

APPENDIX E: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Annexure A: Site notice text

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Notice is given of a Basic Assessment in terms of terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, of intent to carry out the following activity:

Project name: Clearing of indigenous vegetation and cultivation (less than 20ha) on The Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.

Project description: The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture is:

- Less than 20 ha in extent and constitutes indigenous vegetation.
- The area is adjacent to existing agricultural fields and large sections of the areas are already disturbed. The actual site, however, is currently undisturbed, natural bush as it has not been cultivated for the last 10 years.
- The client wishes to convert this land for mass crop production.
- No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
- The property are currently zoned for agriculture, and thus will not require an amendment of landuse..

Listed activity: GN 983, Listing Notice 1 of 2014 - Activity: 27

Location: The Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.

Proponent: Barberton Valley Plantations

Consultant: Henwood Environmental Solutions
P.O. Box 12340, Steiltes

NELSPRUIT, 1213

Tel: 078 672 3645

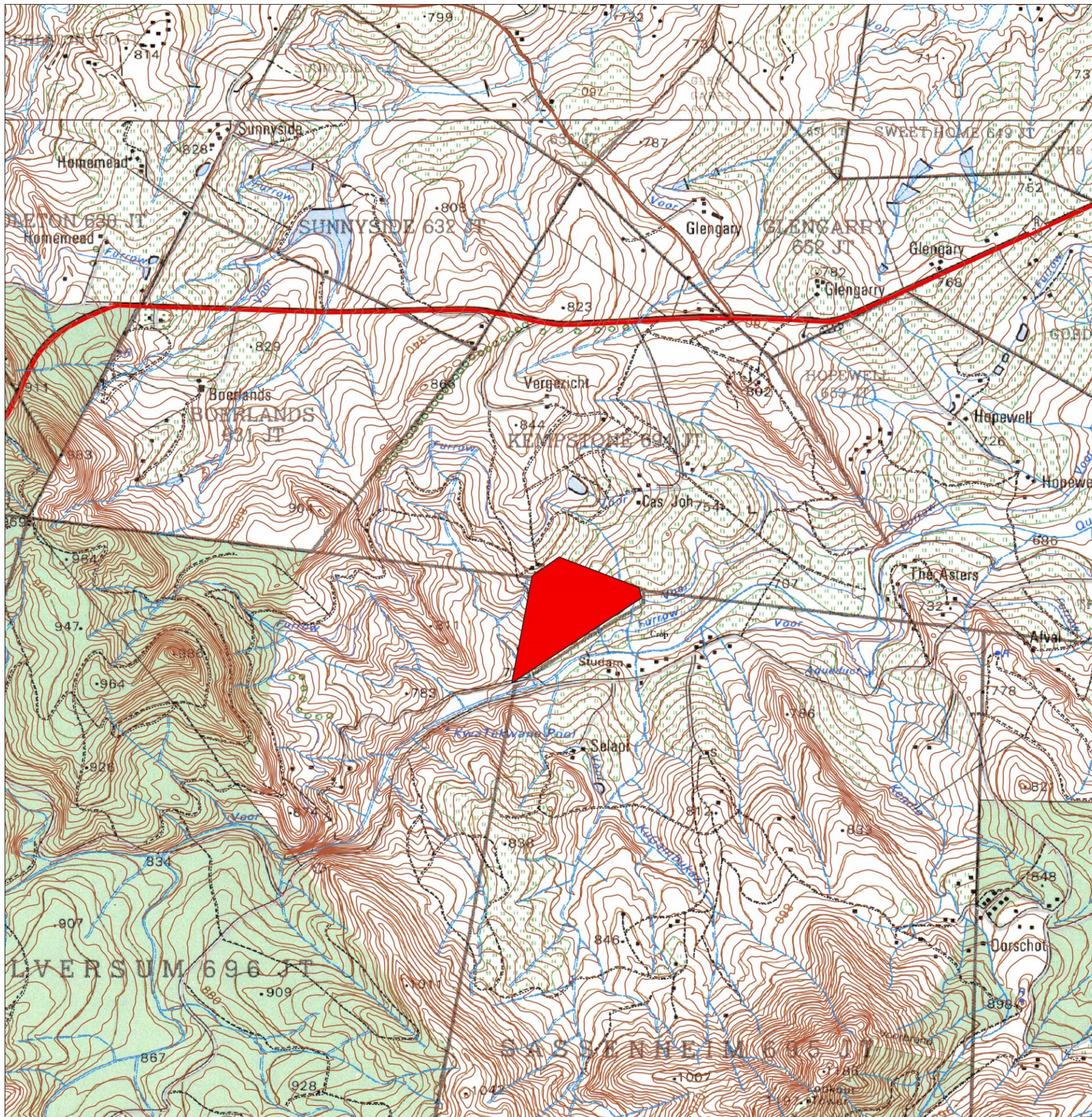
E-Mail: shenwood@mweb.co.za

Contact: Steven Henwood

Further information pertaining to this project can be obtained from the contact person above, on request.

In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party, please submit in writing (fax, email, letter) your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given above within 30 days of date of this advertisement.

Locality Map for the proposed clearing of indigenous vegetation and cultivation on the Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.

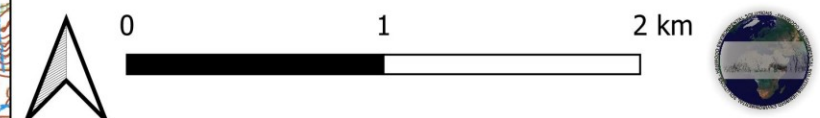
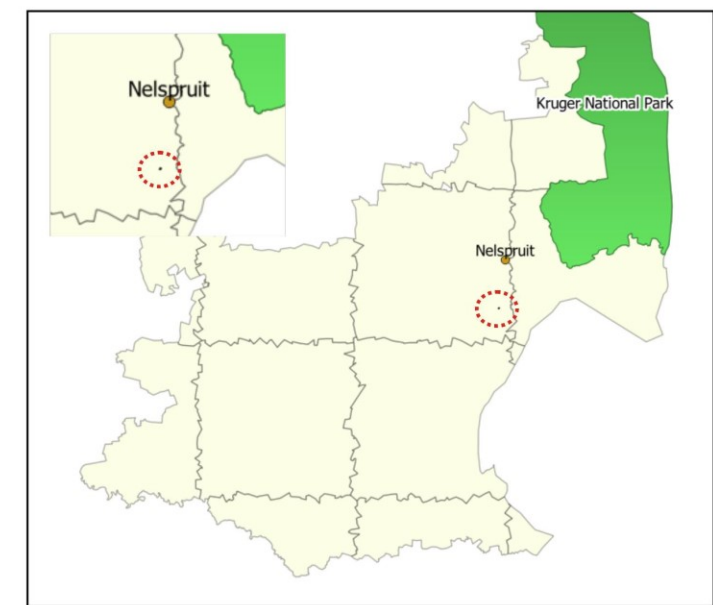


Proposed Development
 Property to cultivate

Cadastral
 Uguhleni 698 JT

Sensitivities
 Rivers
 Contours (5m)

Roads
 Arterial
 Secondary
 Road
 Track/Footpath



Annexure B: Proof of displayed notice boards

Annexure C: Background Information Document (BID) text

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARING AND CULTIVATION OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information to the proposed project and to obtain comments and contributions from stakeholders with regards to potential environmental impacts – which includes (but is not limited to): ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in identifying possible impacts of the proposed development on the environment and to make suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives.

Please complete the enclosed reply sheet and forward it to the address provided below:

Postal Address: P.O. Box 12340, STEILTES, NELSPRUIT, 1213
E-mail: Steven Henwood
shenwood@mweb.co.za
For any enquiries or further information contact us at:
Tel: 078 672 3645

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is a planning and decision-making tool that is used to identify the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development or project. It is conducted in compliance with Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014. The regulations identify a list of activities (Government Gazette GN983, GN984 and GN985) for which an EIA must be conducted.

The proposal has the following listed activities:

Listing No. R983

- Activity 27 of GNR983

Therefore, a Basic Assessment is required.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a listed activity, an application must be made for

environmental authorisation. The application must be supported by a report, which has been compiled as a result of an assessment procedure. After the competent authority, has made a decision on the application, an appeal may be made against the decision, or parts thereof.

Henwood Environmental Solutions (HES), as the independent Environmental Consultant, has been appointed by the proponent/applicant to compile the Basic Assessment Report, which will be reviewed by the relevant competent authority (e.g. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs) after a thorough public participation process has been conducted. This includes the opportunity to review all draft documentation before submission to DARDLEA.

The phases of a Basic Assessment are:

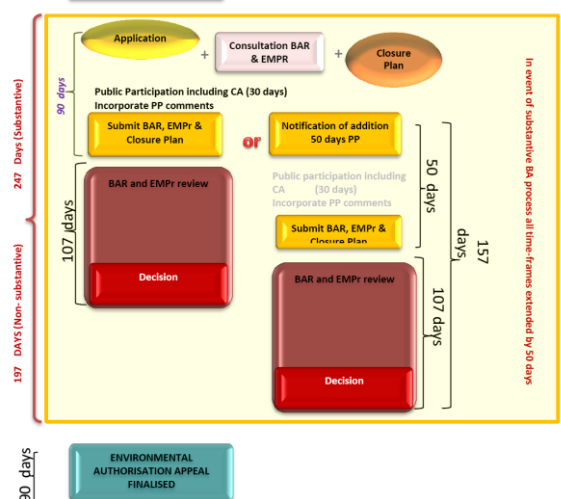


Figure 1

The aim of this report is to ensure that the environmental impacts are taken into consideration, to ensure stakeholder engagement, and to provide decision makers with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the proposed activities.

The Record of Decision (RoD) as to whether the proposed project should proceed will be based on information provided in the Report.

Your comments will form part of the Report.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has the right to be informed about any activity that might have an impact, whether desirable or undesirable, on the environment.

The purpose of the public participation process is to inform, consult, involve, collaborate with, and empower stakeholders in the decision-making process.

The objective of informing is to provide balanced and objective information to the public in order to assist with understanding of all existing issues.

Consultation will allow for feedback from stakeholders on alternatives and decisions that can inform the EIA process.

LOCATION

The Farm Uguhleni 698 JT. (see the locality map as attached).

GPS Coordinates:

25°46'59.61"S, 30°55'24.70"E

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The owners of The Farm Uguhleni 698 JT, would like to develop further agriculture on the farm. In this regard:

- The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture:
 - constitutes indigenous vegetation.
 - The area is adjacent to existing agricultural fields and large sections of the areas are already disturbed. The actual site, however, is currently undisturbed, natural bush.
 - The client wishes to convert this land for mass crop production.
 - The client wishes to plant the land to macadamias.
 - No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
 - The property are currently zoned for agriculture, and thus will not require an amendment of landuse.

PRESUMED ISSUES

Environmental issues that may be addressed in the Report could include the following:

- Aquatic Ecology
- Terrestrial Ecology
- Soil Suitability
- Water Availability
- Use of Pesticides

- Visual

Mitigation measures will also be developed for these issues. Stakeholders are however welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

Consideration of Alternatives is one of the most critical elements of the EIA process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making, based on the principle of sustainable development.

Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle.

HES not only welcomes stakeholders' input/suggestions, but also urge the public to submit possible alternatives.

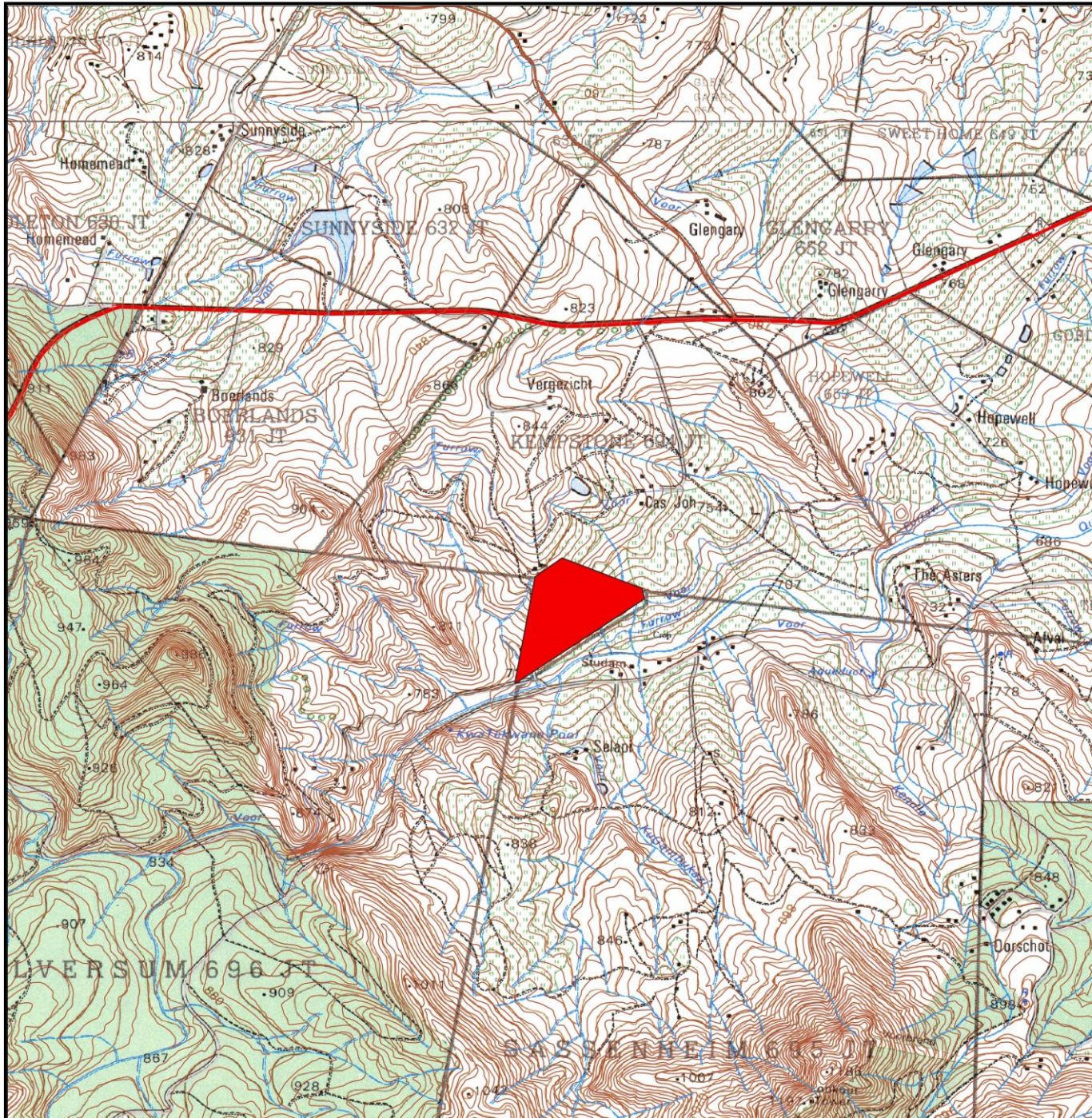
It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a possible course of action, in place of another, that would meet the same **purpose** and **need**.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable,
- Feasible,
- Relevant,
- Reasonable and
- Viable.

In order to ensure that you are registered as an interested and/or affected party, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given on the first page of this document.

Locality Map for the proposed clearing of indigenous vegetation and cultivation on the Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.



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Property to cultivate

Cadastral

Uguhleni 698 JT

Sensitivities

Rivers

Contours (5m)

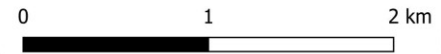
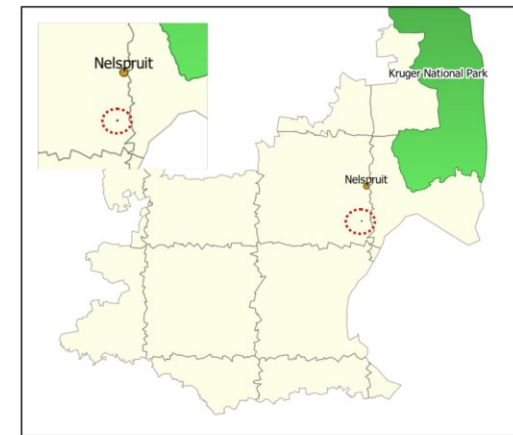
Roads

Arterial

Secondary

Road

Track/Footpath



REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

CLEARING AND CULTIVATION OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION (8HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

Title _____ Name _____
 Surname _____
 Company Name/Interest Group _____
 Postal or Residential Address _____
 Town/City _____
 Postal Code _____
 Tel () _____
 Cell _____
 Fax () _____
 E-mail address _____

In accordance with NEMA – Regulation 56 of GN R 543 of the EIA Regulations – A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions made to the competent authority, provided that (c) – the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

Please indicate with an **x** whether you would like to be kept informed of the EIA process

YES, I would like to be informed.	YES
NO, I am not interested	NO

If **YES**, how would you like to be informed? (please mark the appropriate block with an “**x**”)

E-mail	
Fax	

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

Thank you for your participation

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority

Please complete and return this response sheet to **HES**

P.O. Box 12340
Steiltes, Nelspruit
1213
E-mail: shenwood@mwweb.co.za

Feel free to phone us on **078 672 3645**, should you not have access to fax or e-mail



Annexure D: Proof of given Background Information Document (BID)
and DBAR

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:56 AM
To: 'Frans Mashabela'; 'Frans Mashabela'; ' (loves@daff.gov.za)'; 'Love Shabane'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARING OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND CULTIVATION ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

Dear Stakeholder,

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARING OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND CULTIVATION ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

In this regard please find attached the link to download the New Draft Basic Assessment Report.

To download the file/s simply click the link/s below:

* Draft Basic Assessment:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/heboi3zi1pynpgx/01_DBAR_Uguhleni_02092022.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix A: Site Plans and Maps:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/qi760piokmf81dg/02_Appendix_A_Site_Plans.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix B: Site Photographs:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/sgtmf3fborr6mw8/03_Appendix_B_Site_Photos.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix C: Facility

Illustrations:

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* Appendix D: Specialist Reports:

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* Appendix E: Public Participation:

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* Appendix F: EMPr:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/vz85rvtbvm1irxq/07_Appendix_F_Other_incl_EMPr.pdf?dl=0

This document is sent directly to all registered I&AP's. A printed copy is available and should you require a hard copy please request this from Mr. Henwood (contact details below). The Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) is compiled according to a report template provided by the authority. The DBAR is supported by specialist reports, maps and other documents.

These Appendices are referenced in the document.

There is a 30 day comment period on this document that will end on the 12th October 2022. Should you have any comments you would like to make on the contents/findings/recommendations of the document please do so in writing before this date. Any comments received will be

recorded, addressed
and appended to the final report that will be submitted to DARDLEA (Relevant
authority) for review and
decision making. The final Report to DARDLEA will also be accompanied by an
Environmental
Management Programme which will guide the developers should a positive decision
be obtained for the
activity.

Regards

Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)(IAIAsa Affiliate)
31 Balule Close, The Rest Nature Estate, Mbombela
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:55 AM
To: 'derrick@msuthu.co.za'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
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PO Box 12340
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Mbombela
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078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:55 AM
To: 'imbewu.seed@gmail.com'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
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shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

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Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:55 AM
To: 'kvm.nkosi@gmail.com'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
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shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:56 AM
To: 'Khumbelo.Malele@mtpa.co.za'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
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078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:55 AM
To: 'nkambulespc@hotmail.com'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
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Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)(IAIAsa Affiliate)
31 Balule Close, The Rest Nature Estate, Mbombela
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:56 AM
To: 'Sihle.Mthembu@mbombela.gov.za'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
CLEARING OF
INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND CULTIVATION ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

Dear Stakeholder,

SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARING OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION AND CULTIVATION ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

In this regard please find attached the link to download the New Draft Basic
Assessment Report.

To download the file/s simply click the link/s below:

* Draft Basic Assessment:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/heboi3zi1pynpgx/01_DBAR_Uguhleni_02092022.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix A: Site Plans and Maps:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/qi760piokmf81dg/02_Appendix_A_Site_Plans.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix B: Site Photographs:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/sgtmf3fborr6mw8/03_Appendix_B_Site_Photos.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix C: Facility

Illustrations:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/yhl61o1lsdrndqq/04_Appendix_C_Facility_Illustrations.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix D: Specialist Reports:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ftvmw15358oaxaa/05_Appendix_D_Specialist_Reports.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix E: Public Participation:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/x69cvhlvobs3hcn/06_Appendix_E_Public_Participation.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix F: EMPr:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/vz85rvtbvm1irxq/07_Appendix_F_Other_incl_EMPr.pdf?dl=0

This document is sent directly to all registered I&AP's. A printed copy is
available and should you require
a hard copy please request this from Mr. Henwood (contact details below). The
Draft Basic Assessment
Report (DBAR) is compiled according to a report template provided by the
authority. The DBAR is
supported by specialist reports, maps and other documents.

These Appendices are referenced in the document.

There is a 30 day comment period on this document that will end on the 12th
October 2022. Should you
have any comments you would like to make on the
contents/findings/recommendations of the
document please do so in writing before this date. Any comments received will be
recorded, addressed

and appended to the final report that will be submitted to DARDLEA (Relevant authority) for review and decision making. The final Report to DARDLEA will also be accompanied by an Environmental Management Programme which will guide the developers should a positive decision be obtained for the activity.

Regards

Steven Henwood (Nat Dip. Nature Conservation)(IAIAsa Affiliate)
31 Balule Close, The Rest Nature Estate, Mbombela
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 12 September 2022 8:55 AM
To: 'PeterZ@saratogaholdings.com.au'
Subject: SUBMISSION OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
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* Appendix B: Site Photographs:

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* Appendix C: Facility

Illustrations:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/yhl61o1lsdrndqq/04_Appendix_C_Facility_Illustrations.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix D: Specialist Reports:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ftvmw15358oaxaa/05_Appendix_D_Specialist_Reports.pdf?dl=0

* Appendix E: Public Participation:

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* Appendix F: EMPr:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/vz85rvtbvm1irxq/07_Appendix_F_Other_incl_EMPr.pdf?dl=0

This document is sent directly to all registered I&AP's. A printed copy is
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PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

Annexure E: Advertisement text

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Notice is given of a Basic Assessment in terms of Chapter 6 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, of intent to carry out the following activity:

Project name: **Clear and cultivate an area of indigenous vegetation (less than 20 ha) on the Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.**

Project description: The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture is:

- Less than 20 ha in extent and constitutes indigenous vegetation.
- The area is adjacent to existing agricultural fields and large sections of the areas are already disturbed. The actual site, however, is currently undisturbed, natural bush as it has not been cultivated for the last 10 years.
- The client wishes to convert this land for mass crop production.
- No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
- The property are currently zoned for agriculture, and thus will not require an amendment of landuse.

Listed activities: **GN 983, Listing Notice 1 of 2014 - Activity: 27**

Location: **Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.**

Proponent: **Barberton Valley Plantations**
Consultant: Steven Henwood (HES)
P.O. Box 12340, Steiltes
NELSPRUIT, 1213
Tel: **078 672 3645**
E-Mail: shenwood@mweb.co.za
Contact: Steven Henwood

In order to ensure that you are identified as an interested and/or affected party, please submit in writing your name, contact information and interest in the matter to the contact person given above within 30 days of publication of this advertisement.

Annexure F: Proof of placed advertisement

Annexure G: Letter of notification of EIA



Our Ref: Clearing of indigenous vegetation and cultivation (less than 20ha) on The Farm Uguhleni 698 JT/Stakeholder Notification
Your Ref: Clearing of indigenous vegetation and cultivation (less than 20ha) on The Farm Uguhleni 698 JT.

22 March 2022

NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.

Henwood Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd (HES) has been appointed by the Barberton Valley Plantations, to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) for the proposed activity.

- The area to be cleared and utilized for agriculture is:
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- The client wishes to convert this land for mass crop production.
- No new infrastructure will be developed on site.
- The property are currently zoned for agriculture, and thus will not require an amendment of landuse.

See attached locality map as per BID attached.

Details of the applicant:

Project applicant: Barberton Valley Plantations

Contact person: Denys Snyman

Email: DenysS@barbertonvalleyplantations.biz

Telephone: 071 674 3557

HES
Henwood Environmental Solutions



In accordance with Regulation 15 of Government Notice 543, HES; on behalf of the applicant; hereby wished to inform you of the pending Environmental Impact Assessment.

We trust that you will find the above in order. Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any queries.

Steven Henwood (*Nat Dip. Nature Conservation*)
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Nelspruit
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za

Henwood Environmental Solutions
Postal: P.O. Box 12340, Steiltes, Nelspruit, 1213.
Telephone: 078 672 3645
Fax to email: 086 719 6216

Annexure H: Proof of given Letter of notification

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'Frans Mashabela'; 'Love Shabane'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT
Attachments: Uguhleni _BID.pdf

22 March 2022

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See attached locality map as per BID attached.

Details of the applicant:
Project applicant: Barberton Valley Plantations
Contact person: Denys Snyman
Email: DenysS@barbertonvalleyplantations.biz
Telephone: 071 674 3557

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Regards

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PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
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078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'Sihle.Mthembu@mbombela.gov.za'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
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31 Balule Close, The Rest Nature Estate, Mbombela
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
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078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'imbewu.seed@gmail.com'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.
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31 Balule Close, The Rest Nature Estate, Mbombela
PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'Phumla.Nkosi@mtpa.co.za'; 'khumbelomalele@gmail.com'; 'Khumbelo Malele'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.
Attachments: Uguhleni _BID.pdf

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Email: DenysS@barbertonvalleyplantations.biz
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PO Box 12340
Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'nkambulespc@hotmail.com'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.
Attachments: Uguhleni _BID.pdf

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Steiltes
Mbombela
1213
078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'kvm.nkosi@gmail.com'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.
Attachments: Uguhleni _BID.pdf

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078 672 3645 (Cell)
shenwood@mweb.co.za (Email)

From: Steve Henwood <shenwood@mweb.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 March 2022 1:35 PM
To: 'Peter Zadro'; 'Denys Snyman'
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLEAR AND CULTIVATE AN AREA OF
INDIGENOUS
VEGETATION (LESS THAN 20 HA) ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT.
Attachments: Uguhleni _BID.pdf

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Annexure I: List of registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's)

: List of Stakeholders

The owner or person in control of that land if the applicant is not the owner or person in control of the land:

The applicant is the owner or person in control of the land.

Barberton Valley Plantations – Peter Zadro (PeterZ@saratogaholdings.com.au)

The occupiers of the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken:

The applicant occupies the site where the activity is to be undertaken (Barberton Valley Plantations – Peter Zadro (PeterZ@saratogaholdings.com.au). There was no reasonable alternative site.

Owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken or to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken:

Colile – imbewu.seed@gmail.com (076 091 6720)
Siza – nkambulespc@hotmail.com (064 935 6181)
Derrick – derrick@msuthu.co.za (082 8567156)
Mr. Nkosi – kvm.nkosi@gmail.com (082 921 6559)

The municipality which has jurisdiction in the area:

Mbombela Municipality (MLM)

Sihle Mthembu (Sihle.Mthembu@mbombela.gov.za)

Any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity:

Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA)

Robyn Luyt (Rluyt@mpg.gov.za, 082 672 7868)

Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA)

Phumla Nkosi Phumla.Nkosi@mtpa.co.za
'Khumbelo Malele' Khumbelo.Malele@mtpa.co.za

Department of Agriculture

Frans Mashamba (FransMas@nda.agric.za)
Love Shabane (LoveS@nda.agric.za)

Annexure J: Comments and Responses



agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building 4, Aqua Street, Riverside Park, Mbombela, 1200, Mpumalanga Province, P.O Box 266, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (013) 759 4000

Litiko Letekulima, Kufufukiswa
Kwelindzawo Tasemakhaya, Temhlaba

Departement van Landbou,
Landelike Ontwikkeling,
Grond en Ongewing Sake

umNyango weZelimo
UkuThuthukiswa kweeNdawo zemaKhaya,
iNarha neeNdaba zeBhoduluko

Enquiries : T.Sithole
Telephone : 082 7373400
Reference : 1/3/1/16/1E-410

Anne-Mari White
Henwood Environmental Solution
10 Nartjie Street
Nelspruit
1200

Email: Shenwood@mweb.co.za

Dear Madam,

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATION OF MACADAMIA ORCHARDS ON PTHE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT, CITY OF MBOMBELA

The Department confirms having received the application form for environmental authorisation and the draft basic assessment report for the abovementioned project on 22 September 2022.

The application has been assigned the reference number **1/3/1/16/1E-411**. Kindly quote this reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application. The responsible officer is **Thokozile Sithole** and all correspondence must be directed to: Environmental Impact Management, Ehlanzeni District Office, marked for the attention of the responsible officer. Please note that you must, within 90 days from 22 September 2022, submit to this office a basic assessment report - inclusive of specialist reports and an EMPr - which has already been subjected to a public participation process, and was provided to registered interested and affected parties for a period of at least 30 days for comment, and which reflects the incorporation of any comments received, including any comments from this office. In this regard you are referred to the requirements of Regulation 40(3).

Please note that in terms of the provisions of Regulation 45, this application will lapse, and this office will deem the application to have lapsed, if the applicant fails to submit the basic assessment report within the timeframe specified above.

Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 03/10/2022





agriculture, rural development,
land & environmental affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Litiko Letekulima, Kutfufukiswa
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Departement van Landbou,
Landelike Ontwikkeling,
Grond en Ongewing Sake

umNyango weZelimo
UkuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya,
iNarha neeNdaba zeBhoduluko

Enquiries : Thokozile Sithole
Telephone : 082 7373 400
Reference : 1/3/1/16/1E-410

Anne-Mari White
Henwood Environmental Solution
10 Nartjie Street
Nelspruit
1200

Email: Shenwood@mweb.co.za

Dear Madam,

DRAF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT: CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATION OF MACADAMIA ORCHARDS ON PTHE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT, CITY OF MBOMBELA

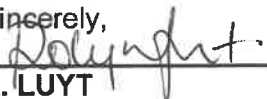
The draft basic assessment report which was submitted by you in respect of the abovementioned application and received by the Department on 22 September 2022 refers. The Department has considered the content of the report, and has the following comments:

1. The applicant must demonstrate that water is available at the required capacity for irrigation purposes for the proposed site to be cleared and cultivated. Where water rights are secured, it must be confirmed whether they are currently in use and whether there is sufficient allocation remaining for the proposed cultivation.
2. Please clarify what the Layout Plan "20m Ecological Buffer" refers to. The Ecological Study advises a 30m buffer from the edge of all riparian areas, and your recommended "Aquatic Buffer Zone" makes reference to a 15m buffer from "Mountain Headwater" Drainage Lines and 30m from the edge of the unchanneled valley bottom wetland and seepage wetland. Furthermore, the legend in the layout plan appears not to include the medium sensitivity rating within the Ecological Buffer. The Aquatic Assessment was not included in your report.
3. None of the Appedices and Annexures that you refer to on Page 39 in respect of public consultation have been included in your report (There is no Appendix E).
4. Your Need and Desirability paragraph on Page 40 refers to the farm Montrose 290 JT. There are clearly multiple copy and paste errors that must be rectified.
5. On Page 60 you refer to the requirement for a storm water plan, which must include retention ponds. Please clarify. If a storm water plan is indeed required to mitigate impacts, then this must be undertaken as part of the BA process.
6. Please be reminded that nfilling activities have not been applied for or assessed and will therefore not be considered as part of this application.
7. The EMPr must be amended to include all required buffer zones, and the measures to delineate and protect them.
8. The final BAR must provide proof that all potential and registered I&AP's, including Organs of State, were provided with access to and an opportunity to comment on the draft BAR following submission of the application form (Regulation 40(3)).

9. The final basic assessment report must include an issues and response report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&APs, including these comments

Please draw the applicant's attention to the fact that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Sincerely,



R. LUYT

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

DATE: 06/10/2022

OFFICE OF THE CEO

Ref: LUA 22/3208

Unit: LUA /SS

Enquiries: K. Malele

E-mail: khumbelo.malele@mtpa.co.za

Tel/Fax: 013- 065 0878

Mr. S. HENWOOD

Henwood Environmental Solutions (Pty) Ltd

P.O. Box 12340

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NELSPRUIT

1213

E-mail: shenwood@mweb.co.za

Dear Mr. Henwood

SUBJECT: HERewith MTPA'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CLEARING OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION AND CULTIVATION ON THE FARM UGUHLENI 698 JT, SITUATED WITHIN MBOMBELA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, MPUMALANGA.

Your correspondence, of date 22/09/2022 has reference.

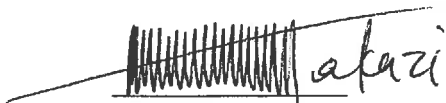
The sensitivity of the above farm on which the proposed activity is likely to occur was assessed according to the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP; MTPA, 2014). This sensitivity is assessed in terms of a terrestrial and freshwater assessment. In the MBSP, sensitive areas are identified in terms of *Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs)* and *Ecological Support Areas (ESAs)*. CBAs and ESAs are deemed to be necessary to ensure protection of biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and human well-being, and are to remain unaltered.

1. According to the terrestrial assessment, the proposed development will occur within *CBA Optimal areas, moderately and heavily modified areas*.
2. According to the freshwater assessment, the proposed development will occur within *ESA Important sub-catchment areas*.
3. The MTPA do not object to this development and would like to recommend that:
 - Prior to commencement, plant species of conservation concern must be identified and marked, and should preferably be conserved in-situ. Where this is not feasible, relevant permits for their relocation or removal must be obtained from the relevant authority.
 - Plant species of conservation concern that are identified for relocation must be relocated to areas of similar habitat that will not be transformed. Such species must be monitored and managed until such a time that they have, in consultation with the ECO, been determined to be successfully re-established.

- All buffer zones around sensitive areas/features must be maintained as ecological corridors which must be kept intact throughout the project life cycle, and must be managed in such a way to prevent erosion and alien species invasion.
- The EMP submitted as part of the basic assessment report must be implemented and adhered to throughout the lifecycle of the activity.
- All disturbed areas must be fully rehabilitated and protected from erosion. Rehabilitation measures must be aimed at the prevention of soil erosion and the re-establishment of indigenous vegetation.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if there are any enquiries.

Kind regards



MR M.H. VILAKAZI
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DATE: 18 / 10 / 2022

Issue and Response

Name	Issue	Name	Response
<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>The applicant must demonstrate that water is available at the required capacity for irrigation purposes for the proposed site to be cleared and cultivated. Where water rights are secured, it must be confirmed whether they are currently in use and whether there is sufficient allocation remaining for the proposed cultivation.</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>A certificate issued by the Queens River Irrigation Board verifies that the Farm Uguhleni 698 JT has an allocation of 22ha (145 200cubic meters of water) that may be abstracted and utilised.</p> <p>The land is currently undeveloped and as such none of the existing allocation is currently being utilised. This then indicates that the full 22ha of water is available and may be utilised.</p> <p>Note however that only 19.6 ha will be planted and irrigated leaving a surplus of 2,4 ha.</p> <p>See Appendix F, Annexure E for water certificate.</p>

<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please clarify what the Layout Plan “20m Ecological Buffer” refers to. The Ecological Study advises a 30m buffer from the edge of all riparian areas, and your recommended “Aquatic Buffer Zone” makes reference to a 15m buffer from “Mountain Headwater” Drainage Lines and 30m from the edge of the unchanneled valley bottom wetland and seepage wetland. 2. Furthermore, the legend in the layout plan appears not to include the medium sensitivity rating within the Ecological Buffer. 3. The Aquatic Assessment was not included in your report. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Steven Henwood</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. The layout and sensitivity map has been amended where necessary. The reference in the layout map legend referring to a 20 meter buffer was a typing error and incorrect. The buffers as indicated on the map are as per the specialist terrestrial and aquatic recommendations. To clarify this further a general 30 meter buffer, which incorporates the 15 meter Mountain Headwater buffer has been included in the layout map. Furthermore, all new agricultural developments will be restricted to the areas formerly cultivated. 2. The legend and map includes all sensitivity ratings. The proposed agriculture will only take place in areas identified in the specialist reports as having a low to very low sensitivity. 3. I am not sure how this happened. The Basic Assessment Report made available to public, and stakeholders included an aquatic report. All stakeholders have been afforded access to the full set of specialist reports and have commented on these and the DBAR. Please see proof of submission and receipt of the Draft BAR and Appendices as per Appendix E Annexure D
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<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>None of the Appendices and Annexures that you refer to on Page 39 in respect of public consultation have been included in your report (There is no Appendix E).</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted. Again, I am not sure how this happened. The Basic Assessment Report made available to public, and stakeholders included Appendix E. All stakeholders have been afforded access to the full DBAR and its associated Appendices. Please see proof of submission and receipt of the Draft BAR and Appendices as per Appendix E Annexure D.</p>
<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>Your Need and Desirability paragraph on Page 40 refers to the farm Montrose 290 JT. There are clearly multiple copy and paste errors that must be rectified.</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted. This has been rectified.</p>
<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>On Page 60 you refer to the requirement for a storm water plan, which must include retention ponds. Please clarify. If a storm water plan is indeed required to mitigate impacts, then this must be undertaken as part of the BA process.</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted. This is a requirement and as such has been included in the BAR. See the stormwater management plan included as an appendix to the EMPr.</p>
<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>Please be reminded that infilling activities have not been applied for or assessed and will therefore not be considered as part of this application..</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. There is no need for infilling.</p>

T. Sithole (DARDLEA)	The EMPr must be amended to include all required buffer zones, and the measures to delineate and protect them.	Steven Henwood	Noted, this has been done. See the amended and updated EMPr. Specifically Section 2 - pages 11 to 13.
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<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>The final BAR must provide proof that all potential and registered I&AP's, including Organs of State, were provided with access to and an opportunity to comment on the draft BAR following submission of the application form (Regulation 40(3)).</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
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<p>T. Sithole (DARDLEA)</p>	<p>The final basic assessment report must include an issues and response report, as well as copies of and responses to comments received from all I&APs, including these comments</p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Khumbelo Malele (MTPA)</p>	<p>According to the terrestrial assessment, the proposed development will occur within <i>CBA Optimal areas, moderately and heavily modified areas.</i></p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p>
<p>Khumbelo Malele (MTPA)</p>	<p>According to the freshwater assessment, the proposed development will occur within <i>ESA Important sub-catchment areas.</i></p>	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted and agreed</p>
<p>Khumbelo Malele (MTPA)</p>	<p>The MTPA do not object to this development and would like to recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to commencement, plant species of conservation concern must be identified and marked, and should preferably be conserved in-situ. Where this is not feasible, relevant permits for their relocation or removal must be obtained from the relevant authority. • Plant species of conservation concern that are 	<p>Steven Henwood</p>	<p>Noted. Conservation and preservation of species of concern will be implemented and audited through the EMP and ECO appointed to monitor the activity.</p> <p>All buffer zones will be demarcated and maintained throughout the life cycle of the activity.</p>

	<p>identified for relocation must be relocated to areas of similar habitat that will not be transformed. Such species must be monitored and managed until such a time that they have, in consultation with the ECO, been determined to be successfully re-established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All buffer zones around sensitive areas/features must be maintained as ecological corridors which must be kept intact throughout the project life cycle, and must be managed in such a way to prevent erosion and alien species invasion.• The EMP submitted as part of the basic assessment report must be implemented and adhered to throughout the lifecycle of the activity.• All disturbed areas must be fully rehabilitated and protected from erosion. Rehabilitation measures must be aimed at the prevention of soil erosion and the reestablishment of indigenous vegetation.		
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