

Stephen Burton, Pr. Sci. Nat.

Principal Consultant: Ecology and Biodiversity

Stephen is an ecologist with fields of interest in fauna, and flora. He has undertaken numerous environmental delineations and functional assessments, faunal assessments, offset and rehabilitation assessments and audits. He has undertaken terrestrial biodiversity assessments and has authored critical habitat assessments, ecosystem services assessments, biodiversity management plans and biodiversity action plans for a variety of projects, across multiple sectors.

He has extensive experience in desert environments across Africa (Mali, Ethiopia, Botswana, and Egypt) and recent experience undertaking biodiversity studies in Namibia.

Stephen also has extensive experience in environmental and social impact assessment, water use licensing, auditing and due diligence investigations. In his 17-year career he has been the project manager for large scale environmental impact assessment within a variety of sectors, but focused on renewable energy developments (wind, solar and hydro), infrastructure (roads, pipelines, power lines), commercial developments (housing and industrial sites) and mining. He has managed multidisciplinary teams to deliver projects to IFC standards.



EXPERIENCE: 17+ years environmental and biodiversity consulting across Africa.

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EDUCATION

- MSc. Zoology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, RSA, 2007
- BSc Hons. Zoology, University of Natal, RSA, 2003
- BSc Zoology & Entomology, University of Natal, RSA, 2002

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS

- Pr.Sci.Nat. – Ecology

LANGUAGES

- English, native speaker
- Afrikaans
- isiZulu

FIELDS OF COMPETENCE

- Ecology – Terrestrial and wetland
- Biodiversity (Biodiversity Management Plans & Biodiversity Action Plans)
- GIS

- Due Diligence Investigations
- Environmental Risk Assessment and Mitigation

KEY PROJECTS

Baynes Hydropower Project, Kunene River, Namibia and Angola, 2021 – 2024

Biodiversity Specialist

At the request of the Angolan and Namibian Governments, ERM has been requested to update the ESIA and align to international lender standards. The original biodiversity studies are in excess of 10 years old and the client does not foresee additional studies. Hence, an extensive literature review is being undertaken to compile a draft Critical Habitat Assessment, update the baseline as far as possible with new data records and compile a framework Biodiversity Management Framework to address anticipated knowledge gaps as well as recent transboundary conservation developments in the area.

Microsoft Vlakfontein Data Centre, Due Diligence, South Africa (2024)

Biodiversity Specialist

Undertook the wetland delineation and biodiversity inputs for the Due Diligence as part of the risk assessment for Microsoft's go/no-go decision for the potential construction of the Vlakfontein Data Centre in Gauteng, South Africa.

Huatong Green Aluminium Project, ESIA, Angola (2024)

Biodiversity Specialist

Hebei Huatong is proposing the construction of a green aluminium project within Angola, and ERM is in the process of compiling the integrated biodiversity assessment for all terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity features within the site and adjacent land.

Fortescue Project Chui, ESIA, Kenya (2023-2024)

Biodiversity Specialist

Undertook the specialist impact assessment for the ESIA for the Fortescue Green Ammonia Plant in Nakuru County, Kenya.

Arise Burgesera Industrial Park, ESIA, Rwanda (2023-2024)

Wetland Specialist

Undertook the specialist wetland impact assessment for the ESIA for the Arise Burgesera Industrial Park development.

Calik Enerji Overhead Powerline, ESIA, Angola (2023-2024)

Biodiversity Specialist

Calik Enerji is proposing the construction of an overhead powerline to connect the various substations within Angola, and ERM is in the process of compiling the integrated biodiversity assessment for all terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity features along the proposed project alignment, and adjacent land.

Mopani Copper Mine Due Diligence, Zambia, 2023 – ongoing

Biodiversity Specialist

ERM are undertaking a due diligence review of an existing copper mine for a confidential client. This involves the review of all existing ESIA, BMP, BAP and monitoring reports, and an assessment of any gaps in the baseline reporting (IFC and local compliance) or ongoing monitoring.

Indorama ESIA, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 2022 – 2024

Biodiversity Specialist

Indorama intends to build the third train at their plant in Nigeria, and ERM is in the process of compiling the integrated biodiversity assessment for all terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity features across the existing site, and adjacent land.

KEY PROJECTS PRIOR TO JOINING ERM

Lumwana Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment, Barrick, Zambia, 2021-2022

Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment for the Residual Impact Assessment of the Lumwana Mining Rights Area.

Mogalakwena Platinum Mine Biodiversity Baseline, Anglo American, South Africa 2021 - 2022

Compilation of the Significant Biodiversity Features and Priority Ecosystem Services Baseline Report. The project involved the collection and collation of terrestrial and aquatic biomonitoring data for incorporation into the above reports.

Imvula Mine Wetland Offset Plan, Ixia Coal, South Africa, 2021

Creation of a Wetland Offset and Rehabilitation Plan for the integrated water use license application for the Imvula Mine.

Kazangula Bridge Monitoring, Kazangula, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia, 2021-2023

Biomonitoring of the receiving environment in the surrounds of the Kazangula Bridge construction area. The bridge spans Botswana, Namibia and Zambia, and included terrestrial and aquatic biomonitoring to determine the long-term impact of the implementation of the project.

Tshukudu Metals Biodiversity Assessments, Botswana, 2021 -2022

Compilation of an Ecosystem Services Assessment, as well as a Biodiversity Management Plan and a Biodiversity Action Plan to IFC PS6 standards.

Various DFC funded projects, Kenya, 2021-2022

Compilation of ESDD reports for a variety of developments (residential and commercial properties). We assessed the level of IFC compliance of projects applying for DFC funding. A full suite of social and biodiversity studies were assessed for IFC compliance for each project site.

Various DFC funded projects, Uganda, 2021-2022

Compilation of ESDD reports for a variety of developments (commercial properties). We assessed the level of IFC compliance of projects applying for DFC funding. A full suite of social and biodiversity studies were assessed for IFC compliance for each project site..

Kibali Mine Aquatic Biomonitoring, DRC, 2021-2022

Biomonitoring of the receiving environment in the surrounds of the Kibali Mining area and hydropower power plant.

North Mara Terrestrial, Wetland and Aquatic Assessments, Tanzania, 2022

Terrestrial, Wetland and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessments for the North Mara Mining Complex.