

**THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE UFAFA WATER SUPPLY
SCHEME, WITHIN UBUHLEBEZWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, INGWE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AND THE HARRY GWALA (SISONKE)
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT:
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

EIA REF: *DC43/0003/2014*

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WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This Background Information Document (BID) serves to inform all relevant authorities, stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (IAP) of the proposed project, which requires Environmental Authorisation (EA). In this case, the applicant is the Harry Gwala District Municipality and the proposed project is for the construction of a water supply scheme in Ufafa. The relevant role players for the proposed project are as follows:

APPLICANT	HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
CONSULTING ENGINEERS	NATHOO MBENYANE ENGINEERS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP)	TERRATEST (PTY) LTD
COMPETENT AUTHORITY	PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (EDTEA)

The proposed project is identified as a listed activity in terms of the National

Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended, under Regulation No. R. 544 (Activities 9, 11 and 18). The proposed project therefore requires a Basic Environmental Assessment (BA). This assessment, conducted by Terratest (Pty) Ltd, will be submitted to the EDTEA for authorisation.

The purpose of this BID is to provide an overview of the proposal, indicating any possible impacts already identified, and invite you to register as an IAP. All IAPs are afforded the opportunity to indicate their interest in the project as well as any concerns or queries.

1. WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The Ufafa Water Supply Project forms part of the Sisonke District Municipality's Regional and Sub-regional plan for supplying potable water to areas which have not had access to safe drinking water and conforms to the standards as set down by the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The project proposes to provide approximately 5506 (direct) living in 1060 households with a supply of potable water. The communities within the project area are presently using rivers, boreholes and springs for the supply of water.

The scope of works are:

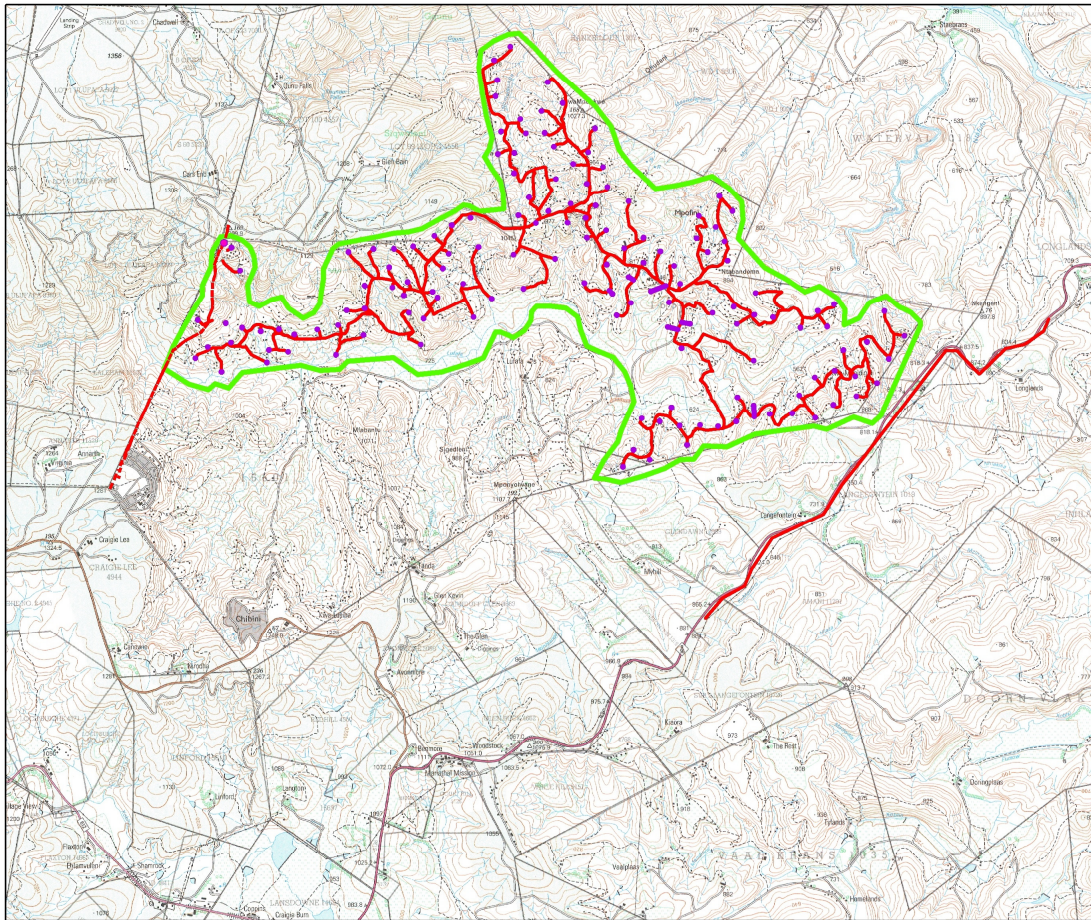
- The construction of the water reticulation network to approximately 1 060 households as identified from recent orthophotos;
- The construction of a new 4 000 m bulk main to the area with associated reticulation estimated to be approximately 69 900 m;
- The construction of one 1 ml reservoir to serve the project area;
- The construction of supply points to supply the households within a 200 m radius;
- The construction of break pressure tanks;
- The construction of a pipe bridge over the Lufafa River;
- The network will include for air valves, isolating valves and scour valves. Isolating Valves will be located to minimise the effect of closure on the supply and to suit Scour activities;
- Bulk meters will be provided at the boundary of each distinct supply zone;
- The networks are designed to cater for an ultimate demand of 60 l/c/day although
- only communal standpipes will be provided for in terms of this Technical Report;
- It is envisaged that yard connections will be installed and paid for by the payment of a connection fee. Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funds will be utilised to provide community dispensing units only where required.

2. LOCATION

The project area, which is approximately 36.07 km² in extent, is located in ward 3 of the Ubuhlebezwe and ward 6 of Ingwe Local Municipalities, 12km from Ixopo town and will serve the communities to the north of the town. The southern boundary of the project area is defined by the Lufafa River while the eastern boundary extends to the R56.

30°02'10.34"S ; 30°07'10.87"E

The approximate co-ordinates of the assessment area are:



**Ufafa
Water Project
Locality Map**

Locality Map

Project Area

LEGEND

- Ufafa Supply Reservoir
- Standpipe
- Proposed Reticulation
- - - Proposed Bulk Line

N

SCALE
1 : 80 000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3
Kilometers

Compiled By:

terrat
ESTABLISHED 1988
Pretoria, South Africa

Production Date: March 2014
Coordinate System: PCS (TM LO31; WGS84)
Spheroid - WGS 1984; Datum - D WGS84

3. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

Climate

Ixopo is characterized by a subtropical climate with warm summers and moderately dry and cool winters.

The region normally receives about 712mm of rain per year, with most rainfall occurring mainly during mid-summer. Ixopo receives the lowest rainfall (5mm) in June and the highest (108mm) in December.

The average maximum temperature for Ixopo ranges from 18.8°C in June to 25.3°C in February. The region is the coldest during July to 4.5°C on average.

Geology and Topography

According to the 1:250 000 Geological Map Series, 3030, Port Shepstone, the study area is underlain by dark-grey shale, carbonaceous shale, siltstone of the Pietermaritzburg Formation which is overlain by medium to coarse-grained feldspathic sandstone, grit, subordinate grey shale and siltstone of the Vryheid Formation, both belonging to the Ecca Group of the Karoo Supergroup.

Land use and Vegetation

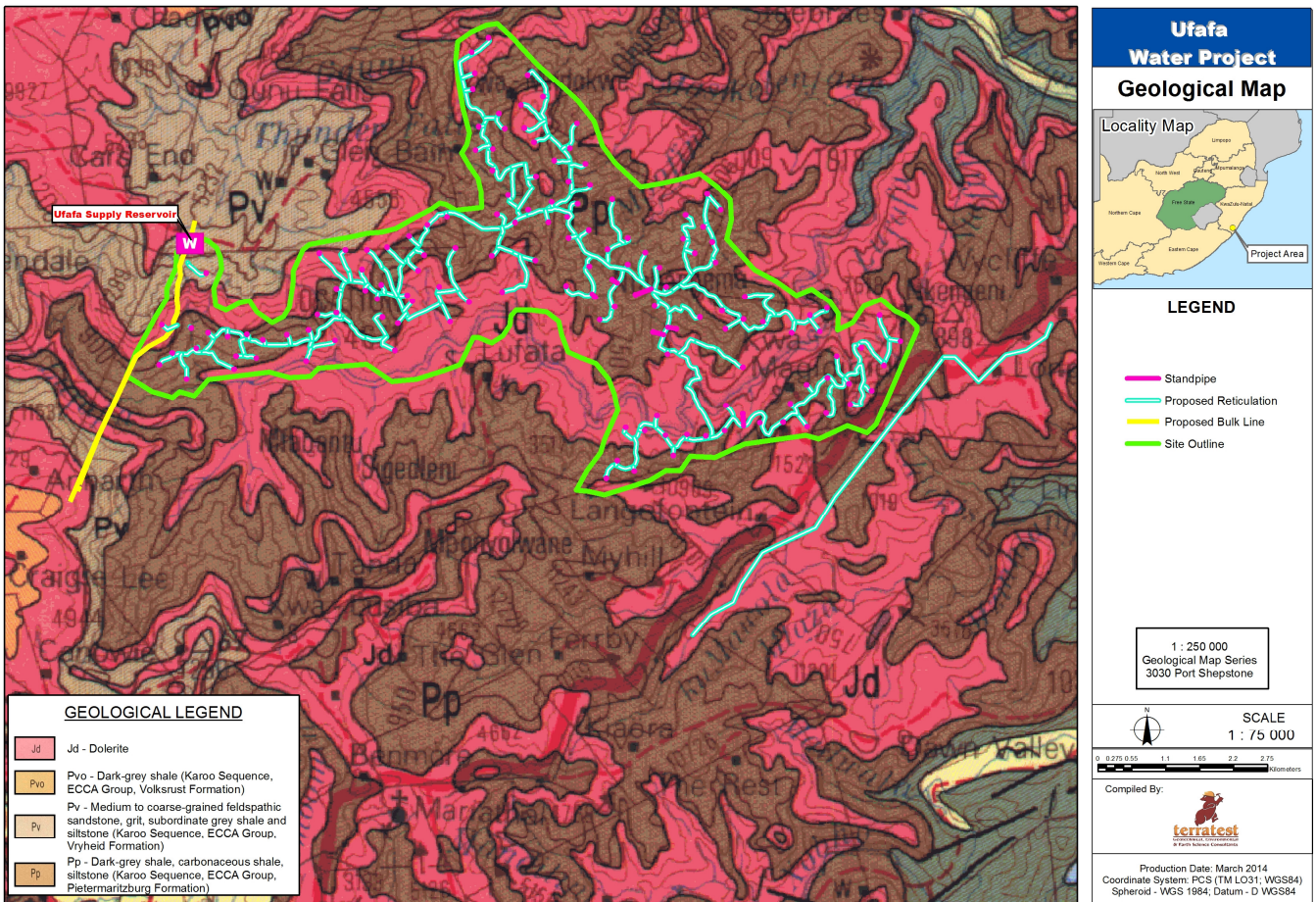
According to the Environmental Potential Atlas (ENPAT) provincial dataset, the land use is defined as “vacant/ unspecified, forestry and subsistence agriculture”.

According to the Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Conservation Plan (Minset), the proposed project area is classified with a biodiversity priority area of 1 and 3 (where 1 is completely irreplaceable).

According to Mucina and Rutherford the area falls into four vegetation categories, namely:

KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld (SVs 3) of Ngongoni Veld (SVs 4).

The former predominates in the western areas of the project where the terrain is most rugged and the latter is in the eastern areas which are less steep. Both types are considered to be “Vulnerable” as a result of extensive losses to various agricultural activities, urban development, and rural residential occupation.



Heritage

According to the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999, provisions are made to protect national heritage and this forms an integral part of the environmental assessment process. It is unknown at this stage what archaeological findings may be found at the proposed site. Amafa is KwaZulu-Natal's heritage authority. An application has been made to this authority and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be conducted, if required, in order to assess the cultural and heritage significance of any findings. This specialist study will be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

Social Environment

The aim of the project is to provide approximately 5 506 (direct) living in 1 060 households with a supply of potable water. The communities within the project area presently use rivers, boreholes and springs for the supply of water. These are not reliable and are susceptible to waterborne diseases;

To ensure a level of cost recovery, by work-shopping the concepts and proposals with the communities, and by putting appropriate systems in place;

To consult the communities and encourage their participation at all stages of the project to ensure that the structures such as the Water Service Authority (Sisonke District Municipality) and the Water Service Provider (Sisonke District Municipality) are fully supported as well as the programme of implementation of the project;

- To promote health and hygiene awareness to the communities within the project area;
- To uplift the communities through the creation of job opportunities during the construction phase;
- To build capacity by allowing community participation in the management and decision-making aspects of the project as well as providing skills training;
- To create an awareness of the local environment and the importance of protecting potable water which is a scarce resource in Southern Africa.

4. NEED AND DESIRABILITY

There is an urgent need for safe potable water supply to 1 060 (direct) households. The sources of water presently available to the 1 060 households are rivers and boreholes with poor quality water. Women and children are forced to walk long distances to collect water from these sources, which is at times unsuitable for human consumption. In the past, Cholera cases have been reported in the area;

Job opportunities (a large portion of the economically active population is currently unemployed);

Economic empowerment (low monthly average income per month/households);

Institutional empowerment through training.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Terratest is currently conducting the BA for the proposed Ufafa Water Supply Project. The process will be undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998), EIA Regulations, as amended.

Public Participation Process

The Basic Assessment process that will be followed is in accordance with the requirements of NEMA. The EAP is required to conduct the environmental application process and manage the public participation process, which is currently underway. Terratest (Pty) Ltd will perform the following:

1. Identify key stakeholders, authorities and municipalities, environmental groups and interested or affected

members of the public, hereafter referred to as IAPs;

2. Compile a detailed Background Information Document (BID) for the proposed development, providing details to IAPs of:
 - a. The listed activities that trigger the Environmental Authorisation process;
 - b. The scope of work;
 - c. The locality and current land use at the site;
 - d. A detailed site description;
 - e. The Basic Assessment process to be followed; and
 - f. The opportunity for IAPs to comment on the project.

3. Advertise the environmental application in a newspaper applicable

- to the region, namely: The Mercury and The Isolezwe;
4. Place a notification poster/posters on and surrounding the site;
 5. Obtain landowner's consent (if necessary);
 6. Attend Public Liaison Committee (PLC) meetings and workshops where necessary;
 7. Host a Public meeting, if necessary, providing details of issues identified by the EAP, stakeholders and IAPs;
 8. Record all comments of IAPs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by Terratest, in a

- full Comments and Responses Report, which will be included in the Basic Assessment Report that will be submitted to the EDTEA; and
9. Circulate all IAP comments to the project team.

The Basic Assessment Report will be made available to all relevant stakeholders and registered IAPs for further comment, before being submitted to the EDTEA.

6. HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Every proposed development has the potential to significantly affect the natural and social environments, both at, as well as surrounding the proposed site. For this reason it is imperative that you as a stakeholder or an interested and/or affected party (IAP) comment on the proposed project and **highlight issues or concerns** that you feel need to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation process. Should you wish to register as an IAP or should you have any comments regarding the proposed Ufafa Water Supply Project please **state your interest** in the proposed project along with any **comments or queries** you may have.

A registration form is attached.

**PROPOSED UFAFA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT -
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

REGISTRATION FORM
Name: Surname Address: Postal Code: Tel No: Fax No: Cell No: e-mail :
Please state your interest in the proposed project.
Comments: (add extra pages should you need)
Do you require any additional information?
Other parties which you think should be included in the process:
<i>Your comments are highly appreciated, and will be included in the final report to be submitted to the decision-making authorities.</i>
<u>PLEASE RETURN TO:</u> Tarin Strydom c/o TERRATEST (Pty) Ltd. PO Box 794 Hilton 3245 Tel: 033 343 6789 Fax: 033 343 6788 email: strydomt@terratest.co.za