

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 Proposed Vulindlela Eco-Village Located along Umlass Road within the uMgungundlovu District.

Nature and Location of Activity

The proposed development will be centred around an eco-village located along Umlaas Road in Camperdown, approximately 55km from Durban and 25km from Pietermaritzburg. The project will also include several other supporting structures.

The village will be utilized as a learning centre that will cater to approximately 300 students who will live in the compounds of the village. The village will also house the following structures:

- Staff accommodation;
- Chalets for visitors that will be located around the dam;
- Sports field;
- Educational facility with dormitory;
- Ancillary and service facilities; and
- A shed for the slaughter and process of beef and lamb for the Islamic ritual of Eid-UI-Adha. The shed is inclusive of chicken as well.

Environmental Impact

The proposed development triggers the following listed activities as per Listing Notice 1 & 3:

Listing Notice 1: Activity 3: Infrastructure for the slaughter of animals.

Listing Notice 1: Activity 4: Infrastructure for the concentration of livestock.

Listing Notice 1: Activity 5: Facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of.

Listing Notice 1: Activity 12: The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100m².

Listing Notice 1: Activity 19: Excavation of material of more than 10m³ from a watercourse.

Listing Notice 1: Activity 27: The clearance of an area of 1Ha or more, but less than 20Ha of indigenous vegetation.

Listing Notice 1: Activity 28: Mixed-use development on land zoned as agricultural.

Listing Notice 3: Activity 4: Development of a road wider than 4m with a reserve less than 13.5m.

Listing Notice 3: Activity 5: The development of hospitality facilities that sleep less than 15 people.

Listing Notice 3: Activity 6: The development of hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more.

Listing Notice 3: Activity 12: The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation

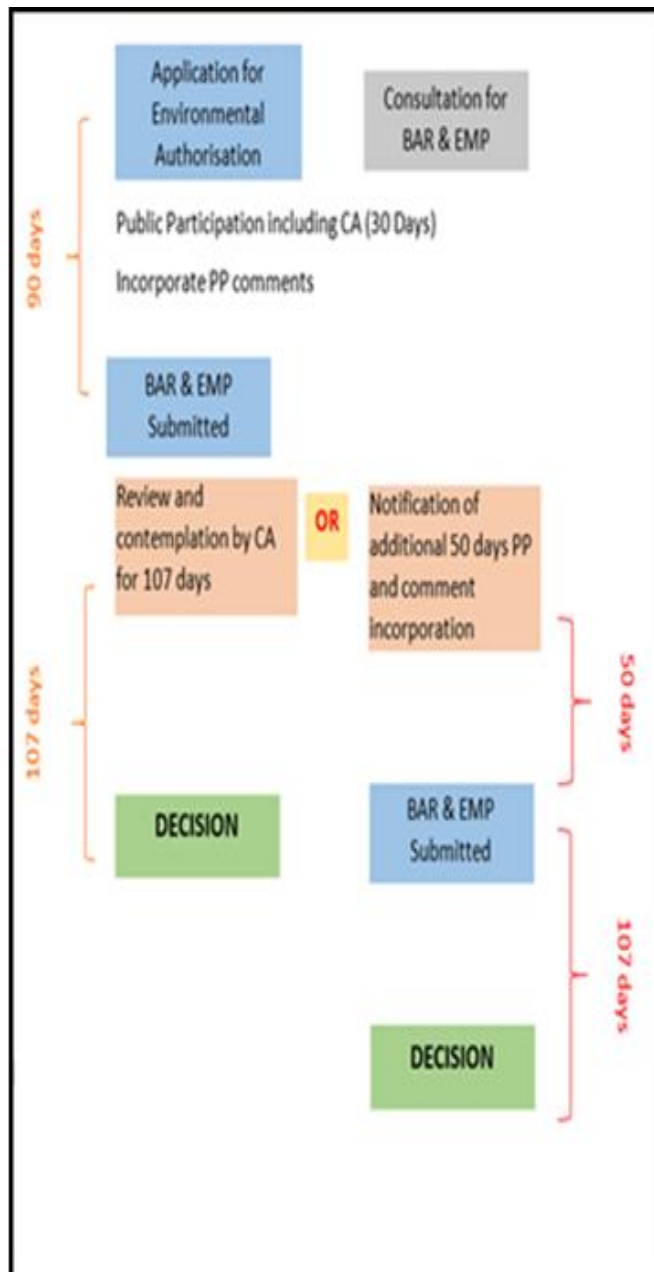
Listing Notice 3: Activity 14: The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more.

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 Program (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 Program (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:

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Site Photographs



Photo 1: Construction Vehicles on Site



Photo 2: Proposed Vulindlela Site



Photo 3: Wetland on Site



Photo 4: Existing Animal Shed



Photo 5: Vulindlela Site Access



Photo 6: Existing Powerlines on Site

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

**Proposed Vulindlela Eco-Village Located within the uMgungundlovu
District Municipality**

