

Purpose of a Background Information Document (BID)

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide Interested and Affected Parties (IAP's) with background information on the proposed project and introduce the Environmental Basic Assessment (BA) process to be followed. It also aims to (i) inform IAP's on how to participate in the BA, (ii) encourage responses to documents that will be distributed for review and (ii) encourage I&AP's to attend any public meetings.

1World Consultants have been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the Basic Assessment for the Proposed Madrassa An Noor Education Facility

Nature and Location of Activity

The development comprised the construction of the Madrassa An-Noor for the Blind facility which is located in Cedara. This facility will entail the construction of multiple buildings which include but not be limited to a Mosque, dormitories and multi-purpose areas.

The construction of this facility will be to cater for the education of the blind.



Westerly View of the Construction Site

Environmental Impact

The construction of the Madrassa An-Noor for the Blind facility is proposed within a private property viz. Plot 3 Cedara Road. The construction is within 5km of a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA (Doreen Clark Nature Reserve, Midmar Dam and Hilton College), hence the need for an Environmental Authorisation.

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended), a Basic Assessment will be required as the construction will be within a 5km radius to a protected area in terms of Activity Listing 3 (Figure 1). The construction involves, inter alia, the following listed activity, as per Listing Notice 3:

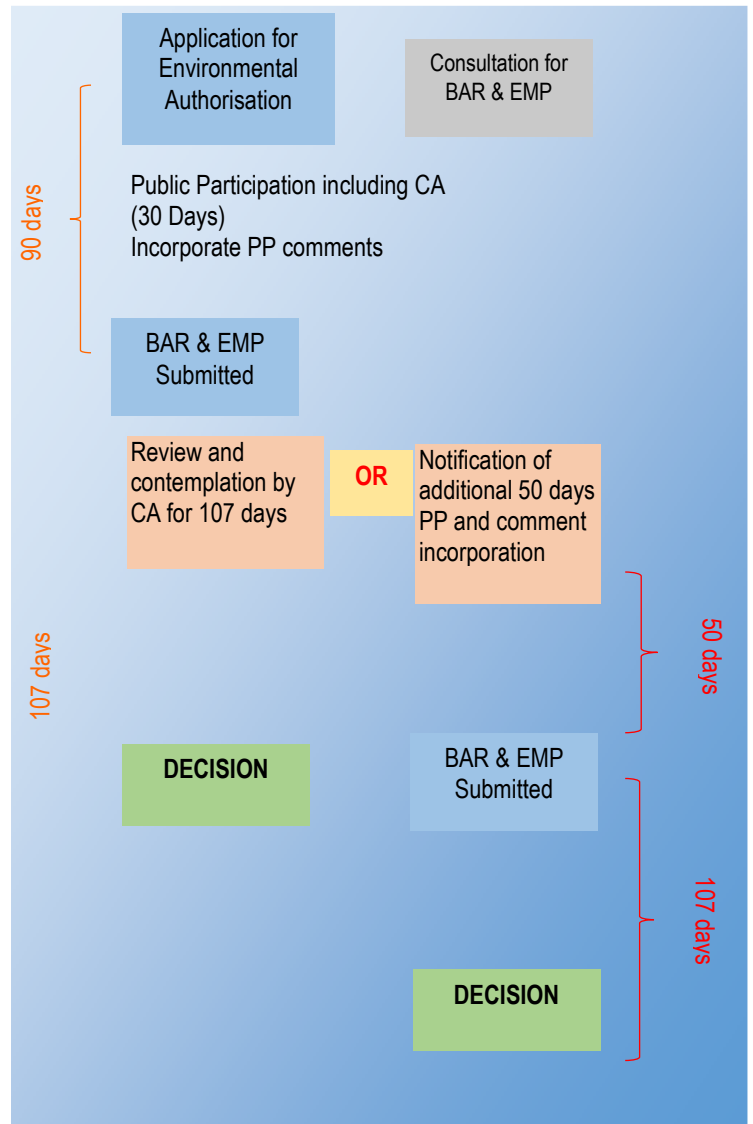
Activity 14 (xii)(d)(x)(aa): Any development of structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more to occur in KwaZulu-Natal: Outside urban areas in an area within 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA.

The Basic Assessment Process and Public Participation Process (PPP)

The primary aim of the Basic Assessment is to ensure that any potential environmental impacts that may occur, due to the construction and/or operation of the proposed development, are mitigated.

The main aspects of a Basic Assessment are:

- Investigate and gather information on the affected area,
- Describe the environment and how the development would fit in,
- Identify and involve potential I&AP's and stakeholders,
- Identify potential impacts,
- Investigate alternatives to the proposed development,
- Recommend mitigation measures and compile an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the construction and operational phases.



Mitigation Measures:

There are several risks associated with construction activities in 5km of a protected area in terms of NEMPAA. Initial mitigation measures include a minimal working footprint, site demarcation, demarcation of no-go areas, designated and demarcated site access routes, sediment control measures, spillage control measures, dust control measures, general construction control, staff training and site rehabilitation post construction. A monitoring and auditing plan for the construction and operational phases of the facility will be formulated to ensure that the mitigation measures, detailed in the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) are followed.

Elements of the PPP

The public will be invited to register as an I&AP and take part in the PPP through:

- Media Notices placed in newspapers.
- Distribution of this Background Information Document (BID)
- Site notice boards
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public meeting (if necessary)
- Submission of comments on the media notices, BID and Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR)

Note: All information is available on request and registered I&AP's will be included in the distribution lists for review of documents.

How to Participate?

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) are invited to register, on the database managed by 1World Consultants by email or fax using the details provided.

Comments and recommendations regarding the proposed facility are welcome and may be addressed to:

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South West view of the Construction Site



Wetland within the Property



Figure 1 Locality Map of Madrasa An-Noor for the Blind Facility