

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP)**

### **SCOPING PHASE ACTIVITIES**

Margen Industrial Services conducted the Public Participation Process (PPP) for the Scoping Phase and the early stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report Phase of the EIA for the Iphiva Substation Project, involving as many potential interested and affected parties (I&APs) as possible. **Key stakeholders** consulted during Scoping Phase included the:

- Directly affected landowner/property owners
  - The Ingonyama Trust Board
  - Mandlakazi Traditional Council (Inkosi EB Zulu)
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (They are responsible for biodiversity conservation and associated activities in the protected areas within KwaZulu-Natal)
- KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute (The provincial heritage resources authority for KwaZulu-Natal).

The Scoping Report was made available to the public for review and comment before it was submitted to the Competent Authority

### **COMMENTS AND ISSUES FROM THE SCOPING PHASE**

The comments received and issues raised during the Public Scoping were collated into the Comments and Response Report. Those comments/issues needing further consideration under PPP are:

- **Mandlakazi TC** – It was advised that a meeting be held with the community on the receiving village, that is the EMadwaleni village under induna Mish Myeni.
- **Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife** – It would be Ezemvelo's recommendation that this project should be placed on hold until such time that the entire Northern Strengthening Project can be submitted for a holistic review. This should only be done, once the conditions from the Appeal Decision have been met.
- **KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute** – You are kindly advised that applications sent via email or hardcopy will not be considered in this regard. At the time you have completed an application online, Amafa and Research Institute will consider your application within 10 working days. Please pay attention to the guidelines in the application form as well as the checklist of required documentation).
- **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment** – The PP Team was requested to provide proof of newspaper advertisement that is inline with first application of this specific project. This project was lodge on 20 January 2023. Furthermore, the attached site notice boards indicate 28 April 2022. There is no proof of site notice boards advertised 20 January 2023.

### **RESPONSE/ADDRESS TO THE RAISED COMMENTS/ISSUES**

- **Mandlakazi TC** – Induna for isigodi (the village), Mr Mish Myeni has been contacted and he advised that once the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for public review, a meeting with the community should be arranged to report on the findings and the identified location of the substation. He stressed that meetings in the village are arranged and attended on Sundays.

- **Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife** – The Iphiva 400/132kV Substation project was authorised independent of the other Northern KZN Strengthening Projects (Normandie-Iphiva 400 kV Powerline and Iphiva-Duma 400 kV Powerline). The appeal by Eskom was refused and Eskom was advised to apply for judicial review within 180 days of notification of the appeal's refusal. Eskom did not apply for judicial review and thus it can be concluded that the Iphiva-Duma project is off the table for now. The study process for applying for EA for the substation should be conducted to conclusion.
- **KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute** – The issue of processing the application to the Amafa is being handled by the HIA Specialist
- **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment** – The PP Team announced the project through the newspaper advert and requested interested and or affected parties to REGISTER to receive information on the project. After the advert all registered I&APs received information on the project. The public participation process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The advice of DFFE will now be implemented going forward in the EIAR Phase by

- Placing site notices informing the public about the approval of the scoping report and the beginning of the EIAR phase
- Advertising the availability of the DEIAR
- Place site notices announcing the availability of the DEIAR
- The activities undertaken as part of Public Participation Process were as follows:
  - i Section 40 – all registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were given 30 days to submit comments on Draft Scoping Report which included the Comments and Response Report*
  - ii Section 41 – the project was announced by advertising in the local newspapers and placing site notices. All registered I&APs were given written notice about the project coming to their area.*
  - iii Section 42 – open and continuously maintain a register of I&APs*
  - iv Section 43 – all registered I&APs were informed about the availability of the DSR for public review and comment. Meetings were held to discuss the findings of the DSR and the PoS for Scoping.*
  - v Section 44 – the Comments and Response Report and minutes of meetings held were included in the reports that were submitted to the competent authority.*

The public participation activities undertaken after submitting the Final Scoping Report are as outlined in the table below and this process will be ongoing up until the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report is submitted to the DFFE. The table below gives the list of activities undertaken as at the time of issuing Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for review and comment

| Date  | Activity  | Participants/Target   | Products  |
|---|---|---|---|
| Initiated in April 2022 and will be ongoing | Identified potentially Affected and/or Interested Parties, Database establishment and maintenance | Consultants and identified leaders/officials as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms Thembeka Ndlovu</li> <li>○ Inkosi EB Zulu</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dinesree Thambu</li> <li>• Sphelile Masuku (for Dr Dlamuka)</li> <li>• Government departments responsible officials</li> </ul> | Database of stakeholders: <b>Appendix B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ingonyama Trust Board</li> <li>○ Mandlakazi Traditional Council leader, Inkosi EB Zulu contacted to confirm the preferred method of consultation</li> <li>• Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife contacted to agree on who to contact within the organization and was furnished with the study area map</li> <li>• Amafa Institute advised on the line of communication</li> <li>• Contact details of officials and the general public obtained and included in the database</li> </ul> |
| April 2022                                  | Generate Information Dissemination Documents  | PP Team, Project Leader and Eskom manager   | Background Information Document (BID); Reply Sheet; Advertisement; Site Notice – <b>Appendix B</b>  |
| End April 2022 and is ongoing               | Announce the project to the public  | PP Team and the public  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers (Isolezwe and Ilanga) – <b>Appendix B</b></li> <li>• Site notices placed at strategic points in the study area – <b>Appendix B</b></li> <li>• BIDs with Reply Sheets distributed at key points in the study area – <b>Appendix B</b></li> <li>• BIDs with Reply Sheets sent to all stakeholders captured in the database, that is, government officials, commenting authorities and organisations and NGOs – <b>Appendix B</b></li> </ul>                         |
| 23 January 2023                             | Circulated a Letter announcing the availability of the DSR  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A letter informing all stakeholders on the database about the availability of the DSR</li> </ul>   |

| Date                | Activity  | Participants/Target                            | Products   |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
|                     |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The letter was accompanied by the executive summary of the DSR and a locality map – <b>Appendix B</b></li> </ul>  |
| 23 January 2023     | Placed hard copies of the DSR at Mandlakazi TC (inkosi EB Zulu) offices   | Receptionist at the Mandlakazi TC              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hard copies of the DSR placed at the office of the Mandlakazi TC and 20 copies of the executive summary of the report in English and isiZulu were given to the receptionist to distribute to the council members</li> </ul> |
| 23 January 2023     | Delivered the hard copy of the DSR to Nongoma LM  | Receptionist at the office of MM at Nongoma LM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report was delivered at the office of MM</li> </ul>   |
| 2 – 4 February 2023 | Announced the availability of the DSR for public review   | All registered stakeholders                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placed Advertisement in the regional newspaper, Ilanga LaseNatali in IsiZulu and English – <b>Appendix B</b></li> </ul>   |
| 06 February 2023    | Invited stakeholders to the virtual meeting   | All registered stakeholders                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All stakeholders on the database</li> </ul>   |
| 09 February 2023    | ONLINE stakeholders meeting   | PP Team/Eskom                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online meeting held but there was no attendance.</li> </ul>   |
| 22 February 2023    | Meeting with Mandlakazi TC  | PP Team/Eskom/Mandlakazi TC members            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of the meeting recorded – <b>Appendix B</b></li> </ul>  |
| 27 February 2023    | Sent out a “Reminder to Comment on the Draft Scoping Report”  | PP Team and all registered stakeholders        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An email circulated to all registered stakeholders <b>Appendix B</b></li> </ul>   |
| 19/04/2023          | Informed all registered I&APs about the approval of Final Scoping Report and the start of the EIAR process                            | PP Team and the public                         | <b>Appendix B</b>  |
| 31/05/2023          | Placed Site notice informing the public about the approval of the Final Scoping Report and the date for the availability of the DEIAR | PP Team and the public                         | <b>Appendix B</b>  |
| 13/06/2023          | Advertised the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for   | PP Team and the public                         | <b>Appendix B</b>  |

| Date | Activity                            | Participants/Target | Products |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|
|      | public review (English and IsiZulu) |                     |          |

## **WAY FORWARD**

At the time of releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for public review there were no comments or issues received from stakeholders. The Comments and Response Report generated during Scoping Phase will be updated with the comments that will be received during the EIAR Phase. For now the way forward is that:

- The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be made available for public review and comment on 23 June 2023 to 24 July 2023
- The public will be notified via advertisements in the local newspapers and via emails about the availability of the DEIAR and where the report can be accessed.
- Site notices will be placed in different public places to inform the public about the availability and the review of the report
- Emails will be used to distribute the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- A focus group meeting will be held with the community of EMadwaleni village to discuss the findings of the DEIAR.
- Virtual meetings will be held with key stakeholders
- Minutes of meetings held will be circulated to attendees before inclusion in the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- Registered stakeholders will be informed about the submission of the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the authority and later about the decision of the Competent Authority. The appeal process will also be explained.