



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) FOR THE PROPOSED HLOMENDLINI EXISTING
ROAD UPGRADE, MANDENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL
EDTEA REF NO: DC/.....

1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Kinvig and Associates has been appointed by **SiVEST**, on behalf of the **Mandeni Local Municipality**, to conduct an Environmental Basic Assessment Process in terms of Regulation 21 to 25 of the Regulations compiled in terms of Chapter 3 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended 2014, for this project which will be registered with the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA).

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform interested and / or affected parties (I&AP) of the Environmental Basic Assessment Process (BA) that will be conducted for the Proposed Hlomendlini Road Upgrade project.

In addition to supplying information about the proposed Project, this BID will also provide I&AP's with the opportunity to:

- **Register as stakeholders in the public participation process;** and
- **Provide initial comments on the proposed project.**

2 BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Mandeni Local Municipality proposes to upgrade an existing road providing access to residents within the area from gravel to black top with a change in shape and slope of the existing road at the river crossing /drainage line to allow for a less steep gradient allowing for better access and controlled stormwater drainage.

This activity has the potential to impact the drainage line with the reshaping of the steep access and triggers the requirement for an Environmental Basic Assessment process to be followed.

3 MOTIVATION FOR THE PROJECT

The proposed upgrade is as of a request of the community due to the concern raised that using the existing gravel road during rainfall events results in vehicles not being able to traverse the road due to the steep gradient associated with the watercourse crossing. Additionally, due to the steep gradient and

gravel nature of the road erosion is prevalent during rainfall events resulting in continued maintenance by the municipality being necessary and increasing the impact on the watercourse from sedimentation.

The upgrading of the road will result in better access for the community and further having the advantage of less impact on the watercourse though erosion and sedimentation effects.

This proposed upgrade will improve the lifestyle of the community and reduce the long term impact on the watercourse.

4 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND METHODOLOGY

Depending on the issue date of the approval of the Environmental Authorisation (EA), and should an EA be granted by EDTEA, it is proposed that the Hlomendlini Existing Road Upgrade will commence with construction towards the third quarter of 2016.

Should you wish to view a preliminary alignment for the proposed pipeline and reservoirs, please go to the **Kinvig and Associates** website (www.kaec.co.za) and follow the Hlomendlini Existing Road upgrade download link.

5 SITE LAYOUT

The proposed route is indicated in the map below, should additional coordinates be required they can be requested from Kinvig & Associates.

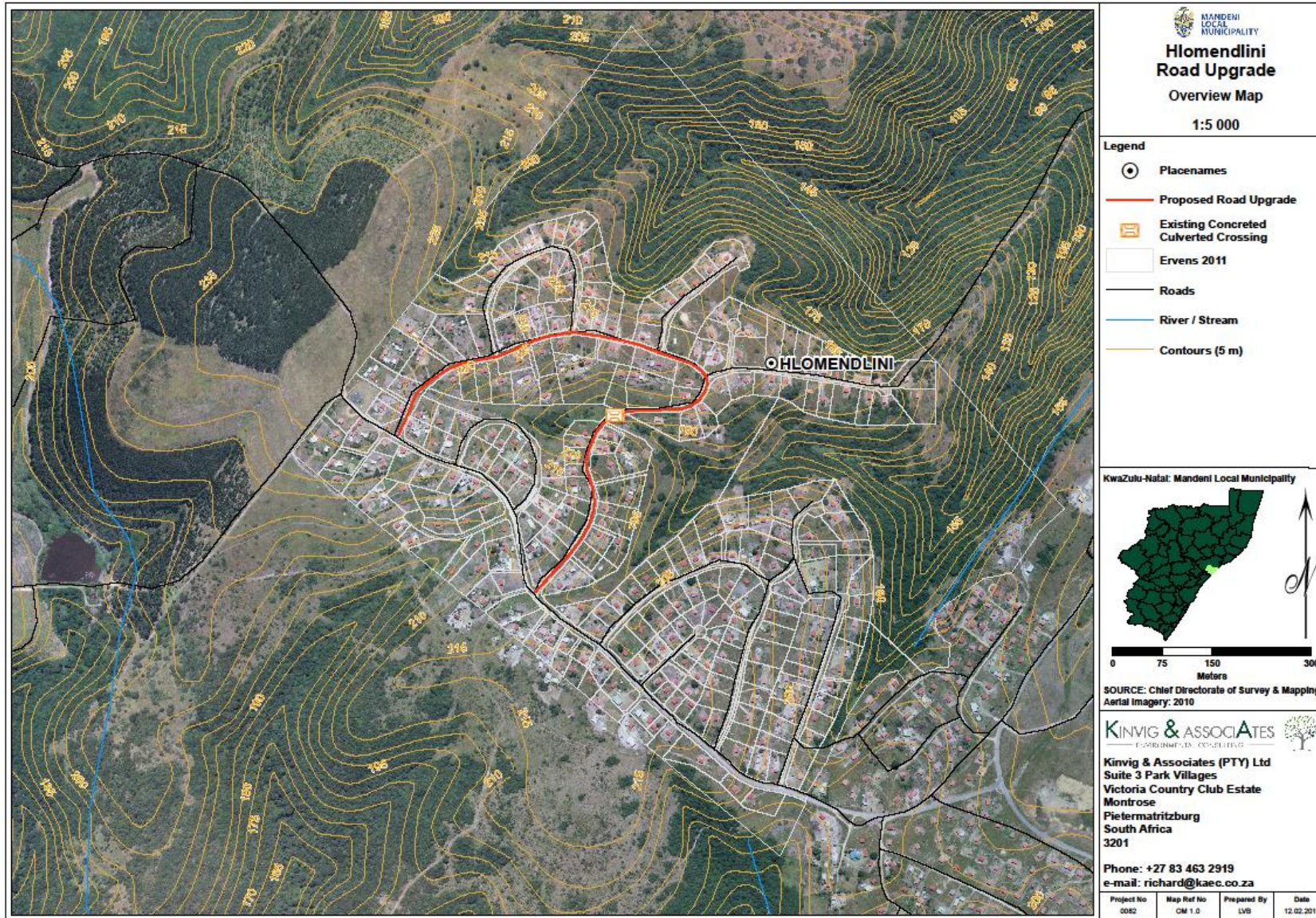


Figure 1: Hlomendlini existing road upgrade locality map.

6 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The listed activities for the abovementioned project are captured in the EIA regulations (2014) promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) under Government Notices No. 983

Table 1: NEMA Government Notices.

ACTIVITY No:	Legislation Extract
Government Notice Regulation No. (GNR) 983 of 2014	
12.	<p>The development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vi) bulk storm water outlet structures exceeding 100 square metres in size; (x) buildings exceeding 100 square metres in size; (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; <p>excluding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (dd) where such development occurs within an urban area; or (ee) where such development occurs within existing roads or road reserves. <p>The project will be within 32 metres of a watercourse. It should be noted that this activity will occur within the existing road reserve.</p>
19.	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a watercourse; <p>The existing watercourse road crossing will be reshaped to allow for a more graded slope allowing for better access and may potentially require the removal or deposition of material of more than 5 cubic meters or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand or rock of more than 5 cubic meters from or into a watercourse.</p>
Government Notice Regulation No. (GNR) 984 of 2014	No relevant activities triggered, Scoping and EIA process not triggered.
Government Notice Regulation No. (GNR) 985 of 2014	
4.	<p>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>(d) In KwaZulu-Natal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Trans- frontier protected areas managed under international conventions; iii. Community Conservation Areas; iv. Biodiversity Stewardship Programme Biodiversity Agreement areas; v. World Heritage Sites;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA; Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention; vii. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; viii. Core areas in biosphere reserves; ix. Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose; x. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; xi. Outside urban areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve; or xii. In urban areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; (cc) Within urban protected areas. <p style="background-color: #92d050; padding: 5px;">Roads for operational and maintenance purposes will be created within 10 km from a national park and 5 km from a protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, see Desktop Assessment Table 22 in Appendix G.</p>
14.	<p>The development of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; <p>where such development occurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <u>within a watercourse;</u> (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) <u>if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</u> <p>(d) In KwaZulu-Natal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Community Conservation Areas; ii. Biodiversity Stewardship Programme Biodiversity Agreement areas; iii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; iv. World Heritage Sites; v. Sites or areas identified in terms of an International Convention; vi. Critical biodiversity areas or ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; vii. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority; viii. Core areas in biosphere reserves; ix. Outside urban areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (aa) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; or x. In urban areas:

	<p>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, zoned for a conservation purpose; or</p> <p>Stormwater structures associated with the existing road upgrade will occur within 10 kilometres of a National Reserve.</p>
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7 INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

You have been identified as potential **Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP)** in this process and are invited to participate in the above process by registering yourself with **Kinvig and Associates**.

Your responsibility as an I&AP:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

- In order to participate in the EIA process, register yourself on the project database;
- Inform any other parties (neighbours, friends, colleagues, etc.) who may be interested and / or affected by the proposed project about the EIA process and encourage them to become involved;
- Ensure that any comments regarding the proposed projects are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by the EDTEA, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed to by EDTEA and the applicant;
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed project.

Our responsibilities as Independent Environmental Consultants:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, our responsibilities in the public consultation process include:

- Ensure that sufficient information regarding this proposed project is made available to you, either through the BID or providing information as and when requested;
- Ensure that you have an understanding of the proposed project to be able to comment informatively and to enable you to submit any concern in an informed manner;
- Ensure that the following actions are taken upon receiving any comments / queries / issues:
 - The contact details provided by you are entered into the project database and that you are sent all further information releases;
 - If you send us queries or comments, we respond in writing;
 - If you call us, your details and queries / comments are recorded. Should we not be able to answer your question immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible with a response.

How to become involved:

1. Respond (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your participation, which has been advertised in the printed media;
2. Mail, fax or e-mail the attached Registration and Comment Form to **Kinvig and Associates**;
3. Attend the meetings to be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an **I&AP** you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings. The public meeting dates will also be advertised in the printed media;
4. Contact us telephonically should you have a query, comment or require further project information;
5. Review the draft Basic Assessment Report within the 40-day review periods that will be stipulated in the advertisement.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process and to become actively involved in the process and provide comments or concerns which affect and / or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into the process forms a key part of the Environmental Studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying Registration and Comment Form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this proposed project, and are ensured that your comments and / or concerns raised regarding the proposed project are noted. The public participation consultant will respond to all comments and queries received during the course of the project.

Please be informed that all relevant public documents can be downloaded by **Kinvig and Associates** website (www.kaec.co.za/Reports) - select **Hlomendlini Existing Road Upgrade** download link.

We look forward to your contributions. Please feel free to suggest other stakeholders to be consulted.

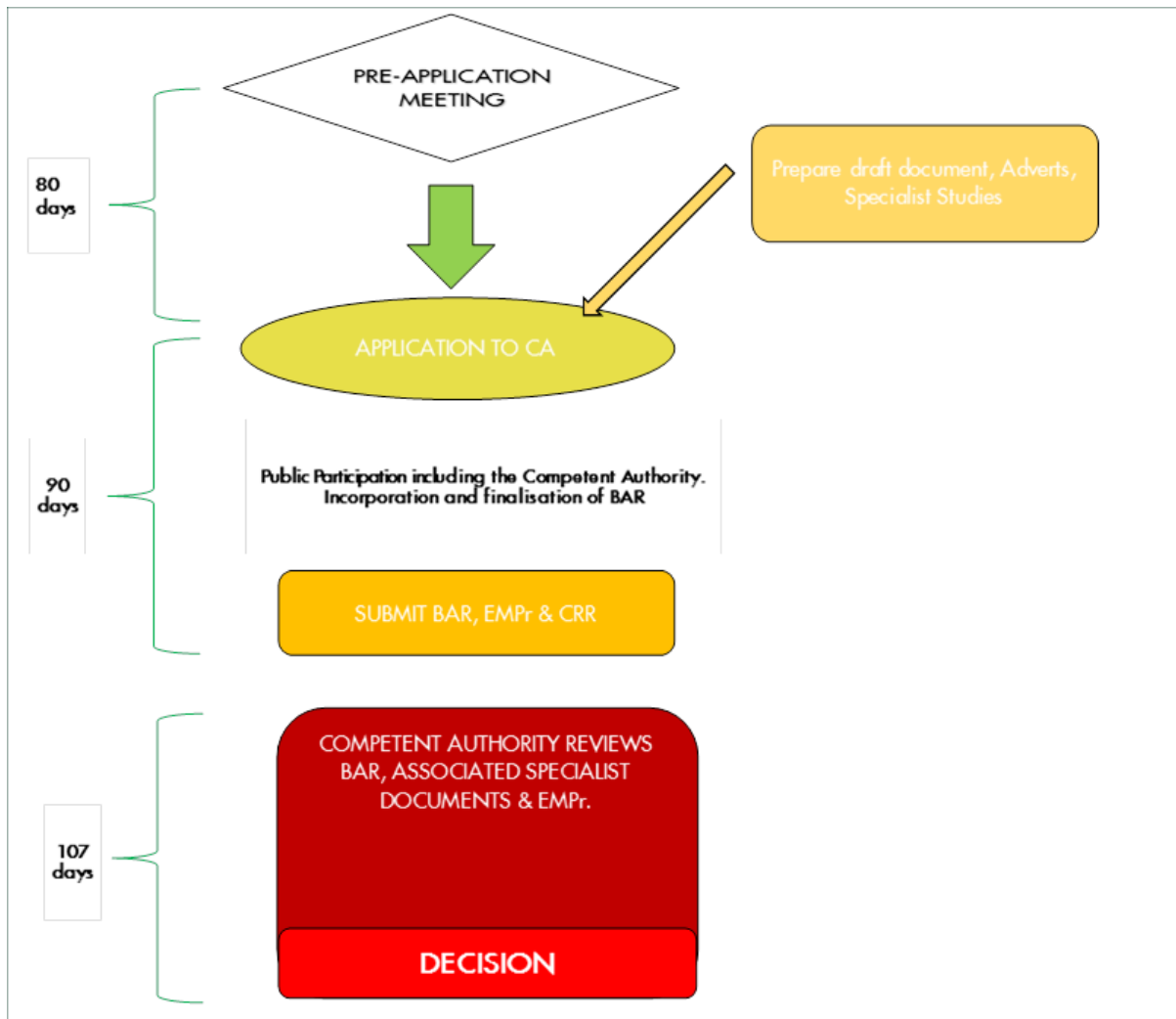


Figure 1 Public participation process for the Basic Assessment

You will receive personal notification, once registered, by fax or e-mail of all documents available for comment, and due dates for comment at every stage.

**ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT (BA) FOR THE PROPOSED HLOMENDLINI EXISTING
ROAD UPGRADE: MANDENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL**
EDTEA REF NO:

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Please complete this form and return it to the Public Participation Office below:

Jonathan Bailey	
PO Box 1287, Hilton, 3245	
Phone:	(033) 347 1402
Fax:	(086) 678 4647
E-mail:	jono@kaec.co.za

Website: www.kaec.co.za

DATE:

TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		FIRST NAME	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL. NO.: ()		CELL NO.:	
FAX NO.: ()		E-MAIL ADDRESS	

COMMENTS (You are welcome to use a separate sheet if required)

The following environmental, social and economic impacts must be addressed during the EIA / BA:

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Please add the following of my colleagues / friends / neighbours onto your mailing list:

Name:		Organisation:
Contact details:		
Address:		
Tel.:	Fax:	Cell:
E-mail:		

IF YOU WISH NOT TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT'S DATABASE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS WHOSE CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.

Yes , please delete my contact details from the project's database	SIGNATURE:
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8 COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Jonathan Bailey

PO Box 1287, Hilton, 3245



Phone: (033) 347 1402



Fax: (086) 678 4647

E-mail: jono@kaec.co.za

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BID	Background Information Document
EDTEA	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorisation
BA	Basic Assessment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
I&AP	Interested and Affected Parties
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act