

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT LOCATED ON LOT 1490 PARDIANAGAR, MANDENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this Background Information Document (BID) is to provide a brief description of the proposed development and the EIA Process that will be followed. The aim is to inform Interested and Affected Parties (IAPs) on how to participate in the EIA Process and to obtain comments from IAPs on the issues pertaining to the proposed development. Findings of the EIA Process, including concerns raised by IAPs will be submitted to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION

The Mandeni Local Municipality has proposed the establishment of a cemetery located within Padianager, which is within its area of jurisdiction. The cemetery is planned to service the community of Mandeni and its surroundings.

The Project initiation Phase has been completed and the pre-application meeting with Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) was held on the 18th of August 2022. However, due to unforeseen challenges, the EIA process had not been finalized.

The Mandeni Local Municipality has therefore appointed K2M Environmental to assist the Municipality in the undertaking of the EIA process including the relevant specialist studies. The intention of this EIA is to obtain the Environmental Authorization from the Competent Authority, thereby allowing the Municipality to proceed with the development.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND DIRECTION TO THE SITE

The property making up the proposed cemetery site is Lot 1490 of Padianager and is located in Ward 4 of the Mandeni Local Municipality (**Figure 1**). The property has a total extent of approximately 15.4 hectares and is predominantly vacant with existing rural dwellings located on the periphery of the site.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATES

Latitudinal Extent: 29° 10' 30.71" S
Longitudinal Extent: 31° 23' 58.15" E

CURRENT AND SURROUNDING LAND USE

The project area is currently vacant with existing rural dwellings located on the periphery of the site. It is also traversed by a perennial watercourse along its southern and eastern borders with the Thukela River flowing approximately 586 metres north of the project area. The project area is currently zoned as Urban Agriculture.

Figure 1: Proposed Project Area



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed development will entail the establishment of a cemetery together with associated infrastructure. According to the Pre-Application Meeting held for this development on the 18th August 2022, the capacity of the site is estimated at approximately 3600 adult graves and 3600 child graves. The site will include the following facilities:

- Guard House;
- Ablution Facilities;
- Fence Line;
- Access and Internal Roads, and Parking Facilities and;
- Stormwater Infrastructure.

Access to the site will be through the town of Mandeni. From Mandeni, turn left onto Kingfisher Rd. Drive along Kingfisher Rd for approximately 700m, (passing Matthews Rd and the Mandeni Municipality) and then turn left onto Mr415. Continue along Mr415 for approximately 5.2km (crossing the Thukela River) then after crossing the bridge, take the second right. Continue along this path for approximately 100m then take the second right turn. Continue along this road for approximately 100m then take the first left. After driving along this road for approximately 100m, take a slight right to enter the project area.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The EIA process for this proposed development will be conducted in accordance with the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (as amended in 2017), published in terms of sections 24(2) and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) 2014 EIA Regulations lists activities that may have a significant impact on the environment, and which consequently require environmental authorization from the competent authority. The regulations also specify the environmental assessment process, and information that is required to enable DEDTEA to make a decision regarding the proposed activity.

The Basic Assessment Process is required to be followed with accordance to the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended in 2017), as the following activities have the potential to be triggered by the proposed development:

LISTING NOTICE 1

Activity 12: *The development of-*
(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;

Where such development occurs-
(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

Background:

The proposed development may entail the construction of infrastructure and structures of a physical footprint of more than 100m² within 32m of a watercourse.

Activity 23: *The development of cemeteries of 2500 square metres or more in size.*

Background:

The proposed development may entail the establishment of a cemetery of more than 2500m².

Activity 27: *The clearance of an area of 1 hectare or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation.*

Background:

The proposed development will entail the removal of more than 1 hectares of indigenous vegetation but less than 20 hectares.

LISTING NOTICE 3

Activity 4: *The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres.*

d. KwaZulu-Natal:

(viii). Critical biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Background:

The proposed development may entail the construction of roads within a CBA: Irreplaceable Area

Activity 12: *The clearance of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.*

d. KwaZulu-Natal

(iv). Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;

(v). Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Background:

The proposed development may entail the clearance of more than 300m² of indigenous vegetation within a CBA: Irreplaceable Area and within the KZN Coastal Belt Grassland ecosystem which is endangered.

Activity 14: *The development of-*

(ii). infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;

Where such development occurs-

(c) if no development setback has been adopted within 32 metres of a watercourse;

d. KwaZulu-Natal

(vii). Critical biodiversity areas or ecological support areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Background:

The proposed development may entail the construction of infrastructure and structures of a physical footprint of more than 10m² within 32m of a watercourse; within a CBA: Irreplaceable Area.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

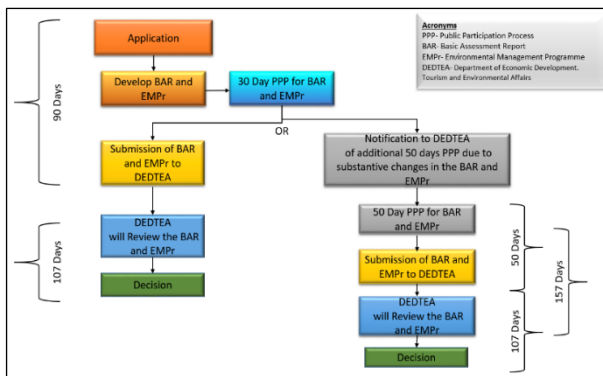
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) responsible for undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project methodology involved with the required Environmental Authorization Process is illustrated in **Figure 2** below.

Figure 2: Illustration of the Basic Assessment Process



POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GEOPHYSICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL:

- ✚ Removal of indigenous vegetation.
- ✚ Soil pollution and soil erosion.
- ✚ Potential for illegal dumping within the open space system.
- ✚ Invasion of alien plants as they are attracted to disturbed environments.
- ✚ An Environmental Management Programme will be developed with which to monitor and mitigate any environmental impacts before they occur, during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development.

CULTURAL-HISTORIC ISSUES:

The findings from the Heritage Impact Assessment that was undertaken indicate that no heritage resources of significance were identified within the project area.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- ✚ Increase in traffic volumes (both pedestrian and vehicular) along the existing road network during the construction and operational phase of the proposed development.
- ✚ The construction phase of development will result in a number of temporary employment opportunities for unemployed members of the surrounding community.
- ✚ The proposed development will provide the local community with a developed and dignified space in which to bury the departed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation is the foundation of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The principles of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) guide various aspects of the EIA process, including public participation which involves the provision of sufficient information, in a transparent manner, to IAPs. During the Public Participation Process input from the proponent, specialists, government, and non-government organizations as well as all other potential IAPs are gathered to enable more informed decision-making.

Public Participation during the Basic Assessment Process will entail the EAP notifying all IAPs about the draft Basic Assessment Report. IAPs will then be given the opportunity of at least 30 days to comment and raise issues and/or concerns about the draft BAR. Once the 30-day commenting period is over, the EAP will then compile the Final BAR which will be inclusive of comments and responses and submit to DEDTEA for assessment. IAPs will then be notified in writing of the decision taken by DEDTEA pertaining to the project.

Further information pertaining to this project can be obtained from:

Contact Person: Mr Gert Watson

Tel: 031 7646 743

Fax: 031 7642 354

Email: info@k2m.co.za



K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

Company Registration Number: 2008/016461/07

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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED
 CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT LOCATED ON LOT 1490 PARDIANAGAR, MANDENI LOCAL
 MUNICIPALITY**

I wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) and/or bring to the attention of K2M Environmental the following comments.

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Title: | First Name: | Surname: | Initials: |
| Organization: | | Designation: | |
| Postal Address: | | | |
| Tel no: | | Cell no: | |
| Fax no: | | Email: | |

Comment:

DISCLAIMER:

In terms of the section 11 of the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPI ACT), 2013, I hereby wish to give consent to K2M Environmental to the lawful processing of my personal information stated above for the EIA Process undertaken for the proposed development as required by the 2014 EIA Regulations (as amended).

Date: _____

Signed: _____

ISAZISO NGESICELO SOKUGUNYAZWA KWEZEMVELO NENQUBO YESICELO SOKUGUNYAZWA UKUSEBENZISA AMANZI

Isaziso ngokufakwa kwesicelo sokugunyazwa kwezeMvelo ngokweMithetho ye-EIA ka-2014, njengoba ichitshiyelwe (ngokweSahluko 5, iSigaba 24(5), 24M kanye neSigaba 44 soMthetho Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo Kazwelonke, 1998, njengoba uchitshiyelwe) kanye nenqubo yeWater Use License Application (WULA) ngokwe-National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 1998) (NWA).

Intuthuko ehlongozwayo idinga ukugunyazwa okuhambiselana nemibandela ye-Basic Assessment Report kanye nemisebenzi ebhalisiwe ngokweSigaba 21 (c) no (i) soMthetho Wamanzi, 1998. Bonke abantu abanentshisekelo nabathintekayo bayamenywa ukuthi babhalise kwi-K2M Environmental kungakapheli izinsuku ezingu-30 kukhishwelesi saziso.

Igama le-Project:

eHlongozwayo iMandeni Cemetery Development

Inombolo yenkomba yeEIA:

DC29/0009/2023

Indawo ye-Project:

Amathuna ahlongozwayo azoba endaweni yaku-1490 yasePadianagar, engaphansi kwesigceme saku4 futhi ngaphansi kobunikazi bukaMasipala waseMandeni. Uma usuka e-Stanger Central uqonda enyakatho bese ujikela kwesokudla ukuze uphumele eVoortrekker St/R74 ubheke e-Blythedale bese ujikela kwesokunxele ungene ku-R102 usuka e-Stanger Central, hamba cishe u-20, 48km bese ujikela kwesokunxele uhambe cishe u-2.8km ujike kwesokunxele, cishe u-112m jikela kwesokudla. Qhubeka futhi uhamba cishe u-0,44km iMandeni (indawo ehlongozwayo) izoba kwesokunxele sakho.

Ama-Geographical coordinates endawo:

| Latitude /Longitude | Degrees/Minutes/Seconds |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| South | 29° 10' 30.71" |
| East | 31° 23' 58.15" |

Imininigwane Yendawo:

Isakhiwo sinesilinganiso esilinganiselwa kumahektha ayi-15,4. Indawo eningi ayinamuntu futhi inezakhiwo zokuhlala abantu ezisezindaweni zasemakhaya ezitholakala emaphethelweni kanye namathuna asendaweni angakahleleki ukuhamba eyamathuna, ezizofakwa ekwakhiweni kwentuthuko ehlongoza ukwakhiwa kwendawo ehlelekile yamathuna.

Intuthuko ehlongozwayo izobandakanya ukususwa kwamahektha ayi-10 yezimila zendabuko ngenhloso yokwakha lokhu okulandelayo:

- Amathuna abantu abadala angu-3600 kanye namathuna ezingane angu-3600
- Indlu Yonogada
- Izinsiza Zokugeza
- Izinsiza Zokupaka izimoto
- Imigwaqo yokunge kanye neyangaphakathi
- Inggalasizinda yamanzi emvula
- Ulayini wocingo lokubiyela

Isimemo somphakathi sofaka imibono:

Abantu abafisa ukubambiqhaza bayamenywa ukuba babhalise njengabantu abanentshisekelo nathintekayo, kanye nokuphawula ngohlaka lombiko wokuhlola okuyisisekelo zingakapheli izinsuku ezingama-30 zalesi saziso. Ikhophi yoMbiko Osalungiswa Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo iyatholakala eMtsheni Wolwazi Womphakathi waseMandini oku-502 Long Street, Mandini, 4490 kusukela zi-07 kuNtulikazi 2023. Okunye, uhlaka Lombiko Wokuhlola Okuyisisekelo lungatholakala malithunyelwa ngekhompuyutha kubantu abathintekayo uma bewucela. Izethulo mayelana nalesi sicelo zingenziwa ngefeksi noma ngeposi kuMnumzane Gert Watson (imininingwane yokuxhumana ingezansi) futhi kufanele zifike emahhovisi ase-K2M Environmental ngaphambi noma zingu-07 kuNcwaba 2023.

Ulwazi olwengeziwe ungaluthola kuleminingwane

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Contact person: Mr Gert Watson

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Fax: (031) 764 2354

E-mail: info@k2m.co.za

Usuku Lwesaziso: 07 kuNtulikazi 2023



**PROPOSED CEMETERY ON LOT 1490
PADIANAGAR
MANDENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

LOCALITY

Scale: 1:4 500 Date: February 2023

Drawn By: P. Govender Checked by: G. Watson

Coordinate System: WGS 84 (Lo 31)



Legend

Project Area

Wards

Erven

Road Network

Provincial

