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Public Process Consultants
Environmental Impact Assessment and
Public Participation Management

25 August 2010

Case ID: 2205

Ms Thanduxolo Lungile
SAHRA
P.O. Box 758
Grahamstown
6140

Dear Ms Lungile

**RE: NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD, DRAFT SCOPING REPORT, PORTION 20 OF FARM 84
LANDDROST VEEPLAATS, SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY MUNICIPALITY**

As a registered interested and affected party on the database for the above project you are hereby notified of the release of the Draft Scoping Report for Portion 20 of Farm 84 Landdrost Veeplaats for review and comment.

Please note that the Draft Scoping Report will be available for a 30 day review and comment period, and not 35 days as erroneously indicated in our previous correspondence dated 18 June 2010.

All comments are to be submitted to the consultant indicated above by no later than **27 September 2010**.

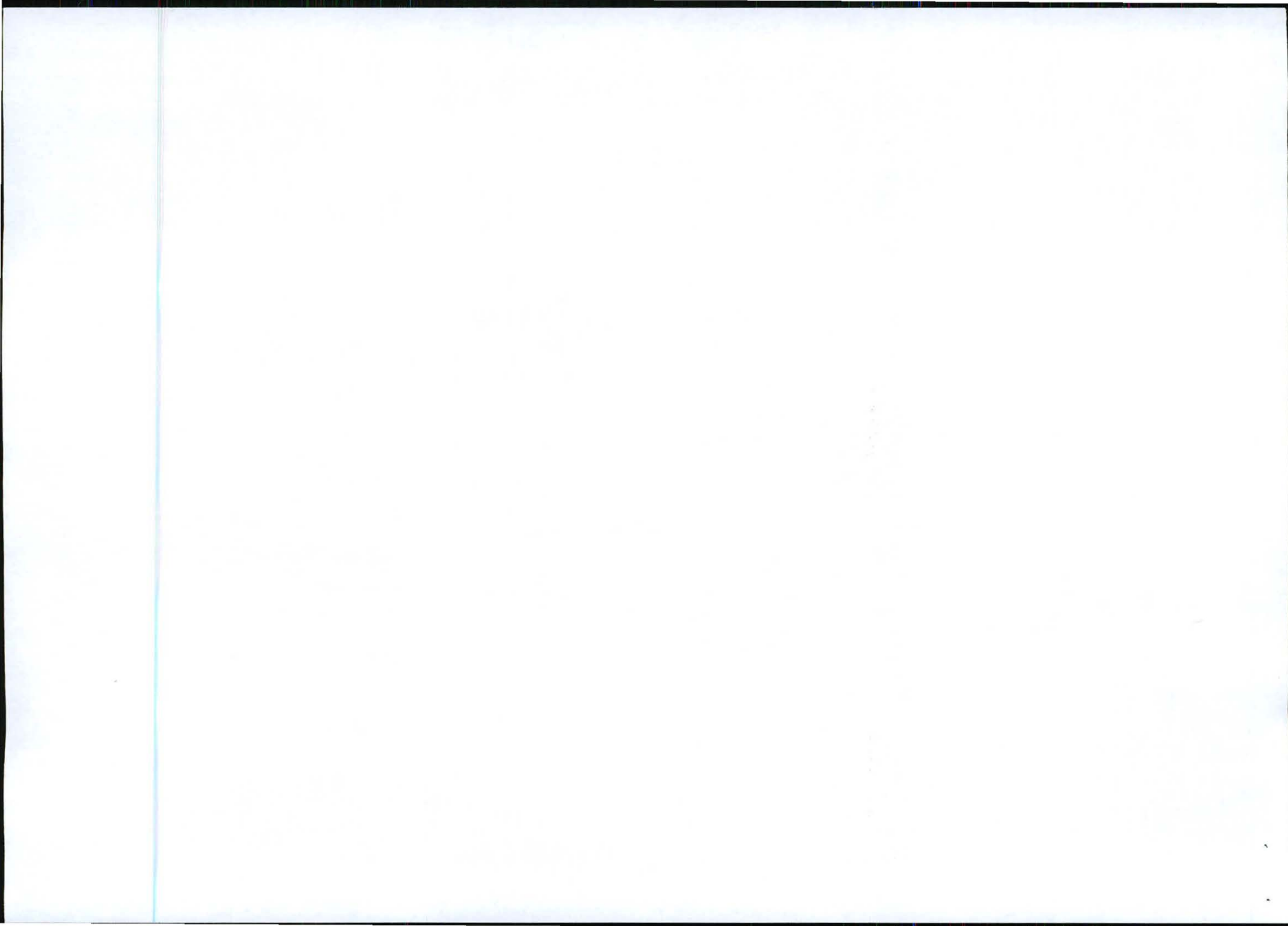
In order to assist you in making your comments we have enclosed with this correspondence an executive summary of the Draft Scoping Report as well as a comment form. A copy of the Draft Scoping Report is available at the Kirkwood Public Library and can be downloaded through the website www.publicprocess.co.za

The issues that you raise will be considered in the compilation of the Final Scoping Report for submission to DEDEA for their decision making. Input received from I&APs forms an important component of the environmental impact assessment process and helps to inform the scope of specialist studies for the project as well as assists DEDEA in their decision making process.

We thank you for the input that we have received to date. Should you have any comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact Sandy Wren or Paul Steyn at the contact details above. We look forward to receiving your input on the Draft Scoping Report.

Yours sincerely

SANDY WREN
EIA PROJECT LEADER



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS REPLY FORM

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT COMMENT FORM

Habata Boerdery (the Applicant) proposes to expand their existing agricultural activities to include 190 hectares of Portion 20 of Farm 84 Landdrost Veeplaats, Sundays River Valley Municipality.

Listed Activity: **GN R 387 Activity 2.** Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more.

Return Completed Reply Form to:



Public Process Consultants, PO Box 27688, Greenacres 6057

Phone: 041 – 374 8426 or Fax 041-373 2002 or Email sandy@publicprocess.co.za

For further information visit the project website: www.publicprocess.co.za

Please Complete all Relevant Sections Below and Return By:

27 SEPTEMBER 2010

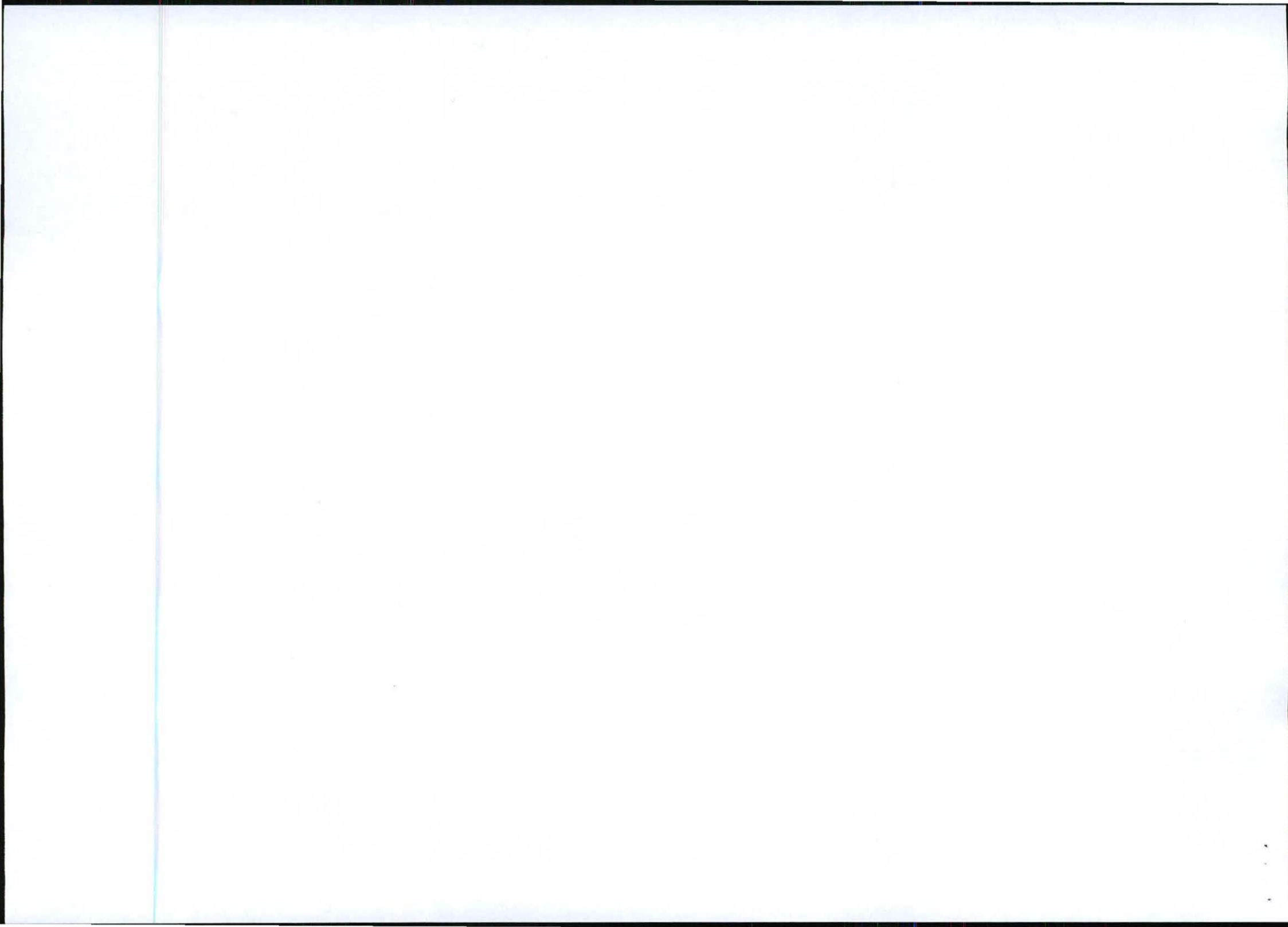
FIRST NAME:	SURNAME:
ORGANISATION:	DESIGNATION:
POSTAL ADDRESS:	
CODE:	
PHONE:	FAX:
CELL:	EMAIL:

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party? (please tick the appropriate box)

NOTE: You are required to register as an I&AP in order to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process, if you have already registered your interest in the project there is no need to re-register your interest.

YES
NO

Please clearly state any issues or concerns and/or interest you may have in this project, use additional pages if required.



Executive Summary

Project Background and Project Overview

The applicant, Habata Boerdery, is proposing to expand their existing agricultural activities, for the cultivation of a variety of crops, to include approximately 190 hectares on Portion 20 of Farm 84 Landdrost Veeplaats in the Sundays River Valley Municipality. The affected property (approximately 624 ha in total extent) is located near the town of Kirkwood, on the gravel road between Kirkwood and Enon. The property is currently partially developed for agriculture purposes (existing irrigation dam and 125 ha cultivated lands) and is zoned for agricultural use.

The property, measuring 624 ha in extent, is currently partially developed for agriculture purposes (existing irrigation dam with a 125 ha of cultivated lands). Habata Boerdery is proposing to expand their existing agricultural activities to include an additional 190 ha of land for the cultivation of a variety of crops e.g. melons. The proposed total area under agriculture is estimated to be 315 ha, approximately 50% of the existing erf. Included in the project proposal is the construction of a new water storage dam for irrigation purposes, estimated to be 50 000m³, the installation of reticulation and irrigation infrastructure and the construction of a storage shed, estimated to be 5000m². The expansion of the existing agricultural activities will include the following project activities:

Construction

- Clearing of approximately 190 hectares of indigenous vegetation
- Leveling and shaping the area for cultivated lands
- Construction of a storage dam (approximately 50 000 m³) for irrigation water
- Construction of a storage shed (approximately 5000 m²) for storage of crates and equipment
- Installation of water reticulation and irrigation infrastructure
- Upgrading of the existing internal road to a gravel surface

Operation

- Once suitably prepared it is anticipated that the cultivated lands will be utilised for the rotational cultivation of a variety of crops (e.g. melons).
- Equipment and packing crates will be stored in the storage shed between harvesting periods.
- Water for the development will be supplied from the Sundays River Water Users Association water supply, which will be stored in the irrigation dam on site.

Site Description

The proposed site (Ptn 20 of Landdrost Veeplaats 84) is located along the gravel road between Enon and Kirkwood, in the Sundays River Valley Municipality. The site can be accessed via a gated entrance located approximately 8 kilometers along the aforementioned gravel road, east of the town of Kirkwood.

The site represents a 624 hectare expanse of land, with existing agricultural activities in the southern portion of the property including an existing irrigation dam, storage shed, and cultivated lands (124ha). The northern extent of the property is covered largely by indigenous vegetation (Sundays Thicket), which is bisect by a variety of cut-lines, animal paths, and internal vehicle tracks, attesting to past agricultural use of the property. The SRWUA canal passes through the south-western and south-eastern corners of the property, and provides irrigation water for agriculture on the property.

Legal Framework

In terms of Regulations 385, 386 and 387 promulgated under Chapter 5 of the NEMA in Government Gazette 28753 on 21 April 2006, the project requires scoping and environmental assessment because it includes, amongst others, the following listed activity in GN R 387:

2. Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more.

Chapter Four of the Draft Scoping Report contains a list of the activities contained in GN R 386 as well as GN R 387 which are triggered by the various project components and form part of this Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

The applicant, Habata Boerdery, has appointed Public Process Consultants as Environmental Assessment Practitioners (EAP) to undertake the Scoping and EIA Process for the proposed development. The listed activities require authorization from the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (DEDEA), and the environmental assessment needs to show DEDEA, and Habata Boerdery what the consequences of their choices would be in biophysical, social and economic terms.

Identification of Issues

Issues and concerns identified for inclusion in the Scoping Report that require specialist assessment in the environmental assessment phase of the EIA have been identified as follows:

- Specialist Site Visit
- Desk top review of regional planning documentation and frameworks
- Scoping of issues and concerns with I&APs through correspondence received (emails, comment forms) in response to the project announcement
- Scoping of issues with authorities (affected organs of state)

The following outlines the issues that have been identified through the Scoping Process to date and require specialist assessment:

- Biophysical site assessment to include:
 - Mapping of sensitive features such as wetlands with appropriate no development buffers
 - Identification and verification of Critical Biodiversity Areas on the site
 - Potential project related impacts on natural vegetation and faunal habitat need to be considered
 - Provision of services infrastructure – water, electricity, storm water and suitable sanitation
 - The consideration of any potential impacts on the Addo Elephant National Park, located approximately 5km's from the area.
- It is recommended that a desktop Palaeontology assessment and a phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment is undertaken.
- Soil suitability assessment based on soil testing for the site to determine the suitability of the site for the proposed agricultural activities.
- Technical input with regards to irrigation water supply and storage.

Current Stage in the Process

This EIA process is currently at the stage where the Draft Scoping Report will be released for a 30 day I&AP comment period. The next stage in the process will entail the inclusion of the comments received from I&APs in the Final Scoping Report and where appropriate amendments to the Final Scoping Report before it is submitted to the DEDEA for their decision making.