



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to serve as a background information document intended to inform I&APs of the project as well as to provide information on the roles and responsibilities of registered I&APs. This document does not serve to provide detailed information on the potential impacts of the proposal which will be described in the basic assessment report. Please note that comments on the BID are not required, however should you have any initial comments or queries please submit to the contact person listed on the last page.

Project Title:	Proposed Dingo's Animal Kingdom Project, uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal.
Application Type:	Basic Assessment and Water Use License Application (WULA)
Competent Authority:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (BA)- The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) - WULA
Location of Activity:	Portion 75 (of 72) of the Farm Honig Kranz, situated in uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal
Public Participation Commencement date:	26 March 2021
Contact in Order to Register as an I&AP:	Kerry Stanton Tel: 082 823 1844 Fax: 086 535 5281 ksems@ksems.co.za / stanton@ksems.co.za
Environmental Consultants for Project:	Kerry Stanton
Applicant:	Dingo's Animal Kingdom (Pty) Ltd
Release Date:	26 March 2021

THE PROPOSAL

Dingo's Animal Kingdom (Pty) Ltd proposes to establish and operate an animal park or sanctuary and its associated amenities, within Portion 75 (of 72) of the Farm Honig Krantz No 945, situated within the uMgungundlovu Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. The proposed develop is located just south of the town of Camperdown and will cover approximately 5 hectares (Ha) in extent (centre point - 29°45'15.50"S; 30°33'38.61"E). The following land uses are to be associated with the proposed development:

- Visitors centre, reception shop and ablutions
- Shop and Workshop
- Restaurant and kitchen
- Entrance Building and Office
- Communal tent areas
- Storage and Game Viewing Parking
- Farmyard Animal Barn
- Separate reptile centres and ponds
- Viewing deck
- Staff Accommodation

KSEMS Environmental Consulting has been appointed by Dingo Dinkelman to undertake the associated Environmental Application processes for the proposed Dingo Animal Kingdom. The Environmental Application will be submitted to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended) as published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998). The Application will also be submitting a Water License, in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

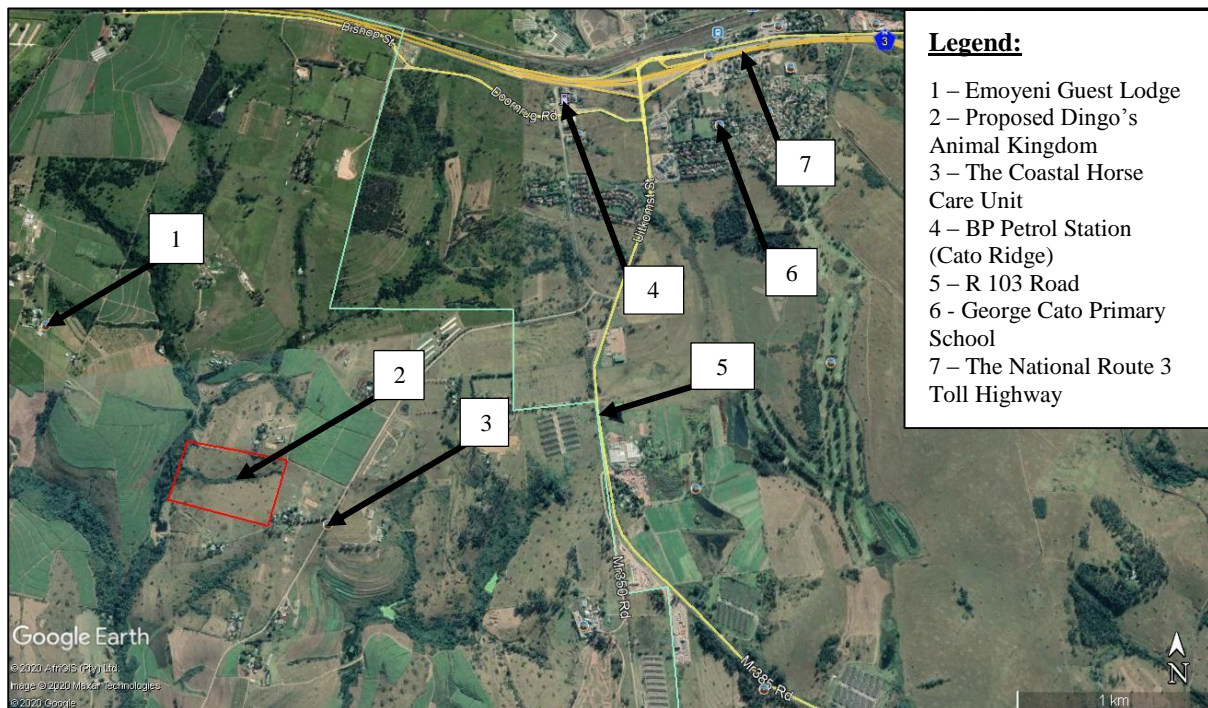


Figure 1: Location of the Dingo's Animal Kingdom (Google Earth, 2020)

NEED AND DESIRABILITY

The proposed development is a first of its kind in South Africa and probably the world. The focus of the park is the conservation of nature (natural fauna and flora). Environmental education is the foundation of the project, and will be at the centre of its design.

The following is a list of the key motivational points for the proposed development:

- The Mkhambathini area is regarded as being suitable for the establishment of game parks because of the natural veld.
- Mkhambathini is situated between two major urban centres of Durban and Pietermaritzburg and on the N3 National route which is the primary transport route for tourists. The site is easily accessible to schools in the main urban centres.

- The site is well located close to the N3 provincial priority development corridor identified as the most important transport route in KwaZulu-Natal. Many of the tourists who visit South Africa will travel along the N3 to get to their destinations. Dingo's Animal Kingdom seeks to attract these tourists into the Mkhambathini area.
- Many of the people who will come to the animal park will never have been to a larger game reserve and will never have seen African wildlife. It is essential that conservation be broadened up to include more people and have facilities that can educate on the necessity for conservation.
- There are a number of people, particularly from overseas who want the opportunity to study wildlife such as Giraffe up close and under controlled circumstances. The wildlife part provides this opportunity and also the opportunity for the researchers to stay on the property to undertake their research.

In summary, there is a recognised need for high quality and professionally managed tourism facilities in the Mkhambathini area which relies significantly on income from the tourism trade. The proposed wildlife park is situated in an area where the Municipality and other government departments would like to see the development of tourism and tourism related initiative and so is fulfilling a need identified by the authorities in its strategic planning (including the Environmental Management Framework (EMF) which includes this site).

SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed site (Portion 75 (of 72) of the Farm Honig Krantz No. 945) has been purchased with the intention to establish and operate a commercial animal park. The site lies within the valley of an unnamed stream that serves the upper Mlazi River. The property has a relatively consistent grade across the site, that can be described as moderately steep (approximately 18 degrees). A significant feature within the site is a geological fracture that serves to bisect the property and acts as a surface water conduit or "gully" into the adjacent stream. This feature forms a distinct ecological anomaly and differentiation in the prevailing landscape, presenting a woody habitat within the dominant grassland environment (Figure 2 below).

According to the Ecological Assessment (SDP, 2020) the site comprises of a number of species associated with the KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld, which was considered the most proximal vegetation to the site. The woody component included species such as *Cussonia spicata*, *Bridelia micrantha* and *Euclea natalensis*.



Figure 2: Aerial image of the site showing gully and general hydrology associated with the property (SDP, 2020).

According to Figure 3 below, the dominant vegetation form is Dry Coast Hinterland Grassland (SANBI, 2017; Camp 1997) dominated by graminoid species, in particular, *Aristida junceiformis*. *A. junceiformis* is a primary indicator for this veld type, together with the presence of *Cymbopogon excavatus* and *Tristachya leucothrix*. Bush-clumps are commonly encountered on this veld type which are associated with the presence of termitaria. Termitaria serve to modify the soils (Camp 1997) and elevate these points above the influence of fire, giving rise to a wood plant association. These associates comprise of a variety of species including *Ziziphus mucronata* and *Cussonia spicata* (SDP, 2020).

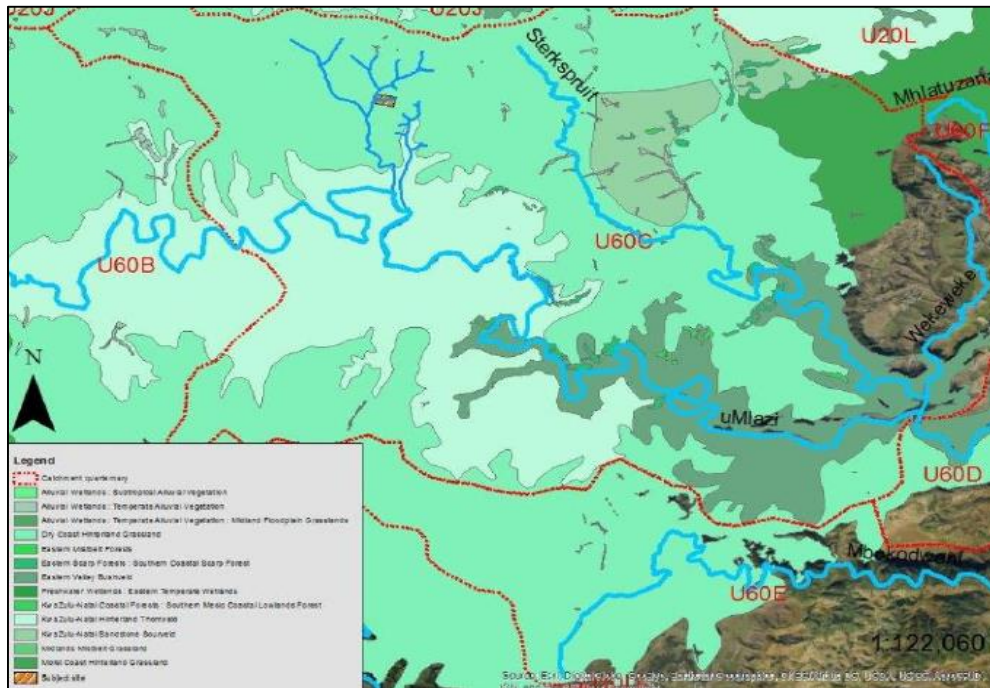


Figure 3 Map illustrating the vegetation types associated with the proposed development site (SDP, 2020).

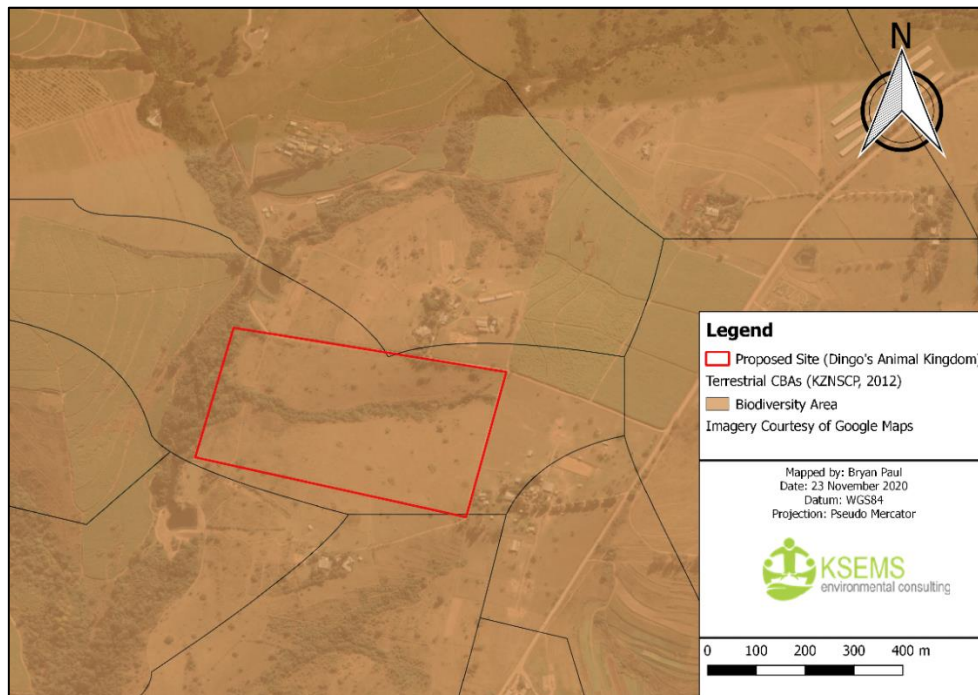


Figure 4 Terrestrial Systematic Conservation Planning Units associated with the proposed site (KSEMS, 2020).

According to Figure 4 above, the site is located within an area which is considered as a “Biodiversity Area” according to the KwaZulu-Natal Terrestrial Systematic Conservation Plan.



Figure 5: Aerial image indicating features within landscape and potential development areas (SDP, 2020).

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

A number of potential environmental issues have been identified to assist I&APs to better understand the investigations to be undertaken as part of the environmental assessment process. Table 1 below presents potential impacts that may be associated with the proposed development, as well as the relevant mitigation measures that must be implemented to reduce the risk of the activities impacting on the surrounding environment, or population.

Table 1: Presentation of the potential impacts and associated mitigation measures that have been identified for the activities pertaining to the proposed development.

POTENTIAL ISSUE	DESCRIPTION AND PROPOSED SOLUTION
PLANNING AND DESIGN PHASE	
Non-Compliance with legislative requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed development potentially triggers Activities from both Listing Notice 1 and 3 (GNR 327 & GNR 324 as amended). There is thus the need to acquire EA for the proposed development from EDTEA in terms of the NEMA (Act no. 107 of 1998). The proposed development potentially triggers the need for a Water Use License to be submitted, in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998). A WUL must therefore be issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) prior to any development taking place on site. Non-compliance with these legislative requirements will have legal implications for the applicant.
Footprint of environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that environmental sensitivities be incorporated into planning and design of the development in order to avoid and minimise impacting on the receiving environment, where possible. The applicant has considered the natural stream and 1:100 year floodline which traverses a portion of the site, in order to avoid developing within this area. This area has thus been designated for conservation.
CONSTRUCTION PHASE	

Soil degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development will result in the clearance of vegetation. • Bare ground may be prone to erosion which consequently poses a sedimentation risk to surrounding watercourses. • In order to limit potential impacts, it is suggested that land clearing activities be undertaken in a phased approach, as required to minimise exposure of bare soil. • Soils can be stored in stockpiles not exceeding 2 m in height and erosion control measures implemented to prevent erosion. • Heavy construction vehicles transporting materials may result in soil compaction and altering infiltration and runoff properties. It is thus required that designated routes be utilised to minimise the impact footprint. • All impacts will be mitigated against by implementing the control measures outlined in the site-specific Environmental Management Programme (EMPr), with input from the relevant specialists, as well as the spill response procedure to be followed in the event of an accidental spill.
Ground/surface water contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential for ground/ surface water contamination to occur as a result of accidental spills or leaks of harmful substances/fuel, resulting in product seeping into the ground and potentially moving into the soil, groundwater and contamination of run-off being discharged into surrounding watercourses. • All impacts will be mitigated against control measures outlined in the site-specific EMPr as well as the spill response procedure to follow in the event of an accidental spill.
Impacts on surrounding watercourses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A freshwater habitat assessment revealed that a natural watercourse is situated on a portion of the site. The development, has however, been designed to avoid construction within the watercourse to avoid unnecessary impacts. • A screening of the site will be undertaken, and a pre-application meeting is to be held with EDTEA and DWS to determine the nature of the development. • No construction should take place within watercourses or their associated buffer zones.
Impacts on flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development may result in the disturbance of local fauna/flora as a result of the removal and disruption of local habitats during construction activities. Additionally, the removal of vegetation from within the footprints of the site may reduce the biodiversity of the study area. • An ecological (fauna and flora) impact assessment has been undertaken to identify potential impacts, and will be used to mitigate against the potential impacts which may arise as a result of the proposed development.
Dust generation from construction activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clearance of vegetation and exposure of bare soil may increase dust levels surrounding the site. This is especially important due to the surrounding sensitive habitats, and private properties. • Dust suppression measures (e.g. spraying water on areas recorded to be generating excessive dust) must be implemented on all gravel roads/bare soil during the construction phase. • Sediment traps must be erected around the construction footprint, and site camps to reduce the risk of dust/sediment entering the adjacent terrestrial and aquatic environments, if required.
Impacts associated with waste generation including the improper disposal of solid waste, hazardous and general waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed development may result in the generation of general and construction waste during the construction phase. • There will be minimal waste present on-site, however the following must be adhered to in order to reduce the risk of potential contamination and thus any negative human health risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Detailed planning, positioning and demarcation of onsite waste dump sites will be completed prior to any waste handling occurring (this includes rubbish) and these areas will not be permitted to occur in close proximity to demarcated watercourses and associated buffer zones. - All onsite personnel will be trained in proper waste management techniques and shown the appropriate waste dumps for specific materials prior to any construction activities occurring. ○ All solid waste generated during the construction phase must be placed in a demarcated waste collection area within the construction site camp

	<p>and must not be allowed to blow around the site, be accessible to animals, or be placed in informal-piles adjacent to the designated skips / bins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All solid waste must then be disposed of at the nearest licensed landfill and safe disposal certificates must be obtained and kept on-site at all times during construction. ○ All hazardous waste must be stored in bunded areas, in lock tight containers to avoid leakages. ○ Waste management measures will be included in the site-specific EMPr. ○ The disposal of sewage during the operation of the proposed development must be carefully planned, and must be chosen based on the system which will result in the lowest environmental impact.
Traffic impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction vehicles will increase the number of vehicles utilising roads but these will be restricted to working hours. • Should vehicles traverse outside of the working hours, surrounding landowners will be notified. • All access points, roads and turning areas must be agreed by the engineer and Environmental Control Officer (ECO) prior to commencement of construction. No ad-hoc haulage roads or turning areas should be created. • The impact on traffic will be quantified by conducting a traffic impact assessment, which will provide input into a traffic management plan, if required.
Noise generated by construction workers, machinery and construction vehicles disturbing surrounding residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise pollution is expected to be within the construction threshold of 85 decibels (dB), however, should excessive noise pollution occur, all nearby landowners must be notified prior to the activity commencing. • Construction must take place from 07:00 to 17:00 daily. • Noise mitigation measures will be included in the EMPr.
OPERATIONAL PHASE	
Aesthetic or visual impacts arising from the proposed development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is likely that the proposed development will have a positive impact on the aesthetical appear of the site, as the site currently demonstrates areas of transformation as a result of past anthropogenic disturbances.
Impact on local residents and socio-economic context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be employment opportunities associated with the development during both the construction and operational phase which could benefit the community. • There is likely to be a positive impact on tourism within the Cato Ridge and Camperdown area.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) PROCESS

To determine the overall environmental feasibility of the project, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for EA is required as per the NEMA: EIA regulations (2014, as amended), (Regulations in terms of Chapter 4 of the NEMA, 1998, as amended) by way of either a BAR or a full S&EIA process. Each process is a planning and management tool used to promote sustainable development, and which aims to inform decision-makers about the potential environmental, physical, biological and socio-economic impacts that may arise as a result of the proposal. This allows relevant competent authorities and decision-makers to make informed decisions on whether to grant authorisation or reject the proposal according to the information provided by the applicant, EAP and specialists. As part of the BAR or S&EIA process, an EMPr is composed, which is a site-specific document that presents all the potential impacts that the proposed development may have on the surrounding terrestrial, aquatic and anthropogenic environments and details potential avoidance, mitigation and/or rehabilitation measures that must be implemented to either avoid or reduce the potential impacts. The EMPr is then used to monitor the various phases of construction and ensure that all impacts of the development are mitigated.

Subsequent to a preliminary analysis of the proposed development and the associated activities, it is envisioned that the following activities that are listed within the NEMA: EIA Regulations (2014, as amended) may be triggered

(Table 2). It must be noted that if activities listed under Listing Notices 1 (GNR983) and 3 (GNR985) are triggered, the proposed development will require application for EA subject to a BAR process, whereas those activities listed under Listing Notice 2 (GNR984) will require a full S&EIA process to be undertaken. The potential triggered activities presented within Table 2 will be applied for with EDTEA during the EA process.

Table 2: Presentation of the potential activities that may be triggered by the proposed development (NEMA (Act no. 107 of 1998): EIA Regulations (2014, as amended)).

LISTING NOTICE 1 GNR327 (AS AMENDED IN APRIL 2017)	
LISTED ACTIVITY NO. (S) IN TERMS OF THE NOTICE	DESCRIPTION OF THE LISTED ACTIVITY TRIGGERED BY THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
Activity 4 – The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals for the purpose of commercial production in densities that exceed- (iii) 30 square metres per crocodile at any level of production, excluding crocodiles younger than 6 months and more than 20 crocodiles per facility.	It is anticipated that the reptile facility will hold an amount of crocodiles which will exceed the legislated thresholds at some point in its operation.
Activity 12 (ii) – The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more, where such development occurs – (c) within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.	Footpaths, culverts, wooden viewing platforms and two small suspension bridges will be positioned within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of the watercourse.
Activity 19 – The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation. Removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from (i) a watercourse.	In order for two footpaths to be constructed across a watercourse which bisects the property, an adequate number of culverts will need to be installed within the riverbed and therefore will entail the excavation of more than 10 cubic metres within a watercourse.
Activity 67 – Phased activities for all activities where any phase of the activity may be below a threshold but where a combination of the phases, including expansions or extensions, will exceed a specified threshold.	The development will be constructed in phases, where the developer anticipates expanding the development which are likely to exceed thresholds of Activity 27 (clearance) and Activity 28 (game farming).
LISTING NOTICE 3 GNR324 (AS AMENDED IN APRIL 2017)	
Activity 12 – 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 (d) within KwaZulu-Natal. (xii) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority.	In order to established the facilities associated with the proposed development, more than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation will need to be cleared, within an area which is deemed a sensitive area, as identified in the uMgungundlovu Environmental Management Framework (EMF).
Activity 14 – The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs – (c) within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse (d) within KwaZulu-Natal. (vii) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority.	The proposed development will entail the construction of water attenuation ponds, culverts, footpaths, suspension bridges, viewing platforms and fences which will have the collective footprint of more than 10 square metres and be positions within 32 metres of watercourse, within a “Listed Geographical Area”

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an essential part of the EIA process. It provides an opportunity for interested and affected parties (I&APs) to raise concerns, queries and suggestions regarding the proposal as well as to gather information from the consultants about the proposal. The public participation phase requires that the proposal be advertised in a local and regional newspaper, and the community notified about the development. Relevant authorities and interest groups are also required to be notified. The BA process is indicated in Figure 6 below:

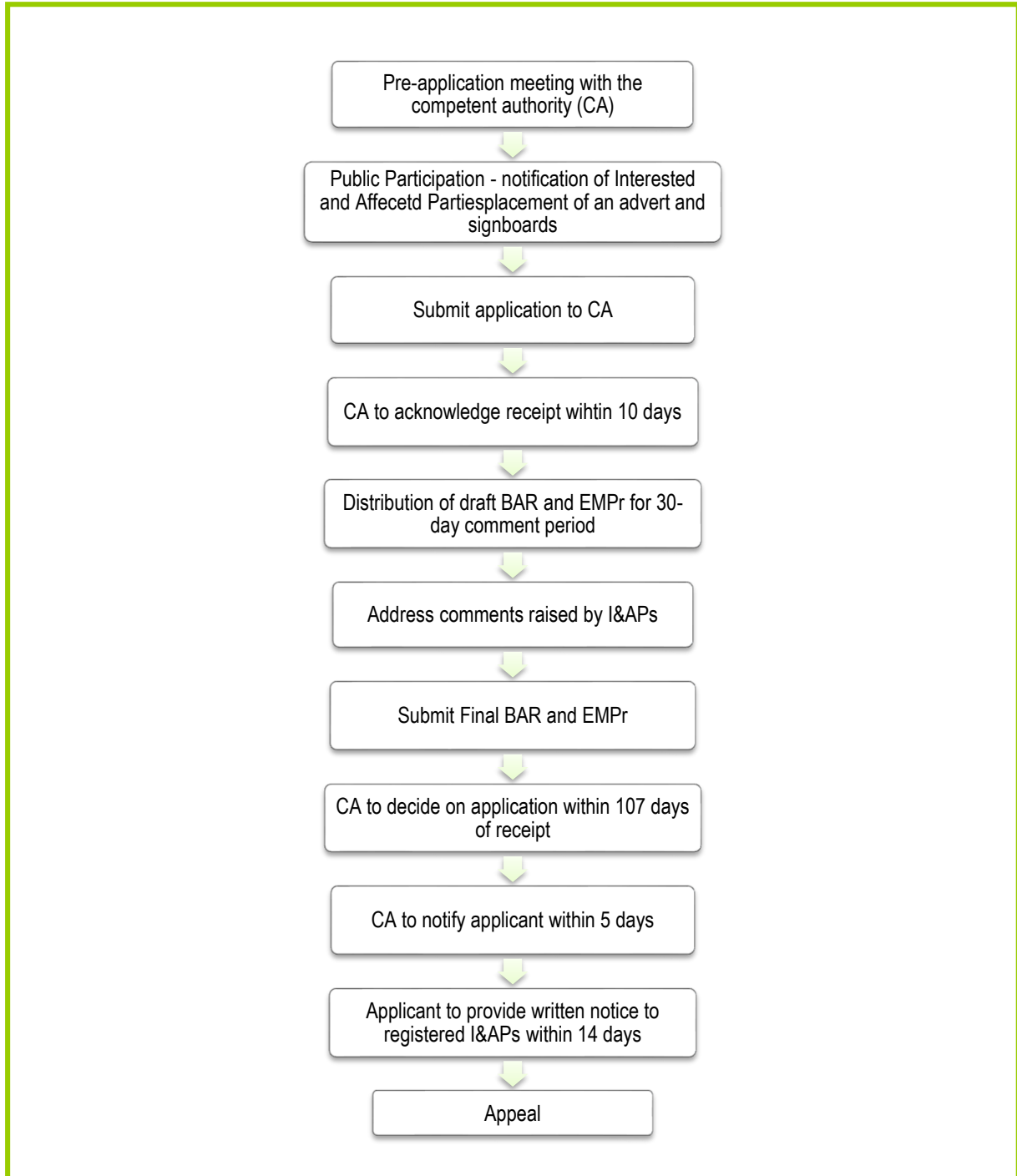


Figure 6: BAR Process.

ABOUT KSEMS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

KSEMS is an established environmental consultancy, which has been based in KZN since 1998. KSEMS has been appointed as the independent EAP and is responsible for assessing the impacts of the proposed development as well as managing the PPP. All I&APs are invited to register in writing via email with the contact person presented below to receive further information regarding the proposed development and to have an opportunity to comment on the process going forward.

Kerry Stanton

KSEMS Environmental Consulting

Phone : 082 823 1844

Fax : 086 535 5281

E-mail: ksems@ksems.co.za / stanton@ksems.co.za

By registering for the process, your name will be included in the register of all I&APs and you will be notified of meetings and the availability of reports for comment. You will be able to provide comment or present queries on any written submission, or information provided which will then be included in the relevant submissions that will be distributed to the competent authorities (e.g. DWS and EDTEA).

Please note the following legislated extract as per the NEMA: EIA Regulations (Act no. 107 of 1998) (Regulated in terms of Chapter 6 of the NEMA (1998), as amended):

REGISTERED INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES ENTITLED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS AND PLANS

43. (1) *A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans submitted to such party during the public participation process contemplated in these Regulations and to bring to the attention of the proponent or applicant any issues which that party believes may be of significance to the consideration of the application, provided that the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.*

(2) *In order to give effect to section 240 of the Act, any State department that administers a law relating to a matter affecting the environment must be requested, subject to regulation 7(2), to comment within 30 days.*

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NO: 2019/522106/07

MEMBERS: K.A. STANTON (MANAGING DIRECTOR)