

**HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE HOUSING UPGRADE
FOR CONGO, KZN**

FOR EARTH CONSULTING

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INTRODUCTION

Umlando cc was contracted by Earth Consulting to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the proposed Congo low cost housing project. The area is currently an informal settlement and the project proposes to upgrade the informal houses to low cost housing and related infrastructures.

Congo is located ~9km northwest of Mount Edgecombe, Kwa-Zulu Natal (fig.'s 1 - 2). It is surrounded informal and formal housing settlements. The area is located on four small hills with little soil deposit and an underlying shale formation. There is a small stream at the base of the hills. The entire study area has been very modified by informal settlements.

The impacts on the area will be:

- House foundations
- Servitudes

The survey did not locate any heritage sites.

KWAZULU-NATAL HERITAGE ACT NO. 4 OF 2008

1) **“33. General protection: Structures.—**

- a) No structure which is, or which may reasonably be expected to be older than 60 years, may be demolished, altered or added to without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- b) Where the Council does not grant approval, the Council must consider special protection in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.

2) The Council may, by notice in the *Gazette*, exempt—

- (a) a defined geographical area; or

- b) defined categories of sites within a defined geographical area, from the provisions of subsection where the Council is satisfied that heritage resources falling in the defined geographical area or category have been identified and are adequately protected in terms of sections 38, 39, 40, 41 and 43 of Chapter 9.
- 3) A notice referred to in subsection (2) may, by notice in the *Gazette*, be amended or withdrawn by the Council.
- 4) **34. General protection: Graves of victims of conflict.**—No person may damage, alter, exhume, or remove from its original position—
 - (a) the grave of a victim of conflict;
 - (b) a cemetery made up of such graves; or
 - (c) any part of a cemetery containing such graves, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- 5) **35. General protection: Traditional burial places.**—
 - a) No grave—
 - b) not otherwise protected by this Act; and
 - c) not located in a formal cemetery managed or administered by a local authority, may be damaged, altered, exhumed, removed from its original position, or otherwise disturbed without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
 - (1) The Council may only issue written approval once the Council is satisfied that—
 - (a) the applicant has made a concerted effort to consult with communities and individuals who by tradition may have an interest in the grave; and
 - (b) the applicant and the relevant communities or individuals have reached agreement regarding the grave.
 - (c) **36. General protection: Battlefield sites, archaeological sites, rock art sites, palaeontological sites, historic fortifications, meteorite or meteorite impact sites.**—

- d) No person may destroy, damage, excavate, alter, write or draw upon, or otherwise disturb any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (1) Upon discovery of archaeological or palaeontological material or a meteorite by any person, all activity or operations in the general vicinity of such material or meteorite must cease forthwith and a person who made the discovery must submit a written report to the Council without delay.
- (2) The Council may, after consultation with an owner or controlling authority, by way of written notice served on the owner or controlling authority, prohibit any activity considered by the Council to be inappropriate within 50 metres of a rock art site.
- (3) No person may exhume, remove from its original position or otherwise disturb, damage, destroy, own or collect any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.
- (4) No person may bring any equipment which assists in the detection of metals and archaeological and palaeontological objects and material, or excavation equipment onto any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, or meteorite impact site, or use similar detection or excavation equipment for the recovery of meteorites, without the prior written approval of the Council having been obtained on written application to the Council.

(5) The ownership of any object or material associated with any battlefield site, archaeological site, rock art site, palaeontological site, historic fortification, meteorite or meteorite impact site, on discovery, vest in the Provincial Government and the Council is regarded as the custodian on behalf of the Provincial Government.” (KZN Heritage Act of 2008)

FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION OF THE CONGO INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

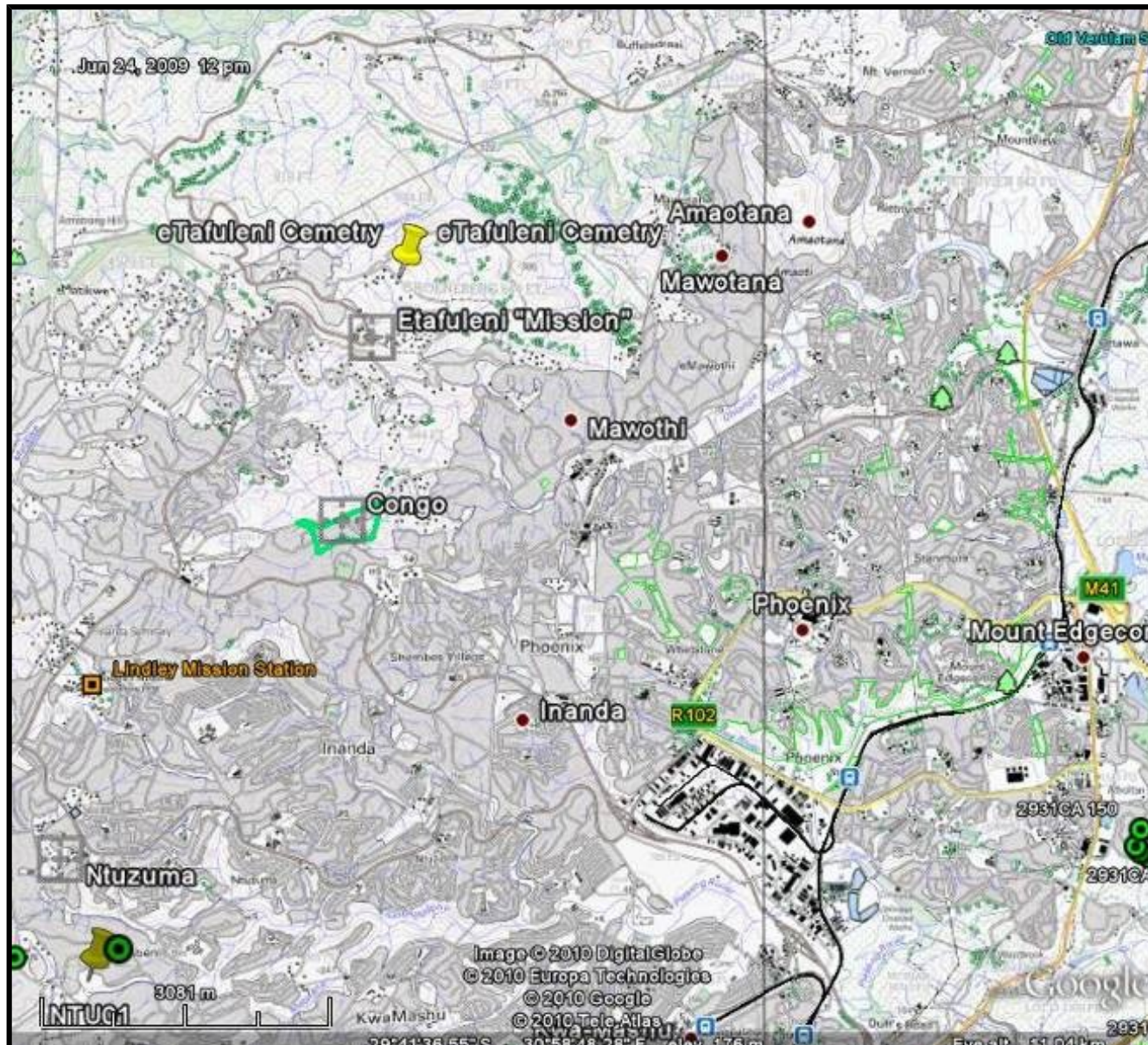
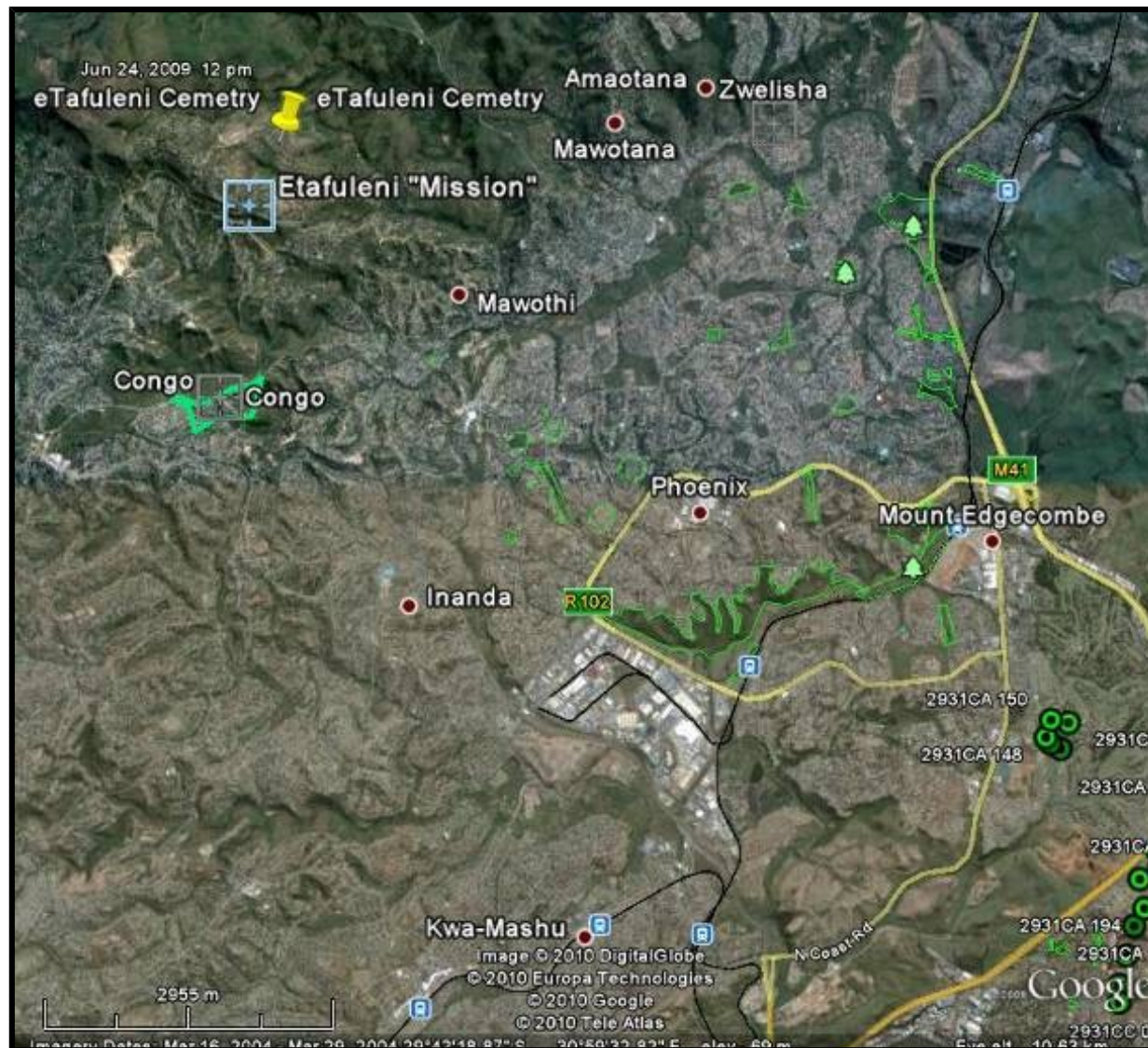


FIG. 2: AERIAL LOCATION OF THE CONGO INFORMAL SETTLEMENT



METHOD

The method for Heritage assessment consists of several steps.

The first step forms part of the desktop assessment. Here we would consult various types of databases. These databases contain most of the known heritage sites in KwaZulu-Natal, and known memorials and other protected sites, battlefields and cemeteries in southern Africa. We consult the recent and first edition topographical maps. We also consult with an historical architect, palaeontologist, and an historian where necessary.

The survey results will define the significance of each recorded site, as well as a management plan.

All sites are grouped according to low, medium and high significance for the purpose of this report. Sites of low significance have no diagnostic artefacts or features. Sites of medium significance have diagnostic artefacts or features and these sites tend to be sampled. Sampling includes the collection of artefacts for future analysis. All diagnostic pottery, such as rims, lips and decorated sherds are sampled, while bone, stone and shell are mostly noted. Sampling usually occurs on most sites. Sites of high significance are excavated and/or extensively sampled. Those sites that are extensively sampled have high research potential, yet poor preservation of features.

Defining significance

Heritage sites vary according to significance and several different criteria relate to each type of site. However, there are several criteria that allow for a general significance rating of archaeological sites.

These criteria are:

1. State of preservation of:

- 1.1. Organic remains:
 - 1.1.1. Faunal
 - 1.1.2. Botanical
- 1.2. Rock art
- 1.3. Walling
- 1.4. Presence of a cultural deposit
- 1.5. Features:
 - 1.5.1. Ash Features
 - 1.5.2. Graves
 - 1.5.3. Middens
 - 1.5.4. Cattle byres
 - 1.5.5. Bedding and ash complexes

2. Spatial arrangements:

- 2.1. Internal housing arrangements
- 2.2. Intra-site settlement patterns
- 2.3. Inter-site settlement patterns

3. Features of the site:

- 3.1. Are there any unusual, unique or rare artefacts or images at the site?
- 3.2. Is it a type site?
- 3.3. Does the site have a very good example of a specific time period, feature, or artefact?

4. Research:

- 4.1. Providing information on current research projects
- 4.2. Salvaging information for potential future research projects

5. Inter- and intra-site variability

- 5.1. Can this particular site yield information regarding intra-site variability, i.e. spatial relationships between various features and artefacts?

5.2. Can this particular site yield information about a community's social relationships within itself, or between other communities?

6. Archaeological Experience:

6.1. The personal experience and expertise of the CRM practitioner should not be ignored. Experience can indicate sites that have potentially significant aspects, but need to be tested prior to any conclusions.

7. Educational:

7.1. Does the site have the potential to be used as an educational instrument?

7.2. Does the site have the potential to become a tourist attraction?

7.3. The educational value of a site can only be fully determined after initial test-pit excavations and/or full excavations.

8. Other Heritage Significance:

8.1. Palaeontological sites

8.2. Historical buildings

8.3. Battlefields and general Anglo-Zulu and Anglo-Boer sites

8.4. Graves and/or community cemeteries

8.5. Living Heritage Sites

8.6. Cultural Landscapes, that includes old trees, hills, mountains, rivers, etc related to cultural or historical experiences.

The more a site can fulfill the above criteria, the more significant it becomes. Test-pit excavations are used to test the full potential of an archaeological deposit. This occurs in Phase 2. These test-pit excavations may require further excavations if the site is of significance (Phase 3). Sites may also be mapped and/or have artefacts sampled as a form of mitigation. Sampling normally occurs when the artefacts may be good examples of their type, but are not in a primary archaeological context. Mapping records the spatial relationship between features and artefacts.

RESULTS

No heritage sites were recorded in the study area.

The database indicated that there were no known heritage sites in the study area.

The 1942 topographical map indicates that there were no settlements in the study area 70 years ago. This helps date sites that may be affected by the KZN Heritage Act.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

No management plan is required as no heritage sites were observed.

CONCLUSION

A Heritage Impact Assessment for the Congo Low Cost Housing project was undertaken in July 2010. The 1942 topographical map indicated that no houses existed in the study area, and thus the settlement post-dates 60 years in age. The study area has been heavily disturbed by informal housing and much of it has been excavated for housing foundations. Housing upgrades will thus unlikely affect any heritage sites, as these would have been damaged or destroyed by the informal settlement.

FIG. 3: 1942 TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF THE AFFECTED AREA

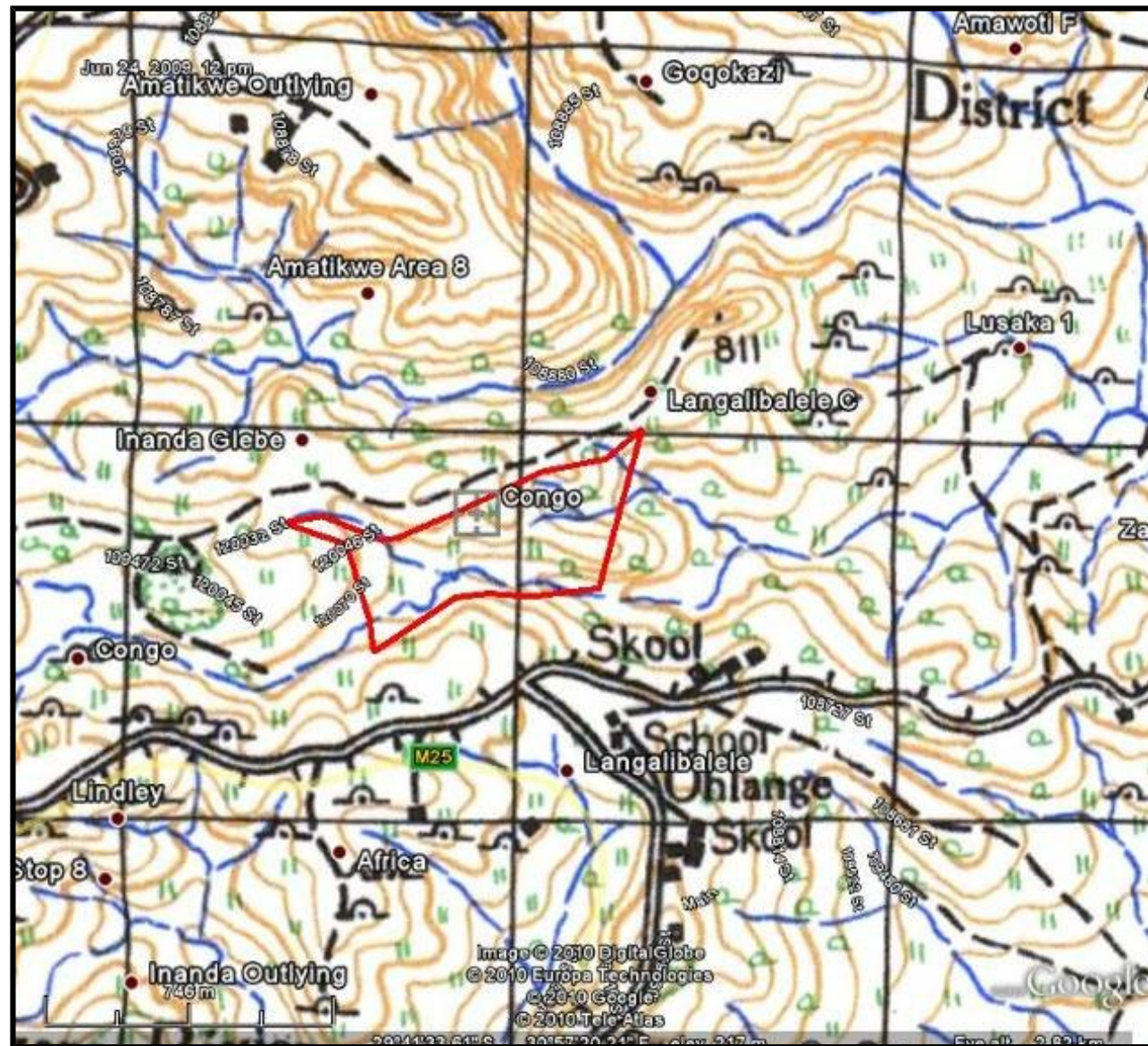


FIG. 4: AERIAL VIEW OF THE CONTEMPORARY CONGO SETTLEMENT

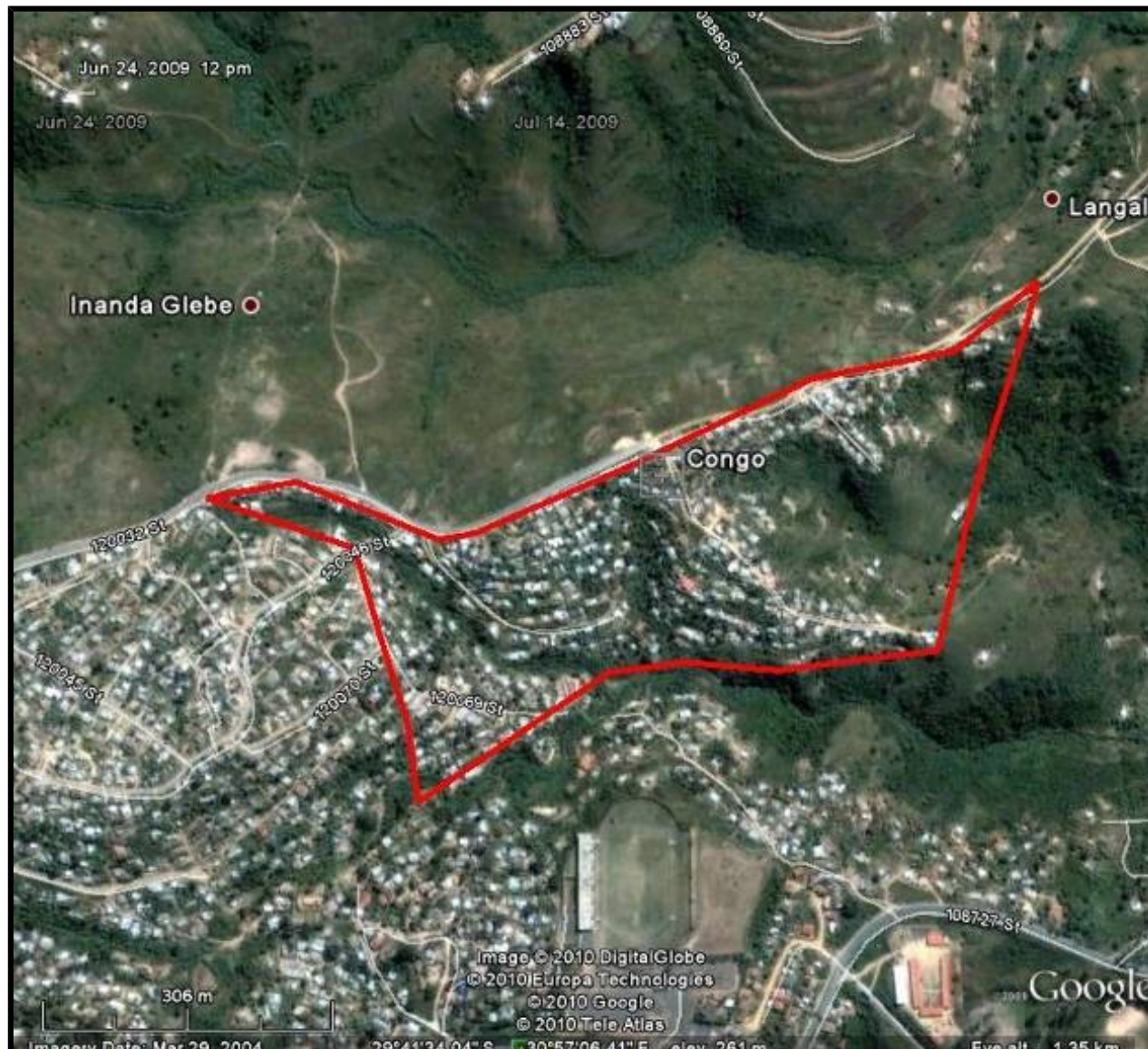


FIG. 5: VIEWS OF THE CONGO SETTLEMENT

