

## Ecological Walkdown for the 400kV Borutho – Nzhelele Powerline, Limpopo Province



**Prepared by:**

Mora Ecological Services (Pty) Ltd.

317 Albertus Street

La Montagne

Pretoria, Gauteng 0184

South Africa

**Prepared for:**

Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 6002 Halfway House

Midrand, Gauteng 1685

South Africa

Date: 30 July 2024



## Project Background

MORA Ecological Services ('MORA') has been appointed by the Zitholele Consulting (Pty) Ltd on behalf of ESKOM Holding SOC Limited ('ESKOM') to undertake an Ecological Walkdown of the proposed 400kV Borutho – Nzhelele Powerline. The powerline is approximately 250km long and links the existing Borutho 132kV Main Transmission Substation and the Nzhelele 132kV Switching Station in the Limpopo Province. The proposed powerline falls within the Mogalakwena, Blouberg, Molemole, Makhado and the Musina Local Municipality in Limpopo.

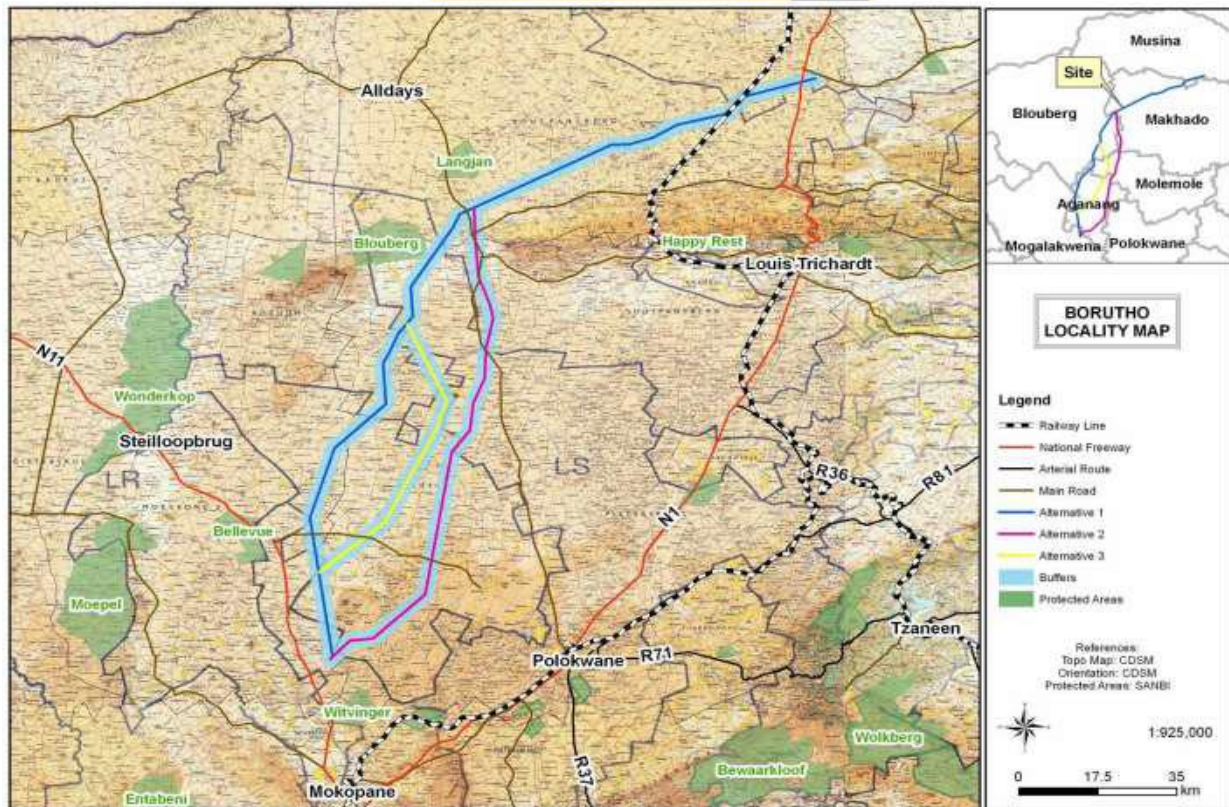


Figure 1: Locality map (Bredenkamp, G.J, 2012).

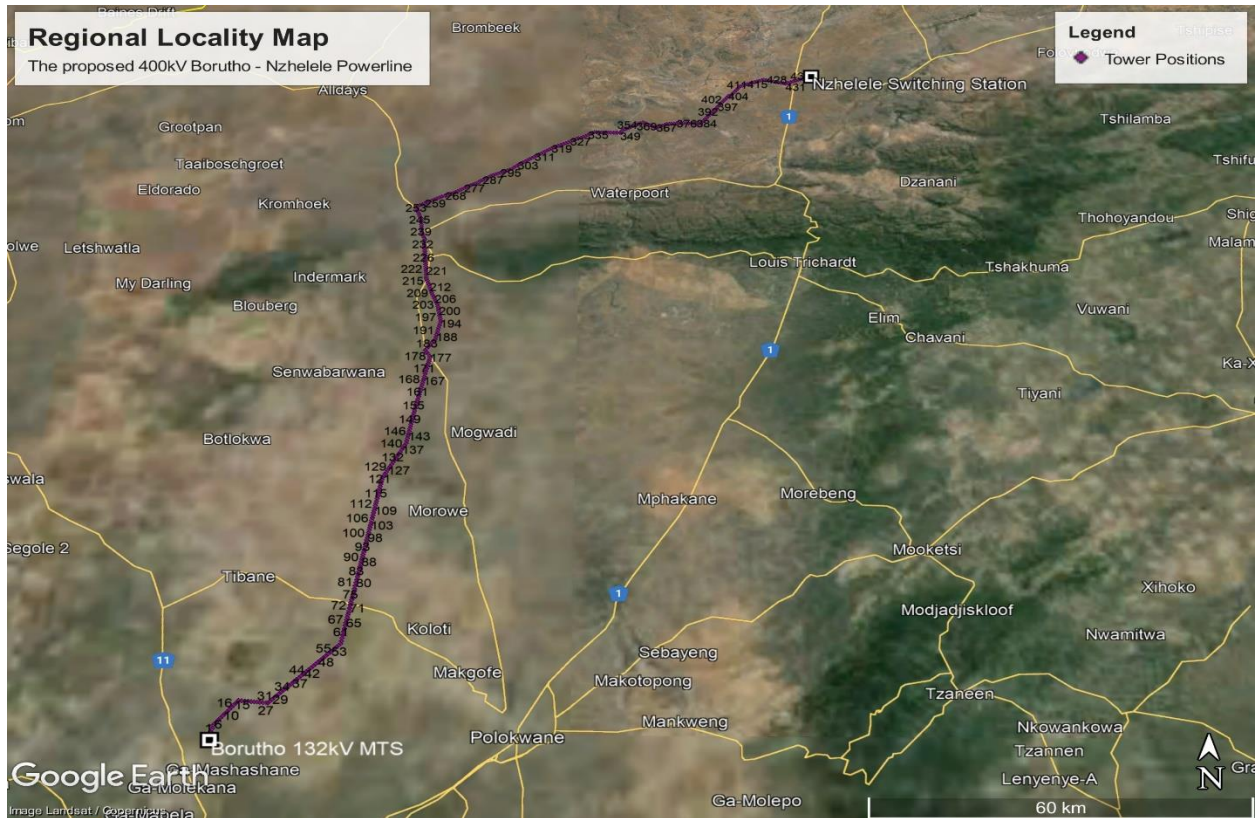


Figure 2: Locality map of the final route.

### Findings and Comparison

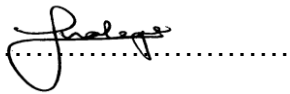
A Vegetation and Plant Diversity Assessment for the proposed powerline was undertaken in 2012 (Bredenkamp, G.J, 2012). From the findings of the assessment, it was revealed that the servitude area of the powerline falls within the Musina Mopane Bushveld and the Makhado Sweet Bushveld. The authors also made note of protected trees that were observed along the proposed corridors. As a result, an ecological walkdown of the powerline servitude area was undertaken from 3 – 12 April 2024 and 22 – 26 April 2024 by MORA Ecological Services. These surveys were undertaken within the wet season of the region which is considered an optimal season to identify and locate protected and listed species within the affected servitude area. Several tree species listed in terms of the National Forest Act of 1998 were identified. These include *Adansonia digitata*, *Acacia erioloba*, *Boscia albitrunca* and *Sclerocarya birrea subsp. caffra*. Therefore, a license in terms of in terms of Section 15(1) of the National Forest Act of 1998 as well as biodiversity permits in terms of the Transvaal Nature Conservation Ordinance Act will be required prior to these species being cut, disturbed or damaged at any of the tower positions where they have been identified.

July 2024

From a combination of desktop and site-based findings, the proposed powerline at towers 177 – 440 fall within the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve. Towers 155 – 177 located near the village of Ga-Manthata to the west of the R521 road, which links the towns Polokwane and Alldays fall within the Nora Ellis Nature Reserve, whereas Towers 341 – 348 fall within the Bergsig Private Nature Reserve. Furthermore, various sections of the proposed powerline fall within a Critical Biodiversity Area 2, and these include Towers 1 – 14 (near the Borutho 132kV Main Transmission Substation), Towers 94 – 99 (east of the Ga-Phago Village), Towers 236 – 241 (along the R521 near the Alldays Solar PV Facility), Towers 349 – 365, and Towers 389 – 401. From a terrestrial biodiversity perspective, it was observed that the majority of the tower positions are located very close to the protected trees. It is encouraged that other individual trees that are along the stringing path be avoided as far as possible. Where avoidance is inevitable, relevant tree permits will be required prior to site establishment in preparation for the construction.

Should you wish to confirm the contents of this letter, you can contact me at:

Yours Faithfully,



**Mokgatla Molepo:** Managing Director:

Mora Ecological Services Pty

Email: [info@moraecological.co.za](mailto:info@moraecological.co.za)

Cell.: 081 410 3763



**mora**  
ecological services  
(Pty)LTD