

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

FOR THE PROPOSED FOR THE PROPOSED P710 ROAD BRIDGE & CULVERT PROJECT WITHIN UMLALAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT MARCH 2016



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 P710 Road upgrade Project being undertaken by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport.

The document also provides information regarding the Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken for the project. Furthermore, the document advises how you can become involved in the project, receive information and/or raise issues, which may concern and/or be of interest to you. The 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 plays an important role in the undertaking of a BA as input from I&APs ensures that all potential issues are considered within the study.

WHAT DOES THE PROJECT ENTAIL?

KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport are proposing to upgrade the P710 road as well as the associated infrastructure over the watercourses found along the road. The road upgrade involves the widening of the road by approximately 1.5m as well as the construction of 1 major culvert at the Mbohlisi stream crossing and 1 bridge over the Nembe River. The proposed project is situated in the Umlalazi Local Municipality which is one of the six (6) local municipalities making up UThungulu District Municipality.

Project area is approximately 13km North West of Mandeni town. The proposed road upgrade will traverse the same route as the existing road and be widened by 1.5m. The existing structures will be demolished and raised to prevent flooding. The project was initiated to improve road infrastructure by upgrading the road from gravel to a black top road in the Umlalazi Municipality.

The project will consist of the construction of:

- 1 major culvert
- 1 bridge over the Nembe River
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The proposed infrastructure dimensions are as follows:

- Both structures will be aligned to the 8.5m wide road
- The lengths of the structures will vary from 15m- 25m long

Site and activity alternatives are not an option as this is enhancement and upgrading of existing road infrastructure in an area that requires improved road infrastructure..

It appears that the proposed line may be situated within 32 m of a watercourse, which thus triggers the need for an Environmental Authorisation via a Basic Assessment Process.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

During the assessment process specialist and desk-top studies combined with a site visit will identify potential issues which require further investigation within the Basic Assessment Report.

Specialist studies which have been identified and will be conducted include:

- Ecological Assessment;
- Wetland Delineation; and
- Heritage Assessment

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 Basic Assessment will aim to achieve the following:

- to provide an overall assessment of the social and biophysical environment of the affected area by the proposed construction of the project;
- to undertake a detailed assessment of the project in terms of environmental criteria including the rating and significance of impacts;
- to identify and recommend appropriate mitigation measures for significant environmental impacts; and
- to 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. 983 to 985 of 2014 (as amended), published in terms of Section 24(5), and read with Section 44, of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act No. 107 of 1998), the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport requires environmental authorisation (EA) from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (KZN EDTEA) for undertaking the proposed project as it includes activities listed under Regulation 983 and 985 of the NEMA EIA.

The following activities of GNR 983 are being applied for the EA:

- Activity 12 – The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 m² or more; where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.
- Activity 19 – The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 m³- (i) a watercourse;

Activities under these listings may have an effect on the environment, hence a BA process, as prescribed in the EIA Regulations (GNR 982), 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.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has appointed At Gedezar Consulting as independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the required environmental studies. As part of these environmental studies, all Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through a public participation process (PPP).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

It is important that relevant I&APs are identified and involved in the public participation process from the onset of the project. To ensure effective public participation, the process includes the following steps:

STEP 1: Advertise the BA Process (local newspaper)

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 BA report (30-day comment period)

STEP 5: Record all comments, issues and concerns raised by I&APs within an issues trail, which will form an integral part of BA Reports

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

1. By responding (by phone, fax or e-mail) to our invitation for your involvement in the process;
2. By completing the attached comment form and mailing or faxing it to At Gedezar Consulting;
3. In writing contacting consultants if you have a query, comment or require further project information; and
4. By reviewing and commenting on the draft BA Report within the allowed 30-day review period.

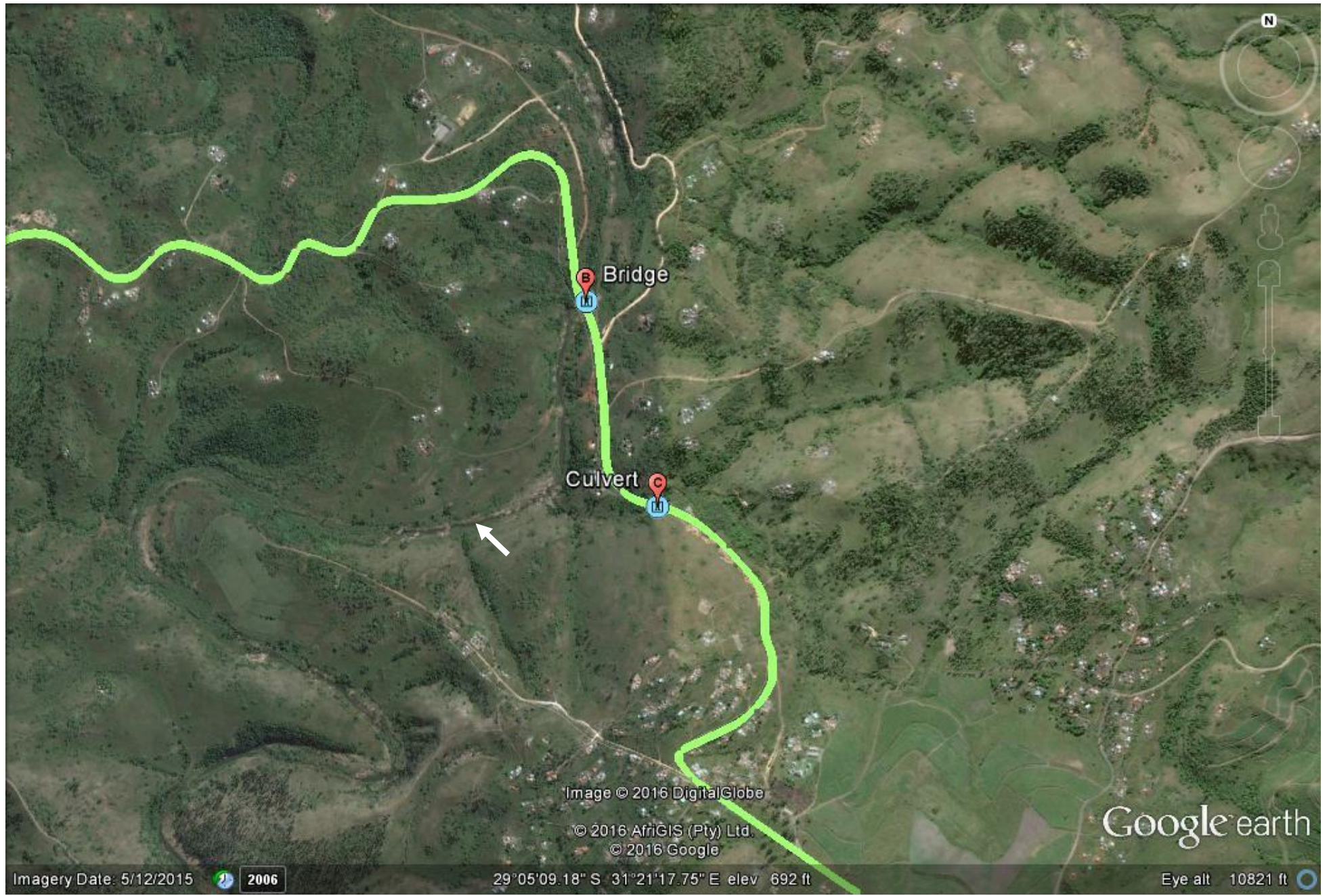
COMMENTS AND QUERIES

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to become involved in the process and provide comment, or raise those issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you, or about which you would like more information. 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 or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

Interested I&AP's are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental and Public Participation consultant before the **15th April 2016**.

Mr. Andile Mnyandu
At Gedezar Consulting
64 Paige Place, 2 Portsmouth Road,
Pinetown, 3600
Direct | 082 495 2176
Fax | 086 723 4520
E-mail | andilemn@gedezar.co.za



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**FOR THE PROPOSED P710 ROAD UPGRADE BRIDGE & CULVERT
PROJECT WITHIN UMLALAZI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**COMMENT FORM
March 2016**



YOUR COMMENTS AND QUERIES ARE WELCOME

Please **complete** this Comment Form **in full before 15th April 2016**, and return to:

Mr. Andile Mnyandu

64 Paige Place, 2 Portsmouth Road, Pinetown, 3600

E-mail: andilemn@gedezar.co.za

Phone: 082 495 2176

Fax: 086 723 4520

TITLE (Prof/Mr/Mrs)		FIRST NAME	
SURNAME			
CAPACITY (e.g. Secretary/Director)			
ORGANISATION			
POSTAL ADDRESS		POSTAL CODE	
TEL. NO.: ()		CELL NO.:	
FAX NO: ()		E-MAIL ADDRES:	

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

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

Name:		Organisation:
Contact details:		
Address:		
Tel.:	Fax:	Cell:
E-mail:		

IF YOU WOULD NOT LIKE 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 WHO'S CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED ABOVE.

YES, Please remove me from the project database	SIGNATURE:
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