

N. DE HOOP VLEI GORGE

Field note N4. Die Mond

The De Hoop Vlei Gorge is situated in the middle of the Study Area. It contains the De Hoop Vlei, which has no outlet to the sea. It is separated from the sea by a ~2.5 km wide field of shifting dunes, which have been deposited over calcarenite ridges of the Waenhuiskrans Formation. (Figures 1 to 5).

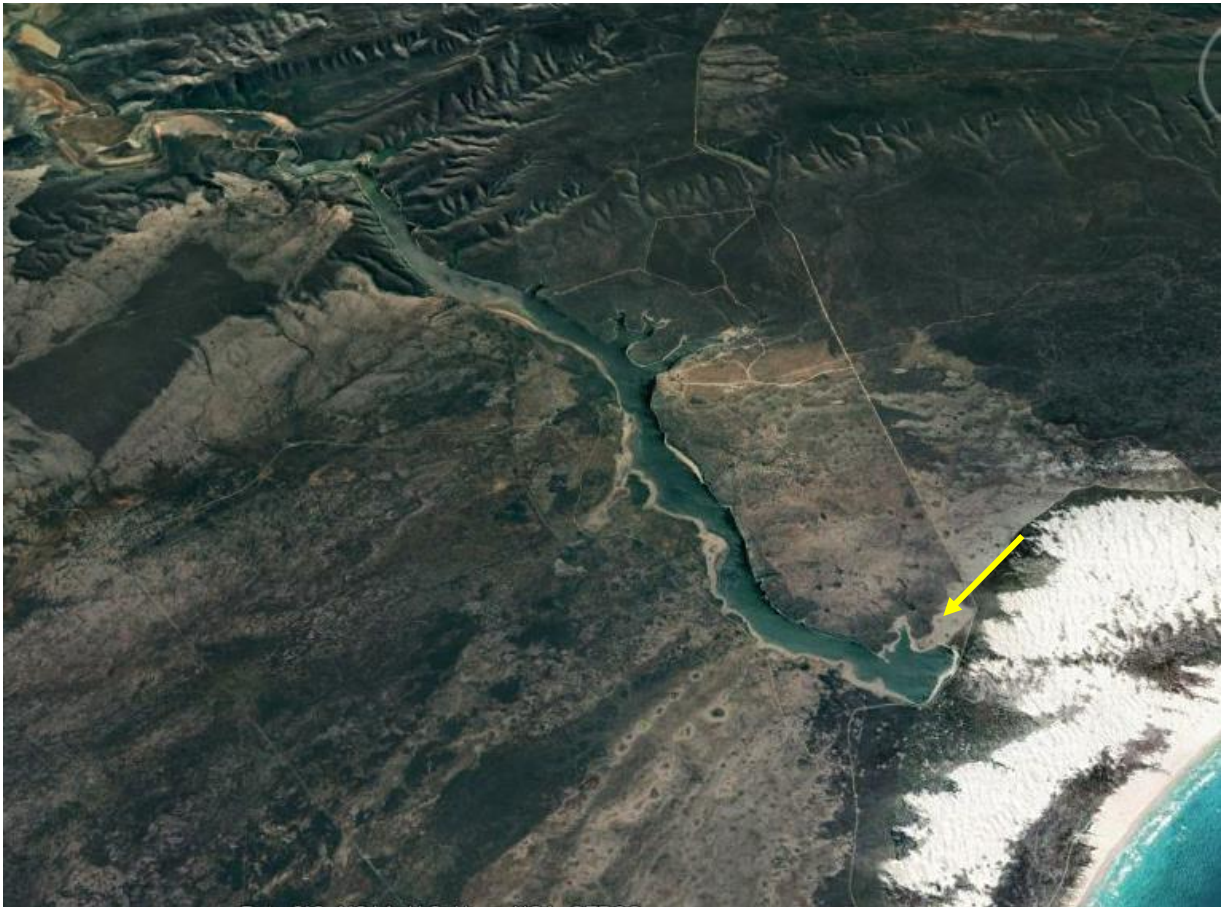


Figure 1. Satellite image of the De Hoop Vlei Gorge area. Arrow points to Die Mond.



Figure 2. Topography map of Die Mond.



Figure 3. Satellite image of Die Mond when the vlei level is high.



Figure 4. Satellite image of Die Mond when the vlei level is low.



Figure 5. View on the southeast shore of Die Mond.

The northeast extension of Die Mond, comprising several dolines, was named by the author the Die Mond Depression (Figure 6). (See Field Note N9a)



Figure 6. The Die Mond Depression. Top – vlei side; arrow points to the depression. Middle – inland side; the dolines are full. Bottom – a dry doline in the inland side of the depression.

The north sore of Die Mond is rocky



Figure 7. View to the northeast corner of Die Mond. Calcrete is capping the thinning-out De Hoop Vlei formation. Arrow points to the site shown in Figure 8.



Figure 8. The rocks on the north side of De Mond disappear under sand and bushes, at the northeast corner of Die Mond.

The northern part of the east shore of Die Mond is sandy and backed by dunes. The ruins of a road could be seen along it (Figures 9 and 10).



Figure 9. The northern, sandy section of the east shore. View to the west.



Figure 10. The northern, sandy section of the east shore. The ruins of a road are in the front and the dunes at the back.

The southern part of the east shore of Die Mond is rocky and backed by dunes (Figures 11 and 12).



Figure 11. The southern, rocky section of the east shore. Black arrow points to the old road; yellow arrow to the new road, which goes to Melkkamer; white arrow to the calcrete layer.



Figure 12. The southern, rocky section of the east shore. Black arrow points to the old road; white arrow to the calcrete outcrop.

The east shore becomes sandy again towards the west (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Top, middle and bottom - views of the east shore.

The south shore of Die Mond is nearly flat (Figures 14 and 15).



Figure 14. The shore on the south side of Die Mond.



Figure 15. The shore on the south side of Die Mond.

Further study of the Die Mond area may shed light on the drainage of the De Hoop Vlei.