

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED SLOVAS SUBSIDISED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED IN THE KWAMBONAMBI AREA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT



MARCH 2021



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 Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION

The Umfolozi Local Municipality has, through its IDP process, and extensive consultation with respective communities residing within the local municipality, identified the need to provide a housing development within its area of jurisdiction. This process was initiated as a means to address the municipality's housing need due to the growth of the population.

The proposed project is aimed at providing suitable housing to beneficiaries within the Umfolozi Municipality.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOCATION AND DIRECTION TO THE SITE

Portion 4 of the Farm Saligna No. 12237 makes up the project area which is located within Ward 2 of the Umfolozi Local Municipality. The site has a total extent of approximately 34.84 hectares with the Kwambonambi town located approximately 900m north of the proposed project area.

From Durban, travel north on the N2 towards Richards Bay. Travel for approximately 167km and turn left onto the unnumbered access road. After approximately 240m turn right and the site will be located on the right.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATES

Latitudinal Extent: 28° 36' 45.36" S

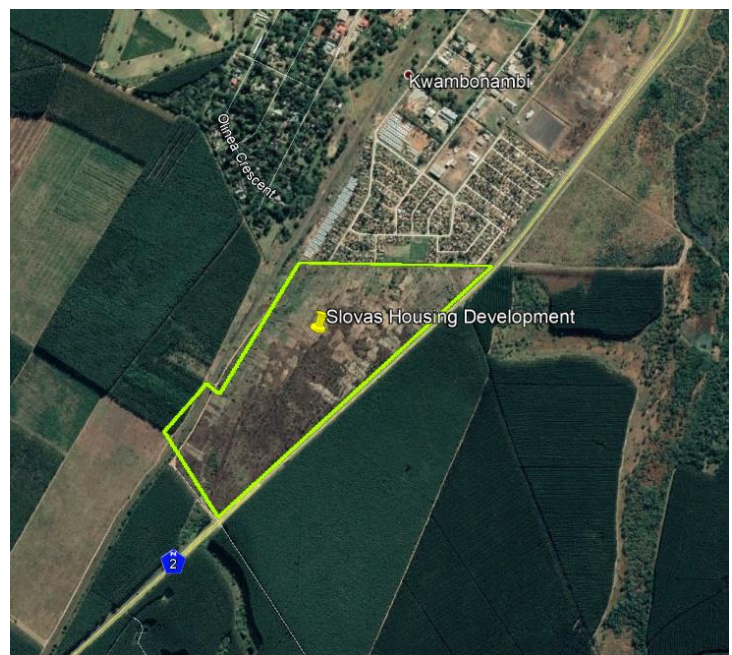
Longitudinal Extent: 32° 4' 59.90" E

CURRENT LAND USE

The site is predominantly vacant with some agricultural activities undertaken on portions of the site. There are no CBA, ESAs or protected areas that were identified

however, a non-perennial drainage line runs through the south western portion of the site. A railway line passes through a portion of the north western boundary and the N2 Highway borders the eastern boundary of the site. Historically, the site was used for dense tree plantations.

Figure 1: Proposed Project Area



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

The proposed development will entail the removal of vegetation for the construction of the following:

- ✚ approximately 957 residential units together
- ✚ pipelines for the transportation of water supply
- ✚ pipelines for the transportation of wastewater and effluent
- ✚ internal roads and stormwater infrastructure
- ✚ It should be noted that erven will be set aside for open space, commercial and community land uses.

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 9: The development of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water—

- (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or
- (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;

Background: The proposed development may entail the construction of pipelines for the bulk transportation of water and stormwater.

Activity 10: The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1000 metres in length for bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, waste water, return water, industrial discharge or slimes -

- (i) with an internal diameter of 0.36 metres or more; or
- (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;

Background: The proposed development may entail the construction of pipelines for the bulk transportation of sewage and effluent.

Activity 12: The development of -

(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;

Where such development occurs -

- (a) within a watercourse
- (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse; -

Background: The proposed development may entail constructing structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres within a watercourse and within 32m of a watercourse.

Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;

Background: The proposed development may entail the infilling and depositing of material as well as the removal and excavation of sand from a non-perennial drainage line for the purpose of constructing roads and bridges within a watercourse.

Activity 28: Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:

- (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or
- (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;

Background: The proposed development may entail the construction of residential units on land that was used for agricultural purposes

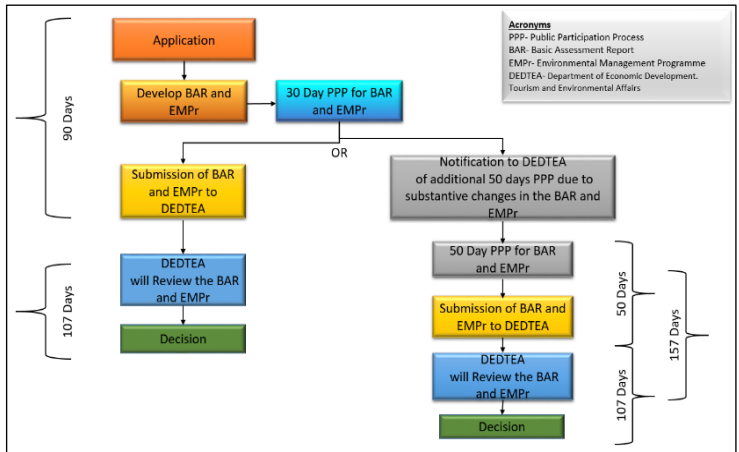
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

K2M Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by the applicant as the independent Environmental Assessment.

THE BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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

Figure 2: Illustration of the Basic Assessment Process



POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

GEOPHYSICAL AND BIOPHYSICAL:

- Removal of vegetation.
- Soil pollution and soil erosion.
- 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.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES:

- Increase in traffic volumes (both pedestrian and vehicular) along the existing the 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 during the construction phase of the development.

CULTURAL-HISTORIC ISSUES:

Documentation will be submitted to KZN Amafa for the comment and to establish whether specialist studies are required.