

SCOPING REPORT

Submitted in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) to:

KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS (DEDTEA)

PROJECT TITLE

The planting of sugarcane on the section of Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 totaling 101,2 HA, within the City of Umhlathuze Local Municipality and King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Heatonville, Empangeni, KwaZulu – Natal.

(1) (a) (i) Details of the EAP who prepared the report:

Business name of EAP:	Mondli Consulting Services		
Physical address:	6 Joseph Avenue, New Era House, Suite 12, Durban North		
Postal address:	P O Box 22536, Glenashley		
Postal code:	4022	Cell:	0826799841
Telephone:	0826799841	Fax:	(031) 5725647
E-mail:	mondlib@webmail.co.za		

(ii) The expertise of the EAP (including curriculum vitae)

Name of representative of the EAP	Education qualifications	Professional affiliations	Experience at environmental assessments (yrs)
M. Mthembu	Diploma in Nature Conservation Masters Degree (Environmental Management Dissertation) Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	Society of South African Geographers (Membership No. 28/09), as confirmed to comply with the requirements set by South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions.	Has been involved in environmental and conservation field for over 20 yrs. Conducted EIAs for over 15 years including Strategic Env. Assessment. Has been involved in the review and commenting on development projects impacting on the environment.

P.S. Zulu	B. Pedagogics		7 years' experience in monitoring and inspection of environmental projects.
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(b) The location of the activity

(i) The 21-digit Surveyor General code of each cadastral land parcel

P	T	N	1	L	O	T	2	5	2	E	M	P	1	3	3	1	3			
N	O	G	U	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0

(ii) The physical address and farm name

The project site is located along Heatonville Road towards a small town of Heatonville. The GPS coordinates taken at the centre are: (31° .766 - 28° .687) [52 + 49.2 = [101,2]. The project site for PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 can be accessed from Heatonville Road as shown in the locality map, travelling towards Heatonville.

(iii) Where the required information in terms of (i) and (ii) is not available, the co-ordinates of the boundary of the property or properties

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

Alternative:

Alternative S1¹ (preferred or only site alternative)

Alternative S2 (if any)

Alternative S3 (if any)

31°	766'	00"	28°	687'	00"
°	'	"	°	'	"
°	'	"	°	'	"

(c) A plan which locates the proposed activity or activities at an appropriate scale, or, if it is -

See the attached locality map locating the proposed planting of sugarcane on the section of Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 at Heatonville. – **attached as Appendix A (i).**

(i) A linear activity, a description and co-ordinates of the corridor in which the proposed activity or activities is to be undertaken; or

As provided above.

In the case of linear activities:

Alternative:

Latitude (S):

Longitude (E):

Alternative S1 (preferred or only route alternative)

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

Alternative S2 (if any)

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

o		"	o	'	"
o	'	"	o	'	"
o	'	"	o	'	"

Alternative S3 (if any)

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

o	'	"	o	'	"
o	'	"	o	'	"
o	'	"	o	'	"

(ii) On land where the property has not been defined, the co-ordinates within which the activity is to be undertaken;

Coordinates - as furnished under (b) (iii) above.

(d) A description of the scope of the proposed activity, including -

(i) All listed and specified activities triggered;

Indicate the number and date of the relevant notice:

Activity No(s) (in terms of the relevant notice) :

Describe each listed activity as per the project description (and not as per wording of the relevant Government Notice)²:

GNR. 982 of 2014 (GNR 984, Listing Notice 2) as amended on 7 April 2017	Activity No. 13 - The physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture, or afforestation for the purposes of commercial	The physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture, or afforestation for the purposes of commercial tree, timber or wood production of 100 hectares or more.
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²Please note that this description should not be a repetition of the listed activity as contained in the relevant Government Notice, but should be a brief description of activities to be undertaken as per the project description, i.e. describe the components of the desired development

	tree, timber or wood production of 100 hectares or more.	In this instance, it is the physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture in a section falling under PTN 1 LOT 252 EMP No. 13313.
GNR. 982 of 2014 (GNR 984, Listing Notice 2) as amended on 7 April 2017	Activity No. 15 - The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – (i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or (ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for – (iii) The undertaking of a linear activity; or (iv) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan. In this instance, it will be the clearance of an area of 101,2 HA falling under PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313.

(ii) A description of the activities to be undertaken, including associated structures and infrastructure;

The project entails the planting of sugarcane on the Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313. The section of the Farm that will be planted is 101,2 HA. The activity necessitates the physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture as some portions have been lying fallow for more than 10 years, whereas other portions will call for the clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation. The identified area will have two centre pivots **as shown in the MAP attached as Appendix A (ii).**

(e) A description of the policy and legislative context within which the development is proposed including an identification of all legislation, policies, plans, guidelines, spatial tools, municipal development planning frameworks, and instruments that are applicable to this activity and are to be considered in the assessment process;

Legislation	Authority	Year
National Environmental Management Act	DEDTEA	1998
EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended on 7 April 2017	DEDTEA	2014
Guideline:5 Assessment of Alternatives and Impacts in	DEDTEA	2006

support of EIA Regulations		
Pollution Prevention Act (APA) (Act No. 45 of 1965)	DEDTEA / Department of Environmental Affairs	1965
National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004)	DEDTEA / Department of Environmental Affairs	2004
The National Water Act	DWS	1998
National Environmental Management: Waste Act	DEDTEA	2008
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act	DEDTEA / Department of Environmental Affairs	2004
Alien and Invasive Species Regulations	DEDTEA / Department of Environmental Affairs	2014
KwaZulu-Natal Heritage Act	Amafa AkwaZulu - Natali	2008
National Heritage Resources Act	Amafa	1999
National Heritage Council Act	Amafa	1999
South African Constitution	RSA	1996
Promotion of Administrative Justice Act	Department of Justice	2000
Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993	Department of Labour	1993
National Forests Act	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	1998
Noise Control Regulations (Regulations 154, 10 January 1992)	DEDTEA / Department of Environmental Affairs	1992
National Development Plan	RSA Government Departments, Municipalities and Public Entities	2011
City of Mhlathuze Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2015/2016	City of Mhlathuze Local Municipality	2015 / 2016

(f) A motivation for the need and desirability for the proposed development including the need and desirability of the activity in the context of the preferred location;

The facility will stimulate the local economy while providing job opportunities to the community of Heatonville and surrounding areas. The project will provide alternative employment opportunities to the local economy.

The employment opportunities will also be within the vicinity of their homes as opposed to travelling to Empangeni / Richards Bay, Durban and even Johannesburg in search of work.

Overall the project will provide livelihoods to the local people and improve local economic development. The developer has indicated a strong commitment to the upliftment of the locals.

Other than providing the Republic of South Africa with sugar, sugarcane is making a tremendous contribution to the GDP of the country. Therefore, this project directly contributes in the production of sugar for both domestic and international markets.

(g) A full description of the process followed to reach the proposed preferred activity, site and location of the development footprint within the site, including -

The Farm is already used for the farming of cattle and sugarcane. The identified site is a portion that was previously allowed to lie fallow for more than 10 years, and the applicant intends debushing some sections for the purposes of planting sugarcane. In this regard, this is the only site available for the purpose of planting sugarcane.

The Farm and the identified portions is already owned by the applicant, zoned agriculture for the purposes of farming. Therefore, there are no natural candidate alternative sites.

(i) Details of all the alternatives considered

No details of the alternatives were considered as per the reasons furnished under (g) above.

(ii) Details of the public participation process undertaken in terms of regulation 41 of the Regulations, including copies of the supporting documents and inputs;

The project has followed the standard public participation process as contemplated under Regulation 41 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, and outlined below.

- Site notice was displayed on site giving details as contemplated under Regulation 41 (3) **(see attached Appendix B (1))**
- The stakeholders including the neighbouring community at a 500 metre radius were invited to the public meeting held on 29 November 2016, as per the attached minutes / agenda and attendance register reflects - **Appendix B (2) and B (3) respectively.**
- The invitation was sent to the City of Mhlathuze with the background information regarding this project. The Scoping report has been sent to the Municipality for comments.
- King Cetshwayo District Municipality - they were formally invited to the public meeting held on 29 November 2016, but they were unable to attend. The Scoping report has been sent to the District Municipality for comments.
- The newspaper advert was published in two newspapers i.e. Isolezwe Newspaper dated 23 June 2017 (isiZulu), and Zululand Observer dated 30 June 2017 (English) **(see Appendix B (4) (i) and (ii) (attached)).**

(iii) A summary of the issues raised by interested and affected parties, and an indication of the manner in which the issues were incorporated, or the reasons for not including them;

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Comments from Interested and Affected Parties & Responses (see also attached Appendix B (11), with regard to organs of state with jurisdiction in respect of this activity)

Organisation (I & A party)	Issue / concern raised	EAP's response	Incorporation / Non-incorporation and reasons thereof
Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife	The team of	Final comments from

	<p>is expected to comment on issues of biodiversity.</p> <p>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife comments will be attached as Appendix B (5).</p>	<p>environmentalists / conservationist walked the site and identified several tree and grass species within the Farm. A report in this regard will be attached during the EIA phase. Comments from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife are still awaited.</p>	<p>Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife will be incorporated onto the EMPr.</p>
Amafa AkwaZulu -Natali	<p>Amafa AkwaZulu - Natali is an entity mandated to protect heritage resources within the Province of KwaZulu – Natal.</p> <p>Comments from Amafa are being sought, and attached as Appendix B (6).</p>	<p>Our walk about on site did not reveal any obvious heritage objects. Amafa comments still awaited.</p>	<p>The recommendations of Amafa will be incorporated onto the EMPr.</p>
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)	<p>Department of Water and Sanitation is expected to comment on issues pertained to water resources, wetlands, solid waste, and erosion control. Comments from DWS will be attached as Appendix B (7).</p>	<p>DWS comments are still awaited.</p>	<p>Issues stemming from the comments will be incorporated into the EMPr.</p>
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)	<p>The Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries is the authority mandated to regulate activities affecting natural forests and tree species protected in terms of National Forest Act.</p> <p>The comments will be sought from both Forestry Regulation section and Virgin Soil section and attached as Appendix B (8) (i) and (ii).</p>	<p>Some indigenous tree species occurring on site have been identified and will be reported on during the EIA phase.</p> <p>There might be a need to seek a license from DAFF with regard to the removal of certain tree species.</p> <p>The identified invader tree species on site will be eradicated.</p>	<p>Comments from DAFF will be incorporated onto the EMPr, and all invader plants eradicated as contained in the EMPr.</p>
King Cetshwayo District	<p>The District</p>	<p>The District comments</p>	<p>Comments will be</p>

Municipality	Municipality is expected to provide comments from the District Municipality perspective. These comments will be attached as Appendix B (8) .	are still awaited.	incorporated into the EMPr.
City of Mhlathuze Municipality	The scoping report has been sent to the City of Mhlathuze for comments. Comments will be attached as Appendix B (10) .	Comments still awaited.	Comments will be incorporated into the EMPr.
Traditional Council	Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 is privately owned, and is not falling under any Traditional Council.	We have been advised that, there are no land claims with regard to the Farm. The project was advertised in both the English and IsiZulu Newspapers.	None.
Neighbouring Farms to Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313	Neighbours to the project, especially a 500 metres radius Farms were given personal invitations for the public meeting held on 29 November 2017.	All neighbouring Farms to PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 were invited to the public meeting held on 26 November 2016, and they accordingly attended as highlighted in the minutes attached as Appendix B (2). They unanimously supported the project.	The comments will be incorporated into EMPr where relevant and appropriate.

(iv) *The environmental attributes associated with the alternatives focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;*

(Preferred site)

Geographical attributes

Ridgeline	Plateau	Side of slope mountain	Closed valley	Open valley	Plain	Undulating plain / low hills	Dune	Sea-front
					X			

Physical attributes

The Farm is currently planted with sugarcane with the section under assessment having been lying fallow for over 10 years. The site is characterized by tree species and wetlands / watercourse. The site itself is fairly flat, with no signs of erosion.

Groundwater / Wetlands	The broader Farm has two wetlands that were identified, but generally it is not a waterlogged site.
Soil	No soil erosion observed on site.
Geological stability	No geological instability was observed on site.

Biological attributes

The site consists of several indigenous tree and grass species that need to be removed in certain areas where sugarcane will be planted. The debushed area will accommodate two centre pivots. All alien plants found on site will be eradicated.

Ground cover in relation to the preferred site

Has a specialist been consulted for the completion of this section? YES NO

If YES, please complete the following:

Name of the specialist:			
Qualification(s) of the specialist:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:			
Telephone:		Cell:	
E-mail:		Fax:	

Are there any rare or endangered flora or fauna species (including red data species) present on any of the alternative sites? YES NO

If YES, specify and explain: YES NO
 There are no rare or endangered flora or fauna species that have been identified or observed by the team on site.

Are there any special or sensitive habitats or other natural features present on any of the alternative sites? YES NO

If YES, specify and explain: YES NO
 There are several indigenous tree and grass species that are found on this site as highlighted above.

Are any further specialist studies recommended by the specialist? YES NO

If YES, specify: YES NO
 No, except the high-level veld assessment indicating the trees and grass species that are found on site.

If YES, is such a report(s) attached in Appendix D? YES NO

Signature of specialist: _____ Date: _____

Location of rare or endangered species or other elements should be indicated in the table below

Natural veld - good condition ^E	Natural veld - with scattered aliens ^E ^x	Natural veld - with heavy alien infestation ^E	Veld dominated by alien species ^E	Gardens
Sport field	Cultivated land	Paved surface	Building or other structure	Bare soil

NB = If any of the boxes marked with an “E” is ticked, please consult an appropriate specialist to assist in the completion of this section if the environmental assessment practitioner doesn’t have the necessary expertise.

There is a conservationist in-house who will deal with conservation and biodiversity related issues on site. The indigenous trees and grass species highlighted above will be reported on during the EIA phase of the project.

The indigenous tree and grass species will be replanted on project completion where practical as part of enhancing the natural appearance of the Farm.

Social attributes

The Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 has been in existence for many years farming on cattle and sugarcane. The Farm is falling under the City of Mhlathuze as per the new demarcation that came into effect immediately after August 2016 local government elections, previously falling under Ntambanana Local Municipality. Although there are Traditional Councils at Ntambanana but the Farm itself is falling under the private land, with no land claim as advised.

Economic attributes

The Farm has been in existence for years, as indicated above. The Farm is contributing immensely in the production of meat and sugar in South Africa, thereby contributing to the GDP of the Region and the country. The Farm is currently employing several local people, and with the expansion it will be employing 260 unskilled and skilled people during both construction and operational phases of the project at a total of R1 052 000.00 per month.

Heritage, historical features and cultural aspects

Culturally significant elements

Our walk about on site did not show any graves nor any visible heritage objects within the proposed project site. However, this report has been sent to Amafa for their professional comments.

Buildings and structures to be affected

There are no buildings and structures on site.

Land Use Character and Attributes

Natural area	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The identified portion of the Farm has been lying fallow for over 10 years.
Low density residential	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rural settlement.
Medium density residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
High density residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Informal residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Retail commercial & warehousing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Light industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Medium industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Heavy industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Power station	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Office/consulting room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Military or police base/station/compound	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Spoil heap or slimes dam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Quarry, sand or borrow pit	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is quarry about 1 km from the site, adjacent to Heatonville Road.
Dam or reservoir	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Hospital/medical centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
School/ crèche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Tertiary education facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO	

Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Old age home	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Sewage treatment plant	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Train station or shunting yard	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Railway line	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a railway line traversing on the southern side of the Farm.
Major road (4 lanes or more)	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Airport	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Harbour	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Sport facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Golf course	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Polo fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Filling station	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Landfill or waste treatment site	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Plantation	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Agriculture	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Farm is already used for cattle farming; and is planted with sugarcane.
River, stream or riparian zone	YES	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a watercourse flowing through sections of the Farm.
Nature conservation area	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	There were few Zebras that the applicant will relocate.
Mountain, hill or ridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	
Museum	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	

Historical building	■	NO	
Protected Area	■	NO	
Graveyard	■	NO	
Archaeological site	■	NO	
Other land uses (describe)	■	NO	

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

See site photographs attached as **Appendix C (1) (a, b, c and d)**.

- (v) *The impacts and risks which have informed the identification of each alternatives, including the nature, significance, consequence, extent, duration and probability of such identified impacts, including the degree to which these impacts –*

(aa) can be reversed

The preferred site is the only alternative because it is an existing Farm planted with sugarcane already, with a section that has been lying fallow that now needs to be planted as well. Moreover, we have been advised that the latter section used to be under sugarcane some years ago and has since grown trees.

The main impact identified will be the removal of indigenous plants. These tree species will be identified and will have to be planted elsewhere within the Farm, and the impact is therefore seen as reversible.

(bb) may cause irreplaceable loss of resources; and

There are no species on site that are likely to be threatened to an extent of irreplaceability.

(cc) can be avoided, managed or mitigated

The removal of indigenous tree species will be managed in the sense that replanting need to happen on project completion. The project will have to protect any watercourse and wetland identified on site with a buffer where it might be appropriate and relevant. All alien plant species on site will be eradicated.

- (vi) *The methodology used in identifying and ranking the nature, significance, consequences, extent, duration and probability of potential environmental impacts and risks associated with the alternatives;*

The professional judgment, walk about on site by a team comprising environmentalist and a conservationist, observation on site and past experience.

(vii) Positive and negative impacts that the proposed activity and alternatives will have on the environment and on the community, that may be affected focusing on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects;

Positive impacts of the activity

The positive impacts include jobs that will be created by the project as outlined under (iv, Economic attributes above). The project will increase its contribution to the local economy and the country's GDP.

Negative impacts of the activity

Some indigenous tree species will have to be removed to make way for the two centre pivots as part of the sugarcane planting exercise. The construction and operational phases have to safeguard against any possible environmental degradation like soil erosion.

(viii) The possible mitigation measures that could be applied and level of residual risk;

- Environmental awareness to all project stakeholders to avoid any incidental environmental degradation.
- Solid waste to be disposed of in line with acceptable environmental standards during construction of the centre pivots to avoid environmental degradation and pollution.
- Replanting of indigenous tree species on project completion as a tradeoff to those removed.
- Reduction of soil erosion by ensuring that the soil has ground cover at all times.
- Ensuring a buffer zone around any wetland or watercourse within the Farm.
- Eradication of alien plant species on site.
- Ensuring that there is no environmental pollution taking place on site during construction and post construction by continuous monitoring by the Environmental Control Officer.
- Implementation of the EMPr and its recommendations.

(ix) The outcome of the site selection matrix;

There has been no comparison of sites, as the preferred site in the form of Farm PTN 1 Lot 252 EMP 13313 is already under sugarcane and cattle farming. The identified section of the Farm that will expand the sugarcane plantation has been lying fallow for over 10 years. Therefore, there is no site selection matrix applied. The entire project entails the development that will happen within the existing Farm that is already under sugarcane. The preferred site is the only alternative because it is in existence, and is used for farming.

(x) If no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such; and

The issue of alternative sites has been limited by the fact that this site and Farm is already zoned agricultural and is already under sugarcane farming. It would have been illogical to find another site elsewhere, while the one in question is already zoned appropriately, and is for the same land use as the one applied for.

Therefore, these factors have made it difficult to get any other reasonable or feasible alternatives under the circumstances.

(xi) A concluding statement indicating the preferred alternatives, including preferred location of the activity;

Looking at the rate of unemployment and poverty in this rural area, it is apparent that the option of not implementing this activity will not be in the best interest of the surrounding community. The no-go option may therefore be viewed as a blow for this community and society in the total scheme of things; looking at it from social, economic and environmental perspectives.

This development is in line with the strategic intent of both the City of Mhlathuze and King Cetshwayo of economic growth and development of the local economy. Therefore, in terms of alternative sites there has been no need to explore other candidate sites. It is deemed practical to continue with this site that has already been zoned agricultural, and is already under sugarcane as opposed to abandoning it for another site.

(h) A plan of study for undertaking the environmental impact assessment process to be undertaken, including –

(i) A description of the alternatives to be considered and assessed within the preferred site, including the option of not proceeding with the activity

No alternatives as the Farm is already zoned agricultural, and is already under farming in the form of cattle and sugarcane. The no-go option is defined as an option of not undertaking the proposed activity and its inherent alternatives. The proposed activity will afford the local people an opportunity to be employed and thereby contributing in alleviating poverty. If this option is not pursued the unemployed will lose out in terms of potential job opportunities that are likely to be created by this development. This is particular true for the locals who are unskilled, especially during the construction and operational phases.

(ii) A description of the aspects to be assessed as part of the environmental impact assessment process;

- General veld condition.
- Indigenous tree and grass species occurring on site.
- Soil erosion during project implementation.
- Surface water resources pollution
- Indigenous tree species and their removal
- Air pollution during construction
- Soil contamination during construction
- Wetlands and waterways
- Stockpiling
- Heritage objects and resources.
- Littering and solid waste
- Alien plants – eradication in line with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act & Alien and Invasive Species Regulations.
- Concrete mixing
- Noise pollution during construction.
- Traffic Management
- Health and Safety
- Habitat loss
- Visual impact

(iii) Aspects to be assessed by specialists

Vegetation will be assessed by the in – house Conservationist. Any other engagement of specialists will depend on the comments from the affected and interested stakeholders, including the organs of state with jurisdiction on site.

(iv) A description of the proposed method of assessing the environmental aspects, including aspects to be assessed by specialists;

- The professional judgment, walk about on site by a team comprising environmentalist and a conservationist, observation on site and past experience.
- Use of certain books for the purposes of species identification.
- Ecological context – the EAP will do the fieldwork assessing the key environmental variables like tree and grass species, habitats, water resources, soil erosion and the like.
- Use of indigenous knowledge through “locals” views, comments and participation.
- Available information from the local authority e.g. the use of area maps.
- As indicated above, the engagement of specialists will depend on the comments from the affected and interested stakeholders, including the organs of state with jurisdiction on site.

The impact assessment to the next full EIA phase will focus on assessing the following key developmental phases:

- ◆ Planning and Design
- ◆ Construction centre pivots Phase
- ◆ Operational / Farming Phase

Assessment of impacts will be base on identified impacts, and assess the following for each variable:

- ◆ Probability – likelihood of the impact happening
- ◆ Extent – impact in terms of the area covered
- ◆ Duration – short term, long term or permanent etc.
- ◆ Intensity – severe or moderate
- ◆ Significance – at a local, regional or global scale
- ◆ Cumulative – incremental impacts
- ◆ Mitigation measures – steps that are taken to reduce the identified impacts.
- ◆ No-go option – not undertaking the proposed activity

(v) A description of the proposed method of assessing duration and significance

Professional assessment.

(vi) An indication of the stages at which the competent authority will be consulted;

- An initial meeting was held with the Competent Authority represented by Mr Muzi Mdamba of the Richards Bay office in November 2016.
- Telephonic engagements as and when necessary.
- Joint site visits when necessary.
- Submission of relevant reports.

- Office visits as and when necessary
- (vii) Particulars of the public participation process that will be conducted during the environmental impact assessment process; and
- The scoping report will be distributed to registered affected and interested stakeholders, including the organs of state.
 - Telephonic engagement with stakeholders, especially organs of state regarding comments.
 - Engagement with specific stakeholders as the need arise.
- (viii) A description of the tasks that will be undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment process;
- Conduct specialist's studies where relevant and appropriate.
 - Incorporation of Specialists Studies to the EIA report where appropriate.
 - Licensing where appropriate and relevant e.g. DAFF license for the removal of indigenous tree species
 - Sort the issue of alteration of virgin soil to agriculture with DAFF.
 - Veld assessment and identification of tree and grass species.
 - Incorporation of stakeholder comments from the Scoping Phase.
 - Continuous engagement with stakeholders.
 - Compilation of the Environmental Management Programme incorporating specialists studies and stakeholder's comments.
- (ix) Identify suitable measures to avoid, reverse, mitigate or manage identified impacts and to determine the extent of the residual risks that need to be managed and monitored.

Impact and risk	Significance	Mitigation
Soil erosion	Insignificant	Prevent soil erosion by maintaining the grass cover on site.
Removal of indigenous tree species	Significant	Identification of species, veld assessment, acquire the tree species removal license, replanting of trees elsewhere within the Farm. Implementation of the EMPr.
Habitat loss	Insignificant	Maintain the legal buffer around watercourses and wetlands so that the ecosystems can continue to function in an ecologically balanced manner. Replanting of indigenous tree species as a tradeoff.
Surface water pollution	Insignificant	The project must prevent any materials or construction activities that may pollute the environment and water resources.

Air pollution	Low significance and localised	Suppression of dust by watering the area posing a challenge during construction.
Soil contamination	Of low significance, and localized.	No material used during construction must be allowed to contaminate the soil.
Stockpiling	Low significance, and localized.	No stockpiling must take place near any watercourse.
Destruction and disturbance of heritage resources.	Insignificant.	The site is already transformed, with no obvious heritage objects. Amafa comments are being sought in this regard.
Littering / Solid waste	Insignificant	<p>Solid waste must be disposed of in the nearest disposal site, with proof of responsible disposal method whenever requested during the construction phase.</p> <p>Should hazardous waste be identified it will be disposed of at the appropriate Landfill site. Hazardous waste defined as waste that poses substantial or potential threat to public health and the environment. This includes waste that tends to ignite, reactive, corrosive and toxic.</p>
Alien plant species	Insignificant	The programme to eradicate alien plants on site will be put in place on project completion. This will be done in line with the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act & Alien and Invasive Species Regulations.
Concrete mixing	Insignificant	The mixing of concrete must be done within the bunded area. All spillages must be removed and properly disposed of.
Noise (construction phase)	Insignificant	Machinery and equipment used during construction phase must be properly

		serviced.
Traffic management	Insignificant	Traffic must be controlled through road signs, leading to the project site. For example, moving trucks sign.
Health and Safety	Insignificant	Safety officer must be appointed to deal with all safety issues on daily basis during construction. Safety induction must be done on commencement of construction.
Visual impact	Insignificant	The project has to avoid elements that will be visually unacceptable.

(i) An undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to –

- (i) the correctness of the information provided in the report;
- (ii) The inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and interested and affected parties; and
- (iii) Any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested or affected parties;

(j) An undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to the level of agreement between the EAP and interested and affected parties on the plan of study for undertaking the environmental impact assessment

I,

confirm that the information provided in the report is correct;

Commissioner of oaths:

Commissioner:

Place:

Date:

(k) where applicable, any specific information required by the competent authority; and

There is no specific information that we feel will be required by the competent authority over and above what has been highlighted throughout this report.

(l) any other matter required in terms of section 24(4)(a) and (b) of the Act.

NONE, as all issues relating to organs of state with jurisdiction on site have been covered. Furthermore, all impacts, alternatives, mitigation, option of not implementing an activity, issues of monitoring and assessment thereof have been addressed by this Scoping Report.