

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

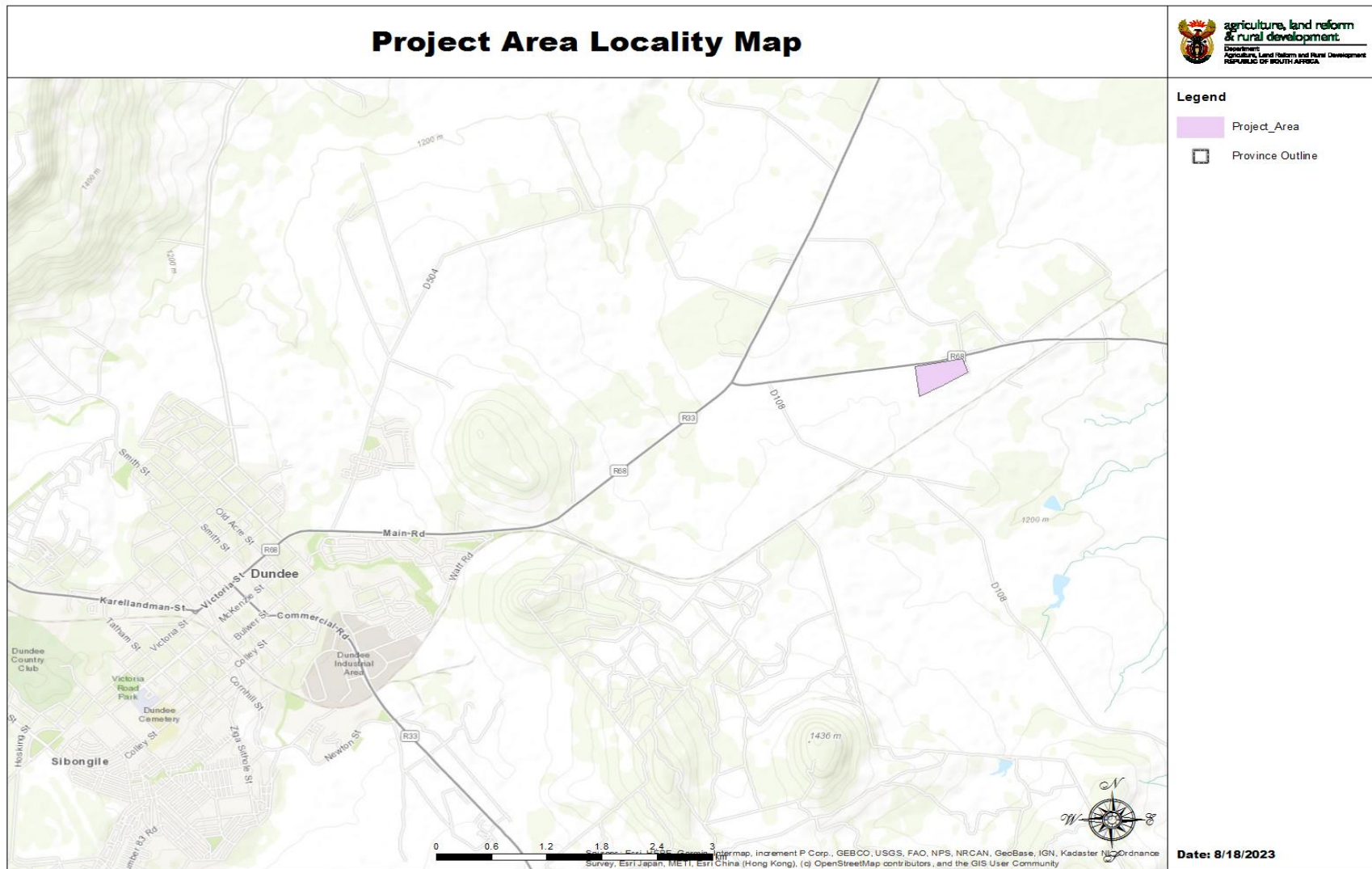
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT APPLICATION PROPOSED CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

Thelsa Trading & Projects (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Ukubhukuda Trading & Project 165 CC to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment Process in accordance with the NEMA Regulations 21 to 24 compiled in terms of **Chapter 3** of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended 2014, for this project which will be registered with the KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to inform interested and/or affected parties (I&AP's) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIA) that will be conducted for the proposed clearance of indigenous vegetation on Farm A of Wonderdam of Extremity 10023, Dundee, eNdumeni Local Municipality. In addition to supplying information about the proposed Project, this BID will also provide I&AP's with the opportunity to:

- **Register as stakeholders in the public participation process;**
- **Provide initial comments on the proposed project.**

LOCALITY MAP



ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Environmental Impact Assessment?

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of collecting, organizing, analyzing, interpreting and communicating information that is relevant for the consideration of a particular application. EIAs are undertaken where the impacts are likely to have significant impacts on the receiving environment. EIA's are used by planning authorities/developers to obtain an independent and objective view of the potential environmental (biophysical and social) impacts that could arise during the construction and operation of the proposed development. The information assimilated needs to provide the Competent Authority with a sound basis for their decision-making. Environmental management and mitigation measures are also identified through the EIA process.

National Environmental Management Act (NEMA)

In terms of the Environmental Regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act, the EIA will be conducted for the proposed development in terms of the new EIA Regulations **Section 21 to 24** for the following activity:

Activity no	Activity description	Intended activity description
27	The clearance of an area of 12 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for— (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	Proposed clearance of approximately 12 ha of indigenous vegetation to cultivate land for the purposes of seed multiplication project.

Competent Authority

The Competent Authority, as described according to the new EIA Regulations, for this proposed project is the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (KZNEDTEA) which will ultimately be responsible for providing

a decision on whether the proposed Activity will be granted Environmental Authorization in terms of NEMA.

THE EIA PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSED PROJECT

PHASE 1 : Commence of the EIA process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential issues & nominate preferred alternatives to focus on in the EIA phase. • I&AP's can assist the environmental specialist by ensuring that all possible environmental impacts are being considered.
PHASE 2: EIA Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed studies of potential positive and negative impacts associated with the nominated preferred alternative.
PHASE 3: Environmental Impact Report and EMPr.
<p>Consolidate & finalize EIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of impact assessment studies • I&AP comments and concerns raised throughout the EIA process into a report • Draft Environmental Management Programme.
PHASE 4: Decision making phase
<p>Authorities use EIA findings to decide if the project should be authorized or rejected</p>

Environmental Issues to be investigated by Thelsa Trading & Projects (Pty) Ltd during the EIA Phase of the proposed Project

A number of environmental impacts will potentially result and will require investigation and mitigation. The following are considered significant, but are by no means all encompassing:

- Impact on adjacent communities
- Provision and use of services in a responsible method.
- Visual integrity of the area.
- Traffic and road improvements.
- Preservation of ecological importance flora and fauna habitat.
- Preservation of ecologically significant areas.

These impacts will be briefly discussed in the Scoping Report and assessed in detail in the Environmental Impact Report through a number of specialist studies.

Specialist Studies:

The specialist studies that been identified as required at this stage for the Project are:

Specialist study	Consultant
Plant species	Africa Enviro & Biology
Animal species	
Terrestrial biodiversity	
Aquatic biodiversity	

Additional studies may be recognized during the Public Participation Process.

The Public Participation Process

Public Participation is the cornerstone of any EIA, as it will be for this proposed project. The principles of NEMA govern many aspects of EIAs, including public participation. The primary objective of public participation during this EIA will be to provide I&AP’s with sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis in order to ensure effective participation throughout the process. As part of this public participation process you will also be provided with the opportunity to comment on the findings of the Scoping and EIA Report, which will be made available for public review during the process. It is important that relevant I&AP’s are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the proposed project. In order to ensure effective public participation, the public participation process includes the following steps:

THE BA PROCESS FOR THIS PROPOSED PROJECT

PHASE 1

Draft Basic Assessment Report

- Identify potential issues with the options identified & nominate preferred alternatives.

- I&AP's can assist the environmental specialist by ensuring that all possible environmental impacts are being considered.
- Detailed studies of potential positive and negative impacts associated with the preferred alternative.
- Findings of Impact Assessment Studies [Biodiversity & Heritage].
- Draft Environmental Management Programme [EMPr]

PHASE 2

- Final Basic Assessment Report & EMPr
- Consolidate & finalize BAR;

I&AP comments and concerns raised throughout the BAR will be addressed and included into the Final BAR.

PHASE 3

Decision Making Phase

- Authorities use BA findings to decide if the project should be authorized.

The Public Participation Process

The key objective of public participation during this BA will be to provide I&AP's with sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis in order to ensure effective participation throughout the process. As part of this public participation process the I&AP's will be provided with the opportunity to comment on the findings of the Basic Assessment Report, which will be made available for public review during the process.

It is important that relevant I&AP's are identified and involved in the public participation process from the outset of the proposed project. In order to ensure effective public participation, the public participation process includes the following steps:

Public Participation Process for Basic Assessment

PHASE 1

- Notification of commencement of BA Process
- Primary purpose is to notify the IAP's of the project and invite them to register for the project, and include them in the following activities:
- Advertise the EIA Process (local or regional press)

- Notification/Invitation letters to identified stakeholders, IAP's and Organs of State informing & inviting them to become a part of the Public Participation Process
- Distribution of the BID

PHASE 2

Basic Assessment Process

- Consultation with & transfer of information to Stakeholders & IAP's in order to identify issues associated with the proposed project. Consultation will be undertaken through:
 - Telephonic conversations
 - One-on-one interviews (where required)
 - Focus Group Meetings (where required)
- A draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for a period of 30 day for review and comment
- A public meeting will be held (where required)

PHASE 3

Decision Making

Registered stakeholders and I&AP's will be informed in writing of the Authority's decision regarding the project.

- There is an appeal period during which I&APs have the opportunity to appeal against the Environmental Authorisation (EA).
- This appeal period commences, within 14 days of the date of the decision on the EA.
- You will receive personal notification, once registered, by e-mail of all documents available for comment, and due dates for comment at every stage.

Your responsibilities as an I&AP:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as and I&AP:

- In order to participate in this BA process, register yourself on the project database.
- Inform any other parties (neighbours, friends, and colleagues) who may be interested and/or affected by the proposed project about the EIA process and encourage them to become involved.
- Ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the timeframes that have been approved or set by the Department, or within any extension of a timeframe agreed to by Department and the Applicant.
- Disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed Seed Multiplication Project.

Our responsibilities as Independent Environmental Consultants:

In terms of the EIA Regulations, our responsibilities in the public consultation process include:

- Ensure that sufficient information regarding this proposed project is made available to you [I&AP's], either through the BID or providing information as and when requested.
- Ensure that you have an understanding of the proposed project to be able to comment informatively and to enable you to submit any concern in an informed manner.
- Ensure that the following actions are taken upon receiving any comments/queries/issues:
- The contact details provided by are entered into the project database and that you as I&AP are sent all further information.
- If queries or comments are sent, we are to respond in writing

- If a call received, your details and queries / comments are recorded. Should we not be able to answer your question immediately, your call will be returned as soon as possible with a response.

How to become involved:

- A response via phone, or e-mail to our invitation for your participation, which will be advertised in the printed media [newspaper].
- Mail, or e-mail the attached Registration and Comment Form to Thelsa Trading & Projects (Pty) Ltd.
- Attend the meetings that may be held during the course of the project. Should you register as an I &AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings.
- Contact us telephonically should you have a query, comment or require further project information.
- Review the draft Basic Assessment Report within the 30-day review periods that will be stipulated in the advertisement as well as in your personalized letter. If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become actively involved in the process and provide comment or concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. Your input into this process forms a key part of the Environmental Studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project. Upon completing and submitting the accompanying Registration and Comment Form, you automatically register yourself as an I &AP for this proposed project, and are ensured that your comments and/or concerns raised regarding the proposed project are noted.

The public participation consultants will respond to all comments and queries received during the course of the project.

COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Mr. Gilbert Masuku

- Phone: 0762208782
- E-mail: gmasuku@mweb.co.za

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BA	Basic Assessment
BID	Background Information Document
KZNEDTEA	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development Tourism and Land Affairs
EA	Environmental Authorization
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION
CLEARANCE OF INDIGENOUS VEGETATION
REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM**

YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE MOST WELCOME

Please complete this form and return to Public Participation Office below:

<p>Gilbert Masuku Phone: 0762208782 Email: gmasuku@mweb.co.za</p>
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TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)			
Name and Surname			
Capacity			
Organization			
Address			
Tel No		Cell No	
Email address:			

COMMENTS (You are welcome to sue a separate sheet if required)

The following environmental, social and economic impacts must be addressed during the EIA/S&EIR:

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Please add the following of my colleagues/friends/neighbours onto your mailing list:

Name:	Organization:
Contact details:	
Address	
Email:	

IF YOU WISH NOT TO RECEIVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT, AND PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECTS DATABASE, PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANT WHOSE CONTACT DETIALS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.

YES: please delete my contact details from the project's database	SIGNATURE:
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The study is being conducted on behalf of **Ukubhukuda Trading & Project 165 CC**

