

APPENDIX A: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSEMENT

**PROPOSED MOLETJIE REGIONAL WATER SCHEME
POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE
CULTURAL HERITAGE SCOPING REPORT**

For:
DYNAMIC INTEGRATED GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CC

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1. INTRODUCTION

Dynamic Integrated Geo-Environmental Services appointed Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants to provide specialist study of assessing the cultural heritage resources that may be affected by the proposed Moletjie upgrading of water scheme which will involve the construction of reservoirs and water reticulation. The Project proposal constitutes an activity, which may potentially be harmful to heritage resources that may occur in the demarcated area. The National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA - Act No. 25 of 1999) protects all structures and features older than 60 years (section 34), archaeological sites and material (section 35) and graves and burial sites (section 36). In order to comply with the legislation, the Applicant requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that occur in the demarcated area. This will enable the Applicant to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects that the development could have on such heritage resources. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (1999) the following is of relevance:

1.1. Historical remains

Section 34(1) No person may alter or demolish any structure or part of a structure, which is older than 60 years without a permit issued by the relevant provincial heritage resources authority.

1.2. Archaeological remains

Section 35.(3) Any person who discovers archaeological or palaeontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resources authority, or to the nearest local authority or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority.

Section 35(4) No person may, without a permit issued by the responsible heritage resources authority:

- (a) destroy, damage, excavate, alter, deface or otherwise disturb any archaeological or palaeontological site or any meteorite.

1.3. Burial grounds and graves

Section 36 (3) No person may, without a permit issued by SAHRA or a provincial heritage resources authority-

- (a) destroy, damage, alter, exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb any grave or burial ground older than 60 years which is situated outside a formal cemetery administered by a local authority; or
- (b) bring onto or use at a burial ground or grave referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) any excavation equipment, or any equipment which assists in detection or recovery of metals.

Section 36 (6) Subject to the provision of any law, any person who in the course of development or any other activity discovers the location of a grave, the existence of which was previously unknown, must immediately cease such activity and report the discovery to the responsible heritage resources authority which must, in co-operation with the South African Police Service and in accordance with regulations of the responsible heritage resources authority-

- (a) carry out an investigation for the purpose of obtaining information on whether or not such grave is protected in terms of this Act or is of significance to any community; and
- (b) if such grave is protected or is of significance, assist any person who or community which is a direct descendant to make arrangements for the exhumation and re-interment of the content of such grave or, in the absence of such person or community, make any such arrangement as it deems fit.

1.4. Culture resource management

Section 38(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (7), (8) and (9), any person who intends to undertake a development must at the very earliest stages of initiating such development notify the responsible heritage resources authority and furnish it with details regarding the location, nature and extent of the proposed development.

***'development'** means any physical intervention, excavation, or action, other than those caused by natural forces, which may in the opinion of the heritage authority in any way result in a change to the nature, appearance or physical nature of a place, or influence its stability and future well-being, including-

- (a) construction, alteration, demolition, removal or change of use of a place or a structure at a place;
- (b) carry out any works on or over or under a place;
- (c) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land, and
- (d) any removal or destruction of trees, or removal of vegetation or topsoil;

***'place'** means a site, area or region, a building or other structure

***'structure'** means any building, works, device or other facility made by people and which is fixed to the ground,

In order to comply with legislation, the developer requires information on the heritage resources, and their significance that may occur on the demarcated site. This would enable the developer to take pro-active measures to limit the adverse effects which the development could have on any heritage resources.

Vhufa Hashu Heritage Consultants cc was contracted to undertake a Phase 1 *Heritage Resources Impact Assessment* of the proposed terrain. The aim was to determine the presence, or not, of heritage resources such as archaeological or historical sites and

features, graves and places of religious and cultural significance; to assess the impact of the proposed project on such heritage resources; and to submit appropriate recommendations with regard to the cultural resources management measures that may be required at affected sites / features. This survey forms part of the environmental impact assessment process and data regarding the environmental and geo-morphological conditions and socio-economic issues should be read in the main report. Consequently, a letter containing a qualified statement of the *status quo* with regard to heritage resources, instead of a full report, is deemed sufficient.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **Terms of Reference** for the study were to:

- (I) Assess the significance of the known cultural resources within the borders of proposed development area, in terms of their historical, social, religious, aesthetic and scientific value.
- (II) Develop mitigation or control measures for impact minimization and cultural resources preservation
- (III) Develop procedures to be implemented if previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during the construction.

3. TERMINOLOGY

The following aspects have direct bearing on the survey and the resulting report:

- **Archaeological sites** are places where people lived and left evidence of their presence in the form of artifacts, food remains and other traces such as rock paintings or engravings, burials, fireplaces and structures.
- **Cultural Resources** are all non-physical human-made occurrences, as well as natural occurrences that are associated with human activity. These include all sites, structures and artefacts of importance, either individually or in groups, in the history, architecture and archaeology of human (cultural) development.
- **Cultural Significance** is the aesthetic, historical, scientific and social value for past, present and future generations.
- **Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.
- **Historic** means significant in history.
- **Historical** means belonging to the past.
- **Place** means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, together with pertinent contents, surroundings and historical and archaeological deposits.
- **Preservation** means protecting and maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration or change, and may include stabilization where necessary.
- **Preservation** is appropriate where the existing state of the fabric itself constitutes evidence of specific cultural

significance, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other conservation processes to be carried out.

4. METHODOLOGY.

The field study involved the survey and inspection of the proposed project site. The survey was conducted by walking in transects along the target linear areas affected as well as covering the surrounding area. The survey sought to identify archaeological and cultural heritage sites or sacred sites within the project area that may be affected by the proposed upgrading of water scheme around Moletjie Villages. Using GPS recording devices, we traversed the site on foot. Since the area is already heavily developed, the survey concentrated on identifying any archaeological materials that may have been exposed or survived destruction from previous developments in the area.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE AND SURVEY FINDINGS

The archaeological and cultural heritage resources field survey was conducted on the 06th of September 2006. The field study involved standard archaeological surveys of the proposed water pipeline route across the village streets. The survey sought to identify archaeological and cultural heritage sites including graves, burial and religious or sacred sites in the area. We were not having the detailed project plan by the time we go to the site. DIGES Environmentalist guide us along transects as we traversed the development sites and pipeline routes on foot.

6. EVALUATION

No signs of heritage resources such as archaeological sites and historical remains were found that would be significantly impacted on by the development. However, there is a probability of encountering chance finds during earth-moving and construction activities. From a heritage resources management point of view, we have no objection with regard to the development.

However, the discovery of previously undetected subsurface heritage remains on the site during construction must be reported to the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) or the archaeologist, and may require further mitigation measures.

9. REFERENCES

- The National Heritage Resources Act (Act No 25 of 1999)