

JUNE 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

The Umvoti Local Municipality has, through its IDP process, and extensive consultation with respective beneficiary communities residing within the Umvoti Local Municipality, identified the need to provide low cost rural subsidised housing throughout its entire area of jurisdiction as a matter of urgency in order to address the plight of the "homeless" living in unacceptable poverty stricken conditions. The provision and implementation of the rural subsidised housing project will occur in accordance with the terms of the Rural Housing Subsidy Scheme (as described in Chapter 11 of the National Housing Code).

2. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) provides for the control of certain listed activities which "may have a detrimental effect on the environment." In terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations Listing (as amended), such activities are prohibited until written authorisation is obtained from the Minister or her delegated authority.

Based on parts projects of similar nature, the KwaZulu Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs indicated that environmental authorisation will not be required from the Department, as there are no listed activities that will be triggered in terms of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended).

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 Location and demographics

The project area covers a portion of Ward 4 of the Umvoti Local Municipality and has a total extent of approximately 254.75 ha. The overall population of the project area is approximately 1 731 persons which resides in approximately 406 households within the project area.

a. Project Co-ordinates

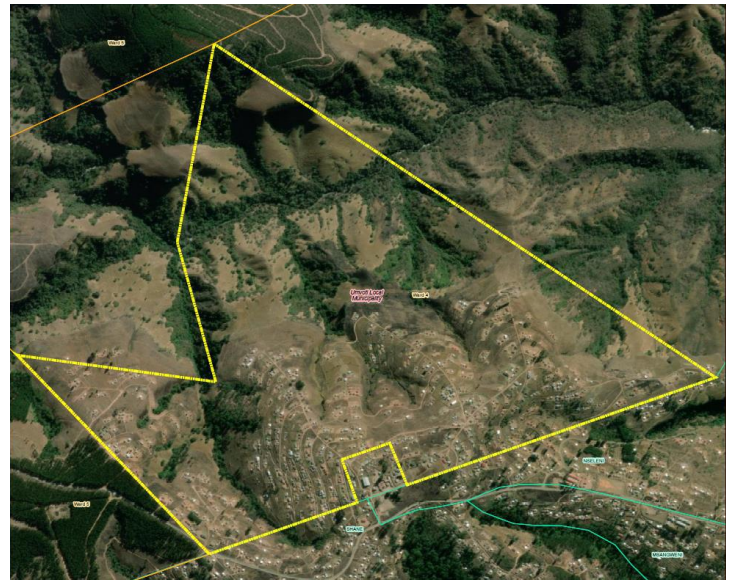
Latitudinal Extent: 29°5'47.317"S

Longitudinal Extent: 30°49'20.271"E

3.2 Current and Surrounding Land Use

The project area is characterised by low to medium density rural settlements (scattered), with homesteads incorporating a mix of round and rectangular structures constructed of both traditional (mud brick, wattle and daub, thatch roof) and more modern or urban (cement blocks and corrugated iron roof) materials and techniques.

Map 1: Locality of project area



4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed housing development will consist of the construction of approximately 300 new top structures within the project area and will therefore service approximately 300 beneficiaries and their associated families.

5. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- 1) *Geophysical and biophysical (including biodiversity) issues include:*
 - a. The proposed development will have limited environmental impacts, and any environmental impacts which do occur as a result of the proposed development will be limited to the construction phase of the proposed development. These may include site clearance (where necessary), and the excavation and digging of foundations, structural works, which pose risks with regards to soil erosion and storm water management.

- b. Environmental impacts associated with the proposed development are expected to be limited as a result of development activities being restricted to occurring within the project area.
- c. An Environmental Management Plan will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development.

2) *Socio-economic issues:*

- a. The increased traffic volumes along the road networks during the construction phase of the proposed development may impact on other road users.
- b. The provision of adequate housing within rural areas will greatly improve the lives of residents, resulting in increased standards of living and general well-being.
- c. The construction phase of development will result in a number of temporary employment opportunities for unemployed members of the surrounding community

3) Cultural-historic issues:

- a. A Desktop Heritage Survey was undertaken by Umlando Archaeological Surveys and Heritage Management in May 2022. The findings from the survey concluded that the project area is of a very low heritage value and is unlikely to have sites in primary context or buildings over 60 years in age. No further mitigation was required.
The area is in an area of zero to low palaeontological sensitivity. No further PIA mitigation is required.

DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

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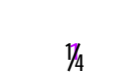
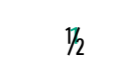








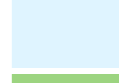



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UMVOTI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

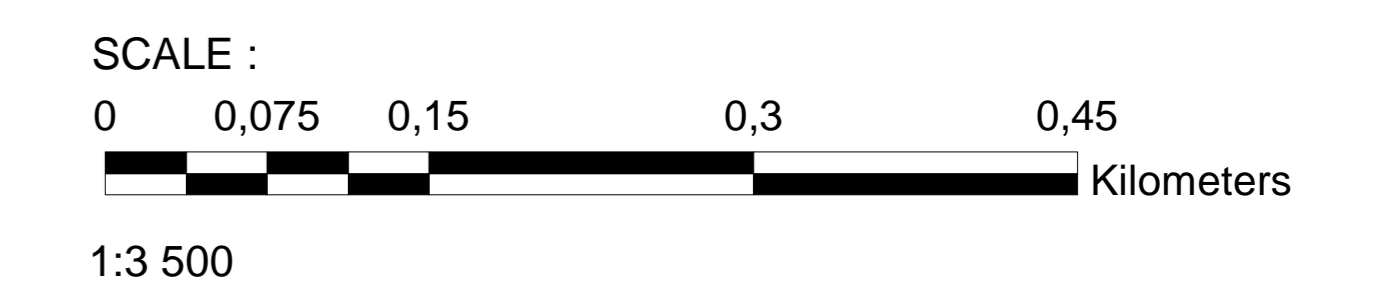
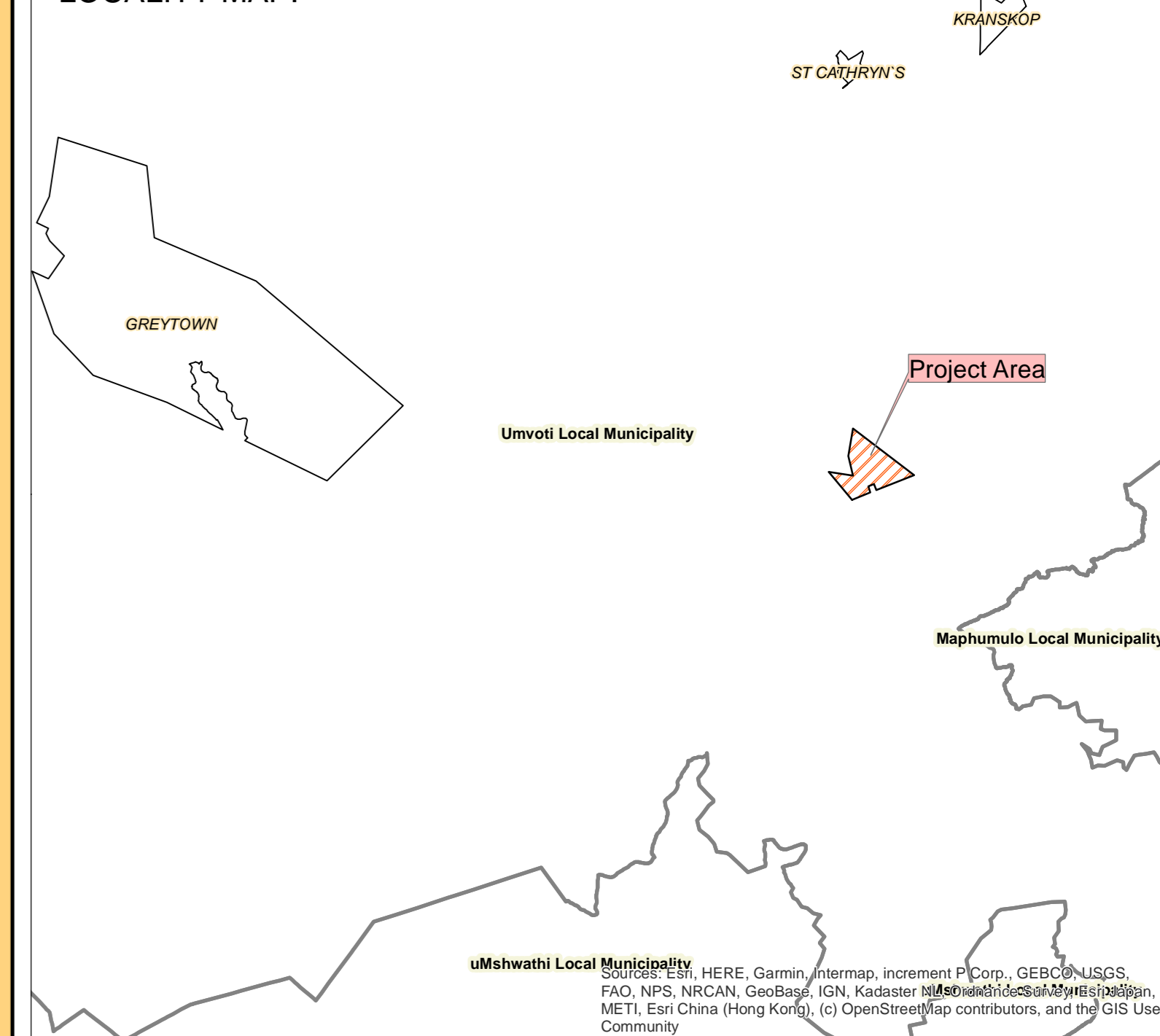
ESHANE RURAL SUBSIDISED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

SETTLEMENT PLAN

Legend

-  Project Area
-  Wards
-  Mthembu Sithole Traditional Authority
-  Proposed Beneficiaries
-  Existing Imuzis
-  Primary Schools
-  Secondary Schools
-  Health Facilities
-  Bulk Electrical Lines
- Road Network**
 -  Provincial Roads
 -  District Roads
 -  Local Roads
 -  Access Roads
- River Network**
 -  Non-Perennial Rivers
 -  Perennial Rivers
 -  32m River Buffer
 -  CBA Optimal
 -  CBA Irreplaceable

LOCALITY MAP:



DATE : JUNE 2022

MAP REFERENCE/ VERSION NUMBER : Version 1

COORDINATE SYSTEM : Municipal WGS84 (Lo31)

PREPARED BY:

