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Department:
Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

**Basic assessment report in terms of the
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010, promulgated
in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998(Act
No. 107 of 1998), as amended.**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| File Reference Number: | (For applicant / EAP to complete) 17/2/3/GS-72 |
| Project Title: | Expansion of the Rondolog sawmill situated on Portion 10 of the farm Springbokkraal 434 IT, Mpumalanga |
| Name of Responsible Official: | Mr. Bheki Mndawe |
| NEAS Reference Number: | (For official use only) |
| Date Received: | |

Kindly note that:

1. Required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The size of the spaces provided is not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Tables can be extended as each space is filled with typing.
2. Where applicable **black out** the boxes that are not applicable in the form.
3. An incomplete report may be returned to the applicant for revision.
4. The use of "not applicable" in the report must be done with circumspection because if it is used in respect of material information that is required by the competent authority for assessing the application, it may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the regulations.
5. All reports (draft and final) must be submitted to the Department at the address of the relevant **DISTRICT OFFICE** given below or by delivery thereof to the relevant **DISTRICT OFFICE**. Should the reports not be submitted at the relevant district office, they will not be considered.
6. No faxed or e-mailed reports will be accepted.
7. One copy of the draft version of this report must be submitted to the relevant district office. The case officer may request more than one copy in certain circumstances.
8. **Copies of the draft report must be submitted to the relevant State Departments / Organs of State for comment.** In order to give effect to Regulation 56(7), proof of submission/delivery of the draft documents to the State Departments / Organs of State must be attached to the draft version of this report.
9. Unless protected by law, all information in the report will become public information on receipt by the competent authority. Any interested and affected party should be provided with the information contained in this report on request, during any stage of the application process.
10. All specialist reports must be appended to this document, and all specialists must complete a declaration of independence, which is obtainable from the Department.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Project applicant: | Rondolog (Pty) Ltd. | | |
| Trading name (if any): | Rondolog (Pty) Ltd. | | |
| Contact person: | Mr. Ralf Paul | | |
| Physical address: | Farm Breda, Piet Retief | | |
| Postal address: | PO Box 6, Iswepe | | |
| Postal code: | 2382 | Cell: | 082 321 0727 |
| Telephone: | 017 811 5892 | Fax: | 086 516 3155 |
| E-mail: | paul.ralf@gmail.com | | |

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|---|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Environmental Assessment Practitioner: | Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd. | | |
| Contact person: | Miss Lizette Crous | | |
| Postal address: | P.O. Box 74726, Lynwood Ridge ,Pretoria | | |
| Postal code: | 0040 | Cell: | 071 673 3355 |
| Telephone: | 012 807 7036 | Fax: | 012 807 1014 / 086 643 5360 |
| E-mail: | lizette@shangoni.co.za | | |
| Qualifications: | Post-Graduate Certificate – Environmental Management | | |
| Professional affiliations (if any): | IAIAsa Gauteng | | |

SECTION B: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Describe the activity, which is being applied for, in detail. The description must include the size of the proposed activity (or in the case of linear activities, the length) and the size of the area that will be transformed by the activity.

The proposed project entails the upgrading and expansion of the Rondolog sawmill so that 120 000m³ or 120 000 tons of timber can be processed per annum (10 000 tons per month). The expansion will achieve better economies of scale at the sawmill. Upgrading will occur within the current sawmill infrastructure and the infrastructure will also be expanded onto vacant land. The developmental footprint will be approximately 20 000m².

SECTION C: PROPERTY/SITE DESCRIPTION

Provide a full description of the preferred site alternative (farm name and number, portion number, registration division, erf number etc.):

Portion 10 of the farm Springbokkraal 434 IT

Indicate the position of the activity using the latitude and longitude of the centre point of the preferred site alternative. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should have at least three decimals to ensure adequate accuracy. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS84 spheroid in a national or local projection. The position of alternative sites must be indicated in Section B of this document.

| Latitude (S): | | Longitude (E): | |
|---------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| 26° | 51.034' | 30° | 31.591' |

In the case of linear activities: NOT APPLICABLE

- Starting point of the activity
- Middle point of the activity
- End point of the activity

| Latitude (S): | | Longitude (E): | |
|---------------|---|----------------|---|
| ° | ' | ° | ' |
| ° | ' | ° | ' |
| ° | ' | ° | ' |

SITE OR ROUTE PLAN

A detailed site or route plan(s) must be prepared for each alternative site or alternative activity. It must be attached as an appendix to this document.

The site or route plans must be at least A3 and must include the following:



- 6.1 a reference no / layout plan no., date, and a legend / land use table
- 6.2 the scale of the plan which must be at least a scale of 1:2000;
- 6.3 the current land use as well as the land use zoning of each of the properties adjoining the site or sites;
- 6.4 the exact position of each element of the application as well as any other structures on the site;
- 6.5 the position of services, including electricity supply cables (indicate above or underground), water supply pipelines, boreholes, street lights, sewage pipelines, storm water infrastructure and telecommunication infrastructure;
- 6.6 all indigenous trees taller than 1.8 metres and all vegetation of conservation concern (protected, endemic and/or red data species);
- 6.8 servitudes indicating the purpose of the servitude;
- 6.9 sensitive environmental elements within 100 metres of the site or sites including (but not limited thereto):
 - watercourses and wetlands;
 - the 1:100 year flood line;
 - ridges;
 - cultural and historical features;
- 6.9 10 metre contour intervals

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Colour photographs from the centre of the site must be taken in at least the eight major compass directions with a description of each photograph. Photographs must be attached as an appendix to this form.

FACILITY ILLUSTRATION

A detailed illustration of the activity must be provided at a scale of 1:200 as an appendix for activities that include structures. The illustrations must be to scale and must represent a realistic image of the planned activity. The illustration must give a representative view of the activity.

SECTION D: BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Prepare a basic assessment report that complies with Regulation 22 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010. The basic assessment report must be attached to this form and must contain all the information that is necessary for the competent authority to consider the application and to reach a decision contemplated in Regulation 25, and must include:

(Checklist
for official
use only)

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| 1. | A description of the environment that may be affected by the proposed activity and the manner in which the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity. | |
| 2. | An identification of all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the basic assessment report. | |
| 3. | Details of the public participation process conducted in terms of Regulation 21(2)(a) in connection with the application, including – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the steps that were taken to notify potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application; (ii) proof that notice boards, advertisements and notices notifying potentially interested and affected parties of the proposed application have been displayed, placed or given; (iii) a list of all persons, organisations and organs of state that were registered in terms of regulation 55 as interested and affected parties in relation to the application; and (iv) a summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, the date of receipt of and the response of the EAP to those issues; | |
| 4. | A description of the need and desirability of the proposed activity; | |
| 5. | A description of any identified alternatives to the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity; | |
| 6. | A description and assessment of the significance of any environmental impacts, including— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) cumulative impacts, that may occur as a result of the undertaking of the activity or identified alternatives or as a result of any construction, erection or decommissioning associated with the undertaking of the activity; (ii) the nature of the impact; (iii) the extent and duration of the impact; (iv) the probability of the impact occurring; (v) the degree to which the impact can be reversed; (vi) the degree to which the impact may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and (vii) the degree to which the impact can be mitigated; | |
| 7. | Any environmental management and mitigation measures proposed by the EAP; | |
| 8. | Any inputs and recommendations made by specialists to the extent that may be necessary; | |
| 9. | A draft environmental management programme containing the aspects contemplated in | |

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| regulation 33; | |
| 10. A description of any assumptions, uncertainties and gaps in knowledge; | |
| 11. A reasoned opinion as to whether the activity should or should not be authorised, and if the opinion is that it should be authorised, any conditions that should be made in respect of that authorisation | |
| 12. Any representations, and comments received in connection with the application or the basic assessment report; | |
| 13. The minutes of any meetings held by the EAP with interested and affected parties and other role players which record the views of the participants; | |
| 14. Any responses by the EAP to those representations, comments and views; | |
| 15. Any specific information required by the competent authority; and | |
| 16. Any other matters required in terms of sections 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act. | |

The basic assessment report must take into account -

- (a) any relevant guidelines; and
- (b) any departmental policies, environmental management instruments and other decision making instruments that have been developed or adopted by the competent authority in respect of the kind of activity which is the subject of the application.

* In terms of Regulation 22(4), the EAP managing the application must provide the competent authority with detailed, written proof of an investigation as required by section 24(4)(b)(i) of the Act and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives, as contemplated in subregulation 22(2)(h), exist.

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| Have reasonable and feasible alternatives been identified, described and assessed? | YES | |
| If NO, the motivation and investigation required in terms of Regulation 22(4) must be attached as an Appendix to this document | | |

SECTION E: CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS

Provide a list of all State Departments / Organs of State that have been consulted and registered as interested and affected parties, and to whom draft reports have been submitted for comment. **Proof of submission / delivery of the draft report to all State Department / Organs of State must be attached to this document.**

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Department: | Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration | | |
| Contact person: | Ms. Nelisiwe Sithole | | |
| Postal address: | Private Bag X 11219, Nelspruit | | |
| Postal code: | 1200 | Cell: | |
| Telephone: | 013 766 6067/6068 | Fax: | |
| E-mail: | sitholeni@mpg.gov.za | | |

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|------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|
| Department: | Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs | | |
| Contact person: | Mr. David Mahlobo | | |
| Postal address: | Private Bag X11304, Nelspruit | | |
| Postal code: | 1200 | Cell: | 082 338 9881 |
| Telephone: | 013 766 6087/6675 | Fax: | 013 766 8441/2 |
| E-mail: | ILSetlogelo@mpg.gov.za | | |

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|------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| Department: | Department of Safety, Security and Liaison | | |
| Contact person: | Mr Isaiah Khoza | | |
| Postal address: | Private Bag X11269, Nelspruit | | |
| Postal code: | 1200 | Cell: | |
| Telephone: | 013 766 4062 | Fax: | 013 766 4615 |
| E-mail: | ANMahlalela@mpg.gov.za | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Department: | Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation | | |
| Contact person: | Ms. Sibongile Nkosi & Ms Sindi Mjwara | | |
| Postal address: | PO Box 1243, Nelspruit | | |
| Postal code: | 1200 | Cell: | |
| Telephone: | 013 766 5242 | Fax: | 013 766 5591/8253 |
| E-mail: | | | |

Department: Department of Education
Contact person: Ms. Mahlasedi Mhlabane
Postal address: Private Bag X 11341, Nelspruit
Postal code: 1200 **Cell:**
Telephone: 0800 203 116 **Fax:**
E-mail: L.brits@education.mpu.gov.za

Department: Department of Finance
Contact person: Mr J. Mbatha
Postal address: Private Bag X11205, Nelspruit
Postal code: 1200 **Cell:** 082 331 4533
Telephone: 013 766 4229 **Fax:** 013 766 9424
E-mail: jmbatha@mpg.gov.za

Department: Department of Health and Social Development
Contact person: Dr Johnson Jerry Mahlangu
Postal address: Private Bag X 11285, Nelspruit
Postal code: 1200 **Cell:**
Telephone: 013 766 3429/30/28 **Fax:** 013 766 8430
E-mail: apohl@mpg.gov.za

Department: Department of Human Settlements
Contact person: Mr. David Dube
Postal address: Private Bag X11328, Nelspruit
Postal code: 1200 **Cell:**
Telephone: 013 766 6233 **Fax:** 013 766 8430
E-mail: apohl@mpg.gov.za

Department: Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport
Contact person: Mr. Kgopana Mathew Mohlasedi
Postal address: Private Bag X 11310, Nelspruit
Postal code: 1200 **Cell:**
Telephone: 013 766 6978/9 **Fax:** 013 766 8471/67
E-mail:

Department: Department of Water Affairs, Mpumalanga Regional Office
Contact person: Mr. F. Mntambo
Postal address: Private Bag X11259, Nelspruit
Postal code: 1200 **Cell:** 083 628 7614
Telephone: 013 759 7310 **Fax:** 013 759 7525
E-mail: MntamboF@dwa.gov.za

Department: Gert Sibande District Municipality
Contact person: Mr. T.D. Hlanyane
Postal address: PO Box 1748 Ermelo
Postal code: 2350 **Cell:**
Telephone: 017 801 7000 **Fax:**
E-mail: dan.hlanyane@gsibande.gov.za

Department: Mkhondo Local Municipality
Contact person: Mr. Vusi Dube
Postal address: PO Box 23, Piet Retief
Postal code: 2380 **Cell:**
Telephone: 017 826 8130/2211/8100 **Fax:** 017 826 3129/ 086 542 1173
E-mail: vusih.dube@gmail.com

Department: Mkhondo Local Municipality - Ward 6
Contact person: Cllr. Patrick S. Nhlabathi
Postal address: PO Box 1561, Piet Retief
Postal code: 2380 **Cell:** 0764664244
Telephone: **Fax:**
E-mail: sifisopat@gmail.com

Department: South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
Contact person: Phillip Hine
Postal address: PO Box 4637, Cape Town
Postal code: 8000 **Cell:**
Telephone: 021 462 4502 **Fax:** 021 462 4509
E-mail: phine@sahra.org.za

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| Department: | Mr. Tendo Ramagoma | |
| Contact person: | National Heritage Council (NHC) | |
| Postal address: | PO Box 74097, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria | |
| Postal code: | 0040 | Cell: |
| Telephone: | | Fax: |
| E-mail: | | |

SECTION E: APPENDICES

The following appendices must be attached to the basic assessment report as appropriate:

Site plan(s)

Photographs

Facility illustration(s)

Specialist reports

Comments and responses report

Other information