

DETAILS OF SPECIALIST AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF REGULATIONS 12 AND 13 OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 AS AMENDED.

File Reference Number:

NEAS Reference Number:

Date Received:

(For official use only)

Application for environmental authorization in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Amendments to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014. This form is valid as of 6 January 2021.

PROJECT TITLE

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OAKWOOD CHICKEN BROILER HOUSES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF POULTRY WITHIN AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, AMATHOLE DISTRICT, EASTERN CAPE

SPECIALIST ¹

Contact person:

Postal address:

Postal code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Professional affiliation(s) (if any)

GroundTruth

Steven Ellery

9 Quarry Road, Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

3245

Cell:

071 797 9016

033 343 2229

Fax:

n/a

steven@groundtruth.co.za

SACNASP (Reg. No. 132408)

Project Consultant:	Indwe Environmental Consulting		
Contact person:	Megan Hugo (Registered EAP- EAPASA No. 2019/1530)		
Postal address:	2 Ayr Place, Bonnie Doon, East London		
Postal code:	5247	Cell:	082 259 3981
Telephone:	043 555 0656	Fax:	n/a
E-mail:	megan@indwecon.co.za		

4.2 The SPECIALIST

I, **Steven Ellery**, declare that –

General declaration:

- I act as the independent Specialist in this application
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in regulation 8 of the regulations when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I have no, and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the competent authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the competent authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the competent authority;
- I will ensure that information containing all relevant facts in respect of the application is distributed or made available to interested and affected parties and the public and that participation by interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all interested and affected parties will be provided with a reasonable opportunity to participate and to provide comments on documents that are produced to support the application;
- I will ensure that the comments of all interested and affected parties are considered and recorded in reports that are submitted to the competent authority in respect of the application, provided that comments that are made by interested and affected parties in respect of a final report that will be submitted to the competent authority may be attached to the report without further amendment to the report;
- I will keep a register of all interested and affected parties that participated in a public participation process; and
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the application, whether such information is favourable to the applicant or not
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct;
- will perform all other obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the Regulations; and

- I realise that a false declaration is an offence and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

Disclosure of Vested Interest (delete whichever is not applicable)

- I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Amendments to Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- I have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding, such vested interest being:

Sebban
Signature of the specialist:

GroundTruth

Name of company:

25 July 2025

Date:

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths:

Wahl

25 July 2025

Date:

Admin Office - Rhodes University

Designation:

¹ Curriculum Vitae (CV) attached

Official stamp (below).

I certify that before administering the Oath affirmation I asked the deponent the following questions which were answered
a) Do you know and understand the contents of this declaration?
b) Do you have any objection to taking the prescribed oath?
c) Do you consider the prescribed oath to be binding on your conscience?
I further certify that the deponent has acknowledged that he/she knows and understands the contents of the deponent's signature/mark placed thereon in my presence.
Date: 25/7/2025 Signature: Wahl
LEE-ANNE ADELE VENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Commissioner of Oaths, Sarah Baartman District
Rhodes University, Drostdy Road, Makhanda, 6139

LEE-ANNE ADELE VENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Commissioner of Oaths, Sarah Baartman District
Rhodes University, Drostdy Road
Makhanda, 6139

Annexure 1

CV

Appendix 5

CV of the specialist.



Curriculum Vitae – Steven Ellery

Personal Details:

Name: Steven Ellery
Profession: Wetland Specialist
Date of Birth: 01 October 1993
Marital Status: Single
Nationality: South African

Key Qualifications:

Involvement in a variety of projects over eight years ranging from:

- Wetland rehabilitation implementation support as an ecologist;
- Compliance related projects requiring sound knowledge and understanding of The National Water Act and The National Environmental Management Act;
- Wetland and riparian rehabilitation planning;
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) surveys and photography;
- IFC/IUCN compliant environmental and social impact assessment reporting;
- Nature based solution and ecological infrastructure conceptualisation and design
- Organisation and teaching of wetland and aquatic related courses;
- Citizen science water resource monitoring training;
- Monitoring and evaluating wetland rehabilitation interventions;
- Compilation of monitoring reports;
- Created wetland design and implementation for wastewater treatment purposes;
- Infield delineation of wetland and riparian habitats;
- Desktop mapping and identification of freshwater ecosystems;
- Assessing impacts on wetland ecosystems and calculating functional equivalents for offset/mitigation requirements;
- Remote sensing and imagery generation tools (Maps Made Easy, DroneDeploy, DJIFly, AgiSoft)
- Geographic Information Systems (QGIS, GRASS, MobileMapper, R); and
- Working in Microsoft Project (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook etc.)

Education and Training:

- 2015 B.Sc. Triple Major (Anthropology, Botany and Environmental Science) – Rhodes University
- 2016 B.Sc. Double Honours (Botany and Environmental Science) – Rhodes University

- 2017 Tools for Wetland Assessment Course – Hosted by Fred Ellery at Rhodes University
- 2018 M.Sc. in Geography specialising in geomorphology and geochemistry – Rhodes University
- 2019 Soils Classification and Land Potential Course at Cedara College of Agriculture
- 2022 Remote Pilots License (RPL) Training – Cortac
- 2024 Remote Pilots License (RPL) Training - HeliCam

Professional Memberships:

- Member – Society of Wetland Scientists
- Member – South African Wetland Society (Board Member 2022-2025)
- Professional Natural Scientist (Pr.Sci.Nat) in Ecological Science – The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (Reg. No. 132408)

Experience Record:

2018 to present: GroundTruth – Water, Wetlands and Environmental Engineering Consultants.

Wetland specialist with input into various projects including wetland delineation and assessment, vegetation monitoring, wetland rehabilitation planning and wetland rehabilitation monitoring and evaluation.

2012 to 2016: Rhodes University

Research assistant on multiple research projects where roles included infield data collection, data processing, data analysis and report writing.

Countries Worked in:

South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho, Nigeria

Examples of Recent and Current Projects:

- Wetland ecologist on the rehabilitation implementation support team at Exxaro Belfast, responsible for bi-monthly progress reports, onsite ecological support and ensuring the wetland rehabilitation was carried out according to the rehabilitation plan
- Project lead and primary wetlander on the Mondi Wetlands project, carrying out long term wetland monitoring and making management recommendations for improved wetland management across Mondi landholdings
- Wetland ecologist on the Total Energies scoping study in Palma, Mozambique, responsible for the compilation of a long-term wetland monitoring and management plan
- Wetland ecologist on the rehabilitation implementation support team at Exxaro Grootegeeluk, responsible for bi-monthly progress reports, onsite ecological support, UAV monitoring and ensuring the wetland creation was carried out according to the creation plan
- Wetland ecologist and GIS specialist on the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) flood alleviation and climate adaptation project in the Zambezi, Limpopo and Bons Sinias estuaries.
- Primary wetlander on the Working for Wetlands Strategic Plan for the province of KwaZulu-Natal
- Project manager, facilitator and presenter on the SAQA accredited Tools for Wetland Assessment Short Course hosted by GroundTruth, Rhodes University, Water Research Commission and Verdant Environmental
- Primary wetlander in KZN for the South African National Biodiversity Institute's Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security field validation project, responsible for the

writing, refinement and testing of a new rapid wetland assessment technique and for field validating modelled wetland condition data

- Project manager and primary wetlander on the uMngeni-uThukela Water Baynespruit and iXopo wetland rehabilitation planning projects, responsible for the creation and compilation of wetland rehabilitation plans and long term monitoring and maintenance plans
- Project manager and primary wetland ecologist responsible for the remapping and infield verification of all freshwater ecosystems across Mondi's 255 000ha landholdings
- Project manager, facilitator and presenter on the SACANASP accredited Introduction to Wetland Assessment Short Course hosted by GroundTruth
- Project lead on the Fulbright Specialist Exchange with North Dakota State University and UKZN with a focus on creating a model to predict the pollutant assimilation capacity of natural in-situ wetlands
- Facilitator and presenter at the AfriAlliance Ubuntu Action Group: Upscaling of Citizen Science Tools for Network and Capacity Building in SADC at the AFRESH II workshop
- Wetland ecologist responsible for compiling the wetland reports and the novel 'integration' methodology for the Upper Orange Reserve Study for the Department of Water and Sanitation
- Wetland ecologist partially responsible for compiling the wetland reports and the novel 'integration' methodology for the Fish/Keiskamma-Tsitsikamma Reserve Study for the Department of Water and Sanitation
- Delineation, assessment and rehabilitation planning for Exxaro Grootegeeluk wetland offset study
- Wetland ecologist responsible for managing the Free State Working for Wetlands rehabilitation planning projects for the 2020-2022 rehabilitation cycle.
- Wetland ecologist responsible for compiling the iSimangaliso Working for Wetlands rehabilitation plan for the 2014-2019 rehabilitation cycle.
- Delineation, assessment, created wetland design and rehabilitation planning for Mountain Valley created wetland project

Volunteer Work:

- South African Wetland Society trustee (2022-current) – Head of the Communications and Information portfolio, responsible for the initiation and running of the new SAWS Webinar series that started in 2023, maintenance of the SAWS website and the initiation and running of the SAWS blog page.
- Friends of Beacon Hill trustee (2021-current) – responsible for bi-annual UAV monitoring of the grassland and leading alien invasive clearing parties.
- Co-founder of the Hilton Rail Trail organisation and parent NPC (2022-current) – Board member on the Earth and Art NPC, project lead and head strategist on the Hilton Rail Trail project, responsible for leading a team of 11 to implement alien plant clearing, indigenous tree planting and trail creation/maintenance along the Rail Trail.
- Co-supervising a Masters student at UKZN working on completing a feasibility study for the use of UAV technology for wetland monitoring and management
- Co-supervising a Honours student at UKZN working on the pollutant assimilation capacity of rehabilitated wetlands in KwaZulu-Natal
- Mentor to three young wetland professionals (currently) – with a history of mentorship over the last two years

Publications and Presentations:

- Ellery S, Ellery WN, Tsikos H, Dunlevey J. 2024. Depression wetland formation by redox-driven iron and silica cycling. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* 32, 191-206.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11273-023-09968-7>
- Ellery S. 2017 The geochemical origin and evolution of depression wetlands on the African Erosion Surface. Presentation at the National Wetland Indaba in Port Edward, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.
- Ellery S. 2018 The geochemical origin and evolution of depression wetlands on the African Erosion Surface. Presentation at the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, United States of America.
- Ellery S, Harvey T, Cowden C, Pike T, Dale T. 2022. Wetland rehabilitation as a collaborative, adaptive and iterative process. Presentation at the National Wetlands Indaba in Golden Gate, Free State, South Africa.
- Ellery S, Harvey T, Cowden C, Pike T, Dale T. 2023. Wetland rehabilitation as a collaborative, adaptive and iterative process. Presentation at the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington, United States of America.
- Eggers F, Ellery S, Cowden C, Pike T. 2023. Re-creating non-perennial pans in semi-arid conditions using substrate from intact pans. Presentation at the Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting in Spokane, Washington, United States of America.



herewith certifies that

Steven Ellery

Registration Number: 132408

is a registered scientist

in terms of section 20(3) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003
(Act 27 of 2003)

in the following field(s) of practice (Schedule 1 of the Act)

Ecological Science (Professional Natural Scientist)

Effective **7 July 2021**

Expires **31 March 2026**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Neph'.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Erasmus'.

Chief Executive Officer

