

PART A: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERTAKING AN INITIAL SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION WHERE NO SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED

1. SCOPE

These requirements must be applied when undertaking an Initial Site Sensitivity Verification for a site selected on the national web based environmental screening tool for which no specific assessment protocol related to any theme has been identified. The purpose of the Initial Site Sensitivity Verification is to confirm or dispute the current use of the land and the potential environmental sensitivity of the site as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool for the specific environmental theme being considered.

The national web based environmental screening tool can be accessed at:

<https://screening.environment.gov.za/screeningtool>

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION

2.1 The Initial Site Sensitivity Verification must be undertaken by an environmental assessment practitioner or a registered specialist with expertise in the relevant environmental theme being considered.

2.2 The Initial Site Sensitivity Verification must be undertaken through the use of:

- (a) a desk top analysis, using satellite imagery; and
- (b) a preliminary on-site inspection to identify if there are any discrepancies with the current use of land and environmental status quo versus the environmental sensitivity as identified on the national web based environmental screening tool, such as new developments, infrastructure, indigenous/pristine vegetation, etc.

2.3 The outcome of the Initial Site Sensitivity Verification must be recorded in the form of a report that-

- (a) confirms or disputes the current use of the land and environmental sensitivity as identified by the national web based environmental screening tool;
- (b) contains a motivation and evidence (e.g. photographs) of either the verified or different use of the land and environmental sensitivity; and
- (c) is submitted together with the relevant reports prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

As no specific assessment protocol has been prescribed, the required level of assessment must be based on the findings of the Initial Site Sensitivity Verification and must comply with Appendix 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations promulgated under sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (The Act), where a specialist assessment is required.