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**PROPOSED UPGRADE OF EKAMU ACCESS  
ROAD, KWADUKUZA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,  
KWAZULU-NATAL**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**DEA Reference: DC29/0001/2014**

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### **Introduction**

Terratest (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to conduct the environmental services for the proposed upgrade of an existing watercourse crossing from gravel road / track to hard topping in Ward 25 of KwaDukuza Local Municipality. KwaZulu-Natal. The application for Environmental Authorisation conforms to the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations which came into effect on 2 August 2010. Under these regulations, a Basic Assessment procedure will be followed.

### **Site Description**

The proposed upgrade is within the KwaDukuza Local Municipality within the iLembe District Municipality on the east coast of South Africa, in KwaZulu-Natal (See Figure 1). The proposed road upgrade is 1.2Km in length. A portion of the existing road crosses a watercourse.

Interrogation of the Vegetation (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, 2011) indicates that the site is modelled to comprise KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld and KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland, however the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Landcover (2008) classification of the region confirms that the majority of road alignment to be within a transformed environment.

### **Proposed Project**

The primary activities required to upgrade the road will include:

- Hard topping of the road;
- Widening and minor realignment of the existing 3m wide road to a 5.5m road with 1.5m shoulders;
- Installation of the appropriate storm water drainage systems; and
- Upgrading of the existing watercourse crossing.



## **Environmental Impact Assessment**

The proposed upgrade triggers a number of activities (18, 39, and 40) listed in Government Gazette Notice (GN) 544, of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010) promulgated in terms of Section 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA - Act 107 of 1998).

## **Public Participation Process**

Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010) outline the Public Participation Process required to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) of the application. These requirements include:

- a) Fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to the public, on the boundary of the property proposed for development;
- b) Giving notice to the owners and occupiers of the property proposed for development, as well as adjacent landowners, the municipal councillor, local municipality and any other organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of the activity. The notice should direct the recipient to additional information.
  - This Background Information Document is circulated in fulfilment of the above.
  - Additional information can be obtained from the consultants.
- c) Placing an advertisement in one local paper.

## **Invitation to comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report**

Following the submission and subsequent acceptance of the Application for Environmental Authorization, Terratest (Pty) Ltd will make copies of the Draft Basic Assessment Report available.

The objective of the Draft Basic Assessment Report is to describe the proposed activity and any feasible and reasonable alternatives; to describe the site and affected environment including the biological, social, economic and cultural aspects. It provides a description of the environmental issues and potential impacts, including cumulative impacts that have been identified, and details of the public participation process undertaken.

**The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available for comment. Written comments can be forwarded to Terratest (Pty) Ltd, care of Mrs. Tarin Strydom, PO Box 794, Hilton, 3245, faxed to 033 343 6788 or alternatively e-mailed to [strydomt@terratest.co.za](mailto:strydomt@terratest.co.za).**