

Purpose of a Background Information Document (BID)

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

1World Consultants have been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the Basic Assessment Process for the Environmental Authorisation for the Proposed Bhokwe Community Sanitation Project.

Nature and Location of Activity

Ukuza Consultants proposes the construction of 2.2 km of 160mmØ uPVC sewer reticulation, 90 m of 250mmØ uPVC sewer reticulation, an oxidation sewer pond and numerous 1000mmØ precast concrete ring manholes, in Bhokwe Community, Ward 05, Abaqulusi Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.

The project will require water, electricity and waste disposal during the construction phase only. This will be provided by the Contractor.

The Bhokwe communities within this region require rehabilitation of the sanitation systems in this settlement, which are characterized by frequent bursts, blockages and overflowing resulting in a health hazard to the community.

Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) was requested by the Bhokwe communities to assist with rehabilitation of the water and sanitation systems in these settlements. MISA appointed a service provider on a Turnkey basis to design and rehabilitate sewer reticulation facilities in 20 June 2016. The contractor abandoned site approximately eighteen months ago and MISA is at this stage, uncertain of the condition of the infrastructure installed and quality of materials on site and external factors such as weather, vandalism, theft, etc., which may have affected the completed works. The previous service provider has since been liquidated resulting in the abandonment of the site. In order to resuscitate and complete the project, MISA initiated a procurement process during April 2019 for the appointment of a new Service Provider. Ukuza Consulting (Pty) Ltd have since been appointed as the professional service provider. In this regard, the proposed reticulation and completion of existing works will be continued.

Environmental Impact

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2017) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (as amended), a Basic Assessment Study will be required. The proposed development triggers the following listed activity, as per Listing Notice 1:

Activity 19:

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.

Activity 27:

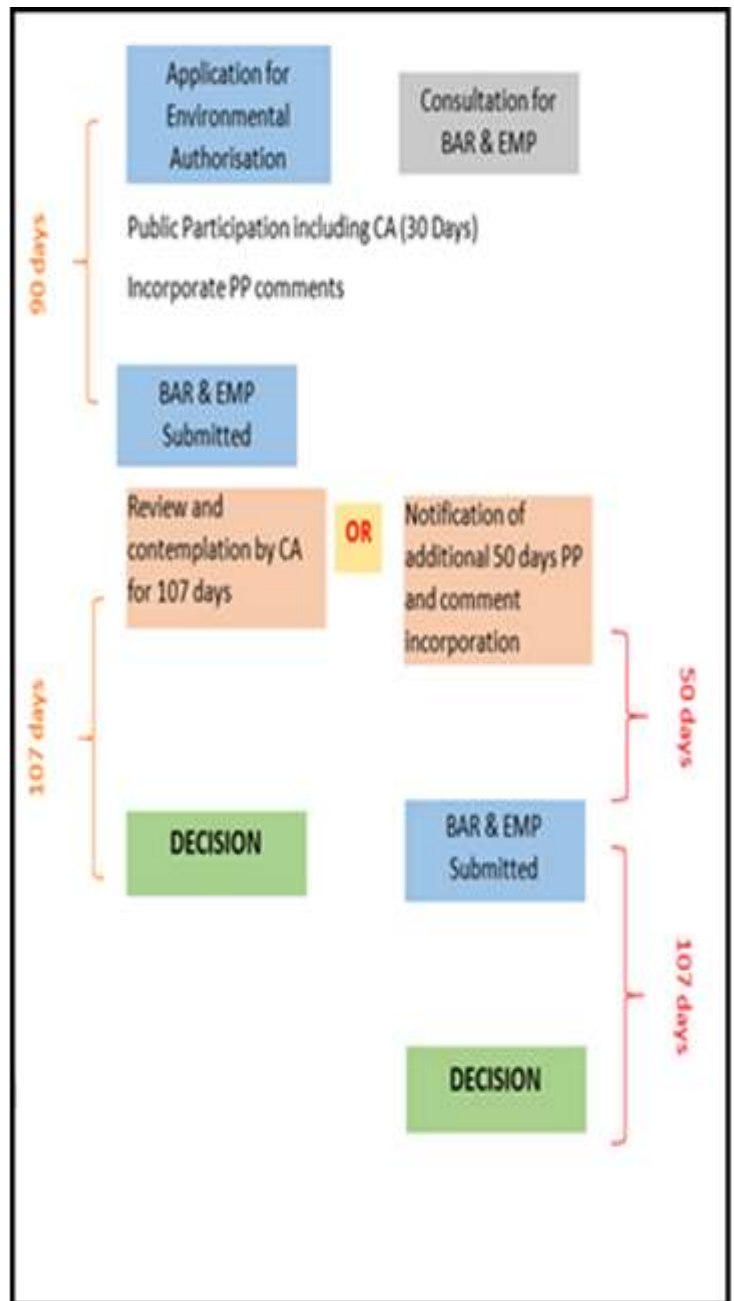
The **clearance of an area** of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of **indigenous vegetation**.

The Basic Assessment Process and Public Participation Process (PPP)

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

The main aspects of a Basic Assessment are:

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



Mitigation Measures

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

Elements of the Public Participation Process (PPP)

The public is invited to register as an I&AP and take part in the PPP via the following methods:

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

Note: All information is available on request.

How to Participate?

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

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

Hasan Mahomedy B.Sc.

Tel: 031 262 8327

Fax: 086 726 3619

Postal: PO Box 2311, Westville, 3630

Email: hasan@1wc.co.za

