

# **Appendix B**

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Appendix B1: DEA Meeting Minutes**

**Appendix B2: Landowner Agreements**

**Appendix B3: Written Notification**

**Appendix B4: Proof of Mailing**

**Appendix B5: Comments and Responses**

# Working for Wetlands: Eastern Cape Public Participation Report



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The proposed interventions for wetland rehabilitation require the Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) Programme to apply for environmental authorisation in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notice (GN) Regulation (R) 982) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), as amended. To ensure that the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) can make an informed decision, based on a transparent and meaningful process, this Basic Assessment (BA) process must undergo a Public Participation Process (PPP).

This PPP must be undertaken in accordance with regulations 39 - 44 of the EIA Regulations. Additional guidance has also been incorporated from the Western Cape<sup>1</sup> Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP) Guideline Document on Public Participation (March 2013).

This Public Participation Report (PPR) has therefore been compiled to collectively represent the consultation process that has been undertaken through the PPP. The following sections include:

- Section 2 A database of interested and affected parties (I&APs) has been created and updated over the last 13 planning years. This database will be updated and maintained throughout the BA process.
- Section 3 The consultation that was undertaken during the pre-application phase of the project is described in this section. Proof of advertisements, site notices and deliveries are available in Appendix B4.
- Section 4 Describes the consultation process that was undertaken during the BA phase. Proof of notification is available in Appendix B4.
- Section 5 Comments received during the PPP and responses provided have been summarised into a table in this section. The second will be updated with all comments received during the second 30-day public comment period for submission to DEA in the Final BAR. All original comments and responses will be included in Appendix B5.
- Section 6 This section explains the way forward once the public participation process has been completed.

## 2 I&AP DATABASE

A register of I&APs has been recorded for WfWetlands over the previous planning years undertaken by Aurecon. The existing national and provincial database has been updated with information from new I&APs responding to the advertisements and site notices throughout the application process. Proactive identification of I&APs, municipal representatives, organs of state, competent authorities and surrounding landowners was also undertaken to update the database specific to the new planning year.

Table 1 on the following page provides a summary of the I&AP database for the Eastern Cape. Please note that contact details have been omitted for privacy reasons.

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<sup>1</sup> These guidelines have been considered as best practice even though the project may be located outside of the province.

Table 1: I&amp;AP Database

Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation	
National Stakeholders	Mr Mark Anderson	Birdlife South Africa	
	Ms Mpume Ntlokwana	Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries	
	Ms Serah Muobeleni	Department of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries: Land Use and Soil Management	
	Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni	Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity Conservation	
	Mr Danie Smit	Department of Environmental Affairs: Sensitive Environments	
	Ms Naomi Fourie	Department of Water and Sanitation	
	Dr Paul Meulenbeld	Department of Water and Sanitation	
	Ms Jackie Jay	Department of Water and Sanitation	
	Ms Barbara Weston	Department of Water and Sanitation	
	Mr Kelvin Legge	Department of Water and Sanitation	
	Mr Bongani Madikizela	Water Research Commission	
	Ms Olga Jacobs	SANParks: Biodiversity and Social Projects	
	Mr Steven Segang	Endangered Wildlife Trust	
	Mr Ahmend Khan	Department of Environmental Affairs	
	Mr Louwrens Ferreira	Department of Environmental Affairs	
	Mr Wemer Roux	Department of Environmental Affairs	
	Ms Kerryn Morrison	Endangered Wildlife Trust	
	Ms Tanya Smith	Endangered Wildlife Trust	
	Morgan Griffiths	WESSA	
	Mr Dumisani Mabona	Department of Environmental Affairs: Sensitive Environments	
	Mr Umesh Bahadur	Department of Environmental Affairs: Working for Wetlands	
	Mr Farai Tererai	DEA: Working for Wetlands: Manager: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	
	Dr Piet-Louis Grundling	Department of Environmental Affairs: Working for Wetlands	
	Mr Seoka Lekota	DEA: Biodiversity Conservation	
	Mr Dumisani Mabona	Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity Conservation	
		Khosa Tsunduka	Department of Water and Sanitation

Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation
	Malaudzi Nkumbudzeni	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Lumka Kuse	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Xolani Hadebe	Department of Water and Sanitation
<b>Provincial Stakeholders: State Authorities</b>	Mr Gerry Pienaar	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Ms Nomalwande Mbangana	Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Mr Michael Kawa	Department of Environmental Affairs
	Mr Briant Noncembu	Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Mr Melvin Charlie	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Ms Fourie Lizna	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Ms V Rwexu	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Ms ZJ Ngxowa	Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Mr Eric Qonya	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT): Wetlands Representative
	Ms Tamara Gqamane	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Ms Sinazo Songca	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Ms Gwendoline Sqwabe	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Mr MC Dandala	Eastern Cape Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Ms Portia Makhanya	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Mr Mxolisi Dan Malgas	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Mr Kagiso Mangwale	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
Mr. Elliot Weni	Department of Water and Sanitation	

Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation
	Mr Buntu Mzamo	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Ms Phumla Mzazi	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Mr SS Kwinana	Department of Agriculture
	Mr Alan Southwood	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Mr Japie Buckle	Department of Environmental Affairs
	Mr Hennie Swanevelder	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)
	Ms Carina Potgieter	Fort Fordyce Nature Reserve (Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism)
	Ms Noluntando Bam	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Mr Dayalan Govender	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Sinonzulu Mtongana	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Zizipho Siyeka	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Philasande Makhuba	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Chwayita Mapekula	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Yongama Mbangezeli	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Viwe Mabongo	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Masibulele Msongelwa	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Bongikhaya Ngcango	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Viwe Banzi	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
<b>Landowner</b>	Roelof Pierre Oelofsen	Krugersland 812

Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation
	T Kritzinger	Meltrust (Farm Hendrikskraal)
	Tsitsikamma Development Trust	Fingo Reserve
	C Carstens	Tsitsikamma
	Sivuyile Tyali	Kolomana Communcal Land
<b>Municipal Stakeholders</b>	Gcobisa Dadamasi	Kouga Local Municipality
	Mr Charl du Plessis	Kouga Local Municipality
	Dr Thandekile Mnyimba	Amathole District Municipality
	Cllr Nomafusi Nxawe	Amathole District Municipality
	Mr Luyanda Mafumba	Amathole District Municipality
	Mr Lusanda Menze	Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality
	N Platjies	Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality
	Cllr Bandile Ketelo	Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality
	Jane Galo	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
	Mathongo Lamani	Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality
	Mr Ted Pillay	Sarah Baartman District Municipality
	Cllr Khunjuzwa Eunice Kekana	Sarah Baartman District Municipality
	Mr Pumelelo Maxwell Kate	Kou-Kamma Local Municipality
	Mr Nathan Jacobs	Kou-Kamma Local Municipality
<b>General I&amp;APs</b>	Mr Mark Anderson	Chairperson Hogsback Conservancy
	Ms Laura Conde	WESSA
	Mr Ben Cooper	Amahlathi Local Municipality
	Ms Gcobisa Foxi	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
	Dr Ulrike Irlich	ICLEI (LAB Wetland Projects)
	Lehman Lindeque	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
	Mr Siphon Mayebwa	Eastern Cape Wetland Forum
	Ms Cikizwa Mbolambi	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
	Ms Nonzukiso Mbona	SANBI
	Ms Kerry McLean	WESSA Eastern Cape
Ms Kululwa Mkosana	Department of Water and Sanitation	



Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation
	Mr Edwill Moore	Gamtoos Irrigation Board
	Thembilihle Mtamba	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
	Dr Nikite Muller	Amatola Water
	Mr Nkosinathi Nama	EWT (Amathole Catchment Management Forum representative)
	Mr Mpho Nangammbi	Milongani Eco Consulting
	Ms Zukiswa Ngxowa	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Ms Shane October	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
	Ms Kelly Stroebe	CSIR
	Dr Jeanne Tarrant	EWT (Threatened Amphibian Programme Manager) - Amathole Toad Conservation project)
	Mr Loutjie Theron	Wood@Heart
	Ms Anitha van der Byl	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
	Ms Zingisa Xabu	Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency
	Mr Samuel Mpumelelo Vuso	Kou-Kamma Local Municipality
	Mr Mbulelo Xalu	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
	Nomhlophe Maxuxuma	Inkwenkwezi Private College

### **3 PRE-APPLICATION PHASE CONSULTATION**

Prior to the circulation of the draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and submission of the application form to DEA, the following measures were undertaken to ensure that the legislated 30-day public comment period will reach the relevant parties.

#### **3.1 Pre-application meeting with DEA**

Confirmation was received on 18 January 2018 from the Department of Environmental Affairs' EIA Admin unit that pre-application meetings are not a compulsory requirement for the National Department. Considering this response, and the Working for Wetlands Programme's multiple submissions since 2006 to the Department, it was decided not to request a pre-application meeting. Please refer to Appendix B1 for a copy of the correspondence received from DEA on this matter.

#### **3.2 Landowner consultation**

Landowner consultation is a vital component of the Working for Wetlands Programme Standard Operating Procedures. Landowners were consulted with during the planned Phase 1 and Phase 2 site visits, and Landowner Agreements must be signed prior to any construction commencing. Although it can be difficult to access landowner agreements for the full wetland system (some wetlands have more than 30 properties intersecting the wetland), landowner agreements have been obtained for work where targeted rehabilitation interventions are planned for the following implementation cycles. Landowner Agreements are included in Appendix B2.

#### **3.3 Advertisements**

Advertisements were placed in the national newspapers the *Sunday Times* (in English) and *Die Rapport* (in Afrikaans) to allow the public the opportunity to register their interest in the project. The advertisement in *Die Rapport* and *Sunday Times* were published on 3 February 2019.

The English text has been included below Figure 1 in to ensure the text is legible. A copy of the page on which the advertisement appeared in *Die Rapport* is included in Figure 2 and of the advertisement in the *Sunday Times* in Figure 3. Please note that the original page size is A2, and the advertisement is therefore clearly legible.

#### **3.4 Site notices**

Site notices were fixed at the property boundaries of the affected wetland systems and at public areas such as libraries or municipal buildings. The text of the site notice in English is included in Figure 4 and is followed by proof of placement of the site notices in the sub-section thereafter. The site notice was of a size and content required by the relevant guidelines.

Please note that the proof of placement is included in Section 3.4.1 in this PPR.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME

**Proposal:** The Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) Programme intends to rehabilitate a number of degraded wetlands within South Africa. The proposed wetland rehabilitation activities may require the construction of hard interventions, for instance gabion and concrete structures, as well as soft options such as re-vegetation and/or alien plant removal. The number, type, scale and location of each of these interventions vary according to the nature and magnitude of the problem and the state of the wetland (i.e. the receiving environment).

**Legal Framework:** Authorisation is required in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, as described below:

**A. National Environment Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended:** The rehabilitation proposals trigger a suite of activities which require Environmental Authorisation by means of a Basic Assessment (BA) process in terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notice Regulation (GN R) 982, as amended) pursuant to NEMA. Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed to undertake the BA processes and separate provincial focused applications will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the competent authority. The Listed Activities that are relevant to each application in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations are GN R 983 (as amended): 12, 19, 27 and 48 (Listing Notice 1), GN 984 (as amended): 24 (Listing Notice 2) and GN R 985 (as amended): 12, 14 and 23 (Listing Notice 3).

**B. National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA):** In terms of Section 39 of the NWA, a General authorisation (GA) has been granted for certain activities that are listed under the Act that usually require a Water Use Licence; as long as these activities are undertaken for wetland rehabilitation and the primary purpose of the rehabilitation is for conservation purposes (i.e. GN R 1198 of 18 December 2009).

**Opportunity to Participate:** Notice is hereby given of a public participation process in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014) and the NWA (1998). Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register their interest for future correspondence to the people mentioned below and to submit comments on the Draft BA Reports for the six affected provinces during a public comment period of 30 days from **11 February – 14 March 2019** (the project specific rehabilitation plans will be made available for public comment in March 2019). Notification will be sent to all identified and registered I&APs prior to the start date of this comment period. Digital copies of the reports will be available for download from Aurecon's website (<http://aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>).

Province	Reports		Nearest City / Town(s)
	BAR	Rehabilitation Plan	
Eastern Cape	Yes	Amathole, Kromme and Tsitsikamma	Hogsback, Seymour, Kareedouw and Humansdorp
Free State	Yes	Maluti	Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba
Gauteng	Yes	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	Yes	iSimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Yes	Soutini Baleni and Mutale	Giyani and Thohoyandou
North West	Yes	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Rustenburg and Mahikeng

I&APs should refer to the relevant province and wetland project, and provide their comments together with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the applications to the contact person indicated below.

**Contact:** Simamkele Ntsengwane / Franci Gresse (of Aurecon) by **14 March 2019**.

**E-mail:** [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com) / [franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com)

**Tel:** 021 526 9560, **Fax:** 021 526 9500, or **Post:** P.O. Box 494, Cape Town, 8000



Figure 1: Advertisement for the Working for Wetlands Programme 2018/2019 Planning Cycle



Besetters ná 5 maande steeds op wynplaas...

**Dawle Dongzakker**

Meer as vyf maande nadat sy grond eienaarheid in, met 'n Soetwater-oorlog, besetters op die oewer- van 'n grond af te kry.

Sels ná vyf maande besetting van die hooggeplaatste in Kaapstad wat terug op 10 Januarie agtervoer kon word, kan Suides se stigter en eienaar van die besetters op 'n plaas, Waterburg, teen die Waterburgse Soetwater-oorlog toe.

Die besetters is dat 'n mens die verpligting van die gemeenskap te gee wat hulle sal afstaan van Suides, Sels as 'n projek.

"Dit was al klaar vasgemaak dat die besetters die owerheid sal plaas, terwyl daar ook al onderhandelings met die plaasbesitter geskied is.

"Dit moet dan hêrelië afsetting in samewerking met verskeie rolspelers koördineer."

In Lugfoto van die grond wat op die Waterburg-plek beset word.

**Nuwe beurse druk die JSE**

Alternatiewe spelers dwing pryse laer

**Riana de Lange**

**M**et Januarie se bykomende versameling op die JSE aandeelbeurs – die JSE 250 – maak skynbaar dat die druk op die JSE se groot omsettings -...  
 Sels ná vyf maande besetting van die hooggeplaatste in Kaapstad wat terug op 10 Januarie agtervoer kon word, kan Suides se stigter en eienaar van die besetters op 'n plaas, Waterburg, teen die Waterburgse Soetwater-oorlog toe.



**Sprinter. 'n Aanbod wat besigheidsin maak.**

Begin die jaar met 'n groot besparing op 'n Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 311 Panelbus nou teen R9 999 p/m met 'n rentekoers van 1,25% (Prima minus 1%).

**ESKLUSSIEVE AANBOD BESPONDERHEID:**

**NOU TEEN: R9 999** **PRIMA MINUS: 1.0%** **BETAAL TERME:** 10% Opvoersom 10 Maande Daarna

Vir meer inligting, besoek [www.mercedes-benz.co.za/vanoffers](http://www.mercedes-benz.co.za/vanoffers)

plaaseienaar gemaak is. "Ons moet dus hierdie afsetting in samewerking met verskeie rolspelers koördineer."

Die besetters het intussen 'n aansoek om verlof tot appèl teen die bevel gebring, maar Van Staden sê dit beteken nie dat die bevel nie uitgevoer word nie.

Die strukture met vyf mense per struktuur op die 60 hektaar opgeslaan. Ooggetuies sê egter van die strukture staan leeg.

**PROSES VAN OPENBARE DEELNAME: WERK-VIR-VLEILANDEPROGRAM**

**Voorstel:** Die Werk-vir-Vleilandeprogram beoog om 'n aantal afgetakelde vleilande in Suid-Afrika te rehabiliteer. Die voorgestelde rehabilitasie van vleilande behels die konstruksie van 'n verskeidehede harde intervensies wat skansandjies ("gabions") en betonstrukture kan insluit; asook sagter opsies soos die hervestiging van plante en/of die verwydering van indringerplante. Die aantal, tipe, omvang en ligging van elkeen van hierdie intervensies in die betrokke vleilande sal verskil na gelang van die aard en omvang van die probleem en die toestand van die vleiland.

**Wetlike Vereistes:** Goedkeuring word vereis kragtens die Wet op Nasionaal Omgewingsbestuur (Wet 107 van 1998) soos hieronder beskryf:

**A. Die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, Nr 107 van 1998 (WNOB), soos gewysig:** Rehabilitasievoorstelle vereis dat 'n Basiese Invloedbepalingsproses (BIB) uitgevoer moet word vervolgens die WNOB se 2014-regulasies (Goewernmentskennisgewingregulasie (GK R) 982, soos gewysig) vir Omgewingsinvloedbepalings (OIB). Aurecon Suid-Afrika (Edms.) Bpk. (Aurecon) is aangestel om die BIB-proses te onderneem, en afsonderlike aansoeke sal vir elke provinsie by die bevoegde owerheid, naamlik die Departement van Omgewingsake (DOS), ingedien word. Die gelyste aktiwiteite wat volgens die 2014 OIB-regulasies op elke aansoek van toepassing is, is GK R 983 (soos gewysig): 12, 19, 27 en 48 (Kennisgewinglys 1) en GK R 985 (soos gewysig): 12, 14 en 23 (Kennisgewinglys 3).

**B. Nasionale Waterwet, Nr 36 van 1998 (NWW):** Vervolgens Artikel 39 van die NWW is 'n Algemene Magtiging (AM) toegestaan vir sekere aktiwiteite wat normaalweg 'n Watergebruiklisensie vereis kragtens die NWW; op voorwaarde dat die aktiwiteite deel van vleilandrehabilitasie is en bewaring die primêre doel van die rehabilitasie is (i.e. GK R 1198 van 18 Desember 2009).

**Geleentheid om deel te neem:** Kennisgewing geskied hiermee van die proses van openbare deelname vervolgens die WNOB se OIB-regulasies (2014) en die NWW (1998). Die Konsep BIB-verslae vir die ses geaffekteerde provinsies word vir 'n periode van 30 dae vanaf **11 Februarie – 14 Maart 2019** aan belanghebbende en geaffekteerde partye (B&GPe) beskikbaar gestel vir kommentaar (die rehabilitasieplanne vir elke provinsie sal in Maart 2019 beskikbaar wees). Alle geïdentifiseerde en geregtigterde B&GPe sal kennisgewings ontvang voordat hierdie kommentaartydperk begin. Digitale kopieë van die verslae sal beskikbaar wees vanaf Aurecon se webwerf (<http://aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>).

Provinsie	Verslae		Naaste Stad/ Dorp
	BIBV	Rehabilitasieplan	
Oos-Kaap	Ja	Amathole, Kromme en Tsitsikamma	Hogsback, Seymour, Kareedouw en Humansdorp
Vrystaat	Ja	Maluti	Harrismith en Phuthaditjhaba
Gauteng	Ja	Gauteng Noord	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	Ja	iSimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Ja	Soutini Baleni en Mutale	Giyani en Thohoyandou
Noord Wes	Ja	Madikwe Nasionale Park en Molopo	Rustenburg en Mahikeng

B&GPe moet asb. skriftelik verwys na die betrokke provinsie en vleilandprojek waarna u kommentaar verwys. U moet ook asb. u naam en kontakbesonderhede verskaf, asook enige direkte of indirekte sake-, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belangte met betrekking tot die aansoek. Hierdie inligting moet asb. aan die onderstaande persoon/ persone gestuur word.

**Kontak:** Franci Gresse / Simamkele Ntsengwane (van Aurecon) teen **14 Maart 2019**  
 E-pos: [franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com) / [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)  
 Tel: 021 526 9400, Faks: 021 526 9500, of Pos: Posbus 494, Kaapstad, 8000



Figure 2: Proof of advertisement in Die Rapport (3 February 2019)

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME

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Gauteng	Yes	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	Yes	iSimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Yes	Soutini Baleni and Mutale	Giyani and Thohoyandou
North West	Yes	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Rustenburg and Mahikeng

I&APs should refer to the relevant province and wetland project, and provide their comments together with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the applications to the contact person indicated below.

**Contact:** Simamkele Ntsengwane / Franci Gresse (of Aurecon) by **14 March 2019**.  
**E-mail:** [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com) / [franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com)  
**Tel:** 021 526 9560, Fax: 021 526 9500, or Post: P.O. Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

Figure 3: Proof of advertisement in the Sunday Times (3 February 2019)

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

**Proposal:** The Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) Programme intends to rehabilitate a number of degraded wetlands within South Africa. The proposed wetland rehabilitation activities may require the construction of hard interventions, for instance gabion and concrete structures, as well as soft options such as re-vegetation and/ or alien plant removal. The number, type, scale and location of each of these interventions vary according to the nature and magnitude of the problem and the state of the wetland (i.e. the receiving environment).

The following wetland rehabilitation projects are proposed in the **Eastern Cape** Province for the 2018/2019 planning cycle:

PROJECT	WETLAND SYSTEM	NEAREST TOWN	LATITUDE (DDMMSS)	LONGITUDE (DDMMSS)
<b>Amathole</b>	Kolomane 1	Seymour	32°25'18.86"S	26°46'59.60"E
	Kolomane 2		32°27'2.35"S	26°46'10.20"E
	Kolomane 5		32°24'38.07"S	26°45'48.40"E
	Kolomane 16		32°24'14.95"S	26°45'45.69"E
<b>Kromme*</b>	Krugerland	Kareedouw	33°52'9.07"S	24° 01'21.39"E
<b>Tsitsikamma*</b>	Witelsbos 01	Humansdorp	34° 1'49.77"S	24°21'56.69"E
	Witelsbos 02		34° 1'38.10"S	24°22'32.70"E
	Fingo Reserve 1		34° 3'1.80"S	24°20'58.20"E

*\*This project received Environmental Authorisation during a previous planning year and will not be included in the BA Report. A rehabilitation plan will however be made available to registered interested and affected parties.*

**Legal Framework:** Authorisations are required in terms of the National Environment Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended, as described below:

**A. National Environment Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended:** Rehabilitation proposals triggers a suite of activities which require a Basic Assessment (BA) approval in terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (Government Notice Regulation (GN R) 982, as amended) pursuant to NEMA. Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed to undertake the BA processes and separate provincial applications, which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the competent authority. The Listed Activities that are relevant to each application in terms of the 2014 EIA Regulations are GN R 983 (as amended): 12, 19, 27 and 48 (Listing Notice 1), GN 984 (as amended): 24 (Listing Notice 2) and GN R 985 (as amended): 12, 14 and 23 (Listing Notice 3).

**B. National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 (NWA):** In terms of Section 39 of the NWA, a General Authorisation (GA) has been granted for certain activities that are listed under the Act that usually require a Water Use Licence; as long as these activities are undertaken for wetland rehabilitation and the primary purpose of the rehabilitation is for conservation purposes (i.e. GN R1198 of 18 December 2009).

**Opportunity to Participate:** Notice is hereby given of a public participation process in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations (2014) and the NWA (1998). Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register their interest for future correspondence to the people mentioned below and to submit comments on the Draft BA Report from **11 February – 14 March 2019**. Notification will be sent to all identified and registered I&APs prior to the start date of this 30-day comment period. Digital copies of the reports will be available for download from Aurecon's website (<http://aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>). Registered I&APs will also be notified of the availability of the project rehabilitation plans (listed in the table above) for public comment.

More information can be found in a 'context document' available for download from Aurecon's website (<http://aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>).

**Contact:** Franci Gresse / Simamkele Ntsengwane (of Aurecon) by **14 March 2019**.

**E-mail:** [franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com) / [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)

**Tel:** 021 526 9560 **Fax:** 021 526 9500, or **Post:** P.O. Box 494, Cape Town, 8000



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Environmental Affairs  
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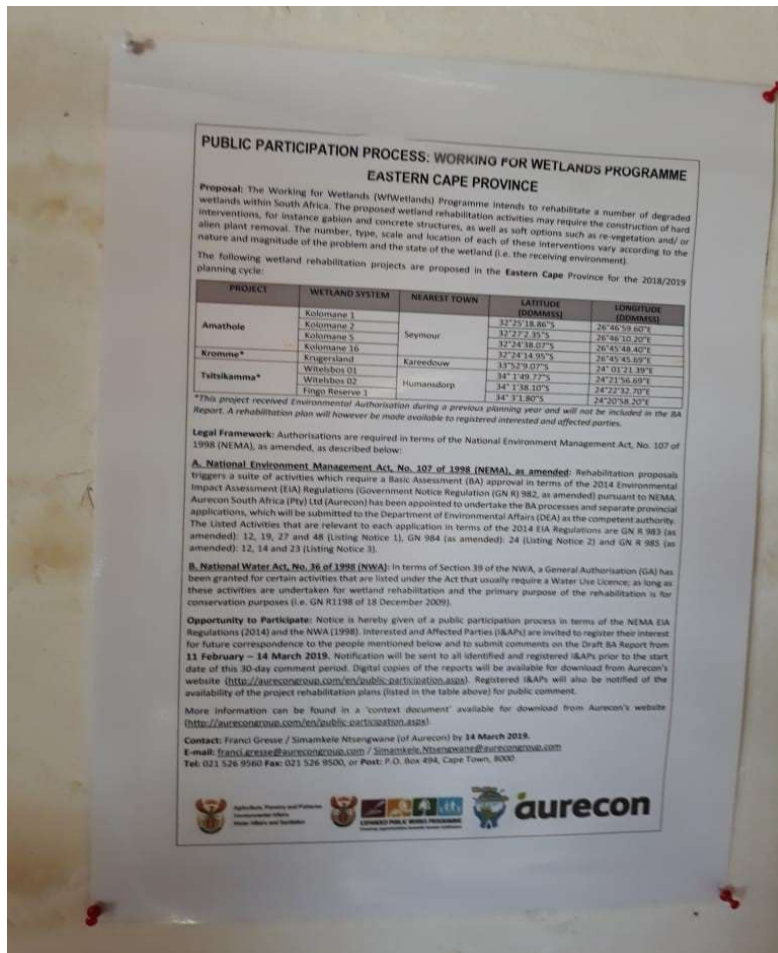
**aurecon**

Figure 4: Example of text included in the Eastern Cape site notice

### 3.4.1 Proof of placement

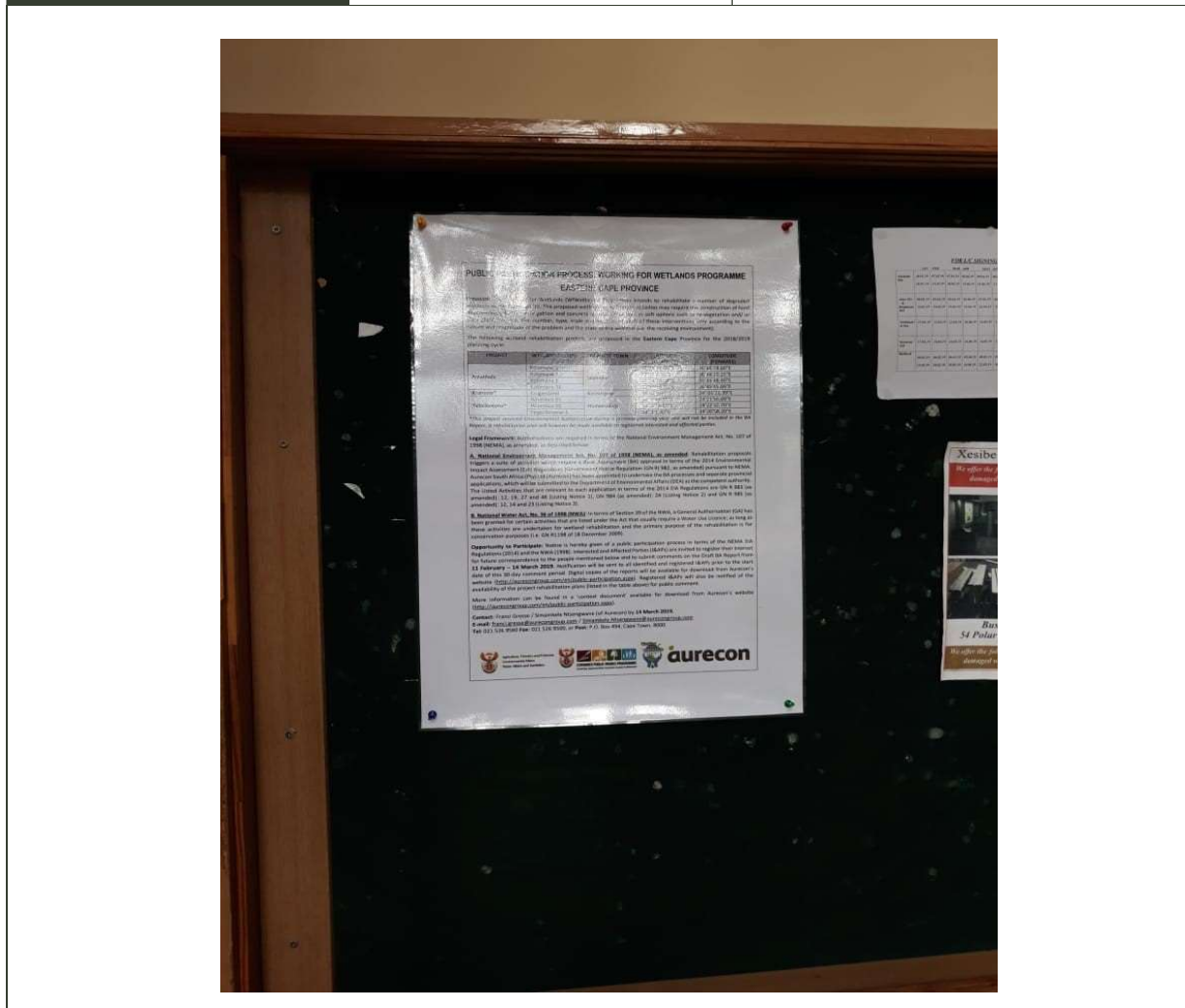
Site notices have been fixed on the farm boundaries of the affected wetland systems and Public Areas (such as libraries or Municipal buildings), The text of the site notice in English is included in Figure 4 and is followed by proof of placement of the site notices in a sub-section thereafter. The site notice was of a size and content required by the relevant guidelines.

<b>Project:</b>	Amathole	
<b>Wetlands:</b>	Kolomane Wetlands (Kolomane 1, Kolomane 2, Kolomane 5 and Kolomane 16)	
<b>Notice site:</b>	Site Notices erected at Kolomane Village	
<b>Coordinates:</b>	32°24'26.73"S	26°45'31.82"E



<b>Project:</b>	Amathole	
<b>Wetlands:</b>	Kolomane Wetlands (Kolomane 1, Kolomane 2, Kolomane 5 and Kolomane 16)	

<b>Notice site:</b>	Site Notices erected at Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality (Seymour Satellite Office)	
<b>Coordinates:</b>	32°33'11.60"S	26°45'40.27"E



#### 4 BASIC ASSESSMENT PHASE CONSULTATION

The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the Eastern Cape Province is available for a 30-day public comment period from 11 February to 14 March 2019. Registered I&APs identified in the pre-application phase were notified of this comment period via post or email. The written notification provided to the I&APs is included in Appendix B2.

Hard and electronic copies were made available to selected organs of state and municipalities based on their internal requirements. I&APs are able to access the BAR via Dropbox and on the Aurecon website: <http://www.aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>. The proof of delivery and notification is included in Appendix B3.



## **5 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

Table 2 will be updated with a summary of the comments received during the public participation process and responses provided by Aurecon, the applicant, or the wetland specialist (where appropriate). The original comments will be included in Appendix B4 of the Final BAR for submission to DEA.

Table 2: I&AP Comments and Responses

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
1	<p>07 February 2019</p> <p>Email</p> <p><b>Inkwenkwezi Private College (Nomhlope Maxaxuma)</b></p>	<p>This communication is from Inkwenkwezi Private College, an Institution of Learning with offices in Cathcart, in the Amathole District Municipality.</p> <p>We are interested to be part of the programme as a Training and Research Provider. Details of contact person is Nomhlope Maxaxuma, No.45 Carnarvon Street Cathcart 5310- 0710376383/0824330951.</p> <p>Please be informed that the area that is closest to us within Amathole Local Municipality in Hogsback.</p>	<p>EAP: Thank you for your interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.</p> <p>This is to confirm that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&amp;AP) for the Eastern Cape Amathole Wetland rehabilitation project. Notification will be sent to all registered I&amp;APs prior to the start date of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and project specific rehabilitation plan commenting period.</p> <p>Please note that each year the Working for Wetlands Programme plans work to be undertaken in wetland systems across South Africa through dedicated provincial planning teams. The proposed rehabilitation activities trigger listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and therefore requires environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before any construction may take place. The advert to which you responded is for such a process and not a call for tenders to undertake the actual work. You have however been registered as an interested and affected party which allows you the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report during a 30-day public participation process.</p> <p>With regards to potential contract opportunities, please contact Ms Unathi Makati (the Eastern Cape Provincial Coordinator for the Working for Wetlands Programme). Ms Makati can be contacted at EMakati@environment.gov.za / 043 722 0685.</p>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
2.	<p>10 February 2019</p> <p>Email and Telephone</p> <p><b>Spring Forest Trading 578cc (Bunene Zola Kutsu)</b></p>	<p>I register myself an I&amp;AP to the programme.</p> <p>I'm also a service provider of Environmental Services and an accredited training provider in Environmental Practises, please provide me with relevant information.</p> <p>Your cooperation will be highly appreciated in this regard.</p>	<p>EAP: Thank you for your interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.</p> <p>Please note that each year the Working for Wetlands Programme plans work to be undertaken in wetland systems across South Africa through dedicated provincial planning teams. The proposed rehabilitation activities trigger listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and therefore requires environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before any construction may take place. The advert to which you responded is for such a process and not a call for tenders to undertake the actual work. You have however been registered as an interested and affected party for the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and North West Projects respectively, which allows you the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report during a 30-day public participation process.</p> <p>With regards to potential contract opportunities, please contact the Provincial Coordinator for the Working for Wetlands Programme at the following contact details;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eastern Cape: Ms Unathi Makati (EMakati@environment.gov.za / 043 722 0685);</li> <li>- Gauteng: Keitumetse Mekgoe (KMekgoe@environment.gov.za / 012 399 9321); and</li> <li>- North West: Eric Munshedzi (EMunshedzi@environment.gov.za)</li> </ul>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
3.	<p>13 February 2019</p> <p>Email</p> <p><b>Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs &amp; Tourism of the Eastern Cape (Gerry Pienaar)</b></p>	<p>We notice that your covering letter refers to Seymour, Kareedouw and Humansdorp, while the table below only refers to Seymour. Can you please clarify? If at any time you need comments on Humansdorp and Kareedouw it will be highly appreciated if you could liaise directly with Mr Andries Struwig in our Sarah Baartman Regional Office in Port Elizabeth.</p>	<p>EAP: Thank you very much for your email and interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.</p> <p>The notification email sent on 11 February 2019 served as a notification to I&amp;APs of the opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Report for the Amathole project - the nearest town to the project area being Seymour.</p> <p>Reference to Kareedouw and Humansdorp is for the project specific rehabilitation plans which will be made available for public comment in March 2019 to all registered I&amp;APs for a 30-day comment period. Registered I&amp;APs will be informed of the availability of the rehabilitation plans and commencement of the commenting period.</p> <p>Thank you for sharing Mr Andries Struwig's details. We have included him in our I&amp;AP database for the Kromme and Tsitsikamma projects to receive information during the process.</p>
4.	<p>15 February 2019</p> <p>Email and Telephone</p> <p><b>Department of Water and Sanitation (Lucrecia Sedibana)</b></p>	<p>Following our telephone conversation earlier this morning, this email serves to confirm my contact details below.</p>	<p>EAP: Thank you for your email and for your interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.</p> <p>I will arrange for an electronic copy (a CD) to be dropped off at your office marked for your attention</p>
5.	<p>18 February 2019</p> <p>Email</p> <p><b>Department of Agriculture, Forestry and</b></p>	<p>Your email was received, and you can expect us to get back to you soon.</p>	<p>EAP: Thank you for your email and for your interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.</p>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
	<b>Fisheries (Nomalwande Mbangana)</b>		
6.	05 March  <b>Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</b>  (Ivan Riggs)	I have registered on your website to view the documents online but cannot access them.  Can you kindly supply the project reference numbers for the those below:  Eastern Cape: Amathole, Kromme, Tsitsikamma Free State: Maluti Gauteng: Gauteng North KwaZulu-Natal: iSimangaliso Limpopo: Soutini-Baleni North West: Madikwe National Park and Molopo.	EAP: You can also access the documents on dropbox by following this link: <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53v4o0lvhyvc5ao/AABMT0VY2JaSSOzRIk9JTBbKa?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53v4o0lvhyvc5ao/AABMT0VY2JaSSOzRIk9JTBbKa?dl=0</a>  Please note that we have also provided CDs to your Following Colleagues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Mpume Ntlokwana</li><li>• Ms Serah Muobeleni</li></ul> If you continue to have difficulty accessing the documents please let us know for further assistance.
7.	14 March 2019  Email  <b>Department of Environmental Affairs</b> (Zesipho Makhosayafana)	Comments on the draft Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Working for Wetlands Programme within Amathole in the Eastern Cape Province  The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated February 2019 and received by the Department on 11 February 2019, refers.  This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final BAR:  Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.	EAP: Descriptions of interventions associated with the relevant listed activities have been updated to refer to interventions included in the associated rehabilitation plan(s). Note that the descriptions are slightly generic to allow for variations of the general intervention type in the rehabilitation plans.
		Kindly specify if the project will involve the clearance of indigenous vegetation or alien invasive species as, Activity 27 of GN R983 and activity 12 of GN R985, refer to the clearance of indigenous vegetation, yet your	EAP: The Working for Wetlands Programme does include the clearing of alien invasive species as part of the wetland rehabilitation interventions proposed. The regulations pursuant to NEMA refer to the clearing of indigenous vegetation, where "indigenous" by definition

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		description for its applicability states that there will be clearance of alien invasive species instead.	is " <i>vegetation consisting of indigenous plant species occurring naturally in the area, regardless of the alien infestation, and where the topsoil has not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years</i> ". For this reason, Activity 27 has been included.
		The declaration form of the EAP incorporated into the application form is not signed. You are requested to ensure that the final BAR has a signed declaration form by the EAP.	EAP: An original signature of the EAP will be provided on the declaration form with the Final BAR.
		<p>An original signed undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths), must be included in the final BAR, as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, which states that the BAR must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</li> <li>➤ the correctness of the information provided in the reports:</li> <li>➤ the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&amp;APs;</li> <li>➤ the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and</li> </ul> <p>any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties.</p>	EAP: An original signed undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths), will be included in the Final BAR, as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), and as per the listed inclusions.
		Should the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted, inclusive	EAP: An amended application form will be submitted with the final BAR to the Department.

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		of the abovementioned signed documents. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a> .	
		Please also ensure that the BAR includes the period for which the environmental authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per the Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended (GN R. 982).	EAP: Section 8.2 has been updated in the BAR to provide this information, and the checklist titled "NEMA Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports on pages i-iii has been updated accordingly.
		The report indicates that there will be vehicles to bring construction material on site yet the maps provided do not show any access roads available. Kindly indicate if part of the rehabilitation activities will require the construction of access roads and whether this will trigger the applicable listed activities	EAP: Existing access roads and tracks will be used by vehicles, and where this is not possible, the site will be accessed on foot. There are no current proposals to develop any new access roads, and certainly none that will trigger additional Listed Activities.
		The project involves the construction of crossings for both livestock and community members. Please specify the types of crossings these are intended to be.	EAP: Please refer to the Amathole Rehabilitation Plan for detail on the interventions proposed, including the location, dimensions and designs of any crossings.
		Four areas are considered for rehabilitation in Quaternary catchment S32E according to the report, however the public participation documents state that Tsitsikamma and Kromme will also be considered. Kindly specify the exact project areas being considered for rehabilitation, are Tsitsikamma and Kromme part of these areas?	EAP: Please note that the BAR focus on four wetlands within the Amathole Project Area. The Kromme <sup>2</sup> and Tsitsikamma <sup>3</sup> projects are not part of the BAR process since they received environmental authorisation during previous planning years. Please also note that the works included in the Tsitsikamma Rehabilitation Project is for maintenance purposes.
		The BAR must provide clear maps of an A3 size, with an indication of all the envisioned areas along the	EAP: A map indicating the wetlands earmarked for rehabilitation is provided in Appendix C of the BAR. The

<sup>2</sup> DEA Ref No: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1848

<sup>3</sup> DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/942/1/1 and 12/12/20/942/1/2

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		<p>wetland system that will be subject to rehabilitation. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of this map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The map must indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc.</li> <li>➤ The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs that will be affected; and</li> <li>➤ All “no-go” areas.</li> </ul>	<p>associated rehabilitation plan provides a project description and a locality plan of the proposed interventions, although no supporting infrastructure or accommodation will be required.</p> <p>Please note that the entire site is sensitive since the purpose of the project is to rehabilitate degraded wetlands.</p>
		<p>Page 4 of the BAR indicates that there are no heritage resources that will be affected by the project which were identified. Kindly provide an A3 size sensitivity map for heritage and paleontology resources overlain in the proposed project site area</p>	<p>EAP: Please see Section 2.4 of the BAR regarding the applicability of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) to the project. The requirements of the NHRA were considered (Section 2.4 of the BAR), and there is no indication that heritage studies are required in terms of the NHRA. The project was submitted on SAHRIS but no comment has been received to date. Should further heritage studies be required by SAHRA, then such maps can be provided.</p>
		<p>Additionally, please provide a written confirmation from SAHRA indicating that the project area does not have archaeological and or paleontological sensitivities in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, and that indeed no Heritage Impact Assessment is required.</p>	<p>EAP: The project was submitted on SAHRIS but no comment has been received to date. Please also see Section 2.4 of the BAR regarding the applicability of the National Heritage Resource Act (Act 25 of 1999) to the project.</p>
		<p>According to page 4 of the report, the wetland specialist provided a high-level strategic assessment during phase 1. In addition, as per the diagram contained on page 15 of the BAR you have indicated that the outcome of Phase 1 will be a finalized Phase 7 report. As such, kindly ensure that the final BAR includes a</p>	<p>EAP: Please refer to Appendix B6 for a copy of the Phase 1 report.</p>



No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		copy of the final Phase 1 report, detailing the findings of the assessment.	

	<p>In addition to the above, you are further required to include the Terms of Reference for the wetland specialist.</p> <p>a) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference (TOR) for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.</li> <li>➤ Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</li> <li>➤ Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</li> <li>➤ Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</li> <li>➤ All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA. Should specialists recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</li> </ul>	<p>EAP: The terms of reference (TOR) for the Wetland Specialist is summarised in Section 3 of the General Methodology of the Rehabilitation Plan. The Wetland Specialist (Retief Grobler) provided a Phase 2: Status Quo Assessment (Appendix A of the BAR) that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A detailed description of the study's methodology (Section 2); an indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint (Sections 3 and 5), and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations (N/A - this is not a development proposal, interventions are provided in the Intervention Booklet: Appendix C of the Rehabilitation Plans).</li> <li>– A detailed description of all limitations to the study (Section 4). All specialist field work was conducted in the appropriate season.</li> <li>– It is important to note that:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Specialist's definition of a 'No-Go' area concurs with that of the Departments definition. The specialist was required to indicate any 'No-Go' areas, as well as their buffers, if applicable.</li> <li>– The Phase 2: Status Quo Assessment provided is the Final version.</li> <li>– Detailed/practical mitigation measures and recommendations are provided in the Rehabilitation Plans (EMP) and specific mitigation per intervention (where required) is provided in the Intervention Booklet (Appendix C of the Rehabilitation Plan).</li> <li>– No further studies are required to be completed post EA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		<p>b) You are further reminded to provide proof to show that the registered interested and affected parties and organ of states received written notification of the proposed activities, as per the requirements of regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014. This proof may include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ e-mail delivery reports;</li> <li>➤ registered mail receipts;</li> <li>➤ courier waybills;</li> <li>➤ Signed acknowledgements of receipt;</li> </ul> <p>and/or any other proof as agreed upon by the competent authority.</p>	<p>EAP: Please refer to Annexure B4.</p>
		<p>Proof of the notice boards placed in the proposed site area or any alternative site.</p>	<p>EAP: Please refer to Section 3.4 of this document.</p>
		<p>Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR to registered I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity &amp; Conservation Branch) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.</p>	<p>EAP: All issues raised, and comments received to date is included in this table. Note that no comments have been received from the DEA: Biodiversity and Conservation to date.</p>
		<p>A Comments and Response (C&amp;R) report must be submitted with the final BAR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all comments received for this development. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;APs' comments.</p>	<p>EAP: All issues raised, and comments received to date is included in this table. All comments received during the second 30-day public comment period will also be included in this table and responded to prior to the BAR being finalised for submission to DEA.</p>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		<p>The EAP must indicate based on the assessment, the specialist assessment conducted and the various engineering methods, which interventions at which locations will be most suited and should be authorised for this project. The mitigation measures and recommendations to be included in EMPr should also be provided by the EAP.</p>	<p>EAP: Please refer to the Amathole Rehabilitation Plan for information on the rehabilitation interventions that have been identified to achieve specific wetland rehabilitation objectives.</p>
		<p>The BAR, specialist studies and EMPr must ensure compliance to the relevant appendices as outlined in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p>	<p>EAP: The checklist titled "NEMA Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports" is provided on pages i-iii.</p>
		<p>The final BAR must include a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for Working for Wetlands Programme referred to on page 4 of the draft BAR received on February 2019.</p>	<p>EAP: Please note that the Working for Wetlands Programme was unable to provide a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding. Subsequently, the section has been removed from the BAR.</p>
		<p>Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 1 (3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended</p>	<p>EAP: Section 8.2 has been updated in the BAR to provide this information, and the checklist titled "NEMA Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports on pages i-iii has been updated accordingly.</p>
		<p>I. You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>"Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority- (a) basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMPr, and where applicable a closure plan, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and</i></p>	<p>EAP: The Department's reminder is appreciated. An extension in terms of Section 19(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, has been obtained. Please refer to Appendix B6 for a copy of the letter that was submitted to DEA in this regard.</p>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		<p><i>which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.”</i></p>	
		<p>II. Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that:</p> <p><i>“the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority — (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports an EMPr, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days’.</i></p>	<p>EAP: A Section 19(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, extension was obtained to allow for the project specific wetland rehabilitation plan (that are mentioned in the BAR) to be made available to the public for comment with the updated BAR.</p>
		<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3 (7).</p>	<p>EAP: The Department’s comment is noted.</p>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		<p>You are requested to submit one (1) copy of the final BAR to the Department and at least one (1) unprotected electronic copy (USB/CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.</p>	<p>EAP: One (1) hard copy and one (1) electronic copy of the final BAR will be submitted to the Department for consideration.</p>
		<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.</p>	<p>EAP: The Department's reminder is noted.</p>

## **6 WAY FORWARD**

Following the 30-day public comment period, the BAR will be updated by incorporating any I&AP comments received on the reports (where relevant). All comments will be recorded and responded to in this PPR which will be circulated to all who have provided comment. The updated BAR will then be submitted to DEA for their decision-making process. Once DEA has made their decision on the proposed project, all registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome of the decision within fourteen (14) calendar days of the decision and the right to appeal projects.

## **7 Appendices**

Appendix B1 | DEA Meeting Minutes

Appendix B2 | Landowner Agreement(s)

Appendix B3 | Written Notification

Appendix B4 | Proof of Delivery

Appendix B5 | Comments and Responses

Appendix B6 | Additional Information

## **Appendix B1**

### **DEA PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES**



## Franci Gresse

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**From:** EIAAdmin <EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 11:06 AM  
**To:** Franci Gresse  
**Cc:** Claire Blanché  
**Subject:** RE: 113223 WfWetlands: New Applications

Morning,

Dear Ms Gresse.

Pre-application meetings are not a compulsory requirement at National. If you feel you require one, you may set up one. When we receive your request, it will be allocated to a case officer. Otherwise, go ahead and lodge your application. Purely up to you. Trust this suffices

EIA Admin  
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:  
Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support  
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*Please be informed that the Departmental EIA related templates were updated. It can be downloaded from the Departmental web address at [https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).*



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**From:** Franci Gresse [mailto:Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com]  
**Sent:** 18 January 2019 09:40 AM  
**To:** EIAAdmin  
**Cc:** Claire Blanché  
**Subject:** 113223 WfWetlands: New Applications

Dear Sir/Madam

A new set of Basic Assessment applications (i.e. six) are being prepared for the Working for Wetlands Programme for public participation in February. Similar to the previous years, one BA report will be prepared per province.

We would appreciate if you could please indicate if a pre-application meeting will be required to discuss the project and procedures. We can confirm that the format of the reports will be the same as previous years and that no concerns/ issues were raised last year by the Case Officers regarding the process and/or the reports.

Kind regards  
Franci

**Franci Gresse**

Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon

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## WORKING FOR WETLANDS: CONTEXT DOCUMENT

### 1. Introduction

Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) is a government programme managed by the Natural Resource Management Programme (NRMP) of the Department of Environmental Affairs, and is a joint initiative with the Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). In this way the programme is an expression of the overlapping wetland-related mandates of the three parent departments, and besides giving effect to a range of policy objectives, it also honours South Africa's commitments under several international agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The programme is mandated to protect pristine wetlands, promote their wise-use and rehabilitate those that are damaged throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and using only local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). The EPWP seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increasing their capacity to earn an income.

### 2. Wetlands and their importance

Once considered valueless wastelands that needed to be drained or converted to more useful land use purposes, wetlands are now seen in an entirely different light. Today wetlands are more commonly perceived as natural assets and natural infrastructure able to provide a range of products, functions and services free of charge.

That which actually constitutes a wetland is often not fully understood. Common misconceptions have been that wetlands must be wet, must have a river running through them, or must always be situated in low-lying areas. The definition of a wetland is much broader and more textured: they are characterised more by soil properties and flora than by an abundance of water.

The National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998 defines a wetland as:

*“land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is periodically covered with shallow water, and which land in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil”.*

The Ramsar Convention defines wetlands as:

*“areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6m” (Article 1, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 1971).*

Wetlands can therefore be seasonal and may experience regular dry spells (sometimes even staying dry for up to several years), or they can be frequently or permanently wet. Wetlands can occur in a variety of locations across the landscape (**Plate A**), and may even occur at the top of a hill, nowhere near a river. A pan, for example, is a wetland which forms in a depression. Wetlands also come in many sizes; they can be as small as a few square metres (e.g. at a low point along the side of a road) or cover a significant portion of a country (e.g. the Okavango Delta).



**Plate A:** A large, seasonal wetland identifiable by the characteristic flora. This wetland contained no surface water at the time of the photograph

Wetland ecosystems provide a range of ecological and social services which benefit people, society and the economy at large:

- Improving the ecological health of an ecosystem by performing many functions that include flood control, water purification, sediment and nutrient retention and export, recharge of groundwater, as well as acting as vital habitats for diverse plant and animal species.
- Providing ecological infrastructure replacing the need for municipal infrastructure by providing the same or better benefit at a fraction of the cost, for example:
  - The movement of water in the landscape is slowed down by wetlands, which offers the dual benefit of flood control as well as a means of purification.
  - The slow movement of water allows heavier impurities to settle and phreatic vegetation and micro-bacteria the opportunity to remove pollutants and nutrients.
- Functioning as valuable open spaces and create recreational opportunities for people that include hiking along wetlands, fishing, boating, and bird-watching.
- Having cultural and spiritual significance for the communities living nearby. Commercially, products such as reeds and peat are also harvested from wetlands (**Plate B**).



**Plate B: Commercial products made by locals from reeds harvested from wetlands**

Wetlands are thus considered to be critically important ecosystems as they provide both direct and indirect benefits to the environment and society.

### 3. Wetland degradation

It has been estimated that originally over 10% of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was covered by wetlands. However, this figure decreases significantly every year owing to unsustainable land-use practices. It is estimated that more than 50% of South Africa's wetlands have been destroyed through drainage of wetlands for crops and pastures, poorly managed burning regimes, overgrazing, disturbances to wetland soils, vegetation clearing as well as industrial and urban development (including mining activities).

Although wetlands are high-value ecosystems that make up only a small fraction of the country, they rank among the most threatened ecosystems in South Africa. According to a recent Council of Scientific Research (CSIR) study (Nel and Driver, 2012), South Africa's remaining wetlands were identified as the most threatened of all South Africa's ecosystems, with 48% of wetland ecosystem types being critically endangered, 12% endangered and 5% vulnerable. Only 11% of wetland ecosystem types are well protected, with 71% not protected at all.

The remaining wetland systems suffer from severe erosion and sedimentation, undesirable plant species and aquatic fauna infestations, unsustainable exploitation, artificial drainage and damming, and pollution. The continued degradation of wetlands will impact on biodiversity, ecological function, and the provision of ecosystem services with subsequent impacts on livelihoods and economic activity, as well as health and wellbeing of communities. In the absence of functional wetlands, the carbon cycle, the nutrient cycle and the water cycle would be significantly altered, mostly detrimentally.

Wetland conservation and rehabilitation should be at the heart of water management. It is necessary to prioritise South Africa's remaining wetlands such that those that offer valuable ecosystem services and are least impacted by current pressures or threats are offered immediate attention to avoid further loss, conversion or degradation.

#### 4. The Working for Wetlands Programme

South Africa is a dry country, but is endowed with exceptionally rich biodiversity. The nation has a pressing reason to value the water-related services that wetlands provide. It is estimated that by 2025, South Africa will be one of fourteen African countries classified as "*subject to water scarcity*" (UNESCO, 2000). The conservation of wetlands is fundamental to the sustainable management of water quality and quantity, and wetland rehabilitation is therefore essential to conserving water resources in South Africa.

The guiding principles of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998, recognise the need to protect water resources. In responding to the challenge of stemming the loss of wetlands and maintaining and enhancing the benefits they provide, government has recognised that, in order to be truly effective, strategies for wetland conservation need to include a combination of proactive measures for maintaining healthy wetlands, together with interventions for rehabilitating those that have been degraded. These objectives are currently being expressed in a coordinated and innovative way through the WfWetlands Programme.

Working for Wetlands pursues its mandate of wetland protection, wise use and rehabilitation in a manner that maximises employment creation, supports small emerging businesses, and transfers skills amongst vulnerable and marginalised groups. In the 13 years since 2004, the WfWetlands Programme has invested just under R1 billion in wetland rehabilitation and has been involved in over 1,300 wetlands, thereby improving or securing the health of over 70 000 hectares of wetland environment. The WfWetlands Programme has a current budget of just over R 130 million, of which approximately 35% is allocated directly to paying wages. Being part of the EPWP, the WfWetlands Programme has created more than 27 000 jobs and over 3 million person-days of paid work. The local teams are made up of a minimum of 55% women, 55% youth and 2% disabled persons.

Wetlands are not easy ecosystems to map at a broad scale as they are numerous, often small and difficult to recognise and delineate on remotely sensed imagery such as satellite photos. The WfWetlands Programme houses the National Wetlands Inventory Project (NWI) which aims to provide clarity on the extent, distribution and condition of South Africa's wetlands. The project clarifies how many and which rivers and wetlands have to be maintained in a natural condition to sustain economic and social development, while still conserving South Africa's freshwater biodiversity.

The National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) has used the NWI data to produce the most comprehensive national wetland map to date, called the NFEPA Atlas. This atlas enables the planning of wetland rehabilitation on a catchment scale.

Other activities that form part of the WfWetlands Programme include:

- Raising awareness of wetlands among workers, landowners and the general public; and
- Providing adult basic education and training, and technical skills transfer (in line with the emphasis of the EPWP on training, the WfWetlands Programme has provided 250,000 days of training in vocation and life skills).

#### 5. Rehabilitation interventions

The successful rehabilitation of a wetland requires that the cause of damage or degradation is addressed, and that the natural flow patterns of the wetland system are re-established (flow is encouraged to disperse rather than to concentrate). Approximately 800 interventions are implemented every year in the WfWetlands Programme. The key purposes of implementing interventions include:

- Restoration of hydrological integrity (e.g. raising the general water table or redistributing the water across the wetland area);
- Recreation of wetland habitat towards the conservation of biodiversity; and
- Job creation and social upliftment.

Typical activities undertaken within the projects include:

- Plugging artificial drainage channels created by development or historical agricultural practices to drain wetland areas for other land use purposes;

- Constructing structures (gabions, berms, weirs) to divert or redistribute water to more natural flow paths, or to prevent erosion by unnatural flow rates that have resulted from unsustainable land use practices or development; and
- Removing invasive alien or undesirable plant species from wetlands and their immediate catchments (in conjunction with the Working for Water initiative).

Methods of wetland rehabilitation may include hard engineering interventions such as:

- Earth berms or gabion systems to block artificial channels that drain water from or divert polluted water to the wetland;
- Concrete and gabion weirs to act as settling ponds, to reduce flow velocity or to re-disperse water across former wetland areas thereby re-establishing natural flow paths;
- Earth or gabion structure plugs to raise channel floors and reduce water velocity;
- Concrete or gabion structures to stabilise head-cut or other erosion and prevent gullies;
- Concrete and/or reno mattress strips as road crossings to address channels and erosion in wetlands from vehicles; and
- Gabion structures (mattresses, blankets or baskets) to provide a platform for the growth of desired wetland vegetation.

Soft engineering interventions also offer successful rehabilitation methods, and the following are often used together with the hard engineering interventions:

- The use of biodegradable or natural soil retention systems such as eco-logs, Macmat-R plant plugs, grass or hay bales, and brush-packing techniques;
- The re-vegetation of stabilised areas with appropriate wetland and riparian plant species;
- Alien invasive plant clearing, which is an important part of wetland rehabilitation (this is supported by the Working for Water Programme).
- The fencing off of sensitive areas within the wetland to keep grazers out and to allow for the re-establishment of vegetation;
- In some instances, the use of appropriate fire management and burning regimes. The removal of undesirable plant and animal species; and
- In some wetlands, it may be possible to involve the community to develop a management plan for wise use within a wetland. This can involve capacity building through educating and training the community members who would monitor the progress. A plan could involve measures such as rotational grazing with long term benefits for rangeland quality.

## 6. Programme, projects and phases

In order to manage the **WfWetlands Programme**, wetlands have been grouped into “projects”, and each **Wetland Project** encompasses several smaller wetland systems which are each divided into smaller, more manageable and homogenous wetland units. A Wetland Project may be located within one or more quaternary catchments within a Province. The WfWetlands Programme is currently managing 37 Wetland Projects countrywide, and rehabilitation activities range from stabilising degradation to the more ambitious restoration of wetlands to their original conditions.

Each Wetland Project is managed in three phases (as shown in the flow diagram in **Plate C**) over a two-year cycle. The first two phases straddle the first year of the cycle and involve planning, identification, design and authorisation of interventions. The third phase is implementation, which takes place during the second year.

In order to undertake these three phases, a collaborative team has been established as follows. The **Programme Team** currently comprises two subdirectories: a) Implementation and After Care and b) Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. The Assistant Directors for Wetlands Programmes (ASDs)<sup>1</sup> report to the Implementation and After Care Deputy Director and are responsible for the identification and implementation of projects in their regions. The Programme Team is further supported by a small team that fulfil various roles such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and training. Independent Design Engineers and Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) are appointed to undertake the

<sup>1</sup> Previously referred to as Provincial Coordinators (PCs).

planning, design and authorisation components of the project. The project team is assisted by a number of wetland specialists who provide scientific insight into the operation of wetlands and bring expert and often local knowledge to the project teams. They are also assisted by the landowners and implementers who have valuable local knowledge of these wetlands.

The first phase is the identification of suitable wetlands which require intervention. The purpose of Phase 1 and the associated reporting is to identify:

- Priority catchments and associated wetlands/ sites within which rehabilitation work needs to be undertaken; and
- Key stakeholders who will provide meaningful input into the planning phases and wetland selection processes, and who will review and comment on the rehabilitation proposals.

**Phase 1** commences with a catchment and wetland prioritisation process for every province. The Wetland Specialist responsible for a particular province undertakes a desktop study to determine the most suitable wetlands for the WfWetlands rehabilitation efforts. The involvement of Provincial Wetland Forums and other key stakeholders is a critical component of the wetland identification processes since these stakeholders are representative of diverse groups with shared interests (e.g. from government institutions to amateur ecological enthusiasts). This phase also involves initial communication with local land-owners and other Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to gauge the social benefits of the work. Aerial surveys of the areas in question may be undertaken, as well as limited fieldwork investigations or site visits to confirm the inclusion of certain wetland projects or units. Once wetlands have been prioritised and agreed on by the various parties, specific rehabilitation objectives are determined for each wetland following a rapid wetland assessment undertaken by the Wetland Specialist.

**Phase 2** requires site visits attended by the fieldwork team comprising a Wetland Specialist, a Design Engineer, an EAP, and an ASD. Other interested stakeholders or authorities, landowners and in some instances the Implementing Agents (IAs) may also attend the site visits. This allows for a highly collaborative approach, as options are discussed by experts from different scientific disciplines, as well as local inhabitants with deep anecdotal knowledge. While on site, rehabilitation opportunities are investigated. The details of the proposed interventions are discussed, some survey work is undertaken by the engineers, and Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates and digital photographs are taken for record purposes. Furthermore, appropriate dimensions of the locations are recorded in order to design and calculate quantities for the interventions. At the end of the site visit the rehabilitation objectives together with the location layout of the proposed interventions are agreed upon by the project team.

During Phase 2, monitoring systems are put in place to support the continuous evaluation of the interventions. The systems monitor both the environmental and social benefits of the interventions. As part of the Phase 2 site visit, a maintenance inventory of any existing interventions that are damaged and/or failing and thus requiring maintenance is compiled by the ASD, in consultation with the Design Engineer.

Based on certain criteria and data measurements (water volumes, flow rates, and soil types); the availability of materials such as rock; labour intensive targets; maintenance requirements etc., the interventions are then designed. Bills of quantity are calculated for the designs and cost estimates made. Maintenance requirements for existing interventions in the assessed wetlands are similarly detailed and the costs calculated. The Design Engineer also reviews and, if necessary, adjusts any previously planned interventions that are included into the historical Rehabilitation Plans.

Phase 2 also comprises a reporting component where Rehabilitation Plans are prepared for each Wetland Project. The Rehabilitation Plans include details of each intervention to be implemented, preliminary construction drawings and all necessary documentation required by applicable legislation. The Rehabilitation Plans are reviewed by various government departments, stakeholders and the general public before a specific subset of interventions are selected for implementation.

**Landowner consent** is an important component of each phase in each Wetland Project. The flow diagram, **Plate C**, demonstrates the point at which various consent forms must be approved via signature from the directly affected landowner. The ASDs are responsible for undertaking the necessary landowner engagement and for ensuring that the requisite landowner consent forms required as part of Phase 1 and 2 of this project are signed.

These include:

- WW(0): Standard operating procedure,
- WW(1): Wetland survey and Inspection consent,
- WW(2): Terms and Conditions for carrying out wetland rehabilitation,
- WW(3): Wetland Rehabilitation Activities Consent,
- WW(4): Property Inspection Prior to Wetland Rehabilitation, and
- WW(5): Notification of Completion of Rehabilitation.

Without these signed consent forms the WfWetlands Programme will not be able to implement rehabilitation interventions on the affected property.

**Phase 3** requires that certain Environmental Authorisations are obtained before work can commence in the wetlands (please see subsequent sections of this document for detail on Environmental Authorisations). Upon approval of the wetland Rehabilitation Plans by DEA, the work detailed for the project will be implemented within a year with on-going monitoring being undertaken thereafter. The Rehabilitation Plans are considered to be the primary working document for the implementation of the project via the construction/ undertaking of interventions<sup>2</sup> listed in the Plan.

It is typically at this point in the process when the final construction drawings are issued to the IAs. IAs are currently employed in the WfWetlands Programme and are responsible for employing contractors and their teams (workers) to construct the interventions detailed in each of the Rehabilitation Plans. For all interventions that are based on engineering designs (typically hard engineered interventions), the Design Engineer is required to visit the site before construction commences to ensure that the original design is still appropriate in the dynamic and ever-changing wetland system. The Design Engineer will assist the IAs in pegging and setting-out interventions. The setting-out activities often coincide with the Phase 1 activities for the next planning cycle. Phase 3 concludes with the construction of the interventions, but there is an on-going monitoring and auditing process that ensures the quality of interventions, the rectification of any problems, and the feedback to the design team regarding lessons learnt.

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<sup>2</sup> This could include soft options such as alien clearing or eco-logs, as well as hard structures for example weirs.



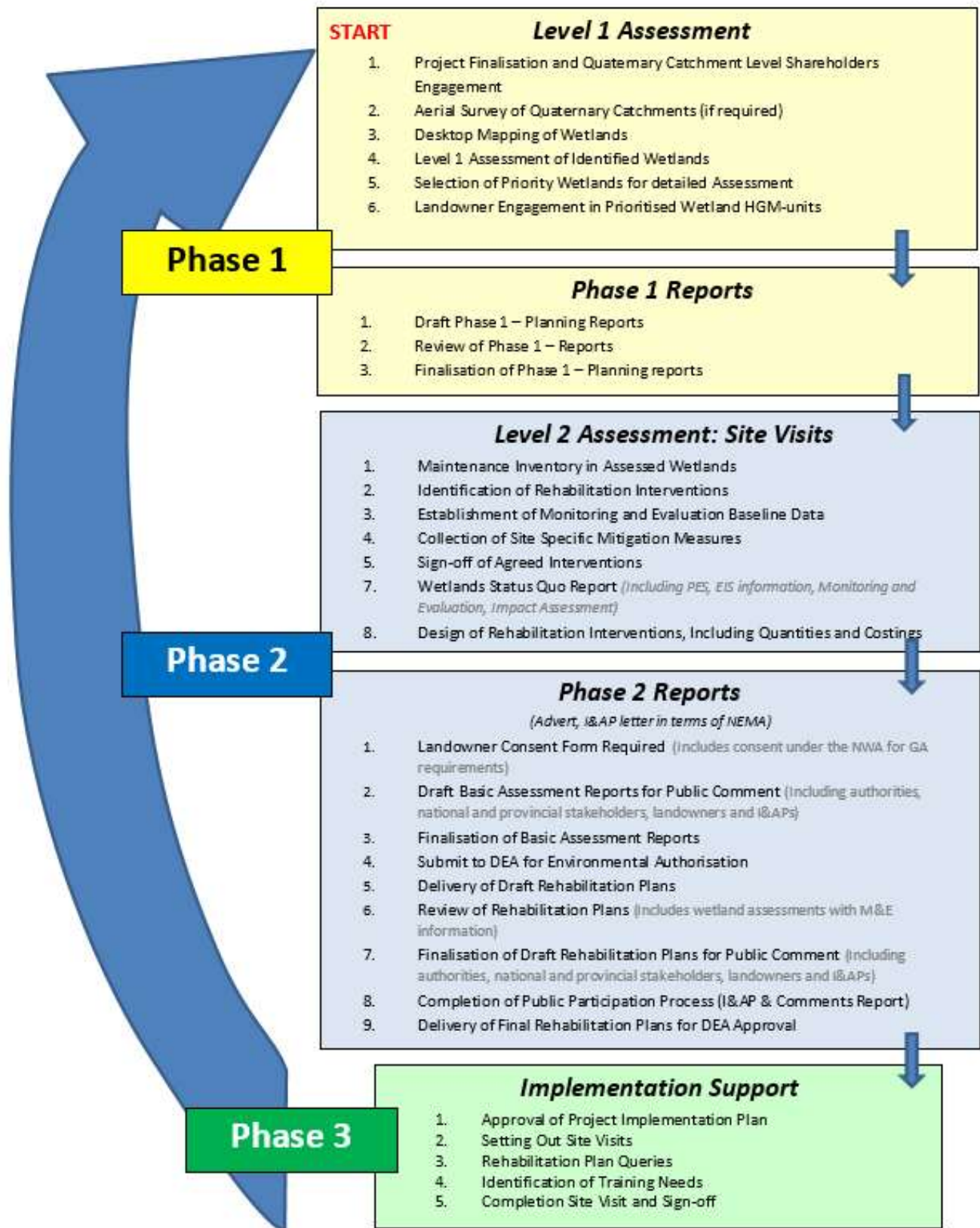


Plate C: The Working for Wetlands planning process (Phase 1 to Phase 3)

### Rehabilitation work within floodplain systems

Based on lessons learnt and project team discussions held during the National Prioritisation workshop in November 2010 the WfWetlands Programme took an in-principle decision regarding work within floodplain systems.

Recognising the ecosystem services provided by floodplain wetlands and the extent to which they have been transformed, WfWetlands do not intend to stop undertaking rehabilitation work in floodplains entirely. Instead, WfWetlands propose to adopt an approach to the rehabilitation of floodplain areas that takes into account the following guiding principles:

- a) As a general rule, avoid constructing hard interventions within an active floodplain channel; and rather
- b) Explore rehabilitation opportunities on the floodplain surface using smaller (possibly more) softer engineering options outside of the main channel.

When rehabilitation within a floodplain setting is being contemplated, it will be necessary to allocate additional planning resources, including the necessary specialist expertise towards ensuring an adequate understanding of the system and appropriate design of the interventions.

## 7. Environmental legislation

One of the core purposes of the WfWetlands Programme is the preservation of South Africa's valuable wetland systems through rehabilitation and restoration.

South Africa has rigorous and comprehensive environmental legislation aimed at preventing degradation of the environment, including damage to wetland systems. The following legislation is of relevance:

- The National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended
- The National Water Act, No.36 of 1998 (NWA)
- The National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA)

Development proposals within or near any wetland system are subject to thorough bio-physical and socio-economic assessment as mandatory processes of related legislation. These processes are required to prevent degradation of the environment and to ensure sustainable and environmentally conscientious development.

The WfWetlands Programme requires that both hard and soft interventions are implemented in the wetland system, and it is the activities associated with the construction of these interventions that triggers requirements for various authorisations, licenses or permits. However, it is important to note that the very objective of the WfWetlands Programme is to improve both environmental and social circumstances. The WfWetlands Programme gives effect to a range of policy objectives of environmental legislation, and also honours South Africa's commitments under several international agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

### Memorandum of Understanding for Working for Wetlands Programme

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been entered into between DEA, DAFF and DWS for the WfWetlands Programme. Through co-operative governance and partnerships, this MoU aims to streamline the authorisation processes required by the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998), and the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) to facilitate efficient processing of applications for authorisation of wetland rehabilitation activities.

Table A: List of applicable legislation

Title of legislation, policy or guideline	Administering authority	Date
The Constitution of South Africa, Act No.108 of 1996	National Government	1996
National Environmental Management Act, No.107 of 1998	Department of Environmental Affairs	1998
The National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998	Department of Water and Sanitation	1998
Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No. 43 of 1983	Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	1983
National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999	National Heritage Resources Agency	1999
World Heritage Conventions Act, No. 49 of 1999	Department of Environmental Affairs	1999
The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No. 10 of 2004	Department of Environmental Affairs	2004
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, No. 57 of 2003	Department of Environmental Affairs	2003
The Mountain Catchments Areas Act, No. 63 of 1970	Department of Water and Sanitation	1970
EIA Guideline Series, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guideline 5 – Companion to the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2010 (DEA, October 2012)</li> <li>Guideline 7 – Public Participation in the EIA process, 2012 (DEA, October 2012)</li> <li>Guideline 9 - Guideline on Need and Desirability, 2010 (DEA, October 2014)</li> <li>DEA&amp;DP. 2013. Guideline on Public Participation (DEA&amp;DP, March 2013).</li> <li>DEA&amp;DP. 2013. Guideline on Alternatives (DEA&amp;DP, March 2013).</li> </ul>	Department of Environmental Affairs	2012 - 2014
International Conventions, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ramsar Convention</li> <li>Convention on Biological Diversity</li> <li>United Nations Conventions to Combat Desertification</li> <li>New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)</li> <li>The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)</li> </ul>	International Conventions	N/A

Of particular relevance in **Table A** is the following legislation and the WfWetlands Programme has put systems in place to achieve compliance:

- The National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended
  - In terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations pursuant to the NEMA, certain activities that may have a detrimental impact on the environment (termed Listed Activities) require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the DEA. The implementation of interventions will trigger NEMA Listing Notices 1 and 3 (G.N. R983 and G.N R985 as amended by R327 and R324 respectively). In order to meet the requirements of these Regulations, it is necessary to undertake a Basic Assessment (BA) Process and apply for an EA. This was previously undertaken on an annual basis per Province for each individual wetland unit. However as of 2014, applications were submitted (per Province) for wetland systems, allowing WfWetlands to undertake planning in subsequent years within these wetlands without having to undertake a BA process. The rehabilitation plans still however require approval from the competent authority (i.e. DEA).
  - **Basic Assessment Reports** (BARs) will be prepared for each Province where work is proposed by the WfWetlands Programme. These BARs will present all Wetland Projects that are proposed in a particular province, together with information regarding the quaternary catchments and the wetlands that have been prioritised for the next few planning cycles (anywhere from one to three planning cycles depending

on the information gained through the Catchment Prioritisation Process). The EA's will be inclusive of all Listed Activities that may be triggered and will essentially authorise any typical wetland rehabilitation activities required during the WfWetlands Programme implementation phase. Note that certain Listed Activities have been excluded from the Basic Assessment as they fall under the ambit of a 'maintenance management plan' in the form of the Rehabilitation Plan for each project and are therefore subject to exclusion. The impacts thereof have however been considered within the respective Rehabilitation Plans.

- A condition of the EAs is that **Rehabilitation Plans** will be prepared every year after sufficient field work has been undertaken in the wetlands that have an EA. These Rehabilitation Plans will be made available to registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) before being submitted to DEA for approval. The Rehabilitation Plans will describe the combination and number of interventions selected to meet the rehabilitation objectives for each Wetland Project, as well as an indication of the approximate location and approximate dimensions (including footprint) of each intervention.
- The National Water Act, No.36 of 1998 (NWA)
  - In terms of Section 39 of the NWA, a General authorisation<sup>3</sup> (GA) has been granted for certain activities that are listed under the NWA that usually require a Water Use License; as long as these activities are undertaken for wetland rehabilitation. These activities include '*impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse*<sup>4</sup>' and '*altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse*<sup>5</sup>' where they are specifically undertaken for the purposes of rehabilitating<sup>6</sup> a wetland for conservation purposes. The WfWetlands Programme is required to register the 'water use' in terms of the GA.
- The National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999 (NHRA)
  - In terms of Section 38 of the NHRA; any person who intends to undertake a development as categorised in the NHRA must at the very earliest stages of initiating the development notify the responsible heritage resources authority, namely the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the relevant provincial heritage agency. These agencies would in turn indicate whether or not a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) would need to be undertaken. Should a permit be required for the damaging or removal of specific heritage resources, a separate application will be submitted to SAHRA or the relevant provincial heritage agency for the approval of such an activity. WfWetlands has engaged with SAHRA regarding the wetland planning process and has committed to achieving full compliance with the heritage act over the next few years.

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<sup>3</sup>Government Notice No. 1198, 18 December 2009

<sup>4</sup>Section 21(c) of the NWA, No. 36 of 1998

<sup>5</sup>Section 21(i) of the NWA, No. 36 of 1998

<sup>6</sup>Defined in the NWA as "*the process of reinstating natural ecological driving forces within part of the whole of a degraded watercourse to recover former or desired ecosystem structure, function, biotic composition and associated ecosystem services*".

## **Appendix B2**

### **LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS**



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Working for Wetlands Programme

## Wetlands Rehabilitation Activities Consent

Property Details	
Property Type:	KOKOMANA COMMUNAL LAND
Registration Division:	N/A
Farm Number:	N/A
Portion Number:	N/A
Farm Name:	N/A
Surveyor-General Key:	N/A
Province:	EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE
Unique Wetland Number:	S32E-03

Owner Details				
Owner Name: (Full Names/Full Registered Name)	SIVUYIKI JACKSON TYALI			
Person Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Close corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural person
Registration/Identity Number:	M611075570082 (Where applicable. For a trust, attach a copy of the latest letters of trusteeship issued by the Master of the High Court.)			
Owner's chosen address for delivery of notices and documents:	Postal Address:	Physical Address:		
	KOKOMANA MIN AREA Box 11 5450			
	Telephone Number:	Email Address:		
	0743624006			

**Project Name:** WORKING FOR WETLAND - KOKOMANA

I/We hereby consent to the Working for Wetlands Programme and its appointed implementers undertaking the wetland rehabilitation activities listed in annexure "WFW 003A" attached hereto, for the project referred to above, subject to my/our approval of the relative Wetland Rehabilitation Plan, on the property described above of which I am the owner.

<b>Name</b>	SIVUYILE JACKSON	<b>Position</b>	SENIOR TRADITIONAL LEADER
<b>Signature</b>	S. TYAM	<b>Date</b>	22.01.2019

<p><b>Please fax or post this form to:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>With a copy to:</b></p> <p>Dr Farai Tererai, PhD, Deputy Director: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Working for Wetlands, Natural Resources Management Programme, Department of Environmental Affairs, Environment House, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:ftererai@environment.gov.za">ftererai@environment.gov.za</a></p>
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## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Working for Wetlands Programme

## Wetlands Rehabilitation Activities Consent

Property Details	
Property Type:	KOLOMANA COMMUNAL LAND
Registration Division:	N/A
Farm Number:	N/A
Portion Number:	N/A
Farm Name:	N/A
Surveyor-General Key:	N/A
Province:	EASTERN CAPE
Unique Wetland Number:	S32E-04

Owner Details	
Owner Name: (Full Names/Full Registered Name)	SWUSILE JACKSON TYALI
Person Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Company <input type="checkbox"/> Close corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural person
Registration/Identity Number:	7611075540082 (Where applicable. For a trust, attach a copy of the latest letters of trusteeship issued by the Master of the High Court.)
Owner's chosen address for delivery of notices and documents:	Postal Address: KOLOMANA ADMIN AREA BOX 11 5450
	Telephone Number: 0743624006
	Physical Address:  Email Address:



**Project Name:** Working For WETLANDS KOLONANA

I/We hereby consent to the Working for Wetlands Programme and its appointed implementers undertaking the wetland rehabilitation activities listed in annexure "WFW 003A" attached hereto, for the project referred to above, subject to my/our approval of the relative Wetland Rehabilitation Plan, on the property described above of which I am the owner.

<b>Name</b>	SIMONILE TSHALI	<b>Position</b>	SENIOR TRADITIONAL LEADER
<b>Signature</b>	S-TSHALI	<b>Date</b>	22.01.2019

<p><b>Please fax or post this form to:</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>With a copy to:</b></p> <p>Dr Farai Tererai, PhD, Deputy Director: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Working for Wetlands, Natural Resources Management Programme, Department of Environmental Affairs, Environment House, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:ftererai@environment.gov.za">ftererai@environment.gov.za</a></p>
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## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Working for Wetlands Programme

## Wetlands Rehabilitation Activities Consent

Property Details	
Property Type:	KOLOMANA COMMUNAL LAND
Registration Division:	N/A
Farm Number:	N/A
Portion Number:	N/A
Farm Name:	N/A
Surveyor-General Key:	N/A
Province:	EASTERN CAPE
Unique Wetland Number:	S32E-01

Owner Details			
Owner Name: (Full Names/Full Registered Name)	SIVUSILE JACKSON TYAKU		
Person Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Company	<input type="checkbox"/> Close corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Trust <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural person
Registration/Identity Number:	7611075570082 (Where applicable. For a trust, attach a copy of the latest letters of trusteeship issued by the Master of the High Court.)		
Owner's chosen address for delivery of notices and documents:	Postal Address: KOLOMANA ADMIN AREA Box 11 5450	Physical Address:	
	Telephone Number: 044 3624006	Email Address:	

**Project Name:** Working For WETLANDS KOLONANA

I/We hereby consent to the Working for Wetlands Programme and its appointed implementers undertaking the wetland rehabilitation activities listed in annexure "WFW 003A" attached hereto, for the project referred to above, subject to my/our approval of the relative Wetland Rehabilitation Plan, on the property described above of which I am the owner.

<b>Name</b>	SIWUNDE TSHAM	<b>Position</b>	SENIOR TRADITIONAL LEADER
<b>Signature</b>	S. TSHAM	<b>Date</b>	22.01.2019

<p><b>Please fax or post this form to:</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p><b>With a copy to:</b></p> <p>Dr Farai Tererai, PhD, Deputy Director: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Working for Wetlands, Natural Resources Management Programme, Department of Environmental Affairs, Environment House, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:ftererai@environment.gov.za">ftererai@environment.gov.za</a></p>
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## **Appendix B3**

### **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION**



11 February 2019

Dear Sir / Madam,

**WORKING FOR WETLANDS REHABILITATION PROJECT  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:  
AVAILABILITY OF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This letter is available in any of the official languages on written request.*

This letter serves to inform you of the Working for Wetlands Programme's (WfWetlands) proposal to rehabilitate a number of wetlands in South Africa. We would also like to notify you of your opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Reports (BARs) in terms of the regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998 (as amended) (NEMA).

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

WfWetlands is a government programme managed by the Natural Resource Management (NRM) directorate of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), and is a joint initiative with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The programme is mandated to rehabilitate damaged wetlands and to protect pristine wetlands throughout South Africa. Emphasis is placed on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increase their ability to earn an income.

The Aurecon team comprises Design Engineers and Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) who undertake the planning, design and authorisation components of the project. The Aurecon Team, in partnership with GroundTruth, is assisted by an external team of Wetland Specialists who provide scientific insight into the operation of wetlands and bring expert and often local knowledge of the wetlands. The project team is also complimented by the Assistant Director for Wetlands Programmes (ASDs) who are each responsible for provincial planning and implementation.

## **2. THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, NO. 107 OF 1998 (AS AMENDED) (NEMA)**

### **2.1 BASIC ASSESSMENT**

In terms of the environmental principles of NEMA certain activities that may have a detrimental impact on the environment (termed Listed Activities) require Environmental Authorisation (EA) from DEA. Many of the Activities associated with the rehabilitation of the wetlands are listed Activities in terms of Government Notice Regulation (GN R 983 Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 GN 984 and GN 985 Listing Notice 3 of NEMA:

- Listing Notice 1: Activities 12, 19, 27 and 48
- Listing Notice 2: Activity 24
- Listing Notice 3: Activities 12, 14 and 23

In terms of GN R982, activities identified in Listing Notices 1 and 3 require a Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken during which potential biophysical and socio-economic impacts are identified and assessed. Aurecon has undertaken this process on behalf of WfWetlands, and separate BA applications for each province will be submitted to the DEA for consideration. Please note that a BA process is being undertaken for the following provinces:

Province	Project	Nearest Town(s):
Eastern Cape	Amathole, Kromme and Tsitsikamma	Seymour, Kareedouw and Humansdorp
Free State	Maluti	Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba
Gauteng	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	iSimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Soutini-Baleni	Giyani
North West	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Zeerust and Mahikeng

Provincial level Basic Assessment Reports (BARs) were compiled for each province and describe the wetland systems that were identified as priorities for this planning cycle, together with the baseline information on the quaternary catchment. Please note that a BA process is being undertaken in six (6) provinces, i.e. Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Limpopo and North West. The rehabilitation plans for these provinces will be made available for public comment in March 2019 to all registered I&APs for a 30-day comment period. Registered I&APs will be informed of the availability of the rehabilitation plans and commencement of the commenting period via email or mail.

**Note:** A condition of the EAs will be that annual Rehabilitation Plans must be submitted to DEA for approval after sufficient field work has been undertaken for the authorised Wetland Projects. These Rehabilitation Plans include specialist reports prepared by the Wetland Specialist (which provide a site description, detailed baseline information, and the wetland context within the greater catchment). The Rehabilitation Plans also include the proposed interventions, objectives, their design details and specification, and proposed locations.

### 3. THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, NO.36 OF 1998 (NWA)

Activities associated with the rehabilitation of wetlands may constitute “water use” in terms of the NWA and may therefore require general authorisation or licenses from DWS. In general, a water use must be licensed unless:

- a) It is listed in Schedule one (1) of the NWA,
- b) It is existing lawful use,
- c) It is permissible under a General Authorisation (GA), and
- d) If a responsibility authority waives the need for a license.

In terms of Section 39 of the NWA, a GA has been granted for certain activities that are listed that usually require a Water Use License. Such a GA (i.e. GN R1198 of 18 December 2009) exists for wetland rehabilitation as long as the activities are for conservation purposes. As some of the rehabilitation activities entail ‘impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse’ and/ or ‘altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse’, a number of GAs for water uses will be registered with the DWS for structures that would ordinarily require a Water Use License.

### 4. OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Public Participation procedures are specified as a minimum requirement of the BA Process and must ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) (including State Departments) have an opportunity to participate. The requisite PPP (in terms of Section 41 of GN R982) has commenced and to date included the publication of national advertisements in *Die Rapport* and *Sunday Times* on **3 February 2019** and the placement of site notices at the relevant wetland site boundaries and Public Areas (such as libraries or Municipal buildings). The BARs will be available for a 30-day comment period from **11 February to 14 March 2019**. The Basic Assessment Reports are also available for download from the Aurecon Website:

- <http://aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>;

Please be aware that you will be required to register on the website and then again on the project to access the documents from the Aurecon website. Should you have any trouble accessing the documents, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Simamkele Ntsengwane (details below).

I&APs have until **14 March 2019** to submit their comments on the BARs to the EAPs listed below. Please include your name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that you may have in the applications in your submission, as well as the applicable province.

<b>Contact Person:</b>	<b>Mr Simamkele Ntsengwane</b>	<b>Miss Franci Gresse</b>
<b>Tel:</b>	(021) 526 9560	(021) 526 6022
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com">Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com">Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com</a>
<b>Fax:</b>	(021) 526 9500	
<b>Mail:</b>	PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000	

## 5. WAY FORWARD

Following the 30-day public comment period, the BARs will be updated by incorporating any I&AP comments received on the reports (where relevant). All comments will be recorded and responded to in a Comments and Response Report which will be circulated to all who have provided comment. The updated BARs will then be submitted to DEA for their decision. Once DEA has made their decision on the proposed projects, all registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome of the decision within fourteen (14) calendar days of the decision and the right to appeal.

Yours sincerely  
AURECON



**CLAIRE BLANCHÉ** MEnvDev, BSc (Hons)

Manager

Environment and Planning



06 June 2019

Dear Sir / Madam,

**WORKING FOR WETLANDS REHABILITATION PROJECT  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS:  
EXTENSION OF TIMEFRAMES AND AVAILABILITY OF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS AND  
REHABILITATION PLANS FOR COMMENT**

*This letter is available in any of the official languages on written request.*

Our previous communication of 11 February 2019 regarding the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the above-mentioned project has reference.

On 06 May 2019, Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd submitted a letter to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) to request an extension of timeframes for submission of the Final BAR in terms of Regulation 19(1) (b) of GN R 982 of December 2014, as amended. This provision allows for the competent authority to extend the relevant prescribed timeframes and agree with the applicant on the length of such extension. An extension was granted by DEA on 07 May 2019, to allow for the applicable wetland rehabilitation plans to be made available for public comment with the provincial BARs and will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

WfWetlands is a government programme managed by the Natural Resource Management (NRM) directorate of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), and is a joint initiative with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The programme is mandated to rehabilitate damaged wetlands and to protect pristine wetlands throughout South Africa. Emphasis is placed on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increase their ability to earn an income.

The Aurecon team comprises Design Engineers and Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) who undertake the planning, design and authorisation components of the project. The Aurecon Team, in partnership with GroundTruth, is assisted by an external team of Wetland Specialists who provide scientific insight into the operation of wetlands and bring expert and often local knowledge of the wetlands. The project team is also complimented by the Assistant Director for Wetlands Programmes (ASDs) who are each responsible for provincial planning and implementation.

## **2. THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, NO. 107 OF 1998 (AS AMENDED) (NEMA)**

### **2.1 Basic Assessment**

In terms of the environmental management principles of NEMA certain activities that may have a detrimental impact on the environment (termed Listed Activities) require Environmental Authorisation (EA) from DEA. Many of the activities



associated with the rehabilitation of the wetland are listed Activities in terms of Government Notice Regulation (GN R) 983 Listing Notice 1 and GN R985 Listing Notice 3 of NEMA (as amended):

- **Listing Notice 1:** Activities 12, 19, 27 and 48
- **Listing Notice 3:** Activities 12, 14 and 23

In terms of GN R982 (as amended), activities identified in Listing Notices 1 and 3 require a Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken during which potential biophysical and socio-economic impacts are identified and assessed. Aurecon has undertaken this process on behalf of WfWetlands, and separate BA applications for each of the provinces listed in the table below, has been submitted to the DEA for consideration.

Province	Project	Nearest Town(s):
Eastern Cape <sup>1</sup>	Amathole, Kromme and Tsitsikamma	Seymour, Kareedouw and Humansdorp
Gauteng	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	iSimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Soutini-Baleni and Mutale	Giyani and Thohoyandou

The provincial level Basic Assessment Reports (BARs) provide the findings of the associated investigations and are available for public comment. The BARs describe the wetland systems that were identified as priorities for this planning cycle, together with the baseline information on the quaternary catchment.

## 2.2 Rehabilitation Plans

The project specific wetland rehabilitation plans include specialist reports prepared by the Wetland Specialist (which provide a site description, detailed baseline information, and the wetland context within the greater catchment). The rehabilitation plans also include the proposed interventions, objectives, their design details and specification, and proposed locations. Project specific rehabilitation plans were compiled for each project and describe the combination and number of interventions selected to meet the rehabilitation objectives for each Wetland Project, as well as an indication of the approximate location and approximate dimensions (including footprint) of each intervention.

## 3. THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, NO. 36 OF 1998 (NWA)

Activities associated with the rehabilitation of wetlands may constitute “water use” in terms of the NWA and may therefore require general authorisation or licenses from DWS. In general, a water use must be licensed unless:

- a) It is listed in Schedule one (1) of the NWA,
- b) It is existing lawful use,
- c) It is permissible under a General Authorisation (GA), and
- d) If a responsibility authority waives the need for a licence.

In terms of Section 39 of the NWA, a GA has been granted for certain activities that are listed and usually require a Water Use License. Such a GA (i.e. GN R1198 of 18 December 2009) exists for wetland rehabilitation as long as the activities are for conservation purposes.

## 4. OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

Public Participation procedures are specified as a minimum requirement (Section 41 of GN R982) of the BA Process

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the Kromme (14/12/16/3/3/1/1848) and Tsitsikamma (12/12/20/942/1) rehabilitation plans are also included for your consideration. Furthermore, the Kromme Rehabilitation Plan received Environmental Authorisation (EA) in June 2018 and only requires approval from the Department as a condition of the EA. Also, the Tsitsikamma Rehabilitation Plan mainly focus on maintenance work for authorised interventions.

<sup>2</sup> Please note that the Mutale (14/12/16/3/3/1/1255) rehabilitation plans are also included for your consideration. The Mutale Rehabilitation Plan received Environmental Authorisation (EA) in September 2018 and only requires approval from the Department as a condition of the EA.

and must ensure that all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) (including State Departments) have an opportunity to participate. Accordingly, notice is hereby given of an additional 30-day public participation process (PPP) on the draft Basic Assessment Reports and Rehabilitation Plans. The BARs and Rehabilitation Plans will be made available for a 30-day comment period from **06 June 2019 until 08 July 2019**.

The reports will be available from 06 June 2019 for download from the Aurecon Website: <http://aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>. Please be aware that you will be required to register on the website and then again on the project to access the documents. Should you have any trouble accessing the documents, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Simamkele Ntsengwane (details below).

I&APs have until **8 July 2019** to submit their comments on the BARs and rehabilitation plans to the EAPs below. I&APs should refer to the relevant province and specifically the wetland project (if applicable). Please include your name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that you may have in the applications in your submission.

<b>Contact Person:</b>	<b>Mr Simamkele Ntsengwane</b>	<b>Miss Franci Gresse</b>
<b>Tel:</b>	(021) 526 9560	(021) 526 6022
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com">Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com</a>	<a href="mailto:Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com">Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com</a>
<b>Fax:</b>	(021) 526 9500	
<b>Mail:</b>	PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000	

## 5. WAY FORWARD

Following the 30-day public comment period, the BARs and rehabilitation plans will be updated by incorporating any I&AP comments received on the reports (where relevant). All comments will be recorded and responded to in a Comments and Response Report which will be circulated to all who have provided comment. The updated BARs and/or rehabilitation plans will then be submitted to DEA for their decision. Once DEA has made their decision on the proposed projects, all registered I&APs will be notified of the outcome of the decision within fourteen (14) calendar days of the decision and the right to appeal.

Yours sincerely  
AURECON



**CLAIRE BLANCHÉ** MEnvDev, BSc (Hons)  
Principal Environmental Practitioner  
Aurecon, Environment and Planning Services

**APPENDIX B4**  
**PROOF OF MAILING**

## Simamkele Ntsengwane

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**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 2:31 PM  
**To:** Franci Gresse; Claire Blanché  
**Subject:** WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
**Attachments:** 2019.02.05 LTR to IAP re Availability of BAR for PPP.PDF

**Importance:** High

**Bcc:** advocacy@birdlife.org.za; ceo@birdlife.org.za; mpumen@daff.gov.za; stanleyt@environment.gov.za; wlutsch@environment.gov.za; dsmit@environment.gov.za; FourieN@dwa.gov.za; MeulenbeldP@dws.gov.za; RoetsW@dws.gov.za; jayj@dws.gov.za; LeggeK@dwa.gov.za; bonanim@wrc.org.za; olgaj@sanparks.org; Emaradwa@environment.gov.za; helette.dunne@sanparks.org; stevens@ewt.org.za; AKhan@environment.gov.za; LCFerreira@environment.gov.za; wroux@environment.gov.za; kerrynm@ewt.org.za; tanyas@ewt.org.za; morgan.griffiths@wessa.co.za; ubahadur@environment.gov.za; Fterarai@environment.gov.za; PGrundling@environment.gov.za; slekota@environment.gov.za; dmabona@environment.gov.za; KhosaT@dws.gov.za; MulaudziN@dws.gov.za; Kusel@dws.gov.za; HadebeX@dwa.gov.za; MeulenbeldP@dws.gov.za; gerry.pienaar@dedea.gov.za; NomalwandeM@daff.gov.za; dorothyJ@daff.gov.za; mkawa@environment.gov.za; briant.noncembu@dedea.gov.za; melvinc@daff.gov.za; wenie@dws.gov.za; FourieL4@dws.gov.za; Vuyokazi.Rwexu@dedea.gov.za; ZukiswaN@Daff.gov.za; eric.qonya@dedea.gov.za; Tamara.Gqamane@dedea.gov.za; Sinazosongca@dedea.gov.za; gwendolineS@daff.gov.za; MzikayiseD@daff.gov.za; tshayingcamakatiu@gmail.com; MakhanyaP@dws.gov.za; mxolisiMA@daff.gov.za; MalgasMa@daff.gov.za; kagiso.mangwale@ecpta.za; buntu.mzamo@deaet.ecape.gov.za; buntu.mzamo@dedea.gov.za; Phumla.mzazi@deaet.ecape.gov.za; phumla.mzazi@dedea.gov.za; alan.southwood@dedea.gov.za; hennie.swanevelder@dedea.gov.za; skwinana@yahoo.com; Japie Buckle; carina.potgieter@ecpta.co.za; nolutando.bam@dedea.gov.za; dayalan.govender@dedea.gov.za; Sinazo.Mtongana@dedea.gov.za; Zizipho.Siyeka@dedea.gov.za; Philasande.Makhuba@dedea.gov.za; Chwayita.mapekula@dedea.gov.za; Yongama.Mbangezeli@dedea.gov.za; Viwe.Mabongo@dedea.gov.za; Masibulele.Msongelwa@dedea.gov.za; Bongikhaya.Ngcango@dedea.gov.za; Viwe.Banzi@dedea.gov.za; MnyimbaT@amathole.gov.za; NxaweT@amathole.gov.za; mafumbul@amathole.gov.za; mm@raymondmhlaba.gov.za; pmadotyeni@raymondmhlaba.gov.za; nplatjies@raymondmhlaba.gov.za; zmlamla@raymondmhlaba.gov.za; mark@hogsback.com; laura.conde@wessa.co.za; amahlathi.cooper@gmail.com; christinec@ewt.org.za; cpaul@cacadu.co.za; gcobisa.foxi@ecpta.co.za; ulrike.irlich@iclei.org; lehman.lindeque@gmail.com; lehmanl@daff.gov.za; siphomayebwa@drdar.gov.za; rmarivate@csir.co.za; cikizwa.mbolambi@ecpta.co.za; n.mbona@sanbi.org.za; kerry.mclean@wessa.co.za; mkosanak@dws.gov.za; gamtoos@lantic.net; edwill.m@gamtooswater.co.za; thembelihle.mtambo@ecpta.co.za; nmuller@amatolawater.co.za; nkosinathin@ewt.org.za; mphon0812@gmail.com; zukiswan@daff.gov.za; shane.october@ecpta.za; kstroebel@csir.co.za; jeannet@ewt.org.za; loutjie@me.com; athina.vanderbyl@ecpta.co.za; koukamma@lgnet.org.za; nomava.siqoko@koukamma.gov.za; zingisa.xabu@ecpta.co.za; mbulelo.xalu@dedea.gov.za; Janeg@buffalocity.gov.za; Mathongol@buffalocity.gov.za; nomhlophe@inkwenkezeicollege.co.za; zola.bunene@gmail.com; mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za; KefilweD@daff.gov.za; masiteng@agric.fs.gov.za; NtiliT@dws.gov.za; Mthembusi@dws.gov.za;

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Dear Sir/Madam

We would like to notify you of the opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Reports for proposed wetland rehabilitation activities in terms of Regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 (as amended) (NEMA).

Please find herewith attached a cover letter with more details, the letter includes information on a brief background to the proposed project, information on the environmental process, where to access the documents in full and opportunities to participate.

The Basic Assessment Reports for the projects listed in the table below are now available for a 30 day comment period. Electronic copies of these reports are available On Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53v4o0lvhyvc5ao/AABMT0VY2JaSSOzRik9JTBbKa?dl=0> and Aurecon's website (<http://www.aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>).

Province	Project	Nearest Town (s):
Eastern Cape	Amathole	Seymour
Free State	Maluti	Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba

<b>Gauteng</b>	Gauteng North	Pretoria
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	Isimangaliso	St Lucia
<b>Limpopo</b>	Soutini Baleni	Giyani
<b>North West</b>	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Zeerust and Mahikeng

Should you wish to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP), please submit your comments on the reports to the contact people below and include the applicable province and wetland system where relevant, before **14 March 2019**. Also include your **name, contact details** and an indication of any **direct business, financial, personal or other interest** that you may have in the applications in your submission.

Simamkele Ntsengwane: Tel: 021 526 9560; Email: [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com); or  
 Franci Gresse: Tel: (021) 526 6022; Email: [franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com); or  
 Fax: (021) 526 9500; or Mail: PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

Furthermore, should you have received this email but are no longer interested in the project, kindly let one of the above contacts know and you will be removed from the database.

Kind Regards

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## Memorandum

To	Postnet	From	Simamkele Ntsengwane
Copy		Reference	113223
Date	12 February 2019	Pages (including this page)	
Subject	WfWetlands: Basic Assessment Reports notification		

Dear Sir/Madam

Please would you stamp the attached mailing lists as proof that the parcel (Letter and electronic CD) have entered the official mailing system. This forms part of a legal requirement to notify interested and affected parties about the abovementioned project.

**No of Parcels: 76**

.....  
**Post Office (Stamp)**

12/02/2019  
.....  
**Date**

Should you have any questions please contact Simamkele Ntsengwane at Tel: 021 526 9560 or Email: [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)

Yours Sincerely

AURECON

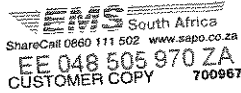


**Simamkele Ntsengwane**  
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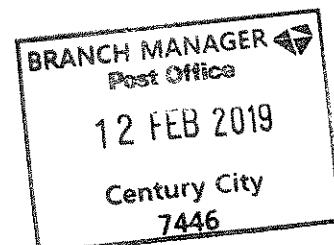
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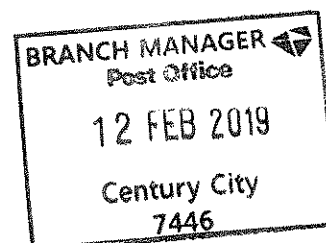
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Mutale Community Representative  
PO Box 4012  
Tshitazha  
0984

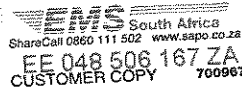
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Mmabatho  
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Mr Pieter Nel  
North West Parks and Tourism:  
Conservation officer  
111 Church Street  
Rustenburg  
0305



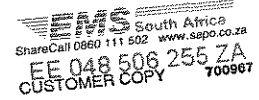
Ms M Mohlalisi  
Department of Rural, Environment  
and Agricultural Development  
80 Kerk Street  
Rustenburg  
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Department of Water and Sanitation  
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Mahikeng  
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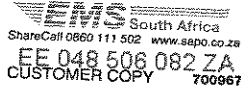
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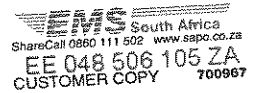
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 Heritage Cases

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## Working for Wetlands- Eastern Cape 2019

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**Status:** SUBMITTED

**HeritageAuthority(s):** SAHRA  
ECPHRA

**Case Type:** Section 38 (8) - Statutory Comment Required

**Development Type:** Environmental Rehabilitation

**ProposalDescription:**

Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) is a government programme mandated to protect pristine wetlands, promote their wise-use and rehabilitate those that are damaged throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and using only local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Due to the nature of the project, it is important to note that the very objectives of the WfWetlands Programme are to improve both environmental and social circumstances

**ApplicationDate:** Monday, February 11, 2019 - 11:21

**CaseID:** 13444






**Applicants:** Farai Tereral

**Consultants/Experts:** Franci Gresse

**OtherReferences:**

**ReferenceList:**

**AdditionalDocuments**

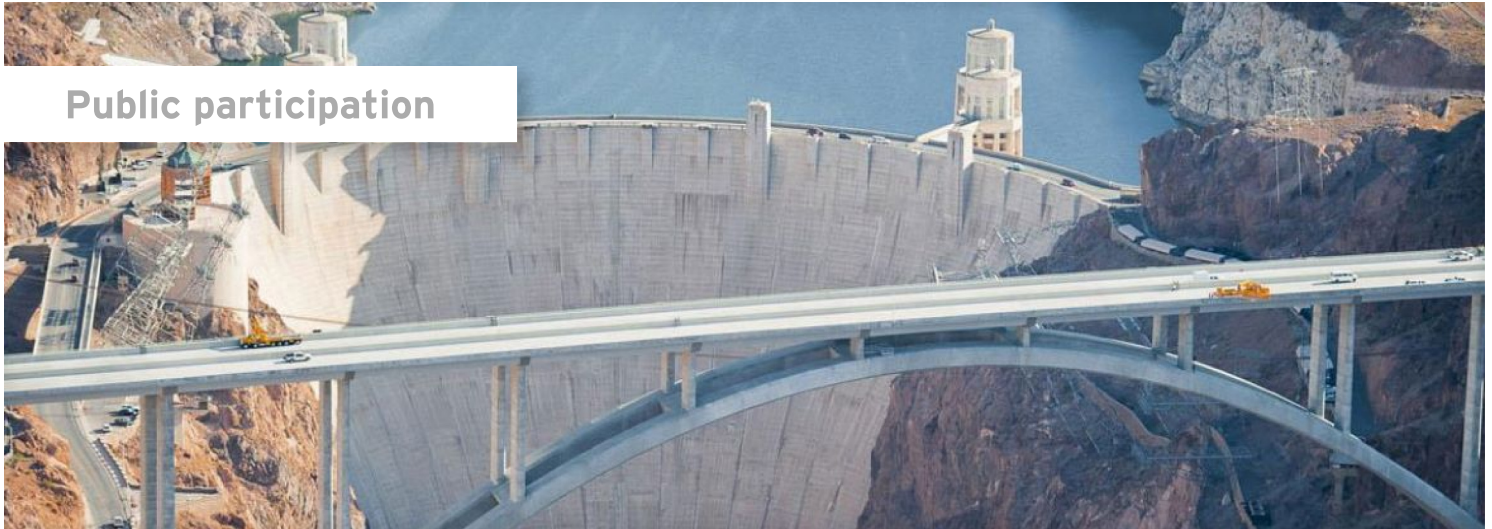
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3.  00 Appendix B\_PPP.pdf
4.  00 Appendix C\_Maps.pdf
5.  00 Appendix D\_EMPr.pdf
6.  Appendix E\_Additional info.pdf

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION |

## Working for Wetlands Programme for the Eastern Cape Province

Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) is a government programme managed by the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Programmes of the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), and is a joint initiative with the Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). In this way the programme is an expression of the overlapping wetland related mandates of the three parent departments, and besides giving effect to a range of policy objectives, it also honours South Africa's commitments under several international agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on wetlands.

The programme is mandated to protect pristine wetlands, promote their wise use and rehabilitate those that are damaged throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and only using local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). The EPWP seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increasing their ability to earn an income.

Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed to undertake the project activities and associated reporting required by the WfWetlands Programme. The Aurecon team comprises Design Engineers and Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAPs) who undertake the planning, design and authorisation components of the project. The Aurecon team is assisted by an external team of Wetland specialists who provide scientific insight into the operation of wetlands and bring expert and often local knowledge of the wetlands. The project team is also complimented by the DEA Assistant Director for

etland Programmes (ASDs) (formally known as Provincial Coordinators) who are each responsible for rovincial planning and implementation.

or every province a condition of the EAs will be that annual rehabilitation plans be submitted to DEA for pproval after sufficient annual field work has been undertaken for each of the authorised wetland rojects. These rehabilitation plans include specialist reports prepared by the wetland specialist (which rovide a site description, detailed baseline information and the wetland context within the greater atachment). The rehabilitation plan also include the proposed interventions, objectives, design details and pecifications and proposed locations

urrent Project Phase

he Basic Assessment Report is available for public comment from the 11 February 2019 to 14 March 019

**Simamkele Ntsengwane**

**Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com**

**021 526 9560**

roject documents

EC 2019

---

[register for this project](#) to view the available documents.

Documents are in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) or Compressed (zip) formats  
Download [Adobe Reader](#)

AUTHORITY/PROJECT REFERENCE NO.

REGISTER TO COMMENT ON THIS PROJECT

To register for a project the authority reference number provided in the legal notice, notification letter sent to stakeholders or on the Aurecon website is required.

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## PROJECT PHASE

Basic-Assessment-phase [11 February - 14 March 2019]

## PROJECT STATUS

Open-for-comment [11 February - 14 March 2019]

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## **Appendix B5**

### **COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

Any comments received and responses sent during the 30-day public comment period will be included with the Final Basic Assessment Report submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

## Simamkele Ntsengwane

---

**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 10:58 AM  
**To:** 'nomhlophe@inkwenkwezicollege.co.za'  
**Cc:** Franci Gresse  
**Subject:** RE: Public Participation Process: Working for Wetlands Programme

Dear Nomhlophe,

Please note that each year the Working for Wetlands Programme plans work to be undertaken in wetland systems across South Africa through dedicated provincial planning teams. The proposed rehabilitation activities trigger listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and therefore requires environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before any construction may take place. The advert to which you responded is for such a process and not a call for tenders to undertake the actual work. You have however been registered as an interested and affected party which allows you the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report during a 30-day public participation process.

With regards to potential contract opportunities, please contact Ms Unathi Makati (the Eastern Cape Provincial Coordinator for the Working for Wetlands Programme). Ms Makati can be contacted at [EMakati@environment.gov.za](mailto:EMakati@environment.gov.za) / 043 722 0685

Kind Regards

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---

### DISCLAIMER

**From:** nomhlophe@inkwenkwezicollege.co.za <nomhlophe@inkwenkwezicollege.co.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 5:13 PM  
**To:** Simamkele Ntsengwane <Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Participation Process: Working for Wetlands Programme

Good afternoon Simamkele

Please be informed that the area that is closest to us within Amathole Local Municipality in Hogsback.

Regards  
Nomhlophe Maxaxuma

---

**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane <[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 07 February 2019 2:18 PM  
**To:** [nomhlophe@inkwenkwezicollege.co.za](mailto:nomhlophe@inkwenkwezicollege.co.za)  
**Cc:** Franci Gresse <[Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com](mailto:Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Public Participation Process: Working for Wetlands Programme

Good Afternoon Nomhlophe,

Thank you for your interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.

This is to confirm that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the Eastern Cape Amathole Wetland rehabilitation project. Notification will be sent to all registered I&APs prior to the start date of the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and project specific rehabilitation plan commenting period.

Kind Regards

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Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon  
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**Sent:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 8:49 AM  
**To:** Simamkele Ntsengwane <[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com)>; Franci Gresse <[Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com](mailto:Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com)>  
**Subject:** Public Participation Process: Working for Wetlands Programme

Good morning Simam

This communication is from Inkwenkwezi Private College, an Institution of Learning with offices in Cathcart, in the Amathole District Municipality.

We are interested to be part of the programme as a Training and Research Provider. Details of contact person is Nomhlophe Maxaxuma, No.45 Carnarvon Street Cathcart 5310- 0710376383/0824330951.

Regards  
Nomhlophe Maxaxuma



## Simamkele Ntsengwane

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**From:** nomhlophe@inkwenkwezi.co.za  
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Regards  
Nomhlophe Maxaxuma

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## Simamkele Ntsengwane

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**Subject:** Public Participation Process: Working for Wetlands Programme

Good morning Simam

This communication is from Inkwenkwezi Private College, an Institution of Learning with offices in Cathcart, in the Amathole District Municipality.

We are interested to be part of the programme as a Training and Research Provider. Details of contact person is Nomhlophe Maxaxuma, No.45 Carnarvon Street Cathcart 5310- 0710376383/0824330951.

Regards  
Nomhlophe Maxaxuma



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## Simamkele Ntsengwane

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**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 12:33 PM  
**To:** 'Zola Kutsu'  
**Subject:** RE: Working for Wetlands Programme

Good day Bunene,

Thank you for your interest in the Working for Wetlands Programme.

Please note that each year the Working for Wetlands Programme plans work to be undertaken in wetland systems across South Africa through dedicated provincial planning teams. The proposed rehabilitation activities trigger listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and therefore requires environmental authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) before any construction may take place. The advert to which you responded is for such a process and not a call for tenders to undertake the actual work. You have however been registered as an interested and affected party for the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and North West Projects respectively, which allows you the opportunity to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report during a 30-day public participation process.

With regards to potential contract opportunities, please contact the Provincial Coordinator for the Working for Wetlands Programme at the following contact details;

- Eastern Cape: Ms Unathi Makati ([EMakati@environment.gov.za](mailto:EMakati@environment.gov.za) / 043 722 0685);
- Gauteng: Keitumetse Mekgoe ([KMekgoe@environment.gov.za](mailto:KMekgoe@environment.gov.za) / 012 399 9321) ; and
- North West: Eric Munzhedzi ([EMunzhedzi@environment.gov.za](mailto:EMunzhedzi@environment.gov.za) )

Kind Regards

**Simamkele Ntsengwane** BSc (Hons) Env. Geography  
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon  
T +27 21 526 9560 M +27 76 225 3548

[www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/)

[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)

Aurecon Centre, 1 Century City Drive, Waterford Precinct, Century City South Africa 7441  
PO Box 494, Cape Town 8000 South Africa

[aurecongroup.com](http://aurecongroup.com)



### DISCLAIMER

**From:** Zola Kutsu <zola.bunene@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2019 10:44 AM  
**To:** Franci Gresse <Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com>; Simamkele Ntsengwane <Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com>  
**Subject:** PPP: Working for Wetlands Programme

Dear All

I register my self and I&AP to the programme

I'm also a service provider of Environmental Services and an accredited training provider in Environmental Practices please provide me with relevant information.

Your cooperation will be highly appreciated in this regard

Yours Faithfully  
Bunene Zola Kutsu

--

Bunene Zola Kutsu  
Managing Member  
Spring Forest Trading 578cc

071 228 6436  
086 532 5573  
[zola.bunene@gmail.com](mailto:zola.bunene@gmail.com)

Our offices are in:

North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	East Cape Border	East Cape
PO Box 483	PO Box 7399	PO Box 184	PO Box 423	PO Box 70167
Klerksdorp	Fairland	Ermelo	Stutterheim	Port Elizabeth
2750	2030	2350	4930	6032

## Simamkele Ntsengwane

---

**From:** Gerry Pienaar <Gerry.Pienaar@dedea.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:29 AM  
**To:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Cc:** Andries Struwig; Franci Gresse; Claire Blanché  
**Subject:** RE: WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Noted with thanks!

---

**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane [mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com]  
**Sent:** 13 February 2019 11:22  
**To:** Gerry Pienaar <Gerry.Pienaar@dedea.gov.za>  
**Cc:** Andries Struwig <Andries.Struwig@dedea.gov.za>; Franci Gresse <Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com>; Claire Blanché <Claire.Blanche@aurecongroup.com>  
**Subject:** RE: WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Good day Gerry,

Thank you very much for your email and interest in the Working for Wetlands project.

The notification email sent on 11 February 2019 was to notify to I&APs of the opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Report for the Amathole project, the Basic Assessment Process is being undertaken for the Amathole project with the nearest town to the project area being Seymour.

Reference to Kareedouw and Humansdorp is for the project specific rehabilitation plans which will be made available for public comment in March 2019 to all registered I&APs for a 30-day comment period. Registered I&APs will be informed of the availability of the rehabilitation plans and commencement of the commenting period.

Thank you for sharing Mr Andries Struwig's details, we have included him in our I&AP database for the Kromme and Tsitsikamma projects to receive information during the process.

Kind Regards

**Simamkele Ntsengwane** BSc (Hons) Env. Geography  
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon  
T +27 21 526 9560 M +27 76 225 3548  
[www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/)  
[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)  
Aurecon Centre, 1 Century City Drive, Waterford Precinct, Century City South Africa 7441  
PO Box 494, Cape Town 8000 South Africa  
[aurecongroup.com](http://aurecongroup.com)



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### DISCLAIMER

**From:** Gerry Pienaar <[Gerry.Pienaar@dedea.gov.za](mailto:Gerry.Pienaar@dedea.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 10:54 AM

**To:** Simamkele Ntsengwane <[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com)>; Franci Gresse <[Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com](mailto:Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com)>; Claire Blanché <[Claire.Blanche@arecongroup.com](mailto:Claire.Blanche@arecongroup.com)>  
**Cc:** Andries Struwig <[Andries.Struwig@dedea.gov.za](mailto:Andries.Struwig@dedea.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** RE: WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
**Importance:** High

Dear Simamkele,

We notice that your covering letter refers to Seymour, Kareedouw and Humansdorp, while the table below only refers to Seymour. Can you please clarify? If at any time you need comments on Humansdorp and Kareedouw it will be highly appreciated if you could liaise directly with Mr Andries Struwig in our Sarah Baartman Regional Office in Port Elizabeth.

Kind regards

Gerry Pienaar  
Director Environmental Impact Management DEDEAT  
[Gerry.pienaar@dedea.gov.za](mailto:Gerry.pienaar@dedea.gov.za)  
0824584593

---

**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane [<mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com>]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2019 14:31  
**To:** Franci Gresse <[Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com](mailto:Franci.Gresse@arecongroup.com)>; Claire Blanché <[Claire.Blanche@arecongroup.com](mailto:Claire.Blanche@arecongroup.com)>  
**Subject:** WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sir/Madam

We would like to notify you of the opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Reports for proposed wetland rehabilitation activities in terms of Regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 (as amended) (NEMA).

Please find herewith attached a cover letter with more details, the letter includes information on a brief background to the proposed project, information on the environmental process, where to access the documents in full and opportunities to participate.

The Basic Assessment Reports for the projects listed in the table below are now available for a 30 day comment period. Electronic copies of these reports are available On Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53v4o0lvhyvc5ao/AABMT0VY2JaSSOzRik9JTBbKa?dl=0> and Aurecon's website (<http://www.arecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>).

Province	Project	Nearest Town (s):
Eastern Cape	Amathole	Seymour
Free State	Maluti	Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba
Gauteng	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	Isimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Soutini Baleni	Giyani
North West	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Zeerust and Mahikeng

Should you wish to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP), please submit your comments on the reports to the contact people below and include the applicable province and wetland system where relevant, before **14 March 2019**. Also include your **name, contact details** and an indication of any **direct business, financial, personal or other interest** that you may have in the applications in your submission.

Simamkele Ntsengwane: Tel: 021 526 9560; Email: [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@arecongroup.com); or  
Franci Gresse: Tel: (021) 526 6022; Email: [franci.gresse@arecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@arecongroup.com); or  
Fax: (021) 526 9500; or Mail: PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

Furthermore, should you have received this email but are no longer interested in the project, kindly let one of the above contacts know and you will be removed from the database.

Kind Regards

**Simamkele Ntsengwane** BSc (Hons) Env. Geography  
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon  
T +27 21 526 9560 M +27 76 225 3548

[www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/)

[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)

Aurecon Centre, 1 Century City Drive, Waterford Precinct, Century City South Africa 7441  
PO Box 494, Cape Town 8000 South Africa

[aurecongroup.com](http://aurecongroup.com)



**DISCLAIMER**



## Simamkele Ntsengwane

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**From:** Sedibana Lucrecia(ELS) <SedibanaL@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 15, 2019 9:18 AM  
**To:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Subject:** Basic Assessment Report: Working for Wetlands

Dear Simamkele,

Following our telephone conversation earlier this morning, this email serves to confirm my contact details below.

Kind Regards,

Lucrecia Sedibana (Cert.Sci.Nat)  
Resource Protection  
Department of Water & Sanitation  
Ocean Terrace Building, Moore Street  
Quigney, East London  
Tel no : + 27 43 701 0296/2296  
Email : [SedibanaL@dws.gov.za](mailto:SedibanaL@dws.gov.za)



DISCLAIMER: This message and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the addressee. If you have received this message in error, please notify the system manager/sender. Any unauthorized use, alteration or dissemination is prohibited. The Department of Water and Sanitation further accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss, whether it be direct, indirect or consequential, arising from this e-mail, nor for any consequence of its use or storage.

## Simamkele Ntsengwane

---

**From:** Nomalwande Mbananga <NomalwandeM@daff.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 18, 2019 8:53 AM  
**To:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Subject:** RE: WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Good day Simamkele

Your email was received and you can expect us to get back to you soon.

Regards  
N Mbananga

---

**From:** Simamkele Ntsengwane <Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 February 2019 2:31 PM  
**To:** Franci Gresse <Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com>; Claire Blanché <Claire.Blanche@aurecongroup.com>  
**Subject:** WORKING FOR WETLANDS: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sir/Madam

We would like to notify you of the opportunity to comment on the Basic Assessment Reports for proposed wetland rehabilitation activities in terms of Regulations pursuant to the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 (as amended) (NEMA).

Please find herewith attached a cover letter with more details, the letter includes information on a brief background to the proposed project, information on the environmental process, where to access the documents in full and opportunities to participate.

The Basic Assessment Reports for the projects listed in the table below are now available for a 30 day comment period. Electronic copies of these reports are available On Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53v4o0lvhyvc5ao/AABMT0VY2JaSSOzRik9JTBbKa?dl=0> and Aurecon's website (<http://www.aurecongroup.com/en/public-participation.aspx>).

Province	Project	Nearest Town (s):
Eastern Cape	Amathole	Seymour
Free State	Maluti	Harrismith and Phuthaditjhaba
Gauteng	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	Isimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Soutini Baleni	Giyani
North West	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Zeerust and Mahikeng

Should you wish to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP), please submit your comments on the reports to the contact people below and include the applicable province and wetland system where relevant, before **14 March 2019**. Also include your **name, contact details** and an indication of any **direct business, financial, personal or other interest** that you may have in the applications in your submission.

Simamkele Ntsengwane: Tel: 021 526 9560; Email: [Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com); or  
Franci Gresse: Tel: (021) 526 6022; Email: [franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:franci.gresse@aurecongroup.com); or  
Fax: (021) 526 9500; or Mail: PO Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

Furthermore, should you have received this email but are no longer interested in the project, kindly let one of the above contacts know and you will be removed from the database.

Kind Regards

**Simamkele Ntsengwane** BSc (Hons) Env. Geography  
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon  
T +27 21 526 9560 M +27 76 225 3548

[www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/simamkele-ntsengwane-205689a3/)

[Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com)

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PO Box 494, Cape Town 8000 South Africa

[aurecongroup.com](http://aurecongroup.com)



**DISCLAIMER**

## Simamkele Ntsengwane

---

**From:** Franci Gresse  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 10:18 AM  
**To:** IvanR  
**Cc:** Simamkele Ntsengwane  
**Subject:** RE: Working for Wetlands Rehabilitation Project

Dear Mr Riggs

You can also access the documents on Dropbox by following this link:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/53v4o0lvhyvc5ao/AABMT0VY2JaSSOzRik9JTBbKa?dl=0>

Please note that we have also provided CDs to your following colleagues:

- Ms Mpume Ntlokwana
- Ms Serah Muobeleni

If you continue to have difficulty accessing the documents, please let us know for further assistance.

Kind regards  
Franci

**Franci Gresse**  
Senior Consultant, Environment and Planning, Aurecon  
T +27 21 5266022 F +27 86 7231750  
[Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com)

---

### DISCLAIMER

**From:** IvanR <IvanR@daff.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2019 10:00 AM  
**To:** Franci Gresse <Franci.Gresse@aurecongroup.com>  
**Subject:** Working for Wetlands Rehabilitation Project

Good day

I have registered on your website to view the documents online but cannot access them.

Can you kindly supply the project reference numbers for the those below.

Province	Project	Nearest Town(s):
Eastern Cape	Amathole, Kromme and Tsitsikamma	Seymour, Kareedouw
Free State	Maluti	Harrismith and Phutha
Gauteng	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	iSimangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Soutini-Baleni	Giyani
North West	Madikwe National Park and Molopo	Zeerust and Mahikeng

Regards

Ivan Riggs  
Regional Manager  
Directorate Land Use and Soil Management  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Tel: 012 319 7562  
Cell: 082 574 7650  
[IvanR@daff.gov.za](mailto:IvanR@daff.gov.za)



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/1993

**Enquiries:** Ms Zesipho Makhosayafana

**Telephone:** 012-399-8741 **E-mail:** [zmakhosayafana@environment.gov.za](mailto:zmakhosayafana@environment.gov.za)

Ms Jennifer Youthed  
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 19553  
**TECOMA**  
5214

Tel No: 043 721 0900

E-Mail: [Jenny.youthed@aurecongroup.com](mailto:Jenny.youthed@aurecongroup.com)

Dear Ms Youthed

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME WITHIN AMATHOLE IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated February 2019 and received by the Department on 11 February 2019, refers.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final BAR:

- a) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- b) Kindly specify if the project will involve the clearance of indigenous vegetation or alien invasive species as, Activity 27 of GN R983 and activity 12 of GN R985, refer to the clearance of indigenous vegetation, yet your description for its applicability states that there will be clearance of alien invasive species instead.
- c) The declaration form of the EAP incorporated into the application form is not signed. You are requested to ensure that the final BAR has a signed declaration form by the EAP.
- d) An original signed undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths), must be included in the final BAR, as per Appendix 1(3)(r) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, which states that the BAR must include:
  - an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
  - the correctness of the information provided in the reports;
  - the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
  - the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and
  - any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties".
- e) Should the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted, inclusive of the abovementioned signed documents. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- f) Please also ensure that the BAR includes the period for which the environmental authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per the Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended (GN R. 982).

SLS

- g) The report indicates that there will be vehicles to bring construction material on site yet the maps provided do not show any access roads available. Kindly indicate if part of the rehabilitation activities will require the construction of access roads and whether this will trigger the applicable listed activities.
- h) The project involves the construction of crossings for both livestock and community members. Please specify the types of crossings these are intended to be.
- i) Four areas are considered for rehabilitation in Quaternary catchment S32E according to the report, however the public participation documents state that Tsitsikama and Kromme will also be considered. Kindly specify the exact project areas being considered for rehabilitation, are Tsitsikama and Kromme part of these areas?
- j) The BAR must provide clear maps of an A3 size, with an indication of all the envisioned areas along the wetland system that will be subject to rehabilitation. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of this map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The map must indicate the following:
- All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc.
  - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs that will be affected; and
  - All "no-go" areas
- k) Page 4 of the BAR indicates that there are no heritage resources that will be affected by the project which were identified. Kindly provide an A3 size sensitivity map for heritage and paleontology resources overlain in the proposed project site area.
- l) Additionally, please provide a written confirmation from SAHRA indicating that the project area does not have archaeological and or paleontological sensitivities in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, and that indeed no Heritage Impact Assessment is required.
- m) According to page 4 of the report, the wetland specialist provided a high-level strategic assessment during phase 1. In addition, as per the diagram contained on page 15 of the BAR you have indicated that the outcome of Phase 1 will be a *finalized Phase 1 report*. As such, kindly ensure that the final BAR includes a copy of the final Phase 1 report, detailing the findings of the assessment.
- n) In addition to the above, you are further required to include the Terms of Reference for the wetland specialist.
- o) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference (TOR) for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
- A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
  - Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
  - Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
  - Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
  - All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
  - Should specialists recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
- p) You are further reminded to provide proof to show that the registered interested and affected parties and organ of states received written notification of the proposed activities, as per the requirements of regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014. This proof may include any of the following:
- e-mail delivery reports;
  - registered mail receipts;
  - courier waybills;
  - Signed acknowledgements of receipt; and/or any other proof as agreed upon by the competent authority.
- q) Proof of the notice boards placed in the proposed site area or any alternative site.

- r) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR to registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity & Conservation Branch) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.
- s) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The public participation process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- t) A Comments and Response (C&R) report must be submitted with the final BAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments received for this development. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.

### General

- i. The EAP must indicate based on the assessment, the specialist assessment conducted and the various engineering methods, which interventions at which locations will be most suited and should be authorised for this project. The mitigation measures and recommendations to be included in EMPr should also be provided by the EAP.
- ii. The BAR, specialist studies and EMPr must ensure compliance to the relevant appendices as outlined in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- iii. The final BAR must include a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for Working for Wetlands Programme referred to on page 4 of the draft BAR received on February 2019.
- iv. Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 1 (3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- v. You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that:  
*"Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority - (a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMPr, and where applicable a closure plan, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."*
- vi. Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that:  
*"the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority - (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports an EMPr, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".*

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3 (7).



You are requested to submit one (1) copy of the final BAR to the Department and at least one (1) unprotected electronic copy (USB/CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**  
**Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Diomo**  
**Designation: Deputy Director: Public Sector**  
**Date: 14/03/2019**

CC: Dr Farai Tererai	Working for Wetlands	Email: FTererai@environment.gov.za
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**APPENDIX B6**  
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Cape Town**  
Aurecon Centre  
1 Century City Drive  
Waterford Precinct  
Century City  
Cape Town 7441  
PO Box 494  
Cape Town 8000  
South Africa

**T** +27 21 526 9400  
**F** +27 21 526 9500  
**E** capetown@aurecongroup.com  
**W** aurecongroup.com



2019-05-06

Ms Zesipho Makhosayafana  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

Dear Ms Makhosayafana

**WORKING FOR WETLANDS REHABILITATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSED WETLAND  
REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**EXTENSION OF TIMEFRAMES**

**(DEA REF. NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1993)**

The Department of Environmental Affairs comments (dated 14 March 2019) on the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the proposed wetland rehabilitation activities in the Eastern Cape Province has reference.

This letter serves as notification to the Department in term of regulation 19(1)(b) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Government Notice Regulation 982 of 4 December 2014, as amended). The BAR, rehabilitation plans (inclusive of a specialist report) and Environmental Management Programme will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the Department, as significant new information has been added to the BAR and will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Youthed", is written over a horizontal line.

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Environment and Planning

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**WORKING FOR WETLANDS  
PROVINCE: EASTERN CAPE  
PROJECT: AMATHOLE**



**Phase 1: Wetland Rehabilitation Planning Report**

FINAL

FEBRUARY 2019

Report Reference: GTW561-040219-01



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## List of Acronyms

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<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
ASD	Assistant Directors
AZf 3	Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
FEPA	Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area
Gd 1	Amathole Montane Grassland
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDPs	Integrated Development Plans
MAP	Mean Annual Precipitation
NDA	National Department of Agriculture
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NFEPA	National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas
NWA	National Water Act
PET	Potential Evapotranspiration
PIP	Project Implementation Plan
SMMEs	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
WfWets	Working for Wetlands

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## Glossary of Terms

Term	Explanation
Best Management Practise (BMP)	Procedures and guidelines to ensure the effective and appropriate implementation of wetland rehabilitation by WfWetlands implementers. Such practises are informed by applied research.
Biophysical	The biological and physical components of the environment (Cowden and Kotze 2008).
Catchment	All the land area from mountaintop to seashore which is drained by a single river and its tributaries. Each catchment in South Africa has been subdivided into secondary catchments, which in turn have been divided into tertiary catchments. Finally, all tertiary catchments have been divided into interconnected quaternary catchments. A total of 1946 quaternary catchments have been identified for South Africa. These subdivided catchments provide the main basis on which catchments are subdivided for the integrated catchment planning and management (Cowden and Kotze 2008).
Ecosystem services or 'eco services'	The service, such as sediment trapping or water supply, supplied by an ecosystem (in this case a wetland ecosystem).
Enhancement	The modification of specific structural features of an existing wetland to increase one or more functions based on management objectives, typically done by modifying site elevations or the proportion of open water
Intervention	A method of wetland rehabilitation that aims to address the objectives of the particular wetland system, namely to restore the hydrological integrity of the system and support associated biodiversity. It can be in the form of hard (structures made of hard materials which are fixed e.g. a concrete weir) or soft (e.g. re-vegetation) interventions
Mitigation	Actions to reduce the impact of a particular activity
Maintenance	The replacement, repair or the reconstruction of an existing structure within the same footprint, the same location, having the same capacity and performing the same function as the previous structure ('like for like').
Project	An area of WfWetlands intervention generally defined by a quaternary catchment or similar management unit such as a national park in which a single implementer operates.
Quantum GIS	A GIS software programme that is used to present data at a spatial scale
Quaternary catchments	"A fourth order catchment in a hierarchical classification system in which a primary catchment is the major unit: and that is also the "principal water management unit in South Africa' (DWS, 2011).
Rehabilitation	1) The recovery of a degraded wetland's health and ecosystem service delivery by reinstating the natural ecological driving forces or 2) halting the decline in health of a wetland that is in the process of degrading, so as to maintain its health and ecosystem service-delivery" (Kotze et al. 2008:p14) . A system that is rehabilitated is not expected to be restored back to its reference state/benchmark

Significant impact	An impact that by its magnitude, duration, intensity or probability of occurrence may have a notable effect on one or more aspects of the environment.
Wetland	“Wetland means land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is periodically covered with shallow water, and which land in normal circumstances supports or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil” (National Water Act No. 36 of 1998).
Working for Wetlands	Working for Wetlands (WfWets) is a government programme managed under the Natural Resource Management Programme (NRM) of the Department of Environmental Affairs. It is a joint initiative with the Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

## 1 OVERVIEW OF WORKING FOR WETLANDS

Working for Wetlands (WfWets) is a government programme managed under the Natural Resource Management Programme (NRM) of the Department of Environmental Affairs. It is a joint initiative with the Departments of Water and Sanitation (DWS), and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). In this way the programme is an expression of the overlapping wetland-related mandates of the three parent departments, and besides giving effect to a range of policy objectives, it also honours South Africa's commitments under several international agreements, especially the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

The programme is mandated to protect pristine wetlands, promote their wise-use and rehabilitate those that are degraded throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and using only local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). The EPWP seeks to draw significant numbers of unemployed people into the productive sector of the economy, gaining skills while they work and increasing their capacity to earn an income.

While the programme's primary focus is wetland rehabilitation; the protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use of those wetlands is simultaneously entrenched in the programme's core objectives. Given this approach of linking wetland conservation to sustainable socio-economic development, the programme shares in its focus on incorporating unemployed, poor people into employment and skills development opportunities.

The newly identified strategic framework of WfWets has underlined the need for a more refined process that the programme is embarking on with catchment-scale planning. Catchment-scale planning seeks to promote ecosystem-scale outcomes, long-term custodianship, and embedding of rehabilitation in broader local institutions and frameworks. The recent move to a systematic wetland rehabilitation planning process has provided a fertile and conducive platform for partnerships to be formed and/or strengthened as it draws in a much wider stakeholder base. Furthermore, WfWets is undergoing a strategic shift from focussing on heavily degraded wetland systems to lightly degraded ones. This will enable the programme to achieve a wider footprint with less complex, "softer" and cheaper interventions. Leveraging the benefits of the application of legislation and a strong advocacy drive are other strategies being considered in order to stretch the rand value given the enormous number of wetlands that require conservation.

### 1.1 Objectives of Working for Wetlands

WfWets engages with provinces, especially government departments and agencies responsible for biodiversity and environment, and municipalities through individual projects. A stronger working relationship with these spheres of government is being promoted through the programme's emphasis on partnership. In particular, coherence of Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and wetland rehabilitation projects' objectives will be a key area of future focus. WfWets encourages municipalities to participate in provincial wetland forums because they are the platform for the roll out of all the programme's processes, including planning for future work. Provincial forums also offer support from the government departments and private sectors that are represented. Partnerships with non-governmental

organizations and the private sector are also critical, requiring collaboration and cooperation with a wider range of stakeholders and role players in the wetland management field.

## 1.2 Relevant legislation, policies and guidelines applicable to the project

WfWets operates within the context of the Constitution (1996), which states that everyone has the right to have the environment protected, and the following national legislation, amongst others, by which the environment is protected:

- National Environmental Management Act, No 107 of 1998 (NEMA), as amended;
- National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, No 10 of 2004 (NEMBA);
- National Water Act, No 36 of 1998 (NWA); and
- Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983 (CARA).

This legislation both directs WfWets in its vision and objectives and regulates the wetland rehabilitation activities. WfWets has put in place systems to achieve compliance with all legislation. For example, Basic Assessments for environmental authorisation are carried out for all listed activities of wetland rehabilitation to comply with NEMA and a Memorandum of Agreement is in place with DWS to ensure compliance with the water licensing requirements of the NWA.

## 2 STUDY AREA

This section provides an overview of the study area, in terms of the biophysical (geography, vegetation, geomorphology etc.) and climate attributes.

### 2.1 Project description

The Amathole study site includes the wetland areas within the Amathole mountain range and the Hogsback areas. WfWet has been involved in rehabilitation planning and implementation within the Hogsback area, situated within the Q94A quaternary catchment. Since majority of the rehabilitation opportunities within the Hogsback area have been exhausted, systems beyond Hogsback and into the Amathole mountain ranges were reviewed. A need to expand into the greater project area was identified in 2018 through consultation with relevant stakeholders (**Table 2.1**). As such, priority areas were identified in the S32E quaternary catchment, near the Amathole mountain range and just outside the towns of Seymour and Hogsback in the Eastern Cape Province. Following a desktop review and discussion with members of the rehabilitation team, large wetland systems were identified as having rehabilitation opportunities with fairly large gains and these systems were prioritised for Phase 1 planning.

**Table 2.1 Key stakeholders involved in identifying the focus areas within the greater Amathole project area**

Stakeholder	Organisation
Unathi Makati	Working for Wetlands
Margaret Lowies	Aurecon
Japie Buckle	Department of Environmental Affairs: Natural Resource Management
Hennie Swanevelder	Eastern Cape Department: Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Eric Qonya	Eastern Cape Department: Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Craig Cowden	GroundTruth
Jenny Youthed	Aurecon
Piet-Louis Grundling	Working for Wetlands

As mentioned, the focus area for this rehabilitation planning is a new area for WfWets rehabilitation, and exhibits great opportunities to rehabilitate fairly intact wetlands mostly affected by active erosion, historical cultivation initiatives, and alien invasive vegetation encroachment; where the anticipated gains associated with rehabilitation within this area is promising. The study area as described in this rehabilitation plan refers to the wetlands visited within Chief Tyhali's tribal land boundary, which is located within S32E (**Figure 2.1**).

**Table 2.2 Description of the quaternary catchment included in the study**

Province	Eastern Cape
Quaternary Catchment	S32E
Project Name	Amathole
Land Owner / Partnership	Tribal land
Planning Phase	Phase 1
Nearest Town	Seymour
Previous Work	No

## 2.2 Quaternary catchment location

The S32E quaternary catchment is the focus of the study area, as described in **Table 2.2** and illustrated in **Figure 2.1**. The systems within the catchment flow north into Waterdown Dam on the Klipplaat River, near Whittlesea. This dam is the main source of drinking water for the Queenstown residents. The system then flows east ultimately joining into the Great Kei River and entering the ocean through the Kei River mouth.

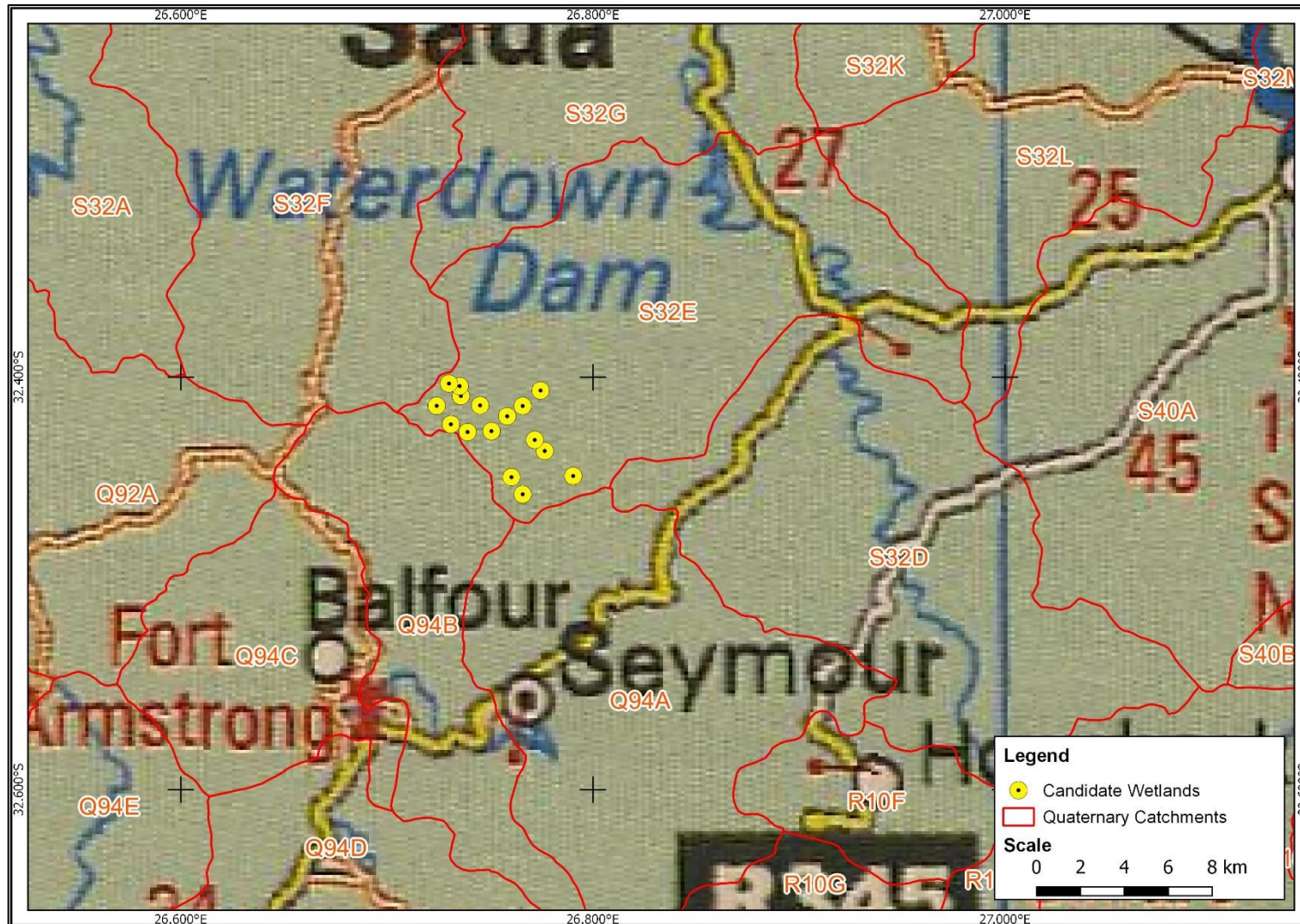


Figure 2.1 Location of identified wetlands within, and in relation to, their respective quaternary catchments

### 2.3 Wetland conservation context

South Africa is a semi-arid country, and thus wetlands are important features within the landscape as they provide ecosystem services directly related to water quantity and quality. Approximately 300'000ha of wetlands or 2.4% of South Africa's surface area remain. It is estimated that over 50% of South Africa's wetlands have been lost, and of the remaining systems, 48% are classified as critically endangered (Nel and Driver 2012).

Within the Eastern Cape region, wetlands have been subjected to high levels of modification and destruction (Kotze *et al.* 1995). The factors contributing towards the degradation of the systems vary greatly, but the predominant impacts include urbanisation, abstraction, dams, current and historical cultivation, drainage and over-grazing. The loss of wetland habitat within Eastern Cape is considered to be of concern due to the value of wetlands in terms of contributions to water quantity and quality, supporting unique biological diversity and other ecosystem services (Kotze *et al.* 2007).

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned degradation of wetland ecosystems, ecosystem rehabilitation is viewed as a means of maintaining the current levels of ecosystem service delivery, and where possible, enhancing the systems' ability to supply these benefits and services.

### 2.4 Climate

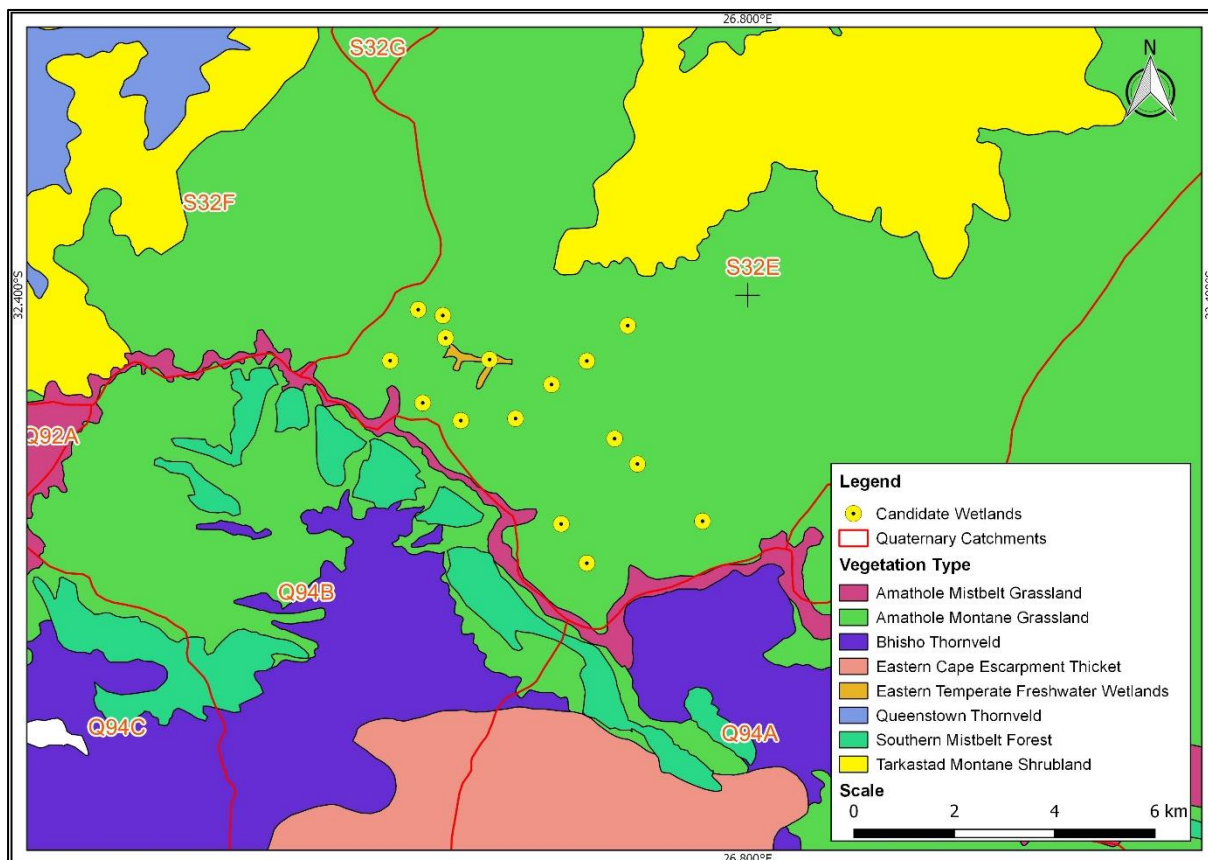
This section provides an overview of the climate within the quaternary catchment associated with the project area. An understanding of the climate, *i.e.* the sensitivity of catchments to hydrological impacts influences rehabilitation planning activities. The candidate wetlands are all located within the S32E quaternary catchment. The Mean Annual Precipitation (MAP) is 641.9mm and the Potential Evapotranspiration (PET) is 1730.2mm (Schulze 2007) for the S32E catchment, making the hydrological sensitivity of the wetlands within this catchment to be *Moderately High* (Macfarlane *et al.* 2007).

### 2.5 Vegetation types

Under natural conditions the surrounding landscape and study site would have been characterised by particular vegetation types. The historical dominant vegetation type present would have been a combination of two vegetation types (**Figure 2.2**), including:

- Amathole Montane Grassland (Gd 1); and
- Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands (AZf 3).





**Figure 2.2 Overview of historical dominant vegetation types in the vicinity of the identified wetlands (Mucina and Rutherford 2006)**

The Amathole Montane Grassland (Gd 1) falls under the Drakensberg Grassland (Gd) bioregion (Mucina and Rutherford 2006; Nel et al. 2011). The vegetation type has been classified as ‘Least Threatened’. Of the remaining 89.7%, a small percentage (5%) is statutorily conserved in the Mpofu Game Reserve, Fort Fordyce, Bosberg, Kubusi, Hogsback and a few more conservation areas. The vegetation extends through the Eastern Cape, ranging from Amathole, Winterberg and Kologha Mountains, as well as the mountains just north of Somerset East. The vegetation can be found at altitudes between 650 – 1500m (Mucina and Rutherford 2006).

The Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands (AZF 3) falls under the Azonal Vegetation bioregion (AZ) (Mucina and Rutherford 2006). The vegetation type has been classified as ‘Least Threatened’. Of the remaining 85.1%, a small percentage (4.6%) is statutorily conserved in the Blesbokspruit, Hogsback, Seekoeivlei, Wakkerstroom Wetland and Umngeni Vlei Nature Reserves. The majority of the impacts stem from the transformation to cultivated land and plantations. The vegetation extends through the Northern Cape, Free State, North-West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces and can be found at altitudes ranging from 750-2000m (Mucina and Rutherford 2006).

## 2.6 National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas

The National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) is a tool developed to assist in the conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's freshwater ecosystems, including rivers, wetlands and estuaries. Nel et al. (2011) classified the freshwater ecosystems according to their Present Ecological State 'AB', 'C', and 'DEF' or 'Z' (**Table 2.3**).

**Table 2.3 Description of NFEPA wetland condition categories**

(Nel et al., 2011, p.37)

PES equivalent	NFEPA condition	Description	% of total national wetland area*
<b>Natural or Good</b>	AB	Percentage natural land cover $\geq$ 75%	47
<b>Moderately modified</b>	C	Percentage natural land cover 25-75%	18
<b>Heavily to critically modified</b>	DEF	Riverine wetland associated with a D, E, F or Z ecological category river	2
	Z1	Wetland overlaps with a 1:50 000 'artificial' inland water body from the Department of Land Affairs: Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping (2005-2007)	7
	Z2	Majority of the wetland unit is classified as 'artificial' in the wetland locality GIS layer	4
	Z3	Percentage natural land cover $\leq$ 25%	20

\*this percentage excludes unmapped wetlands, including those that have been irreversibly lost

According to the available NFEPA wetlands coverage, a portion of the wetland systems within the study area and the broader landscape have been classified as a combination of NFEPA and 'low priority' wetlands (**Figure 2.3**). The wetlands within the middle to western reaches of the site have been classified as NFEPA wetlands, which have been defined as largely natural systems, which are made up of a fairly large, interconnected wetland system. Two low priority wetlands are located within the eastern and southern sections of the study area (as defined by Chief Tyhali's land).

According to the available NFEPA river coverage, a perennial tributary of the Klipplaat River, which flows in an easterly direction through the study site, has been classified as a NFEPA river system, which has been largely modified, with a PES score of *D*. Numerous hydrologically isolated FEPA rivers were identified within the broader study site, which were regarded as important since they support important fish populations and are part of the upstream management areas.

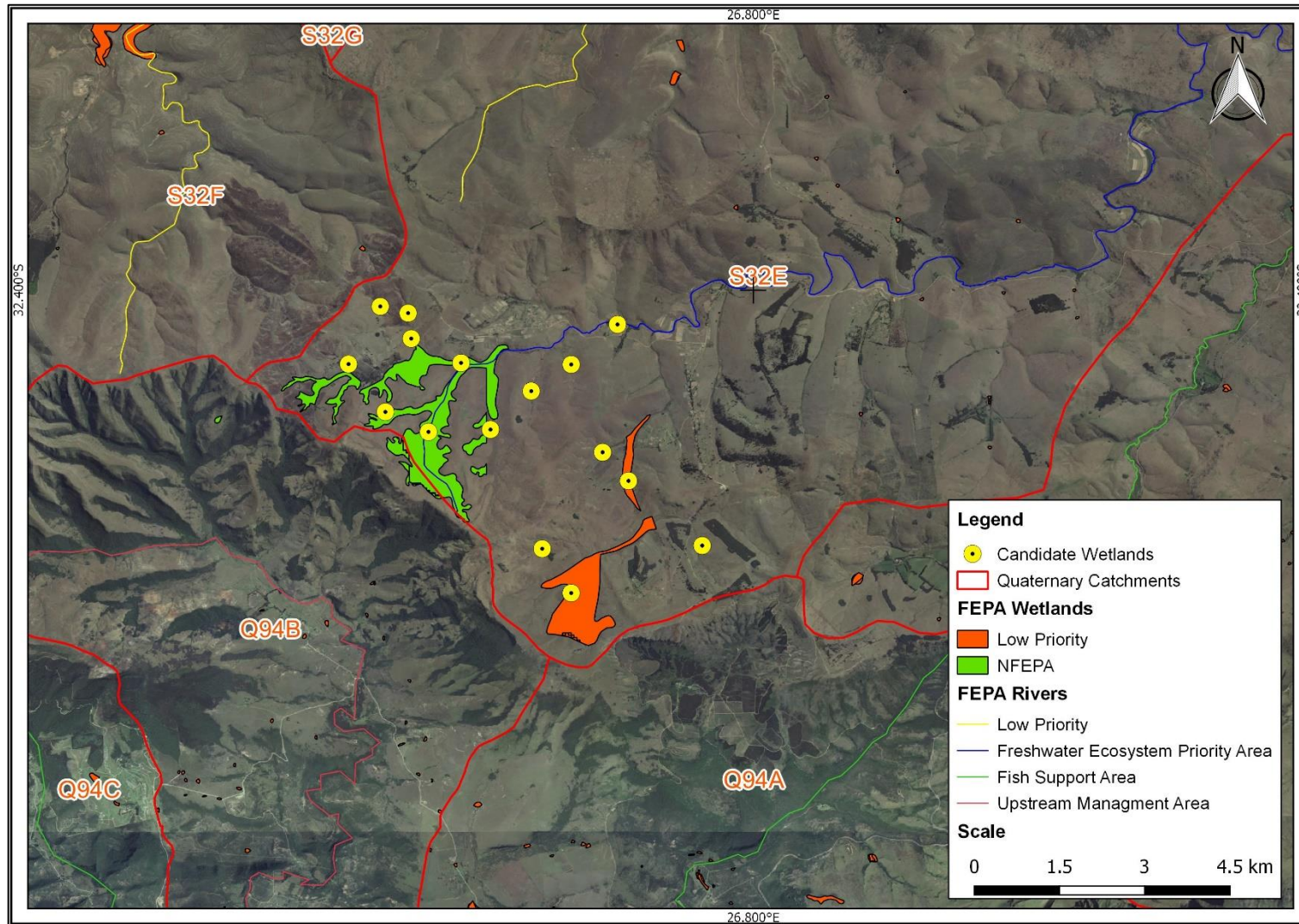


Figure 2.3 Overview of NFEPA systems within the greater study area

## 3 STUDY METHODOLOGY

The Phase 1 planning for wetland rehabilitation is fundamentally a wetland identification and 'screening' exercise to identify a manageable number of wetlands that can most effectively be assessed in further detail for rehabilitation by WfWets. This process is informed by a prioritisation process, undertaken with key stakeholders as mentioned previously.

### 3.1 Review of project history

Since the current project area within the Amathole region is a new site for the WfWets programme, there were no existing rehabilitation plans for the area. However, a review of the work implemented near Hogsback was included and it was determined whether any structures required maintenance, which included an audit of previously planned interventions that have not yet been implemented or included into the current Project Implementation Plan (PIP). These intervention designs were assessed and if necessary updated during the rest of the planning process to determine whether or not these should be included into future PIPs.

### 3.2 Desktop analysis

At the outset, a desktop analysis of the project area was undertaken to identify potential candidate wetlands for rehabilitation. This process was strongly informed by input from WfWet representatives (Piet-Louis Grundling and Unathi Makati). The desktop analysis further served to inform the overall wetland rehabilitation planning process. The objectives of the desktop study were to:

- Develop a full inventory of all wetlands investigated during the desktop analysis;
- Conduct a preliminary evaluation of the identified wetland systems based on:
  - Ecological/functional importance/ priority;
  - Level of transformation;
  - Visibility of problem areas; and
  - Location in relation to access roads.
- Identify potential candidate wetlands for rehabilitation and protection;
- Prioritise those wetland systems that may warrant rehabilitation;
- Establish problem points within the wetland habitat that may require rehabilitation; and
- Determine the possible level of rehabilitation required.

The desktop mapping process encompassed the overlaying of numerous GIS coverages to determine the probability of wetland systems, which primarily includes aerial imagery, SPOT 5 satellite imagery, contour data and river coverages. The combination of these layers assisted in determining the probability of wetland habitat within the landscape. During the desktop analysis of available coverages, a number of wetlands within the study site were identified. Wetland identification was based primarily on differences in vegetation patterns between wetland habitat and terrestrial areas, as well as landscape setting based on topography. Impacts such as the advancement of headcut erosion and drains and berms within wetlands were identified. These currently impacted systems were identified as requiring rehabilitation. Infield verification of the identified wetlands was still required to determine the magnitude of identified impacts within the wetlands.

### 3.3 Identification of candidate wetlands

The identification of suitable wetlands for rehabilitation purposes was undertaken at a desktop level utilising available satellite and aerial imagery, data supplied by WfWets, and contour data. The systems were mapped at a desktop level, with limited field verification. The desktop mapping relied largely on changes in topography and vegetation cover to define the extent of wetland habitat. The desktop level mapping/analysis was performed in Quantum GIS at a scale of 1:5000 to create a Geographical Information System (GIS) spatial coverage of the candidate wetland ecosystems within the project area.

### 3.4 Assessment of catchment impacts

The sub-catchments of the identified wetland systems were interrogated using available satellite and aerial imagery in order to determine the various land use practices within the catchments. The extent and possible intensity of the activities were broadly assessed, provisionally highlighting the extent of the impacts on the wetlands. The greater the transformations within the landscape the more likely the wetland habitat will be substantially altered and therefore, require rehabilitation.

### 3.5 Assessment of the wetlands' rehabilitation potential

The wetland systems were reviewed for rehabilitation opportunities. The aerial imagery was interrogated for headcut erosion, channel incision, drains, and/or berms and/or alien invasive vegetation within the wetlands. The extent of the impacts were considered in comparison to the size of the wetland habitat in question, to determine the potential costs of rehabilitating the system, so as to eliminate wetlands with the least potential of being successfully rehabilitated from the prioritisation process.

### 3.6 Field assessments

A site visit was conducted between the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 to verify the extent of wetland ecosystems within the study site and assess the current level of ecological integrity and ecosystem services provided by the wetland habitat and rehabilitation opportunities.

In addition, the Assistant Directors (ASD) for Eastern Cape identified additional work required in a wetland system that is currently being implemented, just outside the town of Hogsback. This additional work would assist in achieving the rehabilitation aims and objectives and improve the functioning of the system in the post-rehabilitation scenario. These additional measures proposed will be reviewed infield during the Phase 2 rehabilitation planning field trip to determine the potential benefits of the additional work proposed. Since new wetland sites were identified, no maintenance requirements were identified.

### 3.7 Finalisation of prioritised wetlands

The selected wetlands were prioritised based on relative importance, based on the following two categories of criteria:

1. Habitat characteristics:
  - a. Biodiversity and functional value (taking into consideration the impacts within the systems);
  - b. Potential for partnerships;

- c. Catchment characteristics;
  - d. Biophysical (hydrological, biodiversity connectivity etc.) links to other rehabilitation projects;
  - e. Uniqueness of wetlands systems;
2. Practical/convenience attributes:
- a. Number of wetlands (HGMs) to be rehabilitated;
  - b. Number of person-days to be generated (labour intensity);
  - c. Ease of access to wetland;
  - d. Intervention size (with large-scale interventions preferably being avoided).

As multiple wetlands would be included in the Phase 1 assessment, it was necessary to prioritize the identified wetlands according to anticipated rehabilitation gains, prioritising those with higher potential gains. The wetlands were prioritised to ensure that a suitable number of wetlands are to be rehabilitated and the budget is not exceeded and to ensure that the ratio between 'hard' rehabilitation interventions and 'soft' rehabilitation interventions is proportionate to the objectives of WfWets.

### 3.8 Study assumptions and limitations

This report has been developed under certain constraints. The attention of users is drawn to the following particular areas in which caution in the use of this document should be exercised:

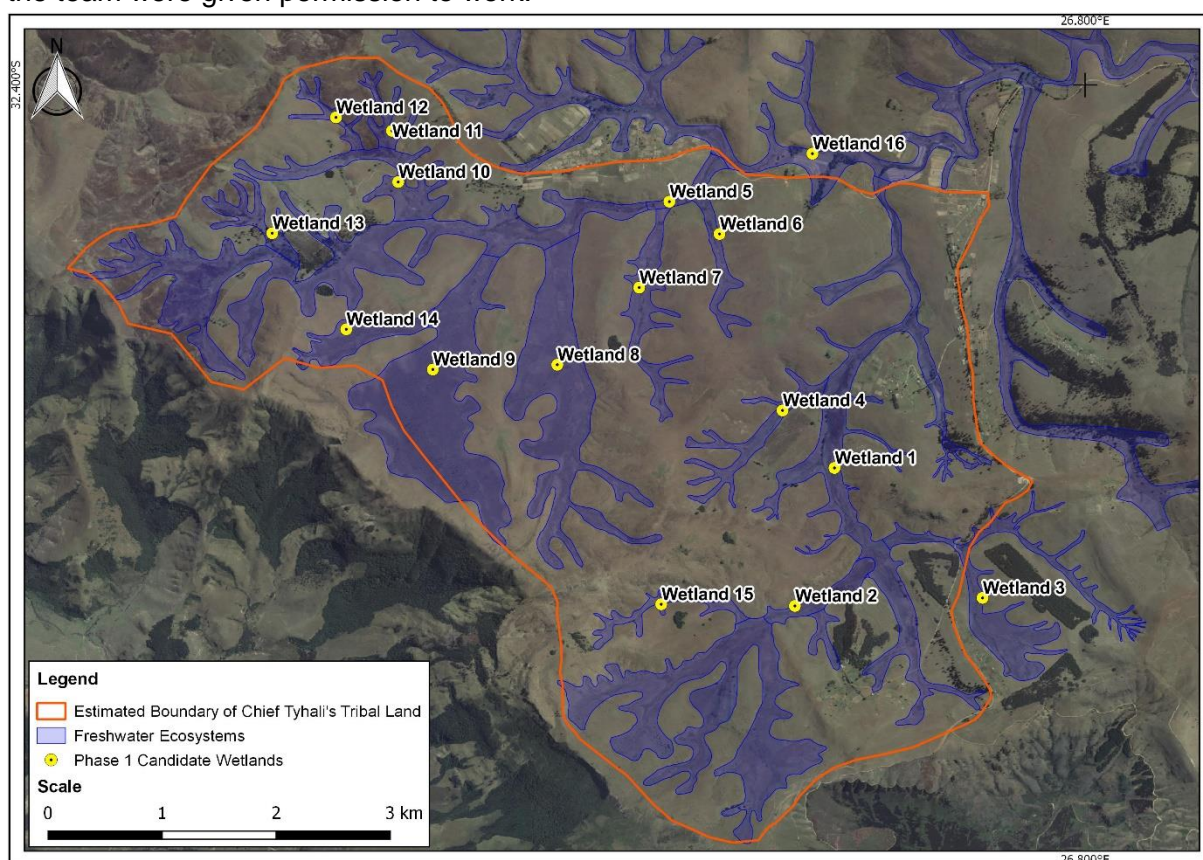
- The report only describes the initial screening of wetlands for further, more detailed rehabilitation planning. Detailed field assessments / measurements of the prioritized wetlands will be carried out in the Phase 2 of the planning process.

## 4 RESULTS AND FINDINGS

### 4.1 Desktop Analysis

Majority of the existing rehabilitation work for the WfWets projects in this area has been undertaken closer to the town of Hogsback, where majority of the wetland rehabilitation options have been exhausted. As such, opportunities for rehabilitation have been identified further away from the Hogsback town, and closer to Seymour and the Amathole Mountain range. Apart from incorporating additional rehabilitation measures into an existing rehabilitation plan near Hogsback, no maintenance of structures was identified.

During the desktop mapping process, a number of wetlands within the project area (**Figure 4.1**) were identified and investigated for possible rehabilitation opportunities. It should be noted that the project area refers to the lands belonging to Chief Tyhali, since it was on his land that the team were given permission to work.



**Figure 4.1 Overview of the candidate wetlands identified for the Phase 1 Planning of the Amathole wetland rehabilitation**

The various wetlands, their areas, location and whether they will be included in the Phase 2 planning are presented in **Table 4.1**.

**Table 4.1 Wetlands investigated during the desktop analysis process and the reason for the inclusion or exclusion from the Phase 2 infield verification process**

Quaternary Catchment	Wetland Label and Number	WET IS Label	Latitude (DMS)	Longitude (DMS)	Included for Phase 1 infield verification	Reason for inclusion/exclusion
S32E	Wetland 1	S32E-01	32° 26' 08.55" S	26° 46' 35.83" E	Yes	Great opportunities for rehabilitation, that showed potential for an ideal balance between 'hard' and 'soft' rehabilitation interventions.
	Wetland 2	S32E-02	32° 26' 54.87" S	26° 46' 22.53" E	Yes	Great opportunities for rehabilitation, that showed potential for an ideal balance between 'hard' and 'soft' rehabilitation interventions.
	Wetland 3	N/A <sup>1</sup>	32° 26' 52.18" S	26° 47' 25.55" E	No	Although opportunities for rehabilitation were evident at a desktop level, there were concerns whether this wetland was located within the study site and within Chief Tyhali's tribal lands.
	Wetland 4	N/A	32° 25' 49.24" S	26° 46' 19.83" E	No	Upon a desktop review of the wetland, it was noted that there were limited issues within the system that required rehabilitation measures.
	Wetland 5	S32E-03	32° 24' 39.14" S	26° 45' 30.47" E	Yes	A large wetland system that can be secured and its functioning enhanced through fairly simple rehabilitation initiatives; combining both 'hard' and 'soft' intervention options to secure the rehabilitation.
	Wetland 6	N/A	32° 24' 50.00" S	26° 45' 57.22" E	No	A desktop and infield verification of the condition of this wetland highlighted that the potential for effective rehabilitation was limited.
	Wetland 7	N/A	32° 25' 07.98" S	26° 45' 30.24" E	No	Desktop and infield verification of the condition of this wetland highlighted that the potential for effective rehabilitation was limited.

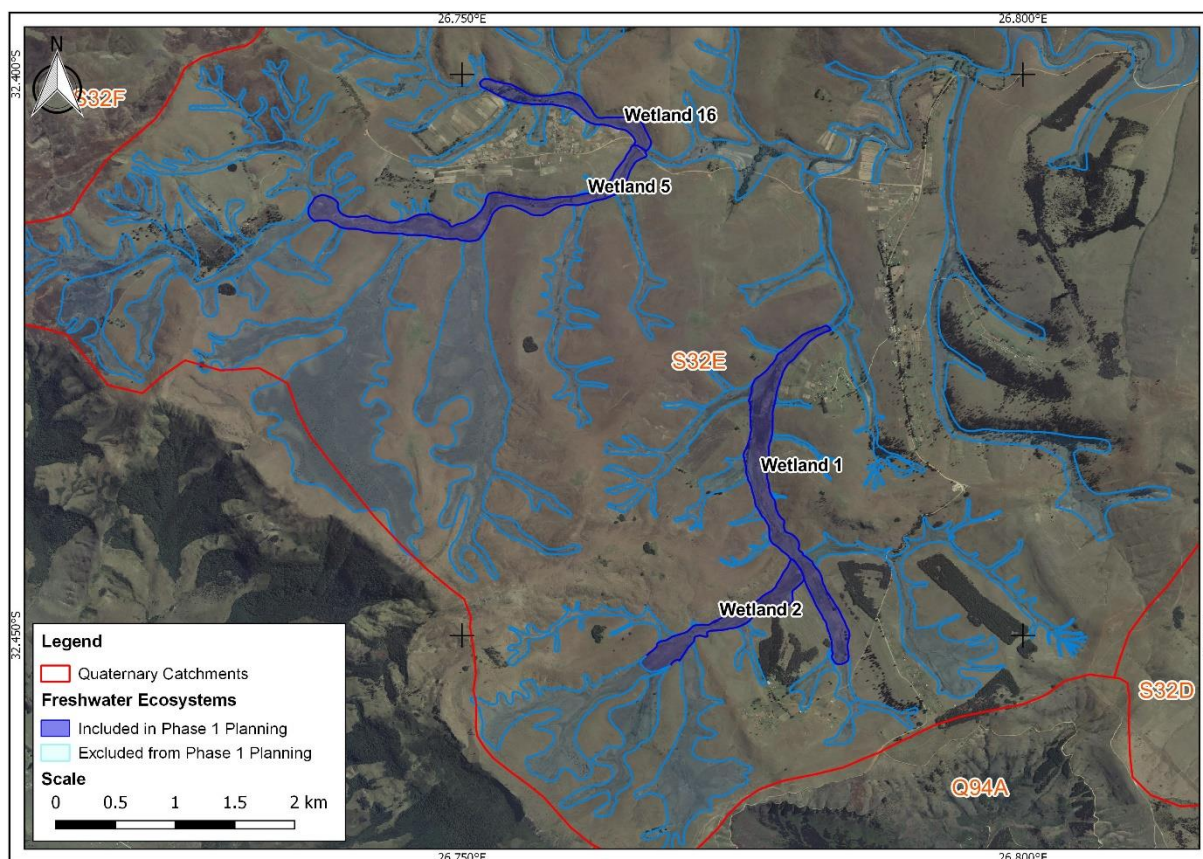
<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that those systems that were not prioritised for inclusion in the rehabilitation planning for this year's cycle were not assigned formal WET IS labels. Only those systems that have been identified for rehabilitation would receive labels since they will be incorporated into the WfWets planning cycle.



Quaternary Catchment	Wetland Label and Number	WET IS Label	Latitude (DMS)	Longitude (DMS)	Included for Phase 1 infield verification	Reason for inclusion/exclusion
	Wetland 8	N/A	32° 25 33.90 S	26° 45 02.74 E	No	Due to limited existing roads within the study area, and the poor quality of the roads moving north-west through the site, site access was an issue and limited the team's ability to access these wetlands and as such would pose a serious constraint to the implementation of any identified interventions. Should the road access be upgraded through other processes, these wetlands can be reconsidered for the planning of wetland rehabilitation measures as some issues were identified at a desktop level.
	Wetland 9	N/A	32° 25 35.49 S	26° 44 20.95 E	No	
	Wetland 10	N/A	32° 24 32.54 S	26° 44 09.32 E	No	
	Wetland 11	N/A	32° 24 15.35 S	26° 44 07.20 E	No	
	Wetland 12	N/A	32° 24 10.85 S	26° 43 48.42 E	No	
	Wetland 13	N/A	32° 24 49.73 S	26° 43 27.00 E	No	
	Wetland14	N/A	32° 25 22.00 S	26° 43 51.86 E	No	
	Wetland 15	N/A	32° 26 54.30 S	26° 45 37.65 E	No	
	Wetland16	S32E-03	32° 24 23.02 S	26° 46 28.43 E	Yes	Opportunities to stabilise headcut erosion identified at the toe of this wetland system were identified, which will protect the wetland system from eroding further.
Q94A	Q94A-01	Q94A-01	32° 32 17.02 S	26° 55 25.64 E	No	The review of this site, and the proposed extension of the current rehabilitation plan, was only identified during Phase 2 of the project.

## 4.2 Identified wetlands

Based on the findings of the desktop analysis, infield verification of the identified wetlands took place. Based on the desktop analysis, three (3) wetlands (**Figure 4.2** and **Table 4.2**) that cover an area of approximately 258.1ha, were prioritised as candidate wetlands for the Phase 1 fieldwork.



**Figure 4.2 Wetlands identified during the desktop mapping process and infield verification processes within S32E quaternary catchment**

The wetlands identified as possible candidate wetlands within the study area (as defined above), were initially identified at a desktop level according to the rehabilitation potential within the systems. Although there were a number of wetlands identified at a desktop level as having rehabilitation potential, site access was limited due to the restricted number of roads to these wetlands. As such, in addition to rehabilitation potential, road access was also taken into account. A large focus of the rehabilitation for this area was to remove drains, berms and ridges and furrows associated with historical cultivation practises and the removal of alien invasive vegetation in an attempt to improve the system hydrology and overall wetland functioning and integrity in the post-rehabilitation landscape.

**Table 4.2 Identified wetlands based on the desktop analysis and infield verification processes within the Amathole study area**

Wetland Name and Number	Wetland Label	Hydrogeomorphic Unit	Area (ha)
Wetland 1	S32E-01	Weakly channelled valley-bottom	54.7
Wetland 2	S32E-02	Weakly channelled valley-bottom	24.4
Wetland 5	S32E-03	Weakly channelled valley-bottom	43.3
Wetland 16	S32E-04	Channelled valley-bottom	18.5

Should additional systems within the study be identified as potential wetlands to be incorporated into the WFWets programme in the future, comprehensive desktop assessments of rehabilitation opportunities should be reviewed, and fieldwork should be undertaken accordingly.

#### 4.2.1 Wetland 1

Wetland 1 is a large valley-bottom wetland system, fed by valley-bottom and hillslope seepage wetlands (**Figure 4.3**). Historically, it was assumed that the system functioned as a weakly channelled valley-bottom, with very diffuse flows moving through the system and supporting wetland habitat by permanent wetness regimes. However, as the land was transformed from natural to cultivation, the functioning of the system changed fundamentally. A channel was excavated along the left bank of the wetland (looking downstream), which led to the desiccation of the mid-section of the wetland as the channel served to draw down the water table of the wetland. Alien invasive tree and shrub species have colonised a large section of the channel. In addition, a cut-off berm and drain was excavated along the right-hand bank of the wetland, preventing the seepage from the adjacent banks from entering the main valley bottom. Cut-off drains, berms and plough lines were identified running through portions of the wetland, altering the functioning of the system substantially. Despite the attempts at draining the wetland, the wetland comprised a mosaic of seasonal to permanent wetness zones within the middle to lower reaches of the system, with drier more desiccated areas towards the middle reaches of the wetland. Impacts associated with channel straightening, cut-off drains, berms and unstable re-entry points motivated for further detailed planning associated with the Phase 2 component of the study.

Livestock paths through sections of the wetland, and across the channel were identified, as well as active grazing in the wetland. Livestock pathways across the wetland and channel should be formalised to protect the wetland from continued trampling and to prevent the livestock from potentially getting stuck in the wetland and channel during high rainfall events.

It should be noted that the middle to lower portion of Wetland 1 was earmarked for rehabilitation only, since the upper reaches appeared to be fairly intact. The HGM unit was, therefore, defined at where the excavated channel and berm began and ended.

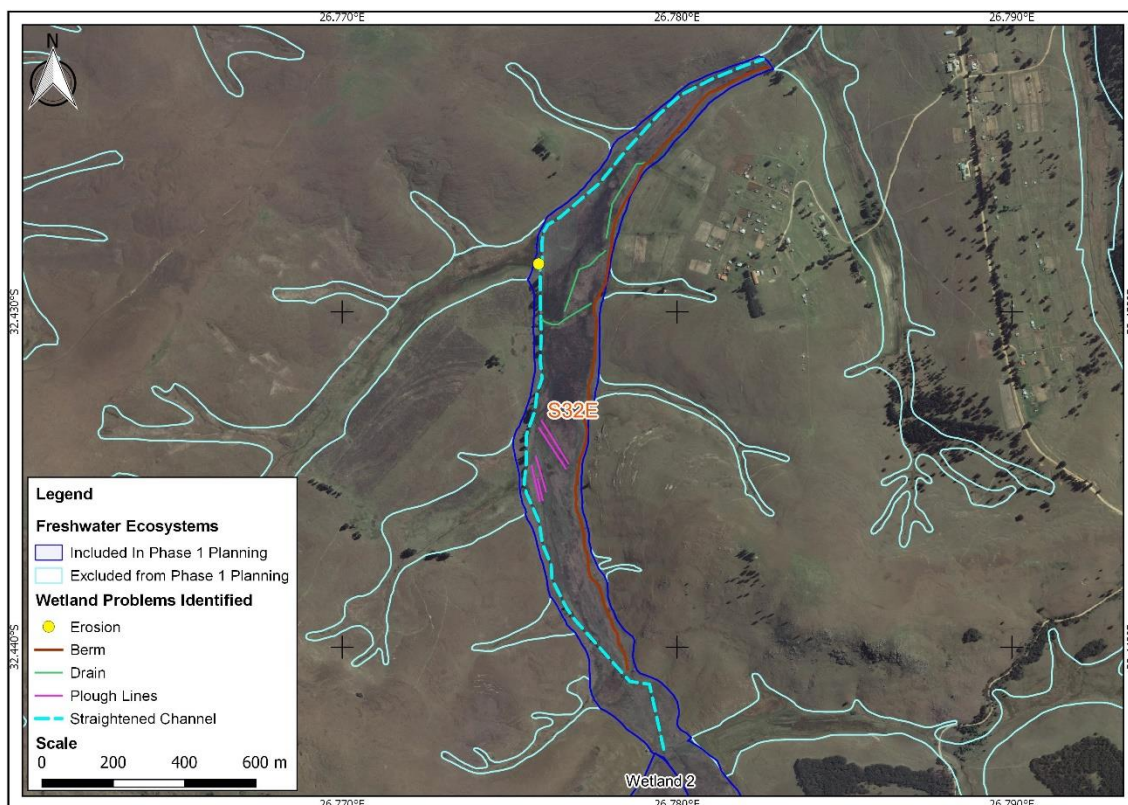


Figure 4.3 Overview of Wetland 1 and the location of the channel and drain



Figure 4.4 Straightened channel colonised by alien invasive tree species (left), and large berm running down the right-hand side of the wetland (right)

#### 4.2.2 Wetland 2

Wetland 2 is a weakly channelled valley-bottom wetland, which drains into the larger Wetland 1 system. The system is roughly 39ha in extent and is fed by a number of hillslope seepage wetland systems (**Figure 4.5**). It is anticipated that Wetland 2 was historically characterised by permanent and seasonally wet conditions, with diffuse flows moving through majority of the system. However, as a result of historical cultivation practises, the hydrology of the system has been largely altered. A combination of berms, drains, plough lines and stream channel modifications has led to the desiccation of portions of the HGM unit, making the system much drier than what the system would have been under natural conditions (**Figure 4.6**). Due to the changes in the natural hydrology of the system, disturbance tolerant vegetation such as

*Arundinella nepalensis*, *Eragrostis plana*, were the main vegetation types identified within the system. As with the case of Wetland 1, Wetland 2 extends further upstream than what the HGM unit has been defined as, since the area of focus for this study was the middle to lower reaches of the system. Signs of livestock grazing were noted within the system, and, should it be an option, better grazing management systems should be employed into these systems to ensure sustainable land use. Tributaries associated with Wetland 2 were visited during the Phase 1 fieldwork, however, issues associated with land owner permission and site access were of a concern. As such, these features were flagged infield during Phase 1, but were excluded from the Phase 2 planning.

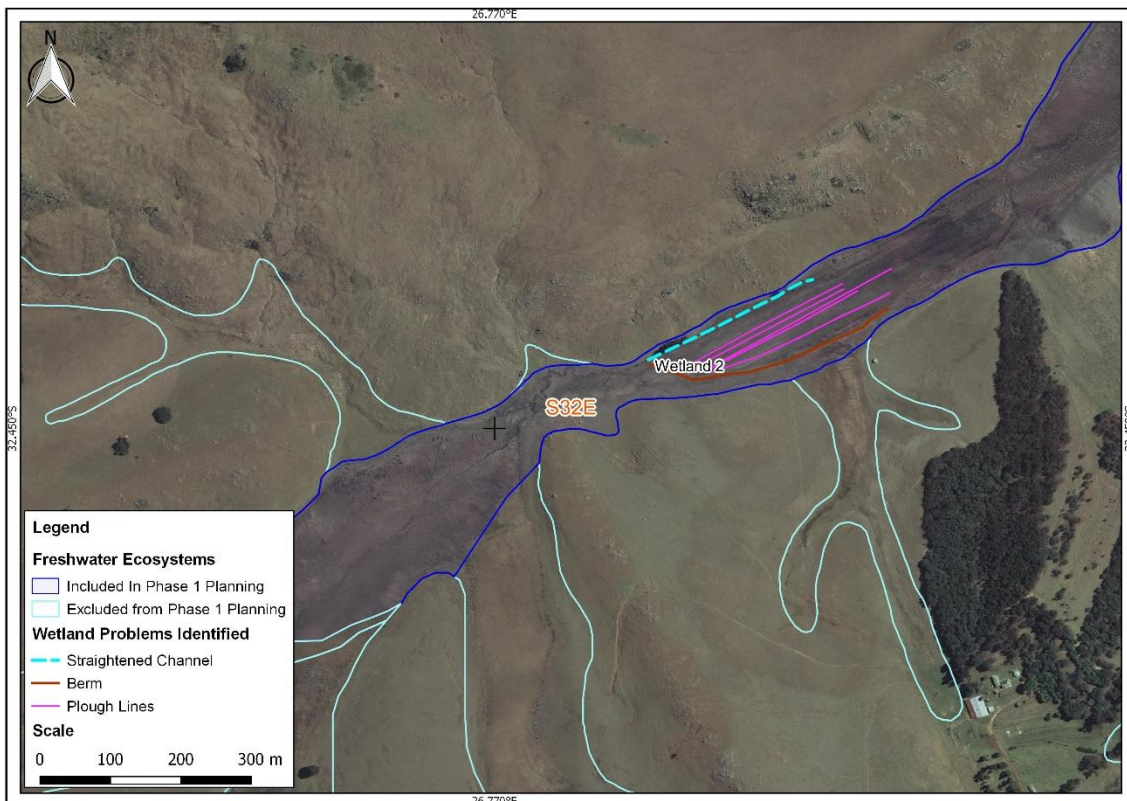


Figure 4.5 Overview of Wetland 2 indicating the location of the wetland problems



Figure 4.6 The straightened channel running down the left-hand bank of the wetland (left), and a berm limiting diffuse flows through the wetland (right)

### 4.2.3 Wetland 5

Wetland 5 is a channelled valley-bottom wetland, however it may have been less channelled historically before anthropogenic changes to the system took place (**Figure 4.7**). The movement of water is largely through a channel, which flows along the left bank of the wetland, moving across to the right-hand bank closer to the toe of the wetland before it is directed underneath an existing road. Remnants of the natural channel are clearly visible along the left-hand bank of the wetland towards the toe of the system. However, the lower-most section of the channel has since avulsed and flows through an incised channel to the right of the historical channel. This portion of the *new* channel is fairly incised, and some of the channel banks are eroding. A headcut is located just above where the channel avulsion has occurred, however the headcut has eroded to bedrock, limiting any threats of continued erosion and scour in that portion of the channel. Multiple unstable re-entry points were identified along the *new* channel, which may pose a threat to the wetland habitat upstream of these erosion features and should, therefore be secured to avoid the loss of wetland habitat. An informal sheep crossing was noted upstream of the headcut that should be stabilised to ensure that the crossing can be used safely by sheep and/or goats and the herdsman, especially during times of high flood waters through the system (**Figure 4.8**).

Upstream of the livestock crossing the system was noted to be in a stable condition and no signs of erosion or rehabilitation potential was noted during the desktop and infield assessment. As such, rehabilitation potential was focussed mainly on the lower to middle reaches of the system.



**Figure 4.7 Overview of Wetland 5 and some observation points**



**Figure 4.8 The headcut erosion on bedrock (left), and the livestock stream crossing that requires attention (right)**

#### 4.2.4 Wetland 16

Wetland 16 is a fairly large channelled valley-bottom system, which has been affected by historical cultivation practises which have negatively altered the functioning and integrity of the system. The HGM unit has been defined from the confluence of this wetland and Wetland 5 up to where the gradient change was noted. A number of hillslope seeps feed into the HGM unit, as well as lateral flows from the upstream valley-bottom system. The HGM unit is characterised by a fairly incised channel, which moves through the upper to middle portion of the wetland and dissipates towards the toe of the wetland. The upper reaches have sections of actively farmed portions, with drains and cultivated vegetation and alien invasive vegetation species. Since this wetland largely falls out of the permitted land access, only the toe of the wetland was considered, so as not to encroach further onto a site where no permissions had previously been arranged. The toe of the wetland had multiple headcuts and active erosion. These areas were prioritised for rehabilitation to stabilise the localised erosion before it led to further loss of wetland habitat further upstream.

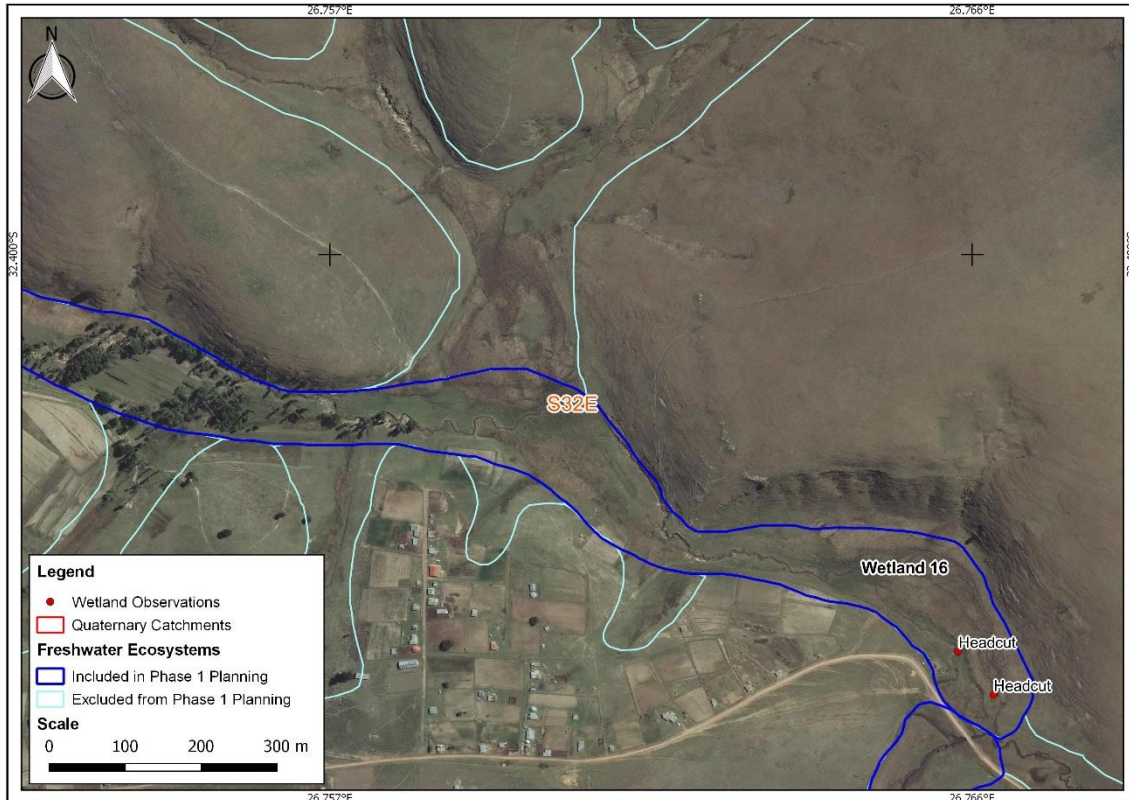


Figure 4.9 Overview of Wetland 16 and some observation points



Figure 4.10 The headcut erosion identified at the toe of Wetland 16

### 4.3 Prioritized Wetlands

Due to the limitations regarding site access to numerous wetlands identified at a desktop level for Phase 1 planning, many of the systems could not be visited infield. As such, those wetland systems that were in close proximity to accessible roads (i.e. facilitated access for implementation) were prioritised for inclusion in the Phase 2 planning. The wetlands were prioritised to ensure a suitable number of wetlands were identified for rehabilitation taking into consideration the budget requirements for approximately three years. In addition, prioritisation of the wetland considered the need to balance the quantity of 'hard' rehabilitation interventions and 'soft' rehabilitation interventions.



Furthermore, the following considerations were taken into account when prioritizing the different candidate wetlands:

- Severity of impacts;
- Biodiversity contributions;
- Cost of the required rehabilitation strategy the number and type of interventions; and
- Ease of access to get material and machinery/people to site to undertake the rehabilitation.

Although all three wetlands identified during the Phase 1 desktop planning have been prioritised for rehabilitation, it is recommended that the wetlands be prioritised in the following order:

- Wetland 1;
- Wetland 5,
- Wetland 2; and then
- Wetland 16.

Wetland 1 is considered the highest priority due to the anticipated gains associated with deactivating the main channel and berm within the wetland. These rehabilitation measures are anticipated to be a combination of 'hard' and 'soft' rehabilitation interventions; providing a favourable balance between the two. In addition, the anticipated gains associated with the rehabilitation of this system is deemed to be highly beneficial and cost-effective. The removal of the alien invasive vegetation located along the channel banks is also anticipated to improve the overall vegetation integrity of the system.

Wetland 5 has been prioritised as the next system to be rehabilitated due to the anticipated gains associated with the rehabilitation of the system. Although the identified headcut, and portions of the system have eroded to bedrock posing little threat of further erosion, the incised channel downstream of the headcut is likely to continue eroding laterally if rehabilitation interventions are not implemented. Should this erosion continue, the integrity of the wetland upstream will be significantly affected, with portions of the wetland being lost as a result of this erosion. There may also be potential of diverting flows down the historical channel, thereby reactivating this portion of the wetland that has since become inactive and desiccated and will reduce the energy of the flows moving down the incised channel. It is anticipated that this rehabilitation may allow for a favourable balance between hard and soft interventions, whilst securing maximum gains from the rehabilitation.

Wetland 2, situated upstream of Wetland 1 is a smaller wetland in comparison to the two above-mentioned wetlands, and the rehabilitation identified within this wetland is more related to improving wetland functioning than securing or stabilising erosion. As such, there is less urgency to implement the rehabilitation initiatives; which is related mostly to the removal of drains, berms and plough lines associated with historical cultivation.

Wetland 16 has been prioritised for rehabilitation due to the active erosion identified at the toe of the wetland. Although it was recognised that the HGM unit is fairly degraded, the wetland habitat towards the toe of the wetland was noted as worth protecting from further degradation

and loss. However, since no formal land access permissions were granted for this wetland, permission will need to be attained prior to the commencement of any rehabilitation work. In addition, it was anticipated that more rehabilitation work could be investigated for this wetland system once land access permissions have been granted.

Based on the prioritization process, and the identification of the three wetlands to be incorporated into the rehabilitation plan, the systems have been labelled according to the WfWets labelling protocol (**Table 4.3**) for Phase 2 rehabilitation planning purposes.

**Table 4.3 Wetland prioritization**

Wetland Name	Wetland Label	Hydrogeomorphic Unit	Priority
Wetland 1	S32E-01	Channelled valley-bottom	High
Wetland 2	S32E-02	Channelled valley-bottom	Medium
Wetland 5	S32E-03	Channelled valley-bottom	High
Wetland 16	S32E-04	Channelled valley-bottom	Low <sup>2</sup>

#### 4.4 Landowner Consent

The study area, as defined in **Figure 4.1**, is under custodianship by Chief Tyhali and, as such, the wetlands within the study area are under his management and control. The ASD for this WfWet area has been in contact with the Chief regarding work to be undertaken within the identified systems. A comprehensive meeting including the Chief and the interested community members was undertaken with the ASD. This meeting allowed the ASD to discuss and describe the proposed systems to be rehabilitated and the general anticipated outcomes of such rehabilitation (for example: the removal of the berms will lead to the rewetting of a large area of wetland possibly making the system inaccessible to livestock). Some of the issues that the community raised at the meeting included:

- Whether the rewetting and raising of the water table will lead to the potential drowning of livestock and herders, specifically during high flood events;
- Whether the proposed removal of alien vegetation, including wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), pine (*Pinus pinaster*) and poplars (*Populus sp.*) may result in the loss of firewood lots for the communities and the importance of finding a balance between removals and agreed upon wood lots will be necessary;
- The question as to whether the rehabilitation of these systems would require more intensive livestock management and whether this would influence the number of livestock able to graze in these areas;
- The effects of implementing more intensive livestock management associated with the rehabilitation and whether it will force the communities to decrease their total livestock counts; and
- Whether the community will benefit from job creation associated with the rehabilitation implementation and ongoing WfWets work in the area.

Through these meetings, it was communicated that the community sell the wool from their sheep directly to HBK, a company situated in Port Elizabeth. Therefore, the wetland rehabilitation plan would need to find a balance between instilling sustainable livestock

<sup>2</sup> The low priority is associated with the lack of land access permissions at the time of the site visit and Phase 1 planning. As such, formal access to the site should be granted prior to the implementation of any rehabilitation.

management without hindering the earning potential of the community. In this regard, the community communicated that they would happily introduce rotational grazing into their ongoing livestock control to support sustainability in the area. With regards to the wood lots, following much discussion, the community were happy that the alien invasive plants within the water courses can be removed, whilst the wood lots outside of these areas may be kept for biofuel.

Overall, the community seemed positive about the proposed introduction of rehabilitation measures into their systems and a positive partnership between the entities can be established going forward. A transparent and open relationship will be built from the very beginning, ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of the proposed work and the consequences thereof. A good relationship with the community from the start of the project may ensure that wetland rehabilitation work for the future can be secured. To ensure that the livestock stocking rates on the grazed lands are according to best practise recommendations, guidelines on livestock stocking rates will be reviewed and integrated into the Phase 2 recommendations.

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