

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE IDEAL SHAVINGS POULTRY  
BREEDERS FACILITY, DARGLE, KWAZULU-NATAL:  
BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**EIA REF: *PENDING***



**Plate 1. An image of a portion of the Ideal Shavings property.**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Terratest (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to conduct the environmental services for the proposed construction of the Ideal Shavings Poultry Facility in the Dargle, KwaZulu-Natal. The application for Environmental Authorisation conforms to the current National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations which came into effect on 8 December 2014. Under these regulations, a Basic Environmental Impact Assessment will be followed.

## 2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located on Portion 6 of the Farm Middel Bosch No. 897 and falls within the Umgeni Local Municipality. The site has been predominantly transformed for agricultural purposes, with very little indigenous vegetation remaining. The property is located on topography of varied gradient on topography with a steep gradient. The site is bounded on all sides by a mix of agricultural land and natural grassland. The site is bounded on three sides by a mix of agricultural land, and on the southern border by the Dargle main road. Water infrastructure consists of an on-site borehole.

The site is situated within the following co-ordinates:

Point	Southerly co-ordinate	Easterly co-ordinate
A	29° 29'13. 42 " S	30° 05'18. 16 " E
B	29° 28'53. 40 " S	30° 05'25. 07 " E
C	29° 28'29. 44 " S	30° 05'54. 24 " E
D	29° 28'42. 15 " S	30° 06'05. 96 " E
E	29° 28'59. 99" S	30° 05'51. 63 " E

## 3. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The Application entails the construction of two rearing houses (108m x 15m) and eight laying houses (72m x 15m). Construction will be undertaken in a phased approach in which one rearing house and four laying houses will initially be constructed, followed by construction of the remaining rearing house and four laying houses during second phase, further down the line. The construction will include facilities such as an office, ablutions, septic tanks, fencing, an access road, water pipes and electricity lines.

The site identified for the construction component of the development has been completely transformed to pasture land. Watercourses are found outside of 32m of the proposed development.



Figure 1. The locality of the farm on which the development is proposed.



#### 4. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT 107 OF 1998)

##### 4.1. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Listed Activities for the abovementioned project are captured in NEMA: EIA Regulations of 2014 under Government Notice Regulations (GN.R) 983. The following activities, will be applied for:

Number and date of the relevant notice	Activity No (s) (in terms of the relevant notice)	Description of each listed activity as per project description
GN. R 983 (Listing Notice 1)	5	<p><b><i>“The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of</i></b></p> <p><b><i>(ii) More than 5000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days.”</i></b></p> <p>The development requires building facilities for the concentration of 20 000 to 24 000 birds per site within the urban area therefore the above listed activity is triggered.</p>
GN. R 983 (Listing Notice 1)	11	<p><b><i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></b></p> <p><b><i>(i) Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.”</i></b></p> <p>The Applicant will be extending electricity lines from an existing on site transformer, to the site of the proposed development. The lines may have the capacity of 33 kilovolts, thus possibly triggering this listed activity.</p>

##### 4.2. WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION

The National Water Act notes that any activity that take place within the 32m of a watercourse or within 500m of a wetland system requires a water use licence. In this case a water use licence will not be required from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) as the project falls outside 32m of a watercourse. The existing on-site borehole is to be registered with the DWS, however this will be undertaken by the client.

### 4.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

According to the NEMA EIA Regulations, it is necessary for the applicant to appoint an independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) who will adhere to the environmental stipulations and complete the applicable environmental process on behalf of the applicant. In this case, the relevant role players for the proposed development are as follows:

<b>Applicant</b>	Ideal Shaving (Pty) Ltd
<b>Environmental Assessment Practitioner</b>	Imke Summers for Terratest (Pty) Ltd
<b>Competent Authority</b>	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)

The Public Participation Process, as promulgated in terms of Chapter 6 of the NEMA EIA Regulations (GNR 982, 2014) is a fundamental process whereby the proponent, technical team, government authorities, key stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) can engage in an informed decision-making process.

### 4.4. ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPE OF WORK

The Basic Assessment process that will be followed is in accordance with the NEMA EIA Regulations (Act 107 of 1998). The EAP is required to conduct the environmental application process and manage the Public Participation Process, which is currently underway. Terratest (Pty) Ltd will perform the following within the Public Participation Process:

1. Identify key stakeholders, authorities and municipalities, environmental groups and IAPs;
2. Compile a detailed Background Information Document (BID) for the proposed development, providing details to IAPs of:
  - a. The listed activities that trigger the EIA process;
  - b. The scope of work;
  - c. The locality and current land use at the site;
  - d. A detailed site description;
  - e. The EIA process to be followed; and
  - f. The opportunity for IAPs to comment on the project.
3. Advertise the environmental application in a newspaper applicable to the region';
4. Place a poster/posters on the site notifying passers-by of the proposed development;
5. Obtain landowner's consent;
6. Host a Public Open Day, *if necessary*, providing details of issues identified by the EAP, stakeholders and IAPs;

7. Compile and circulate a draft Basic Assessment Report and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to all relevant stakeholders and registered IAPs for further comment;
8. Record all comments of IAPs and present such comments, as well as responses provided by Terratest (Pty) Ltd, in a full Comments and Responses Report, which will be included in the Final Basic Assessment Report and EMPr that will be submitted to EDTEA.

## 5. **GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **a. Vegetation**

Historically the vegetation on site consists of Midlands Mistbelt Grassland as classified by Mucina and Rutherford (2006)<sup>1</sup>. Midlands Mistbelt Grassland is distributed across the KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces, across hilly and rolling landscapes. It is dominated by forb-rich *Themeda triandra* grasslands, but has been predominantly invaded by indigenous Ngongoni grass (*Aristida junciformis* subsp. *junciformis*).

The conservation status of Midlands Mistbelt Grassland is 'Endangered'. It is one of the most threatened vegetation types in KwaZulu-Natal due to transformation of land for plantations, cultivation or urban sprawl. Uncontrolled fires and poorly regulated grazing are added to threats to this vegetation type.

It is, however, to be noted that although the site is classified as Midlands Mistbelt Grassland, very little of the land within the property footprint remains untransformed, with very little indigenous vegetation remaining.

### **b. Heritage**

According to the National Heritage Resources Act No 25 of 1999, provisions are made to protect national heritage resources and this forms an integral part of the environmental assessment process. It is not anticipated that any archaeological findings will be found at the proposed development site. However an application has been made to Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali (the KwaZulu-Natal heritage authority), to determine if any specialist studies are required on site. If specialist studies are required, a copy will be included in the Basic Assessment Report.

### **c. Geology and terrain**

The geology of the site consists of apedal and plinthic soil forms derived mostly from the Ecca Group

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<sup>1</sup> Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds) 2006. The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Strelizia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

shale and minor sandstones and less importantly Jurassic dolerite dykes and sills.<sup>2</sup> Plinthic soils are characterised by absolute iron enrichment localised, hydromorphic segregation with mottling or cementation.<sup>3</sup> Generally shale based soils of this nature have a moderate to low agricultural potential. This, in conjunction with the small size of the fields, and the varied terrain, yields limited grazing or crop potential.

#### d. Photos



**Plate 2: The site on which four laying houses will be constructed.**

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<sup>2</sup> Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds) 2006. The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Strelizia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

<sup>3</sup> Fey, M.V., 2010: *A short guide to the soils of South Africa, their distribution and correlation with World Reference Base soil groups.*

<http://www.iuss.org/19th%20WCSS/Symposium/pdf/2503.pdf> Accessed: 01/12/2014.





**Plate 3: The site on which the remaining four laying houses will be constructed. e rearing house will be constructed.**



**Plate 4. The site on which one rearing house will be constructed.**





**Plate 5. The site on which the other rearing house will be constructed.**



**Plate 6. The varied topography of the site.**

## 6. **HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?**

Every proposed development has the potential to significantly affect the natural and social environments, both at, as well as surrounding the proposed site. For this reason it is imperative that you as a stakeholder or an IAP comment on the proposed project and **highlight issues or concerns** that you feel need to be considered during the proposed planning and implementation process. Should you wish to register as an IAP, or should you have any comments regarding the proposed development, please **state your interest** in the proposed development along with any **comments or queries** you may have in the attached registration form.

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE IDEAL SHAVING POULTRY FACILITY, DARGLE,  
KWAZULU-NATAL.**

**BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name:**  
**Surname**  
**Address:**

**Postal Code:**

**Tel No:**  
**Fax No:**  
**Cell No:**

**e-mail :**

**Please state your interest in the proposed project:**

**Comments (add extra pages should you need):**

**Do you require any additional information?**

**Other parties which you think should be included in the process:**

***Your comments are highly appreciated, and will be included in the final report to be submitted to the decision-making authorities.***

**PLEASE RETURN TO:**

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**Please Detach and Return to Terratest**