

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**  
as part of the  
**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**  
for the  
**PROPOSED KWAHLOPHE SPORTS FIELD,**  
**WARD 19, NDWEDWE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, ILEMBE DISTRICT**  
**MUNICIPALITY**

## **1. Introduction**

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The Ndwedwe Municipality has proposed the construction of the KwaHlophe Sports Field located within Ward 19 of the Ndwedwe Local Municipality, Ilembe District Municipality. The site has already been shaped as a playing field, however, the proposed sports field construction aims to formalise this to allow the adjacent communities and local residents to have access to a formalised, improved, levelled and cleared sports field with ablution facilities. The project is located in Ward 19 of the Ndwedwe Local Municipality.

Before construction of the proposed Sports Field project may commence, an environmental authorisation is required from the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs (DAEA), in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2010. In order to obtain this authorisation a Basic Assessment is currently being undertaken by Enviroedge cc.

## **2. The Project**

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The project involves the construction of KwaHlophe Sports Field in Ward 19. The proposed KwaHlophe Sports Field construction would provide a formalised, improved, levelled and cleared sports field together with ablution facilities including toilets and change room facilities, which would include an earthworks component to reshape and level the existing playing grounds facility for the adjacent communities and local residents to access. The proposed sport field site is located along an existing access road, on the lower slopes of a triangular valley area between two hills and two drainage lines. The sport field is currently bisected by a non-perennial tributary/drainage line of the KwaGezubuso River. Currently, there are seepage issues across the site, rendering the south-eastern portion of the field very wet and unsuitable for play.

The proposed sport field is 3 000m<sup>2</sup> in size and it is located at: 29°30'28.4"S; 30°53'57.4"E. The sport field is 1km north-east of Mangangeni. Please refer to Figure 1: KwaHlophe Sport Field Site Plan and Figure 2: KwaHlophe Sport Field Topographical Plan. A small tributary/drainage line of the KwaGezubuso River bisects the site.



**Figure 1. KwaHlophe Sports Field Site Plan. (Source, Google Earth).**

### **3. Environmental and Social Description**

**Climate:** Rainfall in the study area occurs predominantly during the summer months, with some rain in winter and occasional droughts are a climatic hazard. Frost is recorded in this area occasionally. The annual precipitation ranges from 700mm -1 100mm with an average annual temperature of 17.9°C.

**Topography and Drainage:** The study area is located 1km north-east of Mangangeni. The proposed sport field is located along an existing access road, on the lower slopes of a triangular valley area between two hills and two drainage lines. A high point of 556masl is located to the north of the site, and a high point of 513masl to the south, while the main access road to the site, the P 102 is located to the east and runs in a north-south direction. The site has already been levelled and shaped to form a playing field, and a tributary/drainage line of the KwaGezubuso River bisects the site. There are currently seepage issues across the site, rendering the south-eastern portion of the field very wet and unsuitable for play.

The project site is situated at an elevation of 484masl.

**Geology and Soils:** Within the study area, there are acid, leached, heavy soils derived from Karoo Supergroup sediments (including significant Dwyka tillites), and intrusive Karoo dolerites. Glenrosa and Mispah soils also occur.

**Vegetation:** The local vegetation is defined predominantly as Ngongoni Veld (SVs 4), (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006). The dense tall grassland vegetation is dominated by unpalatable, wiry Ngongoni grass (*Aristida junciformis*), and wooded areas are found in valleys. The ecological sensitivity of the local vegetation is likely to be low due to existing clearing, anthropogenic activities and habitation. The EKZNW Terrestrial Systematic Conservation Plan, TSCP (2010) indicates a

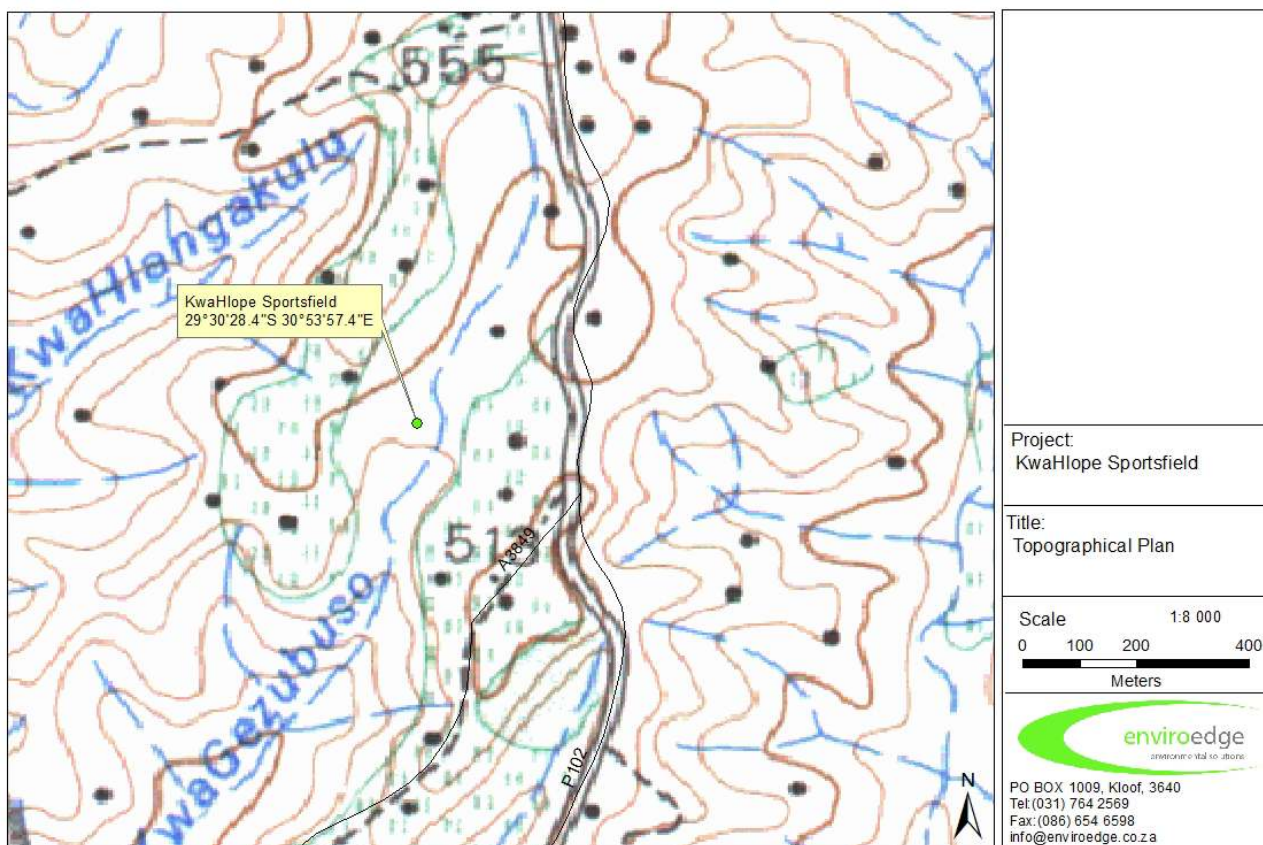
Biodiversity Priority Area 3 for the entire study area and surrounds, with species listed including: *Odontomelus eshowe*, *Eounyma lymnaeiformis*, the Lymnaeid Awi Snail (local common), *Doratogonus peregrinus* Wandering Black Millipede KwaZulu-Natal-endemic, *Doratogonus natalensis* Natal Black Millipede KwaZulu-Natal-endemic (Vulnerable), *Doratogonus cristulatus* Black Millipede KwaZulu-Natal-endemic (Least concern).

Alien invasive species noted along the access route to the site includes: *Senna didymobotrya* (Peanut Butter bush), *Solanum mauritianum* (Bugweed) and *Cassia sp.* (Fishbone Cassia).

**Culture and Heritage:** The presence of features of cultural or historical importance is currently unknown.

**National and District Roads:** The proposed sport field is located along the main P 102 road, along an existing access road which is a turn off from the main P 102. The proposed sports field development is not likely to impact any provincial or national road.

**Utilities:** All relevant government departments or parastatals will be consulted as part of the Public Participation Process.



**Figure 2. Locality Plan**

#### 4. Public Consultation

Members of the public have the right to be consulted during the Public Participation Process. If you would like to be part of this process please register with the environmental consultant using the contacts below.

**Consultants: Enviroedge cc**  
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