



**Amathole District Municipality**  
Proposed Development of Nxaxo and  
Cebe Water Supply Scheme



**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**  
**DOCUMENT**

March 2013

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Terreco Environmental cc has been appointed by Ubhle Bempisi Consulting Engineers (Umpisi Engineers) on behalf of the Amathole District Municipality to undertake the legally required application process for Environmental Authorisation for the proposed construction of bulk and reticulated water supply infrastructure for rural communities in the Nxaxo Cebe area in the Mquma Local Municipality. This Background Information Document (BID) serves as notice of the proposed activities, of the environmental impact assessment process that will take place, and as a request for any comments regarding the Project and EIA process. Should you be interested in registering as an 'Interested and Affected Party' and/or in submitting comments or information on the Project, please use page 4 of this document to register your interest.

**A public meeting will be held if there is sufficient interest generated in response to the advertisement of the project and/or is requested by local officials.**

**2. PROJECT LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Project is located in the Eastern Cape, about 30 km to the east of the town of Centani, and within the Mquma Local Municipality. The Project area lies between the Qora River to the north and the Nxaxo River to the south. The Project area extends 27 km westwards from the coast between the Qora River and Nxaxo River. The westward extent of the area is roughly defined by the Nkonkwane, Centuyle and KwaNontshinga villages (Figure 1).

The purpose of the Project is to construct bulk and reticulated water supply infrastructure for 7,914 households in 58 villages in a Wards 25, 26 and 27 of the Mquma Local Municipality. The Wards consist entirely of rural communities and almost the entire population relies on informal sources of water which results in frequent health problems. The objective of the proposed Nxaxo and Cebe Water Supply Scheme is to deliver to these communities a "free, safe, basic" water supply that is aligned with RDP standards.

The Project design includes the construction of pump stations, a small Water Treatment Works (4Mℓ/day), bulk and secondary water supply pipelines (4.8 km), tertiary water supply pipelines (35km) and reticulation (364.9 km) to 861 village standpipes. Eight reservoirs, as well as 5km of gravel road to access the reservoirs, water treatment works and pump stations, and 5 km of electricity supply line to service the pumps, are included in the design. Stand-by generators will also be installed. Water will be abstracted from the Qora River downstream of the confluence with the Ngqangeni River. The complementary use of groundwater sources will be investigated.

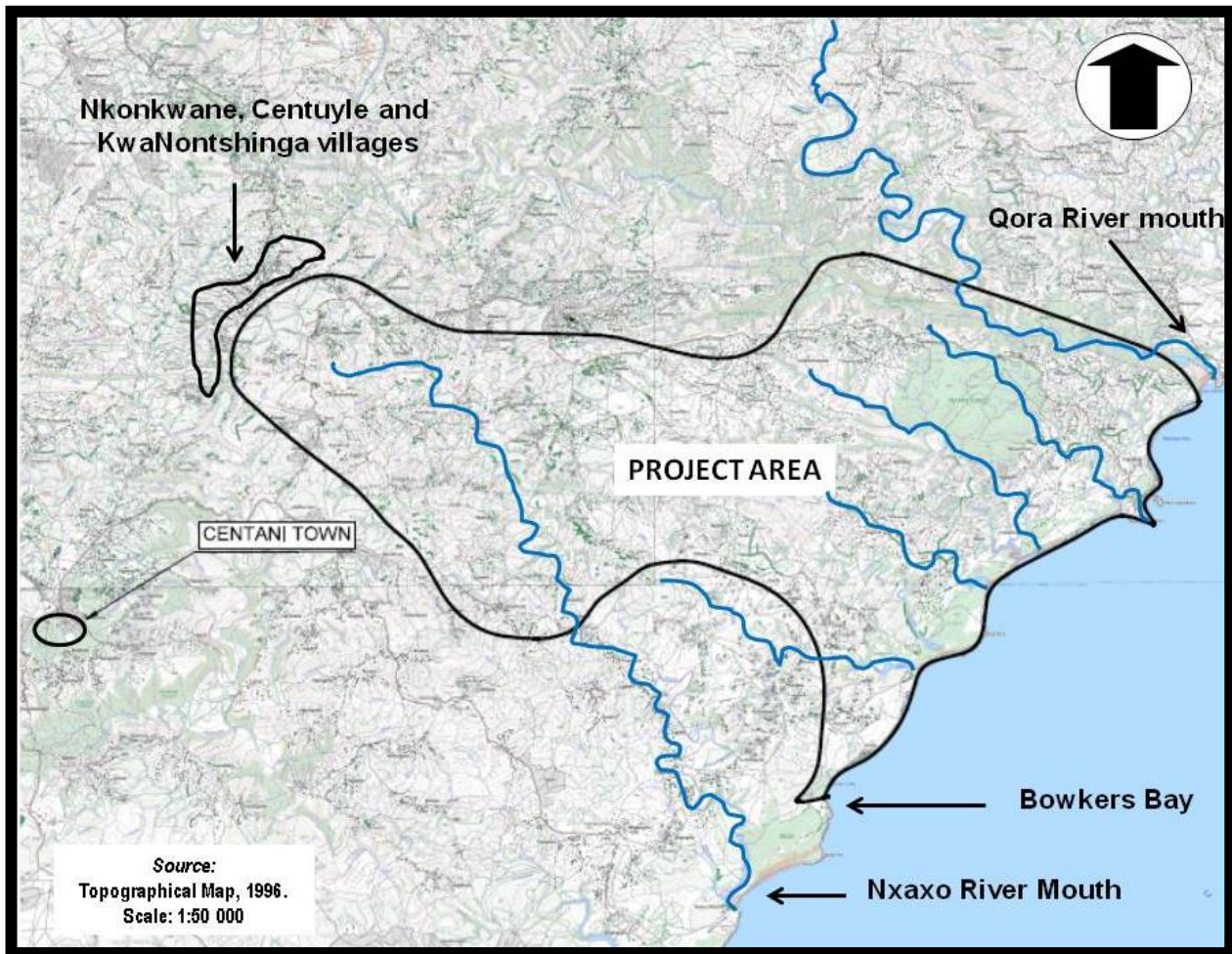


Figure 1: Location of the proposed Nxaxo and Cebe Water Supply scheme.

### 3. THE ENVIRONMENT

The Project is located in a rural environment with traditional villages scattered throughout the area. The topography of the area consists generally of undulating hills and valleys and the area is intersected throughout by numerous water courses and drainage lines. The Qora River to the north and the Nxaxo/Ngqusi River complex to the south are sensitive features. Between these two rivers, several smaller rivers drain to the coast. The general vegetation type for the Project area is Bhishe Thornveld inland and Transkei Coastal Belt along the coast. The Manubi State Forest is an important feature on the northern boundary of the Project area. There are also isolated patches of Scarp Forest and Transkei Coastal Platform Forest along the northern and coastal boundaries. The full sensitivity of the general area from a biophysical and human perspective will be confirmed during the environmental impact assessment studies and will be reported accordingly (see below).

### 4. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT - Amathole Region) have confirmed that the project includes 'listed activities' in terms of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (as amended). As such it will be necessary to obtain Environmental Authorisation before any activities can commence. The 'listed activities', as described in gazetted listing notices, relate to: disturbing areas within 32m of a watercourse as listed in Government Notice R544 (items 11 and 18), the construction of roads outside urban areas (item 22) as well as the construction of infrastructure, clearance of vegetation and storage of water in Critical Biodiversity Areas (Government Notice R546: items 2, 4, 12 and 16). Given the scope of the 'listed activities' associated with the project, the application for Environmental Authorisation will need to be supported by a Basic Assessment Report (BAR).

The BAR will be prepared as per Sections 21 -22 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010 (GNR 543). The purpose of the Basic Environmental Assessment is to identify and assess potential environmental impacts which may arise as a result of the construction and operation phases of the proposed water supply project. This will be achieved through public and stakeholder consultations, literature reviews, field investigations and specialist studies.

An integral and mandatory component of the BAR is Public Participation, whereby interested and affected persons and the public at large are informed of the Project and afforded the opportunity to participate in the EIA process. The EIA Regulations describe the minimum level of public involvement, including the posting of newspaper advertisements and the placing of a notice board(s) on site, public meetings (if required) and opportunities to review document. Further to these requirements the following have been or will be undertaken:

- An Advertisement has been placed in the Daily Dispatch newspaper (20 March 2013). The Notice informs the public of the project and invites them to register as an Interested and Affected Person/Party in the assessment process.
- Noticeboards have been placed at the Mazeppa Bay Hotel, at the Cebe community based rest camp, and at the Mazeppa Bay/Cebe fork in the road at the western edge of project area (28 March 2013).
- A public meeting will be arranged if sufficient interest is generated in response to the advertisements, and/or local officials specifically request a meeting during initial consultation.
- The Draft Basic Assessment Report will be made available for comment before submission to the authorities.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**Amathole District Municipality - Proposed development of Nxaxo and Cebe Water bulk water supply infrastructure.**

**Comments on the Proposed EIA Process, Concerns and Issues**

Your comments on this questionnaire will contribute towards ensuring that the process which is applied to direct the Basic Environmental Assessment is sound and will permit an informed project decision to be taken. **The deadline for receipt of comments is 12 April 2013.** Contact details are provided below.

Name:

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Contact details:

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(email, cellphone etc.)

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1. Do you wish to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party in the Basic Environmental Assessment Process?

YES

NO

2. Do you have any concerns which you believe should be addressed in the EIA and which you would like to bring to the attention of the EIA team? [Additional space for comments is provided overleaf]

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3. Are there any additional interested and affected parties (I&APs) that you feel should be consulted in the course of the EIA? If yes, please indicate contact name, email, address and/or telephone number so we may contact this person or organisation.

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4. Is the process which is proposed for the EIA in accordance with the principles of Environmental Management which are promoted in South Africa?

YES

NO

If no, describe briefly how you believe the process could be improved:

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION**

**THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING AS INTERESTED AFFECTED PARTIES AND/OR RETURNING  
COMMENTS IS 12 April 2013.**

**Please return your details/comments to:**

Ms Candice Joubert

TERRECO Environmental cc

PO Box 19829, Tecoma, EAST LONDON, 5214

Phone: 043 721 1502 Fax: 043 721 1535 Email: [admin@terreco.co.za](mailto:admin@terreco.co.za)