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BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The Proposed Development of Eyamakhosi Resources Phase 2 Coal Storage Facility (EP2CSF) within Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay, KZN

09 June 2023

Prepared by:

Emvelo Quality and Environmental
Consultant (PTY) Ltd.

Prepared for:

Eyamakhosi Resources (Pty) Ltd



EYAMAKHOSI
RESOURCES (PTY) LTD

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Emvelo Quality and Environmental Consultant (PTY) Ltd has been appointed by Eyamakhosi Resources (Pty) Ltd as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to facilitate a Scoping/EIA process as required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act. No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for this application.

Eyamakhosi Resources (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of Coal Storage Facility within Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay, KZN in order to temporarily store the coal for export via port of Richards Bay.

The South African coal export has risen from year 2022. This unexpected surge in the demand for South African coal happening at the same time with unprecedented operational challenges with rail has caused a logistical challenge for the Port of Richards Bay as well as the host municipality (uMhlathuze Local Municipality). Hundreds of trucks have been queuing on the N2 to offload coal at the port. Several unauthorized coal reception yards have mushroomed in response to the demand. This has compounded challenges around traffic, air pollution and environmentally non-compliant operations in the Port City of uMhlathuze.

In response to the growing coal demand for export in South Africa, this has prompted the Eyamakhosi (Pty) Ltd to develop a formal coal storage facility for export via port of Richards Bay.

The proposed Development of Eyamakhosi Resources Phase 2 Coal Storage Facility (EP2CSF) within Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay, KZN, is located within the area zoned as a Noxious and Harbour Bound (Harbour Arterial). Moreover, it located adjacent the port of Richards Bay, thus provide an operational and logistic solution within the city of uMhlathuze Municipality.

Regardless of this increased demand creating viable business opportunity in the coal logistics chain, Eyamakhosi Resources Coal Storage Facility also look at addressing the following: Logistical decongestion of the Port City's National and Provincial roads as the coal storage will serve as temporary coal stockpiling within the reach of the port, thus increase efficiency of coal movement from the regional and national roads, subsequently, reduce the queening time for coal offloading; To meet environmental compliance including regulatory requirements; Meaningful economic participation by local communities; Exports volume growth for the Port of Richards Bay.

Consequently, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) has commenced, assisting Eyamakhosi Resources (Pty) Ltd (applicant) in identifying all potential adverse environmental consequences of the project, their extent, significance and to ensure that the environmental management requirements are adequately implemented.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide you, as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP), with a brief description of the EIA process to be undertaken and to obtain comments and contributions from I&AP's with regards to the potential impacts to the environment by the proposed project.

In addition, this BID also covers other Environmental Statutory requirements as described below:

The National Water Act (NWA, 36 of 1998) as provided in Section 21 of the Act, governs the process of applying for Water Use. A provision for Water Use is made for two forms of application: General Authorisation & and Water Use License Application (WULA), depending on the scope of the activity. Therefore, this application will follow **WUL: General Authorisation**, for activities taking place within regulated areas, as a result Section 21(c); and Section 21 (i) has been triggered.

The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004 (AQA) as provided in Section 21 of the Act, governs the process of applying for Atmospheric Emissions licenses (AELs). The coal storage is listed under NEM: AQA Section 21 Category 5: Mineral Processing, Storage and Handling; Subcategory 5.1: Storage and Handling of Ore and Coal. "Storage and handling of ore and coal not situated on the premises of a mine or works as defined in the Mines Health and Safety Act 29 of 1996. **Application:** Locations Designed to hold more than 100 000 tons."

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The development of 5.887ha (58870m²) coal storage facility site will have following amenities and activities:

- ✚ Construction of coal storage facility with a capacity design on the assumption that up to 3 grades of coal will be stored with 391 714t maximum stockholding;
- ✚ Construction of coal storage yards of 3.8ha (38 000m²) at within 90, 91, and 159);
- ✚ Development of facility offices and amenities within 1.1152ha (11 152m²) within Portion 88;
- ✚ Development of trucks parking area within 0.9761ha (9671m²) at portion 89;
- ✚ Construction of a 2% crossfall (V-Drain stormwater drainage) across

the stockyard to allow for settlement and stormwater runoff into the pollution control dam (PCD), in order to provide for adequate stormwater handling and run-off drains linked to PCD;

- ✚ To construct a PCD which will link to existing PCD and with capacity to handle approximately 208.89m³ of 1:10 & 1:50 year peak discharge from 60% hardened surface site area;
- ✚ Construction of 12m high dust tamer wind fence as a perimeter fence and for windbreak purpose;
- ✚ Installation of high concrete jersey barriers for partitioning the coal storage areas;

The coal storage yards will be surrounding the existing 0.89ha (8918m²) coal storage facility at portion 92, owned by Eyamakhosi Resources. The entire site including site 92 will not stockpile more than 391 714 tons at one single time. The Primary use of this site will be to handle coal products destined for exports through the Port of Richards Bay. The activities on site are depicted below in sequence:

- ✚ Side Stockyard stockpiles buildup of 8m-12m high at repose angle between 30° – 50°;
- ✚ Stockpiles within portion 90, 91 and 159 will be accumulated up 70 000t- 90 000t at the time. Will be cleared

once every 5-6 weeks each stockpile for a single shipment;

- ✚ Three (3) grades of coal (RB1, RB2 and RB3) will be stored with 391 714t maximum stockholding. Coal will be dispatched on a first-in-first-out (FIFO) basis. The operational optimal stockpiles will turn every 5 weeks yielding and annual turn of 10,4 times;
- ✚ Coal reclamation from Stockpile with Front end Loaders and loaded into Short Haul Trucks to feed the Ship;

Existing Infrastructure and Services for Navitrade Portion 92

Existing Eyamakhosi Resources coal facility site of 0.89ha (8918m²) within Portion 92 ERF 5333 has the following supporting infrastructure and services:

- ✚ The coal storage capacity of 75 000t;
- ✚ A PCD and a 2% crossfall (V-Drain stormwater drainage) across the stockyard to allow for settlement and stormwater runoff into the pollution control dam (PCD);
- ✚ A 12m high dust tamer wind fence as a perimeter fence and for windbreak purpose.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Eyamakhosi Resources Phase 2 coal storage facility site is located within portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay, KZN at approximately (28°46'25.78"S, 32° 1'4.68"E).

Table 1: Site Coordinates

Expansion Perimeter Co-ordinates	
Corner 1	28°46'33.25"S, 32° 1'1.03"E
Corner 2	28°46'32.07"S, 32° 1'2.97"E
Corner 3	28°46'20.57"S, 32° 1'12.92"E
Corner 4	28°46'20.39"S, 32° 1'8.46"E
Corner 5	28°46'24.70"S, 32° 1'2.32"E
Corner 6	28°46'29.05"S, 32° 1'0.06"E
Corner 7	28°46'29.57"S, 32° 0'56.62"E
Corner 8	28°46'31.24"S, 32° 0'56.81"E
Corner 9	28°46'32.60"S, 32° 0'56.69"E

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential adverse environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 as amended in 2017, an Environmental Authorization must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Economic Development,

Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) prior to the commencement of any of the listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. Thus, an environmental impact assessment is required. A Full EIA (Scoping and EIR) that includes the public participation process will be performed.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) must be appointed to conduct the EIA. Therefore, Emvelo Consultant has been appointed by Eyamakhosi Resources (Pty) Ltd.

Emvelo Consultant will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent EIA in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be collected and passed on to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). In this way, an informed decision-making process can take place.

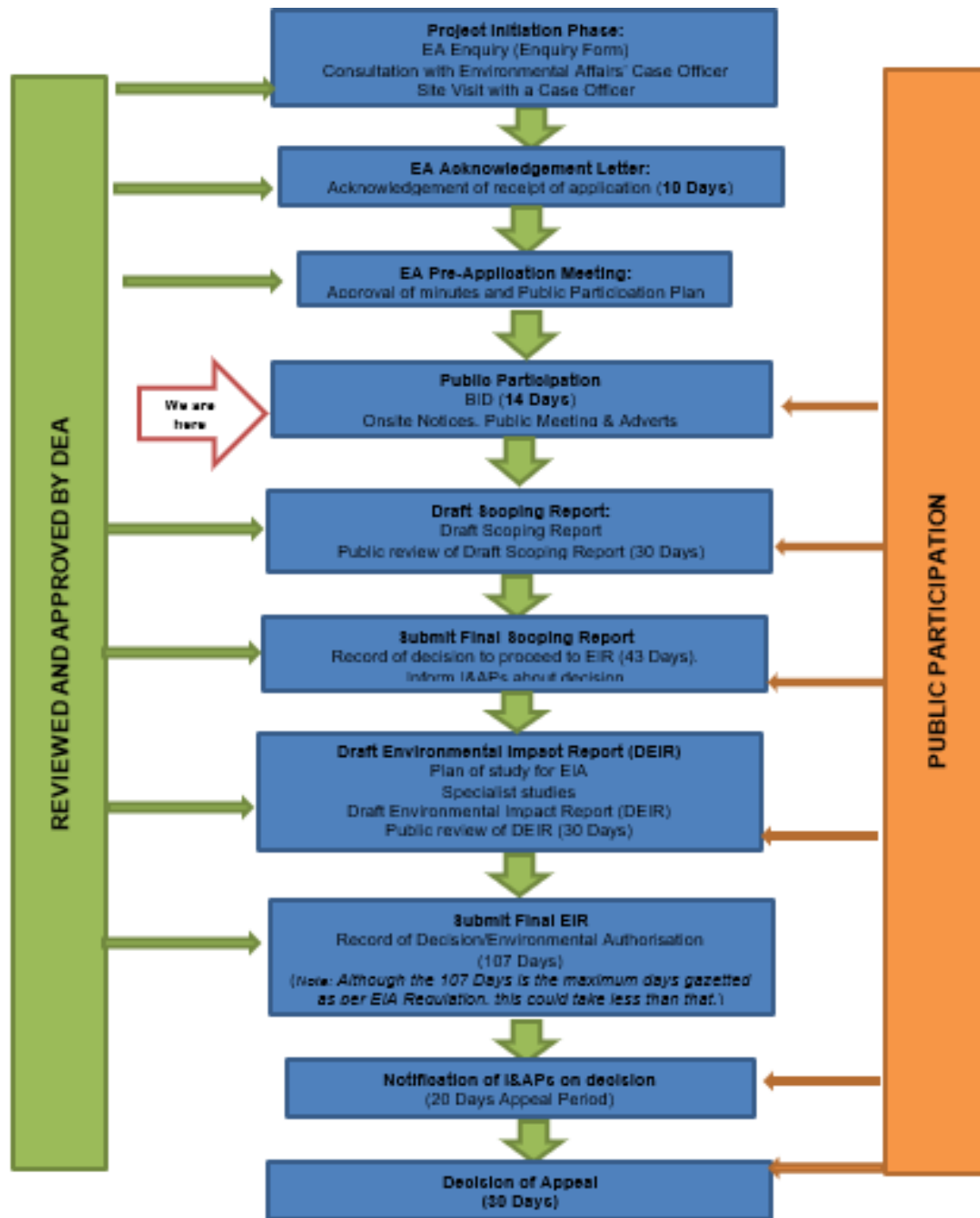


Figure 1: EIA process

LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED BY THIS PROJECT

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities of the EIA Listing Notices;

Table 2: NEMA 2014 Triggers

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates. As well as applicability.
19	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than <u>10 cubic metres</u> into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than <u>10 cubic metres</u> from-</p> <p>(i)A watercourse —</p> <p>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</p> <p>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</p> <p>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; [or]</p> <p>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>(d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</p> <p>(e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</p>	<p>Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay.</p> <p>Applicability:</p> <p><i>There is a wetland depression classified as NFEPA within 32m buffer of the proposed development. Other wetland features were identified during preliminary infield investigation. The wetland delineation will verify the existence of other wetland or geomorphological bodies within the project area. Therefore, the construction will result in excavation within the wetland area. The site clearance and levelling will result in excavation and infilling of more 10m³ soil within the wetland at approximately (28°46'33.37"S, 32° 1'4.73"E);</i></p>
27	<p>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p>	<p>Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay.</p> <p>Applicability:</p> <p><i>The Proposed Development of Eyamakhosi Resources Phase 2 Coal Storage Facility (EP2CSF) will result in</i></p>

	(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	<i>clearance of 5.887ha (58870m²) of indigenous vegetation.</i>
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Scoping and EIR Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates. As well as applicability.
6	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for any process or activity which requires a permit or licence or <u>an amended permit or licence</u> in terms of national or provincial legislation governing the generation or release of emissions, pollution or effluent, excluding—</p> <p>(i) activities which are identified and included in Listing Notice 1 of 2014;</p> <p>(ii) activities which are included in the list of waste management activities published in terms of section 19 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) in which case the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 applies;</p> <p>(iii) the development of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, polluted water, wastewater or sewage where such facilities have a daily throughput capacity of 2 000 cubic metres or less; or</p> <p>(iv) where the development is directly related to aquaculture facilities or infrastructure where the wastewater discharge capacity will not exceed 50 cubic metres per day.</p>	<p>Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay.</p> <p>Applicability: <i>National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004 (AQA) as provided in Section 21 of the Act, governs the process of applying for Atmospheric Emissions licenses (AELs). Therefore, the development of Amakhosi Resources Coal Storage Facility triggers the Section 21 Category 5.1 which provided for application for an Atmospheric Emission License (AEL).</i></p>

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates. As well as applicability.
12	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p><u>d. KwaZulu-Natal</u></p> <p>v. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay</p> <p>Applicability:</p> <p><i>The development of 5.887ha (58870m²) coal storage facility will involve the clearance 5.887ha (58870m²) area of indigenous vegetation within CBA1.</i></p> <p><i>The CBA1 is driven by the previous Section 52 of NEMBA Threatened Ecosystems (Kwambonambi Grassland), which the site would historically have been classified as. The vegetation type was subsequently subsumed into Maputaland coastal grassland, which is classified as Endangered.</i></p>
14	<p>The development of—</p> <p>[(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more]</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres where such development occurs—</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p>	<p>Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay</p> <p>Applicability:</p> <p><i>There is wetland depression classified as NFEPA within 32m buffer of the proposed development. Other wetland features were identified during preliminary infield investigation. The wetland delineation will verify the existence of other wetlands or geomorphological bodies within the project area. Therefore, the construction will result in excavation and infilling of more 10m³ soil material within the wetland area and within CBA1.</i></p>

	<p><u>d. KwaZulu-Natal</u></p> <p>vii. Critical biodiversity areas or ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	
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The NEMA, and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2014) as amended in 2017, govern the process of applying for environmental authorization for certain developments. A provision in the EIA Regulations is made for two forms of assessment: Basic Assessment and Scoping & EIA, depending on the scope of the activity. The EIA regulations specify that: Activities identified in Listing Notice 1 and 3 (GNR 327 and 324 of 2017) requires a Basic Assessment while activities identified in Listing Notice 2 (GNR 325 of 2017) are subject to a Scoping and EIA. **The listed activities associated with the proposed development are: Listing Notice 1, Listed Activity 19 & 27; Listing Notice 3, Listed Activity 12 & 14; Listing Notice 2, Listed Activity 6.** Therefore, this application will follow a Full EIA (Scoping/EIA) process, as a Listing Notice 2 has been triggered. Therefore, this application will follow a **Scoping/EIA process**, as a Listing Notice 2 has been triggered.

WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

Public participation is the process that promotes information sharing, consultation, and active involvement amongst stakeholders, and all interested and affected parties. During the Public Participation Process, input from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved thus ensuring an informed decision-making throughout the process.

REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES.

Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an I&AP, in order to assist the EAP in identifying possible environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed development and to make suggestions for mitigations. These comments will be included as part of the Basic assessment report which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

Interested and affected parties (I&APs) may forward their written comments along with their contact details within 14 days from receiving the document to: **Phumzile Lembede**.

Postal address: P. O. Box 101672, Meerensee,3901;

Tel: 035 789 0632;

Fax: 086 577 5220,

Email: Info@emveloconsultants.co.za

APPENDIX A: (LOCALITY MAPS)

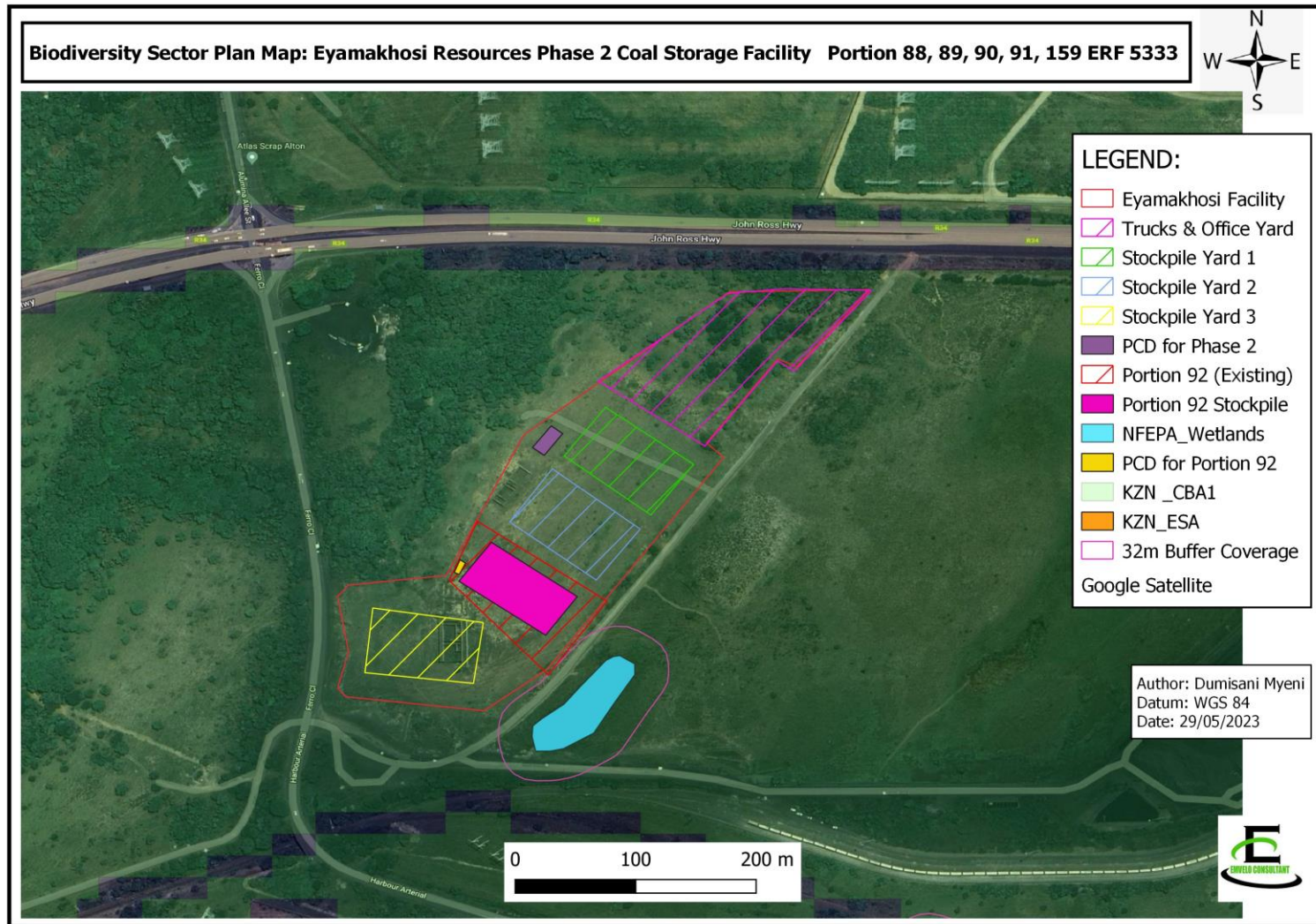


Figure 2: Sensitivity Map of the Study Area

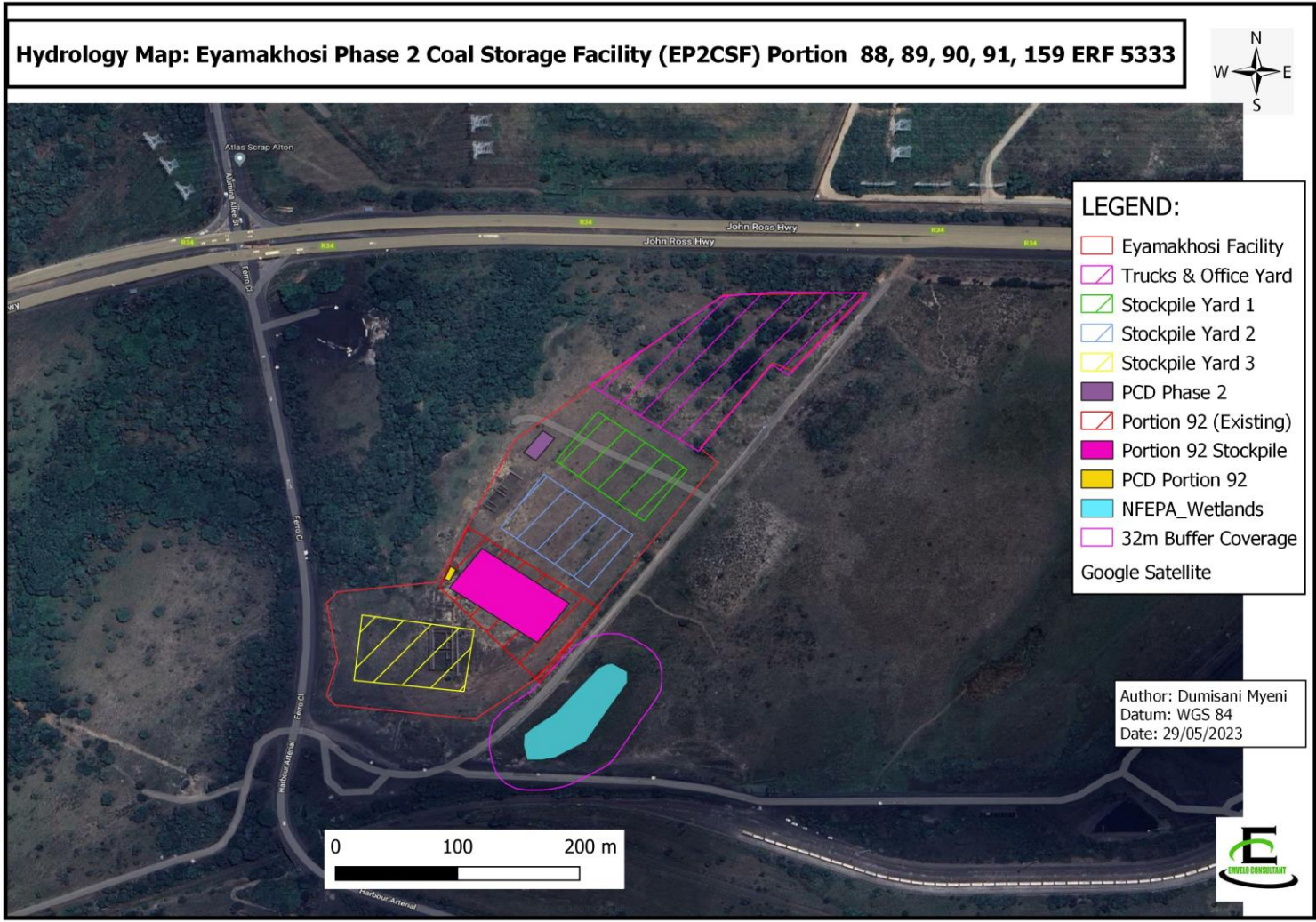


Figure 3: Locality Map



Emvelo Quality and Environmental Consultant (PTY) Ltd
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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

The Proposed Development of Eyamakhosi Resources Phase 2 Coal Storage Facility (EP2CSF) within Portion 88, 89, 90, 91, 159 ERF 5333 Alton South, Richards Bay, KZN

I wish to register as an interested and affected party and / or bring to the attention of Emvelo Consultant the following information.

<u>Personal Information</u>	
Name and Surname	
Company /organization	
Physical Address	
Postal address	
Telephone:	Cell:
Email:	
We would like you to inform us on a preferred and effective means of receiving documents and communication from us. <u>Method:</u> <u>Address:</u>	
<u>Comments</u>	

Signature:

Date:.....