
APPENDIX 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

MBB Consulting Services (Eastern Cape) (MBB) was appointed by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), Planning and Monitoring of Infrastructure Projects – Working for the Coast (Eastern Cape), to facilitate the upgrade and construction of tourist facilities at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall, Eastern Cape. ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants (ACER) was appointed as Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to take responsibility for obtaining the relevant Environmental Authorisations (EA) and Water Use Licenses (WUL) for the proposed developments.

1.1 Purpose of the upgrade and construction of tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall

The purpose of the proposed upgrade and construction of tourist facilities is to:

- Improve the condition of the existing tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
- Improve access within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
- Improve tourism within the King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality (KSDLM).

2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Background Information Document (BID) provides information about the proposed upgrade and construction of tourist facilities within the KSDLM (Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall), and the Basic Assessment (BA) required for environmental authorization. The BID covers:

- The purpose of the proposed tourist facilities' upgrade and construction at Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.
- Applicable environmental legislation.
- Project activities.
- Site alternatives.
- Potential issues associated with the proposed developments.
- The Basic Assessment process.
- Information on how to register as an Interested and/or Affected Party.

3. APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

In terms of the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended 2017), published under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the proposed upgrade and construction of tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall trigger several listed activities in Listing Notices 1 (No. R. 984) and 3 (No. R. 985), as amended 2017, as detailed in Table 1. This requires the undertaking of a Basic Assessment.

Following discussions with the competent authority (Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), it has been agreed that a single application will be submitted with two separate Basic Assessment Reports, one each for Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.

3.1 Environmental Assessment Practitioner

In accordance with the EIA regulations, ACER was commissioned as the EAP to undertake the BA for the proposed upgrade and construction of the tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall.

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Table 1 Listed activities potentially triggered by the proposed upgrade and construction of tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall

Activity	Reason
Listing Notice 1 (No. R. 327 of 2014, as amended 2017)	
<p>Activity 12</p> <p>The development of –</p> <p>(i) [...]; or</p> <p>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square meters or more</p> <p>Where such development occurs –</p> <p>a) [...];</p> <p>b) [...]; or</p> <p>c) If no development setback occurs, within 32 meters of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p> <p>Excluding:</p> <p>(aa) [...];</p> <p>(bb) [...];</p> <p>(cc) [...];</p> <p>(dd) [...];</p> <p>(ee) [...]; or</p> <p>(ff) [...]</p>	<p>Coffee Bay</p> <p>The infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development are located within 32 m from a watercourse (the Nenga River).</p> <p>Hole in the Wall</p> <p>The infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development are located within 32 m from a watercourse (the Mpako River).</p>
<p>Activity 15</p> <p>The development of structures in the coastal public property where the development footprint is bigger than 50 square metres, excluding –</p> <p>(i) [...];</p> <p>(ii) [...];</p> <p>(iii) [...]; or</p> <p>(iv) [...]</p>	<p>Coffee Bay & Hole in the Wall</p> <p>The proposed developments are located in coastal public property (King Sebata Dalindyebo Local Municipality). The proposed infrastructure upgrades and new infrastructure will have a physical footprint greater than 50 square metres.</p>
<p>Activity 17</p> <p>Development -</p> <p>(i) [...];</p> <p>(ii) [...];</p> <p>(iii) Within the littoral active zone;</p> <p>(iv) [...];</p> <p>(v) If no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 m inland of the high water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever is greater.</p> <p>In respect of –</p> <p>a) [...];</p> <p>b) [...];</p> <p>c) [...];</p> <p>d) [...]; or</p> <p>e) Infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more-</p> <p>Excluding –</p> <p>aa) [...];</p> <p>bb) [...];</p> <p>cc) [...]</p> <p>dd) [...]</p>	<p>Coffee Bay & Hole in the Wall</p> <p>Part of the proposed developments occur within the littoral active zone and are located within 100 m from the sea. The infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development have a physical footprint greater than 50 square metres.</p>
<p>Activity 19A</p> <p>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 –</p> <p>(i) [...];</p>	<p>Coffee Bay</p> <p>The proposed developments may require the infilling and depositing of material from or within the littoral active zone, viz. for landscaping associated with the upgrades to the parking areas at Coffee Bay.</p>

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Activity	Reason
<p>(ii) The littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater; or</p> <p>(iii) [...]</p> <p>But excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving –</p> <p>f) Will occur behind a development setback;</p> <p>g) [...];</p> <p>h) [...];</p> <p>i) [...]; or</p> <p>j) [...]</p>	<p>Hole in the Wall</p> <p>The proposed developments may require the infilling and depositing of material from or within the littoral active zone, viz. for landscaping associated with the infrastructure upgrades near the Hole in the Wall Hotel.</p>
<p>Activity 30</p> <p>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 52 (1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)</p>	<p>Coffee Bay</p> <p>No threatened vegetation is expected to be removed for the proposed development.</p> <p>Hole in the Wall</p> <p>Part of the proposed development will require the removal of threatened vegetation of the Transkei Coastal Forest vegetation type.</p>
Listing Notice 2 (No. R. 325 of 2014, as amended 2017)	
N/A	N/A
Listing Notice 3 (No. R 324 of 2014, as amended 2017)	
<p>Activity 12</p> <p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>a) Eastern Cape</p> <p>(i) Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(iii) Within the littoral active zone or 100 metres inland from the high-water mark of the sea, whichever distance is greater, excluding where such removal will occur behind the development setback line on erven in urban areas;</p> <p>(iv) Outside urban areas, within 100 m inland from an estuarine functional zone; or</p> <p>(v) On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning.</p>	<p>Coffee Bay</p> <p>Aquatic CBA Some of the infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development will require the clearance of vegetation within Aquatic CBA 2 (Nenga).</p> <p>Terrestrial CBA Some of the infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development will require the clearance of vegetation within Terrestrial CBA 1 (T2, Corridor 1).</p> <p>Hole in the Wall</p> <p>Aquatic CBA Some of the infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development will require the clearance of vegetation within Aquatic CBA 2 (Mpako).</p> <p>Terrestrial CBA Some of the infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development will require the clearance of vegetation within Terrestrial CBA 1 (T2, Corridor 1).</p>
<p>Activity 14</p> <p>The development of:</p> <p>(i) [...]</p> <p>(ii) Infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</p> <p>Where such development occurs –</p> <p>a) [...]</p> <p>b) [...]</p> <p>c) If no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</p>	<p>Coffee Bay</p> <p>Certain infrastructure and structures associated with the proposed development will occur within 32 m of a watercourse (Nenga River) and within 1 kilometre of the high-water mark of the sea where no development setback line has been demarcated.</p>

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Activity	Reason
a) Eastern Cape (i) Outside urban areas: (aa) [...]; (bb) [...]; (cc) [...]; (dd) [...]; (ee) [...]; (ff) [...]; (gg) [...]; (hh) [...]; (ii) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback like is determined; (jj) [...]; or (ii) Inside urban areas: (aa) [...]; (bb) [...]; (cc) [...].	

4. PROJECT ACTIVITIES





4.1 Coffee Bay


4.1.1 Coffee Bay Project Description

The proposed developments in Coffee Bay will involve infrastructure upgrades along the beach as well as improvements to existing public facilities adjacent to the Nenga River. The exact position of the infrastructure components will be identified based on a combination of engineering, environmental and economic factors. However, the proposed general positioning is near the Nenga River and the Nenga River Lodge. The upgrades will include the following infrastructure components:

- Provision of a formalised parking area (approximately 1,000 m² in size).
- Lifeguard tower.
- Rehabilitation of the existing ablution facility adjacent to the Nenga River (Plate 1).
- Raised walkways (Plate 2) from the parking area to access the ablution facility and access points to the beach.
- A viewing deck on the coastal dune cordon (approximately 85 m² in size) (Plate 2).
- Formalisation of the picnic area adjacent to the Nenga River.
- Provision of a playground for young children visiting the picnic site.

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 A photograph showing several concrete braai structures in various states of disrepair. One structure is partially collapsed, and another has a large hole in its top. A person is standing near the structures in a grassy area with a brick building in the background.	 A photograph of brick ablution facilities. The structures are made of yellow bricks and have concrete steps leading to the entrances. The area around the buildings appears somewhat neglected with some weeds.
<p>Dilapidated braai facilities which will be demolished and reconstructed</p>	<p>Ablution facilities which require renovations</p>
 A wide-angle photograph of a picnic area. There are several concrete tables and benches scattered across a grassy field. In the background, there are trees and a brick building.	 A photograph of a parking area. A gravel path leads to a brick building. There is a water tower on a pole in the background. The area is mostly grass with some dirt patches.
<p>Picnic area adjacent to the Nenga River which will be landscaped and re-grassed</p>	<p>Existing parking areas adjacent to the Nenga River which will be closed and the area landscaped for a picnic area</p>
<p>Plate 1 Public ablutions and picnic area to be upgraded at Coffee Bay</p>	

 A photograph showing a view of a sandy beach from a dune. The beach curves to the right, and the ocean is visible in the distance. There are trees on the dune in the foreground.	 A photograph showing a view of a sandy beach from a dune. The beach is wide and sandy, with a large tree trunk in the foreground. The ocean and a hill are visible in the background.
<p>View to the north of Coffee Bay Beach from the proposed viewing platform site</p>	<p>View to the south of Coffee Bay Beach from the proposed viewing platform site</p>
<p>Plate 2 Coffee Bay main beach where raised walkways will be provided on the coastal dune cordon</p>	

4.1.2 Project Infrastructure

The proposed infrastructure comprises the components listed below.

4.1.2.1 Parking Area

Generally, the parking area at Coffee Bay will be located near dune vegetation. The parking area will include:

- The introduction of a new paved parking area (approximately 1,000 m² in size).
- An allowance for parking for persons with disabilities.
- Provision of waste receptacles.
- Minor landscaping to complement the receiving environment.

4.1.2.2 Lifeguard Tower

Lifeguard towers are often used at beaches to watch and supervise swimmers to prevent injury and/or death while in the ocean. The existing lifeguard tower is damaged and needs replacement. The development upgrade will involve the removal of the damaged lifeguard tower and the introduction of a new tower.

4.1.2.3 Coffee Bay Walkway

The proposed raised walkway will provide pedestrian access from the car park to the picnic area, ablution facilities, playground and the viewing deck. The position of the raised walkway will be determined after investigations of the surrounding dune habitat are completed. The walkway will include:

- A formalised footpath for pedestrians to access the beach.
- Signage and resting areas for pedestrians.
- Provision of waste receptacles.

4.1.2.4 Coffee Bay Viewing Deck

The viewing deck aims to provide pedestrians and beach goers a beautiful view of the Coffee Bay coastline. The viewing deck will include:

- A formalised foot path to access the viewing deck.
- The introduction of a new viewing deck (approximately 85 m² in size).
- Provision of waste receptacles.
- Provision of bench seating and picnic facilities.

4.1.2.5 Coffee Bay Picnic Area

The new picnic area aims to provide beach goers a safe and clean eating area near the beach at Coffee Bay. The old picnic area has broken braai facilities and broken seating. The new picnic area will provide convenient access to the upgraded ablution facilities and walkway. The picnic area development will include:

- The removal of damaged and broken braai facilities.
- The removal of damaged and broken seating.
- The formalisation and provision of new braai facilities.
- The provision of new picnic benches.
- Minor platforms and landscaping for picnic facilities.
- Securing of the picnic area on three sides with ClearVu Fencing.
- Access control to the picnic area in the form of a gate.
- The introduction of post and rail fencing on the south side of the picnic area.

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- Provision of waste receptacles.

4.1.2.6 Coffee Bay Ablution Facility

The existing ablution infrastructure is old and requires renovation. The new ablution facilities will include:

- The renovation of the two existing ablution blocks.
- The replacement of an existing Jojo water storage tank.
- Provision of waste receptacles.

4.1.2.7 Coffee Bay Playground

The playground is a new introduction to Coffee Bay. It will include:





- The introduction of a new jungle gym, slides and swings.
- A sandpit.
- The introduction of minor platforms and landscaping for the playground.
- Secure ClearVu Fencing around the playing area.
- Provision of bench seating.
- Provision of waste receptacles.

4.2 Hole in the Wall

4.2.1 Hole in the Wall Project Description

The proposed development near Hole in the Wall will involve infrastructure upgrades along the beach. The exact positions of the infrastructure components will be identified based on a combination of engineering, environmental and economic factors. However, the proposed general positioning will be located between the Hole in the Wall tourist destination and the Hole in the Wall Hotel. The upgrades will include the following infrastructure components (Plate 3):

- Formalisation of a boat launch site near the Hole in the Wall Hotel and paving of the access road to the launch site (approximately 300 m²).
- Walkway.
- Beach view picnic area.
- Walkway rest area.
- Viewing decks near Hole in the Wall and the Boiling Pot.
- Beachfront picnic area.
- Parking area.

 <p>View from the proposed location of the view point and parking area towards Hole in the Wall</p>	 <p>Hole in the Wall</p>
 <p>Launch site at the beach in front of the Hole in the Wall Hotel, which will be formalised for boats launching to sea</p>	 <p>Proposed picnic area on route to Hole in the Wall along the walkway, which will be formalised</p>
<p>Plate 3 Hole in the Wall features and existing infrastructure</p>	

4.2.2 Project Infrastructure

The proposed infrastructure comprises the components listed below.

4.2.2.1 Upgrades near the Hole in the Wall Hotel

The upgrades to be undertaken near the Hole in the Wall Hotel will include:

- The formalisation of the existing boat launch site. This will involve the construction of a new concrete ramp to access the beach and erection of new signage.
- The paving of the existing access road to access the launch site (approximately 100 m in length).
- Minor landscaping to complement the receiving environment.
- Provision of picnic tables and formalised braai areas adjacent to the beach.

4.2.2.2 Hole in the Wall Parking Areas, Walkway and Viewing Deck

The Hole in the Wall Walkway will start at the first new parking area to be constructed near the intersection of Hole in the Wall View Drive and Hole in the Wall Cottage Drive (approximately 200 m² in size) and terminate near the Hole in the Wall beach. Waste receptacles will be provided at regular intervals along the walkway.

The second parking area will be located to access the beachfront picnic area (approximately 400 m² in size). This parking areas will include:

- The introduction of parking bays adjacent to Hole in the Wall View Drive.
- The provision of waste receptacles.
- The provision of bench seating.

The viewing deck will be located towards the end of the Hole in the Wall Walkway and will provide pedestrians and beach goers a breath-taking view of the Hole in the Wall feature.

4.2.2.3 Beach View Picnic Area

There is an existing picnic area overlooking the Hole in the Wall beach, however, the braaing and seating facilities are old and damaged. The proposed infrastructure upgrades will include:

- The removal of damaged and broken braai facilities.
- The removal of damaged and broken seating.
- The formalisation and provision of new braai facilities.
- The provision of picnic benches.
- Minor platforms and landscaping for picnic facilities.
- The provision of waste receptacles.
- The identification of a picnic area location, including signage and additional benches.
- A formalised footpath to access the beach.

4.2.2.4 Beachfront Picnic Area

The beachfront picnic area will be located close to and overlooking the Hole in the Wall feature and shoreline. The area will include:

- A formalised footpath to access the beach from the picnic area.
- The provision of waste receptacles.
- The provision of bench seating.

4.2.2.5 Walkway Rest Areas

The walkway rest areas aim to provide pedestrians a convenient location to rest and enjoy the view of the beach. Walkway rest areas will be located along the walkway between the picnic site and the viewing deck. They will include:

- Formalised footpaths to access the beach from the rest areas.
- The provision of waste receptacles.
- The provision of bench seating.

4.2.2.6 Boiling Pot Viewing Deck

The viewing deck aims to provide pedestrians and beach goers a beautiful view of the Boiling Pot. The viewing deck will include:

- A formalised foot path to access the beach from the viewing deck.
- Resting areas with signage.
- The provision of waste receptacles.
- The provision of bench seating.

5. SITE/INFRASTRUCTURE ALTERNATIVES

5.1 Site Alternatives

The location of the infrastructure associated with the proposed developments will be confirmed prior to construction. The general locality of the structures will be aligned as per the Zoning Plans compiled for the project by MBB Consulting Engineers (Eastern Cape) (refer to Figure 1 for the Coffee Bay Zoning Plan and Figure 2 for the Hole in the Wall Zoning Plan).

6 POTENTIAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED UPGRADE AND CONSTRUCTION OF TOURIST FACILITIES WITHIN COFFEE BAY AND HOLE IN THE WALL

Outlined below is a preliminary list of the potential environmental issues associated with the proposed upgrade and construction of tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall, Eastern Cape.

- Effect on the biophysical environment.* Impacts on the biophysical environment are often caused by factors which are interrelated and often have common triggers which can impact on several biophysical parameters (i.e., heavy rains can cause soil degradation through erosion which, in turn, results in loss of habitat, potential pollution, sedimentation, etc). The upgrade and construction of the tourist facilities will potentially impact the dune and coastal environment (loss of coastal forest).
- Disturbance to the beach and dunes.* The beach will be disturbed, and coastal dunes could be disturbed during construction/installation activities.
- Effect on cultural heritage resources.* The proposed activity may impact possible terrestrial heritage resources.
- Nuisance impacts.* The construction teams' activities within the construction footprint may generate nuisance impacts such as noise, dust, temporary disruption of access, possible theft or poaching and/or general disturbance of peace and privacy.
- Existing infrastructure, services and land use.* During construction, there is a potential for existing infrastructure (area access, traffic disruptions, etc.), services and land use to be adversely affected.
- Potential pollution.* During construction, solid waste will be generated, which needs to be separated and disposed at facilities licensed to handle different waste streams. Where possible, recycling is to be encouraged.

As required in terms of NEMA, the cumulative impacts of the project will also be assessed.

7 THE EIA PROCESS

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017), apply to this project. A Basic Assessment is required for each set of developments at each location, which must be completed within 197 days of acceptance by DEFF of the Application for Authorisation (Figure 3).

7.1 Technical Activities

In support of the BA, it is anticipated that the following specialist inputs will be required:

- Beach and Coastal Dune Dynamics Impact Assessment.
- Ecological Impact Assessment (Vegetation, Wetlands/Watercourses and Fauna).
- Heritage and Palaeontology Assessment.

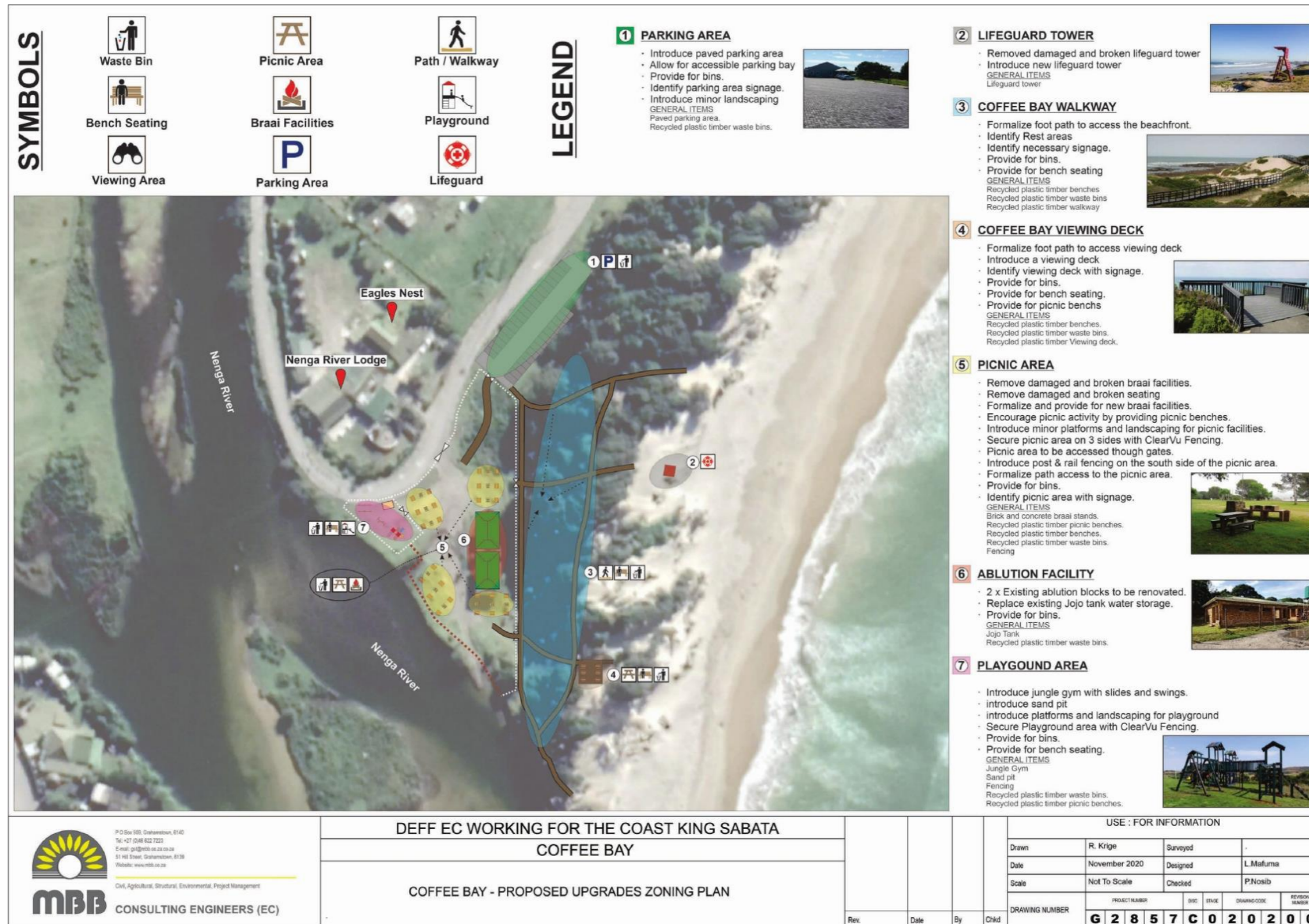


Figure 1 Coffee Bay – Proposed Upgrades Zoning Plan

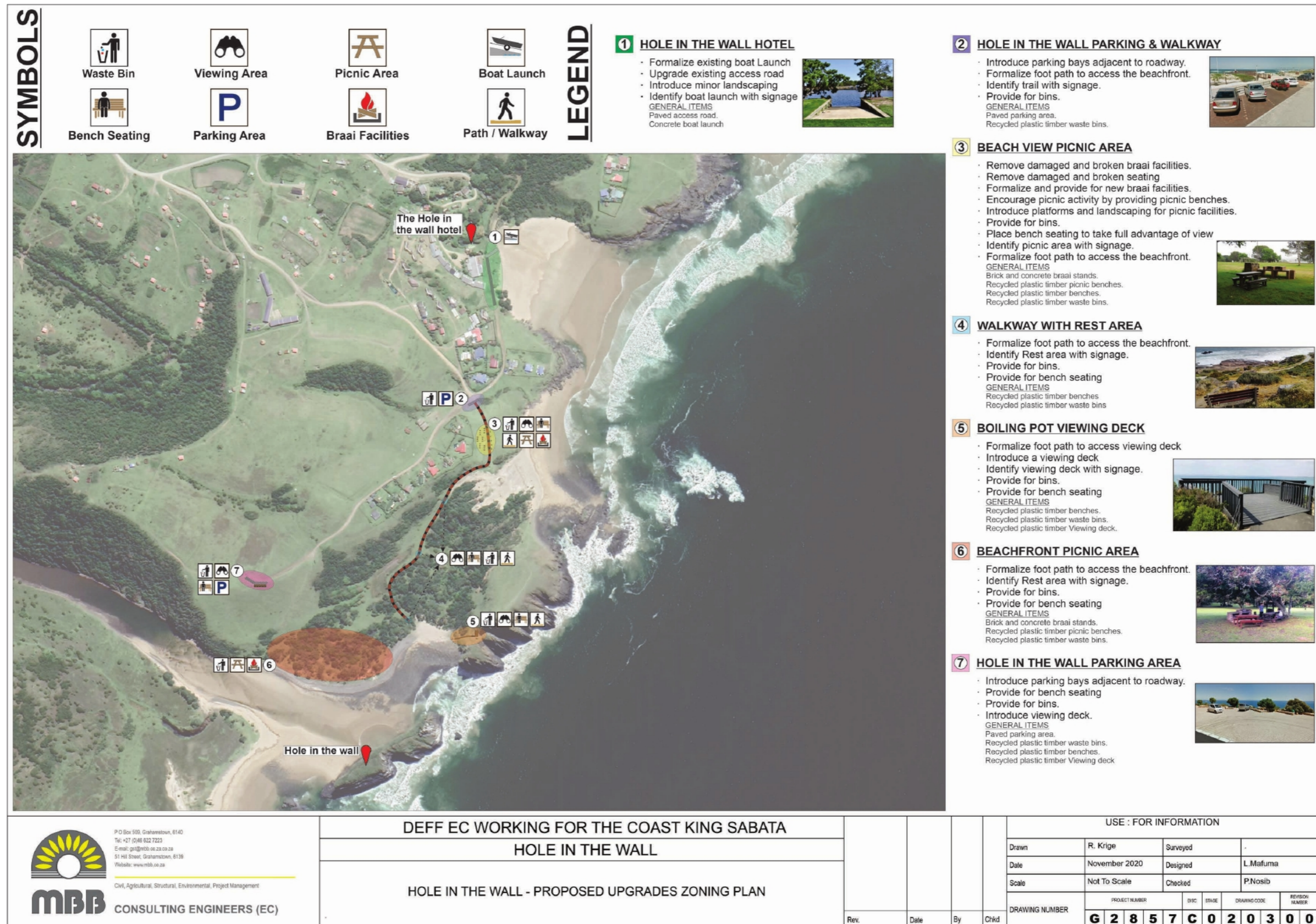


Figure 2 Hole in the Wall – Proposed Upgrades Zoning Plan

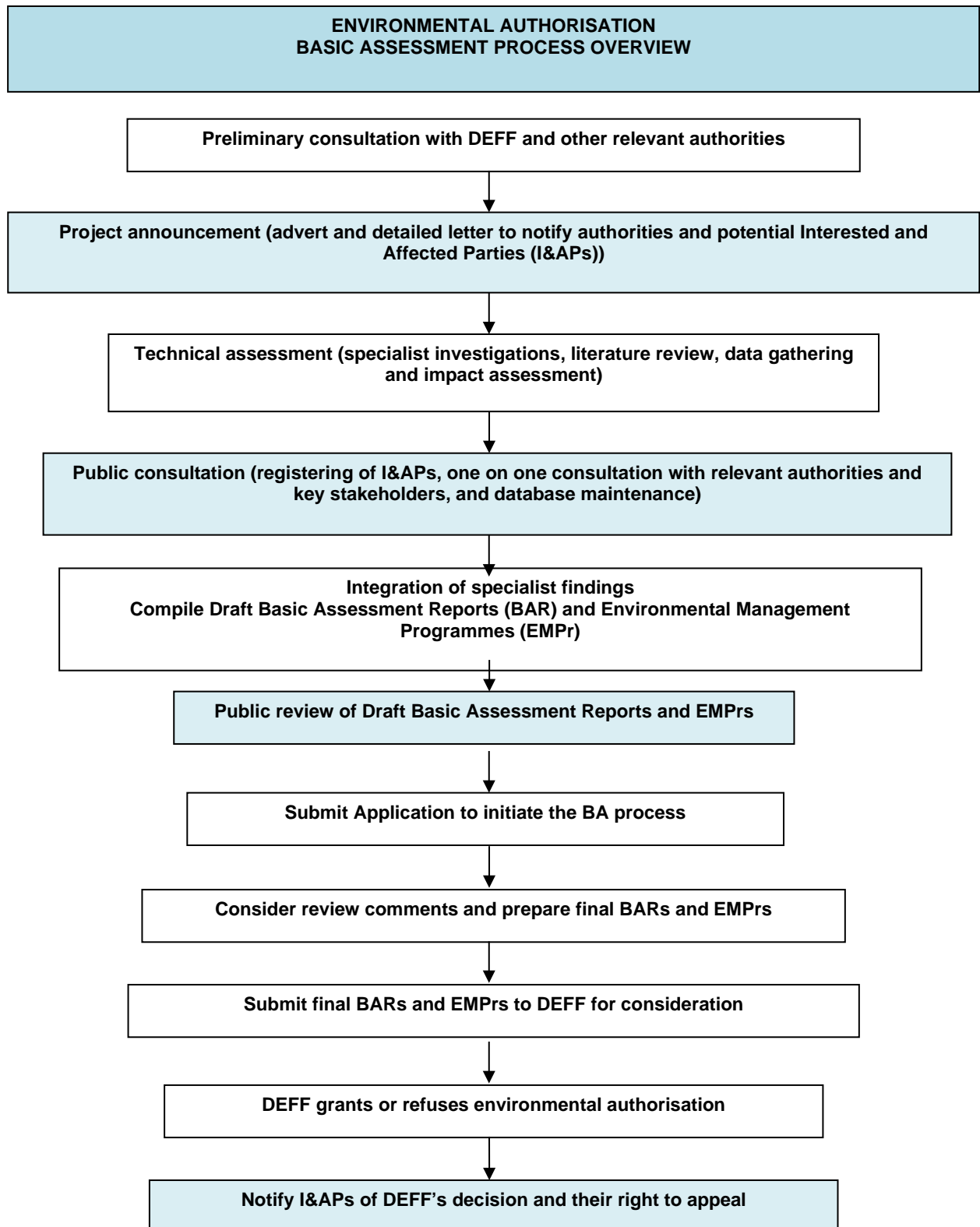


Figure 3 Outline of the Basic Assessment Process

7.2 Public Participation

Public participation is an important component of the BA process and aims to identify and proactively involve all parties that may have an interest in the project or be affected by it. This ensures that throughout the BA process, the assessment is transparent, and it enables I&APs to comment on the project and/or raise concerns. This information is included in the BA Reports and is taken into consideration during the competent authority's review and evaluation of the application for environmental authorization.

8 REGISTRATION AS AN INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTY

Should you wish to learn more about the proposed upgrade and construction of tourist facilities within Coffee Bay and Hole in the Wall, Eastern Cape and wish to register as an I&AP, please contact ACER as per the details provided below or complete and return the comment sheet provided herewith.

<p>ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants Carina Boonzaaier or Cameron Singh P O Box 503, Mtunzini, 3867 Tel: 035 340 2715 E-mail: CB@acerafrica.co.za</p>

Please note that consistent with GNR 326, 42(a), 44(1) and 19(1)(a) (7 April 2017), all comments received will be captured in a Comments and Responses Report which will be made available to the competent authority and which will be placed in the public domain as part of the public review process of the BA reports