

Working for Wetlands: KwaZulu-Natal 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 Cape¹ 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 is 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 will be summarised into a table in this section 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 KwaZulu-Natal Province. Please note that contact details have been omitted for privacy reasons.

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

Table 1: I&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
	Ms Wilma Lutsch	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 Kerry 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
	Khosa Tsunduka	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Malaudzi Nkumbudzeni	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Lumka Kuse	Department of Water and Sanitation

Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation
	Xolani Hadebe	Department of Water and Sanitation
Provincial Stakeholders: State Authority	Mr Kwazi Hlongwane	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
	Mr Poovey Moodley	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
	Mr Siyabonga Buthelezi	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Mr Andy Blackmore	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
	Mr Doug Burden	Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust
	Ms Nonkululeko Mokeona	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Mr Angus Burns	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
	Ms Sue Viljoen	World Wildlife Fund for Nature
	Mr Lemson Betha	WESSA KZN
	Mr Dominic Wieners	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
	Mr Ivor Hoareau	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Krishnee Naidoo	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Ms Phumelela Phenyane	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
Landowner	Carl Myhill	Isimangaliso Wetland Park
Municipal Stakeholders	Mr Mondli Funeka	Mtubatuba Local Municipality
	Mr Bonga Ntanzu	Abaqulusi Local Municipality
	Mr Jerry Sibaya	Abaqulusi Local Municipality
	Mr S Chetty	Abaqulusi Local Municipality
	Ms Nokubonga Kunene	Abaqulusi Local Municipality
	Mr Velenkosi Fiki Hlabisa	Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality
	Cllr CT Khumalo	Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality
	Cllr HT Nkosi	Big Five Hlabisa Local Municipality
	Mr Solomon Mkhombo	Umkhanyakude District Municipality
	Mr Sbusiso Emmanuel Bukhosini	Umkhanyakude District Municipality
	Ms Hlengiwe Shandu	Zululand District Municipality

Stakeholder	Contact	Organisation
General I&APs	Ms MM Kunene	Zululand District Municipality
	Mr Inkosi Elphas Mzamo Buthelezi	Zululand District Municipality
	Brain Beyers	WESSA
	Ms Terry Calmeyer	ILISO Consulting Environmental
	Mr Gerhard Cilliers	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Mr Craig Cowden	GroundTruth
	Alex Dlamini	Invasive Alien Species Programme
	Mr Vaughan Koopman	Mondi Wetland Forum
	Mr Doug Mcfarlane	Eco-Pulse
	Mr Aldred Matsheke	KZN DEA
	Mr Greg Mullins	eThekweni Municipality
	Ms Joyce Pope	Umngeni Municipality
	Mr Damian Walters	Mondi Wetland Projects
	Ms Zama Madlala	RNR Conservancy
	Mr Sebenza Nduli	Private I&AP
	Mr Andreas Sithole	Hluhluwe Nature Reserve
	Mr Brent Cocoran	Mondi Group
	Mr Inkosi S Ngwane	Private I&AP
	Mr Nick Stubbs	Private I&AP
	Mr Derek Watson	Private I&AP
Mr ME Dladla	Private I&AP	
Ms Catherine Hanekom	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife: Tembe Elephant Park	

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 in Figure 1 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 / 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 2017/2018 Planning Cycle

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:

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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 MNA (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	Annathole, Komme and Tsitsikamma	Hogstee, Seymour, Kareedouw and Humansdorp
Free State	Yes	Maluti	Harismith and Phuthaditjhaba
Gauteng	Yes	Gauteng North	Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal	Yes	Simangaliso	St Lucia
Limpopo	Yes	Soutini Baleni and Mutale	Giyani and Thuyoyandou
North West	Yes	Madikwe National Park and Mokopo	Rustenburg and Mahlangeng

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: Simankhele Mtshangwane / Franco Gresse (of Aurecon) by **14 March 2019**.
E-mail: Simankhele.Mtshangwane@aurecongroup.com / franco.gresse@aurecongroup.com
Tel: (021 526 9500), Fax: (021 526 9500), or Post: P.O. Box 494, Cape Town, 8000

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

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Tender No. L supply and maintenance of

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

THE PROJECT EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Airports Comps qualified bidder services.

BID DOCUMENTS: Bid documents: National Treasury from Friday 11.

NON-COMPULSORY: A Non-compulsory on 21st January SOC Limited Road, Riverwood Boardroom.

No bidding do session.

CLOSING DATE:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: WORKING FOR WETLANDS PROGRAMME KWAZULU-NATAL 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 **KwaZulu-Natal** Province for the 2018/2019 planning cycle:

PROJECT	WETLAND SYSTEM	NEAREST TOWN(S)	LATITUDE (DDMMSS)	LONGITUDE (DDMMSS)
KZN iSimangaliso	iSimangaliso –Western Shores	St Lucia	28°18'28.00"S	32°23'45.00"E

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 Reports for the six affected provinces, and Rehabilitation Plans for each of the associated wetland projects for a public comment period of 30 days from **11 February – 14 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>). I&APs also have **30 days** to comment on the proposed exemptions from public participation process from the date of this advertisement.

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 / Simamkele.Ntsengwane@aurecongroup.com

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



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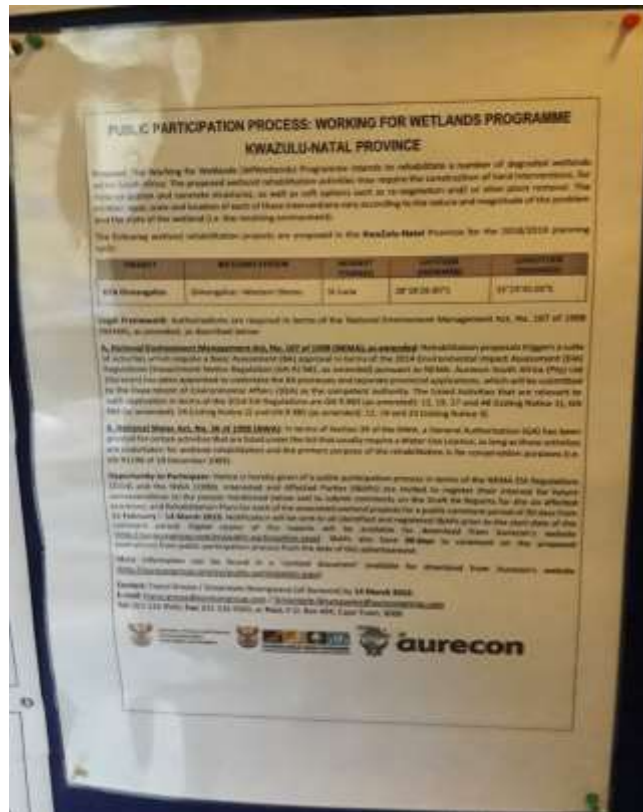
aurecon

Figure 4: Example of text included in the KwaZulu-Natal site notice

3.4.1 Proof of placement

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.

Project:	KwaZulu- Natal iSimangaliso	
Wetlands:	iSimangaliso Wetland Park	
Coordinates:	28°21'44.55"S	32°24'45.75"E



4 BASIC ASSESSMENT PHASE CONSULTATION

The Basic Assessment Report (BAR) for the KwaZulu-Natal 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	11 March 2019 Email Department of Environmental Affairs (Zamalanga Langa)	Comments on the draft Basic Assessment Report for the Working for Wetlands Programme in Isimangaliso Wetlands Park in KwaZulu Natal Province The application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) and draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated February 2019 and received by the Department on 11 February 2019, refer. This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:	
		A locality plan that indicates the sites or wetlands earmarked for rehabilitation must be provided. The locality plan and the project description must also be included in the EMP. Kindly note that Google Earth maps will not be acceptable.	A locality plan that meets these requirements is provided in the BAR and Rehabilitation Plans.
		The BAR must include a map at an appropriate scale which superimposes the proposed activity and its associated structures, buildings and infrastructure on the environmental sensitivities of the preferred site indicating any areas that should be avoided, including buffers, CBAs, heritage sites, all “no-go” areas.	Appendix C of the Rehabilitation Plan (Intervention Booklet) provides the details, design, location and coordinates of all proposed interventions, as well as maps. The associated rehabilitation plan also provides a project description and a locality plan of the proposed interventions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No supporting onsite infrastructure or accommodation will be required. ➤ Please note that the entire site is sensitive since the purpose of the project is to rehabilitate degraded wetlands.
		Kindly ensure that the co-ordinates of the wetlands identified for rehabilitation purposes that are included in	The co-ordinates of the wetlands identified for rehabilitation purposes are included in the final BAR

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		the final BAR are provided in the format: degrees, minutes, and seconds, using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system. A list of the co-ordinates must also be provided under Appendix 3 of the application form.	and under Appedix 3 of the application form. These are provided in the format: degrees, minutes, and seconds, using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system.
		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 the Appendix 1(3)(1)(q) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	The period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded is included in the 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.	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.
		If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted. 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 .	Where the activities applied for in the submitted application form differ from those tabled in the Draft BAR, then an amended application form will be submitted with the Final BAR, and the most recent amended application form template will be used.
		If the area to be rehabilitated are located in inaccessible areas with no definite access roads, the applicant must determine whether part of the rehabilitation activities will require the construction of access roads and whether this will trigger the applicable listed activities.	Existing access roads and tracks will be used by vehicles, and where this is not possible, the site will be accessed on foot under the escort of armed game guards. There are no current proposals to develop any new access roads, and certainly none that will trigger additional Listed Activities.
		Please note that Table 4 on pages 9-10 titled "Listed activities triggered by the proposed KwaZulu-Natal	The inclusion of this activity in the Table (Table 5, pages 9 and 10) was merely to indicate that it had been

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
		<p>Projects" project includes Activity 24 of Listing Notice 2 (GN R984, as amended). This activity triggers a full scoping and EIA process, and not a Basic Assessment process. The EAP is required to determine the applicability of the activity, and if such activity is triggered, a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be lodged and followed for the proposed project.</p>	<p>considered but was deemed to not apply given the exclusion. The activity will be removed to avoid any further confusion.</p>
		<p>The applicant must ensure that should there be any recommendations from SAHRA, that it must be included to form part of the EMPr and Rehabilitation Plan Documents.</p>	<p>An application was submitted via the SAHRIS website, however to date, no comment has been received. Should there be any recommendations from SAHRA (or AMAFA), then these will be included to form part of the EMPr and Rehabilitation Plan Documents.</p>
		<p>The final BAR must include an avifaunal impact statement from a qualified avifaunal specialist on the possible impacts on any important avifaunal species that may utilise the wetland system in iSimangaliso Wetland Park.</p>	<p>This is not a development project but rather a rehabilitation project. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is a World Heritage Site and includes four Ramsar sites and is therefore of national and international importance to avifauna species reliant on wetland habitat in South Africa. The habitat potential of the Park relies on the natural integrity and function of the greater wetland system. Parts of the system require the implementation of the rehabilitation efforts as proposed by the Working for Wetlands Programme to retain and/or improve wetland function.</p> <p>The wetland specialists appointed to this project consider habitat, aquatic ecology and associated wetland fauna and avifauna species. The recommendations towards intervention options are aimed at meeting the wetland rehabilitation objectives set by these specialists, and therefore at improving habitat and opportunity for all reliant species, including avifauna. An Avifaunal Impact Statement, in addition to</p>

No.	Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/ I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/ Applicant/ Specialist
			<p>any impact statements provided by the appointed wetland specialist, is deemed to be unnecessary in this context.</p>
		<p>The wetland system is located within an iSimangaliso Wetland Park, an important tourism area. The social impact assessment must also include an assessment of potential impacts on tourism in the area. The report must also include a tourism impact statement.</p>	<p>This is not a development project but rather a rehabilitation project. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is a World Heritage Site and includes four Ramsar sites and is one of the most important tourism opportunities in South Africa. The tourism potential of the Park relies on the natural integrity and function of the greater wetland system. Parts of the system require the implementation of the rehabilitation efforts as proposed by the Working for Wetlands Programme to retain and/or improve wetland function.</p> <p>A Social Impact Assessment is largely aimed at identifying (amongst other things) negative impact to social aspects such as tourism. Given the project is aimed at rehabilitating wetlands, thereby improving tourism opportunities, such a study is deemed to be ineffective in this context. Further to this none of the roads that will be removed are open to tourists, and many of these roads where the work will be undertaken are not visible from any of the open tourist routes.</p> <p>The wetland specialists appointed to this project consider not only consider the tourist attractions of habitat, aquatic ecology and associated wetland fauna and avifauna species, but also consider the tourism and recreational potential of the wetland in question in their Wet-health assessment.</p>
		<p>I. The following Activities applied for may trigger Section 19; S21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998: GN R. 983 Activities 12 (i)(ii)(a);</p>	<p>I. Refer Section 2.1.2 of the BAR: In terms of Section 39 of the National Water Act, No. 36 of 1998, a General Authorisation (GA) has been granted for certain</p>

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		<p>48 (i)(ii)(a); GN R 985 Activities 14 (i)(ii)(a)(c)(e)(i)(f)(hh), 23(i)(ii)(a)(c)(e)(i)(ee)(gg).</p> <p>II. The BAR must include a freshwater specialist study with the following terms of reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Desktop mapping of freshwater ecosystems within the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) 500m Water Use Licence trigger area around the wetland system; ➤ Field-based assessments of the potentially impacted systems to determine likely impacts and risks that the proposed rehabilitation measures may have on the wetland system. ➤ Fish management method statement for any fish relocations if any. ➤ Identify and recommend measures for mitigating impacts on the receiving environment. 	<p>activities 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' and 'altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse' where they are specifically undertaken for the purposes of rehabilitating a wetland for conservation purposes. The WfWetlands Programme is required to register the 'water use' in terms of the GA.</p> <p>II. This is not a development project but rather a rehabilitation project. The iSimangaliso Wetland Park is a World Heritage Site and includes four Ramsar sites, and is therefore of national and international importance to aquatic and terrestrial species reliant on wetland habitat in South Africa. The habitat potential of the Park relies on the natural integrity and function of the greater wetland system. Parts of the system require the implementation of the rehabilitation efforts as proposed by the Working for Wetlands Programme to retain and/or improve wetland function.</p> <p>The wetland specialists appointed to this project consider habitat, aquatic ecology and associated wetland fauna and avifauna species. The wetland specialists provide desktop mapping of the system in question, undertake field-based assessments which inform the Rehabilitation Plans, and identify and provide measures for these plans for mitigating any negative impacts for the construction of the interventions. The recommendations towards intervention options are aimed at meeting the wetland rehabilitation objectives set by these specialists, and therefore at improving habitat and opportunity for all reliant species, including aquatic species. A separate freshwater specialist study</p>

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			in addition to that provided by the wetland specialists is deemed to be unnecessary in this context.
		<p>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"> ➤ 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 for be completed post EA. 	<p>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 (GroundTruth) provided a Phase 2: Status Quo Assessment (Appendix A of the BAR)that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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). ➤ A detailed description of all limitations to the study (Section 4). All specialist field work was conducted in the appropriate season. <p>It is important to note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. ➤ The Phase 2: Status Quo Assessment provided is the Final version. ➤ Detailed/practical mitigation measures and recommendations are provided in the Rehabilitation Plans (EMP) and specific mitigation per intervention

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		<p>Should specialists recommend Specific mitigation measures, these must be Clearly indicated</p>	<p>(where required) is provided in the Intervention Booklet (Appendix C of the Rehabilitation Plan).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No further studies are required to be completed post EA.
		<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 (as amended), which states that the BAR must include:</p> <p><i>‘an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>the correctness of the information provided in the reports; the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;</i> ➤ <i>the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and</i> <p><i>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”</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
		<p>It is indicated that site notices will be included in the Public Participation Report in the final BAR. Please ensure that these site notices are provided, in order to comply with the requirements of regulation 41 (2) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p>	<p>Information pertaining to the site notices and their content is provided in Section 3.4 of this report.</p>

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		<p>I. 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"> ➤ e-mail delivery reports; ➤ registered mail receipts; ➤ courier waybills; <p>signed acknowledgements of receipt; and/or any other proof as agreed upon by the competent authority</p>	<p>Proof is provided in Appendix B4 of the Final BAR.</p>
		<p>Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final BAR.</p>	<p>A CRR is provided in section 5 of the Public Participation Report with all original comments received available in Appendix B5 of the final BAR.</p>
		<p>Please also ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity & Conservation Branch and iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.</p>	<p>Issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity & Conservation Branch and iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR where relevant. Where a comment has not been addressed in the BAR, then the response provided in the CRR (this table) will indicate the reason/motivation for this.</p>
		<p>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The public participation process must be</p>	<p>All comments received (or any attempts to obtain comments) are included in this report. Proof is provided in Appendix B4 of the Final BAR.</p>

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		conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.	The public participation process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.
		The final BAR must comply with these comments and all other comments and conditions issued by the Department in relation to the proposed development	Issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR where relevant. Where a comment has not been addressed in the BAR, then the response provided in the CRR (this table) will indicate the reason/motivation for this.
		A comments and Response report (C&R) must be submitted with the final BAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.	A CRR is provided in section 5 of the Public Participation Report with all original comments received available in Appendix B5 of the final BAR.
		The final BAR must indicate clearly the name of the newspaper that the advertisement for the draft BAR has been advertised in.	The details of the advertisement and the newspaper/s in which it was published are included in Section 3.3 of this PPR.
		The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final BAR.	A site inspection is currently being planned, and the details will be communicated to the case officer as soon as they are available.
		The BAR, specialist studies and EMPr must ensure compliance to the relevant appendices as outlined in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	The checklist titled "NEMA Requirements for Basic Assessment Reports" is provided on pages i-iii.

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		<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) 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.”</i></p>	<p>Following an approval of an extension request we are following 19(1)(b).</p>

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		<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>Following an approval of an extension request we are following 19(1)(b).</p>
		<p>Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes Stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.</p>	<p>The Working for Wetlands Programme endeavours to meet the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations.</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</p>	<p>Working for Wetland activities in the system in question will only commence on the receipt of an Environmental Authorisation for that system, and on approval of a Rehabilitation Plan for the relevant project.</p>

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		Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department	
	<p>3 May 2019</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Nerissa Pillay)</p>	<p>WORKING FOR WETLANDS REHABILITATION PROJECT: ISIMANGALISO WORLD HERITAGE SITE: District Municipality: Umkhanyakude</p> <p>The Draft Basic Assessment Report for the abovementioned application has been received by Ezemvelo's IEM Planning Division (Ezemvelo). Given that the proposed rehabilitation sites are located within the iSimangaliso World Heritage Site, Ezemvelo strongly recommends that this application be referred to the park's ecologist (Caroline Fox) for further assistance and guidance.</p> <p>Should you require any clarity on the points raised, please do not hesitate to contact this office.</p>	<p>The iSimangaliso Park Team have been intimately involved in this planning, having assisted in the prioritisation of sites, and having attended the field visits. Thank you for the specific contact of the park ecologist from Ezemvelo. Ms Fox will be added to our I&AP database.</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 1 | DEA Meeting Minutes

Appendix 2 | Landowner Agreement(s)

Appendix 3 | Written Notification

Appendix 4 | Proof of Delivery

Appendix 5 | Comments and Responses