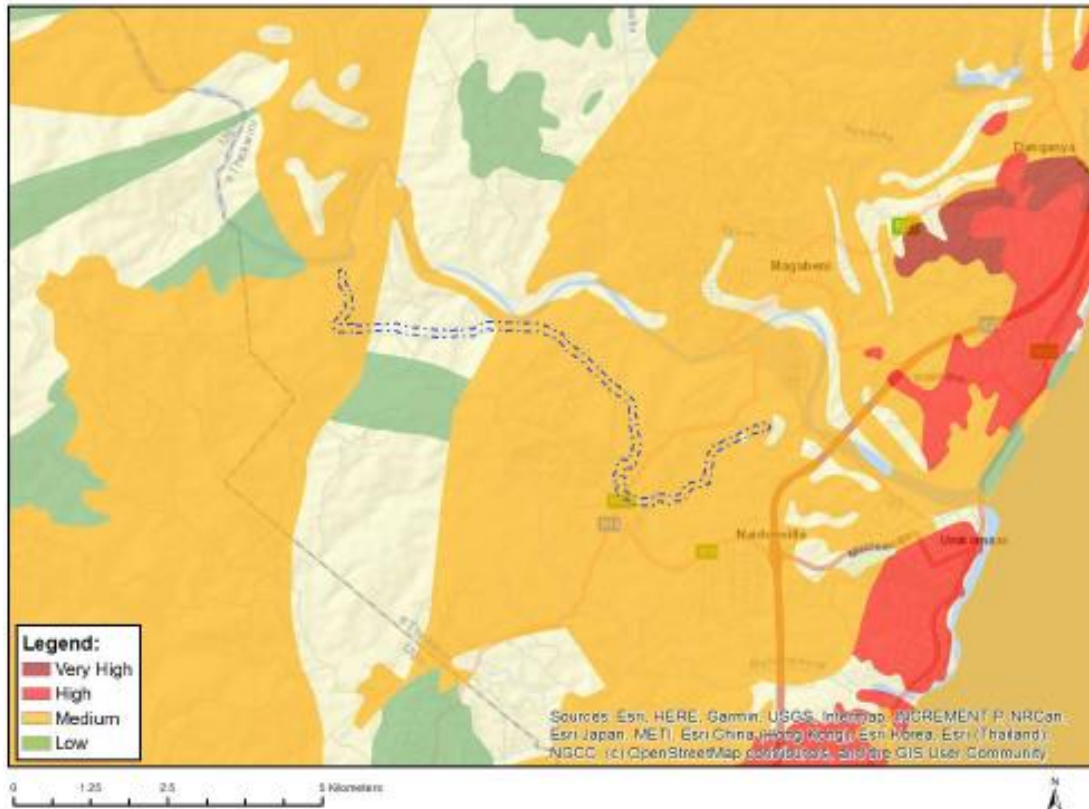


Figure 20: Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works



**Figure 21: Relative Palaeontology Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines**

#### 4.8 Civil Aviation Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Civil Aviation Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- Ngwadini System – pipeline: low sensitivity (Figure 22).
- Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: high sensitivity due to dangerous and restricted airspace (Figure 23).
- Goodenough System – pipelines: high sensitivity due to dangerous and restricted airspace (Figure 24).

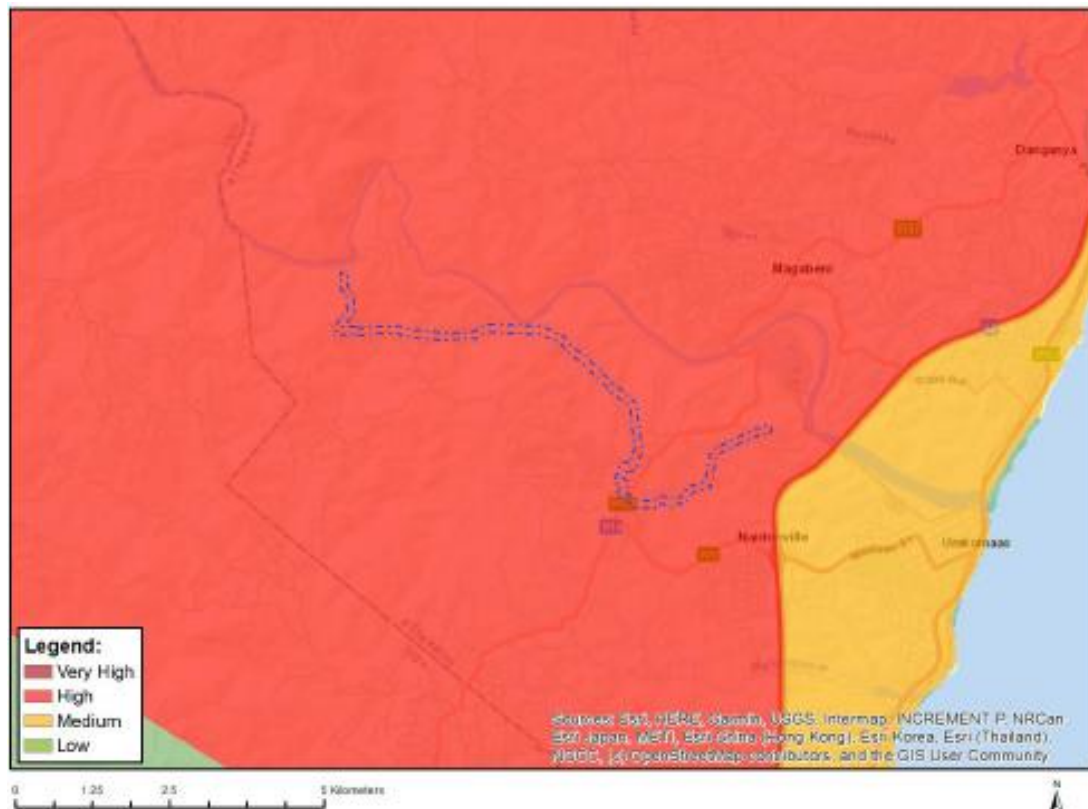
The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments on the draft BAR.



Figure 22: Relative Civil Aviation Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline



Figure 23: Relative Civil Aviation Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works



**Figure 24: Relative Civil Aviation Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines**

## 4.9 Defense Theme

The sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Defense Theme, as determined by the Screening Tool, is as follows:

- Ngwadini System – pipeline: low sensitivity (Figure 25).
- Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works: low sensitivity (Figure 26).
- Goodenough System – pipelines: low sensitivity (Figure 27).

Upon interrogation of the surrounding environment, no evidence was found of any military or defence operations or installations. The site verification thus supports the findings of the Screening Tool of low sensitivity for this theme.



Figure 25: Relative Defense Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Ngwadini System – pipeline

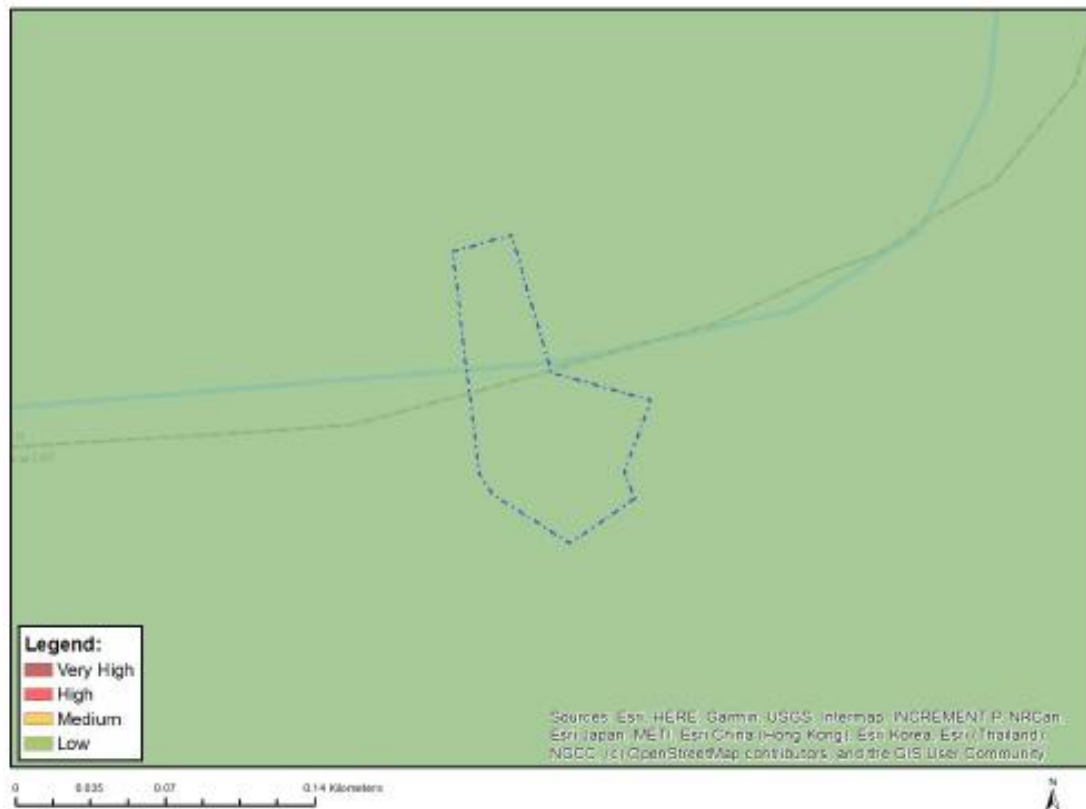


Figure 26: Relative Defense Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – weir and abstraction works

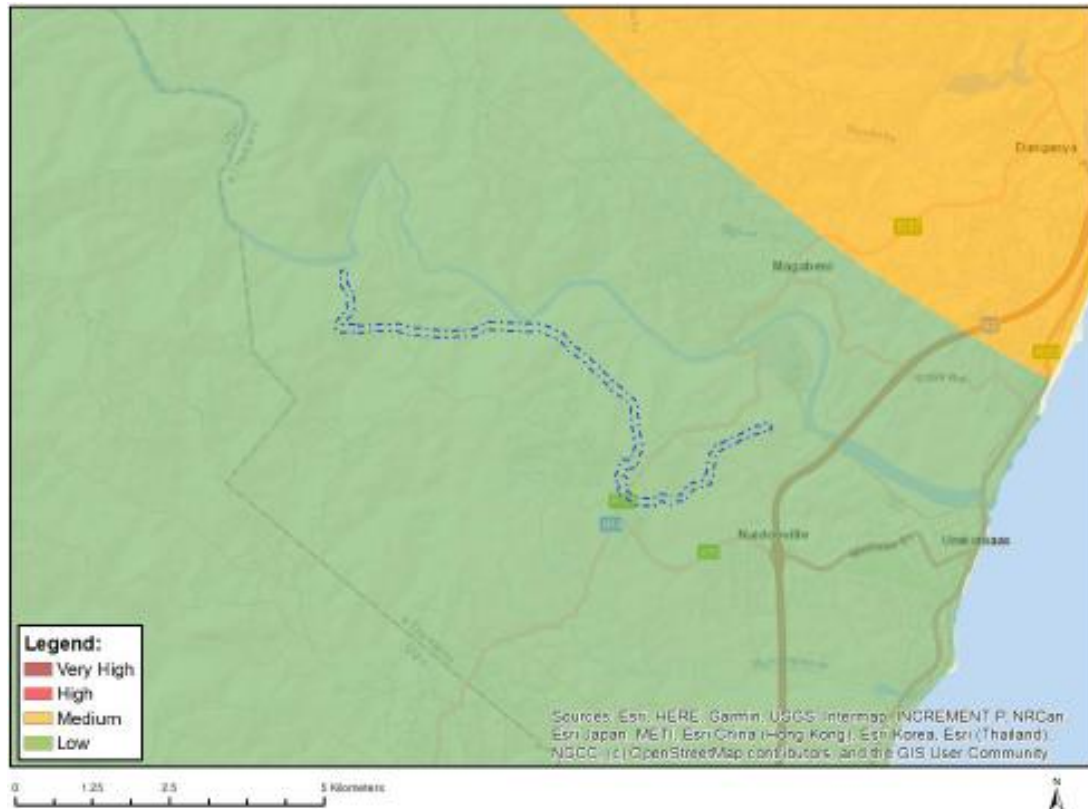


Figure 27: Relative Defense Theme Sensitivity (Screening Tool) for Goodenough System – pipelines

#### 4.10 Specialist Studies Triggered

Table 4 below lists the specialist studies that were identified in the Screening Report relevant to the LUBWSS project components and notes the relevance of these studies to the project following SSV.

Table 4: Relevance of specialist studies identified in the Screening Report based on SSV

No.	Specialist Study identified in Screening Report	Relevance to the Project following SSV
1.	<b>Agricultural Impact Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Agricultural Theme range from high to medium.</p> <p>The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are contested, based on the observations of the Agricultural Specialist. Hence, this study was not undertaken.</p>
2.	<b>Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the LUBWSS project components occur in area of low sensitivity in terms of the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme.</p> <p>According to the Heritage Specialist, no heritage resources of significance occur within the direct footprint of the proposed Goodenough project area. Nonetheless, a Phase 1 Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken for the project in accordance with Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999). Provision is made in the EMP for a chance finds protocol for heritage resources.</p>
3.	<b>Palaeontology Impact Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the sensitivity of the LUBWSS project areas in terms of the Palaeontology Theme range from medium to low.</p>

No.	Specialist Study identified in Screening Report	Relevance to the Project following SSV
		Provision is made in the EMPr for a chance finds protocol for fossils.
4.	<b>Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the LUBWSS project components occur in areas of very high sensitivity in terms of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme.</p> <p>The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are supported, based on the observations of the Terrestrial Ecologist. A Terrestrial Ecological Survey was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.</p>
5.	<b>Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the LUBWSS project components occur in areas of very high sensitivity in terms of the Aquatic Biodiversity Theme.</p> <p>The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are supported, based on the observations of the Aquatic Ecologist. An Aquatic and Wetland Baseline and Impact Assessment was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.</p>
6.	<b>Geotechnical Assessment</b>	Geotechnical Assessments have been undertaken to inform the detail design stage of the project.
7.	<b>Socio-Economic Assessment</b>	Based on the nature of the Project and its potential impacts, a Socio-Economic Assessment was undertaken and the findings are included in the BAR.
8.	<b>Plant Species Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the LUBWSS project components occur in areas of medium sensitivity in terms of the Plant Species Theme.</p> <p>The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are supported, based on the observations of the Terrestrial Ecologist. A Terrestrial Ecological Survey was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.</p>
9.	<b>Animal Species Assessment</b>	<p>According to the Screening Tool, the LUBWSS project components occur in areas of medium to high sensitivity in terms of the Animal Species Theme.</p> <p>The sensitivity ratings assigned by the Screening Tool are supported, based on the observations of the Terrestrial Ecologist. A Terrestrial Ecological Survey was undertaken for the project and the findings are included in the BAR.</p>