

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION & WATER USE AUTHORISATION

PROPOSED REHABILITATION OF TWO BRIDGES ALONG THE P393 PROVINCIAL ROAD FROM NKWALENI PASS (KM 0.0) TO EMPANGENI (KM 24.0) IN KWAZULU NATAL PROVINCE.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (JUNE 2017)

What does this document tell you?

This document aims to provide you, as an **Interested and Affected Party (I&AP)**, with background information regarding the proposed upgrade of **Dango Bridge (B1372)** and **Bedlane Bridge (B1330)** situated along P393 (R34) road between Nkwaleni Pass (Km0.0) and Empangeni (Km 24.0) in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. It provides information regarding the **Basic Assessment (BA)** and **Water Use Authorisation (WUA)** processes being undertaken and advises you on how you can become involved in the project which can be either the view of information and make inputs thereon or raise any possible issues. This sharing of information forms the basis of the **public participation process** and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the project from the outset. Public participation allows for local knowledge to be integrated into the BA as generated.

What does the project entail?

The project can be summarised as follows:

Project name	Proposed Rehabilitation of two Bridges along the P393 Provincial Road from Nkwaleni Pass (Km 0.0) to Empangeni (Km 24.0) in KwaZulu-Natal Province.																				
Applicant	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport (KZN DoT)																				
Local authority	uMhlathuze Local Municipality within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality - KwaZulu-Natal																				
Competent Authority – CA)	Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), King Cetshwayo District (Environmental Authorisation - EA) and The Department of Water and Sanitation (Water Use Authorisation - WUA)																				
Property Details	21 Digit Reference Number & Erf & Portion Number																				
	N	O	G	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	8	5	0	0	0	2	2
	Nkwalini Settlement 12785, Portion 73-Dango Bridge																				
	N	O	G	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	7	8	5	0	0	0	7
	Nkwalini Settlement 12785, Portion 22- Bedlane Bridge																				
Co-ordinates	Bridge Details				Coordinates																
					Start										End						
	Bedlane river bridge @ km 2.6				28° 43' 17.30"S 31° 33' 18.44"E										28° 43' 17.56"S 31° 33' 17.58"E						
	Dango river bridge @ km 3.9				28° 43' 28.49"S 31° 34' 3.61"E										28° 43' 27.68"S 31° 34' 01.61"E						
Location	The project is located along the P393 (R34) road between Nkwaleni Pass to Empangeni within the uMhlathuze Local Municipality.																				

Description of the proposed project

The project starts at the intersection of P47-4 (R66) with P393 (R34) at Nkwaleni Pass (km 0.0) and ends at P230 (km 24.0) towards Empangeni. The Bedlane river bridge is situated at km 2.6 from Nkwaleni Pass and the Dango river bridge is situated at km 3.9 from Nkwaleni Pass. The existing P393 road is 8m wide and the proposed road geometry for the rehabilitation is 10.0m wide including shoulders. The project is located at uMhlathuze Local Municipality within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality.

The proposed project comprises of the following:

- Detailed design of the widening of the bridge decks to accommodate new widened road cross section,
- Detailed design of the stormwater drainage requirements and the replacement of existing structures to meet the KZN DoT standards

The bulk earthworks, layer works, surfacing and ancillary work associated with the project do not trigger any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations listed activities promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act No 107 of 1998) (as amended) and thus, these activities could proceed whilst the Basic Assessment (BA) study for the bridge deck widening and associated bridges upgrade is being undertaken.

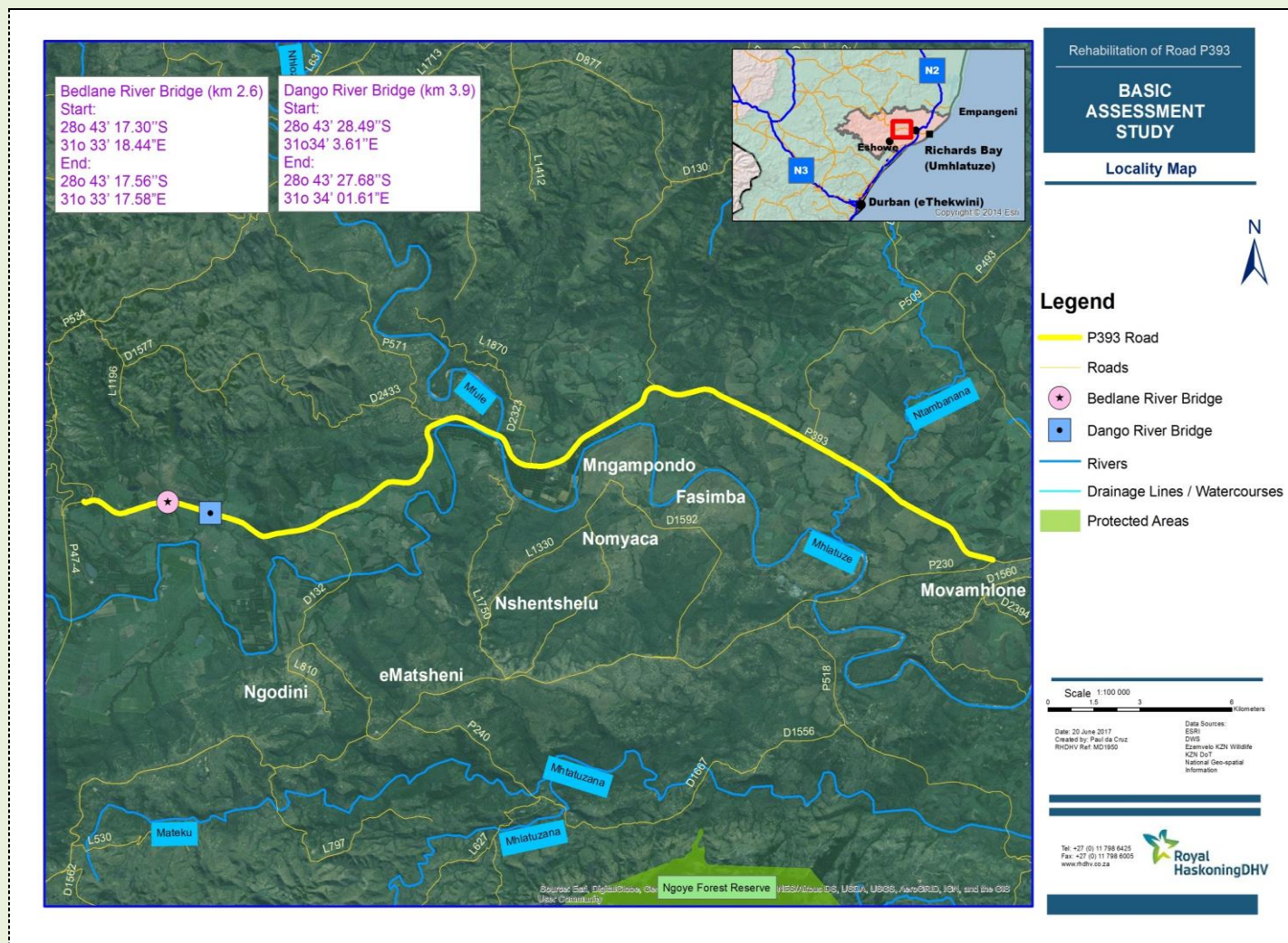


Figure 1: Location of the study area

What are the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project?

Potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified. Therefore, as part of the BA, these potential impacts will be assessed by undertaking the following specialist study:

Specialist Study	Organisation
Freshwater Habitat Assessment	Eco-Pulse Environmental Consulting Services
Heritage Assessment	Active Heritage

The EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended in April 2017) requires that the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to be independent, objective and have expertise in conducting EIAs. Such expertise should include knowledge of all relevant legislation and of any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity. To ensure transparency, an external peer review will be undertaken prior to the public review during the formal BA process. This peer review will be conducted by Kinvig & Associates.

Input from the public through the public participation process provides valuable input in the identification of issues requiring investigation within this BA process. The study will highlight areas that should be avoided in order to minimise potential impacts, and evaluate the project alternatives. The BA will aim to achieve the following:

- Provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environments of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- Undertake a detailed assessment of the widening for the bridge decks in terms of environmental criteria including the rating of significant impacts;
- Identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for potentially significant environmental impacts; and
- Undertake a fully inclusive public participation process to ensure that I&AP issues and concerns are recorded and commented on.

Why are environmental studies needed?

In terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations** Government Notice Regulation (GNR) No. 982 to 985 of December 2014 (as amended by 324 to 327 of 2017), published in terms of Section 24(5), and read with Section 44, of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998)(as amended), the KZN DoT requires an Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the Provincial Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) for undertaking the proposed project as it includes activities listed under GNR 327 and 324 of the EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017).

The following activities are being applied for:

- Listing Notice 1 – Activity 48(i)(a) of GNR 983 of 4 December 2014 (as amended by GNR 327 of 6 April 2017);
- Listing Notice 1 – Activity 19 of GNR 983 of 4 December 2014 (as amended by GNR 327 of 6 April 2017).

Activities listed under the GNR 327 and GNR 324 may have a negative effect on the environment, hence a BA process, as prescribed in Appendix 1 of the EIA Regulations GNR 982 (as amended by GNR 326 of 6 April 2017), will have to be undertaken. A BA is an effective planning and decision-making tool, which allows for the identification of potential environmental consequences of a proposed project, and its management through the planning process.

In terms of the National Water Act (NWA) (Act No. 36 of 1998)(as amended), the KZN DoT also requires a WUA from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

The following Section 21 water uses are being applied for:

- (c) Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse; and
- (i) Altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse

The KZN DoT has appointed Royal HaskoningDHV to provide independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) services for the proposed project. As part of these environmental studies, all I&APs will be actively involved through a public participation process (PPP).

Public Participation Process (PPP)

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the PPP from the outset of the project.

To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps during the BA and WUA Process:

- STEP 1: Create awareness of the BA and WUA process (by way of advertisement in local newspaper, circulation of BID [this document] and erection of site notices);
- STEP 2: Register I&APs and key stakeholders on the database (on-going);
- STEP 3: Consultation with, and transfer of information to, I&APs through consultation and stakeholder engagement;
- STEP 4: Invite I&AP comment and input on the draft consultation BA report (BAR) (30-day comment period) and 60 days for the Water Use Licence Application; and
- STEP 5: Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of the BAR and WUA.

How can you get involved?

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to become involved.

- By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process.
- By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to Sibongile Gumbi at Royal HaskoningDHV.
- In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information.
- By reviewing and commenting on the draft consultation BAR within the allowed 30-day review periods and 60 days for the Water Use Licence Application.

Your input into this process forms a key part of the environmental studies and we would like to hear from you to obtain your views on the proposed project.

By completing and submitting the accompanying response form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and ensure that your comments, concerns and/or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

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YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full** and return to:

Sibongile Gumbi	Tel	011 798 6449	
Royal HaskoningDHV	Fax	011 798 6005	
	Email	sibongile.gumbi@rhdhv.com	

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

What comments / concerns would you like to raise regarding this proposed project? (Please use additional pages, if required)

PLEASE REGISTER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) ON THE PROJECT DATABASE:

Title (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		First name	
Surname			
Capacity (e.g. Secretary / Director)			
Organisation			
Postal address		Postal code	
Tel No. ()		Cell No.	
Fax No. ()		Email address	

Signature	
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IF YOU PREFER **NOT TO RECEIVE** ANY FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND, WOULD PREFER TO BE REMOVED FROM THE PROJECT DATABASE, PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW AND RETURN THE FORM TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANTS (CONTACT DETAILS AS PROVIDED ABOVE).

Yes, remove my name