

Level 1  
BBBEE





# HANSLAB


## Environmental Consultants

### Background Information Document:

The proposed construction of a bridge structure over the Mvunyana River, located along a portion of District Road (D1303), within ward 14 & 7 of the Abaqulusi and Nqutu Local Municipality


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*This information is based on information supplied by the client, Department of Transport. All information is given in good faith; however, no site visit, physical testing or chemical analyses were performed during the course of this assessment.*

*Although every effort was made to request and obtain all pertinent information for this assessment Hanslab (Pty) Ltd cannot be held accountable or accept responsibility for any discrepancies in this information or for the disclosure or review of information which has not been presented to the consultant. All information presented to the consultant for review have been referenced.*

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## ABBREVIATIONS / DEFINITIONS

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AMAFA	Provincial Heritage Conservation Agency for KwaZulu-Natal
BA	Basic Assessment
BAR	Basic Assessment Report
BID	Background Information Document
CA	Competent Authority
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
GA	General Authorisation
I&APs	Interested & Affected Parties
LM	Local Municipality
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)
PPP	Public Participation Process
WUL	Water Use License

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Hanslab Environmental Consultants has been appointed by the Department of Transport - DoT (Applicant) to fulfil the role as the Environmental Assessment Practitioners. Hanslab Environmental Consultants will undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Water Use License Application (WULA) for the proposed construction of a bridge structure over the Mvunyana River, located along a portion of District Road (D1303), within ward 14 & 7 of the Abaqulusi and Nqutu Local Municipality. The Umzinyathi District EDTEA will be the competent authority for this development.

### Project Description

The Applicant proposes to develop a 5m high, 4 x 15m span bridge at a crossing across the Mvunyana River. The proposed development has been designed to accommodate a 25-year flood event. As there is no existing formalized crossing, there is no need to accommodate existing traffic/pedestrian crossing. Considering the current development in the area, a sidewalk will be provided on one side of the road to accommodate pedestrians.

The link road is currently an unclassified road and thus the width between the bridge parapets will be in accordance with a one-way bridge, viz, 6.4m between parapets.

The dimensions of the deck are as per the table below:

**Table 1: Dimensions of the proposed Mvunyana River Bridge**

Structure	Length (m)	Width (m)	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Bridge Deck	65.44	7.52	492.1088 (Above ground)
Abutments	3	7.52	22.56
Pier 1	6.808	5	34.04
Pier 2	9.520	3	28.56
Pier 3	9.565	3	28.695
Pier 4	7.449	3	22.347
Pier 5	5.879	5	29.395
<b>Total Footprint (on the ground)</b>	-	-	<b>188.127</b>

## 2. PROJECT LOCALITY

### Project Location:

The proposed site is located within ward 12 & 7 of the Abaqulusi and Nqutu Local Municipality respectively. It is situated along a portion of District Road (D1303). The proposed route crosses the Mvunaya River.

Table 2: Coordinates of the proposed sites:

<b>Start point</b>	28° 8'16.85"S	30°52'55.08"E
<b>End Point</b>	28° 8'14.38"S	30°52'57.61"E

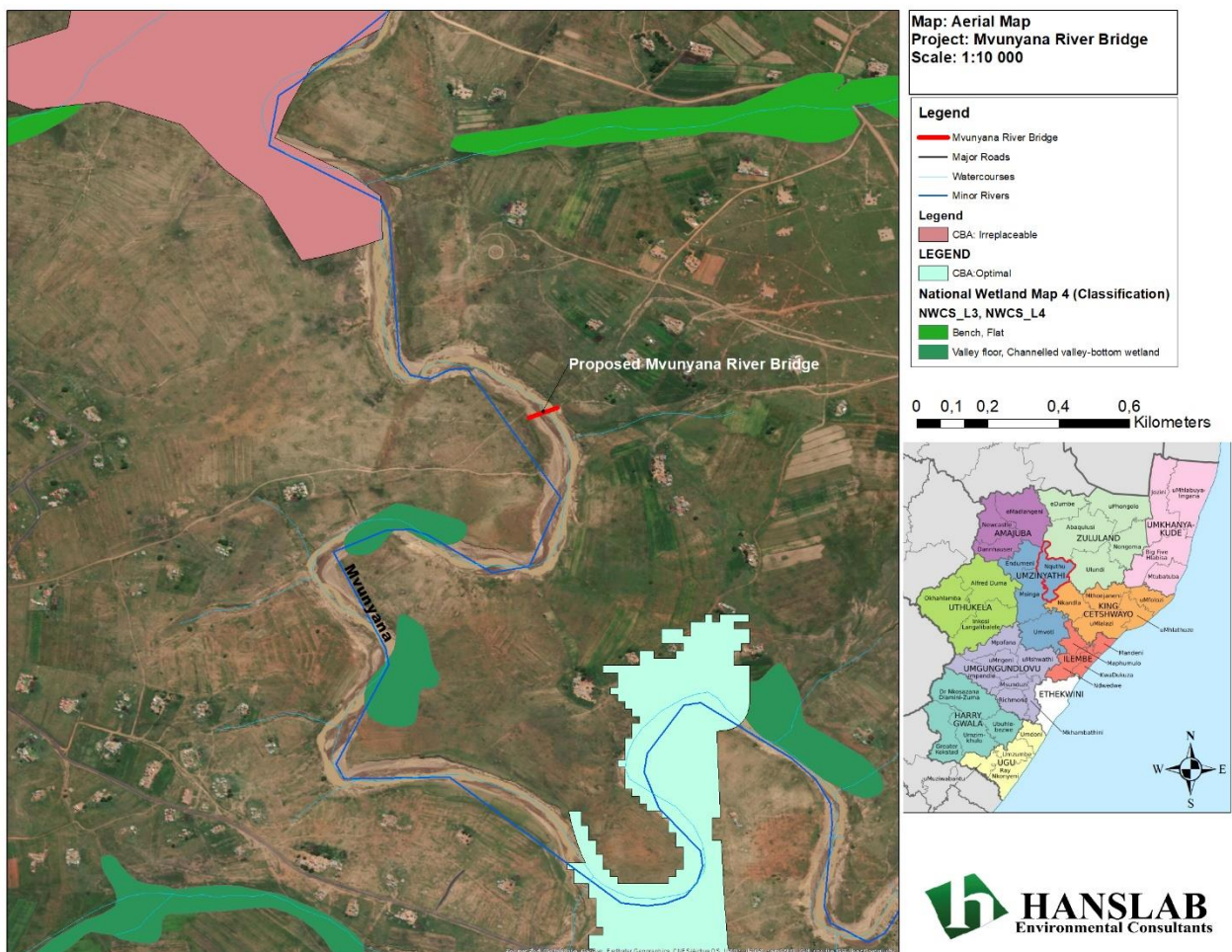


Figure 1: Aerial Image illustrating the location of the bridge (Source: ArcGIS, 2020)



### **3. TRIGGERED ACTIVITIES**

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- GNR 327, Listing Notice No.01, Activity 12 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017)
- GNR 327, Listing Notice No.01, Activity 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended 2017)
- Section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act (1998)

### **4. SPECIALIST STUDIES CONDUCTED**

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The following specialist assessments will be conducted:

1. Wetland & Aquatic Assessment
2. Floodline Assessment
3. Heritage Assessment

### **5. BACKGROUND, NEED & DESIRABILITY**

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The development of this bridge will allow for improved access to public facilities such as schools, clinics and places of economic activity within the areas and across municipalities. This development will initiate future development within the area. This will increase the opportunities in the area whilst also contributing to the upliftment. The construction of the bridge over the Mvunyana River will result in improved access and crossing points for people and vehicles. The construction phase of the project will create employment opportunities and lead to skills development within the local community.

To establish a formalized bridge, there are several requirements which must be considered. These requirements include the **biophysical environments** which may potentially be impacted as well as the **social environment**. Hanslab Environmental Consultants undertook the task of establishing the potential biophysical impacts associated with the initiation of a proposed road. The social impacts are clear, as it is a need and desirability of the community to develop a formal road in order to prevent further damages or loss of life.

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## 6. YOUR ROLE AS AN I&AP

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Should you wish to register as an Interested/Affected Party kindly follow the process outlined below:

1. Complete the attached comments and registration sheet attached to this BID and email or fax the completed sheet to Hanslab Environmental Consultants as per details below.
2. Contact the environmental consultant directly via email or telephonically, if you have any queries or require further information on the project.

**Kindly note that in terms of Regulation 56 (c), an I&AP is required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest that they may have with regards to the approval or refusal of the application. Please register by the 03<sup>rd</sup> of September 2021 by completing the attached comments and registration sheet.**

For all queries / issues / concerns please contact:

**Bhavisthra Ramlagan**

Tel No: 031 563 1978

Fax No: 086 552 4224

WhatsApp No: 066 471 5660

Email: bhavisthra@hanslab.co.za



## 7. COMMENTS & REGISTRATION SHEET

**Attention: Bhavisthra Ramlagan**

**Project:** Mvunyana River Bridge

<b>TITLE:</b>		<b>TEL/CELL:</b>	
<b>NAME &amp; SURNAME:</b>		<b>EMAIL:</b>	
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>		<b>FAX:</b>	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>			

**Please tick appropriate box:**

- I would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party<sup>1</sup>
- Please remove me from the distribution sheet for the proposed project. I would prefer not to receive any further correspondence regarding this process.


**Do you have any direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of this application?**

Yes	No
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**If yes, please explain:**

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**Comments:**

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**All comments are to be submitted within 14 days of receipt of the BID to:**

bhavisthra@hanslab.co.za

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<sup>1</sup> All registered I&APs agree to have their personal information (PI) gathered and stored by Hanslab (Pty) Ltd and have it thereafter be distributed to third parties (competent authorities, stakeholders and other registered I&APs). The competent authority requires this PI as part of the application process. It is further used to communicate updates to registered I&APs. This PI will be stored on our database saved on our secure server.