

Basic Assessment

for the proposed commercial poultry farming enterprise on the Jakkalsdans Farm 243, portion 81 in the Bronkhorstspuit District of Pretoria, Gauteng



CSIR Reference Number:

CSIR/CAS/EMS/IR/2015/0001/A

Background Information Document



Dani Property Trust
(trading as Kganana
Poultry Farm)

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Dani Property Trust is a chicken farming enterprise, located on Portion 81 of Jakkalsdams Farm 243 in Bronkhorstspuit District, 40 km from Pretoria, Gauteng (**figure 1 below**). The Trust plans to construct a small chicken broiler production farm on approximately 3 ha of the 21.4 hectare farm. The plan is to start with 1 500 broiler chickens with the aim to produce an output of 80 000 chickens per six week cycle, around 40 000 chickens to be housed at any given time. The development triggers listed activities in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, Government Notice Regulations (GNR) 983 and 985 of 8 December 2014 promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act no 107 of 1998). In terms of the said Regulations, a Basic Assessment (BA) should be undertaken for the proposed project. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) who will be managing the process.

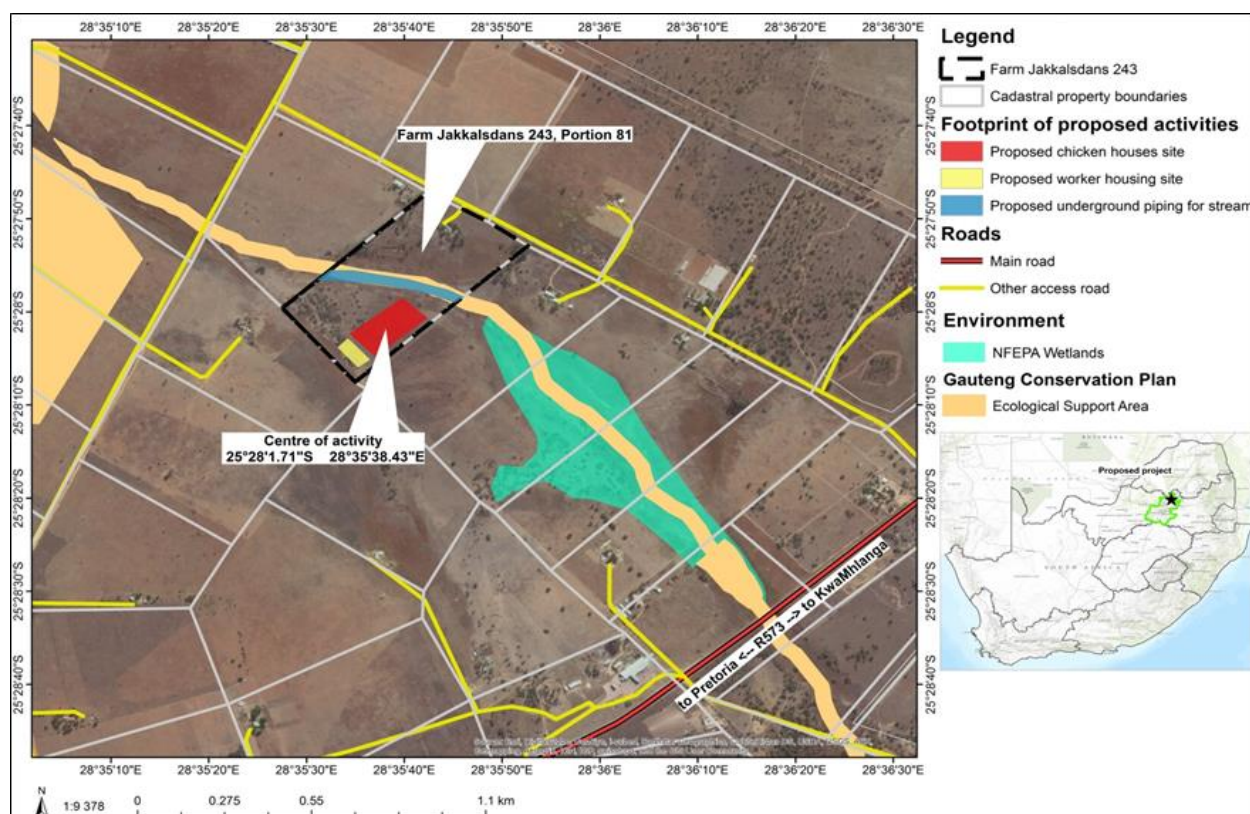


Figure 1: Location of the proposed Dani Property Trust broiler poultry farm

AIM OF THE DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) provides potential Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) with:

- Information on the proposed project;
- A description of the Basic Assessment process to be followed; and
- Details on how to register your interest in the project and receive further information.

Board members: Prof T. Majoji (Chairperson), Adv G. Badela, Ms P. Baleni, Dr P. Goyns, Dr A. Llobell, Dr R. Masango, Ms M. Maseko, Mr J. Netshitenzhe, Ms A. Noah, Prof M. Phakeng, Dr S. Sibisi (CEO)

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As a registered I&AP, there will be opportunities for you to be involved in this Basic Assessment (BA) process through receiving information, contributing issues and commenting on the Final BA Report (BAR). The input from I&APs, together with the information and assessment provided by the EAP and relevant specialists, will be used by the Competent Authority, in this instance the Gauteng Department Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), to determine whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the proposed project.

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The key components of the proposed project are described below:

- Clearance of more than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation within a watercourse;
- Development and related operations of a poultry facility and the construction of an associated worker house located adjacent to the proposed chicken broiler house; and, and
- Development of a bridge within a watercourse.

NEED AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROJECT

There is a guaranteed market for poultry meat in South Africa. The poultry industry plays an important role in both meat and egg production, the gross production value of the broiler industry being over R5 171 million per annum and contributes 16.2% of the gross value of agricultural production. The demand continues to increase, which will allow Dani Property Trust to realistically gain substantial milestones in the domestic poultry market. In addition, the Trust will initially provide full-time employment to 23 disadvantaged people from the neighbouring local community of KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga. In terms of capacity building, the employees will undergo training for poultry production and gain skills in monitoring broiler systems, safety and wellbeing of chickens, and waste management. The trust could be a huge economic benefit to the viability of the poultry industry in general and to the local community.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION –SUMMARY OF THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations published in GNR 983, 984 and 985 on the 8 December 2014 Government Gazette Number 38282, a BA process is required as the project triggers the following listed activities (detailed in Table 1 below).

Table 1: Listed activities to be triggered

Relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice) :	Description of each listed activity as per the Government Notice:
GN. R 983, 8 December 2014	5.(ii)	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of more than 5 000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days.

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Relevant notice:	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice) :	Description of each listed activity as per the Government Notice:
GN. R 983, 8 December 2014	12.(iii).a)	The development of bridges exceeding 100 square metres in size where development occurs within a watercourse.
GN. R 985, 8 December 2014	12.a)	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan, in Gauteng.
GN. R 985, 8 December 2014	14.(iii).b)	The development of bridges exceeding 10 square metres in size, in Gauteng.

These listed activities require an EA from GDARD. The BA process that will be undertaken for this project is summarised in the following steps below:

Step 1: Notify Authorities and potential I&APs (30 days) (current stage)

The first stage in the process entails notifying all potential I&APs of the proposed project, by sending out a Background Information Document (BID), and providing I&APs with an opportunity to register as an I&AP. I&APs are required to register their interest on the project database within 30 days (in order to be included from the outset of the BA process) and/or raise issues or concerns.

Step 2: BAR for Public Comment (30 days)

The BA process is undertaken in order to identify and assess potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative, that may be associated with the project. Mitigation and management measures will be identified to reduce potential negative impacts and maximise positive benefits. These mitigation and management measures will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for this project. One specialist study will be undertaken, by Natural Scientific Services (NSS) CC, as part of the proposed project: a Wetland Assessment and Ecological Scan of the site.

The BAR will include comments received from all I&APs on this BID and findings of the specialist study. All registered I&APs on the project database will be notified in writing of the 30 day comment period for the BAR.

Step 3: BAR to be submitted to GDARD for decision-making

The BAR will be drafted and will be submitted to GDARD for decision-making. The comments and issues raised will be included in the BAR submitted to GDARD. All I&APs will be providing with written notification whether the project has been granted or refused EA and about the appeal process.

SPECIALIST SCOPE OF WORK

NSS have reduced their costs in order to facilitate in the *pro-bono* project. A Natural Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Area (NFEPA) exists downstream of the site and the site is considered an Ecological Support Zone under the GDARD Conservation Plan. From available imagery it appears as if the system

on site is non-flowing, the scope of work therefore includes a wetland assessment and ecological scan of the site rather than an aquatic assessment (which requires flow). Scope of work includes:

- A wetland assessment will be undertaken for the wetland adjacent to the infrastructure on the property as highlighted in (Figure 1). This includes: *Wetland Classification, Identification and Delineation of the Wetland, Wetland Functionality and Present Ecological State.*
- An ecological scan will also be performed due to the site falling into an Ecological Support Zone under GDARD Conservation Plan. The scan will include: *An initial desktop review of available literature, a field visit and report will be compiled.*
- This assessment will be managed by Natural Scientific Services (NSS) and conducted by NSS.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding to our invitation for your involvement as advertised in the local newspaper.
2. By mailing, emailing or faxing a comment form to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner indicated below.
3. By telephonically contacting the Environmental Assessment Practitioner if you have a query, comment, or require further project information.
4. By reviewing the various reports and provide comments within the stipulated comment periods provided (i.e. the BID and BAR).
5. By attending any meetings, which may be held during the review period.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT?

Environmental Assessment Practitioner Details

To register as an I&AP or to comment on the project, please complete the Comment/Registration Form that has been included with this BID and kindly send to **Ms. Rirhandzu Marivate** (on behalf of the Project Manager: Ms. Mendy Shoji) on or before **29 June 2015**:

Ms. Rirhandzu Marivate	
 Email:	rmarivate@csir.co.za
 Tel:	021-888-2432
 Fax:	021-888-2693
 Address:	CSIR, PO Box 320, Stellenbosch, 7599
 Website:	http://www.csir.co.za/ems/specialneeds/

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