

APPENDIX 4

**Environmental Management Framework for the
Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas
(OLEMF)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT



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Prepared by:

Environomics

Environmental Consultants

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Public participation is an integral requirement of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and the Environment Conservation Act (Act 73 of 1989). The process followed has taken into account all aspects of public participation as stipulated in legislation.

2. THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

2.1. PROCESS AND PURPOSE

Public participation provides the opportunity for I&APs to participate on an informed basis.

The primary purpose is to ensure that the relevant stakeholders within the EMF jurisdiction and interested and affected parties are informed about the EMF process, invite comments or inputs and identify relevant issues that need to be addressed in relation to the findings during the project phases.

2.2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a list of stakeholders and interested and affected parties (I&APs) (**Appendix 1**);
- provide a list of people who attended focus group meetings;
- provide a list of people who attended public open day meetings;
- provide a list of meetings with stakeholders; and
- provide a report on comments, concerns and issues raised during the process.

3. INITIAL PHASE

Meetings were held with district managers, government officials and important stakeholders on 18 March, 19 March, 23 March and 24 March 2009 to introduce the project to the District Municipalities (DM) and to determine the relevant liaison persons at the DM offices.

These meetings were attended by:

- Ehlanzeni District Municipality
C S Mabuza (DEA representative)
T P Serite (IDP Coordinator)

- Mopani District Municipality
J Maifala (IDP Manager)
A Makatu (DEA representative)
- SanParks (Kruger National Park)
Dr. T Gyedu-Ababio (Water Resources Manager)
- Vhembe District Municipality
M T Makumele (Municipal Manager)
T E Lalumbe (Disaster management)
I Raphalalani (DWA Limpopo)
- Capricorn District Municipality
Theo van Rooyen (Environmental Manager)
- Waterberg District Municipality
D S Mafa (Environmental Health Manager)
G Nokeri (Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism)
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism
M Angliss (Specialist scientist)

4. CREATING AWARENESS

The aim of this phase was to inform I&APs of the project and how it would benefit the environment.

Three sets of BID documents were prepared in order to inform participants of the EMF and were distributed to stakeholders, district municipal officials and I&APs. Please refer to **Appendix 2** for copies of the BIDs.

5. PUBLIC SURVEY

A questionnaire was prepared and the public was randomly asked to participate in a public survey. Approximately 100 questionnaires were completed in total from selected towns and settlements falling within the EMF study area. Please refer to **Appendix 3** for a copy of the questionnaire.

6. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION

The aim of this process was to solicit inputs. This was accomplished by means of:

6.1. FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Focus group meetings were held in order to discuss the EMF with stakeholders and to determine key issues, opportunities, constraints and the desired state as viewed from each group's perspective.

6.1.1. Conservation and tourism

A meeting was held with the conservation and tourism groups on 7 July 2009 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, in Tzaneen.

The following key issues were raised:

- Groundwater sufficiency to meet in the long term needs of society is questioned.
- Sustainability was not being met. Sustainable development was just words and EIA was simply rubberstamps as government only has a development growth at all cost approach, and it continues to push environmental costs to future generations.
- Concerns over water sharing with Mozambique were pointed out. It was stated that international obligations towards Mozambique are not being honoured to the full extent and that water access to Mozambique should be guaranteed.
- Ecological reserves need to be protected. There is a need for government to put in long term planning measures for ecological reserves. Ecological reserves are regarded as a nice to have by authorities. The Department of Water Affairs don't see the reserves as fixed assets. Reserves should be guaranteed.
- Planning should be less short sighted and should have a long-term view.
- Forestry takes up large amounts of water that can be better used to grow other higher value crops in the catchments and should therefore be phased out as far as possible.
- Exclusion areas (in terms of NEMA 24(2)(c) must have adequate guidelines to ensure that it does not result in unacceptable runoff etc.
- The issue of sewerage failures across the area is a major concern for water quality. The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) must take responsibility as provinces and local authorities are unable to do it effectively.

This meeting was attended by:

Name	Organisation – Representing
N G Colleen	SANBI
L Perkins	WESSA
L Kanyane	CDM
A Ravele	CDM
R Morris	Nikiwe
A Monyepaoa	Greater Sekuhukune District Municipality
M Pheela	LEDET
P Claassen	Environomics
E Chembya	Environomics
S Johnston	Sustainable Futures

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6.1.2. Mining and industry

A meeting was held with the mining and industry groups on 3 July 2009 at Sefapane Lodge in Phalaborwa as well as on 9 July 2009 at Middelburg District Municipality in Middelburg.

The following key issues were raised:

- Mining contributes to 85% of GDP of Phalaborwa, but it has a limited lifespan and will close down in 25 to 30 years.
- Tourism on its own will not be enough to replace the income, as it offers only limited support.
- What are the area's current assets, and how will they change in the long term, especially when the mines are no longer there – that should be at the forefront of planning.
- Water usage and allocation is the biggest concern of mining in the area.
- Legislation is not managed efficiently – legislation is ahead of capacity in the institutions.
- Water supply for mining in Burgersfort area needs to be ensured.
- Mining needs another dam the size of the De Hoop Dam fairly soon (within 10 years).
- The allocation policies of DWA are a high risk to mining – shortage of water supply may hit mining and industry the hardest and that will hamper development.
- The lack of issuing water use licenses and clear direction in respect of the reserve is of concern to mining.
- Institutional failure in terms of water use permits – users are not given the opportunity to comply with legislation.
- Investors are put off by uncertainty created by indecision of government.
- Burgersfort area has a long term up to 100 years (60 years + at least) life for the mining of platinum group metals.
- Mining of platinum group metals are going to lead to huge increases in economic growth in the Limpopo Province.
- Platinum mining processes are not very sensitive to water quality and can use polluted water from the Highveld coal mining activities.
- Certain mines produce excess water of acceptable quality during certain times of the year that can be released back into the system for re-use or to maintain ecological flow requirements, but the mines are currently prevented from doing so by DWA.

- Policy certainty of government is needed to provide an environment that is conducive to investment decision-making.
- Green corridors to connect natural areas through mining areas and township areas should be provided for by the planning authorities at the various levels.
- DWAF has a view that agriculture does not use their water efficiently and that mining companies should negotiate with agriculture but the mining industry believes that DWAF must provide a water bank and should obtain excess water from agriculture and release it back into the system to be used by mining and other demands.
- Mines do not oppose the construction of wetlands as a possible mechanism to clean water, but it is questioned if the government will find the proposal acceptable and the sustainability of the wetlands in long term.
- Abandoned mines are creating spillage into the river system and no one is responsible for that.

This meeting was attended by:

Name	Organisation – Representing
H Botes	Umcebo Mining
I Brink	Joint Water Forum (Bigen Africa)
N Pillay	Shanduka Mining
M Barnes	Shanduka Mining
M Mbhele	Optimum Colliery
L Nengovhela	Optimum Colliery
T van Tonder	Anglo Platinum
J Bierman	Anglo Platinum
A Nhlabathi	Samancor Chrome
H Booysen	Samancor Chrome
P Claassen	Environomics
S Taljaardt	Environomics
S Johnston	Sustainable Futures

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6.1.3. Agriculture

A meeting was held with the agricultural groups on 10 July 2009 at Loskop Valley Lodge in Groblersdal.

The following key issues were raised:

- Government control bodies are toothless bulldogs. They do not react to complaints. Green/blue scorpions do nothing. Institutional failure of government occurs at the implementation level – laws are good. Agriculture feels powerless.
- Issuing of mining and prospecting permits that ignores the rights (especially the above ground rights) of the landowners. Prospecting occur without consent of farmers on productive land on which huge investments have been made.
- Groblersdal and Marble Hall area is dependent on the quality of the water in the system. Continued pollution of the water will have devastating effects on export of agricultural produce. Eurogap has already identified the water quality of the area as problematic.
- The requirements for obtaining water licenses for mines are not acceptable as mines are allowed start as long as they have applied for permits.
- The decrease in the water quality of the Olifants River is significant. There is especially concern about: arsenic level, DDT and other pollutants. The medical community at Groblersdal (also represented at the meeting) is very concerned about the health impact of water on the population.
- The purification of the water for Groblersdal is questioned. There is a constant high level of chlorine in the local water that makes it almost undrinkable – many people buy drinking water.
- Political will is not there to solve the problem. As a result:
 - Food security will be affected
 - Food exports will end
 - We will be hungry
 - Epidemics will start to occur
 - Medical expenses will rise
 - Agricultural production will decline and eventually stop altogether.
- Planning of infrastructure etc. is lacking in the area.
- Air pollution e.g. the regular burning of the local waste dump in Groblersdal and especially the fallout is not acceptable.

- Medical concerns (from a doctor) about health effects in the population. Environmental pollution is the biggest contributor to declining health.

This meeting was attended by:

Name	Organisation – Representing
M Monakedi	Department of Agriculture
P Meiring	B V Olifants
D Moolman	DLU
H Laas	Department of Agriculture : Mpumalanga
J Minnaar	Individual
D Meyer	TLV
Kobie	DLU
Hendrik Groenewald	Individual
D Ferreira	Loskop Irrigation
P Claassen	Environomics
S Taljaardt	Environomics
S Johnston	Sustainable Futures

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6.1.4. Eskom

A meeting was held with Eskom on 21 July 2009 at Megawatt Park Johannesburg.

The following key issues were raised:

- There is a need to also consider effects of the activities happening outside the boundary of the EMF as these activities may influence what happens inside the boundary.
- It was suggested that provision be made through the different management zones to cater proactively for infrastructure serve corridors in the most sensible places. A dedicated workshop will be held to investigate this issue further.
- Some mines are facing severe water shortages as they do not have water use licenses. Eskom is dependent on coal from some of these mines.
- Some mines have significant water within the mines. DWA, however, does not allow for the necessary water transfer so as to utilise the underground water.

Eskom indicated that desired state of the EMF will be important for Eskom in determining its policies to provide energy to the suggested management zones.

This meeting was attended by:

Name	Organisation – Representing
E Appleyard	Eskom – PED
J Mavhungu	Eskom – CC&S
A de la Ray	Eskom – IARC
E Grunewalt	Eskom – Transmission
M Reddy	Eskom – PED
T Matsoaboli	Eskom – PED
M Moremedi	Eskom – PED
T Singleton	Eskom – GEM
C Laing	Eskom – SEI
D Lucas	Eskom
S Zwane	DEA

P Claassen	Environomics
S Taljaardt	Environomics
E Chembeya	Environomics

6.2. PUBLIC OPEN DAYS

Stakeholders and I&APs were invited to attend the public open days, where information was shared with the public in respect to the status quo, opportunities, constraints as well as the proposed management zones and the possible future state of the area.

The dates and venues were as follows:

3 August 2009 – Giyani Community Hall, Giyani

4 August 2009 – Phalaborwa Municipality Activity Hall, Phalaborwa

5 August 2009 – St. Peter’s Anglican Church, Tzaneen

6 August 2009 – Tubatse Council Chambers, Tubatse Municipality, Burgersfort

11 August 2009 – Middelburg Country Club, Middelburg

12 August 2009 – Loskop Valley Lodge, Groblersdal

The following key issues were raised:

- A very big concern was expressed by the district authority in Mopani about activities that can contribute to economic growth due to the general lack of resources and frequent droughts.
- The Mopani district needs closer cooperation with SanParks in order to derive the economic benefits from the Park and suggested that an entrance gate or exclusive lodges should be located in the Mopani area.
- The farmers in the Tzaneen and Blyde River irrigation areas indicated that plantation forestry should be phased out so that more water can be made available for irrigated agriculture.
- Irrigation farmers in the area are concerned that their water will be re-allocated to mining. They do, however, acknowledge that they can work efficiently with their water allocations and might be willing to sell some of it to mining companies, provided the price is right.

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- The farmers in the Groblersdal area are concerned about the lack of adequate controls to prevent the pollution of irrigation water especially acid water drainage from abandoned coal mines.
- There is great concern about the pressure that is being exerted by the expansion of commercial platforms onto the remaining grassland patches of the escarpment.
- Concern was expressed about the potential negative impacts and especially the impacts on water availability if large bio-fuel projects are allowed in the area.
- SanParks is concerned about both the quality and quantity of water that goes into the Kruger National Park.
- SanParks is not open to discussion with the Mopani District Municipality about access to the Park and are instead concerned about activities of people in the area that compromises the integrity of the fence line.
- The platinum mining groups remain concerned about the continued availability of enough water for their proposed future operations. In this regard they made several proposals for obtaining additional water. These are discussed in Section 4 of the draft EMF Report.

These meetings were attended by:

Date	Name	Organisation
3 August 2009	G S Baloyi	Giyani Traffic Department
	M D Mkhari	Mopani District Municipality
	M J Maifala	Mopani District Municipality
	A I Makatu	DEAT
	P Claassen	Environomics
	L du Plessis	MetroGIS
	S Johnston	Sustainable Futures
4 August 2009	J Moller	Foskor
	L Desmet	Phalaborwa Mining Company
	V Mthombeni	Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality
	H S Marhule	Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality
	T Gyedu-Ababio	SanParks (Kruger National Park)

	J Wolhuter	Public
	P Claassen	Environomics
	L du Plessis	MetroGIS
	S Johnston	Sustainable Futures
5 August 2009	T J van Tonder	Anglo Platinum
	A J Venter	LWGV
	D Enslin	Agri Letaba
	A P Mkansi	Provincial Treasury Department
	P Claassen	Environomics
	L du Plessis	MetroGIS
	S Johnston	Sustainable Futures
6 August 2009	M M Malapane	Department of Water Affairs
	P Makgalele	Tubatse Municipality
	P Claassen	Environomics
	L du Plessis	MetroGIS
	S Johnston	Sustainable Futures
11 August 2009	A Nhlabathi	Samancor Chrome
	H Cornelissen	Mintek
	R Mulaudzi	Mintek
	H Botes	Umcebo Mining
	K Schmahr	Distrik Landbou Unie
	A Macdonald	De Beers Group Services
	Barrie Viviers	Olifants River Lodge
	P Claassen	Environomics
	L du Plessis	MetroGIS
	S Johnston	Sustainable Futures
12 August 2009	S van der Westhuizen	SAPPI

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	A Ramalisa	Department of Water Affairs
	A Prinsloo	Distrik Landbou Unie
	D Moolman	Distrik Landbou Unie
	K Marx	WESSA
	G Pasipavunda	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality
	X Manganye	Greater Sekhukhune District Municipality
	P Meiring	Groblersdal Distrik Landbou Unie
	P Claassen	Environomics
	L du Plessis	MetroGIS
	S Johnston	Sustainable Futures

6.3. MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

A presentation was given on the project and the attendees were given the opportunity to raise their concerns.

6.3.1. Meeting with SanParks (Kruger National Park)

A meeting was held on 3 July 2009 with Dr. Thomas Gyedu-Ababio of SanParks (Kruger National Park) at Sefapane Lodge, Phalaborwa.

The following issues were recorded:

- The De Hoop Dam on the river course was over-allocated.
- The proposed sugar cane plantation for bio-diesel was going to add on to the already existing problem of water accessibility and water deficiency in the area (Phalaborwa).
- Water quality in the Phalaborwa area was a constraint and that government's total failure needed to be addressed. The lack of water reserve on both local and international levels also needs serious attention by the government on both provincial and national levels.

6.3.2. Meeting with the Department of Water Affairs (DWA)

A meeting was held with T Nditwani and other senior officials of the Department of Water Affairs.

The scope of the EMF as well as the ongoing proceedings on the Development of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for the Upper and Middle Olifants River Catchments were discussed.

Despite the fact that the study is not completed yet, it is clear that water availability is a major development constraint across the whole of EMF area, as the available water is already over-allocated.

The building of new or additional dams may make water available at different places, but will not increase the amount of water in the system. Unless water can be used more efficiently to the extent that water becomes available for re-allocation, the only other option is to import water from other catchments or desalinate water from the sea.

6.3.3. Meeting with Anglo Platinum

A meeting was held on 14 September 2009 with T van Tonder, A van Dyk and B Bierman of Anglo Platinum.

The following issues were recorded:

Main points of concern on the mine's side:

- Construction of Richmond Dam; and
- acquiring the polluted water from the coal mines in the Witbank/Middelburg area to use in the platinum mines.

Important points raised during the meeting were as follows:

- DWA has told the mines that they are waiting on the OLEMF before considering the approval of Richmond Dam even though the mines have performed several studies of their own.
- The Department has stated that they wish local water to be used, yet argue against the proposal of the Richmond Dam, saying they want to build a larger dam.
- The platinum mines are offering a solution to the polluted water problem created by the coal mines, yet DWA seems very hesitant to accept this proposal.
- DWA says the mines should buy water from the farmers, however the mines disagree with this method. They view water allocation as the Government's responsibility. The mines argue that farmers might stop farming and only sell their water as a means of income. Should a food shortage arise, the mines will then be blamed.

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- Water in the catchment area is already over allocated, and a re-allocation should potentially be considered.
- Creating a completely free market for water is not a viable option as this has already failed in other countries. A market controlled by the government could be a solution. There may however be unintended unforeseen consequences.
- Institutional failure on behalf of Government was highlighted. Wonderful laws but no capacity or competence to make sure they are enforced.
- Water re-allocation is a potential logistic nightmare, as much of the water can simply not be accounted for and the department is not able to issue water permits.
- Anglo Platinum is willing to get involved in water affairs, however it is their view that it is ultimately the government's job to control the water and enforce the laws.
- The Department is not always aware of what is actually occurring on ground level.
- It will be necessary to bring all the separate interest groups to the same table to have an open discussion regarding the current situation in the OLEMF.

6.3.4. Meeting with DEA, Air Pollution

A meeting was held on 15 September 2009 with officials from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

The following issues / requests were recorded:

The Department of Environmental Affairs priority areas cover some parts of the OLEMF identified areas. Mr. Lukey mentioned that sections of the OLEMF might be incorporated in the air quality maps, and that Mr. Scott should be contacted in this regard.

A study to determine the levels of arsenic in the Highveld area had been done. The study also includes an air quality profile as well as biomass emissions data (which indicate very high annual emissions levels).

Another study on the impacts of power stations on water catchments in the Highveld area had been done by the Water Research Commission. Mr Scott will provide Environomics with the details.

DEA is in the process of compiling air quality maps which would be completed by October 2009. These should be considered for inclusion in the EMF, if completed in time.

Mr Lukey suggested that the OLEMF report should include an overlay indicating the priority air pollution areas. If possible, the area should have a political boundary that is the same as the one they use so as to include it in the planning process. He also indicated that DEA's air quality maps use political

boundaries for easy regulation implementations. The OLEMF report should at least include a paragraph on climate change and the major source of pollution.

If the OLEMF report gets adopted by the Minister before the air quality maps are ready, then the maps can be included in the next updated EMF.

The meeting was attended by:

Ms. H Mafumo
Ms. R Mudau
Mr. G Scott
Mr. P Lukey
Mr. S Zwane
Ms. M Phoshoko
Ms. B Skhesana
Mr. P Claassen (Environomics)
Ms. E Chembeya (Environomics)

6.3.5. Meeting with the Department of Water Affairs (DWA)

A meeting was held with T Nditwani and other senior officials of the Department of Water Affairs on 1 December 2009.

The following notes were recorded:

The mining groups had expressed their concern to DWA that the EMF is of too high a level to be of use in the decision-making process.

Mr. Claassen gave an explanation as to the difference between a SEA and an EMF and why an EMF was the preferred choice. The EMF is a tool. It shows the implications of decisions and possible opportunity cost associated with the decisions, however, it cannot replace the role of officials in making decisions. It is there to assist by giving a better picture of the current state, context of the area and vision for the area.

The concern of industry and mining about the time frames used in the EMF was noted. Mr. Claassen explained that the reason for using longer time frames than the "normal" time frames used in general is because the general time frames are too short to capture the long term sustainability issues. This is

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especially true for environmental effects of plans, which often only manifest in 50 to 100 years from now. The longer time frames were supported by DWA.

The issue that Provincial Growth and Development do not always take into account physical constraints, such as water availability into account when they plan was raised. It is hoped that the EMF will assist in giving a better perspective.

The issue that there is a lack of capacity to manage any future conservation areas that may be created was raised during the discussion of the park expansion areas.

The main point of discussion and purpose of the meeting was to determine whether or not the EMF meets the requirements of the project's purpose. It was agreed that it did. The EMF will, however, not replace the need for EIA's for specific development proposals.

It was inquired as to how the EMF will align to the SDF's and IDP's of the various municipal areas within the EMF. Mr. Claassen proceeded to explain that the SDF's and IDP's have already been taken into account and a summary document on the SDF's and IDP's of the municipal areas has been included as a reference document to the main EMF Report.

It was also inquired as to how the EMF will be made available for use. A poster is being designed that will have a map of the EMF area and a brief summary of the guidelines for each area and this will be distributed through the municipalities. The EMF Report, its supporting documents and GIS system will be made available on a DVD. A training session on the use of Arc Viewer in order to access the GIS system will be presented to interested officials in the second half of January.

The meeting was attended by:

Name	Organisation
Ockie van der Berg	DWA
Sanet van Jaarsveld	DWA
Richard	DWA
Tendani Nditwani	DWA
Kennedy Munduza	DWA

Peter van Niekerk	DWA
Paul Claassen	Environomics
Samantha Taljaardt	Environomics

7. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT STATUS QUO, OPPORTUNITIES, CONSTRAINTS AND DESIRED STATE REPORT

Local authorities, district municipalities, members of the Project Steering Committee, stakeholders and I&APs were informed that the draft report was available on the website address www.metrogis.co.za.

Comments received were documented. See **Appendix 4**. The comment period for this phase ended on 21 August 2009.

8. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT EMF REPORT

Stakeholders and I&APs were informed that the draft was available on the website address www.metrogis.co.za.

Comments received were documented. See **Appendix 5**. The comment period for this phase ended on 30 November 2009.

9. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: STAKEHOLDER AND I&AP DATABASE

APPENDIX 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE

APPENDIX 4: COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT STATUS QUO,
OPPORTUNITIES, CONSTRAINTS AND DESIRED STATE REPORT

APPENDIX 5: COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT EMF REPORT

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EMF FOR THE OLIFANTS AND LETABA RIVERS CATCHMENT AREAS : STAKEHOLDER AND I&AP DATABASE APPENDIX 1

Department / Organisation	Contact Person	Contact No.	Email Address / Fax Number	Postal Address
SanParks (Kruger National Park)	Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio	013 735-3515 cell 082 9087729	gyedu-ababio@eurotel.co.za or thomasga@sanparks.org	
DWAF	A Ramalisa	082 872 2774	RamalisaA@dwaf.gov.za	
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Provincial Department of Conservation : Mpumalanga	Ms Tamlyn Scurry	013 759 5300	tamlyn@mtpa.co.za	
Provincial Department of Tourism : Mpumalanga	Ms. Mathilda van Niekerk	015 759-9077	mathilda.vanniekerk@mbombela.gov.za	
Provincial Department of Tourism : Limpopo	Ms. Christel Nel	013 243-2253	infomid@iafrica.com	
Provincial Tourism Board : Mpumalanga	Mr. Ruben Ngwenya	013 752-7001	ruben@mtpa.co.za	
Provincial Tourism Board : Limpopo	Ms. L Tshabalala	013 750-2136	lulamat@golimpopo.com	
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Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

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Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

EMF FOR THE OLIFANTS AND LETABA RIVERS CATCHMENT AREAS : STAKEHOLDER & I&AP DATABASE APPENDIX 1

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Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

EMF FOR THE OLIFANTS AND LETABA RIVERS CATCHMENT AREAS : STAKEHOLDER & I&AP DATABASE

APPENDIX 1

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APPENDIX 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) [1]

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas (OLEMF)

1. INTRODUCTION

Environomics, leading a multi-disciplinary team was appointed by the National Department of Environment and Tourism (DEAT) in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LDEDET), the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs (MDALA) as well as the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAf) to undertake the compilation of a regional Environmental Management Framework (EMF) that will support decision-making in the study area in order to ensure appropriate development in the area.

The study area comprises of the Olifants River Catchment Area as indicated on Figure 1: Study Area and covers approximately 74 000km². It comprises of a large area that stretches from the continental divide in eastern Gauteng and the Mpumalanga Highveld to the border with Mozambique in the Kruger National Park. In order to make sure that the entire catchment is covered the relatively small (5 301km²) Shingwidzi sub-catchment (it joins the Olifants River Catchment downstream in Mozambique) has also been added.

The NEMA Regulations provide that the Minister or MEC may initiate an EMF for an area that specifies the attributes of the environment in a particular geographical area. Such an EMF must be taken into account when considering EIA applications in or affecting the area to which the EMF applies. It includes information and maps that specify the attributes of the environment in particular geographical areas which must be taken into account by the competent authority (the decision-making authority for environmental assessment process).

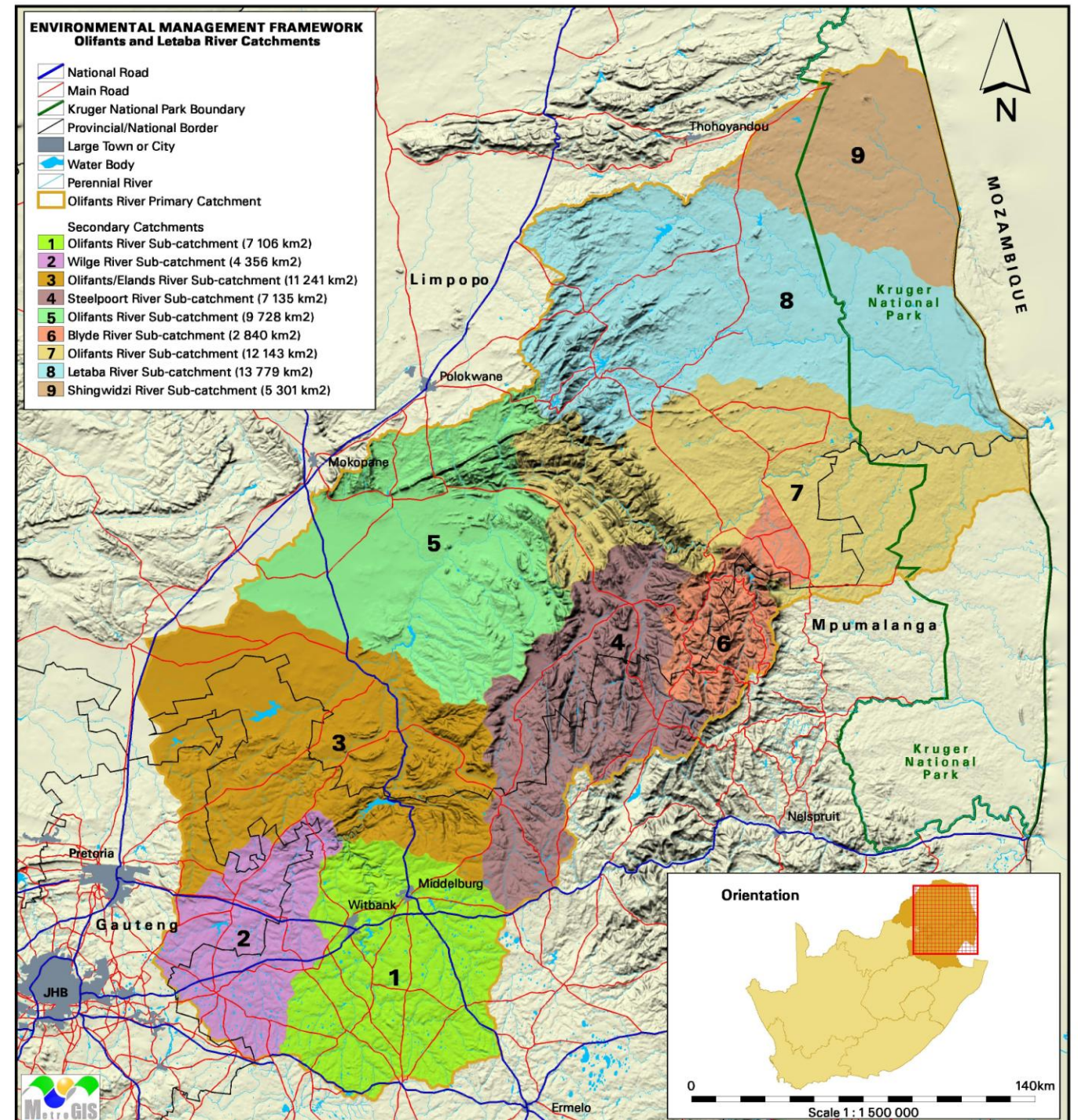
Figure 1: Study Area

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE EMF

The purpose of this project is to develop a framework that will integrate policies and frameworks, and align different government mandates in a way that will streamline decision-making to improve cooperative governance and guide future development in an environmentally responsible manner. The objectives of the EMF include:

- encourage sustainable development;
- establish development priorities;
- identify strategic guidance and development management proposals;
- identify the status quo, development pressures and trends in the area;
- determine opportunities and constraints;
- identify geographical areas in terms of NEMA;

- specify additional activities within certain identified geographical areas that will require EIA and specify currently listed activities that will be excluded from EIA within certain identified geographical areas in terms of NEMA that; and
- develop a decision support system in respect to environmental attributes, issues and priorities in the EMF area.



Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The purpose of this BID is to inform the Interested and or Affected Parties (I&AP's) of the proposed EMF project and provide sufficient background and technical information to enable informed participation in the process. This document is also aimed to create a mechanism whereby I&AP's can participate and raise their issues, comments and concerns.

Three phases are relevant to ensure that the views of the I&AP's and stakeholders would be reflected and considered during the EMP process.

Phase 1: Notification of the EMF process

Phase 1 entail the initial public notification process and include the following actions:

- The compilation of a database of potential I&AP's;
- the identification of distribution networks such as newsletters that accompany service accounts;
- the preparation of a Background Information Document (BID) to inform participants about the EMF project;
- BID distribution to stakeholders, relevant district municipal officials and members of the community within the EMF area;
- project advertisement in municipal newsletters;
- initial meetings with key stakeholders IDP managers / coordinators of the district municipalities and key industry players. The aim of the meetings is to introduce the project to key stakeholders at an early stage in order to facilitate the early identification of issues that have to be addressed; and
- government departments at the national and provincial levels will be notified by e-mail and depending on the response, targeted joint or separate meetings will be organised to discuss and disseminate issues as needed.

Phase 2: Information gathering

The objective of this phase is to focus on interaction with I&AP's and it is specifically targeted to identify as many as possible relevant issues as well as additional information sources. This phase includes:

- A survey that will be undertaken to establish the views of the general public on key issues that have been identified (the survey will use a standard questionnaire and will be random but stratified to include appropriate sample sizes across the area);
- open days that will be held in each of the 5 districts where interested and affected parties will have the opportunity to engage with project team members as well as officials on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) about draft work (on display) in order to clarify issues and important elements that must be addressed in the EMF.

Phase 3: Formal process

During this phase the draft EMF document will be advertised as required by law and will be made available in hardcopy and electronic PDF format (on CDs) for inspection in 5 districts at appropriate places. The draft EMF report will also be available on internet from where it can be downloaded in a PDF format. Stakeholders and participants will have a month to review, consider and comment on the draft EMF document.

5. INVITATION TO COMMENT

You are welcome to make use of the opportunity to register. Inputs from stakeholders and interested and affected parties are important to ensure that the project addresses all the significant issues in the area.

Comments can be submitted over the entire course of the project by using the attached registration form or any other written submission to the environmental consultant on this project, namely:

ENVIRONOMICS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
P.O. Box 400
MIDSTREAM ESTATES
1692

Tel: (087) 805-4000
Fax: (086) 632-5546

E-mail: elmay@environomics.co.za
Contact person: El-May Pelser

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas (OLEMF)

INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTY REGISTRATION & COMMENTS FORM

To: Environomics Environmental Consultants	Fax: (086) 632-5546 E-mail: elmay@environomics.co.za
---	---

From:	Date:
Company / Organization:	Physical Address:
Postal Address:	

Tel:
Fax:
E-Mail:

Comments/Issues:

*Please send completed registration & comments form to:
Environomics Environmental Consultants for attention: Ms. El-May Pelser
P.O Box 400, Midstream Estate, 1692
Tel: (087) 805-4000
Fax: (086) 632-5546
E-mail address: elmay@environomics.co.za*

Environomics

Environmental Consultants

APPENDIX 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) - Version 2, May 2009

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas (OLEMF)

1. INTRODUCTION

Environomics, leading a multi-disciplinary team was appointed by the national Department of Water and Environmental Affairs (DWEA) in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LDEDET), the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs (MDALA) to undertake the compilation of a regional Environmental Management Framework (EMF) that will support decision-making in the Olifants and Letaba Rivers water catchment areas in order to facilitate appropriate development in the area.

The study area comprises of the Olifants River catchment area as indicated on the attached map and covers approximately 74 000km². It covers a large area that stretches from the continental divide in eastern Gauteng and the Mpumalanga Highveld to the border with Mozambique in the Kruger National Park.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, provide for the initiation of an EMF by the Minister of DWEA or by a provincial Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of the relevant province.

The EMF must:

- Identify the geographical area to which the EMF applies;
- specify attributes of the environment in the area including the sensitivity, extent interrelationship and significance of those attributes;
- identify any parts in the EMF area to which the specified attributes relate;
- state the conservation status of the area and/or its relevant parts;
- state the environmental management priorities in the area;
- indicate the kind of activities that would have a significant impact on the attributes in the area and those that would not; and
- indicate activities that would be undesirable in the area or in specific parts of the area.

4. THE PURPOSE OF THE EMF

In addition and in support of the regulatory requirements for the EMF the purpose of this EMF is to develop a framework that will integrate policies and frameworks, and align different government mandates in a way that will streamline decision-making to improve cooperative governance and guide future development in an environmentally responsible manner.

The specific objectives of the EMF include:

- Encourage sustainable development;
- establish development priorities;

- identify strategic guidance and development management proposals;
- identify the status quo, development pressures and trends in the area;
- determine opportunities and constraints;
- identify geographical areas in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- specify additional activities within identified geographical areas that will require EIA based on the environmental attributes of such areas;
- specify currently listed activities that will be excluded from EIA within certain identified geographical areas based on the environmental attributes of such areas; and
- develop a decision support system for development in the area to ensure that environmental attributes, issues and priorities are taken into account.

5. KEY ISSUES

The following key issues have been identified in the EMF area (open for comment and suggestions):

- Impoundment of rivers (especially in the mountainous areas) may cause irreversible damage to the hydrological regime as well as the ecosystems and human enterprises that depend on it;
- excessive pollution of water bodies and rivers has a negative impact on the user value of the water in the system and in some instances even have potential disastrous effects on ecological and economic processes that depend on the quality of the water;
- erosion, turbidity and sediment deposition in hydrological systems that result from practices that remove vegetation cover in the catchment areas diminish the potential of the hydrological system;
- mining activities (often inadequately rehabilitated) in scenic areas impacts unnecessarily on the value that such areas have for tourism;
- extreme levels of air pollution, especially on the highveld, pose health risks to the people who stay in the affected areas;
- poverty and its associated impacts occur over extensive parts of the EMF area;
- inadequate services and infrastructure remains a significant problem in certain areas;
- the extensive use of indigenous trees for firewood is not sustainable;
- the unsustainable harvesting of medicinal plants especially in indigenous forests is causing severe damage to the vegetation in certain parts of the area; and
- the uncertainty about the potential future impacts of climate change makes it difficult plan for contingencies.

6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles are proposed for the EMF (open for comments and suggestions):

- Sustainable development that include:
 - meeting the basic requirements for water catchment basin functioning;
 - meeting biological conservation targets;
 - protecting and using the natural resource base optimally to ensure benefits over the long term;
 - ensuring that ecosystem function is not compromised by inappropriate development;
 - ensuring the equitable and appropriate allocation of available water to competing needs; and
 - promoting development (including mining and industries) that would secure long term sustainable income without excessive unmitigated impacts on the environment.
- pro-poor that include:
 - not allowing any activity that will impact negatively on the poor in the region;

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

- planning activities to be positively biased towards the poor even if it requires intervention from the state; and
- placing the poor at the centre of strategies and guidelines for the development of the area.
- capture value that should include:
 - ensuring that public investment in infrastructure and services is directed to increase the value of local private land and the potential value of entrepreneurial enterprise that can occur on such land; and
 - ensuring that public policy and investment support the creation of competitive advantages for local communities.
- support local economic development that include:
 - developing local skills for new employment opportunities;
 - obtaining supplies for enterprises locally or through local agents; and
 - forming partnerships with local entrepreneurs.
- focus on what is important, appropriate and possible in the area including:
 - making sure that development initiatives are feasible;
 - ensuring that conservation initiatives contribute to national and provincial targets or to the development potential (tourism etc) of the area;
 - allocating water to users that will use it effectively to achieve and promote government policies and objectives for the area; and
 - allocating water to users that will have the least negative effect on other legitimate users.
- internalise externalities by:
 - enforcing the polluter pays principle to ensure that negative impacts of activities is internalised as part of the cost of those activities during the planning and authorisation stage.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

One of the aims of this document is to serve as background information to stakeholders and / or Interested and or Affected Parties (I&AP's) in respect of the project. It provides both background and technical information to enable initial participation in the process.

The public participation process is divided into three phases.

Phase 1: Notification of the EMF process

This is the initial public notification phase and includes the following actions:

- The compilation of a database of potential I&AP's;
- the identification of distribution networks such as newsletters that accompany service accounts;
- the preparation of a Background Information Document (BID) to inform participants about the EMF project;
- the distribution of the BID to stakeholders, relevant district municipal officials and members of the community within the EMF area;
- project advertisement in municipal newsletters;
- initial meetings with some of the key stakeholders. The aim of the meetings is to introduce the project to key stakeholders at an early stage in order to facilitate the early identification of information that should be included in the early parts of the project; and
- meetings with officials at all levels of government who will assist with information gathering and public participation during the later phases of the project.

Phase 2: Information gathering

The objective of this phase is to focus on interaction with I&AP's and it is specifically targeted to identify as many as possible relevant issues as well as additional information sources. This phase includes:

- A survey that will be undertaken to establish the views of the general public on key issues that have been identified (the survey will use a standard questionnaire and will be random but stratified to include appropriate sample sizes across the area);
- open days that will be held in selected districts where interested and affected parties will have the opportunity to engage with project team members as well as officials on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) about draft work (on display) in order to clarify issues and important elements that must be addressed in the EMF.

Phase 3: Formal process

During this phase the draft EMF document will be advertised as required by law and will be made available in appropriate formats for inspection in selected districts at appropriate places. The draft EMF report will also be available on the internet from where it can be downloaded in a PDF format. Stakeholders and participants will have a adequate time to review, consider and comment on the draft EMF document.

8. PROJECT SCHEDULE

At the moment no delays are foreseen. If delays occur, this BID will be updated. The envisaged project schedule is as follows:

5 June 2009	Interim Status Quo Report
17 to 26 June 2009	Public survey and open days
3 July 2009	Desired State Report
17 July 2009	Opportunities/Constraints report
31 July 2009	Status Quo, Desired State & Opportunities/Constraints Report
28 August 2009	Strategic Environmental Management Plan and Guidelines
2 October 2009	Draft EMF Report
5 October to 5 November	Public review of draft EMF Report
16 November 2009	Submit draft EMF to DWEA and the Provinces for approval and adoption by the Minister

9. CONTACT DETAILS

Contact person: Ms Ednah Chembeya

Environomics
 PO Box 400 1st floor, Block B
 Midstream Estate Bondev Office Park
 1692 Ashford Street
 Midstream Estate

Tel: 087 805 4000 or 012 661 5649

Fax: 086 632 5546/9 or 012 661 0375

e-mails: admin@environomics.co.za or
debbiec@midrand-estates.co.za

Map of Study Area



Environomics

Environmental Consultants

APPENDIX 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) - Version 3, June 2009

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas (OLEMF)

1. INTRODUCTION

Environomics, leading a multi-disciplinary team was appointed by the national Department of Water and Environmental Affairs (DWEA) in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LDEDET), the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs (MDALA) to undertake the compilation of a regional Environmental Management Framework (EMF) that will support decision-making in the Olifants and Letaba Rivers water catchment areas in order to facilitate appropriate development in the area.

The study area comprises of the Olifants River catchment area as indicated on the attached map and covers approximately 74 000km². It covers a large area that stretches from the continental divide in eastern Gauteng and the Mpumalanga Highveld to the border with Mozambique in the Kruger National Park.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2006, provide for the initiation of an EMF by the Minister of DWEA or by a provincial Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of the relevant province.

The EMF must:

- Identify the geographical area to which the EMF applies;
- specify attributes of the environment in the area including the sensitivity, extent interrelationship and significance of those attributes;
- identify any parts in the EMF area to which the specified attributes relate;
- state the conservation status of the area and/or its relevant parts;
- state the environmental management priorities in the area;
- indicate the kind of activities that would have a significant impact on the attributes in the area and those that would not; and
- indicate activities that would be undesirable in the area or in specific parts of the area.

10. THE PURPOSE OF THE EMF

In addition and in support of the regulatory requirements for the EMF the purpose of this EMF is to develop a framework that will integrate policies and frameworks, and align different government mandates in a way that will

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

streamline decision-making to improve cooperative governance and guide future development in an environmentally responsible manner.

The specific objectives of the EMF include:

- Encourage sustainable development;
- establish development priorities;
- identify strategic guidance and development management proposals;
- identify the status quo, development pressures and trends in the area;
- determine opportunities and constraints;
- identify geographical areas in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA);
- specify additional activities within identified geographical areas that will require EIA based on the environmental attributes of such areas;
- specify currently listed activities that will be excluded from EIA within certain identified geographical areas based on the environmental attributes of such areas; and
- develop a decision support system for development in the area to ensure that environmental attributes, issues and priorities are taken into account.

11. KEY ISSUES

The following key issues have been identified in the EMF area (open for comment and suggestions):

- Impoundment of rivers (especially in the mountainous areas) may cause irreversible damage to the hydrological regime as well as the ecosystems and human enterprises that depend on it;
- excessive pollution of water bodies and rivers has a negative impact on the user value of the water in the system and in some instances even have potential disastrous effects on ecological and economic processes that depend on the quality of the water;
- erosion, turbidity and sediment deposition in hydrological systems that result from practices that remove vegetation cover in the catchment areas diminish the potential of the hydrological system;
- mining activities (often inadequately rehabilitated) in scenic areas impacts unnecessarily on the value that such areas have for tourism;
- extreme levels of air pollution, especially on the highveld, pose health risks to the people who stay in the affected areas;
- poverty and its associated impacts occur over extensive parts of the EMF area;
- inadequate services and infrastructure remains a significant problem in certain areas;
- the extensive use of indigenous trees for firewood is not sustainable;
- the unsustainable harvesting of medicinal plants especially in indigenous forests is causing severe damage to the vegetation in certain parts of the area; and
- the uncertainty about the potential future impacts of climate change makes it difficult plan for contingencies.

12. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles are proposed for the EMF (open for comments and suggestions):

- Sustainable development that include:
 - meeting the basic requirements for water catchment basin functioning;
 - meeting biological conservation targets;
 - protecting and using the natural resource base optimally to ensure benefits over the long term;
 - ensuring that ecosystem function is not compromised by inappropriate development;

- ensuring the equitable and appropriate allocation of available water to competing needs; and
- promoting development (including mining and industries) that would secure long term sustainable income without excessive unmitigated impacts on the environment.
- pro-poor that include:
 - not allowing any activity that will impact negatively on the poor in the region;
 - planning activities to be positively biased towards the poor even if it requires intervention from the state; and
 - placing the poor at the centre of strategies and guidelines for the development of the area.
- capture value that should include:
 - ensuring that public investment in infrastructure and services is directed to increase the value of local private land and the potential value of entrepreneurial enterprise that can occur on such land; and
 - ensuring that public policy and investment support the creation of competitive advantages for local communities.
- support local economic development that include:
 - developing local skills for new employment opportunities;
 - obtaining supplies for enterprises locally or through local agents; and
 - forming partnerships with local entrepreneurs.
- focus on what is important, appropriate and possible in the area including:
 - making sure that development initiatives are feasible;
 - ensuring that conservation initiatives contribute to national and provincial targets or to the development potential (tourism etc) of the area;
 - allocating water to users that will use it effectively to achieve and promote government policies and objectives for the area; and
 - allocating water to users that will have the least negative effect on other legitimate users.
- internalise externalities by:
 - enforcing the polluter pays principle to ensure that negative impacts of activities is internalised as part of the cost of those activities during the planning and authorisation stage.

13. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

One of the aims of this document is to serve as background information to stakeholders and / or Interested and or Affected Parties (I&AP's) in respect of the project. It provides both background and technical information to enable initial participation in the process.

The aim of the public participation process is to provide you with more information, to provide a summary of the findings on the status quo, desired state and opportunities and constrains reports and to invite comment and capture your comments on all products developed during the process.

Phase 1: Notification of the EMF process

- This was the initial public notification phase and has now been completed. However, as new interested and affected parties are identified they continue to be notified.

Phase 2: Information gathering

The objective of this phase is to focus on interaction with I&AP's and it is specifically targeted to identify as many as possible relevant issues as well as additional information sources. This phase includes:

- A survey that will be undertaken to establish the views of the general public on key issues that have been identified (the survey will use a standard questionnaire and will be random but stratified to include appropriate sample sizes across the area);

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

- Focus group meetings and open days that will be held in selected towns where interested and affected parties will have the opportunity to engage with project team members as well as officials on the Project Steering Committee (PSC) about draft work (on display) in order to clarify issues and important elements that must be addressed in the EMF.

Phase 3: Formal process

During this phase the draft EMF document will be advertised as required by law and will be made available in appropriate formats for inspection in selected districts at appropriate places. The draft EMF report will also be available on the internet from where it can be downloaded in a PDF format. Stakeholders and participants will have a adequate time to review, consider and comment on the draft EMF document.

14. PROJECT SCHEDULE

At the moment no delays are foreseen. If delays occur, this BID will be updated. The envisaged project schedule is as follows:

- 3 & 4 July 2009: Survey flights – project team and members from DWAF and DEAT
- 7 to 14 July: Public surveys and focus group meetings
- 24 July 2009: Draft Status Quo, Desired State & Opportunities/Constraints Report
- 4 to 12 August: Public open days in the districts and meetings with district officials
- 28 August 2009: Strategic Environmental Management Plan and Guidelines
- 2 October 2009: Complete Draft EMF Report
- 5 October to 5 November: Public review of draft EMF Report
- 16 November 2009: Submit draft EMF to DEAT and the Provinces for approval and adoption by the Minister

15. CONTACT DETAILS

Contact person: Ms Ednah Chembeya

Environomics
 PO Box 400
 Midstream Estate
 1692
 Tel: 087 805 4000 or 012 661 5649
 Fax: 086 632 5546/9 or 012 661 0375
 e-mails: admin@environomics.co.za or ednah@environomicses.co.za

Map of Study Area



Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

APPENDIX 3
Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas (OLEMF) Public Participation Questionnaire

Surveyors code:										
Survey sheet number:										
Region:			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Do you understand what the natural environment is?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
Do you appreciate rivers, trees, veld, animals, birds, mountains and hills?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
Do you read about or listen to environmental news?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
What is the most recent environmental news that you can remember?										
Was it something you heard in your community?			Check/Tick							
Was it something you saw on television or heard on radio?			Check/Tick							
What is your opinion on your local environment?										
Do you appreciate what you have?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
Do you think it should be improved?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
Should it be managed better?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
What in your opinion are the 3 most serious environmental problems faced in your area and province?										
Pollution of rivers and water bodies			Check/Tick							
Erosion of topsoil			Check/Tick							
Air pollution			Check/Tick							
Sewage pollution			Check/Tick							
Deforestation and extensive use of indigenous trees for firewood			Check/Tick							
Unsustainable harvesting of indigenous medicinal plants			Check/Tick							
Which of the two options are preferable for your province?										
That your province develop rapidly even if it means that there will be substantial degradation and more jobs			Check/Tick							
That your province controls its development such that it ensures there will be no long-term damage to the environment			Check/Tick							
Have you experienced environmental disasters in your area that affected your community?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
If you had to choose between watching movies like Isidingo, Egoli or 7de Laan on television and an environmental programme like 50/50, which would you choose?										
Movie (Isidingo, Igoli or 7 de Laan)			Check/Tick							
Environmental Programme (50/50)			Check/Tick							
Have you ever been part of a local or provincial project or campaign to clean up your local environment?			Yes	No	Uncertain					
You are allowed to leave your children only one of the following things as inheritance. Which would you choose to leave for them?										
A large sum of money they could use to live on for the rest of their lives			Check/Tick							
A clean and healthy local environment with a guarantee that there will be no pollution and enough resources to live sustainable			Check/Tick							
How is refuse and sewage waste managed in your area?										
Do you have a refuse removal service?			Check/Tick							
Are you connected to a flush toilet system?			Check/Tick							
Do you use a bucket system?			Check/Tick							

Do you use a pit system?			Check/Tick	
Employment				
Are you unemployed?		Yes	No	Uncertain
Are you full-time employed?		Yes	No	Uncertain
Are you a seasonal worker?		Yes	No	Uncertain
Livelihoods - How do people sustain themselves in your area? Do they work in				
Tourism sector		Check/Tick		
Agriculture sector		Check/Tick		
Mining sector		Check/Tick		
Service sector		Check/Tick		
Industrial		Check/Tick		
Government		Check/Tick		
Other:		Check/Tick		
Is local economic development supported in your community?		Yes	No	Uncertain
Do you harvest natural resources like:				
Firewood		Yes	No	Uncertain
Grasses		Yes	No	Uncertain
Water		Yes	No	Uncertain
Medicinal plants		Yes	No	Uncertain
Others		Yes	No	Uncertain
Do you have access to clean water and electricity?		Yes	No	Uncertain
Which of the following activities are dominant in your area?:				
Mining		Check/Tick		
Industry		Check/Tick		
Large scale agriculture		Check/Tick		
Small scale agriculture		Check/Tick		
Stock farming		Check/Tick		
Tourism		Check/Tick		
Forestry		Check/Tick		
Game Farming		Check/Tick		
In your opinion what environmental improvements would you like to see in your area?				
Better environmental decision-making		Yes	No	Uncertain
Improvements in conservation initiatives		Yes	No	Uncertain
Improved communication and environmental education		Yes	No	Uncertain
Better management of ecological systems		Yes	No	Uncertain
Sustainable development initiatives		Yes	No	Uncertain
What are your personal expectations? / Other notes				

APPENDIX 4

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

Comments received on the draft Status Quo Report

Environomics reference: 2008/011/117
Method: email
Date: 30 July 2009

To:
Local Authorities, District
Municipalities, Stakeholders and
Interested and Affected Parties

ENVIRONOMICS
Environmental Consultants

PO Box 400 1st floor, Block B
Midstream Estate Bondev Office Park
1692 Ashford Street
Midstream Estate
Tel: 087 805 4000 or (012) 661 5649
Fax: 086 632 5546/9
e-mails: paulc@midrand-estates.co.za
debbiec@midrand-estates.co.za

Contact Person: Ednah Chembeya

Dear Recipient

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE OLIFANTS
AND LETABA RIVER CATCHMENT AREAS (OLEMF)**

The draft Status Quo, Opportunities, Constraints and Desired State Report for the OLEMF is now available on the website www.metrogis.co.za. This document can be downloaded under the heading "news and events".

We would appreciate it if you could inform your rate payers and councillors accordingly.

Due to the size of the document it is unfortunately not possible to make hard copies available. Hard copies can, however, be produced on request at a cost of R2000.00 per copy if needed.

Any comments or inputs on the draft report should be sent to Ms. E Chembeya at ednah@environomics.co.za by 21 August 2009.

Kind regards



Paul Claassen
Member

----- Original Message -----

From: Theuns Van Tonder

To: debbiec@midrand-estates.co.za

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 2:47 PM

Subject: FW: Olifants Letaba River Catchment Areas EMF : Open Day

Hello Debbie,

Attached please find a copy of a letter received from Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs (MDALA) in response to our application for the construction of the Richmond Dam in the Klein Dwars River catchment area.

I did attend your open day in Tzaneen on 5 August 2009. From your draft report and the discussion it is not clear that you have assessed the Richmond Dam issue as per paragraph 2 of the attached letter (This info may not have been provided to your company). From this paragraph it seems clear that your EMF needs to guide MDALA and DWAF regarding the necessary authorizations and approvals.

I would like to request that an urgent meeting be set up between yourselves, Alta van Dyk our environmental consultant, Bertus Bierman and myself from Anglo Platinum before your report is finalized. As most of the participants are from Gauteng your offices as a venue will be fine if you can accommodate us.

Thank you and regards

Theuns

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

Mpumalanga Provincial Government

18 Jones Street,
Nelspruit 1200
Republic of South Africa



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Nelspruit, 1200
Tel: (013) 759 4037
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND ADMINISTRATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT – EHLANZENI DISTRICT OFFICE

Litiko Letekulima Kanye
Nekuphatfwa Kwemhlaba

Departement van Landbou, en
Grondadministrasie

Umyango Wezokulima,
Nebhoduluko KweNarha

Enquiries: Sandile Vilakazi

Ref. No: 17/2/11/E-11

Att: Alta van Dyk
EcoRisk SA (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 628
Edenvale
1610

Fax no: 0866 266 228

RE: APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE RICHMOND DAM IN THE KLEIN DWARS RIVER CATCHMENT AREA, IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ACT, 1989 (ACT 73 OF 1989) AND GOVERNMENT NOTICE R1183 OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1997 AND IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT 107 OF 1998)

After due consideration of the contents of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the abovementioned project, the Department of Agriculture and Land Administration has the following comments:

1. The main motivation for the construction of the Richmond Dam was the immediate need for a temporal supply of water to the Der Brochen Project, with the assumption that the De Hoop Dam would be delayed by at least two years. Construction of the De Hoop Dam has commenced with full supply predicted to be in 2013, therefore the need and desirability of the proposed Richmond Dam must be motivated and clearly explained.
2. The National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism authorized the construction of the De Hoop Dam which is currently being constructed in the same catchment area. In the Record of Decision (ROD), issued by the Minister, for the De Hoop Dam Project the following was instructed: "I therefore direct the Department to initiate a process, in partnership with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and other major authorities, to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment or related process that would guide future development and inform levels of acceptable change for the area in question". Currently an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) is being undertaken in this area, and the applicant for Richmond Dam (Anglo Platinum) must ensure that they take part in this process, as their proposed dam falls within the study area for EMF.
3. The public participation process documented in Annexure A refers:
 - In phase 2, it is indicated that an interpreter was only present in one meeting with the GaMawela Community. How were the other meetings conducted without an interpreter?
 - The process focused on the issues related to impacts on the land of the GaMawela Community as the main affected parties, and neglects the impacts related to the other surrounding communities.
 - Concerns and issues raised by the other surrounding communities must be thoroughly addressed in the report.
4. A layout map that indicates the positioning of the De Hoop Dam in relation to the Richmond and Inyoni Dams must be provided. This could help in determining the impacts that may be caused by the presence of three Dams in one area and the related mitigation measures.

5. The yield analysis report indicates an assessment of the Richmond Dam only in relation to the Inyoni Dam, and does not include an assessment in relation to the De Hoop Dam.
6. The report must also address environmental impacts associated with the construction of the road and the re-alignment of power lines as well as mitigation measures thereof.
7. The risks and related impacts to the possible construction of two dams at the same time, has not been assessed in the report.
8. The cumulative socio-economic impacts, identified in Pg 109 only address the financial aspects of the Dam to the economy of the country and surrounding communities, but fails to identify the cumulative impact that the Richmond Dam will have on fertility rates, crime, HIV/AIDS, etc. due to the influx of labor that will be caused by the construction of the Dam and the possible development of other mines.
9. Written comments from the GaMawela community on their present status about the construction of the Richmond Dam must be forwarded to this Department.
10. A specialist report documenting the agricultural potential of the St. George Farm is required, and should be forwarded to this Department. Department of Agriculture comments are outstanding.

The Department reserves the right to revise its initial comments and request further information from you based on any new or revised information received.

Please find attached comments from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry dated 16 April 2009 and comments from Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency dated 27 November 2008. Response to DWAF and MTPA comments must also be forwarded to the department.

Yours faithfully,

Director: Environmental Impact Management

05/05/2009
Date

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas



04 May 2009

Proposal No. PRO13273

Mr Bertus Bierman
Anglo Platinum Corporation
P O Box 62179
Marshalltown
2107

HIGHVELD COALFIELDS WATER RESOURCES EVALUATION AND SUPPLY OF MINE WATER TO THE PLATINUM MINES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE (REVISED AND UPDATED)

Dear Mr Bierman

We refer to a workshop held at the Bigen offices in Pretoria, on the 21st of January 2009 to discuss the potential supply of mine water from the Highveld Coalfields to the platinum mining operations, located in the Limpopo Province. A subsequent meeting in late March 2009 also refers.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Highveld Coalfields, situated around Witbank and Middelburg, has been mined for more than a hundred years. The natural surface and groundwater resources have been substantially impacted by mining operations over many years. Many of the mining operations have accumulated substantial water volumes and continue to recharge the old mine workings.

The water management on these large mining operations involves many different components of water recharge and ingress into mine workings, storage of water in underground workings, open pits and surface dams, use of water in mining operations for coal processing and coal beneficiation, irrigation of rehabilitated areas etc. Excess mine water continues to accumulate in mine workings. A number of mine water reclamation and re-use projects have been identified and implemented to make this water available to non-mining users, such as municipalities and power stations.

A study conducted in 2007 and co-funded by Anglo Coal and BHP Billiton, evaluated the available mine water resources as well as the local water requirements by municipalities, mining operations and power stations. The study confirmed that excess mine water may still be available, even after all the local water requirements have been satisfied.

Anglo Platinum continues to develop new mines in the Mogalakwena area, north of Polokwane. These new mines have a critical shortage of water and the future of especially new mining may be threatened by this shortage. Consideration is now given to the potential supply of excess mine water from the Highveld Coalfields to the platinum mining operations in the northern Limpopo Province.

This letter contains our proposal to conduct a high level conceptual evaluation to confirm the availability of excess mine water from the Highveld Coalfields to the Limpopo Province platinum mining ventures. The Golder proposal, however only deals with the collection, pre-treatment and conveyance of excess mine water on the Highveld Coalfields to a central collection point, north west of Witbank.

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Golder Associates: Operations in Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America and South America
Reg. No. 2002/007104/07
Directors: FR Sutherland, AM van Niekerk, SAP Brown, L Greyling, SM Manyaka

Mr Bertus Bierman
Anglo Platinum Corporation

PRO13273
04 May 2009

2.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The proposed conceptual evaluation aims to achieve the following specific goals:

- Evaluation of the available Highveld Coalfields mine water resources.
- Preparation of estimates of the surplus mine water available, after satisfying the local water requirements.
- Development of a view on the mine water resources within the context of the DWAF Olifants River Catchment Water Resources Management Plan.
- Development of a concept for the mine water pre-treatment, collection and conveyance to deliver excess mine water to a central location, north west of Witbank.
- Preparation of indicative costs associated with the mine water pre-treatment, collection and delivery infrastructure and associated operations and maintenance.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK.

3.1 Phase 1 of the Investigation

3.1.1 Evaluation of Available Mine Water Resources.

This work will be based on a desktop study using the available mine water related information collected in 2007. The following tasks will be undertaken:

- Review of the available mine water information, in terms of the excess water available and stored. This information will be summarised in a format reflecting the 2007 situation and projected into the future to a planning horizon of 2027 (20 years).
- Review of the available information on local water requirements and confirmation of the future water requirements. At this stage, Eskom is also giving consideration to the use of mine water within power station water systems. Eskom, however requires a very high quality water and it will require expensive treatment to render the reclaimed mine water, fit for use on the power station. Therefore, we propose as part of this study to focus on the municipal water requirements in the local area, specifically for eMalahleni and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities.
- Assessment of the location and volumes of available excess mine water, after supplying to the local municipal requirements.

A report section documenting this part of the proposed investigation will be prepared.

3.1.2 Olifants River Catchment Perspective

The DWAF is in the process of finalising an Olifants River Catchment Water Resources Management Plan. The first draft of the report, specifically dealing with the Upper Olifants River water resources is currently available. We propose to do the following work:

- Obtain a copy of the draft Olifants River Water Resources Management Plan.
- Review the plan and assess the DWAF position on the future utilisation of available mine water resources.
- Develop a perspective on the export of excess mine water from the Upper Olifants River to adjacent water management areas.

A brief report section documenting the catchment water resources perspective as it relates to mine water reclamation and re use will be compiled.



3.2 Phase 2 of the Investigation

Phase 2 of the investigation will only be authorised by Anglo Platinum if excess available mine water is confirmed in the Phase 1 investigation.

3.2.1 Mine Water Pre-Treatment

The mine water quality profile changes substantially over the large geographical extent of the Coalfields. The development of a concept for mine water pre-treatment requires information on the typical mine water quality associated with different mine water sources. We propose to conduct the following tasks:

- Establish typical water quality profiles for different parts of the Coalfields.
- Confirm whether the mine water is acidic or alkaline for each of the major mining operations, which may potentially contribute to the scheme.
- Formulate the pre-treatment mine water quality targets to satisfy the stated target of producing a non-scaling and non-corrosive type water for transfer to the platinum mines.
- Document the conceptual engineering of the pre-treatment plants in terms of process flow diagrams, typical plant layouts and utility (power, chemicals etc) usage.

3.2.2 Collection and Conveyance of Mine Water

A conceptual plan will be developed to collect and convey the excess mine water to a centralised collection point, north west of Witbank. A major pump station/pipeline system will, from that point, transfer the mine water to the platinum mines in the Limpopo Province. The system concept of mine water pre-treatment, collection and conveyance is shown schematically in Figure 1.

It is proposed to do the following work:

- Confirm the basis of design of a mine water collection and conveyance system consisting of pump stations and pipelines.
- Establish a practical pickup point on each major source of excess mine water.
- Develop conceptual layouts and configuration for a Coalfields wide excess mine water collection and conveyance system.
- Prepare a conceptual engineering design as reflected in process flow diagrams, typical pump station layouts, pipeline routes and mine water storage facilities.

3.2.3 Indicative Costing of Mine Water Infrastructure

It is proposed to develop indicative costing of the proposed mine water pre-treatment, collection and conveyance system including the following:

- Capital cost estimates of the pre-treatment plants, pump stations and pipeline infrastructure.
- Operating costs of the pre-treatment plants (personnel, chemicals, electrical power, maintenance and general expenses).
- Operating costs of the pump stations and pipelines (personnel, chemicals, electrical power etc).

The indicative cost estimates will be based on the conceptual engineering design and the costs estimate will be prepared to an accuracy of -10%, + 40%.

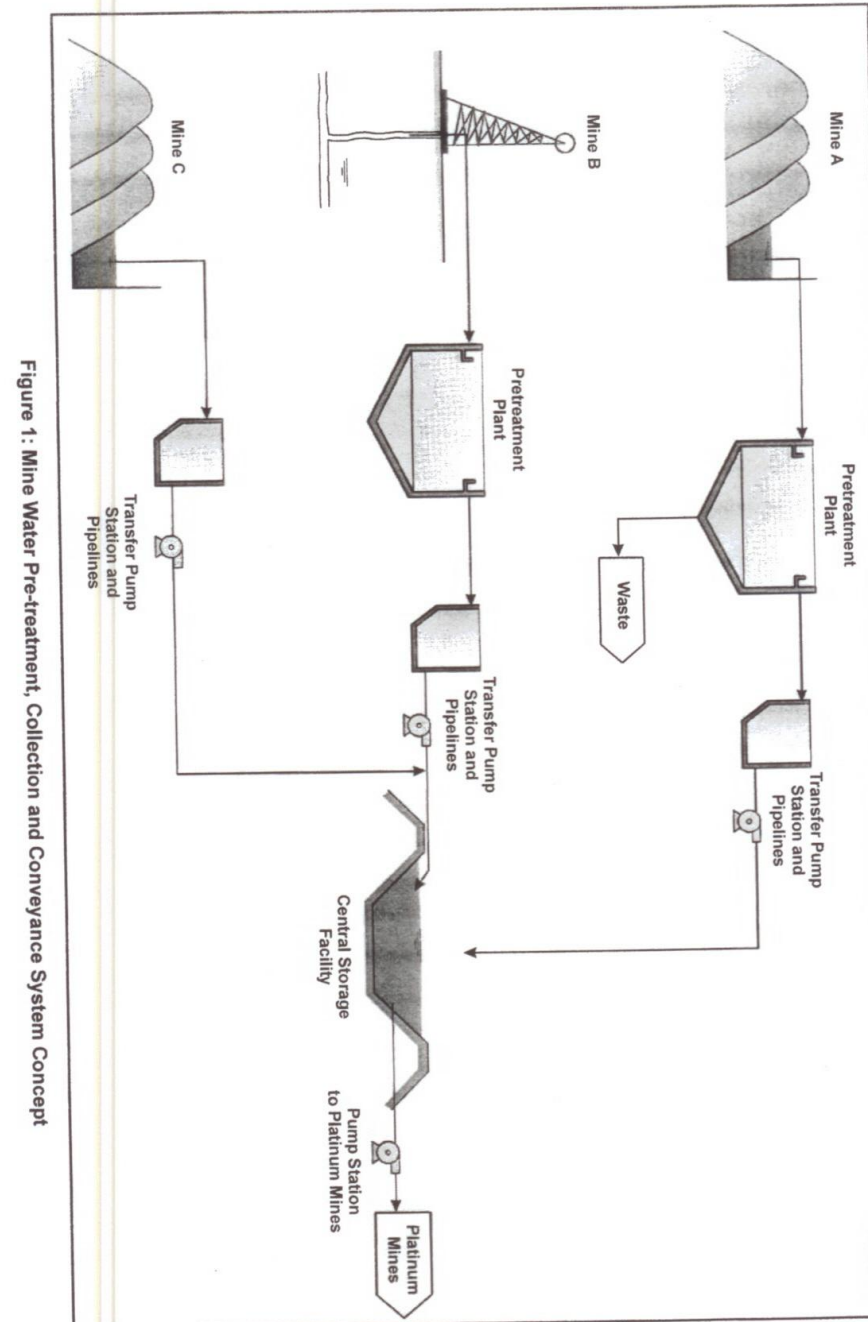


Figure 1: Mine Water Pre-treatment, Collection and Conveyance System Concept

APPENDIX 5

Environmental Management Framework for the Olifants and Letaba Rivers Catchment Areas

Comments received on the draft EMF Report

Environomics reference: 2008/011/122
Method: E-mail
Date: 30 October 2009

ENVIRONOMICS

Environmental Consultants

PO Box 400 1st floor, Block B
Midstream Estate Bondev Office Park
1692 Ashford Street
Midstream Estate
Tel: (012) 661 5649
Fax: (012) 661 0375
E-mails: paul@environomics.co.za
ednah@environomics.co.za

Contact Person: Ednah Chembeya

Dear Recipient

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE OLIFANTS AND LETABA RIVERS CATCHMENT AREA (OLEMF)

The draft EMF Report is now available for inspection on the website www.metrogis.co.za and can be downloaded under the heading Project Related Information.

CD's can also be ordered from Environomics at the above telephone number.

The due date for comments or inputs on the draft report is **30 November 2009**. Please send your comments to Ms. E Chembeya at ednah@environomics.co.za.

Kind regards



Paul Claassen
Member



26 November 2009

Ms E. Chembeya
Environomics
Po Box 400
Midstream Estate
1692

RE: COMMENT REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE OLIFANTS AND LETABA RIVERS CATCHMENT AREA (OLEMF).

Dear ma'am

INTRODUCTION

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is a non-governmental, non-profit, citizen organisation dedicated to conserving the diversity of species in southern Africa. It is a fully accredited non-governmental member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The Trust was founded on 31 October 1973 and is registered as a Non-Profit Organisation under the registration number 015-502 NPO, in terms of the Non-Profit Act, 1997, Act No 71 of 1997 and Public Benefit Organisation, PBO Registration No 930 001 777 in terms of section 10(1)(cN) of the Income Tax Act, 1962, as amended.

The EWT is dedicated to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people. The EWT fulfils its Mission by:

- Initiating and implementing conservation research and action programmes;
- Preventing species extinctions and maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem functioning;
- Supporting sustainable natural resource use and management thereof;

Tel: +27 (0) 11 486 1102, Fax: +27 (0) 11 486 1506, E-mail: ewt@ewt.org.za, Web: www.ewt.org.za, Physical Address: The Goldfields Environmental Centre Johannesburg Zoological Gardens, Erlswold Way, Saxonwold, Johannesburg, 2196, Postal Address: Private bag X 11, Parkview, 2122, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to conserving threatened species & ecosystems to the benefit of the people of South Africa. Member of IUCN, The Union for Conservation of Nature, NPO Number: 015-507, PBO no: 930 003 777.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is 501(c) 3 compliant. US IRS Registration number: EMP98-0586801



- Communicating the principles of sustainable living and empowering people by capacity building, education and awareness programmes to the broadest possible constituency; and
- Taking a strong leadership and advocacy role in promoting environmental and social justice.

COMMENTS FOR THE DRAFT OLEMF

- A statement on p.61 indicates that Zone A is not suitable for generation of alternative clean electricity from wind or sun sources. Could the reasons for this statement be clarified?
- It is recommended that a strategic mining plan for Zone A be developed, possibly with the suggestion that mining be limited to an agreed maximum surface area at any given time in the zone.
- More detail needed with regards to ensuring activities taking place in upstream zones do not negatively impact on activities in downstream zones. (i.e. Zones A and B may/are having a negative effect on Zone C). Point 5.7.1 discusses this issue, but only in terms of Zone F which is not sufficient.

General comments:

- The Olifants and Letaba rivers are considered international rivers, and as such there is an obligation to conform to the various protocols applicable to international rivers (e.g. the SADC protocol on shared watercourse systems). This should be described in the OLEMF.
- The OLEMF should be clear on the procedures in place to ensure implementation/enforcement of all applicable environmental legislation, and how the issue of over-allocation of water resources in the area will be dealt with.

We trust the above comments will be taken into consideration for the final OOLEMF. Please feel free to contact us with any queries regarding the above.

Tel: +27 (0) 11 486 1102, Fax: +27 (0) 11 486 1506, E-mail: ewt@ewt.org.za, Web: www.ewt.org.za, Physical Address: The Goldfields Environmental Centre Johannesburg Zoological Gardens, Erlswold Way, Saxonwold, Johannesburg, 2196, Postal Address: Private bag X 11, Parkview, 2122, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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Ednah

From: Blaauw, Emile (EA) [Emile.Blaauw@SASOL.com]
Sent: 04 November 2009 10:19 AM
To: Ednah
Cc: matrixpr@ananzi.co.za
Subject: Some comments on Olifants and Letaba EMF

Morning Ednah,

Firstly, the format (pdf) of the report makes commenting very difficult. If it was in Word, then one could use "track changes" to comment.

1. Some spelling mistakes in the executive summary.
2. Under 2.3.9 thirty large dams are being quoted in the Olifants catchment but only nine are mentioned. What is correct or are the nine mentioned the most important? If so, please state it.
3. The Northern Province is now named Limpopo Province
4. Just confirm the spelling of Massingir(e?)
5. No mention is made in the assessment of the Olifants and Letaba of the impact of non-functioning/poorly functioning sewage treatment plants. Mining and agriculture are predominately blamed for poor water quality in the rivers and the contribution of industry and municipalities to poor river health is not mentioned. This also applies for part 4.6 – and most probably other parts as well.
6. Under 3.3 Middelburg misspelled
7. 4.4: the ranges of short, medium and long term – are these ranges accepted throughout the environmental management discipline? I have a problem with the definition of short and medium term. Short term means up to about ten years and medium between ten and thirty years to me and long term longer than 30. I have consulted with three other environmental colleagues and they confirm similar time spans. Short term is definitely not up to 50 years.
8. Insert "municipal areas" after the mentioning of the last municipality under 4.6.1. Same with the other zones.
9. 4.6.1.2 – the production of petroleum, chemical and rubber products: if reference is made to Sasol Synfuels, it falls in the Upper Vaal catchment – outside the scope of this management zone, and Sasol produces plastics and not rubber. Yes, it is true that there is an increase in economic activity in the zone due to the existence of Sasol.
10. Little wheat is produced in management zone A, rather mention the production of grain sorghum and soybeans.

I have not been able to go through every chapter due to time constraints.

Kind regards

Emile Blaauw
 Environmental Specialist
 Sasol Mining
 tel 017 614 5666
 fax 011 522 5159



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2009/11/06

Paul Claassen

From: Surmon, Mark (Palabora) [Mark.Surmon@palabora.co.za]
Sent: 16 November 2009 11:15 AM
To: paul@environomics.co.za
Cc: Cogho, Vik (OCH OPT)
Subject: Olifants Catchment Maps

Good day Paul
 The Olifants River Forum has had a look at the maps that were produced for the EMF for the Olifants & Letaba river catchments. The committee was very impressed at the detail in the many maps and we were wondering if it was at all possible for the ORF to use this info to compile one map similar to the one attached for the production of a hard copy for ORF members. The idea is also to have it electronically available to download from the ORF website. We are not sure if you have the rights on these maps or is DEA the 'owner'? If we need permission from DEA, can you please give us contact details of the person to approach for this permission?
 Can you (Environomics) maybe assist us in compiling a map and ORF will cover the costs for this? We are also open for sponsorships that will be captured on the map as per the attached.
 Your response is eagerly awaited.
 Regards
 Mark

Mark Surmon
 Manager Environment & Occupational Hygiene
 iHEQ & Auxiliary Services

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2009/11/16

