

**PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE NDIZA POULTRY BREEDERS
FACILITY, KILDARAGH FARM, DARGLE, KWAZULU-NATAL:
BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

EIA REF: DC22/0044/2014

EIA WML: DC/22/WML/0056/2014

WULA REF: PENDING



Compiled by: Imke Summers of *Terratest (Pty) Ltd*

Contact details: PO Box 794
Hilton
3245
Tel: 033 343 6789
Fax: 033 343 67801
Email: summersi@terratest.co.za

1. INTRODUCTION

Terratest (Pty) Ltd have been appointed to conduct the environmental services and Waste Management Licence process for the proposed expansion of the Ndiza Poultry Breeders facilities on Kildaragh Farm, 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 2 August 2010, and the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008). Under these regulations, a Basic Environmental Impact Assessment, Waste Management Licence Application and Water Use Licence Application will be followed.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site is located on Portion 32 of the Farm Middel Bosch No. 897 and falls within the Umgeni Local Municipality. The site predominantly consists of poultry facilities and associated infrastructure, including open and closed poultry houses and sheds. Kikuyu pastures and a fruit orchard are also found on site. Water infrastructure includes a small service dam and boreholes. The site is bounded on all sides by a mix of agricultural land and natural grassland.

The site is situated within the following co-ordinates:

Point	Southerly co-ordinate	Easterly co-ordinate
A	29° 28' 37.14" S	30° 04' 30.56" E
B	29° 28' 44.42" S	30° 04' 38.10" E
C	29° 28' 55.59" S	30° 04' 13.55" E
D	29° 28' 59.27" S	30° 04' 22.69" E

3. PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed development will constitute the construction of three new laying houses. Two of the three laying houses will measure 15m x 76m and will have the capacity to hold approximately 6 500 birds each. These two structures will have an open environment¹ and include staff facilities such as ablutions, a kitchen etc. The third structure will be 15m x 72m and will be a closed environment,² but will also contain the necessary amenities. In addition, the access road to the sheds will be extended by approximately 30 metres, with a width of 8 metres.

¹ An open environment entails open sided sheds.

² A closed environment entails a completely sealed environment with no windows and openings.

Both sites identified for the expansion component of the development have been transformed in the past. The site to house the open sided sheds currently consists of kikuyu pasture. The site to house the closed shed consists of a fruit orchard. Watercourses are found within 500m of the proposed development, according to the South African National Biodiversity Institute's (SANBI) National Freshwater Ecosystem Priority Areas (NFEPA) data coverage (See Appendix A). As a result, a Water Use Licence Application will need to be applied for.

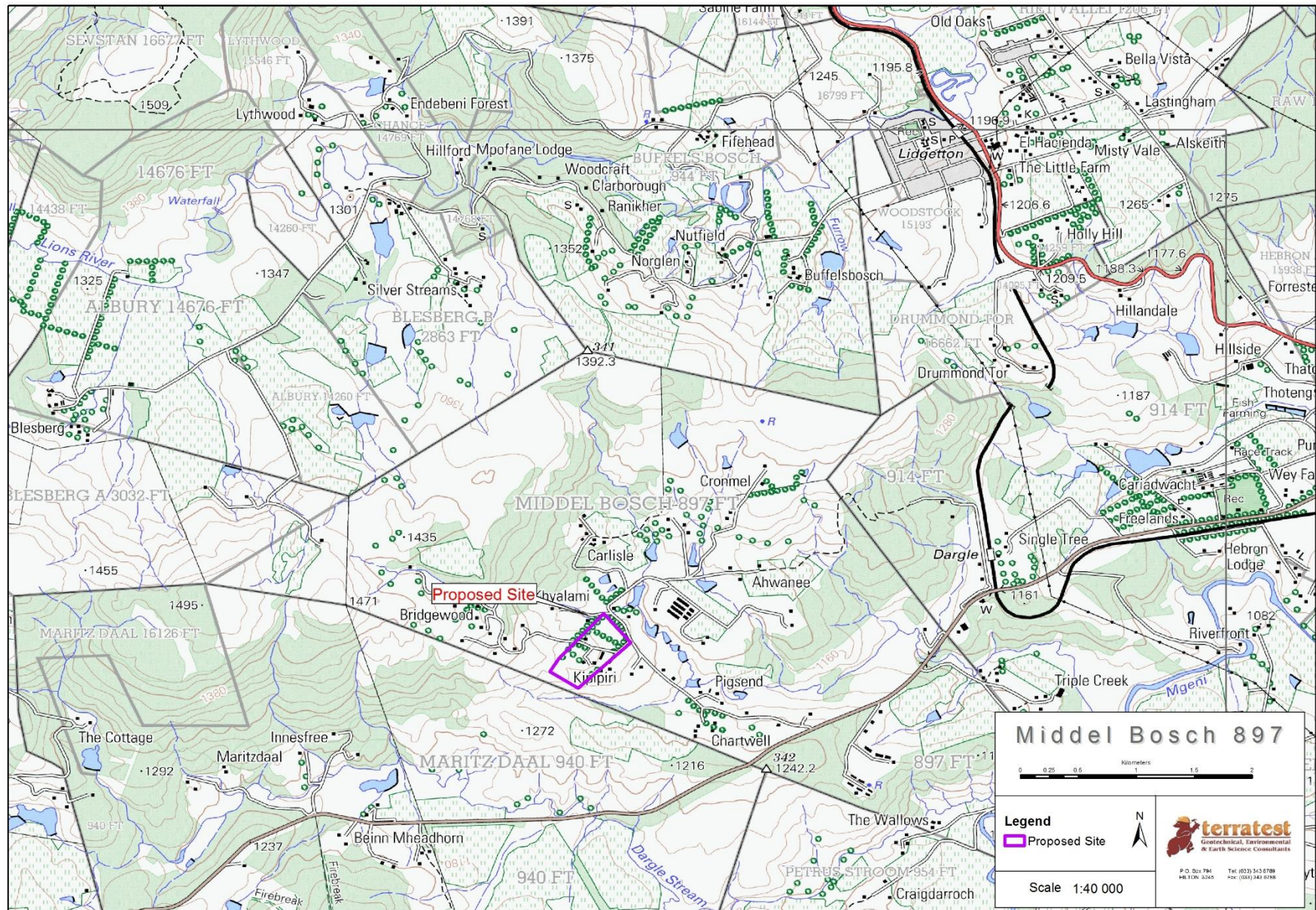


Figure 1. The locality of the farm on which the development is proposed.

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 2010 under Government Notice Regulations (GN.R) 544. The following activities contained in GNR 544 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2010, 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 544 (Listing Notice 1)	32 (ii)	<p>Poultry structures exist on site, the site is situated outside an urban area and because each proposed shed will accommodate 6500 birds, the below listed activity is triggered:</p> <p><i>“The expansion of facilities for the concentration of poultry, excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by: More than 5000 poultry per facility situated outside an urban area, excluding chicks younger than 20 days.”</i></p>

4.2. WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE REGULATIONS

The following activities in terms of section 45 of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008), 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 718 - Category A activity	10	<p>Chicken litter which is cleaned from each house after each cycle, is stockpiled on site and the collected as fertiliser by an external source. As a result of the storage of chicken litter (classified as a general waste), the following listed activity is triggered:</p> <p><i>“The disposal of general waste to land covering an area of more than 50m² but less than 200m² and with a total capacity not exceeding 25 000 tons.”</i></p>

4.3. WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION

The following activities in terms of Act 36 of 1998 of the National Water Act, 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
Act 36 of 1998	21 (a)	"Taking water from a watercourse."
Act 36 of 1998	21 (i)	"Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse."

4.4. 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:

Applicant	Ndiza Poultry Breeders
Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Terratest (Pty) Ltd
Competent Authority	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 543, 2010) 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.

4.3.

5. 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, namely: ‘The Witness’;
 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; and
 7. 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 that will be submitted to EDTEA.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available to all relevant stakeholders and registered IAPs for further comment before the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) is submitted to the EDTEA.

6. GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

a. Vegetation

Historically the vegetation on site consists of Midlands Mistbelt Grassland as classified by Mucina and Rutherford (2006)³. 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 add 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. The sites on which the expansion is

³ Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds) 2006. The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Strelizia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

proposed currently consist of kikuyu grass, used for grazing by livestock (previously used as *Protea* fields), and a fruit orchard.

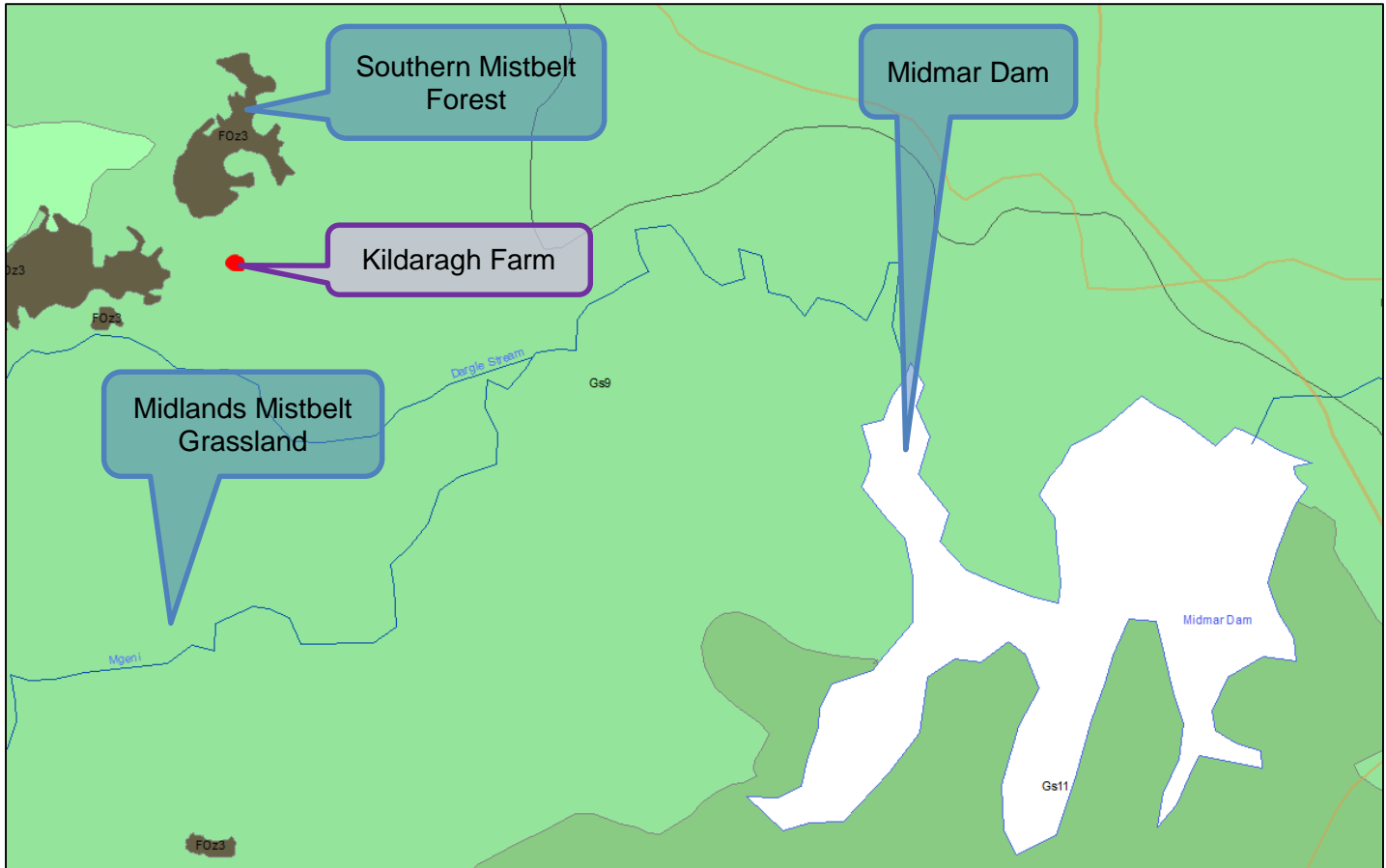


Figure 2. The location of the proposed site within the Midlands Mistbelt Grassland vegetation classification.

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 unknown at this stage what archaeological findings may be found at the proposed development site. Amafa is KwaZulu-Natal's heritage authority. An application has been made to this authority and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be conducted, if required, in order to assess the cultural and heritage significance of any findings. This specialist study 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 shale and minor sandstones and less importantly Jurassic dolerite dykes and sills.⁴ Plinthic soils are

⁴ Mucina, L. & Rutherford, M.C. (eds) 2006. The Vegetation of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. *Strelizia* 19. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

characterised by absolute iron enrichment localised, hydromorphic segregation with mottling or cementation.⁵ Generally shale based soils of this nature have a moderate to low agricultural potential. This, in conjunction with the small size of the fields, yields limited grazing or crop potential. The terrain of the area is undulating.

d. Photos



Plate 1. The kikuyu field in which the two open sheds are proposed to be constructed.



Plate 2. Existing poultry houses adjacent to the proposed kikuyu field's site.

⁵ 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. Existing Eskom infrastructure which runs through the middle of the kikuyu fields site.



Plate 4. Watercourses to the east of the development which influence the need for a Water Use Licence Application



Plate 5. The fruit orchard in which the closed poultry facility is proposed to be constructed.

7. 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

**APPENDIX A –
SANBI NFEPA WETLANDS/WATERCOURSE COVERAGE**

