

CITY OF EKURHULENI WETLAND AND WATERCOURSE REHABILITATION PLANNING



PROJECT: RIETVLEI CATCHMENT



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:

- This Background Information Document (BID) provides you, as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), an overview of the proposed project.
- The BID invites you, as an I&AP, to participate in the required Public Participation Process.
- The BID provides you, as an I&AP with an opportunity to contribute and participate in the formulation of the Basic Assessment Reports as well as the General Authorisation Registration process.
- The BID also provides you, as an I&AP an opportunity to provide the project team with your comments and concerns to the proposed project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

Project Introduction:

The City of Ekurhuleni wishes to perform wetland and watercourse rehabilitation planning within the Rietvlei Catchment. The aim of the project is to enhance wetland and watercourse functionality, improve water quality and provide for continued yet structured community use of the open space systems.

The proposed project will trigger listed activities 12, 19, 27, 31, 48 and 67 in terms of GNR 983 and activities 12, 14 and 23 of GNR 985 which will require a Basic Assessment Application process to be followed.

A Water Use License Application (through the General Authorisation registration process) for Section 21 (c) and (i) water uses is also being applied for in terms of National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998).

Aim of the Background Information Document (BID):

The aim of the BID is to:

- Provide an overview of the Environmental Authorisation (EA)/ General Authorisation (GA) Applications as well as the public participation processes which will be undertaken for the proposed City of Ekurhuleni Wetland and Watercourse Rehabilitation Project.
- The EA Application process shall be undertaken in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (GNR 982) promulgated under the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 – NEMA) as amended. A Basic Assessment (BA) process will be followed which involves a Call to Register and Initial Notification Phase and a Basic Assessment Report phase;
- The process will allow I&APs the opportunity to obtain a broad understanding of the proposed project and to request or share information; and
- Provide details on how I&AP's can register their interest in and submit comments on the project. It is important to note that only registered I&AP's will receive further communication regarding the project for the duration of the application process (i.e. invitation to review and comment on the reports and associated appendices).

LOCATION, SCALE, AND EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

The proposed rehabilitation projects are located along certain watercourses within the Rietvlei catchment within the City of Ekurhuleni in Gauteng Province. Please refer to locality map at the end of this BID.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project is anticipated to involve the maintenance or improvements to existing instream structures (gabions, weirs, culverts, etc.) as well as new instream structures with the aim of preventing further degradation of the wetlands and watercourses. In addition, various peripheral improvements are proposed in and around wetlands and watercourses such as walkways, playgrounds, litter collection points, waste removal and general rehabilitation of the natural environment.

The proposed project includes inter alia the following application processes with associated activities:

- **New Environmental Authorisation (BA process) for:**
 - Wetland and watercourse rehabilitation planning including ongoing maintenance
- **Water Use General Authorisation**
 - Registration of General Authorisation.

LISTED ACTIVITIES APPLICATION:

The proposed project must be authorized in terms of a number of pieces of South African environmental legislation, namely:

- The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998); and
- The National Water Act (NWA, Act No. 36 of 1998).

Where relevant, these pieces of core legislation stipulate the required studies, reports and legal processes to be conducted and the results thereof submitted to the competent authorities for approval prior to commencement. The competent authorities for these applications are as follows:

- NEMA: The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD)
- NWA: The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)

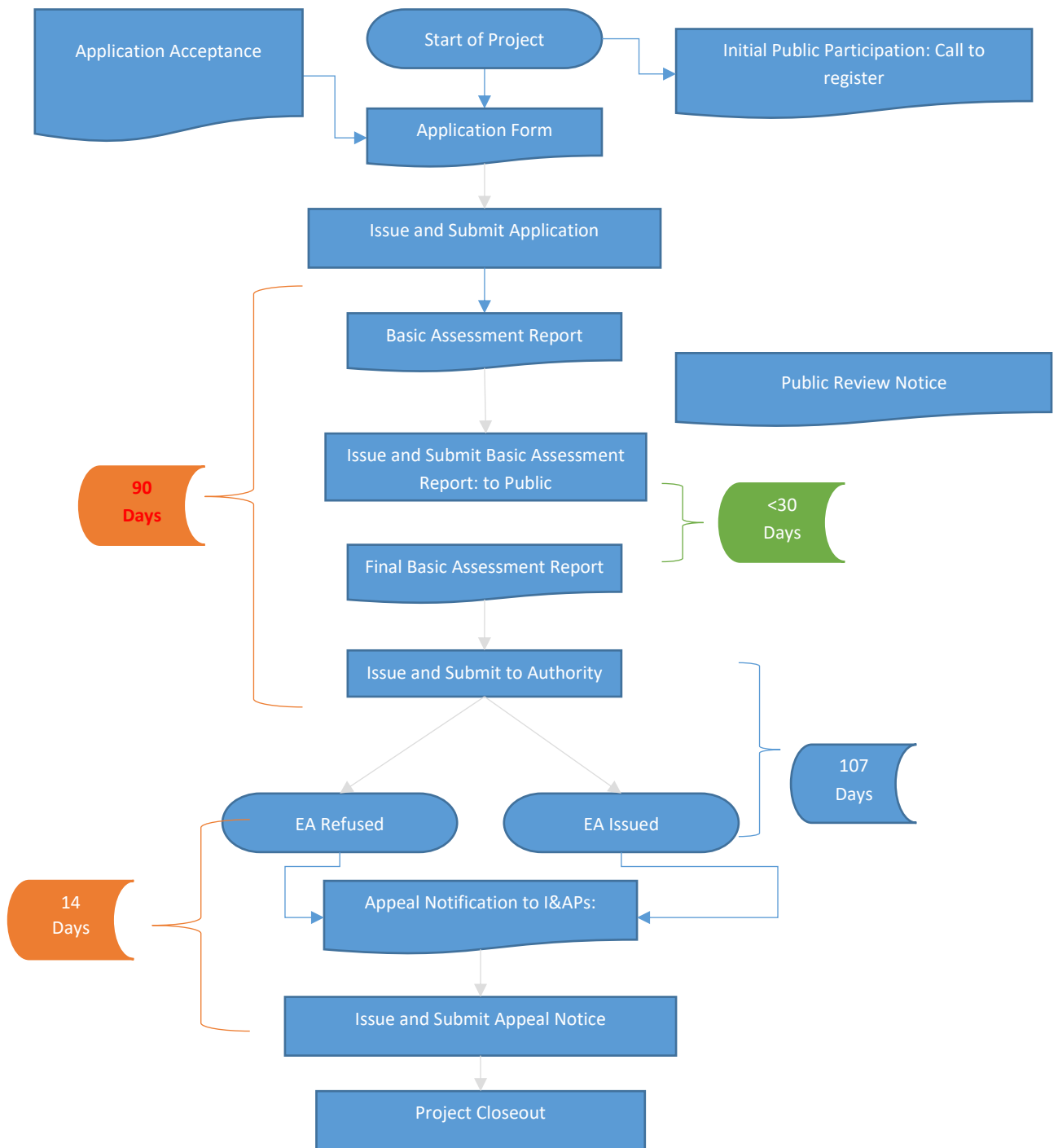
It is anticipated that the following approvals will be required:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) for listed activities terms of the 2014 NEMA EIA regulations (GNR 983, and GNR 985); and
- General Authorisation (GA) registration in terms of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998)

The following listed activities, in accordance with the above pieces of legislation, are currently anticipated to be triggered by the proposed project. The applicability of each of these listed activities (or the requirement for any additional listed activities) will be assessed during the initial Authority consultation process.

- NEMA GNR 983: Activities 12, 19, 27, 31, 48 and 67;
- NEMA GNR 985: Activity: 12, 14 and 23; and
- NWA Section 21(c) and (i).

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Should you feel that you may be interested in or affected by this project, it is essential that you register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in which case you will be kept informed regarding the project and afforded an opportunity to participate in the process. Please note that only registered I&APs will be included in future correspondence regarding the project and associated updates.

You may register and/or comment as an I&AP in any of the following ways:

1. Via telephone call addressed to the contact person stipulated at the end of this document; and/or
2. Submit written comments in a format of your choosing to EIMS via email, fax or post.

It is important to note that the application process is guided by legally stipulated timeframes and as such, in order to ensure your continued and valuable involvement in the project, we request that your registration requests and any preliminary comments are

submitted to EIMS (contact details provided below) by **no later than 6th March 2019**. Please quote the project reference number (1230) in all correspondence for ease of reference.

Please note that further to the above, all registered I&APs will also be notified in due course of the availability of the reports and associated appendices upon which comments will be solicited.

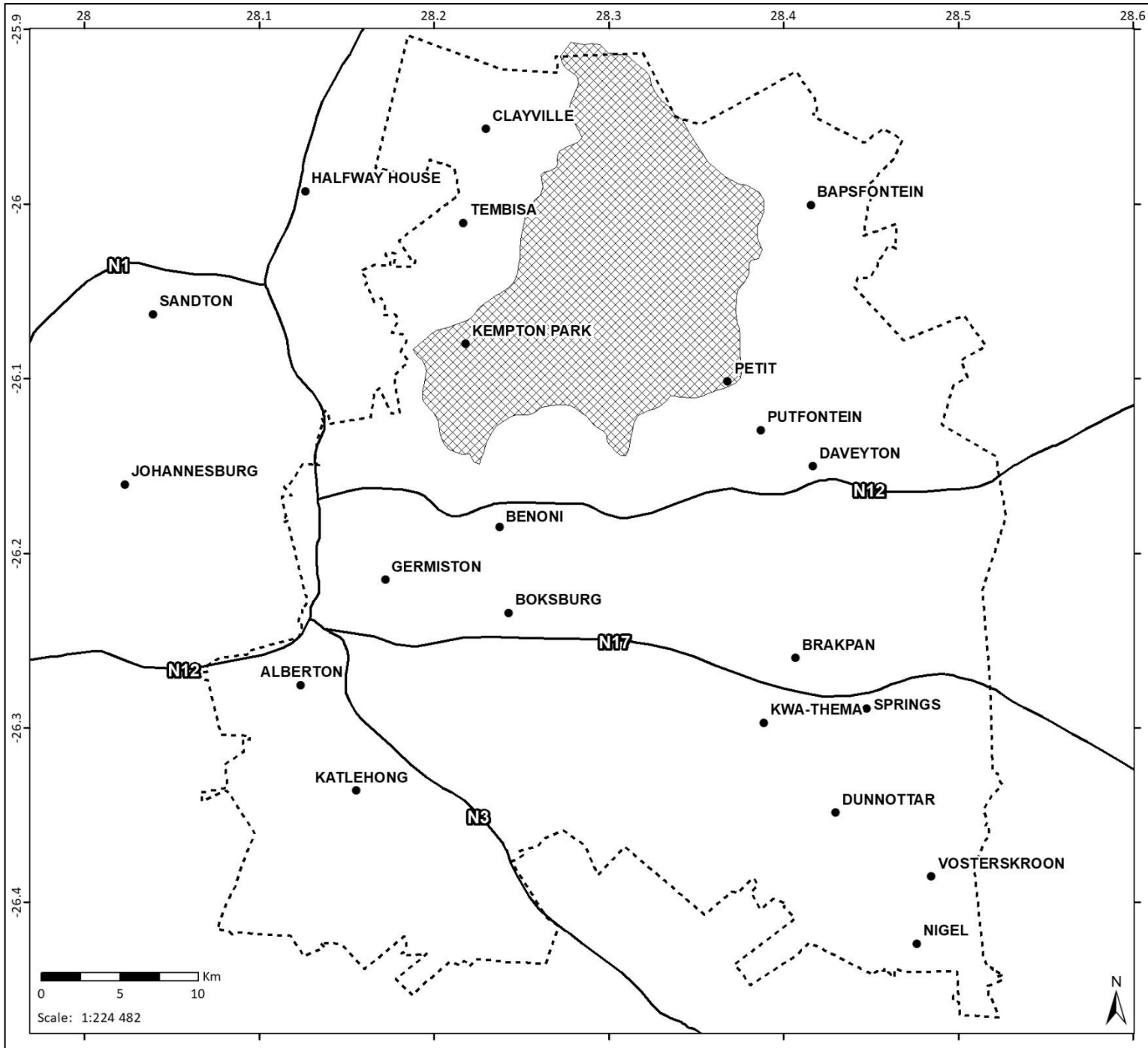
Environmental Impact Management Services (Pty) Ltd

Contact Person: Miss Cheyenne Muthukarapan

P.O. Box 2083 Pinegowrie 2123

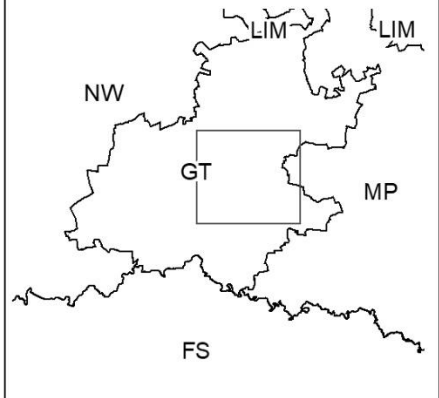
Phone: 011 789 7170 Fax: 011 787 3059

Catchment	Project Reference Number	Email
Rietvlei Catchment	1230	rietvlei@eims.co.za



Rietvlei Catchment Locality
Ekurhuleni Wetland Rehabilitation Project

- Legend**
- City of Ekurhuleni
 - Rietvlei Catchment (Ref#: 1230)
 - Towns
 - Main Roads



Data Sources:
CSG; ESRI; ENPAT
Coord System: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Units: Degree



Date: 2019/01/22
Compiled: PH
Reviewed: BW
Approved: LW

