

# BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE CLEARANCE OF VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF MACADAMIA FARMING ADJACENT TO NKOMAZI GAME RESERVE NEAR TJAKASTAD, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

### Background Information

**Nkomazi Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd** is proposing to clear vegetation to establish an agricultural area for the purpose of macadamia farming.

The project will include the following:

- Clearance of approximately 2000 hectares of indigenous vegetation.
- Construction of 3 dehusking plants
- Infilling of rocks to establish a water crossing

In accordance with the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, GNR 983 of 2014 (as amended in 2017), an Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required before any clearance activities can take place.

Nkomazi Game Reserve (Pty) Ltd subsequently appointed **Core Environmental Services** to apply for the EA by means of conducting a Basic Environmental Authorisation process as regulated within General Notice Regulation 982, 2014 (as amended in 2017).

### Location of the activity

The proposed site is located along the R541 near Badplaas, Mpumalanga Province on:

- Portion 2 and 4 of Vergelegen 728-JT
- Portion 6 and 7 of Batavia 151-JT
- Portion 0 of Cambalala 765-JT
- Remainder of portion 1 of Sterkpsruit 709-JT
- Portion 3 of Sterkspruit 709-JT
- Portion 4 of Sterkspruit 709-JT
- Portion 5 of Sterkspruit 709-JT

Coordinates:

25° 58'03.35"S

30° 40'24.39"E

### Legal Requirements

As per the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA 107, 1998), GNR 983, GNR 984 and GN 985 of 2014 (as amended in 2017), the following listed activity is being applied for:

*GNR 983, Activity 19:*

*The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic meters into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles, or rock of more than 10 cubic meters from – (i) a watercourse;*

*GNR 984, Activity 15:*

*The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – (i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or*

*Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan*

*GNR 985, Activity 12(f):*

*The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. (iii) On land, where, at time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning or proclamation in terms of NEMPAA.*

## **Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process**

A Scoping Environmental Impact Assessment is a process used to assess the negative and positive consequences of the proposed activities on the immediate and surrounding environment and propose recommendations to enhance positive impacts and reduce negative impacts.

The Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process will include:

- a) Stakeholder engagement;
- b) Environmental assessment of current site conditions;
- c) A description of the activities commenced with;
- d) Description of the environment that was affected;
- e) Description of need and desirability of the activities commenced with;
- f) Identification of possible alternatives;
- g) Ecological and Heritage Impact Assessment: and
- h) Description and assessment of the significance of environmental impacts.

Consideration of comments received from various authorities, stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties, forms an intrinsic part of this process. Authority decision-making and a public appeal opportunity will occur after the submission of the final Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report to MDARDLEA.

## **Public Participation Process (PPP)**

During the public participation phase, consultation with the following parties will take place:

- Relevant authorities at various levels;
- Relevant stakeholders;
- The proponent; and
- The public at large.

The following activities will take place as part of public participation:

- Advertising: On-site and in a local newspaper;
- Supplying people with an opportunity to comment and register as interested and affected parties; and
- The Draft Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be made available for public review. I&APs will be notified when the documents will be available for review and will then have a 30-day opportunity to comment on it, prior to submission to the MDARDLEA for consideration.

# COMMENT AND REGISTRATION SHEET

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE CLEARANCE OF VEGETATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF MACADAMIA FARMING ADJACENT TO NKOMAZI GAME RESERVE NEAR TJAKASTAD, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

If you would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party for the project and you would like to receive all documentation that will be made available for public review, and/or should you have any comments, please complete the registration form and send it to the address as indicated at the end of the page.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner/Lessee: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS;

**Return to:**

Core Environmental Services

Cell: 060 878 1591

Email: [anne-mari@coreenviro.co.za](mailto:anne-mari@coreenviro.co.za)

# Locality Map