

**STABILIZATION OF THE ASHTOWN STREAM
BANK ADJACENT TO HOUSE NO. P-15,
ASHTOWN, KWAZULU-NATAL**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

EDTEA Reference: DC22/0048/2014

Introduction

Terratest (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to conduct the environmental services for the proposed Stream bank stabilization of the Ashtown stream bank adjacent to house No. P-15, Ashtown, Edendale, KwaZulu-Natal. The stream has eroded the banks of the channel and has resulted in a dwelling (P15) being put at risk of collapse if further undercutting of the stream bank occurs.

Site Description

The site is located adjacent to house No. P-15, Ashtown, Edendale (Figure 1). The surrounding area consists of formal and informal housing. Open spaces consist of bare ground and degraded grassland. Vegetation within the Ashdown stream riparian area is dominated by alien vegetation and the health of the general riverine ecosystem is considered poor due to the alien vegetation and large quantities of litter and pollution. The site is situated at the following co-ordinates:

Southerly co-ordinate	Easterly co-ordinate
29° 38' 1.11" S	30° 19' 39.97" E



Figure 1. View of the locality of the proposed stream stabilization.

Proposed Project

The Msunduzi Municipality has requested that two options be investigated in relation to the stream repairs in order to stabilize the stream bank and maintain the integrity of House No. P15. These are:

- Option 1 – This option is based on the use of gabion baskets and reno-mattresses to stabilise the channel in its current location. It includes the necessary facilities to provide for stormwater drains, headwalls, and entrance and exit structures. It is requested that the gabions are placed for a length of approximately 60 m along the stream channel to stabilise the banks.
- Option 2 – The second option entails excavating the channel and straightening it. Material would be excavated from the inside of the channel curve and then be placed against the outside of the curve. Thus the channel would be moved further away from House P 15 which is presently under threat.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The proposed upgrade triggers activities (11) and (18) listed in Government Gazette Notice (GN) 544 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010) promulgated in terms of Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA - Act 107 of 1998).

Table 1: Triggered Listing Notice Activities

Notice	Activity	Description
GN R 544 Listing Notice 1	11	<i>The construction of: (x) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more Where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i>
GN R 544 Listing Notice 1	18	<i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from: (i) a watercourse</i>

Public Participation Process

Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010) outline the Public Participation Process required to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) of the application. These requirements include:

- a) Fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to the public, on the boundary of the property proposed for development;
 - A total of 2 notice boards were placed on site.
- b) Giving notice to the owners and occupiers of the property proposed for development, as well as adjacent landowners, the municipal councillor, local municipality and any other organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of the activity. The notice should direct the recipient to additional information.
 - This Background Information Document is circulated in fulfilment of the above.
 - Additional information can be obtained from Terratest (Pty) Ltd.
- c) Placing an advertisement in one local paper;
 - Advertisements were placed in the Witness and Ilanga newspapers.

Invitation to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report

Terratest (Pty) Ltd will make copies of the Draft Basic Assessment Report once available.

The objective of the Draft Basic Assessment Report is to describe the proposed activity and any feasible and reasonable alternatives; to describe the site and affected environment including the biological, social, economic and cultural aspects. It provides a description of the environmental issues and potential impacts, including cumulative impacts that have been identified, and details of the public participation process undertaken.

Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties will be notified of the availability of the Draft Basic Assessment Report for comment. Written comments or queries can be forwarded to Terratest (Pty) Ltd, care of Ms. Riona Patak, PO Box 794, Hilton, 3245, faxed to 033 343 6788 or alternatively e-mailed to patakr@terratest.co.za.