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Since the start of mining in the area there has been the concomitant need for the erection of housing. With the decommissioning of certain mines and the establishment of tourism in the area further residential/holiday developments have followed and will continue to do so. In the areas surrounding Kleinzee and Port Nolloth this development could pose a risk to the coastal strip of dunes where *B. macrops* occurs as can be seen in Figure 4.3 where residential development is taking place directly within *B. macrops* habitat in Port Nolloth. As with mining, residential development involves the complete transformation of the immediate natural habitat where buildings are erected. After construction the inhabitants of the residences will add a continued impact through their access to the area. These developments are therefore likely to become the next major threat to *B. macrops* habitat when the mines finally close down. If residential development is to continue in these areas it must be properly managed so as not to destroy remaining habitat. Developments must be buffered from the habitat and controlled in terms of access to sensitive areas and their associated impacts.



Figure 4.3. Human impact at the Port Nolloth study site, where construction is taking place in pristine *B. macrops* habitat.



#### 4.5.3 Distribution in Namibia

*B. macrops* is known to occur in both South Africa and Namibia, with very little known of its distribution in the latter. Currently the northern distribution of *B. macrops* is listed as reaching up to Lüderitz, in Namibia. However, to date there have been very few confirmed sightings. Of concern is the extensive habitat destruction due to mining activities, evidenced in available satellite imagery. It is essential that the status of *B. macrops* be investigated in this country if we are to achieve a realistic conservation target for the species.

#### 4.5.4 Revised IUCN Red Data Classification

*B. macrops* is currently listed as Vulnerable (VU) (Minter, *et al.*, 2004 (b)). This is based on a restricted distribution, with an area of occupancy of 501-2000 km<sup>2</sup>, extensive habitat loss, and a predicted population decline of more than 50% in the next 30 years (from 2004). The area of occupancy currently accepted in the RDB 2004 (Mucina *et al.*, 2006) has been estimated at 1239.48 km<sup>2</sup> based on the original distribution of Koiingnaas in the South, and 10km inland. If we accept that the actual distribution is from Kleinzee in the south up to 6km inland, then the results now suggest that the area of occupancy should be revised to 841.85 km<sup>2</sup>.

This represents 67.84% of the currently recognised area. However, it is highly unlikely that a viable population of frogs could survive within a mining site, unless part of the site encompasses some pristine ground. Analysis of the amount of habitat completely transformed by mining (no suitable habitat remaining) suggests that the actual area of occupancy remaining to *B. macrops* is in fact only 270.72 km<sup>2</sup>. In addition very little is known of the actual distribution in Namibia and the similar threats it faces. Thus, if the percentage of pristine habitat remaining in Namibia is less than or similar to South Africa, the total area of habitat remaining to *B. macrops* may be as little as 541 km<sup>2</sup>. It is therefore critical that the status of *B. macrops* be revised.

In light of this it is proposed that the conservation status of *B. macrops* should be elevated to that of Endangered (EN) based on; a restricted geographic

range (area of occupancy < 5000 km<sup>2</sup>), severely fragmented habitat, and a continuing decline in area, extent and quality of habitat.

#### 4.6 Conclusion

The results of this study were fairly conclusive in their rejection of the occurrence of *B. macrops* as far south as Skulpfontein and up to 10 km inland. The actual distribution was a maximum of 6 km inland and 2 km south of the town of Kleinzee.

The reasons for this restricted distribution seem to lie primarily at the door of historical misidentification and a lack of accurate reporting as well as anthropogenic disturbance. Factors were assessed which may shed some light on the reasons for *B. macrops* distribution ceasing south of the town of Kleinzee, when the habitat south of this point appears to be suitable, however no significant correlations could be identified.

There appears to be a slight correlation between the presence of *B. macrops* and aeolian sand deposits although this is no doubt combined with other habitat requirements. No trends were isolated from the soil analysis, due to the small sample size obtained for locations at which *B. macrops* was sampled.

*B. macrops* was found in two vegetation types, Richtersveld Coastal Duneveld (SKs 1) and Namaqualand Coastal Duneveld (SKs 8) (Mucina *et al.*, 2006). However, there were no obvious trends in the distribution of *B. macrops* within either of these two vegetation types, other than a superficial indication that SKs 1 may be a preferable vegetation type.

Habitat suitability south of Kleinzee appears to be adequate for colonisation by *B. macrops* but this has not occurred, which may indicate that there is some barrier to migration which is not readily observable.

Fog deposition along the coast may be implicated in the cessation of the distribution of *B. macrops* south of Kleinzee however there is insufficient data to derive any conclusions presently. Further research in these areas aimed at investigating these relationships would be useful.

The genetics of three disparate populations of *B. macrops* were analysed for differences in a fragment of the 16S gene, in order to examine their relatedness. It was clear from this analysis that there are no genetic differences between these populations. This could be problematic for the survival of the species as the lack of genetic plasticity in the genome may limit its ability to survive if placed under stress by habitat loss and fragmentation.

It is abundantly clear that large-scale transformation of the landscape has taken place throughout much of what was once suitable *B. macrops* habitat. This is almost solely due to strip mining for alluvial diamonds. The area of occupancy of *B. macrops* within South Africa is now predicted to be as little as 270.72 km<sup>2</sup>. This represents a 78.16% reduction in what was believed to be available to the species. In addition the overall distribution of *B. macrops* in southern Africa may be limited to approximately 541 km<sup>2</sup>. Thus the conservation status of this species should be revised and in the opinion of the author elevated to Endangered (EN).

The extant populations must be provided with the protection necessary to reduce the threat of extinction, specifically in areas where there still remain viable populations, such as McDougall's Bay. Additional studies need to be conducted to determine the viability of the Kleinzee population, and whether establishing populations of *B. macrops* south of this point, through facilitating the colonisation of apparently suitable areas, is necessary.

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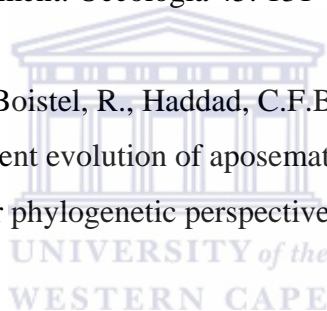
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## APPENDIX A: Proposed survey coordinates for the primary study site.

Proposed Point	North/South	East/West	Proposed Point	North/South	East/West
A1	S 29 41 00.0	E 17 03 15.0	B1	S 29 43 38.0	E 17 03 45.0
A2	S 29 41 00.0	E 17 04 30.0	B2	S 29 43 38.0	E 17 05 00.0
A3	S 29 41 00.0	E 17 05 45.0	B3	S 29 43 38.0	E 17 06 15.0
A4	S 29 41 00.0	E 17 07 00.0	B4	S 29 43 38.0	E 17 07 30.0
A5	S 29 41 00.0	E 17 08 15.0	B5	S 29 43 38.0	E 17 08 45.0
A6	S 29 41 00.0	E 17 09 30.0	B6	S 29 43 38.0	E 17 10 00.0
C1	S 29 46 16.0	E 17 04 15.0	D1	S 29 48 54.0	E 17 04 45.0
C2	S 29 46 16.0	E 17 05 30.0	D2	S 29 48 54.0	E 17 06 00.0
C3	S 29 46 16.0	E 17 06 45.0	D3	S 29 48 54.0	E 17 07 15.0
C4	S 29 46 16.0	E 17 08 00.0	D4	S 29 48 54.0	E 17 08 30.0
C5	S 29 46 16.0	E 17 09 15.0	D5	S 29 48 54.0	E 17 09 45.0
C6	S 29 46 16.0	E 17 10 30.0	D6	S 29 48 54.0	E 17 11 00.0
E1	S 29 51 32.0	E 17 06 00.0	F1	S 29 54 10.0	E 17 06 45.0
E2	S 29 51 32.0	E 17 07 15.0	F2	S 29 54 10.0	E 17 08 00.0
E3	S 29 51 32.0	E 17 08 30.0	F3	S 29 54 10.0	E 17 09 15.0
E4	S 29 51 32.0	E 17 09 45.0	F4	S 29 54 10.0	E 17 10 30.0
E5	S 29 51 32.0	E 17 11 00.0	F5	S 29 54 10.0	E 17 11 45.0
E6	S 29 51 32.0	E 17 12 15.0	F6	S 29 54 10.0	E 17 13 00.0
G1	S 29 56 48.0	E 17 08 15.0	H1	S 29 59 26.0	E 17 09 30.0
G2	S 29 56 48.0	E 17 09 30.0	H2	S 29 59 26.0	E 17 10 45.0
G3	S 29 56 48.0	E 17 10 45.0	H3	S 29 59 26.0	E 17 12 00.0
G4	S 29 56 48.0	E 17 12 00.0	H4	S 29 59 26.0	E 17 13 15.0
G5	S 29 56 48.0	E 17 13 15.0	H5	S 29 59 26.0	E 17 14 30.0
G6	S 29 56 48.0	E 17 14 30.0	H6	S 29 59 26.0	E 17 15 45.0
I1	S 30 02 04.0	E 17 10 00.0	J1	S30 04 42.0	E17 11 00.0
I2	S 30 02 04.0	E 17 11 15.0	J2	S30 04 42.0	E17 12 15.0
I3	S 30 02 04.0	E 17 12 30.0	J3	S30 04 42.0	E17 13 30.0
I4	S 30 02 04.0	E 17 13 45.0	J4	S30 04 42.0	E17 14 45.0
I5	S 30 02 04.0	E 17 15 00.0	J5	S30 04 42.0	E17 16 00.0
I6	S 30 02 04.0	E 17 16 15.0	J6	S30 04 42.0	E17 17 15.0
K1	S30 07 20.0	E17 11 30.0	L1	S30 09 58.0	E17 13 15.0
K2	S30 07 20.0	E17 12 45.0	L2	S30 09 58.0	E17 14 30.0
K3	S30 07 20.0	E17 14 00.0	L3	S30 09 58.0	E17 15 45.0
K4	S30 07 20.0	E17 15 15.0	L4	S30 09 58.0	E17 17 00.0
K5	S30 07 20.0	E17 16 30.0	L5	S30 09 58.0	E17 18 15.0
K6	S30 07 20.0	E17 17 45.0	L6	S30 09 58.0	E17 19 30.0

APPENDIX B: Coordinates sampled within the primary study site once assumptions were adhered to. The initial letter relates to a transect ('A' directly south of Kleinzee, and 'B' 5 km south of 'A' etc), two letter before a number indicates a location between two transects. The number relates to the point along the transect ('1' being at the coast, '2' approximately 2 km from the coast etc). The second letter indicated multiple sample sites within close proximity to another.

Point	North/South	East/West	Elevation (m)	Distance from Coast (m)	Trap Hours	Person Minutes
A1	29 41 01.6	17 03 16.1	9	131	48	80
AB1	29 42 24.3	17 03 14.3	15	107	0	180
AB2	29 42 32.1	17 03 31.8	12	259	0	390
B1/A	29 43 21.7	17 03 38.2	8	133	24	260
B1/B	29 43 22.1	17 03 38.4	26	140	24	270
B2	29 44 02.4	17 04 45.2	64	2000	24	60
B3	29 43 32.5	17 06 22.4	96	4500	24	40
B4	29 43 36.8	17 07 49.3	97	6900	24	60
B5	29 43 38.2	17 08 54.3	116	8600	24	60
C1/A	29 46 26.3	17 04 15.3	9	236	24	150
C1/B	29 46 15.2	17 04 10.0	12	116	24	105
C2/A	29 45 55.2	17 05 29.9	150	2800	24	0
C2/B	29 45 56.6	17 05 30.0	150	2800	24	0
C3/A	29 46 20.7	17 06 47.1	132	4250	24	0
C3/B	29 46 21.6	17 06 47.3	98	4250	24	0
D1/A	29 49 11.2	17 04 41.8	2	93	24	30
D1/B	29 49 10.9	17 04 47.5	6	152	24	0
D1/C	29 49 18.4	17 04 54.8	16	270	24	0
D2	29 49 17.7	17 06 11.7	49	2300	24	60
D5/A	29 49 05.0	17 09 36.5	148	8000	24	0
D5/B	29 49 05.9	17 09 37.6	151	8000	24	0
E1/A	29 51 25.0	17 05 48.2	7	118	24	60
E1/B	29 51 26.6	17 05 54.4	11	123	24	60
E1/C	29 51 43.2	17 06 14.5	18	403	24	0
E2/A	29 51 45.1	17 06 37.4	27	1000	24	0
K1	30 07 59.4	17 11 54.2	20	30	0	240
L1	30 09 27.5	17 13 09.9	20	50	0	720

Appendix C: The genetic sequence for a fragment of the 16S gene of *B. macrops*, followed by the alignment of all eight specimens.

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1 CCCAGATCCA ACATCGAGGT CGTAAACCCA TTTGTCGATA GGGGCTCTTG AAATGGATTG
61 CGCTGTTATC CCCAGGGTAA CTAGGTTTCGT TGATCAAGAG GTTTGGGTCA AGAGATGTCA
121 TAATTATGAT CCTTTGGGGT GTGGCTCTTT GGTAAAGAATT TAATGTCCCTT TCAACGTGGA
181 GGTTTTGTTA TACTCCGTGG TCGCCCCAGC CGAAAACCTT GAGGTCATAG CTAGTATATT
241 TPGGGGTATT TTATTAAATA GTTGACTCTT AGTTTAAAGC TCCATGGGGT CTTTCTCGTCT
301 TATAGTTATA TCCCCGCTTC TTCACGGGGA GATCAGTTTA ACTGATTGAA GTTGGGAGAC
361 AGTATAACCC TCGTGGGGCC ATTCATACTG GTCTATATTT AGTAGACAAG TGATTACGCT
421 ACCTTCGCAC GGTTAGGGTA CCGCGGCCGT TGAATTAATC ACTGGGCAGG CTGGACCTCT
481 TATAAGGGTG CAAGAGGCGA TGTTTTTTGA

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