



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

SOUTPAN LOW COST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

1. Project Description

The project entails the demarcation of 3500 stands for construction of low cost houses, roads and a school in Soutpan. The application for the project has been lodged with Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and assigned with this reference number: **Gaut/002/10-11/E0211**. The project applicant is the Gauteng Department of Housing.

2. Legal Listing

The project falls under a listed activity 15 of regulation R.545 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 18 June 2010, therefore a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be conducted for this application.

3. Location of the Project

The proposed activity will take place on portion 1 of the farm Tswaing 149 JR in Soutpan north of Pretoria in the border of North West and Gauteng Provinces. The site falls within the jurisdiction of City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality of Gauteng Province.

4. Purpose of the document

The main purpose of the Background Information Document (BID) is to:

- Provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with information regarding the proposed development.
- Describe the environmental process being undertaken.

- Provide I&APs with the opportunity to register and/ raise issues or concerns about the project. Comments raised will be included in reports sent to GDARD and considered in the decision making process for Environmental Authorization.

5. Potential Environmental Impacts

Some of the potential environmental impacts of the project include:

- Bio-diversity impacts
- Soil impacts
- Hydrological impacts
- Nuisance impacts

The Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports will be the main tool used by the competent authority (the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) to come up with a decision on the application for environmental authorization.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will discuss the potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures to prevent, reduce, control and monitor impacts in detail.

A copy of the report will be made available only to *Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)* on request.

6. Public Participation Process

The public participation process forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process and involves the following.

- Identifying key Interested and Affected Parties (“I&AP’s”);
- Distribution of the BID, explaining the process and project briefly (**This Document**);
- Advertising the project in a local newspaper
- Putting up site notices to inform the general public of the intention to undertake the project and invitation to register and participate;
- Hold meetings where necessary to discuss issues of concern

7. How and why should you get involved?

In the event that you have an interest in the proposed project, or feel that you may be affected by what is proposed, you are invited to **register** as an I&AP. Public participation is considered a vital part of the EIA process as it provides stakeholders with the opportunity to better understand what the proposed activity entails. It is an important platform to raise environmental and social issues for consideration by the decision making body. In order to do so, any interested and/or affected party **must register**.

8. How to register as I&AP in the EIA process

To register, you must forward your full **contact details** (name, postal address, email address, fax and telephone numbers) and any written comment &/ issues/concerns you may have to Phunga Consulting Services within the registration period. Registration will be open for 40days after which the platform is closed for comments &/ registration.

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS THE 23RD OF MAY 2011.

TO REGISTER AS AN I&AP OR TO SEND COMMENTS, SUBMIT YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS TO THE DETAILS BELOW TO:

Phunga Consulting Services
Mr. Harry Ramavhoya
 Cell: 078 953 0671
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