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Richards Bay, 3900. P.O. Box 101672, Meerensee, 3901

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF NKANDLA  
WEIR WITHIN MHLATHUZE RIVER  
CATCHMENT (QUATERNARY CATCHMENT  
W12A), KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT,  
KWAZULU-NATAL.**

**DECEMBER 2020**

**Prepared by:**

**Emvelo Quality and Environmental  
Consultant (PTY) Ltd**

**On Behalf of:**

**King Cetshwayo District Municipality**



**KING CETSHWAYO**  
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

## INTRODUCTION

King Cetshwayo District Municipality proposes to upgrade the Nkandla Weir within the Mhlathuze River (Quaternary Catchment W12A), at about 44km upstream of the Goedertrouw Dam.

Therefore, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) has commenced, assisting the developer in identifying all potential adverse environmental consequences of the project, their extent, significance and to ensure that the environmental management requirements are adequately implemented.

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide you, as an Interested or Affected Party (I&AP), with a brief description of the EIA process to be undertaken and to obtain comments and contributions from I&AP's with regards to the potential impacts to the environment by the proposed project.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development is for the upgrade of the existing Weir at Mhlathuze River within (Quaternary Catchment W12A) in Nkandla Local Municipality, of the King Cetshwayo District.

The construction activities entails: The expansion of an existing weir by 24m (addition of 5m length on the left bank, and 19m length on the right bank); Filling the eroded bank downstream of the weir with mass concrete and plums up to the level of the water line in the plunge pool; Construction of a concrete slab at the left bank within a weir and a gabion slipway to cater for larger flood events at the edge of right bank.

The proposed upgrade of the Weir will take place within Mhlathuze River approximately 12km North-East of Nkandla Town.

## PROJECT LOCATION

The site co-ordinates are as follows:

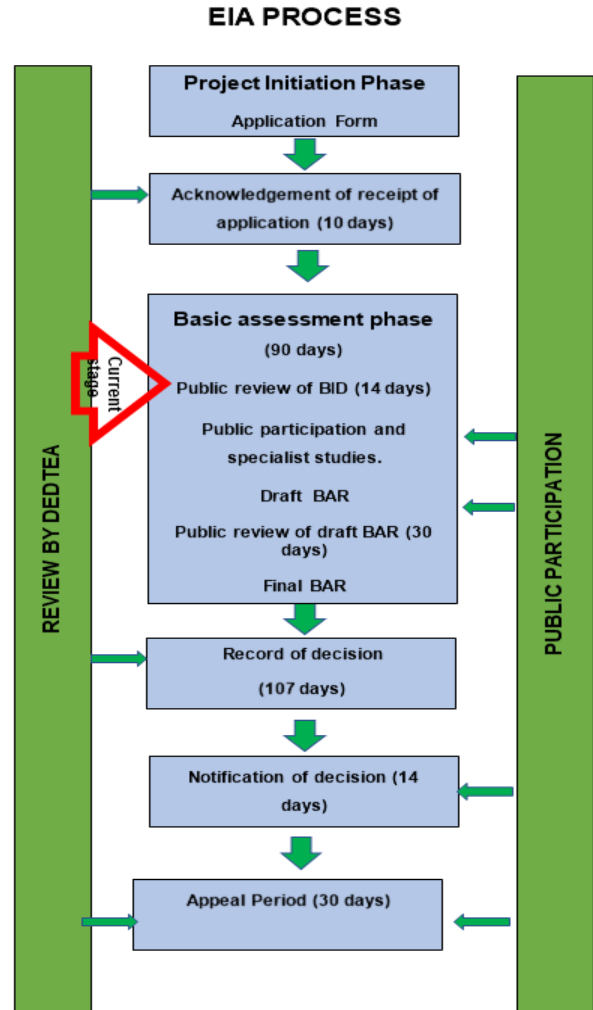
Lat/Long	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
<b>South</b>	28°	29'	16.94"
<b>East</b>	31°	08'	21.48"

## WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

An EIA is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential adverse environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 as amended in 2017, an Environmental Authorization must be obtained from the relevant decision-making authority, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA), prior to the commencement of any of the listed activities that may result in potential negative impacts on the environment. Thus, an environmental impact assessment is required. A Basic assessment that includes the public participation process will be performed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**



**Figure 1: EIA process**

In terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations, an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner must be appointed to conduct the EIA. Therefore, Emvelo Consultant has been appointed to conduct the EIA. Emvelo will identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed activity by conducting an objective and independent EIA in which all the relevant information and opinions of Interested and

Affected Parties (IAPs) will be collected and passed on to the Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). In this way, an informed decision-making process can take place.

## LISTED ACTIVITIES TRIGGERED BY THIS PROJECT

The proposed project triggers the following listed activities of the Listing Notices;

**Table 1: Listed Activities**

LISTING NOTICE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
1	19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from – (i) a watercourse;

## WHAT IS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

Public participation is the process that promotes information sharing, consultation

I&APs may forward their written comments along with their contact details within 14 days from receiving the document to; **Phumzile Lembede**.

and active involvement amongst stakeholders and all interested and affected parties.

During the Public Participation Process, input from the proponent, technical experts, government authorities and the general public will be gathered to result in a better understanding of the project for all involved thus ensuring an informed decision-making throughout the process.

## REGISTRATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES.

Any person, company, authority or other entity that might be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activity is invited to register as an I&AP, in order to assist the EAP in identifying possible environmental, economic and social impacts of the proposed development and to make suggestions for mitigations. These comments will be included as part of the Basic assessment report which will be submitted to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) for consideration.

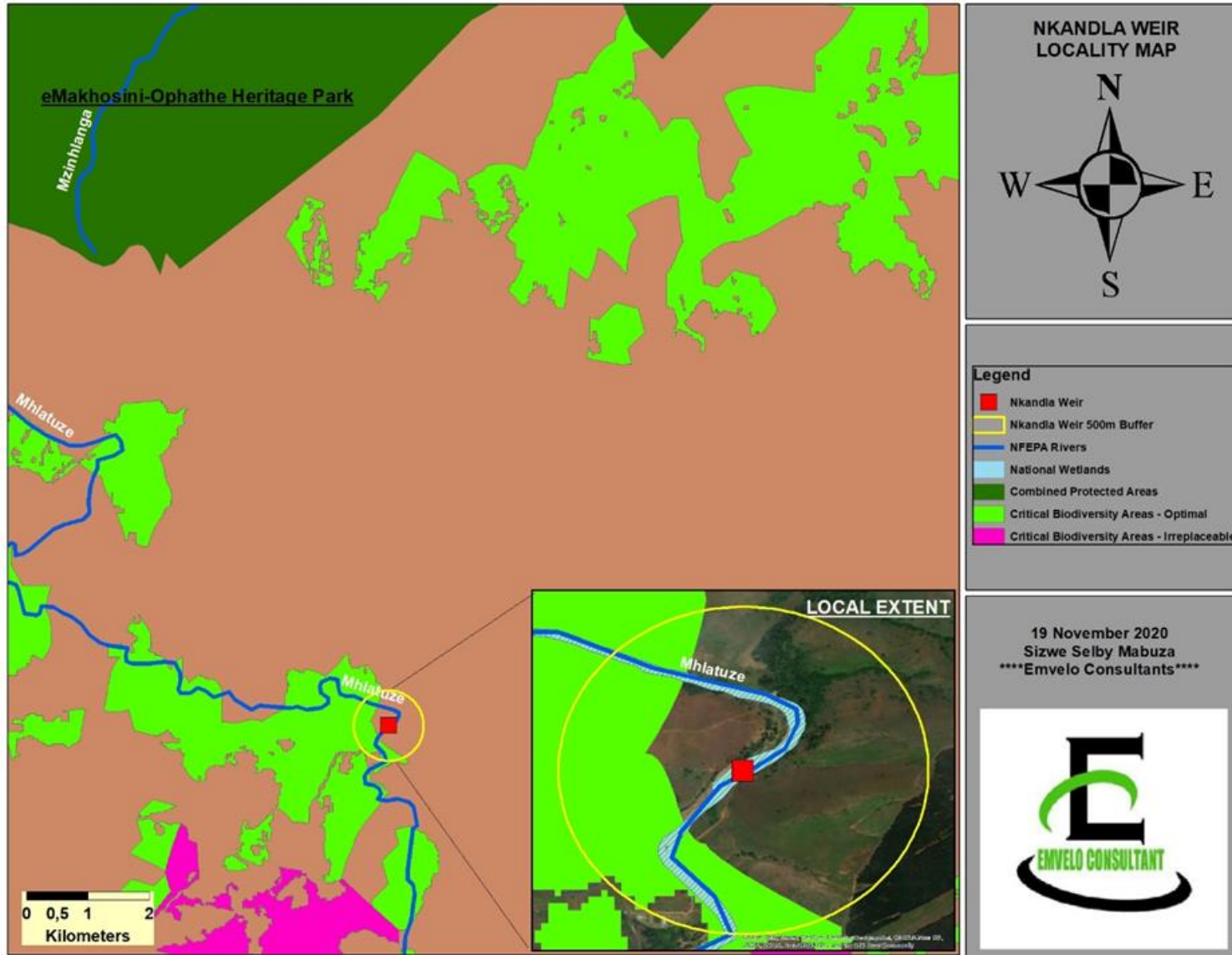
**Postal address:** P. O. Box 101672, Meerensee,3901;

**Tel:** 035 789 0632;

**Fax:** 086 577 5220,

**Email:** [info@emveloconsultants.co.za](mailto:info@emveloconsultants.co.za).

APPENDIX A  
(LOCALITY MAP)





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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT FORM

**THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF NKANDLA WEIR WITHIN MHLATHUZE RIVER  
CATCHMENT (QUATERNARY CATCHMENT W12A), KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT,  
KWAZULU-NATAL.**

I wish to register as an interested and affected party and / or bring to the attention of Emvelo Consultant the following information.

<u>Personal Information</u>	
Name and Surname	
Company /organization	
Physical Address	
<u>Postal address</u>	
<u>Telephone:</u>	<u>Cell:</u>
Email:	
Due to Covid-19 Pandemic, we would like you to inform us on a preferred and effective means of receiving documents and communication from us. <b><u>Method:</u></b> <b><u>Address:</u></b>	
<u>Comments</u>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date