

God's Window Skywalk

Draft Social Impact Assessment Mapulana Canyon (Pty) Ltd

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Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Applicant	Any person who applies for an Environmental Authorisation to undertake a triggered activity or to cause such activity to be undertaken as contemplated in the National Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA").
Cultural heritage resources	All non-physical and physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
Livelihood	The ways in which people combine their capabilities, skills and knowledge with the resources at their disposal to create activities that enables them to make a living.
Social impact	Something that is experienced or felt by humans. It can be positive or negative, onsite or offsite, objective or subjective. Social impacts can be experienced in a physical or perceptual sense at the level of an individual, social unit (family/household) or community/society (Vanclay, 2015). Social impacts can be positive or negative,

Term	Definition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Objective social impacts refer to impacts that can be quantified and verified by independent observers, such as changes in employment patterns, standard of living, or health and safety. ▶ Subjective social impacts refer to impacts that occur “in the heads” or emotions of people, such as negative public attitudes, psychological stress or reduced quality of life. It is important to include subjective social impacts in the assessment, as these can have far-reaching consequences in the form of opposition to, or social mobilisation against the project.
Social Impact Assessment	The processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, both positive and negative, of planned interventions (policies, programs, plans, projects) and any social change processes invoked by these interventions (Vanclay, 2015). Its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment.
Social Licence to Operate	Also referred as social licence, refers to the ongoing acceptance of a company or industry's standard business practices, operating procedures and real or perceived value creation of activities by its employees, society, stakeholders, and specifically local communities.
Social risk	Risk resulting from a social or socio-economic source. Social risk comprises both the objective threat of harm and the subjective perception of risk for harm.

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition
BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
B-BBEE	Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment
BID	Background Information Document
BLM	Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
CA	Competent Authority
CPA	Communal Property Association
CRR	Comments and Responses Report
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
DFFE	Department of Forestry and Fisheries and the Environment
DM	District Municipality
E&S	Environmental and Social
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EDM	Ehlanzeni District Municipality
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FAQ	Frequently Asked Question
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GN	Government Notice
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties

Acronym or abbreviation	Definition
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IFC	International Finance Corporation
LED	Local Economic Development
LM	Local Municipality
MDARDLEA	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs
MM	Municipal Manager
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTPA	Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
NDP	National Development Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
NWA	National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998)
PPP¹	Public Participation Process
PPP²	Public Private Partnership
PS	Performance Standard
SAPS	South African Police Service
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SMME	Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises
TCLM	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality
WUL	Water Use Licence
WULA	Water Use Licence Application

Executive Summary

Zutari (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Mapulana Canyon (Pty) Ltd to provide various services associated with the proposed God's Window Skywalk project. This includes an environmental Basic Assessment (BA).

As part of the BA, various specialist studies have been undertaken to ensure that the potential socio-environmental impacts of the proposed project are identified, assessed and that suitable prevention, avoidance or mitigation measures are suggested.

This report presents the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as a specialist study supporting the environmental BA process. The SIA intended to gauge the potential social impacts that they project might have on the people, the communities, or the general social environment. As part of the SIA, the Zutari Social and Stakeholder Engagement team conducted focus group discussions and interviews with key stakeholders and stakeholder groups. This helped us to assess the various ways that stakeholders might be impacted by the proposed Project. The impacts assessed through the SIA, and all the other specialist reports (such as ecological and heritage specialist reports) will be taken into consideration by the Competent Authority (Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs) when they decide to award or reject the Environmental Authorisation for the project.

This SIA report presents the background, methodology, applicable legislative frameworks and standards, a social baseline, social impact assessment, and recommendations. Potential social impacts were firstly identified by overlaying the description of the various project components and activities on the baseline socio-economic profile of project stakeholders. Further, social impacts were identified through engagement with 14 stakeholder groupings including, but not limited to taxi associations; curio vendors; farmers; local businesses; women's, church, elderly, disabled and civic organisations; traditional authorities; and the Blyde 04 Communal Property Associations (CPAs). Each identified impact was rated for the project phase during which it is likely to occur (construction or operation) using the Zutari impact assessment methodology used by all specialists. The impact rating is determined based on the nature of the impact (positive or negative), the expected duration, geographical extent, severity/ intensity and the probability of occurring, to determine its overall significance pre- and post-mitigation. The impact's level of mitigatability and reversibility are taken into account, as well as the confidence of the rating and the level of irreplaceability of the resource (although, in SIA, this aspect is interpreted holistically as residual impacts, rather than with a narrow focus on a resource such as water or mineral resources as in environmental impact assessments). Cumulative impacts are also described where applicable. These impact ratings then serve as the crux of the report. These stakeholders are located not only close to God's Window, such as Graskop, but also to the north and west in the Bushbuckridge area. This is because God's Window is located in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, some of which also falls under tribal authority and the whole that is under land claim, are also considered part of the "demarcations", and not just the municipal and ward demarcations. Therefore, many of the stakeholders consulted are located in the neighbouring Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) and not restricted to the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM) area.

It was determined that the project could have as much as 28 social impacts. Although most stakeholders expect the project to have a positive economic impact in the area, many other stakeholders are cautiously optimistic. The project might have the opposite effect, it might draw tourists out of Graskop, decreasing the per capita spend, or there could be an unfair spread in benefits as perceived by the public. Curio vendors will be impacted during the construction phase but will probably benefit in the long-term. The project impacts might have a cumulative impact if factoring in the current low unemployment rate, the impact that COVID-19 has had on many small businesses in the area, and the fatigue experienced by many stakeholders due to the project's delay since circa 2013. A very important take-home from this report is that, although the project will likely have a net positive impact by creating some job opportunities and upliftment in the local communities, all of these changes take place within a larger milieu where the project is looked at as a benefactor that can provide more than it actually can.

Furthermore, the environmental and traffic impacts might have an impact on the social dimension, as locals are very aware of the tourism value that the natural environment provides in this part of the country. If the project negatively impacts the natural environment or the infrastructure (roads, water, sewerage, and emergency services) in the area, it will also be felt by the various stakeholders in the area.

Section 5.2 of the report details the impacts, their ratings based on Zutari's impact assessment methodology, and associated mitigation measures. It is recommended that these measures are taken into account in further project

phases to ensure that the positive project impacts (benefits) are enhanced in such a way that it outweighs the negative impacts as far as practically possible.

The SIA team has worked in close collaboration with the Public Participation Process (PPP) team undertaking the BA. It is important to note that the PPP is different from the SIA. In SIA, information is gathered on the socio-economic environment to determine how the project might impact it. In PPP, information is provided about the project to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) have an opportunity to comment on the project. The SIA engagements were focused on certain groups, because specific questions that only those groups might be able to answer were asked. The PPP, on the other hand, is open to everyone.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background and information

Mapulana Canyon (Pty) Ltd, in partnership with the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) via a Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement, proposes the development of the God's Window Skywalk Project at God's Window in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM) in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) in the Mpumalanga Province. The proposed new facility involves the upgrading of the existing tourism facility into a modern, multi-use, state of the art tourist destination which will include, amongst others, a skywalk, a skybridge, restaurants and dining areas, an auditorium, upgraded walkways, administrative offices, and associated infrastructure. The proposed Skywalk is a cantilevered glass bottomed walkway that will protrude from an elevated viewpoint at the God's Window site. This will provide a 360° panoramic view of the canyon and the surrounding area.

The God's Window Skywalk Project requires an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GN R 982 of 2014 as amended), and a Water Use License (WUL) in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).

Zutari (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the application for an EA and WUL for this project. Zutari is conducting a Basic Assessment (BA) and a WUL application (WULA) towards this purpose.

This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) report provides details on the socio-economic receiving environment and the social impacts that are likely to emanate from the proposed project on various sectors of the community.

1.2 Land ownership

God's Window is located in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, which is managed by the MTPA. The entire Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve, which is a Protected Area, has been claimed by four communities. The claimant communities are represented by four Communal Property Associations (CPAs) who together form the so-called Blyde 04 CPA:

- ▶ **Maorabjang CPA:** claimed the area from the Mac Mac Falls to the Forever Resort in Blyde River Canyon (including the project area and a large component to the north thereof);
- ▶ **Moletele CPA:** claimed land stretching from the Blyde River Forever Resort to the Swadini Forever Resort (about 50 km north of the project area);
- ▶ **Setlhare CPA:** claimed a portion of land to the north of the project site, but south of the Moletele CPA area; and
- ▶ **Mahubahuba a Bokone CPA:** claimed a portion of land below the escarpment, to the northeast of the project area.

The CPAs avail the land on a lease basis.

In 2006, the Department of Land Affairs (DLA) and the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Tourism (DEAT, now Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment [DFFE]) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which stated that land restitution in Protected Areas would occur in title only (SEF, 2013). Thus, the claimant communities would receive the title deed to the land but would be prohibited from settling on the land. Three of the four claimant communities fall under tribal authorities (SEF, 2013).

To expand the commercial tourist product potential of the Protected Area, MTPA has granted the PPP rights for the design, build, finance, operation, management, maintenance and transfer of the Project to the private party, Mapulana Canyon (Pty) Ltd.

As part of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) agreement between MTPA and the private party (Motsamayi), a certain percentage of the gross revenue, as well as an annual fee must be paid to the MTPA. According to the PPP, the Blyde 04 CPA shall control a minimum of 10% shareholding of the undertaking. This is then regarded as B-BBEE shareholding. The private party is required to commit to increasing the minimum B-BBEE shareholding to 30% and 70% in year 10 and 20 of the project term, respectively. The increase in shareholding will be acquired by the CPAs at

market value, through payments derived from dividends payable over the project term. The Private Party is also obliged assist the CPAs in raising the funding required to increase the shareholding as stated in this Clause.

It is therefore important for all stakeholders to understand that the project requires a lot of upfront investment, and numerous payments were made and will continue to be made to parties such as the MTPA to ensure that the project is well-managed within the protected area, and that the project can be executed. It will therefore only become lucrative once the development becomes operational and starts to generate net profits. The Return on Investment will therefore only become evident within a few years of the development becoming operational, and not right away.

1.3 Project location

The proposed project will be located 9 km northeast of Graskop on Portion 0 of the farm De Houtbosch 503 KT and Portion 2 of farm Lisbon 531 KT (see **Figure 1-1** and **Figure 1-2**) within the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM), in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM). God's Window is located on the rim of the Mpumalanga Escarpment along the Panorama Route in the Blyde River Canyon.

The project site is located in the southern tip of the entire Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve (see **Figure 1-3**).

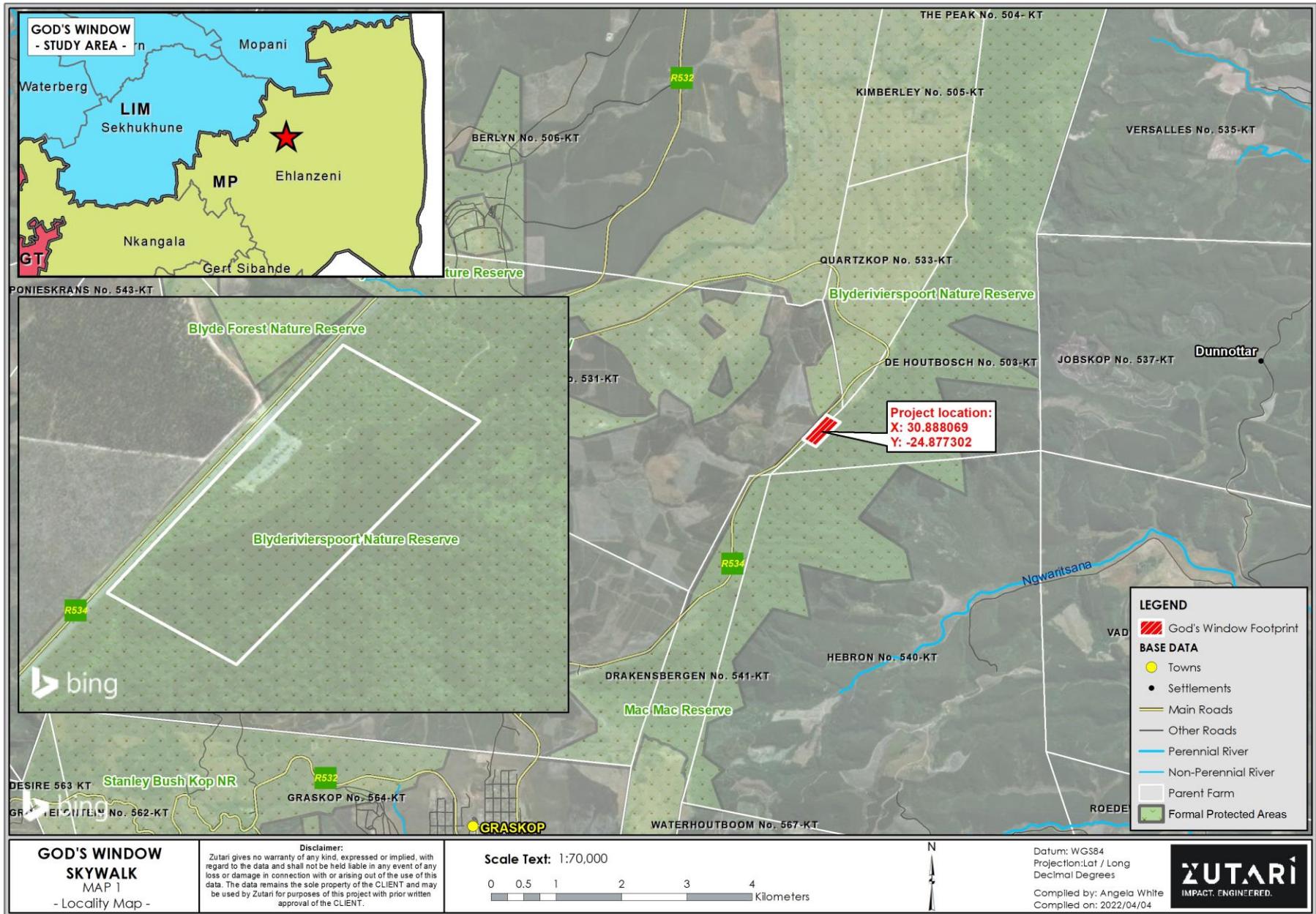


Figure 1-1 | The location of the proposed God's Window Skywalk Project on the farms De Houtbosch (east) and Lisbon (west).

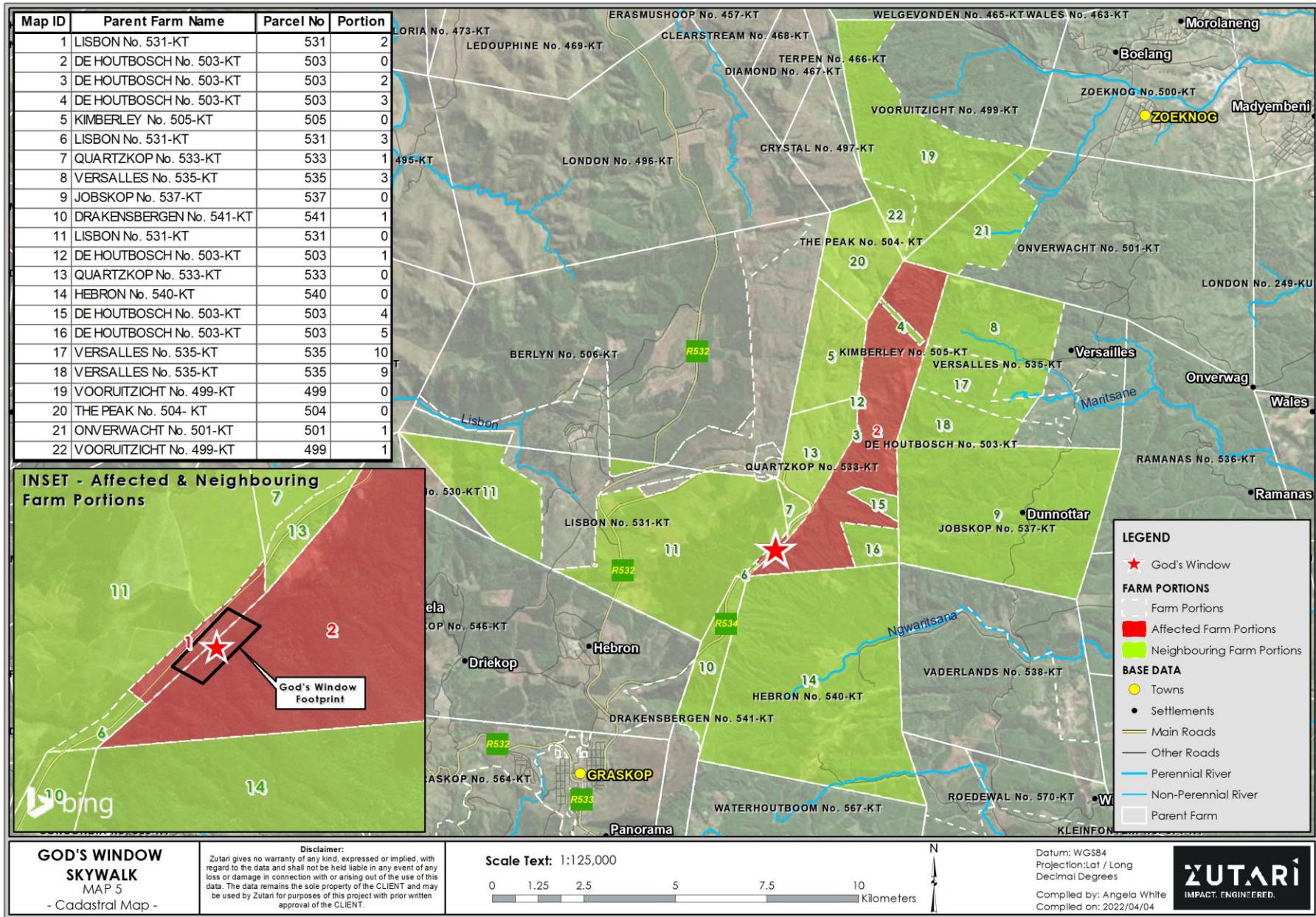


Figure 1-2 | Cadastral map of the affected and neighbouring farms, showing that the Skywalk project is proposed across two farm portions.

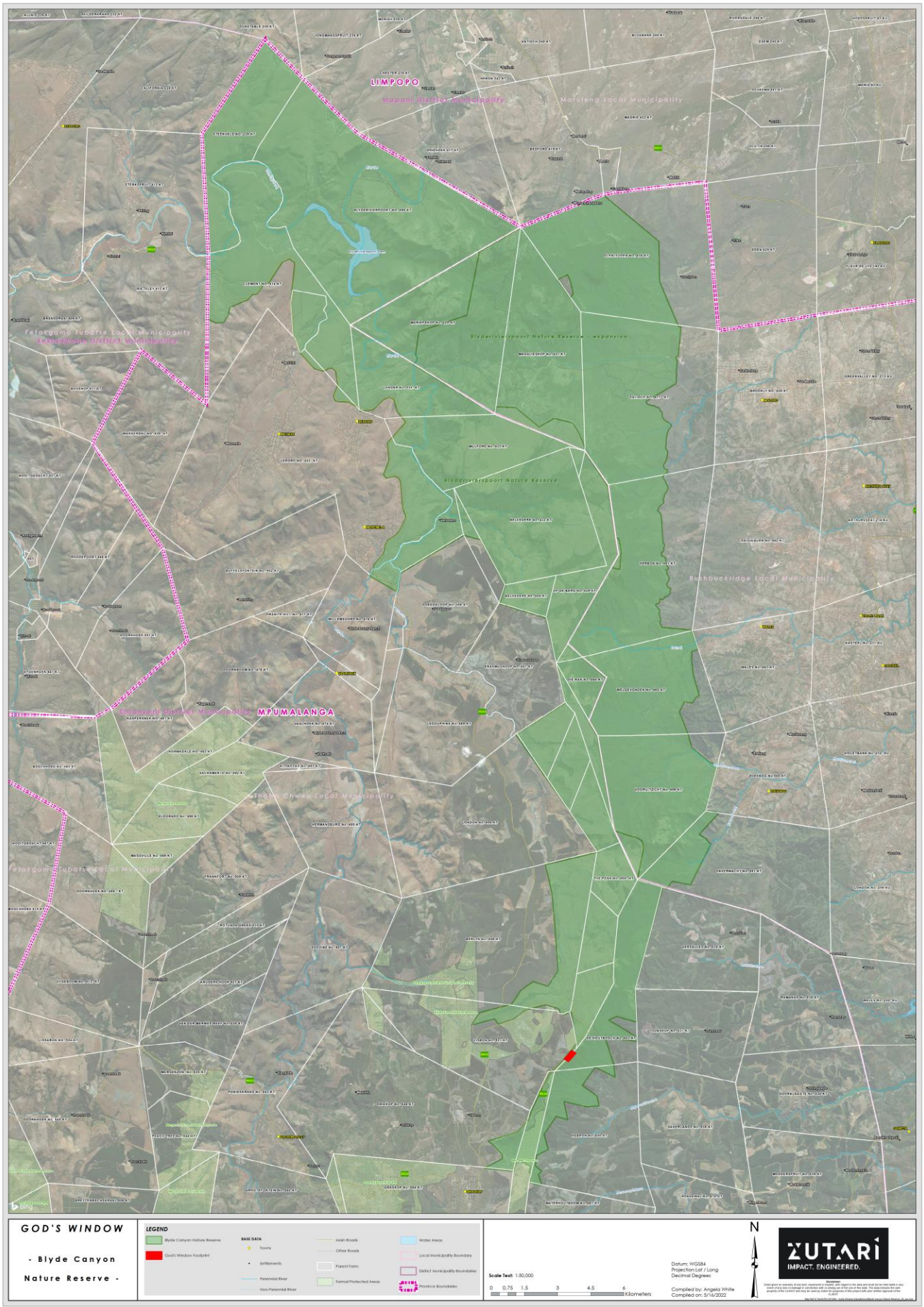


Figure 1-3 | Project location in the southern part of the Blyde Canyon Nature Reserve

1.4 Objectives of study

The purpose of this Social Impact Assessment report is to gather and compile socio-economic data that describes the state of the socio-economic environment and the characteristics of the populations and communities living in the area of influence of the proposed project.

This report will:

- ▶ Define and describe the receiving environment (footprint, local and regional) from a social perspective, and identify, analyse and assess the opportunities and constraints arising from or potentially limiting the proposed project;
- ▶ Assess the relevant existing conditions and past trends associated with the human environment in which the project is to take place;
- ▶ Investigate the potential social benefits of the proposed project in order to ensure maximum benefit to the local community; and
- ▶ Identify relevant legislation, standards and policies.

2 Methodology

Social impacts are those changes that are physically felt and emotionally experienced, positively, and negatively. They are defined as all impacts on humans and therefore cover a wide range of issues. Impacts are felt by individual persons, by groups of people and households, a community or society as a whole, social organisations and institutions. Humans interact with their ecological environment for various reasons, not least to define their identity and create their livelihood. The sustainability of projects is influenced by the balance that is created between the socio-ecological environment and the proposed project intervention. As far as possible, a symbiosis must be established between the natural environment and commercial projects. This is the express purpose of an SIA.

The following processes form the basis of our methodology for undertaking the SIA:

- ▶ Desktop study of the general socio-demographic context of the proposed project area with reference to the local and district municipal and provincial contexts such as:
 - Existing socio-economic baseline data, studies and management plans;
 - Secondary statistical information, relevant maps and aerial photography;
- ▶ Description of the organisational and institutional context of this project;
- ▶ A review of relevant national legislation, policies and standards;
- ▶ A review of international best practice guidelines;
- ▶ Development and review of the research instruments (interview and focus group guidelines);
- ▶ Focus group meetings and semi-structured interviews and with affected persons and representative groups to deepen the desktop-based understanding of the social environment *and* to gauge the potential social impacts of the project on different stakeholders through an understanding of the social context and opportunities in the area, the institutional arrangements in relation to administrative governance, and area specific initiatives that need to be considered; and
- ▶ Collaboration with the public consultation and larger project team to ensure that social risks identified during the research phase are taken into account in further project planning and decision-making phases.

2.1 Limitations and assumptions

The following assumptions and limitations are relevant:

- Literature consulted in this study include existing information obtained from numerous reports drafted during the previous EIA process, as listed in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1 | Reference documents used in drafting this report

No.	Report name	Date	Author
1.	IDC skywalk SIA	November 2013	SEF (Strategic Environmental Focus)
2.	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP)	2021-2022	Thaba Chweu Local Municipality
3.	Ehlanzeni District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget	2021-2022	Ehlanzeni District Municipality
4.	Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path	October 2011	Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Tourism
5.	Census 2011	2011	Statistics South Africa
6.	Community Survey 2016 (CS 2016)	2016	Statistics South Africa
7.	Analysis of a Model Designed for Land Restitution in Protected Areas in South Africa, PhD thesis	2010	MAI De Koning
8.	Public Private Partnership agreement for the design, Build, Finance Operate and Transfer of the God's Window Skywalk in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve	July 2021	MTPA
9.	Memorandum of Understanding and Addendum to the MoU signed on 3 October 2017	October 2017	Thebe Tourism (Pty) Ltd; Maorabjang, Mahubahuba A Bokone, Setlhare and Moletele CPAs
10.	Co-Management Agreement – Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve	December 2020	MTPA; Maorabjang, Mahubahuba A Bokone, Setlhare and Moletele CPAs

- Statistics used to inform this social study, especially regarding the receiving environment are sourced mainly from the StatsSA Census 2011 and the 2016 Community Survey. It is possible that some statistics are outdated and might have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Where possible, municipal IDPs were also used but these themselves are largely based on the aforementioned sources and have not fully updated their information after the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The social environment constantly changes and adapts to change, and external factors outside the scope of the project can offset social changes, such as changes in local political leadership, natural disasters, or economic conditions. Therefore, it is difficult to predict all impacts to a high level of accuracy, although care was taken to identify the most likely impacts in the most appropriate way for the current local context. It is important to manage social impacts for the life of the project, since the social environment is dynamic.
- Social impacts can be felt on an actual or perceptual level. Therefore, it is not always straightforward to measure the impacts in a quantitative manner.
- Social impacts commence **when the project enters the public domain**. Some of these impacts will occur irrespective of whether the project continues or not, and other impacts have already started. These impacts are difficult to mitigate, and some would require immediate action to minimise the risk.
- There are different groups with different interests in the project, and what one group may experience as a positive social impact may be experienced by another as a negative impact. This duality is pointed out in the impact assessment section of the report where relevant.
- Social impacts are not site-specific but take place in the communities surrounding the proposed development. This means that social impacts are not limited to the project site footprint.

2.2 Social Impact Assessment model

The theoretical model used for this impact assessment is based on the method presented in the International Handbook of Social Impact Assessment (van Schooten, et al., 2003). This model identifies pathways by which social impacts may result from proposed projects. Key concepts and terms are explained in the glossary.

Typically, the following social dimensions are taken into account to identify impacts:

- Socio-economic determinants;
- Social organisation;
- Socio-political context;
- Human rights context;
- Historical context;
- Health and social well-being;
- Quality of the living environment;
- Socio-cultural context;
- Family and community dynamics; and
- Institutional and political environment.

Relevant criteria for determining whether a social impact is significant during the impact assessment phase will include various criteria discussed in detail in Section 5.1.

2.3 Research approach

Traditionally there are two approaches to SIA: technical and participatory:

- ▶ A technical approach is taken when a scientist remains a neutral observer of social phenomena. Their role is to identify indicators or objective measures relevant to the situation from whence to provide an expert assessment on how the system will change (Becker, et al., 2004).
- ▶ A participatory approach is taken when the knowledge and perceptions of individuals are used as a basis for projecting impacts. In this case, the scientist facilitates the sharing knowledge by the respondent and from there interprets and reports on impacts (Becker, et al., 2004).

The findings presented in this report are based on primary and secondary research. Qualitative data was collected through the primary research component, and quantitative data were mainly used for the secondary research as described above in **Section 2**.

Qualitative research is often carped as “subjective” or “unscientific”. Therefore, it is crucial to distinguish between qualitative and quantitative social research and where they are best used.

Qualitative research emphasises words, meaning, and general rules gauged from instances and conceptual elements, rather than quantifiable and analysable data (David & Sutton, 2004). Data collection typically takes place during semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and observations. Rather than recording information gathered in a standardised coding format, it is usually reported by theme. Qualitative research reveals information about feelings, values and attitudes of people towards the project. The aim thereof is to understand, rather than quantify, which makes qualitative research appropriate for assessing social impacts. Before the researcher can properly assess an impact, it has to be understood at the level and from the perspective of the person or group impacted. Hence, baseline questions that are not directly related to the project but rather to the stakeholder group’s make-up and functionality are included in the discussion guides used during engagements.

Quantitative research, on the other hand, usually deduces things by referring to general laws and principles, and mostly emphasises things that are objective, thus incorporating a natural science model of the research process (David & Sutton, 2004). It is usually easier for technically-minded people to understand and believe. It emphasises quantifiable data. Data is usually collected through structured questionnaires or surveys where answers are comparable, and data is recorded in a numeric standardised coding format. Data is presented numerically and can be

statistically analysed. This approach is useful when trends need to be identified for a specific group (population) and a sample of the population is usually selected.

The qualitative research of this project could be complemented by quantitative research, but it was not done for several reasons. Quantitative data collection is labour, time and cost intensive. The increased accuracy obtained in terms of additional identifiable trends would not warrant the additional expenditure. A risk also exists that, where there is a strong emotional reaction or attachment to a project, respondents might amplify the intensity of existing poor circumstances or say that all impacts are equally severe to bend the results and enhanced positive impacts/benefits of the project in their favour. This reduces the usefulness of quantitative results as a component of the primary research process.

2.4 Engagements

The qualitative data collected as part of this study forms the heart of the impact assessment. It was done as follows.

2.4.1 Blyde 04 CPA workshop

On 17 May 2022, two Zutari team members had a workshop with seven CPA members of the Blyde 04 CPA, including the Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and other members of the representative board (**Figure 2-1**). A quorum was formed as there were at least three representatives were present from the four CPAs. This workshop, which took place on at the Bushbuckridge Tourism and Information centre, served as a starting point for planning consultations with various stakeholder groups as part of the SIA research. The CPAs were consulted as a starting point as they represent the land claimants and beneficiaries of the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. It is with them that MoUs and the PPP have been formed between them and MTPA and the private party who serves as initial developer of the project. They also serve as local information channel through which information is communicated between the project team and the larger community, as far as possible within their current responsibilities.



Figure 2-1 | Members of the Blyde-04 CPA attending a workshop to plan SIA engagements in May 2022

During this meeting, the following matters were discussed and mapped:

- ▶ The **purpose** of SIA engagements in comparison to Public Participation Process engagements, where the former is to gather information as part of a specialist study and the latter is to solicit feedback from any Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to provide information to the public on the project.
- ▶ The CPAs' inputs around who the most **important stakeholders** and stakeholder groups are in the project was sought and they were listed. The existing database of I&APs was also assessed to update stakeholder naming conventions and to add additional stakeholders. For instance, the tribal councils were not up to date in the 2013 version of the database. Since these stakeholders would have to be engaged during the subsequent focus groups, it was crucial to get the correct stakeholders on the list.
- ▶ **Scheduling, venues, invitation and catering protocols** were also discussed. The members in attendance provided key information around preferences that various stakeholders have regarding meetings such as the ones that would take place for this study. For instance, in some cases it would be appropriate for the CPAs to invite the stakeholders via formal letter drafted by Zutari, or informally by word of mouth, and in other cases Zutari would telephonically contact them.

- ▶ It was also agreed that, in the interest of ensuring that the discussions stay focused on the applicable topics that would be discussed during the focus group meetings, and that the questions and answers could be translated into Sepulana as necessary, a CPA-member would at all times be present in the sessions. This proved very helpful once the engagements started.
- ▶ The proposed focus group discussion guides (which is a set of questions focused on the stakeholder/stakeholder group attending the session) were sent to the Blyde 04 CPA beforehand for comment.

2.4.2 Focus Group Meetings and Key Informant Interviews

The Focus Group Meetings and Key Informant Interviews were conducted to provide information on the feelings, values and attitudes towards the project. The aim thereof is to understand, rather than quantify their perceptions or, how they would experience certain impacts of the project or components thereof.

It must be noted at this point that, although the project is not located in the BLM, the tribal structures and the whole Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve that is under claim, are also important area “demarcations”, and not just the municipal and ward demarcations. This is why many of the stakeholders consulted are located in the neighbouring BLM and not restricted to the TCLM area.

2.4.2.1 Focus Group Meetings

Between Monday, 23 and Friday, 27 May 2022, three Zutari team members undertook eleven focus group meetings in the TCLM in Graskop, and Bushbuckridge Local Municipality (BLM) in Bushbuckridge, Dwarsloop and Acornhoek.

Table 2-2 shows the engagement date, time, venue and stakeholders in attendance.

Table 2-2 | Record of focus group meetings and interviews held on 23-27 May 2022 for the God’s Window Skywalk SIA

Time	Attendees	Venue	No.
Monday, 23 May 2022			
10h00	Bushbuckridge, Graskop and Sabie Taxi Associations (see Figure 2-2)	Town Hall, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	10
12h00	Curio vendors from God’s Window, Wonder View, Pinnacle, Lowveld View, and Three Rondavels	Town Hall, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	57
12h00	Curio vendors from God’s Window	Town Hall, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	2
14h00	Thabatlou Business Chamber, Survymash, M&C Global, and Hoyohoyo Angel’s View Graskop (see Figure 2-3)	Town Hall, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	6
Tuesday, 24 May 2022			
10h00	Mapulana Heritage Council, various churches, South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), League of Elders Fraternal (see Figure 2-4)	Word of Life Church	17
14h00	Blyde 04 CPAs (see Figure 2-5)	Word of Life Church	7
Wednesday, 25 May 2022			
10h00	Graskop Gorge Lift Co., Ice Co. Espag Properties, Panorama Ruskamp, Africa Silks, Mulberry Lane, Blyde Lodge, Graskop Chamber of Business and Tourism, Graskop Ratepayers Association, Old Post Office Inn, Hamba Kancane Guesthouse, and Nthole Women Trading.	Town Hall, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	14
10h00	Mphahlama farmers association, Mash ‘n Mash Tavern	Auditorium, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	13
12h00	Ward Committee members (four including the Ward 9 councillor, Mr Gregory Mashile) and EDM councillor	Town Hall, TCLM Office, Graskop Administration Unit	5

Time	Attendees	Venue	No.
Thursday, 26 May 2022			
10h00	Malele, Thabakgoulo, Moreipusho, Setlhare, and Moletele Traditional Councils, including members of the Moreipusho Royal Family (see Figure 2-6)	Serurubele Boutique Hotel	19
Friday, 27 May 2022			
10h00	Mogane Traditional Council	Bourke's Luck Potholes Boardroom	4
		Total	154

Stakeholders that were invited to Focus Groups but who cancelled or could not attend include:

- ▶ Panorama route “business structure” represented by Dr Reuel Khoza;
- ▶ Bushbuckridge Local Tourism Organisation, represented by Mr Bedneck Maebela;
- ▶ Business Chamber, represented by Mr. Tom Chiloane;
- ▶ Ward 10 councillor: Quinton Lawrence; and
- ▶ Mashilane and Mohlala Morudi Traditional Councils.



Figure 2-2 | Focus Group Meeting with Graskop, Sabie and Bushbuckridge Taxi Association representatives



Figure 2-3 | Focus Group Meeting with the Thabatlou Business Chamber, SurvyMash, M&C Global, and Hoyohoyo Angel's View Graskop representatives



Figure 2-4 | Focus Group Meeting with the Mapulana Heritage Council, various churches, SANCO, League of Elders Fraternal



Figure 2-5 | Focus Group Meeting with the Blyde 04 CPA



Figure 2-6 | Focus Group Meeting with the Malele, Thabakgoulo, Moreipusho, Setlhare, and Moletele Traditional Councils

2.4.2.2 Key Informant Interviews

The purpose of Key Informant Interviews is to gather specific information from a person occupying a particular role, such as the Municipal Manager, where a group setting is less ideal. After the fieldwork, additional telephonic interviews were conducted with stakeholders that could not be reached on site.

Table 2-2 shows the engagement date, time, venue and stakeholders in attendance.

Table 2-3 | Record of focus group meetings and interviews held between 26 May and 21 June 2022 for the God’s Window Skywalk SIA

Time	Attendees	Venue	No.
Thursday, 26 May 2022			
14h00	Flower Girls women’s group	Bushbuckridge Tourism and Information Centre	1
Friday, 10 June 2022			
12h00	Bushbuckridge Local Municipality: Municipal Manager	Telephonic	1
Tuesday, 21 June 2022			
12h00	Mpumalanga Disabled Forum	Telephonic	1
		Total	3

An audience with the TCLM Municipal Manager (MM) could not be secured at the time of writing this report, despite attempts.

2.5 Ethical issues

When the research team engaged stakeholders to conduct research, team members took cognisance of the following important issues around ethics:

- ▶ The social team members were truthful and respectful in the way that they portray the client
- ▶ The social team members did not make any disparaging or judgmental remarks about participants
- ▶ The social team members did not make any sweeping statements that produces generalisation and prejudices about participants
- ▶ The social team members did not use terms that some people may experience as hurtful and offensive
- ▶ Respondents had the autonomy to decide whether to participate
- ▶ The team assumed that all people are equals

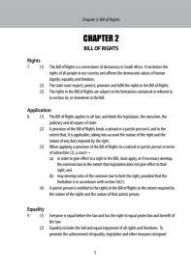

- ▶ Participants' rights and dignity was be respected
- ▶ Informed consent for participation in the process was be given
- ▶ Data was treated as confidential
- ▶ The respondents could choose to discontinue their participation
- ▶ Researchers were not allowed to change the data collected or observations made
- ▶ Researchers should report on limitations of the study
- ▶ Any conclusions should be supported by data

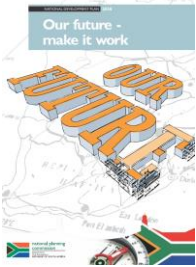


3 Applicable legal framework and standards


This section, in **Table 3-1** below, considers the regulatory, policy and strategic framework for SIAs in South Africa. Often, it would be associated with the Public Participation Process (PPP) conducted as part of applications for Environmental Authorisations (EAs), permits, and licences. This is because it is the only obvious regulatory process legally requiring applicants to conduct a certain form of social assessment.


However, international best practice measures for doing stakeholder engagement and environmental and social risks and impact assessments are discussed. These include International Finance Corporation (IFC) Environmental and Social Performance Standards.

Table 3-1 | Legislation and guidelines considered in assessing the social impacts of the proposed project

Applicable legislation and guidelines	Description and relevance	Relevance
South African Legislation		
<p>Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996)</p> 	<p>Section 24 of the Constitution, on Environment, states that:</p> <p><i>“Everyone has the right—</i></p> <p>a) ...</p> <p>b) <i>to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that—</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. ...</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. ...</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iii. <i>secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.”</i></p>	<p>The Constitution applies to all environmental authorisations sought, as it provides the Constitutional starting point for the country’s environmental legislation.</p> <p>This legislation is in place for the benefit of the people of the country and shows the importance of the environmental and social dimensions of any developments that take place in the country.</p>
<p>National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)</p> 	<p>The function of the NEMA is to provide for co-operative environmental governance. This is achieved through, <i>inter alia</i>, the Act’s establishment of principles for decision-making on environmental matters (such as the “polluter pays” principle).</p>	<p>The following sections show that assessment of the social impacts of a project is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Section 2 (4) (i) the Act states that “[t]he social, economic and environmental impacts of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, must be considered, assessed and evaluated, and decisions must be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment.” ■ Sustainable development is defined in Section 1 as the “integration of social, economic and environmental factors into planning, implementation and decision-making so as to ensure that development serves present and future generations”. <p>Section 23 (2) (b) indicates that one of the objectives of integrated environmental management is to “<i>identify, predict and evaluate the actual and potential impact on the environment, <u>socioeconomic conditions</u> and cultural heritage, the risks and consequences and alternatives and options for mitigation of activities, with a view to minimising negative impacts, maximising benefits...</i>”</p>
<p>National Development Plan (NDP) (2012)</p>	<p>On 11 November 2011 the National Planning Commission released the National Development Plan: Vision for 2030 (NPC, 2012) for South Africa and it was adopted as government policy in August 2012. The National</p>	<p>As part of the plan to create a more inclusive and integrated rural economy, a multifaceted approach has been adopted where industries such as tourism have been identified as key areas of potential growth.</p>

Applicable legislation and guidelines	Description and relevance	Relevance
	<p>Development Plan (NDP) was undertaken to envision what South Africa should look like in 2030 and what action steps should be taken to achieve this (RSA, 2013). The aim of the NDP is to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030.</p>	<p>Tourism is seen as one of the industries that will activate rural economies and South Africa's economy as a whole. Tourism is also identified as a key driver of change and is especially the case in the project area. This is due to the rich natural and cultural beauty that exists there. Since the tourism industry is labour intensive, it can stimulate the growth of employment, and small businesses.</p>
<p>Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path</p> 	<p>In October 2011, the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Growth and Tourism released the Mpumalanga Growth and Development path. The document illustrates Mpumalanga's current economic landscape with a view to future economic growth and development.</p>	<p>According to Chapter 3.7.2 that details "Main economic sectors", it is envisioned that high level services can directly create 250 000 jobs in the tourism sector. In Chapter 4.3.2.5, reference is made to tourism being an important sector of the provincial economy, contributing meaningfully to economic growth and job creation. The Province is abundant in natural and cultural wealth, and this also provides a basis on which to create a sustainable tourist industry. Furthermore, the path states that the Mpumalanga Tourism Growth Strategy (2007) indicates that Mpumalanga has the potential to become a premier international and domestic tourist destination.</p>
International Standards		
<p>IFC's Environmental and Social (E&S) Performance Standards</p> 	<p>IFC E&S performance Standards define IFC clients' responsibilities for managing their environmental and social risks. They provide sound measures and principles to managing risks and committing to sustainable development. It provides guidance on how to identify risks and impacts, and are designed to help avoid, mitigate, and manage risks and impacts.</p> <p>Performance Standards relevant to social matters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts ■ PS 2: Labor and Working Conditions ■ PS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention ■ PS 4: Community Health, Safety, and Security ■ PS 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement ■ PS 7: Indigenous Peoples 	<p>PS 1 is focused on the assessment and management of social risks and impacts. It emphasises that social performance must be managed throughout the life of a project. It implies that impacts have to be assessed continuously. It must be supported by management and based on engagement between the proponent, its workers, local communities affected by the project, and other stakeholders. It defines social risks and impacts respectively as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Risk: a combination of the probability of hazards occurring and the severity of impacts resulting from such an occurrence. ■ Impact: any change, potential or actual, to (i) the cultural environment, and (ii) impacts on surrounding community and workers, resulting from the business activity to be supported. <p>In this assessment, impacts will be assessed as the result of a risk (event/activity).</p>

Applicable legislation and guidelines	Description and relevance	Relevance
<p>United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS 8: Cultural Heritage <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a long-term blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. It was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been developed as an urgent call for action by all countries.</p>	<p>The very first sustainable development goal is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. The tourism industry plays a crucial role in the South African and world economy, and it has the potential to alleviate many forms of poverty in the communities involved in tourism initiatives.</p> <p>The same can be said for the goal of ending hunger. As development and expansion occurs an impact can be made towards reducing hunger.</p> <p>Tourism has a lot of potential to promote gender equality by affording additional income generation opportunities to unemployed women.</p> <p>Importantly, Goal 8, “Decent work and economic growth”, can be directly achieved through the proposed project. This will, in turn, lead to the reduction of various forms of inequality.</p> <p>Goal 15 emphasises the importance of using land and resources sustainably. A dedicated Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be produced as part of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR), of which the goals will be to ensure the sustainable management of the environmental impacts of the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project. This will ensure that environmental and social impacts caused by the proposed development are systematically mitigated and managed.</p> <p>Goal 16, “the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development” is met through the integration of the local community and the CPAs in the project design.</p> <p>This naturally involves collaboration with various institutions or groups of stakeholders from municipalities, government provincial and national authorities and importantly, local community structures and community stakeholders. These stakeholders, together, seek to coordinate collaboration to harness the positive effects that the proposed development can have on the local community. This coordination also strengthens inter institutional relationships which further fosters a climate conducive to future growth.</p>
<p><i>Literature:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Handbook of Social Impact Assessment 	<p>The practice of SIA is guided by a set of International Principles that defines the core values, fundamental principles for development and principles specific to SIA practice (Becker & Vanclay, 2003). When the International Principles are considered, it is clear that SIA aspires to more than just</p>	<p>The following specific principles refer to these sustainable outcomes (Becker & Vanclay, 2003):</p>

Applicable legislation and guidelines	Description and relevance	Relevance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects 	<p>assessing the impact of development on people and includes sustainable outcomes.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development projects should be broadly acceptable to the members of those communities likely to benefit from, or be affected by, the planned intervention. 2. The primary focus of all developments should be positive outcomes, such as capacity building, empowerment, and the realisation of human and social capital. 3. The term “environment” should be defined broadly to include social and human dimensions, and in such inclusion, care must be taken to ensure that adequate attention is given to the realm of the social. 4. Equity considerations should be a fundamental element of impact assessment and of development planning. 5. In all planned interventions and their assessments, avenues should be developed to build the social and human capital of local communities and to strengthen democratic processes. 6. Local knowledge, experience and acknowledgement of different cultural values should be incorporated in any assessment. 7. Development processes that infringe the human rights of any section of society should not be accepted. <p>In addition to the International Principles, the international SIA community produced a document titled: Social Impact Assessment: Guidance for assessing and managing the social impacts of projects (Vanclay, 2015) in April 2015. The purpose of this document is to provide advice to various stakeholders (including proponents) about good practice SIA and social impact management. This document aspires to provide a much-needed benchmark for SIA practice across the globe.</p>

4 Social baseline

4.1 Description of the area

The proposed project will be located in Ward 10 of the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality (TCLM). The TCLM falls under the Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) in the Mpumalanga Province.

4.1.1 Mpumalanga Province

Geography

Mpumalanga is situated in the north-eastern part of South Africa, covering an estimated 76 544 km² with a population of 4 335 963 people, according to the 2016 StatsSA Community Survey. Mpumalanga shares an international border with Mozambique and provincial borders with the Limpopo, Gauteng, Free State and KwaZulu Natal Provinces. The capital of Mpumalanga is Mbombela/Nelspruit.

Population, age, households and language

Approximately 72% of the population of Mpumalanga is under 34 years of age with the median age being 24 years (CS 2016). 57% of the population lies within the 18-64 years age bracket. The dominant population group is Black African, representing 94% of the total population. The province is evenly balanced between males (49%) and females (51%).

Siswati and Isizulu are the dominant languages in the area, each making up 28% of the languages most spoken at home. 97% of the population was born in South Africa and 98% of the population are South African citizens.

10.9% of the dwellings in Mpumalanga are informal dwellings or shacks. 62% of households are owned or fully paid off. 40% of households are female headed households. 7.3% of informal dwellings are child headed households.

The average annual household income corresponds to the national average of R 29 400, based on 2011 Census data.

Unemployment and poverty

The province has a 37.5% employment rate (Census 2011) and 69% of that is in the formal sector. This means that only 17% of working individuals are employed in the informal sector. The unemployment rate of females of 32% was 6.5% higher than that of males (25.5 per cent) in the province (MDEDT, 2011). The unemployment rate of the youth was 38.7% and they made up almost three quarters of the unemployed cohort 73.2 per cent.

Geographically, the number of unemployed people was skewed towards rural areas with 55.2% of the unemployed in the province found there. The unemployment rate of rural areas at 33.3% was higher than the provincial rate as well as that of urban areas, which is 24%.

Poverty income is defined as the minimum income needed to sustain a household and varies according to the size of the household. The poverty rate is the percentage of people living in households with an income less than the poverty income (MDEDT, 2011).

In 2009, Mpumalanga's poverty rate of 46.8% was higher than the national rate of 41.3%. Mpumalanga's poverty rate was the fourth highest (worst) among the nine provinces. It was estimated that 1.75 million of Mpumalanga's citizens lived in households with an income less than the poverty income. Over the 13-year period from 1996 to 2009, the poverty rate in Mpumalanga deteriorated (increased) by 0.8%, which was more than the 0.4% at which the poverty rate increased nationally.

Education

In the Province, 69% of individuals 20 years and older have completed Grade 9 or higher, while only 41.6% have completed matric or higher.

Economic profile

Manufacturing (21%) and mining (19%) are the largest sectors in the province. The province is driven mainly by the tertiary sector, making up a total of 49.6% of the provincial economy (MDEDT, 2011).

Basic Services

The majority (87%) of the population has access to water from a service provider, but only 46% have piped water inside their yard. Only 6.8% of the population has no access to electricity. 81% of the population has an in-house prepaid meter.

Less than half (45.5%) of the population has access to flush or chemical toilets. 40% of the population is getting refuse disposal from either a local authority, a private company or community members.

4.1.2 Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Population size

The Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) is made up of four local municipalities, namely, Bushbuckridge, City of Mbombela, Nkomazi, and Thaba Chweu Local Municipalities. According to the Community Survey 2016, the EDM area had a total population of 1 754 931. The population is comprised 39.6% of the City of Mbombela, 31% from Bushbuckridge, 23% from Nkomazi and 5% from TCLM. The City of Mbombela has been the fastest growing municipality within the district. This is due to its economic hub which attracts immigrants from the other municipalities and outside the province and the country (EDM, 2021).

As can be seen in **Figure 4-1** below, the TCLM is the smallest local municipality in the district by population.

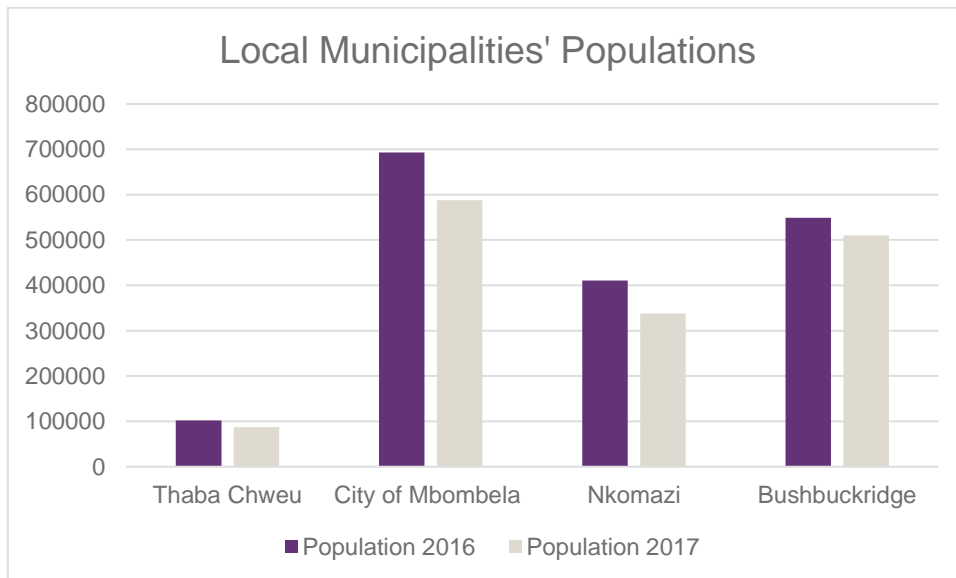


Figure 4-1 | Population distribution of the Local Municipalities (LMs) in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality in 2007 and 2016

Age and sex composition

Age and sex distribution has a potential impact on future economic possibilities.

The district is fairly evenly split between males and females, as shown in **Table 4-1**. Children are always the single largest population group in every local municipality. TCLM has a smooth distribution between age groups with a healthy number of youth and adults that could potentially be part of the work force, as shown in **Table 4-2**.

Table 4-1 | Population and gender distribution of the LMs in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Municipality	Male	Female	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Nkomazi	195 806	215 101	410 907	48	52
Bushbuckridge	252 905	295 855	548 760	46	54
Thaba Chweu	53 008	48 887	101 895	52	48
City of Mbombela	342 914	350 454	693 369	49	51

Table 4-2 | Population age group distribution of the LMs in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Municipality	Children 0-14 yrs	Youth 15-34 yrs	Adults 35-64 yrs	Elderly 65+ yrs	Total	Children (%)	Youth (%)	Adults (%)	Elderly (%)
City of Mbombela	284 676	197 328	168 502	42 865	693 371	41	29	24	6
Thaba Chweu	36 693	28 255	29 120	7 827	101 895	36	28	29	8
Nkomazi	212 001	110 321	76 198	22 387	410 907	49	27	18	5
Bushbuckridge	276 393	131 061	102 465	38 842	548 761	50	24	19	7

Population growth

The population of the district is generally growing quite rapidly. TCLM has stabilised at the rate of 2.05%, as shown in **Figure 4-2** below. Although this is not as pronounced as other municipalities in the district, it does mean that there will always be a need for increased employment opportunities, housing and social facilities. According to StatsSA data there has been an increase in the LM's population size from 1996 to 2011 and further increases are expected due to migration and due to economic pull factors into the area.

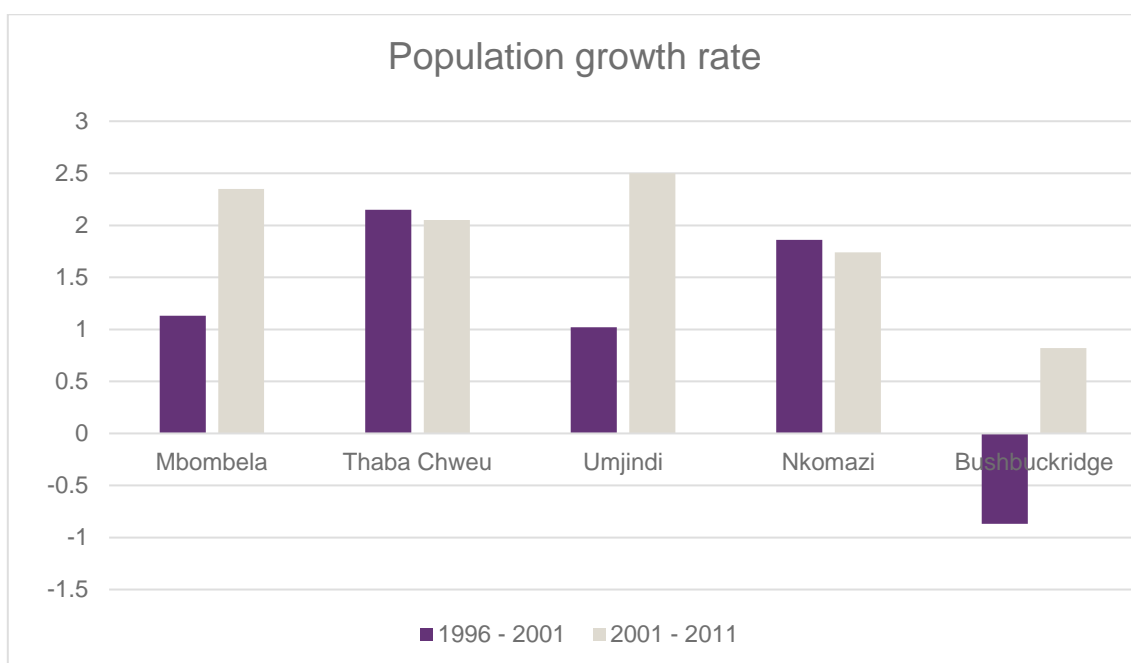


Figure 4-2 | Population growth rate of the LMs in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Population density

Population density measures the average number of people in an area. It is calculated by dividing the number of people (4 335 963) by the area (76 544.3 km²). It tells how many people are residing in a specific unit of area and allows for broad comparison of settlement intensity across geographic areas. The population density of the Mpumalanga Province is 56.6 people per square kilometre.

Population changes from 2000-2020

There are three components that cause population change: births, deaths, and migration. The changes in the population from births and deaths is often combined and referred to as natural increase or natural change. Populations grow or shrink depending on the rate at which they gain and lose people.

- ▶ The fertility rate of Mpumalanga as 2.44 between 2016 and 2021, considered medium when compared to the rest of the country.
- ▶ Mpumalanga had a positive net migration between 2006 and 2021.

- ▶ The total number of deaths in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality has decreased from 7 082 to 7 009 to 6 716 from 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively.

Life expectancy at birth

The United Nations Development Plan (UNDP) defines life expectancy at birth as the number of years a newly born infant could expect to live if prevailing patterns of age-specific mortality rates at the time of birth stay the same throughout the infant's life. The indicator is an important yardstick for any economy as it gives an indication of its health status. The implications of low life expectancy include loss of a productive workforce, loss of tax revenue and a high dependency ratio. Being able to predict how a population will age has implications for the planning and provision of services. Increases in life expectancy could translate into large increases in the population.

The life expectancies at birth in Mpumalanga has slowly increased over time between 2001 and 2021 for both males and females, as shown in **Table 4-3**. The number of years by which the life expectancy improve between every interval increases, showing that the Mpumalanga Province has seen some improvements in wellbeing and possible general wellbeing.

Table 4-3 | Life expectancies at birth of males and females in Mpumalanga between 2001 and 2021 (StatsSA, 2019)

	2001-2006	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021
Males	52.4	53.3	57.8	60.4
Females	56.1	57.6	63.5	66.2
Total (average)	54.3	55.5	60.7	63.3

Poverty and unemployment

The district as a whole has a high poverty rate, straining its economy. The good news is that poverty rates in two of the local municipalities (Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi) have decreased between 2011 and 2015, as shown in **Figure 4-3**. TCLM has the lowest poverty and unemployment rate in the district. This may mean that there is comparatively more economic stability in this local municipality; the poverty rate is also stable over the years.

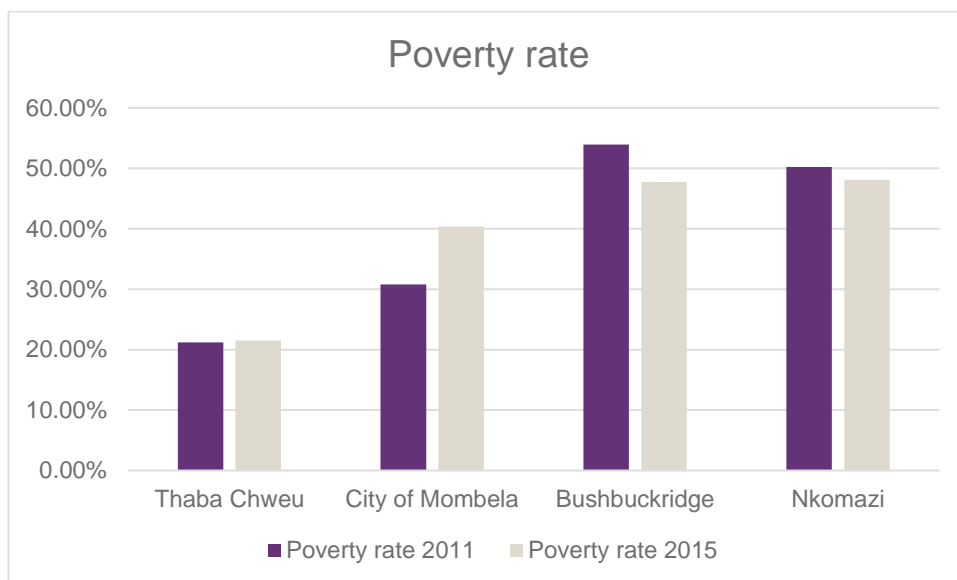


Figure 4-3 | Poverty rate of the LMs in the Ehlanzeni District Municipality

TCLM once again displays a stability in its relatively low unemployment rate. The district as a whole experienced a decline in unemployment between 2011 and 2015, as shown in **Figure 4-4**.

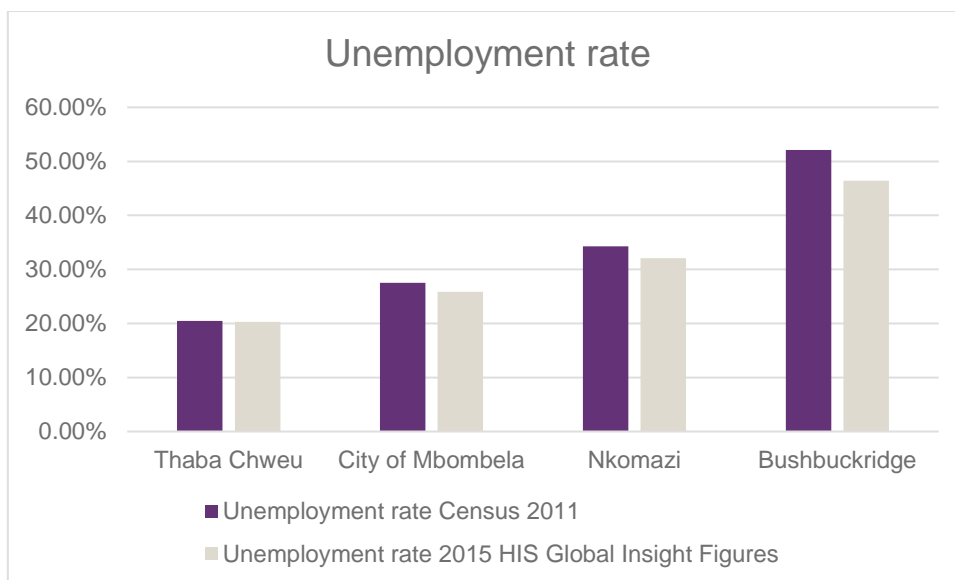


Figure 4-4 | Unemployment rate Ehlanzeni District Municipality

Economic profile

EDM's main economic contributors are trade, community and financial services. Agriculture, forestry and tourism are also some of the main economic activities. According to the district's 2021/22 IDP, Mbombela, White River and Nsikazi are the district's major industrial centres.

The district is shifting from a primary based economy to a tertiary-based economy as was exemplified by the shift from agriculture to community services and trade and finance as the dominant sectors in the economy. The area currently experiences limited investment and high unemployment which means that interventions are required to achieve the desired economic growth targeted in the National Development Plan (EDM, 2021).

Tourism is emerging as a major contributor to the district's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (12.2%). This is very promising as it means that there is potential for government to align with projects such as the God's Window project, which is tourist based, to promote more economic opportunity in the area.

The district's environment is very favourable to agriculture and is home to, among many other agricultural activities, the second largest citrus production in the country. Most of Mpumalanga's minerals are sourced from the EDM. Land in the district is mostly dominated by forestry activities.

4.1.2.1 Thaba Chweu Local Municipality

TCLM is one of the four municipalities of the EDM of the Mpumalanga Province. The municipality is located in the far north-eastern part of the district. It shares its northern boundaries with Limpopo. The municipality is on the Lowveld escarpment of Mpumalanga, with an average elevation of 1 400 m above sea level and altitudes varying from 600 m to 2 100 m (Census 2011).

Population, housing and demographics

According to Census 2011, the TCLM has a total population estimated at 98 387. Of the population, 81,6% are black African, 14,5% are white, and 2,6% are coloured, with other population groups making up the remaining 1,2%. There are 33 352 households in the municipality, with an average household size of 2.7 persons per household.

These figures changed in the following ways between Census 2011 and Community Survey 2016: the population is now estimated at 101 895, up from 98 387 but the median age remained 27. There are 242 child headed households.

Sepedi (41%), Siswati (23%) and Afrikaans (14%) are the predominant languages spoken in TCLM.

97.4% of the population are South African citizens. 13% of houses are informal dwellings or shacks. 51% of houses are owned and fully paid off. 33% of households are female headed households. The average annual household income corresponds to the provincial and district average of R 29 400.

The TCLM is experiencing a steady growth rate as shown in **Figure 4-5** and there will need to be a corresponding increase in economic opportunities to match this population growth.

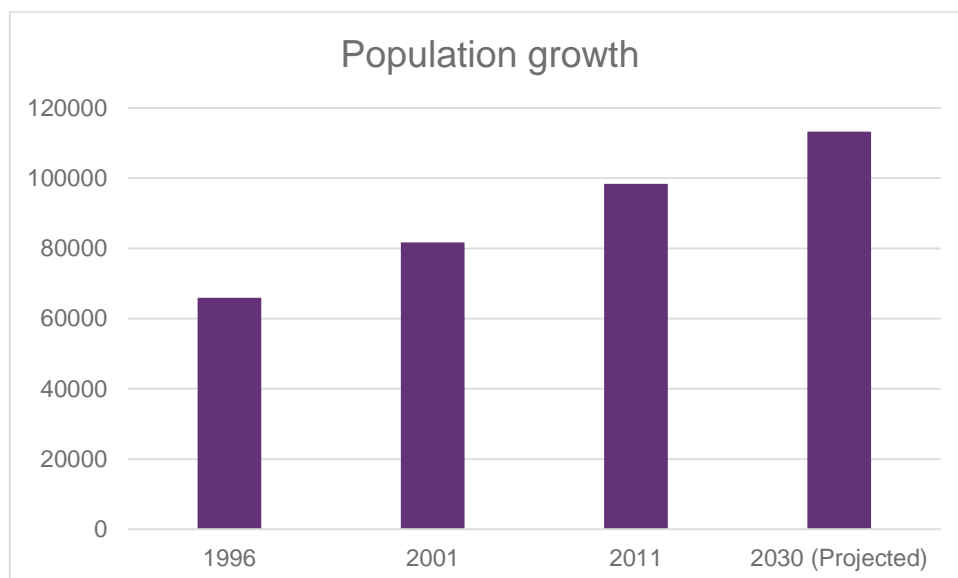


Figure 4-5 | Population growth in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality between 1996 and projected until 2030

Education

Of those aged 20 years and older, 4.5% have completed primary school, 33.7% have some secondary education, 30.7% have completed matric, and 9.6% have some form of higher education. The statistics changed in the following ways between Census 2011 and Community Survey 2016: an estimated 64.2% of the population has completed Grade 9 in 2011, increasing to 75% of the population in 2016, and 37.8% completed Matric in 2011, increasing to 46.3% in 2016.

Employment

There are 35 972 employed persons in the TCLM, and 2 213 persons are classified as discouraged work-seekers. The total unemployment rate is estimated at 20.5%.

Of the youth (15–35 years of age), 16 624 are employed and 1 500 are discouraged work-seekers, with a total unemployment rate of 27.1% among this group.

It is estimated that 52% of households are employed and that 67% of employed households are in the informal sector,

Basic services

47% of households have piped water inside their yards. Only 5.2% of households do not have access to some form of piped water.

71% of the population uses electricity for cooking, 62% of households use electricity for heating, and 84% uses electricity for lighting. 71% of households have prepaid electricity meters. 66% of households have flush toilets. 58% of households have access to refuse disposal via a service provider.

4.1.2.2 Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Ward 10

The proposed project is located in Ward 10 of the TCLM.

Population and household sizes

There are roughly 6 371 people in Ward 10, and 2 682 households. The number of informal households or shacks (26%, shown in **Figure 4-6**) is higher than that of the TCLM as a whole.

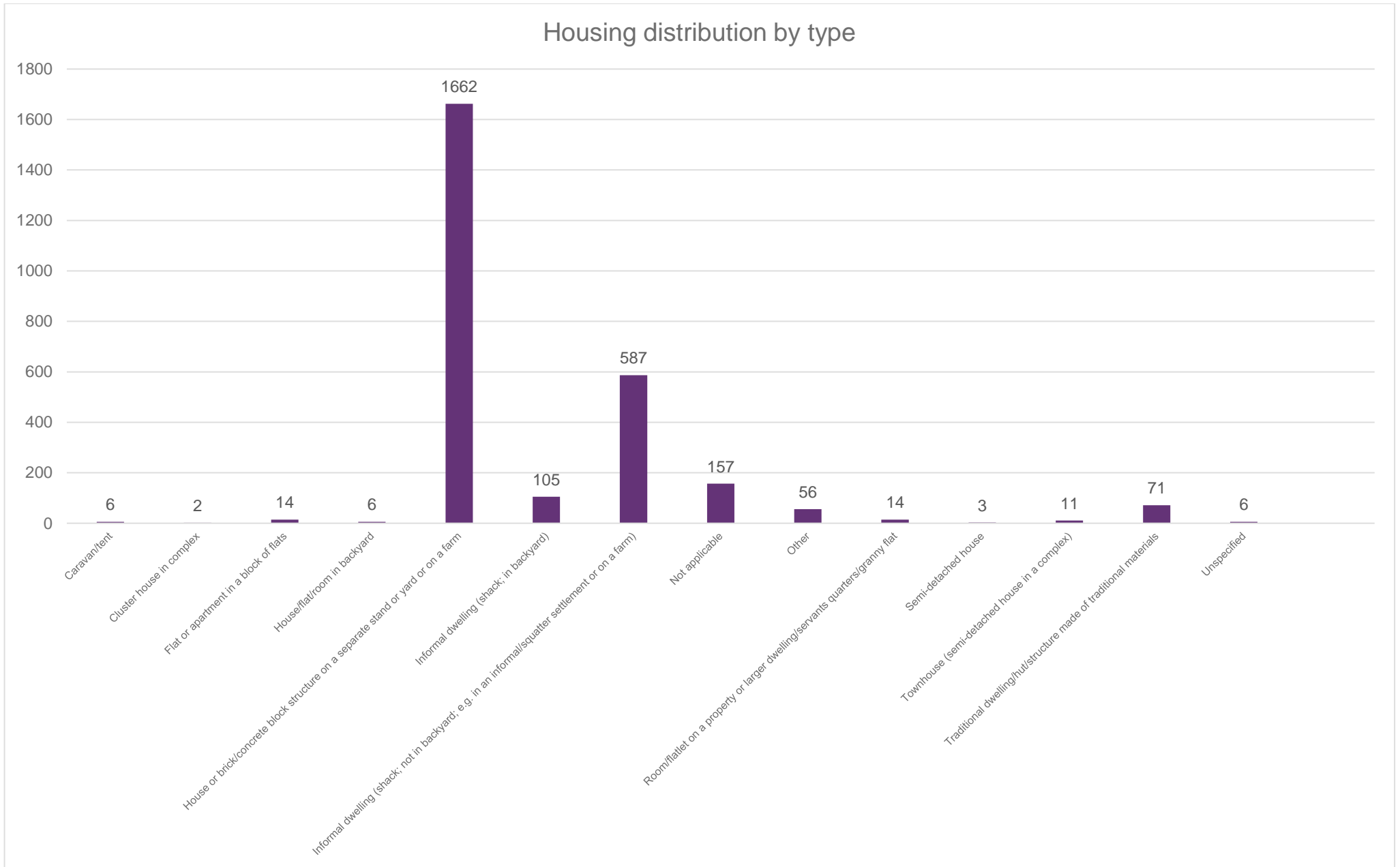


Figure 4-6 | Housing distribution by type in Ward 10 of the TCLM (Census 2011)

Only 28% of households are fully paid off as shown in **Figure 4-7**, which indicates low rates of ownership, especially in relation to provincial and district statistics. 31.6% of households are female headed households, which is slightly below the provincial trend.

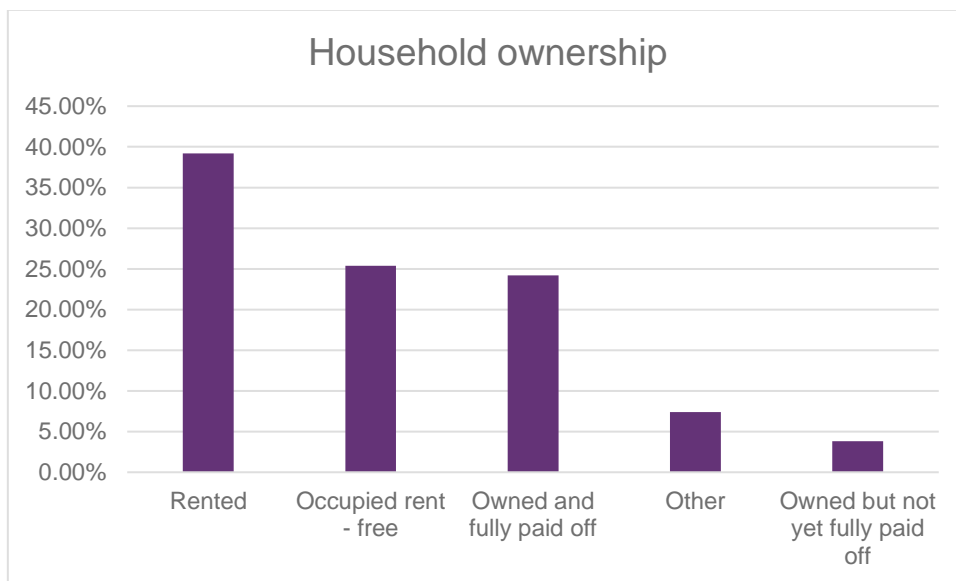


Figure 4-7 | Tenure status of Ward 10 households in the TCLM (Census 2011)

There is a fairly even split of gender demographics with 54% males and 46% females, as shown in **Figure 4-8**.

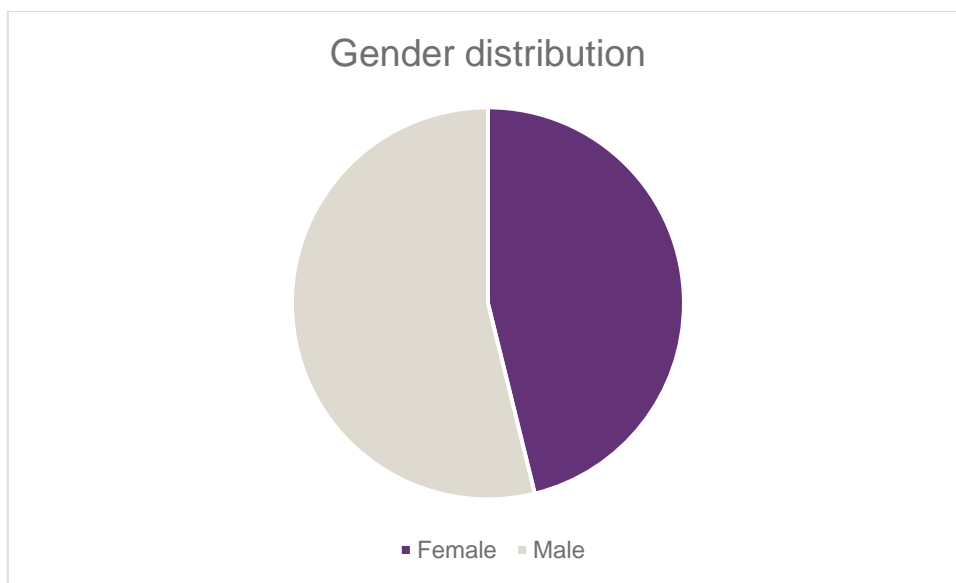


Figure 4-8 | Gender distribution of Ward 10 in the TCLM (Census 2011)

The majority of the population (73%) is black African and the next largest population group is white (17%). The predominantly spoken languages are Sepedi (35%), Afrikaans (18%) and Sesotho (10%) as shown in **Figure 4-9**. Social specialists must be prepared to engage the community in their preferred language, which will enhance the stakeholder engagement experience and ensure fruitful and beneficial communication going forward.

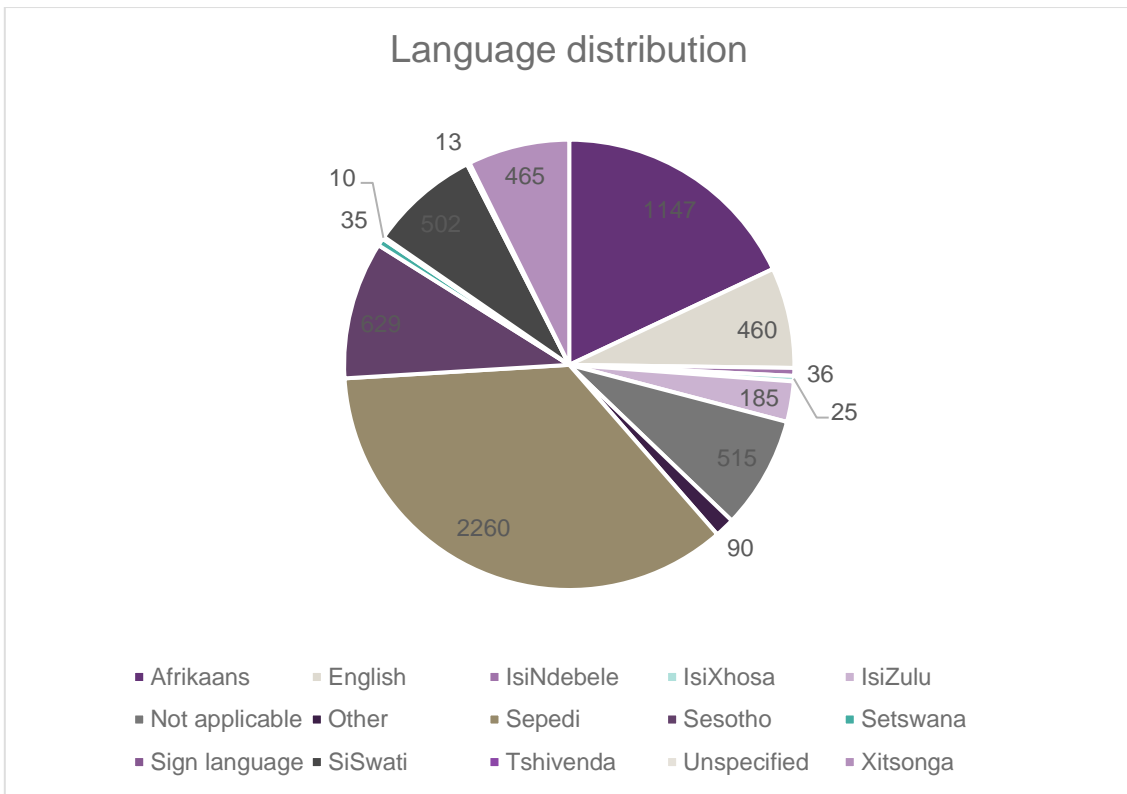


Figure 4-9 | Language distribution of Ward 10 of the TCLM (Census 2011)

90% of the population is reported to be South African citizens. This is higher than provincial and district averages. It must be kept in mind that this may not be a true reflection of the presence of foreigners due to statistical underreporting and un-documentation of incoming foreign nationals as well as the taboo that exists around them.

Age demographics

Ward 10 has a youthful population with the largest single population group of the 6 371 people in the ward being 20-29 years of age (21%), as shown in **Figure 4-10**. 72% of the population is within the working age bracket of 18-64 years of age. This indicates a large potential workforce that can be tapped into and that would need to be absorbed by economic activities.

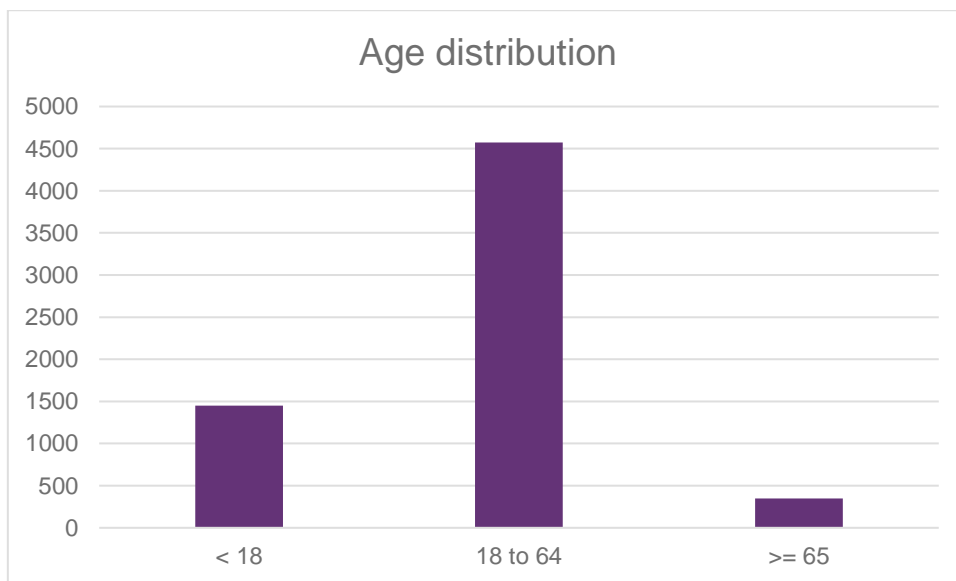


Figure 4-10 | Age distribution of Ward 10 of the TCLM (Census 2011)

Employment

Within the large working age group of Ward 10, 66% are employed in the formal sector, as shown in **Figure 4-11**. This has most likely decreased after the Covid-19 pandemic, putting pressure on government and other entities to create employment opportunities.

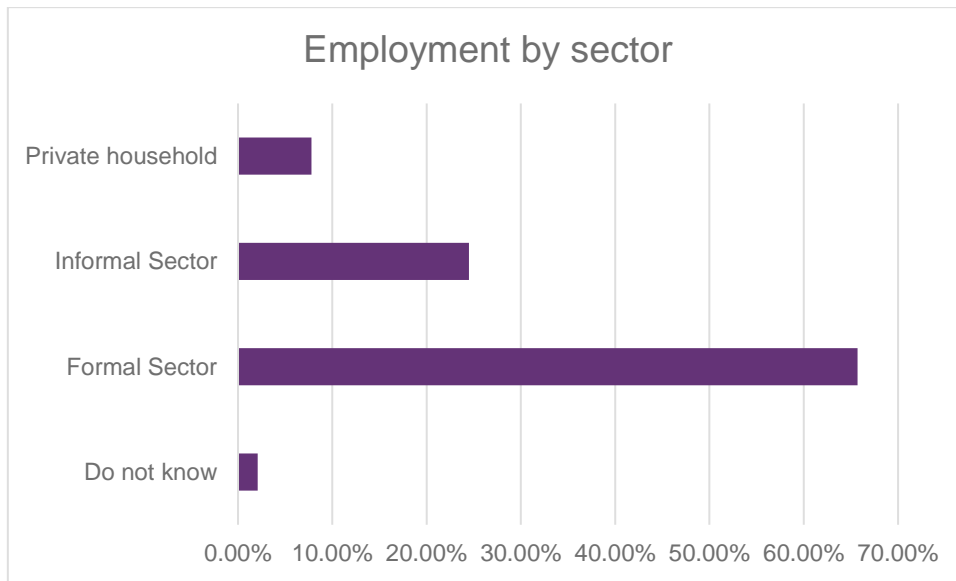


Figure 4-11 | Employment statuses of Ward 10 in the TCLM (Census 2011)

The average annual income of those employed is R 30 000, slightly higher than the average household annual income of R 29 400 nationally and provincially, meaning that households usually have only one bread winner. Furthermore, as can be seen below in **Figure 4-12**, there is a clear gap in earnings between males and females at every income level. This highlights the current social and cultural makeup of the community where men tend to be the breadwinners. Future developments should seek to address this income disparity as it may help to alleviate other social ills.

Employment and income statistics paint a clear picture of the need for further economic opportunities in the region. This puts pressure on up-and-coming projects to address this need.

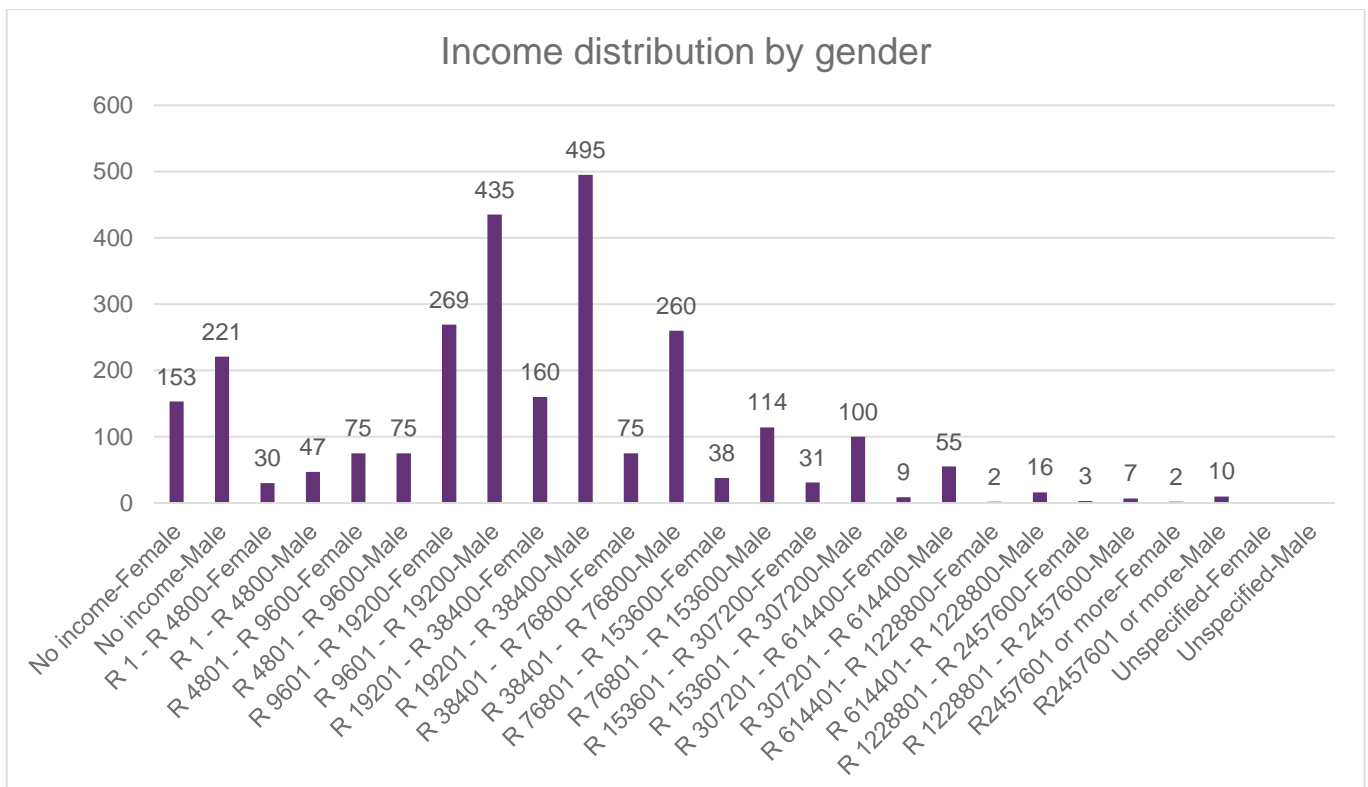


Figure 4-12 | Income distribution by gender in Ward 10 of the TCLM (Census 2011)

Education

Only 37% of the population of Ward 10 has completed matric or higher, as show in **Figure 4-13**.

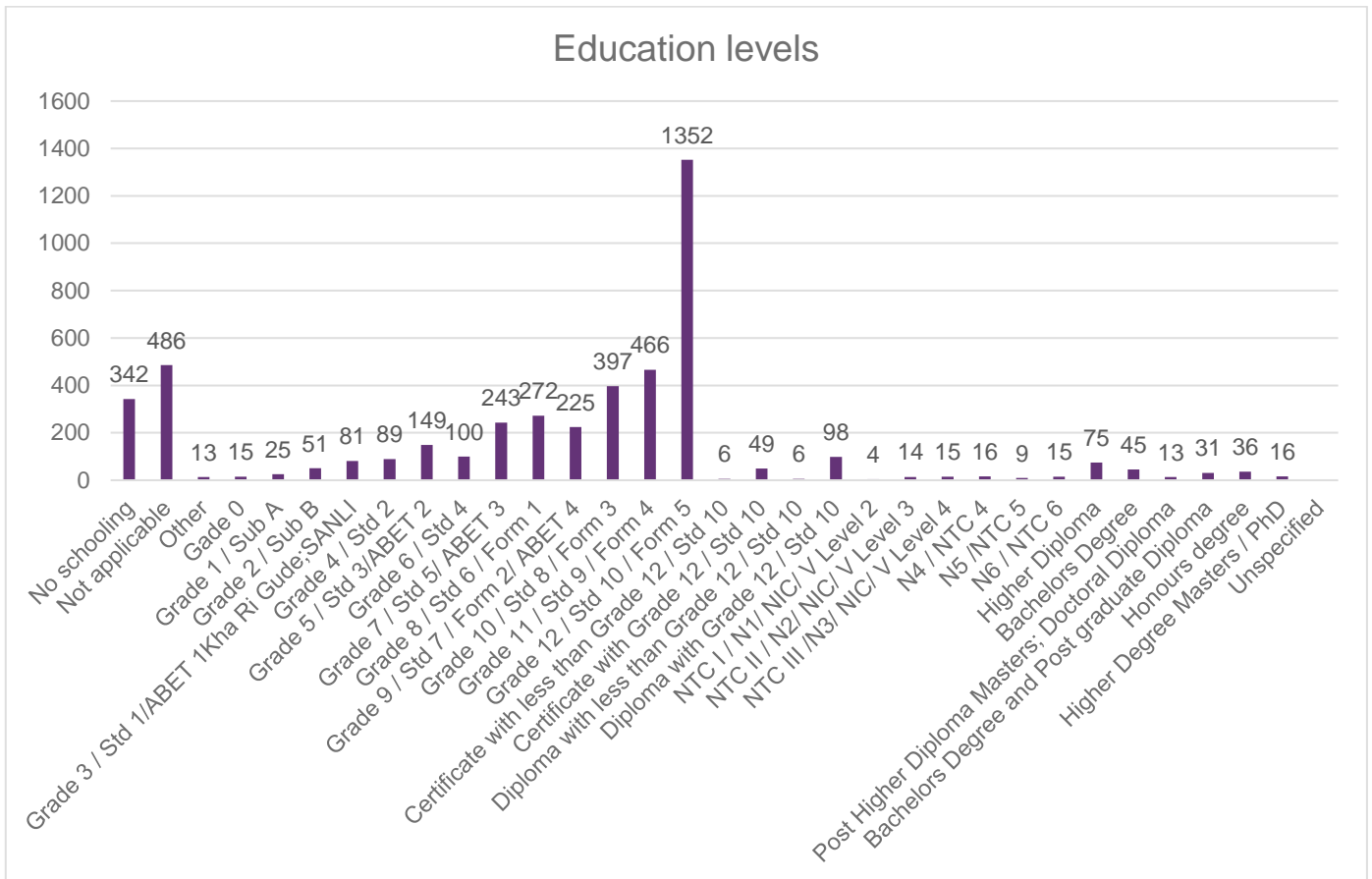


Figure 4-13 | Education levels of Ward 10 in the Thaba Chweu LM (Census 2011)

Agriculture

The main form of farming in the area is animal husbandry. 50% of households that farm, farm animals and mainly poultry but with some livestock as well.

Vegetables are the main form of crops in the area with 26% of farming households doing crop farming.

Access to basic services

72% of households in Ward 10 get water from a regional service provider, as shown in **Figure 4-14** and 62.3% have access to flush or chemical toilets.

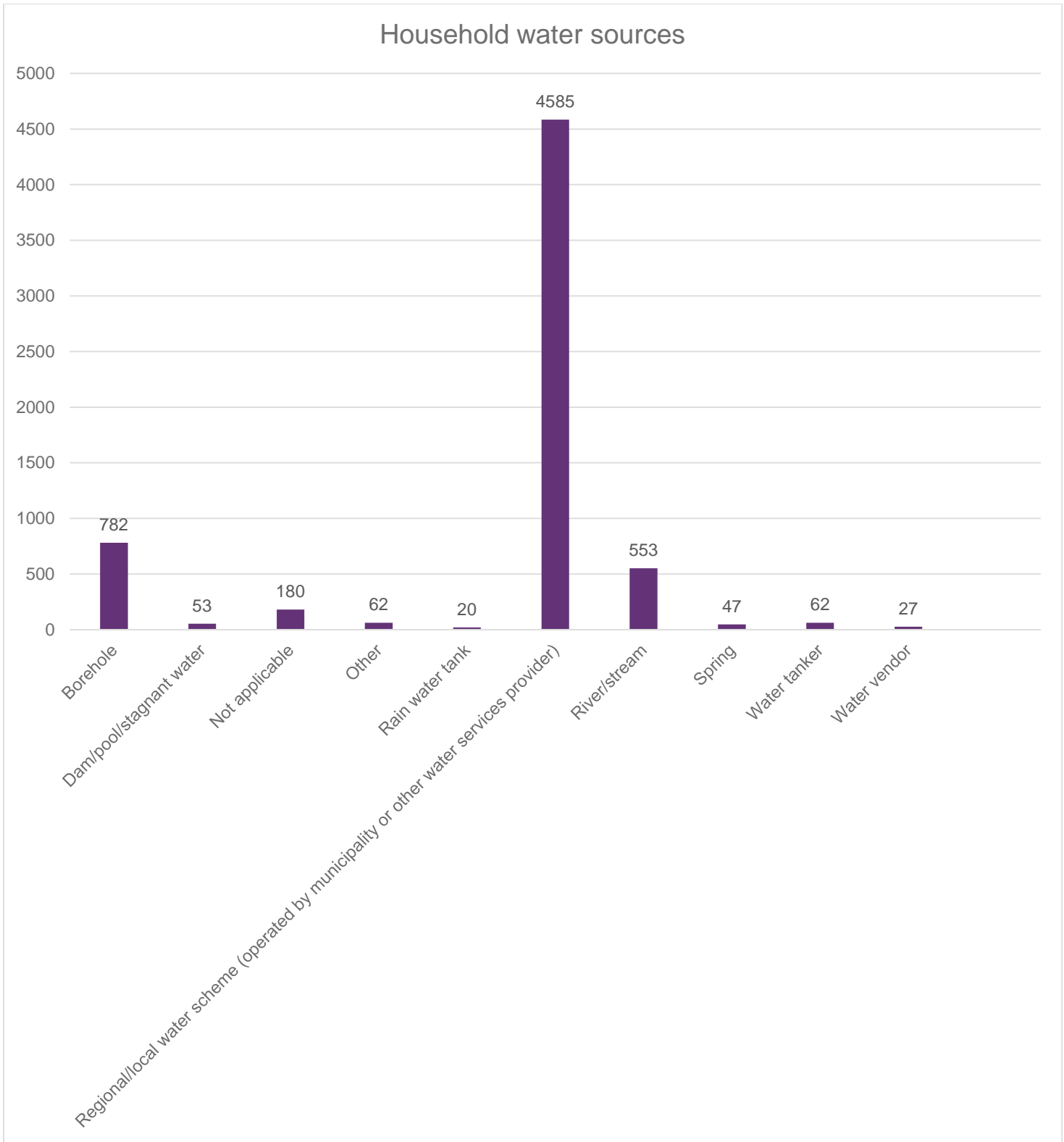


Figure 4-14 | Water sources of households in Ward 10 of the TCLM (Census 2011)

57% of households get refuse disposal from a local authority or private company, as shown in **Figure 4-15**.

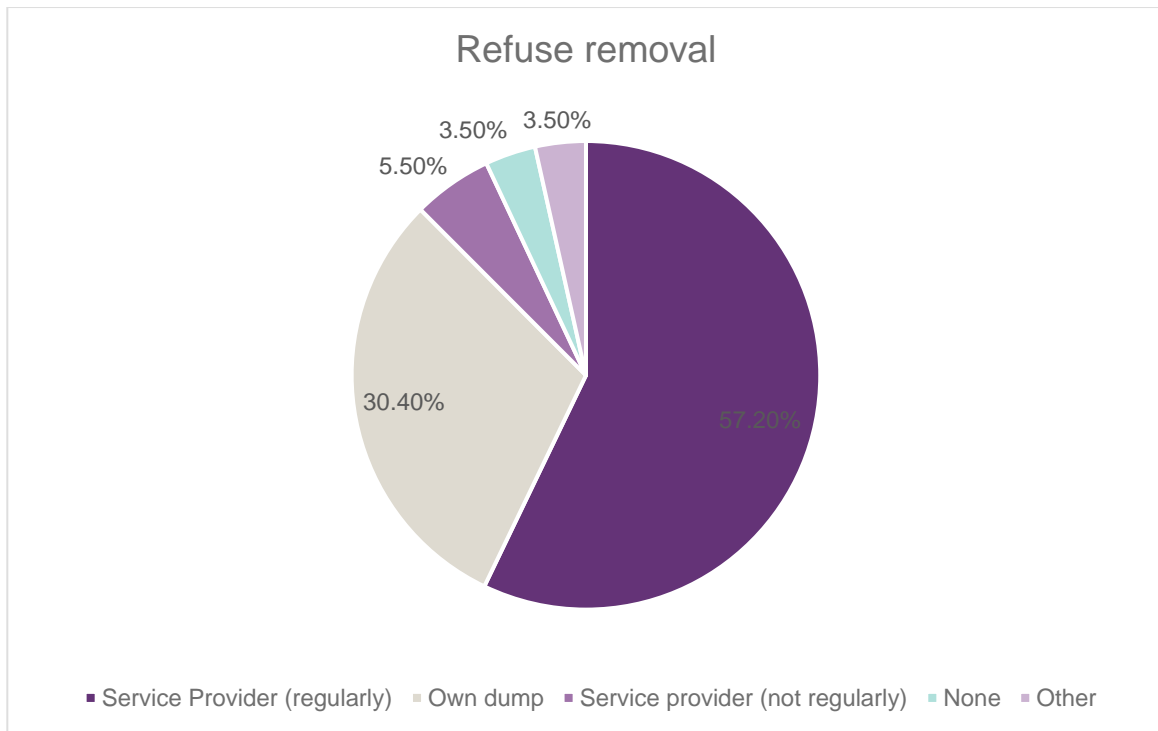


Figure 4-15 | Refuse removal in Ward 10 of the Thaba Chweu LM (Census 2011)

Community relations and associated social dynamics

Community engagement associated with the project has traditionally been done via the CPAs listed in **Section 1.2**. From previous engagements before this phase, the CPAs expressed the need for more frequent updates regarding the project. The community itself has a variety of perceptions regarding the CPAs. However, some community members feel that they are left out of the process and form “concern” groups. There are alleged disputes on the claimant beneficiaries and leadership. Others are happy with CPA communications. Unhappiness usually results from employment and income expectations not being met by the project. It is not necessarily the case that the project or the CPAs are not fulfilling their duties, but rather that there are undue expectations on the project and people expect benefits where there simply are none.

Previous social consultants have indicated that that the social situation is quite depressing due to unemployment, especially among the youth, leading to increased crime in the area.

There are eight tribal authorities in the area, including the:

- ▶ Malele Traditional Council;
- ▶ Thabakgoulo Traditional Council;
- ▶ Moreipusho Traditional Council;
- ▶ Setlhare Traditional Council;
- ▶ Moletele Traditional Council;
- ▶ Mogane Traditional Council;
- ▶ Mashilane Traditional Council; and
- ▶ Mohlala Morudi Traditional Council.

5 Social Impact Assessment

The following section of the report focuses on the identification of social impacts and potential mitigation and management measures. It must be considered that most social impacts are of a cumulative nature, as many existing social challenges are present in the affected community. Residual impacts were also considered, such as those associated with community health, safety and security, and multiplier effects on the local economy. After the Public Participation Process, the impact section will be updated. The method and rationale for how the impact assessment was conducted are described in the section:

5.1 Impact assessment criteria

The impact tables and ratings were adapted from the environmental sciences, and it is not always possible to compartmentalise the social impacts. For the sake of consistency with all other specialist reports this has been attempted, but it is not innate to social sciences. Allowance for the changing and adaptive nature of social impacts should be made when interpreting the impact tables.

The assessment of the significance of impacts for a proposed development is by its nature, a matter of judgement. Zutari uses the following methodology to assess potential impacts on the proposed project:

For each predicted impact, criteria are applied to establish the significance of the impact based on likelihood and consequence, both without mitigation being applied and with the most effective mitigation measure(s) in place. The criteria that contribute to the consequence of the impact are **intensity** (the degree to which pre-development conditions are changed), which also includes the **nature** of the impact (being either a positive or negative impact); the **duration** (length of time that the impact will continue); and the **extent** (spatial scale) of the impact. The sensitivity of the receiving environment and/or sensitive receptors is incorporated into the consideration of consequence by appropriately adjusting the thresholds or scales of the intensity, duration and extent criteria, based on expert knowledge. For each impact, the specialist applies professional judgement to ascribe a numerical rating for each criterion.

The **consequence** is then established using the formula:

$$\text{Consequence} = \text{nature} \times (\text{intensity} + \text{duration} + \text{extent})$$

Depending on the numerical result, the impact's consequence would be defined as either extremely, highly, moderately or slightly detrimental; or neutral; or slightly, moderately, highly or extremely beneficial.

To determine the **significance** of an impact, the **probability** (or likelihood) of that impact occurring is also taken into account and applied with the consequence according to the following equation:

$$\text{Significance} = \text{consequence} \times \text{probability}$$

Once the significance of an impact occurring without mitigation has been established, the specialist must apply his/her professional judgement to assign ratings for the same impact after the proposed mitigation has been implemented.

The impact assessment criteria are summarised in **Table 5-1** below.

Table 5-1 | Impact assessment criteria

Criterion	Category	Description	Value
Nature	Positive		1
	Negative		-1
Duration	Immediate	Impact will self-remedy immediately	1
	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year	2
	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	3
	Medium term	Impact will last between 5 and 10 years	4
	Long term	Impact will last between 10 and 15 years	5
	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years	6

Criterion	Category	Description	Value
	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	7
Extent	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site	1
	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	2
	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	3
	Municipal area	Impacts felt at a municipal level	4
	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level	5
	National	Impacts felt at a national level	6
	International	Impacts felt at an international level	7
Intensity	Negligible	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are negligibly altered	1
	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered	2
	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered	3
	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	4
	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered	5
	Very high	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are majorly altered	6
	Extremely high	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are severely altered	7
Probability	Highly unlikely / none	Expected never to happen	1
	Rare / improbable	Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances, and/or might occur for this project although this has rarely been known to result elsewhere	2
	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur	3
	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	4
	Likely	The impact may occur	5
	Almost certain / Highly probable	It is most likely that the impact will occur	6
	Certain / definite	There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur	7

Resultant ratings are shown either as negative or positive, with a negligible, minor, moderate or major significance, as outline in **Table 5-2** below.

Table 5-2 | Further rating descriptions

Significance	Negative	Positive
Negligible	Negligible - negative	Negligible - positive
Minor	Minor - negative	Minor - positive
Moderate	Moderate - negative	Moderate - positive
Major	Major - negative	Major - positive

Additional descriptors are also considered when impacts are rated to put them and their mitigation measures in context, but they do not add to the final Significance rating “calculation”. These descriptors are shown in **Table 5-3** below.

Table 5-3 | Additional rating descriptions

Descriptor	Category	Description
Project phase	Construction	
	Operation	
	Decommissioning	
Mitigatability	Low	Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts
	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts
	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts
Confidence	Low	Judgement is based on intuition
	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment
Reversibility	Low	The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified
	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
	High	The resource is irreparably damaged and is not represented elsewhere

The assessment criteria are then summarised in tabular form in an impact rating table, as shown in **Table 5-4** below.

Table 5-4 | Impact rating table

Project phase			
Impact			
Description of impact			
Mitigatability			
Potential mitigation			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation
Nature			
Duration			
Extent			
Intensity			
Probability			
Confidence			
Reversibility			
Resource irreplaceability			
Significance			
Comment on significance			
Cumulative impacts			

5.2 Description, rating and mitigation of impacts

“Almost all projects almost always cause almost all impacts. Therefore, more important than predicting impacts is having on-going monitoring and adaptive management.” – Frank Vanclay

Social impacts are complex in nature and can start as soon as there are rumours about the project, or when the project enters the public domain. Some current social impacts can result in further social impacts.

The impacts identified from both desktop research and direct stakeholder engagements (interviews and focus group meetings) are listed and rated in this section according to the methodology described above. As the Public Participation Process (PPP) commences, more concerns, questions and comments on the project will be raised. These will also be taken into account in the drafting of the final SIA to ensure that any impacts not yet identified are assessed as well.

This section provides the impact rating tables completed for all the impacts identified. These tables show how each impact rating is justified and provides prevention or mitigation measures for each of the impacts, along with a pre- and post-mitigation rating.

The reader must note that some impacts are those that will be felt by the society, community or individuals in the area on the one hand. On the other hand, we also include potential impacts and risks to the project itself. These are included as any negative impacts on the project (such as project delays) will indirectly impact those who could potentially benefit from the project. It could also lead to further distrust towards certain key stakeholder groups.

A summary of the impacts identified for the construction and operation phases, along with impact ratings pre- and post-mitigation are provided in **Table 5-5** below. The summary table is followed by the detailed impact assessment of each impact identified, as well as the proposed measures to prevent or mitigate negative impacts or measures to enhance positive impacts (**Table 5-6**). The definition of each impact assessment criteria category selected is also provided. Where necessary, an explanation or justification on the rating is provided. Cumulative impacts are also described where applicable.

Table 5-5 | Summary of social impacts of the God’s Window Skywalk project

Ref:	Project phase	Impact	Without mitigation						With mitigation					
			Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance	Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance
1	Construction	Livelihood impact on curio vendors	Negative	Short term	Limited	Very high	Certain / definite	Moderate - negative	Negative	Brief	Limited	Low	Certain / definite	Minor - negative
2	Operation	Expectation of job opportunities	Negative	Permanent	Regional	High	Certain / definite	Major - negative	Positive	Medium term	Regional	High	Likely	Minor - positive
3	Construction	Delays in project progress during construction, and subsequent delays in opening caused by disruption/community unrest	Negative	Short term	Local	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Brief	Limited	Very low	Probable	Negligible - negative
4	Construction	Impacts on sacred areas or areas with heritage, cultural, or religious significance	Negative	Brief	Very limited	Very low	Unlikely	Negligible - negative	Negative	Immediate	Very limited	Negligible	Rare / improbable	Negligible - negative
5	Operation	Increased business for mini-bus taxis as mini-tour buses or transport for curio vendors	Positive	On-going	Local	Moderate	Unlikely	Minor - positive	Positive	On-going	Local	High	Probable	Minor - positive
6	Operation	Increased traffic and discomfort between mini-bus taxis and between taxis and tourist buses	Negative	Permanent	Limited	Low	Likely	Minor - negative	Positive	Permanent	Regional	Low	Probable	Minor - positive
7	Operation	Expected increased sales and benefits for all curio vendors, not just those currently at God’s Window and increased competition.	Negative	Permanent	Local	Moderate	Almost certain / Highly probable	Moderate - negative	Positive	On-going	Local	Moderate	Likely	Minor - positive
8	Operation	Prioritisation of God’s Window Skywalk by tourists might reduce business elsewhere	Negative	On-going	Local	Moderate	Likely	Minor - negative	Positive	On-going	Local	Moderate	Likely	Minor - positive
9	Operation	Increased security and protection from theft	Positive	On-going	Limited	Low	Almost certain /	Minor - positive	Positive	On-going	Limited	Moderate	Almost certain /	Minor - positive

Ref:	Project phase	Impact	Without mitigation						With mitigation					
			Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance	Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance
		and inclement weather for curio vendors					Highly probable						Highly probable	
10	Operation	Litter, destruction and nuisance	Negative	Permanent	Limited	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Very limited	Very low	Unlikely	Negligible - negative
11	Operation	Curio vendors might lose more money than they make if they have to pay rent at the new development	Negative	Permanent	Local	Low	Unlikely	Minor - negative	Positive	On-going	Local	Moderate	Probable	Minor - positive
12	Construction	Lack of involvement of local SMMEs during the operation phase could lead to project disruption and poor Social Licence to Operate	Negative	Short term	Local	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Positive	Short term	Municipal area	Low	Probable	Minor - positive
13	Operation	Lack of involvement of local SMMEs during the operation phase could lead to project disruption and poor Social Licence to Operate	Negative	Permanent	Local	Low	Probable	Minor - negative	Positive	Permanent	Municipal area	Low	Probable	Minor - positive
14	Construction	Unfair distribution of employment opportunities	Negative	Short term	Regional	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Regional	Low	Unlikely	Negligible - negative
15	Operation	Unfair distribution of employment opportunities	Negative	Permanent	Local	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Local	Low	Unlikely	Negligible - negative
16	Construction	Increased traffic during construction phase around God's Window and in Graskop	Negative	Short term	Local	Moderate	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Local	Low	Likely	Minor - negative
17	Operation	Increased traffic around site and in Graskop during peak holiday periods	Negative	Permanent	Local	Moderate	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Local	Low	Likely	Minor - negative

Ref:	Project phase	Impact	Without mitigation						With mitigation					
			Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance	Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance
18	Construction	Reduced spend in Graskop during construction of Skywalk caused by fewer visitors	Negative	Short term	Local	High	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Local	Low	Probable	Minor - negative
19	Operation	Safety of Skywalk structure	Negative	Permanent	Very limited	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Very limited	Very low	Rare / improbable	Negligible - negative
20	Operation	Current emergency services might not be able to handle emergencies if they occur on site.	Negative	Permanent	Local	Moderate	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Local	Low	Probable	Minor - negative
21	Construction	Impacts on current water sources	Negative	Short term	Limited	High	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Limited	Very low	Unlikely	Negligible - negative
22	Operation	Land claim beneficiaries might not benefit from the Skywalk as expected, leading to frustration with certain leadership structures	Negative	Long term	Regional	High	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Brief	Regional	Low	Probable	Minor - negative
23	Construction	Vulnerable groups might be left behind	Negative	Brief	Regional	Low	Probable	Minor - negative	Positive	Medium term	Regional	Low	Likely	Minor - positive
24	Construction	Environmental impact of development on "pristine" God's Window site	Negative	Short term	Limited	Moderate	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Brief	Very limited	Very low	Rare / improbable	Negligible - negative
25	Operation	Environmental impact of development on "pristine" God's Window site	Negative	Permanent	Limited	High	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Very limited	Low	Likely	Minor - negative
26	Operation	Socio-economic benefits of the Project might not be felt by all who expect it	Negative	Permanent	Municipal area	Low	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Local	Very low	Unlikely	Minor - negative
27	Operation	Tourists targeted by criminals	Negative	Permanent	Limited	Moderate	Likely	Minor - negative	Negative	Permanent	Limited	Low	Rare / improbable	Negligible - negative
28	Operation	Some Tribal Councils expect to benefit and	Negative	Permanent	Regional	Moderate	Likely	Moderate - negative	Negative	Permanent	Regional	Low	Unlikely	Minor - negative

Ref:	Project phase	Impact	Without mitigation						With mitigation					
			Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance	Nature	Duration	Extent	Intensity	Probability	Significance
		receive favourable preferential treatment from the project												
29	Construction	Demographic impacts	Negative	Short term	Local	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Limited	Low	Probable	Negligible - negative
30	Construction	Social concomitants associated with demographic impacts	Negative	Permanent	Local	Moderate	Probable	Minor - negative	Negative	Short term	Local	Low	Unlikely	Negligible - negative

Table 5-6 | Detailed pre- and post-mitigation assessment of social impacts anticipated as part of the God's Window Skywalk project

Ref:	1			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Livelihood impact on curio vendors			
Description of impact	During the construction phase, it is quite likely that curio stalls around the parking lot will have to close due to safety risks and there being no tourists visiting the site. This will result in the loss of an income source for many of the vendors in the area, as well as their households who depend on the income.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Temporary relocation of stalls to other sites such as Wonderview and granting of permits to them to sell at other sites. Temporarily selling at other sites may cause further complications such as transport of goods, structures to sell under, safety, sufficient customers as well as competition with possible existing vendors at particular sites. Some curio vendors could also be given temporary jobs at the construction site.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Intensity	Very high	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are majorly altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Certain / definite	There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur	Certain / definite	There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur
Confidence	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Moderate - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	The expected moderately negative impact that the vendors may experience during the construction of the development may decrease to a minor negative impact with the implementation of mitigation measures.			
Cumulative impacts	Potential integration of curio vendors from God's Window into an alternative site such as Wonder View will have to be complemented with an integration plan to ensure that these vendors integrate with the "host" vendors. The cumulative impact to consider is that some curio vendors might feel that those from God's Window have an unfair advantage over them in that they not only benefit from being at God's Window currently (which is seen as more popular by some curio vendors), but also that they might benefit from the new development by no accomplishment of their own - by chance, they sell at God's Window where the new development is proposed.			
Ref:	2			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Expectation of job opportunities			
Description of impact	Expectation of job opportunities raised due to the low unemployment rate. In some cases, long-term job opportunities are expected, and temporary, construction-related jobs are regarded as inferior. This expectation was raised by various stakeholders, including Tribal Councils who expect people under the Tribal Authorities to be first in line for job opportunities.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		

Potential mitigation	<p>Number, type, duration and nature of available jobs, and criteria to apply for jobs must be well-publicised through appropriate communication channels well before job applications open. Key stakeholders are to be informed of job opportunities via diverse channels, but from a single, reliable source to ensure that the expectation for jobs does not live on through unreliable information sources.</p> <p>Spatial- or affiliation-based preference in terms of jobs should be very clear and justifiable. This means that residents of the relevant Local Municipalities (sensitivity was raised if only Ward 9 and/or 10 would benefit) or those under one of the eight chieftaincies need to understand how opportunities are to be distributed.</p>			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Medium term	Impact will last between 5 and 10 years
Extent	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level
Intensity	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered
Probability	Certain / definite	There are sound scientific reasons to expect that the impact will definitely occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Major - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	Currently, job preferences will be focused on beneficiaries of the land claim (who might fall within either the Thaba Chweu or Bushbuckridge Local Municipalities), at 60%. The remaining 40% could be open for the rest of South Africa.			
Cumulative impacts	This impact is not an impact of the project per se (except perhaps if expectations were created in earlier project stages when the project first entered the public domain some years ago). Rather, it is a cumulative impact because of the generally low unemployment rate in the TCLM and BLM and the marketing of the project as a development that would provide to socio-economic benefits. Therefore, local communities (beyond the CPAs) might look to developments such as these to plug socio-economic gaps.			
Ref:	3			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Delays in project progress during construction, and subsequent delays in opening caused by disruption/community unrest			
Description of impact	Disruption to site activities, traffic, and nearby activities in town if not enough information provided, inadequate job or procurement opportunities or other benefits. If site activities are disrupted, it can lead to delays during the construction phase such that the opening date (start of operational phase) is delayed.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Consistent communication and dissemination of information to stakeholders must take place. In addition, TCLM law enforcement and SAPS should be made aware of potential disruption. Building a relationship with them and placing them on high alert if such activities are imminent at any phase of the project is key. This could prevent or at least reduce the time or the extent of the disruption.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered

Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	The implementation of effective and consistent communication is expected to lower the impact from minor to negligible.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	4			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Impacts on sacred areas or areas with heritage, cultural, or religious significance			
Description of impact	Although no sacred areas were identified during consultations, a slight possibility exists that heritage finds might occur during construction activities.			
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Implementation of chance heritage finds procedure during construction; toolbox talks during construction with examples and pictures.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year	Immediate	Impact will self-remedy immediately
Extent	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site
Intensity	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered	Negligible	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are negligibly altered
Probability	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur	Rare / improbable	Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances, and/or might occur for this project although this has rarely been known to result elsewhere
Confidence	Low	Judgement is based on intuition	Low	Judgement is based on intuition
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Negligible - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	The significance is calculated as negligible mainly due to the fact that no sacred areas are known to exist within the direct project site footprint.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	5			

Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Increased business for mini-bus taxis as mini-tour buses or transport for curio vendors			
Description of impact	Local taxi associations might benefit from the development if it is used as a platform from which to market mini tours of the Panorama route, departing from the Skywalk. Additional business might be available to taxis if transport can be provided to curio vendors between Graskop (home) and the Skywalk. This will also provide a reliable form of transportation to curio vendors, who currently struggle with it on peak-days.			
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Since the impact is positive, no mitigation is envisaged. However, the initiatives suggested should be workshopped with taxi associations and potentially owners, so that they are aware of the stringent safety requirements that will be expected in such an operation by the developer/investor. It must be made very clear what the benefits of roadworthiness and other standards are.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Positive		Positive	
Duration	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered
Probability	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - positive		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	The expected increase in vendors would directly result in an increase in the demand for transport to and from the development, which is expected to be a positive impact to the transport industry.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	6			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Increased traffic and discomfort between mini-bus taxis and between taxis and tourist buses			
Description of impact	The three local taxi associations (Sabie, Graskop and Bushbuckridge Taxi Associations) are concerned that they might lose out financially if they are charged for entrance or cannot gain entrance to the development to drop off and pick up passengers. Instead, they expect to benefit from the development through increased passenger turnover. Unmanaged expectations on the number of taxis that can stop at the development and for how long might exist, since taxis wait to fill up before they depart. This might cause additional traffic impacts or discomfort between mini-bus taxis and large tourist bus operators.			
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Taxi associations can be informed with relative ease on the planned entrance charges, namely that none are envisaged for buses and taxis and that there will be drop-off spaces. However, the number of drop-off spaces needs to be very clearly defined to ensure that there are no undue expectations as to the			

	number of taxis that can stop at the development and for how long. This will have to be based on a projected potential number of increased visitors, so that the motivation for all decisions made is clear to all stakeholders.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level
Intensity	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment	Low	Judgement is based on intuition
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	This potentially negative impact can be turned positive if taxi associations are engaged timeously and informed of the planned processes where they might play a role. Increased passenger turnover will have a positive impact on the taxi associations as long as it does not lead to conflict caused by misinformation.			
Cumulative impacts	Currently, passenger demand is lower than the supply (especially for the Bushbuckridge Taxi Association). This is caused by the need for taxis to fill up before departing, causing people to rather hitch-hike. Although the project is closer to the Graskop area than Bushbuckridge, all three taxi associations' taxis could potentially transport passengers to and from the site. Therefore, the reduction in passengers making use of mini-bus taxis over the past two odd years increases the expectation from new developments such as the Skywalk to alleviate this pressure.			
Ref:	7			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Expected increased sales and benefits for all curio vendors, not just those currently at God's Window and increased competition.			
Description of impact	Curio vendors from other sites (such as the Pinnacle, Lowveld View and Wonderview) coming to the development could create competition at the site.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Workshop potential benefits and limitations on number of allowable stalls (to be confirmed during detailed design phase) with the curio sellers. Liaise with MTPA to improve marketing of entire Panorama route to reduce competition and to provide improved protection from theft and inclement weather at other sites. Open "recruitment" process could also be considered, with a weighted scoring system where preference is given to current God's Window curio vendors and the quality and uniqueness of the product to ensure variety. Workshopping will also provide a platform to gauge the appetite for changing or diversifying the articles sold. A further enhancement could be alternative skills development and the creation of diversified income streams. From the acquisition of new skills and community-based projects, curio vendors can supplement their income with new forms of revenue.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered

Probability	Almost certain / Highly probable	It is most likely that the impact will occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Moderate - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	With the proper and effective management of the expected increase in competition between vendors, the potentially negative impact may result in a positive impact of increased economic benefit.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	8			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Prioritisation of God's Window Skywalk by tourists might reduce business elsewhere			
Description of impact	If more tourists are attracted to the Skywalk, it is feared by many stakeholders (including curio vendors and local business owners) that fewer people will support them, as they would rather spend time and money at the Skywalk.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Engage TCLM and/or DBSA to improve attractiveness of town and road conditions in Graskop. Engage MTPA to develop day-tours from the Skywalk (currently, a day pass is regarded not justified due to a lack of activity). Use Skywalk as a platform to market local businesses and other points on the Panorama route. Collaborate with other local businesses that provide activities in the area. Provide information on projected increase in visitors to area (as opposed to reduced spend per capita).			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	With the implementation of mitigation measures such as using the Skywalk development as a platform to market local businesses and other points on the Panorama route, and by collaborating effectively with other local businesses that provide activities in the area, the project has the potential to contribute positively to the surrounding businesses.			

Cumulative impacts	Another development in the area is thought to have had this effect on Graskop and that it did not create the promised “local benefits/prosperity”. Therefore, the perception (belief) already exists that the Skywalk will necessarily have the same impact.			
Ref:	9			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Increased security and protection from theft and inclement weather for curio vendors			
Description of impact	If curio vendors who are currently selling wares at God's Window can now sell it inside the new development, they will be afforded more protection from the theft of their stock, as the current security measures are thought to be inadequate. Inclement weather also affects the current stalls, so the newly constructed development would provide improved roofing, waterproofing and other elements of more sound buildings.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	The new God's Window Skywalk will provide an area for local curio vendors with better security, visibility and protection from the elements. No mitigation is therefore needed, but positive impacts can be enhanced by workshopping further preferences with curio vendors to ensure that any other as-yet unknown negative current circumstances can be mitigated.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Positive		Positive	
Duration	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years	On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Intensity	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered
Probability	Almost certain / Highly probable	It is most likely that the impact will occur	Almost certain / Highly probable	It is most likely that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - positive		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	The significance remains unchanged since there are no mitigation measures necessary for this positive impact, but the positive impact can be enhanced as described above.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	10			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Litter, destruction and nuisance			
Description of impact	Curio vendors, Graskop businesses and ward committee members are concerned that the new development will lead to increase litter at God's Window, compounded by increased noise and nuisance due to the increase in movement.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Onsite security and fines could be implemented as litter prevention measure (especially tossing litter into unreachable places) as in the case of the Gautrain, where eating is prohibited, and persons can be fined if they do. Site to be regularly cleaned, potentially using a local cleaning company. Local cleanliness custodians or tour guides can also be trained and appointed to ensure that littering is prevented. Publicly available information (such as during legislated			

Public Participation Process) to show why the need for a noise impact assessment was excluded from specialist studies, as well as the litter prevention measures that will be put in place. The anticipated noise impacts should be placed in context of existing noise generated by, for instance, truck in the area.					
Assessment	Without mitigation			With mitigation	
Nature	Negative			Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years		Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings		Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered		Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur		Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment		Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention		Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere		Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative			Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	Recommended mitigation measures will potentially reduce the possibility of destruction of property, littering and general nuisance impacts of/from the development.				
Cumulative impacts	N/A				
Ref:	11				
Project phase	Operation				
Impact	Curio vendors might lose more money than they make if they have to pay rent at the new development				
Description of impact	Curio vendors expressed fear that new stall sizes might be inadequate, that they might be awkwardly laid out, that they might not be visible, and they might be charged unreasonable amounts to rent stalls inside the new development, which will lead to decreased net income for them. This impact will be felt especially during low or off-peak seasons.				
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts			
Potential mitigation	Census of each curio seller's space requirements to gauge typical sizes needed. Develop various space options available for rent based on census outcome (with closer-to-ideal display and storage areas, and no partitions between vendors if corresponding with census results). Locate curio market right after entrance area(s) to increase visibility. Clear communication on benefits to having a stall inside despite the rental charge (improved display area, security, weatherproof stall, etc.). Workshop potential options for rental payments (e.g., stall size or turnover-based, or a weighted combination) with curio sellers (rental rates are still undetermined and the final number of available stalls will depend on this.				
Assessment	Without mitigation			With mitigation	
Nature	Negative			Positive	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years		On-going	Impact will last between 15 and 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements		Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered		Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered

Probability	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	The implementation of mitigation measures is expected to change the minor negative impact to a minor positive impact.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	12			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Lack of involvement of local SMMEs during the operation phase could lead to project disruption and poor Social Licence to Operate			
Description of impact	A local business chamber that represents various local business forums expressed a desire to benefit from the project and indicated potential disruption to the project in the absence thereof.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	<p>Liase with local business forums on what skills and expertise local SMMEs could provide. Very clear communication/ information dissemination on the number, type, duration and nature of available business opportunities, and criteria (e.g., safety requirements and price requirements) to apply for contracts must be well-publicised through appropriate communication channels well before the construction phase commences to manage expectations. Enterprise development could take place through business finance training, online marketing to increase visibility to international tourists who plan their holidays based on what they see online, registration of businesses, etc. This could assist enterprises who are not able to provide goods or services to the proposed project. These options could be discussed during workshops, during which the fact that quality cannot be compromised on as, the higher the quality (and compliance) of the product/service and integrity of the company, the better the chances of attracting business opportunities from other clients as well, and not only the Skywalk.</p>			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Municipal area	Impacts felt at a municipal level
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention

Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	The potential negative impact of not involving local SMMEs in the project could be turned positive by implementing the recommended mitigation measures.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	13			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Lack of involvement of local SMMEs during the operation phase could lead to project disruption and poor Social Licence to Operate			
Description of impact	A local business chamber that represents various local business forums expressed a desire to benefit from the project and indicated potential disruption to the project in the absence thereof.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	<p>Liaise with local business forums on what skills and expertise local SMMEs could provide. Very clear communication/ information dissemination on the number, type, duration and nature of available business opportunities, and criteria (e.g., safety requirements and price requirements) to apply for contracts must be well-publicised through appropriate communication channels well before the construction phase commences to manage expectations. Enterprise development could take place through business finance training, online marketing to increase visibility to international tourists who plan their holidays based on what they see online, registration of businesses, etc. This could assist enterprises who are not able to provide goods or services to the proposed project. These options could be discussed during workshops, during which the fact that quality cannot be compromised on as, the higher the quality (and compliance) of the product/service and integrity of the company, the better the chances of attracting business opportunities from other clients as well, and not only the Skywalk.</p>			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Municipal area	Impacts felt at a municipal level
Intensity	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	The potential negative impact of not involving local SMMEs in the project could be turned positive by implementing the recommended mitigation measures.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	14			

Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Unfair distribution of employment opportunities			
Description of impact	(Fear that) local employment/business opportunity distribution might be manipulated by "business forums/political interference/land claimants" such that the people who need it most will not benefit. This could lead to delays, and unfair benefit-, job-, and opportunity-distribution (and protest action).			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	The applicant must ensure that very targeted messaging on the role of CPAs (the importance of the Blyde 04 CPA body in the land claims process), tribal history, status on progress of land claims (restitution), and land ownership is distributed ongoing. The limitations to the number of jobs created and opportunities available must be timeously communicated publicly - if a 40:60 split exists between land claim beneficiaries vs rest of South Africa in terms of legislation of Protected Areas, this can be justified with relative ease. Targeted messaging on the benefits of the project and the Private Public Partnership (PPP) for co-management between MTPA and the Blyde 04 CPA must be developed and disseminated, as well as targeted communication and messaging on the project's "story" over time. Engage relevant stakeholders/officials within Local Municipalities regularly to ensure that the same understanding is reached. TCLM to be duly informed on project developments at different times. At the time of writing the SIA, it was reported that conversations with TCLM officials were imminent, and that LED and councillor engagements commenced. Information on how contracts are awarded; dividends; job applicant requirements; etc. must also be provided when the 30-day PPP-period commences.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	The extent of the impact is rated as Regional, as the tribal areas that form part of the land claims areas are spread across two Local Municipalities (Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge).			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	15			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Unfair distribution of employment opportunities			
Description of impact	(Fear that) local employment/business opportunity distribution might be manipulated by "business forums/political interference/land claimants" such that the people who need it most will not benefit. This could lead to delays, and unfair benefit-, job-, and opportunity-distribution (and protest action).			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		

Potential mitigation	The applicant must ensure that very targeted messaging on the role of CPAs (the importance of the Blyde 04 CPA body in the land claims process), tribal history, status on progress of land claims (restitution), and land ownership is distributed ongoing. The limitations to the number of jobs created and opportunities available must be timeously communicated publicly - if a 40:60 split exists between land claim beneficiaries vs rest of South Africa in terms of legislation of Protected Areas, this can be justified with relative ease. Targeted messaging on the benefits of the project and the Private Public Partnership (PPP) for co-management between MTPA and the Blyde 04 CPA must be developed and disseminated, as well as targeted communication and messaging on the project's "story" over time. Engage relevant stakeholders/officials within Local Municipalities regularly to ensure that the same understanding is reached. TCLM to be duly informed on project developments at different times. At the time of writing the SIA, it was reported that conversations with TCLM officials were imminent, and that LED and councillor engagements commenced.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	The potential impact is expected to decrease from minor to negligible with the implementation of mitigation measures.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	16			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Increased traffic during construction phase around God's Window and in Graskop			
Description of impact	Trucks and other construction related vehicles will increase traffic on the road passing God's Window, subsequently affecting Graskop town. Although it is not envisaged that construction will have significant impacts on adjacent landowners, there may be minor impacts such as increased traffic on shared roads due to construction.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Findings and mitigations of increased traffic (outcomes of the Traffic Impact Assessment [TIA]) should be included in the Public Participation Process and communications done by the Applicant. Public notifications of start-dates of construction (and therefore increased traffic) must be communicated by the Applicant. Consultation with Local or District traffic authorities is key to ensure that the necessary support and diversions, if necessary, are provided. There should be clear communication with adjacent landowners to provide regular updates on project progress and what is to be expected.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	

Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	Although the anticipated traffic impact is unavoidable to some extent, the irritation thereof can be reduced somewhat if the right authorities are engaged, and their support received timeously.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	17			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Increased traffic around site and in Graskop during peak holiday periods			
Description of impact	Visitors to the Skywalk might park along the side of the road, as it is alleged that "people are reluctant to pay for parking". This could lead to increased traffic on site as well as in the town of Graskop. There may be a significantly greater number of tourists visiting the site in any case, impacting traffic on shared roads. This could be a positive impact if it leads to more time being spent in Graskop, thereby increasing the chances of more local spend.			
Mitigatability	Low	Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Findings and mitigations of increased traffic (outcomes of the Traffic Impact Assessment [TIA]) should be included in the Public Participation Process and communications done by the Applicant. Consultation with Local or District traffic authorities is key to ensure that the necessary support and diversions, if necessary, are provided. There should be clear communication with adjacent landowners to provide regular updates on project progress and what is to be expected.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	

Comment on significance	Some stakeholders indicated that the increased traffic would lead be perceived as disturbance, whereas another camp stated that they would not mind it, as it will feel like there is more of a bustle in Graskop. Despite the opinion of the latter group, the impact is rated as negative, as this would require more effort to mitigate. Although the anticipated traffic impact is unavoidable to some extent, the irritation thereof can be reduced somewhat if the right authorities are engaged, and their support received timeously.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	18			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Reduced spend in Graskop during construction of Skywalk caused by fewer visitors			
Description of impact	Closure during construction might cause a dip in visitors to Graskop and the income to MTPA will be impacted.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Market Wonder View as alternative lookout in interim – timeously provide information on internet. Engage MTPA to promote/market/enhance Panorama route and Wonder View. Virtual Reality platform at God’s Window. Keep hiking trails open (to be determined if possible).			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	The post-mitigation Intensity is rated as low, as the local businesses could increase online marketing prior and during to the construction phase, so that Graskop becomes an attraction in its own right and not just as a spot visited on the way to or from God's Window. As for the other assessment criteria, they are kept as is, as the impact is unavoidable (albeit temporary) if there is a construction phase.			
Cumulative impacts	Most Graskop businesses have suffered losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although they are reporting slight improvements in business, they have by no means recovered. The impact of the closure of God’s Window might serve as an additional “knock” and will have to be considered.			
Ref:	19			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Safety of Skywalk structure			
Description of impact	Stakeholders are concerned about the safety of the structure itself and of the Skywalk on misty days.			
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts		

Potential mitigation	Include safety measures in FAQ leaflet, such as closure of Skywalk on days or during times of low visibility, and safety of structure and facilities by making engineering/structural designs for safety approachable in information pieces, PPP etc.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Rare / improbable	Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances, and/or might occur for this project although this has rarely been known to result elsewhere
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	High	Substantive supportive data exists to verify the assessment
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	The implementation of safety measures is expected to reduce this impact to negligible.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	20			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Current emergency services might not be able to handle emergencies if they occur on site.			
Description of impact	Current emergency and disaster services might not be able to handle emergencies if they occur on site. Some stakeholders are concerned particularly about the safety of people who have consumed alcohol.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Engage TCLM Emergency Services & Safety Directorate on Disaster Management and Emergency Services (incl. fire) on capacity for search and rescue, evacuation, medical emergencies etc. Include emergency and safety measures of development in FAQ. Include emergency and disaster management discussions in engagements with TCLM when discussions are held on bulk and spatial planning. Reach out to District if TCLM services are not up to standard.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur

Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	Proper planning and involvement of municipal leaders will lower the intensity of the potential impact. The significance remains unchanged as minor negative.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	21			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Impacts on current water sources			
Description of impact	It is alleged that the current water sources available in the area are already being used to full capacity. Furthermore, it is feared that wetlands will be affected as boreholes (or similar) are drilled during or prior to construction.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Engage TCLM/IDP to determine state of water, find alternative water sources. Include water-focused (section in) an FAQ or information piece developed by the Applicant on the fact that water might be sourced from boreholes, whether the search for water sources has been successful thus far, how much water will be needed during construction and operation, what the expected yield from these boreholes is anticipated, whether it is adequate and if not, how it will be supplemented, whether the necessary authorisations are in place, how wetlands will be protected (if at all present), where sewage will be pumped to, how much will be generated and how it will be treated.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Intensity	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	If another water source can be located, this impact can be reduced substantially.			

Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	22			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Land claim beneficiaries might not benefit from the Skywalk as expected, leading to frustration with certain leadership structures			
Description of impact	Beneficiaries who are not in regular contact with CPA land claimant representatives or the Blyde 04 CPA-board members want to know when and if they will ever benefit from any initiatives that the CPAs are involved in. This stems from an expectation that might have existed when the project was due to start some years ago. There might also be misinformation or a lack of information, as no benefits have as yet accrued from any developments since the land claims process commenced.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	It is key to involve the CPAs in all public meetings, focus groups, workshops or any other public engagements. Clear messaging must be developed to clarify the role of the CPAs and the benefit structure to land claimants, beneficiaries and the local community as it falls under Wards, Tribal Authorities, within and outside of the beneficiary register.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Long term	Impact will last between 10 and 15 years	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year
Extent	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level
Intensity	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	High	The resource is irreparably damaged and is not represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	The extent of the impact is rated as Regional, as the tribal areas that form part of the land claims areas are spread across two Local Municipalities (Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge). The post-mitigation Duration rating is reduced as the benefit structure can be communicated and explained to beneficiaries fairly easily. It must be noted, however, that communication with beneficiaries will have to be ongoing for a few years to come, especially if the development's operation phase commences.			
Cumulative impacts	As described above, benefits have not accrued to land claim beneficiaries, as the project has been delayed for years. This causes a lot of frustration, simply because of the time that has elapsed. This is why ongoing engagement and updates are key in ensuring that all land claimant beneficiaries understand what project progress has been to date (including the numerous approvals and upfront planning that is required before construction can even commence), AND how the benefit structure might work so that expectations are kept realistic. If there is no sound benefit structure or plan yet, this must be clear too - again, to manage expectations and to ensure that further frustration is avoided.			
Ref:	23			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Vulnerable groups might be left behind			

Description of impact	Vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, disabled, illiterate, and women, might feel "left" behind in the project, as they do not have access to or understand the information that is available as part of this project. They might also not be reachable to disseminate information, further robbing denying the opportunity to contribute to or at least understanding the nature of the project and how it could benefit them, albeit indirectly.			
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Provide FAQ / information in easily disseminable and understandable format and using the communication channels preferred by these groups. Translate all documents to Sepulana (or Sepedi). Proactive, in-person communication (such as meetings) is better than passive, one-way communication (such as SMSs, posters, newspaper ads, etc.) to ensure that these stakeholders are reached.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Positive	
Duration	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year	Medium term	Impact will last between 5 and 10 years
Extent	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level
Intensity	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Low	The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified	Low	The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified
Resource irreplaceability	High	The resource is irreparably damaged and is not represented elsewhere	High	The resource is irreparably damaged and is not represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - positive	
Comment on significance	The extent of the impact is rated as Regional, as the tribal areas that form part of the land claims areas are spread across two Local Municipalities (Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge). The impact can be turned positive in that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), including those who are hard to reach, will get an opportunity to really understand how the project works, so that they can give the necessary input if they can or want to. This can also enable them to become involved in the project over a longer term than just the pre-construction Public Participation Period (PPP) as potential beneficiaries to the project.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	24			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Environmental impact of development on "pristine" God's Window site			
Description of impact	Numerous stakeholders are concerned that the project will have an irreversible environmental impact on the God's Window site. Concerns on impacts on indigenous or endemic vegetation, fauna, wetlands, heritage, and water were raised on various occasions.			
Mitigatability	High	Mitigation exists and will considerably reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Various environmental mitigation measures have been developed by specialists and are listed in the EMPr that must be used in both the construction and operation phases of the project. The contractor and their sub-contractors must be very clear on the sensitive natural area they work in - the temporal nature of the "construction phase" does not mean that natural impacts are less severe. Understandable toolbox talks must be done with construction workers. Environmental auditing should be included in the conditions to the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr included in the contractor's Terms of Reference.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	

Duration	Short term	Impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Brief	Impact will not last longer than 1 year
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Rare / improbable	Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances, and/or might occur for this project although this has rarely been known to result elsewhere
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	The development of a rigorous EMPr and the implementation thereof is expected to reduce the impact from minor to negligible negative. An objective of the architecture and project plan is indeed to celebrate the beauty of the area and therefore care is and will be taken to limit the disturbance and negative impacts.			
Cumulative impacts	The God's Window site is currently not as pristine as the impression that exists, as there is a lot of litter. Furthermore, <i>Zama zamas</i> (informal miners) are reportedly polluting protected areas within the Blyde River Canyon Reserve to the north of God's Window. Currently, they are known to operate in Simile, but it has not yet been determined whether their activities will have a cumulative impact on the natural environment. Further information on this can be sought through engagements with TCLM law enforcement. Outcomes on whether there is indeed a cumulative impact should be provided to I&APs, as they have raised the concern.			
Ref:	25			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Environmental impact of development on "pristine" God's Window site			
Description of impact	Numerous stakeholders are concerned that the project will have an irreversible environmental impact on the God's Window site. Concerns on impacts on indigenous or endemic vegetation, fauna, wetlands, heritage, and water were raised on various occasions.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Various environmental mitigation measures have been developed by specialists and are listed in the EMPr that must be used in both the construction and operation phases of the project. The employees and companies that will work at the Skywalk (and the visitors thereto) must be very clear on the sensitive natural area they are in. Understandable induction must be done with workers. Environmental auditing should be included in the conditions to the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr included in the Terms of Reference of companies who conduct business at the Skywalk.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Very limited	Limited to specific isolated parts of the site
Intensity	High	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are notably altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Likely	The impact may occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Low	The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified	Low	The affected environment will not be able to recover from the impact - permanently modified

Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	Although there are parts of the site footprint that will be permanently altered, the most sensitive parts thereof are being incorporated into the detailed design such that it is not modified. This also goes for timing of migration patterns of certain animals.			
Cumulative impacts	<i>Zama zamas</i> (informal miners) are reportedly polluting protected areas within the Blyde River Canyon Reserve to the north of God's Window. Currently, they are known to operate in Simile, but it has not yet been determined whether their activities will have a cumulative impact on the natural environment. Further information on this can be sought through engagements with TCLM law enforcement. Outcomes on whether there is indeed a cumulative impact should be provided to I&APs, as they have raised the concern.			
Ref:		26		
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Socio-economic benefits of the Project might not be felt by all who expect it			
Description of impact	Local farmers expect sponsorship, marketing and business growth assistance from the project.			
Mitigatability	Low	Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Procuring fresh produce from local farmers or providing space from them to sell their produce at Skywalk could be recommended, but the feasibility thereof would have to be investigated during more advanced project planning stages. Again, it is very important that, if there is no direct benefit to be had by certain stakeholder groups, this will have to be communicated timeously, along with a breakdown of exactly what the limitation is on any opportunities for business or value-add that might come from the Project.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Municipal area	Impacts felt at a municipal level	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered	Very low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are slightly altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Minor - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	Although the negative impact can be turned positive by including farmers directly in the project, it is unclear whether this is at all a possibility. If not, the best course of action would be to ensure that all stakeholders are timeously informed of any opportunities for training, sponsorship, employment or any other support if it is available – or not.			
Cumulative impacts	This impact is not an impact of the project per se. Rather, it is a cumulative impact because of the generally poor conditions under which the farmers in this forum work, as well as reported lack of support that they receive for agricultural activities from government. Therefore, they might look to developments such as these to plug institutional gaps and decreased sales as a result of rising costs and the COVID-19 pandemic.			

Ref:	27			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Tourists targeted by criminals			
Description of impact	International tourists might be targeted by criminals, making the site less popular and lucrative.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Engage SAPS, TCLM law enforcement, and private security at Skywalk and surrounds			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Rare / improbable	Conceivable, but only in extreme circumstances, and/or might occur for this project although this has rarely been known to result elsewhere
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	Mitigation measures decrease the intensity and likelihood, lowering the impact to negligible.			
Cumulative impacts	Tourists are known to be targeted by criminals in South Africa. It is not uncommon. Formal tours through tourist agencies provide some security from this but might have a cumulative negative impact on local businesses, especially in the transport sector, who look to the Skywalk as an opportunity to increase business.			
Ref:	28			
Project phase	Operation			
Impact	Some Tribal Councils expect to benefit and receive favourable preferential treatment from the project			
Description of impact	Tribal councils expressed a desire to receive an annual benefit from the project much like the dividends that might accrue to the land claimants based on their partnership with MTPA. The councils also feel that those under their jurisdictions should be first in line for job opportunities and not be charged entrance fees. If not appropriately mitigated and managed continuously, this might lead to project delays or stoppages of future projects associated with the Applicant.			
Mitigatability	Low	Mitigation does not exist; or mitigation will slightly reduce the significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Clear, defensible narrative (key message) on why land claimants should receive 60% of all opportunities (as opposed to those under tribal leadership). Regular engagement with the Tribal Councils by the Applicant is necessary to ensure that they are well-informed and versed on the process. Determine how additional benefits could impact the larger community.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	

Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years
Extent	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level	Regional	Impacts felt at a regional / provincial level
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Likely	The impact may occur	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention
Resource irreplaceability	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce	Low	The resource is not damaged irreparably or is not scarce
Significance	Moderate - negative		Minor - negative	
Comment on significance	The extent of the impact is rated as Regional, as the tribal areas that form part of the land claims areas are spread across two Local Municipalities (Thaba Chweu and Bushbuckridge).			
Cumulative impacts	This impact is not an impact of the project per se (except perhaps if expectations were created in earlier project stages when the project first entered the public some years ago). Rather, it is a cumulative impact because of the generally low unemployment rate in the TCLM and BLM, as well as the regal status of the Tribal Councils. Therefore, they might look to developments such as these to plug socio-economic gaps.			
Ref:	29			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Demographic impacts			
Description of impact	Influx of construction workers, job-seekers near the construction site, and spread of informal settlements near the construction site.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Clear upfront communication on the number and type of jobs, as well as the channel through which applications are to be done are key information that will have to be communicated at least two months before construction starts. TCLM law enforcement and SAPS should be made aware of potential squatting. Engagement with the TCLM is also key to inform them of the presence of any construction workers that would have an impact on the local infrastructure, if applicable.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Short term	impact will last between 1 and 5 years	Short term	impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Limited	Limited to the site and its immediate surroundings
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur

Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere
Significance	Minor - negative		Negligible - negative	
Comment on significance	Mitigation measures are expected to decrease the impact to negligible.			
Cumulative impacts	N/A			
Ref:	30			
Project phase	Construction			
Impact	Social concomitants associated with demographic impacts			
Description of impact	Social ills associated with construction-related in-migration include the spread of HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancies, and prostitution.			
Mitigatability	Medium	Mitigation exists and will notably reduce significance of impacts		
Potential mitigation	Clear upfront communication on the number and type of jobs will have to be communicated at least two months before construction starts. Information on sexual health could be provided by the contractor as ongoing communication or Toolbox Talks. TCLM law enforcement and SAPS should be made aware of potential influx of job seekers or employees. Engagement with the TCLM is also key to inform them of the presence of any construction workers that would have an impact on the local infrastructure, if applicable.			
Assessment	Without mitigation		With mitigation	
Nature	Negative		Negative	
Duration	Permanent	Impact may be permanent, or in excess of 20 years	Short term	impact will last between 1 and 5 years
Extent	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements	Local	Extending across the site and to nearby settlements
Intensity	Moderate	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are moderately altered	Low	Natural and/ or social functions and/ or processes are somewhat altered
Probability	Probable	The impact has occurred here or elsewhere and could therefore occur	Unlikely	Has not happened yet but could happen once in the lifetime of the project, therefore there is a possibility that the impact will occur
Confidence	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge	Medium	Determination is based on common sense and general knowledge
Reversibility	Medium	The affected environment will only recover from the impact with significant intervention	High	The affected environmental will be able to recover from the impact
Resource irreplaceability	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere	Medium	The resource is damaged irreparably but is represented elsewhere

Significance	Minor - negative	Negligible - negative
Comment on significance	Mitigation measures are expected to decrease the significance to negative by lowering the duration, extent, probability and intensity of the impact.	
Cumulative impacts	N/A	

6 Communication with stakeholders

6.1 Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

Zutari suggests frequent and consistent communication with the various stakeholders based on structured Stakeholder Engagement Planning.

Zutari further recommends that initial engagements provide clear explanations to community stakeholders regarding why certain processes are being undertaken again and what the status and timeline of the project is envisioned to be. This will help alleviate any fatigue or confusion.

There is potential for further alignment between the various stakeholders to ensure that the project's potential for positive impact is maximised. It was noted in **Section 4.1.2** that tourism is emerging as a major contributor to Ehlanzeni's GDP. If IDP projects are aligned with the private sector to capitalise on the increase in tourism related opportunities, this will maximise economic benefits.

The next phase of engagement is associated with the NEMA-legislated Public Participation Process (PPP) but should not be limited thereto.

6.2 Public Participation Process

In terms of Section 41 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 and in Sections 17 to 19 of the 2017 NWA Water Use Licence Application and Appeals Regulations, 2017 it is stated that a Public Participation Process (PPP) must be undertaken when Environmental Authorisations (EA) and Water Use Licences (WUL) are applied for. This entails participatory consultation with members of the public by providing an opportunity to comment on the proposed project. It also provides the public with an opportunity to receive more information on the project.

Consultation with the public forms an integral component of this investigation and enables I&APs to identify their issues and concerns relating to the proposed activities. The proposed PPP is structured to provide I&APs with an opportunity to gain more knowledge about the proposed project, to provide input through the review of documents/reports, and to voice any issues of concern at various stages throughout the environmental Basic Assessment (BA) and WUL application (WULA) processes.

The objectives of the PPP are to provide information to the public, identify key issues and concerns at an early stage, respond to the issues and concerns raised, provide a review opportunity, and to document the process properly. The PPP will be managed to meet these objectives.

Table 6-1 outlines the proposed PPP activities associated with the BA and WULA processes. Any comments, concerns, issues or frequently asked questions that are revealed during the legislated public comment period will be included in this SIA before it is finalised for submission to the Competent Authority.

Table 6-1 | Proposed PPP activities

Task	Details	Date
I&AP identification	An I&AP database was developed for the project by establishing the jurisdiction of organisations, individuals and businesses in proximity to the project site or within an interest in the proposed development. The database of I&APs includes the landowners, the adjacent landowners, traditional authorities, relevant district and local municipal officials, relevant national and provincial government officials, and organisations. This database will be augmented via chain referral during the PPP and will be continually updated as new I&APs are identified throughout the project lifecycle. For instance, numerous I&APs were identified during the SIA engagements.	April 2022 – current
Site notices	Site notices with a size of 600 mm x 420 mm will be erected to inform the general public of the proposed project and the PPP around the site	July/August 2022

Task	Details	Date
	and at strategic locations in the surrounding area. Photos of these notices will be provided as an appendix in the final BA report (BAR).	
Notification letters and BID distribution	Emails will be sent to identified I&APs, notifying them of the applications for EA and WUL, along with a copy of a Background Information Document (BID) on the proposed project. Authorities and I&APs will be provided 30 days within which to register and submit initial comments on the proposed project draft BAR and 60 days for the WULA. Initial BIDs and invitations to comment were also distributed to all attendees of focus group meetings, but this did not form part of the legislated comment periods.	July/August 2022
Newspaper advertisements	Two advertisements will be placed in local newspapers at the start of the comment periods as notification of the availability of the Draft BAR and WULA. Proofs of the advertisements will be included as appendices to the Final BAR.	July/August 2022
Addressing comments received	All comments received by the conclusion of the comment periods will be included in a Comments and Response Report (CRR) as an appendix to the Final BAR, together with responses to these comments.	August/September 2022
Draft BAR and WULA report	The Draft BAR, WULA report, and all appendices will be made available to the public via a link on the Zutari website. This link will be provided on the site notice, newspaper advertisement, notification letter, BID and comment sheets during meetings.	July/August 2022
Key stakeholder meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Competent Authority ▶ Blyde 04 CPAs ▶ MTPA ▶ Community structures 	March – August 2022
Public meetings	Public meetings are proposed to be held close to the project site to provide opportunity for I&APs to ask questions and raise comments or concerns on the proposed project.	July/August 2022

7 Conclusion and recommendations

An upgrade to God’s Window will hopefully mean more tourists and activity in the area and hence a concomitant increase in the chances of harnessing future economic benefits as a result of this. This may be through increased indirect employment or income generating activities related to tourism in the area in and around God’s Window.

However, a number of potential negative socio-economic impacts could arise from the project. This report details them based primary data collected during stakeholder engagements, (**Section 2.4**) and desktop research (**Section 4**), and also provides recommended mitigation measures to reduce the significance of the impacts, or even turn some from negative to positive altogether in **Section 5.2**.

The God’s Window project concerns a variety of stakeholders including multiple government bodies, on national, provincial and local level, parastatals, adjacent landowners, tribal authorities and a host of interested and affected parties. Without regular and transparent communication processes and a clear channel through which stakeholders can raise grievances, lack of communication could become a serious risk to the project. This may lead to misalignment, unrest, and delay the completion of the project or its smooth functioning. Recommendations to mitigate these risks are provided in the **Section 6** above.

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